



STOWMARKET AND DISTRICT LEARNING ACTIVITIES IN RETIREMENT

U3A

(UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE)

Registered Charity No.1002987

Newsletter No 2

November 2002

From the Chairman - Don Marper

Our first newsletter, produced in July, was well received and augers well for the future editions. Many thanks to you all for the feedback received.

In September our AGM was held with four members of the committee standing down. I appreciate their contribution, as I am sure we all do, and on behalf of everyone, I say "Thank you" to Eric Adamson, Rose Emond, Sheila Henry and Christine Law.

Our new season of group activities, and a very interesting and diverse program of lectures is now in progress. I am sure members will participate and enjoy all that is available.

I am always pleased to see our monthly meetings so well attended, and particularly the socialising afterwards over a cup of tea.

The new Committee for 2002/3 :-

Chairman	Don Marper	
Vice-Chairman	To be appointed at the next Committee	
Secretary	Philip Weir	
Treasurer	Sheila Dobey	
Membership Secretary	Mavis Healey	
Programme Secretary	Ann Watsham	Harold Turner
Committee Members :-	Muriel Killett	Pat Leon
	Mike Hitchcock	Ray Watsham

Warning !! (only for late arrivals to the monthly meeting !!)

Should you be unlucky and find the entrance door closed and locked, then **Please** ring the bell to be found beside the door. We will be only too pleased to let you in, even if late. You see, for security reasons we must fasten that door when we are inside the hall.

This Year so far :-

June - Eric Adamson organised for us a bus trip : firstly to the new Sutton Hoo exhibition, where we also were given a talk and slide show by the Property Manager, Kate Sussams for the National Trust ; secondly followed by a lunchtime visit to Aldeburgh, calling in at Snape on the way home. This was adjudged by everyone to have been a most satisfactory day's outing and Eric was thanked accordingly.

July - Mr William Tyler came and gave us a lecture entitled 'With My Little Stick of Rock'. This proved to be a rather nostalgic and humorous look at Suffolk and Essex sea-side resorts over the past years since we were children. He also drew attention to and praised the sea-side architecture, something we usually overlook !

August - Unfortunately I was away in Canada and so missed this meeting, however I have been reliably informed that the talk given by our local photographer, Mr Rolls was not only extremely interesting but also amusing. He covered aspects of relaxing his subjects and ways of constructing the presentation to create natural and satisfying portraits of both family and pets. It was also nice to know that Don, our Chairman was back and looking well after his hospital visits.

September - This month we held our annual AGM and were pleased to see our chairman, Don, back from a rather stressful summer of hospital visits and we all hope that he is now over the worst. The AGM ran as expected with the usual reports and no contentious matters arising. We were sorry to see four members of the committee resigning, namely Christine Law, Sheila Henry, Rose Emond and Eric Adamson and the Chairman took the opportunity to thank them for all the work that they had done in the past. Four new nominations were received and they have been deemed to have been elected. So the new committee members are Ann Watsham, Pat Leon, Muriel Killett and Mike Hitchcock and we welcome them onto our committee. This was followed by a slide show and talk given by the Watshams on their visit to Brazil to see the Pantanal swamp area and the Iguazu waterfalls. The amount of colourful flora and fauna to be seen was quite remarkable, but the intrepid travellers crossing all of seventeen bridges along a lengthy dirt road in their tourist coach where the standard procedure was dismount check that the planks were in the right place for the bus wheels, watch the bus cross gently and then follow on foot, just have to be admired for their resilient bravery. Their impression of the Falls

was that they out shone and were more impressive than either the Zambezi or Niagara. Bravo !!

October - Mr Basil Abbot from Diss dressed in full uniform of a Toastmaster gave an illuminating and amusing talk on the origins, dress and duties of a Toastmaster and included many personal anecdotes on the vagaries of human behaviour, especially at wedding receptions. These keep him busy each Saturday through the eight month season.

And now, for :-

November - "The A to Z of Christmas Traditions". This will be the title of a talk by Mrs Helen Scott-Davies, in which we hope to learn many of the reasons for why we do the things we do in the month of December !!

December - After a computer slide quiz on Suffolk put on by the members of the computer group we will indulge once again a 'Xmas bun fight'. The organising ladies will let us know what items they would like us to contribute to the festivities at the November meeting.

January - Israel is very much in the news now and Mrs Charmaine Kenton hopes to put things in proper perspective in a talk entitled 'Life in modern Israel' from her own personal experience.

February - Mr Tom Tyler has developed a strong reputation for his humorous dissertation on 'The History of Jigsaws'. When I was a very small boy, my father used to make for me hand cut jigsaws of that famous 'Pears' soap advertisement. So I, for one, am looking forward to this talk with much anticipation.

March - Mr Richard Smith's talk on "The Thames Barge in Suffolk" will interest not only us but also those ex-Londoners who now live here in beautiful rural Suffolk. For who fails to enjoy the sight of sailing craft along our shores.

April - Perhaps I am fortunate for I have already heard Mr David Mitchell, the Mid-Suffolk Environment Officer giving his talk on 'Trees and the Law' and I look forward to hearing it again since it was so important and fascinating to learn how and why the regulations affect us all.

May - Mr Clive Payne is a most noteworthy and respected historian, whose lectures always draw huge crowds. On this occasion his subject is 'The Rise and Fall of Felixstowe and Lowestoft as Coastal Resorts'.

Best come early to book your seat !!

June - An outing to the Elvedon Estate has been agreed in principle with Viscount Iveagh (Ned Guinness) who has expressed his pleasure in inviting us to see around his estate. Before details are discussed and arranged he has asked whether there are any particular interests we would like covered as he has many knowledgeable staff there to help. So please let me know if there is anything you would like to be shown or explained. In return for this generous offer I trust that there will be great support for the outing when we can get down to the nitty-gritty of actually organising it. More news later.

July - Mrs Linda Scoles, a well known and popular entertainer means to get us all nostalgic with songs and stories from the days of yore, and hopefully get us to remember some happy events from our younger years.

Activity Groups -

It looks as if we are getting off to a good start this autumn and it seems that we will have at least two revivals and three new groups. Not only that but at least two are considering widening their scope of interest. Also as I have already told you Kate Riddleston has suggested hosting a 'Patchwork and/or Quilting' group to run as a social sewing Bee : so have a word with her and enjoy getting together with busy needles. Is this not great news ? Thank you all for your help and encouragement !!!

Archive Films - Eric Adamson (01449 676 446)

On the 4th. Monday of the month our group delves into the past and spends a pleasant afternoon watching Videos - such as :-
The Life and travels of John Betjeman ; A working year on a farm with horses ; The trams of Blackpool ; London in the Blitz and indeed many more. To find out more please ring me, Eric as above.

Birds, Bees & Butterflies - Who is interested ? Janet and Alan Sparrow will re-launch the Bird Group if there is enough interest, but why don't we widen the interest to include other forms of Wild Life ? What is your particular interest, and could you contribute to a Wild Life Group ? If so, please phone us on 01359 241 968, or email on aljanspa@nascr.net, and we will arrange an informal session to get things started. Please remember, however, you must be prepared to contribute !

I know that there are many of you who have expressed your interest to me (Philip) and I hope that you will support this effort. I think the informal session will be in December. Thanks Alan & Janet.

Computer - The group continues to flourish with recent new members bringing our numbers up to thirty. Our program has included visits from Patrick Halpin, who showed slides of his visit to Cambodia processed in Adobe Photoshop and MS PowerPoint and Joan Seaborn led us through desk top publishing using MS Publisher. A member's session included a video visit to Singapore, advice on computer safety and an introduction to a CD Rom on a village in Mexico. The visit from Keith Paterson, well known through his Silverhairs website, attracted large numbers. His encouragement to all retired folks to use computers and the Internet was humorously endorsed by his 90-year-old companion.

Future large group meetings include the return of Alan Simpson to help us with mail merge and labels, after which Fred Stilwell will suggest ways of creating Christmas cards. Our December meeting will see the results of our Christmas efforts presented by our members. In the New Year programs on words and pictures will be interspersed with sessions on scanning and presentation.

We contributed an exhibition and PowerPoint presentation at the U3A AGM and are planning a Suffolk quiz for the December meeting.

We meet on the second Monday of each month usually at the Woodfield Bowls Club and on the fourth Monday in the newly constituted small groups in members' homes. We meet from 10.00-12.00 and many of us lunch together at the Magpie afterwards. Do join us whether you are experienced or not.

Wendy Morgan: 01473 824237

Country Strolls - Since our July report, we have walked the countryside around the villages of Felsham, Walsham-le-Willows, Bacton, Wetherden, Battisford and Gt. Ashfield and a whole day out walking the Orwell Country Park at Ipswich, enjoying a picnic lunch and then taking in the spectacular views of the Orwell Bridge while walking along the foreshore.

We send our best wishes to Rosetta, who has moved to Norfolk and



hope that she settles in well there.

Walks are on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month from 2 to 4pm and cover some 3 to 4 miles finishing with a friendly 'cuppa' at a convenient Tea shop or hostelry.

Creative Writing - Pat Smith (01449 675 568)

Unfortunately this group had shrunk to only a few members, but there has been quite some interest shown by new members to our U3A and so we are hopeful that Pat can succeed in getting this group working again, as it has great potential, but naturally needs our support to stay in business.

3D Decoupage - this group has got going again after the summer break and Liz is broadening the scope of the work to include more craft skills allied to the original production of decoupage cards etc..

French Revision - Mavis Healey (01449 711 515)

We have just finished a course which took the form of reading a French detective play, which we all found most enjoyable.

We are now starting a new course of holiday French concentrating on conversation and pronunciation. Anyone who wishes to join us would be most welcome.
Hilda Williams

Music Appreciation (1) -Eric Adamson (01449 676 446)

Meeting on the second Tuesday of each month we explore and listen to all kinds of music, from the very unusual to the more popular and well known favourites : an eleven piece orchestra consisting entirely of ukuleles : the best of a piece of Irish dance music : the choir of King's College, Cambridge singing 'Zadok, the Priest' : the band of the Royal Marines playing 'Colonel Bogey' : Kathleen Ferrier singing 'Blow the wind southerly'. These are just a few of the pieces that have been played recently.

At the moment we have as many members in the group as we can manage, but if you would like more information please contact me as above and I will do my best to be helpful.

Music appreciation (2) - Connie Ruegg (01449 674 673)

There seems to be a little problem with getting this group really going, we still only have a couple of members attending, and there is room for at least 8-10. In an effort to alter this situation it has been suggested that Monday is perhaps not the best day. The dates for the rest of 2002 are - Monday 8th November, and because of Christmas, Monday the 9th of December and begin-

ning in January we will meet on the third Thursday each month commencing 16th January 2003.

Poetry - A Love of Words -

I have been a member for the last six months, and have enjoyed every minute of being lost in words and emotions. The themes are chosen by one and all, be it John Keats or Spike Milligan. The group averages seven people each fortnight, Thursdays 2- 4 pm. A favourite poem, a memory trip, a laugh at humorous lines and nonsense words. It's all included !!

A precious time for self-expression - 'to be one's self'. A continuous adventure. Most of all, I value the friendship, the research ; the presentation; and the knowledge. Everyone has a chance to speak, listen, or share. The only requisite needed is an 'open mind'.

Our leader doesn't need praise, but her preparation of work and poetry, and tapes are jewels that shine ! Audrey N. Glavey

Town & Village History - Elizabeth Gray (01449 678 853)

This has been a very well supported group in the past and there is a keen group wishing to get this going in the spring. It is hoped to organise a get together in December to welcome everyone interested and to plan a program for 2003.

Discussion Group - This group has started again with a very lively chat, on this occasion wondering whether democracy impedes progress or not. The ten of us ranged over a very wide field and not only were we serious but also had a great deal of fun. Should this group grow any bigger we shall be obliged to find a larger venue. The subject for December is 'Do clothes maketh the man/woman ?'.

Myths & Legends - Kate Riddleston (01449 612 871)

Kate very kindly has offered to host this new group and we had our first meeting and agreed to continue on the first Monday afternoon of the month. There were only four at our initial get-together and the concensus of opinion was to pick a subject to research each month and then to compare our findings at our next meeting. December's subject will be 'Hereward the Wake'.

Wartime Suffolk - Muriel Killett (01449 676 139)

Muriel is getting this group together and hopes to arrange their first meeting very soon. She is in the process of contacting those who have ex-

pressed interest to organise this first meeting. Best wishes for a successful outcome.

Gardens and Other Things - Harold Turner (01449 676 882)

He is hoping to get the first meeting of this group off the ground in December, at which time the wishes of the first members will be sounded out as to what they would like best to do. Good luck with this venture.

We welcome the support of David, of 'PC Solutions' with this advertisement to the right. He has supplied equipment and helped many of us to solve our computer problems.

I know that he will be only too pleased to help any of us but **PLEASE** let him know that you are from Stowmarket U3A when you ask him for advice and/or help.

Clementine Churchill said to her daughter -

“ Things are only as boring as you chose to make them”.

Ain't that just so !!!

This cartoon caught my eye last summer whilst visiting Canada, surely none of us could possibly be as bad a this.

I hope not !!

Next Issue - This will be in February and all contributions should be with me no later than at the January monthly meeting !!



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