



Stowmarket U3A



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Stowmarket and District Learning Activities in Retirement

Registered Charity No. 1002987



Haughley Park in the Spring

NEWSLETTER

No.48

SPRING 2017

"History of Spoken English".

In a change of venue, February's monthly meeting was held at the MIX, Stowmarket's hub for young people, their families, schools and the Stowmarket community. This month's speaker was the well-known Charlie Haylock, who both informed and entertained us on the subject of the "History of Spoken English".



Beginning with how different groups of people, such as the Jutes, Angles and Saxons, settled in different parts of the UK, Charlie skilfully and with humour explained to us how spoken English and its associated accents and dialects spread and became embodied in our



speech. He showed us how the different sounds of the letters of the alphabet evolved over the centuries from predominantly Germanic languages to shape our own English language.

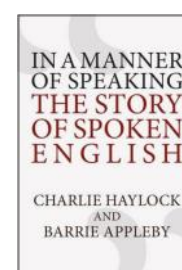
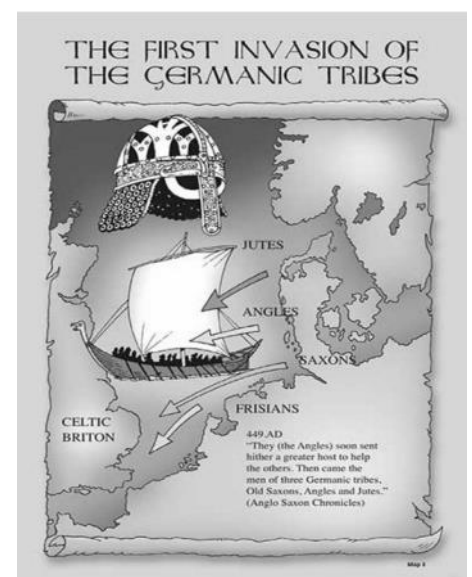
Finally Charlie gave us a practical demonstration of how mouth shape and speech patterns create our familiar differing regional accents of the UK. Members rated the talk as "excellent", with feedback including "a professional and interesting talk", "very educational, clear content and excellent delivery", "I loved all of it", "although I had heard Charlie speak previously I enjoyed hearing him again" and "It made me proud to be Suffolk born and bred!"

Keith & Lorraine Shelton

Since the meeting and in response to many requests, Charlie has now completed his book on this very subject. In **a Manner of Speaking: The Story of Spoken English** is a fun and fascinating

exploration of spoken English that expands on what we heard today. Following history from the time of the Roman conquest through to the days of the British Empire, chapters explore the beginnings of spoken English, how each invading force brought different sounds to the language, and how the English tongue has evolved over time.

The book is available in paperback or Kindle on Amazon, go to <http://tinyurl.com/lb2cgl5>





Our members enjoying some good chat and a laugh at the March meeting - 'Acquainting Afternoon' - a good opportunity to catch up with friends we may not have seen in a while.

Many thanks to the volunteer servers and those members who supplied the wide range of cakes and goodies, as well as those who loaned their 'posh' crockery for the day.



Day Walks Group

The first of a series of Day Walks by Water took place on a very sunny April 1st. With a spring in our step as



well as the air, five walkers completed the 8 mile circuit of Alton Water. As we walked, we talked and discovered the journey our water takes from The Gipping to our tap. Water is pumped from the Gipping at Sproughton and is one



of 3 sources of water used to fill Alton Water reservoir. The water is treated at the centre on the Holbrook side of the Dam and distributed to several areas, including Stowmarket, where it runs from our taps!

With birds singing, swans a swimming and yachts sailing, we walked by trees of blossom, yellow gorse and marsh marigolds. It was lovely to see whole families out cycling and enjoying the simple pleasures. We even had time for play along the way!



We passed the Tattingstone Wonder, a Folly built in the shape of a church, commissioned by a local squire in 1790 and visible on the skyline from his

house in the valley below (now under water) to give his neighbours "something to wonder at".



Future walks - all will be approximately 8 miles, all 10.30 a.m. starts, all packed lunch walks. The next is planned for Saturday April 29th in the Shotley area, a 2 rivers walk along the banks of The Stour and Orwell.

Due to holidays there will be no walk in May. We will then walk on the 4th Saturday of the month - Saturdays June 24th, July 22nd and August 26th.

Please contact **Helen Barrett** on 01449 676491 if you are interested in joining us on future walks.

Discussion Group

The conversations, agreements and arguments have continued in a lively way this year. We tried a new approach for The February topic "Attitude towards Death" and watched a TED talk via the internet as an introduction to the discussion topic. The talk we chose lasted 13 minutes and can be found at http://www.ted.com/talks/peter_saul_let_s_talk_about_dying

Having taken advice from the computer group we were able to play this on the full size TV making it easy for all to see and it helped us get going on this often forbidden topic. It was not at all morose, with laughter too, and some people realising they may need to make better arrangements for the future.

Nobody was feeling inspired by the recent budget which was to be our April topic so we have changed it to

"Taboos". This seems appropriate having broken the taboo around talking about death, so another opportunity to talk about those things that are rarely spoken about. This will be followed by "The benefits of old age?" on 9th May and I'm looking forward to hearing what other people enjoy about this rich time of life.

There's still space for new members. David Warner 01449 612730

Gardens & Things

At this time of the year, there is little to record as this is our quiet period. We did, however, break with tradition and had a games afternoon in February. Instead of the post Christmas lunch about ten members attended a Beetle

Drive at Woodfield Bowls Club, where much fun was had by all!

The lunch was put back a month to March and some 22 members enjoyed a well presented meal at the Combs Magpie. This seems to be better timing and was an opportunity to get together

ready for the outdoors with our first visit to Blakenham Woods.

The rest of the season is well covered with a wide selection of visits planned (see all the details on the G&T page of the web site).

Harold Turner

SEAM meetings

Our monthly meetings are well attended and enjoyed as we all participate in shared sessions, or when a member presents an artist we have much to discuss.

Last year we concentrated on women artists. There are many. We discussed how they faced difficulties from the Renaissance onwards to find teachers, studios and patrons, and to be recognised in a male dominated world. It's only in the C20 that women have been allowed to attend art schools and even then were not allowed to paint or draw the male nude. Of course, men painted women!

We had interesting talks on Sofonista Anguissola, Gwen John, Angelica Kauffman, Paula Modersohn-Becker, Kathe Kollwitz, Laura Knight, and Paula Rego.

In the Autumn we all brought Portraits to share, but our interest in women artists did not diminish. We are perhaps biased as, at the moment, we are an all woman group!

We started this year with a repeat of



Anna's talk on Bridget Riley for those who had missed it, and in February we looked at the varied work and life of Maggi Hambling.



Our ongoing programme is just as exciting, and we will be going to the *Paul Nash exhibition* at the Sainsbury Gallery in Norwich in May. **Devam Hendry**

Myths and Legends

We now meet regularly by the RC Church at 2.30 pm on the first Monday afternoon of each Month, and our programme is published on our U3A web site.

Fortunately we seem to be making better progress in our approach to this subject of late and it is hoped that this trend will develop substantially in the next season. Each session involves a lot of chat and the necessary afternoon refreshment. New members will be made very welcome.

Philip Weir 01449 676 528

Computing & Technology Group

Due to problems with the Wifi at Bacton, we had our first meeting at our new venue - The Scout Centre, Milton Rd North, Stowmarket - in March.

The facilities are excellent and there is plenty of free parking.

We still have some vacancies if you're interested. **Peter Dakeyne**

Play Reading Group

The Play Reading Group launched in January 2017 and meets on the second Monday of the month at 10.00 a.m.

At the first meeting we read "Darlings, you were wonderful!" a One Act Play by Derek Lomas. This is a play about a small theatre group presenting a period Spanish play for a theatre festival.

In February we selected "Bright Interval" a One Act Play by Cherry Vooght. It is set on the final night of an Austrian holiday tour as the sun sets gently over the mountains of the Austrian Tyrol, the women forget their differences as they exchange amusing holiday anecdotes, feelings of happiness and sadness, worries and past histories.

For the March meeting we chose "The Constant Wife" a full length play by Somerset Maugham. This is a comedy of manners in three acts. The leading character, Constance Middleton, is the calm, intelligent, and self-possessed wife of a successful London doctor. Knowing full well of her husband's infidelity with her best friend Marie-Louise, Constance purposefully maintains the fiction held by her other friends, mother, and sister that she has no idea of the affair. We will continue to read this play for the next two meetings which allows the members to read one act and then discuss the play.

Spaces are limited, but if anyone would like to join please contact: **Maureen Wingham-Eaton**, 01449 771200 or email maureen.wingham@mwmedia.uk.com

Canasta (1)

The Canasta group meets every Wednesday at 9.30am in Stowupland.

Our numbers are limited by the size of the venue but we do operate a waiting -list.

Hazel Burl

Canasta (2)

Our group meets in Stowmarket each Wednesday at 10.00am at the Grove. We currently have 2 or 3 vacancies.

If you would like to join us, please call me on 01449 672 304 (and do leave a message if I'm not available)

Marian Wilcox

Connie Harford and Jean Roche attended a meeting of local U3A treasurers and secretaries. In addition to other useful information they alerted us to the evening open lectures at the University of Suffolk in Ipswich.

As detailed on its website www.uos.ac.uk 'The Open Lecture Series is a high quality events programme featuring world-renowned speakers, showcasing academic excellence both inside and outside the University. The events include conversations with lecturers and guest lectures by experts across a wide range of disciplines.'

I attended one of the lectures – 'Digital Destinies – Looking at the Wider Implications' given by Professor Peter Cochrane OBE (www.cochrane.org.uk). A 'welcome' soft drink, excellent, entertaining and thought provoking lecture, followed by a chance to mingle with other delegates with a complimentary drink and canapes - a very enjoyable evening! I can recommend the experience and plan to attend future lectures of interest.

Groups may wish to attend a lecture that appeals to their interests or maybe someone would like to convene a lecture group to develop discussion around the lecture topics that come up.

The lectures planned for the rest of the academic year are:-

- Dr John Midwinter, Monday 5 June 2017, University of Suffolk, Ipswich 'The Big Picture - global challenges & imperatives for human society!'

- Dr Tracey Sowerby, Wednesday 28 June 2017, University of Suffolk, Ipswich 'Annual Wolsey Lecture - Thomas Wolsey and the Diplomats'

A new series will start in the 2017/18 academic year but to whet your appetite, here are the lecture titles already given in the 2016/2017 academic year:

- 'Green Information Technology: A Sustainable Approach'
- 'The Peers versus the Prairies: Free Trade and the Great Estates in Victorian Suffolk'
- 'Fifty years of hurt? Wembley 1966 and how we remember it'
- 'How big is that Crowd? The importance of Crowd Safety and Risk Analysis in an era of change'
- 'Study of American literature'
- 'Digital Destinies - looking at the wider implications' (You can see the full lecture on YouTube, <http://tinyurl.com/l5hlvhw>)
- 'Sex in C18th London'
- 'From Then and There to Here and Now'
- 'Annual Faith Lecture'
- 'Remembrance Lecture: The Somme to the Battle of Arras'
- 'The History of Radar'
- 'Sleeping with the Victorians'

Evelyn Russell

Summer Outing

Glemham Hall and Gardens

Wednesday 16th August 2017



- Coach leaves Solar 9am
- Return for 5pm
- Tour of Glemham House
- Tea/Coffee and Cake
- Time to spend in Glemham Gardens
- Afternoon in Woodbridge
- Inclusive Price £23.20

The recent survey that we undertook at the Acquainting Afternoon in March showed support for a Summer Outing at Glemham Hall and Gardens, although there was an indication that members would prefer to travel by coach than car share.

As a consequence, we have booked Glemham House on 16th August and we will be leaving Solar by coach at 9am. Tickets are now available at £23.20. We will travel to Glemham for a tour of the House, tea/coffee and cake in the Conservatory and time to explore the Gardens. We will then travel onto Woodbridge where there will be "free time" to spend a couple of hours in the town before heading back home.

We plan to arrive back at Solar at 5pm.

Keith & Lorraine



CROCUS	EUPHORBIA
DAFFODIL	AQUILIGIA
FRITILLARY	LILY OF THE VALLEY
TULIP	NARCISSUS
HYACHINTH	BISHOPS HAT
WINTER ACONITE	CELANDINE
PUSCHKINIA	FORSYTHIA
PLEIONE	HELLEBORUS
SNOWDROP	IRIS
CAMELLIA	LILAC
PULMONARIA	GERBERA
WALLFLOWER	RANUNCULUS
WOOD ANEMONE	FREESIA
BLEEDING HEART	PERIWINKLE

Words can be in any direction, vertical, horizontal, forwards, backwards and diagonal

From the Archives: *Last year we looked at the minutes of the very first STAR U3A AGM in 1991 and subsequently a couple of Study Group Reports. In those days there were only a half a dozen or so study groups and it was the practice for each Group Leader/Convenor to make a report at the AGM after the Chairman's statement - here is another you may find interesting'*

Art History Group

At the inception of Stowmarket U3A, this Group studied French 19th Century and 20th Century European painting and went on to a study of British painting from the 16th to the 18th Centuries, including those foreign painters who settled in this country. Holbein, Van Dyck, Lely and Kneller; miniaturists such as Nicolas Hilliard, Isaac Oliver and Samuel Cooper; artists of the Civil War, William Dobson and Robert Walker; the great portrait painters of the 18th Century, Reynolds, Gainsborough and Ramsey; painters of satirical genre such as Hogarth and of the Conversation Piece, Zoffany, Highmore and Devis.

During the last year, we have studied early English watercolourists such as Alexander and Robert Cozens; the painters of the Norwich School, Creme, Cotman, Vincent and Stannard, then Turner and Constable; the visionaries Blake and Samuel Palmer. We spent an amusing time looking at the Victorian narrative painters with their high moral tone, which led to a discussion on attitudes to women. We discussed the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood which entailed some research on Arthurian Legend and the poetry of Rossetti and Tennyson. We looked at neo-classical Academicians such as Alma-Tadema and Lord Leighton, much of whose work some of us considered highly erotic. We admired the draughtsman ship of Beardsley and took note that his dying wish was that the more scandalous drawings be destroyed. Lastly, we discussed the work of Whistler, slides of whose paintings were obtained from Glasgow University.

Our Study sessions last two hours, once a fortnight on Fridays, 10.15 to 12.15. The public library continues to supply a good selection of books. Slides are ob-

tained commercially and from the principal national galleries. We spend a lot of time looking at the slides. Discussion of the subject matter, style and social background of the paintings is quite animated. We often agree to differ.

Recently, the Group visited Stowlangtoft Church to look at the Peter Fuller Memorial in the churchyard. Peter Fuller, the art historian and critic, was killed in a road accident last year and his wife commissioned the Memorial from Glynn Williams, a sculptor at the Royal Academy Schools. It was an interesting experience to discuss an original work of art; its general shape, the texture and colour of the material used, the symbolism, the changing effects of sunlight and shadow, its relationship to its environment, its position in the churchyard and its appropriateness. We did, of course, enjoy looking at the church itself, particularly the 16th Century Flemish reliefs recently recovered from Holland after being stolen in 1977, the marvellous bench and carvings and the St. Christopher fresco.....

.....Continued page 7

.....During the coming 'academic' year, Italian Renaissance painters, 13th to we will be studying 20th Century early 16th Century.

British Art; Sickert, Stanley Spencer, Francis Bacon et al. Some of the Group were able to see the Stanley Spencer exhibition at the Norwich Castle Museum in August. Later in the New Year there is a possibility we may study the

The Group includes three members from Bury U3A. One or two [more] members would be welcome from Stowmarket.

Ann Hewlett 18th Sept 1991

Phone Scams

You should by now have received your copy of the Spring edition of **U3A Matters**.

The cover story concerns a lot of useful information on phone scams and how to avoid getting caught yourself.

By coincidence, the April topic for our Computing & Technology Group was *'Computer Security Issues' plus scams in general, and how to deal with them.*

Should you wish to have a copy of the full text, with live links, it can be found on the web site at <https://tinyurl.com/STARU3A>

Coming Up

May 17th: Showcasing Event, (see page 8)

June 21st: "Burstons School Strike" - talk by Anne May

July 19th: "History of Harrods" - talk by Eve Reglous

August 16th: Summer Outing, (see page 5)

September 20th - AGM

'Schoolreaders' (www.schoolreaders.org) are currently looking for reading volunteers from among Suffolk U3A members to partner with local primary schools.

They are a national charity set up to improve children's literacy. 'Schoolreaders' place volunteers in local schools to listen to children read on a one to one basis. The aim is to encourage reading, improve literacy and build confidence to give children in the community the best possible start in life.

Suffolk is a new area for the charity and they are currently looking for new reading volunteers as they launch the scheme in the county. The only requirements are that volunteers are able to commit 1-3 hours a week during term time and are fluent in English.

If this is for you, or you would like further information please call 01234 924111 or email, admin@schoolreaders.org

(Information received via The Suffolk & District Network of U3As).

STOWMARKET U3A, ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS - April 2017. Please contact the Leader/Convenor for more information

ART APPRECIATION (SAAG)	Monthly: 1 st Tuesday	LUNCH CLUB (1)	Monthly: 2 nd Thursday
Tony Taylor 01449 258 192	9.30am	Angela Bentley 01449 780 274	12.20pm
ART APPRECIATION (SEAM)	Monthly: 3 rd Monday	LUNCH CLUB (2)	Monthly: 4 th Thursday
Devam Hendry 01449 615 966	2.00pm	Convenor required!	12.30pm
BOOK CLUB	Monthly: 4th Monday	LUNCH CLUB (3)	Monthly: 4 th Thursday
Mary Bradley 01449 775 628	2.00pm	Brian O'Shea 01449 614 129	12.30pm
BRIDGE INTERMEDIATE	Weekly: Friday	MUSIC - Classical	Monthly: 4 th Tuesday
Michael Last 01359 241 703	1.30pm	Ian Hooper 01449 770 179	10.00am
CANASTA (1)	Weekly: Wednesday.	MYTHS, STORIES AND LEGENDS	Monthly: 1 st Monday
Hazel Burl 01449 615 581	9.30am (Stowupland)	Philip Weir 01449 676 528	2.30pm
CANASTA (2)	Weekly: Wednesday.	PAINTING FOR PLEASURE	2/Month: 2 nd , 4 th Fridays
Marian Wilcox 01449 672 304	10.00am (Stowmarket)	Nina Rouse 01449 612 042	10.00am - 12noon
COMPUTING & TECHNOLOGY	Monthly: 2 nd Wednesday	PATCHWORK	Monthly: 3 rd Monday
Peter Dakeyne 01449 781 562	2.00pm	Kate Riddleston 01449 612 871	2.00pm
COUNTRY STROLLS Longer	2/Month: 1 st , 3 rd Fridays	PHOTOGRAPHY	Monthly: 3 rd Tuesday
Phil Webb 01449 781 872	9.30am (variable)	Peter Dakeyne 01449 781 562	2.00pm
Anna Bradshaw 01449 745 829			
COUNTRY STROLLS Shorter	Monthly: Last Friday	PLAY READING	Monthly: 2 nd Monday
Elizabeth Gray 01449 678 853	1.00pm	Maureen Wingham-Eaton 01449 771 200	10.00am
DAY WALKS BY WATER New!	Monthly: 4 th Saturday	POETRY	2/Month: 2 nd , 4 th Thursdays
Helen Barrett 01449 676 491	10.30 am	Tony Taylor 01449 258 192	2.00pm
DISCUSSION	Monthly: 2 nd Tuesday	SCRABBLE PLAYING GROUPS	Several - By Arrangement
David Warner 01449 612 730	10.00am	Michael Last 01359 241 703	
ELECTORAL SYSTEMS AND REFORM	Monthly: 4 th Monday	SINGING	2/Month: 1 st , 3 rd Thursdays
David Chapman 01449 736 223	2.00pm	Hilary Foster 01359 241 773	2.00pm
FRENCH CONVERSATION	2/Month: 2 nd , 4 th Tuesdays	TOWN & VILLAGE HISTORY	Monthly: 1 st Thursday
Andrea Burton 01449 258 865	10.00am	Convenor(s) required!	9.30am (variable)
GARDENS & THINGS	Monthly: 3 rd Thursday		
Harold Turner 01449 676 882	9.30am (variable)		

**May Monthly Meeting
Showcasing Event
Wednesday 17th May 2017**



- This event has been advertised locally and is open to the public
- All are welcome – so please bring a friend
- Free tea and coffee
- Opportunities to see the group activities available in our U3A
- Suggestions for new groups accepted
- Set-up for group leaders is 2.00pm
- Open from 2.30pm – 4.00pm

We believe that all Group Leaders have been contacted and nearly all are showcasing their group at this event. We thank you for your support.

If you are a group leader and have not been contacted or would like further information please phone Lorraine and Keith on 01449 768744 or email us on shelt5@sky.com so that we can include you in this event.

AGM 20th September 2017

Advance information

In view of the May Showcase alongside, it is felt not necessary to have a further similar event at the AGM this year.

The AGM will again be held at the Cedars and there will be afternoon tea and cakes rather than lunch as before.

Whilst the details have not yet been finalised it is expected to start about 2.00pm, hold the AGM and then have a local speaker to give us a short talk.

As we hope to have members of the public attending, it would of course be helpful for any Group Leaders there to be available to give advice and information as required.

Updates to the plans will be given at forthcoming monthly meetings and in the July Newsletter.

STOWMARKET U3A, COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2016/2017



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