

New Mills and District



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

August
2015



If you want to get ahead ...

What's the Outings Group up to now? Page 6

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WEBSITE: www.newmillsu3a.org.uk

We need to see some new faces

WE are looking for new people to help run our U3A, including a new Chair and Deputy Chair. This year's AGM will be held on October 20 when there will be several committee vacancies to fill. My second, and final, two-year term of office as Chair comes to an end at the AGM.

Duties of committee members include attending committee meetings on the first Tuesday of each month and helping to run the monthly meetings and the coffee mornings. The Chair plans the committee meetings and chairs the committee and monthly meetings. All committee members are trustees of the New Mills and District U3A. This is not as daunting as it sounds. Trustees of a charity are necessary to ensure funds are spent appropriately. Any liability is covered by insurance from the Third Age Trust.

Please let me, or any committee member, know if you are interested in leading or joining our friendly committee, or would like more information about the role of Chair or committee member. You are welcome to attend committee meetings before October to learn more about how we operate.

From the
CHAIR

by ANN APPS

In Case of Emergency (ICE)

IF you use a mobile phone, it is recommended that you create an ICE (In Case of Emergency) number in your Address Book.

This is the telephone number of someone who could be contacted if you were taken ill or had an accident. Simply use ICE as the name of the contact. You can create more than one number if you wish, e.g. ICE1, ICE2. Alternatively, or as well, you could carry this information in your wallet, for instance written on the reverse of your U3A membership card.

Activity Groups List

A REMINDER: Copies of the latest Activity Groups List, which includes Group Leaders' contact details as well as where and when each group meets, are always available at monthly meetings and coffee mornings, or can be sent to you on request.

National and Regional AGMs

THIS year the Third Age Trust's National Conference and AGM will be held on August 25-27 at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham. The East Midlands Regional Conference and AGM took place on July 29 in Lincoln.



GARDENS

The Gardening Group visited the garden of Bob and Christine Wass during June and here are some photographs taken then.

Alice Brumhead

Derek's guide

THE two geology groups have often studied the geology of the Torrs and now the course leader, Derek Brumhead, has written a guide. It will be on sale at the Groups Display on August 18, price £3.



IT is fascinating to look at the websites of other U3As, both in the UK and internationally, and see what their members enjoy.

In our immediate area, other Pennine Link U3As show a major interest in ballroom and Latin American dancing.

Neighbouring U3As have more gardening groups than we have.

High Lane has a most attractive-sounding group entitled Churches and Pubs which conjures images of a Dennis Wheatley novel of titillating extremes.

Marple offers both boules and ballet appreciation.

While Marple Bridge has chess, jazz appreciation and, what might sound daunting to some, an Apple/iPad group.

Tameside has an interestingly named group of Loose Enders who travel by public transport to destinations such as Southport or Salford Quays for a day out.

However, our own Outings group is possibly the most popular group in our U3A.

With the above in mind,

What would you like to do next?

and much more, your Committee decided to see if we were missing anything that could contribute to improving the experience of New Mills U3A members, so we set in motion a membership survey to see what additional groups people would like to see, and possibly what additional

'There is a huge interest in the culinary arts'

skills people were able to offer to the U3A.

It emerges that our members are overwhelmingly able to offer the skills that lead to a well-run home with good living.

Above all, there is a

huge interest in the culinary arts. The Committee has been unsuccessful in renting a kitchen with several cookers to start a possible cookery group, so if anyone has a better idea of how to pursue the popular topic of cookery without such a facility, the Groups' Co-ordinator would be delighted to hear from you.

New Mills is light on musical groups, such as classical music/jazz/ opera appreciation, or learning an instrument, and there is room for expansion in languages.

Although we have a new current affairs group, we have nothing specifically on finance or politics.

The membership survey at present has led to new groups in canasta



A gilded portrait of King Norodom Sihamoni, the reigning monarch of Cambodia, looks down on the streets of the country's capital Phnom Penh

THE Travel Group will be journeying to the Kingdom of Cambodia at their meeting on Thursday, September 17. Phnom Penh - the capital - is going through major changes since the fall of the Khmer Rouge in 1979, it is emerging as a bright and bustling city although on the outskirts there is still evidence of the poverty left behind by that regime.

We shall take a trip on the Tonle Sap

TRAVEL

lake when in November, at the end of the wet season, it becomes so great it is able to force its way back out into the Mekong again.

Of course we couldn't visit Cambodia without seeing the majestic temples of Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom.

Sue Boothby

and short courses in pyramid archaeology as well as first aid.

Some groups can involve shared learning with everyone starting from scratch, but some need a contribution from someone with previous knowledge or experience.

It is very rewarding to be the person helping others into new insights, even if you are not a complete expert.

New Mills U3A continues to attract new members and start new groups to cater for the interests expressed by members.

If you have ideas or a possible contribution that we have not already covered, the Groups' Co-ordinator would be pleased to hear from you by email or at the information desk at a general meeting.

Chris Bond

The town with a touch of glass ...

IN spring the Outings group headed for St Helens and The World of Glass, an attraction that opened in 2000 to celebrate the town's main industry.

With the close availability of sand and coal the industry grew in the 18th century and four villages developed into the town of St Helens which took its name from the parish church that stands in the centre of the town.

A more efficient way of transporting raw materials and finished goods from the town to the river Mersey was developed when the Sankey Brook was converted into the Sankey Brook Navigation in 1757. This later became known as the St Helens Canal, putting the town in the forefront of the Industrial Revolution.

One of the galleries also shows other industries that were connected to the town including potteries, brewing (Greenall



THERE'S no doubt that The World of Glass was fascinating

OUTINGS

Whitley) and pharmaceuticals (Beechams). Glass is still manufactured in St Helens at the Pilkington plant, which sadly is now owned by a Japanese company.

The Pilkington Collection is on loan to the museum, it tells the history of the glass-making industry and has on show priceless pieces from throughout the ages. First developed by the Ancient Egyptians in 1570-1070 BC who described it as 'the stone of the kind that flows' during the 8th-7th century BC 'slumping' was developed where drinking vessels were produced by under heating the glass which would sag under its own weight taking on the shape it was placed over. In the 1st century AD the Romans developed the method of glass blowing that continued for the next 2000 years. In the 1950s Pilkington was the forerunner in developing the modern process of 'floating glass.'

We crossed the canal to visit the remains of the old glass blowing works, walking through the tunnels where workers would have toiled in almost unbearable temperatures.

One of the highlights of our visit was the demonstration of glass blowing where they produced beautiful bowls in mixed colours and a few of our party were tempted to purchase.



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There was an excellent film on the glass-making industry which ended by leaving us with the thought that as glass is contained in almost everything in our everyday life including TV, communications and computers, without it we would be living in a very empty world.

Barbara Matthews



PYRAMID ARCHAEOLOGY

EIGHT members attended the first meeting of the Pyramid Archaeology Group last month.

We discussed the oldest true pyramid in the world – The Red Pyramid at Dashur, built for Pharaoh Senefru around 2600 BC. It is constructed of Rosette limestone and its outer casing covered with polished Tura limestone. At

a height of 105 metres it is only 10 metres shorter than the Great Pyramid at Giza built for Khufu (Senefru's son).

The red pyramid has a wonderful corbelled ceiling and after all this time still has no cracks or faults. Dashur was a military zone until 1996 so few tourists have visited the site.

Further information:
groupscoordinator@newmillsu3a.org.uk

Sue Boothby

LETTERS

Do you Just Belong?

FOLLOWING recent appeals for members to join the team in running our U3A, here is a document I picked up from an elderly relative who was a member of a working mens club where it was displayed. It may be relevant to our situation ...

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed
or are you just contented that your name is on the list?
Do you attend the functions and mingle with the crowd
or do you stay at home and grumble long and loud?
Do you take an active part to help the club along
or are you satisfied to be the kind that 'Just Belong'?
Do you ever come along or information seek

The next monthly meetings will be on September 15: Speaker, John Crowther with 'Cutty Sark's big, elder sister'. October 20: AGM. November 17: Speaker Prof John Derry with 'Marie Antoinette'.

or leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique?

There's quite a programme scheduled that means success if done and it can be accomplished with the help of everyone.

So why not come along and help with hand and heart?

Don't be just a member but take an active part.

Think this over members, are we right or wrong?

Are you an active member
or do you 'Just Belong'!

*Yours Sincerely
Dave Farrell*

Not inclusive

RESEARCH shows that a quarter of the population do not have a computer. Our Committee only show the Activity Groups list online, or make it available at general or social meetings.

This is not right. Inclusiveness is part of the U3A objectives and obligations. It is not inclusive if around 150 members cannot access the Activity Groups list with their Newsletter.

We have some very small groups in our large membership. For example: Creative Writing, Italian, Outside Bowls and Discussion to my knowledge.

If you have no information about the Activity Groups available please contact the Committee.

*Yours Sincerely,
Ethne Bailey*