



STOWMARKET AND DISTRICT LEARNING ACTIVITIES IN RETIREMENT



(UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE)

Registered Charity No. 1002987

Newsletter No 9

February 2005

From the Chairman - Pat Smith :-

Dear Friends

What an enjoyable and friendly meeting we had in January. Ann Watsham, our Programme Secretary, always manages to find us such entertaining speakers. It was good to see so many of you there; I began to wonder if we were going to have enough room. New members are joining us each month, which is very encouraging.

I do try and greet as many of you as I can when you arrive but with the growth in our numbers I am finding this increasingly difficult. I wonder if there are any of you who would like to take on the small task of welcoming people? If you would like to help please let me know and we can discuss how this can be organised.

Beside the educational part of our organisation there is also the significant exchange of ideas and information within the groups and also very important, is our coming together at the monthly meetings. I am sure you will always find that there is someone to talk to. Now that we are growing so fast I am finding it difficult to maintain contact with everyone. If you know of someone who is ill or needing help in some way or perhaps if they would just appreciate a short chat please tell me. I know from experience that a telephone call can help reassure people that they are not forgotten. You may question if this is part of my job or indeed whether any of us should get involved. What do you think? I would like to know.

You will be interested to hear that a "Keep Fit" group has been formed and will start at the end of this month. Thank you Pauline for getting it off the ground. Pauline has all the details if you would like to join. There has been an excellent response from our ladies and I am told that men are also welcome! I wonder if I dare put in an appearance. There will be plenty of laughs I am sure.

Finally I hope you will join with me in wishing Mavis Healey a speedy recovery from her hip operation.

Pat Smith

As Secretary I thought that I knew quite a lot about the U3A, but this last eight months have opened my eyes to a lot more of the huge range of interests and support that is available to anyone who wishes to get involved in this most wonderful organisation. It is yours !! Why not make more use of it and also, of course, invite your friends and acquaintances to join us. When we think that this is a self-help organisation, in which we help one another - Well, the fund of latent talent out there is enormous !! I have been delighted to see that our groups are well attended and growing both in number and also in interests. I have seen the programmes for this year for the 'Garden & Things', 'Computer' and the 'Town & Village History' Groups and they are quite exciting and their Organisers must be congratulated for their efforts and indeed their obvious success in stimulating such enthusiasm.

I am considering organising an outing to Norwich, with Galloways, in the late spring or early summer - primarily to visit the Castle in some detail. However, my idea is that we would travel together and do our own thing whilst there. Please let me know if you might be interested so that I may estimate the chances of the trip being worth while (number wise) Again IF this worked out I might try something else later. So, lets see if we can make this the best U3A in this part of the world.

Philip Weir

Since the last Newsletter :-

October:-

Unfortunately Mr Tom Tyler was taken ill and could not attend, however, we were very lucky to have Ann and Ray Watsham ready and prepared to stand in to give us an illustrated talk on their recent visit to the Azores. These Portuguese islands situated in the mid-Atlantic, and of volcanic origin looked wonderful, though the hillsides proved to be very steep and rough underfoot. Even so, it was obvious that their holiday had been greatly enjoyed and we were very impressed.

November:-

Mr Geoff Clarke put on a wonderful archive film show for us. Stowmarket and of course Suffolk featured with scenes from the fairly early 1900's right up to about the 1970's. Nostalgic for our 'natives' and fascinating for the 'incomers'.

December:-

Once again we were entertained by our own members, and how wonderful that was! Those that were brave enough to perform earned and deserved special acclaim. The 'bun-fight' put on a very appetising display for us to eat and it disappeared like magic! Two criticisms were heard - that the sweet out numbered the savoury and that no account had been made of special dietary needs. When one realises that all of this spread was generously given by many individual members, those ideas whilst true in practice, are perhaps a little un-kind and lacking in thought.

January:-

Stuart Bowell gave another of his marvelously entertaining talks, this time on 'The Suffolk Dialect'. Drawing from ancient times and especially the invasion and influence of the Angles he showed a masterly understanding of the origins of words and expressions that we are liable to class as lazy talk, bad grammar or other form of supposed ill education, without truly realising how much we have lost over the years of a rich heritage of words and language. A truly humorous and memorable talk.

And now for :-

February:-

Mrs Desiree Shelley in her talk 'From Nursing to Herbalism' will be touching on what is today a hugely topical subject and one that many people have very strong views.

March:-

'A Closer Look at East Anglian Bricks' may seem a rather small and narrow subject, but a close look at nearly any building will show that Mr Roger Kennell will have an immense canvass form which to draw and will, I am sure, open our eyes to new wonders

April:-

'From Pyramids to Penicillin' ! Can you think of a wider range to draw from ? Mr Trevor Anderson's talk should enthral us.

May:-

Back to Egypt with a talk from Mr Chris Parfitt on 'The Land of the Pharaohs', but with a totally different theme.

June:-

This year our June outing will be to the garden of our members, where we hope to enjoy a nice sunny afternoon and some pleasant entertainment. More information will be given later.

Activity groups :-

Archive Film :-

We meet on the 4th Monday of the month from 2.30 to 4.30 pm. We have been watching :-

'The building of the London Underground'

'The way we were' and 'The Lancashire Cotton Industry'.

We hope to watch 'The Music, memories and Milestones of the I940's'.

There are 'Posh' refreshments in the interval !

Eric Adamson 01449 676 446



Computer Group:-

Our membership continues to be around thirty. If we grow any more we are liable to expand beyond the Woodfield Bowls Club. At present we continue to be very cosy there thanks to the hospitality of Harold and Irene and the blackout provided by Roy. Have you noticed it is always sunny on the second Monday in the month? We meet from 10.30 – 12.00 and all are welcome to join us whether experienced or beginner computer users.

On the third Monday each month Marian continues to guide us through the Intermediate stage of The European Driving License for Computing. We are now finding that even experienced MS Word users are learning new tricks. We are very grateful to Marian for the huge amount of preparation this course entails and to Mike and Mary for their comfortable hospitality.

Several small groups continue to function meeting usually on the fourth Monday. Expertise in the use of Adobe Photoshop is expanding rapidly due to the sterling work of Roy and Alan. Grateful thanks to all leaders who share their expertise with members.

At our general meeting in October Marian reminded us of safety features as well as housekeeping activities which we should activate on our computers. Philip took us through some interesting features of the use of scanners and their associated programs in November. He will continue with this subject in March.

Our Christmas meeting produced the usual crop of cards, calendars, slide show presentations and other seasonal goodies, but as usual the standard and variety was greater than ever before. This year we had in addition a computer generated presentation box and a quilted hanging derived from a computer image. Congratulations all round. For a change we decided on a Christmas buffet at The Cedars Hotel, held on a separate day from our meeting. A custom which may well continue.

The New Year began with Alan Simpson providing detailed information about printers, ink cartridges and paper. Much food



for thought there. We look forward to Alan Dench's group in February giving us Variations on a Computer.

Finally thanks to generous contributions from the group £140 was sent to Christian Aid for training young people in Africa computer skills and the sale of notelets has started a U3A fund for tsunami relief in SE Asia.
Wendy Morgan 01473 824 237

Card Craft Group:-

Whilst we remain a small group and deal mainly with greeting cards of one form or another, the skills and techniques used have grown enormously. Although Christmas time is the most favoured for sending cards, yet there are so many other appropriate occasions that they are most useful - Birthdays, Easter, Thank You's, Invitations and Congratulations to mention but a few.
Liz Weir 01449 676 528



Democracy and Election Systems:-

The Group has been discussing some new ideas for electoral systems for ethnically divided countries, in particular for Iraq. New members to the Group are very welcome. To take part, you don't need expertise on electoral systems, just interest. Contact :-
David Chapman on 01449 736 223,
or write to him at Coles Farm, Buxhall,
Stowmarket IP14 3EB.



Discussion Group:-

Whilst this group continues to explore many different subjects and to enjoy the free exchange of views and opinions, we would love to see more members taking advantage of the opportunity to discuss in an open and friendly way those things that have stirred our imagination. This is a truly unique setting for the airing and querying in a sensible way those (sometimes) awkward or non-PC subjects.
Philip Weir 01449 676 528



Entertainment (Theatrical):-

Music - covers all tempos played on many instruments. It forms the background for all forms of dance and the human voice. Grand Opera was started in Italy in the late 1500's. This led to operetta and many musicals, for stage and film.

Theatre on Stage - This started with ancient Greek Drama in an open air theatre. Now theatres are grand buildings with many aids to enhance the enjoyment for the audience and the artists.

Variety - started with the Music Hall, and now covers all forms of the performing arts, including Circus, Cabaret and Ice-Shows.

Cinema - A great form of popular entertainment, started in the 1900's. Film can capture all indoor and outdoor entertainment. Every second Monday in the month our group enjoys together all forms of these forms of artistic expression, along with a cup of tea.

Joan Varley 01449 612 676



Genealogy Group:-

A few words of warning, when looking for a descendant never stick to the spelling of the surname. Years ago people could not spell unsurely it was only the vicar, that could read and write, and when baby was baptised he would ask the mother it's name, and this is when many surnames came to be spelt wrongly. It was the way it was spoken.

In my own family, my mother's maiden name was Poulter, her father was Bertie Poulter and his father Walter Poulter. Then things changed, Poulter became Pouter and in 1781 to Powter.

When looking at parish records, look at the surnames carefully for spelling mistakes. This also applies to Christian names, Grandfather was always known as William but could have been registered as George.



Thorpe Morieux
1786-1864

Gardens and Things:-

Programme for 2005

The group meet in November 2004 to discuss the possibilities for the coming year and came up with a number of possible venues. It was also decided to have a late Christmas lunch after the 20th January, a get-together at the Woodfield Bowls Club, and to meet again in February to confirm the plans for the season.

The rest of the programme will not be ready until February when the full picture will be confirmed, but from the tentative plans in the pipeline it looks a very promising and active year for us all.

There is also an outside chance of a party visit to the Kentish 'Gardens of England' in May/June for four days to see some of the hidden wonders of this much neglected corner of our green and pleasant land. I have already been in contact with tour operators for information and prices, more news later.

Harold Turner 01449 676 882



Grub Club:-

Our meal at The White Hart Inn at Blythburgh was successful in spite of poor weather which clouded the spectacular view over the estuary. After lunch Pat Leon provided a guided tour of the superb church known as the Cathedral of the Marshes and famous for its wonderful angel ceiling which fortunately survived the Reformation.

Christmas Lunch at The Froise Inn at Chillesford for the second year running proved enormously popular. We filled the dining room which was opened especially for us on a Monday. Such was the demand that some members were disappointed. Perhaps the U3A would care to arrange a Christmas lunch that all members can attend next year.

The Grub Club is well established now and very popular. Unfortunately I can no longer continue to organise its meetings due to my husband's ill health. I feel sure there will be someone who can take on the pleasant task of sampling and proposing venues for future lunch events.

Wendy Morgan 01473 824 237



Keep-fit :-

Wonderful News !!

This new venture is getting off to a great start. Nearly twenty members have undertaken to support Pauline and Madelaine in their efforts to keep us fit and active in the most enjoyable way. This will take place on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 2.00 pm in the school buildings in Childer Road. For more information contact :-

Pauline Taylor 01449 678 954



It's News time!

*You'll know him by his Irish grin,
His winning ways,
His words, ideas, even lays.*

So Beware! Beware!

*And Philip we oblige with just one more
Bit of "Highbrow Jargon".*

An Epigram (by the master poet, Alexander Pope, Engraved on the collar of a dog he presented to His Highness Prince Fredrick)

I am His Highness' dog at Kew

Pray tell me Sir, whose dog are you?

Music Appreciation (1):-

STOP PRESS LATEST NEWS

And any other attention compelling phrases !!

We now meet on the 3rd Tuesday in the month and **NOT** the Monday anymore.

Still the usual time 10.00 to 12.00 am .

The music we have played recently included :- The New Pizzicato with the Vienna Philharmonic, World famous Arias, with voices such as Leontyne Price, Placido Domingo etc. and Songs from the Shows, also Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto.

Again, 'POSH' refreshments are on offer at half time.

Eric Adamson 01449 676 446



Just shows how mundane Poets and Poetry reading groups can be. But if you want to get to know us better just ring me :-

Sheila Dobey 01449 677 265

Town and Village History:-

After a great season last summer and our winter break a full programme of outings has been planned for 2005. We will meet as usual on the 1st Thursday morning of the month at 10.00am and usually at the Solar Car Park.

This season opens with an outing to Eye on the 3rd of March and is being organised by Anna Pratt and Maureen Wright. See the Notice board.

Ann Watsham 01449 672 706



Myths and Legends:-

This year we have expanded our interests to be more of a 'Story-telling' Group, rather than to be strictly M & L. This has proved to be more popular and has given us a lot of fun. We wish to pursue and develop this aspect of our endeavours for the rest of this year and in the next. If the idea appeals, why not join us and share in our fun?

Philip Weir 01449 676 528



U3A Suffolk and District Network:-

Our Study Day at the High School was on Monday, but this is being written too early for a report to be included here. However there will be one in our next issue. At the time of writing this we are all quite excited about the event and expect it to be a great success. If it is, and we have another one next year perhaps more of you will support our efforts

Philip Weir 01449 676 528

Poetry:-

BEWARE!!

*Are you involved with a U3A study group;
If so Beware! Philip's on the prowl again;*



U3A Central Office News:-

As you will see from information on the **Notice Board** There are still a good number of vacancies for the Summer Schools - this year at both Chester and Cheltenham. I have been

told that they are very well run and good fun as well. Better still we will report on our experiences in the October edition of this paper as both Liz and I are already booked each to a different course! Why don't you try one out and see what you think ?

Also we've counted at least 26 U3A Travel Network Tours on offer now for this year from £ 289 for 5 days to £ 2,099 for 14 days. The great advantage of these holidays is that they are arranged especially for folks just like us (in our age range and like interests).

In November 2004 the number of U3As in Britain has risen to 550 with 142,075 members. So you can see how successful and popular our organisation is becoming. Perhaps you should tell your friends and encourage them to join in this marvelous enterprise.
Philip Weir 01449 676 528

For information on these study groups please contact the person named :-

Birds, Bees & Butterflies :-

Janet Sparrow 01359 241 968

Country Strolls :-

Joyce Walden 01449615 591 or
Joyce Markwell 01449 613 702

Music Appreciation (2)

Connie Ruegg 01449 674 673

Needle Craft Group:-

Alicia Beaton 01449 616 172

Scrabble Group :-

Sheila Dobey 01449 677 265 or
Maureen Wright 01449 711 455

I saw this Limerick recently and thought it worthy of note !!

The latest Government decree:

'Now work till at least 70.'

Your pension will stop

So work till you drop

Unless, of course, you're an MP.

"The Vagaries of English"

*We'll begin with box, the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox is oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
But the plural of moose should never be meese.*

*You may find a lone mouse, or a hole for mice,
The plural of house is houses, not hices;
If the plural of man is always men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be pen?
The cow in plural form is cows or kine,
But bow if repeated is never called bine.
If I speak of a foot and you show me two feet,
If I gave you a boot, would a pair be called beet?*

*If one is a tooth and the whole set is teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be beeth?
If the singular is this, the plural is these;
Shouldn't the plural of kiss be kesse?*

*Then one may say that, and two will be those,
Your hat in the plural would never be hose;
We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.*

*Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine she, shis, and shim.
So English, I think you will all agree,
Is the funniest language you ever did see.*

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.*

Bury St Edmunds U3A Study Day

We attended the Bury St Edmunds Study Day on Saturday November 6th. The subject was 'Food, Farming and the Environment - collaboration or conflict.' It was an interesting day which we shared not only with members of Bury U3A but also with members of East Suffolk, Colchester, Wissey, Haverhill, Sudbury, Huntingdon, and Witham & Braintree.

The first speaker Professor Tim Lang of City University, gave a most interesting talk on world food policies and their influence on the global food market along with the vested interests of supermarkets. He clearly demonstrated the implications of what we eat and the effect on public health worldwide. Tim Lang presented these issues in an exciting and challenging way - one of those 'not to be missed' talks. The second speaker was David Richardson OBE who is a founder member of LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming), a journalist, broadcaster and farmer. Again this was an interesting talk on the practicalities of farming today and the pressures of modern food production.

Group discussion followed lunch. We were placed in groups to discuss pre-determined questions relating to issues raised by the speakers. A plenary session summarised the views of the groups.

The day was well organised; the speakers and venue both excellent. The subject of food was important and interesting, both for the present time and for the future. Conflict or collaboration? The day highlighted the many conflicts present in food production and the need for continuing collaboration to resolve them.

Sally & Tony Taylor

Suffolk and District Study Day at the High School

This took place on Monday the 14th of February and unfortunately this had to go to press before that. We were expecting a very good day to the total satisfaction of everyone, however the report has to be delayed until our July issue of this paper.

Can you read this ?

Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at an Elingsh uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoetnt tihng is taht frist and lsat ltteer is at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a toatl mess and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae we do not raed ervey lteter by itslef but the wrod as a wlohe.

So you succeeded !! Isn't that amazing ? I for one would not have believed it possible, but there, we learn something new every day.

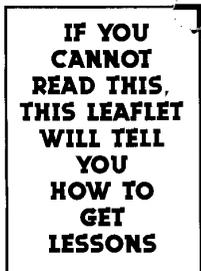
It was suggested to me that a list of the Committee members should be made available - so here goes :-

Chairman	Pat Smith	Other members :-
Secretary	Philip Weir	Harold Turner
Treasurer	Sheila Dobe	Mike Hitchcock
Membership Secretary	Muriel Killett	Lauretta Goldman
Programme Secretary	Ann Watsham	Ray Watsham
Regional Contact	Sally Taylor	

Just four of the world's stupidest signs that I have come across lately !!!



From the plastic cover of a child's surfboard



On a leaflet



In a toilet in a London office block



In a safari park

PROPER COFFEE

All I want is a proper cup of coffee
Fresh from a proper copper coffee pot
I may be off my dot,
But I want a cup of coffee
From a proper coffee pot.
Tin coffee pots, iron coffee pots,
They're no use to me,
If I can't have a proper cup of coffee
From a proper copper coffee pot –
I'll have a cup of tea!

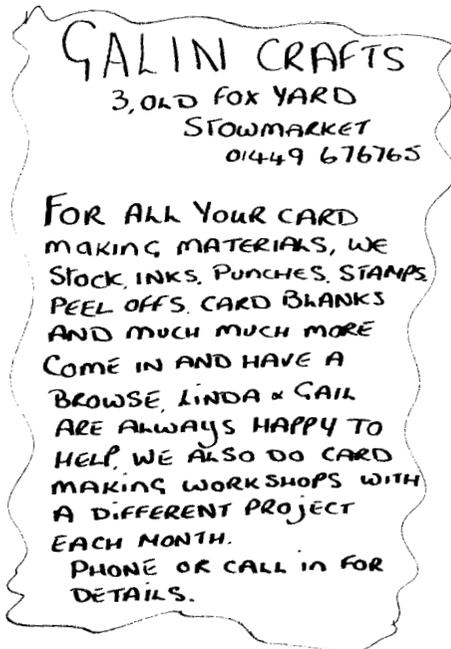
Credit Warning

***You ask for credit,
I say "No".
You get mad,
I give credit.
You no pay,
I get mad.
Better you get mad.***

- Confucius (c 557-479 BC)

I didn't know that Confucius was a shop keeper or small trader - did you??

In January falls the snow
In February cold winds blow,
In March peeps forth the early flowers
In April comes the sunny showers,
In May the roses bloom so gay
In June the farmers make the hay,
In July brightly shines the sun
In August harvest has begun,
September turns the green leaves brown
October winds will shake them down,
November days are dark and drear
December comes to end the year.



Edited by Philip Weir

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