

Stowmarket U3A



Stowmarket and District Learning Activities in Retirement

Registered Charity No. 1002987



NEWSLETTER

No. 51

WINTER 2018

Message from the Chairperson

A very happy New Year to everyone and hope for a healthy and prosperous 2018! And I trust you all enjoyed a peaceful and happy Christmas.

A disappointingly small number of members gathered for the Christmas lunch at The Mill, although the food was most enjoyable. I feel we must re-think what shape future festivities might form as only some 26 members enlisted this past year.

The January programme for 17th provides us with an oppor-

tunity to share further experiences from Roy Tricker with his 'Confessions of a Church Crank' and I look forward to welcoming as many of the membership as are able to join that meeting.

Your committee meets again on Friday 26th January so should there be any matters which you think we should consider then please do not hesitate to raise them with any committee member at the monthly meeting.

With kind regards and best wishes.

Ken Snow



















During a break between courses, we were entertained by the Singing Group who, with the help of provided song sheets, encouraged us to join in with some well known carols.

t the Mill, 13th December 2017

Thanks to Hilary Foster and her friends for this seasonal entertainment.



November 2017 Monthly Meeting - A talk on 'Chocolate' by Tony Diamond

he next time you eat a square of chocolate, will it be the Queen Victoria influenced Parliament to reduce taxes so that Tony started with a potted history of chocolate, beginning the lower classes at that time. with its discovery in the Dominican Republic by Don Hernán Cortés who after killing King Montezuma and the Mayans, brought chocolate back to Europe where it was kept secret for a century.

The drinking of Chocolate became popular after Catherine of Braganza brought it with her to England. When she married Charles II it soon became a favourite drink of the rich and royal families including Queen Victoria who, I guess, today, would be described as a chocoholic.

taste which will be foremost on your mind? Or maybe chocolate became accessible to the poor which, in turn, led you will think of where the chocolate came from; or how it to the growth of our chocolate industry and, in particular, affects your body? Well, if it is the latter you should have companies like Cadbury and Fry. As Quaker families they been at our November monthly meeting where Tony Dia- were very keen to support the habit of drinking chocolate, in mond gave us an excellent talk on the subject of Chocolate. favour of the alcoholic alternatives which were preferred by

> Tony finished his talk by sharing with us some of the myths surrounding chocolate as well as the beneficial and unfavourable effects of eating chocolate (or were they myths as well?)

> Overall Tony gave an entertaining talk which was very well supported by his slideshow of illustrations and drawings.

Keith and Lorraine

October 2017 Monthly Meeting - Tales from the Bench (Graham Higgins)

we know this because Graham Higgins, who came to came known today as the Coroner. speak to us about his experiences from the bench, is a magistrate. Graham led us through the history of crime and punishment as it related to the magistrate service.

cused might be forced to pick up a red hot More like bar of iron or something equally painful and dangerous. If their hand began to heal after this, please! three days they were considered to have God on their side, thus proving their innocence. William

II (1087-1100) eventually banned trial by ordeal – reportedly because 50 men accused of killing his deer had passed the test - I do not think he liked the outcome!!!

Criminal and civil disputes could also be decided by trial by combat. Either side could employ their own champions to fight on their behalf. Graham told us of a recent case where a man accused of a motoring offence wanted a trial by combat with the DVLA - the motorist was told he was about 200 years too late and that this option was no longer available.

At one time magistrates investigated all suspicious deaths. This role was later transferred to an official who was appoint- please"!

ur monthly talk was given by "a true and just man" - ed by the Crown. This person, the Crowner, eventually be-

Graham also covered the time in history when individuals were transported to America and Australia for what we might consider today as mere petty crimes. Twenty five indi-Up until the end of the 12th century trial by ordeal was used viduals were transported to Australia from the Stowmarket to determine guilt or innocence. Under this system, the ac- area. These included David Southgate and Joseph Carter

> who, in 1824, were transported for life for stealing two saucepans, a boiler and a frying pan >> from the house of Mr H Unglass of Stowmar-

Graham recounted some of his experiences of sitting on the bench and concluded by sharing with us a real case and asking us how we would sentence the defendant.

Members rated Graham's talk as excellent. Feedback suggested that the members enjoyed listening to the history of the magistrate and the insight which Graham shared about the role. They also enjoyed the debate around the consideration of the sentencing of the real case. Members thought he was an articulate, clear speaker, very interesting, giving a very good presentation with interesting examples/ illustrations. A couple of members expressed "more like this **Keith and Lorraine**

Gardens & Things Stewart Dorwood

t is with some trepidation that I take over from Harold as co-ordinator of the G & T group which he has led so well for some 18 years. Thank you for all your hard work Harold, enjoy your 'retirement'!

I look forward to some interesting visits in the months and years ahead and am keen to follow up any suggestions anybody may have for future outings. There are still some gaps in our programme for the coming year so please put your thinking caps on.

Our traditional pre-season lunch is booked for the Cedars on the 15th of February, 1230 for a 1300 meal, the cost is £10.95 per head. There is a choice of menus, please sign up and pay Shirley Bonner at the January meeting. Thank you for organising this Shirley.

Angela Bentley has kindly agreed to host our March event at her home in Wyverstone - details on the notice attached. Tickets will be available at the January meeting so please book early as places are limited. Also, please note that for various reason the date is 22nd March (4th Thursday) not 3rd as normal.

To whet your appetite for what is further planned so far, trips out to several gardens, a whisky distillery and the beauty of Anglesey Abbey in early Autumn are in the pipeline. I hope to have the detail to hand at the February meeting.

email: thedorwards@gmail.com Tel: 01449 774213



e continue to enjoy some very interesting sessions.

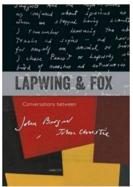


Sally Green gave us a very detailed talk on Goya. In our discussion we were particularly interested in Goya's ability to go from painting and drawing the horrific and grotesque, to such sensitive portraits of his friends.

In November Susan Sawyer gave a power point presentation of the work of John Berger, the artist, critic, writer, philosopher and writer who recently died. Sue has been a long term admirer of his work and it showed in her in-depth knowledge. His book 'A Way of Seeing' is a classic and was made into a television series. It's still available on Y tube and as a Penguin reprint.

'Lapwing & Fox by ' John Berger and John Christie won the East Anglian Book Prize last month.

It is a series of conversations in the form of letters and small books sent between two friends, John Berger and artist and film maker John Christie. Christie had been a long time friend and collaborator and this is the last work.



Starting in January we will have a session on Land Art, including Andy Goldsworthy.

Discussion Group David Warner

hat is the discussion group? The following definition taken from Wikipedia suits our group. "An informal and voluntary gathering of individuals in person, to exchange ideas, information, and suggestions on needs, problems, subjects, etc., of mutual interest." Starting with tea, coffee and biscuits seems like

an essential ingredient to stimulate our ideas and opinions.

Our most recent topic was "Free speech and Democracy", which led to a lively debate. Are we really free to give our opinions in public with so many restrictions on what we can say to avoid offending people? We spoke about the current news item regarding some Universities "no-platforming", the banning of controversial speakers which stifles debate. There's no stifling of debate in our group, just plenty of lively exchanges. We also heard from members about their experiences of the different democracies, dictatorships and totalitarian states around the world.

We look forward to tackling "Social Care and Transport" in January. We currently have a couple of vacancies, so if you're interested please give me a call.

You can find our full programme through to June 2018 via the 'Groups' page on the web site - just click the blue 'Discussion Group' link.

David Warner 01449 612 730.

The Play Reading Group

he Play Reading Group has now completed its first year medium, Madame Arcati, to hold a séance at his house. At Vooght, Somerset Maugham, T.S. Eliot and Alan Ayckbourn.

In December we commenced reading "Blithe Spirit" by Noel Coward. Charles Condomine, a successful novelist, wishes to learn about the occult for a novel he is writing, and he arranges for an eccentric



Maureen Wingham-Eaton

during which we have read plays by Derek Lomas, Cherry the séance, she inadvertently summons Charles's first wife, Elvira, who has been dead for seven years. Only Charles can see or hear Elvira, and his second wife, Ruth, does not believe that Elvira exists until a floating vase is handed to her out of thin air.

> We meet on the second Monday of the month. I will take a waiting list and therefore if anyone is interested please contact me on: 01449 771200 or email to

maureen.wingham@mwmedia.uk.com

The Singing Group

he Group continues to meet (normally) on the first and third Thursday of the month. We meet from 2.00pm until 3.30pm at Hillside Community Centre in Stowmarket. Actual dates for the Spring period are:-

January 18th, February 1st & 15th, other 8 week course in the Spring of March 1st & 29th.

We're now into our second year and continue to attract new members to the group. We sing a very wide range of songs and aim to create an easy going atmosphere where new quickly feel part of things.

The group is not a 'performing' group, we sing primarily for our own pleasure. However, we agreed to lead singing at the last AGM which appeared to be well received and wasn't too terrifying for two regular members of the group were us! In fact we were impressed by the contribution made by U3A members, especially as several songs were new to them. Further, we were also pleased to give some seasonal entertainment for the guests at the Christmas lunch at The Mill.

We have room to accommodate even more singers should anyone feel tempted.

Hilary Foster 01359 241 773

Mahjong

he original Mahjong group course started and finished as planned. It started with 9 members but 2 dropped out in the first two weeks leaving 7 for the course.

Those members that completed the course thoroughly enjoyed the sessions

and some of those members have con- Computing & Technology tinued to play in their own homes. I hope to encourage the others to continue to play in the future. There were other members that expressed an interest in learning MJ but couldn't commit to the original sessions in October. With that in mind I will be willing to run an-2018. Please note that should the numbers merit it and there's a need to hire. In December we did have our usual prepremises then there would be a minian initial period.

members For further information, please call

Brian O'Shea on 01449 614 129.

Painting for pleasure

ifteen members were present at our last meeting for this year and unable to attend. We had a jolly and "cosy" time, but we had to agree that the group is now well and truly full!

Please contact Groups Coordinator, Bryan Hilton if you would like to start another group.

Nina Rouse 01449 612 042

Myths & Legends

ur new approach to this subject is working well and we hope more will join us to enjoy learning more about charge to cover the cost of room hire this fascinating realm.

Our meetings are a social gathering It would help if you could let me know if where we learn and discuss a different topic each month and concluding with customary refreshments before our homeward journey.

Philip Weir 01449 676 528

As reported in the last Newsletter, our meetings are now on an ad-hoc basis whilst we rely on our online forum for questions that may arise in the meantime. I did mention that this was open to any U3A member to take advantage of but to date no one has taken up this

Christmas 'bring a plate' meeting at the mum monetary commitment for at least Scout Hut. We had a lot of fun and caught up with a few new queries that had arisen since our September meeting. We decided that we would have our next meeting in March and it was suggested that we could make it an open meeting.

> Do you have a niggling problem with your PC, lap top or phone? Were you given a tablet for Christmas and are struggling to find your way around? Why not call in to see us at the Scout Centre in Stowmarket where our regular members will try to help on a one to one basis. None of us knows everything but between us there is quite a pool of knowledge.

> The meeting will be on Friday 16th March, 2.00pm to 4.00pm. There's free parking at the hall. Depending on numbers, it may be necessary to levy a small and refreshments.

> you're planning to come, but if you make a last minute decision, just turn up anyway.

01449 781 562 Peter Dakeyne

(email: see last page)

Coming Up....

Feb 21: OAP Gap Year (Lynn Ready & Marilyn)

Lynn and Marilyn share their story of how two widows, in 2012, backpacked around the world. They talk about some of the weird, fun and daft things that they did.

Mar 21: Haughley Choir and "Pam Ayres"

This consist of themed songs, one or two solos, some humorous verses, including a rendition of Pam Ayres and finishes with a community singalong.

Apr 18: Acquainting Afternoon

A vintage afternoon tea which gives members another opportunity to relax and chat with friends.

From the Archives: In 2016 we looked at the minutes of the very first STAR U3A AGM in 1991 and last year 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 are a couple from that 1st AGM you may find interesting.

Towns and Villages of Suffolk

Come years ago, I was privileged to Stowmarket was next. Unfortunately, attend a course on Suffolk History led by David Dymond [then Director of Studies in Local & Regional History, Infollowing year we were tutored by Peter Northeast. These two gentlemen have Suffolk and a fascinating story it is.

Since then, my wife and I have explored much of the pastoral scenery of the county and have attempted to unearth the history of some of its 300 villages.

I mentioned this in casual conversation to one of our senior Committee members and found my arm being twisted to do something about passing on some of my enthusiasm. So we formed a Group, albeit a small one, but we find our meetings are very sociable. Not for me to judge whether or not they are a success. [The T&V group ran continuously this spot since 509 A.D. 1991 - 2017!]

the history of and stories of a particular King Cole who was the father of Caracand I attempt to conduct a tour.

We started off with Needham Market. A wonderful High Street with houses I hope our members have found these and buildings from the 11th Century to explorations stimulating. If they wish to the present day, many with a fasci- continue, maybe you would like to join nating story. Did you know there is a genuine Medieval Hall in the High Street and that during the Plague, Needham was cut off and isolated?

Stowmarket's history is not very visible, but it is there to be traced. Quite a number of buildings are quite ancient. Stowstitute of Continuing Education] and the market was the main meeting place for Ancient Britons and Saxons in the locality. A Druid's Temple stood on the site of produced a book on the History of the Church and fairies used to dance in Tavern Street. But for a quirk of history, we might have been the County town.

> We learnt a lot in Woodbridge. It used to be an important shipbuilding centre and later became a fashionable watering place for Royalty and varied eccentrics and is still very quaint.

> **Bury Abbey** with its gardens was breath taking and standing amongst the ruins we found that here was the cradle of democracy as we know it. Magna Carta was fashioned here and it was humbling to learn that men have worshipped on

Colchester is our next call. I know it is We try to do one location a month. We not Suffolk but the town is a microcosm

meet at my house for a discussion on of Britain's History, from home of Old place and the following week we visit it tacus, to being the main Roman City, to a Norman Caitadel, to a siege by Cromwell etc.

Harry Miller

Music Appreciation

total of sixteen meetings were held, with an average attendance of seven members.

We enjoyed a wide range of music from Gregorian Chant to Benjamin Britten. Most of the programmes were general in nature (i.e. unstructured) but some of our later meetings were devoted to special programmes (e.g. the piano, the human voice). Unfortunately, due to a variety of factors (including the absence of the Convenor), our last meeting was held on 29th April.

The Convenor would like to thank members for their sustained interest and he hopes the Group will thrive in the 1991/92 season. To this end, it is strongly recommended that STAR acquire some hi-fi equipment so that meetings can be held at the Resource Centre.

David Danziger

OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness we announce the recent deaths of three of our members.

David Plester, Member since 2014, Died 2nd November 2017

Teri Matthews, Member since 2015, Died 27th December 2017

Ann Croft, Member since 2012, Died 6th January 2018

All were active members of several groups and will be sadly missed.

Our thoughts are with their families and friends.

Coffee time Word search: Names given to yearly Wedding Anniversaries. Words can be in any direction, up, down, backward, forward or diagonal.

H G S W D A I C L L K V U K Z A H C X B Z J T T U S I R X R L X E Q L L P D O E B G H E M A V T B O U S R P O Y F R U N W Q P	O C W X O I S T A E F T E D D A O L T S Y M N A H I N A S N A T O H Y L A E P I W N N E P Y E N A V L / P R M U Y Y P O H Z E M U E Z N O K R H U B W M C Y A R T O Q Q F C Q H R A G U S B Q M Z X E H G F S P O D L D N R I E R / W O M I P F A F K K L A T S Y R C T T E R Y R E L U Z M O K L U U I O D W K I T M R II B	S P K R A J G L S Q G C Q F L S V N E T A R G E A I L Y M X Q F R C C D A I G E V O J H I Z P I X R B K D A V R J N D X P W X U L A R O C I A V J K W T K X Z Z J M A H I E D U G L P I Y I O Y A Z U K L M V C K P D C W Q E Y H D H Q Z Q R L N R T F K J	COTTON SAPPHIRE PAPER GOLD LEATHER EMERALD FRUIT DIAMOND WOOD PLATINUM SUGAR WOOL BRONZE POTTERY TIN STEEL SILK LACE IVORY CRYSTAL CHINA Miscellany SILVER PEARL CORAL
N W Q P Q W O O I Z V S			



Schools are:-

The dates for the 2108 Harper Adams

23 - 26 July email U3A national newsletter.

National Summer

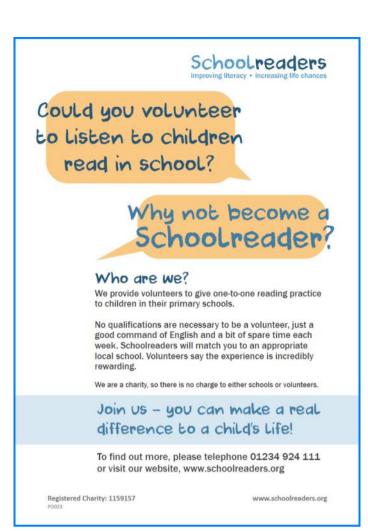
Royal Agricultural Univers' 11 -14 Sept To subscribe, just go to

Full details will be circulated via the

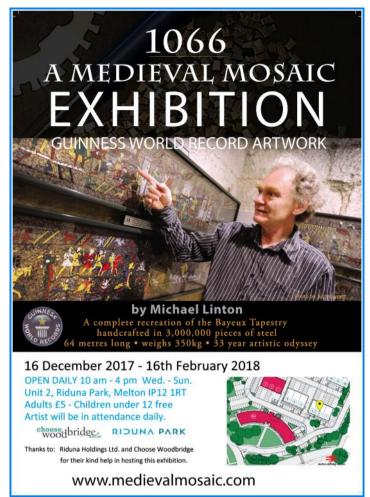
www.u3a.org.uk and sign up there.

STOWMARKET U3A, ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS – January 2018. Please contact the Leader/Convenor for more information

ART APPRECIATION (SAAG) Monthly: Agreed Tue		Monthly: Agreed 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	Bryan Hilton	01449 258 152	12.30pm
BOOK CLUB		Monthly: 4th Monday	LUNCH CLUB (3)		Monthly: 4 th Thursday
Mary Bradley	01449 775 628	2.00pm	New convenor required		12.30pm
BRIDGE INTERMEDIATE		Weekly: Friday	MUSIC – Classical		Monthly:- 4 th Tuesday
Michael Last	01359 241 703	1.30pm	lan Hooper	01449 770 179	10.00am
CANASTA		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
COMPUTING & TECHNOLOGY		Online Q&A forum -	PAINTING FOR PLEASURE		2/Month: 2 nd , 4 th Fridays
Peter Dakeyne	01449 781 562	occasional meetings only	Nina Rouse	01449 612 042	10.00am - 12noon
COUNTRY STROLLS	Longer	2/Month: 1 st , 3 rd Fridays	PATCHWORK		Monthly: 3 rd Monday
Phil Webb	01449 781 872	9.30am (variable)	Kate Riddleston	01449 612 871	2.00pm
Anna Bradshaw	01449 745 829				
COUNTRY STROLLS	Shorter	Monthly: Last Friday	PHOTOGRAPHY		Monthly: 3 rd Tuesday
Freda Delory	01449 613 929	1.00pm	Peter Dakeyne	01449 781 562	2.00pm
DAY WALKS		Ad hoc, by arrangement	PLAY READING		Monthly: 2 nd Monday
Helen Barrett	01449 676 491		Maureen Winghan	n-Eaton 01449 771 200	10.00am
DISCUSSION	111	Monthly: 2 nd Tuesday	POETRY		Monthly: 4 th Thursday
David Warner	01449 612 730	10.00am	Jenifer Adams	01449 615 581	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) Alterna		Alternate Wednesdays	SINGING		2/Month: 1 st , 3 rd Thursdays
Zuleika Dobson	01449 615 811	10.00am	Hilary Foster	01359 241 773	2.00pm
GARDENS & THINGS Monthly: 3 rd Thursday		TOWN & VILLAGE HISTORY		Monthly: Normally 1 st Thurs	
Stewart Dorward	01449 774 213	9.30am (variable)	Group suspended	pending new convenor	



Please note. It is a requirement of this scheme that any volunteer would need have an Enhanced DBS Certificate (previously CRB).



"It is the most exciting and stunning exhibition I have ever seen — both from an historic point of view, and as an artistic masterpiece." Charlie Haylock

Stowmarket U3A Committee Members 2017/2018









Andrea Burton











Ken Snow Connie Hardford

Jean Roche

Keith Shelton

Lorraine Shelton

Elizabeth Gillette **Evelyn Russell**

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	Mrs Lorraine Shelton	01449 768 774	programme@u3astowmarket.org.uk
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	Mrs Elizabeth Gillette	07753 203 828	

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01449 781 562

Next Issue

Spring 2018

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