



# STOWMARKET AND DISTRICT LEARNING ACTIVITIES IN RETIREMENT

**U3A**

(UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE)

Registered Charity No.1002987

## Newsletter No. 13

July 2006

### From the Chairman :-

Dear Friends

It is time for another article for the Newsletter. Philip has reminded me to have something ready by the end of this month and so I am going to make an early start.

Today is the 1<sup>st</sup> of June although it is more like the 1<sup>st</sup> of March and we have turned the heating up! I had planned to do some gardening this morning but, yes you guessed it, it is raining. Nothing unusual about that considering what it has been like for the past few weeks.

Since the beginning of the year, we have had a series of excellent talks at our monthly meetings. The most memorable one for me was the talk by Mrs Sue Smart from Gresham School who took us back, so poignantly, to the horrors of the First World War with its loss of so many young lives. Ninety years later and we still see the loss of promising young lives in warfare.

The continued growth in our numbers will I hope see more of our newer members coming forward to assist in the running of our organisation. There is plenty of work to be done. We have one or two embryo groups emerging but they are still in need of leadership to get them off the ground and running. You will find details of them on the notice board. Should you be able to help please get in touch with either our Secretary Philip Weir or myself. The Computer and G&T groups are proving ever more popular thanks to their enthusiastic leadership.

As you were reminded at our May meeting we shall be holding our Annual General Meeting on September 20th There will be vacancies on the Management Committee to be filled following several resignations. Nominations can be accepted at the July meeting. I look forward to seeing you all there. By then my term as your Chairman will have run its course of three years and I shall be stepping down. How I have enjoyed it!

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### From the Secretary :-

Here we are again near the end of another academic year. It has been a good year with increasing membership and some new study groups to add to the existing list, which in their turn seem to be thriving and are well supported. Having said that we are reaching the perennial problem of people prepared to devote some time and effort to running the show. This September a large proportion of the committee have decided that they must resign (for a whole variety of personal and other reasons) and therefore we will need nominations for willing volunteers to become committee members.

It would be a great shame on us, and an insult to all those who have put such great effort into making this U3A the success that it has become. Without any doubt we would be

greatly missed if we were forced to close, for lack of willing volunteers to man the committee.

The committee meets but four times a year (on a Friday morning) for less than two hours on each occasion. So that is not too onerous an undertaking. The main work is at the monthly meetings, seeing that everything is in order, welcoming visitors and seeing that all is going as required.

All institutions are managed from the top down - but the U3A is different, we work from the bottom up. It was said that it could not be done, but it has and it works!

OK, so much for the lecture, lets look forward to another successful year, where we find out and learn more about many of the things, that interest us individually.

Philip Weir

## **Since the last newsletter :-**

### **March :-**

Mrs Monica Maxwell treated us to a talk on 'The S.O.E. In WWII'. She spoke for over an hour without notes, fascinating and gripping us with the tales of these most extraordinarily brave young women, many still in their teens. They were responsible for accurately deciphering life or death messages from our agents. The confidentiality of their work meant secrecy even from their family and closest friends. There was a display of photographs, newspaper articles, and books from the period for us all to see. She knew the names of many of the agents, especially as they had gone on to become well-known public figures, such as the actor Antony Quayle.

### **April :-**

'WWI and the boys from Gresham School' was the subject of the very moving and emotional talk given by Mrs Sue Smart, a teacher from that school. She managed to give a vivid picture of the underlying spirit and motivation engendered by the headmaster and his deep distress on learning of the loss of so many bright young men of whom he had such high hopes for their future.

Several private letters home or to the school were readout, illustrating the close ties of family and to comrades that prevailed amongst them to their eternal honour.

### **May :-**

Mr Trevor Anderson, a chemist gave us a succinct but enlightening history of our use of chemistry 'From Pyramids to Penicillin' It was quite astonishing how so many of the things that we take for granted grew from a study of the natural world about us. From all this grew the obvious conclusion that we need to nurture the maintenance and growth of our youths in the world of chemistry to sustain our standard of life.

### **June :-**

The trip out to Pensthorpe was very successful and every one seemed to enjoy it. We were very fortunate to have been allocated

one of Galloway's new Sapphire coaches and this was greatly appreciated by one and all. It was a fine day with sunshine and clouds, though quite breezy. The main complain seemed to be that the day passed too quickly.

### **And now for :-**

#### **July :-**

"Fetch a Pail of water" is the title of the talk to be given by Mr Patrick Denny. The title is intriguing don't you think ?

#### **August :-**

A trip out to Bletchley Park with full guided tour, lunch and refreshments. There are still plenty of spare seats and we need to have a largely full coach !!!! So if you haven't signed up yet please do - it is a snip at only £31.00 each.  
Philip Weir 01449 676 528

#### **September :-**

This is the AGM and there is a lot to sort out as we are getting appreciatively bigger than we have been, and we are in great need of new 'blood' for our committee etc.. This will be followed by a slide show.

#### **October :-**

Louise Brundall will be telling us about 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf'. As a follow-up to the talk on 'Sniffer dogs and drugs' this should prove equally fascinating.

### **Activity Groups :-**

#### **Archive Film :-**

We meet on the fourth Monday of most months from 2.30 to 4.30 pm with refreshments at half-time. Last month we had a trip on the Orient Express, and also saw the official film of the Coronation ceremony in Westminster Abbey. We still manage to do a bit of ploughing and sorting out of the horses. If you would like to help on this farm please ring -  
Eric Adamson 01449 676 446



## Art Appreciation :-

Listening, looking, responding to paintings is what the Art Appreciation Group is doing. It is about what you and I think - no right or wrong responses; but I for one learn much in the process and sometimes even change my first impressions of what I see.



The big thing about the Group - as in most U3A activities - is that there are no experts telling us what we should think. In fact, a number of us have had no prior experience of discussing Art in any form.

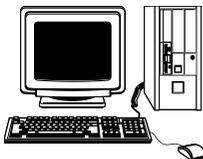
Now, it feels like just looking at a beautiful garden, person or scene and letting that beauty sink in deeply until, maybe "wow" or "it's lovely bu..." comes out.

At this point in time our choice of paintings comes from home grown - or nearly home grown Suffolk artists. So, the countryside, crafts and people we love - and for some remembered from childhood - are there in front of us as well as in our own memories.

Our normal meeting place is at No1 Danes Close; and our dates are the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 9.30 to 11.30am. But, like all good explorers we wander further afield from time to time. So far we have visited Gainsborough House in Sudbury and Christchurch Mansion in Ipswich. Our next trip is to The Munnings Museum in East Bergholt - "never 'eard of it" - well neither had I, nor indeed of Munnings; but what the heck! You live and learn and with a bit of luck feel younger for doing so. Sheila Dobey  
Tony Taylor 01449 771 168

## Computer Group:

Our monthly meetings have provided a wide variety of experiences in addition to the ongoing photography groups in Stowmarket and discussion and word processing groups in Hadleigh. The first three weeks in every month contain at least one and often two or three meetings of groups concerned with computing.



Three meetings have been held at the Parish Church Hall thanks to Pat Smith, which has made a change from our usual venue, Woodfield Bowls Club. We will be back in Lockington Road for the rest of the year. The larger hall enabled us to set up numerous laptop/notebook computers on two occasions making some hands on work possible.

In March we expected some expert help in using PowerPoint for presentations, but through illness I was forced to substitute a hastily designed session in which members attempted to create their own presentations after some minimal instruction. Working in groups around a laptop was a novelty, which I hope we shall exploit some more in future.

The April meeting attracted those interested in the insides of computers, when Richard Armitage told us how he had built his own and encouraged us to do likewise.

Marian took us through the process of mailmerging in May, to enable us to address envelopes and make labels for Christmas posting.

In June we again used multiple computers with seven presenters demonstrating or teaching ten minute sessions, as the group progressed from one to the next. There was a wide variety of topics covered. I hope this will encourage more presenters to come forward in the future. I would like to do another Merry-ground session next year.

I hope you are keeping up to date with our doings by visiting our web log or Blog. It can be found at <http://www.wendywhitecat.blogspot.com/>. You will find all that is going on there plus hints, tips and news items. Please visit regularly whether you are a member of the Computer Group or not..

Wendy Morgan 01473 824237  
wendy@paddocks9.plus.com



*For further information why not look up 'wendywhitecat' - see above for the full web address.- you just might be surprised!*

Editor

### Country Strolls:-

We are having good attendance this summer, and are enjoying the glorious weather.



Of special note is our annual whole day out, with a picnic "sandwiched" (pun) between an am. and pm. Walk. Bramford picnic site was our venue, and it was heavenly to skirt the field headlands, then the shady river path. Iris's labrador 'Tess' enjoyed a swim.

We welcome Margaret Seager who has recently joined us.

Dates remain the same I.e. 2nd & 4th Fridays of the month.

Joyce Walden 01449 615 591  
Joyce markwell 01449 613 702

### Card Craft Group:-

This group has expanded it's range of techniques and abilities quite considerably over the past year and is looking forward to expanding in the coming year after it's summer break. If you would like to learn how to make cards of all sorts, and using many different skills, please contact me.

Liz Weir 01449 676 528



### Democracy and Election Systems:-

We won't be holding a face-to-face meeting until October, but in the mean time, over the summer, we intend to function as a virtual group, communicating by email, and maybe ordinary mail. The topic to be discussed is a new electoral system for Northern Ireland, which is expected to produce an Assembly where the more extreme parties, the Sinn Fein and Paisley's DUP, get fewer seats than now, and the other parties, the more moderate ones in the centre of the political spectrum, get more seats, so that they can form a viable government coalition.

If you are interested, send me your email address if you have one, or your postal address.

David Chapman,



Coles Farm, Buxhall, Stowmarket, Suffolk  
IP14 3EB

Email

[chapman@democdesigforum.demon.co.uk](mailto:chapman@democdesigforum.demon.co.uk)

### Discussion Group:-

We have enjoyed a most stimulating season this year, covering a very wide range of subjects, both basic and topical. We resume on 12th September after a summer break. Our programme of subjects will be I hope at least as good as this years has been. New members will be welcomed, especially for their fresh input.

Philip Weir 01449 676 528



### Gardens and Things:-

This group is now so successful that it has at least 44 members and this is beginning to cause problems in it's management. We must consider the future, and this we will do in the autumn. In the interim Let us consider some options :-

- Split into two separate working groups
- Operate on two separate days, choosing which day or subject is of interest to you.
- Just limit the numbers on any one day.
- limit the number of members.
- Encourage a split to follow environmental aspect of our region.
- Split into two groups to run in parallel and to cover the same programme

These are some suggestions to be seriously thought about for our future wellbeing. As I will be proposed as the next Chairman (I've been told) we will need a new co-ordinator for the next season - volunteers (?) most urgently needed.

Harold Turner

01449 676 882



### Genealogy Group:-

This new group is getting off the ground and at it's first meeting there were twenty interested members present. It is planned to meet regularly



on the 2nd Tuesday afternoon of the month at 2.30pm. As yet no site has been agreed for these meetings and the matter is being researched to find an economical location. If you would like to join in with this group please contact :-

David Hopgood 01449 676 119 or  
Graham Boatfield 01449 720 416

### Keep Fit :-

U3A's exercise group is still going strong. We enjoy gentle movement to music at our own pace. Madeleine, our tutor, makes fitness fun. We have room for more – what about some of you men giving it a try?

We meet on the fourth Wednesday of every month and the cost is only £2 a session. Classes resume after the summer break on 27 September at the Community Centre, Childer Road. If you would like any further details please contact

Pauline Taylor on 01449 678954.



### Music Appreciation (1):-

We meet on the third Tuesday of most months from 10.00am to 12.00 noon with refreshments at half-time. If you think that you would enjoy two hours in very comfortable surroundings listening to mainly Classical music, then please ring me for details.

Eric Adamson 01449 676 446



### Myths, Legends & Storytelling :-

This group has had a very interesting year in which we have discussed and explored many different subjects. Next year starting in September each meeting is to be lead by a member telling a story about the prescribed subject, after which we will relate



our own choice on the same subject. The programme is always pinned to the notice board at the monthly meetings.

Philip Weir

01449 676 528

### Poetry:-

Our Poetry Group members are enjoying our afternoons at Sheila's very much and our members always come up with the most interesting and lovely poems, which we all enjoy. After a cup of tea we have time to listen to poems on CD or tape. So, if anyone would like to join our group you can be sure of a warm welcome, fun and friendship; just phone -  
Sheila Dobey 01449 677 265



*Now some advice for the ladies;*

*He tried to feed me with oysters  
A token of love unending,  
But my stomach protested  
And they weren't digested; so  
For hours I though I was dying.*

*If your man has a similar passion,  
Longs to feed you the best Harrod's sell  
Insist on a tinned salmon sandwich  
And let the oysters stay in their shells.*

*The Cow:*

*by Tingy Hart*

*The cow is of a bovine ilk  
One end is moo, the other, milk*

### Town and Village History:-

This group has been enjoying outside visits to various places during the summer. On two occasions, we have combined with, or been affected by events arranged for the whole of our U3A.

Our visit in April to Leiston, which was organised by John & Maggie Scott took us back in time, when viewing the many exhibits in 'The Long Shop Museum' and 'Leiston Old Abbey'.



May saw us visiting the Village of Haughley and the surrounding area. This was organised by Mike & Mary Hitchcock. This proved to be another very enjoyable and informative outing.

Future plans include Debenham in September and Orfordness in October and we are looking forward to both dates.

Joyce Markwell for  
Ann Watsham

01449 672 706

### U3A Suffolk and District Network:-

The Autumn Academy is progressing well and as far as I know there are already 165 subscribers for this event. Those that have subscribed will be informed in early September of what they will be doing and also to receive their tickets etc., as promised. This is a big increase from our last effort to which only about 90 something came. This is very heartening for the organisers.

We are also looking at the possibility of having a 'Suffolk and District Network Web Site'. This is to give all Suffolk a common place to find out about that which we all are doing and for the exchange of information and hopefully to encourage co-operation between our various U3A's. However this is not likely to become active for quite a while!

Another thing that is being investigated - The French version of the U3A and quite a few of those in the UK have links to their local University and there is some collaboration between them. Our SaD Chairman is in contact with the Open University to see what if anything we can do to help one another. I will keep you informed of progress in this, when there is something positive to say

The Editor.

### U3A Central Office News:-

As I hope you will all know by now the 'U3A News' will be published four times a year now, which is one more than has been the norm. Central Office publishes each year a diary for U3A members - If you would like one please have a word with Terry Potter and he will organise one for you. I would just like to remind you that on their Web Site - [u3a.org.uk](http://u3a.org.uk) there is a huge amount of information, cover-

ing a very wide field of interests. However to get on the members section you will need the password. Ask any member of the committee or the computer group and they will certainly tell or find it for you.

### Other Interest Groups :-

#### Birds, Bees & Butterflies:-

Alan Sparrow

01359 241 966

#### Entertainment (Theatrical):-

Joan Varley

01449 612 676

#### Grub Club:-

In abbeance.  
See what has  
been said below about the  
theatre. The same remarks  
would apply



#### Needle Craft Group:-

Alicia Beaton

01449 616 172

#### Music Appreciation (2):-

Connie Ruegg

01449 674 673

#### Scrabble Group:-

Sheila Dobey

01449 677 265

#### Proposed Theatre Group:-

This proposal was  
greeted with great enthusiasm  
when first mooted, but.....



Now that we are soon  
to start a new academic year is there anyone  
prepared to accept the challenge and get this off  
the ground. It would be very popular, we feel  
but it requires someone prepared to be bold and  
to organise it. If you might be prepared to do so,  
please speak to one of the committee and we  
will do all we can to help.



Not every end is a goal. The end of a melody is  
not its goal; but none the less, if the melody had  
not reached its end it would not have reached its  
goal either. A parable.

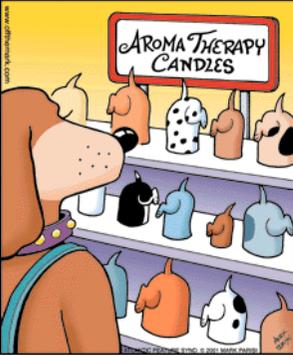
Neitzsche, *The Wanderer and His Shadow*, 1880

How's business ?

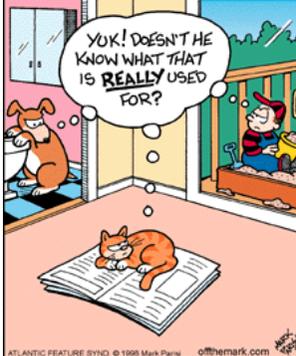
Patchy  
Sticky  
Up and down  
Cooling off  
Sofa, so good  
Picking up  
Generally speaking...generally speaking...generally speaking,

said the tailor  
said the glue maker  
said the lift mechanic  
said the refrigerator salesman  
said the psychiatrist  
said the Piccadilly lily  
said the politician.

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## Do you know the nursery rhyme ?

*Lizzie Borden took an axe  
And gave her mother forty whacks;  
And when she saw what she had done  
She gave her father forty-one.*

Lizzie Borden was born on this day the 19th of July in 1860, in Fall River, Massachusetts. Her mother died in 1863 and her father, Andrew Borden, married Abby Gray two years later. In 1892, Andrew and Abby were brutally murdered and Lizzie (who was known to have hated her stepmother) was charged with the crime. After a two-week trial that caused a national sensation, Lizzie was acquitted — the evidence against her being largely circumstantial — but found herself ostracized by those who were convinced of her guilt. Nevertheless, she spent the remainder of her life in Fall River, moving with her sister to a grand house in a prestigious area of the town just a few weeks after the trial was over. She died there of natural causes in 1927.

*Facts relating to the past, when they are collected without art, are compilations; and compilations, no doubt, may be useful; but they are no more History than butter, eggs, salt and herbs are an omelette. Lytton Strachey (1931)*

*History books begin and end, but the events they describe do not.*

R G Collingwood (1939)

*Political history is far too criminal and pathological to be a fit subject of study for the young. Children should acquire their heroes and villains from fiction. W H Auden (1971)*

### Former Occupations:-

Genghis Khan	Goatherd
Nostradamus	wrote about jam making
Al Capone	used furniture dealer
Josef Goebbels	accountant
Heinrich Himmler	agricultural fertilizer Co. clerk
Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov (Lenin)	lawyer
Pol Pot	Buddhist Monk
Ronnie & Reggie Kray	Alvin Stardust agents
US president - Gerald Ford	Male model
Losif Vissarionovich Dzhughashvili (Stalin)	trainee-priest

Boy, pliers,  
Electric wires,  
Blue flashes,  
Boy, ashes.

Little girl,  
Box of paints,  
Licked the brush,  
Amongst the saints

Bigger lad,  
Seagull's nest,  
Crumbling rock,  
Eternal rest

Older lass,  
Healthy bloom,  
Belt too tight,  
Early tomb.

*The dictionary is the only place  
where success comes before work*

**Maid to footman:**

*"What does that D stand for on the dustbin?"*

**Footman**

*"Damsel, the D displayed on the dustbin denotes that the despairing domestics of this detached domicile desire that the deservng dustmen during their daily diversion should deem it their delightful duty to dislodge deliberately and deftly the dirt and dust deposited in that disagreeable dustbin".*

The clock of life is wound but once,  
And no man has the power  
To tell just when the hands will stop  
At late or early hour.  
Now is the only time you own  
Live, love, toil with a will,  
Place no faith in tomorrow,  
For the clock may then be still.

Edited by Philip Weir

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Suffolk is different, its natives are different, its language is different  
– not a bit like the 'Shires' as they call the rest of England.

First woman: "When I'm down in the dumps, I get myself  
another hat".

Second woman: "I always wondered where you found them"

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ARE ALWAYS HAPPY TO  
HELP, WE ALSO DO CARD  
MAKING WORKSHOPS WITH  
A DIFFERENT PROJECT  
EACH MONTH.  
PHONE OR CALL IN FOR  
DETAILS.