



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Newark and District

<http://newark-u3a.org.uk>

Newsletter Oct/Nov 2011



The view from the Chair

Thanks to the volunteers who gave their time to meet the public, and explain the benefits of joining the U3A at our stall in the market place. A special thanks to Geoffrey Foulds and Tony Marriott who put the stall together and made it so attractive.

Our monthly meeting "The Show Case" was a great success, and I should like to thank all the group leaders who participated, particularly to David Blake who organised the layout of the room.

I enjoyed meeting potential members, and seeing members who are in groups other than those I attend. Sonya Sinclair and Audrey Blake explained the "Sacred" Circle dance, and then followed this by leading a demonstration. Bruce and Marion Richmond led a demonstration of line dancing. The second of the two line dances was much improved by the absence of the "Chair"

I was struck by the numbers of members attending (72) and the healthy interest shown by the guests (40). Our open meeting last year which followed a display at the market was also very well attended. My tentative conclusion is that members, (we now have 193,) welcome the opportunity to meet up with peers who don't attend the same groups. Perhaps we should have more of such gatherings.

Shoe Box items for Operation Christmas Child

When I visited the Craft Group, I discovered it, and two ladies especially are involved in a rather wonderful project. Throughout October they will be collecting small gifts to be sent in shoe boxes to needy children in 14 different countries.

Known as 'Operation Christmas Child.' it is run by 'The Samaritans Purse.' This is a non denominational, multi cultural registered charity which has been organising this event for the past 21 years. Details can be seen on the organisation's web site at www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk, or just type Operation Christmas Child into Google, for a link.

There is a very specific list of goods which are suitable. Toys such as a tennis ball, finger puppet, yoyo, toy trucks and cars, dolls bangles and necklaces, gloves, scarf, hats. The following small stationery items: - Felt pens, pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, eraser, small colouring books or note books, pencil case, stickers. Hygiene items, i.e. toothbrush, toothpaste, face cloth, hairbrush, comb, and bar of soap. Remember all these items have to fit easily in a shoe box, and must be new.

If you would like to donate any of these items, please contact Beryl tel 01636 672989, call in at the craft group, or bring it to the coffee morning and I will pass it on. The collection date is during October only, so our November meeting will be too late to bring goods.

Please Do Not donate, food, medicines, toy soldiers, guns or knives, items of clothing, glass objects, mirrors, liquid soap, shampoo, or bubble bath, or liquids in any form. It costs £2.50 to despatch each box, so if, instead of donating goods, you would like to donate towards the cost of administration and despatch, you are able to do this on line, at the Samaritans Purse web site. Val Woolley

Forthcoming speakers

Oct 13th Rodney Cousins 'The Pubs of Newark'. The story of Newark Inns past and present and their importance to the development of the town.

Nov 10th Ian Morgan 'Footpads, Kings, and Highwaymen'.

Dec 8th An afternoon of Christmas Entertainment,

Jan 12th Bob Oakes 'Iron in the Blood - the work of a creative blacksmith'.

Feb 9th Steve Jackson—Royal Commemorative ware.

News from the groups

Gardens

The November meeting of the Garden Group will be on Tue 1st November at the Newark Bowls Club, when an 'Activity' will happen,

Lunch Group

The venue for the meeting on Wednesday November 9th is at The Mayze at Newark, at 12.30pm.

The Christmas meeting in December will be at The Crown Inn at Rolleston, the date to be confirmed later.

Please contact Peggy Strellis tel 01636 679392 if you need more details.

Early Bird

Thursday 27th October -The Generous Britain, Brant Broughton, 6pm.

Organised by Marjorie Foster and Jean Brookes.

You will need to pre-choose your order from a set menu.

Please sign at the monthly meeting (13th Oct) or contact Jacq on 01636 650411

Thursday 24th November – The White Hart, Newark (to be confirmed) 6.15pm.

Organised by Pat Allen and David Hall

Please sign at the monthly meeting (10th Nov) or contact Pat & David (613312) or Jacq.

Walking

Oct 24th—Sutton on Trent 09.30. Park close to the Church

Nov 14th— Whisby Nature Reserve 09.30

Nov 28th Rufford Abbey—09.30 in main car park off Nottingham Road.

Photography

This month's topic is 'lines'. Tuesday October 25th 2pm, Hawtonville Methodist Church.

Archaeology

Thursday, 17th Nov. 2011, 2.30pm. Hawtonville Methodist Church Hall.

Talk by Graham Beaumont "The history of windmilling in Nottinghamshire and beyond"

Peter Foden, 704241

Local History

Tuesday Nov 8th The resource centre, Brunel Drive, 2pm or 3pm.(2 groups) Contact J Robinson (702388) for more details. Get your hands on some local artefacts.

A Proposal for a Newark U3A Geology Group. Inspired by the Focus in the last U3A News.

Are You Interested in Geology?

Are you interested in participating in a Geology Group with a broad focus, which could include for example :-

- aspects of Geology from rock formation and uses to -
- their relationship to soils -
- their links to the environment and sustainability -
- their influence on rivers, coasts and settlements
- a mix of indoor and outdoor activities:-
- indoor sessions to build and enhance knowledge, including practical activities and talks.
- outdoor sessions to look at the geology in situ, to include visits such as geological museums, and stone centres.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the next monthly meeting.
Niki Whitburn.(01636 706339; 07803 710640)

The Apple of One's Eye

In King Alfred's time the pupil at the centre of the eye was known as "the apple" (OE *aeppeþ*) because it was erroneously thought to be an apple shaped solid.

Alfred used the phrase in this sense in his translation of Gregory's *Curia Pastoralis* (c. 885) as a figure for a much loved person or thing. William Tyndale also used it to interpret Deuteronomy 32:10 where the Lord's care for Israel is described thus: *He found him in a desert land, and in the waste, howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.*

This season has been a great one for apples, so when you next crunch one think of someone special.

Payments for Social & Study Group Travel

Newark U3A is lucky to have several members who are willing to organise some excellent social and study group day outings, which participants invariably find most worthwhile.

It is important to remember that for EVERY Newark U3A event or trip:-

- all payments **MUST** be made before the date of the activity;
- all cheques **MUST** be made out to Newark & District U3A, and **NOT** to the event organiser personally;
- cash payments must be avoided;
- any refunds will be made at the discretion of the committee.

These simple actions will prevent the organisers of our trips suffering any potential insurance liability as well as insulating them from any financial risk.

Also, it will ensure that members can participate in U3A events and outings safe in the knowledge that they are protected by our insurance policies.
D Boreham, Treasurer

Ladies and Gentlemen it's 'Showtime.'



The U3A showcase this year seemed to be based on the theme of 'show, don't tell' as the room at the Holy Trinity was attractively laid out with stands from participating groups, each with a display of their activities. Innovative posters advertising the Walking and Local History groups, beautiful photographic images from the Bird Watchers, and a static sculpture from the 'Early Bird' lunch group were focal points.



The Art Group's display covered two boards, and portfolio's of their work were available to view on the table. Enterprisingly they raffled off an art starter kit, to boost their funds.

Another large display was provided by the archaeology with pictures of their last trip and details of enticing forthcoming events.

Visitors were many, and were encouraged to play a round of Scrabble or Mah-jong, as they passed by admiring the craft work covering two tables. Gardening, Creative Writing, and the Book Circle were all represented, while a myriad of musical CD's were a conversation starter on the music appreciation stand.



During the afternoon the Dance Group performed both circle and line dances with increasing confidence.

As the members and guests streamed in, the tea ladies were in full efficiency mode throughout the afternoon, and lost count of just how many cups they had poured out, and later washed up. Non members were invited to make donations for their beverages and biscuits, and donations were generously made.

In comparison to the showcase I attended last year, I think it must be voted a resounding success.

To see more photos of the afternoon, visit the website (see front page)

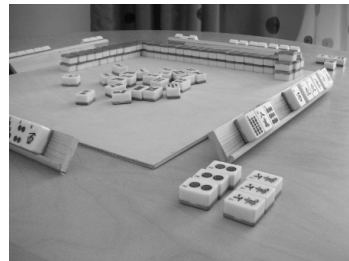
Spotlight on the Mah Jong group

What game are you playing when you build a wall and then deliberately knock it down, you can Pung or Kong anyone but only Chow your neighbours, when you can win with a score of 24 and lose with a score of 558? It is Mah Jong, but probably not as the Chinese know it!



Each month stalwarts meet in Janet and Reg's kitchen to do battle. A tense silence falls broken only by utterances such as, "five bamboos", and weirdly, "one cockie ollie bird", (don't ask, it's a Newark thing!). Every so often an anguished cry rings out, "I knew I should have kept that one".

Joking aside, if you have never played Mah Jong before it is a fascinating game played with 136 basic tiles plus optional extras for the more experienced. If you have played rummy you are halfway there although the scoring can take months to learn and all of us are still consulting our books for that.



There is a game to suit all levels from the complete beginner to the more accomplished so why not give it a go.

Contact Sonia Sinclair, group leader, if you are interested.

"Living History" - a new group?

Are you interested in sharing and recording snippets from your personal memories of life, or of people around you? Perhaps the minutiae of daily life which couldn't happen today, or maybe something specific to you when momentous world events were going on outside?

Lets see if we can accumulate a range of interesting, nostalgic, personal cameos - perhaps from the era when there were 3 postal deliveries a day, including one on Sundays! What were you doing during the Dunkirk evacuation, say, or what was your favourite wireless programme?

As well as harvesting these memories, sharing and comparing them, should we find some way to store them or publish them? Maybe we can do some research to illustrate them?

If you'd like to see where this idea might take us, please get in touch with Barbara Stuart (Newark 704905) to register your possible interest.

Pastures new

Kathleen and Eric Robinson were at the inaugural meeting of Newark and District U3A in the Winthorpe community centre in 2003. Eric served as our treasurer for two years and although his membership lapsed when he developed health problems, Kathleen has continued her loyal support, being a member of both the Garden Group and the Book Circle.

Now however, Kathleen and Eric are moving to Weston-Super-Mare to live near their daughter. We wish them every happiness in their new home. Kathleen is already looking for a U3A.

If you would like to join a group, contact the group leader listed below

Group	Leader	Phone
Archaeology	Peter Foden	01636 704 241
D Y O T Art	David Blake	01636 650 676
Bird Watching	Reg Robinson	01636 702 388
Book Circle	Barbara Hatton	01636 683 640
Craft	Joan Shankland	01636 626 553
Creative Writing	Barbara Hatton	01636 683 640
Dance	Audrey Blake	01636 650 676
Discussion	Maggie Johnstone	01636 708 624
French Improvers	Derek Middlemiss	01636 892 821
French Conversation	Tony Williams	01636 813 763
Gardens	Barbara Hatton	01636 683 640
German	Corri Moss	01636 706 537
Local History	Janet Robinson	01636 702 388
Investment	Reg Goodall	01636 651 838
Literature	Geoffrey Foulds	01636 659 239
Luncheon Group	Peggy Strellis	01636 679 392
Mah Jong	Sonya Sinclair	01636 672 921
Music Appreciation	Geoffrey Foulds	01636 659 239
New Technology	Reg Robinson	01636 702 388
Philosophy	Tom Chamberlain	01636 636 08
Recorder Playing	Sheilah Andrews	01636 703 219
Scrabble	Brenda Williams	01636 704 282
Walking	Reg Robinson	01636 702 388
Canasta	Ray Smith	01636 671 084
Early Birds	Jacq Cartwright	01636 650 411
Photography	Duncan Boreham	01636 893 016

The photography group have identified issues that they feel are important in the composition of good photos. Whether you are a mad keen photographer or just like taking holiday snaps, these tips may help

Rules	There are no rules!	Do what <u>you</u> like best. Keep experimenting – be brave!
Rule of Thirds	Imagine your view finder divided into thirds, both vertically & horizontally – rather like a noughts & crosses grid.	The best location for points of interest are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on these grid lines, and • where they intersect.
Balance	Is the point of interest close to one edge of the field?	Even-up the balance – change its location or add another feature.
Lines	Lines may be natural or man-made. They may be within or on some other feature. Linear features include roads, fences, rivers and the horizon.	These are most effective when positioned on a grid line or linking their intersections. Diagonal lines are particularly strong and curved lines are usually more interesting.
Shapes	Do the elements of your photo form a geometric shape?	This may make your image more pleasing to the eye.
Simplicity	What are the points of interest in your photograph?	It may be better to have just one, with a cleaner background. Your subject may be better in several separate photographs.

The Book Circle in the Spotlight.

Reading might be one of the three 'R's', but to the members of the book circle, reading is a great form of relaxation. Their books are chosen in advance, and at the suggestion of group members, range from the classical to new novels, travel and biographies. Meeting in members' homes, on the fourth Thursday of the month, they discuss the book of the month, and its author's objectives.

This month meeting at Brenda William's home, and their chosen book was Northanger Abbey. As with any book, some enjoyed it, and some found it not quite to their taste.

The contrast between the book and the TV, DVD versions were noted, as was the possible intentions of the writer to contrast with the popular gothic novels of the period.



Time was spent choosing a book list for the next few months, and it was also decided that at future meetings group members would also give a synopsis of a book of their own choice. If you enjoy reading and would like to participate, please contact Barbara Hatton tel 01636 683640

Newark U3A is buzzing!

This month our membership has reached 200 after a year of really rapid expansion. The recent market stall and Showcase days were very successful, and we know that new members have come from personal introductions too..

The number of new groups and the interest in them also continues to grow. Ideas for new groups are arriving thick and fast and several are now in the process of being established.

If you have any suggestions for a new group you'd like to see, then please raise this with me. Maybe others will share your enthusiasm and perhaps have specific expertise to share. Our groups seem to work best when the U3A principle of co-operative learning happens - where the learners are teachers, and the teachers are learners.

You have an enthusiastic and dedicated Committee working to help keep Newark U3A thriving, so use them to your advantage.

Sue Boreham

You think English is easy???

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.

As one who is struggling to learn German, I'm glad I learned this first.

Oct/Nov 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			13 <u>Monthly meeting</u>	14 Philosophy 10.00 Coffee Morning 11.00 French Conversation 11.00—13.00
17 Craft 09.30	18 DYO Art 10.00 New Technology 14.00	19 Creative writing 10.00 Literature (Jenny's) 10.30	20 Circle Dancing 10.00 Book circle 14.00	21 German Conversation 10.00 Coffee Morning 11.00 Discussion 14.00
24 Walk 09.30	25 Photography 14.00	26 German Beginners 10.00	27 Line Dancing 10.00	28 Philosophy 10.00 Coffee Morning 11.00
31				
	1 <u>November</u> DYO Art 10.00 Gardening 14.00	2 Literature 10.30 (Hawtonville Church)	3	4 German Conversation 10.00 Coffee Morning 11.00 Discussion 14.00
7 Scrabble 14.00	8 Local History 14.00	9 German Beginners 10.00	10 Monthly meeting	11 Philosophy 10.00 Coffee Morning 11.00 French Conversation 11.00—13.00
14 Walk 09.30 Investment 10.00 Music Appreciation 14.00	15 DYO Art 10.00 New Technology 14.00	16 Literature (Corri's) 10.30	17 Circle Dancing 10.00 Book Circle 14.00	18 German Conversation 10.00 Coffee Morning 11.00 Discussion 14.00
21 Craft 09.30	22 Photography 14.00	23 German Beginners 10.00	24 Line Dancing 10.00	25 Philosophy 10.00 Coffee Morning 11.00
28 Walk 09.30	29 DYO Art 10.00	30 Literature (Sheilagh's) 10.30		