

Stowmarket U3A



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Stowmarket and District Learning Activities in Retirement

Registered Charity No. 1002987



NEWSLETTER

No.43

WINTER 2016











Just a few of the many members who enjoyed themselves at our Annual Christmas Lunch at The Cedars on the 9th December, 2015









U3A Speaker Review - October 2015

f you missed the October meeting, kick yourself. Sean Hedges-Quinn was the best and most talented speaker I've heard in the four or more years I've been a member. Not only talented as a speaker but as an artist and in particular a sculptor. He held us spellbound with his story of his career from working in films such as the Harry Potter series, Skyfall and Thomas the Tank Engine to sculpting famous people of sport and entertainment.

An Ipswich man (living in Gt. Bricett) he was the sculptor of both Sir Alf Ramsey and Sir Bobby Robson (take a trip to Portman Road to see them) as well as Nat Lofthouse (my home town football hero), Alf Wight (James Herriot), Arthur Lowe (Captain Mainwaring) and his

current project, Gracie Fields all full size. He took us through the method he used to create the figure of Captain Mainwaring. The two months of initial research – including watching all 65 episodes of Dad's Army; photographing a male model from all angles; taking detailed measurements of every bit of his anatomy (well not every bit).



Arthur Lowe -Captain Mainwaring - of 'Dads Army' fame Life-sized bronze statue unveiled in Thetford, Norfolk on 20th June 2010

The full size reinforced clay sculpture begins with a nude followed by adding the clothing, not as slabs of clay but by adding the minimum extra to indicate clothing.

He showed us the tools he works with, simple scrapers in the main from larger two to three foot long to hearing aid wax removers. The completed clay stage is inspected and agreed by the sponsor; then making the mould and finally the finished bronze. The full size head of Sir Bobby Robson and a couple of other figurines were on show from the beginning and he passed around photographs of the different stages in making the Captain before unveiling the bronze head of Arthur Lowe at the end. A brilliant talk interspersed with

many amusing anecdotes.

Rick Leathley-Hewitt

Read more about Sean on his website

http://www.seanhedgesquinn.co.uk

STOWART by Jakki Fraser

s Stowmarket U3A's third Art Appreciation Group, we have just completed our first, very enjoyable, year. The group has five members and we meet once a month, on the last Thursday of the month.

For the most part this year we have delved into the lives of artists who either lived in, or had an association with, East Anglia. We have much enjoyed looking

at the lives and works of Harold Becker, Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Philip Wilson Steer, Sir Alfred Munnings, Cor Visser, Leonard Squirrel, Laura Knight and Cedric Morris. The excellent John Singer Sargent Portrait exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery this year also provided us with lots of discussion points for a meeting. Another interesting topic



was St George, which seemed appropriate as our meeting fell on St George's Day. It was amazing to discover in how many countries and media forms his image exists.

Our first meeting of 2016 will take the form of a visit to Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich, to see Constable's Salisbury Cathedral masterpiece and the Constable and Freud exhibition. This

will take place on the 14th January.

We are looking forward to a New Year full of interesting topics and, if you would like to know more about our group, please get in touch with our Convenor, John Chappell, on 01449 777 969.

Coming Up!

17 February – Meeting

"Volcanoes and Earthquakes" – Val Such

(Postponed from last year)

16 March – Meeting

"Boudicca: The Iceni Rebellion 60-61 AD"

A talk by Dr Nick Sign, who is Vice-Chairman of the Suffolk Local History Council and Hon. Editor of their journal Suffolk Review.

The recorded history of this great British warrior queen has changed over the years and particularly over the last century as archaeological digs in the UK and in

Europe have shed new light and insights on these long distant times.

20 April – Event (URC Hall)

"Acquainting Afternoon."

A time to get to know your fellow members and friends old and new.



Photography Group

e meet once a month to look at and collectively critically appraise a selection of pictures on a topic chosen at the previous meeting.

Each member submits up to six pictures which are sent, if possible in advance by email, to Roy Fidler our resident 'guru'. We use a lap top and projector so that every one can see.

If it's thought that a picture could be improved by some simple manipulation, Roy will show how it can be done using Photoshop. This usually amounts to simple tweaking such as crops, cloning and adjusting shadows/highlights.

Periodically, Roy collects together a selection of pictures

from each of the topics we've studied over the preceding months and you can see them at

www.u3astowmarket.org.uk/groups/photography-group/

There's one per member per topic; some have been tweaked as necessary, the remainder are as submitted.

The picture at the top is a photomontage of Stowmarket prepared by Roy for the Stowmarket Camera Club.

Sorry, at the moment the group is fully subscribed. If you are interested in joining in the future and would like to be added to the waiting list, please contact

Peter Dakeyne 01449
781 562

Computer Group

The Group continues to meet on the Second Wednesday afternoon of the month at Bacton Village Hall. We have plenty of space, free WiFi and new members are always welcome. Have a look at our web page to read more fully about our activities.

Within the Group and in the wider U3A there have been discussions as to whether we could offer assistance to absolute beginners to computing technology.

Whilst the Group since its inception has welcomed beginners, as well as those more experienced, there has always been the thought that some people feel rather apprehensive about making the first step. Many people find real joy in using a computer but some users have problems and wish they could do more. More and more we need to use computers,

tablets and touch screens to keep in touch with our families, manage our banking, access information and stay connected in the community.

Have you a lap top or PC that you haven't got to grips with? Have you bought or been given a tablet and don't know how to benefit from all its features? Or, have you no equipment at all but would like to know where to start?

If the answers to any of these questions is 'Yes', please give David Potter a call (01359 408 347) to chat about how our group may be able to help you get to grips with the basics of computing.

If there is sufficient interest, it may then be possible to instigate some one-off sessions with a small group of our regular members to help you into computing in 2016.

Peter Dakeyne.

Myths & Legends

e continue to meet at 2.30 pm on the first Monday afternoon of the month at the rooms attached to the Roman Catholic Church. Whilst we are few in number, we look forward to welcoming all new comers to share our explorations in this subject. Our upcoming topics are:- 'Scotland and the

Kingdom of Dalriada' in February, 'Indian Myths' in March, and 'The Mabinogion' in April.

Discussion group

or our new season we have had some very interesting and varied discussions. We welcome all those who would like to join us on the second Tuesday morning of the month at

10.00 am to share all our views and opinions in a very friendly social get together.

Our subjects for the coming months are:- February - 'World Climate Issues', March - 'The Advantages and Disadvantages of The Monarchy' and April - 'The Budget and us'.

Philip Weir 01449 676 528

Suffolk and District Network of U3As

t is possible that quite a lot of long -term members of Stowmarket U3A will not have heard of the Suffolk and District Network. It is also likely that newer members haven't heard of it either. In my opinion this is regrettable. They don't know what they are missing!

The network is an association of Suffolk based U3As such as Stowmarket, Sudbury, Lowestoft, Bury St Edmunds and so on which has, in the past, provided further opportunities for study to all of Suffolk. Examples have included 'Autumn Academies' which were day-long sessions where members could enrol to participate in music, art, craft, computer, photography, poetry, science, writing and other study sessions. A school or community hall was hired to hold the event.

The Network also organised 'Spring Symposiums' where a single theme or topic was studied, again for a whole day. For example: 'Science', 'The Arts in Suffolk', and 'Dealing With Ageing' were amongst the memorable events, some taking place in the Apex in Bury St. Edmunds.

The Suffolk and District Network's focus has recently been on how individual U3A's deal with the administration, leadership and communication issues that arise when starting or developing a local U3A. There have been many useful sessions of instruction and self-help discussions to aid local officers in keeping the momentum of their particular U3A buoyant.

The Suffolk and District Network – S&DNET- is a very useful association.

It currently has a pretty vigorous leadership and there are bound to be some interesting things developing in the coming year. One is the proposal for a day of MUSIC covering a wide span of musical activities.

Any member of any U3A can attend the S&DNET meetings (held twice a year, normally April and November) and even get involved in the provision of events and activities that add to the adventure provided by our positive and enlivening organisation – The University of the Third Age. Please watch out for the dates of these meetings and events. They are happening in a town near you!

Tony Taylor

Town and Village

Suffolk's smallest town was our destination on October 1st, with a guided walking tour of Clare including the church and museum. Kindly organised by Jenny Adams our group met for coffee in the antiques shop cafe near the country park before setting off on our tour led by our knowledgeable guide who was originally from the USA but has lived in the UK for 40 years.



We began our walk in the Castle Park which is dominated by the Motte,(a huge man-made hill) then followed our guide

into the town centre.

Clare boasts many listed buildings covering many centuries, an Augustinian Priory, castle and ancient house museum with one of the best examples of pargeting in East Anglia.

There was an array of shops to browse and tempting places to eat and drink when our tour was finished.

Afternoon tea, delicious cakes, a music quiz and familiar tunes from the 60s was the entertainment arranged by Angela and Graham Bentley for the Town and Village group's

AGM on November 5th.

Held at the Salvation Army Hall and really well attended by 37 U3A members we were able to reflect on a wide range of enjoyable outings in 2015 and then make plans for events in 2016.

We are delighted that we have been able to schedule an event every month starting in March 2016 right through to the AGM in November - so a huge thank you to everyone who is organising an outing.

All outings for 2016 will be on display at every U3A meeting with a list for you to put your name down. You can get a full preview of our plans for the year via the T&V page on the web site.

For our first event of 2016, Thursday March 3rd, we will once again be gathering in the Salvation Army Hall (2-4pm) for a fascinating talk and slide show by David Phelan, a National Trust approved speaker, who has been researching the history of St Audrys at Melton. Afternoon tea and cake will be also provided.

Please contact organiser Lin Benbow on 01449 673335,

£3 tickets are available now.

Stowmarket Exploring Art Meetings (SEAM)

e have just completed an exciting year of 'exploration' for the SEAM group. The topics for discussion have been wide ranging and the group goes from strength to strength.

One of the earlier subjects of our season was 'Cats in Art'. This turned out to be a fascinating afternoon as we soon



discovered cats have been depicted in art form from early Egyptian times, 2000BC when Bastet, the cat goddess was worshiped. We looked at charming cat images which appear in the Lindisfarne Gospels and other medieval manuscripts. Domenico Ghirlandaio painted a fresco in the Monastery of San Marco, Florence, with a cat sitting at the feet of Judas. Leonardo da Vinci made several studies of 'Madonna and Child with cat' and indeed he covered

whole sheets of his notebooks with sketches of cats. Cats can symbolise prostitution, the devil incarnate and indeed witchcraft. Legends abound around cats - Dick Whittington, Puss in Boots and the Cheshire cat all spring to mind. And of course we have Lear's charming poem of The Owl and the Pussycat. Cats are embedded in our culture and the SEAM group enjoyed exploring their place in our culture. [And don't forget the current obsession with cats on YouTube! Ed]

Following this, Andrea Burton very kindly gave us a talk about Gaudi and his place in Spanish architecture and art.

Next we enjoyed a Bring-and-Share lunch followed by a discussion of Wintery scenes. Again a lively afternoon with many and varied depictions of winter.

In earlier Newsletters we've described our investigations into Vermeer and his depiction of Dutch interiors, a look at 'Pots in Art', our comparison of the work of Andrew Wyeth with that of Vilhelm Hammershøi and our visit to 'Find the Fake' at the Dulwich Picture Gallery.

We ended the year with a discussion of Street Art. Some would not call it art –



but it was an interesting discussion nevertheless!

This year we will be concentrating on female artists. Sally Green has prepared a most interesting talk about Sofonisba Angiussola (1532-1625) known for her portraiture but as was so often the case at that time her work was often attributed to male painters—Titian, Leonardo da Vinci—so we know she had considerable skill.

We will go on to study the life and work of Angelica Kauffman, Paula Modersohn and Kathy Kollwitx. Later in the year we will look at the oeuvre of the Bloomsbury Set followed by the work of Paula Rega, Maggie Hambling and Mary Fedden.

As can be seen this is a lively group and I do have one space. Please give me a call if you are interested...

Anna Bradshaw 01449 745 829

Gardens and Things

Success! As per the 'stop press' in the last Newsletter, The G&T group was saved at our AGM.

Thanks to five new members volunteering to organize a monthly visit and coupled with two stalwarts we now have seven months covered which should make an interesting year in 2016. Whilst you may not find our group on the membership card, (at the

time of printing I thought that the group could not be sustained) there will be plenty of advertising throughout the year at the monthly meetings. Make sure you read the notice boards on 'Harold's table' (on the side wall in the URC Hall).

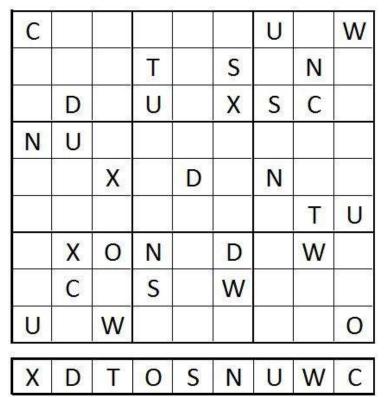
We should be in a position to finalize everything by February 2016 and the full programme will be published on the web site as soon as it's available.

I would urge the group to think seriously about a co-ordinator for the G&T. I have now been doing this actively for the past 15 years, but am now finding that the position is becoming rather stressful and I would appreciate someone to carry on and keep the flag flying.

A belated Happy New Year to all!

Harold Turner 01449 676 882

This month's Puzzle — WORDOKU



Just the same rules as SUDOKU but with letters instead of numbers.

Each letter has to appear once in each row, column and large square.

When completed, one of the diagonals contains an anagram of a famous television programme. (Solution on last page)

ake the world a little friendlier! **Charity** 'HOST' is seeking friendly people who could volunteer to offer an invitation to adult international students for a day, weekend, or four days at Christmas.

Learn about other cultures, welcome a guest far from home, and make the world a little friendlier! To be put in touch with your local organiser, visit www.hostuk.org or call 020 7739 6292.

ho Can You Trust is a not-for-profit community interest company set up with the sole aim of alerting and advising people in the 55+ age group about the need to be on their guard against internet scammers, doorstep rogues, fake lotteries, ATM fraudsters, rogue builders, dating tricksters and cheque overpayment fraud. Plus a lot more!

Copy this link, www.whocanyoutrust.org.uk, into your browser to see their latest Newsletter and read recent issues of the 'WatchOut' magazine.

e have been approached by 'Just for Groups', a company that specialises in tailor made group holidays for the over 55s. Check out www.justforgroups.co.uk/group-travel and www.theukholidaygroup.com/brands

STOWMARKET U3A, ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS, as of Jan 2016. Please contact the Leader/Convenor for more information

ART APPRECIATIO	N (SAAG)	2/Month: 1 st , 3 rd Tuesdays	LUNCH CLUB (1)	Monthly: 2 nd Thursday	
Tony Taylor	01449 258 192	9.30am	Angela Bentley 01449 780 274	12.20pm	
ART APPRECIATIO	N (SEAM)	Monthly: 3 rd Monday	LUNCH CLUB (2)	Monthly: 4 th Thursday	
Anna Bradshaw	01449 745 829	2.00pm	Pauline Taylor 01449 678 954	12.30pm	
ART APPRECIATIO	N (STOWART)	Monthly: 4th Thursday	LUNCH CLUB (3)	Monthly: 4 th Thursday	
John Chappell	01449 777 969	2.00pm	Brian O'Shea 01449 614 129	12.30pm	
BOOK CLUB		Monthly: 4th Monday	MUSIC – Classical	Monthly:- 4 th Tuesday	
Mary Bradley	01449 775 628	2.00pm	lan Hooper 01449 770 179	10.00am	
BRIDGE BEGINNE	RS	Weekly: Monday	MYTHS, STORIES AND LEGENDS	Monthly: 1 st Monday	
Michael Last	01359 241 703	2.00pm	Philip Weir 01449 676 528	2.30pm	
CANASTA		3/Month: 1 st , 3 rd , 5 th Wed.	PAINTING FOR PLEASURE	2/Month: 2 nd , 4 th Fridays	
Hazel Burl	01449 615 581	9.30am	Nina Rouse 01449 612 042	10.30am	
COMPUTER		Monthly: 2 nd Wednesday	PATCHWORK	Monthly: 3 rd Monday	
Peter Dakeyne	01449 781 562	1.30pm	Kate Riddleston 01449 612 871	2.00pm	
COUNTRY STROLL	S Longer	2/Month: 1 st , 3 rd Fridays	PHOTOGRAPHY	Monthly: 3 rd Tuesday	
Andrea Burton	01449 258 865	9.30am (variable)	Peter Dakeyne 01449 781 562	2.00pm	
COUNTRY STROLL	S Shorter	Monthly: Last Friday	PLAYWRIGHT STUDY	By Arrangement	
Elizabeth Gray	01449 678 853	1.00pm	Helen Barrett 01449 676 491		
DISCUSSION		Monthly: 2 nd Tuesday	POETRY	2/Month: 2 nd , 4 th Thursdays	
Philip Weir	01449 676 528	10.00am	Tony Taylor 01449 258 192	2.00pm	
FRENCH CONVERSATION (1)		2/Month: 2 nd , 4 th Tuesdays	SCRABBLE PLAYING GROUPS	Several - By Arrangement	
Andrea Burton	01449 258 865	10.00am	Michael Last 01359 241 703		
FRENCH CONVERSATION (2)		2/Month: 1 st , 3 rd Tues	SPANISH CONVERSATION	NB. Currently a 'non U3A' Group	
Ann Williams	01473 830 316	10.00am	Alicia Beaton 01449 616 172	Please contact Alicia for more info	
FRENCH CONVERSATION (3)		2/Month: 1 st , 3 rd Tues	TOWN & VILLAGE HISTORY	Monthly: 1 st Thursday	
Michael Last	01359 241 703	10.30am	Angela Bentley 01447 780274	9.30am (variable)	
			Linda Benbow 01449 673 335		
GARDENS & THINGS		Monthly: 3 rd Thursday	WHIST	2/Month: 2 nd , 4 th Wednesdays	
Harold Turner	01449 676 882	9.30am (variable)	Hazel Burl 01449 615 581	9.30am	

From the Stowmarket U3A Newsletter Archive

as being the founder of the original Computer Group, then meeting at the Woodfield Bowls Club. Sadly, he died suddenly a few months after the publication of this piece.

Retirement

I can readily identify with the sentiments of the writer of some notes applicable to those born before 1940 which I thought you might like to hear.

know the name of the author [*] and I have added a few words of my own.

shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, videos, Frisbees and the Pill.

We were born before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens. Before dishwashers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, dripdry clothes...and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together. We treatment or help for someone in trouble. thought 'fast food' was what you ate in Lent, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat, and 'crumpet' was something we had for tea.

ship' meant getting along with cousins, a 'shelter' was for protection against bombs rather than husbands, and 'central heating' was a nip of brandy to warm us up.

ble nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, Tea Towel'. Ed.

he following article was published in 'Newsletter 6, Au- electric typewriters, word processors, yogurt or young gust 2001'. Brian Killett was an active member of the men with ear-rings. For us 'timesharing' meant to-U3A having been Secretary and Treasurer in his time as well getherness, a 'chip' was a piece of wood or fried potato, 'hardware' meant nuts and bolts, and 'software' wasn't a word. The 'net' was to prevent the neighbours from prying and the 'web' was an indication of a lack of attention to detail when cleaning.

Before 1940 'Made in Japan' meant junk, the term 'making-out' referred to how you did in your exams, 'stud' was something that fastened a collar to a shirt, 'trainers' were people who coached athletes, and 'going The notes are entitled 'We Are Survivors' I do not all the way' meant staying on a double-decker bus to the terminus Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of.

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio In our early days, cigarette smoking was 'fashionable', 'grass' was mown, 'coke' was kept in the coal house, a 'joint' was a piece of meat you had on Sundays, 'pot' was something you cooked in and 'ecstasy' was sticking your aching feet in a bath of hot water. 'Rock musíc' was a grandmother's lullaby, 'Eldorado' was an íce -cream, a 'gay' person was the life and soul of the party and nothing more, while 'aids' just meant beauty

We who were born before 1940 may be forgiven for considering ourselves to be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and We existed before house husbands, computer dating the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder we and dual careers, and when 'a meaningful relation- are sometimes confused and there is a generation gap but no doubt this will always be the case.

Brian Killett

[*] On the BBC WW2 Archive site, the original is attributed to We were before day centres, group homes and disposa- Joyce Gibson who in turn has paraphrased from 'Mr Gibson's



ur Book Club members enjoyed reading 'A Delicate Truth' which is a 2013 spy novel by John le Carré. Set in 2011, the book flashes back to a 2008 joint American-British covert mission on the Rock of Gibraltar and the consequences for two British civil servants.

on't forget that you can view (and down load, if you wish) all past Newsletters back to February 2007 on our website at www.u3astowmarket.org.uk

Group leaders/convenors — please make sure that all the information on the web site concerning your group is correct and up to date. If not, please let me know and I'll make the necessary amendments..

Likewise, if you have more information about your group you'd like to pass on, I'll be happy to add this anytime. Peter



News and upcoming events

Summer Schools, 2016

At the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester.

School 1 - 8th - 11th August

School 2 - 15th - 18th August

Full details and application forms at

http://tinyurl.com/U3ASummer-Schools-2016

http://tinyurl.com/SS-2016-Application

'Inspired by' is an art competition run by the V & A, organised by the Morley gallery, which invites participants to create a work of art or craft inspired by the collections of either the V & A South Kensington or the V & A Museum of Childhood which can also be accessed online at http:// collections.vam.ac.uk/. The closing date is 11th March 2016 and you can enter as an individual or group, free of charge. For more information go to http://www.inspired.by.

A New 24 hour legal advice line paid for by The Third Age Trust. This telephone advice service is available to all U3A members not just committee members; there is no limit to the number of calls you can make and advice will be given on all aspects of law.

Arc Legal Assistance in partnership with Irwin Mitchell Solicitors

Telephone number 0344 770 1040

Quote - U3A Legal Helpline. If you are asked for an insurance number you should say that you do not have one.

U3A Winter/Spring events are now open for booking. To find out more and book your place on any of the events copy the links below into your browser.

The Importance of Being Earnest: U3A members have exclusive use of the superb Screen 2 at the Odeon Cinema, Shaftesbury Avenue, Covent Garden. Filmed in high definition and surround sound, this cinema screening offers U3A members a fabulous alternative to live performance.

Full details here:-

http://tinyurl.com/More2Screen-**Earnest**

http://tinyurl.com/Earnest-Booktickets

Birmingham Concerts

A choice of three matinee concert packages including an exclusive talk and ticket to the show with lunch

http://tinyurl.com/Birmingham-Concerts-info

http://tinyurl.com/Concerts-Booking

Vaccination: Curse or Cure?

Wednesday 9th March 2016

Dr Jenner's House, Church Lane, Berkeley, Glos, GL13 9BN

As long as there have been vaccines, there have been concerns about their safety and efficacy. In this exclusive one-day event, U3A members are invited to join medical specialists to explore the arguments for and against vaccina-

http://tinyurl.com/Vaccination-infobook

WORDOKU—Solution

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Χ	D	Μ	1	S	0	Э	n	N
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СОПИТРОЖИ

STOWMARKET U3A, COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2015/2016

















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Connie Harford

Jean Roche

Andrea Burton

Dee Payne

Joyce Kay

Ian Hooper

Jenny Lawler

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Spring 2016

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