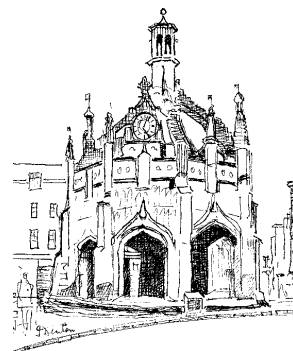


CHICHESTER U3A

Registered Charity No 1037027

www.chichesteru3a.org.uk



Newsletter No 67 Spring 2009

Editor: Sue Handscomb

DIARY DATES

Monthly Meetings

May 21st

A.G.M. and Social Event

June 18th

Speaker: Robert Carrington
I got Rhythm – Classical to Jazz
Haydn to Brubeck

July 16th

Speaker: Professor Paul Foster
Gilbert White in Sussex and Gibraltar

SURA Network Study Days

April 18th

Gowan Hewlett
Themes in Opera: Women and Dance

May 9th

Edward Saunders
The Architecture of London: 1890-Present

May 16th

Stephanie Norgate
Creative Writing and a Sense of Place

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the 2009 Spring edition of the Chichester U3A Newsletter brought to you by the contributors and ably put together by the editor, Sue Handscomb. Sue and all those contributing are playing an important role in the organisation as they are Givers as well as Gainers in our community.

We need more people like them to volunteer to help maintain our U3A.

Could that be you?

We need people for a range of roles including :-

Committee Members

Group Leaders

Minute Secretary

Business Secretary

Meeting Group – to help run the monthly meetings

Travel and Outing Group Members

Members of the Newsletter Editing Team

Refreshment Providers

Representatives of our branch in other areas e.g. SURA

So please take heed of what Jeff (Hon Sec) and I have written. Don't say 'I've given enough before I retired', do something NOW. It is a very worthwhile activity and it is fun.

Talk to any committee members and they will give you information.

Nominations for the committee can be sent to me, details elsewhere in the Newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you at a future monthly meeting.

Many thanks

John Fitzpatrick

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	John Fitzpatrick
Vice Chairman	
Secretary	Jeff Staniforth
Treasurer	Charlotte Murgatroyd
Group Coordinator	Susan Taylor
Deputy „	Val Fields
SURA Representative	Linda Applin
Membership Sec	Ernie Piper
Newsletter Editor	Sue Handscomb
Press and Publicity	Sheila Morris

Other Responsibilities

Tea Rota Organiser	Yvonne Piper
New Members	Yvonne Piper
Website Coordinator	Ernie Piper

Deadline for the next Newsletter is 1st July 2009

FROM THE SECRETARY

Make a date

Our AGM is on Thursday 21st May at 2-30pm at Christchurch
Please attend – it is a free meeting and there will be plenty of time for tea and a chat after a short meeting.

Why bother?

The U3A has been described as a learning cooperative.
We learn through our programme of monthly speakers, from our nearly 60 different groups, from shared activities like walks and from talking to each other.
Our only resources are our modest membership fee and the voluntary effort many members put in to keep the organisation running smoothly.
About 40 people set up and run groups in their homes or local halls, a number organise the excellent range of walking programmes for all abilities. Others help by organising the brilliant travel programme, setting up tables at meetings, preparing tea and coffee,
As a charity we have to ensure all our activities fall within the scope of our aims so we need a committee and it has to be elected each year.

But there's a committee already

A number of people have come to the end of their time on the committee and we are looking for people to take their places on the committee. To reflect our membership we need to make sure a number of the new members are women, as all the retiring members are women.

OK – so what needs doing?

Tasks vacant include newsletter editor, minute taker, groups coordinator, SURA network representative, business secretary. With nearly 600 members there is always something to do!

The meetings are currently held at Oving village hall and take about 3 hours. It will be up to the new committee where and how often it meets.

What do I do now?

If you are interested and want to know more please speak to me or John Fitzpatrick (Chairman) or any member of the current committee.

Jeff Staniforth (Secretary)

**The U3A only works if its members help run it as well as use it
– no committee means no U3A.**

INTEREST GROUPS

Groups Programme for 2009-10

It is now time to plan for both established and new Interest Groups that will run in our programme from September. To keep our U3A vibrant and healthy, and to offer our 500+ members the widest possible choice of groups, we are always looking for new subjects to learn about and new group leaders to get them going. You really do not need to be a subject-expert to run a group, simply to have a keen interest in a topic and a willingness to research it a bit, and to help your fellow group members to do the same. The whole principle of U3A is about "shared learning" and that often means sharing the "finding out" about a topic as well as discussing it. It's all about having a 'Give to Gain' approach.

Additional groups for some of our very popular subjects (such as Gardening and History) are just as welcome as groups on new topics not currently in our programme. I can advise and support you on all aspects of setting up and running a group and we now have some written 'Guidelines for Group Leaders', which should help you. There is a simple **form** to complete with details of proposed groups for 2009-10. You can obtain this from our website www.chichesteru3a.org.uk or from me. I need to have the completed forms back by **April 30th** please.

Susan Taylor

German Conversation group

The current leader of this group, Pam Jobling, would very much like this group to run again next year. However, they really do need someone to lead their efforts, and who speaks German well. Are you that person and could you help? Her contact details are in the current printed programme.

RECORDER GROUP SEEKS MORE PLAYERS!

What do Schindler's List, Brahms' Lullaby and the Miss Marple theme all have in common? Well, these are pieces we are currently playing, together with lots of other enjoyable music, on Tuesdays 2.15-3.45 at my house in Selsey.

We are just three at the moment and we really long to be four or five (or even more). We play music for descant recorder with CD accompaniment or in parts and would specially welcome a treble player. The level of competence you need is from Grade 2 to 4. Don't worry if you're out of practice - regular playing will soon restore your confidence. Otherwise, besides your recorder, you just need a music stand - I provide the music.

Playing a musical instrument is a great way to exercise the brain, so cast aside the Crossword and the Sudoku and head on down to Selsey (yes, we've also played Eric Coates!) for a rewarding afternoon of tunes old and new.

Jean Campbell

MONTHLY MEETINGS

On **21st May** we have our **AGM** at Christchurch where as well as the business of the AGM we shall have the opportunity to hear what the **Chichester U3A** have been doing over the last year and what we have in store for the coming twelve months. There will also be an opportunity to socialise with friends over refreshments. Come and talk to committee members and see how you can contribute to our successful organisation.

On the **18th June** there will be an opportunity to hear both live and recorded music when **Robert Carrington** will talk us through a musical journey from '**Classical to Jazz**' using recorded music as well as live on the piano. This should be a treat. **July 16th** brings us history coming alive when we have **Paul Foster** giving a talk on '**The Life of Gilbert White**' a local Vicar and Natural Historian. We look forward to seeing you all there and to welcoming some of our newer members, do make yourselves known to us. Committee members have yellow name badges on and will be in the foyer at Christchurch, both before and after the talks.

SURA NETWORK

Study Days

As ever the Programme is full and varied please refer to the yellow card for details. I now have application forms for study days up to the end of this years programme. Also for the **Away Day** at **Sheffield Park** on June 8th (see below) and for the **South East Forum Summer School** to be held at the University of Chichester July 7th –10th 2009 as detailed in the winter edition of the newsletter.

Please, please remember to send a stamped self-addressed envelope when requesting application forms.

Application forms can also be downloaded from www.sura.org.uk

AWAY DAY AT SHEFFIELD PARK GARDEN

MONDAY 8th JUNE 2009. 10 am. To 4 pm

Cost: £8.50

The gardens are owned by the National Trust and are closed to the general public on Mondays, but they are pleased for us to use the Garden for this Away Day. National Trust membership will not apply. Disabled access. Take a picnic or the restaurant will be open.

Participative activities (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) from which you can choose are:

Painting	Singing	Photography	
Tai Chi	Poetry	Opera (Appreciation)	Stories

National Trust Volunteers will also lead:

A Long Walk (Through Recently Acquired Land) approx. 3 Miles

A Short Walk

Tree Identification

Plant Identification

At Leisure In The Park

Linda Applin

MISCELLANY

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2009

Theme for 2009 - Eccentric Britain!

British eccentricity is unique. The judges are looking for an affectionate look at the more quirky, humorous and unusual images that characterise the more eccentric aspects of Britain and our society. Places, people, even pets! Not forgetting the weather of course.

Closing Date - 5th May 2009

You may send entries at any time between now and the closing date above.

Rules

- Photographs should be in colour in the form of prints or digital pictures
- Landscape format only. Pictures may be selected for a future U3A calendar.
- Minimum print size 7" x 5"
- Digital images must be high resolution (300 dpi), supplied on CD and saved in JPG format accompanied by a good colour print.
- A covering note should be sent with picture title, entrant's name, U3A, address, telephone and email and a label with this information stuck on the reverse of each picture.
- Please do not write on the back of the pictures
- Please do not submit entries by email
- Maximum of 3 entries per individual

We cannot return photographs so please send copies, not originals, of any photographs you wish to keep. Copies of the Rules can be obtained from u3a.org.uk members area.

Prizes: 6 winning entries, who will be selected by independent judges, will each receive a gift voucher. The pictures will be featured on the U3A website and the winners announced in the ... issue of U3A News.

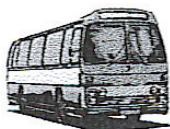
All entries to:- The Third Age Trust, 19 East Street, Bromley BR1 1QE

CHICHESTER ART SOCIETY ***Founded May 1939 - Celebrating 70 years***

Chichester Art Society is open to anyone interested in art, practitioner or not, professional or amateur. We welcome new members and visitors to individual meetings. We offer a year-round varied programme of evening meetings, daytime art groups and social events. We make ten awards through the year for work in different media, our Annual Exhibition is in July and we hold another sale of members' work in November.

Membership is £25 p.a. (visitors £3) and we meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at the Bassil Shippam Centre, Tozer Way, St Pancras. (Easy parking).

Find out more from our website: www.chi-art-soc.org or call the Secretary, Jean Campbell, on 01243 602360 or e-mail jean.campbell@zen.co.uk



TRAVEL AND OUTINGS GROUP

Michael Reynell	Chairman/ Secretary	Sue Costello	Travel News/ Publicity
Prue Gamble	Organiser	Charlotte Murgatroyd	Treasurer
Barbra Chaundy	Organiser	Pam Ripley	Organiser
Sylvia Arden-Brown	Vice Chairman	Val Ripley	Organiser

PLEASE READ IMPORTANT INFORMATION BELOW!

CHEQUES should be made payable to Chichester U3A. On the back of your cheque please add, in pencil, the event and your membership number.

PAYMENTS. Please give or send a deposit or payment in full, whichever is required, to the Organiser. This is the only way of ensuring that you are booked on an event. **Please pay your balance one month in advance of a trip.** This will save the Organiser having to spend time and money ringing round with reminders.

NO REFUNDS. There will be no refunds except if an event is cancelled by us or agreed by the Organiser in exceptional circumstances.

INSURANCE. Everyone must be insured for holidays and short breaks. U3A Indemnity Insurance does not cover non-U3A members for day trips.

NO COLLECTION for the Organiser should be made on an event in order to avoid embarrassment. Travel Group Organisers, like the rest of U3A, give their services freely. Your appreciation is their reward.

HELP THE COACH DRIVER by please ensuring that your litter is taken home and not left on the coach floor.

PICK-UP & DROP-OFF POINTS are pre-arranged by the Organiser and Coach Company. Please DO NOT ASK THE DRIVER TO DROP OFF at unscheduled stops. This puts pressure on the driver and should be arranged with the Organiser in advance who will decide if the request is appropriate or necessary.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION

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TRAVEL AND OUTINGS GROUP RAFFLE

The Travel and Outings Group have made a small surplus during this last year and therefore are holding a free raffle for all those who have been on an outing with the Travel Group. The raffle will be drawn at the AGM (21st May 2009). Twelve names will be drawn out of a hat and each will receive a free theatre voucher.

FUTURE EVENTS 2009

BLETCHLEY PARK: TUESDAY, 12th MAY

There is a fascinating history to discover at Bletchley Park. Today the Park is open to the public as a heritage site and museum. Explore the wide range of exhibitions, enjoy the annual programme of activities and lectures and learn how its code breaking successes helped to save countless lives by shortening World War Two by around two years.

Depart Chichester, Oaklands Way, at 8.15 am (Richardsons coach) and return approx 7.00 – 7.30 pm. Cost £30.00 including entrance fee and guide.

Organiser: Michael Reynell.

VISIT TO HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES' GARDEN AT HIGHGROVE:

FRIDAY, 5TH JUNE

There are a limited number of spaces available to visit HRH The Prince of Wales' garden at Highgrove. As there are only a limited number of tours allowed each year preference will be given to people who haven't visited before. The coach will leave at 7.30 am from Oaklands Way, Chichester, stopping for coffee en route. As there are no lunch facilities available at Highgrove and our (2 – 3 hour) visit is timed for 12.20, it would be advisable to take a packed lunch which can be eaten on the coach. Complimentary tea and biscuits will be served after the tour followed by a visit to the Highgrove Shop. On the return journey there will be a comfort stop. The cost includes coach travel, gratuity to the driver and the suggested charitable donation for visiting the garden. There are no seating facilities in the garden and the walk includes areas of cobblestones and unmade paths. Stout shoes and suitable clothing are recommended as the tours continue in wet weather. Cost: £34. Cheques payable to Chichester U3A now.

Organiser: Sue Costello.

PLEASE NOTE security arrangements require that you bring with you some form of photographic identification, ideally a passport or photographic driving licence (alternatively two utility bills).

DOWN HOUSE AND QUEBEC HOUSE: THURSDAY, 25TH JUNE

Leaving at 8.30 a.m. from Chichester, Oaklands Way layby on North side, to visit Down House (free entrance), home of Charles Darwin, in the morning (it is the 200th anniversary of his birth and 150 years since Origins of the Species was published). After lunching in Westerham at your own expense (a list of cafes, restaurants and pubs will be provided on the day) we will then visit Quebec House in Westerham, home of General Wolfe (National Trust). Hopefully we will have time for a cup of tea in Westerham before returning home. Cost £11.50 to National Trust Members and £15.00 to non-National Trust Members. Waiting list now in operation. Final balance now due - £1.50 for National Trust Members and £5 for non-N.T. members. Please send your cheques made out to Chichester U3A to Sylvia.

Organiser: Sylvia Arden-Brown.

KINGSTANDING: TUESDAY, 7TH JULY

Kingstanding is a 60 acre site situated near Crowborough, East Sussex. It was the home of the 'Aspidistra' transmitters during the Second World War. These transmitters became the largest and most powerful in the World.

Kingstanding is currently owned by Sussex Police and is used for training purposes. The original buildings and bunkers which supported the activities of the transmitters are still there. During the 80's some of the buildings were extended and refurbished to provide a nuclear bunker designed to become a regional seat of government in the event of a nuclear war.

The tour around the bunkers, etc, takes about 2 hours. Maximum capacity for the tour is 12 people, due to narrow corridors and staircases (no lifts) etc. Due to uneven floors and some external walking, it is essential to wear sensible footwear. There is no fixed entrance fee but a donation to the Sussex Police, to support Kingstanding, of £5.00 per person will be organized through the Travel Group of the Chichester U3A. There will not be any transport provided, so we will take our own cars. The journey should take approximately one and a half hours and there is plenty of parking. The tour starts at 4.30 pm and finishes around 6.30 pm.

Organiser: Michael Reynell

SHORT BREAK – ESSEX, SUFFOLK & CONSTABLE COUNTRY: 17th – 22nd JULY

Visiting Ingatestone Hall, Colchester, Beth Chatto's Garden, RHS Garden at Hyde Hall, Ickworth, Audley End, Saffron Walden, Lavenham, Long Melford and a day in Constable country. Staying at the Mark Tey Hotel outside Colchester. Basic cost £415 to include all coach travel, dinner, bed and breakfast at hotel, entrance fees extra – approx. £25. Cancellation insurance £8. A few twin rooms still available, waiting list for singles. Final balance due.

Organiser: Sylvia Arden-Brown.

HIDDEN CITY OF LONDON GARDENS & OSTERLEY PARK HOUSE:
THURSDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER

Visiting hidden City of London gardens in the morning. Approx 2 hours with coffee break. Level walking and hearing the history associated with them and the surrounding buildings. We will go on to Osterley Park (National Trust) for late lunch and time to visit the recently restored beautiful Adam house and gardens and park. Approx cost £26.50 non-National Trust members, £19.00 National Trust members. NB: the more people who come the cheaper it will be.
Organiser: Sylvia Arden-Brown.



WE HAVE A JOURNAL

In it we have all the outings and Travel 'write-ups' and Photographs
YOU WILL ALWAYS FIND IT ON DISPLAY IN THE TRAVEL AREA AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Please give articles for the Journal to Lesley Ellis

TRAVEL REPORTS

OPERA – THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO: 10TH MARCH

Fourteen of us set off car-sharing to Southampton. For us, new to the area, it was not only our first trip with U3A, but also our first experience of opera – U3A certainly encourages you to broaden your horizons!

The pre-concert talk was a real plus for us 'opera-virgins' in that it provided an insight into both the context and plot of the opera and prepared us for what lay ahead. The opera, magnificently staged by the Welsh National Opera, provided a fascinating evening's entertainment. The singing was excellent, the sets, though quite spare, were imaginative – it would be difficult to envisage three padded benches put to as many different uses as they were here. There were little touches of humour, not only of Mozart's creation, but in the staging of the production – the surprise group wedding photo at the end of Act 3 really raised a smile.

In all, it was a lovely evening and we hope all our U3A companions enjoyed it just as much as we did. Many thanks Barbara for organising it.

Ray and Eileen Proctor

HAMPTON COURT PALACE: 17TH MARCH

We arrived at Hampton Court on a beautiful Spring day and met our Blue Badge guide. Hampton Court was originally the property of Cardinal Wolsey. Henry VIII liked it so much that poor Wolsey was obliged to give it to him. You didn't argue with kings in Tudor times! We entered through the Lion Gate and walked through the Wilderness (originally an orchard in the 16th century and later laid out as a wilderness in the 17th century). It was awash with thousands of daffodils in full bloom and was a sight to behold. After a coffee break we were guided through the grandeur of the Tudor State Rooms, including Henry VIII's Great Hall and the Chapel Royal, where his son Edward was baptized and where he later married Catherine Parr. The Chapel still holds regular Sunday services for visitors. There was also a small

suite of rooms which are thought to have been Cardinal Wolsey's private lodgings in the 1520s. At various points on our tour we encountered actors/actresses dressed in period costume who delighted visitors with acting out snippets of Tudor life. Henry VIII, with his booming voice and irascible personality, made it clear to all of us why Cardinal Wolsey was anxious not to cross him!

In complete contrast to the Tudor style of architecture was the baroque style of William III and Mary II. In the 17th Century they commissioned Christopher Wren to transform the palace in the elegant baroque fashion. However, Wren's grand designs were never completed, leaving the Palace with two very differing styles. William III's apartments are furnished with magnificent priceless tapestries which hang from ceiling to floor, together with various other works of art.

The Tudor Kitchens are the most extensive surviving 16th century kitchens in Europe today. They cover a large area which is not surprising as they often had to cater for around 800 people when Henry's court was in residence, with the most elaborate and expensive dishes that the monarch could provide. With the running soundtrack of a working Tudor kitchen and large containers of meat, pies, vegetables and fruit on view, plus a roaring fire under a roasting spit, it was very easy to imagine what it must have been like to work there. Not for the faint-hearted and I don't think Delia would approve!

There are over 60 acres of beautiful gardens and it was difficult to see all of them in the time available. They are mostly laid out in formal style but there was plenty of Spring colour around. The Great Vine is the largest and oldest vine in the country. Planted in 1768 by Capability Brown, it continues to produce a good crop every year, some of which is sold in the shop. None of us ventured into the Maze as our guide had warned us that we were on our own if we got lost! We had a fascinating and feature-packed day and our thanks go to Prue for organizing such an excellent trip.

Sue Costello

A SMALL COMPETITION FOR OUR MEMBERS

Who are these former chairs of Chichester U3A?

A happy photograph, cutting the cake to celebrate 25 years of the U3A in Chichester last year.

Can you name these four former chairs of Chichester U3A? Can you also list them in time order of their being in that role starting with the one nearest to being the chair 25 years ago.?



Answers please to John Fitzpatrick. Winner gets a bottle of white wine.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF
THE THIRD AGE
CHICHESTER**

(Registered Charity No 1037027)

Notice is hereby given of the 16th Annual General Meeting of Chichester U3A to be held on Thursday 21st May 2009 at 2.30 pm at Christ Church, Old Market Avenue, Southgate, Chichester

Nominations for Committee Members (with their written consent) should be given/sent to the Chairman at least 7 days before the meeting –

U3A COMMITTEE MEMBERS PROPOSAL FORM

Complete in Block capitals.

Nominee

Proposed by

Seconded by

I agree to the nomination for the Committee of Chichester U3A

Signature.....