



SOURCES

an educational bulletin

No: 1 August 1998

It is particularly pleasing to be writing a foreword for the first issue of SOURCES - an educational bulletin. When the Standing Committee for Education was first formed, it saw that its main role would be to act as a focus of the educational activities of the Third Age movement and, in doing so, provide a full range of support for the learning activities of the U3As. SOURCES is one of these initiatives, now brought into being by a grant from the National Lottery Charities Board, shortly to be joined by the postal loan service from the Resources Centre, also Lottery funded.

This new venture will have two main themes. Firstly, by drawing on the knowledge and experience of long established U3As it will disseminate knowhow to help new U3As to form and maintain interest groups. Secondly, by the exchange of information and ideas, it will, to follow a biological analogy, provide the sustenance needed by a living organism which is growing as rapidly as we are.

The Editorial Panel and I hope that you will find this and future issues to be a help in developing your U3A. We see SOURCES as complementary to Third Age News and this first issue represents a taster of the information to be published every quarter. Future issues will include guides to resources such as books, pamphlets, videos and other materials recommended as useful for U3A interest groups. There will be regular updates from the Resources Centre, specialist articles and correspondence. This is a publication to file for future reference.

This first issue is being distributed to every U3A member, giving everyone an opportunity of assessing its potential usefulness. It is expected that not every member will want their own copy. All members who do are invited to complete the reply card to be entered on the mailing list for future issues. There is no subscription charge. The second and subsequent issues will be mailed directly to you. The mailing list will be under the direct control of the Third Age Trust

and not passed to any other organisation. You will not receive unsolicited mail from this source.

Len Street, U3A National Chairman

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Languages

Languages are popular with many U3A groups but there are only a few sources of materials catering for various languages at various levels.

The BBC Learning Zone programmes can be recorded for later use. The companion publication, *On Course*, gives details of how to order free transcripts and programme

summaries, or to purchase print and audio resources. The BBC staff at the Education Information service will answer queries by letter or phone in working hours.

Room G420, Education Information,

201 Wood Lane, London W12 7TS

(0181 746 1111, fax 0181 752 4398)

e-mail bbc_education@bbcnc.org.uk

internet <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education>

European Bookshops Ltd. has a large range of books in French, German, Spanish and Italian, and some in Portuguese, Russian and Dutch.

Textbooks, grammars, vocabularies dictionaries, readers, literary texts, collections of press articles, cultural information, spoken and musical CDs or cassettes in the target language are all available.

Catalogues give the details and, if a group of 12 or more is being considered, an inspection copy of any book can be provided. Current prices are 15% lower than 1997 due to the strength of the £.

European Bookshops Ltd. The Runnings,

Cheltenham, Glos GL51 9PQ

(01242 145152, fax 01242 224137)

e-mail direct@esb.co.uk

Grant and Cutler have extensive catalogues and publish materials for less widely studied languages such as Modern Greek, Hebrew and Welsh and some 150 other languages in the modern world - but not Esperanto, Latin or Classical Greek.

Grant and Cutler, 55-57 Great Marlborough Street,

London W 1V 2AY

(0171 734 2012, fax 0171 734 9272)

e-mail postmaster@grant-c.demon.co.uk

internet <http://www.grant-c.demon.co.uk>

The U3A Languages Network, via the National Office, is always ready to help and publishes booklets designed to offer ideas to new course leaders.

Jill Moore, U3A Languages Network co-ordinator

Sociology

A useful resource for those who would study sociology is the series of eight books published by Collins Educational under the title of Sociology in Action (£9.99 each).

Investigating Families and Households touches on liberal and radical feminism, marital stability and the future of the family. Investigating Mass Media covers media and the mass culture, politics and policy making and audience-reception analysis.

Investigating Education and Training considers gender, disability and ethnicity in education and the hidden curriculum. Investigating Work, Unemployment and Leisure includes changing patterns of work and the theories of leisure.

Other titles are Investigating Culture and Identity, Investigating Crime and Deviance, Investigating Political Sociology, and Investigating Health, Welfare and Poverty.

Collins Educational, Freepost GW2446,

Bishopbriggs, Glasgow G64 1BR (0141 306 3484)

Archaeology

Archaeological remains are all around us. The past does not have to be ancient or exotic to be of interest. How many people realise that an Anderson shelter is just as much a piece of archaeology as an ancient Egyptian pyramid? A major archaeological survey is currently being undertaken of British defence sites and structures from World Wars One and Two. There is every chance that within easy walking distance of where you live there will be the remains of human activity, even going back over 5000 years. These may be around the parish church, the local school, an old filled-in canal, the alignments of roads and trackways, the pattern of fields around a village, ancient burial grounds or finds of prehistoric tools.

There are many opportunities for finding out more about Britain's past or the work of archeologists. Courses are available as parttime or evening classes for leisure interest, certificates, diplomas and degrees. Archaeology has a long tradition of attracting 'mature students'.

There are various people who would help a U3A to start an archaeology group. Archaeologists can be found throughout the country in museums, universities and colleges, and local planning authorities. They are working for English Heritage, Cadw, Historic Scotland and the National Trust or in field units carrying out excavation work.

Most archaeologists are willing to advise and, in some cases, give opportunity for involvement in field work. There are numerous local archaeological societies who organise lecture programmes and field visits.

A good way to find out about what is going on in your area is to join the Council of British Archaeology (CBA). It is a charitable organisation representing all sections of archaeology. Its magazine, British Archaeology, publishes the latest news and ideas. There is also an information bulletin, CBA Briefing, which provides information about field work opportunities and courses. The CBA can tell who are the local archaeologists.

Council of British Archeology, Bowes Morrel House,

111 Walmgate, York YO1 9WA (O1904 671 417)

Don Henson, Education Officer,

Council of British Archaeology

Lifelong Learning

"Adult learning matters. It changes lives... adult learning also fuels creativity. Yet far too many people believe it is not for them..... ". so said Dr. Kim Howells, Minister for lifelong learning at a UNESCO conference in July 1997.

When the long awaited Government green paper, The Learning Age, was published it did not fulfill the expectations of the U3A. Little was said about the facilities to be made available for the retired. Emphasis was given to education during a working life which is likely to involve changes in career.

In a statement given to Third Age News (Number 48) Dr. Howells says: "Lifelong learning is about making it possible for everyone to take part in learning, whatever their age or ability

and whether their choice of learning is academic, vocational or recreational."

The U3A, in response to the discussion document, urges the Government to take a broader view of lifelong learning to include third-agers and to recognise the value of the self-help cooperative nature of U3A. Such recognition will encourage links with other education providers. U3A wants to see tuition fees set at a level affordable for pensioners and more non-qualification courses.

The Minister has written to Mr. L. K. Street, U3A Chairman, saying, "I can assure you that lifelong learning is central to the Government's policies for education, training and employment and by this we do mean learning throughout life - from the cradle to the grave..... The key to achieving a learning society is partnership and encouraging others to take responsibility for their education and training where they can. The U3A are very active in this capacity and I welcome this."

The Learning Age, £9.40, Stationery Office,

or free by downloading on the website

<http://www.lifelonglearning.co.uk>

The National Trust

As U3A members know very well, learning does not stop at 16, 18 or even 21. Many have visited some of the National Trust's 200 historic houses and gardens, its industrial monuments, mills, churches and archaeological sites or its beautiful countryside and coastal properties. This diverse heritage, owned and protected by the Trust for the benefit of everyone, provides a wonderful resource for learners of all ages.

In 1995 the Trust launched Minerva, an educational initiative aimed at providing both formal and informal lifelong learning opportunities at its properties. Since then we have sought to offer a range of activities for adults from Family Fun Days, where all ages can learn together informally, to structured courses and study weekends, often in partnership with education providers. U3A groups may be interested in taking part in these existing events or may prefer to plan an educational activity in consultation with their regional National Trust Education Officer.

For U3A groups with specific interests many properties offer tours of historic sites, sometimes with visits behind the scenes, and guided walks outdoors, looking at wildlife management, park trees or bats and badgers. There are hands-on events, such as painting in the gardens which inspired Winston Churchill, performing mediaeval dance in a castle, or working on a variety of environmental and conservation activities.

The Trust published this year an active learning guide to help an understanding and engagement with garden landscapes. *Intimacy and Grandeur: Six Garden Designs Through Time* encourages visitors to think about and respond to the garden design of six different historical periods through guided walks of six properties.

Last year the Trust published its first CD-ROM, *British Countrysides*. It looks at seven outdoor properties in depth. Another CD-ROM is planned for 1999 on country houses of different periods.

For details of the Trust's educational work and a list of regional Education Officers, telephone the Education Office on 0171 222 9251. Visit the Trust's Education website at <http://www.nt-education.org> to find details of events for adult learners. It would be excellent to consider partnerships with U3As to make the most of the wonderful sites protected by the National Trust.

Jo Roberts, Adult and Continuing Education Officer, National Trust

Environmental Issues

A major objective of any Environmental Issues group should be to avoid a one-sided view. Instead it should encourage debate and reading to arrive at an informed and objective viewpoint. The group leader may have to play devil's advocate and present an alternative view. He or she could do no better than consult a book by Julian Simon (published by Martin Robertson, Oxford, ISBN 0 85 520563 0) "*The Ultimate Resource*". It challenges the popular environmental movement which sounds alarms at the consequences of rapid population growth and the effects of ever-growing consumption of the earth's natural resources.

Using statistical data, Professor Simon demonstrates, contrary to popular belief, that the world's per capita food situation is improving and famine has progressively diminished over the last century. The amount of agricultural land has been and still is increasing. Supplies of natural resources are not finite in any economic sense. "If the past is any guide," he writes, "natural resources will become less scarce and less costly..... and population growth is likely to have a long run beneficial impact on the natural resource situation." He sees no problem with future energy supplies and argues that pollution levels will fall in the future.

Originally a pessimist, Simon is now very optimistic about the environmental future. In his own words "there is no physical or economic reason why human resourcefulness and enterprise cannot for ever continue to respond to impending shortages and existing problems with new expedients that, after an adjustment period, leave us better off than before the problem arose." To Professor Simon, man is the Ultimate Resource.

John Turley

U3A Environmental issues Network co-ordinator

Science and Technology

Several institutions and major companies have an education service providing publications and other material either free or at a modest cost. If you have a course in mind it would be worth enquiring for suitable materials to assist you. If, on the other hand, you know of sources of such material write to SOURCES so that other U3As can benefit from the information.

The Association for Science Education, an organisation of 'teachers helping teachers to teach science', has a wide range of publications for all levels. A catalogue is available from:

ASE Booksales, The Association for Science

Education, College Lane, Hatfield, Herts AL10 9AA

(Tel: 01707 271216)

Shell UK Ltd. produces a catalogue, "Resources for Teachers," covering wallcharts, booklets, videos and leaflets. They cover not only science and technology but also geography, environmental studies, economic and industrial understanding, enterprise, the humanities, the arts and European awareness.

The catalogue can be obtained from:

Shell Education Service C95, Shell UK Ltd., Strand,

London WC2R ODX

Nuclear Electric PLC. issue leaflets on aspects of the generation of electricity using nuclear power with such titles as Energy and Nuclear Power, Leukemia and Nuclear Power Establishments, Nuclear Safety,

Nuclear Power and Radioactive Waste, The Renewables and Energy Options. They will also send details of their free talk service - Let's Talk - and arrangements for visits to a nuclear power station.

The address is: Public Relations Officer, Nuclear
Electric PLC, Barnett Way, Barnwood, Gloucester
GL4 7RS

European Union

A study of the European Union can be approached from many angles. There is the political structure or the effect on the economies of the member states. The history of the movement towards integration and the characteristics of each nation can provide an absorbing interest as Great Britain develops its own relationship to Europe.

The European Commission publishes many reports and studies to inform the population about its work and its plans for the future. These are some of the titles on offer free to those who ask for them.

The European Union: key figures - 40pp of statistics on employment, economy and standard of living.

How the European Union relates to the rest of the world - 20pp about trade and assistance in development.

Serving the European Union - 32pp about the institutions, e.g. the Court of Justice, Parliament, the Council etc.

European Commission, Jean Monnet House,

8 Storey's Gate, London SW1 P3 AT

A report published by the Open University, *Studying Europe*, examined the perception and experience of a group of adult students.

Over 80% of respondents considered the important reasons for undertaking the course, *What is Europe?*, were political, cultural and historical. The less important were economic, scientific and or trade.

The women students, predictably, were more interested in social and welfare reasons for the course and, less predictably, they were more interested in trade.

Arts

The Arts Network has prepared a series of papers which will encourage others to arrange activities to enhance their appreciation and practice of the arts.

- 1 . Painting in Watercolour, with a supplement on Oil Painting
2. Calligraphy
3. Exploring the visual arts
4. Getting started - U3A Singing groups
5. Getting started and continuing - Music Appreciation groups
6. Introduction to Marquetry
7. U3A in stitches - the story of the National Tapestry Project

(Cost 40p each plus 31p s.a.e. or £ 1.00 for any 3 plus 45p s.a.e.)

8. Discovering Flemish Art and Architecture
9. Getting started - Flower Painting
10. The Relevance of Art - suitable for discussion groups asking "What is Art?"

(Cost £1.00 each plus 45p s.a.e.)

These papers can be obtained from the National Office, cheque with order.

Brenda Perkins

U3A Arts Network co-ordinator

InterNetwork

Members of the U3A InterNetwork have access to the wealth of educational material on the World Wide Web. Other members may not own or have access to computers but a list of local contacts willing to be a link between the Internet and them is being set up. These are some of the resources they can provide.

1. Downloading information on specific topics for U3A groups, eg. Albert Camus for a French group, Charles Dickens for a Book group or MacMurdo Sound for a Travel group.
2. Sharing ideas and suggestions for local U3As, e.g. exchanging creative writing, opening up discussion topics and problem solving.
3. Linking language groups with U3As around the world and providing excellent practice in any language.
4. Information on timetables, flights, events and reservations.
5. Transmitting information from the National Office, such as Working Party proposals, and reporting back grassroot reactions.
6. International news and information of overseas U3As can be made available rapidly and cheaply.
7. Through e-mail initiatives such as Chatback Mentoring, members can participate in intergenerational and international projects. The educational potential of the new technology is only just opening up and U3A online members will provide a vital service by unleashing its potential value for all U3A members. We are just at the beginning. The U3A website can be found on <http://u3a.org.uk>

Jean Thompson

U3A InterNetwork co-ordinator

Bird Watching

Among many books on the subject this one is to be recommended, "The Mitchell Beazley Birdwatcher's Pocket Guide", published by RSPB and really pocket sized, 19x9 cm and 1 cm

thick. It contains very useful information with excellent drawings.

Dorling-Kindersley publish a good CD-ROM approach entitled "Virtual Reality Bird" and there is "The CD-ROM Guide to British Birds", not cheap at £39.95 plus postage. Wildlife Computing Services (telephone 01206 298345) provide a number of programmes, including one for Psion.

Joy Soanes

U3A Bird Watching Network co-ordinator

Contributions

It may be that your U3A has started a group studying a new subject and can give advice on the best resources to be used. It may be that you have recorded talks and would be willing to make the tapes available to another U3A. Perhaps your U3A uses a local college or university.

The Editorial Panel will consider articles for publication in future issues which will assist other U3As to enhance their educational activities. Contributions should not exceed 250 words and must include the name and address of the author.

Write to: SOURCES, 26 Harrison Street, London WC 1H 8JG

Start-Up Leaflets

One way to initiate a new educational activity is to read through a Start-Up leaflet written by a U3A member who has run a successful course on the subject. There may be members in your U3A with skills and experience in a subject but are not too sure how to go about organizing a course, nor sure where to obtain materials to sustain several sessions. Start-Up leaflets are in A5 booklet format and designed to help. They stimulate an idea which can then be custom-built to suit the circumstances of each individual U3A.

These leaflets can be ordered from the National Office. They cost 40p each, but you can buy 3 for £1 or 8 for £2.50, plus a stamped addressed envelope. Postage costs 20p for up to 4 leaflets, 31p up to 8, 38p up to 12, 45p up to 16, 55p up to 20, 64p up to 24, 73p up to 28, 83p up to 32, and 93p for up to 36 leaflets.

Some leaflets are being reviewed to include new resources, discovered and available. New titles are considered by the Standing Committee for Education when information on new courses is provided.

Cheques should be payable to The Third Age Trust and must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

1. Geology
2. Architecture
3. Archaeology
4. Local History
5. Walking
6. Science and Society
7. Creative Writing
8. Magazine Start-up
9. Philosophy
10. How to run a Family History course
11. Beginning to ... Read the Modern
12. Ways of organising a Play Reading group
13. Ways of organising Wildlife Appreciation Walks
14. Photography
15. Mathematics
16. Fly Tying
17. How to start a Discussion group
18. How to start a History of Politics Group
19. Day-Schools for Potential Group Leaders

20. How to start a group for Bookworms
21. Religions of the World
22. How to start a Poet Profiles group
23. How to organise Outings and Visits
24. Fiction as History - How to start a Theme group
25. How to lead a Poetry group
26. How to start a Humour group
27. How to start an Anglo-Saxon England group
28. How to start a Radio Drama group
29. How to start a French Literature group
30. How to start and maintain a Music group
31. How to run a Financial Investments course
32. Courses not requiring Tutors
33. How a U3A might study Contemporary History
34. One way to start an English History group
35. How to start a Heraldry group

Also available is a leaflet on local sources of information useful to Architecture, Local History, Walking and Earth Science groups.

Order your SOURCES

To make sure you receive further copies of this new U3A educational bulletin you must complete the reply card in this issue. Your personal copy will be mailed free to the address you enter on the card. It is important to include your postcode.

Complete your reply card now.

Post it to the National Office to arrive by 10th October.

The next issue of SOURCES is planned for publication in November 1998.

SOURCES is essential reading for course organisers and interest group leaders, for officers and committee members of each U3A and for tutors and leaders.

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London WC 1H 8JG

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