



Stowmarket U3A



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Stowmarket and District Learning Activities in Retirement

Registered Charity No. 1002987



NEWSLETTER

No.39

WINTER 2015

Our Annual Christmas Lunch, ...for the first time at the Cedars Hotel

Judging by the raucous laughter – yes, even for a U3A group - it was a great success!! Thank you Dee for the negotiations, and Jean for the ticket admin.

In fact, the Cedars Hotel did us very well – good value, nicely cooked veg., excellent and generous portions, all served very efficiently and pleasantly by three ladies, all under the watchful eye of one of the owners. (I am told that those who chose the vegetarian option were also very happy with their choice.)

Thanks to Roy Fidler for recording the event on camera. He's certainly captured the mood of the 68 people there as can be seen from just a few of his photos here.

What else? Parking was excellent and close to the entrance; Hazel won the Lucky Ticket Draw Jean had organised (but I do hope Hazel doesn't drink it all at once); and Pauline gave us a rendition of her nightie-and-candle performance to round off the occasion.

PS Tony Taylor decided to make a collection of people's paper hats, to save money next year – well, our funds are a bit stretched!!

Bryan Hilton.

All Roy's pictures can be viewed on our web site. Just go to the 'Outings' tab and you'll see them there....Ed.



From the Programme Organiser

Our new season got off to an entertaining start in October 2014 when William Tyler regaled us with a talk on the rise and rise of the holiday camp in the last century.



'Hi di Hi' transported us back to our teens and twenties. We were once again young gals in circle or dirndl skirts, sugared paper nylon petticoats, sweetheart neckline dresses hoping to get off with scrubbed-up young men in slacks and open necked shirts, Teddy Boys in drape jackets, or Mods!

Born in Cape Town in 1899 Billy Butlin had a peripatetic youth, moving around the world with little formal education. Whilst in Canada with his mother he served in the Army during the First World War, but West Country roots drew him back to English fairgrounds.

When trade moved to the seaside, Billy moved with it, building an empire. August 1935 - 600 chalets at Skegness, extended to 4,500 by the outbreak of war, and then doubled. Second camp was Clacton in 1938 then Filey in 1940.

The war changed everything. Butlin's Skegness became the naval training ship HMS Royal Arthur - but after the war Billy became the Master when it came to entertaining. The scale of his camps generated a vast budget. And his contests were the forerunner of reality T.V., Talent Contests, Beauty Pageants, and Sporting Challenges. It wasn't just the price

that was inclusive it was the whole Holiday Camp ethos, encouraging the reserved Brits to join in and make friends.

Billy charged Norman Bradford (a trusted employee since the 1920s) to liven things up, and thus was born the scarlet blazer - B emblazoned on its breast pocket: the first Red Coat. By 1946 there was 1 Redcoat for every 25 campers.

Well into the 60s, Holiday Camps embraced the health and beauty movement's rise to prominence. Daily keep fit classes, swimming, boxing, and gymnastics instruction; with lidos from the '30s onwards, a focus for the new sun bathing craze.

With car ownership, caravan parks, foreign holiday, take up increasing in the 70s, camps had to meet changing expectations. Butlin's had recorded its first loss in 1965, but re-invented itself for the new force in society - the Teenager. This vied with the family concept. Despite single sex chalet line patrols, the sexual revolution came to Butlin's. The company stopped taking bookings from groups of single teenagers, and a general move away from the "camp" tag began.

Hi di Hi aired in 1980 - in 1950's costume! Butlin's sold to Rank in 1972. In 1983 Clacton and Filey closed. Butlins (now without the apostrophe) responded to competition from the likes of Centre Parcs with serious investment at Skegness, Bognor Regis and Minehead.

Today, only one original chalet survives at Skegness as a Grade II listed building. The memories, like the melody, linger on.

Dee Payne

Are You Interested.....

.....in receiving alerts of rogue trading, telephone and email scams, harmful foods (including baby foods) and faulty goods recalls plus much more, updated regularly via the Suffolk Trading Standards mailing list?

I have been receiving these alerts for over a year and found them not only of great personal interest but also extremely helpful for those particularly vulnerable - babies, those who live on their own and the elderly.

If you are interested in either finding out more or to request being added on this mailing list to receive the alerts phone Suffolk County Council Trading Standards on 03454 040506 or visit scc.tradingstandards@public.govdelivery.com

To report Doorstep rogues across the county, email - To: scc.tradingstandards@public.govdelivery.com

Or speak to me!

Anna Rodgers 07595943627



Stowmarket U3A's Tree at the Christmas Tree Festival, 2014

G & T Group – Programme for 2015

I was disappointed with the response at our annual meeting in November as only 12 people attended and, as a consequence, only a very limited programme was set with even that subject to change.

Please, at our January 15th meeting of the U3A, come prepared to fill in some of the blank visits, otherwise we will only have three in the calendar.

This is serious and could mean the end of G & T as we know it. We have always worked on the basis that a different member leads the group each month thereby spreading the load.

Harold Turner

Thanks to Pauline Ames who sent in this correction to the G&T article about Abbots Hall in the last issue...

The couple who lived in the workers cottages in Crowe Street were Mr. & Mrs. Wilding (not Walden). My grandparents lived at No.14 and I used to go often and help Mrs. Wilding to churn the butter etc. in the dairy behind the cottages. The milk was not produced in the dairy; that was done by the cows that were owned by Abbots Hall.

IDEAS

At a recent NEW MEMBERS meeting lots of suggestions were made for interest groups in Stowmarket U3A. Sometimes it is possible that a sufficient number of members express an interest & have the will to set up a new group.

These are the most recent suggestions:-

SEWING (We have 2 PATCHWORK groups already but this would be different.)

KNITTING & CROCHET

KEEP FIT

MAHJONG

PHILOSOPHY

RESEARCH / VOLUNTEERING FOR M.E.A.L

ON-LINE LEARNING TOPICS

WALKING WITH DOGS

Plus, there are specific proposals to start a **GERMAN CONVERSATION GROUP**.

If you are interested in joining this group or see anything else above that interests you and are serious about helping to put a group together, please contact Tony Taylor, the Groups Coordinator for Stowmarket U3A Telephone: 01449 258 192 or e-mail him on saltony@talktalk.net

Do you wish to know more about ART?

If so, why not join the new **U3A STOWMARKET ART APPRECIATION GROUP?**

A third Stowmarket Group is starting at 2pm-4pm on **THURSDAY, JANUARY 22nd 2015** at **THE ELDERS, 3, LAKESIDE, STOWMARKET. IP14 1SX**

The plan is to meet once a month on the afternoon of the third Thursday. A second meeting is planned for **THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19th**.

Contact: **John Chappell 01449 777969** **Jakki Fraser 01449 775115**, or **Brenda Brown 01449 615801** for details.

The first study subject is **HARRY BECKER** who worked in Suffolk painting glorious pictures of farm labourers before the First World War. His style leans towards **IMPRESSIONISM** but embodies a



character all of his own. He depicts the harder world of work of an earlier time without nostalgia, but with great respect & admiration.

STOWMARKET U3A, ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS, as of January 2015 (rev). Please contact the Leader/Convenor for more information

ART APPRECIATION (SAAG)	2/Month: 1 st , 3 rd Tuesdays	LUNCH CLUB (3)	Monthly: 4 th Thursday
Tony Taylor 01449 258 192	9.30am	Brian O'Shea 01449 614 129	12.30pm
ART APPRECIATION (SEAM)	Monthly: 3 rd Monday	MEMOIR WRITING	Monthly: 2 nd Thursday
Anna Bradshaw 01449 745 829	2.00pm	Pat Smith 01449 675 568	2.30pm
ART APPRECIATION (3)	Monthly: 3 rd Thursday	MUSIC – Classical	Monthly:- 4 th Tuesday
TBA (see Newsletter notice)	2.00pm	Ian Hooper 01449 770 179	10.00am
BOOK CLUB	Monthly: Last Monday	MYTHS, STORIES AND LEGENDS	Monthly: 1 st Monday
Mary Bradley 01449 775 628	2.00pm	Philip Weir 01449 676 528	2.30pm
BRIDGE – sorry, this group is full	Privately, by arrangement	PAINTING FOR PLEASURE	2/Month: 2 nd , 4 th Fridays
Please contact the Groups Co-ordinator if you'd like to start a new group		Nina Rouse 01449 612 042	10.30am
CANASTA (1)	3/Month: 1 st , 3 rd , 5 th Wednes.	PATCHWORK	Monthly: 3 rd Monday
Hazel Burl 01449 615 581	9.30am	Kate Riddleston 01449 612 871	2.00pm
CANASTA (2)	Weekly: Wednesdays	PHOTOGRAPHY	Monthly: 3 rd Tuesday
Closed to new members	9.30am	Peter Dakeyne 01449 781 562	2.00pm
COMPUTER	Monthly: 2 nd Wednesday	PLAY READING	Monthly: 2 nd Monday
Peter Dakeyne 01449 781 562	1.30pm	Helen Freeman 01449 613 060	2.00pm
COUNTRY STROLLS Longer	2/Month: 1 st , 3 rd Fridays	PLAYWRIGHT STUDY	By Arrangement
Andrea Burton 01449 774 869	10.30am (variable)	Helen Barrett 01449 676 491	
COUNTRY STROLLS Shorter	Monthly: Last Friday (initially)	POETRY (1)	2/Month: 2 nd , 4 th Thursdays
Elizabeth Gray 01449 678 853	1.00pm	Sheila Dobey 01449 677 265	2.00pm
DISCUSSION	Monthly: 2 nd Tuesday	POETRY (2)	Monthly: 1 st Tuesday
Philip Weir 01449 676 528	10.00am	Sandy Braidley 01449 676 905	2.00pm
FRENCH CONVERSATION (1)	2/Month: 2 nd , 4 th Tuesdays	SCRABBLE PLAYING GROUPS	Several - By Arrangement
Andrea Burton 01449 774 869	10.00am	Sheila Dobey 01449 677 265	
FRENCH CONVERSATION (2)	2/Month: 1 st , 3 rd Tuesdays	SPANISH CONVERSATION	Monthly: 2 nd Thursday
Ann Williams 01473 830 316	10.00am	Alicia Beaton 01449 616 172	2.00pm
GARDENS & THINGS	Monthly: 3 rd Thursday	TOWN & VILLAGE HISTORY	Monthly: 1 st Thursday
Harold Turner 01449 676 882	9.30am (variable)	Angela Bentley/Linda Benbow 01449 673 335	9.30am (variable)
LUNCH CLUB (1)	By Arrangement	WHIST	2/Month: 2 nd , 4 th Wednesdays
Angela Bentley 01449 780 274		Hazel Burl 01449 615 581	9.30am
LUNCH CLUB (2)	Monthly: 4 th Thursday		
Pauline Taylor 01449 678 954	12.30pm		

U3A Playwrights Study Group

We have just enjoyed a season of Terrence Rattigan and his plays.

Rattigan's life experiences are reflected in his plays and he proved a fascinating playwright to study. Few dramatists of the 20th century have written with more understanding of the human heart and recent years have seen a sustained revival of his work.



We have read *The Deep Blue Sea*, written in 1952 and viewed a 1994 recorded performance with Penelope Wilton, Ian Holm and Colin Firth in lead roles, followed by lively discussion.

We were entertained on a foggy November evening at Diss Corn Hall by The Open Space Theatre Company

performing *Separate Tables* on the 60th anniversary of this play. The standard of the acting was excellent and the complexities of human relationships were explored with insight and poignancy.








At our December meeting, we brought our study to a close with a viewing of *French Without Tears*, a DVD of the BBC Play of The Month broadcast in 1976. This was the play that launched Rattigan's dazzling career in 1936 and became the must-see show in London.

We resume our studies in February when we cross The Atlantic to absorb ourselves in the life and times of Arthur Miller.

This group is currently at the maximum membership of 12

Helen Barrett 01449 676491

TOWN & VILLAGE HISTORY GROUP 2015

	March 5th <i>A guided stroll around Stowmarket:</i> IF WET – INDOORS. Cost £3 Details to follow: Lunch: Cedars Hotel. Lin 01449 673 335
	April 2nd <i>Little Hall Lavenham - a guided tour:</i> Leave Solar 9.30 to be at Little Hall for 10.30am Money will be collected at Solar Cost £3. No lunch will be booked Angela 01449-780274 Mobile: 07790950272
	May 7th <i>Coach Trip Langford Museum of Power:</i> We will leave Solar at 9 a.m. for Langford on arriving we will have refreshments (not included in price) after the visit we will be going to Perrywoods for Lunch. Arriving back home at about 4.p.m. Payment will be collected at the March Meeting Cost: £12 coach and entry. Angela 01449 780 274 Mobile: 07790950272
	June 4th <i>Cotton Mechanical Music Museum:</i> Lunch to be arranged. We need a minimum of 20 members. Cost £5 details to follow. Lin 01449-673335
	July 2nd <i>Hadleigh Guildhall:</i> Details to follow: Pat Griffiths 01449-721137
	September 3rd <i>Wattisham Air Base:</i> Meet at Solar at 9.45 to be at Wattisham gate for 10.30. Coffee & tea extra. Bus passes for ID. Entrance £3 - this is a donation. Janet Stanley 01449-673033
	October 1st <i>Guided walk around Clare:</i> TBA Jenny Adams 01449 615 581
	November 5th <i>AGM – Planning for 2016</i>



NOTICES

2015 Photography Competition - 'youU3A'

Photos of members engaging in activities that show the essence of the U3A-learning, laughing and living. Closing date 31/03/2015

See the flyer with full details on our web site www.u3astowmarket.org.uk. Follow Groups then Photography.

Free Group Entry to English Heritage

U3A is included in the list of learning groups entitled to free group visits providing you apply in advance. Please note, you cannot just turn up with a membership card and demand free entry. Go to <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/education/free-entry/> for details.

National Summer Schools, July - August 2015

Harper Adams University, Shropshire, 13th-16th July.
Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, 17th-20th Aug
For information visit the Member's area of the website www.u3a.org.uk or National Office 020 8466 6139, or info@u3a.org.co.uk

Annual Science Seminar, Harper Adams University, Telford.

10th – 13th August 2015
Booking forms and full details will be available at www.u3ascienceseminar.org.uk or you can email u3ascienceseminar@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list.

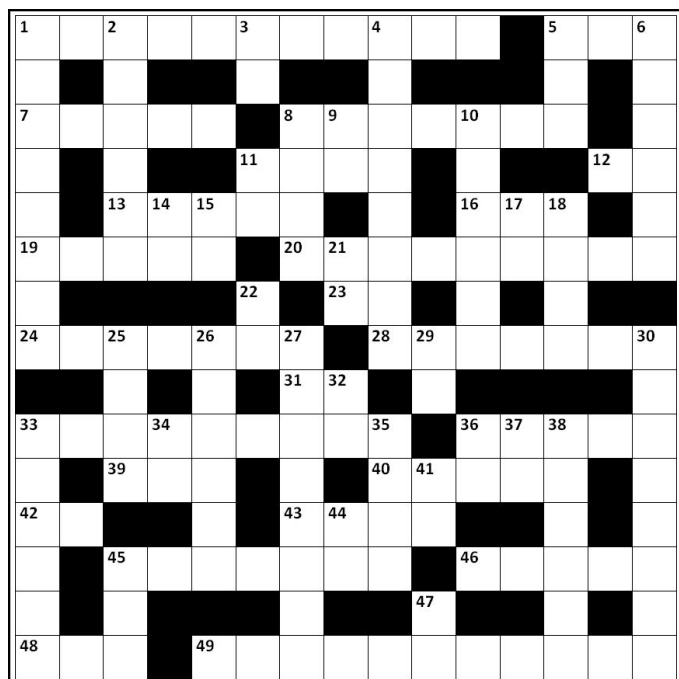


Bryan Hilton presents **Philip Weir** with a Life Membership Certificate in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to Stowmarket U3A

We are delighted that Connie Harford – already on our Committee - has offered her services as our new Secretary. She brings with her a lot of experience in other voluntary organisations, which she will be putting to very good use for our U3A group

Full committee details, back page.....Bryan Hilton

This issue's puzzle. A crossword including some elements of our U3A.....



Across

1. This group could not have existed without Fox Talbot (11)
5. The confused rodent is held in high esteem here (3)
7. Alternative name for the U3A's Guiding Principles (5)
8. Unruly girl was first to be questioned (7)
11. Look in the barn for some healthy fibre (4)
12. Not off (2)
13. Won't live in gold until we meet again (5)
16. You might get one by raising your hand (3)
19. Totally anaesthetised (5)
20. Strong criticism so to speak (9)
23. A kind of crowd (2)
24. A Cyclops may have one (7)
- 28, 5d and 6d. Initially, you could be left stranded; gnashing your teeth when you find it's not your favourite tippie (7, 3, 6)
31. That explains it! (2)
33. Forces that try to repress us (9)
36. One who makes a bundle on the farm? (5)
39. Forget me follower (3)

40. A sound beginning (5)
42. A northern expression of surprise (2)
43. Colour loss is central to sofa defect (4)
45. The centre, blessed three times (7)
46. One way to achieve new heights (5)
48. Farther away, quaintly (3)
49. When interrupted by 5d (3), it's vital we travel a long way (4, 7)

Down

1. The inevitable result of 4d (8)
2. A type of axe (6)
3. Depart (2)
4. Gain a pint and you'll get one down (8)
5. See 28a (3)
6. See 28a (6)
8. A less refined Lunch Club, perhaps? (4)
9. Ancient Egyptian solar deity (2)
10. Key for cupboard (6)
11. Have being. (2)
14. Prefix denoting removal or reversal (2)
15. 77th element. (2)
17. Capable seaman (2)
18. Witches brew (4)
21. Organisation devoted to scientific education and research (2)
22. Maureen Connolly was quite little (2)
25. What one is not? (4)
26. Resort to theft to get a result (6)
27. An orchestrated pattern of business activity (8)
29. Used before a vowel (2)
30. A Group game invented in 1931 as 'Criss-Cross' (8)
32. Third-person singular masculine (2)
33. This group needs a macabre storyteller to attempt verse (6)
34. Why should I care? (2)
35. Soapy lather (4)
36. Privatised in 1984 (2)
37. Makes up about one percent of the atmosphere (2)
38. A thin plate for this animal coming back (6)
41. French article (2)
44. With the interruption of 5d you should be seen in 4 hours (2)
45. One of Dorothy's men (3)
47. _sect, _focal etc. (2)

Solution on last page – no peeking!

Coming up...

18th Feb. 'Researching the East Anglian Novel Settings'
Tessa West, Author

18th March. 'American All Sorts'
Doreen Whitelock

15th April. 'The Arthurian Legends'
Mark Mitchels

Walking Group

How many people noticed the geographical mistake in my piece in the last issue about the walk around Shotley?? The rivers we walked along were, of course, the Stour and the Orwell (not the Deben!)

The autumn saw us have a really good walk from Diss - along lanes and through a fen and heathland. The next one was a visit around Combs and Moats Tye. For our Christmas lunch we went to Charsfield (as immortalised in the book Akenfield).

There has not been too much mud - until our walk just before Christmas when we walked to Badley Church - but we were all well wrapped up against the cold and mud. We all appreciate the exercise and fresh air, and the companionship and friendship in our group.

Andrea Burton

Membership of U3A Stowmarket

Current membership stands at 226. We had a coffee morning for New Members in November which was well attended and well worth doing.

Our New Member Packs seem to be very useful and more are being produced.

Andrea Burton

French Conversation (1)

This group is currently at full capacity - maybe in the future we can break up into two smaller groups. We have found that working in smaller groups gives every member more chance to practise their French and learn from each other.

We are a group of mixed ability and knowledge so we help one another and have a laugh. We also use programmes on the computer and lessons from CD or tape courses. Several members of the group have lived in France or have holiday homes there and this provides us with local interest and also variations in pronunciation.

Andrea Burton

An interesting feature of our activities in Stowmarket U3A is people's ignorance. I hasten to add that I mean *ignorance* in the sense of *not knowing*, not ignorance as a judgement on members' behaviour.

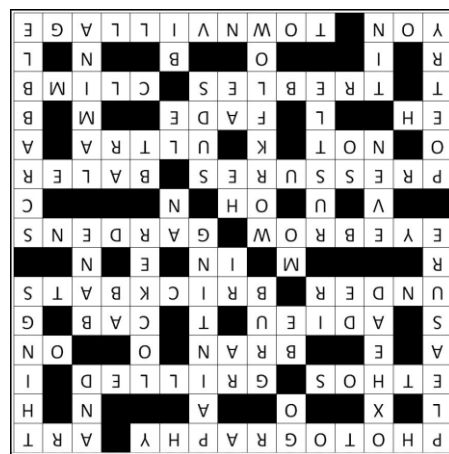
Communications are complex within our own relatively small U3A. Members who attend the Wednesday meetings at the URC have opportunities to hear regular news updates about past, present and future events. Those who don't, often get word-of-mouth versions of Stowmarket U3A doings, or pick up information from members of the group they belong to, or even search for information on the internet. The revamped Newsletter is another means of spreading the word. Sometimes though, information doesn't seem to filter through whatever source there is.

One such aspect of this 'not knowing' that I find interesting is members' lack of awareness of S&DNET. "What on earth is that?" I hear you say. S&DNET – the SUFFOLK and DISTRICT NETWORK of U3As. Most of the U3As in Suffolk (and last time I counted there were 16 or so) belong to this voluntary association which holds meetings a couple of times a year to discuss matters of mutual interest, pass on helpful tips and ideas and to organise county-wide activities. S&DNET has a voluntary committee of good folk who try to

forge links between our individual U3As. Those of you who have attended a Spring Symposium and/or an Autumn Academy in the past have been part of the S&DNET organisation of very worthwhile events. The network also

organises events for local U3A officers on such topics as group organisation, finance, membership, etc.

S&DNET is still up and running, despite the loss of the 'symposium' and the 'academy' recently. Any member of any U3A in Suffolk can attend a meeting -with buffet lunch included. Joining in could be a valuable experience. Meetings are held in different parts of the county each time so it can include a jolly trip to another part of our lovely Suffolk. Watch out for the next meeting. It should be posted in your newsletter. Usually, a few people travel together so it can become a pleasant social jaunt as well.



STOWMARKET U3A, COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2014/2015



Bryan Hilton Connie Harford Andrea Burton Dee Payne Joyce Kay Nancy Baird Ian Hooper Jenny Lawler Brian O'Shea
Jean Roche Tony Taylor Anna Rodgers

Chairman	Mr Bryan Hilton	01449 722 290	chair@u3astowmarket.org.uk
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Programme Organiser	Mrs Dee Payne	01449 711 683	programme@u3astowmarket.org.uk
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	Mrs Joyce Kay	01449 676 852	
	Rev Ian Hooper	01449 770 179	
	Mrs Jenny Lawler	01449 675 506	
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EDITOR / WEBMASTER
NEXT ISSUE

PETER DAKEYNE
SPRING 2015

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31/03/2015

www.u3astowmarket.org.uk

MICHAEL HITCHCOCK

We are sorry to announce the death of Mike Hitchcock, a long standing and loyal member of Stowmarket U3A.

Here is a tribute from a fellow member who knew him well.

I first met Mike 17 years ago when I joined the U.3.A. He was a very active member and when his wife was alive they both joined in the many outings and organised some themselves. At its inception, they also hosted the Computer group at their home.

When Mike was on his own he still came and joined in with the G & T, The Town and Village, the Computer Group, and walked with the Strollers. He always went on the U3A Outings and he would come to the AGM meetings with ideas of his own. He was also a Committee member for a few years.

I will miss him as will many other people, a quiet and reserved man who will be greatly missed.