



NEWSLETTER

Oundle & District

Edition Number 155
September 2021

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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 Newsletter Editors: oundleu3anewslettereditors@gmail.com

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Two exciting things for us this month! No, not the start of Strictly or the Football season (which I can't believe actually started mid-August), but our own u3a launches.

The first is our monthly Meeting on the 13th, when we will meet in the Queen Victoria Hall for the first time for eighteen months. We have completed a Risk Assessment, which has been approved by the Town Clerk. See later in this Newsletter for details about these arrangements and this month's talk. We are looking forward to seeing some of you in person, rather than on Zoom!

The second is our Recruitment Event on the 30th, again in QVH. This is obviously our opportunity to encourage new people to join us. The Committee and some of our Group Leaders will be there to welcome prospective Members, and, as we are restricted to 100 people in QVH at the moment, I am sorry we cannot extend the invitation to all of our existing Members.

However, one way in which you can all help with advertising our Recruitment Event is to speak to friends, neighbours or anyone new to your street or village about our u3a and encourage them to come along on the 30th any time between 10.30am and 12.30pm – it is just a drop-in event.

You may have seen some of our adverts for this event in local magazines. In addition, the Committee will be giving out leaflets at the Market on the two Thursdays prior to the event, so if we 'accost' you by mistake, please forgive us. We will be wearing our u3a badges, so do come over and chat to us.

Finally, Jane Morris and I, plus Stephne Tewson who is a Trust Volunteer will be attending the East Midlands Regional Conference in Nottingham on the 29th of this month, which will give us the opportunity to meet up with representatives from other u3as and to share ideas.

So – a busy month ahead!

I hope to see you soon,

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.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

New procedures

Gill Potts

If you hope to attend our Monthly Meetings, please be aware of the procedures we have put in place, following the guidelines from Oundle Town Council:

- On arrival, you will need to have your temperature taken and use the hand sanitiser.
- Please wear your mask until seated in the Hall. You can keep it on throughout, if you prefer.
- You will need to bring your Membership Card with you to sign in, in the foyer.
- If you wish to have a cup of tea or coffee (I am pleased to say that we have a rota of Tea helpers until the end of the year, so many thanks to them in advance), please collect it from the bar and then go straight into the main hall via the door by the bar. Safe socialising is easier in the hall and we will ensure adequate ventilation and spacing.
- The u3a Noticeboard will be in the main hall, as will the Outings table in case you wish to book or pay for a trip.
- Seats in the hall will be configured to allow for social distancing, so please do not move chairs.
- At the end of the talk, please leave via the doors at the back of the hall or through the emergency exit at the side, maintaining social distancing.

Future programme

Gill Phillips

Finally, it's happening – we are back in the Queen Victoria Hall for our monthly meetings from September. It's been a long time coming and I think we've had a few good speakers on Zoom over the past few months. However, nothing can really beat that face-to-face experience when we can listen to a speaker, chat with friends and simply enjoy being together.



Our first meeting in the hall will be on Monday 13th September, when we shall be opening our doors to members from 2.00pm, with the speaker, John Hope, beginning his presentation at about 3.00pm. John will speak to us on the subject of **'Time through the Ages'**. He will take us on a journey through time-telling over the centuries, showing the

development and improvement of time telling devices from sundial and water clocks through the introduction of mechanical clocks, railway time, the domination of pendulum devices to the atomic clock. He suggests that we fasten our seat belts as he takes us through a journey of three centuries in just 60 minutes.



On Monday 11th October, Barbara Meyer will be talking to us on the subject of **'The Seals of Lincolnshire and Norfolk'**. Following research which she undertook in 2019, Barbara will be telling us which subspecies live in these areas, what problems they face in their natural habitat and where to see them.

Finally, a reminder that you will need to bring your membership card with you to the meetings at the Queen Victoria Hall so that we can check you in quickly and efficiently using our new card readers. I hope to see you there.

GROUP PROFILE

BOOK GROUP 1 – Reminiscences

Hilary Delany

Book Group 1 was formed following the initial inaugural meeting held at the Drill Hall in the autumn of 2008. Not long afterwards, a small group of us met at Jill Rundle's house to compile our 2009 book list. The group soon expanded to nine, later increasing to ten. Of the original nine, eight of us are still members. We have found that ten is the optimum number when meeting in each other's homes. Jill Rundle kindly agreed to act as 'Group Leader', only stepping down at the end of 2019 when I took on the role.

Jill had a list of recommended books from the library, and we selected '*No Time for Goodbye*' by Linwood Barclay as our first choice. The remaining books on the list were chosen by members and included '*The Meaning of Night*' by Michael Cox, a novel set in and around the local area.

In the autumn we compile our book choices for the following year – very helpful when asked by friends and family what they can give as a Christmas present!

One meeting a year often has a theme – this can be a genre such as romance or crime, or a chosen author where one member provides biographical information about the author's life and career. The rest of the group each read a different novel on the topic or author. Choices have included writers as diverse as Margaret Atwood and H.E. Bates.

Like many groups, necessity has proved the mother of invention when it became clear that the first lockdown was going to last sometime. We began to hold remote meetings first using Skype, but settled for Zoom, which we all preferred. Between June and October last year, following the rule of six, members of the group living in Oundle were able to meet at Jane Morris's home, often under her trusty gazebo, with the remainder of the group zooming in. As the weather grew cooler, we resumed our "all Zoom get togethers", until the easing of restrictions allowed some of us to meet face to face once more.

It had been hoped that we would be all together at our July meeting, but that wasn't to be and once again, we had a partial get together with the remainder of the group joining us on zoom. However, we were able to get together in August, with one member zooming in.



(In the photo above right you can see most of the group sitting in a member's lounge whilst one of group zoomed in, with a selection of the books we have read.)

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Opera Group

Lidia Douglas

On Thursday August 12th a small contingent from the u3a Opera Group attended a live performance of Verdi's *La Traviata* at the Nevill Holt Opera venue just north of Corby. The weather was perfect to enjoy stunning views of the rolling Leicestershire countryside plus the exquisite gardens and sculptures in the Nevill Holt Estate. It was also a rare delight to dust off our finery, pack a picnic and revel in a real trip out after all the Covid restrictions.

Verdi's fine opera is always wonderful, and we were blessed with a company of young professional singers all in fine voice. We were slightly bemused by the strange set and production which did somewhat distract from the music and storyline but that did not hamper our overall enjoyment unduly.

Nevill Holt are also staging Mozart's *Don Giovanni* this Summer and I can highly recommend looking at their website to see what tickets may still be available.

Exploring the 20th Century

Anne Garraway

Following a good response to the email I have decided to set up two groups. The first will operate on the first Friday of the month at 2.00pm and the first meeting will be on 3rd September at Fletton House. The second will operate on the third Tuesday of the month again at 2.00pm and the first meeting of this group will be on 21st September at Fletton House. The groups will decide for themselves what aspects of the 20th Century will begin to be explored, but anything from travel; science; music; literature; social history; conflicts; medicine and world events as they affected the United Kingdom. Some months it will be a discussion on a topic and others may be a presentation followed by a discussion. If you are interested in joining either group please contact me through the bluebird link on the website.

Good News for Our Ukulele Group

Lidia Douglas

We have had a good response from members so an initial meeting is going to be held on Thursday September 23rd at 10.30am. This will be a meeting for members to discuss when and where they want to meet – or just to find out what the ukulele is all about. If you have not already given me your name, please send me an e-mail so that I can send you details:

groupscoordinatoroundleu3a@gmail.com

Mid-week monthly Luncheon Group

Liz Allen and Stephne Tewson

Our mid-week monthly Luncheon Group is starting up again in September and our first get together will be on 21st September. If you are interested in joining us and would like more information, please email us through the Bluebird link on the Luncheon Group page in Groups on the website.

Images of summer from our Camera and Composition Group



Action shot (left) from Barbara Bett showing Oundle Rovers v Eton Ramblers



Café culture in Clifton, Bristol (right) by Geoff Harrop



Formby Beach near Merseyside by Geoff Harrop

Military History Group 1

Graham Evans

Well, Military History Group 1 has weathered the lockdowns in good shape. After a couple of months last year when it became clear there was no quick solution in sight, we adopted the technology and took up Zooming. There were some initial technical challenges, mostly how to get everyone online before the Zoom 40 minutes ran out. But we persevered and discovered how to have overlapping 40-minute meetings so we could have a quick coffee recharge and carry on up to the two hour point. Bandwidth was sometimes a challenge to those of us trying to run video clips (I never discovered how to synchronise sound through Zoom), but by sharing experience and learning on the job we managed an interesting series of talks. We also had a monthly quiz, some easier than others. Sadly our next planned overseas trip has had to be rolled back twice and is now scheduled for October 2022. We also had to cancel our Christmas lunch meet-up with the other Military History Groups, though we are now hopeful for December 2021.

Last month we had our first live session together in a public place – obeying all rules and taking appropriate precautions of course. This month we had a session in a member's house, something which seemed very strange after 18 months. Thanks Blyth, for educating us on 'The Unification of Japan 1550'. Now fully double-jabbed, we are putting together a forward programme, and making ourselves available for charities/libraries etc as we have done in the past. Roll on 2022.

You may recall seeing my request in a previous Newsletter for anyone who might be able to act as a mentor for a Member who needs help to conquer Zoom. I am delighted to say that someone has stepped forward to help, so if you would like to take us up on this offer please contact me on secretary.oundleu3a@hotmail.com and I will put you in touch. I know we all hope we won't be back into lockdown but a bit of "hedging our bets" wouldn't go amiss, and you may find that distant family members are suggesting it as a way of keeping in touch in any event. I know it has been invaluable for my family with my nephew and his wife being out in San Francisco. The person offering to help has experience of running a group on Zoom so if you are a Group Leader who might like to discuss the best use of Zoom in this way or want to know more about things like breakout rooms or screen sharing, I'm sure we can help. Just let us know.

Theatre and Outings

Sandringham – Tuesday 21st September

This outing is now full, but you can still put your name on the waiting list in case places become available nearer the time. See our website for details. Gill Potts will be contacting everyone going on the outing in the next week to give final details.

The Halle Orchestra with Nicola Benedetti – Friday 10th December

There are only a few places left for this concert at Nottingham Concert Hall, so if you would like to go, don't delay – book now! Cost is £47 pp

The coach will leave the long stay car park in East Road at 3.30pm to allow plenty of time for a meal and/or a walk before the concert.

The programme is Bernstein's *Candide Overture*, Wynton Marsalis's Violin Concerto, written especially for Nicola and Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*. See our website for details.

Contact: Nadine 01832 274521.

Please remember that our trips and outings are only open to Members in the first instance. Occasionally, there may be space for non-Members to join us but you will need to check with the organiser of the trip.

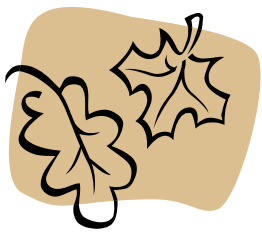
Free session for "Over 65" swimmers

Carol Sandall

The new Oundle School Swimming Pool is currently offering a free 60-minute Swimming session for Over 65s on Fridays at 1.00pm. For those who don't know, the new 50 metre pool can be divided in half with the two sides at different depths. This session is offered in the 23-metre section with a depth of 1.28 metres, so it's deep enough to swim properly but you can put your foot down if you are nervous. Under 65s can join this session but will have to pay the standard charge of £5.00 for non-members.

The pool is behind the old sports centre on Milton Road: turn off on the corner and drive up the hill and you will see the new building with a large free car park in front of it. Go into reception and explain you are there for the free Over 65s' session. They will take a few details to register you on their computer system – if you are going for the first time you should perhaps allow a little extra time for that. You will be given a plastic wristband which has an electronic button on it to secure your locker, so you don't need cash for that. Staff will direct you to the "changing village" which is unisex but has good sized cubicles and plenty of lockers.

After your swim you may find that the small café in the foyer run by Beans is open so you can indulge in hot chocolate or whatever you fancy! The water, which is not heavily chlorinated, is very refreshing, is a good temperature and the building is also warm. Whilst the access into the pool itself is via the standard short metal ladders, the rest of the building is step free as far as the pool and swimming area is concerned. I believe they have a "hoist" if you need help getting into or out of the water. There are qualified lifeguards of course, and they are a charming bunch of young people.



September Quiz

PART ONE – A QUIZ WITHIN A QUIZ

1. Which Harper Lee novel won the 1961 Pulitzer Prize?
2. During prohibition in the States where could you buy illegal liquor?
3. The Galapagos Islands are part of which country?
4. Which city is home to *The Wizard of Oz*?
5. In golf what name is given to a score of 2 under par?
6. What is the name of the boy in Kipling's *Jungle Book*?
7. Who painted *Guernica*?
8. In 1985 who became the youngest champion in the history of the men's singles at Wimbledon.
9. What weapon in the board game Cluedo is also a Beatles album?
10. What seasonal word do the first letters of the answers make?

PART TWO – AUTUMN TRIVIA

1. What is Autumn known as in North America?
2. Which English Romantic poet composed "*To Autumn*" after a walk near Winchester one autumnal evening?
3. Pumpkin fragments dated between 7,000 and 5,500 BC have been found in which country: China, Egypt, Germany or Mexico?
4. What are hedgehogs' spines or quills made from?
5. With around 400 players participating, what are the WCC, which are held annually on the second Sunday in October in Northamptonshire?
6. In Australia, Autumn begins in which month?
7. Name the pigment which trees stop producing, thus causing leaves to lose their green colour?
8. Which federal holiday in the United States is often said to mark the end of summer and the start of autumn?
9. In Britain, the autumn internationals or November internationals take part in which sport?
10. In 2009, Autumn was the 81st most popular name for girls born in which country?

Answers to August's Quiz :

Part one: 1. SOLID gold, now first place medals are only covered in 6 grams of gold; 2. True; 3. It has been claimed that Coubertin found the design of five interlocked rings on an ancient altar in Delphi, Greece. The five rings symbolised the "five parts of the world" in which the Olympic movement was active, according to Coubertin. They reflect the colours found on the flags of all participating nations – every nation's flag has at least one of them; 4. The Olympic flame, originally at an altar but now the flame burns in a special torch; 5. Johnny Weissmuller who played Tarzan; 6. Brazil – Rio in 2016; 7. The Flying Finn; 8. London 1908, 1948 and 2012; 9. Live pigeons; 10. 1.00 as the hardware was not able to display more than 9.99.

Part two: 11. 1924; 12. Chamonix, France; 13. Turin, Italy; 14. 2014; 15. Lake Placid, N.Y. 16. Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean; 17. Christa Luding-Rothenburger; 18. Denver, Colorado; 19. Ice hockey and figure skating; 20. Grenoble