

FROM THE CHAIRMAN - Carole English

I must start this issue with a comment on the **SHOWCASE** which we held on 13th September. To say it surpassed all our expectations is an understatement – in terms of the number of people who attended, the interest it created and the 53 new members who joined. The Knutsford Guardian's comment 'The U3A Creates a Buzz' was very appropriate. For me the best thing about the afternoon was seeing the wonderful displays and demonstrations put on by the all the groups, who really rose to the occasion and 'did us proud'. My thanks go to everyone who took part and helped in any way, and that includes those of you who came along on that afternoon to give your support. It was a terrific team effort and we certainly showed Knutsford what U3A is all about.

We have high hopes that our London weekend will go ahead, and please have another look at the details which are further on in this issue of **Kanuta**. If you would like to go on this weekend holiday, could you please contact me and send your deposit as soon as possible. I will be pleased to answer any of your queries.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the General Meetings over the next few months. We have some excellent speakers and your support and interest is appreciated

VISIT TO GAWSWORTH HALL - MONDAY 10th DECEMBER

This year for our Christmas outing we are visiting Gawsworth Hall to see this lovely Tudor manor house decorated for Christmas. Each year the house is transformed by floral designer Barry Grey, and after a tour of the rooms we will be able to have tea and cakes in the Orchard Tea Rooms. The coach will leave Knutsford at 1.15 and leave Gawsworth for our return at 4.30. The cost will be £14.50, which includes your entry to Gawsworth and coach fare. Tea is not included in this price. Cheques should be made payable to Knutsford and District U3A and sent together with a booking form to Margaret Cole (details over the page)

Please note: Bookings will be taken on a first come first serve basis and, while we hope to be able to offer booking at the General Meetings in October and November, many of our Outings are now being completely booked within the first week of being offered. If you would like to go on a particular outing it is advisable to book as soon as possible.

Booking Form for Gawsworth Hall

Name(s) Telephone

Address

..... Post Code

Email

I/we would like: places @ £14.50 each £ PTO

KNUTSFORD U3A OUTINGS AND HOLIDAYS COMMITTEE

LONDON WEEKEND

3rd to 6th MAY 2013



This weekend has been organised by the **Outings** Committee and arranged through Tailored Travel, an ATOL registered award winning company specialising in group holidays, particularly with U3As.

The price includes:

- Executive coach transport
- 3 Nights Bed and Breakfast at the 3* Holiday Inn Kensington Forum Hotel less than 5 minute walk from Gloucester Road tube station, and a short walk to the Natural History Museum and Kensington High Street.
- Optional Excursions itemised in the itinerary (but not entrance fees to places visited)

Briefly the itinerary is as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Friday 3 rd May | Depart Knutsford and stopping in Windsor en route. |
| Saturday 4 th May | Morning half day guided tour of London by coach with a Blue Badge Guide. The tour will finish on the South Bank. Transfer back to hotel by coach or make your own way. |
| Sunday 5 th May | Morning by coach to Greenwich to visit the National Maritime Museum and the Royal Observatory. Transfer back to hotel by coach, or make your own way back, possibly via the river. |
| Monday 6 th May | Morning by coach to Trafalgar Square with time to visit the National Gallery or Portrait Gallery before returning to Knutsford. |

Cost per person is £309 with a single supplement £89
Insurance £14.

All enquiries to Carole English on 01565 625815 or email info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk . Carole also has some COLOUR BROCHURES

Book now or at the October General Meeting

GAWSWORTH HALL

Please send the booking form together with a cheque, made payable to Knutsford and District U3A, for £14.50 per place to:

Margaret Cole
43 Garden Road
Knutsford
WA16 6HT

Telephone: 01565 633569

SHOWCASE

SHOWCASE

SHOWCASE

2012 will be remembered as a year of anniversaries and achievements. What better moment to get in tune with the national mood and to pay tribute to the 30th Anniversary of the U3A by showcasing the achievements of the Knutsford and District Branch? The Committee decided to go with the idea. The date was fixed for 13 September, the venue the Civic Hall, the time 2 pm – 4 pm.

All of our 40 groups were involved and co-ordinators were asked to make a display showing some aspect of their activities. As usual, our co-ordinators responded magnificently to the challenge and not only provided displays but were also ready with explanations and information for the enquiring visitors. The huge variety of interest groups and the high standards of excellence shown drew much favourable comment.

In addition to the static displays, the Tatton Room next door hosted two live presentations with accompanying slide shows. The audience was also treated to an excerpt from an Oscar Wilde play performed by the Play Reading Group.

A seemingly endless amount of teas and coffees were served throughout the afternoon by our very able catering team. Those who took advantage to have a break from walking around and looking at the displays were very appreciative of both the refreshments and the seating area provided.

The number of visitors exceeded expectations and it is estimated that over 200 people were in the Hall at any one time. From the moment that the doors opened, a steady stream of people arrived and the Hall was soon thronged with visitors, members and their guests. Judging by the noise level, there was a great deal of interest from the start which continued until time was called at 4 pm.

Given the public's positive response, we are agreed that the Showcase was a huge success and it has raised the profile of U3A within the local community – as well as bringing in new members.

It is almost invidious to single out individuals in this enterprise since everyone who participated gave 100% commitment to making it happen. However, the major credit must go to the sub-committee who masterminded the whole process and Rod Howgate, Sue Hopkin and Carole English in particular who did the detailed planning and implementation. Thank you to all involved.

As for U3A Showcase 2013.....who knows?

Did you **Guess the Grape?**

The answer was **Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand** and the first correct answer out of the hat was Peter Hopkin, who won a bottle of wine.



REVIEW OF THE VISIT TO STRATFORD

On 9th September we were all in the coach ahead of time, looking forward to a visit to Stratford with a tour of the Royal Shakespeare Company Theatre and a matinee performance included.

The tour started as soon as we arrived at the theatre. It gave us a fascinating insight into the workings of the different areas of this famous building. The building has undergone a huge transformation recently. We saw the result of this in the auditorium, where there is a new thrust stage that juts out into the audience with seating almost all the way around it. This gives an intimate feel for both actors and audience. We learned theatre history and tricks of the trade – a theatre entrance from under water, which we later saw, must be one of the trickiest. We saw backstage areas, costumes, and the amazing electronics packed control room that overlooks the auditorium. After visiting the interesting Swan Theatre the tour ended at the top of the theatre Tower with wide views over Stratford. The whole tour had been full of interest.

We now had time for lunch. It was delightful to sit in the sun overlooking the river, soaking up the views and the atmosphere.

The performance followed and we saw the comedy Twelfth Night. This production has a modern-day setting with imaginative and ingenious set design. The comedy of the play was well to the fore, with the slapstick element certainly being quite unexpected. There were some strong performances from the cast and it all ended to much applause.

The whole day was hugely enjoyable, with our new background information adding another dimension to the stage performance. Thank you Margaret for all your work in organising the whole day.
Barbara Arnell

REVIEW OF THE VISIT TO CLONTER OPERA

On 19 July last, 13 members of the Music Appreciation Group went to Clonter Opera Theatre, a quirky barn with a 400 seat auditorium and bar and dining areas. Before the performance of Hansel and Gretel (sung in English) we had an informative talk about the production and the interpretation of the work. I found this really helped my understanding of each of the Acts.

We enjoyed the performances of seven very talented young performers, whose fabulous voices and considerable acting skills brought the Fairy Tale to life. The music of the original Englebert Humperdinck was performed by an orchestra of 15 excellent young musicians. The lady percussionist so talented that she was often playing two or three instruments at the same time.

The sets and costumes were very imaginative with a great contrast between the stark conditions of their desperately poor home, the forest, and the modern highly colourful temptations on offer from The Witch, who wore no pointy hat, or warty nose, but was dressed to kill in a modern bright red outfit – a compelling interpretation and a talented performance.

Clonter Opera Trust is committed to nurturing new talent and providing the highest quality training and performance opportunities for singers who, after many years of study, are at the beginning of their careers. There are many examples of artists who have appeared at Clonter going on to be Prize Winners and greater success. The performance which we watched was certainly of a high standard and we had a most enjoyable evening. Many thanks to our Co-ordinator, Susan Hopkin who organised everything for us.
Sheila Cowley

OUTINGS

MONDAY 10th DECEMBER – Visit to Gawsworth Hall to see the Hall decorated for Christmas. This is an afternoon visit and will be followed by afternoon tea. Full details in this edition of **Kanuta**

The Outings Sub Committee is currently putting together a programme for 2013.

COUNTDOWN

The number of people wanting to see the production of this programme was far in excess of the 45 tickets we had been allowed and that is disappointing for those who were not successful.

The good news is that our name is on the list for an allocation next year so we may well run the same outing in 2013.

INSURANCE FOR OUTINGS INFORMATION

Please remember that all cheques for Outings or Theatre and Concert visits should be made out to Knutsford and District U3A, not the organiser of the event. You are then covered by U3A Insurance. Always query any request to make cheques out to the event organiser. This way your money is protected.

URGENT - MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Subscriptions to Knutsford U3A were due on September 1st to cover the year 2012/2013. 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 General Meeting on 13th October

Membership Renewal: 2012/2013

Please find enclosed my cheque (payable to Knutsford U3A) as follows:

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)

NEW KNUTSFORD U3A WEBSITE

The new Knutsford U3A website went live early in September. There is no change in the website address www.knutsfordu3a.co.uk, so you will not need to change any shortcuts to it or the way you access it.

The design has a more modern look, and new features are available such as a “Latest News” area, a members’ area containing guidelines for Group Co-ordinators, and the possibility to search the website more easily.

The redesigned website includes a banner with a number of photographs of Knutsford at the top, and all pages use the same basic design. All the information which was on the old website is included in the new one, with additional pages added to make it easier to find information on all the groups’ activities.

If you have not yet had a look at the website, why not try it out now? We welcome any comments or suggestions; these can be sent to the website contact address at info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk, via the contact box on the new site, or by telephone to David English, the website manager, on 01565 625815

GENERAL MEETINGS

**Held at Knutsford Methodist Church
Second Thursday of every month starting at 2:15 pm
Free to U3A Members: £1:00 for Non-Members**

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 11 th October | Colin Edmundson- Salt and Subsidence. Colin is from the river Weaver Navigation Society |
| 8 th November | Don Johnson – Who was the real Lady of the Lamp? |
| 13 th December | Peter Slack - I'm Lost. Tales of a hill-farmer near Stockport |

KNUTSFORD U3A COMMITTEE FOR 2011/2012

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Chairman | Carole English | 01565 625 815 |
| Vice Chairman | Sheila Fitches | 01565 633 076 |
| Vice Chairman | Rod Howgate | 01625 582 924 |
| Treasurer | Tim Donelly | 01565 633 569 |
| Newsletter Editor and Secretary | Lynda Harris | 01565 621 058 |
| Membership Secretary | Veronica Gordon | 01565 873 762 |
| Speakers Secretary | Pauline Hales | 01565 650 214 |
| Hon. President and New member Liaison | Muriel Robinson | 01565 631 410 |
| Minutes Secretary | Margaret Joscelyne | 01565 633 147 |
| Georgina Blackburn | | 01565 653 436 |
| Margaret Hinde | | 01565 872 643 |
| David Denne | | 01565 633 441 |
| Tessa Gurney | | 01477 533 076 |

POSSIBLE NEW GROUPS

PILATES

This is an exercise system that improves flexibility and agility and helps to prevent injury. A beginners class generally consists of very gentle exercises done on a mat in either a sitting or lying down position.

We have the chance of starting a Pilates class for Knutsford U3A with a fully qualified Pilates Instructor, Katherine Kirkman. Katherine currently teaches four classes a week for Holmes Chapel and Congleton U3As and also at Cottons.

There will be a charge for the classes, but if we have enough interest, costs can be kept to the minimum. If you are interested please contact Carole English 01565 625815 or email info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HISTORY

Is there anyone interested in joining or leading such a group? Please contact Audrey Bennett on 01565 755203

THEATRE VISIT

ONE MAN TWO GUVNORS

Wednesday, 9th January, 2013. 7.30 pm

Coach leaves Knutsford Bus Station at 6 pm.

Cost: **£29.00**

After an incredible sell out season at The Lowry in 2011, the National Theatre's smash hit comedy – which has since become a West End and Broadway sensation – returns to Salford. Richard Bean's award winning play, adapted from The Servant of Two Masters by Carlo Goldoni, is a glorious celebration of British comedy: a unique mix of satire, songs and slapstick

Theatre and Music Visits Booking Form (see over for details)

Please write the name of the performance you have booked on the back of your cheque.

I/we wish to attend the following event and enclose a cheque for £.....

Event.....

Date & Time.....

Name & Address with postcode

.....

Phone number..... e-mail..... PTO

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

All contact details for the groups are on the back page

Antiques: Members of the Antiques Group visited the Macclesfield Silk Museums in July. We enjoyed the interesting and colourful static exhibits and found the demonstrations of working machinery, such as the Jacquard looms, particularly fascinating. The visit brought history to life and related well to a recent talk on silk and a themed meeting at which we shared our knowledge of antique fabrics and garments.



Contact: Tessa Gurney 01477 533076.

Local History: Programme to January 2013

Thursday 25 October Visit to Tabley. Any Local History member who has not signed up for this guided tour and would like to go please contact Sheila Fitches on 01565 633076

Thursday 22 November Talk – “A Brief History of Plumley” by group member Michael Morton.

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Thursday 24 January 2013 Talk – “Winifred Comber” (a noted Knutsford photographer) by Audrey Young.

Other U3A members may be interested in joining us for any of these meetings.

Contact: Jean Ellis

U3A Diaries 2013

U3A Diaries for 2013 are now available to buy at the very economical price of £2.50. These diaries are always very popular and will be on sale at the October and November General meetings as long as stocks last, or phone Carole English 01565 625 815 to reserve your diary.

Theatre and Music Visits

Please send the booking form with a cheque made payable to Knutsford and District U3A, to:

Mrs M. Hinde
1 Warford Hall Drive
Great Warford
Alderley Edge
SK9 7TR

Tel: 01565 872643.

NEW WALKING GROUP

We are hoping to start a further walking group. This will be twice a month, on alternate Thursdays /Fridays, possibly the first Thursday and third Friday in each month. The walks would be 4 to 5 miles long. Taken at a medium pace they should only last a morning and could possibly conclude with a pub lunch.

We would hope that members of the group would be prepared to lead the occasional walk.
Plenty of help would be available!

We are considering having an 'inaugural' walk on Friday, 19th October.

If you might be interested in these walks, even if you cannot manage 19th October, please contact Margaret Hinde, 01565 872643 or email info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk

ADVANCED NOTICE

Because of the publication dates of **Kanuta** it is sometimes necessary for us to include information which might seem a little premature. The inclusion of items about Christmas – Gawsworth on the first page and The Christmas Tree Event below - in this edition is a prime example.

CHRISTMAS TREE EVENT

St Cross Parish Church in Mobberley Road is holding its Christmas Tree Festival this year from 30th November to 2nd December.

This festival was last held in 2010 when, along with many other local businesses, societies, shops, and restaurants, Knutsford U3A decorated a tree in U3A colours of blue and gold as our contribution to this really lovely colourful event and we intend to have a tree there again this year.

St Cross is donating all proceeds from the event to a local charity, Children's Adventure Farm Trust, and it will be widely advertised nearer the time.

We hope you will all come along to see our efforts and support the event.

Please keep this page of information. It will be reprinted only when changes occur.

Changes are shown in red or bold.

Amblers

Walks take place twice a month on Mondays or Wednesdays. Meet at 10 am in the Dog Lodge lay-by on Moberley Road.
Co-ordinator: Sheila Fitches
Tel: 01565 633076

Antiques

Meetings on 2nd Thursday of each month between 10.30 am and 12 noon in Room 5 at the Methodist Church
Co-ordinator: Tessa Gurney
Tel: 01477 533076

Art Appreciation 1

Meetings on 4th Thursday of each month 7.30 pm Methodist Church
Co-ordinator: Margaret Joscelyne
Tel: 01565 633147

Art Appreciation 2

Meetings on 3rd Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm
Co-ordinator Jennifer Harrison 01565 633578

Book Group 1

Meetings on the 4th Monday of each month 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm in members' homes
Co-ordinator: Rosemary Binns
Tel: 01565 633670

Book Group 2

Meetings monthly usually on the 1st Thursday from 10.30 am to 12.00 in members' homes
Co-ordinator: Monica Beswick
Tel: 01565 651515

Book Group 3

Meetings monthly on 1st Thursday at 10:00 am
Co-ordinator Freda Froehlich
Tel: 01565 633045

Book Group 4

Meetings monthly on 2nd Tuesday at 10:00 am
Co-ordinator: **Pauline Hales**
Tel **01565 650214**

Bridge

Meetings on alternate Fridays 10.00 am to 12.00 Toft Cricket Club.
Co-ordinator: Wendy Hurst
Tel: 01565 722921

Computing Group

Co-ordinator: Robert Watson
Tel: 01565 633147

Creative Video Production

Co-ordinator: John Napier
Tel: 01925 754563

Crown Green Bowls 1

Meetings each Tuesday 10.30 am
The Railway Inn Moberley [Summer]
Co-ordinator: Betty Montrose
Tel: 01565 873414

Crown Green Bowls 2

[Summer] Meetings each Friday 10.30 am
The Railway Inn, Moberley
Co-ordinator: Petra Pickup
Tel: 01625 861278

Drawing and Painting

Meetings each Monday between 10.00 am and 12 noon at Toft Church rooms
Co-ordinator: Berry Northen
Tel: 01565 873053

Family History

Meetings on the 2nd Friday of each month 2.00 pm
Royce Court
Co-ordinator: Mary Lipyeat
Tel: 01565 652635

French [Intermediate]

Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. 2.00 pm. Members Homes
Co-ordinator: Jill Board
Tel: 01565 652940

Garden Visits

Random meetings when the gardens are open.
Planning meetings about three times a year usually on a Monday.
Co-ordinators: Jean Heap, Tel: 01565 633661 and Val Homer, Tel: 01565 652282

Geology Group

Meetings 3rd Monday of each month in upstairs' room at The Angel 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm
Co-ordinator: Fred Owen
Tel: 01606 892690

German

Meetings fortnightly on Fridays 9:30 to 11:00 am at Methodist Church.
Co-ordinator: David English
Tel: 01565 625815

Knitting

Meetings monthly on 1st Tuesday at 10.00 am in members' houses
Co-ordinator: Jane McHarry
Tel: 01565 651036

Local History

Meetings on the last Thursday of each month 10.30 am to 12.00
Co-ordinator: Jean Ellis
Tel: 01565 651222

Luncheon Club

Meetings on 3rd Sunday of the Month at 12:15
Contact: Carole English
Tel: 01565 625815

Mah Jon

Meetings **2nd** and **4th** Friday each month at 10:00 am **St. Johns Wood Community Centre**
Co-ordinator: Marjorie Aston, Tel: 0161 929 8044 or Vicky Marchini, Tel: 01925 759087

Music Appreciation

Meetings monthly on 3rd Monday from 1.45 pm to 3.15 pm in Room 5 at Knutsford Methodist Church.
Co-ordinator Susan Hopkin
Tel: 01565 651839

Needlecraft

Meetings monthly on 3rd Thursday from 10.00 am to 12:00. Members' homes
Co-ordinator: Judith Shirley
Tel: 01565 652448

Philosophy

Meetings monthly on 3rd Wednesday. Room 5 at Methodist Church 10:30 am to 12:00
Contact Anna Smyth
Tel: 01565 651979

Play reading

Meetings monthly on the last Friday at 10:00 am to 12:00 in members' homes
Co-ordinator: Peter Willgoose
Tel: 01565 631255

Poetry Reading

Co-ordinator: Veronica Gordon
Tel: 01565 873762

Scientific Book Group

Meetings monthly at 2.30 pm on the 3rd Thursday
Co-ordinator: Christine Falder
Tel: 01565 654721

Scrabble

Meetings weekly on Friday afternoons at 2.00 pm
Co-ordinator: Avril Slade
Tel: 01565 633997

Seasonal Cookery

Meetings monthly on 4th Tuesday 10 am to 12.00
Co-ordinator: Anne Rowland
Tel: 01625 860290

Spanish

Meetings each Tuesday, 10:00 am to 11:00 am at the Methodist Church.
Co-ordinator: David English.
Tel: 01565 625815

Spanish (Group 2)

Meetings each Tuesday 10:30 am to 11:30 am at the Legh Arms
Co-ordinator: Graham Rigg
Tel: 01565 650103

Theatre and Concert Visits

Random meetings dependant upon performances. See Website for full programme details.
Co-ordinator: Margaret Hinde
Tel: 01565 872643

Walking Group 1

Walks on alternate Mondays and Wednesdays. Meet at 9:30 am in the lay-by on Moberley Road.
Co-ordinator: Margaret Cole.
Tel: 01565 633569.

Walking Group 2

Walks on alternate Wednesdays and Mondays. Meet at 9:30 am in the lay-by on Moberley Road
Co-ordinator: Rod Howgate
Tel: 01625 582924

Wine Tasting

Meetings monthly on 2nd Monday at 7.00 pm at St Vincent's Church Hall.
Co-ordinators: Margaret Joscelyne and David Rowland
Tel: 01565 633147 and 01625 860290.

Writing for pleasure

Meetings monthly on 3rd Friday at 10.00 am in members' homes
Co-ordinator: Michael Goldman
Tel: 01565 651717