



NEWSLETTER

May 2012



This month's meeting - Tuesday May 15th Our Spring Social

Come and enjoy a cream tea, chat and browse our stalls. Jams, marmalades and chutneys will be on sale. Please bring plants for the gardening stall and your unwanted CDs and books.

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:

June 19th	<i>My life as a Tiller Girl</i>	Margaret Hudson
July	<i>No Meeting</i>	
August 21st	<i>Apothecary calls</i>	Trevor Parr

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations coming up



Here are some of our U3A Flower Arranging Group who are working very hard with St Wifrids Flower Group. What a brilliant opening there will be to the Jubilee festivities in Kibworth when we can see the results of their efforts in the church on June 1st at the opening event at 7.00pm. *See more information on this on page 5 and other events on page 9.*

Chairman's Musings



A few weeks ago we were visited by my daughter and her fiancé and it was decided that we spend part of Saturday visiting Fosse Park. You may guess that this is not my favourite place but the girls were adamant so Si (the fiancé) and I decided that we would escape to Dixons and PC World and meet up for a cake and coffee at Druckers (which I do like!). So off we went to Dixons.

What a wonderland. Si wanted to see the new iPad and Apple TV both of which were totally amazing. I looked at the PCs Digital cameras, 3D TV's, iPods, smart phones etc etc and annoyed several assistants with inane questions about their sales items. I then wandered over to the now very small software and books section. Overall I was extremely impressed though a little disappointed by the knowledge of the staff and the clarity of some 3D TV's if you were not right in front of them. Suffice to say that had I won the lottery I would need a large van to bring home my purchases to my newly acquired mansion!

Then reality started to creep in and I thought of all the frustrating hours I would spend trying to use the new kit; at best from a "Pseudo English" manual or even more frustratingly from a CD or Online manual, only to forget how to use it in a matter of days. How many of the items would disappoint in what they actually did? The KINDLE sprang to mind. What a great concept until you realise downloads are usually more expensive than paperbacks, they don't sell downloads at charity shops, passing them on to friends is limited, you lose the joy of browsing in a book store and the million books you can download free you probably don't want to read. How many Kindles will be for holiday use only?

On the walk back to Druckers having made NO purchases Si and I talked about the effects of all this technology. Most of it was aimed at keeping us better informed or at least entertained which it does brilliantly but without exception it sought to move us from a social world into a virtual world. It dispenses with the need to talk to anyone face to face. Even sport is now an online activity. Comparing this online world with what I enjoy most in life i.e. social interaction, doing and making things and walking, acquisition of most of this technology would actually reduce my quality of life. Si, a smart phone and iPad user, was of similar opinion and limited his use of this kit to keep time for the real world. In contrast the U3A actually encourages me to do the things I enjoy at a fraction of the cost. Long live the U3A.

The coffee and cake at Druckers were wonderful!

Keith

Committee Matters

After the normal business of the Committee the issue of helpers for forthcoming events was raised. We need able bodied people to help erect a large gazebo and do other prep work for the Jubilee celebrations so, if you can help, on Monday 4th June please volunteer!

We would also welcome any help you could give in setting up for the monthly meetings (we start to set up at 1.15pm) **AND/OR** if you would like to attend a committee meeting to see whether it appeals you would be very welcome. It may well be a lot more enjoyable and less daunting than you think.

Please contact a Committee member.

Keith

News from Interest Groups

New Groups

Digital Photography

The start of the Digital Photography Club is unfortunately postponed until the Autumn as I simply do not have the time to prepare properly. 11 members were keen to join so if anyone else would like to lead the group I would gladly assist. If you could help please contact:

Keith Holyoake

0116 279 2079

kbholyoake@aol.com

Possible new group -Traditional Folk and Country Dancing

Since this group was proposed and included in the last newsletter, I've had some responses, but not yet enough to get the group going. This group will start with the very basic moves in Folk Dancing, progressing as we learn, so if you haven't danced before that won't be an issue, all will be welcome. Perhaps you've been to a Barn Dance and enjoyed it, if so then why not give this group a try. Come on your own or with a partner. Further details from

Paul St Clair

0116 279 2181

paul.stclair@mypostoffice.co.uk

Possible new group – Spanish Conversation

Since this was last proposed in January there have been a few more enquiries – so if you are interested in joining a group to practise with/learn from each other please contact

John Parkinson

0116 279 3860

parkinson43@hotmail.com

Existing Groups

Anglo Zulu War study Group

Our new group continues to enjoy aspects of the Anglo-Zulu War, having added yet a further recruit to our ranks. At our last meeting we studied the Battle of Rorke's Drift and watched a special Director's cut of the film "Zulu". At our next meeting we will be studying the history of the Zulu people and their dealings with the early British and Boer settlers and will be watching a travelogue on South Africa. We meet on the last Tuesday afternoon in the month, and have room for one more new recruit, so if anyone is interested in joining us on the ramparts, just give me a ring!

Martin Crofts

0116 279 2218

martin.crofts05@virgin.net

Book Club

Our April read was *Started Early, Took My Dog* written by Kate Atkinson. It is her fourth novel to feature the former private detective, Jason Brodie. A comic novel of great wit, plain-

speaking, tenderness and control.

We all enjoyed it immensely.

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.

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

Bridge Tip of the Month

Good Defence

- Second Hand usually plays LOW.

However play to win it, if this is the trick to win the contract OR you know that your partner cannot possibly win it

- Third Hand usually plays HIGH

Many players do not like doing this as they often lose a picture card, but it is generally the right thing to do and no one will criticise you.

- It is often a good idea to return your partners lead

Your partner will probably have chosen his lead for a reason and would like it led back. If you have a much better reason for leading back another suit then do that.

Second hand means the second card played from any position. Similarly the third hand is the third card played from any position.

Calligraphy

A group of Beginners and Improvers meets twice a month to practise and learn new hands. We are currently planning our display for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, as a group project. Forthcoming meetings: 22 May, 12 June.

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

Computer Club

The **Computer Club** on the 24th April only managed to attract 6 members but I think we enjoyed our exploration of "Purchasing on the Net". Hopefully the poor attendance was due to

holidays!

Next Computer Club is Tuesday 22nd May - all are welcome just bring your laptop or use one of the U3A machines. Session project will be "Spreadsheets for Lists" and will be from 2 till 4pm at Kibworth Grammar School Hall. Many other projects are available and help is available.

The **Improvers' Course** continued to run on Tuesday May 1st and 8th and has 11 signed on members. Unfortunately the course is now full.

If you need any assistance with a computer issue please contact me. I may be able to help and it's free!

Keith Holyoake 0116 279 2079
kbholyoake@aol.com

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

Concert Band

We are looking forward to playing at the Diamond Jubilee Monday Fete. Our leader has found us some really great music, a little swing, some classical and something from My Fair Lady. All together now, "*I have often walked...*" We continue to meet in each others homes and mostly concentrate on enjoying the music. Call

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

Craft Group

The Craft group continues to meet every other Tuesday in the Methodist Church Rooms from 2 - 4. We knit and sew. This is a group where one can learn new skills and exchange patterns etc. We stop for tea and biscuits and contribute £2 towards the cost of the room. We have room for one or two more people. For more detailed information regarding dates contact

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

Introduction to Family History

This small friendly group meets about once a month when we help each other by pooling

our ideas and knowledge. All members have made a really good start to their family trees. Our last get together will be in May and then the current group will finish. I would love to start a new group in the Autumn if enough people are interested.

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

Flower Arranging

Joyce Huntley 0116 279 2528
The Flower Arranging Group are busy with their preparations for decorating St Wilfrid's Church for the Queens Diamond Jubilee in conjunction with the church Flower Guild. Everyone is welcome to come into the church over the Jubilee weekend to see the flowers. On Friday 1st June there is to be a preview evening with wine and buffet priced £5. I will have tickets at the monthly meeting or they can be purchased from the Post Office.

Joyce Huntley 0116 279 2528
clivejoyce@mypostoffice.co.uk

French Conversation

If you'd like to join a small group of people whose conversational French gets very rusty indeed if they don't use it from time to time, please ring

John Willcocks 0116 279 1085

Gardening



Undaunted by the torrential downpour during our trip to **Springfields** Festival Gardens & Outlet Shopping Centre last month, we enjoyed a fascinating talk by head gardener Andy

Boyton, admired the magnificent tulip displays and indulged in a little retail therapy.

30 May

Fingers crossed the sun shines when we meet again on **30 May** for our visit to NGS County Organiser, Colin Olle's delightful garden at **Croft Acre, The Belt, LE17 6DX**— you may remember he gave us a wonderful talk last year - and also to Pam and Martin Shave's colourful NGS garden at Oak Tree House, North Road, LE17 6DU. Please make your own way to **South Kilworth for 2.30pm**. Admission is £3.50, plus £2 for homemade tea, payment on the day.

June

As a glorious month for gardens, we have planned afternoon visits to **Stoke Albany House**, Market Harborough on **13 June** and three **NGS gardens** in **Wigston** on **27 June**. Full details are listed in our 2012 Programme and will appear in next month's Newsletter.

Price Reduction

Good news – we have been able to reduce the fare for our half day coach trip to **Castle Ashby** on **11 July** from £10.50 to £7.50. The additional £4.50 admission is payable on the gate. We will leave Kibworth Grammar School at 12.30pm and return from the gardens at 5pm. Highlights include a fuchsia house, Italian gardens and arboretum with nature trail. There is a walled garden tea room on site. If you would like to come along, *please let Mary have your £7.50 coach fare by Friday 18 May* and make cheques payable to K & D U3A Gardening.

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 usually meets on the second and fourth Wednesday afternoons of the month and John Hooley leads the sessions. We play a mixture of folk, rock, blues etc. We currently have four members and would welcome new members. 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
clivejoyce@mypostoffice.co.uk

Latin for Beginners

The Latin Group is still enjoying the stories of the Romans as portrayed in the Cambridge Latin Course and having some fun at the same time.

Norman Hallett 0116 279 2659
hallett379@btinternet.com

Line Dancing

We are now back “home” in the Scout Hut where we started over 5 years ago. The décor may not be too grand but the sprung floor is a joy to dance on. We can now take any new members and I will be happy to help beginners learn the basics. We have 4 men in the group and you don’t need a partner so why not give it a try? It’s great fun and good for the body and the mind. We meet on Monday afternoon 2 – 4pm except on Bank Holidays.

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

Luncheon Club

We will be visiting **The Swan at Braybrooke** for lunch on **Wednesday June 13th**. Please ring Gill with your order by Friday June 8th. Our next meeting will be in September. Please let us know if you discover any exciting places to eat. We are always on the look out for new

recommendations.

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 monthly to play and discuss music of a chosen subject. Recent selections have included music about reminiscences of youth and parts of the body. Future subjects will feature fun and laughter and a special session of Royal music to celebrate the Queen’s Jubilee.

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

Painting

This group continues to meet every other Friday 2 - 4 pm, in the Methodist Church Rooms. We stop for tea and biscuits and contribute £2 towards the cost of the room. Thanks to Roger who organises the place. We are a small group without a teacher but we learn from one another and exchange information regarding the various local Art shows etc. We have room for one more person. For details and dates 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. We are now thoroughly enjoying Noel Coward’s witty comedy “Blithe Spirit”. Unsurprisingly, the group’s interpretation of the wonderful Madame Arcati character (remember Margaret Rutherford?) was the highlight of the evening!

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 month we had another morning with an old favourite – Wordsworth. Next month our subject is

Thomas Hardy. This is a friendly informal house group.

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

Singing for Pleasure

The group meets on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at St Wilfrid's church hall. New members always welcome. This is a very relaxed and sociable group.

Carol Baker 0116 279 2956
cbaker100@talktalk.net

Meriel Godfrey 0116 259 8589
merielgodfrey1@gmail.com

Sketch Club



If you love drawing in principle but don't very often do any, this group may be just the thing to get you started again. We certainly do more sketching when we're together than we would if we just sat at home on our own – and it's a lot of fun too. To find out more please ring

John Willcocks 0116 279 1085

Table Tennis

We meet every Friday, 2.30 - 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

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

John Smith 0116 279 2129

T'ai Chi

We have now finished until September. I would hope to have more information about this in the summer.

Val Ruddock 0116 279 2331
valruddock007@btinternet.net

Walking Group

On Friday 20th April fifteen of us gambled on the weather staying bright and won. We met at the Horse & Jockey at Manton and enjoyed a 5.5 mile walk which overlooked Rutland Water for part of the way. The warm spring sunshine saw us taking our jackets off and enjoying the views across the rolling countryside. The Oil Seed Rape was just beginning to flower. We walked through the pretty village of Brooke, the church of which was used to represent Mr. Collin's church in the filming of 'Pride & Prejudice' (2005). Our route back took us through the lost medieval village of Martinthorpe. We then enjoyed a superb meal back at the pub.

They say April was the wettest for a while, and we can confirm it made the ground a bit unpleasant at the end of the month and into May. On May 4th we planned to walk in the Welland Valley, but our intrepid explorer discovered the stiles and gateways were flanked in deep mud and therefore advised walking somewhere on dry land. So it was that a late change found us walking at Billesdon. Sorry to anyone who did not receive the information in time. It was a real pleasure to see so many walking with us despite the expectation of some bad weather. We are still unsure how many of us there were – a boot count gave a result of 26 persons but a head count showed rather fewer. We walked to the lake at Rolleston and returned to Billesdon via Skeffington on roads, tracks and footpaths which were wet but to our pleasure it did not rain upon us during the 5.3 miles that we covered. The Queen's Head once more fed us to a high standard, with their fish and chips again in high demand. Thanks to all for arranging this.

Photos taken during our walks can be seen on the Kibworth and District U3A website at <https://sites.google.com/site/kibworthdistrictu3a/photos/2012>. Have a look and let us have your comments.

Our next walks will be on

15th May Ros (ros@holmeoak.co.uk 279 6010) assisted by Ron and Chris Spinks will take us from the **Neville Arms at Medbourne** on roads tracks and footpaths to Neville Holt and back;

1st June, Alan and Marion (lithops@onetel.com 279 2559) will lead a longer walk from **Launde**;

15th June Stephen and Barbara (barbarapickering@gmail.com 279 3590) will lead a Jubilee walk in **Kibworth**;

29th June – fifth Friday - Alan and Marion will lead us further afield to spend the day at **Salcey Forest, Northants**; and

6th July a shorter walk will be arranged.



More details about these walks will be available in due course. If you wish to walk with us, need more detail or confirmation of the venue please contact the walk leader a couple of days in advance.

We will continue to walk on alternate Fridays through the summer and plans for an away break in September are in hand.

New members welcome. Car share can be arranged if needed.

Mike Bullows 0116 259 8297

mbtugby@hotmail.co.uk

Alan Brown 0116 279 2559

lithops@onetel.com

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

From our Secretary

Membership Database - important



If you have changed your name, address, telephone number or email address in recent times and not conveyed the details to K & D U3A, please get in touch with Christine Lea (note new email address for the secretary) as soon as possible. Especially important if you wish to receive a copy of the Newsletter by email –see below

Christine Lea 0116 279 0009

info@kibworthu3a.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

Next deadline –Tuesday 12th June

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 groups activities that could be published in a future edition please send them to the above email address. Thank you.

This Newsletter is now available online (and with colour pictures!) at

www.kibworthu3a.org.uk/newslettermay12

Our 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 **Please note that from this month I will be sending a copy of the Newsletter to every email address which we hold on our records – this is to help save on printing costs.**
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: Christine Lea, 12 Beaker Close, Smeeton Westerby, LE8 0RT

The Kibworth Villages Diamond Jubilee celebrations

Kibworth is planning an exciting series of events to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The U3A's main events are: the Flower Festival at St Wilfrid's church all weekend, having displays in a marquee and some of our musical groups performing at the Rotary organized fete held at the Cricket Club on Monday 4th June 11.00am - 3.00pm giving us a chance to show the villages what we can do and finally a Line Dancing demonstration at the Village Hall on Tuesday June 5th, 2 - 4pm.



A full schedule of events is on the parish council website at

<http://kibworthbeauchamp.leicestershireparishcouncils.org/kibworths-queens-diamond-jubilee.html>

and will be published in the May edition of the *Kibworth & District Chronicle*

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.

Useful contacts:

Chairman:	Keith Holyoake	01162792079	kbholyoake@aol.com
Vice-Chairman and			
Group Co-ordinator:	David Porter	01162793150	davidporter66@mypostoffice.co.uk
Newsletter Editor:	Barbara Pickering	01162793590	barbarapickering@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Cliff Hollingsworth	01162792025	annandcliff@btinternet.com
Secretary:	Christine Lea	01162790009	jlea294@btinternet.com
Minutes Secretary:	Ian Hearn	01162403357	ian.hearn@btopenworld.com
Speaker Co-ordinator:	Pam Moody	01162792817	pmoody2@toucansurf.com
Publicity:	Gail Goldie	01162796882	gail.goldie@btinternet.com
Committee member:	Clive Huntley	01162792528	clivejoyce@mypostoffice.co.uk

Don't forget - the **Olympic Torch Relay** passes through Kibworth on Monday 1st July between 5 and 5.15 pm. Come and join us to wave a U3A banner –more details in the June Newsletter.

OUTINGS

Bletchley Park - Thursday 14th June 2012.

Depart - Kibworth 9.30am from Kibworth Grammar School Hall Car Park
Return from Bletchley approx. 4.45pm.

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

Lunch - 12.30pm – 1.30pm sandwich buffet with mixed leaf salad, with crisps and dips, plus tea, coffee or soft drinks.

Afternoon tour at 1.30pm – 1 hour 30 mins, also included 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 chocolate brownies or chocolate muffins just before departure.

Hampton Court - September 5th 2012

Due to lack of numbers this outing been cancelled.

We are looking to organise another outing for Christmas or the New Year.
Any ideas would be welcome.

For further information please contact

Gill Newnham
Jean Chapman

0116 279 2928
0116 279 1544

gillian.newnham@homecall.co.uk
mail@jeanchapman.me.uk

This month's snaps!

The winning team at Clive's Big Quiz (below) ...



and the 'smiling ladies' team!



Walking after the rain (Billesdon) and in bright sunshine (Manton).

