

u3a learn, laugh, live

Witney u3a
August 2022
Newsletter



Witney u3a Committee 2022 – 2023 take a break during their August meeting.
Standing left to right: John, Ralph, Adrian, Marian, Roger, Keith, Iain
Seated: Corinna, Clare, Doreen.

If any member would like to come and observe all or part of a committee meeting, just let Clare know through Chair on the Contact page of the website or at any Speaker Meeting.

You'd be very welcome.

u3a 40th anniversary. Have you heard? The u3a movement is celebrating the 40th anniversary of its founding in 1982 from September, 17th – 25th. u3as across the UK will be taking part by staging events for themselves and the public.

In Witney, our theme will be one of members' enjoyment and participation in our range of group activities; a time in which we as members, and our friends, can join in and try out something old or new. All groups and their leaders have been invited to consider how they would like to contribute and have fun. Some ideas of what other u3as are doing can be seen at:

www.u3a.org.uk/Events/40thAnniversary.

Groups

New Groups

- Pop Music through the Decades. 2 p.m., 2nd Tuesday of the month.
- Burford Bowls Club. 8 members are visiting for a taster Bowls evening. Another visit could be arranged if there is interest.

Groups looking for members

- Bridge group 1. 2 p.m. 2nd and 4th Mondays.
- Table Tennis 2. 2 p. m 1st and 2nd Wednesdays.
- Writers Group 2. 2.00p.m. 2nd Wednesdays.

New groups coming

- Wine group 3. Looking for interested members to meet on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening.

Possible New Group

- 2nd World War group

Contact Doreen via Group Co-ordinator via the Contact page on the website or at the Groups table at any Speaker Meeting.

Local History Group visit Broughton Castle.

The Local History Group went on an interesting visit to Broughton Castle in July. The castle is really a house, and it's in a beautiful setting in the Oxfordshire countryside near Bloxham. We were able to explore both the Castle, which is surrounded by a moat, and grounds, during the afternoon, even venturing as far up as the roof, which boasts amazing views across the surrounding area. The manor house itself dates back to 1300, but in 1406 crenellations were added, from which time the House became a Castle.

William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester, and well known around these parts, bought the house in 1377. It then passed down through his family until a granddaughter married Sir William Fiennes, and it's remained in this family ever since.



Our trip ended up in the Castle tearooms where some of us enjoyed a cream tea, very nice!

The Castle is open on Wednesdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays from April to September.



Group Leaders' Annual Meeting.



The majority of Group Leaders attended a lunch in the Methodist Church on July 26. The lunch was in recognition of the hard work which Group Leaders put into their groups and to say thank you from all Witney u3a members and the Committee. It was also a chance for longstanding Group Leaders to catch up, and for the many new Leaders to get to know a few

more colleagues. Plenty of information was given and exchanged. For those wanting to check the information, groups' legal and financial advice is on:

www.u3a.org.uk/supportfor u3as. Teaching and Learning Support, including Subject Advisers is on www.u3a.org.uk/Learn/Subject Advice. Or contact Doreen for further information.

Stately Homes:

September 8. Sold out, but waitlist available.

Hampton Court Palace. Cost £30 includes entry and coach. However, if you are a member of 'Historic Royal Palaces' (hrp.org.uk) just £10 for the coach.

Contact Marian at the Stately Homes Table at Speaker Meetings or via Stately Homes Visits Organiser on the Contact page of the website.

On July 19, members braved the hottest day of the year to visit Althorpe, home of Princess Diana.



An air- conditioned bus, shady gardens and a cool Althorpe house all combined to beat the heat, and members had a great day out. Earl Spencer made a once-a-year appearance (in recognition of members' bravery?) and signed books.



Outings:

October 4: Imperial War Museum in Duxford, near Cambridge, Europe's largest air museum. Cost £35 per person, which includes entrance, coach fare and tip. Bookings will be open soon.

Contact Julie at the Outings Table at Speaker Meetings or via Outings Organiser on the Contact page on the website.

Speaker Meetings

August 18: 'Pop on the Box' by Jeff Evans. 60 years of music on television with shows such as Six-Five Special, The Old Grey Whistle Test, Top of the Pops....

September 1: 'Shaw House – Berkshire's Hidden Gem' by Sarah Somerville. A history of this recently restored historic mansion from Tudor times.

September 15: 'The Life and Crimes of Agatha Christie' by Steven Dimmer

N.B. The list of pictures referred to by Alice Foster in her talk on July 21 can be found via a link on: www.witneyu3a.org.uk/Notices

Bookstall at Speaker Meetings

Bumpers sales have resulted in depleted stocks. Please bring books you no longer need to the Bookstall – and pick yourself a bargain for 50p!

Produce Table at Speaker Meetings.

It's that time of year again when many of us may have a glut of tomatoes, plums, beans, apples....Why not bring them along to the next Speaker meeting over the coming weeks? There'll be a table waiting in the Café area.

P.S. Please put produce in bags.

Drop in café.



September 5, October 3... –and every first Monday of each month. 2 p.m. Wesley Room, Methodist Church. Come and meet other new members and find out more about the u3a.

Do you know someone who would like to know more about the u3a and might like to join? Then bring them along or just encourage them to drop in to meet Ann- New Member Contact, Doreen – Groups Co-ordinator, and John – Membership Secretary.

IT Support



Individual tutoring sessions for u3a members from our two expert tutors, Nick and Gill. Sessions are in the Library, Welch Way, every Friday 10- 12 and 2 – 4. Nick and Gill can help with IT skills no matter what level or device. More information and booking through Wendy Nicholls on: 07732 597087 or infowitneyu3a@gmail.com

Witney u3a Poster Sites

Ralph, our Publicity Officer writes:

You may well have seen our posters around the town giving details of the Speaker and New Members meetings for the month ahead. We are keen to spread the word even further to as many existing and potential new u3a members as possible. Do you know of any poster sites in Witney and the surrounding villages where we could put up a poster?'

Please send details to Ralph via the Contact page on the website or come and chat to him at the Publicity Table at Speaker Meetings.

Thames Valley Network

September 6: 'Wonderful World of Law' by David Allen

September 21: 'Botanical Art.'

Tickets from: www.tvnetwork.com/StudyEvents

South East Region Summer School.

Yvonne writes:

One of Witney u3a's Newsletters drew my attention to the annual Summer School at Chichester University which is run in June by the South East u3a Forum.

Over four days, courses included Cycling (bring your own bike), Earth matters, Fun with French, Family History, 19th century Poetry, Hatha Yoga, Mah-jong, Maths power & pattern, Jazz, Ukulele for beginners, Walking on the Downs and Coast.



I come from Sussex and love the Chichester area which was an added attraction. Students' accommodation is en suite nowadays, staff were friendly and helpful, and the food was excellent.

The University is next to Chichester Festival Theatre and a manageable walk to the centre of beautiful Georgian Chichester and the Cathedral. With wonderful weather the whole visit was a delight – but above all due to the company of around 100 like-minded u3a members: the ten people on my course and then potluck at the long tables in the dining hall as well as at evening social events. It was u3a at its best.

National u3a Podcast

In July's podcast, you can hear from the Book Groups Subject Adviser and there's advice on how to set up a cycling group. You can also find out about groups that might not yet have crossed your mind: Disco Dancing Group? Robot Programming Group? Bus Pass Explorers' Group? They're all there and thriving in a u3a somewhere in the UK. Find them on www.youtube/u3a.

Local Events and Information

Now to September 4. Big Batsford Hedgehog Hunt. Batsford, Moreton-in-Marsh. Admission to the Arboretum is free but must be pre-booked. £2.50 per child. Tel: 01386 701441.

August 5. Witney Jazz – Simon Spillett Quartet. 7.30. Corn Exchange, Witney. Tickets £14 – £16 from witneyjazz.co.uk

August 6. Bampton Beer Festival. Noon – late. St Mary’s Church, Bampton. Real ales, craft beers, cider, Pimms etc. Selection of food and soft drinks. Live music. Some childrens’ entertainment. Tickets £10 (includes a free glass and a pint).

August 7. Open Garden. 2.0 – 6.30 p.m, Ham Court Farm, Weald, Bampton (last fragment of Bampton Castle moat). Homemade teas. Admission £5.0

August 10. Open Day, North Leigh Roman Villa Mosaic. 11 – 5 p.m. Entry free.

August 12. 7.30 –9.30 p.m. Berrybank Park open air Amphitheatre (nr. Moreton in Marsh). Opera arias, duets and ensembles. Singers from ROH, ENO and Opera North. See www.amphitheatreberrybankpark.co.uk. Tickets £25 from: events@berrybankpark.co.uk

August 20, 21. Open Gardens, Aston Pottery, Aston, Bampton. 12.00 – 5.00p.m. Six amazing borders. Homemade teas. Admission £5.00

August 21. ‘Abba Hits’ by Chipping Norton Theatre Outdoor Theatre. Take a picnic. 7 p.m. Ranger’s Lawn, Cornbury Park. Tickets £23.50 from <https://www.chippingnortontheatre.com/whats-on/21st-century-abba-cornbury-park>

August 23. ‘The Pirates of Penzance’ by Illyria Outdoor Theatre Company. Take a picnic or buy a picnic box for £10. 6 p.m. for 7 p.m.. Manor House lawn, Cogges Manor Witney. Tickets £16.50 from www.coggesmanorfarm/what'son

August 27. Carterton Carnival. 11 – 4 p.m. Live music from 3 – 10 p.m. Carterton Recreation Ground.

August 28. Minster Lovell Beer Festival and Village Day. Live music, food, drink, stalls. 12.0 – 11 p.m..Wash Meadow, Minster Lovell. Entry free.

August 29. Ducklington and Hardwick Produce Association 70th Annual Village Show. 160 competition classes. 1 – 6 p.m. Ducklington Sports Ground.

September 8. ‘Much Ado about Nothing’ by the National Theatre.7pm Chipping Norton Theatre. Tickets £17.50 from www.chippingnortontheatre.com/whatson

September 10, 11. ‘Oxford Open Doors.’ Visit places not usually open to the public. Visit: oxfordpreservation.org.uk

Cookery Corner.



Between us, our members surely possess a cornucopia of favourite seasonal or local recipes for food and drink. The Newsletter is a great place to share and to keep these recipes alive so please start sending in some of your favourites, including family favourites. Photos are desirable but not essential. Names can be withheld if you prefer. Recipes can be sent via the Newsletter on the Contact page of the website. Or bring them to any Committee member at a Speaker meeting.

Here's one to get us going for August:

Victoria Plums in Wine (ingredients for 6)

- 2 lb firm Victoria plums
- 3 oz caster sugar
- ½ pint medium dry sherry or
Madeira wine
- 2 tablespoons toasted flaked almonds



Dissolve the sugar in ½ pint of water and simmer for 10 minutes. Stir in the wine and bring the syrup to a simmering point again.

Add the plums, one at a time, to the simmering syrup. Cover the pan with a lid and leave for 10 minutes.

Lift out the plums with a perforated spoon and put them in a serving dish.

Boil the syrup until it has reduced by one-third and thickened slightly. Pour over the plums. Scatter over the flaked almonds.

Quiz

Thinking of summer travel past, present and to come...

Questions

- 1) What's the northernmost capital city in the world?
- 2) Why wouldn't a stay at the 'Bangkok Hilton' be particularly appealing?
- 3) Los Angeles is California's most populous city. Which is its second?

- 4) The Nile and the Amazon are the world's two longest rivers. Which is the third longest?
- 5) Which island group includes Ibiza, Menorca and Majorca?
- 6) Which countries are in Scandinavia?
- 7) What is Britain's most southerly national park?
- 8) What is the capital of the Falkland Islands?
- 9) In which country is the legendary city of Timbuktu?
- 10) What is the largest country in South America?
- 11) What is Europe's most mountainous country?
- 12) What is the capital city of Cuba?
- 13) In miles, how long is the Eurotunnel?
- 14) Which Greek island has Heraklion as a capital?
- 15) Lanzarote is part of which group of islands?



Answers

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1) Reykjavik | 9) Mali |
| 2) Bangkok Central Prison (nickname) | 10) Brazil |
| 3) San Diego | 11) Switzerland |
| 4) The Yangtze | 12) Havan |
| 5) The Balearic Islands | 13) 31.5 miles |
| 6) Norway, Sweden and Denmark | 14) Crete |
| 7) Dartmoor | 15) Canary Islands |
| 8) Port Stanley | |

Thank you for their contributions to Marny, Marian, Wendy, Julie, Ralph and Yvonne.

