



Affiliated to the Third Age Trust

# Newsletter

ISSUE 66

SUMMER 2010

*From the Chairman*

*Hello everyone, It's Summer and for us at Blackbourne U3A this means firstly a short break from our excellent programme of speakers and secondly it is Membership Renewal time. You have until our first meeting on 6th September to submit and pay for your membership for the coming year so don't delay by getting your Application form to our Membership Secretary, Joan Smith, as soon as you can. For the first time we have loaded the new Programme and Membership Application form onto e-mail to cut down the amount of time spent contacting Joan. For those without an e-mail facility we have of course continued with our traditional methods of distribution. As in previous years, after 6th September we shall invite those on our waiting list of almost 100 to join and once we have reached our maximum number of 500 we will have to decline further applications whether from existing or new members.*

*On another matter, I am disappointed that we have been unable to increase the number and variety of our Interest Groups during my time as Chairman because I'm sure there are many members who have talents and interests as yet untapped. What about a Model Railway group, Dancing or Line Dancing, a Group for Antiques Collectors, a Golf Society, a Bowls group etc. ? Those of you who might like to pursue any of the above suggestions or may have other ideas are welcome to contact any member of the committee who would be pleased to offer support and guidance. Please do give consideration to this request as Interest Groups are the lifeblood of any U3A and Blackbourne is no exception. One piece of good news however is the re-starting of the Theatre Visits by Sue Russell. This facility like Garden Visits and Educational Visits is open to all members of Blackbourne U3A and your support is vital to keep these excellent visits ongoing.*

*May I wish you all a very happy and sunny summer and I look forward to seeing you all in September.*

*Colin Avis*

## OPEN MEETINGS

### MONTHLY LECTURES

10.00 am. prompt start  
*Coffee and biscuits served between 9.30 and 9.45 am.*

Monday 6 September  
**Vicar's Son to BBC Producer**  
*Charles Garland*

Monday 4 October  
**The Health Service in W.Suffolk**  
*Mr. Dermot O'Riordan*

Monday 18 October  
**Interest Groups' Exhibition**  
*with cheese and wine*

Monday 1 November  
**Are we alone in the Universe?**  
*Dr. Frank Flynn*

Monday 6 December  
**History of the English Language  
- with Local Interest.**  
*Charlie Haylock*

## LECTURE NOTES

### The splendours of ancient Egypt – 12 April

OUR speaker for April was professor Christine Rivett whose interest in the ancient Egyptians began at the age of nine when she became fascinated with mummified bodies, tombs and cemeteries. The ancient Egyptians enjoyed life so much that they prepared for their death from birth, building temples and pyramids of immense size in which to be buried with all their riches.

She spoke of several of the well known pharaohs and how incest was rife in order to maintain the royal line. One of these was Ramesses 11. He was a great ruler who ruled for 65 years and lived to the age of 97. He had 200 wives and 112 children of which at least 13 of his sons pre-deceased him. In those times life expectancy was 45 years.

Christine then spoke of the god Osiris, son of Ra and god of the underworld. He was killed by his wicked brother Set and cut into 33 pieces. Isis, sister of Osiris, had all the pieces recovered and with the help of the Ibis headed Thoth, brought him back from the dead. Thoth also helped Horus destroy Set. Horus is seen as the son of Osiris and Isis, magically conceived after the death of Osiris.

We were shown several Egyptian objects and meanings of symbols were explained. To conclude, Christine showed slides of pyramids, temples, the Cairo Museum and a sunset over the Nile.

*Joan Smith*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### GARDEN VISITS

Contact Barbara Milner  
01284 761508

Wednesday 28 July  
RAVENINGHAM GARDENS  
Leave New Green at  
10.00.a.m.

Wednesday 25 August  
BARNSDALE GARDENS  
Leave New Green at  
10.00.a.m.

### THEATRE VISITS

Contact Sue Russell  
01359 231285

Wednesday 29 September  
Milton Keynes Theatre  
**HAIRSPRAY**  
*Fully booked*

Thursday 2 December  
Theatre Royal, Norwich  
**CHESS**

The following visits are planned  
for 2011 if there is sufficient  
interest.

In February  
**LOVE NEVER DIES** and  
in the Summer  
**MADAME BUTTERFLY**

Please let Sue know if you are  
interested in either of these.

### EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Contact John Morris  
01284 723684

Wednesday 4 August  
**HATFIELD HOUSE**

Suggestions for future educa-  
tional visits will be welcomed

### PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Closing date is Oct 4  
Details on our website

## LECTURE NOTES – Continued

**"I am now more British than you are!" – 10 May**

WHEN Linda Scoles visited us, we were treated to a fascinating story of her life. She was born and brought up in north west America, where, with her siblings, she worked hard on the family ranch.

As she put it, 'the fairy story began'. when she met her husband, Jim, an officer in the American Air Force. In 1971 they came with their three children to Great Barton, England, where they continued to live, even after Jim retired from the USAF in 1984, and they loved it

Sadly Jim died in 2001, so Linda began another phase in her busy life. She and her daughter began a property development company, which continues very successfully to this day.

Having decided to try and become 'British' and so hold on to dual citizenship, Linda then regaled us with her struggle to become 'officially British'. With a registration form to fill in, a large book to study and absorb, followed by a written exam, Linda told us she was amazed at the work and the cost that was involved. In the meantime Linda's daughter, Kelly, became interested and decided to follow in her mother's footsteps.

When the time came for the official part of the procedure they decided to make it a really special occasion and have a private ceremony. So they were able to swear their Oath of Allegiance in front of a large group of family and friends and they are now both proudly British citizens.

To finish her talk, Linda tested us with 24 real questions from the 1,000 that are available from the test which has to be taken before being accepted as a British citizen. Although treated as fun, this was quite an eye-opener and many of us decided that we would not have passed that final examination!

It was another interesting morning and we were privileged to hear her lively and humorous presentation.

*Elizabeth Sharpe*

**A Journey through the west of France – 7 June**

MICHAEL BUNN was warmly welcomed and, with the aid of slides, took us on a journey through the West of France.

Starting in Normandy and Brittany we visited Le Havre, as seen today with its modern concrete structures, the most impressive being Hotel de Ville, Eglise St. Joseph and the Fishing Harbour Museum. Then we visited Honfleur, a wonderful town with its old harbour, cobbled quays, twisting alleyways and brightly painted fishing boats. Well known to Trav2 who visited this beautiful town in April this year.

Moving on to Trouville, a typical French seaside resort, we saw some wonderful quaint and luxurious old houses, then across the river to Deauville, known for its racecourse and market hall, a shopping experience with all the "famous names".

Further on, and just beyond Bénouville is the site of the Pegasus Bridge where the Sixth Airborne division landed in 1944 and took possession of the bridge over the Orne. The history of these events is at the Omaha Beach Memorial museum. At Roscoff we saw the vineyards and at the harbour we were reminded of the famous onion sellers, touting their onions door to door in England – a practice that died out in the 1930s.

Michael said he found the Loire valley peaceful and delightful with its many decorative chateaux and parterre gardens. Lastly he took us to the superb city of Bordeaux with its stone buildings and modern tram system.

With Michael's vast knowledge of the area and his sense of humour I have only mentioned a few highlights as the journey took in so many splendid and interesting places.

*Joan Smith*

## INTEREST GROUP NEWS

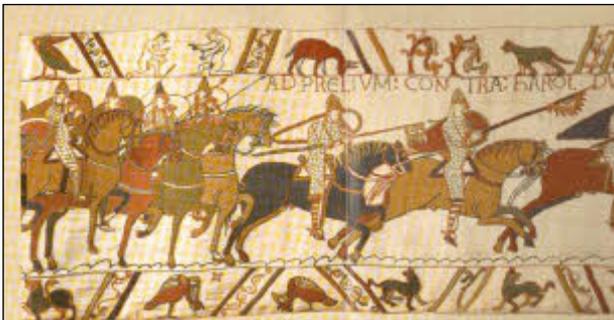
### TRAV2 GROUP

IN April 48 members of the Trav2 Group travelled to Honfleur in France, breaking our journey at Amiens in the heart of Picardy, to view one of the largest Gothic churches of the 13th century before continuing over the magnificent Pont de Normandie to our Hotel in Honfleur.

We found the historic town of Honfleur delightful with its tall houses reflected in the still waters of the inner harbour and virtually every house having a restaurant with an outside seating area, most specialising in fish dishes.

Next morning we headed for Rouen, known as the "City of a Hundred Spires", where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake. A town with much to see, and many mediaeval houses which had been restored after the second world war.

In beautiful weather next day we visited Givenchy and Monet's Garden which was a sea of colour. Fantastic shaped tulips were predominant and of course we saw the renowned bridge although we were too early for the water lilies.



On Friday we travelled to see the amazing Bayeux Tapestry. With an audio guide for explanation there was plenty of time to stand and appreciate just how much work had gone into this massive embroidery and the story it tells.

After a wonderful holiday we arrived home very tired on the Saturday evening.

### CHURCH CRAWLING GROUP

After six years as the Church Crawling Group's Convenor, John Robinson is stepping down in the summer. The success of the group over this period has been entirely due to the great deal of time and effort which John has put into it each month and this has been greatly appreciated by all those who have attended the visits to over 100 churches he has researched in that time.

I am keen to see the group continue and have agreed to take on the role of Convenor. However its future success will depend on contributions and active participation from present members and encouraging new members to join the group, which meets on the afternoon of the fourth Tuesday each month, excluding August.

Our visits, mainly to village churches within easy travelling distances of Thurston, enable us to explore and discuss the architecture, history and beauty of our great church heritage. There may be opportunities to visit larger churches and it is hoped we shall visit Ely Cathedral for a Guided Tour in October. No expertise or knowledge of the subject is required, just an interest in looking at and learning more about our villages and their wonderful churches.



Members of the group at Glemsford

I shall be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to participate or join the group. Please telephone 01284 703969 or e-mail [ralphbrighton@hotmail.com](mailto:ralphbrighton@hotmail.com)

*Ralph Brighton*

### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE SUFFOLK YOUR PARENTS KNEW?

On Saturday 17 July 2010  
at 11.30.a.m

### ABBEYGATE PICTUREHOUSE

Hatter Street,  
Bury St Edmunds  
is screening rare film from the East Anglian Film Archive material showing Suffolk between 1913 and the 1960s.

See the past come to life, including Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich, Lavenham, Southwold and many more places.



In 1913 most people worked on the farms. The school was in the village, the toilet was a bucket and there was no electricity or running water. Within 60 years the county changed beyond recognition.

Ticket prices are:  
£4.00 adult  
£3.00 concession

### FROM THE EDITORS

We are always seeking material for this, YOUR, newsletter.

Contributions about more Interest group activities, perhaps with a photo, are welcome.

If you have an interest or an experience outside of U3A that you are willing to share, this would add an extra dimension to the publication.

Copy can be handed to Barbara or Bryann or sent by e-mail to: [publisher@blackbourne-u3a.org](mailto:publisher@blackbourne-u3a.org)

## SUMMER SUN

Great is the sun, and wide he goes  
Through empty heaven with repose;  
And in the blue and glowing days  
More thick than rain he showers his rays.

Though closer still the blinds we pull  
To keep the shady parlour cool,  
Yet he will find a chink or two  
To slip his golden fingers through.

The dusty attic spider-clad  
He, through the keyhole, maketh glad;  
And through the broken edge of tiles  
Into the laddered hay-loft smiles.

Meantime his golden face around  
He bares to all the garden ground,  
And sheds a warm and glittering look  
Among the ivy's inmost nook.

Above the hills, along the blue,  
Round the bright air with footing true,  
To please the child, to paint the rose,  
The gardener of the World, he goes.

*R.L. Stevenson 1885*

## U3A WEBSITES

Visit the U3A website to find out more about the Third Age Trust, and resources offered for your particular interests:

[www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

Our own website is  
[www.blackbourne-u3a.org.uk](http://www.blackbourne-u3a.org.uk)

Please send your contributions, with relevant photos about your current activities to our Webmaster, Sue Prigg, at  
[webmaster@blackbourne-u3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@blackbourne-u3a.org.uk)  
If you do not have Internet access you can contact Sue on 01638 751289

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## INTEREST GROUPS – continued

### THURSDAY WALKING GROUP

IN June the group travelled further afield for a walk starting from Lower Holbrook. At the planning meeting in December it was suggested we took a picnic instead of the usual practice of visiting a hostelry and as luck would have it, the weather was perfect.

Leaving the car park we had views across Holbrook Bay and the River Stour on our left and to the right the magnificent buildings of Royal Holbrook School. Founded in 1712 for the education of children of seafarers, the school moved in 1933 from what is now the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich to its present site on 200 acres of land that had been gifted to the charity. Originally a boys' boarding school it is now co-educational and open to day pupils but maintains strong maritime traditions.

Turning inland, we paused a while at St Peter's Church, Stutton to admire the modern millennium window and learned that the chancel screen is a copy of the 15th century screen found in Elmswell church.



Then on to the largest area of inland water to be found in Suffolk, Alton Water. This supplies the water for Ipswich and Felixstowe and was opened in 1987 after thirteen years of construction. The mill which stood on the site has been re-erected in the Museum of East Anglian Life, Stowmarket.

Time to stop and eat our picnic whilst watching children enjoy

sailing tuition before returning alongside the stream meandering from Holbrook Mill back to Holbrook Bay.

*Bryann Ward*

### GARDEN VISITS

ON 5 May we were honoured to be one of the last groups of people to experience the stunning lakes, gardens and over 200 acres of parkland at LEONARDSLEE in Sussex, as the house and gardens are being sold later this year and will then close to the public. Not only were we treated to some breathtaking display of rhododendrons but we saw a field with lots of wallabies with young ones in their pouches. It was a photographers heaven!



To put the icing on the cake we visited their *Dolls House Experience* – this was spectacular with everything produced to scale., and we felt it was even better than the Queen's Dolls House at Windsor. Car enthusiasts too had the thrill of seeing the display of vintage cars housed there.

In all we had a wonderful day out and it was well worth the long journey.

ON 25 May we had an equally enjoyable visit to COTTESBROOKE HALL AND GARDENS in Northamptonshire. There, besides having a guided tour around the Hall, we thoroughly enjoyed their extensive grounds with 300 year old cedars, pools, lily-ponds, herbaceous borders and many statues. We were incredibly lucky with good weather for both our May outings.

*Barbara Milner*

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