



# Aston Clinton U3A

Charity Number 1115424

## Information

January 2015

**Members and new Members**, who have not yet received their cards, will be able to collect them at the next general meeting.

### **Subscriptions**

Membership subscriptions for 2015 are now due. If you have not already done so and wish to remain a member of our U3A, you must pay by 31st January at the latest. The Treasurer and Membership Secretary will be available at the next meeting General Meeting to receive your cheques (£15 per person - made payable to Aston Clinton U3A) and issue you with a new membership card. Our constitution requires that anyone who has not paid by the 31st January will cease to be a member.

### **Annual General Meeting**

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 17th February 2015 at the Anthony Hall. Our constitution requires that all members receive the necessary papers at least one month before the meeting takes place. Hence, you will find attached to this copy of the newsletter the following additional documents. (1) The Agenda for the meeting, (2) The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18th February 2014, (3) The Chairman's Report for 2014, (4) The end of year accounts and (5) a nomination form. Should you wish to nominate anyone for any of the offices that will fall vacant at the meeting they must be received by our secretary John Bullard no later than Tuesday 3rd February. Each nomination requires a proposer and a seconder and the person proposed must signify her/his willingness to stand by signing the form. The following nominations have already been received. **Chair:** Maggie Evans, **Vice Chair:** Christina Burrows, **Treasurer:** Pete Shaw, **Secretary:** John Bullard, **Committee:** Ralph Ludlow and Shirley McRory. All of the other committee members will remain in post. As we did last year, the AGM will be followed by a short Quiz and a light tea for all present. *Regards Pat.*



**History group** Our first meeting for 2015 will be on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Jan at the Anthony Hall Aston Clinton at 02:30 Bernard Harlock will give us a talk on Maritime Memorials. Everybody is welcome. *Phil.*

## U3A Trips, Outings and Holidays 2015

Destination	Date	Transpo	Price	Group Leader
BBC Broadcasting House:	Monday 16th February,	Coach		Colin Tufnell

**Always remember.** When booking trips etc. payment should be by cheque and made payable to Aston Clinton U3A Travel. Cash payments can only be made by special arrangements.

### MONTHLY MEETINGS at ANTHONY HALL 2.30 till 4.30

January 20 <b>2015</b>	Elisa Algussar	Archaeology of the Stablebridge Road Site
February 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>AGM</u></b>	
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. John Fieldsend	Kinder Transport

**The New Year's Day Concert** at the Barbican was a traditional celebration of great classics and light hearted music to welcome in the New Year and I am sure that all who went enjoyed the complete experience; lunch first, then to the concert where everyone could have a glass of wine or a beer which was included in the ticket price. The journey home was quick as there was not much traffic about.

Thanks must go to Gloria who organized the trip and also to Pat for all the assistance he gave. *Ralph.*

**"Music for All"** On 6th January, 30 members of the U3A gathered at the Anthony Hall for an evening of Music from the USA. An enjoyable evening was had by all.



Our next meeting is on Tuesday 3rd February at 7. 30 pm. when we shall listen to music selected by Barbara Brooker and Polly Sturgeon around the theme of "Globetrotting". Everyone is welcome to attend. *Pat Mc.*

### Science and Technology

Our monthly meeting for January is on **solar energy**. Harry Shepard-Cross, Director of Haymaker Energy, will talk on photovoltaic cells and in particular the new solar farm to be built near Broughton. Wednesday January 28<sup>th</sup> 10.00 at Erica's

**BBC Broadcasting House:** Monday 16th February, The coach will leave The Bell at 9.00 am and leave us near Portland Place in London. You will need to get a bite to eat in a local eatery of your choice before our tours which are booked for 1.00 and 1.15. The coach will meet us to return at about 4.00.

**Our monthly meeting for February** is about the work of the local **village vet**. This is on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 10.00 at Erica's

**This year's trips to Arla** were very quickly filled. I have had to allocate members to the trips. PLEASE check the list and let me know if there is a problem. I apologise to those who are not on the lists, I will arrange more in the future. The dates are Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March both meeting at the new Hub car park at 9.45. *Please do not go direct to Arla.* Check the lists as I have to send names to the security dept. They will only allow 12 visitors at a time.

**The trip to Iron Bridge** for October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> is now all arranged and the minimum number of members has been booked to make the trip viable. There are 6 places left costing £104 for double and twin rooms, single room occupancy cost £124 ( this price includes coach, entrance to all of the museums and the hotel evening meal and breakfast). Please see me if you would like to join us. Those booked need to pay the £30 deposit at the main meeting. *Colin T.*

Cartridges and old mobile 'phones: Proceeds now go to 'Hearing Dogs for the deaf'

Stamps: Proceeds, as previously, go to the 'Florence Nightingale Hospice'.

## Chairman's Report 2014/15

Time really does fly past. It seems like only yesterday that I was writing my report for 2013. This year, 2014, has been one of consolidation following the move to Anthony Hall in 2013.

Keeping the U3A alive and well has been a team effort and I must express my thanks to the Vice – Chair and the members of the committee for their support throughout the year. Our treasurer, Doug B, will stand down at the 2015 AGM. He has worked very hard to keep our finances in a good state of repair and I know that we all wish him well for the future. Similarly, no U3A can function without members who are willing to run the individual learning groups and I offer my thanks to all of the Group Leaders for their enthusiasm and hard work throughout the year. Without them we would not have a U3A. Whilst thanking people for their support and hard work, there are two members who are not on the committee or group leaders whose hard work has greatly helped with the smooth running of our U3A. Janet C has ensured that we all have a cup of tea or coffee at our meetings and Tony S has arrived early at every general meeting to help me put out the 140 or so chairs at Anthony Hall. I offer my thanks to them both. Their hard work, perhaps unnoticed by the membership, has greatly assisted the U3A.

The move to Anthony Hall and the change of time and day of our meetings has had a small effect on our membership numbers. We now have a membership of 250 which is a slight drop on the previous year. However, this is a manageable number and has meant that we have not had to ask prospective members to accept associate membership.

We have been fortunate to have had a number of successful trips throughout the year and my thanks go to Gloria C and all those who have taken the plunge and been prepared to run a trip for us. However, let me raise a word of caution. Those of you who are avid readers of our monthly newsletter will have noticed that in the last newsletter apart from the trip to the New Year's Day Concert in London, the cupboard is bare. Trips can only happen if there is someone prepared to run them. At the time of writing, there are no general trips planned for 2015. If you have an idea for a trip please take the plunge and speak to the committee who will give you all the help and support necessary for the trip to be successful. Please believe me when I say it is not as difficult a job as you may fear.

Our website has now been running for a year and I would encourage the membership to make use of it. I would also encourage you all, particularly Group Leaders, to let our Webmaster, Pete S, know what is going on. If nothing is put in nothing can come out.

I have enjoyed being your chairman for the past couple of years but our constitution requires that I now move aside and make way for someone new. I wish my successor and the U3A every good fortune in the coming years. I believe it has great potential for the future. It just needs its members to take an active role. After the AGM, I will be found on the bench at the back of the hall with my predecessor Richard, where we think we will be able to give a good impression of Statler & Waldorf from the Muppets. With best wishes to you all.

Pat McRory