

New Mills and District



November
2014



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WEBSITE: www.newmillsu3a.org.uk

OUTINGS

OUR summer break in August saw 43 New Mills members take a tour of Suffolk and Constable Country.

We had a good journey down to our hotel near Colchester with a stop at Oakham, the county town of Rutland.

Next morning was an excursion into rural Suffolk with some of the party stopping at Woodbridge on the Deben estuary and others visiting the burial site of an Anglo-Saxon king at Sutton Hoo. The afternoon was fun-time in the seaside resort of Southwold, famous for its beach huts.

The following day was a highlight visit to Constable Country with a full guided tour. This included a walk through the village of East Bergholt, John Constable's birthplace, to view the architecture.

Fascinating

Then on to the picturesque village of Flatford which inspired some of Constable's most famous works including 'The Hay Wain'. We also visited Dedham; the tower of its 16th-century church can be seen in many of Constable's paintings.

There was also the opportunity on this day for visits to the beautiful Beth Chatto gardens.

Our last full day was spent in the market town of Bury St. Edmunds with its cathedral and fascinating abbey ruins.

We also went to Lavenham, a well-preserved Suffolk wool town with fine medieval houses and the Guildhall.

On our travels through the county we saw

Journey among the fields of gold

acres of countryside reminiscent of a line in a song by Sting... 'Fields Of Gold'.

Finally on our journey home we had a break in the lovely Lincolnshire town of Stamford with its mellow stone walls and lovely riverside walks.

Another successful trip with good weather and good company. Thanks again to the Outings team.

Back on home ground we had an outing to Hardwick Hall near Chesterfield in September. The hall dates from the late 16th-century and was built by the formidable Bess of Hardwick, a wealthy and powerful woman associated with both Hardwick and Chatsworth.

Another good day out with time to explore the house and gardens.

Rosemary Bee

WEBSITE: www.newmillsu3a.org.uk



Above and top left: There were different ways of enjoying Beth Chatto's Garden
 Left: Taking the sea air on a glorious day at Southwold
 Bottom left: Enjoying the delights of Constable Country
 Below: The impressive abbey at Bury St Edmunds



AGM

From the
CHAIR

Our U3A continues to thrive

OUR well-attended AGM was held on Tuesday, October 21 at 10:30am in New Mills Town Hall, during which elections for the 2014-2015 committee were held.

There is a list of the new committee on the opposite page. Thank you to members who have retired from various roles: John Turnbull who has been our Business Secretary for two years; Barbara Riley for organising the book exchange; and Steve Millns for arranging some interesting speakers.

And thank you to everyone else who helps out in any way, in particular the group leaders. And a big thank you to everyone, in particular Barbara Matthews, who organised and helped with the Garden Party

The highlight of this year has been the celebration of our tenth anniversary. We celebrated with a very successful and enjoyable Garden Party in August, which was opened by our founder, Ethne Bailey. We also distributed tenth anniversary pens to all our members, and we published a tenth anniversary issue of our newsletter in July.

Our U3A continues to be successful with membership more than 560, and 55 groups



by ANN APPS

listed on our website, with several new ones started during the year, although with several closures as well. These groups cover a wide variety of topics, enabling the sharing of skills and knowledge to fulfil the U3A's aims of learning, recreation and companionship.

Our finances are healthy, and the financial report was accepted by the meeting. We have continued to maintain links with other U3As through the Pennine Link and the Derbyshire Network.

The Disabilities Sub-Committee, which continued to meet during the year, has produced a number of guidance documents in addition to establishing contacts for members or prospective members who may have concerns about their access to the U3A and its activities. The sub-committee recognised that there is a wider issue of accessibility to make the U3A experience 'a reality for all third agers'.

New Mills and District U3A Committee 2014-2015

Chair

Ann Apps (chair@newmillsu3a.org.uk)

Deputy Chair

Lin Thomas

Treasurer

Margaret Weaver

(treasurer@newmillsu3a.org.uk)

Business Secretary

Vacant

Groups Coordinator

Barbara Morris

(groupscoordinator@newmillsu3a.org.uk)

Membership Secretary

Wendy Cheshire

(membership@newmillsu3a.org.uk)

Minutes Secretary

Marian Parker

Committee Members

Sue Rivers, Lesley Thompson, Angus

Munro

Invited, external liaison

Chris Bond

Non-Committee Roles

Almoner and Accessibility Officer

Hazel Perry

(access@newmillsu3a.org.uk)

Accessibility Contacts

David Cohen, Hazel Perry

Speaker Arranger

Jan Burnett

Refreshment Organiser

Christine Dawson

Newsletter Editor

Mike Perry

(newsletter@newmillsu3a.org.uk)

Website Editors

Hilary Harmer, Eileen Gilligan, Ann

Apps (website@newmillsu3a.org.uk)

Committee and Group Contact Details

BECAUSE the newsletter is now published on the website, which is publicly available, the list of committee members does not include telephone numbers. A printed list of committee members, which includes the telephone numbers of officers and other role holders, will be available from the Information Table at monthly meetings and at coffee mornings. Similarly an up-to-date printed list of group details will be available.

Can you help?

We still have a vacancy for a committee member. So please think about whether you would be willing to help to run your U3A. Please ask any committee member if you would like information about what being on the committee entails.

OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY GARDEN

And the s

by MARGARET WEAVER

COMMITTEE members arrived early to see if they could help with anything – only to be told “No, it’s all under control”. And wasn’t it just? People milled around outside, inside the hall and marquee and saw “helpers” creating drinks and setting out cups and saucers.

The marquee was beautifully decorated in the Third Age Trust colours of blue and yellow, with table runners, decorations, napkins and, of course, bunting to lift our spirits.

We assembled in the hall and were heartened to hear at first hand Ethne Bailey’s well-deserved pride in telling us how it all began ten years ago, and how the U3A is about learning and social involvement with each other. Thank you Ethne, and I am sure my thanks are echoed by over 500 other members.

A beautiful cake was cut to mark the occasion, under the expertly-produced banner stating “New Mills and District U3A Tenth Anniversary”, and everyone cheered and clapped. The Garden Party was opened!

Some of us made our way to the marquee for our cream teas, others politely waited for the “first sitting” to leave, but everyone



A good time was had by all ...
Right: Our founder, Ethne Bailey, takes to the podium to open the event with Chair Ann Apps alongside



was treated to a cream tea of the highest quality – freshly home-made scones, freshly brewed tea (and seconds if you

PARTY WAS A GREAT SUCCESS...

un shone!



wanted it!) and a whole host of smiling faces all engaged in conversation, sometimes with strangers who happened to sit at the same table.

And all the time there was a stream of workers busying themselves with serving the food and drink, clearing tables, washing up, bringing out more food, serving food, clearing tables, washing up,

bringing out more – oh, you’ve all got the message!

Mart Rodger and his musicians entertained us with a wonderful selection of “soft” jazz tunes and songs, not so intrusive as to prevent conversation among the members, but well-appreciated by all. They

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'The event really epitomised the vision Ethne had ten years ago'

Continued from page 7

could not have been better for the occasion.

Many people had taken the trouble to wear hats (including several men – thanks, boys), or to dress in blue and yellow outfits (some of whom were later seen in Tesco, with the result that a few shoppers and staff remarked about it!), and many compliments were given and received on the efforts of individual members.

Some folks brought chairs from the hall to just listen to the band (we won't say they were resting their legs!). Others milled around and spoke to lots of people, all with smiles on their faces. Our auditor was seen jiggling to the music. Yes he was!

We all had a fantastic afternoon. Heartfelt thanks go to Barbara Matthews who

masterminded it all to absolute perfection, down to the last detail, Chris Dawson who organised the marquee and the music, Wendy Woollas who provided all the decorations, and all those wonderful people, too numerous to mention by name, who worked so hard in producing and serving excellent food and drink and clearing it all away.

A lot of them were people who don't normally get involved in the formal organisation of the U3A, but by heck they got involved on this occasion!

I feel that the event really epitomised the vision that Ethne had ten years ago, of an organisation that affords opportunities to learn, but also to socialise. And socialise we did Ethne! Thanks for giving us the opportunity.

Thanks to Chris Wass, Peter Wreford, Chris Bond, Barbara Matthews and Les Young for the pictures



LANGUAGES



THE U3A French Conversation Group currently meets at the New Mills Golf Club on the first and third Thursday of

the month. They start at 10.15am and finish at 12.15 after a break for coffee/tea and biscuits.

The general format that they follow is to warm up with some reading and translation of a text, followed by open conversation on topics of interest. They take it in turns to provide the subject matter for the meeting and bring around ten copies of text to distribute. They have also found it most agreeable for the volunteer to bring some biscuits to share around as well!

Contact: wendy.cheshire@yahoo.co.uk



German For Beginners (Continuation) is up and running again with meetings held weekly in Hayfield

during winter on Mondays from 10-noon. Contact the Group leader, Anne Fox, for venue details and more information:
groupscoordinator@newmillsu3a.org.uk



THE New Mills U3A Spanish Group now has over a dozen regular members, who meet at 10am every first and third

Monday of the month at the Footsteps social centre and coffee bar in Whaley Bridge (almost opposite the Mechanics' Institute).

Classes are informal, and encourage members to develop sufficient confidence to speak the language when travelling to Spain and other Spanish-speaking countries. Particular attention is paid to correct pronunciation, and developing suitable vocabulary for everyday situations, with just enough time on grammar for it to hang together. The two-hour sessions incorporate a break for tea or coffee, to rest the brain and wet the tongue.

While almost all of the group now have enough Spanish to be able to say a few words, new members, even without any previous knowledge, are always welcome.

For further details, contact John Aldridge
(janjohn.aldridge@btinternet.com)

Starter For Ten

***Out of the cut and thrust,
still this side of the hill,
we teach but not to test,
we learn by free will,
each taking on trust
another's special skill.
Sharing this voluntary quest
our zest for life's fulfilled.
Our harvest is the very best
rich grist to old New Mills.***

Linda Goulden



OUR Italian Conversation Group is run by John and Bette Wilson at their house on the first and third Tuesday of each month in the afternoon.

For details contact Elizabeth Wilson (01663 741341). This picture shows Group members (back row, left to right) Ave Spencer, Peter Bailey and Gill Westall with (front row left to right) Margaret Race, John Wilson, Bette Wilson and Margrith Easter.

MONTHLY Meetings, to which all our members and prospective members are invited, are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:30 am at New Mills Town Hall and next month we will have a Christmas Event!

Usually a meeting begins with a short business section, followed by refreshments and then a speaker. Seats are available at the front for people with a hearing impediment.

The speaker next February should be particularly interesting: Barbara Meyer from Big Cat Photography has always had a focus on wildlife and nature photography. In 2008

Monthly meetings

she took redundancy from a job in banking and started to take photography up on a more professional level.

One of her key objectives is it to raise awareness and funds for big cat and other wildlife conservation.

A trip to South Africa and the chance to observe and photograph a leopardess and her two cubs at the beginning of Barbara's professional photographic career led to her decision to use photography to help these magnificent animals and other big cats.

COFFEE MORNINGS

OUR committee would like to encourage members and prospective members to come along to the monthly coffee mornings to meet your friends, make new ones and enjoy tea, coffee and

biscuits in a friendly and sociable environment.

As a further incentive you're likely to be served with cheerful smiles by a number of our committee members who are also available if you have questions, ideas or issues about our U3A which you'd like to discuss. We're always keen to hear your thoughts about how we're doing and how we might improve.

In addition there is the ever-popular Book Swap to look forward to.

The dates and times of the coffee mornings are on the website but generally they are on the final Tuesday of each month from 10.30 to noon at the U.R.C. Church (Providence) on Mellor Road, New Mills. The next one is on November 25. We wield a mean teapot! Hope to see you there.

Lin Thomas



Mahjong for beginners

THIS new Group has already had its first few meetings and we now have enough players to play two games at the same time, but new members are still welcome.

We play on the first Friday of each month at my house in New Mills from 11am-1pm.

We also play at the monthly coffee mornings.

For more information contact Hazel Perry on 01663 741514.

MANY thanks to those of you who have pitched in to this edition of your U3A Newsletter. Email articles and pictures for inclusion in the next edition (March, 2015) to: newsletter@newmillsu3a.org.uk

Mike Perry, the editor, can also be contacted on 01663 766017.

Please understand that contributions may be edited.

A Happy Christmas to all our readers!