



Summer 2009 Newsletter

www.haslemere-u3a.org.uk

Enrolment day for 2009/10 will be
Monday 7th September 1.30 to 3.30 pm in Haslemere Hall

Term Dates

- Autumn Term: 14th September - 18th December 2009
- Spring Term: 4th January – 26th March 2010
- Summer Term: 12th April - 14th June 2010

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 9th November at 2.00 p.m. at the Haslemere Hall.

Christmas lunch 14th December

For membership enquiries please contact the membership secretary Brigitte Hewett on 01428 604213

Haslemere U3A Summer 2009 newsletter

The Haslemere U3A newsletter is published by Haslemere U3A, Registered Charity No. 1053049

Message from the Chairman

At the end of another academic year I am pleased to report that our U3A is well in terms of membership and finances and I hope that you have enjoyed the activities that we have been able to provide. Our success depends entirely on the efforts of our group leaders and organizers and we thank them sincerely for giving their time and expertise for our benefit and we must remember that many of them have been this for many years. The committee is always looking, hoping, praying that new groups and leaders will emerge to keep our activities fresh and vigorous and any ideas or suggestions you can make will be given careful consideration and support.

During the year the committee has been very pleased to welcome three new members – Joe McDonald who organizes the monthly meeting talks, Pauline Watts who liaises with group leaders and Jeff Wise who looks after publicity. At the coming AGM three members are due to retire – Peter Howard our long-serving treasurer, Jill di Marzio our accommodation officer and myself as chairman. We need to find replacements for these posts and, if possible, one or two other people to strengthen the committee without taking on a specific role. Please let me know if you are prepared to help.

An area of concern to the committee is communication with the membership; electronic mail is cheap and easy and if you have an e-mail address please make sure we have it at next year's registration – you will also be able to access news and information on our website. We have notice boards in the corridor and outside the stage door at Haslemere Hall and announcements are made at each monthly meeting. Finally, Pauline Watts is producing a monthly news bulletin which is sent to each group leader for announcements at group meetings. We hope that one or other of these channels will keep you well informed of our business and activities.

In closing may I wish all members a very enjoyable summer break and look forward to meeting again in the autumn. In the meantime, do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the committee with ideas, suggestions or offers of help for the coming academic year beginning in September. *Leslie Wilson*

Tony Gregory

We are sad to report the death of Tony Gregory, a longstanding member of the U3A who contributed much to the activities of the groups and the work of the committee.

Message from the Treasurer

Finances and subscription and fee increases

The past year has seen a number of factors affecting our results adversely. These have included slightly lower membership and attendance at group meetings, much reduced interest income and particularly higher rents which have increased by about £1,300. This increase in the overall rental cost has arisen partly from higher hourly rates, partly from new groups and partly from increased usage by existing groups. Looking ahead to the coming year we expect further increases in hourly rental rates and also will face a £1 increase per member in the capitation fee we pay to the central office of the U3A organization.

The increased costs for the past year have been met from reserves but for the coming year your committee has decided that it is necessary to increase certain charges to members for the first time in many years and to make some changes to accommodation arrangements. These increases and changes will be effective from the start of the new year in September 2009 and will be as follows:

- 1 To cover the higher capitation fee, an increase of £1 in both the membership fee and the joining fee to £12 and £5 respectively
- 2 To recoup some of the higher rents the meeting fee for certain groups incurring excessive rent and other costs will be increased by 50p to £1 and, in addition, it will be necessary to seek ways of reducing the costs of groups with very low attendances. These changes will be discussed with the leaders and organizers of the affected groups before enrolment which takes place on 7 September.

Peter Howard

Reports from Groups

Art Appreciation

The Art Appreciation Group spent last year studying the modern art to be found in Chichester, particularly the art commissioned by the Cathedral and also the collection of modern art in the Pallant House Gallery. Next term we hope to explore Oriental Art, including paintings, ceramics and textiles. The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 10.30 a.m. *Mary Cooke*

Short Mat Bowls

We are a group of enthusiastic bowlers who play each week throughout the year and will be keen to welcome back any out-door bowlers when their season finishes. We also extend a warm welcome to any new members. We are a most sociable mixed group of Ladies and Men and have a very enjoyable two-hour session with a break for coffee. Do come and join us excellent tuition is freely available! *John Little*

Beginners Bridge

Eight enlisted members have to date put in a 70% average attendance. The level of enthusiasm seems quite high, in spite of how daunting some of the lessons may appear. I'm sure, as in the past, some potentially good Bridge players will emerge, provided the experience they have gained is built upon by continuity of playing the game. *Peter Brackfield*

Duplicate Bridge

We are sad to report the deaths of two of our members – Joan Allen & Eric Meadows. They were regular attendees at our meetings on Thursday and will be greatly missed.

The sessions this year have been well-attended and enjoyed by all players. Five to six tables have been in action for most of the year and we have been pleased to welcome several new members. *John Ewing*

Improvers Bridge

This course is aimed at those who have graduated from the beginners' class and have had a year or two of practical play. They are then welcome to join this group which has a rolling programme of Declarer Play and of Defensive Play, interspersed with periodic bouts of bidding. Each session has thematically targeted play hands, and if time allows, randomly dealt ones. *Adam Sobey*

Chess

There is only one known Haslemere member of this group which meets on the first and third Friday afternoons in Private venues, mostly in Liphook. Please ring Dr. Wilson on 424644 if interested.

Computing

In order to cater for different levels of expertise we ran two groups. One, held in the Haslewey computer suite, was an introductory course for people who had little knowledge of their (new) computers. The other group, held in Haslemere Hall, was for those with rather more experience.

The Practical Computing group followed a syllabus that was primarily intended to direct students lacking in computer skills towards making optimum use of their machines. The course covered a wide range of topics including full utilization of the Mouse, Toolbars and Menus. Members then progressed to subjects such as Files & Folders & Shortcuts. As confidence began to grow, knowledge was also gained in how to personalize individual computers. Finally, the course covered a brief introduction to the use of E-mail and the Internet. Word processing was used extensively throughout the course for the exercises and course notes were provided at each class and also regularly put on the web site.

The Extra Computing group looked at more advanced features of word processing using MS Word. We also had a short look at spreadsheets, and then at more advanced features such as networking and disc housekeeping. Some internet tools such as downloading were also covered. We plan to continue in the coming year. *Seb Welford*

Cooking For Men

Cooking for Men is a group limited to 16 which means that new members might not always be able to join up on Enrolment Day because only one or two places are vacated each year. Why are we limited in number? The reason is that we meet in the Haslemere Hall kitchen which has one table, one cooker with 4 rings and enough room to swing only a moderately sized cat. So you can imagine what it is like when we all try to squeeze in. It's bad enough having more than one person trying to spoil the broth - with 16 it is sometimes total chaos - or would be if we were not well-behaved and orderly and had learnt to conduct some of the proceedings in the Annexe Hall!

This year we have met 15 times and prepared and eaten some delightful meals. We struggled to stuff *baked apples* without an apple corer, but *pears in red wine* was much easier. Our flying Dutchman Niek flew us over some wild Norwegian salmon which he then showed us how to cook to perfection over a bed of vegetables. And, talking of perfection, we had a demonstration by the lovely Iris Davis who showed us how to make a genuine New York cheesecake containing at least a squillion of Calories. On the downside, we managed to produce a crumble which looked and tasted like chalk scrapings off Beachy Head.

If you do join us you can expect to learn quite a lot, though not in a structured way. We take it in turns to be Chef for the day, buy the ingredients, mug up and rehearse the recipe at home, and then instruct the group how to do it, if possible without using the F word quite as frequently as Gordon Ramsay.

In June we had our annual BBQ with the ladies invited. We cleaned up some of our jokes for the entertainment. *Don Gribble*

Current Affairs

The group has met monthly during term time with an average attendance of 17 about equally divided between the fair sex and the others. We have continued our well tried format in which the chairman assembles a list of the main news stories for the previous month which are then discussed informally, with members contributing as they see fit under the benign control of the chairman. Given the antics of our political masters and the endless stream of serious, ridiculous, tragic and bizarre stories emanating from the press we are never short of material for a stimulating and enjoyable discussion. New members are always welcome.

English Folk Dancing

The folk dance group met as usual until March 25th, then further meetings were cancelled when Ann our organiser felt she was unable to travel from Cocking. We are really grateful that over the years and in all weathers she travelled mainly by bus to teach us. We did however have an enjoyable gathering in May when an instructor came from Alton to take us in a one-off meeting. Although no definite plans have been made, members are keen to resume in some way in September. There is a possibility that Ann could continue if we can solve the transport problem. In the meantime we can continue as a self-help group with the music we already have. *Sheila Rosher (605124)*.

Scottish Country Dancing Group:

The term has been one full of new dances and also of course a number of our old ones. There have been some which had taken a little time to learn but Bob Beattie has always managed to steer us through in the end.

Unfortunately Bob is awaiting a cataract operation and this seems to be taking a long time. Meanwhile he has been unable to drive but we are hopeful that he will be able to return in September with renewed vigour. In the meantime a few of our members have been volunteered to take the dances each week during Bob's absence and this has proved to be a merry time with lots of laughter but with everyone trying to help as much as possible. We have had some very interesting programmes and all members have made Friday mornings most enjoyable.

I have organised the Friday mornings until the end of our term (31 July) and hope that Bob will be back in September. If this is not so, I can keep organising the dancing if U3A wishes it to continue though of course we are not qualified teachers like Bob and can only instruct the dances. *Margaret (O'Reilly)*

House and Gardens

We have had a busy and adventurous year, mainly in good weather with trips to Upwaltham Barn & Shepherds Church, a town walk around Peters field - which was a bit chilly but very interesting. We visited Nymans (NT) house & gardens in glorious weather along with a few hundred others - it was their first day of the season! Following month we visited the Walled garden at Cowdray, newly restored; some of us took the opportunity to also visit the Castle, both greatly enjoyed. Next was Savill Gardens, Egham, weather not so good and some got lost on the way but it was agreed the distance was worth the trip as the gardens were at their best. This was followed by Barhatch Farm, the morning was very wet which put a few members off but a dozen or so made the trip over to Cranleigh to a lovely rose garden and a delicious tea. We still have a Victorian garden to visit in July and we have also arranged our first visit for next term - Chidmere Apple Farm & gardens in West Sussex. I have not mentioned our illustrated talk in November by John Negus which we shared with the Garden group; it was great, well attended and very informative. Celia and I will put our heads together to conjure up some more delights for next year, if you have any thoughts you would like us to include, please get in touch. *Kate Colley (651369)*

Gardeners and gardening

A small enthusiastic group meet to discuss jobs for the coming month, plants of interest and anything else that might come up.

In May we held a sale of plants, and were disappointed that there was so little interest after we had put on a wide range of plants either grown from seed or from cuttings taken from our own shrubs. However we did make some money for the U3A coffers.

We would welcome more members, *Elizabeth Butler*.

Local History Group

In January Matt Cusack, National Trust Senior Warden for Hindhead Common, spoke of the future changes after the A3 tunnel is completed. The common will no longer be bisected by a busy road and can revert to its 'pre-car' peaceful existence.

Fruit growing in the Kirdford Valley as a cameo of Local History was ably described by John Nash. An initiative after World War I set up employment around Kirdford to provide apples, pears and cherries for London. This was very successful and led in due course to the large storage sheds of Kirdford Growers where some of us remember buying fruit. Sadly no longer economic, the splendid orchards have gone.

The Reverend Simon Weedon, Rector of Bramshott and Liphook, described how the Canadian army stationed in Bramshott suffered from the 'flu epidemic of 1918 and died without seeing active service. This meeting was followed in April by a visit to the churchyard at Bramshott which is a war graves cemetery. Well worth a visit to see the neatly laid out rows of graves with simple headstones.

Our meetings starting on the fourth Monday of September in Haslemere Hall annexe will start at **2.00pm** so we have plenty of time for questions and tea. The programme is not yet finalised. *Nita Draper*

Local Literature

We do not meet formally during the summer term but we did have a day out to visit locations around Steep connected with the poet Edward Thomas. Afterwards we enjoyed lunch at *The Pub With No Name*, which he used to frequent, read the poem he wrote about it, and the landlord even showed us his very battered old tankard still kept behind the bar. Classes begin again in October when we will be pleased to welcome new members to join us. For a programme and more details please see the web site or phone *Marion Dell 01428 641970*.

Original Lunch Club

Our membership remains at a maximum of 25, mostly original members; therefore we continue to enjoy the social opportunity that our club offers. An innovative lunch suggested by one of our members is to join Greys for their tour of the New Forest including a cream tea. Otherwise we continue to patronise the local hostelrys. *Sybil Cross*

Third Monday Luncheon Group

The Third Monday Luncheon Club goes from strength to strength and in the main we have lunched at some really lovely places - both from the point of the food and the ambience.e.g. The Crown and The Swan at Chiddingfold, The Hollist Arms, The Halfway Bridge, The Sea Horse and The Noah's Ark.... to name but a few!

26 members have signed up to the group and the average turn-out is usually about 20. From being a collection of people who initially did not know one another at all we have now really gelled and it is like meeting up with old friends each month. This is perhaps partly attributable to the fact that members are given different designated seats at the table each month which ensures that everyone moves around and has a chance to meet everyone else.

The format tends to be the same each month i.e. a 2 course menu is negotiated and the price includes coffee/tea. Everyone is notified beforehand of the menu choices and decides what they are going to have 2 or 3 days before the lunch so that the restaurant is prepared for our visit. In December we 'break the mould' for our Christmas get-together and meet in the evening which has always made a very enjoyable change.

We are looking forward to another enjoyable year, with lots of good food and enjoyable conversation *Cyndy Lancaster*

Medical Topics

Medical topics will continue, as it has done for the past 10 years, to provide a forum for discussion about matter impinging on the provision of medical care, and advances in diagnosis and treatment that are currently in the news. Topics are introduced by Vincent and are open to everyone to discuss whether as someone with experience gained either as a practitioner or as a patient or as someone who has "a point of view" without any particular expertise apart from interest.

The meetings are held in the morning of the 3rd Thursday of the month from 10.30 - 12 noon but very occasionally have to be cancelled - usually with plenty of notice - when Vincent is unable to attend. *Vincent Marks*

Needlecraft

Our little Group is managing to continue although due to ill health our numbers before Christmas were down. Our group numbers 7 and so we have room for more members. You don't have to be expert in anything. We are a self help group so just bring along what you like doing. To give you an idea of projects among the group are cross stitch picture, traditional embroidery, canvas work cushion, rag work, creative pictures, gold work, crochet and knitting. We meet the second and fourth Tuesdays 10.30 – 12.00 in the Dressing room in the Haslemere Hall from September to Easter. Our first meeting will be September 22nd. I look forward to meeting you and any questions please ring me, *Jill Di Marzio* (652314)

Petanque

The Petanque group continues to flourish with a small band of loyal players. New members are very welcome to join and enjoy this easy and informal game. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, weather permitting, from 2 to 4p.m at the Camelsdale recreation ground (Car park at the bottom of New Road off Camelsdale Road.) Club boules are available for use by anyone to come and have a trial game. The season is ongoing until the end of October, with the Last meeting on the 27th October. Jeff Wise has temporarily taken over the group due to my incapacity at the moment. *Alan Davis*.

Alternative Rambling Group

We have had a successful year with about 10 regular walkers attending each time and 7 walks throughout the year. Some new members have joined us and have livened up our group! We have also had a few visitors who have also enjoyed coming out with us. The summer session ended in June with an enjoyable walk led by Nicky Salway along the Wey South path.

A number of leaders have contributed a variety of interesting walks to our programme. *Kate Colley* (651369) & *John Ewing* (643240).

5 Mile Ramblers

19 walks, 95+ miles, average attendance 23.4 - which shows we do accept minorities. Our maximum was 33 although why so many turned up for this, Mary and David's Thursley to Devil's Punchbowl walk, is a mystery. But we did enjoy the long return descent through a v-shaped chasm. Three times we have had our minimum of 19 and here the reasons were more obvious. One involved a longish drive to Walderton; but so what say Ann, John and me.

Kate's Petworth walk had been preceded by heavy snow around Haslemere . Those who did come found not a trace in Petworth. Our third illustrates the dangers of too early a warning. Members were told that a lot of the walk was as muddy as the Somme in 1914-18; and it was when Phyllis and I reccied it. However the day before a very sharp frost hardened the ground and left hoar frost on trees and hedges, sparkling in the sunshine. Our thanks to Faith and Jonny who filled in when we had a gap in the programme just after their planned walk, a most innovative one – walking up from Grayswood to Gibbet Hill along the course of a natural spring. At least it kept our boots clean.

The two canal side walks (marvellous how flat these are) came as a welcome relief. The Ripley to Wisley walk was preceded by horizontal rain but nevertheless 23 turned up and were rewarded with the sun arriving just after the start. Carole and her dog reccied the Wey-Arun walk (N.B. dogs are not allowed on rambles but you have carte blanche on reccies) and discovered a superb pub, new to us – no, not the Onslow Arms.

Thanks Sue and thanks Edward (& Molly) for leading your first walks. Finally well done those 23 who turned up for our final walk despite having been promised two stiff-ish climbs (there were three) and lots of stiles (there were 15). My apologies to those walk leaders who are not mentioned here due to limitations of space. The programme would be impossible without you. Thank you 'My Good, perhaps a little talkative, Companions'. And don't forget. Summer is for recceing so, boots on - off you go! *Colin Badger*

Reading for Pleasure

We have once again had a very enjoyable and interesting year. We are a group of twelve and we meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month in the morning. The books are chosen by a different member each month and this helps us to read a greater variety.

At each meeting we discuss the relative book and it is surprising how different our views are, but many of us feel that we read a far wider range because we belong to the group. The authors we have read over the past three terms are Iris Murdoch, J G Ballard, P D James, Barack Obama, Sebastian Barry, Mohsin Hamid and Anthony Trollope, so both modern and slightly older books. One month we each read a different book and explained why we had chosen it etc. We try and chose books that are in a paperback or readily available from the library (although we do occasionally have a blip).

We reconvene on 22 September and during the break we will be reading 'The Poison Wood Bible' by Barbara King Solver, 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Society' by Mary Anne Shafter and 'Lloyd George and his Women' by Ffinoe Haig - so happy reading. *Hazel Morgan*

Reading from Shakespeare

The group has met regularly during the past year and will continue to do so in forthcoming sessions. It meets at the house of one of its members and continues – under the excellent guidance of Moira Hickling – to read a variety of Shakespeare's plays, for example 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', 'Anthony and Cleopatra', 'The Comedy of Errors' and 'King Richard III'.

Membership is necessarily restricted, both because of the venue and the essential need at each meeting for all present to have the opportunity of participating fully in reading the plays. However we are an enthusiastic group who get much pleasure from our meetings. *W.F. Eales*

Scrabble

This is a small but enthusiastic group meeting on the first and third Wednesday afternoons in very congenial surroundings who have discovered the pleasure of Scrabble for adults, as opposed to playing the game with children, when the game turns out to be pleasingly strategic without being over-demanding. The group would welcome up to six more members to share this happy experience!

Table Tennis

The table tennis group has 18 enthusiastic regular players. Each week we average 12 players. Most of us have been playing together for quite a few years and have a very enjoyable time on Monday mornings at Fernhurst Village Hall. I will continue next year as organiser. My new email address is joycebakerbeaconhill@googlemail.com. Robert Terry (682022) will be taking over from Kirsty Bates as leader. *Joyce Baker*.

Tea Dance

Tom Behan was asked to run a Tea Dance in Haslemere Hall on the 4th Wednesday of the month and the first of these was held in February 2009 we were asked to move to the 3rd Wednesday leading to a clash in booking the hall. so we changed venue to Haslewey which we did and again ran into a clash of booking this time on overlapping so we are trying to resolve this. The dancing has been well received by those who have come along. We have danced Ballroom, Latin, popular Sequence and some Old Time.

The nice music, variety of dances and friendly atmosphere have given us much pleasure, so why not come along, dance, have tea and biscuits, and friendship, whilst keeping mind and body active. The next dance is scheduled for October 16th; See publicity for venue and location.

Wine Appreciation Group.

This is a new Group which was formed at the beginning of this year with a view to expanding member's knowledge and pleasure in wine. Initially we had intended to try and source a room, wine samples and an informed speaker in Haslemere, unfortunately this proved to be too costly.

Through connections we have established a regular base at "Les Caves de Pyrene" an award winning Wholesaler of wines, located at Artington near Guildford. They have made available their sampling room and provided the expert speaker we needed.

To date we have had three very successful evenings, covering in detail;

The Loire Region.

Burgundy and the Rhone,

Languedoc and Roussillon.

We intend to hold a further session in July for "Summer Wines from around the world"

The format is based on tasting a number of white and red wines from the area plus any interesting diversions such as sparkling, rose, and dessert wines, together with discussion on how to taste wines, details of terroir, and grape varieties. Les Caves have kindly offered us good terms for buying any of the wines on the day. The fee (£5) which we charge on the evening also includes a suitable cold buffet to act as blotting paper.

We now have some 45 signed up members and our evenings have attracted some 25 to 30 people. It is our intention to expand our tasting experience outside the French Regions into Italy, Spain, and the New World producers next year. *Barrie Pople*.

Monthly meetings

All meetings will be at 2pm on the second Monday of the month.

Speakers up to April 2010 have been arranged; The first is on the 14th of September when the subject is *The City of London* by *John Watson* who is a Liveryman and recent Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass, whose origins go back to 1328.

if any members have information on good speakers please do get in touch. Keep an eye on the web site and the notice boards at the Hall for updates. *Joe McDonald (645062)*, *monthly meeting coordinator*.

Committee (up till AGM)

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