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FROM THE CHAIR – Lynda Harris

I know this is an old and probably over used phrase but Doesn't time fly? I cannot believe that we are nearing the end of 2015. For some of you it will be a year to forget and for others a year to celebrate or perhaps a mixture of both. For our U3A it has certainly been another busy year and one of which we should be justly proud.

Again this year I must thank a number of people on your behalf without whom our U3A would not exist:

- All the Coordinators and Tutors for their continued dedication
- Carole English and the Outings Committee for the programme of interesting visits
- Margaret Hinde for getting us to some great theatrical experiences
- Pauline Hales and Mavis Norden for organising the programme of varied Speakers
- David English and Geoff Dalton for maintaining our excellent website
- Technical Team of Robert Watson, David English, David Denne and Tony Roberts for keeping us connected at the General Meetings
- The members of the Committee and in particular Veronica, John and David, for their efficient contributions to membership and finance.

The last few months of this year have been a little challenging due to illness and holidays and this has meant delays in paying in cheques. We apologise for any problem or inconvenience this has caused but can assure you that the system is working now but, for a while, it could be a little slower than normal.

**SEASONS' GREETINGS
and good wishes for a
Happy and Healthy 2016**



EDINBURGH

By now you will all have received information on our proposed visit to Edinburgh and Dumfries House from 18th to 20th June 2016.

This is a 2 night visit staying at the 4* Grosvenor Hilton Hotel in central Edinburgh and will include a guided coach tour of Edinburgh, visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia and free time in Edinburgh. On Monday 20th June we will visit Dumfries House, a large Palladian country house, rescued from an uncertain future by Prince Charles, and now beautifully restored.

Carole English is taking bookings on 01565 625815 or at the General Meeting on 10th December where she will be able to answer any queries and receive booking forms and deposits.

THEATRE AND MUSIC TRIPS

AUTUMN 2015



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

'HUSBANDS AND SONS'

By D. H. Lawrence

Saturday, 20th February, 7.00 pm
Royal Exchange, Manchester

Cost, including travel, £ 27.00
Coach leaves bus station 5.30 pm

Three different households, three different stories by D. H. Lawrence, all taking place in the pit village, Eastwood in Nottinghamshire, where Lawrence grew up and all skilfully melded into one play. Given 'five stars' by both The Times and The Independent, this is a major co-production with the National Theatre, and comes to us direct from London with its stars, the 'superb' Ann Marie Duff and Joe Armstrong.

'Rich, earthy and grimy' says The Times crit. But she loved it!

This is an expensive production, so I have booked second night preview seats at half price!

Other Productions

At the time of writing, (late November), I have just 6 tickets left for **'The Sound of Music'**, Saturday matinee, 19th December, leaving at 12.15 pm. £45 each, including transport.

Cosi Fan Tutte - Mozart, at the Royal Northern College of Music. Possibly Sunday matinee, 13th March. Sorry, but it's too early to confirm with the College at the moment.

'Our Gracie' - The story of Gracie Fields at the New Vic, Newcastle under Lyme on Thursday, 21st April, 2016. Booking January or February.

OUTINGS - DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Gaskell House and Ordsall Hall – two tours with lunch – on Tuesday 1st March – Price £24.

More information will be available in the New Year and you will be able to book in January and February, by post or at the General Meetings

NEWS FROM GROUPS

BRIDGE

George Tyror has been a tutor of the U3A Bridge Group for about nine years, initially of the whole group and later concentrating on the less experienced Tuition Group. His sessions consist of a formal lesson followed by supervision and help with play at the tables. Our members are appreciative of his friendly, patient and often humorous approach which conveys, with great clarity, some difficult concepts. Behind all this is George's drive and commitment to promote the game and to improve playing standards. This was exemplified by his appearing in a wheelchair, and later on crutches, after a serious Achilles' tendon problem.

Unfortunately time is taking its toll and George is getting increasingly exhausted (his words) by his regular formal tuition sessions and he will cease these at the end of the year. However we are extremely pleased that he will not leave us altogether. He has agreed to carry on mentoring and helping with the play of the Tuition Group and talks on specific topics on request. We are enormously grateful for George's huge contribution to our group and look forward to the new arrangement.

George's Tuition Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays in each month at Toft Cricket Club. The Improvers Group, expertly led by Jenny Saint, now plays Duplicate Bridge on the 1st and 3rd Fridays. Please contact the co-ordinator, David Rowland, on 01625 860290 for more information.

COMPUTER TABLETS

This group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 2 pm – 4 pm in the Jubilee Hall on Stanley Road. We share our knowledge and experience of our Tablets, mainly iPads but not exclusively. Beginners are very welcome and also those who wish to become more proficient. Please contact Margaret Burke on 01565 722182 or email info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk

FAMILY HISTORY

The Family History Group would welcome new members to our friendly group, whether you are new to the subject or have years of experience. We now have a new, spacious venue for our meetings at the Knutsford Methodist Church and meet on the second Friday of every month at 2 pm. Please contact Christine Jones on 01565 633435 for further information.

GERMAN

The German Group began as a new course in German for beginners in November 2010, meeting fortnightly at Knutsford Methodist Church on Friday mornings from 9.30 to 11.00 am. We are following a course book aimed specifically at adults learning German and have moved on to an intermediate stage, with listening and conversation activities. We have room for a few more members with a basic knowledge of the language. If you are interested in joining the group please contact David English on 01565 625815.

LOCAL HISTORY

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Thursday 28th January 2016 – Talk by Tony Bostock – “Northwich in 17th Century”

Thursday 25th February 2016 – Visit to Lion Salt Works

Thursday 24th March 2016 – Members' Meeting

Contact: Jean Ellis 01565 651222

SPANISH 3 - BEGINNERS

Would you like to learn Spanish or are you in need of some revision? Our recently formed group is working on the basics of the language and we still have places available for members. Please contact Tricia Pepper on 07719441612

TAI CHI

The NHS Choices website tells us that: *"... studies have shown that Tai Chi can help people aged 65 and over to reduce stress, improve balance and general mobility, and increase muscle strength in the legs."* And the director of research at the Alzheimer's Society spoke recently about *"... the growing evidence that physical activity could help look after the brain as well as the body."*

Two good reasons to join our Tai Chi group, which meets on Thursdays from 4pm till 5pm at the Knutsford Sports Club on Mereheath Lane. We have a few spaces at present. If you are interested in joining us, or would like more information, please contact Yvonne Baker on 01565 651204 or Evelyn Flett on 01565 653048.

THEATRE AND FILM DISCUSSION

Do you go to the cinema and theatre and like to talk about what you have seen? If so, you could be interested in coming to our informal discussion group. We go independently and then discuss the productions we have seen every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 3.30, in members' homes. If you are interested please contact Anita Goldman on 01565 651717 or email info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk.

WALKING GROUP 6 – THREE MILERS TOO

We are a new, very small, informal group and we would welcome new members. Our walks of 3 to 4 miles long and include a lunch opportunity. We meet at 10 am in the Mobberley Road layby near the water tower. The next walks are:

Tuesday 24th November – Brereton Heath, Swettenham area

Thursday 10th December – Dunham Massey 1

Thursday 7th January – Dunham Massey 2

Then fortnightly on Thursdays up till Easter.

Please contact Gill Warboys on 01565 651858 or Avril Reynolds on 01565 632541 if you are interested.

WINE TASTING 2

We have been inundated with requests to join our group and I thank everyone who has expressed an interest. I am really sorry to disappoint so many people but I'm afraid the group is now full again.

However, mindful of the fact that a few people will always drop out at some point, we are going to keep a live waiting list. For ease of management please would all those people who have telephoned for information on joining please now email me (via the Knutsford U3A email address on the top of the front page) with their name, email address and contact numbers if you would like to go on the waiting list. Those of you have already emailed need not do so again as I have kept your details. Dianne Nott

POSSIBLE NEW GROUP – Canasta – Are you interested in playing? Please contact Christine Jones on 01565 633435 and may be we will be able to start a new group.

GENERAL MEETINGS
Knutsford Methodist Church
Second Thursday of every month starting at 2.15 pm

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 10 th December | Raymond Rush – Christmas and New Year Customs |
| 14 th January | Felicity Goodey – The Making of Media City and the History of the Quays |
| 11 th February | Mike Leddra – Facing the Abyss: Two Battles for Britain (a comparison of the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 with the Battle of Britain in 1940) |

******* SPECIAL OFFER *******

COTTONS HOTEL AND SPA

The Membership Coordinator at Cottons Spa, Ben Piranes,
is offering our members a free Day Pass to use the facilities.

Anyone interested should contact Ben at cottons.spasales@shirehotels.com or on 01565 652001 – and be sure to mention Knutsford U3A.

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 2015 to 2016 – REMINDER

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 10th December.

Membership Renewal: 2015/2016

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)

.....

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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Date and Time

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.....

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