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FROM THE CHAIR – Lynda Harris

This coming year looks as if it will be as busy as ever for our U3A with a programme of interesting speakers and an ever increasing range of outings and theatre /music trips together with the activities within the groups.

Our membership keeps growing at a steady rate each month and that is without actively promoting ourselves! I hope you will continue to enjoy what is on offer.

There are details of two possible new groups on page 4 and I am pleased to report on page 5 that the Family History group has been revived after its autumn hibernation with a new coordinator and planning team. My thanks to all those who have made this happen.

There is also a new initiative from Carole and Margaret, the coordinators of Outings and Theatre trips, and you can find these details on page 3.

My best wishes to you all for 2014.

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM WEDNESDAY 9th APRIL 2014

As 2014 is the 100th anniversary of the start of the 1st World War the Imperial War Museum North at Salford Quays is commemorating this with a special exhibition. This visit will include:

- guided tour of the exhibition
- time to look round the rest of the museum and the shop
- free passes to the Air Shard viewing platform for the best views of Manchester and the Quays

The coach will leave Knutsford Bus Station at 9.15 and will leave the museum for Knutsford at 2.30.

The cost of £16 includes transport, the guided exhibition tour, tea/coffee on arrival and a soup and sandwich lunch.

To book please send your cheque, made payable to Knutsford U3A, together with a booking form (page 7) to Evelyn Brown, 11, Northfields, Knutsford, WA16 8JN Tel: 01565 653684.

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

HOBSON'S CHOICE

By Harold Brighouse

Wednesday, April 2nd

At The New Vic, Newcastle under Lyme

Cost, including travel, £ 27.00

Coach will leave Bus Station at **6.00 pm**

The popular classic comedy, always a favourite, written in 1916 and set in Salford in 1880, gives us an early 'battle of the sexes', as the Lancashire boot maker Henry Hobson goes head to head with his eldest daughter, the no-nonsense Maggie. Guess who wins?

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

By William Shakespeare

Tuesday, April 29th

At The Royal Exchange, Manchester

Cost, including travel, £ 33.00

Coach will leave bus station at **6.00 pm**

One of Shakespeare's greatest comedies, telling the story of two pairs of lovers: Claudio and Hero, the sweet young couple, and the older, wiser and delightfully wittier, Beatrice and Benedick. Directed by Maria Aberg from the RSC.

"Audiences can expect joy, belly laughs and hopefully the odd teary eye".

TWO, VERY DIFFERENT HALLE, CONCERTS

at the Bridgewater Hall

Thursday, 22nd May, 7.30 pm

Conducted by Mark Elder

Cost, including travel, £ 34.00

Coach will leave Bus Station at **6 pm**

Brahms's 'Nanie', a poignant setting of an elegy by Schiller, performed by the Halle Choir. This is followed by **Mahler's 9th Symphony**, a long and magnificent work. Its concluding Adagio is billed in the programme as 'some of the most moving music ever written'

Saturday 31st May, 7.30 pm

Conducted by Stephen Bell

Cost, including travel, £ 34.00

Coach will leave Bus Station at **6 pm**

West End Musicals - A Halle 'Pops' Concert - A fantastic collection of some of the best show-stopping scores ever written, with and vocalists Scarlett Strallen and Killian Donnelly.

HALLE OPUS ONE CONCERTS 2014/2015

Opus One concerts offer a selection of magnificent music and great symphonies and concertos define the series. We are considering making a block booking of seats for the Opus One Concerts in the 2014/2015 season.

This booking would be for each of the nine concerts in the series. The concerts are monthly from September to May inclusive and will be on a Thursday evening starting at 7.30. Transport would be by coach from Knutsford Bus Station, leaving at 6 pm. The advantages are as follows:

- A 25% discount on the price for each concert. e.g. £26 seat for £19.50
- The same good seats in the stalls for each concert

Bookings will start for this series in May/June and payment in full for the cost of both seats and transport for the nine concerts will be due in advance then. The prices for next season's Opus One are not yet available but, based on the current season's prices the cost of the seats would be £175 plus a maximum of £10 per concert for transport.

We would like to have some idea of what interest there would be in this new venture for Theatre and Music in Knutsford U3A. Please contact either Margaret Hinde Tel: 01565 872 643 or Carole English Tel: 01565 625815 or email on info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk and put **OPUS ONE CONCERTS** on the subject line. Obviously an indication of interest does not signify a commitment on your part at this point.

Margaret Hinde and Carole English

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

13 th February	Graham Royale – Bees and Bee-Keeping
13 th March	Ian Douglas – Story-teller
10 th April	Paul Jones – Manchester Airport
8 th May (AGM)	Jean Bradburn – Who do You Think You Are?

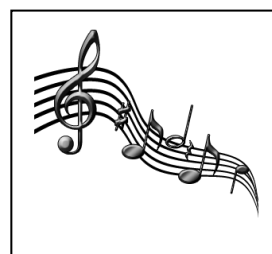
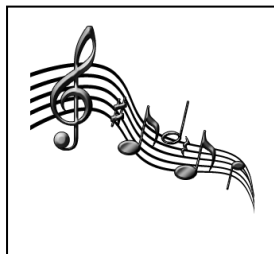
MUSIC IN THE AFTERNOON

Friday 28th March 2014
at 2.30

in
Knutsford Methodist Church

A welcome return concert by students
from

Chetham's School of Music, Manchester



Tickets are £5 each and will be on sale to U3A members at two General meetings: Thursday, 13th February and 13th March. All ticket sales will be cash only.

This concert has been organised by the coordinator and members of the **Music Appreciation Group**.

It is guaranteed to be an uplifting experience for everyone. Make sure you do not miss this very enjoyable musical afternoon.

Sue Hopkin

U3A SUMMER SCHOOLS

There are three venues for Summer Schools, each offering a variety of subjects:

Haper Adams University, Telford: Ancient Civilisations of the Americas, Canal History, Cinema History, Creative Writing, Current Affairs, Drama Through the Ages, France, Latin, Philosophy and Records

Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester: Arts & Architecture of Arts & Crafts Movement, Digital Photography, Drama: Power and Cruelty, Gardening, Literature: Women's Voices of WW1, Music: Making Friends with the Great Composers, Poetry: Transforming the Language of Poetry, Science: Light and Sound in Nature, Singing for Pleasure.

North West Region's – Newton Rigg College near Penrith: Archaeology, Art: Use of Colour, Creative Writing, Digital Photography, Geology, Novels of 1961, Musical Journey from Renaissance to Romanticism.

For further details of the courses plus details of dates and costs please contact Lynda Harris on 01565 621058

POSSIBLE NEW GROUPS

CHESS

This is the first of three suggestions so please let me know if you are interested. Phone 01565 621058 or email at info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk and put **CHESS** on the subject line. Lynda Harris

COMPUTING – TABLETS

Are you one of the increasing number of people using Tablets? Do you sometimes wish you could ask someone for advice without going back to the shop or when, perhaps, children or grandchildren are not available? This unconventional group might help.

The group would not meet as others do although informal get-togethers could possibly happen. Instead, members would communicate and help one another via email:

- I want to do
- Do you know how to?
- I have just discovered
- Did you know you could?

The fine detail of how this would be achieved can come later. What I need now is some indication of the level of interest. If you are interested or have any comments, please email me at info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk and put **COMPUTING – TABLETS** on the subject line. Lynda Harris

DINING OUT

A few people have asked if we could revive the opportunities for members to meet up over a meal and this would be a welcome addition to our activities.

However, we know from past experience that it is too much for one person to organise on their own so the Committee suggests that a group of interested members form a Dining Outing subcommittee. This would operate in a similar way to the organisation of our Outings: the committee meets to discuss ideas of venues and times, draws up a programme and individuals (or pairs) from the committee undertake to organise one of the meals.

There is plenty of experience, advice and willingness to help those who volunteer to join this subcommittee and we would certainly help with the initial meeting. Please let me know if you are interested. Email me at: info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk and put **DINING OUT** on the subject line or phone 01565 621058. Lynda Harris

NEWS FROM GROUPS

FAMILY HISTORY

This group is now up and running again, following a meeting to explore the options. It generated a great deal of enthusiasm and interesting ideas to explore, and agreed an emphasis on sharing experience, interests and problem solving, together with having occasional speakers. A small planning group was formed and had their first meeting to create a programme for the next two months.

Meetings are held on the second Friday each month at 2 pm in the upstairs room of the Angel and the dates of the meetings up till June are-

14th February
14th March
11th April
9th May
13th June

In the February meeting we will gather members' interests and ideas for future meetings and discuss the basic guidelines for research to encourage those relatively new to family history.

For the second meeting in March, the topic will be Sharing Stories about an Interesting Ancestor, with a limit of 10 minutes for perhaps 5 or 6 contributors. The more experienced members may have stories to tell beyond the basic dates and places and we will probably begin with them.

The group welcomes members with an interest in genealogy – **regardless of the level of expertise**. I am the new Coordinator so if you are interested in joining us or just want more information, please contact me on 01565 633435.

Christine Jones

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.

Thursday 27 February 2014 – Visit to Great Budworth Church.

Thursday 27 March 2014 – Members' talks on notable Knutsford houses.

Thursday 24 April 2014 – Visit to "Cuckooland", the Clock Museum.

Other U3A members are welcome to join us for any of these meetings.

Jean Ellis

FILM AND THEATRE DISCUSSTION

This group is now well established and members take pleasure in discussing shows and films recently seen.

If you go to the theatre or cinema and would like to talk about what you have seen in a friendly group, this is for you. So far we have discussed our views of stage dramas and comedies, a variety of films and live relay performances of Shakespeare and opera.

It's always interesting to hear the views of others, even if we haven't seen the performance, as it gives a different perspective and encourages us to widen the range of things we see.

We normally meet at 3.30 on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in members' homes. We would welcome new members so please contact Anita Goldman on 01565 651717 if you are interested.

Anita Goldman

REVIEWS OF SPEAKERS

RICHARD HOWARTH; THE ORCHESTRA – LEADER AND CONDUCTOR

For any non-musician, this was an entertaining and fascinating insight into how an orchestra works when trying to deliver musical magic.

Richard started his musical career as a violinist with the CBSO before spending the bulk of his career as Leader of the Ulster Orchestra based in Belfast. Later he spent many fondly remembered years with the Manchester Camerata. Three years ago Richard moved more into conducting. He told of going with the Liverpool Philharmonic to the renowned Musikverein in Vienna, only to find that no-one had booked the organ which they needed for the grandeur of the final movement of Richard Strauss's "Also Sprach Zarathustra." A memorably embarrassing glitch - the reality behind the seemingly seamlessness of concerts. They had to use a keyboard instead!

He drew readily on his rich experiences working with different Conductors such as Charles Groves, Vernon Handley and Maurice Handford.

Explaining how Leader and Conductor work together he used the analogy of a ship: the conductor being the captain whilst the leader is in the engine room. They work as a team and they rely on each other to deliver the end product.

David Goatman

KEN MOTH; A HISTORY OF MANCHESTER THROUGH ITS BUILDINGS

Ken is a retired Architect who is an enthusiast for Manchester and the history and geography that make it such a fascinating city. He gave us an insight into how the city developed and the buildings our ancestors erected that reflected their own life and times.

The first notable builders were the Romans. Their fort at Castlefields lasted until the dawn of the industrial revolution when unfortunately it got in the way of progress. Modern sentiments did not apply in those days.

We then jumped forward to the English Civil War and discovered that the city was for Parliament. Cavalier Lord Strange (of Strangeways fame) unsuccessfully besieged the city which by then was centred on the confluence of two rivers and where the Cathedral now stands.

Manchester really came into its own during the industrial revolution. Its mill buildings were a wonder of the age. Structures of this scale and size were admired and copied throughout the world. The city fathers commissioned a magnificent town hall that is regarded as the one of the high points of Victorian architecture. Interestingly, it also has several substantial buildings based on classical Italian lines that became the accepted style at the end of the nineteenth century. Fortunately Manchester did not clear it all away after the Second World War (as other cities in the UK did) so we can still enjoy this magnificent heritage.

The symbol of Manchester is the (busy) bee. It's an appropriate emblem when you consider how hard the city's past and present inhabitants have worked to shape the present unique urban landscape.

David Goatman

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 £

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