

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Mansfield and District U3A Newsletter



Established 1999

May 2011

Website: www.mansfield-u3a.org.uk

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

Welcome from your chairman and committee

HOW TIME FLIES when you're enjoying yourself !

Two special events took place just before our last monthly meeting, both too late to be mentioned in the April newsletter.

These cannot be allowed to pass without mention.

The first was the Third Age Prom on the 12th of April. It was enjoyed by everybody who attended – a wonderful occasion that even got reported in the Chad! This was held at the John Fretwell Complex, and afterwards the manager complimented Rita and Sylvia who organised it, on how well we were behaved – no rowdiness, no fights, no smoking or drug-taking in the toilets, in fact we were ideal customers!

The second was the coffee morning three days later. Again, most enjoyable, and thank you to all who contributed to either or both events. The coffee morning raised a total of £474.85, a considerable sum that will help to keep our subscriptions down !

Another important event to look forward to is the '*Picnic in the Park*' to be held at Rufford Park on Monday the 13th of June. We will have the use of the marquee, so come along, bring your picnic and enjoy yourselves.

On a personal note, as you read this, my wife and I will be with the holiday group enjoying ourselves on the Isle of Man, so please excuse our absence from the May meeting.

The U3A in general, and the Mansfield branch in particular, are wonderful organisations, so take part, join in, and be happy with friends !

Max Clarke

Speakers corner

UNFORTUNATELY, we've got a change of speaker again this month. The man from the CHAD pulled out 10 days ago, citing work requirements. As I had booked and confirmed him in February 2010, I was disappointed to say the least and had to think of another speaker.

However, I was in luck. At Gardening Club last week, I sat next to Pat Blackwell. We talked about the problem (the gardening group also had a non-show by a speaker!) and she reminded me that she had offered an emergency 'speaker repair' service to me before.

It was obvious that I should take up her kind offer. So, your speaker this month is **Pat Blackwell** and her subject is the **Southwell Workhouse**. In the best traditions of U3A, Pat has researched and developed her own project, and I am very grateful that she is going to share it with us today.

By the way, there is another member who has a talk ready to deliver if I am *in extremis* again – he knows who he is! I believe that we should really try to encourage more members to develop a project, whether written or given as a talk, as that is one of the objectives of U3A.

Mike Allen

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

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)

Tues. 16th August: ANNUAL PICNIC. Queen Elizabeth's School 11.00. Free, but bring food to share.

Holiday Notices

Loire Valley 10th - 18th July

FOR THOSE going on this holiday make sure your EHC card (the old E111) is amongst your hand luggage and that it is up to date. It only lasts for five years now. You will need it if the unforeseen happens and you are taken to hospital or have to visit a doctor. You can renew it on line or by phone. The Post Office will help you if you are applying for the first time.

Please remember the meeting on Saturday the 18th June 2011 (or 25th June) at the Junction Pub, Sutton in Ashfield, starting at 11am. Some of you still have not contacted me to tell me which date you prefer. Please note that I shall be giving out your luggage labels, itineraries and the coach plan so you really need to be there unless you can arrange for someone else to pick them up for you. It will also be an opportunity for you to ask any questions should you be in doubt about anything.

Thursford Christmas Spectacular 7th, 8th, & 9th December 2011

The deposit of £30 to be paid to Sherwood U3A no later than the June meeting please. Balances, which will be announced later, to be paid at the September meeting.

Margaret Burlinson

New projector now available to all interest groups

WE'VE UPGRADED the audio-visual equipment available to all interest groups by investing in a new digital projector that has a higher output than the one everyone has seen as that is coming to the end of its useful life, and declining in reliability. I'll be happy to show any interest group leader how to use it in conjunction with a U3A laptop to show DVDs borrowed from the U3A Resource Centre's huge list that covers virtually every subject. A portable stand, extension lead and laser pointer are available too to help with presentations.

The committee hopes to organise a training session for all group leaders shortly but please contact me if you want to use it before that happens and I'll show you how easy it is to show films at interest group meetings. (Don't ask to use it at the same time as a Digital World meeting though as it can't be in two places at once!)

David Ling

Recent Events

Coffee Morning

THIS YEAR'S coffee morning at The Towers on 5th April was such a resounding success that net proceeds were the equivalent of £2 off our annual subscriptions. (And one of the reasons why Mansfield U3A members pay less than others.)

I know everyone enjoyed themselves (even if they didn't win two prizes on the tombola!) and I'm sure they'd all like to thank the dozens of helpers who baked cakes, arranged plants, donated prizes and sold tickets, counted the cash, poured coffee and helped to clear up afterwards.

WELL DONE EVERYBODY!

David Ling



[More photos on the website ...](#)

Didn't they do well!

PARTY GOERS from several U3As around Mansfield donned party frocks and DJs at The John Fretwell Complex at Sookholme on 13th April to prove that re-cycled teenagers can have just as good a time as today's.

Organised by Rita Turner and Sylvia Slack, this is believed to be the first Third Age Prom to be held anywhere – another first for Mansfield U3A!

They'd decorated the hall with

balloons, laid-on a professional photo shoot for everyone, arranged an excellent DJ – whose choice of Glenn Miller and more-modern dance music soon had everyone 'In the Mood'.



The kitchens delivered the goods too with good helpings of excellent steak pie, lasagne and apple pie. And we kept the bar busy! Full marks to everyone involved.

David Ling

[More photos on the website ...](#)

Walkers at the Dumbles

A RESILIENT band of 9 walkers ventured out on the cool overcast Wednesday morning of 17th April to walk the Dumbles.

Having met at St Wilfrids church Kirkby we set off, walking passed Kirkby Cross, now barely discernible as a cross as it is so weather-worn. Then down Cowpastures Lane and into the fields of growing corn, the ground so parched it looked almost like a drought. Negotiating several fields, we began descending into the Dumbles, part of the ancient woods of Sherwood Forest.

The Dumbles is the name given to a small wooded dell where streams have carved out steep sided gullies. Walking through the Dumbles we past several carpet patches of native bluebells. Down in the depths of the Dumbles there was the evocative scent of bluebells. Climbing out of the woods we walked around another farm before entering the woods again.

The final push (having stopped for refreshments) after coming out of the woods was a climb up a hill with panoramic view of the Derbyshire Peaks and of Crich Stand and then back to the church. Thanks to Sylvia and Colin for such an enjoyable walk which in the end was pleasantly warm.

John Hallsworth

Groups' News

Warner's Thoresby Hall

(Monday 23 January 2012 to Friday 27 January 2012.)

FOR THE SEVENTH year, four nights bed, breakfast, evening meal and a full programme of entertainment included. Prices are £192 sharing, £232 single. As before, any profit will be distributed at the end of the break by raffle (in 2011 5 people got £20 back). The price includes Warner's cancellation insurance but I operate a waiting list and if I can fill your place from the waiting list I deduct £5 per booking and refund the balance as a cheque. If I fail to fill your place you get the Warner's insurance of a voucher to be spent on another Warner's break.

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 Meeting: 6th June – Members’ contributions: “ <i>A work of Art that I dislike</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: 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: 20th June; 19th September			
Current Affairs	Tu2, 2.00 M	Oakwood Suite Annexe Nottingham Rd.	Norma Shillinglaw 01623 466934
Next Meetings: June 14th; July 12th; September 13th			
Digital World	Fri2&4, 2.00 F (Except as below)	Stanton Hill Baptist Church, Skegby	David Ling 01623 822994
Next Meetings: May 27th – Photo storage, archiving & basic editing; 10th June – Modes: automatic, programme & speed/aperture priority; 17th June – Red eye			
English Country Dancing *	Sa3, 2.00 M (except as below)	South Forest Leisure Centre	Jean Kirk 01623 480207
Next Meeting: TBA			

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 deans never die, they just lose their faculties.
 Old doctors never die, they just lose their patience.
 Old electricians never die, they just lose contact.

Interest Group	Meetings	Meeting Places	Leader/Contact
Family History	Tu4, 10.00 M	St John's Centre Mansfield	Pat Blackwell 01623 481745
Next Meetings: May 24th – Items from granddad's shed; June 28th – Family history quiz			
Film Studies *	We1, 1.30 M	Joy's home	Joy Crowe 01623 645400
Next Meetings: 1st June; 6th July			
Garden Visits	During the Summer	Various	Marion Thornton 01623 651528
Next Visits: 10th June – Trentham Estate village (AM) and the Dorothy Clive Garden (PM); 2nd September – Ashwood Nurseries in the West Midlands			
Gardening *	Tu1, 10.00 M	St Peter's Centre, Mansfield	Avril McGee / Freda Cooper - 01623 452688 / 01623 621173
Next Meeting: June 7th – TBA; July 5th – Visit to Philip Jones, Ravenshead			
Holidays (Home & Abroad)	Various	TBA	Margaret Burlinson 01623 632538
Next holidays: 10th - 18th July – <i>Loire Valley Châteaux and Wine*</i> ; 7th - 9th December – <i>Thursford Spectacular</i> ; 23rd - 27th January 2012 – <i>Thoresby</i> (See Terry Whitehead)			
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: 19th May – The Elm Tree, Heath; June 23rd – The Dog, Pentrich,			
<u>Music Groups</u>			
Classical Music 1 *	Th2, 2.00 - 4.00 M	Members' homes	Alan & Marlene Radford 01623 427934
Next Meetings: June 9th at Ruth's; July 14th at Eric's Next Concert Visit: 27th May – The Hallé Orchestra at Royal Concert Hall			
Classical Music 2	Mo4, 2.00 - 4.00 M	Members' homes	Peter Hart 01623 620940
Next Meetings: 27th June – Handel			

Interest Group	Meetings	Meeting Places	Leader/Contact
Music 2 *	Mo4, 2.00 - 4.30 M	Members' homes	Eric Prescott 01623 631160
Next Meeting: 23rd May – <i>A Summer Evening</i> at Norma and Ian's			
Popular Music Appreciation	Tu4, 2.00 - 4.00 M	St John's School, Mansfield	Peter Haynes 01623 451053
Next Meetings: 24th May; 28th June; 26th July Next Concert Visit: TBA			
Pudding Club	Tu1, 4.00 M	Members' homes	Sylvia Slack 01623 633981
Next Meetings: June 7th at Sylvia's; July 5th at Janet's; August 2nd at Sylvia's			
Reading 1 *	Th3, 2.00 - 4.00 M	Peter Dawson's home	Peter Dawson 01623 882191
Next Meetings: 19th May; 16th June; 21st July			
Reading 2	Tu3, 2.00 - 4.00 M	Ravenshead Library	Joan McDonald 01623 511713
Next Meetings: 17th May; 16th June; 19th July			
Science & Technical	Tu1, 1.30 - 3.30 M	Stanton Hill Baptist Church	Ian Boucher 01623 644798
Next Meetings: 6th September – <i>Chemistry</i> , by Terry Whitehead 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: 13th June; 11th July			
Singing for Fun	Th2&4, 6.30 - 8.00 F	Brunts School, Mansfield	June Fell 01623 623547
Next Meetings: 19th May; 2nd June; 16th June; 30th June; 14th July; 28th July Next Performance: 14th June – Schools Summer Concert at Mansfield Civic Centre			
Tai Chi	Mo, 9.30 - 10.30 W	St John's Centre Mansfield	Cliff Laycock 01623 481985
Next Meetings: April 25th; May 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd; June 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th			
Theatre Visits	Various	Various	Mike Allen 01623 653345
Next visits: 24th May; Palace Theatre; 2.30pm – Hull Truck Company ' <i>April in Paris</i> '; July TBA; Stamford, 7.45pm – ' <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> '			

Interest Group	Meetings	Meeting Places	Leader/Contact
<u>Walking Groups</u>			
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: 2nd June – Grove & Upton; 20th June – Millers Dale & Peter Dale			
Strollers <i>(a leisurely 2 miles)</i>	We2, 10.30 M	Various	Barbara Massey / Marion Thornton 01623 628357 / 01623 651528
Next Meetings: 8th June – Cresswell; 13th July – Brierley Pk; 10th Aug – Portland Pk			
Walkers <i>(an easy 4 - 5 miles)</i>	We4, 10.30 M	Various	Sylvia Slack 01623 633981
Next Meetings: 25th May – Woolaton Pk; 22nd June – Wellow; 27th July – Pleasley			
Whist	Various Sa, 7.30 M	Chatsworth Drive, Mansfield	Edith Senior 01623 654022
Next Meetings: June 18th; September 26th			
Wine Appreciation 2 *	We3, 7.30 M	Members' homes	Mike Allen 01623 653345
Next Meetings: May 25th – Summer whites with George & Mavis; June 22nd – Australian Shiraz blends with Mike & Hilary; July 20 – Semillon blends			
Wine Appreciation 3 *	Tu4, 7.30 M	Members' homes	Graham Allin 01623 473662
Next Meetings: May 24th – Austria with Colin; July 5th – Wine Society with Barrie and Lynne; July 26th – The Rhone with Jill; Aug 23rd – Jura & Lorraine with Ron and Carol			

BOOK TABLE REPORT

APRIL'S book table contribution to members' funds was a good but not record-breaking £49.81 (I suppose the odd 1p is an improvement on last month's peseta as it rounds this year's total to a neat £184.90!)

Prices remain at just 40p per book and 20p per magazine so please come over and look through the bargains and help save money on next year's annual subscription.

Lilian Whitehead.

On television, my 88-year-old father and I saw an attractive woman wearing an evening gown split to her waist.

"Why do they wear gowns like that?," my grandfather asked.

"Maybe that style makes their legs look longer," I speculated.

"No." he said, "I think it makes the men look longer."

Warner's Thoresby Hall ... continued from p4

Warner's are attempting to get people to take out a charge card when you register so you can spend money in the bar, shop etc. Each room will receive a £10 voucher to take off the amount you have spent on your card at the end of the break. There will also be a bottle of house wine in each room (non drinkers tell me and you get soft drink instead).

I need a deposit of £50 pp by the end of May. The balance will be due by 10 November 2011, ALL CHEQUES PAYABLE TO MANSFIELD & DISTRICT U3A. If necessary you can give me a separate postdated cheque for the balance with your deposit cheque.

Any questions ring me (01623 626991). Better still email me at thoresby2012@yahoo.co.uk. If you send an email and do not get a reply in three days, blame the computer and phone me instead (leave message on machine if I am out).

Anyone wanting a double (or twin) room can be accommodated but only those singles I already know about can be taken. If in doubt please ring.

Terry Whitehead

Wine Group 2

THE APRIL meeting proved to be interesting – the theme was 'Wines for the Summer'. This sounds easy, of course. Just whip down to the supermarket & grab bottles of cheap white off the shelf & serve them up ice-cold, so cold that nobody can taste the watery liquid in them!

Luckily, the hosts refused to do the easy thing. They did go to the supermarkets, but brought back some more interesting bottles. We chose a New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc (Morrisons £9.99) as the best by a 'nose' from a Gruner Veltliner (Kremstal; Waitrose £10.49), with a cheap Hungarian Pinot Grigio (Morrisons £4.99) beating a poor £10.00 Sicilian one from Sainsburys!

However, the revelation was Gruner Veltliner – an Austrian grape. Our host provided another bottle – Brundlemayer Berg Vogelsang 2008, £15.99 at Waitrose. Now, if you want to celebrate this summer, buy this! It's a dry white, but really clean and fresh, with no mouth-puckering acidity, just a slight after-taste of citrus – great with shellfish. Probably the best white wine I've drunk in years, even beating the more floral Gewürztraminer from the Alsace which would be great with dessert.

So treat yourself! Both the grapes mentioned in the last paragraph are less usual, so you'll have to search for them, but it will be worth your while.

Mike Allen

Digital World

INTEREST in this new group, announced last month, bodes well at the time of writing so I'm collecting some DVDs that I hope will help novice camera users to get to grips with some of the features they didn't even know were on their cameras.

Our first meeting, on Friday May 13th, was due to look at basic menu options to maximise the capabilities of simple and more-advanced cameras and we plan to discuss options for photo storage on 27th May so please come along if you're not sure how to keep your photos safe and easy to show to friends at minimum cost.

Then on 10th June we'll be looking at the mode dial and what each option does.

Our usual fortnightly sequence has to be broken to avoid clashing with Sci-Tech's visit to Bletchley on the 24th so we'll meet on 17th June instead to look at the common problem of red-eye when using flash and some other simple edits. Do come along to Stanton Hill Baptist Church at 2.00 if you have a camera, whatever your knowledge. Sessions fees cost £2 to cover use of the computer suite and tea/coffee. (Please bring your camera, with a full battery and a memory card.)

David Ling

Luncheon Club

JOHN WEST is arranging our next lunch. at **The Elm Tree, Heath** on May 19th, where for their full blackboard menu will be available, with dishes at a wide range of prices.

Then Margaret Burlinson is arranging lunch on June 23rd at **The Dog, Pentrich** – a gastro-pub with a fine reputation – where the menu, priced at £9.99 for 2 courses and £13.99 for 3, will include rump steak.

Details will be at the Lunch Club table today so get your name down if you're able to join us.

David Ling

Walkers

THIS MONTH (Wed May 25th) we are going to Wollaton Park and would love any of you to join us for an easy walk around the park with a picnic lunch in the gardens. For those not wishing or able to walk 4 miles there are shorter walks joining us for lunch. There is a small parking charge but the house and museum have free entry.

Looking forward to seeing you at 10.30am in the main car park.

Sylvia Slack

Art Appreciation and Garden Visits

MEMBERS of the Art Appreciation and Garden Visits Groups had a lovely summer day on Friday 6th May for their trip to Upton House – the Country home of the 2nd Viscount Bearstead – whose father, Marcus Samuel, founded Shell Oil.

Now belonging to the National Trust, it houses an extensive art collection and has gardens redesigned by Kitty Lloyd James.

On arrival an introductory video sets the scene. Going out into the gardens a very steep incline leads down to the mirror pool where there are wonderful views of the terraces full of colourful plants, laburnum trees and magnificent wisteria with flowers over 2 feet long. Climbing up what seemed like endless steps a further drop down lead into a well-stocked bog garden and pond with a variety of large fish.

After all that effort, lunch was needed – a picnic or a quick visit to the restaurant?

The house opened at 1pm and what a treat; every room contained paintings and porcelain from the Viscount's collection, including one of the largest collections of Sevres porcelain in the country. We were able to get close up to works by Hogarth, Stubbs, El Greco and Canaletto, with detailed information on all the pictures in every room. The room monitors couldn't have been more helpful and friendly in making the house feel like a real family home that has been lovingly cared for.



Lord Bearsted certainly spent his fortune well.

Another pit stop for tea and cake; then into the woodland to view the bluebells. An extensive adventure trail has been laid out in the woods for younger visitors, which of course had to be completed by this 'recycled young lady' before going to join the rest of the party for the journey home, all tired but having had a super day thanks to all who organized it.

Sylvia Slack

[More photos on the website ...](#)

Interest group suggestions

PLEASE LET the committee know if you're on the waiting lists for any groups that are fully subscribed or are interested in any topic for which no group exists at the moment so that they can try to help you.

All our groups started with friends joining together to share a common interest and funds are available to help with start-up costs. Are you interested in local history, bird watching, writing or tutored wine tastings? Canasta, drawing or architecture? Computers, wood carving or railways? These are just some of the interests other U3A members share so just add your name and note your interest(s) to the list at the back of the hall as a first step and maybe you could too.

David Ling

A cautionary tale

IN FEBRUARY this year I received a telephone call from a debt agency addressing me by my name and claiming that my mail order account was in arrears and then asking me to confirm my address. I told them I had never heard of the mail order company and never give my address to unknown callers, and then I hung up.

The calls continued on a daily basis, so I called Consumer Direct who advised me to contact the mail order company direct. I also noted the caller's 0800 number and complained to BT Nuisance Calls who admitted receiving a high number of complaints about that number.

Research revealed that the company concerned is part of a huge group of mail order companies owned by one major PLC company. I telephoned them and found that, as I had made a small cash purchase of a toilet roll holder from one of their group of companies two years previously, they still had my details on their database. Despite requesting at the point of purchase that my details were not passed on, they had obviously shared my details with their other companies.

They confirmed that I did not owe them any money, but could not explain how my telephone number had ended up on the account someone with an identical name to mine, with a different address and with a completely different mail order company. I wrote a formal complaint to the company.

I applied for a Credit Report to check whether this company had made an entry on my credit record. When it arrived I found that the company had misused the information I had given them to investigate my complaint and used it to make an unauthorised search of my personal financial details. I was furious and, after lengthy correspondence and threats of legal action they finally admitted making mistakes, apologised and paid compensation.

This is a brief account of a long, stressful episode that took hours of work and cost a small fortune in expenses. At first I feared I was a victim of identity theft and felt vulnerable and anxious. I had no actual financial contract with this group of companies, so I could not get help from the Financial Ombudsman. We are all encouraged to believe that The Data Protection Act protects us from

misuse of our personal details, but in truth the Information Commissioner's Office's powers are limited to advising companies and not usually to penalising them for breaking the law. In a situation like this there is very little help available.

If anyone has received telephone calls like the ones detailed here and would like help, please feel free to contact me.

Jennie Roberts (01623 792097)

A short history of medicine

Patient – *I have Ear Ache*
Physician, 2000BC – *Here, eat this root.*

1000AD – *That root is heathen, say this prayer.*

1850AD – *That prayer is superstitious, drink this potion.*

1940AD – *That potion is snake oil, swallow this pill.*

1985AD – *That pill is ineffective, take this antibiotic.*

2010AD – *That antibiotic is artificial, here eat this root.*

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 June issue by email to mansfieldu3a@aol.com, or in typescript to the editor, as soon as you can and by 5th June at the latest. Thanks!

Editor: David Ling (01623 822994)

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