



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Newark and District

Newsletter August /Sept 2011



View from the chair

The new constitution is here. I am aware that this may not be the most exciting event of the year, but it does mark a turning point in our evolution. Our membership is at its highest point ever. This is due in no small part to the number and diversity of groups and activities.

It was with regret that I learned of Reg Goodall's decision to resign from the committee. Reg was responsible, to a significant degree, for us gaining access to the Holy Trinity Centre facilities. Thank you Reg! I hope at some point in the future he may feel able to return to provide his valuable knowledge to the committee once more.

Newark U3A Exhibition - Thursday, 8th September 2011

Come along and see all the group displays. We have several new groups this year and you might find something you want to try. There will also be activities and a display of craft work.

Spotlight on The Bird Watching Group

It was what the locals call 'nesh' when we set off from Winthorpe along the flood defences and then down on to the banks of the Trent towards Winthorpe Lake but the day warmed up as we went along. The Trent was surprisingly lacking in bird life except for a grey heron but there were any amount of small birds darting



from bush to bush. When you stopped to listen the air was full of bird song, too much to identify individuals but among the reeds, warblers were singing their hearts out. Very shy, these birds were well hidden but occasionally you caught a glimpse of one balancing precariously on a reed stem, being blown about by the wind.



Winthorpe lake was a revelation. We spotted heron fishing, no fewer than 8 grebe in a group on the water, mallard and numerous small birds in the reed beds. In the fields around there were Greylag and Canada geese and black headed

and herring gull were fishing. The usual suspects were in evidence, crow, jackdaw, sparrow, chaffinch and goldfinch and all these birds are quite beautiful when viewed through binoculars. On arriving back at the cars we were treated to a virtuoso solo from a song thrush – magical. If we hadn't seen any birds it would have been worth going for the birdsong alone.

R Robinson



**Charity Stall at Newark
Market
Wednesday,
31st August 2011**

We will be handing out leaflets to publicise our group and encourage new members. We will require volunteers to man this stall from 11-00a.m. to 3-30p.m. approximately. If you are willing to assist, please let me have your details and time(s) when available.

David Blake -

News from the groups

Birdwatching

August 10th—Besthorpe nature reserve. Meet in the car park at 9.30. Further details from Reg Robinson. There will be no bird watching in September.

Walking

22nd August, River Witham. Meet at the Stepping Out car park in Fen Lane. North Hykeham at 9.30. Turn right at traffic lights in N Hykeham (swimming pool on corner) into Moor Lane. Follow this to end, turn left onto Lincoln Road, Fen Lane is fourth on right. No walk on September 12th.

Local History

Tony Colton will be giving the talk 'People and Places of Newark. Meet at Hawtonville Methodist Church, Tuesday 13th September, 2.00 pm.

Lunch Group

The next meeting of the lunch group will be on Wednesday 31st August, at **The Old Reindeer** at Edgingly, at 12 30pm. If you want to go please contact Peggy Strellis tel 01636 679392, so she can let the caterer know how many are going to be there.

Early Bird

The Kings Head, Collingham was an excellent choice of venue, well organised by Steve Darke, and attended by 20 hungry members. The extensive menu catered for all tastes and the meals were well presented, served with a smile and quite delicious. All this at very modest cost and with some of the best company in Newark! So what's not to like? Reg Goodall has arranged the next dinner at The Riverside, Farndon on 18 August at 5.45pm.

Archaeology

Programme. If you would like a copy of the programme for the rest of the year and have not already received one please tell me.

Kenilworth Castle, Thursday, September 15th. This is an English Heritage property so entrance to our group will be free. The cost for the coach will be £12/person The coach will leave at 9.15am from near Aldi. We should be home about 5.00pm. The list for names will be available at the monthly meeting on August 11th. If you want to go but will not be at that meeting please ring me.

Cheshire/Shropshire, 29th May – 1st June, 2012. Deposits for this extended visit are required by August 22nd. Enquiry letters have been issued but if you have not received one and are interested please contact me.

Peter Foden, 704241

Annual Exhibition – Thursday, 8th September 2011

As a result of the replies received, a layout has been prepared for the above Exhibition which accommodates the following groups:-

Literature	Music Appreciation
Walking	Bird Watching
Scrabble/Mah Jong	Art
Archaeology	Book Circle
Garden	Photography
Crafts	Local History

As well as our normal Newsletter and Book Exchange tables, there will be an Information Table to enable non-members to make enquiries about all the groups in our organisation, whether or not they are part of the exhibition.

Arrangements have been made to gain early access to the Holy Trinity Hall, and it would be appreciated if all Group leaders and their helpers could be at the premises at 1-00p.m., to ensure that the displays are ready when members and guests arrive.

A table layout plan will be on display, so please make sure that your group occupies the table allocated to it. Name cards for each group will be provided to display on the respective tables.

During the afternoon it is hoped that the Dance Group will give a demonstration of their talents, and this will take place in the centre of the Hall floor. Refreshments will be provided during the afternoon in the adjoining Lounge.

In addition to the hordes of potential new members that will have been attracted by our Market Stall, it is hoped that

members will also bring along neighbours, friends etc., to enable them to obtain a glimpse of what our U3A is all about.

Group Leaders responsible for the displays are reminded that we need to clear the Hall as soon as possible after 4.00p.m. Many thanks for your co-operation.



Photography Group



This new group is flying, with over a dozen members - although there's room for a couple more to join in if they're quick. So far, we've learnt some useful wrinkles for getting exposures more evenly distributed across a photo. At our next meeting we'll be hoping to demonstrate this new found expertise, as well as no doubt sharing the effect of good intentions not quite working out - or perhaps that's just about my own poor efforts!

We're beginning to be more selective about how we frame shots, especially for subjects we expect to be either vertical or horizontal, and noticing how most of us manage to get tall buildings looking a bit skew whiff. But that's what we're about - learning how to raise the technical and artistic quality of the photos we take. So if you're an accomplished photographer looking to polish your techniques or a complete beginner who wants to do better than just point and press, this group is for you.

The next meeting is at Hawtonville Methodist church hall on Tuesday 23 August at 2pm. DB.



Getting Crafty

If you are one of those people who don't like Mondays, then why not while away the 'Monday morning blues', by joining the craft group? Meeting in the Methodist Church Hall in Charles Street, the group will make you feel very welcome.

Each session is devoted to a different project, and this month I joined them to make a 'Star Photo Album'. Not having cut, stuck or pasted for years, this was real relaxation. Materials were provided for a minimal fee, and we all contributed to the cost of the room hire.



Over the year members take it in turns to lead a session. Their programme this year included making Easter napkin rings, and learning how to do encaustic art. They decorated Christmas baubles, fabricated designer bead necklaces, knotted macramé, and made paper mache bowls. I was shown two beautiful crocheted brooches from a previous session, and I hope I'll be able to do the stick weaving next month. Look out for their display stall at the September meeting.



If you want to learn something new, a visit to the craft group is a must! In the run up to the

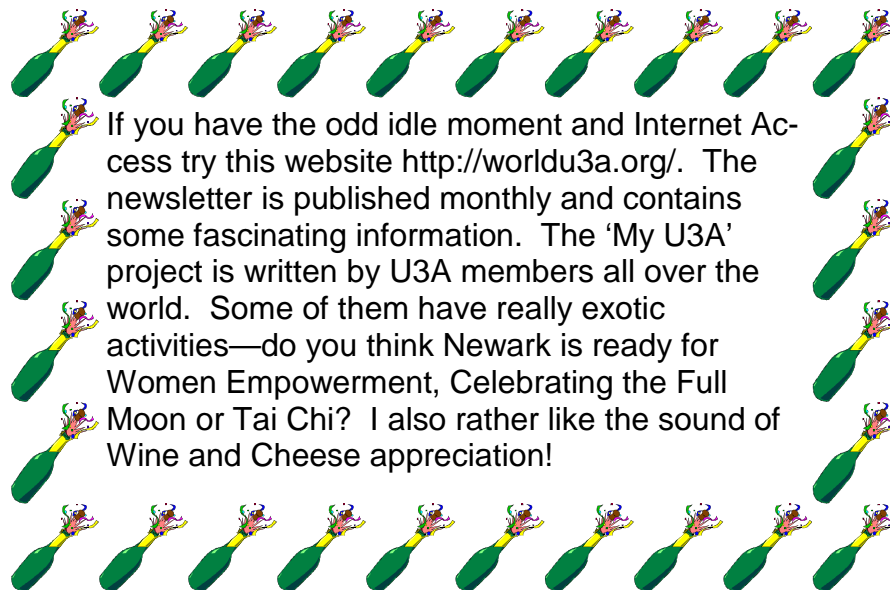
Christmas season the group gift wrap and decorate shoe boxes to be filled with small gift items, as part of the 'Operation Christmas Child' scheme.

More about this at a later date!

Group Contact Joan Shankland 01636 626533 for details

Did you know?

August was formerly called *Sextilis* in the Roman calendar as the 6th month from March, when their year began. In c.700BC it became the 8th month when January and February were added. In 8BC it was renamed *Augustus* to honour the first Roman emperor. It was the month when he began his first consulship, celebrated three Triumphs, received the allegiance of the legions, conquered Egypt and ended the civil wars. So quite a busy month for him!



If you have the odd idle moment and Internet Access try this website <http://worldu3a.org/>. The newsletter is published monthly and contains some fascinating information. The 'My U3A' project is written by U3A members all over the world. Some of them have really exotic activities—do you think Newark is ready for Women Empowerment, Celebrating the Full Moon or Tai Chi? I also rather like the sound of Wine and Cheese appreciation!

MUSIC APPRECIATION

The Group is keen to point out to any potential new members that we don't do anything too seriously or go into academic detail to explain and examine music in depth at our meetings. Most of our members have wide tastes in music and manage to enjoy listening without too much close study. A famous British conductor once remarked, "The British public doesn't understand music but they love the noise it makes." I think many of our members, including the leader, fall into that category.

This approach would appear to contradict the latest subject - The Evolution of the Symphony - but when everyone realises that Group Leader Geoffrey Foulds is guiding us through the historical development of this form of music, they will understand that it is not going to be too scholarly or technical. At our latest meeting the Group of 13 members enjoyed music by Handel, Boyce, C.P.E. Bach and then a far too short look at those great exponents of the symphony, Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven - and nobody fell asleep. Geoffrey will attempt to cover an even longer period at the second of two presentations on the 8th August when he traces the symphony through the Romantic and Modern eras.

We are all looking forward to the Gilbert and Sullivan trip to Buxton on the 13th August. Please note that we can use the Co-op Superstore car park at Victoria Street free of charge on one small condition. The store manager would like a list of the registration numbers of the cars that will be using the car park on that day. Please contact Geoffrey on 659239 as soon as possible



We can also confirm that we shall definitely be having a coach trip to Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Thursday 3rd November. The cost of a stalls ticket and coach travel will be about £28 or £29 depending on discounts. We still need a few more people to fill the coach - again, please contact 659239. We shall leave Newark at 10.30 a.m. and be back home about 7.00 p.m. The music is by Brahms, Mozart and Dvorak and will be played by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, one of the best in the country and conducted by internationally famous Andris Nelsons,

We would like to see more members so don't be put off by any feelings that the Group might be too highbrow - we hope to involve more presenters and every musical taste among our membership at future meetings.

Geoffrey Foulds

All the tickets for the Buxton performances have been sold but there are still a few seats available on the coach if anyone would like a day out in the beautiful Peak District. Contact Geoffrey for details.



Craft Group—Monday August 15th

Barbara will be showing members how to stick weave. No materials required but scissors would probably help.

August/Sept 2011—some groups cancelled until September

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			11 <u>August</u> Monthly meeting	12 Coffee morning 11.00 Discussion 14.00
15 Craft 09.30	16 New Technology 14.00	17 Creative writing 10.00 Mah Jong 14.00	18 Circle Dancing 10.00 Book Circle 14.00	19 Philosophy 10.00 Coffee Morning 11.00
22 Walk 09.39	23 Photography 14.00	24	25 Line Dancing 10.00	26 Coffee morning 11.00 Discussion 14.00
29 Bank Holiday Monday	30	31	1 <u>September</u>	2 Philosophy 10.00 Coffee Morning
5 Scrabble 14.00	6 DYO Art 10.00 Gardens	7 Literature 10.30 (Jenny's)	8 Monthly meeting	9 Coffee Morning 11.00 Discussion 14.00
12 Investment 10.00 Music Appreciation 14.00	13 Local History 14.00	14	15 Archaeology trip to Kenilworth Castle Circle Dancing 10.00 Book circle 14.00	16 Philosophy 10.00 Coffee Morning 11.00
19 Craft 09.30	20 DYO Art 10.00 New Technology 14.00	21 Creative writing 10.00 Literature 10.30 (Corrie's) Mah Jong 14.00	22 Line Dancing 10.00	23 Coffee Morning 11.00 Discussion 14.00
26 Walk 09.30	27 Photography 14.00	28	29	30 Philosophy 10.00 Coffee Morning 11.00

Apologies if some of these are not correct—we don't always get updates. If you are unsure whether a group is running or not, please contact the Group Leader or the Group Coordinator