

HOLIDAYS

5 day holiday to Mansions Hotel, Eastbourne - 10 - 14 May 2010

Cost £220 (for those sharing) £233 (singles) (entrance fees to gardens not included)

I still have 2 twin and 1 double room available for this holiday. For all those who have signed up already I shall need £50 as a deposit to be divided between hotel and coach no later than the October meeting please.

The gardening group committee have still to meet to decide on the gardens we are to visit, so these will be announced later.

10 day coach holiday to Germany & Austria 26 June - 5 July 2010

This announcement is primarily for new members who may be interested in seeing the Passion play in Oberammergau. Since spare tickets have now been sent back to the organisers, I would like to invite any members and their friends to put their names on a waiting list in case there are any cancellations in our group as we near the date of travel. Unfortunately we are at the age when this is likely to happen. I have had cancellations at the last minute before each of our last three holidays due to either illness or pending operations. Depending which category of ticket may become available for the play, the cost, before I have shared out any free places will range from £979 - £1,279 .and & the included excursions.

Please contact me on 01623 632538 or see me at the interval during our monthly meeting.

Margaret Burlinson

Warner's Thoresby Hall 11– 15 January 2010 (Price £190 sharing, £230 single)

Everyone who is going on this holiday should have a registration card and full details. If you have not got one, contact me as soon as possible.

There is a waiting list. If you would like to go on the list, let me know. No payment required, no obligation to take up the vacant places. Let me know if you want to be included (non U3A members can go on the list as well).

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Editor:

MANSFIELD & DISTRICT

U3A

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Established 1999

website: www.mansfield-u3a.org.uk



Newsletter

Vol 4 No 10

SEPTEMBER 2009

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2009/10 ARE NOW DUE

A reminder that subscriptions for the new year are now due. They will remain at the same level - £15.00 for full membership, £12.50 for Associate membership (those members who have paid a full subscription to another U3A). Cheques to be made out to Mansfield and District U3A.

If a cheque includes a subscription for someone other than those named on the cheque please write the names of everyone covered by the payment on the reverse of the cheque.

Thanks

Pauline Boucher, Treasurer

DIARY DATES

Christmas Social

Tuesday 8 December at 7.30pm William Kaye Hall, Ladybrook Lane, Mansfield
£8.50 includes Buffet and Ceilidh Band Tickets on sale at the October meeting

Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 1 December at 12noon
Pavilion Suite, Derbyshire Hotel, South Normanton (near junction 28 M1)
Two course Christmas lunch plus tea or coffee Cost: £12
For full details please contact Norma Shillinglaw on 01623 466934

THEATRE VISITS AND OUTINGS

Blithe Spirit by Noel Coward

At Nottingham Playhouse on Thursday September 17th

Please Note that the time of the play is 1.30pm not 2pm

All My Sons by Arthur Miller

At Leicester's new Theatre – the 'Curve' - on Wednesday October 28th at 2.15pm.

Adolf Hitler – My part in his Downfall adapted from Spike Milligan

At the Theatre Royal on Wednesday November 25th. at 2 pm.

Art Appreciation Group

Visit to Salford Quays - Friday 23rd October 2009

The bus is now full and there is a waiting list . For full details of times and itinerary please contact Carole Justice on 01623 491809

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10th Anniversary Buffet Lunch

Over 100 people came to the Oakham Suite on Tuesday 18th of August to share a buffet lunch to celebrate 10 years of the Mansfield U3A. Ray Reader opened the proceedings with the story of our group. It is amazing to consider how many clubs and activities have been started in those 10 years. We are also very lucky to have so many talented people who are prepared to take on the organisation involved in running the many clubs which we all enjoy. It was a happy relaxed atmosphere and the tables and flowers had been arranged attractively. The Masonic staff put on a pleasant lunch Towards the end of lunch Theresa Wells, the leader of the newest group, introduced her belly-dancing teacher who gave us a demonstration of the art. Apparently belly-dancing is good for all the parts of the body. There was a lively discussion at our table as to whether we should all go and sign up!

We finished with a raffle for free membership next year and 2 lucky dips for cash prizes. People around me seemed to have really enjoyed themselves...so here's to the next 10 years!

Alison Gent

A Midsummer Nights Dream - Theatre Visit Wednesday 1st July

We set off on a beautiful sunny evening to the Stamford Open Air Theatre at Tolethorpe Hall in the Kirkby Community Bus with Glen as our most helpful volunteer driver. The reason? To see a production of the 'Dream'.

An hour and a half later, we had joined the picnickers on the grass with our meals, though others around had chairs and tables laid with buffet meals and cooled wine!

As the bell tolled, we took our seats under cover, while the stage set stood in the open. But what a set! An atmospheric woodland grove filled with real shrubs and flowers, with real trees and the clear blue sky as a background. And even midges! Large hollow (plastic) tree trunks rose in the foreground as places for actors to lie on, leap onto or appear round or from the inside, and were festooned with even larger spiders' webs – I hoped they would change colour, but in vain.

The play is really three plots joined together. I found the first (set in the Athenian court, involving two young couples in a love story of mixed-up pairings) rather staid until the end, when the two male lovers ran round the forest in their underwear, trying to find their negligee-clad loves!

The second plot concerned the fairies, ruled by the warring Oberon and Titania. The former were played by the Youth Drama group, youngsters hoping to become professional actors and dancers. Imaginative costumes reflected their characters and their dance movements made me feel their otherworldliness.

The final plot involved the comic 'Mechanicals' – local English 16th c. workers trying to put on a play for the weddings at the Court. Their amusing and very amateur production was preceded by an unexpected firework display.

We had travelled a long way, but the journey was worth it. The production, although amateur, matched many a professional one. Particularly good were the courtly lovers, Puck and Cobweb (fairies) and Bottom the Weaver.

The party agreed that it had been one of the most enjoyable shows we'd been to recently. Thank you to Mike Allen who organised it.

Edith Humphries.

Give us a sense of humour,
Give us the grace to see a joke,
To get some humour out of life,
And pass it on to other folk.

Harlaxton

During the second week of July, several members of Mansfield U3A went to Summer- School at Harlaxton. The courses are divided between the first and second halves of the week. We went to the second half, which was Wednesday to Sunday. Most of the party having attended in the past, and had such a good time, were going again. There was an extensive choice of courses we could have enlisted on, but between us we chose Art – “Still Life and Portraits”; “Gardens and Gardening”; “Singing for Fun”; “Archaeology” and also a course on “A Northern Drift – An introduction to Geology”, but the “Rise of the House of Windsor” course was cancelled, due to the indisposition of the tutor.

We had a wonderful time learning and experiencing new pursuits. The gardening group had a full day with “hands-on” experience at a nursery under the instruction of the owner, Tim Rasell. We visited Barnsdale and a wonderful arboretum of topiary at Clipsham, and on another day, a beautiful walled garden at Easton, in the process of restoration by Lady Ursula Cholmondeley, who gave us an escorted tour.

The singing group learned canons, harmony and many new songs, and entertained the whole school at the celebratory dinner with a selection from their repertoire.

The Archaeology/Geology group went to Cresswell Crags – this field trip was so close to home for our group, but of course there were others from far away who had never been to this unique and now re-vamped natural asset in Nottinghamshire. Some joined this group due to the cancellation of their selected course of ‘The Rise of the House of Windsor’. The Art group produced some lovely work, which was on display at the end of the course.

Harlaxton Manor is a beautiful Victorian manor house, retaining many of its original features. As students, we got to use many of the state rooms, and everywhere was accessible to us. The food served in the refectory was excellent, as always, and the surrounding area is quite beautiful, with the views from the elevated site, stunning.

Jill Pullan

British Horological Institute

In July the SciTech group and guests visited the British Horological Institute at the magnificent Georgian Upton Hall near Southwell. The curator, Alan Middleton welcomed the group and, after an introductory talk on the history of the institute and the British clock industry, gave the group a guided tour of the museum. The exhibits cover all aspects of timekeeping and include the original telephone speaking clock and the first successful electric clock from circa 1842

Key to Meetings details: This 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. Final letter M (or F or W) represents monthly, fortnightly or weekly meetings respectively. So “**Tu2. 2.30 pm. M**” would mean a meeting on the second Tuesday at 2.30 pm monthly. The main monthly U3A meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month (except for August and December) at the Masonic Hall, Nottingham Rd, Mansfield from 10-12.30pm.

GROUP	MEETINGS	MEETING PLACES	CO-ORDINATOR
ART APPRECIATION	Monthly various days	St Johns Centre Mansfield	Pauline Boucher 01623 644798
Next meeting: Monday 28 September 2.00 – 4.00 pm			
BEGINNERS BRIDGE	Mo last in the month 6.30pm M	Enviro Centre Derby Road College Mansfield	Edith Senior 01623 654022
Next meeting			
BELLY DANCING	Mo 1 and 3	Media Studio Wood Street, Mansfield	Theresa Wells 01623 620637
Next meeting: 21 September Contact Theresa for details			
CURRENT AFFAIRS	Tu2. 2.00pm M	Friends Meeting House Mansfield	Norma Shillinglaw 01623 466934
Next meeting: 13 October			
CHAT and STITCH	Mo3. 2.00pm M	St John’s Centre Mansfield	Marion Owens 01623 634408
Next meeting: 19 October			
CYCLING	Su3 M	Various	Peter Thirkettle 01623 628136
Next meeting:			
ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING	Sa3. 2.00pm M	South Forest Leisure Centre Edwinstowe	Jean Kirk 01623 480207
Next Meeting: .			
FAMILY HISTORY	Tu4. 10.00am M	St Johns Centre, Mansfield	Pat Blackwell 01623 481745
Next meeting: 22 September 'Epidemics and diseases'			
FILM REVIEW	We1 M	St Johns Centre, Mansfield	Joy Crowe 01623 645400
Please contact Joy for details of films			
GARDEN VISITS	Visits during the warmer months	Various meeting places	Marion Thornton 01623 651528
GARDENING GROUP	Tu1. 10.00am M	St Peters Centre	Avril McGee 01623 452688 Freda Cooper 01623 621173
Next meeting: 6 October Kate Richards - 'Working with Willow'			

GROUP	MEETINGS	MEETING PLACES	CO-ORDINATOR
HOLIDAYS, BREAKS, DAYTRIPS	3-4 times a year to plan holidays	As announced	Margaret Burlinson 01623 632538
Eastbourne May 2010 Oberamagau 2010 Contact Margaret for details			
INVESTMENTS- PLATINUM GROUP	Mo1. 11.00 am. M	Forest Lodge Hotel Edwinstowe	Jill Pullan 01623 400545
Next meeting: 5 October			
LUNCHEON GROUP	Thursday after U3A meeting 12md. M	Various venues	David Ling 01623 822994
17 Sept Thai Chateau, Sutton in Ashfield 22 Oct Wagon and Horses, Halam			
MUSIC GROUPS			
MUSIC 2	Mo4. 4.00 pm. M	Various members homes	Eric Prescott 01623 631160
Next meeting: 28 September 'Singalong' at Bunty Kirk's Meet at 4.00 pm			
POPULAR MUSIC APPRECIATION	Tues 4. 2.00pm M	St John's Centre Mansfield	Peter Haynes 01623 451053
Next meeting: 22 September Music covered will be Jazz, Swing, Country and Folk.			
CLASSICAL MUSIC 1	Th2. 2.00pm. M	Various members homes	Marlene/Alan Radford 01623 427934
Next meeting: 8 October			
CLASSICAL MUSIC 2	Mo4. 2.00 pm. M	Various members homes	Peter Crabbe 01623 624224
Next meeting: 21 September			
PUDDING CLUB	Tu1. 4.00pm. M	Various	Sylvia Slack 01623 633981
Next meeting: 6 October			
READING 1	Th3. 2.00pm. M	Co-ordinator's home	Peter Dawson 01623 882191
Next meeting: 17 September			
READING 2	Tu3. 2.00pm. M		
Next meeting			
SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL	Tu1 1.30pm M	Baptist Church Albert Street Stanton Hill	Ian Boucher 01623 644798
Next meeting: 6 October Foundry process			
SCRABBLE	Mo2. 2.00pm	Co-ordinator's home	Brenda Thurkettle 01623 628136
We play to enjoy the game, but not too seriously as to make it hard work!			
TAI CHI	Mo1-5. 9.30am. W	St John's Centre Mansfield	Cliff Laycock 01623 481985
St John's Centre in Mansfield from 9.30am-10.30am. Please see Cliff Laycock for details.			

GROUP	MEETINGS	MEETING PLACES	CO-ORDINATOR
THEATRE VISITS	Various dates and times	Various venues and coach points	Michael Allen 01623 653345
17 September Blithe Spirit by Noel Coward 28 October All My Sons by Arthur Miller 25 November Adolf Hitler – My part in his Downfall adapted from Spike Milligan			
TREASURES	Various dates and times	Various venues	Joy Crowe 01623 645400
WALKING GROUPS			
HIKERS (5½ - 8 miles)	(i)Th1. 9.30am.M (ii) Mo3.9.30am.M	Co-op car park at Mansfield Woodhouse	Peter Thurkettle 01623 628136
Mon 21 Sept Hardwick 7 ½ miles Thu 1 Oct Eakring 7 miles Mon 19 Oct White Edge 8miles			
WALKERS (4 miles approx)	We4. 10.30am. M	Various meeting places	Sylvia Slack 01623 633981
28 October Jordan Castle Farm, Wellow – tour led by the farmer – everyone welcome			
STROLLERS (2 miles approx)	We2. 10.30am. M	Various meeting places	Geoff Davies 01623 623556
Next meeting: 14 October Sutton Road Reservoir Meet in Morrisons Car Park			
WHIST GROUP	Saturdays (various) 7.30pm. M	St Philip Neri Community Centre	Edith Senior 01623 654022
Next meeting:			
WINE APPRECIATION 2	We3. 7.30pm. M	Various members homes	Ron Britton 01623 456855
Next meeting: 21 October White – Pinot Grigio at Hilary and Joan's			
WINE APPRECIATION 3	Tuesdays (various) 7.30pm. M	Various members homes	Ron Britton 01623 456855
Next meeting: 22 September Red – Cabernet Sauvignon 4 at Barrie and Lynne's			

I am a fairly new member of the U3A, and due to other commitments, have so far, only been able to join one interest group, which is the Chat & Stitch group.

Although I went on my own, I was made to feel so very welcome, and was amazed at the array of different work being done, from knitting & embroidery, to quilting & bead work, or just plain alteration of clothes to give a better fit. The ladies all helped each other if they got stuck, or needed some advice. It is a great pity there are so few members. Perhaps the title puts people off, but believe me, there is far more chatting and laughing, than actual work accomplished on the day, but at least the ladies can go home and carry on after any help or advice has got them over a hurdle. I look forward to starting again in September, after the summer break.

Fileen Wass