



HADDENHAM U3A

Newsletter Jul / Aug 2011

Chairman's Thoughts

Carol Mason (291677)

This is my first newsletter as your new Chairman and I would like to start by saying how pleased I am to head up such an active and vibrant U3A. John Brandis has given us strong leadership during his 4 years as Chairman. The membership has doubled, we continue to see more people coming forward with ideas for interest groups and seeing the groups take off and grow. He has used his excellent networking skills to draw in new members to our committee and to keep us informed of the wider activities of our local network and the Third Age Trust regional and national organisations. His willingness to remain on the Committee means we will continue to get the benefit of his networking talent on our behalf.

Having worked in the learning and development area both within industry and as an academic, I share John's enthusiasm for the benefits of continuing to learn. I know from my many years experience working with employees and students that the best type of learning takes place when learners are having fun with people they like. I observed a good example of this during our recent walking trip to the Yorkshire Dales, where 28 of us walked, talked, entertained and supported each other over two very enjoyable days. We had experts on bird life, plant life and the terrain to keep us informed as we walked and it was clear that many members of our group had formed friendships through their membership of the U3A. It also made me realise that, in the two years I've been a member, how many delightful and interesting people I had got to know.

Demand for membership of our U3A continues to grow and the Committee is reviewing the Third Age Trust's paper 'Growth Matters'. We want to be seen to be an inclusive group but we are constrained by the size of the venue for our monthly meetings. There are a number of options that we are going to explore so hopefully we will find a way to ensure nobody feels deterred from joining us because we have a waiting list.

The Third Age Trust has reported that our national membership has reached 250,000. It has also recently been reported in the news that our generation is fitter now than we were in our twenties. In terms of how much 'grey power' this represents we are collectively a formidable group and it's good to see that nationally, regionally and locally members of U3A continue to engage with their local communities by learning, meeting and having fun at the same time. Long may it last.

Carol Mason

General Meetings

further details from Carole Fryer (01296 748538)

The 4th July general meeting will feature as guest speaker Dr Nick Wheeler-Robinson, speaking on "Eric Gill – sculptor, artist and calligrapher".

Please note that there is NO general meeting in August.

At the September meeting on Monday 5th, we will have a talk entitled "Fifty years on the fiddle" by Lorna Stephen, followed in October by the ever popular Dr Tony Maisey on "How and why we age".

The full programme of General Meetings and the speakers for 2011-2012 is available on the U3A website

Events and Outings

bookings and further details from Ann Rickard (291613)

July begins with a trip on Sunday 3rd to Lord MacAlpine's private railway and museum at Fawley, near Henley-on-Thames. It's a fascinating place to rummage around, with the highlight of a ride through the grounds on a 100 year old steam train.

Although some of the U3A groups take a rest during August, the events team have been busy organising two outings in the month. On 2nd August there is a visit to Frogmore House and Savill Gardens. Frogmore is one of the best loved of the Royal Houses, and Savill is one of Britain's greatest ornamental gardens.

Also in August, a party will be going to the BBC Prom at the Royal Albert Hall on 8th August. Those going must make their own travel arrangements; the performance begins at 7.30pm

September sees another theatre trip to the Watermill at Bagnor to see "Radio Times" on 20th September.

Looking ahead, in October, we will be returning to the Royal Albert Hall to see "The Four Seasons by Candlelight". If you are unable to attend the July General Meeting, please make sure you reserve your

for updates and further information, go to www.bucksinfo.net/u3ahaddenham



HADDENHAM U3A

Newsletter Jul / Aug 2011

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bookings and further details from Ann Rickard (291613)

place by contacting Ann Rickard as soon as possible.

Coach Holiday – History and Houses of Northumbria

Chris Patterson (290342)

Please note that the final payment for the holiday needs to be made by 10th July direct to Tailored Travel. There will be a meeting of those going on the holiday from Haddenham and Thame on Tuesday 26th July at 10.00am. The venue is the Baptist Church large school room in Haddenham. The object of the meeting is to allow fellow travellers to get to know each other in advance of the trip, and to give everyone the opportunity to voice any concerns, ask any questions and be given the latest information re. pickup points, details of the itinerary, etc.

The departure date is Sunday 4th September.

Wider U3A News

further details from John Brandis (292484)

Forthcoming Thames Valley Network events:

8th July – 4th Planning meeting for the TVN Riverside Project at Goring Village Hall

11th July – Explore Reading day, including Kennet cruise and a choice of 4 walking tours

22nd July – Swan Upping at Abingdon

22nd August – TVN Arts and Craft Exhibition and Activities day

26 – 28th October – “Riverside Revealed” a three day residential event which is the climax of the TVN Riverside Project

For further details of these and other TVN events, go to the Local U3A Networks page on our website.

Other local events

AYLEBURY FESTIVAL 2011

The inaugural Aylesbury Festival will take place from 2nd to 17th July 2011 at venues around Aylesbury.

Over these 16 days there will be concerts, events and workshops featuring classical (orchestral, chamber and opera) music, jazz, world music, folk, gospel and rock & pop music. Highlights include the UK debut of the Festine Orchestra from Slovenia, a programme of early Mozart to include his rarely performed Concerto for Flute and Harp paired with his early opera Bastien and Bastienne, an evening of klezmer from the award winning She’Koyokh, the BBC Folk Singer of the Year 2011 Chris Wood and smooth jazz from Ian Shaw. There are also many opportunities to get involved, either through singing with I Fagiolini or the London Community Gospel Choir, taking part in Aylesbury’s own ‘Last Night of the Proms’ or learning North African drumming with Algerian RAI supremo, Abdelkader Saadoun.

A brochure for the Festival can be found at www.aylesburyfestival.co.uk.

Tickets can be booked by telephoning the Box Office on 0845 528 0776 or by emailing info@aylesburyfestival.co.uk. Tickets can also be booked in person at the Festival Box Office which is open every day during normal shopping hours and is situated in Friars Square Shopping Centre in Aylesbury (located on the main concourse just to the left of the bridge to the multi-storey car park).



HADDENHAM U3A

Newsletter Jul / Aug 2011

Notes from the Interest Groups

(telephone nos. 01844 unless stated)

Antiques and Collectables Group

Leader: Lucy Hamblett (291386)

The subject for our 14th July meeting will be announced shortly. The group will not be meeting in August or September – the next meeting is scheduled for 13th October.

Books Group

Leader: Ann Warris (292273)

We will be discussing "Mrs Dalloway" by Virginia Woolf on 26th July. There is no group meeting in August, and when we return on 27th September the book will be Stieg Larsson's "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo"

Card & Board Games Group

Leader: Chris Patterson (290342)

Please note that this group does not operate during the summer months (May to August inclusive), but is due to return on 22nd September

Computers Group

Leader: Eileen Monks (216033)

There will be a group clinic on 1st July, when general issues which are proving problematic for members will be discussed. No August meeting; we resume on 2nd September

Cycling Group

Leader: Marie Woodrow (292012)

Malcolm White (291677)

Details of the July 26th cycle ride are a bit sketchy but we will be taking our bikes on the 9.36am train from Haddenham to Banbury for a ride towards Hook Norton. The following ride will be on 23rd August.

Dance

Leader: Theresa Smith (01296 747893)

I plan to give the dance group a break over the summer but use that time to set up a programme from September to Christmas...or even beyond if it's possible.

I've had requests for more Zumba, Scottish dancing and English dancing and I'm glad to say that Olivia, Jim and Madeleine have all said they'd be happy to do some more teaching for us. I will be in touch with them to set dates up. I've also had a request for Tai Chi - is that something that you would like me to follow up too? Suggestions for other forms of dance are very welcome.

But we need more people to come along to make it both financially viable and more fun for both the teachers and dancers. It would be so sad to have to give up because we don't have the numbers. We need at least 10 each week - but would prefer double that! And, a special plea to you gents, do come along and join us - I promise you'll not be alone there are a few male regulars already.

Digital Photography Group

Leader: John Davis (291664)

Following the June field trip, we will be focusing on ways to improve our photos, using those from the field trip as examples. This will be at the 15th July meeting, no meeting in August.

Discussion Group

Leader: Chris Patterson (290342)

No meetings in July or August; we will get back together on 12th September.

Gardening Group

Leader: Brenda Spencer (291235)

We will be continuing our programme of visits to the gardens of local folk with a visit on 18th July to 11, The Paddocks, Wendover. The following meeting will be on 19th September.

Handbell Group

Leader: Alan Rose (291004)

The next regular meetings of the handbell group are on 11th and 25th July.

In addition to the regular meetings, we are going to have a mini-belfest on Saturday 9 July in Alan Rose's garden starting at 4 pm. This will be a combination of the U3A ringers with the evening ringers (and their partners or guests). There will be a bring and share finger buffet.

Local History Group

Leader: Alan Rose (291004)

The next two local guided tours will be of Wootton House gardens with Mick Harrison on July 27th, and Ford village with John Horn on 24th August. Group members should make their own way to each venue, although car sharing can be arranged



HADDENHAM U3A

Newsletter Jul / Aug 2011

Luncheon Club

Leader: Angela Wenham (291932)

On 8th July, we will be meeting for lunch at the Graziemille restaurant at the Cock and Rabbit inn at The Lee above Wendover. Please let the organiser Hilary Skipsey know in advance if you intend coming on 290464

Music Appreciation Group

Leader: Ed Bullimore (291011)

John Brandis will be hosting and introducing a programme of "Excerpts from operatic performance and music" on 11th July. This will include video coverage on the life and operas of Verdi, and CD coverage with explanatory introductions of seven operas in the Welsh National Opera programme for the 2010/2011 season. These would include Fidelio, The Magic Flute, Ariadne auf Naxos, Die Fledermaus, Il Traviatore, Cosi Fan Tutte and Turandot.

After the August break, we will return on 12th September with Chris Patterson's long awaited "Invitation to the Dance" programme.

Opera Group

Leader: Rosie Sadler (290210)

Although our own group hasn't an event currently planned, we have news of the Thames Valley Network's Study Day on November 15th at Rewley House Oxford on the subject "Four Opera Masterpieces - What they can tell us about opera and its development". Further details on our website

Painting & Art Group

Leader: Katie Loveday (291669)

Next monthly meeting will be on 19th July. No meeting in August, next will be on 20th September

Play Reading & Poetry Group

Leader: Heather Forbes Russell (291482)

The Group will not be meeting again until 26th September. The play and poet will be announced in due course

Pub Quiz Group

Leader: Ingrid Holmes (291331)

The quizzes at the Rose and Thistle pub on the first Wednesday of each month (6th July, 3rd August and 7th September). Fresh talent for the U3A teams is always welcome.

Sunday Lunch Club

Leader: Ray Price (299320)

The Sunday roasts at the Green Dragon in Haddenham and the Gatehangers Inn in Ashendon will be sampled on Sundays 17th July and 21st August respectively. Do let Ray know if you intend to join us.

Ten Pin Bowling Group

Leader: Spencer & Betty Taylor (291498)

The next ten pin bowling sessions at Jardines in Aylesbury will be on 11th July, 8th August and 12th September. New members welcome, no experience necessary.

Walking Group 1

Leader: Ingrid Holmes (291331)

Mary White (291677)

We will be taking a circular walk from the Royal Sun at Yarnton on 19th July. The 16th August walk will be announced in due course

Walking Group 2

Leader: Carol Mason (291677)

The Friday group's walk on 22nd July will be through Aston Clinton and Wendover Woods, starting at the car park in Stablebridge Road, Aston Clinton. The walk for this group on 26th August will be announced in due course.

Wine Group

Leader: Paul Roberts (299036)

Paul Roberts will be ending his stint as leader of the Wine group by organising a trip to Majestic Wines on 13th July. New members for this group are welcome.



HADDENHAM U3A

Newsletter Jul / Aug 2011

Other Items

Walking the Ridgeway

Carol Mason is organising a group to walk the Ridgeway in stages over a number of months. Here are her notes:

The first three stages of the Ridgeway Walk have been arranged as follows:

- Tuesday October 4th. Ivinghoe Beacon to Aston Clinton. 9 miles. Lunch in Wiggington.
- Tuesday November 1st. Aston Clinton to Princes Risborough. 10 miles. Lunch in Cadsden.
- Tuesday December 6th. Princess Risborough to Lewknor. 10 miles. Lunch in Chinnor.

I'm looking at the cost of a coach from Haddenham to the drop off and pick up points but will need to firm up the numbers so I can finalise the costs. The next three stages will probably start in February, weather permitting.

Please ask anyone who missed the last meeting to let me know if they would like to join the group. Email at mason.carol16@gmail.co.uk or phone 01844 292236.

I would welcome a couple of people to provide me with some back-up in case I fall ill on the day and also who would be interested in being involved in the planning and organising.

A number of people felt they couldn't manage 10 miles but would still like to do some of the Ridgeway. I realise that I will need to check out the walks beforehand for bus access and the pubs and would be happy to do shorter versions, for example 5 miles, as part of the preparation and people are welcome to join me on a car share basis.

Bucks 50 Plus Forum

The latest newsletter of the Bucks 50 Plus Forum is available on our website.

Comments and Contributions welcome

Further details of the events mentioned in this newsletter can be found on the U3A website. May I ask all Group Leaders to let me have as much detail as possible of their forthcoming meetings and events as soon as they can. The more information I have, the easier it is to produce the newsletter and keep the website up to date. For those groups which cannot plan more than one month ahead, please include me in your communications with group members.

The website and the newsletter rely upon information provided by Group Leaders and members. I am very happy to expand the scope of both if you can come up with good ideas. Are there other things you would like to see? Ideas, comments and especially contributions are most gratefully received.

Please note that I will be away during August/September, and so the next newsletter will be published in time for distribution at the October General Meeting.

Roger Rickard (291613 or RARickard@aol.com)

CALENDAR

July 2011

Interest Group	Event	Date	Time	Venue
Computers	Clinic (2)	1 Jul 2011	1430hrs	Chinnor Village Centre
EVENTS & OUTINGS	Fawley Museum Railway	3 Jul 2011	12.00 noon	Meet in Museum car park
GENERAL MEETING	"Eric Gill – sculptor, artist and calligrapher" - Dr Wheeler-Robinson	4 Jul 2011	1415 for 1430hrs start	Youth & Community Centre, Woodways, Haddenham
Pub Quiz	Pub Quiz	6 Jul 2011	1945 for 2000hrs start	Rose and Thistle pub, Haddenham
THAMES VALLEY NETWORK	TVN Riverside Project - 4th Planning Meeting	8 Jul 2011	10.00hrs	Goring Village Hall. See details on club website
Luncheon Club	Graziemille Restaurant, Cock & Rabbit	8 Jul 2011	12.30 for 13.00hrs sitting	Cock & Rabbit pub, The Lee, HP16 9LZ
THAMES VALLEY NETWORK	TVN Riverside Project - Explore Reading Day (including Kennet cruise and choice of 4 walking tours)	11 Jul 2011	10.00 – 16.00hrs	Registration at Abbey Baptist Church. See details on club website
Ten Pin Bowling	Bowling Session	11 Jul 2011	1000hrs	Jardines, Aylesbury
Handbells	Handbell session	11 Jul 2011	1400hrs	14 Stockwell, Haddenham
Music Appreciation	"Excerpts from operatic performances and music" - chosen and hosted by John Brandis	11 Jul 2011	1400hrs	Fort End House, Haddenham
Wine	Visit to Majestic Wine	13 Jul 2011	1930hrs	The Lion's Den, The Red Lion, Churchend, Haddenham
Antiques and Collectables	Subject to be announced	14 Jul 2011	10.15 for 10.30hrs	Lion's Den, The Red Lion, Haddenham
Digital Photography	How to Improve a Photo	15 Jul 2011	10.00hrs	Guide Headquarters, Southern Road, Thame
Sunday Lunch Club	Green Dragon, Haddenham	17 Jul 2011	1230 for 1300hrs sitting	The Green Dragon, Churchway, Haddenham
Gardening	Visit to a Wendover garden	18 Jul 2011	1430hrs	Meet at 11 The Paddocks, Wendover
Painting & Art	Group Meeting	19 Jul 2011	1000hrs	20 Rosemary Lane, Haddenham

HADDENHAM U3A

Newsletter Jul / Aug 2011

Interest Group	Event	Date	Time	Venue
Walking Group 1	Circular walk from Yarnton	19 Jul 2011	1015 for 1030hrs start	Meet at the Royal Sun, Yarnton
THAMES VALLEY NETWORK	TVN Riverside Project - Swan Upping at Abingdon	22 Jul 2011	tbc	see details on club website
Walking Group 2	Aston Clinton and Wendover Woods	22 Jul 2011	1015 for 1030hrs start	Meet at the car park in Stablebridge Road, Aston Clinton
Handbells	Handbell session	25 Jul 2011	1400 hrs	14 Stockwell, Haddenham
Cycling	Banbury and Hook Norton	26 Jul 2011	0936hrs train	Meet at Haddenham & Thame Parkway station
Books	"Mrs Dalloway" by Virginia Woolf, to be presented by Hester Wilmott	26 Jul 2011	1430hrs	6 Willow Rise, Haddenham
Local History	Wotton House Gardens, Wotton Underwood	27 Jul 2011	1400hrs	Meet at Wotton House

August 2011

Interest Group	Event	Date	Time	Venue
<u>EVENTS & OUTINGS</u>	The Savill Garden and Frogmore House	2 Aug 2011	10.00hrs departure, return approx 17.30hrs	Coach from Haddenham Village Hall
<u>Pub Quiz</u>	Pub Quiz	3 Aug 2011	1945 for 2000hrs start	Rose and Thistle pub, Haddenham
<u>Ten Pin Bowling</u>	Bowling Session	8 Aug 2011	1000hrs	Jardines, Aylesbury
<u>Handbells</u>	Handbell session	8 Aug 2011	1400hrs	14 Stockwell, Haddenham
<u>EVENTS & OUTINGS</u>	BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall	8 Aug 2011	Performance starts at 19.30hrs	Please make your own travel arrangements
<u>Walking Group 1</u>	route to be advised	16 Aug 2011	tba	tba
<u>Sunday Lunch Club</u>	Gatehangers Inn, Ashendon	21 Aug 2011	1230 for 1300hrs sitting	Meet at the Gatehangers Inn, Ashendon
<u>THAMES VALLEY NETWORK</u>	TVN Art & Craft Exhibition & Activities Day	22 Aug 2011	tbc	Hall Place, Berks College of Agriculture, Birchetts Green, Berks SL6 6QR. See details on club website
<u>Handbells</u>	Handbell session	22 Aug 2011	1400hrs	14 Stockwell, Haddenham
<u>Cycling</u>	Route to be announced	23 Aug 2011	tba	tba
<u>Local History</u>	Ford Village	24 Aug 2011	1400hrs	Meet at Ford
<u>Walking Group 2</u>	route to be advised	26 Aug 2011	tba	tba