



# Aston Clinton U3A

Charity Number 1115424

## Information

January 2014



### Science and Technology. Meetings:

January 29th 2014 - Drinking Water. Meet at 10.00 at Erica's house.

February 26<sup>th</sup> 2014 - Building Research Centre at Garston. Meet 9.30 at the Hub car park for car share. The cost is £20 but I am hoping that we get this for 2 people on a share the head set basis,

Please sign the list as we have to let them know who is coming so that we can get past security. Colin.

### Capital Curios – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014.

A reminder for all who are coming on this trip. We shall be leaving from The Bell in Aston Clinton at 8.30am. We hope to return at about 6.30pm. If you require a vegetarian meal at lunch time, please let me know as soon as possible. Pat Mc

### The Jane Austen Country Tour – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

Payment for this trip (£30 per person) is due at the January meeting. Please check the list, which will be available at the General meeting, to verify that you have a seat. Currently, there are three members who are on a reserve list. If you have a place and know that you cannot attend, please cross out your name so that the place can be offered to those on the reserve list.

### Subscriptions are due.

If you have not already done so and wish to renew your membership of the U3A your subscription is now due. The cost remains £15 per person. All members are reminded that following a resolution at the last AGM in February, all subscription must be paid by the end of January. Membership is given on a first come first served basis and therefore prompt payment is recommended.

### Membership Cards.

If you have paid your subscription for 2014 your membership card will be available during the coffee break at the January meeting. If you pay at the January meeting they will be available at the following meeting in February.

### Gift Aid

Gift Aid is an important part of the U3A's income and has enabled us over the past several years to avoid increases in the membership fee whilst costs have risen year on year. Any member who pays income tax can elect to grant Gift Aid status to their annual subscription and this results in the U3A receiving £3.75 back from HMRC for each qualifying membership payment of £15. When you first enrolled you would have filled in an application form which invited you to consent to Gift Aid being claimed on your behalf if you were a UK Income Tax payer. We need to ensure that what we are claiming back from HMRC is appropriate year on year so if you consented to Gift Aid when joining but are no longer liable to Income Tax I need to know. In addition there may be some of you who pay income tax, haven't previously signed up for Gift Aid but would be prepared to do so. If your liability to Income Tax has ceased since you joined **or** if you are an Income Tax payer and would like to sign up to Gift Aid (or check whether you have already done so) please speak to me at one of the monthly General Meetings or contact me by email or phone. Doug Barrow, Treasurer:

## U3A Trips, Outings and Holidays 2014

☎--Pat McRory: Chris Burrows: Gloria Crellin

<u>Destination</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Transport</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Group Leader</u>
Jane Austen Country Tour	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Coach	£30.00	Pat McRory
Capital Curios	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Coach		Pat McRory
Silver Vaults and War Rooms	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Coach	£21.00	Martin Y

### MONTHLY MEETINGS at ANTHONY HALL 2.30 till 4.30

Subscriptions are Due on January 1<sup>st</sup>

January 21 <sup>st</sup> 2014	Derek Batten	Women of the Wild West
February 18 <sup>th</sup> 2014	AGM Followed by Social time	
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	John Tyler	Animal architecture

#### Posting the Newsletter

Sending a newsletter by post costs the U3A about £1 per copy. This is a drain on our resources. If you receive the newsletter by post please think about whether it is possible for you to receive it some other way. Could you, for example, get a copy from a friend who receives it by email? Unless we are able to reduce this expenditure, it is likely that the membership fee will have to increase in 2015 or we will have to charge an additional fee for those who wish to receive the newsletter by post. Obviously, the committee do not wish to take either course, so please consider whether it is necessary for you to receive the newsletter by post.

#### SILVER VAULTS AND CHURCHILL'S WAR ROOMS

I can now confirm the date for the above trip is WEDNESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MAY 2014.

The coach will leave The Bell, Aston Clinton at 8.30 am and we will arrive back at approximately 6 to 6.30 pm. Cost will be **£21** which includes entry to the Churchill War Rooms. No charge to the Silver Vaults.

There are lifts at both venues and at the Churchill War Rooms there are no stairs.

We will visit the Silver Vaults in the morning and then have lunch at the Royal Festival Hall where we can refresh ourselves, have a picnic or eat at one of the cafes and maybe also have a stroll by the Thames.

After lunch we move on to the Churchill War Rooms where we can also have tea. More details nearer the time.

Please note that those who put their names down at the November General Meeting were purely to get an idea of numbers and does NOT count as a reservation.

To reserve your seat please put your name and Tel. No. on the list displayed in the hall at the January meeting.  
*Martin Y.*

**Discussion Group Lunch** The Bell, Aston Clinton 6th February, 2014 which will be following on from our February Discussion Group session. Those who haven't yet chosen their menu, please contact Richard W. as with previous lunches we found it preferable to pre-order to limit the time taken to serve lunch. Thanks, *Richard.*

**Property Found:** Has your right hand been feeling a little chilly since the last meeting? If so, have you lost a black leather glove? If it is yours please speak to Pat Mc.

## Chairman's Report 2013

2013 has been a year of transition following our enforced move from the Sports and Social Club now known as "The Hub". The move to the Anthony Hall and the change of day and time has not been without its critics but the committee felt that it was the only alternative available to us at the time. In Aston Clinton there are only a couple of venues able to accommodate the numbers that attend our general meetings and they are in constant use. We were fortunate to be able to secure the only vacancy available. The move has also meant that we have had to become more self-reliant and I extend my thanks to all those who have helped set up the hall and provide refreshments at the general meetings.

Our membership has risen to nearly 270 and towards the end of the year we were forced to give associate membership to a few who wished to join us. This is a regrettable situation but one that must continue unless we are able to find a larger venue for our meetings.

I also wish to express my thanks to my Vice-Chair and all the members of the Committee who have each contributed to the success of our U3A during the year. Three of their number, Doreen Lister, Janet Tye and Sue Young, have decided that it is time for them to stand down. All have worked very hard on our behalf and I wish them well for the future. There are therefore a number of vacancies on the committee. If you feel you could make a positive contribution why not find a sponsor and give it a go.

Our individual learning groups have continued to flourish and I am most grateful to the Group Leaders for their continued hard work and support. Without their enthusiasm we would not have a thriving U3A. We also had a number of successful trips during the year. So many wished to attend the Barrow Boys & Bankers visit that it was necessary to arrange two separate trips to accommodate everyone. Plans are advancing for 2014. So, if you feel you could lead a trip please contact the Trips Co-ordinator who will be pleased to advise and assist you.

Our finances remain in good order. The cost of hall hire this year has been less than in 2012 and hence we have been able to accumulate a small surplus. The good news is that this means we are able to keep the subscription at £15 for 2014.

We now have a website and I would encourage the membership to make use of it. Whilst something of a work in progress, it is essential, if it is to be developed to its full potential, that we pass our thoughts and ideas to Geoff P. the webmaster. It is hoped that in the future members will access the site to obtain such things as the monthly newsletter and the yearly programme.

Following a suggestion made at the last AGM, our membership card for 2014 is the same size as a credit card so it can be put into a section of a purse or wallet. Our thanks are due to Colin Tufnell for undertaking the necessary research and identifying supplies at a reasonable cost.

It has been a pleasure to be your Chairman throughout this year and I look forward to leading you into 2015. If you have any ideas for the development of our U3A, please let me or a member of the committee know.

Pat McRory