



North Cotswold U3A

Newsletter

February 2019

Chairman's Message

'Reading last month's newsletter, I took time to look through the list of our U3A's Activity Groups and was pleasantly surprised by both the number and scope available to our members. Clearly a number of these groups have been going for a very long time. Some I am told are still run by their original leaders, which I think is a real testament to the commitment of those individuals. Other groups have continued to thrive because members from within the group have stepped up to the mark when they have been in danger of folding.

Unfortunately, this has not always been the case. It is a shame when, for one reason or another, a group has had to fold when its leader decides to step down. One can understand why members might feel reluctant to come forward and offer either to lead a new group or take over the running of an existing one, without doubt it can seem a daunting task. However, that needn't be the case. I know that some groups and activities share leadership responsibilities between several members, which can clearly help reduce that overall feeling of 'it's all down to me'. Of course, this may not always be appropriate, but we have seen the approach implemented very successfully. For example, the organisation of our Open Meetings and the Medium Walking Group which I run alongside our Membership Secretary.

Recently we announced the winding up of the Theatre Group which was such a shame because it had been very well supported and I know much appreciated by those who were able to enjoy a wide variety of performances. I know there has been some muted interest in resurrecting the group, but I am also informed that this would only be with the proviso that others would be prepared to share the running of the group thereby enabling a variety of genres to be covered.continued on back page.

Current Membership (individual & joint) - 403

Number of Groups - 30

Website <https://uzasites.org.uk/north-cotswold/welcome>

Group News and Events

Summer Outing

8th August 2019

This year's summer outing will be to the **National Memorial Arboretum**



Situated in Staffordshire on the edge of the National Forest, the Arboretum is the UK's year-round centre of remembrance. With 150 acres of maturing woodland landscape, an abundance of wildlife and over 360 memorials there is something for everyone. This is sure to be a memorable visit.

Put the date in your diary now – more details will follow in your next Newsletter.

Burns' Night 2019

John Thompstone writes

'It has become a tradition for members of the **Scottish Dancing Group** and their friends to celebrate *Burns Night* together at the end of January – this year was no exception.

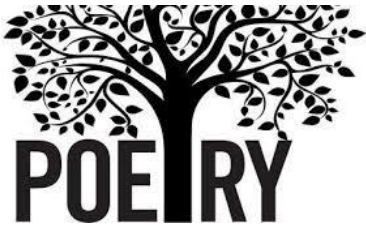
Phyllis Andrews cooked the haggis and prepared a wonderful meal, John Robertson *addressed the haggis* with gusto in an unintelligible accent, but presumably Glaswegian, Freda Cannan made suitable table decorations and Diana Lucas, with patience that belied the confused responses of the assembled company, was *caller*. A good time was had by all and the evening finished with an emotional rendition of '*Auld Lang Syne*'.

The **Scottish Dancing Group** meets on the 2nd and 4th Friday morning of the month from 10am till noon at Bourton-on-the-Hill Village Hall. New members are always welcome, **contact Diana on tel. 01386 853125**

– 'it's the only way to get a ticket!'

Crafty Cards & Touch Tennis

These groups are no longer running.



There will be an update on a proposed Poetry Group in the next newsletter.

Croquet at Willersey

Golf Croquet will restart, weather permitting, on Wednesday 1st May at 2.30pm behind Willersey Methodist Church and thereafter on the first Wednesday of the month during the summer.

Contact Richard Ingles on tel. 01368 853306 for more information.



Helen's Walk for Mind



Thank you to everyone who has donated or sponsored Helen Jones's charity walk. Helen is now more than half way to her target, having raised an amazing £2,500. If you would like to sponsor Helen, or join her on one of her walks, donation/walk registration forms can be obtained from Sharon Thackeray on tel. 01386 858973

RIP

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of the following member

Lawrence Hill

Our sympathy and condolences to his family and friends.

Open Meeting Programme 2019

From Joan Rees and Marilyn Watts

Our Open Meetings are held at Willersey Village Hall
on the second Thursday of the month starting at 2pm.

A suggested £2 donation is payable at the door for both members and non-members.

14th March – ‘**Sentenced to Beyond the Seas**’ – **David Clark**. What became of the women ‘convicts’ transported from Worcestershire?

11th April – ‘**Serious Organised Crime**’ – **Cameron Addicott**. Cameron, an author, has worked undercover for HM Customs and the SOCA for 20 years.

9th May – ‘**Adventurer**’ - **Philip Caine**. Our speaker has worked for 30 years in the oil industry in places like Iraq, Nigeria, Kazakhstan and Russia.

13th June – ‘**Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë**’ – **Keith Hooper**. Our speaker is a writer, lecturer and academic with a special interest in 19th century English literature.

12th September – ‘**Life in the Rainforest**’ – **Paul Carpenter**.

Paul’s travels include the rain forests of Borneo, India, Sri Lanka, Costa Rica, Brazil and Ghana to study the habits. He has been keeping and breeding spiders since the age of five!

10th October – ‘**Hatches, Matches and Despatches**’ – **Fiona Rhodes**.

Stories from a Civil Celebrant and Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

10th November – ‘**Recycling**’ – **Kate Booth** from the Environment Agency.

12th December - Christmas Open Meeting – put the date in your diary now!

We would particularly like to welcome new and prospective members at our Open Meetings. Please speak with John Bissett on the door, he will introduce you to a member of the committee who will be happy to answer your questions and tell you about our activities and Groups.

Keith Horden's Quiz

- 1 What does a cruciverbalist do?
- 2 Heinz Holliger is a virtuoso, on which musical instrument?
- 3 Which Chancellor of the Exchequer introduced VAT to the UK?
- 4 Which tax did it replace?
- 5 Where is West Derby, Birkdale and Fazakerley?
- 6 In which town is the district of Headless Cross?
- 7 Which composer's Symphony No. 6 is referred to as the *Pathétique*?
- 8 Winston Smith worked at the *Ministry of Truth*, in which novel?
- 9 What do John Diefenbaker, Lester B Pearson and Kim Campbell have in common?
- 10 Who wrote the music for the musical adaptation of *Les Misérables*?
- 11 Who was Great Britain's longest serving Prime Minister?
- 12 Which is Sweden's second largest city?
- 13 Which is the third book of the Old Testament?
- 14 Which country elects a new king every five years?
- 15 What 'serpentine fact' unites Ireland and New Zealand?
- 16 What can you do if you are a *lusophone*?
- 17 With 1.1 billion speakers, what is the most commonly spoken language in the world?
- 18 What are Mavrodafni, Negroamaro and Cinsault?
- 19 In which Charles Dickens novel does Wilkins Micawber appear?
- 20 What is the capital of Guernsey?

You'll find the answers on the back cover.

WWI Anniversary Tour

The Great War claimed more than 16 million lives. Germany surrendered on the 11th November 1918 and all nations agreed to stop fighting. **This year** marks the centenary of the signing of the *Treaty of Versailles* by Germany and Allied Nations, formally ending the war.



Many people are taking the opportunity at this time to walk in the footsteps of an earlier generation and see for themselves the sights and monuments of the Western Front, in particular the Ypres Salient (Flanders Fields) and the battlefields of the Somme.

I am organising a 5-day/4-night tour from 27th September till 1st October 2019 **with a professional battlefield guide** for members of the **NCU3A**. We will tour the battlefields of the Somme, the Ypres Salient and travel along the Messines Ridge, visiting amongst many other places the preserved trenches at Newfoundland Park and the reconstructed Bayernwald trenches at Croonaert Wood, the British & Commonwealth Cemetery at Tyne Cot, the site of the 1914 Christmas Truce, the Sunken Lane at Beaumont-Hamel, the crypt of Messines Church (used as a dressing-station) and the Worcestershire Regiment Memorial. On our last evening we will attend the *Last Post* ceremony under the Menin Gate which bears the names of almost 55,000 men whose bodies were never found.



The locations we visit will be flat but this is an 'active tour' and invariably places will be busy, however personal headsets will be provided by our guide.

We will travel from suitable local pick up points by private executive coach to Gillingham in Kent and take a guided tour of the Royal Engineers Museum, staying at the **Bridgewood Manor Hotel (4*)** overnight. In the morning we travel by *Eurotunnel le shuttle* to France and travel onward to the **Alize Hotel (4*)** at Mouscron in Belgium for a three-night stay. On route we will visit

Talbot House in Poperinge, the birthplace of the Toc H movement, the 'In Flanders Fields Museum' in Ypres and the Canadian War Memorial.

On our return journey, we will stop at **Chartwell** (National Trust), the family home of Winston Churchill, for a short visit and lunch.

The full tour can be viewed on www.tailored-travel.co.uk – select **View Your Tour** and insert code **ncu192**



Accommodation will be on a half-board basis in Kent and on our first night in Belgium and B&B the remaining two nights. A buffet lunch is included at the Royal Engineers Museum. There will be an *optional* dinner arranged by our guide before the 'Last Post' ceremony on our final evening.

The cost will be £599 pp. + £99 single room supplement to include 4 breakfasts (hot buffet), 1 lunch and 2 dinners. All entrance fees (except Chartwell, NT) are included. Travel insurance, gratuities and any 'city/tourist tax' that might be payable to the hotel (probably less than 5 euros/pp.) will be extra.

We will need between 20 and 25 participants.

So, if you are interested or have any queries please contact me,

Brian Thackeray, tel. 01386 858973.



Val & Mick Skinner

Jane Ward

Margaret Toon

Carol Harvey

Sally Griffiths

Liz Niner

Valerie Grey

NORTH COTSWOLD U3A ACTIVITIES 2019

Group	Venue	Day	Time	Contact
Art Appreciation <i>(meetings plus visits)</i>	Willersey Methodist Community Room	1 st Thursday	PM	Peter Grant 01386 858268
Discussion & Debating	Private Home – Greet	1 st Wednesday	9.45 for 10 am till 12.30 pm	Nick Hoskins 01242 352805
Effortless Entertaining (Aga Cooking)	Private House	4 th Thursday & 4 th Friday	AM	Sonia Woolven 01386 852211
Engineering & Transport	Childswickham Village Hall	4 th Friday	April – July AM Aug-March PM	Keith Horden 01386 852145
Exploring Music	Willersey Methodist Community Room	2 nd Wednesday	10 AM	Andrew Mackrill 01608 684884
Food & Cookery (1)	Broadway	2 nd Tuesday	PM	Phyllis Andrews 01386 641361
Food & Cookery (2)	Broadway	1 st Thursday	AM	Phyllis Andrews 01386 641361
French Conversation <i>(some knowledge required)</i>	The White Hart Royal Hotel, Moreton-in-Marsh	3 rd Wednesday	2.00-3.30pm	Ghislaine Craik 07733112089
Gardens & Gardening	Childswickham Village Hall (winter) Garden visits (summer)	2 nd Friday	10am (winter) 2.30pm (summer)	Mary Burfitt 01386 859661 Jackie Emsley 01386 858342 Di Johnstone 01386 853578
Golf Croquet	Behind Methodist Church, Willersey	1 st Wednesday	PM May to October	Penny Ingles 01386 853306
Handbells	Northwick Park	1 st & 3 rd Monday	10.00-12.00	Freda Cannan 01386 701539
Historic Churches	Various	3 rd Wednesday	AM	John Thompstone 01386 852930
Italian <i>(NOT suitable for beginners)</i>	The White Hart Royal Hotel, Moreton-in-Marsh	Last Monday	10.30-12.00	Michael Gittins 01608 674183
Kurling	Weston sub Edge	4 th Monday	AM	Daphne Bell 01386 840182
Mahjong	Willersey	2 nd & 4 th Monday	PM	Diana Lucas 01386 853125
Opera Appreciation <i>(in conjunction with Winchcombe U3A)</i>	Burland Hall, Stanton	3 rd Wednesday	2.00-4.30	Colin Davison 01242 603317 Ann Pitcher 01242 621328
Painting	Moreton-in-Marsh Bowls Club	1 st & 3 rd Thursday	AM	Alan Andrews 01386 641361
Photography	Willersey	2 nd Monday	AM	Paul Kirby 01608 651640
Reading for Pleasure	Various	1 st Monday	PM	Phyllis Andrews 01386 641361
Recorder Consort	Blockley	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday	PM	Hilary Thornburgh 01386 701235

Group	Venue	Day	Time	Contact
Science for All meetings, field trips and videos	Wickhamford	3 rd Friday	AM	Hazel Bartlett 01386 852244
Scottish Country Dancing	Bourton on the Hill	2 nd & 4 th Friday	AM	Diana Lucas 01386 853125
Singers Group	Willersey Village Hall	2 nd & 4 th Wednesday	AM	Hilary Thornburgh 01386 701235
Skittles	The Snowhill Arms	4 th Thursday	7.15 PM	Alan Andrews 01386 641361
Sunday Lunches	Childswickham	3 rd Sunday	Lunchtime	John Bissett 01386 859319
Table Tennis	Willersey	1 st & 3 rd Thursday	5.30 PM	Peter Burch 01386 853837
Ukulele	Blockley	2 nd & 4 th Tuesday	PM	Legh Richardson 01386 701072
Walking (nature rambles up to 4 miles)	Optional pub lunch	3 rd Tuesday	AM	Sue Lindsay 01386 446541
Walking – Five Milers	Optional pub lunch	1 st Friday	AM	Phyllis Andrews 01386 641361
Walking – Medium Walks	Optional pub lunch	4 th Tuesday	AM	John Bissett 01386 859319 Chris Selby 01386 853512
Walking – Long Walks (6.5 to 11 miles)	Optional pub lunch	1 st Friday & 3 rd Thursday	AM	Victoria Shipton 01386 830888

Any changes please contact Sharon Thackeray 01386 858973



*A retro starter, a vegetarian dish and a
delicious dessert*

from

Phyllis Andrews' cookery class

Anchovy or Blue Cheese Stuffed Eggs

6 large Eggs (hard boiled, cooled in cold water and peeled)
6 tbsp. Mayonnaise
3 tsp. finely chopped Anchovies
1½ tsp. Lemon juice
Salt and Paprika

Garnish

6 Anchovy fillets (halved lengthways)
Tiny sprigs of Parsley

1. Cut the eggs in half lengthwise and scoop out the yolks.
2. Mash the yolks with the mayonnaise, chopped anchovies and lemon juice. Season to taste with the salt and paprika.
3. Spoon or pipe the filling into the white halves then garnish with a coiled half anchovy fillet and a sprig of parsley.
4. **Blue Cheese Stuffed Eggs.** Mash the egg yolks with the mayonnaise and 6 tbsp. crumbled Blue Cheese, 3 tbsp. double cream and a pinch of Cayenne Pepper.
5. Spoon or pipe the filling into the white halves then garnish with a little red pepper or a piece of walnut.

Gloucester Pie

12 slices Bread (crust removed)
Butter
6 oz. Double Gloucester Cheese (thinly sliced)
12 oz. Tomatoes (sliced)
1 pt. Milk
4 Eggs
3 tsp. Mustard (English or Dijon)
Salt & Pepper

1. Butter the bread then make cheese and tomato sandwiches.
2. Cut each sandwich into 4 triangles and arrange in a greased, shallow ovenproof dish.
3. Beat the eggs with the milk, mustard and seasoning. Pour over the sandwiches then stand for 30 minutes.
4. Bake at 170° C (fan) for 25-30 minutes.

Mince meat and Pecan Crumble Slices

10 oz. Plain flour
4½ oz. Ground rice
4½ oz. Caster sugar
10 oz. Butter
1¼ lb. Brandied or Rum mince meat
4 oz. Pecan nuts (chopped)
Icing sugar and Ground Cinnamon for dusting

1. Grease and line an 8" x 10" tray bake tin.
2. Put the flour, ground rice, caster sugar and butter into a food processor and wizz or beat briefly to create a rough crumble.
3. Press half the crumble into the tin then spread over the mince meat.
4. Mix the pecans and another 1½ tbsp. of caster sugar with the remaining crumble and sprinkle evenly over the mince meat.
5. Bake at 140° C (fan) for about 50 minutes.
6. Cool in the tin.
7. Sprinkle with icing sugar mixed with a little cinnamon then cut into fingers or squares.
8. Serve warm with clotted cream or ice cream or cold as a cake.

CONTACT YOUR COMMITTEE



Chris Selby, Chairman 01386 853512

Colin Sagar, Vice Chairman 01386 849168

John Bissett, Membership Sec. 01386 859319

Eric Watts, Treasurer 01386 854661

Barbara Matthias, Minutes Secretary 01386 300245

Brian Thackeray, Business Secretary 01386 858973

Sue Lindsay, Welfare Officer 01386 446541

Alun Davies 01386 842944

Peter Grant 01386 858268

Sharon Thackeray, Group Coordinator 01386 858973

**The next Newsletter will be published at the end of April
The deadline for copy is 23rd April**

Your Newsletter Editor can be contacted via the Contact Link on the North Cotswold U3A website.

Chairman's Message, continued

So, there's the challenge! If there is anyone out there who would be interested in helping to revive this group then please get in touch with a member of the committee and we will point you in the right direction.

Finally, it goes without saying that we are extremely grateful to all our Group Leaders for their time and dedication, for without them there would be no NCU₃A, a thought which I hope you would agree is too grim to contemplate!

Chris Selby

Keith Horden's Quiz – the answers.

1. Crossword puzzles, 2. The oboe, 3. Anthony Barber, 4. Purchase Tax, 5. In Liverpool, 6. Redditch, 7. Tchaikovsky, 8. Nineteen Eighty-Four by George Orwell, 9. They are former Prime Ministers of Canada, 10. Claude-Michel Schönberg, 11. Robert Walpole – 20 years and 314 days, 12. Gothenburg, 13. Leviticus, 14. Malaysia, 15. Neither country has any native snakes, 16. Speak Portuguese, 17. Mandarin, 18. Grape varieties for making red wine, 19. David Copperfield, 20. Saint Peter Port.