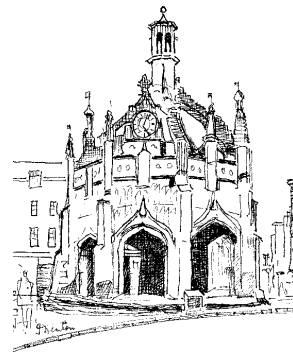


CHICHESTER U3A

Registered Charity No 1037027

www.chichesteru3a.org.uk



Newsletter No 68 Summer 2009

Editor: Sue Handscomb, 61 Langdale Avenue, Chichester, PO19 8JH
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DIARY DATES

Monthly Meetings

August 20th

Speaker: Rhoda Robinson
The History of art in 40 slides

September 17th

Speaker: Colin Channon
'Hold the Front Page!'

October 15th

Speaker: Patrick Pead
The Story of Vaccination

SURA Network Study Days

October 3rd

Classical Myth in Renaissance and Baroque
Painting

October 10th

Hallelujah Handel

October 17th

Paintings of the Dutch Golden Age

CONTENTS

From the Chairman	Page 2
Committee Members	Page 2
Interest Groups	Pages 3 - 4
Monthly Meetings	Page 5
Miscellany	Page 6
Travel and Outings Group	Pages 7 - 9
Photographs	Page 10

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I write this letter on the first Saturday of Wimbledon, Murray is still in the competition as is Federer), and on a delightful summers day.

Colleagues are helping to provide us with an interesting range of activities.

The Travel and Outings Committee are arranging some fascinating trips and outings (see the T & O section of this Newsletter)

The Speakers Committee (soon to be the Monthly Meetings Committee) have set up the next 15 months worth of meetings (see your mailing for full details)

The Group Leaders are preparing the next season of meetings on a wide range of topics (see mailing)

The committee members are busy sorting out mailings, linking with the community, keeping the finances in order, helping new members join the organisation, sending off to members a range of documents, assisting the Group Leaders prepare for their groups, preparing and distributing documents such as this Newsletter.

I hope that we all have a good summer and that the range of activities available to us by our U3A members meets your needs. I hope too that they give you an opportunity of meeting old and new friends and to share new experiences.

Best wishes,

John Fitzpatrick, Chairman

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	John Fitzpatrick	01243 781919	jrfitzp@aol.com
Vice Chairman	Jeff Staniforth	01243 584597	jeffstaniforth@phonecoop.coop
Secretary	Brenda Barrass	01243 774740	brendabarrass545@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Charlotte Murgatroyd	01243 780983	charlotte660@btinternet.com
Group Coordinator	Brian Mills	01243 513503	b.e.mills@btinternet.com
SURA Representative	Jeff Staniforth	01243 584597	jeffstaniforth@phonecoop.coop
Membership Sec	Ernie Piper	01243 785760	eep@yepiper.co.uk
Press and Publicity	John Fitzpatrick	01243 781919	jrfitzp@aol.com

Other Responsibilities

Tea Rota Organiser	Yvonne Piper	01243 785760	yvonne@yepiper.co.uk
New Members	Yvonne Piper	01243 785760	yvonne@yepiper.co.uk
Website Coordinator	Ernie Piper	01243 785760	eep@yepiper.co.uk

Travel & Outings Group

Chairman	Michael Reynell	01243 649027
Secretary/Organiser	Barbara Chaundy	01243 781306
Publicity	Sue Costello	01243 542126
Vice Chair/Organiser	Sylvia Arden-Brown	01243 781009
Organiser	Prue Gamble	01243 787160
Organiser	Pam Ripley	01243 773393
Organiser	Val Ripley	01243 773393

Speakers Committee

Chairman	John Fitzpatrick	01243 781919	jrfitzp@aol.com
	Maureen Davis-Pointer	01243 783993	
	Sheila Morris	01243 782676	sheilafoxeath@waitrose.com
	Suzanne Russell	01243 786995	

Deadline for the next Newsletter is 1st October 2009

INTEREST GROUPS

From your new Groups Coordinator

I am now ensconced in the task of Groups Coordinator. It is a very hard job to follow Susan's excellent work over the past 3 years and I hope with your help to continue in her footsteps.

The job of the coordinator is to provide help with the groups. This comes in a variety of forms from help in starting a group for the first time or advice to the established groups. In addition we have a dedicated committee past and present and experienced members on hand.

Our U3A, like others thrive on groups, it is hard to imagine how we would do without them; fortunately the enthusiasm generated by members ensures this will not happen. However it is important to make the point WE DO NEED MORE GROUPS to continue our growth and knowledge base and not rest on our laurels.

If you have any ideas or specific thoughts please call me and perhaps we can bring them to fruition. Starting a group is not difficult and you will find it very rewarding.

Brian Mills

New Groups for 2009/2010

Switzerland - It's Mountains, Lakes and Railways

Roger Keyworth – Roger is arranging to an evening group - the first for our U3A.

The meetings would primarily consist of watching commercial DVD's about Switzerland, a country that he has visited regularly since 1958.

Roger is a member of the Swiss Railways Society so apart from discussing the scenery, size, government and languages he will be showing some interesting train journeys. Meetings will be held fortnightly starting 23rd September. For more information contact Roger on 01243 839994 / Email: rogerkeyworth@waitrose.com

Film & Chat

Marion Somerville – Marion will be running a group that will be looking at some of the much loved films of yesteryear. Many of the films we have not seen for some time (if at all). This gives the opportunity to catch up and enjoy a relaxed viewing and chat with perhaps a touch of nostalgia.

It is planned to run two meetings in each month giving a choice of dates starting the 17th & 18th September. For more information contact Marion on 01243 786124

Singing

Barbara Moore – Barbara is a professional musician whose aim is to develop a Chichester U3A Singing Group. This is an exciting idea where members can enjoy the pleasures of singing in company and at the same time influence the repertoire.

All styles of music can be explored according to the musical interests of members.

Barbara is keen to point out that the ability to read vocal parts is not essential.

Rehearsals will be run on a weekly basis starting 4th September. For more information contact Barbara on 01243 828314.

Soft Furnishings

Louise Russell – Louise has arranged to run a practical workshop on soft furnishings. Lessons will show the group how to make curtains, loose covers etc. to a professional standard.

Most work will be hand sewing but you may bring a sewing machine if preferred.

The meetings will be on weekly basis starting the 8th September. For more information contact Louise on 01243 781052 / louloubird@talktalk.net

Male Order!

Dear Gentlemen of U3A

As organiser of the Sunday Lunch Club, I have been asked to draw to your attention that this is **not** a Ladies Lunch Club.

We think there must be a number of you gents out there eating Sunday lunch alone and secretly longing to enjoy a sociable roast in a congenial pub.

Why not phone a friend and both join our agreeable Sunday lunchtimes? Recently, we've sampled the menus of The Selsey Arms at West Dean, The Spotted Cow at Hunston and The Fox Goes Free at Charlton.

We foregather on the second Sunday of the month at noon. I contact you about 10 days before to check if you can join us so that I can make reservations. (You don't have to come every time).

To join my list of two dozen eager lunchers, contact me on 01243 602360 or email me: jean.campbell@zen.co.uk.

Yours sincerely

The Sunday Lunch Club (Not all ladies for much longer)

Things You Can Make on a Tuesday Afternoon.....

A scale model of The Angel of the North, all your Christmas cards, a trip to the Recycling Centre with the contents of your garage or **Music in Good Company.**

The Recorder Trio proudly announces its transformation into The Recorder Quartet, featuring descant, treble and tenor instruments. From now on our sights are set on becoming The Recorder Quintet with the addition of a bass recorder player. Could you be that player we long to meet over a music stand?

Players of the other instruments are still warmly welcome - especially if you play C and F recorders. Becoming a Recorder Ensemble is our secret dream but we go one step at a time!

We assemble Tuesdays 2.15 - 3.45 at my house in Selsey (easy parking or close to the 51 bus stop). All you need is a recorder and a music stand plus the ability to read music and play recorder somewhere between grades 2 and 4.

We play music old and new, often to CD accompaniment and generally have a very pleasant afternoon.

Contact me on 01243 602360 or email me jean.campbell@zen.co.uk. I look forward to hearing from you.

Classical Guitar

Is anybody interested in playing with others on a regular basis?

You will need to play at Grade 2 level or above and with sight reading ability. Ring Roger Rose on 01243 789700.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Summer is upon us and gives us the opportunity to get out and about. On 20th August we have Rhoda Robinson talking us through 'The History of Art in 40 Slides'. So we can see if Rhoda has chosen any of our favourites – The Mona Lisa perhaps?

On the 17th September we have Colin Channon talking about working in newspapers, so perhaps we can hear about 'holding the front page' and 'dropping the dead donkey'. Patrick Peard will be talking us through 'The Story of Vaccination' on 15th October. Will he mention the Victorian public concerns of injecting cow pox into humans?

Always on Thursday at 2.30p.m. See you there.

John Fitzpatrick

Reports

It is hoped to provide members with a short report after our monthly meetings to enable members who were not present to get a flavour of the subject presented. BUT it will only happen if just one member per month volunteers to do a short write up. I do not want too many members to suffer from arms being twisted up backs!

Ed.

There was a capacity audience in April to hear Richard Williamson talk about the Wildlife of Sussex. Coming from a dynasty of observers and recorders of wildlife (his father was the author of 'Taka the Otter' along with many other titles) and having a regular column himself in the local newspaper, our speaker was not short of a story or two about each and every aspect of wildlife, both in the countryside and along the coast. While looking at some of his slides, which sadly did not show up well in the hall, he dropped in many tidbits of information from the dates of arrival of some of the migrating birds, to news that we had our own local 'Lake District', (i.e. the gravel pits off the A27), and unique places that need visiting, like Kingley Vale. All was done with a sense of humour and off the cuff. Just to make sure we all stayed awake we were deafened by the decoy calls of various birds during the course of the talk. It seems that we are very blessed with the rich variety of wildlife that surrounds us and fortunate to have someone with such a depth of interest and knowledge living nearby.

Sue Handscomb

What a journey Robert Carrington gave us at the June monthly meeting. We were treated to his lively presentation, incredible range of CDs as well as his entertaining and talented piano playing. The audience was amazed at his presentation taking us from the Middle Ages through to modern times.

Robert demonstrated how musicians in the Middle Ages sometimes improvised their playing of music. They were expected to develop themes in the music.

We explored music developing the base line to enable variations on a theme. All this was before music was written down. He explained how rhythm was a thread through improvisation.

We heard Dave Brubeck's playing of his variations on Bach's Brandenburg Concerto and discussed the 60ies group, The Swingle Singers. Robert explained variations and improvisation with one of our own members joining him at the grand piano.

Robert brought his own sound system which enabled us to hear clearly the music including 17th century Bassano's 'Susanne Un Jour', Bach's 'Air on a G String' and Duke Ellington's variations on Tchaikovsky's 'Nutcracker Suite'.

Many thanks to Robert for a lively, imaginative and informative presentation. He has promised to come back again. Good news for us.

John Fitzpatrick

MISCELLANY

Renewals

Accompanying this newsletter is your chance to renew for our new year, September 2009 through to August 2010. Please read the note about the renewal process and be careful with the pitfalls associated with the postal charging system, just a larger the usual envelope can incur an extra charge from the post office together with a handling fee of £1.60.

We also feel that an analysis of any current problems and your comments you may have on how to improve our U3A would be helpful to the Committee, and to that end please complete the questionnaire to be returned with your renewal form and fee.

Ernie Piper

Portsmouth U3A Offer

Parlez vous Francais?

Portsmouth U3A have a thriving French Group and a twinning arrangement with the U3A in Caen on the French coast.

In May 2010 a group of Portsmouth U3A members are visiting Caen and staying with French members of the the organistion for a few days.

If you would be interested in joining the group visiting and are willing to host a return trip the following year then please let me know as I am the contact.

It is expected that you are able to speak some French.

John Fitzpatrick

Cross U3A border history project

After discussion with neighbouring Midhurst U3A we are looking at the possibility of setting up a joint history project – as yet undefined but likely to be around a topic which would suit both areas (At War, landscape and agriculture, famous and infamous characters ... the potential list is endless). Probable start date September/October.

Common features are likely to include gathering data through research in Records Office, Libraries, Newspaper and other archives. Data will need to be assembled and then analysed. The end result could be publication in one form or another. So tasks for anyone with an interest in local history and lots of fun..

If you think you might be interested contact Jeff Staniforth.

U3A Chairs Competition

The winner of the Newsletter Competition from the Spring Edition was drawn on 19th May and the correct answers were: Janet Humphreys, Stella Cottingham, Barbara Partridge and Don Hope.

The first person drawn out of the hat with the correct answer was Mavis Bean. Mavis wins a bottle of Pinot Grigio white wine.

Congratulations!

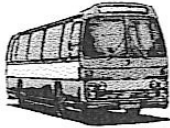
Lost Property

A ladies blue jacket was left at Christchurch after the June monthly meeting. Please contact John Fitzpatrick if it is yours.

Advance Notice

Christmas Lunch 2009

The Goodwood Room at Chichester College has been booked for the Annual U3A Christmas Lunch on Thursday, 10th December 2009. Further details will be available later.



TRAVEL AND OUTINGS GROUP

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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FUTURE EVENTS 2009

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 Marks 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, 1 Cathedral Mews, 1 Woodlands Lane, Chichester, PO19 5PD.
Tel: 01243 781009.

STANDEN & HAMMERWOOD PARK: THURSDAY, 27TH AUGUST

Leaving Oaklands Way, Chichester (Woods Coach) at 9 a.m. Morning: Visit to Standen. A Victorian family house designed by Philip Webb. Set in a beautiful hillside garden, the house has interiors by William Morris and contains a nationally important Arts & Crafts Movement Collection including works by Rosetti. Lunch is available in the Barn Restaurant or bring a picnic.

Afternoon: Private visit to Hammerwood Park. A late 18th century neo-classical house designed by Latrobe (the architect of The White House and Capitol in Washington). When purchased by the present owner, David Pinnegar, in 1983 it had fallen into a state of total disrepair. He has spent the last 25 years lovingly restoring it room by room. He will personally welcome us and give us a guided tour and kindly provide us with tea. Provisional cost (based on 30 people) £25 for National Trust members and £32.10 for non-members. Price includes tea at Hammerwood.

Organiser: Val Ripley, Nightingale Cottage, Boxgrove, Chichester, PO18 OEE. Tel: 01243 773393.

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. Arriving back at Chichester at approx 6.00 p.m. 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, 1 Cathedral Mews, 1 Woodlands Lane, Chichester, PO19 5PD. Tel: 01243 781009.

HINTON AMPNER AND MOTTISFONT: WEDNESDAY, 21ST OCTOBER

Leaving Oaklands Way at 9.45 a.m. Return approx 5 p.m. We shall arrive at Hinton Ampner just before 11 a.m. and have plenty of time to see the house and gardens before having lunch at the nearby Hinton Arms. Then on to Mottisfont after lunch, leaving at about 4 p.m. Cost to National Trust members £20 and £33.80 to non-members.

Organiser: Pam Ripley, Nightingale Cottage, Boxgrove, Chichester, PO18 OEE. Tel: 01243 773393.



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

BLETCHLEY PARK: 12TH MAY

During WWII, Bletchley Park, or Station X as it was known, was the site of the UK's main decryption establishment. Ciphers and codes generated by the German Enigma and Lorenz machines were broken here. The high-level intelligence produced at Bletchley was codenamed Ultra and provided crucial assistance to the Allied war effort and shortened the war by about two years. Although over 9,000 people worked at Bletchley all of them remained silent for decades about what they had done during the war and it was only in the 1970's that the work at Bletchley was revealed to the general public. It is impossible to imagine that happening today! Churchill referred to them as "my geese that laid the golden eggs and never cackled".

We began our visit with a tour of the mansion which is now used for conferences and receptions. We then went round the various huts situated in the grounds where the codebreakers worked. They were illustrated with fascinating photos and memorabilia of life at Bletchley during the war. At the end of the war much of the equipment used and its blueprints were destroyed. Now, however, the bombe and Colossus machines (the first computers which were designed here to speed up the decryption process) have been rebuilt. They occupy the whole of a large room and their total output would now fit onto a small laptop! It was a fascinating tour and you can only wonder at the genius of Alan Turing and his associates who built those original computers. Thank goodness he was English and not German! A fascinating and enjoyable day and our thanks go to Michael Reynell for organising it.

Sue Costello

HIGHGROVE: 5TH JUNE

An enthusiastic U3A group set off early on 5th June bound for Highgrove. Despite rather gloomy forecasts, we were to be blessed with fair weather for our visit.

Our journey was uneventful, which meant we had time for a short stop for lunch in Tetbury, a beautiful market town, whose picturesque, mellow Cotswold stone houses, attractive centre and historic Church with its box pews were a delight to explore.

From there it was a mere 20 minute drive to Highgrove. Once security procedures were completed, we were welcomed at the reception centre by our guide, who explained our programme. Our visit began with short introductory video by HRH The Prince of Wales, explaining the history of the estate and how he has over the last twenty-eight years transformed the gardens from a blank canvas to what we see today. We were then escorted by our guide on our tour which lasted just over two hours.

The house itself, built in 1796 in a Georgian neo-classical style, was very dilapidated when HRH acquired it, but it has been lovingly restored and, whilst smaller than imagined, nestles comfortably within the new plantings. However, it is the gardens and meadows that take your breath away: to say that they are a work of art and a true delight would be an understatement. They exude love, care and attention, and it is easy to see how HRH derives such a sense of peace and spiritual well-being in such a tranquil setting. Gently meandering pathways link the separate areas together: the Thyme Walk, the Cottage Garden, the Sundial Garden, the Walled Garden, the Rose Pergola and new Topiary Garden to name but a few. All of a sudden you come across a secluded water feature, strategically placed giant Grecian urns which somehow seem to belong in this very English country garden. There are statues and sculptures in bronze, stone and wood; mirrors, dry stone walls, arches and gateways, vibrant roses, snow-white lupins amidst black irises, beautifully crafted pastel coloured seats; and everywhere evidence of HRH's passion, an amazing collection of different varieties of hostas (with hardly a hole in sight – a lot to be said for organic gardening!). And finally, his famous Turkish-style Carpet Garden which won a Silver Medal at the 2001 Chelsea Flower Show and was then transferred to Highgrove. The whole estate is uplifting and truly inspirational and is a great tribute to the man who has made it very much his own personal sanctuary, and to his dedicated team of gardeners and assistants.

After a very welcome cup of tea and slice of cake, served in the Orchard Room, there was time for a quick visit to the shop before starting on our journey home.

Our thanks to Sue Costello for organising such a splendid and enjoyable outing. My images of Highgrove will stay with me for ever.

Gillian Angrave

WARNING: HOTEL KEY CARDS

The following information has recently come to the notice of U3A. All of you who will be using hotels with access to rooms with a magnetic key card should be aware that these cards contain your name, partial home address, hotel room number, arrival and departure dates and your credit card number and expiry date. This information is not deleted until the card is issued to another guest. To avoid leaving this valuable personal information around keep the card and take it home or destroy it. The hotel will not charge you.

Wanted...all you photographers who take pictures of group activities, outings etc., my e-mail address is waiting for your contribution to the next edition of the Newsletter, or for inclusion on our website. If you are not sure how to send it, just ask. The last page needs you!

Ed.



The Science Book Discussion Group



The Sound Recording Group



South Downs Society

formerly Society of Sussex Downsman

Protecting the Beauty of the Downs

THE SOUTH DOWNS, PROTECTED FOR ALL TO ENJOY, FOREVER.
THIS IS WHAT THE SOUTH DOWNS SOCIETY WANTS TO SEE.
JOIN NOW AND HELP US PROTECT THE DOWNS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Visit our website at www.southdownssociety.org.uk or call us on **01798 875073** or write to 2 Swan Court, Station Road, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 1RL

The South Downs Society is a registered charity no 230329 and relies on member subscriptions and gifts in wills.