



NEWSLETTER

December 2011

This month's meeting is our 5th birthday / Christmas celebration on Tuesday 20th December

Our monthly meetings take place in Kibworth Grammar School Hall, on the third Tuesday of the month, 1.45 - 3.45 p.m.

Forthcoming meetings for your diaries include

January 18th	Music and Poetry	Tilley and Peter Yates
February 21st	Soliciting in the High St	John Tillotson
March 20th	Bell Ringing – An English Art	Andrew Young

Thursford and the Magic of Christmas

“The day was bright and the roads clear, thus a good beginning to our outing to Thursford. Variety was the name for the day, especially enjoyed, a little shopping, a bit more shopping and very professional and colourful entertainment. To end the day, a meal was enjoyed by all at The Crown at Gayton, which, once again pulled out all the stops for an excellent meal. A place to be recommended. Thank you all for your support.”

Gill Newnham



From our Chairman

This month's meeting is a very special one for us in Kibworth and District U3A. Not only is it a Christmas celebration but it is also our 5th Birthday!

Just over 5 years ago our founder, Frank Griffiths, held a meeting at his house with a view to founding a U3A branch in Kibworth and the surrounding districts. Enough of us were interested to try to make a go of it and, under the guidance of Mike Long from U3A HQ, we set about getting started. We elected a Steering Committee and organised our first public meeting. The response was most encouraging and soon we were up and running. We set up a permanent committee under the inspiring Chairmanship of Clive Huntley, organised a bank account, drafted a constitution and completed the many other administrative tasks needed to make us a fully fledged U3A branch.

Before long we had numerous flourishing groups with enthusiastic leaders and our membership numbers went from strength to strength. We've had several changes on our committee and all the newcomers have risen admirably to the task of filling their predecessors' shoes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Group Leaders for their hard work. Their organisational skills and enthusiasm are the backbone of our U3A and on behalf of all our members I would like to express our gratitude to them.

The first meeting of the New Year will see our AGM and the appointment of the new committee. At the time of writing I am pleased to say that we have almost sufficient new faces to replace those who are stepping down. If anyone is interested in being on the Committee please let one of us know as soon as possible. It seems that we will have approximately the required nominated number of potential committee members, thus alleviating the need for a vote.

We are always looking to increase our panel of "meeters and greeters" for the beginning of each monthly meeting. It's a very pleasant task, taking little time and is a good way of meeting new people and greeting old friends! If you are interested in helping with this task please see any member of the committee

Finally, I would like to wish all members a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Martin Crofts



K&D U3A Barn Dance

Please make a note in your new diaries that we are holding our first Barn Dance on Saturday 17th March at Kibworth Grammar School Hall. Tickets will first be offered to our U3A members and then later to other U3As. You can make up a group with non U3A friends or family, but we would prefer to avoid very young children. It will be a bring your own drink evening with a few nibbles on the table. As usual there will be a caller to instruct on the steps and half the fun is not being able to follow the steps, so don't worry if you do not know any barn dance routines. We want this to be a success so that we can organise more social events in the future. More information will follow in January.

Clive & Joyce Huntley 0116 2792528

Overdue subscriptions another reminder!

Our treasurer, Cliff (full contact details on page 10), tells me there are still a number of outstanding annual **subscriptions (£10 or £7.50 if you can provide proof that you are a paid up member of another U3A)** which were due by **31st October**. He would like to receive your monies as soon as possible. Should you submit your subscriptions by post please enclose a SAE.



From the Secretary

The Third Age Trust is holding the following:

U3A Explores Science at the Royal Institution

There will be a half-day meeting in London on Tuesday 27 March 2012 to discuss (1) Forensic Science, an overview; (2) Particle Accelerators now and in the future; and (3) Food production in a changing climate.

Summer School 1, 16-19 July 2012, at Harper Adams College Telford

Courses on:

- Cinema History – UK film during and after the Second World War
- Design Principles in Art
- France, contemporary
- History – England in the 19th century
- Music Appreciation
- Philosophy/Fiction – changing times in 1961
- Poetry – three priest/poets
- Recorder Ensemble playing
- Writing Fiction

Summer School 2, 20-23 August 2012, at The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester

Courses on:

- Drama – Let's try comedy
- History – England and India
- Literature
- Needlepoint Lacemaking
- Philosophy, Greek
- Psychology – reality and imagination
- Singing for pleasure
- Website design – build

Further information and application forms available from Ros Holmes (full contact details on page 10). Early application is advisable.

News from Interest Groups

New Groups

Introduction to Family History

We have now had our first meeting and will arrange future meetings to suit the members. We looked at how to start a family tree, trace births, deaths and marriages on the freeBMD website and order copies of certificates. This is a small house group which is full at the moment but I would be happy to start another small group if anyone is interested.

Val Crofts

0116 279 2218

martin.crofts05@virgin.net

Flower Arranging Course

The next meeting will be on Monday 16th January 2012 at 7pm in St Wilfrid's Church Hall. Please bring materials to do your own choice of arrangement.

Joyce Huntley

0116 279 2528

clivejoyce@mypostoffice.co.uk

Spanish Conversation

K & D U3A is fortunate to have three successful language groups - French, German and Latin. The obvious omission is Spanish. Many people have holidays in Spain and more people now visit Latin America so I'm hoping there are others keen to practise and extend their conversational skills in what is a beautiful language. I know of one other person showing an interest. I have been studying Spanish for about two years and don't yet feel experienced enough to lead the group at the moment but having spoken to John Willcocks it doesn't seem too daunting.

Looking forward in anticipation of there being enough interest to form a group. Please contact me

John Parkinson

0116 279 3860

parkinson43@hotmail.com

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Existing Groups

Badminton

Due to falling numbers the badminton group is no longer viable and has therefore ceased meeting. I still have some equipment should anybody think about restarting this group. Many thanks to John, Barbara and Brian for your support to the end.

Clive Huntley

0116 279 2528

clivejoyce@mypostoffice.co.uk

(Duplicate) Bridge

We would like more players to come to our "easy going" Duplicate Bridge sessions, which take place every Wednesday in St Wilfrid's Church Hall. Start time 2 pm prompt. If you would like to come but do not have a partner please telephone me and I shall try to help.

John Ruddock

0116 279 2331

valruddock007@btinternet.com

Book Club

For further information please contact

Lin Rowland

0116 279 2535

lvrowland@hotmail.com



(Social) Bridge Group

This is a social bridge group where we try to learn something most weeks but our main aim is just to socialise and play rubber bridge. We welcome players of all levels and will help players from many years ago to update to ACOL bridge and help learners to improve.

We play Chicago about once a month.
We play in the Lounge at the Grammar School Hall every Thursday 2.30 to 4.30 pm. Plenty of car parking

Note NO BRIDGE ON 29th December
No bridge at the Grammar School Hall on the 19th January because we are having our bridge lunch at the Market Harborough Golf Club.

Also on the 5th January we are in the main hall because of carpet cleaning in the Lounge

Clive & Joyce Huntley **0116 279 2528**
clivejoyce@mypostoffice.co.uk

Bridge Tip of the Month

EIGHT EVER, NINE NEVER

What does this mean?

If you have 8 cards in a suit between your hand and dummy and you are missing the Queen, you should usually finesse against the Queen. When you have 9 cards between the hands, you should play the Ace and King instead hoping for the Queen to drop. So the first phrase means 8 total (missing the Queen) always finesse. If you have 9 never finesse as the odds are that the Queen will drop.

Calligraphy

We will resume in the New Year by writing Gothic hand. Dates of forthcoming meetings: 10 and 24 January, 2 - 4pm.

Ros Holmes **0116 279 6010**
ros@holmeoak.co.uk

Computer Club

Unfortunately the start of the **Improvers Course** has been delayed because I went down with 'Man Flu' (my wife says it's just a cold!) The course was full and I will contact those interested when I feel fit enough to resume.

Computer Club will not run again until February as I am on holiday on the 4th Tuesday in January. In the meantime if you have any PC problems please contact me - I

may be able to help.

Happy Christmas to All.

Keith Holyoake **0116 279 2079**
kbholyake@aol.com

Clive Huntley **0116 279 2528**
clivejoyce@mypostoffice.co.uk

Concert Band

By the time you read this you will know, from our Christmas show, exactly what the Concert Band have been working on lately. At the moment its quite difficult playing because all of our fingers are still crossed! In the New Year we will meet on the 9th and 23rd of January at 3.30 pm as usual. The first meeting will be at Barbara's house. All instruments and abilities are welcome just call or email for details

Barbara Hooley **0116 279 6458**
barbara.hooley@btinternet.com



Clarinets for the Concert Band??

Would the person who spoke to Barbara Hooley at the open afternoon about clarinets that they possibly wished to donate please make themselves known to her or any member of the committee at this month's meeting to discuss this further .

Craft Group

We meet in the Methodist Church rooms every other Tuesday. The U3A general meetings always take priority. We have tea and biscuits and engage in various craft-type activities, for example, sewing and knitting but you are free to choose your craft. We contribute £2 towards the cost of the room and we stop for tea and biscuits. We exchange ideas and patterns etc. This is an excellent place to come and unwind

(or not if you are knitting) Ha! This is an ideal group if you wish to source wool, thread or such like or wish to chat to like-minded people whilst creating your own particular work of art. Our thanks to Roger who helps to organise the room. The date for our next meeting is 10th Jan 2012. Future dates will be posted in the next newsletter as soon as they have been confirmed. Wishing all members a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

For more information contact

Liz Greenhalgh 0116 240 2545

chumbaz@hotmail.co.uk

French Conversation

This is a group for people who know enough French to take part in ordinary conversations and would like the opportunity to do so more often. We meet on the first and third Thursday morning of each month between ten-thirty and midday. For details of the next meeting please ring.

John Willcocks 0116 279 1085

Gardening

Vicki Tuffin set the scene for our Christmas Meeting showing us how to create beautiful table decorations which she kindly donated as raffle prizes. We enjoyed a festive tea before Mary Franks tested our gardening prowess with her popular brain teasing quiz. Closely contested, Joan Fillingham won first prize with Sheila Jones and Ros Ousey sharing second place after three tie-break questions!

We are not meeting in December as it's so close to Christmas, but will reconvene on **25 January** at 2.30pm in Kibworth Grammar School, when Gill Hadland, will be regaling us with her experiences of becoming Runner Up in the BBC's Gardener of the Year 2009 Award. Meantime Mary and I would like to thank you for all your support during the year and wish you a very Happy Christmas and great gardening in 2012.

Gail Goldie 0116 279 6882

gail.goldie@btinternet.com

Mary Franks 0116 279 3110

franksdrama@tiscali.co.uk

German Conversation

We meet in members' houses on the second and fourth Wednesday in the month for informal chat on whatever subject occurs at the time. This group is now full.

Elizabeth Willcocks 0116 279 1085

Guitar Circle



The Guitar Circle currently meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons of the month. John Hooley leads the sessions. Recently we have been working on 'All I have to do is dream', 'A Stone for Bessie Smith', 'Merry Christmas Everybody', 'Wildwood Flower' and a 'Waltz in C' by the 19th century guitar composer, Ferdinando Carulli. Prospective new members are welcome at any time to attend a trial session. Please contact me if you are interested.

Trish Hunt 0116 279 2136

trishhunt@btinternet.com

Investment Club

Our main aim is to buy and sell stocks and shares with a social side to the experience.. We have now reached our maximum number so sadly we cannot take any new members at this time. Please contact me if you want to be placed on a waiting list.

Clive Huntley 0116 279 2528

clivejoyce@mypostoffice.co.uk

Latin for Beginners

The Latin Group has just had a few weeks of revision the result of which has been very encouraging and we now look forward to further exploration and revelation of the rule of the Roman dynasty when we next meet in January. We wish success to all other groups in K & D U3A.

Norman Hallett 0116 279 2659
hallett379@btinternet.com

Line Dancing

Every Monday afternoon at 2pm in St Wilfrids Church Hall. Come along and take a look at the fun we have! Although some of us have been dancing for 5 years now, we are always happy to welcome and encourage beginners to the group. Our last dance of 2011 will be on Monday 19th December returning in the New Year on Jan 9th.

Val Crofts 0116 279 2218
martin.croft05@virgin.net

Luncheon Club

On Wednesday January 11th we plan to eat at The Swan in Kibworth. New members are welcome to join us but please book a place and order your food by contacting:-

Gill Newnham 0116 279 2928
Beryl Tory 0116 279 2184
Pam Moody 0116 279 2817

Music Appreciation

We are a friendly little house group, who all share an interest in varying types of music. We meet twice monthly to play and discuss music of a chosen subject. Recent selections have included music about the weather, food and drink and moods and joy. Future subjects will feature locations and a seasonal meeting. Unfortunately, this group is full at present but if you are interested please contact me. If there are enough people who show an interest, there may be scope for a second group.

Martin Crofts 0116 279 2218
martin.crofts05@virgin.net

Painting

We meet in the Methodist Church rooms every other Friday afternoon from 2 until 4pm. Tea and biscuits are provided and we contribute £2



towards the room. All are welcome. We learn from one another and enjoy conversations about art. This is also an excellent place to find out about forthcoming

Art and Craft events. We have room for one or two more people. Our thanks to Roger Garrett who helps to organise the room. Our first meeting in 2012 is 6th. Jan. Future dates will be posted in the next newsletter as soon as they have been confirmed. May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. For more information contact

Liz Greenhalgh 0116 240 2545
chumbaz@hotmail.co.uk

Play Reading

The Play Readers meet in the evening on the second Thursday in the month. Our next read, "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" by John Bishop, transports us to an isolated mansion in Chappaqua, New York, a blizzard is raging outside and the "Stage Door Slasher" is on the prowl.

Rosanne Lane 0116 279 2727
rosanneplane@talktalk.net

Poetry

We meet on the first Wednesday morning of the month to look at the life and work of poets chosen by the members. At our December meeting we enjoyed a drink and buffet lunch accompanied by poems with a wintry theme. Our 2012 programme starts with the life and works of Cecil Day-Lewis.

Val Crofts 0116 279 2218
martin.crofts05@virgin.net

Singing for Pleasure

Ella Fitzgerald once said, "The only thing better than singing is more singing". It's great for the body and makes you feel happy". The Singing for Pleasure group certainly agree with this and welcome anyone who would like to have fun singing to join us. We sing a great variety of songs ably led by Faye Stringer. We meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month from 10 - 11.30am. in St Wilfrid's Hall.

Meriel Godfrey **0116 259 8589**
meriel@briangodfrey2.wanadoo.co.uk

Sketch Club

A group where people who enjoy sketching can share their interest and gain support and encouragement from fellow enthusiasts. Meetings are on the second and fourth Friday morning of each month between ten-thirty and midday. Just ring if you would like details of the next meeting.

John Willcocks **0116 279 1085**

Swimming (with Great Glen U3A)

Wednesdays 14.15-15.15 Cost £2
Venue Leicester Grammar School
Swimming Pool

New members are always welcome. It is a condition of the Grammar School that all swimmers are members of Great Glen U3A. To find out how to join please ring **David Brooke** on **0116 259 2520**. You do not need to be a serious swimmer to join us. We have a wide variety of abilities from those who rapidly swim many lengths each week to those who just enjoy a splash around and a chat. All appreciate the excellent facilities at the Grammar School. Please contact David Brooke before coming for the first time.

David Brooke **0116 259 2520**

Table Tennis

We meet every Friday 2.30 to 4.30 pm at the Kibworth Scout Hut. We welcome all levels of players from good players to people who have

never played before or who have not played since school and who want to get some



exercise, socialise and learn to play or improve table tennis. We have a break half way through

for tea and biscuits and put the world to rights. We have some spare bats so why not come along and give it a try. Just turn up at the scout hut at 2.30 pm Fridays

NO TABLE TENNIS on the 23rd and 30th December. Start again on the 6th January 2012.

Clive Huntley **0116 279 2528**
clivejoyce@mypostoffice.co.uk
John Smith **0116 279 2129**

T'ai Chi

We return after the Christmas break on Tuesday 17th January 2012. T'ai Chi is a gentle form of exercise, which yields benefits from the early stages. All you need are comfortable shoes and clothing. We meet at Kibworth Village Hall from 11.30 am -1 pm. We are fortunate to have a very experienced teacher. More information from:

Val Ruddock **0116 279 2331**
valruddock007@btinternet.com

Walking Group

Our walks at Keyham and Billesdon were well attended and enjoyed by all, including some new members. The **Keyham** walk was memorable for its flight of new stiles, a look inside the church and an excellent lunch. The one at **Billesdon** took us over ground that we have not trodden previously and was also followed by an excellent lunch. Both benefitted from good weather and we were able to admire the views.

A few of our new walk leaders will test a walk on Friday 13th January and our next group walks are scheduled for :

Friday January 6th 2012, at **Twyford** to be led by Alan and Marion Brown 0116 279 2559

lithops@onetel.com)

Friday 20th January, at **Kibworth and Smeeton**

to be led by

Su Coward and Jean Chapman 0116 279 3185
su.coward@btconnect.com)

Mike Bullows

mbugby@hotmail.co.uk

0116 259 8297

If you would like to join any of our groups, please contact the relevant leader

NEWSLETTER

Next deadline –Tuesday 10 January

Group Leaders – please email your entries to Barbara Pickering,
barbarapickering@gmail.com

If you have any pictures or tales of YOUR group that could be published in a future edition please send them to the above email address.

Our Newsletter

Copies of this this Newsletter will be available :

1. at the monthly meeting.
2. from either Kibworth or Fleckney libraries, shortly after the meeting.
3. by email if you have requested one (contact the secretary – details on page 10 - if you would like an emailed copy and don't forget to notify her of any change of email address)
4. if you can't get one by any of the above methods, the Secretary is willing to send out a copy by post on receipt of a large s.a.e. Please send your envelope to: Ros Holmes, 18 Main St, Kibworth, LE8 0NQ

This Newsletter will also be available
on line (and in colour!) at

www.kibworthu3a.org.uk/newsletterdec11

Take a look!

Useful contacts:

Chairman:	Martin Crofts	0116 279 2218	martin.crofts05@virgin.net
Vice-Chairman:	Anne Bailey	0116 279 2089	johnnandanneb@yahoo.co.uk
Newsletter Editor:	Barbara Pickering	0116 279 3590	barbarapickering@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Cliff Hollingsworth	0116 279 2025	annandcliff@btinternet.com
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Minutes Secretary:	Mike Barber	0116 279 0063	mike@barberdesign.co.uk
Speaker Finder:	Pam Moody	0116 279 2817	pmoody2@toucansurf.com
Publicity:	Gail Goldie	0116 279 6882	gail.goldie@btinternet.com
Group Co-ordinator:	Barbara Hooley	0116 279 6458	barbara.hooley@btinternet.com
Committee member:	Clive Huntley	0116 279 2528	clivejoyce@mypostoffice.co.uk

How to join K&DU3A

Joining could not be easier, provided that you are over 50 and no longer in full-time employment. Please contact our membership **secretary Cliff Hollingsworth, 20 Springfield Crescent, Kibworth, LE8 0LH Tel: 0116 279 2025** giving name, address and telephone number. Subscriptions: cheques payable to K&DU3A.

The national U3A magazine is sent out three times a year; to find out about what's going on in between times, see the website: www.u3a.org.uk for on-line courses and further information

News of spare places on a trip with Loughborough U3A

Loughborough U3A have places on their holiday to Kent 3rd to 7th September 2012 with proposed visits to Hever Castle, Chartwell, Sissinghurst, Dover Castle & others. Book by 20th January.

For further information please contact Helen Davison helen.davison1@ntlworld.com

OUTINGS

Maureen and I would like to thank all who have participated in the theatre visits and outings over the last year, especially how you have all been such good timekeepers.

The response to the outing to Bletchley Park has been extremely good. Details as follows:-
The date has been booked, coach and **Bletchley Park** for **Thursday 14th June 2012**.

The day will consist of: -

Tea/ coffee and biscuits on arrival followed by a tour of approx 1 hour 15 mins.

12.30pm – 1.30pm – Lunch Sandwich buffet with mixed leaf salad, and crisps with dips. Tea, coffee or soft drinks.

Afternoon tour at 1.30pm – 1 hour 30 mins, included also is the Colossus Rebuild and the Tunny Room. All members of the party are required to attend these 2 exhibits.

The afternoon ends with tea /coffee with chocolare brownies or chocolate muffins just before departure.

Time departure 9am and return from Bletchley approx 4.30pm. These times and meeting place for the coach will be confirmed at a later date.

This package for visiting all of the above are included in the price £22. The cost for the coach depends on the number in the party. The cost SHOULD not exceed £34

I would appreciate confirmation and a deposit of £10 per person by 30th January 2012

Theatre Visits

The tickets for **Calendar Girls** on Wednesday February 22nd have been booked and received by me

Little Theatre Gilbert & Sullivan **HMS Pinafore** March 5th £11

Kilworth House - Me and My Girl

Saturday Matinee June 23rd Tickets £22. Booking January/February.

Other possible visits

The outing to Crich Museum will NOT take place this year as Bletchley has been booked..

Anglesey Abbey Cambridgeshire and/or Cambridge City September
or

Hampton Court Palace. September

A list is available to add your name for any outing.

Further information available from

Gill Newnham

0116 279 2928

gillian.newnham@homecall.co.uk

Cheques preferred for all bookings made payable to **K & D U3A OUTINGS**

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PTO for Outings reply slip

KIBWORTH AND DISTRICT U3A – OUTINGS - REPLY SLIP

To: Gill Newnham, 6 Birdie Close, Kibworth, LE8 0PW

I wish to book _____ place(s) on the outing to _____
and enclose the sum of £ _____

Cheques should be made payable to: K&D 3A Outings

Name: _____ **Tel:** _____

Please print clearly

Address: _____

K & D U3A

More Thursford pictures

