

## NEWSLETTER

October 2011

### NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

The Committee had one of its regular meetings on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July. The continuing problems caused by the lack of a Secretary were discussed. However, John Carberry has agreed to start work on the 2012/2013 programme with the help and encouragement of Irene Lusted. The programme of talks for 2011-2012 was circulated with the last Newsletter in August despite the existence of several gaps. These have now been filled but certain re-arrangements have been necessary. An amended programme will be circulated with the January Newsletter.

Mary Greaves  
Chairman

### TALKS QUESTIONNAIRE

Please take a few minutes to complete the Questionnaire – ‘Thursday meetings in 2012/13. We need your suggestions to provide a programme that reflects members’ interests. As always we particularly welcome offers from members to give their own talks. As noted above we very much appreciate John Carberry taking on the role of Co-ordinator; your suggestions will be particularly welcomed by him.

### FOUR OPERA MASTERPIECES

Regretfully this Study Day advertised in the last Newsletter is now fully booked with a waiting list.

### U3A 2012 DIARIES

We have had a delivery of our order but, if anyone who had not previously ordered one would like one, there could still be some available. Send cheque, payable to Third Age Trust, direct to the U3A National Office. Cost is £2.00 post free.

### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS NEWS

**Churches and Pubs II** Now that this group has reluctantly disbanded, I’m prompted to say that this is an opportunity for rejuvenating and bringing together the Churches and Pubs Groups. Why not start afresh with new members at the helm of a new group? There is a wealth of history and architecture out there in the countryside for you to discover and enjoy plus a good pub lunch. We have visited over 200 churches and our programme runs to the end of this year. There are still more churches and we would be happy to join with a new group to re-visit churches. I am appealing to new members to come to one of our meetings on the first Tuesday of the month. It just takes a couple of members interested in starting a group to get together and arrange a first visit. The knowledge and interest grows as you go along. You can be assured of lots of help and encouragement from us.

Joan Airey  
Convenor of Churches and Pubs I

**Bird Identification** Sadly this group, convened by Gilliane Sills of West Oxford U3A, has been disbanded. A couple of us from the Oxford U3A attended and we wondered if there would be

sufficient interest in starting something similar as a Special Interest Group. Birds may be identified not just visually but by their song and behaviour. I warn you bird watching can become very addictive. What is envisaged is a gentle approach suitable to beginners to bird-watching, perhaps with more of an emphasis on observing in the field at sites in and around Oxford with opportunities to go further afield.

It would be good to gauge the amount of interest so if you are interested feel free to discuss with me on a Thursday afternoon or telephone 452579 or [peterjwilk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:peterjwilk@hotmail.co.uk)

**ENGLISH SOCIAL HISTORY STUDY DAY**  
**Adams Park Conference Centre, High Wycombe**  
**9<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

This Study Day is being held after many requests for English Social History. It will concentrate on 'Post Roman – into the void', 'Society in late Anglo Saxon England' and 'The impact of Normans in England'. Trevor Rowley, a founding fellow of Kellogg College, and well known as an excellent speaker, is the presenter for the day.

To be held at Adams Park Conference Centre, Hillbottom Road, Sands, High Wycombe, HP12 4HJ, booking form from Ann Mary Ware, tel: 01494 523231, email [annware@sky.com](mailto:annware@sky.com) Details will also be on the Notice Board at the back of Rewley House Lecture Theatre. This is rather an early notice but these study days do tend to get booked up quite quickly.

**CHRISTMAS TEA AT CHRIST CHURCH – Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> December**

Once again Christ Church will be the venue for our Christmas Tea in the grand surroundings of Great Hall. Many thanks to Michael Walker and Christ Church for making it possible. If you wish to go please complete and return the enclosed yellow booking form to Michael Walker together with a cheque for £8.00 payable to Oxford U3A and a stamped addressed envelope. There will be the opportunity of a choice of visit to either the Cathedral or the College Upper Library (not normally open to the public) before the tea. Please indicate clearly on the booking form your choice of visit. There is a maximum of 60 places for the tea.

If you are visiting the Cathedral or the Library meet at Tom Gate at 3.15 pm. If you are just going for the tea also enter via Tom Gate for 4.00pm.

**DISCOUNTS ON OUTDOOR CLOTHING**

The Blacks Leisure Group is offering a 15% discount to U3A members for outdoor clothing and equipment, particularly useful to those who take part in outdoor activities such as rambling and bird watching. To qualify for discount members will need a discount card. Cards are free with 'no obligations and no hassles'. They may be used in any branch of Blacks Leisure Group; in Oxford they are represented by Milletts in Queen Street and Blacks in St. Aldates. To obtain a card contact Jonathon Rafferty, Specialist Group Advisor, Blacks Leisure Group on 07584 471859 or alternatively by email at [Jonathon.rafferty@blacks.co.uk](mailto:Jonathon.rafferty@blacks.co.uk)

**VISITS IN 2012 – LOOKING FORWARD**

A questionnaire is enclosed with the Newsletter; please take a few minutes to complete and return. We always welcome suggestions for venues. Perhaps you feel able to offer to organise a

trip; this is not too onerous as coach booking and costings are done centrally. In particular, we are looking for a volunteer to organise the Tour of the Chilterns and suggestions for the itinerary.

#### **VISITS IN 2011 – LOOKING BACK**

Many thanks are due to Joan Airey (Chenies Manor), Irene Lusted (Eltham Palace) and Maire Walden for organising the very successful trips earlier this year. If you missed out make sure you join a trip next year.

#### **FROM THE EDITOR**

The next Newsletter will be published in January 2012. Written contributions, photographs and comments are all welcomed. They can be passed on at a Thursday afternoon talk, by telephone or by email to me. Please note the deadline will be December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Peter Wilkinson