



**STOWMARKET AND DISTRICT
LEARNING ACTIVITIES IN RETIREMENT**
(UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE)
Registered Charity No. 1002987



Newsletter 34

July 2013

From the Chairman: -

I would like to welcome all the new members who have recently joined Stowmarket U3A and I've been encouraged how quickly they've joined up and contributed to our extensive range of group activities. The very latest figures show a membership of around 210, an increase of more than 40 over the previous year.

Last month saw our second Summer Garden Party at Elm Farm, Stonham Aspel. With about 80 members in attendance and being favoured with another fine summer's day, it's safe to say that everyone enjoyed the atmosphere, the fine food and, not the least, the opportunity to have a good gossip. Many thanks are due to Dee Payne for once again organising such a successful day out for us all.

Coming up in August (21st) is the annual outing, this year to Cambridge. In the morning we will visit Kings College and in the afternoon Cambridge Botanical Gardens. Can I remind everyone that payment (by cheque, please) must be made, at the latest, at the July meeting and that on the day the coach will leave the station promptly at 9.20am and Meadlands car park at 9.30am.

Within this newsletter are details about the 2013 AGM which again will be followed by an optional light lunch and an opportunity to socialise in the afternoon when representatives of the various interest groups will be able to demonstrate what they have to offer. All the necessary notices and proposal forms will be posted on the board at the July meeting. To help with the organisation and catering plans, please put your name on the list if you intend to attend.

I'd like to remind members that Jenny Lawler will be finishing her term as Treasurer at the AGM and also Joyce Kay will stand down as Secretary. Whilst we do have a volunteer for the Treasurer role we are, at the time of writing, still looking for someone to stand as Secretary. This is an important job and as I've said before it's no secret that the post of Secretary can be the most demanding of the officer roles but for the right candidate it can be most rewarding. Please let Joyce or myself know if you would like to take on this challenge.

Peter Dakeyne

peter@dakeyne.com

01449 781 562

GROUP COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Let's Have A Moan Shall We?

I think we are very fortunate in our Stowmarket U3A with the amount of learning opportunities we have, at very small cost. I experience some irritation when I hear members having a moan about any small money increases for a series of lessons or room-hire or refreshments. When you compare our Stowmarket learning provision with other groups in Suffolk and around the country we are very fortunate. We may not be particularly inventive or original, but for our size we do wonderfully well – cheaply!

We have lots of people who give their time freely to coordinate and organise a variety of interest groups, often in their own homes. We have committee members and supporters who work hard for the cause (and then get moaned at because they haven't fulfilled some individual's expectations.)

Let's look at some issues here. The Membership Fee for Stowmarket U3A is £10. That buys us opportunities to belong to almost any group in our area. It also buys opportunities to attend monthly Wednesday afternoon meetings with speakers, news updates and social activities. For a few extra pence, tea and a biscuit can be had. In the groups, 30p is the recommended charge for coffee, tea and a chocolate digestive – try that at Costa! Hall-hire and tutors cost extra but from my evidence it is a bargain. Try getting language lessons or an exercise class for £2 to £3 pounds elsewhere. Trips are organised at relatively low costs. There is an opportunity for a Christmas Lunch at a bargain price. A Summer Garden Party is arranged at no cost (for the moment I suspect!) and the Buffet Lunch at the Annual General Meeting is subsidised for members. When we travel in other people's cars we are expected to make a minimal contribution to fuel costs. Perhaps we need to remember how much it costs to run a car with fuel at £1.40 a litre (have a look at your milk bottle for a comparison amount), insurance, tax and servicing and how good the people are who give us lifts, trolling round to ours to collect us.

(Continued on page 7)

Since the last Newsletter :-
April :-

Mr Ian Kirby's talk on 'The London Olympics - History & Future' brought to light many obscure and/or unknown facts: And so a fascinating talk.

May :-

Denise Hammond gave us a talk centered on her family since Georgian days and so we learnt about changes in social life as they came about through Victorian days and up to very recent times.

June :-

Our Garden party! Some pictures, page 8

And now for :-

July :-

'An Indian Experience' is the subject chosen by Mr Peter Baker for today's talk.

August :-

This month's activity is an outing to Cambridge, which is already heavily booked

September :-

This month the AGM will follow the pattern set last year and at Hillside Community Centre.

October :-

Mr Malcolm Crowe will be telling us about 'The Work of a Toy Maker'.

And now for news about the groups :-

Art Appreciation 1 :-

This group has had another very successful season ending with a 'Fandango' ie a buffet lunch for all its members!

We are now having a summer 'rest' and will re-convene in September.

Tony Taylor :-

01449 258 192



Art Appreciation 2 or U3A SEAM

(Stowmarket Exploring Art Meetings)

As the Art Appreciation Group (SAAG) run by Tony Taylor has been full almost since its inception, it was agreed that Anna Bradshaw would set up another art group. Not to be outdone in acronyms we decided to call ourselves 'Stowmarket Exploring Art Meetings' (SEAM!). Anna offered to host the group and we began the process of Exploring Art together. The group has met on four occasions but each meeting has been lively and well attended.

At our first meeting we explored the art of Bridget Riley. This was perhaps an odd place to start and some of the group were hesitant about Riley's work. However, most of those who attended said that they had learned much and one member commented that should an exhibition of Riley's work be staged in the future she would make a point of going.

We then had a lively discussion about Leonardo da Vinci – his life. Much is known of da Vinci's art work, but we explored some of his other creations, his family and his early life.

The following month we enjoyed a wonderfully exuberant display of colour in art. Wendy brought many examples, some from her own collection, and summarised the properties of colour.

Future meetings are planned :-

In July : Mary Brewster, a local artist, is demonstrating in acrylic.

In August we are being driven in a mini bus to see the paintings 'loaned back' to Houghton Hall from the Hermitage in St. Petersburg.

In October we plan a meeting on the art of Mixing Colour

In November - very topically - an exploration of L.S. Lowry's work is planned and in December we will be introduced to Annunciation Pictures - this has a Christmas-y theme and we plan a bring-and share lunch before our meeting at 2:00 p.m.

As can be seen from the programme there is no particular theme – Members of the group are encouraged to share their enthusiasm for art in its many different forms and, as has been demonstrated, this has resulted in a mixed and varied programme.

If this appeals to you - there are a few spaces in the group – we meet on the third Monday of each month. 2:00p.m. at 2 Cobbs Place, Fir Tree Lane, Haughley Green, Stowmarket. IP14 3RP

Please contact (anna.bradshaw1@btinternet.com) if you would like to join this most friendly Art Exploration Group.

Anna Bradshaw

01449 745 829



Book Club :-

Our meeting is held on the 4th Monday of the month at Town Green and at 2.00 pm until about 4.00 pm.

And there is ample parking!

The group has been running exceedingly well, and is well attended, with few absentees.

The variety and quality of the chosen books is very heartening, and the supportive feedback is amazing. We find that we have two very happy hours along with the very necessary 'tea and biscuits'.

M. Bradley

01449 775 628



Bridge for Beginners

The venue for this group has changed. We now meet at **Steeple View, Rede Road, Stowupland in the Pod Lounge on the first floor** of the sheltered homes complex. There is good parking available within the grounds of the complex. Our new venue is warm, cosy, well-furnished and decorated and pleasantly intimate. **We meet at 2.00pm on the fourth Wednesday of every month** during which I give a lesson and advice. We also meet at the same venue every Sunday, the timing and duration of which meetings are flexibly decided by the group members "as we go along". These additional "get-togethers" are on an informal basis to practice play and just have a good time enjoying Bridge in pleasant company. So, there we are: meeting at least once every week. I am usually present at all these extra meetings and am available to give tips and advice when asked. I am delighted to report that all members of the group are now playing Bridge with increasing confidence, ability and enjoyment. As I wrote in the last issue of this publication, I am delighted to be leading and teaching such a pleasant and enthusiastic group of members and being a part of such a nice group. I also enjoy being witness to the obvious pleasure the group members have from learning and playing Bridge. Anyone who wishes to learn to play (or to improve their play) would be most welcome.

Freddie Davies

fjd8@btinternet.com 01206

391219



Computer group :-

Just to remind you we meet in the afternoon of the second Wednesday of each month at Stowupland High School. Recently, and mostly due to unavoidable reasons, attendance has been down at our meetings. This is unfortunate since we have had some very interesting and well received sessions since the last Newsletter..

In March I gave a presentation based on 'A behind the scenes look at www.u3astowmarket.org.uk, and an introduction to Wordpress'. In brief, we first explored the web site in detail and along the way I explained how we were able to use our own web domain rather than purely the Wordpress default name.

We looked at some interesting statistics which showed that the number of 'hits' on the site has risen from 3,378 in 2008 to 11,555 in 2012 however about 49% of the hits per year were from people around the world searching for 'Scrabble' related pages, and an analysis of the remainder suggests that not enough of

our own members are making any regular use of the site. Encouraging, though, in the last 12 months some 73 people clicked through to the application form and many of these resulted in us gaining new members

Due to popular demand, in April (at the Woodfield Bowls Club), we revisited our topic from last October and looked at a new selection of members' favourite/most useful web sites. As before, this threw up some amazing examples of what's available on the web. If you follow the Computer Group links on the web site and look at the notes for the April meeting, you will find a full list there.

For our May meeting Clive Herrod gave us a most interesting insight into the 'Dragon Naturally Speaking' software. Whilst claiming to be a non-expert, he nevertheless gave an excellent demonstration of this most useful tool. He demonstrated 'speech to text' in Word. We were fascinated watching his words appear accurately as spoken. The software recognises commands such as 'stop', 'new paragraph', 'bullets' etc as opposed to speech, plus there is a useful microphone on/off/sleep function. This session inspired more than one person to go ahead and purchase the latest version!

Finally, in June, we looked at the latest version of Google's Picasa 3, the free photo organiser and editing tool. Having found out how to make use of its face recognition software we then experimented with the wide range of editing tools available. For people who want to exert some control over the final appearance of their photos but don't need the expense or complexity of Photoshop type software, this is the ideal choice.

Please note, it was agreed at the June meeting that we would take a break in August before restarting in September. Please have a think, and let me know, what you would like to learn more about in the new term and/or alternatively any topic that you would like to give a talk on yourself.

As always, we want to encourage beginners and the more experienced alike and to help this along all meetings start with 'Agony Corner' when members can raise any computer related issues or problems for discussion. There's usually somebody around the table who's had the same problem and solved it or, if not, some research is done later and the answers passed to everyone. If you are a new member of Stowmarket U3A and would like to learn more about computer related topics or indeed have experience or knowledge that you'd like to pass on, please let me know. If you go onto the Computer Group page on the website (above) click 'Groups' then 'Computer' and you will find links to notes for all meetings back to November 2010.

Peter Dakeyne peter@dakeyne.com 01449 781 562

Country Strolls :-

Longer :-

The group is working well together, taking turns at leading a walk of about 5 miles. Unfortunately we have had one serious accident - one member had a bad fall and has broken her shoulder in three places. We wish her a speedy recovery - though that is rather a vain hope! We have to accept the risks of walking along field edges and over styles and wooden bridges over ditches. Keeping fit is important. I will be finding out about first aid courses - hopefully we can get one organised for as many attendees as possible. Details will be published as and when this can be arranged.

Andrea Burton 01449 774 869

Shorter :-

Helen Mead 01449 673 660



Discussion Group :-

June completed our academic year and we recommence in September on the 2nd Tuesday morning at 10 am. Once again we are deeply indebted to Pat for his unfailing hospitality, for which we offer our sincere thanks.

The season, September to June, has been filled with a wonderful variety of subjects and differing opinions from our members making this a great social occasion. Next season will surely provide as much again.

Yes, we will welcome any new members to partake of this most interesting meeting.

Philip Weir 01449 676 528



Gardens and Things :-

April The group lead by Mike paid a first time visit for all of us to the museum of Moyes Hall in Bury St Edmunds and given a conducted tour by their guide, this gave us a very clear vision of life in the early 1300s and the changes that had taken place over the centuries/ Maybe not the good old days, considering the conditions that people lived in. We were there for some two hours and on conclusion we moved on to the well known food at the cathedral refectory and sampled their great range of well cooked food. After a satisfying lunch we took a turn round the beautiful Cathedral gardens, a visit always worth while and never disappointing. Thanks Mike for a great day out.

May We gathered at the Solar car park at 9.30 and as a group of 18 made the half hour journey to Otley Hall. As this was again a first time visit we were surprised at the beautiful moated house that stood before us in all its majesty, a relic of bygone years but



still regal in its entirety. We were lead by a lady that knew her subject and told us of all the past history and how it had been altered both in use and structure since the 16th century, to its present day. We were moving about in the rooms that were still lived in by the present incumbents, and no house of this age worth its salt would be without its resident ghosted area, but we did not see it. The house is still lived in by the Beaumont family. We also did a tour of the gardens and was shown the interesting points by the head gardener, who had a vast knowledge of all the old herbs and plants.

It is a venue for quiet days and is mainly used by religious groups of all denominations, well suited for this kind of activity and the gardens are so tranquil and well laid out for getting away from all the bustle of present day stress. Another excellent day out for the group and so well planned by Janet.

June A coach had been arranged by Angela to take us all to Capel Manor Gardens near Enfield in Essex. So it was an early start at 8.30 am, with every one there on time and the coach left as planned. It was a two hour journey, using the more scenic route down the A10 passing Duxford Air museum and arrived at 10.30, a nice time for a morning coffee.

This is a teaching collage and working garden with lots of students around working on various projects. The gardens themselves are laid out over some 12 acres and compartmentalized in to different subjects similar to Chelsea, whilst it is a long walk round, it was surprising that we did not notice the large area we actually covered as everything was so interesting. The rain held off until lunch time, everyone was surprised at the low prices and tucked into the varied selection. By the time we had finished the rain had passed over, giving us the chance to see the rest. We left at 4pm and arrived back at 6pm, tired, but the effort was rewarding. Thank you Angela for a excellent trip that was well organized and enjoyed by all who went. Harold Turner 01449 676 882

Geology for the Curious

The venue for this group has also changed. We now meet at **Steeple View, Rede Road, Stowupland in the Pod Lounge on the first floor** of the sheltered homes complex.

There is good parking available within the grounds of the complex. Our new venue is warm, cosy, well-furnished and decorated and pleasantly intimate. **We meet at 2.00pm on the first Wednesday of every month** during which I give an illustrated talk. We have now started looking at the geology of East Anglia and had our first field visit in April when we went to Orford to look at coralline crag (unique to Suffolk),



Claydon to look at 50 million years of chalk, volcanic and glacial deposit and then to Nacton Cliffs to see another 50 million years of different forms of deposits. I believe this enthusiastic little group is rapidly coming to understand the unfathomably immense forces that underlie the geography and structure of planet Earth (and our little bit of it in East Anglia). If you are at all curious about the surroundings in which you live and the scenery that you enjoy on holidays and other trips, then come and join us!!

Freddie Davies fjd8@btinternet.com 012060 391219

Historical Architecture

The venue for this group, like the other groups I lead, has also changed. We now meet at **Steeple View, Rede Road, Stowupland in the Pod Lounge on the first floor** of the sheltered homes complex. There is good parking available within the grounds of the complex. Our new venue is warm, cosy, well-furnished and decorated and pleasantly intimate. **We meet at 2.00pm on the second Wednesday of every month** during which I give an illustrated talk. In April we had our first field visit to look at buildings displaying Saxon architecture that I had discussed "in house". We went to Earls Barton and Brixworth, both in Northamptonshire, to see the famous Saxon churches which are a national treasure. We are dealing currently with Norman architecture and moving, with some pleasurable anticipation, towards the glories of the Gothic periods. There are 'lots' to come and 'lots' to see and much to discover about the architectural heritage of which this country is well blessed and for which it is world famed. The members are learning a lot and having fun doing so.

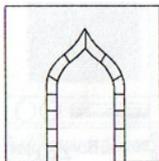
Freddie Davies fjd8@btinternet.com 01206 391219

Keep Fit :-

The last Keep Fit meeting is Tuesday 9th July, probably the day before you receive this Newsletter. However, we will not be able to start again in September if we do not have more people taking part! We have our much-missed instructor Linda back with us, fighting fit again, but we are missing several people who took classes with us over the past two years.

Do please let me know if you wish to start or restart in September so that I can book the hall and Linda. If you've not been before, why not try a class? Our classes can be as gentle or energetic as you like, so don't think you wouldn't cope with it – you can even do the exercises sitting on a chair!

Contact happytapper@madasafish.com



Pauline Taylor

01449 678 954

Memoirs Group :-

Pat Smith

01449 675 568



Myths & Legends :-

Whilst we are unfortunately few in number we have had a very interesting time exploring many different aspects of the origin and development of various groups of myths. We would welcome new folks who would be interested to join us in our discussions.



Philip Weir

01449 676 528

The New Photography Group :-

At long last we managed to get off the ground in May with Stowmarket U3A's new Photography Group. A small group of us met at my house for a preliminary meeting with our Group Leader, Roy Fidler to discuss the possible format. We all brought our cameras along and tried to assess the needs and capabilities of everyone. Whilst, at this stage, nothing is cast in stone it was decided that at each meeting Roy would progressively take us through the basics of digital camera techniques and that we would have a 'topic for the month' when members could submit photos on a particular theme to be critically appraised by the group. Occasional photo shoot sessions around the county are also possible.



Eight of us were able to get together for our first full meeting in June. Roy started the session by noting the differences between and functions of the members' cameras which ranged from simple point and shoot to high end DSLRs and took us through the first stage of his prepared lessons. We then all took some macro pictures of flowers in the garden before comparing the results on the computer projector screen.

Our meetings are on the afternoon of the third Tuesday of the month and the July theme will be 'Landscapes'.

Peter Dakeyne peter@dakeyne.com 01449 781 562

Play Reading Group :-

The group has spent our last three sessions reading Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare. We found this hard work but very worthwhile. And in complete contrast we then read Alan Ayckbourn's Round and Round the Garden.



Round and Round the Garden focuses once again on middle-class angst: the characters' reluctance to talk about sex; their reluctance to contemplate unpleasant aspects of their loves; and their fondness

for banal chatter to cover up rather than express their true feelings. Reg is locked in a sterile marriage to Sarah, but rather than trying to resolve it, he devotes his energies to creating board-games that no one really wants to play. By contrast Norman tries to have his cake and eat it; not only remaining 'happily' married (in his view, at least) but also enjoying full licence to seduce other women at the same time. However Ayckbourn shows at the end of *Round and Round the Garden* how morally bankrupt Norman has become; to him women are nothing more than objects designed to prove that "this boy [i.e. Norman himself] can do no wrong." It's hardly surprising that everyone shuns him; this is what he deserves

The group are taking our summer break now. As from September we shall be meeting on the fourth Monday in the month. So restart on September 23rd at 2pm when new members will be very welcome
Helen Freeman 01449 613 060

Playwrights Study Group :-

The group now has 10 members and a waiting list.

We continue to choose a playwright whose work is to be produced in the region in a few months time. We research and discuss various aspects of the playwright's life and how these have influenced the writing. We read extracts from these works and then attend a performance. Afterwards, we meet to discuss our many and varied views on the performance.

It is proving great fun and gives the brain cells a good workout.

We have discovered William Shakespeare through his Julius Caesar at The Theatre Royal Norwich and his Timon of Athens at the National Theatre Live broadcast to Cineworld at Bury St Edmunds.

Moving from the almost sublime to the somewhat ridiculous, we have delved into the life of Agatha Christie and discovered her knowledge of poisons from wartime days in a hospital pharmacy and her love of all things archaeological on digs with her second husband. We dabbled with popular culture and joined the ranks of those who share the secret of The Mousetrap. We gave it mixed reviews and wondered how it has survived for 60 years. No one was more surprised than Agatha herself at the public's acclaim for what she described as her stories.

Our next playwright, Bertolt Brecht, will be a challenge to us all. We will see his play The Good Person of Sichuan performed at The Mercury Theatre, Colchester, in October. It is described as "A great poetic parable of schizophrenia, true love and ambiguous morals".

U3A members certainly know how to have fun!



Helen Barrett

01449 676 491

Poetry Group :-

The Poetry Group has recently spent its twice-monthly sessions enjoying readings on the themes 'Moon, Night and Stars' and 'Water' and reading some translations of the Spanish poet Garcia Lorca and also Gerard Manley Hopkins.



A group outing to the Sir John Mills Theatre in Ipswich was organised by our leader Sheila Dobey for the excellent 'Eastern Angles' play on John Clare. His poems are about nature and the countryside and how the enclosure of common land affected the livelihoods of peasant people.

Earlier this year we were again invited to give poetry readings to residents' social groups at both Partridge Court and Weston Court in the town. These readings are chosen and rehearsed by the group beforehand and were well received by the audience.

Plans for future meetings are to read the work of some women poets and to investigate the sonnet form.

The poetry group is full at the moment but if anyone is interested please contact Sheila Dobey on 01449 677265 for information on a second group which is being formed.

Jenifer Adams
Helen Freeman

01449 615 581
01449 613 060

Town and Village History :-

Angela Bentley 01449 780 274



Luncheon Club :-

Angela Bentley 01449 780 274
Pauline Taylor 01449 678 954



Scrabble Groups :-

A superb turn-out of 22 Scrabble players met for the summer get-together at a new venue, Red Gables. Sheila had ably researched the area to find a place with ample parking and a light and airy room with plenty of tables.



Teams were formed, with choices to sit with beginners or the more seasoned players, and soon the boards were thick with QI and XI, ZA and ZO, and quiet concentration set in. Scores totalled, we took a break and were treated to a delicious array of tea, cakes and biscuits. Many thanks to Zena and Terri and their helpers for all their hard work in the kitchen.

Thus fortified, we all changed teams and returned to our WORDSMITHERY (yes, it's in the Official Scrabble Wordlist - you can build it!), to exercise our brain cells once more. It was my first

visit, and I thank Sheila for all her efforts in organising the day and in creating such a relaxed atmosphere in which we could all mix in and meet new friends.

Hilary Plummer 01449 612 463
Sheila Dobey 01449 677 265

U3A Suffolk & District Network: :-

The Spring Symposium held in June went off well with a large crowd in attendance and the quality of the four lectures was again of a very high standard. Next years will be held at Kesgrave, and will be organised by the East Suffolk group.

The Autumn Academy, which will be meeting on Saturday the 5th of October. Once again it has a fine choice of programmes to choose from: one in the morning and another after a picnic lunch. The number already enrolled is increasing steadily and applications will be accepted up until August the 28th after which each applicant will be sent acknowledgement and any further detail needed during the month of September.

Sally Taylor 01449 258 192 or
Philip Weir 01449 676 528

(Groups Coordinator- continued from page 1)

Friends in other U3A groups around the country reliably inform me that the cost of membership can be around £40 per year, with an extra monthly charge for hiring the meeting hall and on top of that they pay £15 to £20 for their 10 group sessions – usually 30 sessions in a year! A brief look at the cost of daytime/evening classes will illustrate what bargains we get in our Stowmarket U3A.

While I am having a moan, please don't forget that the organisation doesn't run by osmosis. It requires committee members – not an arduous role – and people to help from time to time. Are you going to give some time and effort to help it along?

I feel better now!

Another new group has been started. This is pleasing news. Anyone interested in PHOTOGRAPHY is invited to contact *Peter Dakeyne* (01449 781562) who is organising learning sessions at his home in Bacton.

The second art appreciation group (SEAM) has got off to an encouraging start with lots of interesting topics and activities. Anyone interested should contact *Anna Bradshaw* (01449 745829)

Groups come and go but there are always lots of things to be involved with. They depend on the efforts and goodwill of the convenors/organisers. Please remember though that if you have an idea for a subject or group that you and others might want to pursue it can be short-term – a few weeks or months – or longer-term. Some groups have been running very successfully for more than 10 years! Some might be

for just 6 weeks. If I can be of help in setting up a new group, please let me know.

Groups Day & the AGM

The Stowmarket U3A AGM is to be held at HILLSIDE, COMBS again this year on Wednesday, September 18th 2013 (see last page). A subsidised buffet lunch will, I hope, be followed by a GROUPS SESSION when the various groups make a small display about their activities. This gives us a chance to see what everyone is doing and what might interest us. Can I invite, please all the convenors/organisers of groups to participate by bringing along some items such as programmes, photographs, books, display items. There will be a table just for you.....

Tony Taylor

01449 258 192

Isn't it strange what people say and do ?

So here are a few famous quotations !

To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all. Oscar Wilde

Laziness is nothing more than the habit of resting before you get tired. Jules Renard

You must have four children: one for mother, one for Father, one for Accidents, one for Increase. Winston Churchill

I believe banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. Thomas Jefferson

All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them. Galileo Galilei

Clothes maketh the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society. Mark Twain

The greatest Challenge to any thinker is stating the problem in a way that will allow a solution. Bertrand Russell



A sign outside a furniture shop, USA



Our Garden Party at Elm Farm



Annual General Meeting and Groups Day, 2013

Following the success of last year's format, the Committee has decided to repeat the same this year.

Venue – The AGM will be held at the Stowmarket Community Centre, Hillside. This is convenient for several of our members who live nearby and there is a fair amount of free parking space available for those from further afield. We will have use of the full hall plus the Gainsborough Room, Milton Room and kitchen.

Format – The AGM notice alongside (and as published on the board at the July meeting) gives the timetable. To avoid congestion in the lobby, the Milton Room will be reserved for membership renewals and the purchase of lunch tickets. When the formal AGM business is concluded there will be the option to stay on for a light lunch before socialising during the afternoon.

Group leaders and members of the groups will be on hand to talk about their activities and perhaps inspire you try an activity you might not otherwise have considered.

The AGM, lunch and 'Groups' afternoon are open to U3A members and guests, so if you have any friends who have not yet joined but may be interested in what we do, please bring them along.

Notice of: Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 18 September 2013

Stowmarket Community Centre, Hillside, IP14 2BD

12:30pm – 1:15pm	AGM
1:15pm – 2:00pm	Refreshments & buffet lunch available
2:00pm – 4.00pm	Group activities, displays & information

The Agenda will be distributed on the day and, if required, some copies of the 2012 AGM minutes will be available.

The optional buffet lunch will be available at a subsidised price of £2.00 pp.

Please note, the 2013/2014 annual subscription (unchanged at £10.00 pp) becomes due at this meeting.

Please see the July Notice board re nominations for the Executive Committee.

Deadline for the next issue :-

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www.u3astowmarket.org.uk