



NEWSLETTER

December 2012



This month's meeting - Tuesday December 18th **Christmas Celebration**

To include entertainment from several of our own groups, raffle, quiz and festive nibbles

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

Next meeting for your diary

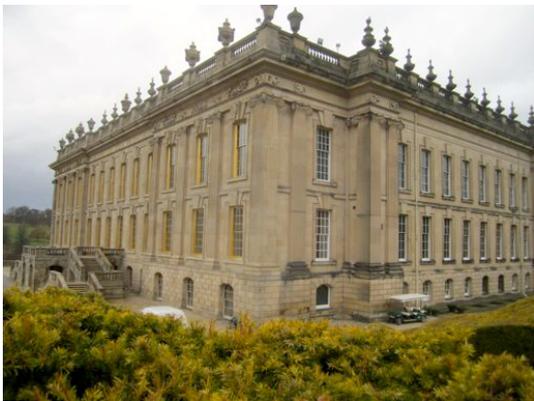
January 15th

'Art and Serendipity'

Peter Welton

Pictures from our U3A Outing to a Christmassy Chatsworth

Note Gill's comments on page 12



Chairman's Musings

Well Christmas is now very close. The shops seem to have had Christmas displays for at least a month and most of the Christmas lights have been on since Dec 1. I am sure that most male members wonder what all the fuss is about- well it's just like a long weekend isn't it? The ladies however despite the modern trend to share house tasks with their male partners still seem to do most of the Christmas prep. Present buying, card writing, food buying, Christmas cake and mince pie making is all a female prerogative in our house. I shop for a couple of presents and write about a dozen cards (usually at the last minute). Gill seems to do hundreds and starts in November! On line shopping has increased the male burden in our house - Gill likes to see what she is buying so I have to buy the "on line" things. At least I am in the warm and out of the crowds. I wonder sometimes whether the modern Christmas is enjoyed by our ladies. It seems to cause so much pressure. It's certainly made no easier by the TV superwomen (Nigella and Lorraine Pascal spring to mind) who seem to make gourmet cooking look easy and stress free. I would not like the clear up job in the kitchen when they have finished though. From my perspective I really enjoy Christmas week and the social gatherings leading up to it. But then they are my only involvement. Otherwise things seem quite normal.



So I hope all of you have a good Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2013. Thanks to you ladies who make our Christmas so pleasant.

U3A Matters

Time to reflect on the U3A year. After a really tragic start we had the distractions of the Jubilee at which our U3A participated in the Flower Festival, put on a Line Dancing event and had a marquee at the Kibworth Cricket Club. Seems a long time ago now but all the events went very well. I can hardly remember the Tour de France, the Olympics and the very eventful test series.

Fortunately our U3A continues to grow steadily. There are over 30 groups with several new groups (Zulu War, Digital Photo and Flower Arranging) starting this year. A massive thanks to all you Group Leaders without which the U3A would not exist.

The monthly meeting has attracted more than 90 members to each of the last three meetings and our social events are especially well attended.

I, as Chairman, feel particularly lucky to have such a competent and enthusiastic committee who continue to bring new ideas to the running of our U3A. Thank you all for your efforts. I am however a little concerned that we have not received any new nominations for the committee. Yet again we have more spaces than nominations. If you think you can bring new ideas to **YOUR** U3A please talk to one of the committee about joining us.

Happy Christmas
Keith



££££ A timely reminder from our Treasurer ££££

Cliff (full contact details on page 11) would like to remind members that K & D U3A annual **subscriptions (£10 or £7.50 if you can provide proof that you are a paid up member of another U3A)** were due by **31st October**. He would like to receive your monies as soon as possible and will be available at this month's meeting should you wish to pay then. If you submit your subscriptions by post please enclose a SAE

Note to all Group Leaders

Please can you ensure that all members of your group are up to date with their subscription payments.



Advance notice – Another Barn Dance

Following on from our successful barn dance in 2012, we will be using the same formula for our 2013 dance. So please make a note on your calendar for the barn dance on Saturday evening **16th March 2013**.

News from Interest Groups

Possible Groups – Update

Italian Conversation – There has been a suggestion that a number of people are interested in this subject. It would be an informal group who could practise/help each other with their Italian speaking skills. We still need a few more takers to make this possible. Anyone interested in this please contact me so I can ascertain the viability of this proposal.

David Porter

0116 279 3150

davidporter66@mypostoffice.co.uk

“Safari” Supper Group

The plan is that a group of people go to a local pub/restaurant on a weekday evening and enjoy a two/three course meal but move around to a pre-arranged plan for the different courses to enjoy good food and conversation.

Ideal for either a single person or a couple but please be prepared to mix as requested!

This could hopefully take place about once a month – any takers for January (that dull, dreary, long month)? We really need twelve to make it work – first come first serve. Please get in touch with

Stephen Poyzer

0116 279 3590

stephenpoyzer@gmail.com

Existing Groups

Anglo-Zulu War Study Group

Our new group continues to enjoy aspects of the Anglo-Zulu War. At our last meeting we watched Parts 1 and 2 of a video of the History Channel programme "Zulu Wars" and at our next meeting we will be watching Part 3 and a BBC 2 "Timewatch" programme of the true story of the AZW. We meet on the last Tuesday afternoon in the month. One of our ranks has been transferred to The Devon and Dorsets and thus we have a vacancy on the battalion strength. If anyone is interested in joining us on the ramparts, please give me a ring and I'll put you on active service duties!

Martin Crofts 0116 279 2218
martinandvalcrofts@hotmail.co.uk

Book Club

For further information please contact

Lin Rowland 0116 279 2535
lvrowland@hotmail.com



(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

(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.

I am afraid we have now reached maximum capacity for the room and tables and therefore cannot take any new members for the near future.

NO BRIDGE ON 27th DEC. Start again on Thursday 3rd Jan

Clive & Joyce Huntley 0116 279 2528
clive@huntley22.plus.com

Computer Club

Unfortunately the **Computer Club** is very short on members and after a run of nearly 3 years seems to have exhausted the interest of computer users! During this time we did 31 projects and had some very enjoyable sessions. Last month's project covered how to **keep your computer fast** but only attracted 4 people. If any of you want the club to continue or want a list of the topics covered please contact me. *If there is enough interest* the next session will be on **Tuesday 27th January** at the Kibworth Grammar School Hall starting 2pm finishing at 4pm. Cost is £3 per session. Prompt sheets, laptops and help are available.

If you have any project suggestions or want to repeat a previous project please phone me.

If you are interested in either a **Beginners or Improvers Course** please contact me. If 8 or more are interested I will run a course. Only three have so far expressed an interest.

U3A laptops will be available.

Keith Holyoake 0116 279 2079
kbholyoake@aol.com

Clive Huntley 0116 279 2528
clive@huntley22.plus.com

Concert Band

The Concert Band continues in festive mood. We have a new teacher who is keeping us all in good order. Our meetings have been well

attended and all present have shown a high level of commitment. We meet twice a month on a Monday at 2.00 pm. New players are very welcome!

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

Craft Group

This Group meets two Tuesdays in the month at 2-4 pm in the same venue as the Painting Group. We knit, sew and make various handicraft items. We stop for tea and biscuits and contribute £2 towards the proceedings. We learn from one another and enjoy a social chat. You will be made most welcome. Thanks to Roger Garrett for his help. For details contact me!

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

Digital Photography

We have now covered the basics of digital photography and explored Picasa as a photo editing programme and have 18 members. At the last session the members brought in some of their pictures and we discussed these in the group. The last session was on Monday 17th Dec at the Kibworth Grammar School Hall from 10am finishing at 12noon. We will review the course to date before starting on the more powerful GIMP photo editor in the new year. New members and those on holiday for the first sessions are very welcome



Bring your camera and laptop if you have one. Glen Tillyard sometimes comes along as a "helper" and offers some very useful advice on how to get the best results from our cameras -

Glen runs courses professionally and is a freelance photographer.

If you are interested contact me. Cost will now be £2 per session.

Happy Christmas to all the members. I look forward to seeing your pictures in the new year.

Keith Holyoake 0116 279 2079
kbholyoake@aol.com

Introduction to Family History

A new group is now up and running and we would welcome a few new people to the group. We meet once a month on the 2nd Wednesday morning.

Val Crofts 0116 279 2218
martinandvalcrofts@hotmail.co.uk

Flower Arranging



The first session of the **Flower Arranging** group took place on Tuesday 4th December at the Kibworth Grammar School Hall and was attended by 17 very enthusiastic ladies! They were treated to a demonstration of how to construct a Christmas table decoration by Gill Holyoake, before using their creative talents to produce their own, with help, if needed, from the more experienced arrangers. There was a good mix of talents and even those new to the art seemed to have a great time in a good social atmosphere with the added bonus of making some excellent table centres. The next session will be on Tuesday February 5th, 2pm till 4pm at the same venue. If you are interested please give either Gill or Pam a ring.

Pam O'Sullivan 0116 2403541
pamela.osullivan@btinternet.com
Gill Holyoake 0116 279 2079

French Conversation

In this group nothing much goes on. In the nostalgic words of Deanna Durbin, it's foolish but it's fun.

All we do is arrive, say hello (in French if we're on our best behaviour) and then just sit around talking in French to each other about whatever comes into our heads – which is usually nothing of any great pith or moment. For example, at our last meeting there was quite an animated discussion - lasting all of a minute and a half - on whether anybody still manufactures the scouring powder Vim and if so where it might be possible to get some.

We may not have ended up finding out where we could buy Vim but at least those of us who were paying attention learned the French for scouring powder. Then again, you might argue that if you can't buy it anywhere there's not much point in learning the French for it.

Anyway, we meet on the first and third Thursday morning of each month. If you'd like to give us a try and if you know at least enough French to muddle through in a conversation, you'd be very welcome to join us. Just ring for details of the next meeting.

John Willcocks

0116 279 1085

Gardening



Alison Picken set the festive tone for our Christmas Meeting creating three beautiful table decorations, which she kindly donated as raffle prizes. Especial thanks to Joan Fillingham for providing her delicious cakes and mince pies and to Barbara Pickering, Stephen Poyzer, Nicola

and David Porter, Joyce and Clive Huntley and Gassia Paloulin for helping to make the afternoon such a success. I thought the picture quiz would be testing – how wrong I was - and apologies for underestimating your profound plant knowledge! Congratulations to Dorothy Bullough, who won 1st prize with her outstanding score of 19 out of 20.

Mary and I would like to re-iterate our thanks for your support this year and hope you will be able to join us during our 2013 Programme. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday 30 January at 2.30pm in KGS when Chris Etherington will be regaling us with tales of 'The Development & Successes of Market Harborough in Bloom'. Meantime, we wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

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 Wednesdays in the month. We don't do translation or exercises in grammar. All we do is chat informally on things that interest and entertain.

Elizabeth Willcocks **0116 279 1085**

Guitar Circle

The Guitar Circle now usually meets on Wednesday mornings at 10 am. John Hooley leads the sessions in which we play a mixture of folk, rock, blues etc. If you are interested in joining us, please give me a ring.

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 our waiting list.

Clive Huntley **0116 279 2528**

clive@huntley22.plus.com

John Thorpe **0116 2402236**

Latin for Beginners

Our revision of Book One of the Cambridge Latin Course is now drawing to a close. The second study of the initial book has proved very helpful and we now plan to renew our acquaintance again with the second book in the series. It is worth mentioning that our knowledge of Latin has previously been quite limited but we derive pleasure from the many discussions we have about the grammar, history and the occasional unbelievable behaviour of the Romans two thousand years ago!

Norman Hallett 0116 279 2659
hallett379@btinternet.com

Line Dancing

We meet in the Scout Hut on Mondays at 2pm. At the moment we are unable to fit any new members in the hall.

Val Crofts 0116 279 2218
martinandvalcrofts@hotmail.co.uk

Luncheon Club

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday January 9th at the Old Swan in Kibworth. Please let Gill have your menu choice by Friday January 4th. We assemble at 12 noon, ready to eat at 12.30pm.

Gill Newnham 0116 279 2928
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 on the first Thursday afternoon in the month to play and discuss music of a chosen subject. Recently we have featured seasonal, but little heard music and at our next meeting we will be playing musical oddities. If anyone is interested in joining us please give me a ring.

Martin Crofts 0116 279 2218
martinandvalcrofts@hotmail.co.uk

Painting

The Group continues to thrive. We meet every other Friday afternoon in the Methodist Church Rooms at 2-4. We contribute £2 towards the cost of the venue and tea and biscuits. Our mini exhibition went well and several people asked about joining the group. We have room for two

more people. Do not worry if you think that you cannot paint etc. everyone is welcome and we all help one another. We do not have a teacher and it is not a competition, just fun. Thanks to Roger for his input and organisation For details contact me

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

Play Reading

The Group meet on the second Thursday evening in the month and is full to capacity at the moment. Our next read is Post Horn Gallop, a farce by Derek Benfield.

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. This is a house group and therefore numbers are limited and the current members have been meeting for at least 5 years! This month we all read a selection of our favourite poems followed by a buffet lunch.

Val Crofts 0116 279 2218
martinandvalcrofts@hotmail.co.uk

Reindeer Rap

Chimneys: colder,
Flightpaths: busier.
Driver: Christmas (F)
still baffled by postcodes.

Children: more
and stay up later.
Presents: heavier.
Pay: frozen.

Mission in spite
of all this
Accomplished.

U A Fanthorpe

Singing for Pleasure

The group continue to have fun with a wide range of songs. During the past month we have been reviewing and adding to our seasonal repertoire ready for the U3A Christmas meeting. We meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at St Wilfrid' Church Hall in Kibworth at 10am to 11.30am
If you think that your vocal chords need exercising in the New Year contact either.

Carol Baker 0116 279 2956

cbaker100@talktalk.net

Meriel Godfrey 0116 259 8589

merielgodfrey1@gmail.com

Sketch Club



For some people the nightmare problem with a sketching group is that if you're going to do it in a group there's really no chance you'll ever stop the others from seeing your sketches – and if your sketches turn out to be rubbish you'll just be a figure of fun.

Well, that's only a problem if you make it one. Sketching is a particular kind of drawing and it's certainly not a competition. Above all, sketches are sketchy. They're generally done quickly and quite often left unfinished. They're definitely spur of the moment stuff.

You can guarantee many of the other people's sketches in your group will not be at all what they were wanting or expecting, but they may not mind that at all. It's the act of drawing that gives the buzz, and having a good hard look at

the finished work afterwards is just the way you improve your game.

If you've been toying with the idea of taking up sketching, the New Year might be just the time to give it a go. We meet on the second and fourth Friday morning of each month. If you think you might be interested in coming to one of our meetings just ring for more details.

John Willcocks 0116 279 1085

Table Tennis

We meet every Friday at the Kibworth Scout Hut, 2.30 - 4.30 pm. 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.

Remember our Christmas lunch is on the 18th January at the Grange Farm Oadby.

NO TABLE TENNIS ON 28th DEC Start again on Friday 4th Jan

Clive Huntley 0116 279 2528

clive@huntley22.plus.com

John Smith 0116 279 2129

T'ai Chi

We are taking a break over Christmas and re start on Tuesday 8th January 2013. We meet in the Village Hall between 11.30a.m. and 1p.m. T'ai Chi is a very gentle form of exercise with many benefits. All you need is comfortable clothing and shoes. Our instructor is very experienced. If you would like to know more please contact :-

Val Ruddock 0116 279 2331

valruddock007@btinternet.com

Walking

Friday 16th November found us on a damp cool morning at the Kings Head in Smeeton Westerby. From there David led us along bridle paths and footpaths towards Fleckney

and back. This time we walked through the Millenium Wood and noted its continued growth and enquired about the name of a small tree with striking red berries. This was yet another walk done in rainless weather enjoyed by a sizeable group. This one included some wading challenges at a couple of stiles. Twenty four members took lunch together and heard a summary of the year's activities. They were asked to render up a new Deputy Group Leader to assist Mike. For the time being Alan will continue in that role assisted by Keith.

30th November was a fifth Friday and it was a clear frosty morning. Alan and Marion took fourteen of us on paths around Swithland with some extensive views. One highlight was a chance encounter with a group of men with guns and dogs who were shooting for the pot. Lunch at the Griffin was excellent and served with panache, so that four of our group were able to leave sufficiently quickly to continue their walk



in the afternoon by exploring Old John.

7th December found us at the Rose and Crown, Tilton on the Hill for our Xmas lunch. Despite warnings of significant snow, ice or rain, fifteen brave souls turned out for a shorter walk led by Stephen and Barbara. It turned out cold and sunny but conditions underfoot were indeed icy but passable with care. Fifteen more joined us



for lunch. As previously, this was excellent and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Our next walks are on Fridays 21st December, 4th and 18th January.

On 21st December Mike

(mbtugby@hotmail.co.uk) will lead a longer walk of about 5 miles from the **Fox and Hounds at Tugby**. This walk uses a lot of road and gravelled tracks and so hopefully will take place mostly on dry land. Boots highly recommended.

On 4th January, Stephen Poyzer

(stephenpoyzer@gmail.com) will lead a road walk near **Billesdon**. Further information about this walk and the one on 18th January will be available in due course. If you intend to join any of our walks or need further information about them please contact the walk leader or, if you want to know more about what we do, please contact Mike or Alan. New members are always welcome. Car sharing can be arranged if needed.

Photos taken during our walks can be seen on the Kibworth and District U3A website.

Mike Bullows 0116 259 8297

mbtugby@hotmail.co.uk

Alan Brown 0116 279 2559

lithops@onetel.com

Keith Holyoake 0116 279 2079

kbholyoake@aol.com

Winter Village Wanders

As readers will have observed from last month's newsletter this small fledgling group is now underway. From little acorns.....

We have wandered already around Burton Overy and by the time you read this will have ambled in mid-December along the Millennium Mile in Market Harborough before taking refreshments on a cold Sunday afternoon in a well known hostelry in the town.

We have planned for further perambulations around Lubenham (Sunday 13 January) and Husbands Bosworth (Sunday 10 February). They are not strenuous as we cover a 'generous' 2 miles or so in about an hour and a half.

Designed to get those who feel the walking group might be too ambitious or for anyone trying to get some exercise on a Sunday that doesn't require reaching for the remote control!

at 2pm in Kibworth Grammar School Hall car park so we can arrange shared transport.

For further information contact

Stephen Poyzer 0116 279 3590

stephenpoyzer@gmail.com

If interested just meet on the designated Sunday

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



***Wishing you all a
Very Happy Christmas
and a
Joyfully U3A-rich 2013!***

This Newsletter is now available online (and with colour pictures!) at
www.kibworthu3a.org.uk/newsletterdecember12

NEWSLETTER

Next deadline – Tuesday 8th January

Group Leaders – please email your entries to our new email address:

newsletter@kibworthu3a.org.uk

If you have any photos (preferably over 1MB) or stories of your group's activities that could be published in a future edition please send them to the above email address. Thank you.

How to obtain a copy of this Newsletter

Copies of this Newsletter are available :

1. at the monthly meeting.
2. from either Kibworth or Fleckney libraries, shortly after the meeting.
3. by email I now send a copy of the Newsletter to every email address which we hold on our records.

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: Christine Lea, 12 Beaker Close, Smeeton Westerby, LE8 0RT

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. Alternatively ring our *new mobile telephone number* **074 076 10888** and leave your name and telephone number and someone will call you back as soon as possible

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.

Useful contacts:

Chairman:	Keith Holyoake	0116 279 2079	kbholyoake@aol.com
Vice-Chairman and			
Group Co-ordinator:	David Porter	0116 279 3150	davidporter66@mypostoffice.co.uk
Newsletter Editor:	Barbara Pickering	0116 279 3590	barbarapickering@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Cliff Hollingsworth	0116 279 2025	annandcliff@btinternet.com
Secretary:	Christine Lea	0116 279 0009	jlea294@btinternet.com
Minutes Secretary:	Ian Hearn	0116 240 3357	ian.hearn@btopenworld.com
Speaker Co-ordinator:	Pam Moody	0116 279 2817	pmoody2@toucansurf.com
Publicity:	Gail Goldie	0116 279 6882	gail.goldie@btinternet.com
Committee member:	Clive Huntley	0116 279 2528	clive@huntley22.plus.com

Outings

Chatsworth House (see front page for pictures)

My thanks go to all who joined me on this great day out. As usual everyone was on time, it makes the organising so much easier and I do appreciate it. Happy Christmas to one and all.

The horrendous rain on the previous day made me wonder, how sodden the ground was going to be. But the day was fine, if rather chilly, and with matting on the grass, we all came home with relatively clean shoes.

The House was beautifully decorated, the theme being VILLIANS & DAMES and. of course, there were plenty of goodies to be bought as the full bags bore witness to, on the return journey home

Looking forward to 2013

Hello Dolly, Wednesday 9th January at 2.15pm at Curve - *don't forget!*

Gilbert & Sullivan's ***The Yeoman of the Guard*** at the

Little Theatre, Dover St. Leicester on **Monday 4th March at 7.30pm**

Tickets - £11. This will be a party booking, payment please by 30th January

Should any members wish to go on another evening I will be happy to book tickets at £13 each, payment when booking, please

My Fair Lady on **Saturday (matinee) 15th June 2013 at 2.30pm at Kilworth House -**

Twenty seats have been reserved/booked for this date - Tickets £24

As this is a priority booking, tickets are not required to be paid for until 19th February

For further information please contact

Gill Newnham	0116 279 2928	gillian.newnham@homecall.co.uk
Jean Chapman	0116 279 1544	mail@jeanchapman.me.uk

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 U3A Outings

Name: _____ Tel: _____

Please print clearly

Address: _____