

No. 83

January 2017



# NEWS

Registered Charity No. 1026617

[www.peterboroughu3a.org.uk](http://www.peterboroughu3a.org.uk)



Canoeing down the River

**U3A Address: Peterborough U3A, P O Box 1341  
Peterborough, PE2 2QD**

*OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS*

Chairman	Jacqueline Casson	01733 332061
Vice Chairman/Secretary	Brenda Fearon	01733 239848
Treasurer	Derek Lea	01733 572245
Accommodation Manager	Joy Green	01733 233713
Day Visit Organiser	Paul Parker	01780 782976
Groups' Coordinator	Hilary Keegan	01733 265769
Membership Secretary	Mary McCarthy	01733 232518
Speakers Secretary	Jan Bearman-Brown	01733 572201
Other Committee Members	Alan Locke	01733 370279
	Hilary Lewis	01733 265877
	Gill Parsons	01733 263211
	Chris Wareham	01733 263006
	Conny Yarwood	01733 394669

*SOME TELEPHONE NUMBERS YOU MIGHT NEED*

Day Visits Organisers	Paul Parker	01780 782976
	Gina Bates	01733 579317
	Sandi Osborne	01733 233840
	Doreen Dare	01733 260994
Theatre Group Organiser	Graham Woods	01733 234892
Travel Club Organisers	Arthur Hunt	01733 756883
	Ann Pollack	01733 269108
U3A News Editor	Conny Yarwood	01733 394669
Website Coordinator	Alan Locke	01733 370279

**HOW TO ACCESS THE PETERBOROUGH U3A WEBSITE**  
**[www.peterboroughu3a.org.uk](http://www.peterboroughu3a.org.uk)**

- Direct access to the site is via the address given above. To save re-typing in future, save the page to your Favourites/Bookmarks.
- Most of the site is open access (without logging in) and can be navigated using the menu tabs. Login is only required for access to My Details, My Activities and Minutes. Use your **membership number** and **password** – you should have received this when you first joined the U3A. If you have forgotten your password there is a link at the login page to have a reminder sent.
- Please check your personal details under the **My Details** tab and make any changes there e.g. to your email address (if you have changed it since the start of your membership) or phone number etc. If you record changes here you do not need to contact the Membership Secretary, remember to click **Save My Details** at the bottom before you leave the page.
- For help contact Alan Locke at [pu3awebsite@gmail.com](mailto:pu3awebsite@gmail.com).

## U3A ANNUAL PARTY

Barn Dance with Dennis Cuddles Starlight Band  
at Jack Hunt School

Don't forget: 20 January 2017 at 7.30pm

Tickets still available  
£8.50 from Bill or Mary Purdon  
on 01733 306196 or bill.purdon@outlook.com

Bring your own buffet, drink and glasses  
to share with friends on your table

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

**Please read carefully.**

**This is advance notice of a change in the membership  
renewal system starting the year 2017/2018.**

There will be no renewal forms in future and no need for stamped addressed envelopes. However, members must inform us of changes in details so that correspondence can be sent to the correct address/email and telephone number. A 'Change of Detail' form will be enclosed with the April Newsletter. In order for cards to be sent to the correct address, these changes should be forwarded to the Membership Secretary by 15 June so that amendments can be made in time for envelopes to be printed for new membership cards. Any changes between this date and receipt of card should be sent in as soon as possible.

Members who pay by direct debit and standing order will receive their cards when payment has been received and notified to the Membership Secretary. **PLEASE**, if you pay by **standing order** make sure to **inform your bank** of the correct amount - £12 for single, £21.50 for joint, £8.50 for single associate, £14.50 for joint associate memberships.

Those who wish to send cheques to pay their subscription should send them to the Membership Secretary clearly noting their full name, address and membership number, there is no need for a stamped addressed envelope. Cards will be sent out on receipt of payment.

Subscriptions can also be renewed on Activities Day, as usual, where payment can be made by cheque or cash.

**N.B.** Changes of details should, of course, be made immediately they happen either by contacting the Membership Secretary or making the amendments yourself on the 'My Details' page of the website. Instructions on how to do this can be found on page 2 of this NEWS and on page 12 of the 'Website User Guide'; a link to the guide is at the top of the News section on the home page. The only information that cannot be changed on this page is your Gift Aid eligibility. If your Gift Aid eligibility changes (i.e. you are no longer a tax payer or you have now become a tax payer) please contact the Membership Secretary.

On a sadder note, if you hear of any member who has died, please could you let us know so that we can amend the database and not cause distress by continuing to send correspondence.

*Mary McCarthy, Membership Secretary*

## **W A N T E D**

*Bird Watching Group Leader  
and  
A leader to start an Italian Group*

## **PETERBOROUGH U3A CONSTITUTION**

Clause 2.1 [i] of The Constitution has been amended as agreed at the Committee meeting of 9 March 2016 as shown below:

### **2.1 OBJECTS**

The Objects of the U3A are:

- [i] to advance education and in particular the education of people not in full time gainful employment who are in their Third Age (being the period of time after the first age of childhood dependence and the second age of full time employment and/or parental responsibility) residing in the City of Peterborough and its surrounding locality.

Please amend this clause in your copy of The Constitution. The whole document can also be found in the Downloads area of the website.

### **CHAIRMAN'S NOTES**

I have been a U3A Member since 2006-2007 and began by joining the Theatre and Travel Clubs. My first outing was to Ostend celebrating the Turkey & Tinsel season where I met Kathleen and Jim Chamberlain and Jean Bodily. I have been a frequent traveller ever since, together with Arthur, Pat, June and Roy, Ann and Malcolm. My only claim to fame until now has been due to my providing refreshments at the Travel Club Meetings.

It took Immediate Past Chairman Brian 18 months to convince me to become his Vice Chair and I was elected Chairman at the AGM last October.

I am looking forward to the year ahead and of course I am excited about our forthcoming 25th Anniversary celebrations at Jack Hunt School on 17th June - put a note in your Diary right away!

I am proud to report that The Directors of Peterborough Milton Golf Club have agreed - for the first time in 78 years - to

put up a non golf related poster in the Club House – it's to be a U3A poster. They have also extended an invitation to Peterborough U3A Members to make use of the Club House facilities, enjoying morning coffee, lunch, afternoon tea and Sunday lunch at Club prices - please be sure to pre-book.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year.

*Jacqueline Casson*

## **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

**Please note that the meetings in January to April inclusive will be held at John Clare Theatre (Peterborough Library)** on the last Thursday of the month. Coffees and teas are available from 10.00am. Notices and updates are followed by a speaker at approximately 10.30am.

A varied program of Speakers/Topics is provided throughout the year, hopefully a chance to learn something new or just enjoy an old favourite. I'm also pleased to call on the wealth of interests and expertise among our membership. As a self motivated organisation members give their talks without remuneration

Please try to ensure at least one member **from each group** attends the monthly meetings to note and pass on updates and information on the website, U3A NEWS, group meetings and the monthly meetings are all ways to keep in touch and stay current.

Members of the Committee are available to assist with and/or register any queries to be raised where possible at the next Committee Meeting

### **26 January 2017**

**Chris Dingley: Care, Toyboys** (sideways inheritance)

Chris is a Solicitor with Collective Legal Solutions with more than 15 years experience in the field of 'Asset Protection and Inheritance planning'. He delivers a light hearted and thought provoking talk into some very real issues. The remarriage of a surviving spouse could result in children/family not receiving our hard earned money, but a total stranger!

## **23 February**

### **Paul Smith: Thomas Cook - The Man and the Company**

Paul is the Company Archivist and he will tell us how Thomas Cook began the now international Travel Company bearing his name in 1841, with a successful one-day rail excursion at one shilling (5p) per person. A twelve mile journey from Leicester to Loughborough taking 500 people to a temperance meeting would lead to world travel.

## **30 March**

### **Geoffrey Smith: The Berlin Airlift 1948/49**

In June 1948/49 West Berlin was cut off from Western Europe by the Soviet Union in a dispute with the Western Allied Powers. All rail, road and water communications were blockaded for almost eighteen months. The only means of supplying the Allied Forces and West German citizens was by air. There was a cost in human lives, but its success helped to prevent another world war. Geoff is a PU3A Member.

All proceeds of the raffle held at the Christmas gathering at The Fleet will be donated to the East Anglia Air Ambulance.

*Jan Bearman-Brown*

## **GROUPS COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

You will be reading this after the Christmas festivities are over and maybe wondering how to spend your time over the next few weeks, although once you are a member of Peterborough U3A there never seems to be any time left to fill!

We once again had a successful Activities Day in August. The committee understands The Fleet is not everyone's first choice for a venue but we must consider price, location, availability and space. Jack Hunt is having building works done all over the summer, the Regional College is too expensive, the Showground is too out of town. At The Voyager school, we would have to hire in all the tables which is expensive, anything in the town centre would have parking problems and accessibility

difficulties for setting up, so The Fleet it is again this year! Activities Day will take place on Friday 18 August. The benefits of The Fleet are that there is a good cafeteria space, a performance area for our groups to demonstrate their skills, and the staff are very willing and helpful.

I am pleased to report that several new groups have started since the last newsletter. My thanks go to the Group Leaders who have either put the idea for a group forward or who have volunteered to be leader when I have held an exploratory meeting.

### **Existing groups looking for more members**

Concert Party, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Lunch Group, Discussion Time, Beginners Line Dancing, Sing Something Simple, Indoor Bowls, Roses and Castles.

### **New groups started**

(details in the accompanying Meeting of Groups booklet)

Classic/Kit Cars, Cribbage, Invitation to Dance, Electronics, Acoustic Guitar, Keep Fit, Sing Something Simple, and two new Crime Reading groups.

### **Groups finishing**

However, as always, new groups start but established ones do finish and this time I am sorry to report that the Scrap Booking/Memory Album group has been wound up after many successful years. Also, one of the walking groups has finished due to group leader health reasons. The members of these groups are going to continue to meet up on occasion but are no longer going to be part of the U3A. My thanks go to the leaders for all their past input.

Bernard Dawes has led the bird watching group for 20 years but Bernard now feels it is time to hang up his binoculars and as, to date, no one has answered my plea to take over, the group has now closed. I do feel it is very sad that out of 2,800plus members there is no one who is willing to take this group over.

## **Proposed Groups**

Ukulele, Canasta/Whist, Archery, Calligraphy, Storytelling

If anyone wishes to consider any of these please contact me on 01733 265769

There is no limit to the number of groups that Peterborough U3A can offer and, unlike other U3As, our membership is always open, our policy being that anyone who wishes can join. We will never run a waiting list for membership. However, a large membership requires a large number of groups, so if anyone reading this feels their interest is not being catered for, then please consider finding out about starting a group. Having the idea doesn't mean that you will end up being the leader! Often what happens is that a few people meet to mull an idea over and then a leader emerges. Being a group leader does not mean having to do it all. Jobs can be divvied up between several group members, thus sharing the load. The success of our U3A depends on the willingness of the members to take a full part in the organisation. If you want Peterborough U3A to continue to be a vibrant, inclusive and successful organisation we all need to contribute, therefore, please think what you might be able to do.

A reminder that any member wishing to join a group must contact the group leader beforehand to gain details of the activity and whether it is OK to attend. Please, please do not just turn up. Also, remember to take your current membership card with you (cream for this year) when attending a first meeting.

The Third Age Trust has a resource library containing many Films, CDs, DVDs, books and course material for a variety of subjects etc. Items can be borrowed free of charge, except for the cost of return postage after use. The library can be accessed via website, email or telephone Monday to Thursday and items may be reserved up to nine months in advance. Contact details in the TAT magazine.

A reminder that the committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month and if any member wishes a point to be raised then please feel free to contact any committee member. All telephone numbers are inside the front cover of this magazine. We are also available at the monthly meetings held at

the John Clare Theatre upto and including April, before returning to the Town hall on the last Thursday of the month.

*Hilary Keegan  
Groups Coordinator*

## **JOINING A GROUP**

There are a number of simple stages to go through to join a group or groups – there is no limit to the number of groups you can join:

1. Look at the list of groups to find the contact details of the group leader. Telephone them to find out more about the group, particularly whether there is any limit/waiting list, cost involved in being a member of that group (shown by  on the ‘List of Meetings’). A small contribution might be required for refreshments, to fund hire costs or relevant expenses.
2. When you attend meetings, take your membership card with you – please sign it and add a contact number on the back.
3. Please let the Group Leader know if you cannot attend a group meeting for any reason. If you miss three consecutive meetings without giving an explanation, you may be deemed not to be a member of that group any longer.
4. Enjoy and contribute to the group by sharing your knowledge and experiences.

## **FROM THE GROUPS**

### **The Joy Of Being A U3A Leader**

I resigned from Leadership roles finally in June 2016, but feel it appropriate to write about the honour and joy I have felt being a U3A Leader for 4 groups of Writing Life’s Stories and being an assistant Leader to Carol Abell who led the Family History Group for several years. The latter group began with a handful of members in a church meeting room, and surpassed all expectations when the group expanded to between 40 and 50 members and now needing larger premises to meet in.

The Writing Life Stories groups each contained 8 members, meeting monthly to record their life experiences, often sharing intimate details of the individual's former years, so it seemed appropriate that a cosy, homely setting enhanced the atmosphere: my home.

I feel genuinely proud of the groups' achievements, the ease with which participants praised and encouraged one another to expand their work, add detail, further description, or enhancing photographs, before filing a piece away for their anticipated audience to delight in eventually reading sometime in the future.

As the group members melded over the years, supporting each other, allowed personalities to become confident, positive, believing in their writing, they found time to discuss familiar or difficult situations, and yet enjoyed remaining individuals, each developing their own style at their own pace.

The group members did change as people moved on to sample another U3A interest, or took up a more intense caring role of partner or grandchildren, maybe leaving due to ill health, or moving away, but somehow a remaining participant would manage to keep in touch and update the present group.

Several members have now had their work published, which is delightful.

Initial Workshop Sessions were always well attended by all the groups being represented; my debrief towards the session end would always declare how different the day had been from the expected format, but of course, the members attending were enlightened U3A characters each having something important to say in an atmosphere they felt comfortable and at ease in.

Thank you A, B, C and D group members for allowing me the honour to hear about your lives and lead you through so many interesting sessions.

*Helen Hinton*

### **A Hebridean Odyssey**

A truly wonderful holiday. We travelled by train, coach and ferry all of which were comfortable and enjoyable to the Outer Hebrides, way out in the Atlantic.

We caught the train from Peterborough to Edinburgh where we met up with our coach and driver, Michael, for whom nothing was ever too much trouble. His knowledge of all the areas we travelled through was amazing and his numerous anecdotes most amusing. Once our luggage was loaded we set off for Oban. On arrival we found our comfortable rooms in The Caledonian Hotel, our base for the night.

After a free morning to explore Oban we boarded the Caledonian MacBrayn ferry for a smooth trip escorted part way by dolphins. We disembarked in Castletown and made our way to the Barra Beach Hotel where we were staying for two nights. The hotel was a few paces from the rocky shoreline with stunning views across the bay. The Isle of Barra is considered to be the most beautiful small island in Britain, and after breakfast we had a day out locally. Many set off to Castletown to visit Kisimal Castle, a 5 minute boat ride away on a rocky islet in the bay. It had a square keep and curtain wall and had been the stronghold of Clan MacNeil since the 11<sup>th</sup> Century. There was much to see in the renovated interior rooms and spectacular views of the town from the ramparts.

After Barra we set off island hopping, which included seven islands in one day!! We crossed from Barra to Eriskay, which is famous for its ponies, and the SS Politician, which with 5,000 crates of Scottish Whisky ran aground there in 1941. Hence 'Whisky Galore'.

We then took the causeway to South Uist, a beautiful island with clear crystal water and white sandy beaches. My husband tells me it's not sand but finely ground seashells. Wow! Another causeway connected with Benbecula, which has a long military history with an established Army Base. We then crossed to North Uist which is a relatively flat island covered with peat bogs, low hills and lochans (small Scottish lakes). More than half the island is covered with water making it a bird watchers paradise.

Leaving North Uist we caught the ferry to Leverburgh on the Isle of Harris. We travelled up the west coast past numerous unspoilt beaches, moors and more lochans, some of the most beautiful scenery in the Western Isles.

We continued on our journey up to Stornaway, on the Isle of Lewis to the Cabarfeidh Hotel for a two night stay. After breakfast we were joined by the guide who took us on the tour of Lewis. First of all we visited The Butt of Lewis with its famous lighthouse, then Blackhouse village that provided an insight to life on this part of Lewis in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Next came the Dun Carloway Broch a large ancient defence structure and finally to the Callanish Stones, a fascinating collection of stone circles and standing stones often referred to as the Stonehenge of Scotland. The following morning at leisure in Stornaway saw many of us visiting the Art Centre where the making of the Tweed cloth was depicted in a magnificent array of coloured boards.

That afternoon we took the ferry to Ullapool and after disembarking travelled to Inverness for supper and then on to our last hotel in Pitlochry.

After our final Scottish breakfast we had some free time before leaving for Edinburgh and the train back to Peterborough.

It was the most splendid experience, one that will surely be remembered by all for a long time, especially for the awesome scenery, the pure fresh air and the tranquility of the islands.

Many thanks to Ann and Malcolm for all the hard work before and during our Odyssey.

*Sandi Osborne*

## **Basic Science**

No wait, stop a moment, don't run off just because I used the word science.

We have a friendly class learning some basic physics; energy and motion and things like that and some chemistry; atoms, molecules especially all those lovely carbon molecules that give us everything from alcohol to sugar and muscle tissue to petrol.

In biology, as we all know where babies come from, we just cut up frogs and worms. No of course we don't!! But I can show you one I did earlier!!

In Earth Science we build up the world and make a few stars as an encore. It's all really interesting stuff that could change the way you look at the world around you.

Nothing scary at all, and all very friendly.

Any questions contact me on 01733 233840 or on  
s.osborne7@ntlworld.com.

*Stuart Osborne*

### **Bretton Crime Readers Book Club**

The Bretton group meets at Bretton Library on the first Wednesday of the month at 3.00 pm. We choose our own books provided by the helpful librarians. Our search is for enjoyment and thrills, not great intellectual experiences! We look at crime novels from around the world, past and present.

Phone me for more information on 01733 269108

*Ann Pollack*

### **Canoeing**

During the summer six members of the Peterborough U3A took part in a canoeing course led by Les Ranford. Les is an experienced canoeist and a member of Packers Canoe Club based at Ferry Meadows. I'm not sure Les knew what he was taking on by volunteering to teach six of us pensioners the basics of canoeing. Who would have thought that there was more to getting in a canoe and paddling? Certainly not me.

Our first week saw us on the sailing lake at Ferry Meadows learning how to use our paddles and steer our canoes on the right course. Our second week Les thought we were good enough to get out on the river Nene. This involved manoeuvring our canoe under a very low footbridge and then through a narrow waterway overgrown with reeds onto the river. The instructions from Les were to keep the canoe straight under the bridge and your heads down. This was not easy but we all managed to eventually get out on the river without mishap. It was a glorious summer day and the scenery along the river was spectacular: you do get a different perspective from a canoe. Seeing swans at very close range and fleeting glimpses of kingfishers was a sight to behold.

We did six weeks of training with Les, each time taking a different route on the river and culminated with a final double lesson where we started at Barnwell mill and paddled down to

the wharf at Oundle. This involved a bit of getting in and out of the canoes at various points and carrying them overland around locks. I would like to say that this went without any hiccups. But alas our outgoing chairman decided he fancied a swim; so he dived or should I say fell into the river while getting into his canoe. He was assisted from the river by our very competent helpers that day and survived to tell the tale if a little wet and cold.

Thank you Les for your expert tuition and if any of you members are thinking about taking up canoeing I can wholeheartedly recommend Les as your teacher.

*Linda Brimmell*

### **Cinema Club**

The programme for the autumn session was selected by over 60 members, who had the chance to vote at Activities Day. In September we enjoyed the film **ALFIE** with Michael Caine in the title role. It was the second most popular film of 1966.

The November showing was the well-known 1941 film **How Green was my Valley** with Walter Pidgeon and Maureen O'Hara. Although it showed life in a tightly knit mining community in South Wales, the film was made in California and only featured one Welshman in the cast. The film won 5 Oscars plus 5 nominations.

To close 2016 we saw a very popular film of 1963, **Tom Jones**, based on the Henry Fielding novel, with Albert Finney enjoying a 'romp' or two in 18th century England. The film was made with a budget \$1m and grossed \$58m particularly in the UK and the USA.

The group meets on the second Thursday of the month at Copeland, from October to May, and after each showing, we have a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits with a brief discussion on the film. All films shown are normally at least 40 years old and they are sure to bring back the memories. Do join us – attendance is still increasing so don't be late to make sure you get a seat before the curtain goes up!

Full details of forthcoming films are shown on the website.

*John Douglas*

### **Classic and Kit Car Group**

Some of the potential members of this proposed group met up to discuss ideas. It was decided to arrange a meeting for all enthusiasts with or without their 'pride and joy on wheels', (weather permitting!)

The date planned is **Wednesday 25 January 2017** at the 'Crab and Winkle' Werrington, PE4 5BW from 11.00am for coffee and/or lunch and also to confirm events for the year. Spouses/partners also very welcome

The idea behind the Group is to enable like-minded U3A members to get together on a regular basis at various venues and events to socialise and have an informal chat about everything and anything to do with classic vehicles.

If you are interested in joining the group or have any questions please contact me on 01733 252615 after 11 January or email anytime on johnburton1942@gmail.com

*John Burton*

### **Concert Party**

It has been a busy time for The Concert Party. Our recent performances include an all day Saturday session for Vivacity at the Central Library. The group is getting bookings for places we have not been to before, and slowly we are getting established in the area.

Please do not be shy about coming forward, new members are always welcome, and it can be fun. We meet weekly at my house and several of us have had fun learning to play the ukulele last year from a DVD.

*Brian Haswell*

### **Cribbage Group**

I've been an active member of both Spalding and Boston U3A in the past. Having moved to Peterborough in July 2015 I decided it was time to renew my acquaintance with the U3A. So along with my partner, Jean, who has previously been involved with PU3A, we decided to visit Activities Day just to test the water, see how the land lay as they say. Having previously viewed the website and looked at various groups, Jean having an old magazine, we

were well armed but not prepared for the turnout and variety/number of groups.

Well, we toured the hall and rooms, packed with group activities and many willing people to discuss their interests. Until we came to the Group Coordinator's stand and found the proposal for a new Cribbage Group, however lacking a leader. It took no more than a second for me to volunteer for the task. Both Jean and I have a joint interest you see. We then went off to find the Membership Secretary to sign up, returning to add our numbers to the list. Following this, over the next hour or so saw us enrolling with several other groups.

The Cribbage Group is an informal bunch of people who have an interest and desire to play this very mentally engaging game, with few rules to hamper the individual who only wants to play a friendly game of cards. Advise and help is always available and accepted as none are experts. We meet in our homes on the fourth Thursday each month from 2.00pm to 4.00pm with a short break for tea coffee etc.

Should you wish to join us please feel free to contact me, details are on the website.

*Ken Wakeford*

### **Croatian Holiday 2016**

Two coaches left Peterborough for Stansted Airport, one on 21, the other on 22 September from thence bound for Opatija on the Istrian Peninsular in Northern Croatia. Opatija proved to be a perfect holiday resort, full of wonderful turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century grand houses, many now hotels, a delightful sea front with a purpose built eight kilometre promenade from the village of Louvran to Volosko and plenty of shops and places to explore. The four star Camellia hotel was comfortable and well placed to walk to the sea and the town centre.

During the course of the week we had three days at leisure when some went by boat to villages along the coast, others used buses and many walked around the lovely places, which had plenty of cafes and fabulous ice cream stalls. Most managed to walk along some of the promenade if not its entire length, a few brave souls even managed to swim in the sea.

Three excursions with English speaking guides were included during the holiday. The first took us, after a brief visit to Rovinj, one of the last Mediterranean fishing ports, to Porec where we wondered at the 5<sup>th</sup> century Euphrasian Basilica before moving on to wine tasting with a light lunch. After this hospitality we went to a typical fortified hill top town where there was no vehicular access, the majority of the party walked to the top but several of us waited further down in a local café.

The second tour went to Pula a busy city with many Roman remains, the principal being the amphitheatre, which was a smaller version of Rome's Coliseum; after a guided tour we had free time to explore the city and have lunch before returning to Opatija.

The final excursion took us along the coast road to the medieval town of Labin with its lovely cathedral and wonderful views before going to the pretty resort of Raban in time to find places for lunch and where the U3A had been on a previous holiday.

It was a truly super holiday, the sun shone in a bright blue sky every day, we ate and drank well and the company was excellent; sadly during the holiday Arthur Hunt suffered a stroke and had to stay in hospital when we all left. His daughter and daughter-in-law flew out to support Pat during this trying time. He is now back home in Peterborough and making good progress and we wish him well.

Many thanks to Arthur and Pat for organising the holiday and running Coach 1 before his stroke, thanks to Ann and Malcolm Pollack for organising Coach 2 and special thanks to Laurence and Chris Brettell for stepping into Arthur's shoes on Coach 1.

*Jill Hucklesby*

## **Earth Science**

All you ever wanted to know about the Earth, and a bit more besides! So far this year we've built the earth, moved the continents around a bit and studied the rocks that cover their surface. Ahead lie Greenhouse gases, Rock dating (not recommended for a stimulating evening out!);

Fossils, Earthquakes, Tides, Local geology etc, etc. If it's anything to do with our Earth, we cover it in a pleasant easygoing way.

Any questions contact me on 01733 233840 or on s.osborne7@ntlworld.com.

*Stuart Osborne*

### **English Country Dancing**

Are you looking forward to the U3A Barn Dance in January? Have you had a lot of fun at a Ceilidh? If so, come along to English Country Dancing and master all the moves. We dance at different tempos while socialising with the very friendly group.

You can come on your own or with a partner. Absolute beginners are welcome as well as those who last did it at school! All you need is a comfortable pair of shoes.

We meet on Tuesdays at 2.00pm in Marholm Village Hall. The new term begins on 10 January 2017.

Phone me for more information on 01733 269108.

*Ann Pollack*

### **Family History**

I cannot believe it is six months since I wrote the last article about our activities in the Family History group; we all lead such busy lives! The last programme was full of interesting speakers, activities and visits in the group.

Unfortunately we didn't have a table at Activities Day this year as we did not have anyone to man the stand. Despite this we welcomed new members to our group at our first meeting in September. Eric Dickens gave a talk about 'The Importance of Family History'. It certainly gave our members other avenues to explore in their research.

Our programme this year includes speakers talking about how to get started with your family history research, how to use genealogy charts, births, deaths and marriages, looking at the work of the volunteers on the WW1 project at the East Station in Peterborough and how Maps and Surveys can help identify that elusive relative. We also are planning a trip to have a tour around the restored mill at Sacrewell.

We are a friendly group and welcome new members throughout the year so if you have an interest to research your family history do come along. We would love to meet you and hopefully share our successes with you.

Please contact Maureen Hudson on 01778 349413 or me on 01832 280740 for further information.

*Jo Smith*

### **Friday Watercolours**

We are a large class of 40 artists who meet every Friday afternoon at St Andrew's in Netherton. Members either bring something along to paint, borrow a book out of our library or they can follow my step-by-step projects, which take about 3 or 4 weeks to complete. Although I have always said that this class is not suitable for complete beginners, I did agree to take on three new people on Activities Day who had never painted before, due to the non-existence of a beginner's class. I am happy to say that it has worked out very well and all three have settled in and are producing some lovely work. At the moment there is a waiting list.

*Valerie McNeill*

### **Harmony for Pleasure and Singing for Pleasure**

It has seemed that recently we are reporting each time on the loss of one of our members, and this report is not different.

We sadly had to say goodbye in August to one of our longest serving members, John Smythe. John was a true gentleman in every sense of the word, kind, generous and without a bad word for anyone. He had a fine tenor voice, which he used to great effect in both the singing groups.

In Harmony for Pleasure his vocal expertise was always evident in choral works and he often undertook solos and duets. In Singing for Pleasure it was the same, and he frequently entertained us with stories of his past, particularly his life in London prior to relocating to Peterborough. He worked hard, ensuring that the hall where we meet was warm in winter, and that the chairs were always set out in good time.

At the request of his wife, Gwen, members of Harmony for Pleasure sang at his funeral and the service was attended by many of his friends from Singing for Pleasure.

On a cheerier note, Harmony for Pleasure held a concert at the Methodist Chapel, Crowland on the evening of 29 October. The group uses the chapel for its meetings and rehearsals and at this annual event we can show our appreciation for the chapel's hospitality. The concert had an audience of over fifty, enjoying a varied programme that included different types of songs, solos, a piano duet, an organ recital, a couple of poems, and provided a venue for two young girls playing, flute, recorder and piano. It was an excellent evening and was clearly enjoyed by the audience.

*Margaret Smith*

### **Holistic Health**

We welcomed several new members to the group this term and agreed to meet fortnightly rather than weekly. We have discussed Autogenics and Reflexology with group members taking part in demonstrations.

Members of the group have said:

“Holistic helps you understand alternative medicine and helps take the stress out of yourself. You find a way to relax and feel good in yourself”.

“I enjoy the Holistic Health class because the main theme is focusing on ways of improving our well being and any health issues, with alternative methods, without using drugs, in a friendly and relaxed environment, with a tutor who is very informative and approachable”.

“Very enjoyable and enlightening and we have fun”.

*Barbara Perry, Class Secretary*

### **Mah Jong**

Mah Jong is a game that you can be playing by the end of the first morning's tuition. The rest of this wonderful game you pick up as you go. At your own pace. No weeks or months of learning the basics, you simply sit down comfortably, admire the three suits, four winds and three dragons and off you go.

It's much like rummy, collecting groups or runs. Being Chinese it's played with beautifully constructed tiles and there are a few interesting rituals like building The Great Wall of China and some strange words like Pung and Kong. We'll take you by the hand and lead you in. From the first morning you'll be hooked by it all.

We usually have nine or ten tables of four and most people had never played before they joined us. We are all very friendly, helpful and good company, just like you.

Join us at Copeland every Thursday at 10.00am. Contact me on 01733 233840 or on s.osborne7@ntlworld.com.

*Stuart Osborne*

### **Moto Bikers Group**

Since our last report the Moto Bikers have continued to be active with a wide variety of routes and destinations. Rides have been organised for the second and fourth weeks of each month.

First up was a visit to the Naseby Battle site closely followed by an old favourite, a Fish and Chip Run to Skeggy (Skegness).

A planned trip to Silverstone for an F1 Testing Day was dropped due to most members being either on family duties during the school holidays or away on holiday themselves.

The four day trip to Offa's Dyke including a circuit of Snowdonia encountered two of the hottest days of the summer. After a lunch stop at Tewksbury Cathedral Visitors Centre we rode as close to the Southern End of Offa's Dyke as possible and then walked along the Dyke until our feet were in the mud of the Severn Estuary within sight of the Severn Bridge. Following the obligatory taking of selfies we headed for our overnight stop at Tintern Abbey.

The next day was equally hot and after negotiating narrow roads up to the Offa's Dyke Visitors Centre at Knighton we abandoned the idea of closely following the Dyke and headed straight up the A5 to Thomas Telford's Pontcysyllte Aqueduct over the River Dee. We walked across it, before heading for our overnight stop at Wrexham. A cooling shower was followed by cold beers and a curry before we turned in for the night.

Heading out the next morning in cooler weather, due to a slight navigational error we encountered more very narrow roads before getting on to the Bwlch pass down into Denbighshire and running along the Clwyd Valley, past St Asaph Cathedral and Rhuddlan Castle to the Northern end of Offa's Dyke at Prestatyn. The Visitors Centre is now just a café so we had a coffee before taking some more selfies. The rest of the day took us to Conwy Castle and Quayside, lunch at Betwys-y-Coed, an exciting ride down the Llanberis Pass, a tour of the Electric Mountain and a passing look at a steam train on the Welsh Highland Railway Line before returning to Wrexham on some wonderful deserted A-roads. The final day took us through Derbyshire, over the Cat and Fiddle to a lunch stop at Ashbourne and finally home after 692 glorious miles.

The rota continued with rides to Mablethorpe, Southwold, Norfolk Motorcycle Museum, Krazy Horse Constructors Museum and Rockers Café.

The formal season ended in the last week of October with a ride to the Secret Nuclear Bunker in Essex, but if the weather holds and leaders are available, impromptu rides may continue into the winter.

Pictures and Videos of some of our rides (including the Offa's Dyke trip) can be seen on the Moto Bikers section of the U3A website at [peterboroughu3a.org.uk/activity/507](http://peterboroughu3a.org.uk/activity/507)

The group is accepting new members and we will be delighted to welcome anybody with an interest in motorcycling.

*Roy Turner*

### **Over 50s Keep Fit Class**

The first of the Over 50s Keep Fit Classes took place on Monday, 31 October and ran for six weeks until 5 December.

Karina, our trainer, started by outlining the plan for the six weeks and we then did some low impact stepping and stretching to ease us in gently (finding muscles we'd forgotten over the years). Hopefully, when we resume in the New Year, we will have some more members wanting to join us and keep fit.

*Julie Taylor*



A Hebridean Odyssey



Patchwork Quilting Group



10 mile Nordic Walk for the  
Duke of Edinburgh Diamond Challenge



Visit to Norfolk Motorbike Museum

## **Patchwork And Quilting Groups**

We would like to thank everyone who attended Activities Day and purchased tickets for the Quilt Draw (*Winning number Drawn by the Chairman was 547*), also those who gave a donation and those who purchased items all made and donated by the ladies in the groups.

A total of £300.00 was raised on the day and at our meeting on Wednesday 28 September 2016 and this was presented to Debbie Holmes of the Peterborough Alzheimer's Society, to help towards their work.

*Gordon Wakefield*

## **Plane Daft Group**

Two very successful meetings have kick started the 2016-17 session, attended by 33 and 38 members respectively. At both meetings, new U3A members have been recruited!

Our first meeting welcomed Ray Hankin and Richard Riding, both former editors of widely sold aircraft magazines. They spoke about 'Lesser-known British Aircraft 1945-60s' and some of their subjects were very lesser known! They even offered some bottles of beer as prizes for those who identified certain types ... they took at least two of them back with them! It was a fascinating afternoon, showing many aircraft reflecting the optimism that prevailed in Britain's aircraft industry at the time, which mostly proved to be stillborn. It was sad in its way, all that effort, optimism, all done on a shoestring, unlike their chief competitor, the American aviation industry, but it all brought back memories.

October's meeting saw David Howlett telling us about the logistical side of the 'Black Buck' missions, when RAF Vulcan bombers flew from Ascension Island to the Falklands and back, to thwart invading Argentine aspirations. Much time was spent describing the planning and execution of the air-to-air refuelling necessary to get one Vulcan bomber to Port Stanley, plus some of the glitches which occurred and were overcome, to ensure the raids achieved their aims successfully, without British losses. A most interesting lecture enjoyed and appreciated by all.

A full programme of meetings is planned for the rest of the session. Furthermore, the annual trip is in process of being

organised with a visit to the De Havilland Aircraft Museum and Royal Gunpowder Museum. A good year, so far and thanks to all who attend meetings so loyally and to the catering team John Truluck and Peter Gilbert and all others who help out.

*Terry McCarthy*

### **Railways Studies**

The new session has made a good start, the first two meetings attracting audiences of 52 and 44 respectively.

The 2015-2016 programme finished with Ernest Warnham's most interesting presentation on the development and testing of the Pendolino trains for Virgin West Coast, when many of the technical issues raised were considered in a comprehensible way. Following that, a grand total of four members enjoyed a visit to the Bluebell Railway in July, enjoying at least one journey in a recently restored four-wheeled Victorian carriage.

Two meetings have been held for 2016-2017. For the first we were entertained by fellow member and retired locoman, Bill Watkins. His presentation focussed mainly on his career on the footplate of steam locomotives, which fell into two parts. The first, considered his early days at Spittal, Peterborough, when, with a lot of photographs, he described the shed, its workings and locomotives. Thereafter, he moved onto his post Spittal days (it closed in 1959) mainly working from Peterborough East. Following the demise of steam locomotion his career encompassed diesel power, including Deltics on the East Coast Mainline. In the 1990s he volunteered to return to the steam footplate as a driver of steam-hauled excursions. This enabled him to drive a wide range of preserved motive power on the mainline and the North Norfolk Railway, until a second retirement in early 2015.

Robin Cullup, from Kettering Locomotive Society was the October speaker, when he explored the history, routes, traffic, and stations of the Great Northern and London and North Western Joint line. This line, built in the 1880s and a relatively late arrival on the railway scene, was built primarily for coal traffic from the Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire coalfields to London. One local link was that of the Peterborough – Leicester

passenger service operated until 1916 by the Great Northern via, what we now know as part of the Nene Valley Railway. Robin illustrated his theme with a wide range of fascinating and interesting photographs.

A full programme of presentations has been prepared for the rest of the session, although the destination of the summer trip has yet to be decided.

Grateful thanks are offered to Peter Gilbert, Alan Compton and helpers for the afternoon tea/coffee, as well as our very loyal membership.

*Terry McCarthy*

### **Rowing Group**

Can you recognise the difference between a macon and a cleaver? Do you know how to feather a blade or where to sit at backstops? If not then you could always learn by joining the Rowing Group, which meets twice a week at the Peterborough City Rowing Club, Thorpe Meadows on Monday mornings at 10.00am and Thursday afternoons at 1.30pm. Cost for the ten 'Learn to Row' sessions is £60.00 with an initial free taster session.

It has been a very successful year for our group: membership has increased, rowing and sculling skills have developed and, for the first time, a U3A eight took part in the Peterborough Head Race on the River Nene in November managing to record an excellent time on the four kilometre course. All members of the crew enjoyed the preparation and training beforehand and felt a great sense of achievement when it was all over. Who says we're too old to compete against twenty year olds?

Several members of the group have also completed a Level 2 Session Coach course, run by British Rowing, which qualifies them to coach rowing sessions. Others have volunteered to follow a course, which will enable them to become coxes.

In a more relaxed mode, on a beautiful, sunny day in August the Oundle U3A rowing group invited us to a morning out and picnic lunch. Everyone who attended will always remember the excellent hospitality and the opportunity to share rowing on the quiet Nene in glorious sunshine.

Social activities have also continued: a summer curry supper at Thorney and a pre-Christmas meal at The Coach House, South Luffenham. Calories used up in rowing exercise are regularly replenished with plenty of tea, cakes and biscuits in the clubhouse after each session and there have been a number of birthday celebrations for group members.

So, if you fancy adding some rowing terms to your vocabulary, learning some new skills (or reviving some old ones] and becoming part of a friendly group then please contact Barry Clarkson at 07570 47315 or rbarryc@hotmail.com.

*Elizabeth Jackson*

### **Sing Something Simple**

A new singing group has started for people who would just like to sing. You don't need to be able to read music and no auditions!! It is just singing for fun and enjoyment.

We are singing a range of songs and requests are very welcome. Words for the songs will be provided and emailed to you to be printed out for your own use.

*Annette Dagless*

### **Spanish Groups**

The three Spanish groups resumed in September at the Copeland Centre each with many new members. The groups are Basic Spanish on Tuesday morning led by John Douglas, Intermediate Spanish on Monday morning led by Caroline Davis and Improving Spanish on Thursday afternoon led by Claire Bysse.

All the groups are at a maximum level of members as the total number is now 72, and regrettably there are many on the waiting list.

*John Douglas*

### **Theatre Group**

As we reach the end of another successful year, we can look back on the various shows and venues that the Group has visited.

Our final trip of 2016 was of course the Christmas Spectacular at Thursford. Before that in December we saw the latest Disney extravaganza, 'Aladdin' at The Prince Edward Theatre in London. We saw 'Relatively Speaking' an Alan Ayckbourn play starring Robert Powell and Liza Goddard at Milton Keynes Theatre and to prove the variety, before that we had tickets on Platform 2 at the Kings Cross Theatre in London for 'The Railway Children'.

Twenty shows a year appears to be about the right number to ensure we get full support for the shows. New members are always welcome, as are suggestions for future events.

Find out more by visiting [www.pu3atheatre.org.uk](http://www.pu3atheatre.org.uk).

*Dorothy and Graham Woods*

### **Torquay Visit**

During September 2016 the Peterborough U3A Travel Club went by Dunwood's coach for a pleasurable stay at the Toorak Hotel, Torquay. In a week celebrating Agatha Christie the group went along the River Dart on the Christie Belle and visited Greenway - her house (now part of the National Trust). There were opportunities to look at her wide variety of collections, visit the boathouse, and walk the extensive gardens and grounds.

We had time to wander Torquay town, beaches and harbour and the on-site TLH Leisure Resort, enjoying the swimming pool, bowling and dance facilities. Also staying were devotees of Agatha Christie in appropriate dress, so Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple were in the restaurant with us for dinner. Food was plentiful, staff were attentive, meals were tasty and the plates were hot. The hotel has good transport links to town.

On a tour of Dartmoor the group saw the prison, the roaming ponies, sheep and cattle and had the chance for a Devon Cream Tea. Enjoying changeable weather, a pleasant hour was spent in sunshine at Brixham Harbour. The group also took in an evening visit to Paignton Palace Theatre to see "Murder on the Nile".

The holiday was over too quickly, and a good time was had by all. Thanks to Ann and Malcolm Pollack for organising.

*Fred Davis*

## **Tuesday Watercolours**

We are a small group of 13 artists of mixed abilities who meet every Tuesday afternoon at St John's Church Hall in Mayor's Walk to share our love of painting. We normally sort out our own projects, but occasionally I demonstrate any new products I have come across and then everyone can have a go at using them. Recently we discovered Brusho, which proved a great success. At the moment there is a waiting list for this group.

*Valerie McNeill*

## **Walkie-Talkies Walking Group**

Late summer brought some sad news to the group. Peter Smith, who had been a member of our group almost since its inception just over 4 years ago, died unexpectedly in August after a short illness. Peter was one of our regular walkers and, whenever a holiday was announced, he was always one of the first people to express an interest so his absence was particularly felt on our recent trip to the Lake District.

Our regular weekly meetings continued through the summer with our morning walks being supplemented by a full day walk at the end of June when the group explored the Naseby battlefield and the Welford Canal. We were blessed with hot dry weather so frequent stops were required which gave us the opportunity to admire the undulating hills which are a feature of the Northamptonshire landscape.

## **Walkie-Talkies Autumn Break in Keswick**

In mid September 12 members of our group arrived in Keswick for a 4 day break and once again we were greeted by perfect walking weather. We had a mixed programme and tried to fit in as much variety as possible over the short time we were away.

On our first full day we had a local walk, climbing up Latrigg the mini-fell behind the town; however, due to the winter floods we followed an amended route home, as some bridges over the Greta River have not yet been replaced. Continuing on to Threlkeld we alarmed a flock of sheep that was being herded down a narrow lane and were reluctant to pass us. Fortunately the farmer and sheepdogs eventually got the upper hand, order was restored and they continued on their way.

We next ventured into Borrowdale and walked in the Stonethwaite Valley up to Blackmoss Pot in baking sunshine, which was quite a surprise for everyone. The views from this walk are spectacular and involve no real climbing, so if you are able to cope with rocky terrain it is certainly worth a try. There is even a convenient pub in Stonethwaite village, which serves the most enormous (though somewhat pricey) scones. Please contact me if you would like the route.

For our last full walk we travelled over to the Langdales, which are, everyone agreed, much softer and greener than we had seen in the previous two walks. Overcoming parking problems in Elterwater we walked down to Skelwith Bridge admired Skelwith Force and then struggled up to Loughrigg Tarn where we had our break overlooking the picturesque lake.

Our week concluded with a short walk from Braithwaite before we went our separate ways home.

*Lynn Turner*  
*Walkie-Talkies Group Co-ordinator*

### **U3A Open Art Exhibition 2016**

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported the 2016 U3A Art Exhibition in November. Even with the terrible weather 138 paying visitors came through the door and we had a fabulous day of people admiring the many beautiful paintings. It was also lovely to see people enjoying the company of friends and family over a cup of tea and cake provided by the Tuesday and Friday Watercolour Classes.

A total of 14 paintings were sold, not quite as many as previous years but still a reasonable number. We have raised over £760.00 so far and there will be a little extra to add to this total so a nice sum to donate to our two worthy causes: Alzheimer's Peterborough and St Andrew's Church.

As some of you may know, this is the last exhibition that David and I are arranging. On checking back, we realised that we organised the first one, together with Bob Frank, in 2007, and we feel around ten exhibitions is a good number to finish on! However, we are hopeful that some members of the class are going to carry on with the tradition of an annual exhibition, and if so, we are sure they will let you have all the details.

Thank you again for making the day so enjoyable and worthwhile.

*Valerie McNeill*

### **Welsh Language Course**

I have been studying Welsh with Peterborough U3A for about four years. This gave me the confidence to improve my skills by applying to attend residential courses in Wales. In July 2015 and 2016, I attended a Welsh language course at Trinity College, University of Wales in Lampeter.

Lampeter is a busy local commercial centre, located in south Ceredigion and provides services for a wide area. Its university was founded by Royal Charter in 1822. The Lampeter University college campus, now part of Trinity St David's University, is the oldest college establishment in Wales. Accommodation is on site in Trinity student halls of residence with en-suite and internet facilities. Students also have full access to the college library and technical services.

Last year there were five groups, ranging from beginners to fluent speakers wishing to finetune their language skills. This year I was in group 3 as an Improver. Our tutor, Gwyn, was enthusiastic, instructive and approachable. Lessons started at 9.30am and continued until 4.30pm. On the first morning, we were presented with a workbook, which I found very useful to peruse prior to each tutorial. There were thirteen of us in the group, seven ladies and six men comprising six teachers, two lawyers and one doctor and retirees. All my colleagues appeared very enthusiastic and more knowledgeable than me! I found that because we all had a common interest in what we were doing, the group functioned efficiently and well. This had also been my experience in 2015.

On applying for the course, the applicant is asked what level he or she had attained in order to place one in the appropriate group. A student can move up or down groups on the first day as appropriate. Last year I joined group three but found that I could not cope with the pace and moved down to group two. The fact that I was able to manage comfortably in the higher group is I feel, a measure of my progress during the past year.

The emphasis from the organisers is to try to speak Welsh at all times but English is allowed when we encounter difficulties in communicating!

During the week, Gwyn handed out our homework sheets. These formed the basis of 50% of our final marks. The other 50% were based on Gwyn's assessment of our individual contribution to the group; a three-minute unprepared delivery in Welsh on a topic given by Gwyn. My topics included 'my family and what I like to do in my spare time'.

As last year, social events were planned for the evenings and the programme was as follows: On Monday there were Welsh games including Welsh scrabble

On Tuesday a local historian took us on an evening walk around Lampeter, which lasted for two hours. I found this highly interesting seeing over 150 paupers' gravestones in the churchyard.

On Wednesday we visited the National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth. This is a magnificent building overlooking Cardigan Bay. We were shown around by one of the historians. Over six and a half million books including very early Welsh examples are stored there. There are also a million and a half maps and large collections of paintings and photos. After our introductory talk, we visited areas not open to the general public. The actual reading library is an impressive large room, where peace and quiet reigns.

On Thursday we visited the village of Llanpumsaint, where we were guests of the local choir, who entertained us royally to an evening of singing, dancing and eating. Gwyn, our tutor, was the choirmaster. A very memorable evening.

On Friday lessons finished at three o'clock. We gathered in the Old Hall of the college to receive an address from the professor of language studies and then be given our certificates by her. We departed about four o'clock.

I really enjoyed the course this year; more than last year, I think. In the group, we all appeared to be at a similar level. Gwyn worked us harder as the week went on, but we all coped. It is really pleasant to step back into student role. The campus itself is very compact, but peaceful. One also feels the tradition

of the place. I've been uplifted by my attendance and will try to work harder at my Welsh this year. All being well I will attend again next year.

*Malcolm Sadler - All Matters Welsh*

## **TRAVEL CLUB NEWS**

Arthur and Pat took 91 Travel Club members to Opatija in Croatia, Ann and Malcolm taking the second coach. See the Opatija article. In June, John Douglas took group to Galicia & Oporto.

In July, Ann and Malcolm took a group of 41 to the Outer Hebrides (See Sandi Osborne's write-up). In September, we went to Torquay with special focus on keen tenpin bowlers and bowls players - See Fred Davis' article

The last holiday in the year will be a festive break at Warners in Alvaston, Cheshire. We will be taking two full coaches to the popular pre-Christmas holiday.

### **Projected holidays for 2017 with Arthur**

3 February	A Caribbean cruise
3 May & 10 May	Two groups to the Dolomites
4 Oct & 5 Oct	Two groups to Portugal

### **Projected holidays for 2017 with Ann**

30 July	A cruise to the Norwegian Fjords
14 September	A holiday in Cornwall
November	Warners Festive Break

### **Future Travel Club Meetings at Jack Hunt School**

Saturday	21 January	10:00am
Saturday	4 March	10:00am
Saturday	22 April	10:00am
Saturday	3 June	10:00am
Saturday	8 July	10:00am
Friday	18 August	11:00am Activities Day at The Fleet
Saturday	21 October	10:00am
Saturday	16 December	10:00am

## DAY VISITS 2017

*Please read this carefully if you intend to book for any day visit.*  
More 'Day Visits' for 2017 will be published  
in the April edition of the NEWS.

**Any member of the U3A can book a day visit.** Non-U3A members are welcome as guests, but have to pay a slightly higher charge. Please use the booking forms, the bottom form first! (Additional booking forms are usually available on day visits and at monthly meetings.) **Please pay by cheque whenever possible. Cheques should be made payable to Peterborough U3A.** Enclose a stamped addressed envelope with your form if you wish to have a receipt. Refunds will not normally be made after the booking deadline. If you cancel we will try to re-sell your place, although you will have to pay the costs of this, which will normally be about £2.00 per person. If there are spare seats we will usually accept bookings after the deadline.

It is best to book as early as possible if you want to be sure of a seat for a particular visit. I am happy to deal with any queries, *except booking queries*, by phone on 01780 782976. If you cannot get hold of me, Sandi Osborne or Doreen Dare may be able to help (see inside front cover of this News). **Booking enquiries should only be made to Gina Bates [01733 579317].** Book with Gina by phone and then send the booking form and cheque to Gina at **Peterborough U3A c/o Mrs G Bates, 82 Temple Grange, Werrington, PETERBOROUGH, PE4 5DW** within seven days. If you are booking for just one visit just cut off the bottom slip.

If the visit is already fully booked it is a good idea to put your name on the waiting list. You may be able to replace someone who has to drop out. If the waiting list gets very long we may book a second coach or run the same visit but possibly on a different day.

Some people who live in the side road near the Crab & Winkle have complained about constant parking in their road. They know that the parking is not illegal but I can understand

their problem, particularly when sometimes it is difficult to access or leave their drives. Can I suggest if you are going to use your car it is easier to park it at Thorpe Meadows where it does not upset anyone. You would also get home earlier as Thorpe Meadows is usually the first drop off point.

**Note:** Fuller details of conditions, etc. are published annually in the April 'News'.

*Paul Parker – Day Visit Organiser (01780 782976)*

## **BIRMINGHAM & SYMPHONY HALL CONCERT [1] Wednesday 15 February 2017**

**NOTE:** The tickets for this concert have already been booked so you cannot purchase tickets for this concert unless: (a) you make enquiries to Symphony Hall and are able to obtain tickets from them. First make sure there are still seats available on the coach; (b) Someone who has already booked with us drops out in which case you need to have put yourself on Gina's waiting list

**The coach leaves Bright Street Coach Station at 7.40am, Crab & Winkle, Werrington at 7.50am, Bretton Centre bus stop at 8.00am and Thorpe Meadows at 8.10am, arriving back in Peterborough at about 7.30pm.**

The programme for the concert includes Rachmaninov's Piano concerto No. 2 and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 (*Pathétique*).

Names can be deceptive, *Pathétique* actually means 'full of emotion' and from the first note to the last, Tchaikovsky's heart rending Sixth Symphony is exactly that. As the former Bolshoi music director, Alexander Vedernikov, who conducts the concert, has this music in his blood; expect raw feeling, great melodies and Russian flair by the bucket-load as he teams up with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Artist in Residence Steven Osborne in Rachmaninov's best loved Piano Concerto.

There will be time to look round some of Birmingham before the concert; we usually arrive before 11.00am. It is the UK's second city, with all the shops you would expect. There are also

some superb museums and art galleries and the canals. You will be dropped off and picked up fairly near to the city centre just outside Symphony Hall. There are usually spaces for those who do not want to go to the concert (see below)

Further details from Paul Parker [01780 782976]

**Cost: Travel & Concert: £35.10 (Non-U3A members £37.60)**

**Cost: Travel only £10.50 (Non-U3A members £13.00)**

**Deadline for booking for travel only 8 February 2017**

## **IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM**

**Monday 27 February 2017**

**Leaving Bright Street Coach Station at 7.40am, Crab & Winkle, Werrington at 7.50am, Bretton Centre bus stop at 8.00am and Thorpe Meadows at 8.10am, arriving back in Peterborough at about 7.00pm.**

Besides the WW1 galleries, which reveal some surprising facts about the First World War, there is no charge for entry except for the occasional special exhibition (see the Imperial War Museum website. It also has a café, which serves hot and cold food.

**Cost: U3A members £16.70 (Non-U3A members £19.20)**

**Deadline for booking 13 February 2017**

## **NORWICH CASTLE**

**Friday 10 March 2017**

**Leaving Bright Street Coach Station at 7.30am, Crab & Winkle, Werrington at 7.40am, Bretton Centre bus stop at 7.50am and Thorpe Meadows at 8.00am, arriving back in Peterborough at about 7.30pm.**

Norwich Castle was built between 1067 and 1075 as a royal palace for William the Conqueror, with its magnificent stone keep added in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the castle was the city gaol and remained so for 500 years. The castle mound is the largest in England.

Today the castle houses a fascinating museum with displays of art, archaeology, natural history, Lowestoft porcelain, Norwich silver and a large collection of paintings, with a special emphasis on the Norwich School of painters. A display of teapots is a pleasant diversion.

You can take a guided tour of the dungeons and battlements.

There are many other places, within walking distance, which are worth visiting, including the cathedral.

**Cost including travel and entry:**

**U3A members £17.80 (non-U3A members £20.20)**

**Deadline for booking 24 February 2017**

**SOUTH KENSINGTON FOR THE SCIENCE MUSEUM,  
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM,  
AND/OR VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM**

**Tuesday 21 March 2017**

**Leaving Bright Street Coach Station at 7.45am, Crab & Winkle, Werrington at 7.55am, Bretton Centre bus stop at 8.05am and Thorpe Meadows at 8.15am, arriving back in Peterborough at about 7.30pm.**

This visit is initially for Stuart Osborne's groups and friends, but is open to all U3A members. For the rest of us it is a chance to visit any one or more of the South Kensington museums. All of them have free entry, although there may be charges for certain special temporary exhibitions and also have at least one restaurant and one café. There are places where you can eat packed lunches in the Science and Natural History museums. The V&A has free Introductory Tours lasting an hour at 11.30, 13.30 and 15.30 and are also free as are the British Gallery Tours at 12.30 and 14.30. Each of the tours last one hour. The V&A has recently opened a new furniture gallery. There are also galleries for ceramics, glass, Asia, fashion & jewellery, photography, sculpture, etc., architecture as well as special temporary exhibitions. If you have not been to the V&A you will be amazed by what is there, it is the largest museum of art and design in the world - eight miles of galleries. Something to interest everyone. One could say the same about the other two museums. You can find details of their special exhibitions and more details on their websites.

Any queries about pickup points etc, *but not booking enquiries*, contact Paul Parker (01780 782976).

**Cost: U3A members £16.70 (non-U3A members £19.20)**

**Deadline for booking: 6 March 2017**

## **KEW GARDENS**

**Wednesday 12 April 2017**

**The coach leaves Crab & Winkle, Werrington at 7.55am, Bretton Centre bus stop at 8.05am and Thorpe Meadows at 8.15am, arriving back in Peterborough at about 7.30pm.**

Kew Gardens cover an area of about 300 acres. The vast number and variety of plants means the nature of Kew Gardens changes with the seasons. Out in the grounds, and inside the plant houses, thousand of specimens progress through their annual cycles, flowering, fruiting, growing, and resting. All year long there are plants to be seen at their glorious best. Should it turn out to be a poor day outside there are an enormous number of inside places to see, including the Palm House, the Temperate House, the Alpine House, the Waterlily House, and much more besides. There are many places to eat and drink, shops, etc.

There is a land train for those who prefer to ride,  
or cannot walk far

**Cost including travel and entry to Kew Gardens:  
U3A members £24.75 (non U3A members £27.25)**

**Deadline for booking 28 March 2017**

## **NATIONAL ARBORETUM**

**Tuesday 25 April 2017**

**Leaving Bright Street Coach Station at 7.40am, Crab & Winkle, Werrington at 7.50am, Bretton Centre Bus Stop at 8.00am and Thorpe Meadows at 8.10am, arriving back in Peterborough at about 7.30pm.**

The arboretum has been developed as a memorial to those who fell in the two world wars. There are many memorials around the arboretum. The arboretum helps us to remember some of past, but because it is an arboretum it is also a very beautiful place. Most of us would say it is a very beautiful place of remembrance. It covers quite a wide area. You can choose to walk round or use the Land Train, or more likely, part walk and part ride, There is a good place to eat a snack or meal or bring your own. There are all the usual facilities, so come and have an interesting day.

**Cost: U3A members £14.30 (non-U3A members £16.80)**  
**Deadline for booking 11 April 2017**

**BIRMINGHAM & SYMPHONY HALL CONCERT [2]**  
**Thursday 4 May 2017**

**Leaving Bright Street Coach Station at 7.40am, Crab & Winkle, Werrington at 7.50am, Bretton Centre bus stop at 8.00am and Thorpe Meadows at 8.10am, arriving back in Peterborough at about 7.30pm**

The programme for this concert is Beethoven's Symphony No. 2, Haydn's Trumpet Concerto in E flat major and Dvorák's Symphony No.8.

No composer makes a happier noise than Joseph Haydn, and when Alison Balsom is the soloist you've got a concert that's pretty much guaranteed to lift the spirits. After all, symphonies simply don't get any more cheerful than Beethoven's Second, except may be Dvorák's Eighth! Village bands, singing birds and hummable tunes: instant sunshine delivered with wit and charm by the young British conductor Ben Gernon.

There will be time to look round some of Birmingham before the concert; we usually arrive before 11.00am. It is the UK's second city, with all the shops you would expect. There are also some superb museums and art galleries and the canals. You will be dropped off and picked up fairly near to the city centre just outside Symphony Hall. There are usually spaces for those who do not want to go to the concert (see below)

Further details from Paul Parker [01780 782976]

**Cost: Travel & Concert: £35.10 (Non-U3A members £37.60)**

**Cost: Travel only £10.50 (Non-U3A members £13.00)**

Deadline for booking for the concert **16 February 2017**

Deadline for booking for travel only **20 April 2017**

**COLCHESTER**  
**Friday 5 May 2017**

**Leaving Bright Street Coach Station at 7.30am, Crab & Winkle, Werrington at 7.40am, Bretton Centre bus stop at 7.50am and Thorpe Meadows at 8.00am, arriving back in Peterborough at about 7.30pm.**

In Roman times Colchester was the capital of England. We will be taking a guided tour on the morning of our visit. This will take us through Castle Park, the Dutch Quarter and the high street where our tour will begin. There are many medieval remains in Colchester. In the afternoon you can visit Colchester Castle, which is near to where we end the morning tour but there is much to see in Colchester so it entirely up to you how you spend the afternoon. The present cost of entry to the Castle is £7.20

**Cost of Travel & Morning Tour U3A members £18.60**

**(Non-U3A members £21.10)**

**Deadline for booking 18 April 2017**

## **CONSTABLE COUNTRY**

**Thursday 11 May 2017**

**Leaving Bright Street Coach Station at 7.30am, Crab & Winkle, Werrington at 7.40am, Bretton Centre bus stop at 7.50am and Thorpe Meadows at 8.00am, arriving back in Peterborough at about 7.30pm**

This is a trip for the Alphabet of Art Groups but if there are spaces left after 1 January it will be opened to the rest of the U3A members. John Shearman says: "This year we will visit Constable Country. Our main focus for the day will be time spent at Flatford, which provided inspiration for some of Constable's iconic paintings. We will be led by a Blue Badge Guide, Simon Gallup, who plans to visit East Bergholt (for lunch) and Dedham during the day,"

**Cost of Travel, and the Blue Badge Guide:**

**£13.30 U3A members (£15.80 non-U3A members)**

**NOTE:** Alphabet of Art Members should have booked before 1 **January** to be sure of a place.

Others can book after **8 January** should there be any places left

**Deadline for booking 27 April 2017**

## **DE HAVILLAND AIRCRAFT MUSEUM & THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER WORKS**

**Tuesday 13 June 2017**

**The coach leaves Crab & Winkle, Werrington at 7.55am, Bretton Centre bus stop at 8.05am and Thorpe Meadows at 8.15am, arriving back in Peterborough at about 7.30pm.**

These two museums are not far from each other, De Havilland being in London Colney and the Royal Gunpowder Works in Waltham Abbey near the M25 and A1 junction. The morning will be spent at the De Havilland Museum and the afternoon at the Royal Gunpowder Works.

The De Havilland Museum claims to be the oldest aviation museum in the UK dedicated to the preservation and display of the De Havilland Aircraft. The De Havilland played an important role in the history of aircraft development in 20<sup>th</sup> century Britain, creating and world beating aeronautical innovations including aircraft such as the Mosquito – the Wooden Wonder, the Comet (the world's first jet airliner), the Tiger Moth (the backbone of the RAF's training aircraft in WWII) and Airspeed Horsa Glider which was used extensively by our airborne troops in 1944 during D-Day, Arnhem and the Rhine crossing. It is a working museum where De Havilland Aircraft are being actively restored, so you are likely to see volunteers at work, who are always willing to answer your questions.

Departing from De Havilland at about 1.30pm we will travel by coach to the Royal Gunpowder Works at Waltham Abbey. Both locations have cafés so lunch can be taken either location.

The site is on the European Route of English Heritage where you can see many original buildings and structures from the Mills past. There are many aspects of the Mills' 300 year history, e.g. the journey from muskets to satellite launchers, top-secret research into changing propulsion techniques, rockets, the Armoury, 1940s Exhibition, and Women at War. It is a large site (170 acres) and for the first time the visitor land train is available at £2.00 per person extra (contact Terry if interested) to tour the site. There is also a Film and Exhibition centre.

Both sites have the usual facilities, toilets, museum shops, etc and offer disabled access to most displays, apart from aircraft cockpits when open. We will depart from Waltham Abbey at about 5.00pm.

**Cost including travel and entry to the two sites:  
U3A members £16.00 (non-U3A members £18.50)  
Deadline for booking 2 June 2017**

## **YORK**

**Wednesday 12 July 2017**

**Leaving Bright Street Coach Station at 7.30am, Crab & Winkle, Werrington at 7.40am, Bretton Centre bus stop at 7.50am, Thorpe Meadows at 8.00am.** Expected time back in Peterborough about 7.30pm.

There is so much to do in York: climb the 275 steps of York Minster's tower or 104 steps up to Clifford's Tower (both give fine views over the city); visit Jorvik for a journey back into the Viking Age; take a boat on the river, at the Castle Museum wander down the reconstructed Victorian Street, walk the 2½ miles of city walls to see York from a different perspective, time; visit the world's largest railway museum. The National Railway Museum is free. Of course there are the many shops down many narrow streets including the famous Shambles. Very near to the York Minster is the Treasurer's House and its garden, well worth a visit and its free if you are member of the National Trust and have your membership card with you. Newgate Market operates seven days a week.

There are many eateries in York, including at nearly all the places mentioned above.

**Note:** We will drop off and pick-up near York city centre and the Railway Museum.

**Cost Travel Only: U3A members £16.70;  
(non-U3A members £19.20)  
Deadline for booking 23 June 2017**

## **R.H.S. WISLEY**

**Tuesday 25 July 2017**

**Leaving Bright Street Coach Station at 7.20am, Crab & Winkle, Werrington at 7.30am, Bretton Centre bus stop at 7.40am, Thorpe Meadows at 7.50am.** Expected time back in Peterborough about 7.30pm.

RHS Wisley is the premiere garden of the Royal Horticulture Society. It is also their largest. The flowerbeds and vegetable beds are interesting throughout the year. The Rock Garden is amazing. Besides the many plant displays there are several places to eat, and excellent plants to buy. There will not be time to see everything and should it be wet there are several interesting glass houses to visit.

**Cost of travel and entry: £29.30 U3A members  
(£31.80 non-U3A members)**

## **TILBURY FORT AND SOUTHEND**

**Wednesday 2 August 2017**

**Leaving Bright Street Coach Station at 7.30am, Crab & Winkle, Werrington at 7.40am, Bretton Centre bus stop at 7.50am and Thorpe Meadows at 8.00am,** arriving back in Peterborough at about 7.30pm.

This visit takes us to two places on or near the River Thames. Tilbury Fort is at the beginning of the Thames estuary as you go down the Thames Rainham Hall is towards London from Tilbury

**Tilbury Fort** has defended London's seaward approach since Tudor times to the second-world war. Henry VIII built the first permanent fort here and Queen Elizabeth I delivered her Armada speech at nearby Tilbury in 1588. Charles II ordered his chief engineer, Sir Bernard de Gomme, to build the great artillery fort we see today, with work beginning in 1670. It is the best example of a 17<sup>th</sup> century bastioned fortress in England with its complete circuit of moats and outworks still substantially surviving. Highland prisoners were held here after the Jacobite rising of 1745. Much later the fort's guns helped shoot down a raiding Zeppelin in 1916.

To enter the fort you will pass through the magnificent Watergate and you can also see the historic Landport gate. Visit the east gunpowder magazine to take in an exhibition tracing the fort's role in the defence of London and providing information on advances in military engineering. The atmospheric Victorian magazine tunnels in the north east bastion give an insight into a life of a 19<sup>th</sup> century gunner.

For impressive views of the Thames and the historic town of Gravesend be sure to step onto the fort ramps.

Southend is much further down the Thames than Tilbury. It has the longest pleasure pier in the World. It is so long (1 1/3 mile) you can take a train to near the end. At the end of the pier you will get a different view of the Thames to the one you got at Tilbury. If it is not misty you will just about see Kent again. The end of the pier houses a pavilion and a café plus a RNLI lifeboat station. You have three choices: 1. You can walk both ways, 2. Walk one way and catch the train one way, 3. Catch the train both ways. The ticket price is not included in the charge below. Last year Choice 1 was £2 - Concessions £1, and the most expensive i.e. both ways on the train was £4.30 and Concessions £2.20.

**Cost of travel, entry to Tilbury Fort  
and guided tour of the fort:**

**£20.80 U3A members over 60**

**£21.30 U3A members under 60.**

**English heritage members pay £16.30**

**Non-U3A members pay £2.50 in addition the above prices**

**Deadline for booking 17 July 2017**

**NEW MEMBERS' MEETING**

**Saturday 1 April 2017**

**at St Andrews Church Hall, Ledbury Road**

Coffee Served from 9.30am

Meeting Starts 10.00am

Prospective members and  
any members who have missed previous  
New Members' Meetings are welcome to attend

**Reports and articles for next U3A News should reach the  
editor not later than**

**Friday 24 February 2017**

Items can be given to Conny Yarwood  
or sent by email to [conny.yarwood@gmail.com](mailto:conny.yarwood@gmail.com)  
or by post clearly writing NEWS in the top left hand corner  
of the envelope to the address below:

***PLEASE NOTE NEW PO BOX NUMBER  
AND POSTCODE***

**Peterborough U3A News  
PO Box 1341  
Peterborough PE2 2QD**



Barnack Bowls Club break at Potters Bar



Patchwork & Quilting Group

