

CONTENTS

Page 2

Theatre and Music

Page 3

Dates for your Diary
News from the Groups:
Antiques
Art Appreciation 3
Bridge
Bridge Beginners

Page 4

News from the Groups:
Computer Tablets
Drawing and Painting
Family History
Local History
Knitting
Music

Page 5

News from the Groups:
Philosophy
Possible New Groups:
French
Snooker
10th Anniversary

Page 6

General Meetings
2015 Diaries
On the Website
Membership Renewal
Form

FROM THE CHAIR – Lynda Harris

Well, here we are again at the end of another glorious summer ready for the restart of the majority of our activities. Included in this edition is information from some of the groups who are looking for new members and some coordinators will be available at the September meeting to answer your queries. Perhaps this will be an opportunity for you to try something new.

Details of an interesting outing are below and there are some great theatrical offerings on page 2. Please note the starting time for a couple as they are earlier than usual but, should you forget, you can always find the details on our website.

Please do not forget to renew your membership. There is a renewal form on page 6 and you will see that the membership fee remains at £15 which, I think you would agree, represents good value for money considering how much is on offer.

It would really assist Veronica, our very efficient and dedicated membership secretary, if you would do this at the earliest opportunity to help reduce the amount of her time used in ‘reminding’.

Enjoy our U3A!

JCB FACTORY IN ROCESTER, STAFFS THURSDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2014

As something of a departure from our usual outing we have been lucky enough to book one of the sought-after tours at the JCB factory at Rocester. To quote from JCB’s brochure; “Your visit will begin with a welcome from JCB and refreshments, followed by a guided tour of The Story of JCB exhibition. The tour will then move on to the assembly line of the world famous Backhoe Loader machine, where you will see the process of how the machine is built, from the delivery of sheet steel, profiling, laser cutting, welding, paint shop and assembly, and finally the finished product”.

Lunch will be served in the hospitality suite and offers “a unique dining experience”. The food is 100% Soil Association organic and is supplied by Lady Bamford (wife of Lord Bamford – the B in JCB). She owns the Daylesford Organic farm shops in Gloucestershire and London.

This tour is not suitable for those with mobility difficulties and we are asked not to wear open toed shoes.

The cost is £30 which includes: coach fare, tea/coffee on arrival, factory tour and lunch. We will leave Knutsford Bus Station at 8.15 and leave Rocester at 1.45.

To book please send a completed booking form and cheque for £30 per person, made payable to Knutsford U3A, to: Carole English, 49, Cranford Avenue, Knutsford WA16 0EB. Tel; 01565 625815

THEATRE AND MUSIC TRIPS

SUMMER 2014



BOOKING

PLEASE use a **separate booking form** and a **separate cheque** (made payable to Knutsford U3A) for **each performance** and send to Mrs Margaret Hinde, 1 Warford Hall Drive, Great Warford, Alderley Edge, SK9 7TR. For further information telephone 01565 872643 or email info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk

'THE WOMAN IN BLACK'

Wednesday, October 29th, 7.30 pm
Lyceum Theatre, Crewe

Cost, including travel, £32.00
Coach will leave Bus Station at **5.45 pm**

This production is on tour direct from the West End, where it has been playing for the last 25 years. It is billed as 'One of the most chilling and successful theatre events ever staged, delivering an evening of unremitting drama'. The Lyceum Theatre has been newly refurbished, but still retains many of its original Edwardian features, an appropriate setting for the play!

'SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER'

Wednesday, 12th November, 7.30 pm
New Vic Theatre, Newcastle

Cost, including travel, £26.00
Coach will leave Bus Station at **6 pm**

Goldsmith's period comedy, 'a delightful romantic romp, filled with merriment, mischief, misunderstanding and mayhem!' and produced by Northern Broadsides. It should be fun!

'LA TRAVIATA' – Verdi **An Opera North production**

Friday, 21st November, at 7 pm
The Lowry Theatre

Cost, including travel, £38.00
Coach will leave Bus Station at **5.30 pm**

Set against the glamour of Belle Epoque Paris, telling the tragic story of the courtesan Violetta, 'La Traviata' is one of Opera's most profoundly moving masterpieces and features some of the most famous, instantly recognisable arias. It is sung in Italian with English titles.

CLASSICS BY CANDLELIGHT **A matinee performance!**

Sunday, 30th November, 3 pm
Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

Cost, including travel, £ 33.00
Coach will leave Bus Station at **1.45 pm**

The Mozart Festival Orchestra, in full 18th century costume and in an attractive candle lit setting, play a selection of popular classic masterpieces:- Handel, Mozart, Bach and Vivaldi. Margaret has the full programme if anyone wants more information.

PLEASE NOTE: Margaret has to pay for all four of the above productions in September, so they will only be available by post until 11th September and at the September Meeting on 11th September.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OUTINGS – Tuesday 25th November. 2014. Outing to Chatsworth House, Derbyshire to see the Christmas decorations and visit the Farm Shop. Full details and booking in the October Kanuta.

THEATRE – ‘The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time’ at The Lowry, Wednesday, 7th January at 7.30 pm. Tickets on sale in October

NEWS FROM GROUPS

ANTIQUES

This group meets in Room 5 at the Methodist Church from 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon on the second Thursday of each month. On 11th September we will bring items with a plant-related theme to discuss; on 9th October, the theme will be drink-related items; on 13th November, Peter Ashburner from Wright Marshall will come and talk to us about antique furniture and in December, we will have a group presentation on silver. If you would like to join the group or attend any meeting as a visitor, please contact Tessa Gurney (01477 533076)

ART APPRECIATION 3

This group re-launched itself in the Spring. During the transition to a new programme we looked at minor 19C schools of artists; the Camden Street Group, the Newlyn School and the Scottish Colourists. We knew very little about these artists and enjoyed studying their works. From September, we shall be starting a long-term project by looking at the history of European art beginning with Byzantine Art and moving on to artists such as Giotto, Fra Angelica and Botticelli. We intend to spend some time on Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo.

We are a small but enthusiastic and friendly group and would welcome new members. None of us claims to be an expert and have a range of knowledge and experience. We share an enthusiasm for looking at art and opinions are expressed freely. The format for the meetings is very simple. After an over-view from the convenor each member reports on an artist they have researched showing examples of work either on a lap-top or tablet or from books. We are hoping to integrate some U3A resources into our programme.

We meet at 2 pm on the fourth Monday in the month in members' homes. Our next meeting is on Monday 22nd September. If you are interested in joining us please contact Jean Berney on 01565 634262.

BRIDGE

This group offers the opportunity for those with some experience to receive tuition and support to improve their game and to play in a friendly and encouraging setting. We have two groups meeting on alternate Friday mornings at Toft Cricket Club on Chelford Road.

The Improvers Group, led by Jenny Saint, has progressed to playing Duplicate Bridge, a more structured format, but still in a relaxed setting with Jenny available to offer guidance. For those with less experience, the Tuition Group led by George Tyror offers a mix of formal lessons and supervised play. George has suspended his formal lessons during the summer and will commence a new series of structured lessons in October.

Members are free to attend either or both of the session. For more information please contact the coordinator, David Rowland on 01625 860290

BRIDGE – BEGINNERS

In this group George Tyror offers lessons for absolute beginners. The next course will start in the autumn and run until spring. Contact George on 01565 633057 for more information.

COMPUTER TABLETS

This group was formed earlier this year with the purpose of putting in touch those members who use a tablet and would like to learn more or those who are able to pass on their knowledge. The idea is to use our tablets when communicating with each other but members felt that the odd meeting was required to put names to faces and to see how others used this technology. We have met twice and we all learned something and I hope that those like me, who are not very adventurous, will keep on exploring the fascinating world to which we have such easy access. If you are interested in joining us please contact Margaret Burke on 01565 722182

DRAWING AND PAINTING

We shall be meeting again this autumn, beginning on 15th September. Meetings are held at Toft Church Hall on Mondays 10 am -12 noon. We hope that current members will return after our summer break; we would also welcome new members. For any further information contact: Jill Board on 01565 652940

FAMILY HISTORY

The Family History Group meets each second Friday of each month (except in August) at 2pm in the upstairs room of the Angel on bottom street. Our topics are chosen from suggestions from members, and we encourage participation and discussion, as well as sometimes having an expert on a topic to lead a session. The planning group have arranged a series of meetings up to Christmas, and of course, we welcome more ideas for the New Year. The Autumn/Winter programme is on the U3A website, and will be updated as new sessions are arranged. The next topics coming up are the workhouse, occupations and family photographs.

We very much welcome new members, and of course, any previous members who might not have been for some time. Please contact Christine Jones on 01565 633435

LOCAL HISTORY

This group meets on the 4th Thursday of the month for talks and visits to places of historical interest. Talks are normally held at St Vincent's Church Hall, Tatton Street, Knutsford, at 10.30 am. There is a fee of £2 per member per meeting to cover speaker fees and room hire costs. Other U3A members are welcome to join us for any of these meetings. Jean Ellis 01565 651222.

Thursday 25 September 2014 – Talk by Mary Gracie – “Knutsford and Beyond”

Thursday 23 October 2014 – Visit to Adlington Hall and Prestbury Church

Thursday 27 November 2014 – Talk by Keith Warrender – “Manchester and Cheshire Oddities”

KNITTING

Advance notice for all interested in knitting or sewing: Knitting and Stitching Show Harrogate on 20th to 23rd November. I have no plans at the moment to organise a visit but I may well go so, if you are interested, look at their website or contact Jane McHarry on 01565 651036.

MUSIC APPRECIATION GROUP

Providing for a wide range of musical tastes, this is a friendly and informal group. The overall aim is of enjoyment for all. Regular numbers are between 15 – 20 and we meet at 1.45 pm on the third Monday of the month in Room 5, upstairs, Methodist Church meeting rooms (there is a lift). Entrance is at the rear of the building, press key number 5 to access. You are welcome to bring along a guest to any of our meetings. The cost is £1 per session, 20p for tea and biscuit. For more information contact Sue Hopkin on 01565 651839

- **Monday 15th September – Music in Church, Hall and Home** – Richard Baines
Ranging from church anthems to large-scale concert works, as well as music to be played at home, this will be an afternoon of variety and contrasts with music for everyone
- **Monday 20th October – Stories in Music** – Tessa Gurney
Stories and poems have long been set to music with the first documented examples being troubadour songs. The programme will include Symphonic Poems (orchestral works depicting stories) and Secular Cantatas (vocal works with orchestral accompaniment). Hiawatha will make an appearance!

PHILOSOPHY

“There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy.”

These are the words of Hamlet. What is philosophy? What did Hamlet mean? There are many definitions

Whilst perhaps not intended by Hamlet in the much broader way that we now view it, the philosophy of his time was moving away from the spiritual towards the scientific. Science pursues factual knowledge about things. On the other hand philosophy rarely answers the questions it raises in this way. The objective of philosophy is to pose the question and then pursue a possible explanation by enquiry and questioning. Philosophy challenges apparently accepted “truths” and by logical examination, either agrees or disagrees with the previous “truth”. Differing views are often proposed and then re-considered.

This process does not necessarily require scientific knowledge per se, although it can, in many instances be helpful and excite the inquiring mind. The sort of mind which does not take for granted what others have said. Philosophy deals in questions on which people in general do not agree. Where there is agreement there is no room for dissent and discussion. Philosophy is neither Science nor Art, it is a unique activity. It is the investigation of the nature, causes, or principles of reality, knowledge, or values, based on logical reasoning as well as empirical methods.

If you are prepared to talk and listen (to others) and to argue the logic on which any statement is made, then we are the group for you. If you enjoy good discussion and debating issues please come along. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at the Methodist Church, Room 5, at 10:30 am to midday. Telephone either: Alan Mackenzie on 01477 532007 or Shirley Dignam on 01565 652958 for further information.

POSSIBLE NEW GROUPS

FRENCH

The current French group has been running successfully since the very beginning of Knutsford U3A. It is fully subscribed and we have a substantial waiting list.

Is there anybody out there who would consider starting a new group, probably of intermediate conversation standard? You don't need to be an expert, just able to communicate in basic French and willing to organise a group of like-minded, would-be linguists! I would be happy to help establish a second group and pass on some ideas for possible activities. Please contact Jill Board on 01565 652940.

SNOOKER

After seeing an article in Third Age Matters on a very successful Snooker group I thought this could be something that would enhance our U3A. Would you be interested? Please contact me, Rod Howgate, on 01625 582924 and I will facilitate the formation of this activity.

OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Rod Howgate is currently collecting information for a book detailing the history of our U3A and has two requests for our members.

Do you have any photographs that could be included? Please email your contributions, as an attachment, to info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk with 10th Anniversary as the subject.

Do you have any experience in editing? Rod would really like to hear from you – 01625 582924 – to discuss how your expertise could be utilise. Collecting information is one thing but putting it together to create this book is something else!

GENERAL MEETINGS
Knutsford Methodist Church
Second Thursday of every month starting at 2:15 pm

11 th September	Dr Selwyn Goodacre who has a specialist interest in children's books
9 th October	Paul Whittaker – Music and the Deaf
13 th November	Elizabeth Williams – Jane Austen, Charlotte Bronte and Love

U3A DIARIES for 2015 will be on sale at the General Meeting in September.
Price £2.50

On the Website:

The following can be found on the website:

- Ironbridge: Birthplace of the industrial revolution a U3A Two-Day Study Break – April 2014
- Walking the Gritstone Trail (with photos) – June 2014
- Geology at Ercall Quarry and The Wrekin (with photos) – June 2014
- Traversa – A solo 3000 mile walk across Africa from the Skeleton coast to the Indian Ocean – General Meeting in June 2014

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – September 2014 to 2015 – DUE NOW

To renew your subscription please use the renewal form below and send it, with your cheque for £15 per member and a stamped addressed envelope for your membership card(s) to our Membership Secretary: **Veronica Gordon at 38 Carlisle Close, Mobberley, Knutsford WA16 7HD**. If you prefer, you can renew in person at the meeting on 11th September.

Membership Renewal: 2014/2015

Please find enclosed my cheque (payable to Knutsford U3A) for: 1-2 (Select as applicable) members @ £15 each - £ together with a SAE for my/our membership card(s)

Name(s)

Address

..... Postcode Telephone

Email address(es)

.....