



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Overton and District Newsletter 9

Your New Committee

The AGM was quite well attended, considering the delightful weather we were enjoying at the time, and was followed with a talk 'The Crowded Sky' by Phil Holt. The six members elected at the AGM have now met and the following roles have been allocated.

Chair - Sue Carter

**Vice Chair / Group Coordinator –
Edith Willcocks**

Secretary - Valda Stevens

Treasurer - David Carter

**Meetings Co-ordinator - Margaret
Aldgate**

**Refreshments Co-ordinator – June
Ellingham**

Information and Publicity – Lizzie Lewis

Firstly, congratulations to Sue on becoming chair, a role we are sure she will fulfil in her usual calm and efficient way. A warm welcome to the two new members, David Carter and Margaret Aldgate who have agreed to be Treasurer and Programme Co-ordinator. Lizzie has agreed to be co-opted to the committee, which the constitution allows so long as she is not an officer. So, we are fortunate to have a full complement to share the work of the committee.

Once again, a big 'thank you' to Marianna Lutyens and Beryl Beckett for all their hard work during their time on the committee. We have many happy memories to thank them for with the fantastic programmes of talks and outings that they put together for us to enjoy.

AGM Chair's Report 2016-17

For those of you who were unable to attend the AGM, in case you are interested, here is Lizzie's report:

You will all be aware that my term of office as chair is coming to an end and I must say it has been a privilege. In my last year as chair I believe that our Overton and District U3A has gone from strength to strength. Our membership continues to grow having now reached 270 with our monthly meetings and groups being well attended. Marianna, again, organised an excellent programme of talks, as well as our extra-curricular ones, both covering a wide range of topics and interests, something we hoped to interest all! Highlights in 2016 included 'Edith and I: on the Trail of an Edwardian Traveller in Kosovo' and 'Snow and Winter' followed by mulled wine and mince pies. January started with an entertaining talk 'Tales of a Scotland Yard Detective and was followed in February by 'Creating Wildflower Environments'. Next, we had the renowned John Pilkington on 'Russia and Europe: what next?' In April, we were treated to a talk by Lady Carnarvon, 'Stories from the Real Downton Abbey' and last month Jon Cannon took us time travelling via Medieval Cathedrals. Our programme is deservedly becoming much appreciated and gaining a reputation within the wider community of U3As for the quality of its speakers and the interesting and varied topics that it covers. So, a very big thank you to Marianna for her very positive contribution over the last three years.

We had five extra-curricular talks, three by local speakers, Richard Waldram, Alan



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Turton and Simon Moore who spoke on 'Historic Buildings in Overton Conservation Area', 'The History of Basing House' and 'The Effects of the Aesthetic and Arts and Crafts Periods on British Spoons' respectively. Sarah Deere gave a lecture about 'The History of the Harp' which included her playing three pieces and Chloe Cockerill spoke on, 'Heraldry: It's all around us'.

In December, The Choral Speaking Group entertained members with an eclectic selection of readings, including the plight of Albert and the Lion and the experiences of a soldier and Land Army girls during the war. The readings were interspersed with a selection of songs which the audience were invited to join in. Thanks to Jill O'Hare for organising the programme and to the group for all the hard work involved in rehearsing and perfecting each item. An afternoon enjoyed by many members.

We have over 30 groups which are the backbone of our U3A and here I must thank Edith Willcocks for being an excellent Group coordinator. She again organised two feedback meetings for group leaders that were well attended. These sessions allow the committee to show their appreciation of the work done by the group leaders by entertaining them with tea and cakes, provided by the WI. Edith is always keen to help members set up new groups and would love to hear from you if you have a particular interest.

I would like to give a special thank you to Beryl as she agreed to be co-opted for another year having already served her time on committee, so that she could arrange our outings for another year. First, we went to The Poppy Factory at Richmond followed in the afternoon by

visiting The Orchid Display at Kew Gardens. Our next visit was to The Albert Hall where we had a guided tour behind the scenes and heard lots of fascinating facts about the performances. More recently we went to Brooklands and had a talk 'Gearstick's and Lipsticks' and could spend the rest of the day having lunch and touring the various exhibits, which, for some included a visit to Concorde. Beryl did especially well on this visit as she provided wall to wall sunshine too! And still to come in July our trip to Kensington Palace with a Blue Badge Guide – more sunshine please Beryl! Beryl has worked hard to ensure that all the trips ran smoothly, covered a range of interests and were enjoyed by all those who went.

There have been two editions of the Newsletter since the last AGM through which we endeavour to keep members informed of past and future events with some photographic evidence. I would like to thank June Ellingham for providing the write ups on our talks which have been included in the newsletters and as part of a write up I did for The Test Magazine. It would be great to have contributions for the newsletter from other groups as it makes it more interesting for our readers, as I am aware that most of the group news is associated with groups that I attend! We are aware that there have recently been some problems accessing up to date information on our website, but that has now been rectified and we are now planning to revamp the site rather than just updating the information. Twice a year I attend an area meeting for U3A chairs to keep us up to date with the national movement and future developments. This year there was a consultation about re-organising the national structure of the U3A, but the



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

outcome was inconclusive as most U3As wished to maintain the status quo with only minor changes.

I would like to thank the committee for their hard work and support during my time as chair. I am pleased to say that Sue, our treasurer, who does a lot more than just 'treasure' is standing again as is Edith, our group co-ordinator, our secretary Valda who quickly slotted into the role and June who as well as doing the write ups organises the refreshments. I would also like to thank Jeff Teagle, our Honorary Auditor for the year, Terry, Freda and Elsie for making the tea and coffee, Roy Staunton for helping with chairs, Phil Cook with sound and Srdja Popovic who often helps with setting up.

Looking to the future of our U3A it is essential that members put themselves forward to be nominated for committee and or organise a group. If you do not have the time to make such a commitment why not put yourself forward to write up the talks, prepare the monthly posters, assist with sound, putting out and putting away chairs or producing the newsletter. I would like to make an appeal to male members as it would be a truer reflection on the membership of our U3A if we had some gentlemen on the committee, as for the last three years it has been all female – not – of course- that we can't do it but it would be good to have a mix. In the same vein, it would be advantageous to have representatives from Oakley, Kingsclere and Whitchurch.

Finally thank you to all our members for your continued support of your U3A by attending groups, talks and outings.

Lizzie Lewis – June 2017

MONTHLY TALKS

May - A Thousand Years of History: Medieval Cathedrals as Time Machines



Jon Cannon, a journalist and lecturer at Bristol University gave an excellent talk covering the years between 600AD and 1590. This was a lot to talk

about in a short time but was interesting and thought provoking given the analogy with time machines. *June Ellingham*

June - The Crowded Sky



Phil Holt, our speaker joined National Air Traffic Services in 1972 as an Air Traffic Controller, a career spanning almost 40 years including time at London, Heathrow, the busiest airport in the world. His talk was interesting and informative with some fascinating photos and video clips, some of which were also amusing. *June Ellingham*

Time to renew your U3A Membership

It's that time of year again so please check your emails as you will soon be receiving the letter and form inviting you to renew your membership. The form should be completed and returned to Sue Carter with your cheque for 15 by 31st August 2017.

You will be able to collect your membership card and up-dated group

directory at the monthly meeting 20th September. If you are unable to attend we will make sure they are delivered to you.

HELP PLEASE! We would be delighted if you are able to help in any way, such as registering members at monthly meetings, setting out and clearing the hall, washing up etc. If you would like to help please contact Sue Carter.
email:susan.carter22@btinternet.com

VISITS - We no longer have a committee member to organise visits, so we are hoping that a member or a group of members may like to take over the role from Beryl Beckett who did a splendid job over the last 4 years. If you are interested in this role please contact Sue Carter.
(email as above)

ADVANCE NOTICE

2017 - 2018 PROGRAMME



20 September 2017 - Benedicte Clarkson - Amazing women-only car rally in the Moroccan desert

18 October 2017 - Hazel Radnor - How we use gardening to change lives (The work of Thrive)

15 November 2017 - Geoff Davies - A Family Tribute to a Fallen Soldier

20 December 2017 - Sarah Lenton - Christmas at Covent Garden: 300 years of Christmas Shows at one of London's Great Theatres



17 January 2018 - Roger Shaw - The Oregon Trail

21 February 2018 - Lydia Bauman - Domestic Scenes in Art



21 March 2018 - Fran Sandham - "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?"

18 April 2018 - Alison Deveson - Overton, Whitchurch and The Old Lady, The Bank of England in Wartime Hampshire'



16 May 2018 - Ralph Jerram - The History of Desert Island Discs

20 June 2018 - Charles Cardiff - An extraordinary Life + AGM

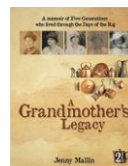
July 2018 - annual visit to be arranged

Extra-curricular

All on Monday at 2pm



2 October 2017 - Angela Findlay - The Other Side: Germany's Post WW2 Culture of Memorials and Counter Memorials



6 November 2017 - Jenny Mallin - A Grandmother's Legacy: a memoir of five generations who lived through the days of the Raj



7 May 2018 - Roy Wood -
How to Enjoy a Healthy and
Wealthy Retirement

Recent Group Activities

Garden Visits



In **June** the garden group went to Down Farm House on the outskirts of Whitchurch. Our visit began with the owners, Mr and Mrs Jones, describing how they bought the house and created their lovely natural garden over 30 years from an old walled farmyard. The talk was fascinating and then we were free to walk round the garden on our own or with Mr and Mrs Jones who were happy to answer our questions. We had tea and delicious cakes and there was the opportunity to buy plants and home made produce which were sold to raise money for charity.



Tea at Down Farm House

In **July** the garden group enjoyed a visit to Down House, Kilmeston, near Alresford despite a sudden down pour of rain which cut the walk round the 7 acre garden a little short. The visit began with an interesting talk accompanied by an excellent slide-show given by the head gardener, Julian Blackwell, on the history of the house and the creation of a truly beautiful garden by his team over the last 30 years. Armed with a map the group wandered wherever they liked. There was something to interest everyone, trees, vegetables, rose garden, herbaceous borders and a shed that had to be seen to be appreciated – orderliness and cleanliness rule!!



The visit was followed by a delicious cream tea in the Orangery during which a question and answer session allowed us to glean some interesting and helpful information. The group returned home having enjoyed a lovely afternoon only wishing that it hadn't rained! *Susan Staunton*

Theatre Visit

Maureen Tory arranged a very special treat at the Water Mill Theatre in June with perfect weather! We saw two plays, one outside in the





THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

afternoon and the other in the theatre in the evening. The idyllic setting was perfect for an outdoor performance and to while away the time between performances, with tea on the lawn and a little later a meal in the restaurant. The plays written by Alan Ayckbourn were well performed and the timing was incredible as the two plays were happening simultaneously with the same actors in different venues!!

SUMMER OUTING



KENSINGTON PALACE



Waiting at the gate!

We set off from Overton in Mervyn's coach and arrived in time for our guided tour which included special exhibitions about Queen Victoria and some of Princess Diana's clothes.



We learnt about the history of the palace and how it had been added to and remodelled over the years and how the arranged marriage between William and Mary turned into a love match despite his rather large nose and small stature!

This was a very interesting day and we were also able to visit the White Garden recently created to commemorate Diana's death twenty years ago. Many thanks to Beryl Beckett for arranging this visit.

The Committee trust that you have enjoyed reading this newsletter and look forward to receiving your contributions about your group activities.

We hope you have an enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you at the September monthly meeting 20th September.