



STOWMARKET AND DISTRICT LEARNING ACTIVITIES IN RETIREMENT

U3A

(UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE)

Registered Charity No. 1002987

Newsletter No 18

February 2008

From our Chairman :-

Dear Members.

Thank goodness for our U3A and all its many facets and activities, as you will by now have seen or heard about Philip's drive for a wider spectrum of groups, he has opened a new range of possibilities for us all to consider, we already have a thriving number of groups of various sizes some of which would welcome more participants, so your committee is going to hold another open day in the United Reform Church, (where we have our monthly meetings) from 2pm till 4pm, on April 2nd 2008, open to all, but especially for our more recent members,

I do have one problem and that is the laying out of the chairs for our monthly meetings, this is most important for your enjoyment. All that is needed is for 8 or 10 people on a rota system to volunteer. Only two are needed each month so that would mean duties once every four months (8 people) to be at the hall for about 1.50 pm on meeting days, the whole layout can be accomplished in about 15 minutes. I will be displaying a poster for volunteers to add their names so that we can construct a working programme for the future. Thank you in anticipation of your help

Harold.

From the Secretary :-

Firstly, may I apologise to all for not being at the AGM at the time of my formal election as Secretary; this was due to circumstances entirely out of my control. I should pay tribute here to Philip and the sterling work he has put in during his extended tenure as your Secretary. He will be a very difficult act to follow and I'm already indebted to him for his help and assistance in easing me into the role.

I'm now more than three months into the job and am finding it very rewarding. I'm gradually getting to know people and I hope that they're beginning to recognise me.

One of my objectives is to try to improve the distribution of information between members and to make sure that it is disseminated in the quickest possible time. This prompts me to let you know that the Summer Schools this year are:-

South East Area – University of Chichester, 8th to 11th July

North – Harper Adams University College, Telford, 28th to 31st July

South – The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, 11 to 14th Aug 2008.

Places tend to sell out fast so please let me know if you require full details and/or the relevant application forms.

Please also have a look at our new presence on the net. The site, still in development, can be viewed at www.u3astowmarket.wordpress.com. At the moment everything is rather basic, a Home page detailing who we are and our affiliation to the Third Age Trust, committee members, groups available and a schedule of meetings. I would invite you to have a look, see what you think and, please, if you find any factual or grammatical errors, let me know. There are places on a couple of pages where you can send off your comments or details of what you would like to see there in the future. I have in mind photos and videos of trips or events and say, messages from group conveners to their members. If you want something up there sooner rather than later, you can email me directly on peter@dakeyne.com. Thank you very much.

Peter Dakeyne

01449 781 562

Since the last Newsletter :-

October:-

Charles Garland, a local boy gave us a fascinating talk on his life from Vicar's son to BBC producer. An accomplished speaker he not only told his story but also injected a lot of gentle humour and kept us all with a happy grin on our faces.

November:-

This month Mr D Herring gave us a talk on Pub Signs . This talk started off with an historic view of the origins and frequency of the various names found mainly in Suffolk pubs. As this was liable to become somewhat complex he wisely widened his subject to the traditional traits and practices found in pubs including the hobby of Morris Dancing

December:-

Once again we celebrated another Year, and of course, Christmas with a luncheon in the Hall. As a token of our appreciation of the services given by the church administrators, we invited the Vicar the Reverend Peter Pierce and his wife to join us. We were very pleased that they accepted our invitation and they in their turn remarked on how much they had enjoyed the meal. Indeed not only was it very good, hot, well served and truly one could not have asked for better.

January:-

Pip Wright, the well known and respected local author told us about the Transportation of Suffolk Criminals from his study of the local historical records. As usual he gave a very pleasant presentation, combined with a gentle sense of humour

And now for :-

February:-

We are to get an illustrated talk from Mr N. Woods entitled Larger than Life: Nature Nature as seen through the Camera's Lens

March:-

Now we are to learn about The Red Cross and First Aid . We , continually read in the papers, hear on the radio and see on the TV the need for such services and a little of those who do the work and should we not also be involved. Lets look forward to this month's effort.

April :-

Conchology - The World of Shells is the subject of the talk to be given by Mrs D Howlett this month

Other events to take note of :-

Wednesday 2nd of April, we plan to have another Get to know you then. At which each group will show what they do and invite you if you wish to join them. This will be from 2.00 to 4.00 in our usual meeting place at the URC church. (see the advertisement on the back page).

Wednesday the 18th of June it is proposed to have a day out at Kew Gardens details to be published later. Wednesday the 20th of August we plan to repeat last year's garden party at Abbots Hall. Again, details to be published later.

Activity groups :-

Archive Film :-

tea and posh biscuits at half-time. how is that for a good start ? The bonus is that you would be sitting in comfort in good company watching films of Times Past and The way we were . We meet, usually, on the 4th Monday of the month from 2.30 to 4.30pm. if interested please ring me.

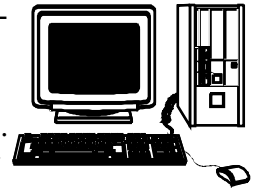
Eric Adamson

01449 676 446



Computer Group:-

The Computer Group continues to flourish with about thirty members and a regular majority attendance at monthly meetings. Harold and Irene regularly supply accommodation and hospitality.



Four *Photoshop* groups maintain great enthusiasm in Stowmarket and three discussion forums, one *Photoshop* group and two related Photo groups flourish in Hadleigh. Newcomers at all levels of expertise are always welcome. Information about all our activities can be accessed on our weblog at : <http://wendywhitecat.wordpress.com/>

Recent monthly meetings have all featured our own members. Following September's contribution by *Photoshop* students, in October we were inspired by the first efforts of our novice slideshow and movie makers. Using a number of different applications we were introduced to numerous contrasting approaches. We look forward to further developments. In November I repeated the presentation I gave at the Autumn Academy entitled *The Creative Computer*. I attempted to show how a personal computer can aid not only communication and research, but can also enhance creativity in words, pictures and music and in combinations of all these. Our *Christmas Creations* in December was a disappointing meeting, with poor attendance and insufficient creations to sustain a whole meeting.

Fortunately we returned to our usual high standard in January when Valerie intrigued us with her *Photoshop* designs on miniature boxes and encouraged us to make and decorate our own. Sharing this session was John, farmer turned embroiderer, who explained how he set up a business using computerised multi-headed sewing machines to create embroidered badges and logos. This was a very original take on computers at work. In January we also reviewed our personal challenges and set up new ones for 2008.

An exciting new development at the Hadleigh Learning Centre offers opportunities for our members to attend day courses in IT at a reduced cost; more on our blog.

Wendy Morgan : 01473 824237:
wendy@paddocks9.plus.com

Country Strolls:-

Short:-

We are still enjoying our countryside strolls. Scenery is dreer; paths are muddy; but the air is fresh and invigorating.



The Gladstone Arms was, again our venue for our Annual Luncheon in January. The food was scrumptious; the chatting non-stop.

Newcomers are welcome to join us on the 2nd and 4th Fridays in the month.

Joce Walden 01449 615 591 or
Joyce markwell 01449 613 702

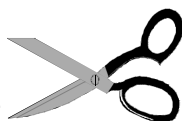
Longer:-

At the beginning of December we had a really good walk from Wolverstone Marina inland and round to Pin Mill and returned to a wonderful Christmas lunch at the Marina. Then we started the New Year off with a healthy 5.5 mile walk from Badley south through Battisford parish and back to Needham. Fourteen of us then enjoyed a good meal at the Cedars Hotel. Weather permitting we will continue on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month.

Andrea Burton 01449 774 869 or
Jenny Rogers 01449 737 847

Card Craft Group:-

As always this is a small group but growing and finding new things to learn and practice. The making of cards for all occasions is both enjoyable and useful. Indeed a hobby that is becoming very popular in the country at large.



Generally we meet on the 2nd Teusday afternoon of the month at 2.00

Liz Weir 01449 676 528

Discussion Group:-

Whilst we are not a very big group we still would like to see more new faces joining in with our discussions, which cover a very wide field of interests over the season. More often than not having had our says on the current subject we veer of f onto things that catch our attention at that time.



We meet on the 2nd Tuesday morning of the month at 10.00 am from September to June inclusive.
Philip Weir 01449 676 528

Entertainment (Theatrical):-

I was reading a book about entertainment and was interested to read the following :-



Early one morning at 2am in 1889 a policeman was walking along his beat in Brook St, Holborn. He was surprised by the front door of No. 20 being flung open and a man ran down the steps in great excitement. Pulling the policeman into the house, he rushed him into a dimly lit back room. To his great amazement he saw pictures of people walking around Hyde Park Corner projected on the wall.

The unknown policeman was possibly the world's first cinema audience. Mr. William Freeze-Greene, the man who first cranked that premature projector died 20,000 in debt and without any distinction. He had given the foundation which changed the face of entertainment.

We meet on the 2nd Monday of the month at 2.30.
Joan Varley 01449 612 767

Gardens and Things:-

October - A visit to a winery organized by Peggy Peck and Hazel Field. A great day was enjoyed by some 16 members of the G&T group at the Shawgate wine fields in Debenham, whilst the picking had finished we followed the owner through the whole process from picking to bottling and of course the final part of tasting the various types and flavours, this certainly encouraged nearly all present to purchase a wine of their choice, and then the inevitable lunch at a local hostelry,



In November the meeting was all about the programme for 2008, and which has now been organized. It produced a good varied range of interesting visits.

December, is a quiet month and no activity took place.

2008 - As usual the season starts with our post Christmas lunch at the Magpie which was supported by 16

members who enjoyed the usual fare so well presented by the Magpie.

Harold Turner

01449 676 882

Luncheon Club:-

The Lunch Club is going strong in our second year, in fact so strong I am always getting asked if they could be added to my ever growing list. Can I please ask once again if there is a member who would like to start another Lunch Club. We managed to get to THE FOX AND HOUNDS AT THURSTON in August, after it was cancelled in the February because of snow, lets hope that the meeting for February the 14th at the WHITE HORSE STOKE ASH will be without weather mishaps.



October 11th we visited THE DOG AT GRUNDISBURGH this was a great success and I was asked if we could go back again, a few members returned with their families to enjoy the splendid food that is provided, I have booked THE DOG for April 10th. If anyone could recommend a place for us to visit please let me know.

Angela Bentley

01449 780 274

Music Appreciation (1):-

Our monthly meeting are still suspended due to building work at our venue, but be assured you will be advised when we shall be starting again.



meetings are usually held from 10.00am to 12 noon on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. If you have transport and are interested, please ring me.

Eric Adamson

01449 676 446

Music Appreciation (2):-

Our music group finally started in January with a trip along the silk road, across the steppes of central Asia, calling in at Kashmir, entering the world of 1001 nights Scheherezade. I think we had a good afternoon. Next time we will explore the British Isles, and in the next few months I have plans for a dazzling Paris salon of the 1900s, and one in Vienna.



We have started this session with almost as many members as we can fit in my room, but do contact me if you want any more information.

Next meeting is Feb.27th.

Connie Ruegg

01449 674 673

Myths and Legends:-

This year we have adopted a slightly different style of programme which seems to be working well. Also we meet at my home on the first Monday afternoon of the month at 2.30. As in the past we are but a small group and look forward to finding more friends interested in joining us for our discussions. On the Main Notice Board at the monthly meetings is displayed a programme of our subjects throughout the year.



Philip Weir

01449 676 528

Town and Village History:-

This perennially popular group has had a meeting on Tuesday the 12th this month to plot out this years programme and to decide on who will be responsible for the successful running from now on. Ann Watsham, who has done this, so successfully for quite a few years has decided that she must relinquish this task to someone else and we must not let her down.



New Groups Starting :-

Bridge - Colin and Barbara Robertson are trying to get this started. they can be contacted on 01449 612 638



Genealogy -

There are more than 12 people who have expressed a desire join this group but, unfortunately it has been very hard to find someone willing to bring them all together. This is a great pity as the hobby become a total fascination for those who immerse themselves in it. At the time of writing we are pursuing various leads at we hope to achieve some success in the very near future.



Majong - Tony and Pat Ward are hoping to find some interest in this pastime and any help would be gratefully received. they can be found on

01449 720 422



Theatre Going group - John Chappell has been kind enough to try to organise this. There is definitely a lot of interest and hopefully he will get a lot of support from us all. He will be away until the 4th of March, but then he can be found on

01449 777 969

or jonchapel@yahoo.co.uk



Wine Tasting -

Ten of us signed up for this group and Zoe Bystricky has kindly volunteered to contact you with a view to getting organised. She can be found on 01449 676 220 or zoe.bystricky@btinternet.com



Poetry:-

Sheila Dobey
01449 677 265



An Early tomb

Boy, pliers,
Electric wires,
Blue flashes,
Boy, ashes.
Little girl,
Box of paints,
Licked the brush,
Amongst the saints.
Bigger lad,
Seagull s nest,
Crumbling rock,
Eternal rest.
Older lass,
Healthy bloom,
Belt too tight,

U3A Suffolk and District Network:-

The Autumn Academy held last October at Coombs Middle School was very successful, being attended by some 220 people, which included Lecturers and organisers. Again as in the previous year the reports were so favourable that there will be another on Saturday the 11th of October 2008. Hopefully many of you will support this great event either as students or as helpers.

There has been an idea mooted for a study day next Spring/ Early Summer in East Suffolk. This might take the form of a day s insight into The Appreciation of Art . This is such a wide ranging subject that it will most likely be narrowed down somewhat when the actual plans are made,which is likely to be in the next couple of months.

U3A Central Office News:-

Read the U3A News published free 4 times a year to appreciate the really wide range of activities followed by the U3A both centrally and individually across the country. I personally can recommend the Summer Schools for those who see a subject that would interest them. For more details of these see the Notice Board or speak to our Secretary who will be only too willing to help.



Art Appreciation :-

This very active and well supported group continues to prosper
Tony Taylor 01449 771 168



Scrabble Group:-

Sheila Dobey 01449 677 265



Democracy and Election Systems:-

Davud Chapman 01449 736 223

Needle Craft Group:-

Alicia Beaton 01449 616 712

Keep Fit :-

There has been some trouble over location and timings for this group so please keep in touch For upto date information
Pauline Taylor 01449 678 954



"DO YOU REALIZE THAT YOU AND I TOGETHER ARE OLDER THAN MOST OF THE STUFF YOU'RE LOOKING AT?"

I saw this article by Raymond Briggs in the October issue of the 'OLDIE' and thought that it would amuse you ALL

You have to pity the poor tarts. What is there left for them to wear? How can they dress to catch the eye, and make it clear they are tarts, when every passing girl is dressed in a similar fashion?

Waistlines have never been lower than they are today, and are now inches below the waist. This, then, reveals the inevitable roll of fat and navel pierced by some gimcrack ornament. And every time the young woman in question bends over, a lurid thong then generally oozes out over the welts of flesh above the 'waist' line...

We thought we had mini-skirts in the Sixties little did we know! Six inches, seven inches, even eight inches above the knee? My! People wrote letters to the *Times*, and not just from dear old Tunbridge Wells.

Now, skirts can no longer be measured by 'above the knee', they have to be measured by 'below the crotch'. And, as I have observed in my researches, are usually about level with it. From a distance, they look like those daring 'hot pants' that were once the fashion, but when you sidle nearer, you realise that these bikini shorts are crotchless: they are skirts. What do they do when they sit down? Have *Hello* magazine or an improving book at the ready?

Last week I saw a very young teenage girl wearing denim shorts over black tights. Obviously, she had cut back the shorts with Daddy's pruning shears and shaved them down to little more than a scrap of fabric, and yet this garment was not intended for either the local pantomime or a nightclub, but for a sunny morning in a county town. What would she wear, I wondered, when she did go clubbing? There was not much left to take off...

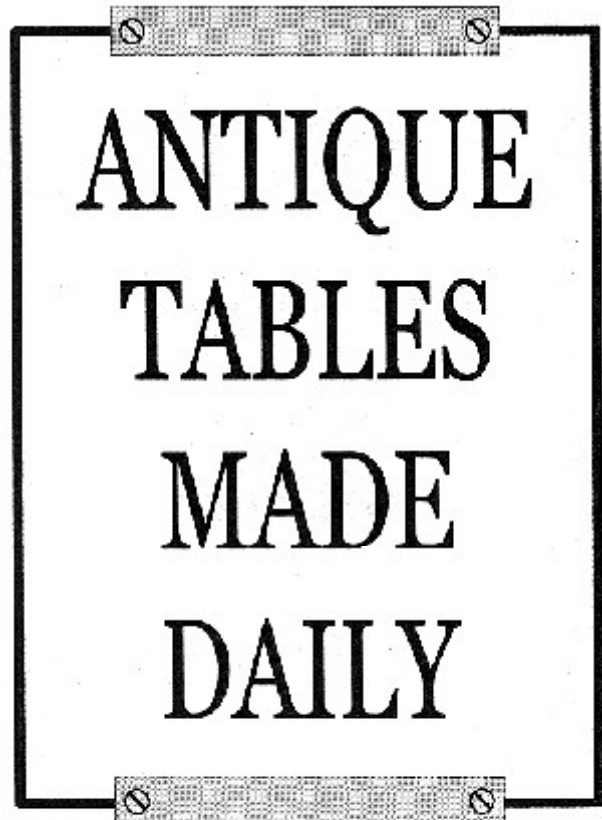
Once upon a time, 'a glimpse of stocking was something shocking', but intriguing nonetheless. Nowadays, a glimpse of thong is shocking, but we are not intrigued at all.



Signs on a door at a motel in America

The length of lives

The horse and mule live 30 years
And nothing know of wine or beers.
Goats and sheep at 20 die
And never taste of Scotch or Rye.
Cows drink water by the ton,
At 18 are mostly done.
A dog at 15 cashes in
Without the aid of rum or gin.
The cat on milk and water soaks
And then at 12 short years it croaks.
The modest sober bone-dry hen,
Lays eggs for ages, then dies at 10.
All animals are strictly dry,
They sinless live and swiftly die,
But sinful, ginful, beer-soaked man –
They live for three score years and ten.



Sign by a roadside in America

Will you walk into my parlour?
Said the spider to the fly.
Tis the prettiest little parlour
That ever you did spy.
The way into my parlour
Is up a winding stair
And I have many pretty things

On Thursday the 31st Of January we had a trip out to the Welney Wildfowl Centre

Peter and Zena Dakeyne very kindly organised this trip for us. Fortunately the heavy rain disappeared and we had a beautiful bright sunny afternoon even if it was decidedly rather cool, due to the strong wind. There were some 30 of us and we found the new building and services have improved enormously. since our last visit about four years ago.

These photographs give some idea of how rough the water was and how extensive the winter flooding. Every one without exception have said how much they enjoyed the outing and indeed seem to be looking forward to the next opportunity for a day out. Many thanks to our organisers for a very successful day.



Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
 That saved a wretch like me!
 I once was lost, but now am found,
 Was blind but now I see.
 Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
 And grace my fears relieved;
 How precious did that grace appear
 The hour I first believed.
 Through many dangers, toils and snares,
 I have already come;
 Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
 And grace will lead me home.
 When we've been there ten thousand years,
 Bright shining as the sun,
 We've no less days to sing God's Praise,
 Than when we first begun.
 Amazing grace has set me free,
 To touch, to taste, to feel;
 The wonders of accepting love,
 Have made me whole and real.

Smiling

Smiling is infectious
 You catch it like the flu,
 When someone smiled at me
 today

I started smiling too.
 I passed around the corner
 And someone saw my grin,
 When he smiled I realised
 I d passed it on to him.
 I thought about the smile
 And realised it s worth
 A single smile like mine
 Could travel round the earth.
 So if you feel a smile begin
 Don t leave it undetected
 Let s start an epidemic quick
 And get the world infected.

**You are invited to
 A Get-to-Know You
 Social gathering
 To meet the Committee,
 Group Leaders and
 Each other
 On Wednesday
 The 2nd April 2008
 At 2.30pm
 In the URC Church Hall**

**Refreshments will be provided
 Please come and meet us**

Spanish reading lesson !!

Si Senor –
 Dar day go
 Forte lorez ina row
 Dems not lorez
 Dems are trux
 Fulla coos, hens and dux Adios

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