

A warm welcome to the last Newsletter for 2018, in which we have for you an update on group activities from January, plus details of the first two trips for next year.

Please note that if you wish to book both trips you will need to use one cheque for each, (made payable to U3A Ashford, Wye & District) with the name of the trip on the reverse

And very importantly, please remember that the coffee morning on January 23rd will be held at our new venue: Repton Community Centre!



Committee Structure after the March AGM

As many of you will realise, at the Ashford, Wye & District U3A Annual General Meeting held during the March Coffee Morning, the Committee for the following 12 months is announced and voted for by the U3A Members present.

In anticipation of this meeting, we have co-opted a couple of new Committee Members to ensure a seamless passage for those who are retiring from office due to the "three year of office" ruling in the U3A mandate.

The only office to be filled from March 2019 is that of the Committee Chairperson. I will have served three years by March 2019, and I will have absolutely no alternative but to leave the Committee at that date. Your Committee comprises of a lovely group of people, and in the last three years, we have worked well, performed our duties, but most importantly, we have laughed a lot as well!

The current Deputy Chairperson, Mr Ernie Murfin, has kindly agreed to serve an extra year to take on the post of Chairperson from March, but as this will only be for a period of 12 months we still need someone to be in place to take on the role from March 2020.

So what of the Chairpersons duties: - Announcements at Coffee Mornings, keeping an overall vision of activities of the Committee, ensuring things happen at the correct time frame, and being a diplomat. We have five or six Committee Meetings each year of about 90 minutes duration, so the time consumption is not great.

It would be wonderful if any potential candidates, ladies or gentlemen, would come forward now and join us at Committee Meetings before March 2019, and see how we work, so we may have a smooth transition from the time of the AGM. Needless to say I will be available for any ongoing wisdom I can impart, but after March 2019 it will be only that, wisdom, but not interference!!

If you think you could "fit the bill" please contact me on 01233 624389 or at chris@moorlandtibs.com

Chris Jewell

Programme Update 2018/2019

Every member has a printed copy of the main Programme Booklet for the year. Members should continue to refer to this as the master document. Where there are changes, updates or courses about to commence, these are listed below.

NB Where there is a course fee, members should make out a cheque payable to " U3A Ashford, Wye and District " and send it to Marion Dinwoodie, 14 Hither Field, Charing, Ashford, TN27 0HZ. This should be paid in a timely way at the beginning of the course. Members should make it clear the course for which they are paying

Arts and Literature Courses

Untutored Art

This group will continue to meet on Thursdays. The time is 9.30am to 12.30pm. In the next term the dates will run from 3rd January to 25th April. The course fee is £17 for the term.

Play Reading

This group will continue to meet on the last Monday of each month (other than when it falls on a Bank Holiday) the time is 2.00 to 4.00pm

In the next term the dates are 28th January, 25th February, 25th March, 29th April and 20th May.

The course fee is £ 15 for the five meetings.

The venue is Ashford Community Church Hall, Francis Road, Ashford TN23 7UR.

Singing for Pleasure

This group has excelled this term and has been invited to sing at the Hinxhill Christmas Carol Concert in December. In 2019 there are two further concerts planned. The group would welcome new members to further swell numbers. For more information please contact Wendy Heaton.

Course Leader: Wendy Heaton (01233 631770 or wendyheaton@talktalk.net)

Venue: Ashford Community Church Hall, Francis Road, Ashford TN23 7UR

Dates: The new term commences on Friday 11th January

Time: 2.00 to 3.00pm

Course Fee: £9

Dickens

The group will be studying David Copperfield, looking at the historical content and the literary style of the book. John Ingram will be taking the course. The course commences in March. To register interest, please contact David Mann so that he can gauge numbers in advance.

Course Leader: David Mann (01233 623051 or preferably davidmann.U3A@gmail.com)

Venue: Kennington

Dates: Six sessions on Tuesdays from 5th March to 9th April

Time: 2.30 to 4.30pm

Course Fee: £10 tbc depending on numbers attending.

Practical Courses

Yogafit

The course leader Katherine O Donovan has advised that it is likely that she will not be available to complete the full term in the New Year. Mondays 7th, 14th and 21st January are confirmed at this stage.

Course Leader: Katherine O Donovan (kathodon@hotmail.com) For those without internet access contact Marion Dinwoodie (01233 712228)

Venue: The Iron Room, Boughton Aluph.

Time: 10.00 to 11.30am

Course Fee: £15 for 10 weeks: credit will apply pro rata based on the number of sessions which take place.

Guitar Chords

You will need a guitar but no previous knowledge or experience. To register interest please contact Janine Hardwick in advance. Continuation of this course will depend on the numbers attending.....so please consider joining up.

Course Leader: Janine Hardwick (07890 426291 or janinehardwick2@gmail.com)

Venue: Wye Methodist Church, upstairs in the Thomas Hall

Dates: Fridays starting 1st February through to 28th March then 14th June and 29th July

Time: 5.00 to 6.30pm

Course Fee: £13 tbc for February and March only, depending on the numbers attending

Computer Share and Learn

Members will be able to learn what they need on mobile phones, tablets or computers (which are provided). Those who know more are happy to share their knowledge with others; Members have generally achieved something new each session.

Course Leader: Janine Hardwick (07890 426291 or janinehardwick2@gmail.com)

Venue: Tesco, Willesborough (back of store and up the escalator)

Dates: Mondays starting 1st April (no session on Bank Holiday 22nd), 13th and 20th May then 17th June and 22nd July

Time: 6.00 to 7.30pm

Memory Maintenance

A new interactive course is planned which will help members understand, prevent and manage everyday memory problems. It will also raise awareness of how to prevent and/or reduce the risk of dementia. It is for a group of 12 people and it is vital that participants can commit to attending all sessions. Two courses will be run, one in January and one in February. Both of these courses are now full. If members should wish to be considered for any courses which might run in the future they should register interest by sending their name, address and telephone number by email to Maureen Grassals or telephone Barry or Maureen.

Course Leaders: Barry and Maureen Andrews (01233 632317 or

maureen.grassals@btinternet.com)

Venue: Ashford Community Church, Francis Road, Ashford, TN23 7UR

Dates: Four one and a half hour sessions on Mondays on 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th January. The second course will also be on Mondays on 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th February.

Course Fee: £12 for the four weeks. NB cheques will be collected at the first session of each course.

Games of skill

Bridge

This group will continue to meet on Mondays in the new year in Wye Methodist Church the time is 2.30 to 4.30pm. The dates will run from 7th January until 11th March inclusive. The course fee is £10.

Bowls Coaching

Two of our members, Rosemary Atkins and Christina Searle, are both Level 2 Bowls coaches. They have offered to run a new four week course in May. If members are interested in this course, they should contact Rosemary Atkins in the first instance to gauge the numbers to run the course

Course Leader: Rosemary Atkins (01233 503645 or rosemaryatkins19@yahoo.co.uk)

Venue: Sellindge and District Bowls Club

Dates: Wednesdays weekly in May, dates tbc

Time: Probably afternoons, time tbc

Course Fee: Possibly a small contribution to green fees, tbc

The World around Us

Walking Groups:

Wednesday Group

We are pleased to announce that there is now a new course leader for the Wednesday Group. The course will continue as usual.

Course Leader: Judy Hargroves (01233 811628)

Venue: various

Dates: 1st Wednesday of each month, except January when it will take place on 9th January

Time: 10.00am

Thursday Group

Course Leader: Ann Mumford (01233 633551)

Venue: various

Dates: 3rd Thursday of each month, March to October

Time: 10.00am

Languages

Spanish for Beginners

If members are interested in this new course, they should contact Maureen Leather in the first instance. Maureen would like to discuss what they would like to achieve from attending and if there are enough participants to start up the group.

Course Leader: Maureen Leather (01233 713561)

Venue: Charing

Dates: Thursdays, dates tbc. The course will be for six weeks in the first instance, commencing in January

Time: 6.00 to 8.00pm

As always, if anyone would be willing to set up a new course then please contact Marion Dinwoodie Programme Manager. (01233 712228 or mariondinwoodie.u3a@gmail.com)

Mugs & Muffins!



The U3A started an initiative in January of this year with a 'Mugs and Muffins' (tea, coffee & cake) morning inviting new members who have joined in the past year to get together.

This event was a great success and as our numbers have swelled since that date, it is to be repeated on Wednesday 6th February 2019 at the Scout Hall. Members will be introduced to facilitators and members of the committee who can explain the background to the U3A with information on classes they may wish to join and the excellent trips they may wish to book.

Invitation letters have already been sent out to new members, and we very much look forward to meeting you.

Singing for Pleasure Group Triumph!

20 members of our Singing for Pleasure group attended the Carol Service at Hinxhill Church on Sunday 9th December, where we had been asked to be guest singers. We had a wonderful afternoon and although I think there were a few nerves to begin with, we acquitted ourselves well and it was certainly fun! We must have done something right as we have been asked again for next year! Watch this space!

The photo was taken on an iPhone and there was not a lot of light in the church but hopefully you can see what a wonderful setting it was.



For those who are not aware of our group, we enjoy singing a variety of songs whilst developing singing skills in a friendly atmosphere under the fantastic leadership of Wendy Heaton who is a professional music teacher. The most important thing is that we have fun, laugh a lot and at times are amazed the sounds we manage to emit which are better than we believed possible

We meet once a week on a Friday, usually during term time at the Francis Road Community Church Hall, Francis Road, Ashford, TN23 7UR at 2.00pm for one hour. We start again on Friday 11th January. The fee is usually around a £10 for a 10 week course.

New members are very welcome especially men.

Ashford, Wye & District U3A

Visit to: The Brand Museum on Tuesday 23rd April 2019

Supermarket archaeologist Robert Opie has spent 50 years collecting historical brands and packaging to form the Museum of Brands. The 10,000 items on display in the Branding Hall and Time Tunnel relate the interesting stories behind many of our favourite products. This is a real trip down memory lane and should trigger some nostalgic hot spots on the way. Test your memory skills matching the advertising jingle to the brand. We hope you will enjoy this journey, which allows an overall view of the social changes in the last 50 years.

On arrival we have allowed time for refreshments before the tours begin. To allow time and space, our tours will be self-guided, half of the group touring the Brand Hall while the others view the Time Tunnel. The groups will then change venue to complete the tours. We have allowed 2 hours in total for the tours.

Members will then be free to walk down to Portobello Market (approx 10/15 mins). There are plenty of pubs and cafes etc. on the way to and inside the market for a bite to eat.

The museum has a very attractive garden cafe offering snacks and light lunches. However, NB the museum is unable to accommodate 38 members for lunch. Anyone wishing to remain for lunch must advise us in order to book a place.

The coach will pick up members at the Brand Museum for departure at 4pm.

Cost for the day All monies are non-refundable.

National Trust members (with card) £17.50

Non NT members £19.50

The coach will depart from Wye church at 7.15am and Ashford Rugby club at 7.30am

Booking forms for Visits in 2019

Visit to: The Brand Museum on Tuesday 23rd April 2019

Booking forms to: Mrs Teresa Clark (U3A Trips), 2 Dragonfly Close, Ashford TN23 5GH
Tel: 01233 639375 (between 5 and 6pm)
Ieda Hogarth: Home: 01233 612821 mobile: 07599 944971

NAME(S) (**CAPITALS**) 1..... Member: Yes/No

2..... Member: Yes/No

Tel..... E-mail.....

I will get on at: Wye at 07.15 / Ashford at 07.30 Please ring your choice.

I attach a cheque made out to U3A Ashford, Wye & District for **£17.50 or £19.50 per person.**

Signed:

Date:

If you are applying by post, please include a stamped addressed envelope **or** give an e-mail address to get a confirmation of a place booked.

Ashford, Wye & District U3A

Visit to: Wrest Park House Garden and Lakes on Monday 17th June 2019

Wrest Park has 90 acres of gardens, woodlands and lakes. Much of the development of the gardens bears the imprint of Capability Brown. Features of the park include an archaeological collection spanning 2,000 years; the recently restored Archer Pavilion, Chinese Temple and Bath house the orangery and colonnaded Bowling Green House and the garden sculpture in the ornamental dairy.

The house itself boasts Countess Henrietta's sitting room furnished as it was in the 1840's. Discover how the house served as the country's original First World War Convalescent Home through the photographs and diaries of those who served and convalesced there.

The cafe in the walled garden provides light lunches and refreshments. You may prefer to bring a picnic to enjoy in the beautiful surroundings.

Total cost for the day £15.00

All monies are non-refundable

The coach will pick up from Wye Church at 7.30am and Ashford Rugby club at 7.45am

We will set off for home at 4pm.

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