



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



Newsletter 35

October 2013

From the Chairman: -

Since the last newsletter in July and in addition to our normal group activities, we have had the Annual Outing and the AGM in September. This year our August Outing was quite well attended with 40 members enjoying this sunny day out in Cambridge (see some pictures later). In the morning we visited Kings College Chapel and in the afternoon the Botanical Gardens. Each was worth the trip in its own right and the opportunity to have a leisurely lunch in the town in between was a real bonus. A point to note here, however, is that quite a few people, together with their own had filled in the names of their friends on the reservation list. Then, in the event, had decided they were not going to attend but did not ask for the names to be removed. This caused quite a problem when it came to making the necessary bookings so, please, put your names on reservation lists only if you definitely wish to take part in the event.

The 2013 Christmas lunch on 18th December will again be at the URC hall; this year's menu and reservation list will be published on the notice board at the October meeting. We have a limit of 80, so please make sure you reserve early. Menu and full details later in this Newsletter.

Due to the success of new format AGM/Groups day in 2012 this was repeated this year. More than 70 members and guests attended the AGM followed by a subsidised lunch, a good opportunity to socialise. I'm pleased to say that several new members signed up on the day. After lunch our various interest groups were set up to inform and advise on their activities and again many reported new members signing up. During the transition from lunch to group demos there was, perhaps, a lack of 'elbow room' and there have been suggestions that we need more space. At the moment, Hillside is the largest and best venue we have been able to find. If anyone can suggest somewhere better in the Stowmarket area with plenty of free parking, please let a Committee member know.

An important part of the AGM was the voting in of the new Committee. For the first time in many years we had more nominations than available places. In a resolution put to the membership it was suggested that for one year only we should allow an extra 3 members on top of the 10 allowed by our constitution. I'm pleased to report that this was agreed unanimously. Two important elections were for Secretary, Brian O'Shea and Treasurer, Jean Roche. At this point I would like to thank all the previous Committee members for their hard work and contribution over the last year and welcome the several new members to the 2013/14 Committee. Please find below the names and contact details of the whole Committee any of whom will be happy to hear from you with whatever queries you may have.

STOWMARKET U3A COMMITTEE, 2013/2014

Chairman	Mr Peter Dakeyne	01449 781562	peter@dakeyne.com
Secretary	Mr Brian O'Shea	01449 614129	bos.u3astowmarket@yahoo.co.uk
Treasurer	Mrs Jean Roche	01449 675984	jean@roche0.wanadoo.co.uk
Membership Secretary	Ms Andrea Burton	01449 774869	kingburton99@gmail.com
Programme Organiser	Mrs Dee Payne	01449 711683	dee.payne@yahoo.co.uk
Groups Co-ordinator	Mr Tony Taylor	01449 258192	saltony@talktalk.net
Committee Members	Rev Ian Hooper	01449 770179	ianavrilhooper126@btinternet.com
	Mrs Joyce Kay	01449 676852	joyce140929@googlemail.com
	Mrs Jenny Lawler	01449 675506	jen.lawler@btinternet.com
	Mrs Anna Rodgers	07595 943627	a-rodgers@live.com
	Rev Nancy Baird	01449 720567	nancybaird39@gmail.com
	Mr Bryan Hilton	01449 722290	bryan.hilton@virgin.net
	Mrs Connie Harford	01449 774557	clharford26@yahoo.co.uk

Since the last Newsletter :-

July :-

The experience of India related to us was not only interesting, but quite an eye opener to some of what goes on there.

August :-

The outing to Cambridge to visit King's College Chapel and the Botanic Gardens was enjoyed by some forty members, with the added benefit of a lovely day weatherwise.

September :-

For the second time the AGM, Buffet Lunch and Groups Day was held at Hillside. There was a large turnout and everyone seemed to enjoy the day. The Group leaders found the response to their efforts very pleasing.

And now for :-

16th October :-

Mr Malcolm Crowe will tell us about 'The Work of a Toymaker'

20th November:-

'African Experiences' will be the subject for David Jessup's talk.

18th December:-

Our annual luncheon date in the URC hall. See the menu details in this Newsletter.

15th January:-

Mr Horry Parsons is to tell us about 'The Building of the Millenium Tower'.

19th February:-

Radio Suffolk's Rachel Sloan will explain about their 'Celebrities and Challenges'.

And now for news about the groups :-

Art. Appreciation 1

The SAAG Group started the Autumn season on September 17th with a look at Georgio Vasari and some of the Renaissance artists he recorded in his book 'LIVES of the ARTISTS'. In the second meeting we studied a more unusual theme which proved very interesting indeed. This was a look at the city of LONDON through the eyes of various artists including Charles Ginner, Beryl Cook, Stephen Wiltshire (who suffered from autism and created marvellous



drawings from memory of places in London he had visited just once), Monet, Turner and Constable.

Our next planned session is a trip to the Sainsbury Centre near Norwich for a look at the MASTERPIECES exhibition currently showing there. After that we plan to look at ART & WAR and later, DURER. Then it will be Christmas again.

We have been trying to work out how long the SAAG Group has been going. Evidence suggests that we started in 2006. We haven't run out of ideas yet. The topics for the 2014 sessions are already earmarked!

Tony Taylor :-

01449 771 168

Art Appreciation 2 or U3A SEAM

(Stowmarket Exploring Art Meetings)

Anna Bradshaw

01449 745 829

Book Club :-

M. Bradley

01449 775 628



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 a couple of interesting and well received sessions since the last Newsletter.



In July Joyce Kay showed us how she monitors and controls her own financial matters. Starting with a blank sheet in Microsoft Excel she created a spreadsheet from scratch which could easily be adapted for anyone to use. Using four interlinked spreadsheets and with the help of guidance notes printed on the page she showed how easy it is to set up simple home budgetary control.

Due to the school holidays we took a break in August. For our September meeting, and by special request, we revisited 'Back to Basics' (last covered in January 2012). I first showed a video recorded on my computer on how to save email attachments to a folder of your choice on the PC. Using first Outlook Express and then Gmail we saw that slightly different approaches are necessary. Then using a U3A sourced CD programme, 'ELSe' (E learning for seniors) we looked at 'File and Folder organisation' and various related issues.

There was a lot of interest at our table at the AGM/Groups day and we were pleased to sign up 5 new members. 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 (www.u3astowmarket.org.uk) 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 :-

We had an extra walk last month because there were 5 Fridays in August. We had a day trip by train to the North Norfolk coast and walked from Cromer to Sheringham. The weather was perfect and we took picnics and accidentally did an extra loop in the middle of the walk but still kept the total distance to under 6 miles.



Other destinations have included Woodbridge, Stutton, Earl Stonham, Badley and Woolpit. We survived a thunderstorm one Friday but mostly the weather is conducive to a good ramble. Members of the group are sometimes challenged in their map reading skills but we never get lost!!

Andrea Burton 01449 774 869

Shorter :-

Helen Mead 01449 673 660

Discussion Group

The new academic year has got off to another set of very interesting discussions, even though we have been a bit low in numbers attending. Whilst we know full well that most of those who have missed our first two sessions will return, yet there is plenty of room for those who would like to join us and they will be made very welcome. Have a view of our programme on the web site to see if the subjects appeal to you.

Philip Weir 01449 676 528



French Conversation

This group continued to meet during August to keep up our practice of the French language - though some would say it was more Franglais than French. We are very pleased to have our tutor back for this term - she provides us with vocabulary, grammar and a variety of subjects to try and get our



tongues around. If only I could expand my front room we would be able to squeeze more people in.

Andrea Burton

01449 774 869

Gardens and Things

July Was to be a very warm month which coincided with our trip to Peter Beales Roses. The day was led by Irene and Harold, taking the scenic route through the back roads to Attleborough via North and South Lopham (all fen land) and Banham and arriving at Peter Beales just in time for a coffee before setting out through a forest of roses of all descriptions,



As the weather had been so cold in the early month, the main stream flush was at its best, the whole display was one mass of colour and fragrance, well worth the one hour drive.

We returned by the quicker route through Diss and arrived back around 3.00pm

August This was the annual U3A outing with many G&T members filling a coach to Cambridge, the first stop was at Kings College. Whilst it was not a G&T thing it was very enjoyable morning looking round a famous building with its magnificent internal décor that very few of us had visited before. We finally emerged and went to find something to eat, rejoining the coach at 2.00pm for a ride to the famous Cambridge Botanical Gardens. There, there is an on going study by the college botany department of many plants of the world and their development, although many of which are in decline. We rejoined the coach at four thirty and landed back in Stowmarket for 6.00pm

September Jenny took a party of seven members to the Sizewell atomic energy plant on the coast for a conducted tour of the plant, one reason for the low numbers was the physical nature of the tour which took at least one and a half hours over a distance of one and a half miles plus several flights of stairs and cat walks. Quite a few members felt that they could not have the required stamina and dropped out. Every one going had to provide identity and date of birth two months in advance as security is very tight. The weather stayed fine and after an exhausting detailed introduction of nuclear power were surprised at the complexity the equipment that produces our energy.

October The group led by Hazel and Beryl will be visiting Ixworth house this month there are already a lot of names of members anticipating a good day as it will be the last for this season

November Our programme meeting at Woodfield bowls club in November so make a note now and bring your ideas for 2014

Harold Turner

01449 676 882

Keep Fit

Pauline Taylor 01449 678 954
happytapper@madasafish.com



Memoirs Group

The group continues to flourish with just a few of us. We would be very pleased to welcome some newcomers to the group. I know that writing about yourself can be difficult but once you get started it is surprising how the memories flood back and just ask to be written down. Why not have a go? Just ring me and have a chat.



Pat Smith 01449 675 568

Myths & Legends

It is wonderful to see so many new faces and more to come. It will most certainly make our existence as a group more worthwhile. It does, however, raise a problem with accommodation where we now meet and so we are researching the possibilities of finding a new meeting place and we will inform all members when we have struck lucky and made a firm decision.



Philip Weir 01449 676 528

The New Photography Group

We are now getting into our stride with some 10 members in the group. Each month we each prepare a set of photographs on a 'topic for the month' given at the previous meeting.



For our first full meeting in June, when Roy Fidler took us through 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.

Following on for July we critically appraised each other's 'Landscape' pictures and Roy showed some simple editing techniques as to how they may be improved. Some unusual aspects of 'Stowmarket' were looked at in August.

For unavoidable reasons our September session had to be cancelled with our 'Summer' theme being carried over until October.

Our meetings are at my house in Bacton, 2.00pm the afternoon of the third Tuesday of the month..

Peter Dakeyne peter@dakeyne.com 01449 781 562

Play Reading Group

The Play Reading group meets on the 4th Monday in the month, at 18 Edinburgh Close Stowmarket.. New members will be very welcome



At our first meeting in September we read Abigail's Party by Mike Leigh, an acerbic comic drama about a neighbours' get-together in suburbia. While teenager Abigail throws her first party at home, two doors away her parents and some neighbours get together for what should be a civilised drinks party. But as more and more alcohol is imbibed, and tongues are loosened, snobberies and prejudices are aired and disaster is sure to ensue.

At our meeting on Oct 28th we shall start to read Journeys End by Rob Sherriff a play set towards the end of the first world war

Helen Freeman 01449 613 060

Playwrights Study Group

Our study of the life of Bertolt Brecht continues to fascinate us as we grapple with the question "Is it possible to live a 'good' life in a corrupt society?"



In October, we will see a performance of Brecht's 'The Good Person of Sechzuan' at The Mercury Theatre, Colchester. Brecht himself does not answer this question. We must all decide for ourselves.

As our group now has 12 members, we feel we have reached our maximum number for active participation in group discussion and theatre outings. However, there are more U3A members interested in joining us. I have the names of 6 people eager to meet and I am happy to assist in the setting up of a second group. Tony Taylor, our Groups Co-ordinator, will also be happy to give support and advice.

If you have an interest in the theatre and would like to investigate and research the lives of the playwrights, please phone me. I will aim to hold a meeting in November to get potential new group members together. A new group would, of course, take on its own identity and would be free to choose its own style and content.

Helen Barrett 01449 676491

Poetry Group

The long running U3A Poetry Group, hosted so well by the inimitable Sheila Dobby, has started its Autumn/Winter season. The first session was spent looking at the sonnet form, how it developed and continues to develop, over the ages. The following session was used to look at the sonnets of Shakespeare, including the enigmatic focus of who Shakespeare wrote them to. Both sessions were led



interestingly and well by individual members of the group.

The next session is dedicated to poetry from Suffolk and poetry about Suffolk. Other planned themes include: MORE WOMEN POETS (please note the MORE!), a Scottish poet, METAPHYSICAL POETRY, HUMOROUS VERSE, and the theme of CHANGE.

The poetry group is very full. Sheila Dobey has been trying assiduously to get a second group started. If you are interested please contact Sheila directly on 01449 677265. or

Janifer Adams 01449 615 581
Helen Freeman 01449 613 060

Town and Village History

On behalf of all the members I would like to thank Terry and Mollie for taken charge of the Town and



Village group for the last 6 years. A very hard act to follow. An insight into the program of 2013.

March. Abbots Hall this was enjoyed by a very good number of members. Thank you Jackie.

April. Clifford Road Air Raid Shelter, what an experience it brought back some memories of the time. To think it has been hidden beneath a Suffolk School playground. Well done Harold. Lets hope for some more great inspiration's for 2014.

May. Sutton Hoo, Woodbridge An Anglo-Saxon Burial site, you never know what more finds there is in Suffolk. Well set out and explained clearly. Over 25 members came.

June. Pakenham Church and Pakenham Wind Mill. Ian Hooper organised this and what a good job it done lots of information a great full day for all.

July. Woolpit Museum and Church. Top marks for Mike Hitchcock, well thought out and a very good lunch. It is good when you can learn some history about one of you local villages.

September. Flatford Mill Dedham. What a hot day it was! A guide took us to the places were Constable painted some of the painting's that we see today. It is very interesting, I think, to go somewhere that you could go back to for another visit. Thank you Connie I do know how much hard work that is put into this.

October. Rougham Town Museum There were 25 members for this visit, what a place - if you did not come you missed out on a treat. Thank you Terry for another great success.

THE MEETING TO DISCUSS NEXT YEAR'S PROGRAMME is on 6th February 2014 at the Woodfield Bowls Club, Lockington Drive 10.15am. This is open to anyone who is interested in the Town & Village Group. Please bring your inspirations with you so that

we can make next year as good as this one. angela.bentley@mypostoffice.co.uk. 01449 780 274

Luncheon Clubs

Angela Bentley 01449 780 274
Pauline Taylor 01449 678 954
Brian O'Shea 01449 614 129



Scrabble Groups

Hilary Plummer 01449 612 463
Sheila Dobey 01449 677 265

U3A Suffolk & District Network

Sally Taylor 01449 771 168 or
Philip Weir 01449 676 528

U3A Central Office

The Secretary, Brian O'Shea, 01449 614 129

U3A On Line Courses

I have successfully registered for access to all the U3A Australia online courses for a fee of 25 Australian dollars (£15.22)

There is a wide variety of courses, the fee giving access to all courses for a year.

I am hoping to do the course on Modern China " From Mao to Now". The course material looks excellent.

This is a lot less expensive than enrolling for evening classes with no travelling involved.

If others are interested in following this course or others, maybe we could arrange to share ideas either by email or in person.

Helen Barrett 01449 676491

So you think you know English

Normal (17th C from Latin via French) rectangular. Perpendicular.

Paraphernalia (17th C Ancient Greek) articles of personal property which the law allows a married woman to regard as her own property.

Algebra (14th C from Arabic via Medieval Latin) the reunion of broken parts.

Aftermath (16 C) after mowing (i.e. The second crop of grass in autumn.

Sky (13th C from old Norse) a cloud.

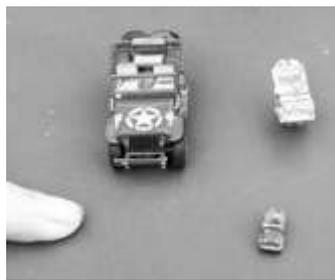
Aloof (nautical 16th C) windward.

Rostrum (16th C from Latin) a bird's beak; then from the orator's platform in the Roman Forum which was adorned with the prows of captured ships.

Mawkish (17th C) from a maggot; nauseated.

The Recent Visit to Rougham Airfield Museum

Some of those people and things seen there!



Stowmarket U3A Christmas Lunch 2013

Date: Wednesday 18th December
Venue: URC Hall, 12.00pm for 12.30pm
Ticket Price: **£17.00** per person (held from last year!)

Menu

Prawn Cocktail
or
Cream of Vegetable soup
or
Goats Cheese & Walnut Salad with Raspberry dressing

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Traditional Roast Turkey
Chipolata sausage
Stuffing
Cranberry sauce
or
Stilton Mushroom & Spinach Wellington
served with a three cheese sauce

Both the above served with roast potatoes & a selection of vegetables

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Homemade Christmas pudding with Brandy butter & cream
or
Baked Vanilla Cheesecake with Mango & Passion fruit sauce
or
Cheese selection & biscuits

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Coffee & Mints
Homemade Mince pies

Places are limited so please book early.....

Reservations can be made at the October meeting or by email to peter@dakeyne.com. Tickets will be available at the November meeting.

GROUP COORDINATORS REPORT

Exciting times! The membership of Stowmarket U3A is burgeoning. With this comes the request for more groups. Sadly, we lost the GEOLOGY and the ARCHITECTURE groups as the convenor moved away from the area. But, we now have a PAINTING FOR FUN group, a KNIT & NATTER group, the chance of a second PLAYWRIGHT'S group, and also of a second POETRY group. If you are interested in any of these please get in touch and I will pass on the request. If you know the convenor of these embryonic groups though, please contact them directly. They will know more about it than me!

Many thanks to all the Group Convenors who turned out for the AGM & GROUPS DAY at Hillside to present the activities of your groups. It seemed to go well, although I was a little distracted at times and didn't get a chance to speak to everyone. Thank you again for your efforts. Unfortunately, a few people again went to the United Reform Church for the meeting, despite all our publicity and efforts to communicate the venue. It was our second year at Hillside.

Tony Taylor

Some pictures of our excursion to Cambridge in August

