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## FROM THE CHAIR – Lynda Harris

I hope you have enjoyed the lovely summer and are ready for the new season of activities in our U3A. Don't forget to renew your membership so you can take advantage of what is available. In this edition of Kanuta there is one visit on offer, with more to follow next month, four more opportunities for theatre and music and a second visit from Richard Wigley organised by our Music Appreciation group (page 6) and our meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September has a musical theme.

At that meeting in September some of the coordinators will be available to answer queries but there will be no formal presentations. Some of the groups are seeking new members (pages 5, 6 and 7) and I am pleased to say that there are five new and very diverse groups on offer (pages 4 and 5). Any of the contacts will be delighted to hear from you. A revised list of groups will be in the next edition

The Family History suffered a blow in July when Mary Lipyeat decided to give up coordinating the group which she has done successfully for a number of years. The interesting speakers engaged by Mary attracted large audiences. Thank you Mary for all your hard work and dedication.

It was sad to hear of the death of Pat Lockwood in August. Pat was an active member of our U3A enjoying Local History and Family History in particular. Our thoughts are with Pat's family and friends at this sad time.

Kanuta is our main means of communicating with all the membership. If you have any comments about it or any suggestions to make please do contact me. Two suggestions I did act on were the inclusion of page numbers and a list of contents so suggestions can make a difference! You can email me at the address above or phone on 01565 621058.

## CHETHAMS SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Tuesday, 29 October 2013

This will be a very interesting visit with a tour of the medieval buildings of this internationally famous music school followed by a concert. The cost of £17.00 also includes a lunch of home-made soup and sandwiches, cake and tea and coffee.

We leave Knutsford Bus Station at 11 am and should be back in Knutsford at approximately 4.30 pm.

To book please send a cheque, made payable to Knutsford U3A, together with a booking form (Page 10) to Margaret Cole, 45 Garden Road, Knutsford, WA16 6HT, Telephone 01565 633569.

## Date for Your Diary

In October I will be taking bookings for a Tour of Midland Hotel Manchester, with afternoon tea, on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November. Full details will be in the October edition of Kanuta.

Carole English

# THEATRE AND MUSIC TRIPS

AUTUMN 2013



## BOOKING

**PLEASE** use a **separate booking form** (Page 10) 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](mailto:info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk)

**All of these productions have to be booked and paid for by Monday September 16<sup>th</sup> please**

\*\*\*\*\*

### BBC PHILHARMONIC Saturday Concert, Brahms and Elgar

**Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 7.30 pm**  
At The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

**Cost, including coach travel, £ 32.00**  
(Centre front stalls)  
Coach will leave Bus Station at 6 pm

A popular concert by this excellent orchestra: Elgar's First Symphony, premiered in Manchester in 1908 and still a favourite, follows Brahms's tempestuous First Piano Concerto, with Stephen Hough at the piano and Juanjo Mena, the Philharmonic's Chief conductor.

\*\*\*\*\*

### TIME OF MY LIFE by Alan Ayckbourne

**Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm**  
At the New Vic Theatre, Newcastle u Lyme

**Cost, including travel, £ 28.00**  
Coach will leave Bus Station at 6 pm

Alan Ayckbourne at the New Vic needs little introduction from me! 'Time of My Life', first produced in Scarborough in 1992, is one of his most popular plays. Performed by the Stephen Joseph Company from Scarborough, and directed by Ayckbourne himself, in our favourite theatre – what more could you ask!

\*\*\*\*\*

### ALL MY SONS by Arthur Miller

**Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7.30 pm**  
At The Exchange Theatre, Manchester

**Cost, including travel, £35.00**  
Coach will leave 6 pm

'All My Sons' is a 'searing investigation of honesty, guilt and the corrupting power of greed'. In 1947, Joe and Kate Keller, an all American couple, have the ghosts of W.W.2 living in their backyard. One thing over-shadows their happiness; their son is missing in action, presumed dead by all but their mother. This play was Arthur Miller's first big success.

Continued .....

**THE ARMED MAN – A Mass for Peace - Karl Jenkins**

**Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3 pm**  
At the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

**Cost, including travel, £31.00**  
Coach will leave Knutsford 1.45 pm

**Karl Jenkins** conductor - **Manchester Concert Orchestra - Manchester Chorale**

**Karl Jenkins** conducts a new choral programme celebrating his most popular and highly acclaimed works: The Armed Man and favourite excerpts from Requiem, Stabat Mater and The Peacemakers.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Dates for your Diary:-** (Further details in October Newsletter)

Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> November: Halle concert at The Bridgewater Hall; Mendelssohn and Tchaikovsky.

Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> January: ‘That Day We Sang’ - Christmas production at The Royal Exchange, written by Victoria Wood

**GENERAL MEETINGS**

**Held at Knutsford Methodist Church**  
**Second Thursday of every month starting at 2:15 pm**

12 <sup>th</sup> September	“The Examiner is Ready for You Now " - taking a music exam. A talk, illustrated with music, by John and John
10 <sup>th</sup> October	Elizabeth Williams from the Gaskell Society

**U3A DIARIES for 2014 will be on sale at the General Meeting in September.**  
**Price £2.50**

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – September 2013 to 2014 – 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 12<sup>th</sup> September.

**Membership Renewal: 2013/2014**

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) .....

.....

## NEWS FROM GROUPS

### NEW GROUPS

#### ASSERTIVE COURSE

Do you often say “Yes” to a request when you would rather have said “No”?

Do you ever have an unsatisfactory meal in a restaurant but don’t complain because you don’t want “to make a fuss”?

Do you hesitate to return faulty goods to a shop because you think they will try to suggest that you must have mishandled the item or done something wrong to cause the fault?

If you have answered “Yes” to any of these questions and you would like to discover ways of dealing with those and similar situations, why not come along and meet like-minded others in a small group setting. For many years as a professional, I have run courses in personal development in both the business and voluntary sectors. Together we can look at how to make some changes which will make your life brighter. Please contact me, **Muriel Robinson**, on **01565 631410** at [info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk](mailto:info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk) for details on an initial meeting.

#### BEGINNERS BRIDGE

Following the successful Beginners Bridge classes last winter, a new group will start in October on alternative Wednesdays between 10 and 12. Anyone interested should contact **George Tyror** on **01565 633057**.

#### CALLIGRAPHY

Would you like to learn Calligraphy? Calligraphy is the art of beautiful handwriting either for formal or informal work.

You would learn to write in a variety of styles – Roman or foundation hand, Italic, Gothic, Uncial and Copperplate. You would look at different uses for each hand and ways of decorating or illustrating work.

If you would be interested in joining this group please contact **Anne Woods** on **01565 651099** for information on an initial meeting in September.

#### THEATRE AND FILM DISCUSSION

**Are you interested in Theatre & Film?**

**Would you like to join a new group to discuss recently seen Plays and Films?**

The idea is to have a general forum on Theatre and Film where members meet to discuss and comment on plays and films which have been seen recently. Apart from a friendly and open discussion we could also exchange information on upcoming events.

Members may, from time to time, prepare and present information on topics relevant to plays/films which are being shown (e.g. playwrights, actors, directors etc.).

It is suggested that we have monthly meetings, lasting one to two hours in members’ homes initially. The day, time and week in each month is to be fixed but possible slots are: Monday am/pm; Tuesday am; Wednesday am/pm; Friday pm.

If you are interested, please contact me, **Anita Goldman (Coordinator)** at [info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk](mailto:info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk) or on **01565 651717** or for details on an initial meeting which will be held in September.

## WINE TASTING

A new wine tasting Group is being formed and will meet for the first time in November on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm at the Legh Arms. We have been assured that the venue's meeting room is being refurbished in September. The group coordinator is Dianne Nott supported by Gwynneth Porter, both fairly new U3A members.

The group will, perhaps, not suit true wine buffs but should provide for those of us who enjoy wine and are keen to broaden our knowledge of the world of wine in a relaxed, fun environment. We intend to start small and places will initially be limited – there are only 15 tastings to a bottle! For that reason would those who have not already confirmed their wish to join us please do so by 15<sup>th</sup> September, after which new applicants will be on a 'first come first served' basis. Contact Dianne by email: [info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk](mailto:info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk) or 07860 272754.

## NEWS FROM GROUPS

### ANTIQUES

We are looking forward to a visit from Nick Hall of Frank Marshall on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> October from 10.30 to 12 noon in Room 5 at the Methodist Church. Visitors are welcome to join us for this (£2 each) but first please ring **Tessa Gurney on 01477 533076**. Please also ring if you are interested in joining the Antiques Group.

### COMPUTER GROUP

The aim of the group is to help members who have some basic computer skills, explore what a computer can do and in the process become more confident in their use. The subjects covered vary and depend upon the wishes and needs of the group. There are a limited number of spaces currently available. To be eligible you need to be using Windows Vista, Windows 7 or 8. We do not cover Apple-Macs and iPads.

We will be restarting on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 2 pm and then on alternate Tuesdays until Christmas. If you are interested please contact **Robert Watson or Margaret Joscelyne (01565 633147)** as soon as possible.

### GEOLOGY

In April, June and July we enjoyed full day field trips exploring and examining the landscapes around New Mills, Quarry Bank and Mam Tor. These trips are the opportunity to observe and interpret in the field the geological features described in the formal presentations during the monthly evening sessions. We have seen the evidence of marine fossils representing warm tropical seas, sandstones created in a massive delta following mountain building and erosion, desert sand dunes and large braided rivers and the inundation of the land by the sea. We have seen the structure of the Cheshire Basin, which contains the second largest aquifer in the country. We have also seen the dramatic effect of the last glaciation on the Cheshire landscape. All this is within easy access of Knutsford.

Walkers and climbers, who are interested in how the landscape they tread and climb was formed, will find the topics covered particularly fascinating. No previous knowledge of geology is required.

On Monday 16 September a new cycle of presentations start covering the basic principles of geology. We meet for two hours on the third Monday of the month, starting at 7.30 pm in the upstairs room of the Angel Hotel, King Street, Knutsford.

For more information contact **Fred Owen on 01606 892690** or at [info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk](mailto:info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk).

### GERMAN

This year the Cheadle Hulme U3A is supporting the Francis House children's hospice and asked all their activity groups to organise their own money raising events for this purpose. The German group



Photos courtesy of Terri Griffiths







## WALKING – DANE VALLEY WAY WALK – Two memorable weeks in June

With the Sandstone Trail Trial now a memory at best  
Rod Howgate set himself – and us – another walking test.  
We started off in Derbyshire, beside the River Dane,  
And followed its descent and route across the Cheshire Plain.  
The palette changed quite clearly as we trekked down from the hills  
From bleak and windy Dane Head, passing old converted mills:  
Brown heather on the moorlands, with the skies a misty grey,  
White cotton grasses waving as we set off on our way,  
But by the time we'd made it to the richer Panniers Pool  
We'd moved into the valley which was lush and green and cool.  
From Gradbach on to Brereton there were wildflowers galore,  
Pink orchids, bluebells, hawthorn, buttercups, bistort and more,  
Enormous fields of maize, potatoes, barley, oats and peas,  
A formal park at Congleton, and ancient English trees.  
The birds too made it clear that we'd moved down from hill to plain:  
As well as noisy mallards heard again, again, again,  
Were the mournful cries of curlews, and an angry little wren,  
And wagtails, swallows, sparrows and a fat brown farmyard hen,  
Two buzzards over Swettenham, and the rarest of them all –  
A ring ouzel near Three Shire Heads, though we didn't hear its call.  
We asked each other questions, but some mysteries remain:  
Why a giant paddlesteamer lies abandoned by the Dane,  
Why a stalwart chimney sits alone, remote on Cut-thorn Hill,  
And why the names Havannah, Thrumble Rock and Gradbach Mill?  
And what were those strange strata? Why the Wincle Brewery here?  
Why brick repairs in the viaduct? Let's hope we need not fear!  
On every other day we walked, in groups of eight or more,  
And just as last year all the walks were done by a valiant four.  
Then seventeen turned up with boots for the final muddy mile  
And friends and partners joined us all to celebrate in style.  
Holmes Chapel's George and Dragon served us lots to drink and eat.  
So – thanks to Rod for yet another organisational feat!



Three Shires Head



Lost?



Some of the group at  
Gradbach

Joy Jones

## WRITING FOR PLEASURE

Each month we agree a topic on which we write a piece up to 2000 words, usually a short story, for the following meeting when we each read out our work to the rest of the group. The atmosphere is friendly – in fact there is much laughter at most meetings.

Topics are varied and include: based on a picture; an opening sentence; a key word or phrase e.g. 'overheard' or 'revenge is a dish best served cold'; a list of words which have to be incorporated in the piece; or a type – melodrama, mystery. *Writing for Pleasure* may be more challenging than some groups, in that members need to generate a piece between each meeting. This is not easy – but it's surprising how, when staring at a blank sheet of paper or computer screen inspiration comes to one's fingertips!

For those who were good at English at school, for those who would like to compensate for the bad teaching they received, for those who could write superb factual reports – 'but I haven't a creative bone in my body' – in fact for anyone – why not have a go? Hidden talents can blossom, generating imaginative and entertaining stories – a satisfying experience for both the writer and the listeners. This group of seven is always glad to welcome newcomers – so, if you are interested, let's hear from you. Please contact **Mike Goldman on 01565 651717**

## REVIEWS OF OUTINGS AND SPEAKERS

### FROGS!

Frogs galore, green ones, yellow ones, rare ones, common ones, Mountain Chickens from Montserrat, Green Eyed frogs from Costa Rica.

At the July general Meeting Ben Baker, lead keeper at Chester Zoo, gave an enthralling talk about the work going on at Chester Zoo to save many species from extinction. He was passionate about this vital conservation and breeding work without which many species will be lost forever. His enthusiasm for his subject was infectious resulting in his audience enjoying a most interesting and fascinating talk. Anne Taylor

### HADDON HALL

Thirty seven members left Knutsford by coach for Haddon Hall after stopping for an interesting coffee break in the impressive Buxton Dome. This unique hall has been described by Simon Jenkins as “The most perfect English House to survive from the Middle Ages and by Pevsner as “The English castle par excellence”.

On arrival, we were given an excellent guided tour with descriptions of the history of the Hall and the way of life over the medieval and Tudor periods. The original house was probably built around 1150 and a few parts of the original building survive with substantial additions made from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. In 1703 the family moved to Belvoir castle and the building remained uninhabited for 200 years. As a result of this long closure, the building has been basically as seen today from 1620 onward, giving an excellent opportunity to observe the way of life over the medieval and Tudor periods. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the family moved back to Haddon and began extensive restoration, which still continues today.



We had time for lunch in the pleasant restaurant in the old stable block and were then free to wander round the house and the beautiful gardens.



This visit was originally organised by Margaret Cole but, due to Margaret’s unfortunate injury, Jean Ellis had to take over at very short notice.

Many thanks to Margaret and Jean for organising such a hugely informative and enjoyable day.

Derek Arnell

### RENISHAW HALL

A coach load of us set off for Renishaw Hall in Derbyshire on a glorious day. We started with a welcome coffee, followed by a tour of the house, which is still lived in by the Sitwell family after 400 years. In my youth I had been fascinated by the siblings, Osbert, Edith and Sacheverell, so was especially keen to see where they were brought up and hear more about their various talents. We were shown around the house by a very knowledgeable guide and admired their stunning collection of art and furniture.

After a very pleasant lunch we enjoyed strolling around the Italianate gardens, woodlands and park and were grateful for the many garden seats...it was extremely hot!



The visit ended with afternoon tea.

Our grateful thanks go to Carole and her team for organising such a great trip.

Tessa Howgate





## HARPER ADAMS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

### U3A SUMMER SCHOOL

#### Report by Helen Baron

The first U3A Summer School of 2013 ran from 15th to 18th July at Harper Adams University College near Telford. The range of courses, methods of learning and mixture of people from all over the UK led to lively discussions in and out of course sessions. A quiz on the first evening got the participants puzzling over questions such as “who is the seventh in line to the British throne?” and there was a beautifully illustrated presentation on the places of interest in Shropshire. The Summer School was very well organized. The accommodation and facilities were very good, the staff were pleasant and the food, which was sourced from the college’s own farm or local suppliers, was excellent

As the Summer School was in the middle of the summer heatwave, it was very hot and I swam in the College’s open air swimming pool, which was a real treat. In the evenings people sat under the trees chatting, before disappearing in the direction of the bar...

I took the **Design Principles in Art** course ably led by Jacqueline Cartwright, which was based on developing knowledge about, and experimenting practically with colour. The group, who ranged from beginners to seasoned artists, explored primary, secondary and tertiary colours and used acrylic paints, raw pigments, and pastels to make vivid colour wheels, sketches and pictures.

Three other members from our U3A attended the Summer School – each doing a different course:

**Lynda Harris** – “I chose **Geology: The Legacy of the Ice Age on the Cheshire/Shropshire Plain**. Our tutor Arnold Jones is a geologist with a particular interest in glaciation. His enthusiasm was infectious and made the course a thoroughly enjoyable and stimulating experience. His aim was to answer two questions: How has the local landscape been produced and how has present knowledge been determined? For me the answers reinforced the little knowledge I have and also introduced me to new terminology. I enjoyed the field trip to a local quarry and Aqualate Mere which illustrated the relationship of the theory to the local landscape and I will forever look at hills in a different light because, according to Arnold, ‘every hill tells a story’.”

**Gerd Gerhard** – “I chose the **History: The Golden Age of Rome**. Our expert tutor Angela Parkes took us from Caesar’s demise in 44AD to Hadrian’s death in 138AD, sometimes following the main route, and often meandering along interesting byways to demonstrate what life would have been like in Ancient Rome, from palace to hovel! Pompeii and Herculaneum were covered extensively, from the disaster in 79AD to today’s excavations and reconstructions. A visit to Wroxeter Roman City was a fitting highlight of the course.

**John Harris** – “I chose **The History of Cinema: The Directors In Focus**. Our course tutor was Alan Couldon (Chester U3A), a former lecturer of film studies and an advisor to Regional Film Institutes and young film makers. Our group of 19 were shown extracts of films directed by John Ford, Orson Welles, Alfred Hitchcock, Stanley Kubrick, David Lean, Elia Kazan, Ken Russell, Billy Wilder and Woody Allen. Before we discussed the various merits of the above we were shown filmed interviews by other directors, actors and film critics giving their different anecdotal perceptions and perspective of each director and their range of work. The discussions within our group were often lively and quite passionate when it came to the content of some of the films. Some in our group believed that we could not separate the reputation as a great director from their known private ‘excesses’. Ken Russell and Woody Allen seemed to be the most controversial!”

We all felt that the Summer School included pleasant learning and social activities and we would certainly recommend it to increase your knowledge, meet a wide range of U3A folk and share experiences.

\*\*\*\*\*

“The brilliant weather added to a memorable four days spent in the company of like-minded students.”

“An excellent experience!”

“This was a most enjoyable and informative few days.”

“A very enjoyable, stimulating, friendly four days.”

# BOOKING FORMS

Please:

- Write the name of the performance or outing on the back of your cheque
- Make your cheque payable to Knutsford U3A
- Send a stamped, addressed envelope if you want your reservation confirmed.

**We will contact you if your booking was NOT successful.**

## Booking Form

I/we would like ..... place(s) for the following event and enclose a cheque for £ .....

Event .....

Date and Time .....

Name & Address with postcode .....

.....

Phone number..... E-mail .....

## Booking Form

I/we would like ..... place(s) for the following event and enclose a cheque for £ .....

Event .....

Date and Time .....

Name & Address with postcode .....

.....

Phone number..... E-mail .....

## Booking Form

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