



A National Event open to all U3A Members - Our 16th Annual Summer School

SUMMER SCHOOL AT THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, CIRENCESTER
Monday 18th August to Thursday 21st August 2014

Please book early

ARTS & ARCHITECTURE of the Arts & Crafts Movement in Britain

"The House Beautiful"

Tutor: Carol Burnett

The Arts and Crafts Movement was a short-lived although influential period of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. We will explore the political and social climate which led pioneers such as William Morris, John Ruskin and the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood to reject Victorian mass production in favour of hand crafted arts and the vernacular architecture of bygone times. We will learn about the Movement's key architects and artisans and explore the main features required for a 'House Beautiful'. Armed with the theory we will visit an arts and crafts property in the vicinity. **See additional notes page 4.**

Level of Ability: No prior knowledge is necessary, just an enquiring mind and an interest in the arts and crafts movement.

Teaching style: I encourage group participation and the sharing of knowledge and ideas. I will use Powerpoint to introduce and illustrate the theory and provide the information needed for the practical tasks to be undertaken at our visit. A preparatory reading list will be supplied.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Artistic re-interpretation

Tutor: John Battison

The possibilities to be found in Photoshop are boundless. The objective is for each of us to produce pictures from photographs which can be considered an artistic endeavour, reflecting our varied interests and aspirations.

The sessions will be similar to the successful 2013 course - new and previous students welcome - they will aim to introduce the techniques of combining images, together with the subsequent manipulation, in a wide variety of ways, to gradually convert the overall image to what might be considered artistic. Attention will be given to the advanced use of Resolution, Adjustments, Tools, Layers, Filters and so on. There will also be discussion about the essentials of composition, or what makes a picture look interesting. Students may, if they wish, bring images they have already taken.

Level of ability: Students must be competent computer users and have a working knowledge of Photoshop or Elements. Students must bring their own laptop with Photoshop or Elements installed – a mouse or tablet is essential as the touch pad is not sensitive enough; please don't forget your charger/mains lead.

See additional notes page 4.

Teaching style: Various functions will be demonstrated to be followed by the use of these techniques by students on their own computers.

DRAMA: Power and Cruelty

Tutor: Rosamund Hall

When James (1 and VI) succeeded Elizabeth 1 in 1603, the theatre darkened. Violence, horror, incest and cruelty drove many of the plots. Shakespeare wrote his great tragedies – Othello, King Lear and Macbeth – and John Webster powerful revenge plays. I propose to study and act out scenes from these. They will be difficult. A diet of unrelenting horror would be indigestible and we will follow all this with a look at how 20th century writers were influenced by their and our world events.

Level of ability: Come prepared to both act and argue with enthusiasm. You will be asked to bring some scripts – about three plays. Modern excerpts will be provided. I will enclose, with the reading list, some speeches to be worked on in advance (optional but hoped for).

Teaching style: A short talk before each session, followed by small group work. Some mime and improvisation will be encouraged.

Supported by The Educational Foundation for Lifelong Learning

GARDENING**“How does your Garden Grow”?****Tutor: Anthea Lock**

We will look at making gardening even more of a pleasure (or less of a chore!) whatever the size or situation of your plot – from allotment to patio. We will explore planting for all-year round interest and colour; consider the more unusual varieties of flower and vegetable plants that are easy and fun to grow, propagate and care for and we will discuss vegetables suitable for growing in containers and small plots.

There will be a half day visit to The Botanic Nursery and Gardens at Atworth, near Melksham for a short talk and stroll through the display gardens to look at some of the unusual plants grown on site.

See additional notes page 4.

Level of ability: Suitable for anyone wishing to improve or alter their garden, also those wishing to experiment growing different plants that you might not have previously considered.

Teaching style: Seminars with plenty of time for discussion and participation including a Question Time session. You will be asked to send your questions in ahead of the summer school so that duplicates can be avoided and the most relevant to the course chosen.

LITERATURE**Women’s Voices of World War 1****Tutor: Dr. Yvonne Oram**

Whilst their writing has not always been brought to the fore in the 100 years since the start of the First World War, many women recorded their experiences during that time of change and danger. This course looks at some of their writing including prose, poetry, letters and diaries from all sides of the conflict. We will explore the ways in which the war changed women’s lives and expectations. Texts discussed will include *Scars Upon My Heart: Women’s Poetry and Verse of the First World War*, ed. Catherine Reilly and *The Virago Book of Women and the Great War*, ed. Joyce Marlow.

Level of ability: Open to all who enjoy reading widely and are happy to share and discuss ideas. Students should bring copies of the two books mentioned above to the school. Photocopied extracts for discussion will be available at the school. It is unlikely that there will be a shortage of books about the War for background reading!

Teaching style: Discussion in large and small groups.

MUSIC**Making Friends with the Great Composers****Tutor: Jack Wood**

This new course will take a selection of classical composers – some of the really great ones – and will examine them in some depth: their lives, times and music. This is not an academic or technical course – there will be no delving into the depths of the ‘diminished seventh’ or ‘chromatic chords’! It’s about enhancing your interest in classical music and so increasing your enjoyment of it. If you know a little about the great composers, and want to know more, then this course is for you. You will hear plentiful examples of their works: about 60% of the time is filled with their music.

Level of ability: This course is for enthusiasts, not experts.

Teaching style: Lecture-style with time for questions, comments and discussion.

POETRY**The Transforming Language of Poetry****Tutor: Mary MacGregor**

The course will explore how and why poetry works on us in a way that is different from prose. We shall look at the use of everyday language and figurative language in poetry from Shakespeare, Milton, the Wordsworths (Dorothy and William), Hardy, Emily Dickinson to T.S. Eliot and to living poets practising their art today. We shall explore the connection between a poem and its form and how rhyme, non-rhyme and rhythm are used.

Level of ability: An ability to respond to poetry. Students are encouraged to bring their favourite poems, including CDs of poems that have been set to music. There will be photocopies of poems provided.

Teaching style: Discussion of poems in small groups in the first instance and sharing of discussions in larger groups.

SCIENCE**Light and Sound In Nature****Tutor: John Naylor**

The course is for people who are curious about, puzzled by, or just downright ignorant of the many arresting sights and sounds that one comes across in course of daily life. You will learn about phenomena such as rainbows, mirages, colours of the sky, echoes, singing sands and the sundry sounds of wind and water, the circumstances in which you are likely to encounter them, and how to improve your chances of doing so. The aim is to broaden your knowledge of natural phenomena and improve your powers of observation.

The course will appeal to anyone who finds the natural world fascinating and inspiring, ranging from those who like to keep an eye on the weather or on the night sky to naturalists, photographers and ramblers.

Level of ability: The course involves some elementary science, but prospective students need not have a background in science because the handful of scientific concepts necessary to understand these phenomena will be explained as and when necessary. The key requirement is an interest in natural phenomena in the open air.

See additional notes page 4.

Teaching style: Illustrated lectures, demonstrations, discussions and simple, hands-on experiments (some of which will take place outdoors).

SINGING FOR PLEASURE**Tutor: Ursula Steiger**

As in previous years we will be singing a variety of music, ranging from classical pieces and popular tunes to spirituals and folks songs from different traditions and in different languages. What we will sing will in part depend on the balance of women's and men

's voices but the aim is to provide music for all tastes and moods. We shall also provide two sessions for those who wish to tackle some more demanding harmonies and those who enjoy singing from an easier repertoire. The emphasis will be on enjoyment and the course will be led in a light-hearted and inclusive manner. It is assumed that members will want to engage in learning and will be prepared to tackle a few challenges.

Level of ability: Those who can read music or at least recognise notes going up or down a scale will find this course easier than those who can't. However, singing is about opening hearts and minds to music and if you are willing to try and learn at a fairly fast pace you will be very welcome.

Teaching style: There will be 'jam' sessions in unison or harmony, allowing the music to invigorate us, lift our spirits and make us smile. We will also spend time learning one or two pieces in depth and with harmonies wherever possible. We shall also look at some theory in relation to the music we sing and, of course, we shall have daily 'warm-up' sessions. **See Additional Notes on page 4**

**COSTS FOR COMPLETE SUMMER SCHOOL
INCLUDING A WELCOME DRINKS RECEPTION ON THE FIRST DAY FOR ALL DELEGATES**

Full board residential delegate in en-suite accommodation	£285.00 per person
Non-residential day delegate including lunches	£107.00 per person

DEPOSIT £75.00 per person

Additional notes

- Details of any preliminary reading/book lists, materials required will be sent when available.
- Coach visits/entry fees (**Art & Architecture, Gardening** groups) there will be an additional charge of approximately £10-£17 per person. You will be notified how much to bring before the school starts and payment is made to U3A organisers on registration at the school.
- **Digital photography.** If you wish to contact the tutor about this course, the details are:
John Battison, telephone 01803 690592 or email john.battison@googlemail.com
- **Science.** Further information, including a detailed description of the aims and contents of the course, together with a list of suggested preliminary reading (print & web), is available from the tutor:
John Naylor, telephone 020 8946 7523 or email jcnaylor@blueyonder.co.uk
If you own a camera, binoculars or an iPad, bring them along.
- **Singing for Pleasure.** If you wish to contact the tutor about the level of ability for this course, the details are: Ursula Steiger, telephone 01227 711536 or email ursulae@btinternet.com
The cost for music will not exceed £10 per student and you will be notified of the amount before the School starts. Members will need to bring a folder for their music, pencil, erasers and notebook. You may like to bring a percussion instrument if you have one.

Please read the Booking Notes before completing the application form.

Contact National Office, NOT the University, if you have any questions about this summer school.