

CONTENTS

Page 2

Theatre Visits

Page 3

Theatre Visits
Visit to Bletchley Park

Page 4

Membership Renewal
General Meetings
Diaries for sale

Page 5

News from the Groups:
Family History
Local History
Music Appreciation
Writing for Pleasure

Page 6

Review of Outings:
Local History
Chethams

Page 7

Booking Forms

FROM THE CHAIR – Lynda Harris

I have lost count of the number of times I have heard “I don’t know where this year has gone” and it doesn’t help when Christmas is in evidence in October. Now, however, is the time for the Committee to wish you



**SEASONS’ GREETINGS
and good wishes for a
Happy and Healthy 2014**



Our U3A has had another excellent year and I would like to use this opportunity to thank, on your behalf, a number of people who have made this possible:

- All the Coordinators for their continued dedication
- Carole English and the Outings Committee for the programme of interesting visits
- Margaret Hinde for getting us access to some great theatrical experiences
- Pauline Hales for organising the programme of varied Speakers
- David English for maintaining our excellent website
- Technical Team of Robert Watson, David English and David Denne for keeping us connected at the General Meetings and
- The members of the Committee, on whom I rely a great deal.

Plans are well underway for 2014 in every aspect of our U3A – so please continue to enjoy your membership.

OUTING TO ROBINSONS BREWERY, STOCKPORT THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2014

Join us for a tour celebrating 175 years of brewing history followed by a Buffet Lunch. Discover the background and heritage of this proudly independent family firm, marvel at the new and original brewing equipment and learn how the ingredients are selected to produce the distinctive tastes and aromas of their ales, see how the Hopnik works (the largest in the world) and what makes it so important in brewing award winning beer – we even get a sample.

IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE

There are 54 steps up to the top of the brewery for the start of the tour, as well as a couple of spiral stairs coming down. Therefore, this outing is not recommended for anyone with mobility problems.

The coach will leave Knutsford Bus Station at 10.00 am and we should be back in Knutsford for approx 3.45 pm. The cost of the outing is £20 per person which includes coach, coffee/tea on arrival, tour and buffet lunch.

To book please send a cheque, made payable to Knutsford U3A, together with a booking form (Page 7) to Jean Ellis, 21 Willow Green, Knutsford WA16 6AX. Tel: 01565 651222.

THEATRE AND MUSIC TRIPS

SPRING 2014



BOOKING

PLEASE use a **separate booking form** (Page 7) 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

AN AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY LARK

By Deborah McAndrew

Wednesday, February 19th
The New Vic, Newcastle under Lyme

Cost, including travel, £ 23.00
Coach will leave Bus Station at **6.00 pm**

This is a new play at the start of a National tour, produced by Northern Broadsides, (we like Northern Broadsides!), directed by Barrie Rutter and performed by a large cast of actors and musicians, this should be a good evening's theatre.

A gentle, deeply moving drama, it is set in rural Lancashire in 1914, in the time between peace and war. Nostalgic, emotional and entertaining, it will tear at your heart strings as happiness changes to loss.

UNDER MILK WOOD

Saturday, March 1st
Theatre Clwyd, Mold

Cost, including travel, £28.00
Coach will leave bus station at **11.00 am**

Celebrate St David's Day!

The Dylan Thomas classic, with its unforgettable celebration of language and characters, dramatised for the stage and produced by the excellent Theatre Clwyd. We will be there with ample time for you to purchase lunch. The theatre has a small but adequate café and a spacious upstairs area to sit with a coffee afterwards. There is also a gift shop and a small art gallery.

Alternatively, the coach will drop us off at The Glasfryn, a comfortable pub with an interesting menu, (to be found on the internet) and only a 4-5 minutes' walk to the theatre. I suggest you make reservations, as it is popular - 01352 750500.

HALLE CONCERT

Thursday, 6th March, 7.30
At The Bridgewater Hall

Cost, including travel, £ 35.00
Coach will leave Bus Station at 6 pm

I have reserved centre stalls for this most attractive concert: Beethoven Overture: Leonore No 3; Mozart's lovely Piano Concerto No 21, 'Elvira Madigan'; Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on a theme by Thomas Tallis; and finally the epic sweep of Sibelius' Seventh Symphony. I have to confirm my reservations before the end of December, so please book early if you wish to go to this concert.

continued

THE MOUSETRAP
by Agatha Christie

Wednesday, 19th March, 7.30
At The Lowry Theatre

Cost, including travel, £33.00
Coach will leave Bus Station at 6 pm

The longest running show in British theatre celebrates its 60th anniversary by going on tour for the first time – a classic and a legend! With an atmosphere of shuddering suspense and a brilliantly intricate plot – if you haven't seen it, I think you should! As they expect this show to be popular, The Lowry wants me to confirm my reservations in mid January so please Book Early.

VISIT TO BLETCHLEY PARK - With Overnight Stay

It was in September 1938 that Captain Ridley and his "shooting party" first strode into Bletchley Park a country estate some 50 miles north-west of London, and reversed the tide of history. For these new arrivals were in reality a select band of mathematicians and code breakers destined to crack the Nazi Enigma, the backbone of German military communications. The odds of winning the jackpot in the national lottery are approximately one in 14 million; the odds against cracking Enigma are 158 million, million, million to one.

The Outings Committee of Knutsford U3A and McCarthys Coaches are arranging a visit to Bletchley Park from 8th to 9th June 2014, exclusively for Knutsford U3A members. The itinerary will be:

Sunday 8th June 2014

Leave Knutsford by coach and visit Waddesdon Manor a renaissance style chateau built by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild to display his collection of art treasures. The Victorian garden is considered one of the finest in Britain. This is a National Trust property near Aylesbury.

Leave Waddesdon for our hotel, the Hilton at Milton Keynes, for an overnight stay. This is a modern hotel with an indoor swimming pool. All bedrooms have en-suite facilities. Evening dinner at the hotel is included in the price.

Monday 9th June 2014

After breakfast at our hotel we leave for Bletchley Park where we will have a guided tour of the key locations and buildings at Bletchley. We will have lunch at Bletchley and leave for our return journey during the afternoon.

The cost of this visit is £115 per person sharing a double/twin room. The single room supplement is £22. This includes the following;

- Luxury coach travel throughout
- Entrance to Bletchley Park with guided tour
- Light lunch at Bletchley and coffee/tea and biscuits
- 1 night's dinner bed and breakfast at the Hilton Hotel Milton Keynes

Additional costs:

- £13 per person entrance fee to Waddesdon Manor, if you are not a member of the National Trust. Waddesdon requires all groups to pay in advance.
- £13.50 optional insurance.

£40 deposit per person is required with each booking

Booking forms can be obtained from Carole English, 49, Cranford Avenue, Knutsford, WA16 0EB Tel 01565 625 815. Carole will be at the December general meeting on Thursday December 12th and will have forms available on that day.

FINAL REMINDER

Please be aware that if your membership is not renewed by 31st December your name will be removed from the membership list.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – September 2013 to 2014

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 12th December.

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)

.....

GENERAL MEETINGS

Knutsford Methodist Church

Second Thursday of every month starting at 2:15 pm

12 th December	Richard Howarth, ex-Leader Manchester Camerata "The Orchestra: Leader and conductor."
14 th January	Ken Moth, Architect. The Buildings of Manchester

PRINTER INKS – surplus to requirements

New inks for HP Photosmart 5011 printer: colour and black (number 364) - £25 and inks for Lexmark printer: colour and black (number 60,61) £40. Margaret Fogden (01565 634052) is happy to give them free to anyone who could use them.

U3A DIARIES for 2014

will be on sale again at the General Meeting in December

Price £2.50

NEWS FROM GROUPS

FAMILY HISTORY

This group will be relaunched in the New Year, meeting on the second Friday of each month at 2 pm, with the first meeting being on 10th January. The **new venue** is the upstairs room in The Angel in King Street, Knutsford.

Existing members and new comers are welcome - indeed anyone who is interested in Genealogy in general or their family history in particular. Contact: Lynda Harris Tel: 01565 621058

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 Vincents 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.

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Thursday 23 January 2014

Talk: "The History of Great Budworth" by Charles Foster.

Thursday 27 February 2014

Visit to Great Budworth Church.

Thursday 27 March 2014

Members' talks on notable Knutsford houses.

Other U3A members are welcome to join us for any of these meetings. Contact: Jean Ellis

MUSIC APPRECIATION

Monday 2 December - A Joyful Celebration of British Light Music - Gerd Gerdhard.

Join us in the sheer pleasure and nostalgia of happy and tuneful music remembered with joy and be transported back to times so different from today. Humming along and foot tapping will be mandatory, tissues are optional but dancing in the aisles strictly by permission of the management! Mince pies, tea/coffee will round off the afternoon.

WRITING FOR PLEASURE

During the month we write a piece, usually a short story (up to 2000 words), based on an agreed idea. At the following meeting we each read out our piece to the others. The atmosphere is friendly – in fact there is much laughter at most meetings. Topics are varied, examples include: 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 etc. etc.

Writing for Pleasure may be more challenging than some groups, in that members write 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? It's interesting how often new members move from autobiographically based pieces to true fiction as their confidence and experience expands. In time hidden talents blossom, generating imaginative and entertaining stories – a satisfying experience for both the writer and the listeners.

We are always glad to welcome newcomers who would like to try their hand at writing short pieces in a friendly, encouraging atmosphere – so let's hear from you! We meet at 10:00 am on the third Friday of each month in member's homes. If you are interested, please contact Mike Goldman on 01565 651717

REVIEWS OF OUTINGS

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

On a dry and sunny October day 24 members of the Local History Group left Knutsford by coach to visit Whitmore Hall in Staffordshire. The Hall is a Grade 1 listed building designated as a house of outstanding architectural and historical interest and is a fine example of a small Carolinian Manor House. This is the home to the Cavenagh – Mainwaring family whose family had connections to the Mainwarings of Peover Hall. The property and land has passed through to both male and female issue. Whitmore Hall has been in continuous ownership of the family since 1066. In 1547 an inheriting daughter married Edward Mainwaring.

The current owners, Guy, 34th Hereditary Lord of Whitmore, and his wife Christine, met the group in the lobby and Christine gave us a very interesting, entertaining talk and tour of this lovely house. After inheriting it in a rather sad and neglected state Guy and Christine proceeded to explore the possibility of finding an earlier house on the site of the property before they redecorated it. After making large holes in the walls they found the evidence of the earlier house. We were shown good examples of the original timbers from the earlier Tudor house which had been encased and modified with a brick surround in 1676. I am pleased to say that the exploratory holes have been expertly concealed behind folding doors and the rooms are now beautifully redressed and decorated. Christine gave a talk on her husband's family history which was supported by portrait paintings dating back to 1624 to the present generation. Christine's book 'From 1066 to Waltzing Matilda' was on sale. It gives a light-hearted journey through 900 years of family life and their connections with Australia, family skeletons and ghosts!

We had refreshments in the dining room before Guy took us to see an example of Carolinian stables. To see the upper floor you had to climb the steep stairs holding onto a rope. - I wasn't brave enough but many were! We had free time to explore the garden before leaving for lunch at Bridgemere Garden Centre, and an opportunity for shopping before returning to Knutsford.

Thanks to Jean Ellis and Sheila Fitches for organising this outing.

Elizabeth Hosking

VISIT TO CHETHAMS

Thanks to Margaret Cole who organised an excellent day out for 31 of us to visit Chethams School of Music in Manchester. We arrived in time to enjoy a delicious home-made lunch after which we walked through part of the school to the fantastic new, state-of-the-art Concert Hall for the lunch-time concert. We heard some amazingly talented youngsters playing various instruments but not before they had introduced their pieces and given some information about the composer. We mingled with students and were able to chat to them. I sat next to a 12 year old boy who played the bassoon and he hoped I would hear him in a concert sometime!

We were then taken on a very interesting guided tour of the old buildings, some of which date back to Tudor times, and some of the fascinating people who have been involved with the building over the centuries. We were told about the regeneration in the general area that will start next year.

The tour ended in the old Library and the Reading Room with the chained books which claim visits from Dickens, Marx and Engels - so interesting. Back to the coach and Knutsford – having had a really enjoyable day out.

Celia Forsberg

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

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