

Overton and District Newsletter 13

Following our AGM in June we are delighted to welcome Diana Goodwin and Jonathan Rouse to the committee.



Many of you will be aware that Diana was the driving force behind the creation of our U3A and was the first chairperson and we are pleased she has agreed to be chair for 2018-2019.



Jonathan comes from Oakley so he will be able to represent the views of members from that area. He has agreed to be Vice Chair and to take on the role of

Group Co-Ordinator.



We are pleased that Valda Stevens is to continue as our very efficient secretary and David Carter as our equally efficient treasurer.



Margaret Aldgate will continue to put together a varied and interesting programme

of speakers and June Ellingham will carry on in charge of refreshments at the monthly meeting. Lizzie Lewis was co-opted and will continue with information, publicity and the Newsletter.

AGM June 2018

Firstly a big thank you to Susan Carter, last year's chair for fulfilling that role in her efficient way and for serving as treasurer for 3 previous years. It was also time to say goodbye to Edith Willcocks, Group Co-Ordinator who quickly grasped and developed that role and was respected by the group leaders.

For those of you who were unable to attend the AGM here is the Chair's report:



Chairman's Report 2017-18

In my final year on the committee I have been privileged to be Chairman. Our membership continues to grow having now reached 274

with our monthly meetings and groups being well attended. We have had an excellent programme of talks again organised by Marianna as speakers are booked at least a year in advance! Our speakers have covered a wide range of topics and interests, including travel, history, gardening and the Arts. The year started with a double bill –the amazing women-only car rally in the Moroccan desert and The Last Storytellers of Morocco, followed in October by gardening with THRIVE. In November Richard Waldram told us about the Overton Workhouse and December was celebrated with Christmas at Covent Garden followed by mulled wine and mince pies. January took us on the Oregon Trail while Domestic Scenes in Art was the



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topic for February. We met Dr Livingstone in March and in April Alison Deveson took us to Wartime Hampshire with the Bank of England. Next came The History of Desert Island Discs and we are ending the year with The Crop Circle Mystery. Our programme is deservedly 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.

We also had three extra-curricular talks, Germany's Post WW2 Culture of Memorials and Counter Memorials and A Grandmother's Legacy- a memoir of the Raj.

In December The Choral Speaking Group entertained members with an eclectic selection of readings based on 'The Elements that we all live with'. 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 her and the group for all their hard work.

To round off our year there are two outings in July, the first organised by Diana Goodwin on behalf of the Gardening Group is to Hampton Court Flower Show and the second, which is taking the place of our normal monthly meeting, is to Bletchley Park.

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 also allow the committee to show their appreciation of the work done by group leaders with tea and cakes, provided by the WI. The committee is always keen to help members set up new groups and would love

to hear from you if you have a particular interest.

There have been four 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. Thanks go to Lizzie Lewis for compiling these. It would be excellent if more news from groups could be included. The web site has been redesigned and is now up and running. Lizzie, Edith Willcocks and Margaret Aldgate attended the Area U3A meeting for U3A chairs in March which keeps us up to date with the national movement and future developments. The focus this year has been on the new data protection regulations which came into force in May. As a result, our joining form has been updated with details about how your data is used within our U3A and you are being asked to positively consent to being added to the direct mailing list for the Third Age Matters magazine.

I would like to thank the committee for their hard work and support during my time as chair. Thanks go to Edith Willcocks who had the dual role of Vice-chairman and Groups Co-ordinator and has completed her term of office and to Lizzie Lewis who was co-opted back on to the committee to look after publicity. I am pleased to say that David, Carter- Treasurer, Valda Stevens, - Secretary, Margaret Aldgate, - Meetings Co-ordinator and June Ellingham -(Hospitality), are all standing again. I would also like to thank Jeff Teagle, for examining our accounts, Terry and Freda Robinson for making the tea and coffee, Phil Cook with sound at monthly meetings and Srdja Popovic who helps with setting up the hall and deputises for Phil.

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. It would also be desirable to have representatives from Oakley and Whitchurch. 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 and out and putting away chairs or producing the newsletter.

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

Sue Carter – June 2018

Monthly Talks

May



Ralph

Jerram

The History of Desert Island Discs



Most of us will have listened to this programme on the radio at some point and Ralph's talk covered the programme's

beginning up to the present day. He gave interesting tit bits about some of the biggest names in Science, Business, Politics, Showbiz, Sport and the Arts who had been cast away!

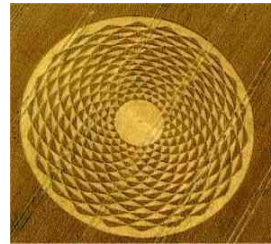


June

Andy Thomas

The Crop Circle Mystery

Andy gave an excellent and well received talk supported by amazing photographs as he



looked back at the circular events of 2017, helping to draw our attention to another fascinating year of wonders which saw

another media attack on this fascinating phenomenon.

Hampton Court – a visit organised on behalf of the Garden Group by Diana Goodwin

Firstly, a big thank you to Diana for organising this visit so efficiently and even providing excellent sunny weather!



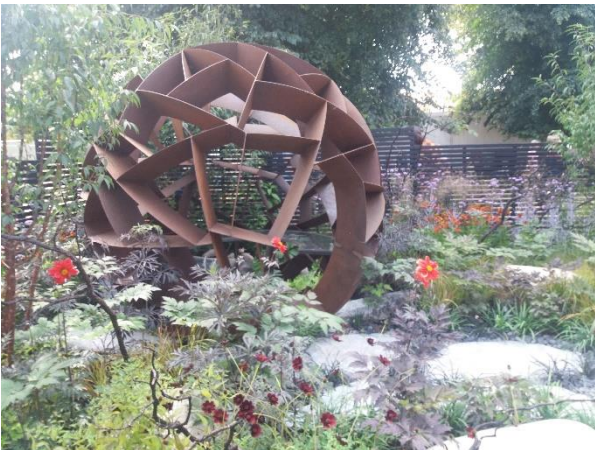
Once we had arrived we were free to wander and enjoy. There were talks from well know gardeners, Chris Bradshaw on 'One Hundred Plants that Most Changed the World' and Carol Klien 'Making a Garden', magnificent show gardens galore to wonder at and stands

exhibiting everything one could possibly need in any style of garden! And of course, thousands of beautiful plants to buy quite a few of which found themselves on a journey to Overton where I trust they are all flourishing despite the dry weather!



Our July Outing to Bletchley Park

We set off bright and early in two coaches from Overton Community Centre and arrived at Bletchley in good time.



The weather was perfect and the site and exhibitions were well organised. Some of the party took advantage of the free tours that lasted an hour and gave an excellent overview of the site, its development during the war and the important role of women in the work there especially on decoding intercepted messages.



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In the main house a series of rooms were set up as wartime offices and it was interesting to find out about the leisure activities that were on offer to the workforce and the security measures taken to protect the site.

This notice amused me as I wondered how many of our party were untouchable!



Many thanks to Sue Carter for organising this visit that went off without a hitch!

Contributions for the Newsletter

PLEASE! If you are a group -coordinator or attend a group it would be great if you could submit an article about your group’s activities to Lizzie Lewis: Newsletter Editor: Email lizbettlewis@outlook.com



Overton and District U3A Information Day

We hope that you have been thinking about how your groups could contribute to the information day to celebrate our 10th birthday. We have heard of some exciting

things that are being discussed and the committee will now be concentrating on organizing this event. So, if you have not thought up anything yet and would like some guidance at this stage please contact a committee member and we will try to put forward some suggestions for you to consider.

This is an opportunity to let our local community know more about us. Our U3A is flourishing but it will only continue to do so if we seek out new members.

Time to renew your subscription

You have recently received an email with the renewal form attached. Please complete it as asked and then you will be able to collect your membership card and Group Directory at our monthly meeting in September.

September Meeting

Wednesday 19th September 2018

10.00am St Mary’s Hall

The title of our first talk is ‘**An Extraordinary Life**’ by one of our members **Charles Cardiff**.

The new committee look forward to seeing you in September and until then wish you a very happy August.



Monthly Talks Overton and District U3A 2018-2019

DATE	TIME	VENUE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
Wednesday 19 th September 2018	10.00am	St Mary's Hall, Overton	An Extraordinary Life	Charles Cardiff
Wednesday 17 th October 2018	10.00am	St Mary's Hall, Overton	The Silver Thread	Elizabeth Gowing
Wednesday 21 st November 2018	10.00am	St Mary's Hall, Overton	Behind You and Backstage Antics	Tony Harris
Wednesday 19 th December 2018	10.00am	St Mary's Hall, Overton	All Things British	Susan Howe
Wednesday 16 th January 2019	10.00am	St Mary's Hall, Overton	New England in the Fall	Paul Whittle
Wednesday 20 th February 2019	10.00am	St Mary's Hall, Overton	The Plight of the Bumble Bee	Dr. Nikki Gammans
Wednesday 20 th March 2019	10.00am	St Mary's Hall, Overton	You the Jury	Peter Thompson
Wednesday 17 th April 2019	10.00am	St Mary's Hall, Overton	Cardinal Richelieu	Brian Freedland
Wednesday 15 th May 2019	10.00am	St Mary's Hall, Overton	Churches Conservation Trust – Hampshire Churches	Dr Francis Hurd
Wednesday 19 th June 2019	10.00am	St Mary's Hall, Overton	AGM and Ming Dynasty & Admiral Zheng He	Roger Shaw

Extra-Curricular Talks Overton and District U3A 2018-2019

DATE	TIME	VENUE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
Monday 5 th November 2018	2.00pm	St Mary's Hall, Overton	A Family Tribute to a Fallen Soldier	Geoff Davies
Monday 4 th February 2019	2.00pm	St Mary's Hall, Overton	Britain on Film on Film Coast	Materials supplied by U3A
Monday 29 th April 2019	2.00pm	St Mary's Hall, Overton	Partnership West Africa	Sandy Craig