

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Mansfield and District U3A Newsletter



Established 1999

March 2011

Website: www.mansfield-u3a.org.uk

Noticeboard: <http://mansfieldu3a.blogspot.com>

Welcome from your chairman and committee

NOW THAT the light evenings are just around the corner and we can hopefully forget about snows for a bit, we are all looking forward to a summer of enjoyment from our membership of the U3A.

Some individual interest groups have already planned special events and outings to take advantage of the weather we all hope for and I know others are finalising arrangements for their members and guests.

April is a busy month for social events with the **Third Age Prom** on the 12th and our **Annual Coffee Morning** on the 15th – see opposite.

Proms hadn't been thought of when we left school or college, so it will be a good opportunity to catch up on what we missed.

We are promised that the music won't be too loud or intrusive, so that you will be able to sit and chat in comfort. It will be a good opportunity to put on your 'best bib and tucker', and have an enjoyable evening out with your U3A friends.

As this is a new venture, the committee hope that it will be well supported.

Keep enjoying your membership of the U3A!

Max Clarke

Speakers corner

THE SPEAKER this month is **Stuart Dixon**

Stuart is well known to Mansfield U3A, having given a number of talks to us before.

He used to teach horticulture at Brackenhurst (now part of Nottingham Trent University) until he retired some six years ago. He lectures and gives 'down to earth' talks all over the country for the RHS and National Trust.

The subject this year is *'The Four Seasons'* – a year in the flower garden, and it is based round his own garden in Stoke Bardolph, which he has restored to its 18th Century glory.

It seems a perfect time of year for Stuart to talk about flowers, so we welcome him today.

Mike Allen

Dates for your diary (*Check the website for more information and updates.*)

Wed. 6th April: REGIONAL STUDY DAY 'Celebrating Our Cultures' at the Clifton Campus of Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham. Details on p11.

Tues. 12th April: THIRD AGE PROM at John Fretwell Complex. 7.00 pm. £16 inc hot buffet and entertainment. Pay bar. Details from Rita Turner (660003) or Sylvia Slack (633981)

Fri. 15th April: ANNUAL COFFEE MORNING, The Towers. 10 - 12. £2. See opposite.

26th/28th April: RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL, Myerscough College, Preston. Details from Carole Justice (491809)

Mon. 13th June: PICNIC IN THE PARK, Rufford Park. Marquee displays 10 - 12. Free, but bring your own food, drinks, tables, chairs, etc. Details from Rita Turner (660003)

ANNUAL COFFEE MORNING – Friday 15th April **10.00 am - 12 noon at The Towers, Botany Avenue, Mansfield**

OUR ANNUAL coffee morning is our main fund-raising event of the year and is always good fun!

Join us for coffee and explore the various stalls and try your luck on the tombola, raffle etc.

Tickets, £2 including coffee, are on sale at today's meeting.

Donations for Tombola prizes will be warmly welcomed by Sylvia Slack (633981) and any items for the Raffle by any Committee member please.

All proceeds go to your funds and help to maintain a low annual subscription rate for membership.

Holiday Notices

Isle of Man: 15th - 21st May

TO THOSE going on both holidays to the Isle of Man & the Loire Valley, many thanks for your concerted efforts in bringing in your insurance details and cheques where appropriate. They have now been sent off to the respective travel companies. **I would like the balance of £349 for the Isle of Man to be paid today please. Cheques payable to Sherwood U3A.**

The Loire Valley: 10th - 18th July

THE TWIN room vacancy has now been filled, so if there are no more cancellations the balance to be paid in April will be £619. This covers excursions, entrance fees, driver's gratuity, bed, breakfast & evening meal throughout, even at the stopovers in Rouen on our way to our resort in Tours and on the return journey home. Cheques to be made payable to Mansfield U3A.

Margaret Burlinson

Recent Events

New Members' Coffee Morning ***7th February***

IT WAS good to see some of our new members at St John's Centre making friends and getting to know more about our interest groups but a pity that more couldn't make it.

Max Clarke, Chairman, and Avril McGee, Membership Secretary, were able hosts making sure everyone had met and was making friends in true Mansfield U3A style – supported by most of the committee and many interest group leaders.

David Ling



Theatre Visit to Oddsocks 'Hamlet, The Comedy', at Thoresby – 8th February

IT WAS to be my first visit to any Oddsocks production and some seasoned fans that I asked told me it would be hilarious, innovative, full of wit and humour; while others said entertaining, irreverent but respectful. And so it proved to be.

While Director Andy Burrows retains Shakespeare's original script and story line, any opportunity to employ clever use of circus, pantomime and farce is seized, together with inventive filmed sequences that included Paul Daniels as a hologram of the ghost of Hamlet's father.

Rock music by Jamiroquai's Rob Harris adds yet another dimension, as does the mesmerizing mobile scenery changes by Kee Ramsorrun.

The five-strong, talented and multi-skilled cast played with energy and enthusiasm from the first welcome and audience interaction through to the finale. An accomplished piece that seduced many new admirers today – long-established fans wore that self-satisfied look of I-told-you-so!

Thanks from those U3A members who attended are due to Mike Allen for arranging this treat.

Jackie Ling

Quiz Night – 9th February

I WAS TOLD to report at 5.45pm to help set the hall out at Queen Elisabeth School, but all had been done, and Sylvia and her team were already hard at work preparing the food and refusing all offers of help.

The tables were set, the screen put up, the picture questions and answer sheets distributed – and suddenly the hordes arrived, carrier bags full of drink and pencils sharpened. How I wish the kids at school had been so eager to display their knowledge (or, in my case, ignorance)!

The questions varied, the easy ones drawing laughter which was then stifled by the difficult ones. It's amazing how answers that you know slide away into the corners of your mind when they are required. Who sang this, which person did that – it went on relentlessly. Put down an answer, wait for Pauline's right one, and then hear the cries of disappointment and accusation – 'Rubbish' they shouted, just because I didn't know the answer to a Shakespeare question.

Continued on page 9 ...



Key to Meetings details:

THIS TABLE SHOWS THE DAY of the month, time and frequency using the first two letters of the day, followed by numbers 1 - 5 to represent the week number. The final letter M (or F or W) indicates that the group meets monthly, fortnightly or weekly.

So “**Tu2. 2.30 M**” would mean a group meeting on the 2nd Tuesday at 2.30 pm monthly.

The main Mansfield and District U3A meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month (except for August and December) at the Oakham Suite, Nottingham Road, Mansfield from 10 am - 12.30 pm.

Interest Group	Meetings	Meeting Places	Leader/Contact
Art Appreciation	Mo1, 2.00 - 4.00 M	Baptist Church, Rosemary St.	Pauline Boucher 01623 644798
Next Meetings: 4th April – Members’ contributions; Next Visit: Friday 6th May – Upton House. <i>(A joint visit with the Garden Visits Group)</i>			
Beginners’ Bridge (With Ashfield U3A)	Mo, various dates, 6.30 - 9.00	Enviro Centre, Derby Rd College, Mansfield	Maxine Rose / Edith Senior 01623 654022
Next Meetings: 28th March; 11th April; May 9th; May 23rd; June 6th; June 20th (Also Acol sessions at the Mechanics Institute – Th, 10 - 12.30 W)			
Chat and Stitch	Mo3, 2.00 - 4.00 M	St John’s Centre, Mansfield	Marion Owens 01623 634408
Next Meetings: 21st March; 18th April; 16th May; 20th June			
Current Affairs	Tu2, 2.00 M	Masonic Hall Nottingham Rd. (NB: Change)	Norma Shillinglaw 01623 466934
Next Meetings: April 12th; May 10th; June 14th; July 12th; September 13th			
Digital World	We3, 2.00 - 4.00 M	TBA	David Ling 01623 822994
Next Meeting: April 20th – Visit to Burton Joyce U3A photography group.			
English Country Dancing *	Sa3, 2.00 M (except as below)	South Forest Leisure Centre	Jean Kirk 01623 480207
Next Meeting: 26th March			

All members are invited to contact the relevant Group Leader if they would like to participate in any interest group or attend an event. **NB: * indicates a waiting list.**

*Old bosses never die, much as you want them to.
Old cashiers never die, they just check out.
Old chauffeurs never die, they just lose their drive.*

Interest Group	Meetings	Meeting Places	Leader/Contact
Family History	Tu4, 10.00 M	St John's Centre Mansfield	Pat Blackwell 01623 481745
Next Meeting: March 22nd – Record keeping; April 26th – Weddings			
Film Studies *	We1, 1.30 M	Joy's home	Joy Crowe 01623 645400
Next Meetings: 6th April; 4th May; 1st June; 6th July			
Garden Visits	During the Summer	Various	Marion Thornton 01623 651528
Next Visits: 6th May – Upton House Gardens. (Joint visit with the Art Appreciation Group); 10th June – Trentham Estate village (AM) and the Dorothy Clive Garden (PM)			
Gardening *	Tu1, 10.00 M	St Peter's Centre, Mansfield	Avril McGee / Freda Cooper - 01623 452688 / 01623 621173
Next Meeting: 5th April – <i>Hardwick</i> ; 3rd May – <i>Planting Demos and Any Questions</i>			
Holidays (Home & Abroad)	Various	TBA	Margaret Burlinson 01623 632538
Next holidays: 15th - 21st May – <i>Isle of Man Little Railways*</i> ; 10th - 18th July – <i>Loire Valley Châteaux and Wine*</i>			
Introduction to Internet use	Various	Stanton Hill Baptist Church	Terry Whitehead 01623 626991
Next Meeting: Contact Terry			
Luncheon Club	Th3, 12.30 M	Various	David Ling 01623 822994
Next Meetings: 17th March – <i>St Patrick's Day</i> at the Cross Keys, Epperstone; 21st April – <i>Dovecote Arms, Laxton</i>			
<u>Music Groups</u>			
Classical Music 1 *	Th2, 2.00 - 4.00 M	Members' homes	Alan & Marlene Radford 01623 427934
Next Meetings: 14th April – <i>Mahler</i> ; 12th May – <i>Mendelssohn</i>			
Classical Music 2	Mo4, 2.00 - 4.00 M	Members' homes	Peter Hart 01623 624224
Next Meetings: 28th March – French C19/20 with Peter H; 18th April – Elgar with Marie			

Interest Group	Meetings	Meeting Places	Leader/Contact
Music 2 *	Mo4, 2.00 - 4.30 M	Members' homes	Eric Prescott 01623 631160
Next Meetings: 28th March; 25th April; 23rd May; 27th June			
Popular Music Appreciation	Tu4, 2.00 - 4.00 M	St John's School, Mansfield	Peter Haynes 01623 451053
Next Meetings: 22nd March; 26th April; 24th May; 28th June; 26th July Next Concert Visit: TBA			
Pudding Club	Tu1, 4.00 M	Members' homes	Sylvia Slack 01623 633981
Next Meetings: March 29th at Sylvia's; May 3rd at Janet's; June 7th at Sylvia's			
Reading 1 *	Th3, 2.00 - 4.00 M	Peter Dawson's home	Peter Dawson 01623 882191
Next Meetings: 17th March; 21st April; 19th May; 16th June			
Reading 2	Tu3, 2.00 - 4.00 M	Ravenshead Library	Joan McDonald 01623 511713
Next Meetings: 15th April; 17th May; 16th June			
Science & Technical	Tu1, 1.30 - 3.30 M	Stanton Hill Baptist Church	Ian Boucher 01623 644798
Next Meetings: 5th April – <i>Falkirk Wheel</i> ; 3rd May – TBA Next visits: 24th June – Bletchley Park; 5th July – RAF Scampton			
Scrabble	Mo2, 2.00 - 4 .00 M	Brenda Thurkettle's home	Brenda Thurkettle 01623 628136
Next Meetings: 11th April; 9th May; June			
Singing for Fun	Th2&4, 6.30 - 8.00 F (NB: New times)	Brunts School, Mansfield	June Fell 01623 623547
Next Meetings: 24th March; 7th & 21st April; 5th May Next Performance: 14th June – Schools Summer Concert at Mansfield Civic Centre			
Sunday Lunchers	Su, Various	TBA	Jessie Best 01623 628671
Next Meetings: Please contact Jessie			
Tai Chi	Mo, 9.30 - 10.30 W	St John's Centre Mansfield	Cliff Laycock 01623 481985
Next Meetings: March 21st; April 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th; May 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd			

Interest Group	Meetings	Meeting Places	Leader/Contact
Theatre Visits	Various	Various	Mike Allen 01623 653345
Next visits: March 23rd, Royal Theatre. 2.00 pm – 'Yes, Prime Minister'; July TBA, Stamford 7.45 – 'Pride and Prejudice'			
Walking Groups			
Hikers <i>(all-day, 6 - 8 miles)</i>	Th1 & Mo3, 9.30 F	Tesco car park, off Oak Tree Lane	Peter Thurkettle 01623 628136
Next Meetings: 21st March – Carsington; 7th April – Burbage Moor; 18th April – Bosworth			
Strollers <i>(a leisurely 2 miles)</i>	We2, 10.30 M	Various	Barbara Massey / Marion Thornton 01623 628357 / 01623 651528
Next Meetings: 13th April – Teversal Trail; 11th May – Rufford; 8th June – Cresswell			
Walkers <i>(an easy 4 - 5 miles)</i>	We4, 10.30 M	Various	Sylvia Slack 01623 633981
Next Meetings: 23rd March – Spa Ponds; 27th April – The Dumbles; 25th May			
Whist	Various Sa, 7.30 M	Chatsworth Drive, Mansfield	Edith Senior 01623 654022
Next Meetings: March 26th; April 16th; May 14th; June 18th; September 26th			
Wine Appreciation 2 *	We3, 7.30 M	Members' homes	Mike Allen 01623 653345
Next Meetings: March 16th – Vin De Pays d'Oc/Fitou with Ron & Carol; April 20 – Summer Whites; May 25th – One wine, 4 openings with Ken & Norma			
Wine Appreciation 3 *	Tu4, 7.30 M	Members' homes	Graham Allin 01623 473662
Next Meetings: March 22nd – Argentina with Ron and Carol; April 26th – Portugal with Eileen & Graham; May 24th – Austria with Colin; July 5th – Wine Society			

BOOK TABLE REPORT

THE BOOK TABLE for February raised £43.60.

So that's another useful addition to the £467.03 we raised during 2010 by recycling books and magazines that were just taking space at home into something new to read. We always have a wide selection to tempt you so come on over during the break.

Every 40p book and 20p magazine you buy helps keep your annual subscription down so please help to add to our stock – and then to reduce it again!

Lilian Whitehead.

Quiz Night – continued from page 4

At last a break, and Sylvia's forces produced a magnificent buffet. It was a noble feast that fortified us for more torture as the quiz went on. In spite of drawing the tickets, I won nothing in the raffle, so another failure.

After 8 sections, the winners were decided – some intruders from Sherwood, despite our helpers from Burton Joyce and Chesterfield U3As. They knew the answers; they were 'quizzers'; they had come to Mansfield to eat our food and win! They were better than us.

It was too much. We had been fairly and roundly thrashed, and we left the hall with shame wrapped round us.

But what a great night it had been. Wine, wit, wisdom – all the w's except winning. It didn't matter; we'd had a good time. Pauline and Ian worked miracles with the questions, the music and the computer; Sylvia and her 'gang' fed our bodies (but not our brains). And all for a pittance of an entry fee.

Over 100 people members and friends there can only thank those who laid on such a good evening in such a good venue. Thank you!

Mike Allen

Groups News

Science and Technical

Visit to Bletchley Park, Friday June 24th. Price: £23 (inc. coach and entrance fee)

VISITING BLETCHLEY Park (Code name Station X) with its ornate Victorian Mansion is an interesting and exciting experience. The secret code system of the German Enigma cipher machine was broken by the station's intelligence staff with the help of the "BOMBE" machine during Second World War. A replica of the Bombe, which has taken 14 years to build, is on display. A guided tour is included in the visit and will explain all details of the collection.

The museum also offers exhibitions and collections of The National Museum of Computing, The Projected Picture Trust, Toys and Memorabilia, Wireless and Communications to name a few. Find out the tales of spies and strategic deception and especially where the ladies dried their clothes. (That is a closely-guarded secret.)

You can take your own picnic or take advantage of the Hut 4 café which serves hot and cold food. Interested? Contact me on 644798 or Graham Allin (473662).

Ian Boucher

Garden Visits

Fri. 6th May. Joint visit with Art Appreciation to Upton House and Gardens.

THE COACH is full but there is a reserve list. We leave the Odeon car park in Mansfield at 8 am and return at 4.30 pm.

Fri. 10th June. Visit to Trentham Village Estate in the morning and Dorothy Clive Garden in the afternoon. Cost £14.50.

Leave the Odeon car park Mansfield at 8 am and return at 5 pm.

Fri. 2nd September. Visit to Ashwood Nurseries in the West Midlands.

Cost £14.50, which includes a guided tour round the nurseries and entrance to John's Garden. Leave the Odeon car park Mansfield at 8 am and return at 4.30 pm.

Come and see us today or at any monthly meeting or ring me on 651528.

Marion Thornton

Luncheon Club

MAISIE Hammond is arranging for us to celebrate St Patrick's Day on 7th March at a return visit to the popular **Cross Keys, Epperstone**, for some Irish fare at it's home-cooked best. Cost will be £13.95 per person for 3 courses. And Carole Justice has picked **The Dovecote, Laxton** for 21st April at £13.99 for 2 courses and £16.99 for 3.

Details will be at the Lunch Club table today so get your name down if you're able to join us. (First come as the Cross Keys is almost sold-out and the Dovecote is fairly small!)

David Ling

Analogue TV switch-off

AS YOU MUST be aware, the television transmission signals are changing and if you do not have a digital TV (or Freeview, sky or suchlike) you will not be able to watch television soon. For most people in our area the analogue signal will be switched off in August 2011.

Being somewhat technically minded and also financially aware I was shocked to find I had missed what I consider a scam by a certain company in the TV field. (Must be careful not to commit perjury or slander so I do not put the name in writing. I shall say MOON to describe the firm).

Go back 18 months or so.

The first region in the UK to go digital was Cumbria and at that precise time we were on holiday in the Isle of Man. We stay with a lady who lets out two rooms only and is now a widow. She had purchased a digital-ready TV from Tesco so I tuned it for her (after unpacking our cases).

When I had scanned the channels only the 8 BBC ones were available (BBC1, BBC2, BBC3, BBC4, 2 children's channels, BBC News and BBC Parliament). "*Not to worry*", I said, "*perhaps you need something better than the coat hanger I was using as an aerial.*" "*Well this man from MOON came round and fitted this recorder thing when I complained my video had stopped working*" she said.

"*He says it will only be £15 per month and I can get lots of channels I couldn't get before*". So I spent some of my holiday time investigating.

What I had not realised was the TV broadcasters did the changeover in two steps, the first one being six or seven channels and the other thirty or so two weeks later. I wrote down instructions on how to tune a Tesco TV and went home. The following week we got a phone call to say our friend now had thirty plus channels and the man from MOON had been back and removed his gear, receiving a lecture on not conning old ladies.

So if the same thing happens in our area, do not panic when you think you will not be able to watch Coronation Street but just wait for the second stage of the switch over. There will be an overlap when both analogue and digital signals are being transmitted. Of course, if you want to pay for extra channels, contact MOON.

Terry Whitehead

Celebrating Our Cultures

THE U3A in the East Midlands is organising its first study day with the theme of celebrating the diversity of cultures across our large region and you are invited to attend.

It will be held on **Wednesday 6th April** at the Clifton Campus of Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham.

Full joining instructions and descriptions of the content of the day will be sent to U3A members who apply some 10 days before the event. I hope the following details will be helpful in encouraging you to come.

The day will begin with Registration and coffee at 10.00am and end at about 3.30pm with an hour for lunch. The cost will be £5 per person including a two course lunch and tea/coffee on arrival.

There will be four contributions from people knowledgeable in their fields:

Wildlife in the Peak National Park – Derbyshire.

Stories behind the Buildings – some of the findings of the Northampton U3A Shared Learning Project.

The Literature of Nottinghamshire – an examination of a celebrated literary figure.

“Water Carrier for Mesopotamia” – a new and non-technical look at engineering in Lincolnshire.

We hope we will attract a good number of U3A members and so the contributions will be based on lectures but with opportunities for you to participate.

Applications by email to me please at alandbev.morris@tiscali.co.uk by 23rd March at the latest.

Applications will be accepted on a first come first served basis. There is no limit to the number of members who may come from a U3A.

Alan Morris Tel: 01159 373954

Old laser physicists never die, they just become incoherent.

Old lawyers never die, they just lose their appeal.

Old limbo dancers never die, they just go under.

Old basketball players never die, they just go on dribbling.

Old bee-keepers never die, they just buzz off.

An elderly couple was watching television one evening.
The wife said, *"I am going to get a dish of ice cream now."*
Kindly, the husband offered to get the ice cream for his wife. *"I'll write it down so
you don't forget,"* she said.
"I won't forget," the old gent said. *"But, I want chocolate syrup and
nuts on it. So I'll write it down,"* she replied.
"I'll get you the ice cream. Don't you worry," replied the gentleman.
*A few minutes later, the old man returned with bacon and eggs.
His wife said, "See, I should have written it down; you forgot the toast."*

Disclaimer

THE VIEWS expressed here are those of the contributors, only, and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, the committee of Mansfield U3A or the Third Age Trust. Nor can any responsibility be accepted for errors that may occur.

Next Issue

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS for the April by email to mansfieldu3a@aol.com, or in typescript to the editor, as soon as you can and by 9th April at the latest. Thanks!

Editor: David Ling (01623 822994)

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