



## MONTHLY BULLETIN JANUARY 2020

**Happy New Year !** Welcome to Towcester U3A in 2020 . When I was young this was the date of science fiction when we were told 2020 would be the age of flying cars and teleportation. Well that hasn't happened yet so until it does we will focus on the exciting events for Towcester U3A in 2020 as we look forward to our 10th Birthday year.

We are pleased with the response we have had to our **Helping Hands Appeal**. We now have people we can call on to help at events such as quizzes, monthly meetings etc The more people we have the more we can spread the load. If you feel you can offer help to serve refreshments, sign people in or meet and greet please add your name to the list, either by signing up at the monthly meeting or e mailing [katebartlett@btinternet.com](mailto:katebartlett@btinternet.com).

I am also delighted to announce that we have now co-opted two new members on to the **Committee**. Amanda Campbell and Janette McTeer are very welcome additions. We still have vacancies! In particular I would like to hear from anybody interested in being our Speaker Seeker or Tuba Editor. Initially this would be shadowing the role. Please rest assured anybody taking on any role would be well supported.

### **An important announcement from our Membership Secretary Penny Bennett**

At the end of last year the committee discussed whether people joining towards the end of the membership year should pay the full yearly fee. The consensus was that we should offer a reduced fee for people who join Towcester U3A between January to May. To this end we have introduced a new £8 part-year membership fee with renewal of the full fee in June. The part-year application form is now on the website.

The 2020/21 payment year begins at the end of May. As notified at the 2019 AGM, the full fee for 2020/21 is £16. Our new membership system means that we can send out reminders when the yearly fee is due, but if you have an urge to pay the fee before you get the reminder, we will be accepting renewals from March.

### **Monthly meetings**

On January 29th Helen Frost will be talking about "The Women's Land Army in Northamptonshire during the First World War".

On February 26th we welcome Saffron Summerfield describing her life as a working musician. Her presentation is entitled "Milton Keynes to Mississippi".

We are grateful to our Poetry Appreciation Group for serving the refreshments today. In February it will be the turn of Ramblers 1.

### **News From The Groups ( Contact details for all our Interest Groups can be found on our website)**

Throughout the year the **Photography Group** will try to expand their skills by taking part in a versatility challenge. Then at the beginning of 2021 we come together to view each other's photos. Equipment can be as simple or complicated as you want, phone, tablet, cameras. Feel free to join us.

**Guitar group** has now grown to a point where we can no longer accommodate everyone in each other's homes. After discussion and considering different options we are lucky to have been offered use of the conference room at the Boat Inn, Stoke Bruerne on the proviso that we purchase tea/coffee in return. Seemed a fair deal so that is now the venue for all meetings in future. Currently, meetings are still on a fortnightly basis except when it clashes with U3A monthly meetings.

### **Art Appreciation 1**

We are currently missing Laura, our coordinator and guiding spirit, who is recovering from major surgery. We wish her well and look forward to welcoming her back.

We had a good year in 2019 looking at Portraits through the ages, from the Egyptians right through to Hockney. I think we decided that portraits were very often more about the clothes than the people. This year we are starting in a way where we left off, with a couple of months looking at David Hockney, one of the best-known and most accessible living artists. We are also hoping to get out a bit more, visiting galleries and exhibitions.

We have room for more members, so if you have any interest at all in the visual arts and are free in the morning of the third Tuesday of the month (and fancy coffee and Kit Kats), please get in touch. We are not experts by any means and we learn as we go, doing our own research, which is fun and stimulating.

In Laura's absence please contact me, Richard Bird, on 01327 704734 or at [rmb339@gmail.com](mailto:rmb339@gmail.com)

Amanda Campbell is starting a new group **Felting**. This will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month 2pm to 4pm in Pattishall. Felting is a fun craft which can involve making 3D objects or animals or 2D pictures out of natural wool. More information will be available at the monthly meeting or by telephoning Amanda 01327 831362 Mob 07525468495 e mail [amandajcampbell15@gmail.com](mailto:amandajcampbell15@gmail.com)

### **Garden Visits**

Carole Hunt wishes everyone A Happy New Year and has provided details of The Garden Visits this year.

Wed Feb 12<sup>th</sup> Newbury Town then on to Welford Park for the snowdrops. **To be Paid by Jan 29.**

Wed 11<sup>th</sup> March Worcester Tudor House and Cathedral then onto Greyfriars House and Gardens.

This is run by the National Trust.

Wed April 8<sup>th</sup> Hanbury Hall again run by the National Trust.

All coaches this year are £13.

All 3 Garden visits will be on the table at the January meeting with prices. See Carole or telephone 01327 352564

### **Theatre Group**

Over the last twelve months the Theatre Group has enjoyed a variety of shows including musicals, thrillers, ballet, comedy and drama. Our visits are all to Milton Keynes theatre for matinee performances. When booking shows, I prefer to use Milton Keynes as buses do run directly there from some villages, parking is easy, and there is plenty to do if you wish to make a day of it. Some people go shopping; have lunch, then enjoy a show before returning home, often still in daylight!

I have planned a very full programme for 2020, with a performance in most months, and sometimes two. I hope that there is something there to suit all/most tastes, and prices to suit as well. We have always been pleased with our allocated seats at MK theatre, despite sometimes being towards the back. Visibility is good.

If you belong to Towcester U3A, you are welcome to come along to any of the shows on offer. You may choose to come only once, or to every performance. All you have to do is register your interest as soon as possible, then pay your money and provide a sae by the pay by date for each show. All details are in TUBA. Your tickets will then be sent to you and you make your own way to the theatre. Marion

**Our next New Members' Meeting will be held on Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10.30am at The Sawpits Centre.**

After the excesses of Christmas and New Year why not come along to the **Folk Dancing Group** for some exercise and fun! The group meets at Towcester Town Hall on Thursday afternoons from 2:00 until 4:00 with a refreshment break. Although we meet every Thursday you don't need to come along every week if you have other commitments. For more information please contact Lynne Tebbenham 01327 352139..

**The Northamptonshire Network of U3A's** has arranged "An Afternoon with Gervase Phinn". on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 at 1.30pm at The United Reform Church Wellingborough. Tickets are £5 per person to include refreshments. You can book by e mailing [u3anorthantsnetwork@hotmail.com](mailto:u3anorthantsnetwork@hotmail.com). Gervase is one of Yorkshire's most popular raconteurs and will share his hilarious stories of his time as a teacher and school inspector.

Don't forget to visit our website ([www.towcesteru3a.co.uk](http://www.towcesteru3a.co.uk)) to find up to date news about our groups and activities. You can also keep up to date with our activities on our Facebook page. Finally there is still time to send articles for inclusion in the Tuba to be published in February. Please send to [lucascri@aol.com](mailto:lucascri@aol.com) Best wishes Carol  
Towcester U3A is a registered charity number 1155428