

his is a revised emergency edition of the Newsletter. The original went to print just a few hours before the government statement on 16th March when the Committee decided it would be unwise to go ahead with the March monthly meeting and indeed any other of our usual activities.

Further developments have proved this decision correct.

See page 3 for more information on what we can do together to help us through this difficult time. Ed.

NEWSLETTER

No. 58

SPRING 2020

Dear Members

t is with much sadness and regret that, for personal reasons, I have decided to stand down as Chair of Stowmarket U3A with effect from Wednesday 19 February. I wish to express my thanks to all of the membership for the affection and support you have shown me during my time in office. I will continue to support the groups with which I have participated and I look forward to seeing many of you at future meetings.

With best wishes

Ken Snow

(Until a new Chair is elected at the next AGM, Glynis Hunt will fulfil the duties of the Chair in her current capacity of Vice









n December, more than 70 members enjoyed our Annual Christmas lunch at the URC Hall.

Many thanks to Keith and Lorraine for the organisation and to Anne Webb for the table decorations.



















February 2020 Monthly Meeting.

ntitled "Adventures in Dyslexia" this talk was not quite as expected! Where do you start when you want to break a world record? Nigel Macknight, the speaker, gave a short introduction about his own dyslexia before sharing with us his ambition to break the water speed world record in his new vessel, Quicksilver.

He talked with passion and enthusiasm about land and water speed racing, including the achievements of the famous Campbell family (Malcolm and Donald). Nigel's life changed in 1967 when, aged 11, he saw Donald Campbell's ill-fated attempt at the world water speed record on TV. For years he has dreamt of breaking the speed record - he is a man determined – despite the fact that four out of five previous contenders have died in the attempt.

He shared with us his journey from a schoolboy interest in aircraft spotting, the Air Training Corps, writing, interviewing, authorship and publishing to the development, and now potential driver, of a machine capable of travelling 350 mph and breaking the water speed world record.

The Quicksilver project has been and continues to be funded by the generous donations and co-operation of a multitude of high tech companies and educational establishments. Officially diagnosed with Dyslexia only three years ago, Nigel reminded us of the importance of following your enthusiasms in spite of disabilities and harnessing your passion to actualize your dreams. We wait with great anticipation to see the pinnacle of his lifetime ambitions become reality over the next few years.

Audience reaction to the talk was divided. Whilst some were disappointed that it was not more specifically about the published topic of dyslexia, others were fascinated to hear about the dedication of one man to fulfil his life's ambition.

Nevertheless, we wish him well in breaking the water speed record - and then we will be able to say we met that man!

Keith and Lorraine



Coronavirus

he land page of our web site,
www.u3astowmarket.org.uk has been updated confirming the present situation. The original version of this

Newsletter can also be viewed on the Newsletter tab.

The Committee, like everyone else, have no idea how long this is going to last but of course they'll let you know when we can possibly resume our normal activities.

Reflecting current advice, the restrictions on our activities will remain for at least the next three months. In the following pages are listed those events that are definitely cancelled, those postponed to a later date and those that <u>may</u> be able to go ahead as planned.

Other articles are as submitted by our Interest Group Leaders/Convenors for the original Newsletter and may contain information that is not immediately relevant, but will continue as soon as permitted.

In the mean time, our members are urged to follow all government advice as issued, see

https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Keeping in touch: It's important that we all keep in touch as much as possible. This is doubly important for our members who don't have internet access. If you have a friend or fellow group member whom you know is in this situation, please give them a call to keep them involved and ensure that they're OK.

Many of you will already be in contact with friends and family via the likes of, WhatsApp, Facebook, Skype and Facetime, and are used to online communications.

There's much publicity on 'Video Conferencing' where groups can interact face to face.

If you are considering this for your group, there are several

free options, e.g. 'Skype', as above; 'Zoom', seems popular at the moment but there's a 40 minute limit for group conversations unless the host pay's £11.99/month; and '8x8.vc' also free to use but no necessity to sign up whether hosting or participating.

For some of the basics, the **BBC Technology** news site has a 'Step-by-step guide: How to video call your family'. Three videos cover.........

How to make a video call with WhatsApp
How to video call with an iPhone, iPad or Mac (Facetime)
How to receive a video call without installing software
(Skype and Zoom)

You can find it here https://tinyurl.com/s98gqu9

(if they keep the link live)

Accounts of group experiences with video conferencing would be very welcome for the next Newsletter!

Third Age Matters: All being well, there will be the spring copy of Third Age Matters through our letterboxes in April which will surely be an interesting read in the present circumstances, full of help and advice.

You can get a preview of this on the U3A web site where they have published regular updates on Covid-19 and pages of information on such topics as , 'Keep Learning' and 'Keeping In Touch'.

https://www.u3a.org.uk/covid-19

If you haven't already done so, it's well worth while signing up for the monthly e Newsletter which is always full of interesting and useful articles. You can do that here..

https://tinyurl.com/sxuej7s

The recent March issue is available to view...

https://tinyurl.com/tmbx56l

Ed.

U3A Day, 1st October

Originally planned for 3rd June, this has now been postponed until the 1st October (International Day of Older Persons).

This will be a National event organised by the U3A to "Raise the profile of the U3A, help challenge negative perceptions of older adults and invite other Third Agers to learn how U3A supports the lives of retired people. Learn, laugh, live!"

The U3A will work towards signposting media attention to 1st October 2020, once that date is confirmed as safe and appropriate.

As our contribution, we will intensify our local publicity around this time.

Houses of Parliament

Originally planned for June 8th, regretfully ,this trip, has had to be postponed.

Subject to current restrictions being lifted, I would hope to re-arrange for some time in October.

Further details will be issued closer to the time.

Ken Snow

01449 258 865

History Group

ver the last couple of sessions we have been studying trade tokens which were issued during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. The first session covered 17th century tokens.



In the mid 17th century small change was in short supply across the country. As silver increased in value the size of a silver penny became smaller and it was not feasible to mint smaller silver coins. Coins could have been minted in a cheaper metal but it was beneath the dignity of a king or queen to have their head stamped on anything less than silver or gold.

The minting of coins was a 'royal prerogative' and 'royalty' did not see minting more coins as a priority. With the feudal system breaking down workers were increasingly 'paid' for their work with Each token tells a story. Invariably,

war of 1642-49 the country was very coat of arms of the tradesperson or an short of any kind of coin. Additionally, image of the goods they are selling, the people hoarded money (coins) during place and date the token was issued. the years of the Civil War.

In January 1649 King Charles was beheaded. Suddenly there was no King therefore there was no 'royal prerogative' and people could not be punished for flouting a law that was no longer valid. With the law out of the way - the The farthing token of Israell Barret people took over - token coinage was born. Shopkeepers evolved a pragmatic solution - trade tokens. By the 1660's there were 3,543 people producing tokens in the London area alone and by 1674, when they were finally banned, it is estimated that 20,000 different tokens were struck across the country.

The number of tokens issued in Suffolk were over 375 in about 70 different towns/villages. Locally tokens were issued in Bury St Edmunds (47), Ipswich (43), Mendlesham (2), Cotton (1), Debenham (7), Eye (3), Hoxne (3), Mildenhall (8), Needham Market (6), Stowmarket (6), Walsham Le Willows (3), Please contact our Group Leader, Woolpit (1).

money rather than in other forms e.g. somewhere on the token are the initials

food or accommodation. During the civil of the shop keeper and his wife, the



(grocer) of Stowmarket



Farthing token of Thomas Solley, grocer, of Mendlesham

We are a small, friendly group who meet in Stowmarket Library on the second Thursday of each month (2.00 -4.00 pm). You are very welcome to join KS

Melanie on 01449 767 757 for further details.

Scrabble

e have a new venue for a Stowmarket based Scrabble group!

Please contact me for further information.

Andrea Burton

01449 258 865

Painting for Pleasure

ur group continues to thrive. At the moment we are a full group and happy to follow our own individual painting styles and mediums.

We do not keep a waiting list, but hopefully someone will come forward

to start a new group that could accommodate those people who expressed an interest at the Showcase event.

Nina Rouse

01449 612 042

Play Reading

e select a play, usually with three Acts and the members read one Act at each of three meetings. This normally allows time to read the Act and have coffee and some discussion. Play Reading Group (1) recently read "Pygmalion" and currently we are reading "The Confidential Clerk". At present we have one vacancy in this Group which meets on the 2nd Monday in each month.

Play Reading Group (2) recently read "Arms and the Man" and currently we are reading "An Inspector Calls". This Group meets on the 4th Monday in each month. We will still have one vacancy for this group and I will take a waiting list.

Members pay an annual subscription to the Music & Drama Library (currently £2.40 per person) and share the cost of the hire of the playsets (usually around £1.00 each).

Contact: Maureen Wingham-Eaton

Tel: 01449 771200 or

Maureen.wingham@mwmedia.uk.com

Myths and Legends

hilst we are a very small group, we have, in recent times, increased our numbers enabling us to more fully explore the mystical and mythical world and it's history.

We meet on the 1st Monday afternoon at 2.15pm at the Library.

We have a short lecture followed by a lively discussion on that and our previous research on the subject.

Our upcoming topics are, 'Mythic Heroes - King Arthur' on 6th April, 'Mythic Heroes - Jason and the Argonauts' on 4th May with 'The Mono-myths of Rank and Campbell' completing our 2020 season on 1st June (Sorry, all cancelled)

More new members are very welcome to join our enthusiastic group.

Philip Weir

01449 676 528

U3A Singing Group

e continue to meet on the first and third Thursday of each month, regardless of school holidays, at

the Hillside Community Centre, Stowmarket IP142PD from 2pm to 3.15pm. The aim of the group is to have the opportunity to sing a range of songs for pleasure, not for performance, although we have

sung for one or two other groups on occasions.

The songs include rounds, sea shanties, from a spell in hospital following heart the sixties up to more recent times, together! songs from the shows and many more!

In addition we occasionally meet up to enjoy a meal together. The group met at the Osiers Cafe twice last year which gave the members a chance to socialise and get to know one another a little better.

New members are very welcome. Why not give us a try, the first visit is free!

To find out more please telephone Hilary on 07842189794

Lunch Club 2



was held in the URC Hall, we have been You can see a 'best of' selection of meeting every month.

The group has been run very well by at https://tinyurl.com/y737vfhb Bryan Hilton who is currently recovering **Peter Dakeyne** (Sorry, group is full)

British folk songs and songs from surgery. We were very pleased to welaround the world, popular songs from come him back for our February get

Colin Geyman

Table Tennis

C tarting last April with just 12 we now have some 21 active members. You don't have to be an expert to play, just take the opportunity to enjoy yourself and exercise mind and body at the same time!

Not everybody can attend every meeting of course, so at present we can take on a few more.

You can find full details on the web site

https://tinyurl.com/yzp6so3d

01449 781 562 Peter Dakeyne

Photography

t our February meeting, we mourned the passing of Bryan Field who'd been with us since the start (P8).

For almost 7 years now, we've been meeting each month to show and self Ith the exception of December, criticise our best pictures on many when the U3A Christmas event different topics (currently close on 80).

these on our group page on the web site

Potential new groups!

ew member, Bonnie Miller is inviting you to contact her regarding new groups she would like to start. Arty-Crafts! She is also a member of Bury St Edmunds U3A and has experience of running similar groups there.

changed if required as the group launches.

Current Affairs Discussion.

formation on some current item of ished. Sounds fun!

news and would give their own opinion Applied Psychology before passing it to the group for discussion.

Normally held at Bonnie's house (where she can prepare the area), this would be This is a course in assertiveness; 'don't an informal, interactive hands-on ses- be a doormat' and 'get what you want' Working titles are given but they can be sion where the members bring along are the objectives. Something comtheir own materials be they water or oil paints, paper, wool or sewing materials. they could benefit. There is no restriction on the type of art or craft explored. As an example, one With around 8 or 9 members, this group member could start a painting and pass would meet fortnightly to discuss issues it to the next to add something, and of the day. Each would bring along in- then on around the group until it's fin-

Not as scary as it sounds. It's easy for older people to fade into the background and let other people decide what's good for them.

pletely different for those who think

If any of these appeal to you, please call Bonnie on 01449 613 855

Walk and Talk.....

ormerly 'The Walking Group' and before that 'Longer Strolls'. Changing the name to 'Walk and Talk' reflects Phil Webb what we do and the friendly nature of the members.

We have a Facebook page to keep the group informed of our schedule and allow easy communication amongst ourselves. We have recently walked at Needham Market, Langham on the Suffolk Essex border, Alton Water and Freston (see following). All have ended with good pub lunches.

The group continues to grow with up to February 21st 27 walkers turning out on a regular basis. Although the weather has generally been far from perfect we have not needed to cancel any planned walks



over the winter. We missed the worst of the wind and rain, however some areas have been quite muddy at times!



aking advantage of a dry period, the walking group covered just under 5 miles starting along quiet roads past Freston church and onto the water tower. From there taking public footpaths across level fields, reaching Woolveston church "St Michael" in the park. After a short break we headed Exiting the wood in the front of the ed down to the fore shore, with a great lunch. view of the Orwell Bridge.



Heading west over a style, around the sailing club, ascending up to the B1080. Crossing the road, took a path across the fields then up through Freston wood.



west along "Stour/ Orwell walk" to the Freston church then a short walk along Freston Tower. The path then descend- the road back to The Boot for a splendid

Roger Crouch

Geology Group on tour again!

February: Sedgwick Museum in Cambridge

splendid place. It has informative displays outlining the geology history of Great Britain and an extensive collection of fossils. The picture shows fossils from Bawdsey, Sutton, Wood-



bridge, Waldringfield and Newbourne.



March: Colchester

The Natural History Museum is a gem. It has some relatable information about Essex geology and some fine fossils.

Underfoot Geology

We found these granite slabs by a traffic crossing in Colchester High Street. The



grey rocks are from Portugal. The pinkish ones are from the Lake District with dark sections that are trapped slate.



David Loades

G and T GROUP PROGRAMME FOR 2020

All planned G&T events up to and including June are cancelled. Plans for July (see below) onward will be reviewed as time progresses.

Jul 16th Henstead Exotic Garden, by coach, lunch at a local venue then afternoon tour of the garden. 55 minutes away. Organiser: Dee

Aug 20th Wyken Hall Vineyard and Gardens, car share. Lunch at a local pub then vineyard talk and tour. 25 minutes away. Organisers: Jacqui and Ann **Sept 24th Down House, home of Charles Darwin**. More details to come. Organiser: Stewart

Oct 15th The Long Shop Museum Leiston.

More details to come. Organiser: Stewart

Nov 19th End of season lunch

Keep up to date - call Stewart Dorward, 01449 774 213

G& T - Henstead Exotic Garden

"It's like Belize has come to Beccles" Alan Titchmarch





THURSDAY 16TH July (tbc), Coach from Solar 10.30 hrs

£25 for the coach, entry to the garden with a guided tour and tea with biscuits.

We will first go to Beccles, to arrive about 11am. Several places offer lunch (at own expense) or simply wander round the town and take in the sights.

Then at 13.15 hrs it is off to the garden, aiming to be back in Stowmarket by 16.30 hrs.

Payment in full required by Wednesday June 17th

If you require a lift to the coach pick up point contact the organiser, **Dee (01449 711683), or Stewart (01449 774213)**

24/04/2020 is our **30th** Anniversary

urrent Life Member, Harold Turner, was involved in generating interest in the U3A in 1989.

As reported by the then Chairman (Barry Renolds) at the first AGM in September 1991, "The Inaugural Meeting was held on 24th April 1990 and with an attendance of over 70 people, STAR – U3A was born for Stowmarket and district!"

All being well, we will combine our 30th Birthday celebrations with the Afternoon Tea Garden Party on 15th July

Houses of Parliament

Originally planned for June 8th, regretfully ,this trip, has had to be **postponed**.

Subject to current restrictions being lifted, I would hope to re-arrange for some time in October.

Further details will be issued closer to the time.

Ken Snow 01449 258 865

_ A K E Ĥ O U S E

Onehouse (opposite the Shepherd & Dog)

Afternoon Tea Garden Party and 30th Birthday Celebration!







Wednesday 15 July, 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm £10.00

for Afternoon Tea and Vintage Games......
Includes three choices of sandwiches and sausage roll.

Freshly baked fruit served with clotted cream.

Cheese and Jam Scones served with butter.

A range of sweet treats including raspberry cheesecake, lemon posset and mini brownies.

Tea & Coffee

(Subject to confirmation closer to the time)

Computing & Technology

ver the last couple of years or so we haven't been able to sustain a monthly meeting and have replaced this Stowmarket Library: Tablet and with an on line forum and a quarterly meeting; this arrangement seems acceptable to all, although I would like to see more use of the online forum which is open to all Stowmarket U3A members, not just the C&T group.



In December we held our usual 'bring a plate' session (above) and a lot of informative fun was had by all.

We did look at some local learning resources which could be of benefit to the wider membership..

Age UK, Suffolk are promoting 10 week courses in 'tablet skills' in Stowmarket, Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds. The donation of £25.00 includes the lessons and provision of a Kindle Fire 7 tablet. Two of our members have already completed this course and found it

'brilliant'! For details on the courses or for future dates, call the Fundraising Team on 01473 298683.

smartphone help – drop in with your device for help and advice from West Suffolk Sight's tech team, first Tuesday of the month, 2 pm-5 pm.

Internet training sessions for beginners: book in advance, 01449 700 549

NB. For the time being, both the above are, of course, closed.

BT 'Skills for Tomorrow': It's free and an ideal way to learn IT/computer based skills at home. Here's the link to get started on 'Mastering The Basics', https://tinyurl.com/yx2pym38. Just sign up and find a short course (20 min or so) on a topic that interests you. There's also an audio option if necessary.

Other things to consider:

Subscribe to Computer Active magazine - many of our members do. It provides a lot of useful information without too much jargon.

GCF Learn Free: You can get the answer to almost any Computer/Technology question on the GCF Learn Free site https://tinyurl.com/ya9ggsqz

In these difficult times, here are a couple more things of interest......

Suffolk Libraries, e books: Whilst the buildings are closed, it's still possible to get free access to thousands of the latest eBooks, eAudio titles, magazines, newspapers, films, courses and stream-

All you need is your library card (you can get one online if you don't have one). Just follow

https://tinyurl.com/r4nyouh

Friends Against Scams: This was to be the talk by Amanda Lawrence of Nat West Bank on May 20th.

You needn't miss out though, as this would have been based around a web site 'Friends Against Scams' who's strap line is 'Empowering People To Take A Stand Against Scams'. There is a wealth of information - enough to keep you occupied for hours if you wish! Well worth a look and highly recommended https://tinyurl.com/jhmh87y

All the links above and elsewhere in this e-Newsletter are 'live', just click as required.

Peter Dakeyne 01449 781 562

newseditor@u3astowmarket.org.uk

U3A Beacon

ver the last few months, a small committee working party has been investigating the U3A 'Beacon' system for possible use by Stowmarket U3A.

Beacon is a management system designed by U3As, for U3As. It provides a simple interface for managing members, groups and finances.

At the moment, about 400 of the 1050 U3As in the country are using the Beacon system, and at their meeting on 13th March, the Committee voted to adopt Beacon, to be operational for the new financial year commencing 01/08/2020.

Linda Reynold is heading the project and you can get more information 07880 516 926 or from her at on sabeacon@u3astowmarket.org.uk



Some of our new members meeting the Committee in January

We are sorry to announce the death of BRYAN FIELD, a long standing and loyal member of Stowmarket U3A. Over the years, Bryan joined several groups; he was an active walker and one of the founder members of the Photography Group in 2013. Our condolences go out to Hazel and her family. He will be missed!

STOWMARKET U3A, ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS - March 2020. Please contact the Leader/Convenor for more information

ART APPRECIATION (SAAG)		Monthly: Agreed Tuesday	LUNCH CLUB (Sunday)		Monthly: 2 nd Sunday
Tony Taylor		9.30am	Contact Andrea Burton	01449 258 865	for more information
BOOK CLUB		Monthly: Last Monday	MUSIC – Classical		Monthly:- 4 th Tuesday
Mary Bradley	01449 775 628	2.00pm	Ian Hooper	01449 770 179	10.00am
BRIDGE INTERMEDIATE/IMPROVERS		Weekly: Friday	MYTHS, STORIES AND LEGENDS		Monthly: 1 st Monday
Carol Gibson	07918 743 154	2.00pm	Philip Weir	01449 676 528	2.15pm
CANASTA (1)		Weekly: Wednesday.	PAINTING FOR PLEASURE		2/Month: 2 nd , 4 th Fridays
Hazel Burl	01449 615 581	9.30am (Stowupland)	Nina Rouse	01449 612 042	10.00am - 12noon
CANASTA (2)		Weekly: Tuesday	PATCHWORK		Monthly: 3 rd Monday
Carol Gibson	07918 743 154	2pm-5pm	Kate Riddleston	01449 612 871	2.00pm
COMPUTING & TECHNOLOGY		Online Q&A forum &	PHOTOGRAPHY		Monthly: 3 rd Tuesday
Peter Dakeyne	01449 781 562	Quarterly meetings	Peter Dakeyne	01449 781 562	2.00pm
DISCUSSION		Monthly: 2 nd Tuesday	PLAY READING (1) & (2)		2 nd Mon (1), 4 th Mon (2)
David Warner	01449 612 730	10.00am	Maureen Wingham-Eaton	01449 771 200	10.00am – 12 noon
FRENCH CONVERSATION (1)		2/Month: 2 nd , 4 th Tuesdays	POETRY		Monthly: 4 th Thursday
Andrea Burton	01449 258 865	10.00am	Jenifer Adams	01449 615 581	2.00pm
FRENCH CONVERSATION (2)		Alternate Wednesdays	QUIZ		Monthly: 4 th Thursday
Zuleika Dobson	01449 615 811	10.00am	Melanie Westenra-Hartley	01449 767 757	2.00pm - 4.00pm
GARDENS & THINGS		Monthly: 3 rd Thursday	SCRABBLE PLAYING		Variable - By Arrangement
Stewart Dorward	01449 774 213	9.30am (variable)	Contact Andrea Burton	01449 258 865	For more information
GEOLOGY		2/Month: 1 st , 3 rd Tuesdays	WALK and TALK		2/Month: 1st, 3rd Fridays
Linda Reynolds	07880 516 926	2.00pm	Phil Webb	01449 614 616	9.30am (variable)
David Loades	07761 282 630		Keith Shelton	01449 768 744	
HISTORY		Monthly: 2 nd Thursday	TABLE TENNIS		Alternate Mondays
Melanie Westenra-Hartley 01449 767 757		2.00pm – 4.00pm	Peter Dakeyne	01449 781 562	2.00pm - 3.30pm
LUNCH CLUB (1)	***	Monthly: 2nd Thursday	THEATRE OUTINGS		By arrangement
Angela Bentley	01449 780 274	12.20pm	Sharon Jeeves	07904 026 864	55917
LUNCH CLUB (2)		Monthly: 4 th Wednesday	SINGING		2/Month: 1 st , 3 rd Thursday:
Bryan Hilton	01449 258 152	12.00pm	Hilary Foster	01359 241 773	2.00pm
LUNCH CLUB (3)		Monthly: 4 th Thursday			
Pat Griffiths	01449 721 137	12.30pm			

Stowmarket U3A Committee Members 2019/2020



















Phil Webb Diane Plester Lorraine Shelton Anne Webb
Glynis Hunt Evelyn Russell Keith Shelton Linda Reynolds Mike Barne

Glynis Hunt	Evelyn Russell	Keith Shelton	Linda Reynolds Mike Barnes	
Chair			chair@u3astowmarket.org.uk	
Vice Chair	Mrs Glynis Hunt	01449 258 714	vicechair@u3astowmarket.org.uk	
Secretary	Mr Phil Webb	01449 614 616	secretary@u3astowmarket.org.uk	
Treasurer	Mrs Evelyn Russell	01473 833 034	treasurer@u3astowmarket.org.uk	
Membership Secretary	Mrs Diane Plester	07913 798 964	membership@u3astowmarket.org.uk	
Programme Organiser	Mr Keith Shelton	01449 768 744	programme@u3astowmarket.org.uk	
Programme Organiser	Mrs Lorraine Shelton	01449 768 744	programme@u3astowmarket.org.uk	
Committee Members	Mrs Linda Reynolds	07880 516 926		
	Mrs Anne Webb	01449 614 616		
	Mr Mike Barnes	07916 150 475		
Editor / Webmaster	Peter Dakeyne	01449 781 562	newseditor@u3astowmarket.org.uk	
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