



October/November 2008 No 8

Bridlington U3A News

Committee Members

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Group Coordinator: Susan Earnshaw (01262) 601098

Committee Members: Tina Colley, Sylvia Crossland, Margaret Holmes, Helen McGonigle and Jenny Copley

Happy First Birthday!

Dear Bridlington U3A

It seems almost unbelievable that we have already reached our first birthday. With our properly elected committee now in place I really feel we have reached a significant milestone. In my Chair's Report to the Annual General Meeting, I raised some key questions.

1. Will we maintain our membership as the time comes for renewal?

As we go to press, renewal is still underway; membership stands at 280. In a town the size of Bridlington, with the high number of retired people in its midst, there is scope for growth. Driffild (The Wolds) U3A has a membership of about 400 and it is flourishing.

2. Can we keep in touch with the views of members as our numbers grow?

We must keep in touch with the views of our membership otherwise we will become a self-serving group without real purpose. Our mission statement is very clear about our purpose: *'to find joy and renewal in recreation, learning and teaching'*. Every so often, we distribute a questionnaire at the monthly meeting to seek your views. I urge all of you to keep the committee informed about your wishes and any ideas you might have for improvement. If you belong to an interest group, your group leader is a useful channel.

3. Can we sustain and improve quality with reference to our interest groups?

This was always the big question as we started to grow-but as time passes, it would seem there is an endless wealth of quality talent in our midst. Sometimes a group just doesn't seem to work out-it usually dies, a sudden or slow death, but this 'natural pruning' is beneficial.

4. Can we meet the demands of new members?

We are advised by Central Office that a membership of 400 needs on average 40 interest groups to meet 'average' demand-and we are certainly well above

that percentage at the moment. However, a new member sometimes requests a particular activity and we can't always meet the demand. Either numbers are not yet viable, current groups running are full or there is no immediately obvious group leader. We have tried to enable different kinds of participation from the one-off ventures like our Summer Specials (please don't mention the Yorkshire Belle) to short courses and to groups with a defined number of sessions. Our group co-ordinator Susan Earnshaw keeps close track of demand, but in the end it is that 'dedicated band of volunteers' who lead the groups that make the whole enterprise possible.

5. Will we remain financially viable given the cost of our new venue?

As you know, our move to the Spa has meant we no longer need to worry about space but we do have to pay rent to the Spa for our monthly meetings, which has to be covered by the £1 entry fee. Our treasurer Christine Latham constantly monitors income against expenditure; so far so good but we will review the situation in November. We have also been warned that Central Office is proposing to increase the capitation fee-currently £2.50. This is deducted from your annual membership fee of £12.50.

6. Can we ensure we are an inclusive organisation where all members enjoy equality of access to what is on offer?

A question that often arises is how members can get to venues and groups. I can only say that the generosity of members in providing lifts where necessary has been amazing-but do let us know if lack of transport is an issue for you. Of more concern is whether we are really meeting a wide range of needs for a diverse range of people. This is probably a question we can't yet answer but we will keep asking the question.

With best wishes to you all
Sue Gollop (Chair)

Future meetings at

The Bridlington Spa - 10.30am

- Monday 6th October 08
- Monday 3rd November 08
- Monday 1st December 08
- Monday 19th January 09
- Monday 16th February 09
- Monday 16th March 09
- Monday 20th April 09
- Monday 11th May 09
- Monday 15th June 09
- Monday 13th July 09



Leader Chris Clarke + Crab



Jim McGonigle leads the hunt

Rocks, Sand and Silt

..... an ideal environment for invertebrates and small children! Our summer special Rockpool Safari at the beginning of August got off to a sunny start for the picnic. Light rain which commenced as we decamped for the shore failed to quench the spirits of our party. Soon 'children', young and old, were scrambling over rocks and squelching in mud in search of specimens for marine biologist Bob Briggs to identify. Bob, from Filey, has been involved in projects aimed at educating youngsters to the diversity of our local marine life for over 30 years; he kindly agreed to assist the leader on the day. With the help of his pocket microscope, he demonstrated that not all is

what it seems and that the piece of 'seaweed' he had found was in fact hornwrack, a colony of bryozoans, tiny filter feeding animals. A growing collection of crabs brought for identification revealed the presence of green shore crabs, velvet swimming crabs, edible crabs and one Bob had not seen before which he later identified as a broad clawed porcelain crab. He explained the bizarre eating habits of the dog whelk, common starfish and the beadlet anemone as many more species were discovered. When the tide turned the rain became more persistent so the party made its way back to the car park to clean up and dry out and, for some, a welcome hot drink in the café.

Chris Clark

XP TIPS AND TRICKS

Anthony Stroish has further helpful hints on getting the best from your computer which he would love to share with members. E-mail him on lakeside@timewarpuk.net.

U3A meeting 1st September 2008

A highly successful and enjoyable meeting of the Bridlington U3A at the Spa saw Greg Knight greeted warmly and applauded loudly for his clear speaking on a wide variety of topics. He answered questions from the floor without hedging and whatever your political persuasion you would not have been displeased at what you heard. Mr Knight is clearly very focused on the East Coast and is clearly an asset to our town. The questions ranged from local issues including our hospital for which he says the fight is not over as long as the building stands. And wider national subjects like capital punishment which he said he could support, in some cases and index linking pensions which he assured us David Cameron has said he will look to restore when the



Conservatives get back in to power. The talk was, by request of the U3A committee to be entitled 'Underfunded and Forgotten' Mr Knight said Bridlington may be

underfunded at present but it will never be forgotten as far as he is concerned.

It was generally agreed that it was a good meeting made even more interesting by the very high attendance.

Hilda Slater.

Please remember to bring prizes for the raffle and to write articles for your newsletter.

Thank you !

The committee would like to thank the following group leaders who have led courses or social groups for us over the past year: Wendy Brayshaw, Bob Wood, Pauline Connelly, Shirley Johnson, Chris Clark, Jean Proctor and Denise Whitmore.

Thanks to Wendy many of our members are now able to astound their grandchildren with their knowledge of computers. Wendy, of course, is still leading our orchestra and is going to be the accompanist for our new choir, whilst still managing to find time to be our membership secretary.

It was Bob Wood's idea that we should have an allotment and it was under his leadership that the allotment was started and the first potatoes harvested! Bob is now concentrating all his efforts on his German group, but the allotment will, we hope, be his lasting legacy to the U3A.

U3A Day Trips was initially the idea of Pauline Connelly. We are grateful to Pauline for her contribution to this thriving social group and for the happy memories of the people who have been on one of her outings.

We are indebted to Shirley Johnson for her short course on Flower Drawing. Shirley was the artist in residence at Burton Agnes this summer, but she still found time to show our members how to emulate her own exquisite botanical drawings.



The Rockpool Safari was Chris Clark's contribution to our Summer Specials. Although Chris could not control

the weather, grandparents and grandchildren alike had a hugely enjoyable afternoon splashing about in the rockpools at Flamborough.

Jean Proctor led our Digital Photography group until ill health forced her to retire. Thanks to Jean we have members who can produce photographs in which eyes have been miraculously transformed from red to blue and lamp posts have been painlessly removed from people's heads.

Bridge was Denise Whitmore's popular group. Due to Denise, members came to appreciate the mysteries of the trump-suit, the dummy hand and the peculiarities of scoring.

And, of course, our thanks go to all our U3A groups' leaders, who continue to give so generously of their time, knowledge, skills and expertise. Without them there would not be a Bridlington U3A.

Susan Earnshaw

New Singing Group

48 members have signed up to join Singing for Fun led by Daphne Millwood. The first session took place at Emmanuel Church on Monday September 8th. Sessions take place every Monday 2pm -4pm

Long Walks

Following the success of the two Summer Special long walks, I'm looking into the possibility of setting up a Long Walks group. The walks would be



between 9 and 12 miles in length and would not be suitable for total novices as parts of the walks would be strenuous. So that one person does not have to plan every walk, the idea is that each member of the group would lead one walk a year. They would be responsible for planning and reconnoitring their walk and finding a suitable parking place for the walk to begin. If you've never planned a long walk yourself, don't be put off. We could show you how to do that: it's not rocket science! If enough people joined the group we could have a long walk each month on the Yorkshire Wolds or in the North York Moors National Park or on one of the

long distance paths that criss-cross our region. You don't have to own a car to join this group; we can arrange lifts. If you're interested in joining this group please contact me.

Susan Earnshaw (601098)



NEW! BRIDLINGTON U3A 'DROP IN'

In response to some U3A members' request we are planning to hold monthly Drop In sessions at the North Library in addition to our monthly meetings at The Spa. The aim of the Drop In sessions is to give prospective U3A members an opportunity to find out more about the U3A movement and to register as a member of Bridlington U3A if they so wish. Current U3A members will also be able to access information regarding interest groups, theatre, opera and day trips, and pub lunches. There will be committee members and some group leaders available to answer any queries you may have. **Dates for Drop In sessions** 12.30-2.30pm: October 21st, November 14th

Interest Groups

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
am	Monthly Open Meeting Music Appreciation Short Walks Art 2 Watercolour Spanish for beginners Discussion Group	Music learn to play or Orchestra Hearing Loss	Art 1 Acrylics Short Walks Spanish for beginners	Getting Started in Italian	Yoga newcomers Yoga existing members
pm	Family History Canasta Sequence Dancing Spanish intermediate Singing for Fun	Computers Messing about in Boats Spanish Beginner French Continuing French Allotments	Knitting Crochet and Embroidery Creative handmade books	Creative Writing Getting Going in Italian Getting there in Italian Beadwork Metaphysics/ Philosophy Meditation Book Group German Reading	Local History Swimming for beginners and improvers Writing Memories Scottish Dancing

Pub Lunches (12.30pm)

16th October Wednesday Broadacres Bridlington £7

19 November Wednesday Marton Hall £10

17 December Wednesday Christmas lunch Sewerby Grange

£13.95 for 3 course meal Contact Margaret Holmes (424296)

Garden Visits These have now finished until next Spring. Many thanks to Dorothy Hawkins for all the wonderful visits this year.

Time to be decided: Exploring Music, Long Walks

Short Walks

Monday 13 October and Wednesday 15 October

2nd Rudston walk. Meet at the Boswell Arms at 10.30am

Leader Pauline Brayshaw 605242

Theatre Trips

THURSDAY EVENING 16 OCTOBER 2008 (STEVEN JOSEPH THEATRE)

- JACK LEAR PRICE £19

Jack is finally hanging up his oilskins and sou'wester. He is dividing up his 'kingdom' to his 3 feisty and unforgiving daughters. Years of being raised in hard graft amongst fish guts and leering trawler men they long for femininity and freedom from their father's penny pinching ways. As Jack looks forward to putting his feet up they have other ideas as resentment rises and surges with the tide. Family loyalty and love battle through hatred, revenge and sibling rivalry in this tempestuous and energetic production. Barrie Rutter plays Jack in this gritty re-working of Shakespeare's *King Lear*.

Due to time factor members may book by post to Ann Barden, 14 West Street, Flamborough, YO15 1PH, stating either Martongate Somerfields, or Central Coach Station as pick up point. Please include telephone number. Members can also book and pay at the next U3A meeting at The Spa on October 6th. Cheques payable to Bridlington U3A.

TUESDAY EVENING 11 NOVEMBER 2008 (YORK OPERA HOUSE) ELLEN KENT AMPHITHEATRE PRODUCTIONS

- LA BOHEME – PUCCINI PRICE £52

Set within the amphitheatre setting depicting the attics and back streets of Bohemian Paris, the stunning backdrops are inspired by Chagall, Renoir and the Impressionists and Act 2 will even boast snow! This production will feature authentic costumes of the period and the most romantic music written by Puccini, including the famous aria Your Tiny Hand is Frozen. This magnificent production will be performed by handpicked international soloists alongside the full Chisinau National Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus.

TUESDAY EVENING 18 NOVEMBER 2008 (HULL NEW THEATRE)

- SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN BROTHERS PRICE: £ 31

Set in Oregon in 1850 - Adam, the eldest of seven brothers goes to town to find a wife. He proposes to Milly the same day and they return to his backwoods cabin. Only then does she discover he lives with his 6 wild brothers who she sets out to tame. When they too want wives, Adam, unknown to Milly, decides to do what the Romans did, that is to kidnap the girls they want from the nearby township. This glorious romp is full of hand clapping energy, dazzling dance routines and classic songs, including Bless Your Beautiful Hide, Wonderful Day, Goin' Courtin'. Starring Steven Houghton and Susan McFadden.

THURSDAY 29 JANUARY 2009 – (HULL NEW THEATRE)

- EVITA PRICE: Approximately £31

Evita is the story of the dynamic, larger-than-life persona of Eva Peron, wife of former Argentine dictator Juan Peron. It tells of her young and ambitious beginnings to the enormous wealth and power she gained and her ultimate rise to sainthood. Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's extraordinary musical Includes classic songs 'Don't Cry for Me Argentina', 'On this Night of a Thousand Stars', 'Oh what a Circus', 'You must Love Me' and 'Another Suitcase in Another Hall'. This is a brand new production of the smash hit show.