

Newbury U3A



NEWSLETTER MAY 2011

Number 86

Charity Number 1097700

Letter from the Chairman

Once again it seems as if we have got through the worst of the winter. As I write this the days are lengthening, and it is time for the clocks to be changed to British Summer Time. The Spring seems to be well advanced, and the birds in my garden have been busy collecting nesting material and squabbling over the best sites to build their nests. It is encouraging to feel the renewed warmth of the sun, and enjoy a few settled days of fine weather.

Thank you to all those members who helped to make our Spring Lunch such a success. We are looking forward now to our summer outing to the Cotswolds in June. The Riverside project is also reaching a climax this summer, and will culminate in a residential study school at Wellington College in October. As a change from a coffee morning we have planned a tea afternoon to take place in August, and are hoping that some of our groups will be represented there, displaying their skills.

In addition, I should like to remind you all of our Charity Coffee Morning on 30th June, which is held in St Nicolas Church Hall and is open to all comers. Please contact your group leader if you are able to help, especially if you can bring a cake on the day! We also need Tombola prizes, and items for the bric-a-brac table.

We are still in need of people to help with the public address system. Now that it is stored at Greenham, we need a team of people willing to take an occasional turn to bring it to the hall for all meetings and coffee mornings. If there are any men out there who can help to move this equipment, please contact me with your details. Alternatively if you have spare storage space closer to Broadway House which we may use, please let me know.

Mary Blake

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NATIONAL NEWS

Margaret Shelton 01635 41869

Statistics:	Total U3As	792
	Total membership	251,462
	Newbury membership	526

Do you notice that the total membership of the U3A in England has now topped a quarter of a million? The **2011 National Conference** to be held in Nottingham's East Midland Conference Centre 17th to 19th September, will celebrate this fact.

U3A Staying Sharp Meeting 2011 will be held at the Royal Society on Thursday 19th May 14.00 – 16.30 hrs. The title, "POSITIVE THINKING - BE HAPPY", covers Positive Ageing – flourishing in later life. Science writer and broadcaster, Vivienne Parry heads a panel of experts on the subject. Admission is by ticket only at £14.50, including refreshments. Apply to the National Office.

Behind the scenes at Kew. A unique opportunity for U3A members to learn more about the work at Kew Gardens.

This is a study afternoon to be held on Thursday 5th May in the Jodrell Lecture Theatre, Kew. Tickets are £12.50 each including refreshments. Garden entrance is not included. Apply to the National Office.

U3A Summer Schools 2011

1. Harper Adams University College Shropshire, 18th to 21st July 2011. Courses in Cinema History, Drama, History, Maths for Fun, Music, Philosophy, Poetry and Storytelling are available.
2. Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester. 22nd to 25th August.
Courses available here are Dancing, History, Music, Philosophy, Science/Technology and Writing.

For further information contact National Office.

The latest U3A Walking Network Newsletter 2011 is on view on our office notice board.

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REGIONAL NEWS

Thames Valley Network

A study day on “Four Opera Masterpieces” is planned for Tuesday 15 November at Rewley House, Oxford. This Study Day will explore opera, its artistic rationale and background and development through the ages up to the present time, looking at four key works – Gluck’s ‘Orfeo et Eurydice’, Mozart’s ‘Marriage of Figaro’, Verdi’s ‘Othello’ and Puccini’s ‘La Bohème’.

If at all possible we would like to involve U3A members from throughout the Thames Valley Network in giving talks on the various operas, so that Speakers will be both professional opera speakers and U3A Music or Opera Group Leaders who have an interest in or even passion for opera and a particular composer. Volunteers to talk should contact Anthony Burdall, 2 Fernham Road, Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 7JY Tel: 01367 240713 Mob: 07841352938 Email : anthony.burdall@burdall.net

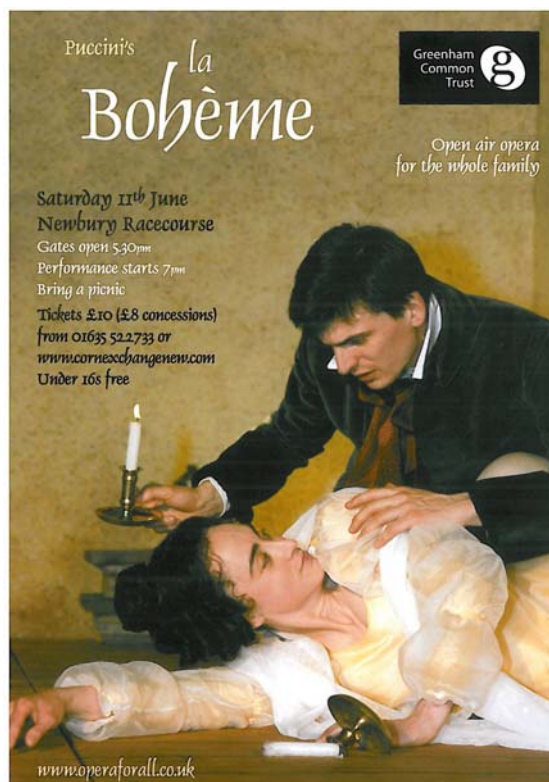
Thames Valley Network Conference 2011 Hosted by Swindon University of the Third Age

4th June 2011

New College

New College Drive, Queens Drive, Swindon, SN3 1AH

Cost: £12 excluding lunch, £18 including lunch



THAMES VALLEY RIVERSIDE PROJECT

Robin Blake 01635 47814

Newbury Contributions

Margaret Butler 01635 46114

I am delighted to report that the needlework and patchwork groups are progressing well with the decorated front panel of the tablecloth we are making for the Riverside Project.

We have at last managed to source the bright blue and yellow material for the U3A logo. **ALL** members of the groups are participating in the project and are busy stitching.

We are using the natural history of the Thames as our theme. The cloth is intended for use at the AGM and other events.

Art, Calligraphy and Digital Photography

These groups are combining their efforts, planning a collage of poems, drawings and current photos about the Thames.

Riverside Project Events

Listed below are a few of the events which are planned for this exciting project.

Monday, 9th May Long Walk Goring to Reading

11 mile linear walk starts Goring Village Hall – Ann Walsh Goring Gap U3A
annwalsh3@aol.com

Friday, 13th and 20th May Small-group Visits to Eton College

Numbers are limited to fifteen on each day. No charge except for tea at Dorney Lakes

Mark Phillips Thameside U3A 01491 836659 markphillips38@btinternet.com
(Please do not ring Eton College about this tour)

Thursday, 19th May Walk from Dorchester-on-Thames to Wallingford

7 miles mainly level walking. Wittenham Clumps and Shillingford Bridge - Kevin Harrison Thameside U3A 01491 834632 kg.harrison42@tiscali.co.uk

Wednesday, 8th June Discovering Historic Wallingford

A Study Day organised by Thameside (Wallingford) U3A, Anne Stammers- Enquiries:
StudyDay@Wallingford-ThamesideU3A.org.uk

The **4th Riverside Planning Meeting** will be held at Goring on Friday 8th July. All interested members are welcome.

**TUESDAY 26TH –THURSDAY 28TH OCTOBER
RIVERSIDE REVEALED—WELLINGTON COLLEGE**

A residential or day-attendance event to celebrate the Riverside Project.

**Please come, it will be fun and is very good value.
Full details and application forms are now available.
Agnes Budagowska 01793 615501 agnes-bud@supanet.com**

NEWBURY NEWS

OFFICE REPORT

Linda Veness and Margaret Shelton 01635 524099

Office Team

A new member will be joining the team soon. The other members are working hard and respond quickly when asked for dates on which they can be in the office. If any member would like to find out more about joining the team, do please contact Linda or Margaret.

CHARITY COFFEE MORNING

**St Nicolas Church Hall
Thursday 30th June at 10 am**

This is a public event where our U3A:

- **Sells CAKES**
- **Has a TOMBOLA**
- **Runs a BRIC-A-BRAC stall**
- **Organises the REFRESHMENTS**

**It's a great event for raising funds-please help by
donating bric-a-brac and tombola prizes, providing lots of CAKES to sell
and
offering HELP to man the stalls on the day**



Manning the Office

We must point out that occasionally there is no-one free to man the office and there is really no way of informing callers, who can, of course, ring through to the office and when there is no reply, leave a message.

We have heard no complaints from members about this and we are able to staff the office on most days.

In order to collect the post from downstairs, the office worker needs to leave the office for a short time around 11 am and this will explain any difficulties in contact at this time.

New system for keys

We have agreed with Greenham Trust that we have a new system of entry to the secure area of Broadway House; members using the building will be issued with keys to gain access to a key fob. This should simplify the entry procedure.

Welcome to our new members

Sarah and Derek Ansell, Maureen Barlow, Alan and Helke Bartley, Jennifer Bennett, Michael Bolas, Eva Catlow, Richard and Murdina Coate, Rita Dawson, Gwyneth Ferreras, Camelia Gabriel, Sandra Halford, Alison Henson, Jo and Barbara Herne, John and Judith Hitchman, Shirley Holland, Valerie Jackson, Maggie Jamieson, Mike Jenkins, Wendy Khan, Madeline Leopardi, Graham and Sheila Loxton-Best, Barry Marchant, Felicity Merchant, Michelle Passmore, Jean Peach, Nigel and Valerie Perry, Susan Roskill, Anne-Marie Smith, Derek Truman, Valerie Worsfold, Doreen Wright.

WANTED ALIVE

Newbury U3A need a new Accounts Examiner starting October 2011.

Ivor Pickering has done a fantastic job examining our accounts for the last 14 years but feels that he needs to hang up his abacus and quill pen at the end of this financial year.

The job requires someone of an accounting bent to go through our accounts each year to ensure that our treasurers (and we have 4 of them) have maintained their accounts accurately and conform to the accounting standards expected by the Charity Commission and the Third Age Trust.

When satisfied that the accounts are in order the Examiner and the Treasurer will

- prepare the Account Summary statement presented at the AGM
- produce summary statements for our Chairman and the Charity Commission.

The busy time for the role is between the end of the accounting year August 31st and the AGM which takes place the first week in October.

In extreme situations the Examiner may be referred to on financial matters during the course of the year but this does not happen very often.

The Examiner needs to be impartial so although he/she can be a member of our branch they must not be a member of the Executive Committee nor related to a member of the Executive Committee.

Would anyone interested please contact Roger Donato 46415 or Mary Blake 47814.

GROUP NEWS

The next Group Leaders' meeting will be held in October (date to be advised) at St Francis de Sales Church Hall, Wash Common. Please come if you can. Our Liaison Reps. work hard to make these meetings interesting and informative for Group Leaders; it would be good if a representative from each Group could attend.

CONCERTS

Clive Dray 01635 42555

It has been suggested that we have a Concert Group similar to or as an adjunct to the Theatre Group. Could you advise me if you would be interested in attending concerts if such a group were set up. The music would be regarded as "classical" but not avant garde. It would also be useful to know whether your interest encompasses orchestral, chamber or soloist and in the last case what instruments. Where possible can you answer by e-mail. **clive.dray@btinternet.com**

ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES

Jo Dunning 01635 48338

Our April meeting was a jewellery afternoon, and in May we will have an afternoon regarding tea-caddy spoons and associated articles. We are making arrangements for our 4th July outing to Upton House, which is decorated in the art-deco style and has a good variety of pictures. There are also lovely gardens. Those booking will need cheque-books at the next meeting. Later in the year there may be a few spare places, so let me know if you are interested.

ART APPRECIATION

Pamela Cooley 01635 580661
Marilyn Freeman 01635 521003

The move to Broadway House has a particular advantage for this group. We now have a big new screen on which to watch Art DVD's and, thanks to Jeanne Scott, we also have equipment to explore Art Videos. On the second Wednesday each month Pam Cooley in the morning and Marilyn Freeman in the afternoon share the material that we hire from the Resource Centre. Over the last few months we've seen and had lively discussions about artists such as Klimt, Jackson Pollock, Norman Rockwell, Grayson Perry, Hokusai, and Chris Ofili.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Maria Grace 01635 47196

The Digital Photography Group is a place of new learning and gaining photographic skills through experience. We much appreciate having Roger Ryton, a professional photographer as part of the group. Our morning consists of 3 parts; first we have a technical talk by Roger on Camera tips. Then we each share the 3 photo's that we took on that month's particular subject, with Roger giving feedback. Towards the end, the next month's subject is introduced and explained. Since January we have concurrently also done some hands on editing using Photoshop software with about 4 people. The new venue of Broadway House has been very beneficial for us, with extra space and the plasma screen to which a laptop can be connected. At present we have 18 people on the books with average turn out of about 13-15.

GARDENING

Jill Willson 01635 862928

The talk by Lucinda Fuller in November 2010 was such a success that we invited her back to talk to us in April. In May Beth Taylor will give a short presentation on poppies, She asks that members bring to the meeting items connected with poppies. In June we shall look back on the year so far, sharing experiences of delights and failures. In July, instead of a meeting, there will be a coach trip to Wisley. A few seats remain for this outing – apply to Amy Banks on 01635 521520. We then break for the summer and meet again on Wednesday 5th October.

HISTORY

Jeanne Scott 01635 42903

The History group continues to meet monthly and to study life in England in Tudor times. Lively discussions followed the introduction in February of Tudor Homes which I led, and in March Tudor education was introduced by Margaret Flood. In April we discussed war and weapons, led by Ann Rutt.

SCIENCE

David Hunt 01488 608300

We have had some very interesting meetings over the last year. Topics have included the power and beauty of science, geology, amateur astronomy, secret science on a pacific island, seismology, information technology and a talk on a local Victorian polymath.

On 30th June there will a talk by David Skyrme entitled "What Price Energy". This talk is particularly topical in view of the problems with nuclear reactors in Japan following their earthquake and the proposal by the British Government to build more nuclear reactors in Britain.

In addition to talks on scientific topics we also have discussions and occasionally watch a particularly interesting video. There is ample opportunity for members to talk to each other – an essential ingredient of U3A activities.

All meetings are from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month in Robinson Room 1 of St Bartholomew's School.

TAI CHI at Waterside

Doreen Robinson 01488 73448

This group has been so popular that we cannot accommodate any more new members.

Anyone still wishing to join should ask to be put on a waiting list and if there are enough a second class will be formed in the future.



TALKS

Howard Cooley 01635 580661

Our March talk was an exciting introduction to the Olympic Games to be held in London next year.

On May 26th we shall have a "Tales of the Unexpected" talk while on July 11th there will be a talk on "Bomber Command experiences during WW 2."

Future dates are: 12/09/11 Samaritans
 14/11/11 My life as a Journalist

TRAVEL

Gerald Orbell 01635 46242

The holiday to the Cotswolds has had to be cancelled owing to lack of interest.

Day Outing

Margery Thomas 01635 44094

We are looking forward to the day trip to Hereford, including a visit to the Cathedral, on June 7th and is now fully booked.

Day Trip to the BBC

Lou Baker

We were taken around the BBC in three groups and all of our guides did an excellent job. Our visit to the News Room was a complete surprise to me because of the amount of work and energy that is taken to provide us all with up to date news. Since the 1950's I have been pressing the little button to watch the news not realising the effort that was being put in to keeping me in touch with the world news. A distraction was catching site of Chris Hollins, winner of the 2009 Strictly Come Dancing. I had the urge to chase him to ask him for a dance, but it was not to be. We passed through Reception and the fountain was pointed out to us. Literally within days of the building being opened, it was decommissioned because the noise of running water apparently affected staff productivity so much! It must have been an impressive sight.



We went along to one of the many dressing rooms, being told about some of the Stars and their unreasonable demands, but our very own Paul McCartney asking for no frills. On to a studio which was being prepared for the next rehearsal, again all fascinating, the many uses of the lights and the curtain making differences beyond imagination. Then the weather forecast, the non use of reds and greens, the position of the readers all seeming to be the wrong way round and very difficult to follow. Again being made to realise there is a lot more to it than meets the eye. The interactive studio was our next experience, where we found out we had two newsreaders and three contestants for Name That Tune amongst us. We had a bit of help from Huw Edwards and it was good fun and a memorable end to an interesting tour. We all had time to wander round the BBC shop, then we were taken back to our starting point. My hope now is that at our next Coffee Morning, not too many of us demand the U3A provide us with 8 puppies (like one visiting Star to the BBC), but I have the feeling the same reply will given as the BBC gave. I trust everybody found it as fascinating as I did.

LANGUAGE COURSES

Jill Willson 01635 862928

Kennet School in Thatcham have been running short language courses from time to time and we have been invited to participate. So far there have been courses of 6 weeks duration in modern languages – Spanish, German, Dutch and Italian. Each lesson usually lasts for 1½ hours – one hour of classroom tuition and a further 30 minutes in the language laboratory. Most are free but sometimes a modest fee is charged.

The teaching is light-hearted but very effective.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Join the Committee and Group Leaders for
Tea, Cakes and Conversation
at
St Nicolas Church Hall on Tuesday 9th August 2011,
2.30pm

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May 7 th – 14 th	Holiday to Austria	
Thurs May 26 th	Talk	St Nicolas Church Hall 2.15 pm
Tues June 7 th	Day trip to Hereford	
Wed June 22 nd	Annual Outing	
Thurs June 30 th	Charity Coffee Morning	St. Nicolas Church Hall 10.00 am
Wed July 6 th	Gardening Group outing	Wisley
Mon July 11 th	Talk	St Nicolas Church Hall 2.15 pm
Tues Aug 9 th	Tea afternoon	St Nicolas Church Hall 2.30 pm
Thurs Oct 6 th	AGM	St Nicolas Church Hall 2.15 pm

Copy Deadline for the next issue Friday 1st July
Late copy may not be accepted

Please send copy for the newsletters to **Margaret Howlett**,
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This newsletter is reproduced by the Greenham Common Trust, which is much appreciated.

