



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Newark and District

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

Newsletter Jan/Feb 2012



Bring out the Figgy Pudding!

The December meeting was a celebration of Christmas. The recorder group entertained us with some favourite Christmas Carols. Audience participation was encouraged, and Barbara Hatton our MC exhorted us to sing 'lustily'.

The musical interlude was followed by contributions from the Writers Group, who entertained us with a selection of sketches, poems and short stories, culminating with a performance of an English Folk Mummers Play.



Once St George was victorious, the audience dispersed for refreshments choosing from hot mulled wine, tea and coffee and the traditional mince pies and sausage rolls. The photo quiz attracted many and most found it quite hard to identify what the photos were- a bit of fun all the same.

Barbara organised a great afternoon of entertainment and yes - that is a colander!

200 Plus and Sailing Upwards and Onwards

Providing the members with what they want, has been the key factor in the growth of the Newark branch of the U3A. The branch was delighted last month to enlist Mr Robert Boddy as its 200th member, so delighted in fact that at the December monthly meeting it was decided to mark the occasion by presenting Mr Boddy (known to his friends as Ernest) with a gift voucher, by one of the founder members Mr David Blake

Mr Boddy of Macauley Ave Newark, accompanied his wife (already a member) on an archaeology trip, and enjoyed it so much that he decided to join the U3a as well. Now a member of the archaeology group, he has also joined the walking group on a couple of occasions. A keen gardener he is considering joining the gardening group later in the year. One of his previous accomplishments was the building of a 60 foot narrow boat in his back garden. The boat named the "Florrie Kendall" after his mother in law, is now moored in the Brayford pool at Lincoln.



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

ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP:

Thursday, 19th January, 2012, 2.30pm. Hawtonville Methodist Church Hall.

Talk "Open Air Museums" by Rodney Cousins which will include Beamish and Ironbridge.

Thursday, 16th February, 2012, 2.30pm. Hawtonville Methodist Church Hall.

Talk "The Vikings – locally and further afield" by Daryl Baxter.

Due to an increase in the hall rent it will be necessary to raise the attendance charge to £1.50 for 2012.

Peter Foden, 704241

CARDS PLUS

A new group "**Cards Plus**" had their inaugural meeting today and was deemed to be a success.

The next meeting will be on **25th January 2012 at 2** o'clock at the home of Brenda Williams. Due to the nature of this group we are limited to numbers and unfortunately are full to capacity at the moment.

Veda Collingwood

Christmas Early Birds were flying high at the Christmas Party-----
The food was FABULOUS and has prompted an idea for a Buffet Cookbook--details to follow
The Sugar Plump Fairy would like to thank ALL her Elves for their help

January Early Bird

Thursday 26th January

The Royal Garden Chinese Restaurant (above The Atrium)
6.15 Contact Jacq: 01636 650411

February Early Bird

Thursday 23rd February

Venue to be confirmed Contact Jacq: 01636 650411

DRAMA

The inaugural meeting of this new group will be held on **Wed 11th January, 2-4pm** at Hawtonville Church Hall. Some of you may not get your newsletter before this so if you miss it. Give Geoffrey a ring on 01636 659239

BIRDWATCHING

10.30am 8th February. We are going to Attenborough Nature Reserve to see some of the over wintering waterfowl. It will probably not be as enthralling as our last visit when we saw a visitor from much warmer climes but you never know. Meet in the reserve car park

WALKING

There will be no walk on Feb 13th as the weather may not be kind (This is guaranteed as I am taking the grandchildren to Center-Parcs) The first meeting of the year will be on Monday 27th when we will meet to plan the year's walks. The meeting time and place will be announced in the next newsletter and at the February monthly meeting. Look out those maps and trail leaflets!

LITERATURE

Illnesses and child-care duties for Grandmas depleted the attendance for the last meeting of the Group at Jenny Hardy's home but the 10 members present spent a lively 90 minutes in the loving arms of several poets.

Each member had been asked to select a poem relating to love between human beings as a prelude to a more detailed look at love poetry in general in the New Year. Choices ranged from Marlowe to W. A. Davies, Shakespeare to Elizabeth Barrett Browning and from Betjeman to Alice Meynell. Such is the range of our members' experience, we even had a translation of a poem by Goethe. Some of the work produced lively debate about the need to be loved as opposed to the desire to love, the reality of selfless love when related to the satisfaction gained from loving, and the perceived difference between how men and women define love. The meeting certainly opened up many possibilities for future discussions and examples.

The Group will be 'resting' over Christmas and will re-convene on Wednesday the 11th January at Corri's home at 10.15. The timing has been changed to make sure we have the maximum 90 minutes for our discussions and readings now that we have more voices and opinions to hear.
GRF

Members attending the Early Bird Christmas Do organised by Jacq Cartwright. A great time was had by all and the group's rendition of The Twelve Days of Christmas was by all accounts 'memorable'.



Enjoy a sing song?

Come to our new singing group,
"Singing for Fun"

No auditions, just come along to our inaugural meeting at 2.30 on 30th Jan 2012, at the church hall, Main Street, Balderton. (Next to the Rose and Crown). There is ample parking and the bus stop from Newark is nearby. More male singers would be very welcome.

Group contact is Pat Allan tel 01636 613312.



Lights of Fancy at the Festival of Christmas Trees.

Imagine over a 100 Christmas trees decorated and arranged around the walls of a parish church that was built when Henry II was on the throne. Those that visited the annual Christmas Tree Festival this year will have seen it for themselves. Each tree was purchased and sponsored by groups or individuals, who undertook to decorate them for the festival, the proceeds of which are used for the maintenance of the church of St Mary Magdalene, which is a grade II listed building.

The tradition of decorating A Christmas tree was introduced to England by Prince Albert, a hundred and fifty years ago, and has become a much loved part of the English Christmas, despite different fashions in trees and decorations. The paper lanterns and real candles have been replaced today by unbreakable shiny baubles and flashing lights.

In the church I noticed that many of the trees had been decorated with homemade decorations that were often appropriate to their sponsors. A poppy garlanded tree from the British Legion, cherubic angels with children's faces from a nursery, and a tree decorated with hand crafted Christmas stockings from our own U3A Craft group.



Perhaps my nicest memory of the occasion will be that of a little girl, who took my hand and very proudly showed me her contribution, which was a tiny gift box, wrapped in bright tissue paper, and hanging on her school tree.

'I made that one' she told me, 'It's empty really, but my Mummy says that it has got a lot of love inside it.'
Hope you had a Happy Christmas.

Rough Justice

There was a time when the punishment for almost any crime was hanging. Those who could read may have been lucky enough to get *Benefit of Clergy*, and instead have the letter T branded on their thumb. The T stood for Tyburn, as a reminder of the place they so nearly visited.

At the start of the 17th century there weren't enough applicants for the post of Tyburn's hangman, so the Earl of Essex pardoned a rapist called Thomas Derrick on condition that he took the job. Derrick seems to have followed this career with gusto, executing over 3000 people, one of whom rather ironically was the same Earl of Essex. He clearly took his job seriously and became quite an innovator.

Instead of the traditional rope-over-the-beam method, he devised a cunning system of ropes and pulleys to despatch his victims. Eventually this same tackle started to be used down at the docks, for loading and unloading ships.

And that's why modern cranes still have a *derrick*, named after a rapist and an executioner.

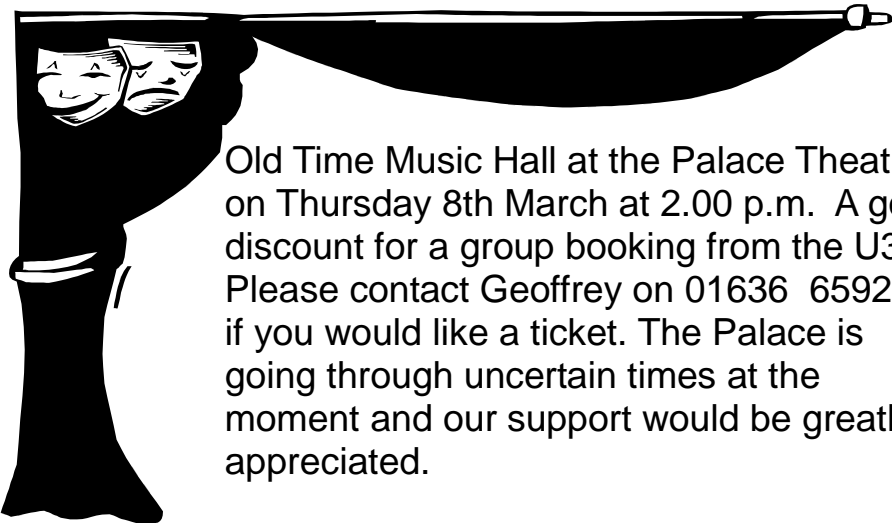
The Virtual U3A (vU3A)

The Virtual U3A is an online-only U3A, affiliated to the Third Age Trust in the same way as is Newark & District U3A.

One of its principal aims is to provide the U3A experience for those who are rendered isolated in some way by circumstances or geography, and unable to play a full part in a terrestrial U3A like ours.

The Virtual U3A is an online learning community of older people who adhere to the principles of participative learning which is characteristic of all U3As. Hence the vU3A doesn't create or deliver structured courses, but bases its activities on the traditional model. Members form their own learning groups, choose their own topics and share the teaching/learning in a collaborative way - just like every other U3A.

The vU3A aims to create a genuinely warm and friendly community of people who want to share learning in this way. If you - or anyone you know - might benefit, see their site at www.vu3a.org.



Old Time Music Hall at the Palace Theatre on Thursday 8th March at 2.00 p.m. A good discount for a group booking from the U3A. Please contact Geoffrey on 01636 659239 if you would like a ticket. The Palace is going through uncertain times at the moment and our support would be greatly appreciated.

And finally....Brenda has come up with a good way to use up all those 'leftovers'.

Ingredients.

1 cup of water, 1 cup of sugar, 2 cups of dried fruit, 1 cup of brown sugar. 1tsp salt, 8oz nuts, 4 large eggs, 1 tsp baking soda, juice of 1 lemon. 1 bottle of whisky.

Method

Sample the whisky to check for quality.

Take large bowl. Check whisky again. To be sure it is of high quality pour out one level cupful and drink. Repeat process.

Turn on electric mixer, beat 1 cup of sugar in a large fluffy bowl. Add 1tsp sugar and beat again. Make sure whisky is still ok. Cry another tup.

Turn off mixerer. Beak 2 eggs and add to the bowl, and chuck in the dried fruit. Mix on the turner. If fried druit gets stuck in the beaterers, pry it loose with a drewscriver.

Sample whisky to check for tonsisticity.

Next sift 2 cups of salt, or something. Who cares? Check the whisky.

Now sift lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add 1table and Spoon. of sugar or something. Whatever you can find. Grease oven. Turn the cake tin to 350 degrees.

Don't forget to beat off the turner. Throw bowl out of the window, check whisky again and **go to bed.**



Jan/Feb 2012 calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			12 Group leaders' meeting 10.00 Monthly meeting 14.00	13 French Conversation 11.00 Coffee morning 11.00 Discussion 14.00
16 Craft 09.30	17 Lunch Club New Technology 14.00	18 Creative writing 10.00 Mah Jong 14.00	19 Archaeology 14.30	20 Philosophy 10.00 Coffee morning 11.00 French Conversation 11.00
23	24 DYOT Art 10.00 Photography 14.00	25 Literature 10.15 Cards plus 14.00 Geology 14.00	26 Line Dancing 10.00 Book Circle 14.00 Early Bird (early eve, times vary)	27 Coffee morning 11.00 Discussion 14.00
30 Singing for fun 14.30	31			
		1 FEBRUARY	2 Armchair travel 14.00	3 Philosophy 10.00 Coffee morning 11.00
6 Scrabble 14.00	7 Gardens 14.30 DYOT Art 10.00	8 Literature 10.15 Bird Watching 10.00	9	10 Coffee morning 11.00 French Conversation 11.00 Discussion 14.00
13 Investment 10.00 Music Appreciation 14.00	14 Local History 14.00	15 Mah Jong 14.00	16 Circle Dancing 10.00 Archaeology 14.30	17 Philosophy 10.00 Coffee morning 11.00 French Conversation 11.00
20 Craft 9.30	21 DYOT Art 10.00 New Technology 14.00	22 Literature 10.15 Cards plus 14.00 Geology 14.00	23 Line Dancing 10.00 Book Circle 14.00	24 Coffee morning 11.00 Discussion 14.00
27 Walking 9.30 Singing for fun 14.30	28 Photography 14.00	29		

No walking or Bird watching in January