



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE  
THE THIRD AGE TRUST

Among the guiding principles on styles and methods of learning is the recognition that the pleasures of learning is a driving force in U3As and that U3A members see themselves as both learners and teachers

## OADBY AND WIGSTON NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2010



### NOTES FROM THE CHAIR:

While we are busy organising our U3A and going to meetings and interest groups, there is a larger U3A out there. There are now some 730 U3As in the UK, with about 230,000 members. Closer to hand, a number of our own members recently attended the short study courses at Harlaxton, while our own representatives met at a Leicestershire network meeting. Here we can get to know and exchange information and ideas with local partners - some twenty plus U3As in Leicestershire now.

A brief reminder - we are 10 years old next winter - please dig out any photos, ideas and contributions, and let a Committee member know if you would like to help.

Meanwhile, this week we extend a warm welcome to **HELEN LOYDALL**, who will talk on **"MY YEAR AS MAYOR"**



### RAFFLE

If you would like to run a raffle in aid of your chosen charity please contact Mary Pethick (tel 2704431) for available dates.



### LUNCHEON GROUP

We enjoyed our lunch at the Old Greyhound, Great Glen. Our next venue is the Red Lion, Gilmorton. This again is opening especially for us on Monday 20 September. We believe this will be a buffet lunch as before. Our October venue has yet to be finalised. At the August general meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> we shall be taking names for Christmas Lunch at Leicester College on Thursday, 9 December. Please see Sheila or Alan if you wish to join us; menu and price will be with us shortly.



### MUSIC GROUP

Bringing our own CDs always brings an interesting variety of musical genres. This month's choice produced soothing piano playing, nostalgia from the 40s, opera, brass band, and a piece for sopranino recorder and more! The Orchestra will be our topic at the next meeting which is on Thursday 9 September at 2.00pm at the Wigston Methodist church in Cross Street.



### COMPUTER GROUP

There is now space in this Group for new members so if you wish to become a member and to learn how simple using a computer can be contact Peter for more information on 0116 288 7455



### WATER COLOUR GROUPS 1 AND 2

Group 1 meets at Guthlaxton College 'B' Block on Tuesdays 10.00 – 12.00noon. This group has one vacancy. If you would like to join this group please contact Peter Reeves (tel 2889674) NB Next meeting September. Group 2 meets on Tuesdays at 2.00pm at Wigston Fire Station. This group is now FULL.. Andy Glanville (tel 2881698)



### DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Please note - members of both previous groups, and anyone else interested - we will meet on Wednesday 8 September at 9.30am in the coffee lounge of Age Concern, Wigston. By popular request John and Tom will be concentrating on photographic skills, but the computers will still be available for those who wish to work on them. We will be meeting monthly. To give us some idea of numbers, please let Jean McLeod (tel 2882458) know if you are definitely coming by Wednesday 1 September. Thanks.



### LOCAL HISTORY

The next meeting of the Local History Group will be on Thursday 2 September at 10.00am in Wigston Library when Brian Johnson will give an illustrated talk on the History of Leicester's Cinemas.

### COMING UP AT THE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP!!

7 October - Martin Sharpe will be telling us about Old Oadby.

4 November - Ned Newitt, author of "The Slums of Leicester" will give an illustrated talk about his book.

2 December - "Ding Dong Merrily On High" Colin Crosby with the stories behind our best-known Christmas Carols.

All meetings at Wigston Library on Thursdays at 10.00am – 12.00noon

**\*\*I am giving up running the Local History Group after the December meeting. If anyone is interested in taking over let me know and I will be pleased to help them if they need it. Carole (tel: 2887455) \*\***

### HISTORY GROUP

At our meeting on Monday 20 September 10.30am Pavilion, Peace Park, we step back in history, having spent some months on more recent periods. Sally Henshaw, who is Secretary of the East Midlands Richard III Society, will give us a talk on "The Great Plague".

All welcome



### ARCHITECTURE GROUP

Because I am heavily involved in the DH Lawrence Festival in September I am afraid there will be no Architecture Group Meeting in September. I hope to issue a programme for the Group later in the month. I will keep folk informed via Newsletter, phone, e mail and snail mail.

Malcolm Gray

### GARDEN GROUP

Thank you to Yvonne and John for a very pleasant visit to their garden. Our next visit is to the Green Earth Community Garden Project at the Aylestone Lane allotments. You will remember that Malcolm Brown was our speaker at the May meeting and invited us to see the allotments. They are signposted off the Aylestone Lane and car parking is available inside. We will meet at the big red shed in the allotments at 10.30am on Monday 13 September. Unfortunately there are no facilities for a coffee. Beryl (tel: 2889164)



### DISCUSSION GROUP

On Monday 6 September we shall discuss "Local Affairs". It is hoped that Councillor Bill Boulter will join us – his involvement in local affairs cannot be bettered.



### FILM GROUP

In the month of September we are hoping to take a first look at Shakespeare on film with "Much Ado About Nothing". The film stars Emma Thompson and Kenneth Branagh, and a series of wonderful comic sketches from Ben Elton. It is beautifully shot, and set in traditional location and with appropriate costume, but easy to follow and delicious in its witty but romantic climax. It is a good romp.

The film will be at 10.30am on Wednesday 8 September at Phoenix Square.

Please let Malcolm Gray know if you intend to come.

Tel: 2714402 or email: [migray@talk21.com](mailto:migray@talk21.com)

PLEASE NOTE:

The date for the film in October is now Wednesday 27 October NOT as previously printed.



### WALKING GROUP

Just eight of us were on the last walk – it was good to see 'occasional' walkers turn up – it is not necessary to make a regular commitment, it is a fluid group (is that the right word as we finish at a pub?!). Anyway, hopefully we shall have a good turn out, holidays and grandparenting permitting, for our next walk on Tuesday 7 September when we shall walk the area known as Aylestone Meadows. This is an interesting Nature Reserve with much to offer in the way of wild life and flowers; it is currently very much in the news as there is talk of giving it over for several football pitches. It is worth visiting to appreciate what would be lost if these plans should go ahead. We will meet at 10.00am at the Kings Lock car park off Sandy Lane Aylestone, returning to the nearby pub, the Black Horse on Narrow Lane (no pub car park). This is an easy walk, flat, no stiles, so any members who consider themselves "strollers" may like to take the opportunity to try out this group – it has been suggested that a Strollers Group might be formed.





### SCRABBLE GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 2 September at 2.00pm. For further details please contact Myra (tel: 2810737).

### MUSICAL LEICESTER

In the music group for the past two sessions we have found a number of firsts specifically associated with music in Leicester and first musical performances which may surprise you, as it did some of us.

In the 1700s Waits were the first group of professionals paid by the then town council to perform in the streets. The going rate was six pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence. What chance of this happening today in our 'Big Society'?

The first record of a performance of Handel's Messiah given in a rural parish church was at Church Langton in 1749, which proved to be so popular that the doors had to be barred to prevent gatecrashers!

The Great Meeting chapel was the first in Leicester to use musical instruments in its services, while a visitor to Old Dalby Hall in 1794 performed one of Beethoven's violin pieces it being heard three years before it was performed in London. Handel's composition Israel in Egypt was performed for the first time in 1866 in Leicester. Tickets were sold out as soon as they went on sale and more seats had to be installed. It is quite possible that many people today have never heard of the composition or any piece from it.

Paganini, a celebrated pianist of the 19th Century was heard in Leicester for the first time in 1833, as was Franz Liszt in 1840, and in May 1879 Leicester was the first provincial town to hear Bizet's Carmen.

Thomas Cook, known mainly for his travel enterprises, raised money for the Temperance Hall and a performance of Handel's Messiah was the first of Handel's compositions to be heard in the Hall in September 1853.

Did you know that a charity called the Early Closing Association existed and what it was for? What was the 'Shilling Gallery'?

Did you know the Wharf Street had a cricket ground which had brass band concerts and that Victoria Park had a bandstand where the first concert given on the Park was attended by over 6,000 people? Did you know that Sousa, the March King, brought one of his bands to Leicester from the USA in 1903? Do you know when the De Montfort Hall was opened and what it will be celebrating soon? Why did Adelina Patti's farewell concert not take place in Leicester?

All these questions were answered in our recent 'Musical Leicester' sessions with the accompanying relevant pieces of music.

We learned a great deal about the history of music in Leicester in an informal way and we can now baffle our friends with the knowledge we have gained from these meetings

Glenys Janes

### U3A HARLAXTON MANOR SUMMER SCHOOLS 2010

Six of our members travelled to Harlaxton. One attended the music Group to study composers living in exile with tutor David Lovell Brown; one the Gardens group with talks and visits; one the Art in France group with Hendy Farquhar Smith and three the History group, The Rise of the House of Windsor with Jean Townsend. Over three years we have learned many facts that have changed the course of history from Henry VIII; this year brought us up to present day. Starting with the Duke of Clarence, the eldest son of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, who died from pneumonia at Sandringham aged 28. He had become engaged to princess May of Teck. Later, encouraged by Queen Victoria, George the second son proposed to Princess May; they married on 6 July 1893. When King Edward VII died in 1910 they became King George V and Queen Mary. During the 1914-18 war the family name of Gotha Saxe Coburg was changed to Windsor as it was decided a German name was not suitable for the British Royal Family. Their eldest son David became Prince of Wales. When King George V died he decided he could not be crowned King because the family and ministers would not agree to him marrying Mrs Simpson a divorcee because as King he would be head of the Church of England. He abdicated, went to live in France and married Mrs Simpson. Once again the second son became king. The Duke of York had married Elizabeth Bowes Lyon and they had two daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret. They were crowned King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. During the 1939-1945 war their daughters lived at Windsor Castle but the King and Queen stayed in London. Elizabeth was 13 years when she first met Prince Philip; they married in November 1947 and for several months Elizabeth lived in Malta as the wife of a Royal Naval Officer. King George VI died in 1952 while Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip were making a tour of South Africa. They came back to England as Queen and her Consort. This was one of the most thought provoking courses I have attended at Harlaxton; it is amazing how the course of history is changed by the decision one person makes or by the death of the eldest son.

It was nice once again to meet people from other U3A groups whom we have got to know over the last eight years since the first summer school in 2002. There were the usual tours of the house on Monday evening or a quiz in the bar. On Tuesday after lunch David Lovell Brown gave a piano recital in the Great Hall; in the evening we enjoyed dinner in the Long Gallery, entertainment was given by the U3A Choir from Stamford U3A.

I would encourage anyone to attend the Harlaxton Manor Summer Schools; there is always a good selection of courses whatever your interests. Chris Goodman will receive information for next year in September and early booking is advisable to get on the course you choose.

Celia Wiley



## FORTHCOMING OUTINGS

Would those who have not paid for their trips to Ludlow or Lille please let Di Hensman have the balance as soon as possible.

### GROUP LEADERS

Will all group leaders let me have a list of people that attend their group, please? This will help me to check that they have remembered to renew their membership.

Many thanks to the Group Leaders that have given me their accounts. I would appreciate it if I could have the accounts for any of the outstanding groups, please.

Di Hensman (tel:2888365)

\*\*\*\* For your diaries - Dates of forthcoming monthly meetings \*\*\*\*

In 2010 meetings are at our new venue: **THE LIBERAL CLUB, BULL HEAD STREET, WIGSTON**

Parking for 40 cars if careful, please give priority to less able. 4 steps or a ramp to door.

**Wednesday 29 September 2.00pm**  
**Glass – My 40 years Involvement**  
**Professor John Cook**

Wednesday 27 October 2.00pm An Update on Ospreys at Rutland Water – Tim McGrill

Wednesday 24 November 2.00pm Hope against Cancer – David Wyrko

Wednesday 15 December 2.00pm Christmas True Victorian Style – Jo Carter

Items for September Newsletter to:

Richard and Anne Gilbert, 85 Repton Road, Wigston, Leics LE18 1GD

Tel 2885081 email [dick.anne@ic24.net](mailto:dick.anne@ic24.net) by **23 September** please.

Remember: Copies of your U3A Newsletter are no longer being posted to members not attending the monthly meetings but are available from Local Libraries in Oadby, South Wigston and Wigston Magna, so if you miss your copy or wish to obtain an extra copy to give to a friend, call in and ask the library staff for one. If you require a copy through the post, send a stamped addressed envelope (indicating in the top left hand corner the month you require) to Di Hensman, 125 Aylestone Lane, Wigston, Leicester LE18 1BB.

The Newsletter can also be accessed on the internet website: [www.oadbyandwigstonu3a.org.uk/latestnewsletter.pdf](http://www.oadbyandwigstonu3a.org.uk/latestnewsletter.pdf)

### OADBY AND WIGSTON U3A

|                                 |              |                    |                             |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Chairman:                       | Eileen Holly | Committee Members: | Richard and Anne Gilbert    |
| Membership Secretary/Treasurer: | Di Hensman   |                    | Glenys Janes                |
| Secretary:                      | Malcolm Gray |                    | Jean McCleod                |
| Groups Co-ordinator:            | Jean McLeod  |                    | Mary Pethick                |
|                                 |              |                    | Peter Reeves                |
|                                 |              |                    | Peter and Carole Richardson |
|                                 |              |                    | Pam Robinson                |

#### Group Leaders:

|                    |                  |         |                |                   |         |
|--------------------|------------------|---------|----------------|-------------------|---------|
| Architecture       | Malcolm Gray     | 2714402 | Latin          | Jennifer Bell     | 2880234 |
| Bridge             | Mary Pethick     | 2704431 | Local History  | Carole Richardson | 2887455 |
| Computer           | Peter Richardson | 2887455 | Lunch Club     | Alan Mckenlay     | 2885910 |
| DigitalPhotography | John Thacker     | 2781877 | Music Group    | Jean McLeod       | 2882458 |
| Discussion         | Bob Gill         | 2708570 | Reading        | Di Hensman        | 2888365 |
| Film               | Marion Watkins   | 2714301 | Scrabble       | Myra Towse        | 2810737 |
| Film               | Malcolm Gray     | 2714402 | Spanish        | Eileen Holly      | 2885925 |
| French             | Jennifer Bell    | 2880234 | Travel         | Di Hensman        | 2888365 |
| Gardening          | Beryl Keeber     | 2889164 | Travel         | Peter Reeves      | 2889674 |
| Gardening          | Di Hensman       | 2888365 | Walking        | Bob Gill          | 2708570 |
| German             | Eileen Holly     | 2885925 | Water Colour 1 | Peter Reeves      | 2889674 |
| History            | Bob Gill         | 2708570 | Water Colour 2 | Andy Glanville    | 2881698 |