



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

HENLEY-on-THAMES

NEWSLETTER

No.70

September 2018

Editor: Charles Whittaker

Chairman's Introduction

Well, that was a summer to remember - three months with virtually no rain at all and temperatures into the 30s. I hope you have enjoyed it and been able to get involved in the U3A activities on offer. The new gardening group has been particularly energetic, holding monthly lunches, visiting gardens locally and as far away as Oxford and Gloucestershire, not to mention gathering the fruits (and vegetables) of their labours at the allotment. The new art history group has held successful talks and, thanks to Keith Appleby, is developing into a regular monthly group. He has also started a photography group. All these will, hopefully, attract more members over the coming months. Other new groups include Wine Appreciation and Spanish. Overall, we are progressing well and have a total of 17 groups at the time of writing – this compared with only 8 two years ago.

The membership is also growing. We are now up to 170 thanks to the new members listed on page 2. A warm welcome to them. I hope you will enjoy the activities on offer and meet up with other members. Thanks, too, to existing members who have clearly been inviting friends to join and to new leaders and convenors who host the increasing number of groups.

For the future, we expect our various marketing activities will add further to our numbers and thus to the vibrancy of Henley U3A. Three committee members have decided to resign recently due to other commitments. We thank them for their contributions. If anyone is interested in replacing them, particularly the Secretary role, please let me know.

Charles Whittaker

INFORMATION BY EMAIL

If you have Internet access but are not currently receiving information emails about events etc. please contact Ros Whittaker, who, manages our database, at xanadu21@sky.com. If you are not connected to the Internet but would like to keep up-to-date, please try to find an **email 'buddy'** who could pass on details of current activities and events. We also send out regular e-mail updates on events on the website.

This newsletter is also available on the Henley U3A website, so you can, if you wish, download it.

NEW MEMBERS

We are very pleased to welcome the following group of new members in recent months. We hope they will enjoy participating in our groups and talks:

Tony Cobb	Jo Cunningham	Joan Grummant
Pamela Gross	Darius Halpern	Barbara Head
Rosemary Lindsey	Terry Ryan	Elizabeth Nutter
Barbara Phipps	Diane Sharp	Ann Were
Heather Webb	David Sylvester	Irene Sylvester
Nick Wrigley	Lynne Fontannaz	Rosemary Musselwhite
Sally Wiggin	Ann Johnson	

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Annual General Meeting Wed. April 10, 2019
1.30 for 1.45pm at YMCA, Lawson Road, Henley**

COFFEE MORNINGS

Coffee Mornings provide an opportunity to meet each other socially and to welcome new and potential members. In the coming months they will both take place at the **Toad Hall Café at 10.30am**. The dates are:

Sept 19, 2018 Return from holidays get together

Nov 28, 2018 Christmas deccies time

The committee members would love to meet new and existing members to discuss ideas for the future and just about anything else. Always an enjoyable morning. See you there!

CHRISTMAS LUNCH – January 16, 2019. Contact Mike Pugsley

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The committee has been discussing further social activities as well as potential new groups, and how best to support them. We now hold a Christmas lunch at Badgemore Golf Club, coffee mornings (see above) and the gardening group hosts garden visits and monthly lunches at Christ Church Centre.

Please let a member of the committee know of any other activities that might be of interest. Member input and organisational support is vital as we decide on future events and learning opportunities.

CONCERTS, BALLET and THEATRE VISITS

Orchestral Concerts - Henley Symphony Orchestra,

Contact: Sylvia Pugsley 01491 573259

Nov 18 Ben Goldscheiner – Horn: Schumann – Manfred Overture,
Strauss – Horn Concerto No 2, Sibelius – Symphony No 1
At Reading Concert Hall

2019 Peter Donohoe – Piano: Brahms Piano Concerto No 1,

Mar 17 Shostakovitch – Symphony No 5 at The Hexagon

Ballet & Theatre - at the Regal Cinema

Oct 9 *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde

One of the funniest plays in English, broadcast live from the Vaudeville Theatre in London's West End.

Nov 13 *La Bayadere* from the Royal Opera House

Natalia Makarova's production of this 19th century classic ballet brings an exotic world of temple dancers and noble warriors to life.

Contact: Catherine Notaras 07474 095807 or at

catnotaras@gmail.com for ballet and theatre tickets. Limited availability (usually 10) so on a first come first served basis.

We hope to arrange more events. Please watch the website and e-mails for further information.

NEWS FROM U3A THAMES VALLEY NETWORK

Website <http://www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk/>

Please contact your TVN rep. Gill Le Du for further information or if you are prepared to help with, organise or suggest ideas for future Thames Valley-wide events. There is a strong Events Team, led by Patsy Thornton (Wokingham U3A), which can advise and assist.

Many other U3A activities are held in London and elsewhere in the country. Please see the U3A Trust web site at <http://www.u3a.org.uk/>

Upcoming local TVN study days are:

Sept 4 *	Polar Exploration	Benson
Oct 17 *	Website Building with WordPress	Benson
Nov 1 *	Medicine and Art	Benson

* Details of the above have been circulated to members by e-mail.

Other events are in various stages of planning and will appear on the TVN website over the coming months, and on the Henley U3A website, when content, dates, locations and costs have been finalised.

Anthology

The anthology of writing and art by members of Henley U3A is nearing completion. It includes work by around 15 writers and artists and should be published in October/November, just in time to add to your Christmas shopping list! Please buy a copy and recommend it to your friends. It includes fiction, poetry, and memoirs of days we all remember, stories ranging from Henley to India and the Middle East, all illustrated with beautiful drawings of places near and far.

Data Protection

The U3A Trust has highlighted a change in regulations, effective May 18. The database is password protected and shared only with committee members on a need to know basis, usually only the Chairman, Membership Secretary and Treasurer. The e-mail list is restricted to only the first two of these. Please see the website for our policies on data protection.

TALKS

Held at the YMCA Hall, Noble Road, Henley RG9 1NZ on the 2nd Wednesday in the month at 1.45pm (doors open at 1.30pm), followed by tea and biscuits.

Contact: Penny Evans - 07901 674779

- Sep 12** **Elizabeth Atkins – *Why Harold Wilson Resigned***
Elizabeth has been well received and comes highly recommended for her talk on why the Labour leader resigned as Prime Minister in 1976 at the age of 60.
- Oct 10** **Margaret and David Edwards – *Working in Films and TV***
Come and listen to the entertaining experiences of two supporting actors in films and TV, providing a fascinating insight into the industry, liberally illustrated by video clips. David's recent appearances include *Poldark* and *The Hollow Crown*
- Nov 14** **Mark Stevens – *The History of Broadmoor***
Mark was the County Archivist for Berkshire and author of two books on Victorian asylums. His talks have been well attended at a number of U3A branches.
- Jan 9 2019** **Jonathan Woodhouse – *Life as an Army Musician***
A professional musician and music teacher who plays saxophone and clarinet will talk about his career, including stories of his life and some tunes on the saxophone.
- Feb 13** **Jenny Malin – *'A Grandmother's Legacy'***
Author and former BBC producer, Jenny will discuss her book, winner of the Best in the World Cookbook 2017. Learn about Anglo-Indian recipes to tickle the palette and stories about life under the rule of the British Raj. She is also bringing tasty nibbles she has made for us.
- Mar 13** **Professor Ian Beckett – *The Great War, 1914-18***
Ian is an eminent military historian based at the University of Kent. He has published several books on WW1 and will give us insights on his specialism of the British auxiliary services and a social study of the British Army in that period.

Please bring friends who are not yet Henley U3A members.

Group Programme

Note to Group leaders: If you wish to change a regular meeting date, please check with a member of the Committee first as it can have knock-on effects by conflicting with other group meetings.

Art

1st Thursday in month at 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm Untutored

3rd Thursday in month at 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm Tutored

Please contact Judith, as below, regarding availability of places.

Venue: YMCA Hall, Noble Road, Henley

Contact: Judith Young 01491 573270 and Pam Lincoln 01491 573255

Art History

The group meets on Tuesdays at 2pm in Sacred Heart Church Hall off Vicarage Road Henley. Cost £2 per person towards room hire. Topics:

Sept 4 Women Artists – society's view and their contribution to art.

Oct 9 Abstract Art – what's it all about and how we respond to it.

Nov 6 The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood – key figures, influences and subject matter.

Dec 4 Richard Hamilton – the father of Pop Art.

Jan 8 David Hockney – his talents and styles.

Feb 5 Art v. Photography – mutual influences in art forms

Mar 5 All the 'isms' – a trip through various movements in art.

Contact: Keith Appleby 07778 534724

Book Group

Held at the River & Rowing Museum at 3 pm on the following dates:

(The prices shown are those of the current Amazon price. Second hand copies are usually available),

£8.46 Last Orders – Graham Swift

Sept 27

Story of a bizarre outing to scatter the ashes of Jack Dodds. The story focuses on the journey from Bermondsey to Margate. Much use of flashbacks.

£3.99 Reservoir 13 – Jon McGregor

Oct 25

The novel takes place over a 13-year period, with each chapter spanning one year. Set in a single unnamed town in the English countryside, the story opens in January. 13-year-old Rebecca Shaw has gone missing. This is the story of how the community copes and re-acts.

£15.95 Harbor of Spies – Robin Lloyd **Nov 22**

An historical novel set in Havana in 1863 during the American Civil War, when the Spanish colonial city was alive with intrigue and war related espionage. A young American ship captain, Everett Townsend, is pulled into the war as the captain of a Havana-based blockade-running schooner.

£8.46 Ordinary Thunderstorms – William Boyd **Jan 24**

Corruption lies at the heart of big business. Life will never be the same again for Adam, a climatologist in London for a job interview. A very readable thriller.

£8.60 Hillbilly Elegy – J D Vance **Feb 28**

Describes what it's like to be born poor and white in the American dustbowl and making it good. Well reviewed and very readable. Helps to explain why some voters put their faith in Trump.

£6.99 Birdsong – Sebastian Faulk **Mar28**

After a short stay in France (1910) Stephen Wraysford volunteers in 1914 to go to France to fight. Faulk points out the horror of the war; description of the trenches, the tunnels where some soldiers were trapped, the mud and the nonsense of the fight. It is very moving.

Contact: Judith Dooley 0118 947 2526

Film Group

The group has been having a break for the summer months. We are currently looking for a new convenor to manage the circulation list and decide, with the members, which films to attend. Please let Charles Whittaker know if you would be willing and able to take on this, not too onerous, role.

French Intermediate Group

Sessions meets fortnightly on Fridays, 2.30pm, at the home of the contact below. We now have qualified French teachers to support the group.

Would interested members please contact the host for the latest information: Contact: Jill Vallis 0118 972 3251

Gardening

An allotment for the diggers, visits to gardens for the curious and monthly lunches for the chatty. See the website for more on the group's activities.

Contact: Catherine Notaras 07474 095807 or catnotaras@gmail.com

Play Reading

This group meets monthly on the second Monday of each month at 2 pm for a 2.15 start. It meets at Gillian Le Du's home. We mainly focus on

shorter plays to allow time for discussion, and to give as many as possible opportunity to read. No acting skills are required and we are a relaxed and supportive group. We are somewhat limited in space but are welcoming new members.

Contact Gill at 01189723664 or at gill.ledu@btinternet.com.

Creative Writing Workshops

For members interested in developing creative writing skills. We meet on the 1st Thursday of the month from 10am to 12 noon at the Henley Library. The workshops include feedback on members' writing, learning new writing skills and techniques used by published authors. We are currently focusing on life story writing. Do you have a story to tell, a poem waiting to get out or memoirs for your grandchildren? Join us.

Contact: Charles Whittaker 01491 413535

Music Appreciation Group

This group meets on the second Thursday of every month at 2 pm prompt at The Christ Church Centre, Reading Rd. Henley to listen to and discuss, mainly, classical music. Why not give it a try? Open to all members - just turn up. Contact: Sylvia Pugsley 01491 573259

Discussion Club

Meetings are held at Christ Church, Reading Road at 2 pm. We aim to hold five meetings per year. A core of about a dozen members contribute to discussions. Upcoming meetings include: Sept 5 *Newspapers: do they have a future? Are they an accurate record of the past.* Nov 7 *The Establishment: Still a factor in UK life?* Jan 2 *Is the English language deteriorating?* Mar 6 *Are we all complicit in modern slavery?* Contact: Catherine Notaras catnotaras@gmail.com or 07474 095807

Poetry Group

The group meets monthly on the 4th Thursday from 10am until noon usually at a member's home. Meetings include reading, discussion and analysis of a range of poetry to develop our understanding and appreciation. No prior knowledge of poetry required. Advice on writing poetry can be provided. Contact: Charles Whittaker 01491 413535

Photography

A new group meeting on an ad hoc basis at present to look at how to get the best out of your camera – techniques and composition.

Contact: Keith Appleby 07778 534724

Spanish

Buenos dias! Yet another new group, with a native speaking tutor, aimed at beginner to intermediate level. It meets monthly. Contact: Gillian Le Du

Science

A new science group held its first meeting in June. The group will be a discussion forum on purely scientific subjects. Science and technology affects all of our lives and advances in all fields are happening quickly. It is proposed that there be four or five meetings per year at a variety of locations in Henley. It is also planned to work with other like groups across the Thames Valley Network and potentially a 'virtual' group for the region. Should you be interested in such a group, contact Gill Le Du at gill.ledu@btinternet.com.

Non-U3A Activities – to keep us fit

EXERCISE CLASSES

Held in the YMCA Hall, Noble Road, Henley, every Tuesday for 1 hour from 11.15am. The session consists of mostly seated exercises. Each session is £4 (subsidised by Age UK - contact 01235 849403). Several U3A members already attend and recommend them.

GO ACTIVE SENIOR CIRCUITS

SODC initiative at Nettlebed Village Hall. Tuesdays 11-12. A workout session for over 60s to improve circulation and build stamina without causing injury in the process. Contact: Jo Cassells at jo.cassells@live.co.uk Tel. 07776 376 497 or 01491-578076

TABLE TENNIS FOR THE OVER 60s

Held in the YMCA Hall, Noble Road, Henley, every Tuesday from 2.30 to 4.30pm from October to April. The group is of mixed ability and lots of fun. Cost £25 p.a. Contact: Audrey Richardson at RolfRich@aol.com,

Recreational Walks

Day Walks

Programme September 2018 to February 2019

Unless otherwise specified all walks start at 10.30 am, first Wednesday of the month, usually about 7 miles in length with a break for lunch half way. The pace is steady but not too slow. We are a friendly group and welcome anyone keen on joining us in our beautiful countryside. Contact: Jill Kendal, walks leader – 0118 972 2201 or kendalwoodbury@supanet.com

Sep 5 Meet at Wigmore Lane, Theale GR633703. accessed from the roundabout at the junction of the A340 and A4, an unsigned small lane leading to an oil depot. After roundabout turn left at T junction past houses and park on wide verge alongside depot. Walk is 6.75 miles, mainly flat, only one stile Lovely scenery along the river Kennet, and canal, BRING PICNIC LUNCH at St Michaels churchyard. Contact: Pete and Rosie Laws 0118 978 3275 or mob on day 0759 351 9958.

Oct 3 Meet Sonning Common Village Hall car park GR707803, to catch the 10.37am no. 25 bus to Hills Meadow Reading. We walk the Thames path to Sonning and lunch at the Flowing Spring, Play Hatch 3.6 miles). Return to SCV Hall via Binfield Heath. Contact: Mike Starkey 0118 972 2741

Nov 7 Meet at the small unmarked car park at Turville Heath GR745909. (Turn R at top of Balhams Lane, go over the cross roads and turn immediately left. A 7.5 mile walk to South End, Stonor, Maidensgrove, Pishill and back. Lunch at the Five Horseshoes Maidensgrove. There is one long hill in the morning up to the pub and one in the afternoon back to the car park. Contact: John Boucher 0118 947 3676

Dec 5 Meet at Bucklebury Farm Park GR553702. For a short walk prior to Christmas lunch at the Park restaurant, 'Woody's'. More details in due course. Directions to get there will be given nearer the day. Contact: Jill Greenwood 0118 972 2441

2019

Jan Visit away to Torquay. No local walk this month.

Feb 6 Meet in Hambleden village car park GR 784874 for a weather dependent figure of eight walk in the Hambleden valley. Lunch at the Stag and Huntsman in the village
Contact: Mary Barrett 01491 578051

Short Walks

Programme September 2018 to April 2019

The walks starting at 10.30am on the 3rd Wednesday, usually of 3 miles with, hopefully, not too many stiles or hills, New members welcome.

- Sep 19 Meet at Mill Lane Car Park Henley-on-Thames for walk around Henley and the river. For further details please contact Jacky Holcombe on 0118 9722971
- Oct 17 Meet at Remenham Church (GR 770841) for 3.5-mile circular walk past the Flower Pot at Aston and return through Greenlands Estate. Short moderate incline gives splendid views of the river. Contact Sue and Colin Hatcher on 0118 9482653.
- Nov 21 Meet at the car park on the right just before Wallingford Bridge (SU613894 - LR175). Car Park charge is £1.10. The walk (flat and about 3 miles) is the Wallingford River & Castle Circular Walk which includes the Thames Path to Benson Lock, returning partly by the Path, fields and the grounds of Wallingford Castle. Contact Michael Cross on 0118 9478384
- Jan 16 Meet at Nettlebed by the pot kiln, open space by the bus stop. 3-mile flat walk Contact Jill Kendal on 0118 9722201
- Feb 20 Meet at Whitchurch Hill Recreation ground next to St John's church. About a 3-mile walk. Contact Mary Hoskins on 0118 9842660.
- Mar 21 Meet in car park next to tennis courts on Caversham Park Road for a country walk Contact Jacky Holcombe on 0118 9722971
- Apl 17 Meet at Pat Cobb's house. RG9 4AL 'Woodstock', Mays Green, Harpsden. Go down the unmade lane, passing our front gate on left, park in the parking area behind the house. There is parking for about 12 cars. Walk in bluebell woods. Contact Pat on 01491 413488

Contact: Jacky Holcombe 01189 72971

Publicity and Recruitment

As previously mentioned, the best form of publicity for our activities is word-of-mouth recommendation. So please tell your friends about our activities, invite them to come along to the talks, and even to group meetings, to see what we have to offer.

CONTACT DETAILS

GROUP LEADERS

ART GROUP	Judith Young	01491 573270
	Pam Lincoln	01491 573255
ART HISTORY	Keith Appleby	07787 534724
BOOK GROUP	Judith Dooley	01189 477563
CREATIVE WRITING	Charles Whittaker	01491 413535
FRENCH – Intermediate	Jill Vallis (host)	07543 837843
GARDENING	Catherine Notaras	07474 095807
MUSIC APPRECIATION	Sylvia Pugsley	01491 573259
GENERAL DISCUSSION	Catherine Notaras	01491 411407
PHOTOGRAPHY	Keith Appleby	07778 534724
PLAY READING	Gill Le Du	01189 723664
POETRY	Charles Whittaker	01491 413535
SCIENCE	Gill Le Du	01189 723664
TALKS	Penny Evans	07901 674779
DAY WALKS	Jill Kendal	01189 722201
SHORT WALKS	Jacky Holcombe	01189 722971
SPANISH	Gill Le Du	01189 723664
WINE APPRECIATION	Dianne Sharp	01491 574111

COMMITTEE

Chairman	Charles Whittaker	01491 413535
Treasurer	Mike Pugsley	01491 573259
Membership & Database	Ros Whittaker	01491 413535
Acting Secretary	Lynette Hawkins	07929 754377
TVN Representative	Gillian Le Du	01189 723664
Publicity Co-ordinator	Catherine Notaras	07474 095807
Committee Members	Pat Planner	01491 411408
	Denise Keir	01491 412681
External to the committee:		
<i>Ex-officio</i> Advisor	Diana Hex	01491 413239
Website Administrator	Charles Whittaker	

Newsletter compiled by Charles Whittaker

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