

**SEPTEMBER
2018
ISSUE No 26**

Radcliffe on Trent NEWS SHEET

Registered Charity No. 1152459



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



U3A Member's Monthly Meetings are held in The Grange : DOORS OPEN AT 2:00pm :

**Refreshments are served : Group Stalls advertise activities/enrolment:
Announcements are made at 2:30pm with Guest Speaker at 2:45pm**

6th SEPTEMBER'S U3A MEMBER'S MONTHLY MEETING. OUR GUEST SPEAKER IS

MIKE NEWBOLD

A drama and opera performer, he relates his experiences with both the Nottingham and Carlton Operatic Societies.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN.....

Hello and welcome to an exciting new year of U3A activity. I hope you have all had a pleasant summer. During the summer many of our volunteers have been working hard to progress a number of exciting new groups : Aviation , Fit and Toned, Luncheon- Saxondale (launching 2019) and The Strictly Jive Group. Watch out for more information. Or contact Geraldine, our Groups organizer. Contact details are in the U3A Directory.

This is good news for us. I guess you could say we have passed the point of being a new U3A and we now face the problems other mature U3As face, some facing these problems better than others. In short, continuing to do what our existing membership want and keeping seeking volunteers (future committees , running and helping groups, helping at meetings from refreshments to meet and greet and IT knowledge etc). We also need the next generations of " Golden Oldies ". So the committee is exercising its mind over the next couple of months about how we might do all this and better and better. As ever thoughts from everyone matter. Please use the new "Letters to the Editor " slot in the monthly Newsletter .

Continued on Page 3.....

FRIENDSHIP & SUPPORT GROUP VISIT TO THE NATIONAL SPACE CENTRE



A U3A aim is to be “educational”. The Friendship and Support Group's 13th August visit to The National Space Centre, Leicester in our village minibus was certainly that. As a group last year we visited Richard III Exhibition in Leicester which educationally was an historic experience. This time however we were looking at the future and the wonders of modern space exploration. In addition to that in the Patrick Moore Planetarium we were treated to a show of such proportions that it blew your mind...what a vast Solar System we meagre mortals inhabit!..... The N S C is well worth a visit.

Rod Fogg

rodneymogg@gmail.com Tel:0797 1537119

CLASSICAL MUSIC

The Classical Music Appreciation Group will next meet on Thursday 20th September from 10.30 to 12.30 in the Dowson Room at the Grange. £1.50 per head, including tea/coffee/biscuits. New members welcomed.

For further details contact
Joyce Bullimore
joyce@bullimore.f9.co.uk.



Book Appreciation Group at their June meeting having an interesting discussion about their book for that month 'Eleanor Olliphant is Completely Fine' by Gail Honeyman.

Sue Terry

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN Continued from Page 1.....

Specifically with the help of Mike, our webmaster, and Ian Jones, who runs the IT Group, we are hoping to redesign our website looking to the future. No easy task. Thank you Chaps.

In the pipeline we hope to get there with a new wine group. The demand is there. David Harrison runs what may be our biggest group with a membership up to 40 and a regular attendance of 30. So far David has done over 50 tastings over the past 5 years which is an amazing number. Clearly David is unable to run another group but has offered his help if we can get another off the ground. Thank you David ! As ever we need someone to run it (PLEASE).

Anyway for now do have a great U3A year and please note the Thursday meeting in May 2019 will be 16th MAY because of elections in The Grange Hall. That has kept Carol White, our Speaker Finder, on her toes over the summer. Thanks Carol.

All the best, **Malcolm McDowell**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.**Dear Editor....."In praise of retirement and the U3A.....**

I have been a member of Radcliffe U3A for a few years now and was able to join whist still working as my status was part-time. I was fortunate to be introduced by a friend who thought I would be interested in the monthly meeting, which on that occasion was about Japan. I was aware of the existence of the Radcliffe U3A, but had no inclination to join. My friend was entirely correct as the talk was indeed very interesting to me and when I realised it was a mere £20 to join for the entire year I signed up that day.

Almost 3 years ago my father passed away, quite suddenly leaving my mother unexpectedly widowed. She does not live locally, but I know that she has filled many gaps in her days with activities at her local U3A. She has made a new friend whom she goes on holiday with and regularly goes to the cinema with her too. She would never have done this without the U3A.

My attendance after that initial talk was very spasmodic and my availability to join groups was limited, but I did make it on the odd walk and put my name onto the wine appreciation waiting list. I enquired about the Spanish group, but alas, it was on a Tuesday when I was at work, so I said I would get back to the leader when I retired. I was lucky enough to eventually join the wine group which ran on my non-working day. I was at the monthly meeting when the idea of having a Radcliffe befriending group was suggested and realising that I did need to plan for retirement in all respects, this lead on to my involvement in two lots of voluntary work within the village.

Last September I finally retired and took myself off on a long holiday and by January I was ready to embrace more activities in my spare time. Monday mornings are now filled with keep fit and coffee and I have recently joined the photography group. I was however unable to join the Spanish group as this has become a quite advanced class, while I was busy working. I like that we have a variety of interest groups and that not all meet every week and I cannot praise enough the time that people are prepared to give for the benefit of others.

I know from what has been said at monthly meetings and comments in the newsletter that our current chair is not 'happy' with groups being full. My message to those reading this is to look around at your neighbours, acquaintances and friends who are approaching retirement or recently retired, because they will be the lifeblood of Radcliffe U3A, we need them to join in and establish themselves, so that new groups can be created. Just one visit to an interesting monthly meeting or encouragement to go along to a group may be all it takes." from **Member No 2362**

NEW.....**STRICTLY JIVE**

Our U3A "Strictly Jiving" Group is about to get off the ground! Weekly sessions on Wednesday afternoons begin in the Autumn and will run through to Christmas.

The idea behind the group is not to dabble in lots of different ballroom dances and become master or mistress of none, but rather to concentrate strictly on the jive in the hope of becoming half-decent at it! It's good exercise, fun and easy to learn. We hope to reach the "enjoyment" stage quickly and not get bogged down in the drudgery of learning too many complex steps.

You are very welcome to join in whether you're a beginner or an improver, with or without a partner and whatever your age! You might enjoy the group if, perhaps, you:-

1. appreciate the music of Elvis, Chuck Berry, Bill Haley, Buddy Holly and the rest or
2. have fond memories of "Six-five Special" or "Oh Boy" on the TV or
3. enjoyed jiving some time ago and want to see if you can still manage it or
4. just want to try something new.

So, let's Revive The Jive!! The weekly sessions begin on Wednesday September 19th at Radcliffe Hall (Royal British Legion) from 3 to 5p.m. - (The Jive 'Til Five Club!). Our instructors are the experienced Terry and Lynn from Nottingham's "RevivalDance" Studio. Cost is £5 per session for U3A Members and £7 for Guests (Max. 2 visits).

Further details – contact **Chris Worthington** Tel : **01159332747** or **07880797593**
or email : **worthington690@btinternet.com**

Or better still – just turn up on the day and rock'n'roll.

COMMEMORATING THE ARMISTICE POPPY TRAIL

Radcliffe on Trent WWI Group invites you to follow a Poppy Trail round the village during October and November. Poppy wreaths will be placed on fourteen village lampposts in October. Each wreath will carry names of the men who lived nearby and who lost their lives in the Great War. The wreaths will be situated between Nottingham Road and the Harlequin, with an outlying wreath at Upper Saxondale, and between Chestnut Grove and Dewberry Hill, Cropwell Road.

How to follow the Poppy Trail

A free pamphlet with a map of the trail and information about the servicemen will be available soon from the library, Grange Hall, Pen2Paper and at the October U3A meeting.

You will also be able to explore the poppy trail on your computer or mobile device via a virtual map which will be available on our website in October. Go to www.radcliffeontrentww1.org.uk to find the virtual map.

Guided Walks

Join our guided walks to discover more about the village during WWI and those named on the wreaths.

Phone **Marion Caunt** on **0115 9332685** for details and to book your free place. Please note that places are limited. Walks will begin at 11.am on specified dates and may be cancelled at short notice if the weather is inclement.

REAL ALE



The term "Real Ale" is a bit misleading. "Ale" is the term used to define the drink discovered some 4000 years BC made from water, barley and yeast. "Beer" is the term used when about 400 AD they discovered adding hops made the drink more tasty. So "real beer" is a better description but it doesn't have such a catchy title!

The photo above is of our Real Ale Group at their July meeting in the Poppy and Pint PH, Lady Bay.

On Wednesday 29th August it was our Summer Holiday Meeting and that month we met at the Memorial Garden, Cliff Walk and walked to Shelford village to visit The Earl of Chesterfield PH .

The Group meets regularly each last Wednesday in the month at 11:15am at the bus stop outside The Grange and we visit a different public house each month which serves real ale and good-food.

We are a friendly and accommodating group so do come along, you are welcome to join us.

Rodney Fogg rodneyfogg@gmail.com Tel: 0797 1537119

EATING OUT

Cafe Piano have kindly offered all members of Radcliffe on Trent U3A a 10% discount on food for lunches & dinners on production of a current ROT membership card. Please show your card to the server when ordering your meal. This offer is only valid for parties of 10 people or less. Please note this offer is not valid with any other offers.

Steve Harris

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This is a new feature. We want to encourage interest, discussion, debate on all kinds of issues relating to what we do in the U3A. Or what you would love to do. Anything our members would find stimulating or of news interest. If you have a story to tell, pictures to share or issues to raise send it to the editor at.....

news@rot-u3a.org.uk

(See also page 8)

GARDENING

Sixteen of us in the Garden Group took a trip to the Cotswolds on Thursday, June 14th. Our first port of call was Cotswold Garden Flowers, an interesting plant nursery in the village of Badsey near Evesham. The owner, Bob Brown, gave us a short talk over tea and biscuits before we had a look around the nursery. There were lots of unusual plants to see as always and many of us came away with at least one new addition for the garden.

Lunch was taken at a pub owned by the National Trust called The Fleece in nearby Bretforton. We enjoyed the charm of this really old pub.

Then we moved on to the well-known Hidcote Manor Gardens in the afternoon. We had a short talk from Eric, one of the senior gardeners there and this was followed with a leisurely walk around the gardens which were really colourful and interesting.



Eighteen of us made it to Brodsworth Hall (English Heritage) on Friday, Aug 10th and we were very impressed with what the garden team there had achieved. We had a volunteer-guided garden walk in the afternoon and saw a variety of different areas with different plantings. The garden has lots of interest and colour despite the drought that we have experienced. The volunteer guide was very friendly and informative and the rain held off - especially good when we found out that Radcliffe had had some "proper" rain. They have one of the best Cedar trees that I have seen. The house is also definitely worth a visit.

Our plans for the last few months of 2018 were a bit vague so I have provisionally booked in 3 people who are coming to us to give talks all of which will take place in the large room/hall at the British Legion.

September: I have arranged for Linda Heywood or her husband, Ray, to come to us to give us a talk. They are local plant growers based in Thoresby Park walled garden. They specialise in growing Echiums and are the National Plant Collection holders. The talk will be about their story over the last 5 years and should prove very interesting. The cost is likely to be around £5.00 per person. It may be that we could visit them next year in May/June when their Echiums are likely to be at their best. Our September event was planned for Thursday 13th but they can't make that date so I have booked them in for Thursday, Sept 27th. I hope that this doesn't cause too many problems for us.

October: I have asked Corin Tomlinson to come to Radcliffe to give us a talk about all aspects of Bonsai culture. He runs the Greenwood Bonsai Studio near Calverton and some of you may have seen him doing demonstrations previously eg at the Patchings Art Festival last month. The talk/demo is booked in for Thursday, October 11th at 2.00pm. Cost likely to be £5.00.

November: our last meeting in 2018 will take place on Thursday, November 8th and is a talk from Alison Foster. You may remember that she gave us an interesting talk last year about the use of plants in medicine (ie how beneficial certain plants are). This time, her talk looks at the opposite side of the coin and is entitled "Toxic trees, poisonous perennials and wicked weeds". The cost is likely to be £5 - £6.00 depending on numbers and be at the Legion starting at 2.00pm.

I hope that there is enough here to provide interest for you all.

Roger Burston roger.burston@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 0115 9332096

GUYS AND DOLLS AT KILWORTH OPEN AIR THEATRE, LEICESTERSHIRE.



This July, Radcliffe U3A members at the Kilworth Theatre for a production of Guys and Dolls. .

Following last year's hugely successful outing to see "Kiss Me Kate" we returned this July to Kilworth Open Air Theatre for a production of "Guys and Dolls". Demand for places meant that a coach capable of ferrying 50 was required, from 30 last year, which caused some awkward manoeuvring through the country lanes on the way to visiting Palmers Garden Centre for the mid-morning coffee break for coffee and bacon or sausage baps.

Once again we had a lovely summer day, picnics were carried to shady spots in the grounds of Kilworth House. There were even rumours of ladies sneaking in cans of Pimms to augment their lunches! After lunch we wandered through to the amphitheatre with strains of introductory music from the show drifting in the summer air. As with last year we found ourselves in superb seats right in front of the stage, another triumph for Steve and his teams organisation.

Stage set for "Guys and Dolls", Kilworth.



The Production was wonderful, using the Frank Loesser music and lyrics to stunning effect. The striking sets swept us from Brooklyn to Havana with great style and mood. Holly Dale Spencer as Miss Adelaide, the leader of the mink laden Hot Box Girls, was delightful and great fun. The male lead Simon Thomas took Marlon Brando's role as Sky Masterson with enough charm and charisma not to suffer by comparison. I particularly enjoyed the costumes, not only of the Hot Box Girls but of the athletic male dancers in their fedoras and double-breasted suits. The closing "Sit down you're rocking the boat" captured perfectly the joyous, infectious vibrancy of a story that ended happily, leaving us looking forward eagerly to next year's return visit to Kilworth.

Stan Ayling

UKULELE GROUP

We continue to meet regularly, with volunteers from among the group now leading many of our sessions. This summer, we have played at Radcliffe-on-Trent Carnival and a charity Garden Party in Normanton -on-the-Wolds.

Now for an appeal!

We do not profess to be singers and are aware our singing is not always up to scratch. However, ukulele and singing go hand in glove! To this end, we wonder if there are any U3A members (gentlemen or ladies) who have a talent for singing and who would be interested in joining us to strengthen our vocals. Attendance at our sessions would be entirely as you wish, either on a regular basis or just for a few sessions prior to a performance to familiarise yourselves with the songs. This latter is, of course, when we really need some help. We are looking for around six singers.

Resuming in September, we meet each Thursday from 3.30 – 5.30 in the British Legion building.

For further information please contact **Lyn Coxon** Telephone : **0115 9436967**.

Visits and Outings Committee

Outing to Rockingham Castle, Leicestershire

It's Christmas Eve 1849 at Rockingham Castle

Wednesday 28th November 2018

Cost : £40 payable by cash or cheque (made payable to RoT U3A Social)

Depart Radcliffe 9.30 a.m Return Radcliffe 5.00pm approx

Prepare for nostalgia from Victorian times, as the entertaining costumed guides escort you through the decorated Castle.

Whether it is the butler, governess or housekeeper, they all have their story to impart to you as they transport you back to the year 1849.

The servants have prepared the sweetmeats, polished the silver and lit all the fires for a cosy journey through time.

A Tour of the Castle and a Festive Lunch in Walker's House is included in the cost of the outing.

There will be time to take a look at the Gift shop, offering gifts for all ages and a wide selection of Christmas Decorations.

Steve Harris Trips@rot-u3a.org.uk

NEXT MONTH'S U3A MEMBER'S MONTHLY MEETING IS ON THURSDAY 4th OCTOBER AT 2:00pm

OUR GUEST SPEAKER IS **STEVE SHORT** WHO WILL TALK ABOUT THE LIFE OF TOMMY COOPER "Not like that, but like that!"

RADCLIFFE ON TRENT U3A WEB PAGE

We have over forty interest groups in the Radcliffe on Trent U3A covering a wide range of activities and interests from

Aviation Group to Jive Group.

See the full list on:-

www.rot-u3a.org.uk

OCTOBER'S NEWSHEET

For the next issue of our U3A monthly Newsheet please send your news, articles and photos to our Editors at

news@rot-u3a.org.uk

by **20th SEPT, 2018**

Thank you **Editorial Team**