

Newsletter November 2011



Medieval Style Garden Photo by Peter MacGregor

The Chichele College Medieval Style Garden Project has been funded through the Community Spaces Programme which is being managed by Groundwork UK as an Award Partner to the Big Lottery Fund. Community Spaces is part of the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces initiative."



From the Chair

This month, I thought I would give you an update on the Medieval Style Garden Project at Chichele College in Higham. Gwen Tobin came to one of our meetings earlier in the year and explained to us all about the project. It has taken five years of hard work compiling a case for the garden renovation, obtaining Lottery funding under the heading of the "Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces initiative".

I know many of you pledged plants, and many of you, like me, volunteered to help in the garden. The Tourism Chichele Garden sub-committee is a small but dedicated team, many of whom I was pleased to meet when the volunteers had their first "volunteer day" last month.

A lot of people turned up as there was a lot of clearing to do. The site is a Scheduled Monument under the Management of English Heritage so everyone working there has to respect this valuable historical area and digging down is only allowed when absolutely necessary.

The Contractor Shane says that although the site gate will be closed for the time being, when his van is parked there, anyone is welcome to walk in and he will explain the site. Anyone visiting the site must, however, sign the Visitors' book – this is a Health & Safety requirement, please ask Shane for this if it is not near the gate. Also it is important to respect that his time is valuable in terms of completing his contract on time.

I know you don't all live in Higham but if you are passing it would be worth having a look, especially in the New Year when the exciting part will begin. The hope is that the garden, when completed, will be a centre for activities for the whole community - drama, music, dance, Teddy bear picnics, etc. etc.

Community involvement ranging from pre-school age children (who have been planting bulbs) to the U3A whose Photographic and Garden Groups are giving ongoing help, also the volunteers, fulfills part of the Lottery criteria. The Tourism committee feel that as many other organisations have given both financial and other support, the garden project has already fuelled greater cohesion in the town, which can only be a good thing. Chris

Discussion Group



A small group of us met at the Higham library for our November meeting to discuss 'Has something in your childhood influenced your adult life?'

Although it was a smaller than usual gathering, eight of us, it was a lively and interesting discussion. It became apparent that whether you have siblings or not and where in the age group of the family you are born into, can have a considerable influence on your future, apart from this, the many other circumstances that were covered were of great interest.

There were some confessions of naughty deeds from the dim and distant past and wonderful experiences that still take you through difficult times.

Time flew by and after a much needed cuppa, we left with the thought of our December discussion 'What is Art?' in our heads.

Janet, our leader, was unable to be with us as she is in the middle of moving house. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for forming the group and wish her a smooth change of address and a happy time in her new home.

Computer Group



In the Computer Group we are able to help with various problem that most people have while learning to cope with their computers.

The main topics that we come across are File Structuring, Moving Pictures from the Camera, Web Searching and e-mail attachments.

If you are having problems with any of these or any other aspects of computing, then why not come to one of our meetings. We will not baffle you with jargon but give you individual help until you are able to grasp the solution.

Country Dancing



The group is going well with numbers holding. There is however room for more members, a few extra men would be nice!!!!.

The Christmas party is on December 12th at the Higham Ferrers W.M.C. 2-4 all are welcome. Please bring nibbles to share. Mince pies will be provided. It is also hoped to have live music. For any further details about the group ring George Hearnden

Painting for Pleasure



21st. November Painting in Monochrome.

5th. December Painting or Drawing a Seasonal Theme.

19th. December Xmas Bring and Share Lunch.

All meetings at Higham Ferrers Working Men's Club. New members welcome.

History Group



For September, the History Group held its very first whole-day outing: to Pershore and Tewkesbury, to view the towns and the abbeys there. The trip was open to the wider U3A membership, and in all 51 people made the trip - in a very comfortable executive coach supplied by Carters Travel of Great Addington. First stop was Pershore, where the

vicar and his colleagues were waiting with complimentary hot tea and coffee, before giving the group a very interesting tour of the magnificent abbey building, which was saved for the town when Henry VIII's agents had demolished over half of the original.

Then on to Tewkesbury, where the group had almost two hours to explore the wonderful medieval buildings and warren of Georgian alleyways. After Lunch the whole group assembled for the formal tour of the main Abbey. The group reckoned that it had had a marvellous day out, and would certainly consider another one in 2012.

November 17th sees the start of the group's indoor programme, held at 2pm at Chelveston Village Hall, where Susan Bancroft is giving an illustrated talk on the fascinating and eventful life of Jean Overton Fuller, who amongst other things was a wartime secret agent. In December there will be the now traditional Quiz, the group's DIY buffet, and another showing of the short film on the triumphs and tragedies of the life of Elizabeth Woodville - the wife of Edward IV. If you'd like to join us, please get in touch. Come and feel the Blast of the Past !

Handicraft Group



Thank you for your support of our stall at the October Pemberton meeting.....don't forget that we will be running it again at the November meeting....come and buy!!

We three Kings are well on their way for Higham's Christmas Sparkle weekend on 19th November. This is the contribution for the whole of Higham and Rushden U3A, so go and see it in St Mary's Church, Higham if you get the opportunity. Rosemary van der Meer

Computer Group

Are you having problems with your computer or just wish to do more? Then come along to our group and we will try to help overcome those annoying problems like "the computer has lost my photos" etc.

No Tec Jargon just basic simple help at your pace to overcome your problems.

Genealogy Group



Our next meeting is on Tuesday November 15th at the Catholic Church Hall, starting at 2pm.

We plan to look at the recently added Parish records on the Genes Reunited site, investigate the Charles Booth archive site covering life, labour and poverty in London in the 19th century and perhaps a podcast on a topical family history subject from the National archives.

As always, we will try and help attending group members move past any “brick walls” that are obstacles to them in delving further back in their family trees (a reminder to members to bring their “brick walls with them!).

This is a group activity using the latest databases and records available via our laptop connected to Ancestry, FindmyPast, FreeBMD, etc displayed via the U3A projector.

Come and join us.....

Gardening Group



After a summer of outdoor visits we have commenced our winter indoor program at Rushden Hall, Hall Park. For the October meeting Roger Drage, a Gardening Group member gave a talk, accompanied by a tasting session, on 'Fruit Growing'. At the November meeting there will be an illustrated talk on 'Bee Keeping' by David White of the Northamptonshire Bee-keepers Association. Hive products will be available for purchase at the meeting.

The Sales Table

This is run at the monthly meetings to raise funds for the benefit of the Higham & Rushden U3A. So if you can donate something, you are enabling your own society to do more for you. We are always grateful for quality donations that we can sell on at extremely reasonable prices.

Books are particularly popular so we are always looking out for new ones to keep a good turnover going.

So, please do not throw out that thing you have finished with if you think it could be useful, think of us and bring it over to the sales table. We will be pleased to see you.

So far we have managed to raise over £100. With most purchases costing around 25p, that's a lot of items!...we need more...over to you

Singing For Fun



Hi, Just a little about Singing for fun. We have a busy programme until Christmas. We welcome new members particularly you men. No audition, we provide song sheets too Contact Linda for details.

Also Higham Ferrers Xmas light switch on day.

We are singing carols in St Mary's Courtyard. Higham Ferrers by the church Nov 19th 2pm and 3-15pm. Please come and join us

Wine and Dine Club



DATE	WHERE	TIME	ORGANISER
Wednesday 18 th Jan	Star and Garter Chelveston	Lunch 12-12.30	Carole Baxter
Wednesday 22 nd Feb	Overstone Manor Overstone	Lunch 12-12.30	Linda Walker
March T.B.A.	Vivos Burton Latimer	Lunch 12-12.30	Margaret and Tony Sansome
April T.B.A.	White Horse Tilbrook	Lunch T.B.A	Carole and Brian Rider
Tuesday 22 May	Dukes Arms Woodford	Evening Meal T.B.A.	Peter McGregor

The next Wine and Dine organisation meeting will be at the
Conservative Club on April 16th 2012 at 11.15am

Group Leader for the Wine and Dine Group is Monica Corbett

Deputy Leaders are Carole Baxter and Carole Wills

Note:- Members **MUST** contact the organiser if they wish to go to an event.

Cancellations **MUST** be no less than 48 hours before an event, as there may be a charge.

Safe Driving



Some of the original members have now reaches a very good standard of driving and are leaving the group. This has enabled the ones on the waiting list to start their Safe Driving training.

The experience has not been quite so daunting as some members had expected and the general opinion has been that they have enjoyed the experience and surprised by how much more there is to driving than getting from A to B.

Remember we all have a 'Duty of Care' to other road users.

If you would like to join or would like more information then please come to Table 1 at the next meeting.

U3A Meetings

16th November Meeting

In view of the subject matter, "From St Dunstan's to The Cenotaph" the committee has decided to hold a collection on behalf of the St. Dunstan's charity.

14th December Meeting (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)

"Origins of Nicknames"--

A brief look at nicknames for objects, places etc. from "Apple-Gatherers to Zippity-Do-Da""

Speaker Susan Copperwheat, followed by Carol Singing by Members of Stanwick Hand -Bell Ringers.

25th January Meeting (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)

U3A member Mrs. Carol Pullen will talk about a little known but important local lady. Her talk "A lady of Letters " has a surprising revelation.

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

Mr. Jim Wright talk on, "Evacuees", Many still can remember of 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.



Christmas Lights Switch On

Rushden High street on the 3rd December at 4.15pm
Entertainment throughout the day

Higham Ferrers switch on is Saturday 19th November at 5pm.
Higham Ferrers Christmas Victorian Sparkle. Fair in the Square, 10am-5pm

Raunds switch on is Sunday 27th November at 5pm.
Christmas Market starts at 2pm

Around Rushden

Charity Quiz

Quiz sheets are available at £1 and SAE in aid of Save the Children Fund. Contact Aubrey Perkins 3 Duchy Close Higham Ferrers NN10 8BZ

RUSHDEN AND DISTRICT ART SOCIETY



There are several members of the U3A involved in and running this society.

There is an Art Show to show off the work of the members on Saturday 26th November From 10am - 4pm in the Wesleyan Church Hall, Queen Street, Rushden.

Your support for this local group would be much appreciated. You may even find a painting that your wall is just waiting for or an unusual Christmas present, as some of the artwork will be for sale. There will be refreshments available at very reasonable prices while you decide which appeals to you the most.

If you are interested in art yourself and would like to learn more, exhibit your own work or try a workshop, learn more about us at our web at www.radas.org.uk or come and have a word with us at our Winter Show.

Widowed in Northamptonshire

The group, called WAY-ON (Widowed and Young of Northamptonshire) are now in their 2nd year and rapidly growing and developing. We are non-profit making and are very pro-active and collaborative, enjoying a social life together whilst supporting and understanding each other in a way that only other widowed people can. Our logo is "After the rain comes the Sun".

Apart from our Tuesday club nights, we organise activities and events to suit all tastes - monthly meals, monthly walks, ten-pin bowling, dancing, days out.

We welcome new members, regardless of how long you have been widowed - the only criteria for membership is that you are widowed and you are in your 50s or 60s. If you might be interested in joining us, please take a look at our website - www.way-on.co.uk for further information. Or contact Janet Embling email janandpoppy@gmail.com.

The Extra Care charity

Their shop in Rushden is having a stall to raise funds to help support their sheltered housing. In the Bede House Higham Ferrers last Saturday in November.

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?

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

Your Committee

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Thank you to everyone who contributed to this the Newsletter. Please note that views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily the views of Higham & Rushden U3A. Reports on group activities, other items of interest to Members would be most welcome for the next edition.

Please keep [Linda Grace](#) up to date with new or changes to your e-mail addresses and contact details. Personal details will only be used for Higham and Rushden U3A business and never passed on to any third party.