

Newbury U3A



NEWSLETTER MAY 2010

Number 82

Charity Number 1097700

From your Chairman

Adam Cave 01189 814256

Hello Everyone,

Just for a change this letter will be mainly about an important U3A event that is taking place away from Newbury: an event that will involve many other U3As and that will culminate in a report that may well set the standard for other such endeavours.

This event is the exploring, surveying and recording the environs of the River Thames in all its many diverse forms, the wildlife above and below the water, the Historic Towns, the industries, the leisure pursuits, the miles of towpaths and paths off the River. People with all kinds of interests will be needed and anyone who has a curiosity about places and things.

A planning meeting has taken place in Goring on April 21st to organise the interested U3As to ensure that every aspect of the work is covered and that we are all making a worthwhile contribution to the scheme.

We will then arrange to distribute the information through the Website, Newsletter, and Group Leaders. Individuals can decide if they want to get involved and how(see page 3)

The Results and conclusions of all the participating U3As will be collated into a Report that will be presented at Wellington College in October 2011.

This could obviously be an important event in the life of our Network and I would like to think that we could make a significant contribution.

Back to Newbury.

We have ensured that next year's Chairman's Outing will take place by choosing the date. This will be during the week commencing 20th June 2011 and I have started the search for a suitable day out.

There are lots of things to enjoy this year and I hope that we all take full advantage of them. Thank you to every one who makes them possible.

Happy Landings, Adam

NEWBURY U3A OFFICE

Arcade House, The Arcade, Newbury RG14 5AD

Telephone 01635 524099

e-mail newburyu3a@btconnect.com

Website www.newburyu3a.org

Statistics:	Total U3As	759
	Total membership	231967
	Newbury membership	483

The **National Annual General Meeting 2010** will be held at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester on Thursday 9th September, 2010. For the first time there will be no Conference and the AGM is to be a Day event.

A small booklet, **Growth Matters**, can be seen in the office. It has been produced by the Trust and addresses the issues raised by rapid growth of U3As. It contains suggestions for the planning needed to ensure:

- Healthy and vibrant local U3As
- Opportunities for local third agers who want to join U3As to do so
- Continued growth and development of the U3A movement nationally

Digital Photography and Social Networking

John Wiley & Sons has organised a fascinating programme in two parts - Digital Photography and Social Networking. You are invited to attend. It will take place at the University of London School of Oriental & African Studies on Thursday 17th June, 1.45 – 4.15pm.

Admission by ticket, £6.00, including refreshments.

The first **U3A Travel Writing Competition** is being arranged with the assistance of Bradt Travel Guides. Bradt organise the annual Independent on Sunday travel writing competition and will be the deciding judge.

The Theme is '**My journey of a lifetime**', closing date 20th August 2010.
Rules and other details from the office.

Available from **Arcade House** - U3A car stickers at 20p each
- 2011 diaries may be ordered, cost £1.90 (pay later)

Available from **National Office** - Blue lanyards with the U3A logo at 70p +postage.
- A parker jotter ball point pen, stainless steel with a blue barrel, complete with U3A logo at £3.00 including postage.

The Science, Technology and Society Network are running their **Annual Seminar at Abergavenny** from Monday 9th to Thursday 12th August 2010. Bed and breakfast accommodation may be available, depending on numbers. This seminar is open to all.

Over 90% of all U3As in Britain use the Resource Centre regularly for material to enhance or support their classes. An update on the terms and provisions can be seen on the notice board at Arcade House.

The Third Age Trust
The Old Municipal Buildings
19 East Street
BROMLEY BR1 1QE

Tel: 020 8466 6139
website: www.u3a.org.uk
email: national.office@u3a.org.uk

The planned future events for 2010 are:-

2 June	Network Conference	<i>Wokingham</i>
28 June	Classical Music Study Day	<i>Rewley House, Oxford</i>
15 September	Oxford Study Day	Merton College
	This replaces the Summer School	
7 October	Food Science Day	<i>The Museum of English Rural Life, Reading</i>
November	Aspects of Architecture from Gothic to Strawberry Hill (<i>Note the change of subject</i>)	<i>Rewley House, Oxford</i>

Thames Valley Network Riverside Project

Throughout 2010 and 2011, U3As will combine to walk and study the Thames Path and all aspects of its environs. This includes all interests such as bird watching, history, natural history, artistry, music and anything else anyone comes up with. Is anyone in Newbury U3A interested?

In May I complete my three years as a committee member of the Thames Valley Network. Would any member interested in joining this committee please contact me.

THAMES VALLEY NETWORK Training Day

SHARING EXPERIENCE

Led by Clive Dray, eight of us attended this interesting day for group leaders in February.

By means of talks, workshops, discussions and question-and-answer sessions, issues involved in leading and informal learning were explored.

The day was based upon the Trust's Guide "Time to Learn". The keynote speaker was Ian Searle, Chairman of the Third Age Trust and a member of the drafting team for "Time to Learn".

He told us that they had money from the Government and three months to produce the book. He said they looked at "methodology" and not subject, the focus being "self organised learning".

He emphasised the U3A was a Trust, an informal association, to do what Members want. The Trust cannot control groups but can advise them. They must ask Members what they want to do. Members are in charge and the Leader is a facilitator.

We split into six groups in the morning, seven in the afternoon, led by people from various U3A groups. We were proud that our own Jill Willson led one such group. It was a good opportunity to meet colleagues from the network. We noted their ideas and resources they used.

It was certainly a thought-provoking day.

Joyce Platts



NEWBURY NEWS

OFFICE NEWS

Linda Veness and Margaret Shelton

There is very little to report this time. The office continues to run smoothly with the help of our team of willing volunteers. Our Membership Secretary, Hazel Bowler, is out of action at the moment. We wish her well and hope that she will be back with us soon.

Website changes and suggestions

Please note that there is now a tray on the desk where suggestions for our website may be left. Where changes to Group pages (venue, timings or information regarding meetings) are involved, a drawer in the cupboard labelled WEBSITE contains short forms which may be helpful.

Resource Centre Material

A full list of items available from the Resource Centre is open to view in the Office. This includes slides, videos, audio cassettes, CDs and DVDs . All Liaison Reps will be given a copy of the list, and may be contacted about the relevant items by each group leader. The only cost involved in hiring material is the return postage

WEBSITE

Nigel Robinson

We are pleased to announce that we have made a number of improvements to the appearance of our website and are keen to receive any feedback you may like to offer. As many of you will be aware, the address is www.newburyu3a.org and increasing numbers of people are turning to the website as their first port-of-call for details of forthcoming activities etc. In addition to our own events, there are now pages for National and Network events that may be of interest to our members. We also have a password-protected Members' Area and we are open to suggestions about things you would like to include on these secure pages. For instance, you might think about including minutes of meetings and other documents or perhaps add photographs to our growing gallery? The password for access to the secure area is 'clocktower' (one word and lower case).

The improvements were made following recommendations by a small working group comprising Nigel Robinson, Margaret Shelton, Sarah Dickinson, Maria Grace and Roger Donato. If you have any thoughts about how we might make the website an even better experience, please send them to Margaret Shelton at the Office.

U3A Spring Lunch 2010

On Tuesday 16th March sixty one members of Newbury U3A sat down to their Spring Lunch at St Nicolas' Church Hall.

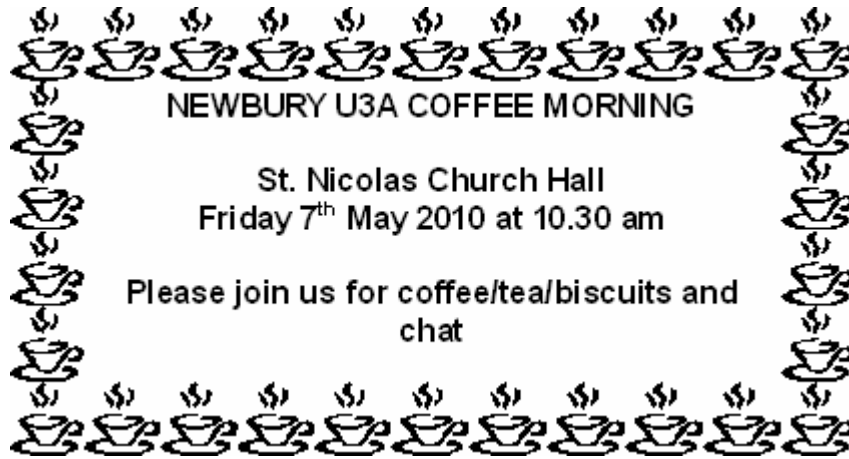
From the noise and chatter that went on I am sure that everybody enjoyed themselves but this enjoyment was due to several people who worked hard to make the event so enjoyable.

First thanks must go to Angells catering for the excellent food, secondly to Derek for organising the drinks and glasses plus the barman and barlady, Derek and Mary, thirdly to Alan for setting out the tables and chairs and finally to the strong man Roger who carted the sound system across from the office and supplied us with music.

Well done everyone, hope to see you all next year.

Kate Donato





NEWBURY U3A COFFEE MORNING

**St. Nicolas Church Hall
Friday 7th May 2010 at 10.30 am**

**Please join us for coffee/tea/biscuits and
chat**

TALKS

Howard Cooley 01635 580661

The talk on May 25th will be given by one of our members, Nicola Ferguson, who has recently been involved with teaching programmes overseas particularly in Thailand and Japan.

The talk on July 29th will be given by Jacky Akam and will be about the West Berkshire Countryside Project and will be illustrated with slides.

We would be most grateful if members able to help put away the chairs after the talk would make themselves known to Howard.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to our new Members

Carol Allin; Josyane Barr; Clive Beal; Jennie Bray; Eva Catlow; John Daw; John Everest; Ruth Foster-Fletcher; Juliet Franks; Julian Greaves; Eric Griffiths; Eve Hughes; Nelia Ibson; Anne Little; Jean Lloyd; Elizabeth Meldrum; Jenny and John Newitt; Michael and Jayne Read; John and Kathleen Moore; Arthur Radford; Marge Read; Mavis Read; David Robinson; Audrey Sillis; Janet Spilman; Delia Wall; Joan Watson; Sue Watts; Marie Webb; Susan Angell; Patricia Bird; Hazel Clingham; Susan Cottol; Eric and Megan Danvers; Richard Drew; Yvonne Ferryman; Michael and Iris Goodman; Mary Gorbald; Katy Haddersley; Muriel Hardy; Florence Heaver; Christine Indge; Sylvia Knight; Audrey Lawrence; Margaret and Edwin Lovegrove; Brenda and David Maslen; Karen Metcalfe; Kath Nurse; Maureen Park; Edeltraud Richards; Philomena Ryan; Juliette Shephard; Trudy Smith; Neil and Maggie Taylor; Bruce Varley; Elisabeth Watterson; Alan Wilcockson; Maria Burns.

GROUP NEWS

NEW GROUPS

Jill Willson 01635 862928

The second French Conversation Group is proving very successful. The two groups meet on alternate Fridays. Dorothy Goode hopes to be able to start a Latin for Beginners Group with members from both Thatcham and Newbury U3As. If you are interested, please contact Dorothy. It had been hoped to start a German Conversation Group but so far only 4 members have expressed interest. Hopefully more will come forward so that group becomes viable.

Please contact Jill Willson in the first instance if you are interested.

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

Jo Dunning and Pat Lawrence 01635 48338

Our meeting on April 12th was about glass and anecdotes of an antique dealer. On May 10th we have a talk on Wedgwood. Both these meetings are a week later than usual due to Bank Holidays. We are making arrangements for our annual outing in July, so cheque books will be needed at the May meeting.

CHAIR-BASED EXERCISES

Doreen Robinson

01488 73224

Doreen's ankle is healing well and Thursday exercise classes have re-commenced. In order to make up for the time missed Doreen will hold weekly sessions until the middle of July. Members requiring further details should ring Doreen or contact the office.

CRAFT

Margaret Butler

01635 46114

Card Making. We have held two meetings so far – the first to make plans and at the second to start on our card making.

Needlecraft 1 Running smoothly. I am endeavouring to organise an outing to the National Embroidery Archives Exhibition at New Greenham Park. This could be open to all members.

DISCUSSION 1

Margaret Flood

01635 524147

This new group has got off to a very enthusiastic start. It has been well attended since the first meeting in November in spite of the necessity of cancelling the January meeting because of the weather and the fact that the February date conflicted with the Training Day at Abingdon.

March saw a full house again when there was no shortage of topics for discussion. These range from those close to home i.e the proposed Pavilion in Victoria Park to topical questions of the day derived from the print and TV media. At present the strategy of having a different member of the group to lead each month has served us well.

Although lively discussion takes place, differing opinions are respected and having just seen a report of PMQs I'm pleased to say we are much better behaved so far than our representatives at Westminster!

DISCUSSION GROUP 2

Six members enjoyed the first meeting of Discussion Group 2 last month. Our second meeting will be on Tuesday 20th April at 9 Enborne Road.

Please ring Betty Wright, telephone 01635 43701 if you are interested in joining this group.

GARDENING

Jill Willson

01635 862928

At the time of going to press we are looking forward to our outing to Waterperry on 14th April and we have an outing to David Austin Roses in June. In May Chris Chadwell will speak on Wild Flowers of Great Britain and in June Mike Brown of the Clematis Society will hold a practical workshop on Clematis, showing us how to raise plants from seed and cuttings etc. For our last meeting of our year it is hoped that a number of members will speak for a few minutes on favourite plants. As always, suggestions for next year's programme would be welcome.



GOOD READ

Judy Straughan

The Good Read group, which I run, has been building up a waiting list, so I have been able to start a new reading group (with much help and support from Linda Veness and Eileen Taylor).

GOOD NEWS for BOOKLOVERS

Eileen Taylor

01635 846986

As the Good Read Group is full at present, a new book group has been formed and is now up and running. There are places in this group, so new members will be very welcome. For details, please contact Eileen Taylor, liaison rep. for reading groups.

HISTORY

Jeanne Scott

01635 42903

The group met in January and considered the reign of Henry III who was responsible for building Westminster Abbey and during whose reign important constitutional reform took place.

In February we discussed Edward I who was known as Longshanks and who built many castles in Wales. He brought the stone of Scone to England and was given the title of "The Hammer of the Scots" for his savage attack on that country.

At our March meeting we looked briefly at the unfortunate life and reign of Edward II and in more detail at Edward III covering the successful battles of Sluys, Crecy and Poitiers and the drama of the Black Death.

SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT

Roger Donato

01635 46415

The Savings & Investment group normally meets in the afternoon once a month on the third Monday: meetings are held in Arcade House. The purpose of the group is to share experiences and discuss the sort of topics that appear in the Money sections of weekend newspapers.

Topics covered during the 2009/10 programme have included:

- ISAs
- Mis-selling of Financial Products
- Key Performance Indicators (e.g. Yields and PE ratios)
- Rules for Sensible Investment

In the March session Howard Cooley led a discussion on Wealth.

So you can see that there are always plenty of things to talk about.

SCIENCE GROUP

David Hunt

01488 608300

Until the end of July, meetings will continue to be held on the last Thursday in the month at the Lifelong Learning Centre (St Bartholomew's School) from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. There will not be a meeting in August since many will be on holiday. For the September and October meetings it is likely that we will have to find a new venue until the school make one of their new rooms available.

This year we have had a debate on Global Warming and discussions following two videos; The Large Binocular Telescope and Chaos Theory.

The immediate future programme is:

- 29th April: "The Power and Beauty of Science" A talk by David Hunt
- 27th May: A discussion on "Hot topics in Science and Technology"
- 24th June: "Geology" A talk by Dick Morris



Science can be fun as well as being exciting and informative. Please come and join us.

THEATRE *Clive Dray & Hazel Bowler* **01635 42555/45755**

Our next theatre trip is to the Mill at Sonning to see *If I Were You* on Saturday 10 July and we will be taking lunch together.

We are still having difficulty booking suitable events. One of our problems is that almost every theatre has matinees only on a Thursday.

If I Were You was a fourth choice, the other three were abandoned because we discovered other groups were holding open events on the only available days.

We would be **very grateful** therefore if Thursdays were kept as free as possible of other U3A events, especially if you are planning events open to all members.

Theatres only give us short notice of their programmes so we cannot plan a long time in advance and Saturdays are normally also difficult.



TRAVEL

Day Outing **Margery Thomas** **01635 44094**

A visit to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford is planned for the 3rd November. Please read the accompanying sheet for all the details, together with a booking form.

Holiday

We are currently in discussions with our travel company about a planned five-night holiday to Holland in May of next year. The trip will include the lovely seaside town of the Hague, the Dutch capital of Amsterdam and will also take in the beautiful towns of Delft and Leiden. Full details will accompany the next newsletter in August.

ADULT LEARNING – A World of Opportunity

Newbury U3A will have a stand at the Adult Learning Showcase on Saturday, 29th May, 2010 at the Corn Exchange in Newbury from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

The showcase is being organised by the Adult Community Learning Team at West Berkshire Council and will feature a wide range of Providers and Tutors in addition to the U3A who will be available on the day to provide information and advice on the courses they deliver.

Mozart's
The Magic Flute Opera Brava

Working for
Greenham Common
TRUST
the Common Good

A perilous and magical journey
in pursuit of love, light and peace

Tickets
£5 in advance from
the Corn Exchange
- 01635 522733
www.cornexchangenew.com
£10 on the gate
Under 16's free

Saturday 26th June 2010 Bring a picnic
Newbury Race Course Licensed bar
Gates open 5.30pm
Performance starts 7pm

www.operaforall.co.uk

Nigel Robinson **01635 203045**

This is one:- **Computer Training**

You may recall that the February newsletter advertised some free Basic Computing training. This came at short notice and was government funded. We had a good response and were able to run two groups: one group of 9 students attended a session on Tuesday mornings and another group of 9 students attended a session on Thursday mornings. Both groups were held in a room at Liberty House, New Greenham Park.

The training ran for 5 weeks during February and March and is now finished. The training was well received by our members who attended, and what was impressive was that most students attended all 5 sessions. Each group was serviced by two professional tutors who were patient and considerate.

There were quite a few other members who would have come had the courses been run on a different day, and a few other members have since asked if the opportunity is likely to occur again. Some other members have asked whether there could be a follow-up group to receive more advanced training. So there is obviously a demand for computer studies in our U3A.

You may remember that we ran a computer group last year in the Lifelong Learning Centre at St Bart's which ran twice a month for the whole school year: this was in the nature of a clinic where experienced computer users from amongst our membership and some sixth formers from the school made time available to help sort out the problems which our less experienced members brought along. The clinic was well attended during the first two terms but attendance fell off.

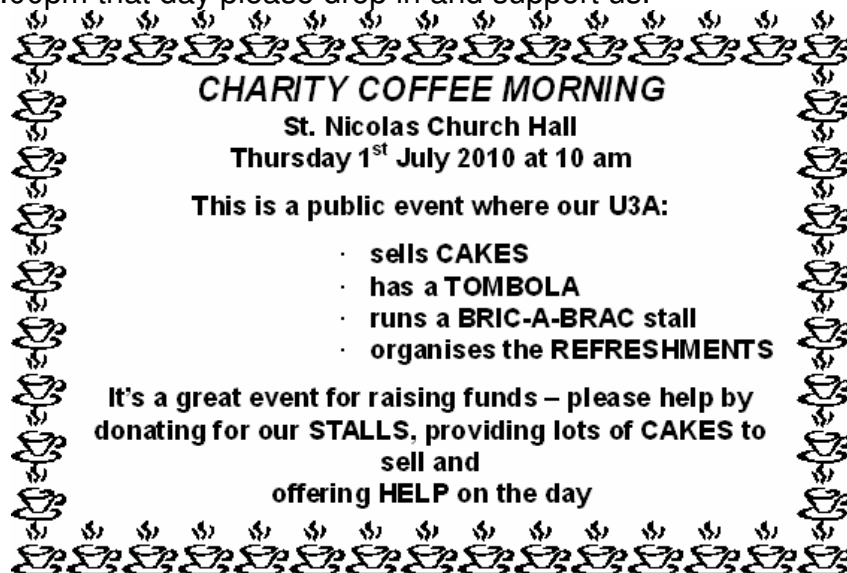
If we set up further computer groups then we need to set up something which is somewhere between the informal nature of the clinic we ran last year and the formal classes that were run during this February and March.

If any of our members wants to rise to the challenge to run a new computer group then please let the Executive Committee know or leave a message at the office.

A number of events across West Berkshire which promote 'The Learning Revolution', a government initiative supporting the diverse range of learning opportunities, are now available to adults across the private, voluntary and public sector.

However, learning doesn't just have to be through attending a course, and the Showcase will highlight a selection of alternative learning opportunities such as webinars, group talks and visits, demonstrations and events.

So if you are around Saturday, 29th May, 2010 at the Corn Exchange, Market Place, Newbury from 10.00am to 2.00pm that day please drop in and support us.



CHARITY COFFEE MORNING
St. Nicolas Church Hall
Thursday 1st July 2010 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 for our STALLS, providing lots of CAKES to sell and offering HELP on the day



Dates for your Diary

Thursday May 27th	Talk (see page 5 inside)	St Nicolas Church Hall 2.15pm
Saturday May 29th	Adult Learning Showcase	Newbury Corn Exchange 10.00am –2.00pm
Monday June 28th	Gardening Group Outing	David Austin Roses
Thursday July 1st	Charity Coffee Morning	St Nicolas Church Hall 10.00am
Saturday July 10th	Theatre Group Outing	“If I Were You” The Mill, Sonning
Thursday July 29th	Talk (see page 5 inside)	St Nicolas Church Hall 2.15 pm

Copy Deadline for the next issue Friday 2nd July

Late copy may not be accepted

Please send copy for the newsletters to **Margaret Howlett**,
at Arcade House, The Arcade, Newbury RG14 5AD
or by e-mail to

newburyu3a@btconnect.com

Editorial Committee: Adam Cave, Margaret Howlett, Margaret Shelton.

Editor : Theo Kirstein 01635 40512; 07855 815332

This newsletter is reproduced by Greenham Common Trust, which is much appreciated.

