

Overton and District Newsletter 12

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2018 which we hope you will find interesting and helpful. We start with a roundup of the talks since the last newsletter and the wonderful performance in December by the *Choral Speaking Group led by Jill O'Hare* entitled.

'The Elements - that we all live with'

This included a selection of readings, prose and poetry as well as plays and a sing-a-long, with well-known favourites such as 'My Old



Man's a Dustman', 'Tea for Two' and 'Lambeth Walk'. The event was well attended and the

audience joined in the singing enthusiastically and appreciated the polished performance given by the group and were alternatively moved, interested and amused by the items presented.



The performance was followed with tea and cakes in exchange for a donation to the Kingfisher Day

Centre, the charity nominated by the group so raising £80.



Sue Carter, our chair, presented Jill O'Hare, with a gift to thank her for her enthusiasm and hard work while group leader.

MONTHLY TALKS

December



Sarah Lenton gave the

talk 'Christmas at Covent Garden: 300 years of Christmas shows at one of London's greatest theatres'. Sarah was an excellent speaker and we were enthralled when she explained how the theatre had been remodeled over the centuries. We were fascinated to hear how the Christmas tree in the Nutcracker is assembled in three interlocking sections under the stage and then pushed upwards to make a very tall tree and a magnificent sight.



After the talk members had a pleasant time socialising over mulled wine, coffee, mince pies and stollen. Terry and Freda Robinson were thanked and presented with a voucher for their commitment to making and serving the refreshments each month.



January- Roger Shaw

The Oregon Trail Roger lived in America for seven years, studied the history of the Oregon Trail and drove the entire route with his wife. Pioneers travelling across America to make a new life were likely to be killed by cholera rather than attacked by native tribes. They were encouraged to go west as the east coast was swamped



by European immigrants. This talk was very much enjoyed by members as Roger's talk was

informative, well delivered and entertaining!

February We were very grateful to Steven Barratt who replaced the advertised speaker Lydia Bauman. The topic remained the same **Domestic Scenes in Art**. Steven is an art expert in his own right and has worked closely with Lydia. The talk was full of knowledge and well-illustrated as we were shown works by various artists through the ages showing how domestic scenes were portrayed in different ways. Steven showed us 'A Young Lady Seated at a Virginal' by Vermeer and said that there were two versions often referred to as one in the 'light' and the one in the 'dark'. He showed us the one in the 'light' and by an amazing coincidence Valda Stevens saw and bought a jigsaw puzzle of the painting we are assuming is in the 'dark' in the hospice shop! I am currently attempting to do it and if all the pieces are there we suggesting that members

may like to borrow it. However, it is quite tricky and I have only done a quarter in 3 weeks! Watch this space!!



March Fran Sandham's talk 'Dr. Livingstone I Presume' was fascinating, well delivered and illustrated and received very positively by members. Fran talked about Dr. Livingstone's explorations in Africa, the difficulties he encountered and suffered, and the uttering of this famous quote by the explorer Henry Morton Stanley in 1871, when he eventually found Livingstone who he had been desperately searching for.



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

Your Newsletter will be more interesting if it has articles from a wider range of groups.



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Currently the editor writes most of the reports and regrets that she does not, unfortunately, have enough time to attend all the groups!!!

The editor is happy to receive a rough copy or if you prefer you can talk to her on the phone 07858465901 and she will write the article. *Please note the editor reserves the right to make appropriate changes to submitted copy.*

National Newsletter -U3A Matters

The committee are aware that our U3A has never submitted an article for this publication and decided that it is time we did! We were very proud of our U3A banner so expertly produced by the Craft Group, so we have arranged to have some photographs taken by our camera expert Ian McEvoy and group members will produce the article. We would be delighted to hear from any other groups who think they have something that would be of interest to members nationally.

SOMETHING to THINK ABOUT We know that many of our members have lived fascinating lives, held interesting and challenging jobs, have a skill, talent, interest or hobby that our members would be interested to hear about. We were wondering if some members would be prepared to share these experiences or interests at a monthly meeting? We are envisaging a short presentation, no more than twenty minutes, and would like to hold a list of members prepared to do this, possibly at short notice, in case a planned speaker is unable to come, usually through illness. If you feel that you could help us in this way our meetings Co-Ordinator, Margaret Aldgate, would love to hear from you. Email: margaretaldgate@gmail.com Tel 01256 279157

Overton and District U3A Information

Day Last year Valda and Lizzie attended an event put on by Aldershot U3A. Groups provided a short talk, entertainment or display. We joined in a sing-a-long with music provided by the recently formed ukulele group, listened to a play reading and a brief science and music appreciation lectures to mention but a few of the items. There were also displays from craft, art and pottery groups. With your help we are hoping to plan a similar day or half day, but on a much smaller scale as we are a much smaller U3A! At this stage we would like each group to consider if there is a way in which they could contribute to such an event, and if so the committee would love to hear from you.

This could be an opportunity to let our local community know more about us, as we are sure there are many people in our district who are not aware of our U3A and may benefit from taking part in one of our groups or enjoy attending a monthly meeting. Our U3A is flourishing but it will only continue to do so if we seek out new members.



It could also be an occasion to celebrate Overton and District's 10th anniversary. Yes, we will be 10 in September!

Feedback from Group Leaders

Meetings Firstly, thank you to Edith Willcocks for organizing these meetings and to the WI for the excellent cakes. The



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committee value these meetings as we want to know the highs, and possibly lows, experienced by the groups and are keen to support them through any difficulties they may have. It is good to have feedback on people's experiences of our U3A and we endeavour to address any problems that are identified. We also welcome the opportunity to show the Group Leaders our appreciation for all the hard work they do by providing tea and cake!

3 Months with our Walking Group In **December** we walked from Wergs Farm near Burgclere, into the Sydmonton estate, up the escarpment, along the ridge past ancient earthworks to Ladle Hill and down a gently sloping track back to the start – a total of 4.5 miles in 2 hours. We decided to give the planned lunch at the Royal Oak in Ecchinswell a miss as we were a little bedraggled due to the driving rain. Maybe we will try again in better weather in order to enjoy the great views.

In **January** the walk went from Overton along Southington Lane and over the rail track to the Harrow Way. At Jack Mills Lane a turn right took us in a loop back to the Harrow Way and to lunch at the Watership Down PH. Some of the group took the bus back to Overton while a few walked back through Freefolk, towards Laverstoke Grange Farm and finally past Whitehill Farm and Dellands back to the village. This was about 10 miles and the weather was much more favourable!



Our **February walk** took place on a fine day. We started at the Vine in Hannington going

through North Oakley, past Freemantle Farm along the Wayfarer's Walk, White Lane, Lynwood, Hay Wood, Warren Bottom Copse, English Wood, and Buckland's Pightle Copse back to the Vine for lunch. The vistas were a fine example of the beauty of this area and the lunch at the Vine was a great reward for the exercise. *Edith Willcocks*

Photo: Brigitte Tournier

Mah-Jong This is a Chinese game possibly dating back to Confucius, the great philosopher, or maybe the Ming Dynasty but more probably the Qing Dynasty, the last Imperial Dynasty of China. The first mention of the game was in the mid to late 1800s. It is an easy game to learn but it can become more complicated when 'special hands' are added to the basic hands but it is just a case of recognising the different bricks, four Seasons and four Flowers, red, white and green dragons, four each of the north, south, east and west winds and lots of Bamboos, Circles and characters with numbers on them.



Sounds complicated, well if you play cards Rummy is the nearest equivalent! None of the group is expert although some are more competitive! There is always time for a chat but if you lose concentration you may find your opponent has shouted 'mah-jong' and won the hand.



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We meet on Monday afternoons and there are twelve in the group but not everyone attends each Monday so one or two additional players would be welcome. We break for tea and biscuits, so why not come and have a try, possibly improve your brain and be as competitive or laid-back as you wish! *Adrienne Major*

For further information please contact Edith Willcocks 01256 770704 or email: jwillcocks704@tiscali.co.uk

Data Protection New data protection regulations come into force in May 2018. These require each member to give consent to the U3A obtaining, retaining and using their details. The joining / re-joining forms which will be circulated before the year-end will, therefore, have two clauses indicating your consent for use within the U3A and for the mailing of the Third Age magazine.

Fancy trying a new group?

If you would like to join or try out a new group please contact Edith Willcocks first to see whether there is enough space to accommodate you. Most meetings are held in member's homes and space is sometimes at a premium. If you are a member of a group and would like to 'bring a friend' please speak to your group leader first to see whether it is possible.

Cinema Outings - A new group to join others on occasional visits to the cinema to take advantage of the Silver Screen offer at the Odeon at the Leisure Park, or the Second Chance screenings at the Discovery Centre in Basingstoke town cent Contact Pat Bain for further information pat.bain@outlook.com 01256 771433

REMINDER

AGM 20th June

NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Your U3A NEEDS **YOU!**

We cannot stress enough the importance of members putting themselves forward to serve on committee. As a committee member, you will be part of team that is strongly focussed on further developing our U3A. You already enjoy the privileges that membership brings so perhaps now is the time for you to ensure that other and new members have the same opportunities in the future.

Ideally, we would like more men on the committee and members from Oakley, Kingsclere and Whitchurch to reflect the balance of membership within our group, but most importantly we want a full complement

The nomination forms will be available at the April monthly meeting and will also be emailed to members. You are in serious danger of losing your U3A unless members are prepared to do their 'bit' by serving time on the committee. The nomination forms need to be completed and submitted at the May monthly meeting or by 16th May by hand / post. Details for completion will be on the nomination form.