



NEWSLETTER

for

OUNDLE & DISTRICT

Edition Number 153

July 2021

If you would like to find out more about Oundle & District u3a, take a look at <http://u3asites.org.uk/oundle/home> or contact Chairman: oundleu3achairman@gmail.com Membership Secretary: oundleu3amembership@gmail.com Webmaster: oundleu3awebmaster@gmail.com

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I hope you enjoyed reading last month's 'mega' Newsletter! My thanks go to all contributors.

I am sure the articles about the history of our u3a were interesting not only to those of you who joined in the early days, but also to those who joined when it was already in full swing, as well as to new Members. I know that we would all love our movement to go from strength to strength, so please do consider joining our Committee. Even if you do not think you could take over a specific role, we would be happy for you to 'shadow' someone or just join 'without portfolio' for a start. New ideas are always welcome.

Looking ahead, we have started planning for our Recruitment campaign in the autumn and I will give you an update in the August Newsletter.

I went to the theatre twice last month! I cannot tell you how excited I was.

The first was with my Shakespeare Group to Tolethorpe, where we enjoyed a lovely picnic in glorious sunshine in the beautiful grounds. We then took our socially distanced seats under the canopy for 'Love's Labour's Lost'. It starred a member of our Group, and we really enjoyed his performance. I will not say any more about the overall production in case some of you are going to see it!

The second was actually venturing *inside* a theatre, the Curve in Leicester, to a specially written 'Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber' show, featuring the great man himself by video recording, linking the songs and giving us some insights into his work. Again, we started with a picnic, but this time in a less salubrious setting - our car in the NCP car park, next door to the theatre. I was most impressed by the Covid-secure measures put in place at the Curve and felt perfectly at ease. It was fantastic to be watching a live show again and I felt quite emotional as the lights went down and the music started.

The roadmap may have been delayed but I am sure that the majority of us are already planning some visits and outings with our friends or family. In fact, we have now booked a u3a outing for September! Details are in this Newsletter.

Stay safe, but enjoy a little more freedom.

Gill

NEWSLETTER EDITORS: oundleu3anewslettereditors@gmail.com

Please send your articles as early in the month as possible using the above email or via the CONTACT page on the website. Articles may need to be held over to the next month if the Newsletter is already full. Any member may send in a piece for the Newsletter - not just Group Leaders.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Gill Potts

Our next Committee Meeting will be on 6th July, so I will report back on our deliberations in the August Newsletter.

THEATRE AND OUTINGS

Gill Potts

I am delighted to announce that our first u3a 'post-lockdown' outing will be to Sandringham on Tuesday 21st September. This is open to all Members.

The coach will leave Oundle at 9.00am. We have a timed tour of the House at 1.20pm and the gardens, café, toilets and church will all be open. You are welcome to bring a picnic lunch. The coach will leave Sandringham at 4.00pm.

Total cost is **£31.50 per person**.

If you are interested, please contact me: oundleu3achairman@gmail.com. Thank you to those who have already expressed an interest.

OUNDLE AND DISTRICT U3A ONLINE MONTHLY TALKS

Gill Phillips

Our June speaker, Anthony Poulton-Smith, told us all about 'Britain's Lost Lines' (reports Gill Potts) and it turned out that not all of the lines were closed by Dr Beeching.

We were given a whistle-stop tour of the country accompanied by some lovely photos. Some of the lines have now become cycle routes, footpaths, new roads or bypasses and many have been taken over by Heritage Railways and given a new lease of life.

It was fascinating to see what a wide variety of uses the old stations have been put to - shops, cafes, homes, bookshops or libraries, museums and places of worship. Some of you may have visited the John Betjeman Centre at Wadebridge or the tiny Russian Orthodox Church in Walsingham. Altogether an afternoon of nostalgia.



Our next monthly talk will be at 2.30pm on Monday 8th July (you may log in from 2.15pm). Steve Herra, a third generation Cunard employee, will talk to us about the history of Cunard and its more famous liners from 1840 until the present day, though not all as there were nearly 250 of them. Entitled '*Cunard History and Its Glamorous Stars*', Steve's talk will also include facts about some of the celebrities and stars who sailed on board Cunard ships, answering questions such as 'Which actress brought her gleaming white Rolls Royce on board Queen Mary and her own chickens, as she demanded fresh eggs each day?' and

'What did Charles Dickens think about the furnishings on board Britannia?' To find out the answers to these questions and more, watch out for your Zoom invitation, which should arrive a few days before the meeting.

There will be no monthly meeting in August, since many people are gradually getting out and about, enjoying the warmer weather and filling their time in ways which have not been possible since last March. It has been good to see that some are taking the opportunity to go on holiday, while others are enjoying face to face meetings with families and friends (or even just catching up with appointments at the hairdressers or the dentist!).

I sincerely hope that as restrictions are lifted further and the picture becomes clearer, we shall be able to meet together again in the Queen Victoria Hall in the not too distant future. Hopefully there will be further news about this next month.

GROUP PROFILE

ART APPRECIATION 4

Sue Hold

Back in 2014 Kirsten (then Groups Coordinator) recognized the need for a further Art Appreciation group, as all three existing groups had a waiting list, and she invited those of us on the list to a meeting to discuss the possibility of creating a new group. Although no individual felt confident or knowledgeable enough to take on the role of leader, three of us (Diana, Helen* and I) felt that we might be able to launch a new group between us, and this set the pattern for the democratic manner in which Art Appreciation 4 has run ever since.

At our planning meeting each member brings two to three suggestions of topics they would like to consider, and these are put to the vote; this method has always somehow resulted in a well-balanced and varied sequence of topics. Members then take turns to host the meeting devoted to their chosen topic and to do an opening, short presentation, to be followed by contributions from each of the other members at the meeting. When the opportunity arises, we will visit a gallery or artist's studio, and Diana keeps us up to date with news of exhibitions in London and elsewhere.

For two years in the summer we staged the re-enactment of a painting, which was such fun – finding a suitable picture has since not proved easy so our summer meeting has lapsed into an indulgent picnic in a member's garden! And we have been far from inactive during this last year of lockdown restrictions – the next topic on our 2020 programme was to have been 'Interpreting a Picture', something that we managed very successfully to pursue online during the whole of the lockdown. A member would choose and post on line three pictures (usually with a connecting thread or aspect that invited contrast, and more often than not using relatively unknown works) for members to consider and write about. This has been so valuable to keep us in touch with each other, but no substitute to getting together – happening soon?



AA4 recreating Alfred Munnings's "Tagg's Island" in 2015!

*Sadly, Helen died in 2019, and we so miss the thoughtful and original train of thought she would bring to each meeting.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Shakespeare 2

Carol Sandall

Shakespeare 2 has finally managed a face-to-face meeting of our Group, outside in a Member's garden. It was a lovely day and we all had a lot to chat about, including making travel arrangements for our outing to Tolethorpe in July, so Shakespeare took a backseat for a while.

We had booked to see *'Love's Labour's Lost'* and we eventually settled down to discuss the play, which is one of the earliest Comedies, believed to have been written in the mid-1590s, for a performance before Queen Elizabeth at the Inns of Court. The plot centres around a decision by the King of Navarre and three of his mates to swear off the company of women for three years to focus on study and fasting. Of course, it all goes wrong when the Princess of France and her ladies turn up! Those of you who know your Gilbert and Sullivan will realise this story was inverted to become the plot of *"Princess Ida"* in which it is the women who try to keep the men out of their university. Anyway, we finally managed to start reading some of Act One to set the scene, and whetted our appetite to see a live performance, whatever the weather or the production!

WIGS

Gill Potts



On a rather dull Friday morning at the end of June, the WIGS gathered in the car park of The Montagu Arms, Barnwell, prior to their five-mile walk.

The Group were first given the Risk Assessment and route details.



Having pre-ordered their lunch (very important!) they set off with fingers crossed that the rain held off!





Network Zoom Quiz

WEDNESDAY 2ND JUNE 2021
STARTING AT 7:30PM FOR ABOUT 1½ HOURS

Open to all u3a Members (& prospective members) in LEICESTERSHIRE, RUTLAND & NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

BOOK EARLY AS PLACES ARE LIMITED

To register:
Send an email with your name and the name of your u3a (actual or intended) to:
coordinator@landru3a.org.uk
as soon as possible

If places are still available, you'll receive an email confirming your place in the quiz (normally within 24 hours)
Joining instructions will be emailed to you a few days before the Quiz

Part of the national u3aday celebrations

u3aday

This will be a **FUN QUIZ**
Not to be taken too seriously
Specially created for Singles and Couples to take part by Zoom

Organised for your enjoyment by:

u3a Leicestershire & Rutland Network of u3as & **u3a** Northamptonshire Network of u3as

The County Contact of Leicestershire and Rutland invited Northamptonshire u3a Network to join them in an InterNetwork Quiz to celebrate u3a Day and it was arranged for the evening of June 2nd.

Over 42 devices were logged on between the two regions, with six of our Northamptonshire u3as being represented by their members. Some were singles and others had paired up with partners or friends.

Jane Morris joined me and between us we did reasonably well – well we thought so!

There were ten sets of ten questions including words beginning with CON; questions based on the word BROWN. Then there was World Geography and the answer CAN'T BE...; Round 5 was on the London Underground after which was Music, then TV between 1960 and 2005, Celebrities who had left us in 2020 and General Knowledge. All in all it was a fun couple of hours with a lot of laughter and we are hoping to do some more collaborating in the future.

FOOL Quiz

Some of you may have picked up a copy of the 'How well do you know your Shakespeare?' quiz from one of the local shops. The quiz had been devised by Shakespeare Group 4 as they had been unable to do their usual entertainment to celebrate Shakespeare's birthday. Of the submitted entries, two were completely correct, so their names went into a hat. The winner was Graham Dalley. A total of £105 was raised for the Friends of Oundle Library. Thanks to any of you who bought a quiz sheet.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U3A MOVEMENT 2022 – ADVANCE NOTICE

u3a Anniversary Quilt Competition 2021-2022

Gill Potts

In 2022, u3a will celebrate its 40th anniversary and a number of national events are planned throughout the year. Because there are so many Craft groups, there will be a competition to create an Anniversary quilt as a lasting souvenir of the occasion.

This quilt is envisaged as a *Moment in History* for future generations of u3as, showing engagement by many Members, raising local and national profiles and demonstrating the skills and talents of u3a members to the public. It will encourage recruitment and overall awareness and is intended to form part of the u3a Archive in a permanent repository.

From the blocks submitted by u3a Members, 40 will be chosen for the Anniversary quilt.

If your Group, or you as an individual, is interested, please contact me for further details:
oundleu3achairman@gmail.com



July's QUIZ

Part One – History Matters

Judith Stronach from the History Matters Group has challenged us with the following:

1. What was the name of the Roman Street which ran from Exeter to Lincoln (can you also give the Roman names for those towns)
2. What was the name of the Roman Street which ran from Dover to Chester (can you also give the Roman names for these towns)
3. What do we now call Durobrivae (very near to us)
4. Which king founded Eton College and Kings College, Cambridge?
5. What was Margaret Thatcher's maiden name? Do you also know her middle name?
6. Which was the first part of the British Isles to give women the vote?
7. Which was the last country in Europe to give women the vote?
8. Which king had no surviving legitimate children when he died but 8 of his 10 survived him? As a result, his niece succeeded him.
9. What was the name of Wellington's horse?
10. What was the name of Napoleon's horse?
11. Where was Bonnie Prince Charlie born and died (in the same city)?
12. In 1746 who was the king on the throne?

And Jane Morris has set the second part:

Part Two – Pros and Cons – Each answer starts with either PRO or CON

1. Who were the Spanish soldiers and explorers who sailed from Europe to the Americas in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries?
2. Which Romantic landscape artist is principally known for his pictures of Dedham Vale?
3. Joseph Goebbels was the Nazi Party Minister of which department from 1933 to 1945?
4. What is the lowest female singing voice?
5. What do we call a small cream puff filled with cream and served with a chocolate sauce?
6. What do we call the opening of a story or play which gives the background information?
7. What is the compulsory enrolment in the armed forces?
8. Which character in Shakespeare's the Tempest uses sorcery to protect his daughter?
9. What are the small pieces of coloured paper called that we throw at weddings?
10. Who was the first woman elected to the Westminster Parliament?

ANSWERS TO JUNE'S QUIZ

Part One – Open: 1. Harold Wilson; 2. Nurse Gladys Emmanuel; 3. Coastal Links; 4. Open Book; 5. Mark Twain; 6. Chestnuts; 7. Ali Baba and The Forty Thieves; 8. Take Your Pick; 9. An Open Sandwich; 10. An Open and Shut Case.

And Part Two – Shut: 1. Larry Grayson; 2. James Patterson; 3. Jo Dolce; 4. Gauguin; 5. Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman; 6. Larry Winget; 7. Dr Seuss; 8. The Beach Boys; 9. Black Eyed Peas; 10. Elvis Presley.