

## Newsletter February 2012

### From the Chair



I am afraid I have to inform you that information has recently been sent to us that there is still likelihood of renovation work being done in the near future on the Pemberton Centre. We have no indication of if, or when, this may take place but it will certainly affect our monthly meetings when work begins. We are in constant touch with the management and will keep you informed when we receive any other information.



Stanwick Lakes

I recently had information from a representative of Rockingham Forest Trust. They are applying for Lottery Funding for a new heritage project in 2013 which will involve work at Stanwick Lakes and villages and towns along the Nene Valley.

The project will have particular focus on trades and occupations and they are planning to have "training days" giving local people the chance to experience traditional trades such as coppicing, stonemasonry, basket making, thatching and blacksmithing

I am sure many of us enjoy walking around Stanwick Lakes and involving local people is part of all Lottery applications. It will, of course, take a long time for them to obtain funding but I will let you know if, and when, I hear more about this project.

Chris

## Digital Photography



The group has developed a programme for the next couple of months which I hope will soon be posted on the web site along with the dates we meet.

We have benefitted from a number of new members in recent weeks and still have room for a few more. The next meeting (15-2-2012) will concentrate on the use of Windows Photo Gallery to adjust your photographic masterpieces and then on the 29th Feb we have a session on Wildlife Photography.

Mick Aldridge

## Scrabble



We are currently full up for our Tuesday afternoon Scrabble games, but if anybody else wants to join, contact me and I can organise another session.

Further information contact Mary Baty

## History



New Year - even more variety! For the group's January meeting, Roger Drage presented "The Design and Development of Castles" and Linda Walker shared a DVD on the story of the Container - "The Box That Changed Britain".

Three other group members step into the spotlight for February, with Carol Pullen and Ann Cook doing a presentation on "Local Railways", and Roy Pettit introducing the group to "The History of 'Doing' Time, including details about his time working at Bedford Prison.

Two other members occupy the spotlight in March, with John Layton presenting "The History of Plastic", and Brenda Williamson telling the story of "The Jarrow Marchers". Although we are so grateful that members are willing to share their knowledge and expertise - may we stress that it certainly isn't a condition of joining the group.

The Spring/Summer visit programme - as chosen by the group - starts in April with a visit to Kimbolton Castle, and is followed by five other monthly outings and another special whole day trip in June. The group will vote on the 2012-13 programme in May. If you'd like to find out more, and maybe join the group, please get in touch or come along to table 5 and the rolling slideshow at the monthly meetings at the Pemberton Centre. Come and feel the Blast of the Past! Roger Drage

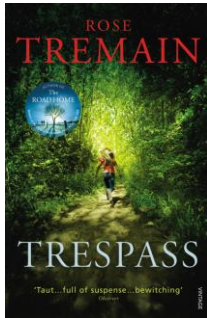
## Computer Group



We are looking for more members who want help with their computers or just have an interest in them and would like to meet up with other like minded geeks.

We do not blind you with technical jargon and take things at a pace to suit you, it is very informal and we all learn something. Contact Harry Wells

At February's meeting of U3A Reading Group A, we discussed:  
'Trespass' by Rose Tremain



In a quiet valley stands an isolated stone farmhouse, the Mas Lunel. Its owner is Aramon Lunel, an alcoholic so haunted by his violent past that he's become incapable of all meaningful action, letting his hunting dogs starve and his land go to ruin.

Meanwhile, his sister, Audrun, alone in her modern bungalow within sight of the Mas Lunel, dreams of exacting retribution for the unspoken betrayals that have blighted her life.

Into this closed world of the South of France comes Anthony Verey, a wealthy but disillusioned antiques dealer from London. Now in his sixties, Anthony hopes to remake his life in France, and he begins looking at properties in the region.

From the moment he arrives at the Mas Lunel, a frightening and unstoppable series of consequences is set in motion. Two worlds and two cultures collide. Ancient boundaries are crossed, taboos are broken, a violent crime is committed. And all the time the Cevennes hills remain, as cruel and seductive as ever.

*We all agreed that this novel was a good read and we would recommend it to others, especially as it provided some welcome warmth in this cold, dark season!*     *Dominica Jones*

## Safe Driving



The group is over subscribed and it is with regret that I have to close the waiting list for the foreseeable future. Already some members have been waiting for several months to start their tuition and there is a limit to how many I can take out

It takes several months training for each member to reach a standard of driving that they are happy with and once they start learning the correct way to drive it becomes obvious to them that their driving was not as good as they thought it was.

To those on the waiting list could I say thank you for your patience and I hope to get to you soon, it must feel like hanging on the phone to British Gas. It would help if you purchase a copy of "ROADCRAFT" from Amazon or other book store and start getting to understand the basics.     Peter Turner

## Painting for Pleasure

The next meeting will be on Monday 27th. February at 2pm HFWMC.  
Don will be guiding us through the basics of Pen and ink.  
New members welcome.     Doreen

## Discussion Group

Sheila has written a poem for us

**“You are welcome to join us”**

A poem by Sheila Carter

*We meet at the library at Higham,  
We meet to discuss and debate.  
We kick off at two or we mean to,  
Provided that no one is late.*

*On a subject decided beforehand,  
From a list that Jan passes around,  
One person is asked to be umpire,  
To keep all our feet on the ground.*

*The aim of the game is enjoyment  
We don't hope to put the world right,  
We all have a say on the subject,  
Remembering to stay polite.*

*It's not that we get agitated,  
We try not to be rude or shout,  
Because if we do Jan has warned us  
A red card will mean that we're out.*

*Our rhetoric is of the finest,  
Our eloquence is of the best  
At half past three, we drink up our tea,  
And go home, for a well deserved rest.*



Next meeting is on Wednesday 7 March  
'What do we mean by Freedom'  
£1.50 plus 50p for refreshment if required.

## **Nordic Walking** (New Group)

Three brave souls ventured out in the cold on Saturday before the snow. Fiona our instructor took us through some warm up exercises before we grappled with the poles, We were soon off walking and feeling really warm. I myself found it easier than rambling and very enjoyable.

Taster sessions cost £5 plus £1 for hire of the poles.

You do need 4 lessons to learn the techniques then, you will be given a NWUK competence card, this is your Passport to walks and events with participating instructors.

I know that some of you think the classes are expensive but if 10 people are interested, Fiona will give U3A a special discount. I am negotiating with her on this, I hope to have more news at them monthly meeting.

Doreen

## **U3A MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Please come along to the Pemberton Centre at 2 pm to hear some interesting talks, and why not bring a friend with you and introduce them to the many things we do in our Branch of the U3A?

### **15th February Meeting**

Nick Hamilton will talk about "Barnsdale after Geoff" (1966--to present day). A brief review of his famous father and how he has taken his father's beloved Gardens forward.

### **21st March Meeting**

In Jim Wright's talk on "Evacuees", many will remember being uprooted from all that was familiar to live with strangers, which often changed their lives for the better, others remember the disruption of taking in lodgers into the homes.

As Speaker secretary, I would be most grateful if some members would offer to give a vote of thanks after the speaker. Please contact me at the monthly meetings or e-mail Brian Shelton Many thanks Margaret Shelton

### **Note from the Editor**



This month has had its problems first with only 3 week between issues, also my computer decided it needed a rest and has gone to the hospital for very sick computers.

Although, as any member of the computer group knows, always have a backup, I do but my one, only works on that computer.

Therefore your newsletter will be somewhat limited until my computer is better. Normal service will resume for March so please forgive that very hard working machine.

### **From your webmaster**



Your webmaster needs your input to enable our site to be more interesting and alive.

He would like more leaders to add a page for their group. Assistance in generating the page is available and absolutely no computer skill is required.

561 people visited our website in January

Please visit:- [www.highamandrushdenu3a.org](http://www.highamandrushdenu3a.org).

## **A Senior Citizens Prayer**

*Today, dear Lord, I'm 80, and there's much I haven't done.  
I hope, dear Lord, you'll let me live until I'm 81.*

*But then if I haven't finished all I want to do.  
Would you let me stay a while – until I'm 82?*

*So many places I want to go, so very much to see.  
Do you think that you could manage to make it 83.*

*The world is changing very fast, so much in store.  
I'd like it very much to live until I'm 84.*

*Thank you Father for being alive, at the age of 85.*

*More planes will be up in the air, so I'd really like to stick.  
And see what happens in the world when I'm 86.*

*I know dear Lord, it's much to ask (and it must be nice in heaven),  
But really, I would like to stay until I'm 87.*

*I know by then I won't be fast, and sometimes I'll be late.  
But it really would be pleasant to be around at 88.*

*I'll have seen so many things and had a wonderful time.  
So I'm sure that I'll be willing to leave at 89.*

*But if I may be so bold, and ask the Lord Almighty.  
If I could stay – dare I say – until I get to 90!*

## **National U3A News**

**2012 U3A Photography Competition.** The theme is **SEASONAL BRITAIN**. Think about Cities and Hamlets, Land and Sea, Parks and Gardens, Flora and Fauna etc.... throughout the year.

Winning photographs will feature in the U3A engagement calendar for 2013. The closing date is 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012. For more information please contact Brian Shelton.

### **2012 Summer Schools.**

**Summer School 1** is being held at Harper Adams University College Newport, nr Telford, from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July to Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012. Courses on offer include: Cinema History, Design Principles in Art, France- la France et les Francais d'aujourd'hui, History – England in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Music Appreciation- making friends with music around the world, Philosophy/Fiction – the times, they were a-changing and Poetry – Three Priest-Poets, Recorder Ensemble Playing and Writing Fiction.

Costs for this: Full board in en-suite accommodation is £315 per person.

**Summer School 2** is being held at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August to Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2012. Course available here are: Drama – Let's try Comedy, History – An enduring affair- the Orient and the Occident, Literature – Late!, Needlepoint Lacemaking- A centuries old craft, Philosophy- What has Greek philosophy done for us, Psychology – Reality and Imagination, Singing for Pleasure, Website Design- Build your own website

Costs for this: Full board in en-suite accommodation is £315 per person.

All these courses are suitable for all levels, but an interest or enthusiasm for the subject is essential. Contact Brian Shelton for more details about these courses.