

# **NEWSLETTER** No. 66 November 2022

#### Hello and welcome to our November newsletter.

C o, Glynis is in the process of moving to pastures new and I am sure you will all join me in expressing our thanks for her sterling job as Chair, albeit her legacy of leaving a new Chair who speaks with a distinct accent leaves a little to be desired.

My welcome to the new committee that has been formed of new and past members voted in at the AGM. Warmest congratulations and welcome to our new Vice Chair, Jacki Goodchild.

Summer has now officially passed, the long winters nights are drawing in and darkness descends earlier and earlier. Spare a thought for those people on their own or in worse circumstances than us and share our 'learn, laugh, live' mantra.

There have been a multitude of interesting talks arranged by John Hunter - Chair Keith and Lorraine for our monthly meetings which have captured my imagination. Also, congratulations to Keith who

has received an award for the 'Pride of Stowmarket' at the Stowmarket Town Awards 2022/23 sponsored by the Lions Club of Stowmarket (page 7).

The tea and scones session at Red Gables was well attended giving me cause to chat to some interesting people. The weather was good and everyone I spoke to was enjoying it.

Now the weather is deteriorating I hope that the indoor groups will be swamped by an influx of new members as new blood is always welcome in all our groups. Remember we can set up new groups to accommodate demand for a subject and it doesn't need to be led by a single individual. If you think it is interesting, I am sure that there are other likeminded individuals who will assist.

To end, our objective is 'learn, laugh, live' and we need to make this part of our everyday lives.



### Stowmarket u3a Committee Members 2022/2023—As elected at the AGM, 21/09/2022





Jacki Goodchild





**Evelvn Russell** 















Glenda Taylor

John Hunter

Chain

Amanda Park

Anne Weedon

Keith Shelton

Lorraine Shelton Linda Revnolds

07832 063 550

Liz Power

Anne Webb

Mike Taylor

Chair
Vice Chair
Secretary
Treasurer
Membership Secretary
Programme Organiser
Programme Organiser
Beacon Administrator
<b>Groups Coordinator</b>

**Committee Members** 

Mr John Hunter
Mrs Jacki Goodchild
Mrs Amanda Park
Mrs Evelyn Russell
Mrs Ann Weedon
Mr Keith Shelton
Mrs Lorraine Shelton
Mrs Linda Reynolds
Mrs Liz Power
Mrs Anne Webb

Mrs Glenda Taylor Mr Mike Taylor

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01449 781 972
01473 833 034
01449 771 947
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ur July monthly meeting this year was our summer event - a Garden Party with afternoon tea held in the grounds of Red Gables in Stowmarket. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon and we were able to sit in the shaded garden area to the front of the building. The event was well attended and everyone was very friendly and chatty. The event was opened by Glynis Hunt, our chair, and later we were joined by

Stowmarket Mayor Barry Salmon and his consort Heather Salmon. It was lovely to see them again as they are well good fun trying to remember past known in the Stowmarket Walk and Talk adverts and logos. There were group.

The huge delicious scones were provided by Palmers Bakery and quite a few members took some home as there was so much to eat. Thanks to Phil and Anne Webb who prepared the quiz which was linked to identifying brands

and companies. It was a great platform to get people talking and mingling and opportunities to play games such as giant Jenga and boules but most people preferred to chat and relax.

It was a great afternoon enjoyed by all. Special thanks go to all the helpers who made this event such a success



Click this picture to go to a full size gallery on our web site













ugust: We welcomed Jonathan **Belsey,** who gave a talk on Smallpox in Suffolk. Unfortunately, he had problems with his projector and so gave the talk without his visual presentation. Many of us think that this proved to be to our advantage since Jonathan gave a really good talk, in which his interest and knowledge of the

subject shone through.

Edward Jenner is usually credited with introducing the idea of introducing the smallpox vaccination. However, Mary Wortley Montagu, the wife of Britain's ambassador to Turkey in the 16th century came upon an old woman who had a reputation for protecting children against smallpox. Her technique was to scratch a vein in a child's arm and introduce a smallpox pustule. These children never caught smallpox. Lady Montagu suggested inoculating children in this fashion but was condemned for proposing such a preposterous idea!



Only Robert Sutton, showed any real vision. The Suttons, an eighteenth-century family of Suffolk surgeons consisting of Robert Sutton and six of his sons, were largely responsible for promoting the practice of inoculation for smallpox. The family lived at Kenton, about three miles from Debenham. In 1757 Robert Sutton hired a large house where he inoculated. quarantined, boarded and nursed patients for a month after they received his inoculation. Within a year he had three houses.



His son **Robert** opened two houses at Barrow near Bury St. Edmunds and one in Norfolk for inoculation. In 1764 smallpox broke out at Maldon where Robert's son. Daniel. inoculated the whole village. None of the patients died, and three weeks later there were no further cases of smallpox. In 1766, Daniel had opened another establishment in Kent. More members of the Sutton family were now involved in the inoculating business and inoculation houses sprung up in Framingham Earl in Norfolk, London, Hyde Park, Paris, Oxford; Isle of Wight, Wakefield, Bordeaux as well as in Bedingfield, Suffolk.

As regards communities, in addition to the occasion at Maldon, one occurred at thousand pounds. The term Diss, Hadleigh and Maidstone, reducing the incidence of smallpox there for the

rest of the century." The inoculators could cause severe smallpox in the patient and start an epidemic. The Suttons seem to have avoided this by their inoculating technique and by either isolating their patients in inoculation houses or by inoculating all the members of a community at one time.

Edward Jenner heard about this story and it sparked his interest. For the next twenty years Jenner observed milkmaids who had come down with cowpox and found that they never contracted smallpox. This prompted trials and resulted in the publication of Jenner's paper in 1798. Jenner was knighted and received a prize of ten vaccination? It comes from the Latin word for cow. Now you know why.

eptember: Following the AGM our speaker was **Mark Mitchels** who gave a talk on Characters of East Anglia. A number of member feedbacks to me after the talk was that this was the best talk we have ever had! In his talk, which clearly reflected his passion for history, Mark informed us about four East Anglian characters and in doing so spanned the years 1415 through to the present day. His knowledge was impressive and his enthusiastic and entertaining delivery kept all the audience absorbed and engrossed in the subsequent hanging, managed to win characters he described.

Firstly, William Bardolph of Dennington, Suffolk who fought with Henry V at Agincourt in 1415 and apart from holding high office in court, when he died in London in 1441 had a funeral procession from London, through Essex, through Suffolk back to Dennington with upbringing, including having all his teeth services held at every church along the way.

Secondly, we moved into the 18th century where we learned about the villain, Dick Turpin, born in Hempstead,



Essex and how such a despicable villain for most of his life, at his trial and over the hearts of the public to become a folk hero.

Mark then took us into the 19th century and to Felbrigg Hall in Norfolk where William Windham inherited the estate at the age of 14. His unreliable guardians contributed to his unstable replaced with wooden pegs. The enormous financial cost of winning the most expensive lunacy case in English

history against accusations from his "family, together with his spendthrift and eccentric way of life, finally left him bankrupt. He finished life as a stage coach driver.

Finally, Mark told us the story of Maria Marten who was shot dead by her lover William Corder in Polstead, Suffolk, which became to be known as the Red Barn Murder. In the wellpublicised trial in Bury St Edmunds where the only case is known of a "dream" being accepted as "evidence", Corder was found guilty and hanged in the town in 1828. Red Barn was stripped by souvenir hunters and the plays, ballads and songs which grew out of the story remained popular throughout the 20th century and continue to be performed today.



or **October** our speaker was **Barbara** in the Army, he was stunned to receive **McElrov** who gave a fascinating and well-researched talk on a "Suffolk Bevin Boy" which covered both the experiences of Bevin Boys in general, but in particular the experience of her Suffolk-born Dad, Les Raymond.

As many of our members already knew 'Bevin Boys' was the nickname, after Ernest Bevin, the Wartime Coalition Government Minister of Labour and National Service, given to some 21,000 young British men, who though signed up for active service in one of the armed forces, were conscripted by ballot to work in the coal mines of the United Kingdom, between 1943 and 1948. The aim was to restore the rate of coal production which had declined rapidly in the early years of World War II.

Barbara's McElroy's father, now in his 96th year, was a native of Suffolk who trained as an army cadet at Sudbury. Instead of going on to serve his country a letter requiring him to work down the mines, without any right of appeal.



Although Barbara's father gained the respect of regular miners through his willingness to do what he was asked, and work hard, Bevin Boys were targets of abuse from the general public, who wrongly believed them to be 'draft dodgers' or cowards, and were regularly stopped by the police as suspected deserters.

Unlike many men in the First World War, who were given badges to show they were employed in War Duty, 'Bevin unveiled at the National Memorial Boys' were afforded no such luxury. Neither were they awarded medals for their important contribution to the war

effort, sickness pay, uniforms, nor did their wives receive any army pension if they died in duty.

'Bevin Boy' conscripts were not released from service until 1948! Many never spoke to their families about their experiences in the mines, where physical injuries and fatal accidents were a common occurrence. Nor did they take pride in the work they had done, instead expressing only regret that they had not served their country as they feel that they should have done.

Nonetheless, there endures a strong sense of comradeship among surviving 'Bevin Boys', manifested in the 'Bevin Boys Association' founded in 1989. A more permanent commemoration of their brave endeavours has been marked by a dedicated monument, Arboretum, Staffordshire in 2013. The poignant inscription reads, 'WE ALSO SERVED'.



**Group News** 



#### Walking

The longer walking group, "Walk and Talk" meet twice monthly, with walks of about 5 miles. In July Glynis Hunt planned a walk for us round Coddenham, starting and finishing at the Community Centre. We went on from there to lunch at The Highwayman.

In August Linda Reynolds and Roger Crouch led a walk around Kettlebaston, after which we lunched at the Chestnut



Horse, Great Finborough.





Later in the month Glenda and Mike Taylor led a walk around Beyton and we lunched at the White Horse Pub in the village.

In September, Glenda and Mike kindly led another walk. This time we explored Bacton, starting and finishing at the Bacton Bull, where we lunched afterwards. In the other September walk **Anna and Robert Bradshaw** led us around the countryside of Great Finborough, starting and finishing (and lunching) at the Chestnut Horse.

In October Lorraine and Keith Shelton planned the walk which took us from Mendlesham Green, through Middlewood Green to Forward Green, before returning to Mendlesham Green. Lunch was at the White Horse, Stoke Ash. The second October walk will be planned by Anne and Phil Webb who intend to take us around Wyverstone before lunching at the Bacton Bull.

**Keith Shelton/Phil Webb** 

(Watch a slide show of walks 2021/22)

walk for us.

With no walk in August the group met again in September, this time 27(!) members completed a three mile walk

to thrive. In July, 23 members the Buxhall Granary Crafts Centre Café Dagworth when we started completed a three-mile circular walk and Museum at Brooks Farm, Buxhall. finished at Narey's Garden Centre. **Stowupland**, starting and Normally the centre is closed during the finishing at the Crown Pub, where a winter months but they were willing to number of us stayed for drinks and open up specially and exclusively for us lunch afterwards. Thank you to Ann on this occasion. As a consequence, all and Martin Jones for organising the 27 of us stayed for drinks and cakes after the walk and many of us spent quite a while wandering around the very impressive museum there which depicted local rural life over the past two centuries or so.

he Short Walking Group continues around Buxhall, starting and finishing at The October walk took us around



#### Computing and Technology.

ollowing our face to face meeting in June (report July issue) we've reverted to our jit.si meetings on line.

We've had two meetings since, August and October. With 8 or 9 in attendance at each we had much fun and chatter in amongst our more technical discussions.

August: In a very full meeting (notes, HERE) and amongst other things, we discussed 'tracking downloads'—it's not always clear where they go, you can accept the default or set your own destination; 'numerous smart phone issues'; the 'Internet Archive'; how to find the calendar in 'Microsoft' Publisher; 'Computer Active Magazine' - should we keep to the paper version or move online? (followed up in October

meeting) and 'how to download attachments' (picture/documents) in Gmail messages. This might seem straight forward but it seems to vary from machine to machine and what version you happen to be on.

October: (Notes HERE) Following on from the June meeting we discussed every one's experience with the Computer Active magazine, print or online version. For those who had taken the plunge, the results were mixed; one member was very pleased because due to his failing eyesight he can set the print size to more easily read, whilst I am unhappy that there are no active links (as I was told on the phone that there were ) for immediate follow up on referenced web sites. Others have yet to come to a decision.

Amongst other items discussed were investigating a red triangle alert message on an HP laptop; mysterious loss of space on a C:/ drive and how it was recovered; getting Excel to run on a resurrected PC and, still on Excel, how to print up just a part of a sheet using the 'Set print Area' command first.

Our new WhatsApp group, where we can post problems without waiting for the next meeting, is quite successful. In the last Newsletter I mentioned that any Stowmarket U3A member can join. If this is of interest to you, please follow this Invite Link to join (please do not share this with anyone outside of Stowmarket U3A).

Peter Dakeyne

#### **Play Reading - Virtual**

he Virtual Play Reading Group has continued to meet twice a month on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, 11.00am – 12.00 noon.

Following "Death of a Salesman" by Arthur Miller, we took a break over August. Since then, we have read "Overruled" a One Act Play by George Bernard Shaw. Presently we are reading Maureen Wingham-Eaton the Restoration play "The Double Dealer" by William Congreve. We plan to follow that with the play "I am a Camera" by John van Druten.

I anticipate that the Play Reading Group Table Tennis will continue as a Virtual Group for the foreseeable future.

If anyone wishes to join the Virtual Group, please contact me. Anyone who is interested in joining the Group once we return to live meetings, please contact me and I will keep you informed when the situation changes.

Tel: 01449 771200 - email: Maureen.wingham@mwmedia.uk.com

Our group is going from strength to strength with currently 24 members. We play every other week at the St Peter's Church Hall in Stowmarket.

Qualification to join—be a Stowmarket U3A member! You will be made very welcome irrespective of past experience

Get all the details from our information sheet on the web site HERE.

Peter Dakeyne 01449 781 562

#### **History Group**

or the July meeting of our History Group, fellow member Neville Cox organised a visit for us to the National Food Museum, formerly the Museum of East Anglian Life.

After an informative introductory talk our guide took us to the Crowe Street cottages where we had a guided tour. It really was a glimpse back into the past. For over 200 years the cottages were home to farm workers and their families but much of the cottage is how Emily Wilding lived in it for over 40 years and it now stands exactly how she left it in the 1970s. Other parts of the cottage



contain
bygone dairy
equipment
showing
how the
back of the
cottage was
run as a
dairy to
prepare the
milk, cream
and butter
for the "big

house" (Abbotts Hall), which formed the next part of our tour. Each room in the house has a themed exhibition which in some way characterises life in our part of the world.

The tour also extended to the walled gardens and the stables. What you may not realise is that for the usual entrance fee you can become a bronze annual pass holder, which entitles you to unlimited visits to the museum for 12 months – great value for money!!

In August our talk was given by fellow member Don Mobley, a retired United States Air Force Serviceman on US military Aviation in East Anglia. Don gave a passionate talk and after serving for 29 years in the US Air Force it was little surprise that Don has such a deep and wide expertise in the subject. New terms and names were used like "Aardvark", "Mud hen", "Warthog", "Dragon Lady" and "Blackbird" – the types of airplanes used. As well as

sharing so much information about the aircraft used in both World Wars, the Cold War and modern-day operation, it hit home to us the massive contribution the USA made to WWII, with 7,031 US aircraft reported missing in action by American Air Forces from Britain during the Second World War. We learned about the Memphis Belle, the Doughboys, the Mighty Eighth Air Force, the Combines Bomber Offensive and Operation Overlord and Desert Storm, the Kosovo War, the Afghanistan and the Iraq Wars.

To complement Don's talk, the September Meeting was a visit to the 493rd Bomb Group Museum at the Debach Airfield Open Day. The museum stands on a WWII Air Base (Heavy Bomber Station of the US Eighth Army Air Force) and each of the hangers were completely full of artefacts and exhibitions relating to this era. Each exhibition was supported by a volunteer of the Base and we were so impressed by their willingness to share their enthusiasm and knowledge. It was a lovely summer's day and we all met up half way through the day to share a picnic together.

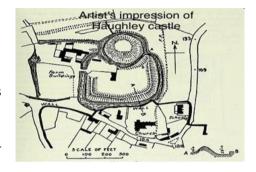


See *many* more pictures of this most interesting day out in the gallery on our web site <u>HERE</u>

In our **October** meeting fellow member, **Anna Bradshaw** gave a very informative talk on "Haughley Castle". Anna, researching the subject from scratch, in her own measured way, gradually unfolded to us the history of what was proved to be such an important and prestigious site, even though it had such a short life of less than 100 years. It was a Motte and double Bailey Castle, with a wooden Keep, built at the beginning of

the 12th century and would have had the same status that Windsor Castle holds today. The waterways through the county proved to be an important factor in deciding the site of the Castle, its importance already established in earlier times by the discovery of evidence suggesting the existence of a Danish Great Barn/Hall built in what was to become the Inner Bailey of the Castle.

After his success at the Battle of Hastings, William the Conqueror awarded his loyal comrade in arms, Hugh de Montford, the lands of Haughley as an "Honour" – a highly



prestigious and noble and much coveted award – one of only four Honours given by William I.

However, the castle was built in turbulent times. Henry II had taken the throne after the death of King Stephen and seized Haughley Castle in 1163 and Ralph de Broc, the knight who arranged the death of Thomas Beckett, soon afterwards became Constable of Haughley. In 1173, the Earl of Leicester, ally of Henry II's sons and future Kings Richard and John, decided to take Haughley Castle for themselves and placed the Castle under siege. In an attempt to smoke the inhabitants out, the wooden Keep caught fire and the Castle burnt to the ground. As Haughley suffered from this tragedy and gradually diminished in status and stature, so Stowmarket began to rise from Haughley's ashes to become eventually the main town in the region. Well done to Anna who brought what could be described as a mount of earth and a pond to life for us. We will all see Haughley now in a completely different light.

#### **Gardens and Things**

This will be my final contribution to the Newsletter as co-ordinator of the G&T group. It has been an interesting and at times frustrating 5 years, this last year



proving no exception with 2 of the 6 scheduled trips being cancelled due to low numbers. Hopefully a successor has been found and the group can continue.

Since the last Newsletter we visited Stowupland's Columbine Hall in August which, I believe was the best trip this year! The sheer amount of effort put in to regenerate a near derelict property and its grounds together with the enthusiasm of the owner and the chief gardener in showing us around showed through. The accompanying photos give an idea of the Hall and its gardens.



There is certainly no shortage of places to explore in the local area. I hope you support my successor not only by suggestions but also by doing the groundwork for individual visits in the future. Valete!

**Stewart Dorward** 

#### Photography.

e continue to meet on line every month. Recent topics explored are 'Texture', 'Street Scenes', 'Maritime' and 'Frames'. Our November topic is 'Power'.



Make sure to visit our website

gallery where examples of all our pictures since we started the group in 2013 are displayed.

**Peter Dakeyne** 

('Frames' picture by Roy Fildler)

#### Geology.

ur visit in September was to the Fossil Cliffs at Walton -on- the-Naze. Just click the play button to see all the pictures in a Gallery on the web site.



**Linda Reynolds** 



id you know, the Third Age Trust provides a lot of (mostly free) on-line learning events? Including regular and one off Zoom sessions. There is something to appeal to everyone.

For example, in the next two months there are courses for 'Seated Yoga for All', and 'Laughter Yoga Workshops' plus specials including 'Live Cookery Demonstrations', 'The Maths of Bell Ringing' and many more. Check u3a them all out HERE

#### Coming up....

**December 14th**. Christmas Party, URC (P8 for menu)

January 18th. 'Bronze Horsemen', Peter the Great, Catherine and more. Jenny Anthil

February 15th. 'A Phoenix in the Waveney' - the repair of a fire damaged medieval building. **Rick Lewis** 

March 15th. 'A Question of Identity'. Poetry, prose and plenty of humour. Janet Dann

## towmarket Town Awards Winners, 2022

Web announcement - "Stowmarket's unsung heroes and inspiring individuals were celebrated at the John Peel Centre on 30th September with 12 awards given out to people, businesses and charities for their contributions to the local community. The evening, organised by Stowmarket Town Council

championed local people doing extraordinary things.

Perhaps the most coveted award of the night, the **Pride of Stowmarket**, went to veteran volunteer Keith Shelton. Keith has provided thousands of hours of voluntary support at The Mix, coaching secondary school children, acting as a mentor as part of the Greenlights programme and volunteering for the annual Crucial Crew event. Keith is also a report HERE

Committee Member of Stowmarket U3A, a group for those who are retired or semi-retired and love learning new things."

Congratulations to Keith! See the full



#### **Gardens and Things**



#### CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

At URC STOWMARKET

**TUESDAY 6th DECEMBER, 2022** 

10.00 am - 12.30 pm

Wreath £17.50, Table Decoration £16.50

TICKETS: Available until Friday 18th November, from:-

Lorraine (01449 768 744) or Anne (01449 614 616)

Includes Coffee/Tea + Mince Pies

Please bring your own greenery and secateurs or scissors. Every thing else is provided

Stowmarket U3A, Christmas Lunch 2022 URC Hall, 14th December 2022, 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm,

Price £26.00 pp - for 3 courses, £21.50 pp for 2 courses (main & dessert)

Tickets on sale at the November meeting.

Мепи

Prawn Cocktail, or Cream of Carrot & Coriander soup, or Fan of seasonal Melon and Raspberry Coulis

Traditional- Roast Turkey
Chipolata sausage, stuffing & Cranberry sauce, or
Fillet of Salmon with lime and Dill sauce, or
Parsnip, Cranberry and Chestnut Loaf with a Cranberry & Madeira sauce
All served-with roast potatoes & a selection of vegetables

Homemade Christmas pudding with Brandy butter & cream or Homemade Lemon Meringue Cheese cake, or Fresh Fruit Salad, or Cheese selection and biscuits

> Coffee & Mints Homemade Mince pies

Please feel free to bring your own soft drinks/wine & glasses, should you wish. Allergies and dietary requirements can be catered for

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# ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS Currently running - November 2022.

If you have an idea for a new group and would like some assistance in setting it up please contact Liz Power, Groups Coordinator on 07799 761 336, or email groupscoord@u3astowmarket.org.uk

BOOK CLUB		
Sylvia Downs	01449 612 661	
BRIDGE INTERMEDIATE/IMPRO	VERS	
Carol Gibson	07918 743 154	
CANASTA (1)		
Hazel Burl	01449 615 581	
CANASTA (2)		
Carol Gibson	07918 743 154	
COMPUTING & TECHNOLOGY (Virtual)		
Peter Dakeyne	01449 781 562	
DISCUSSION		
David Warner	01449 612 730	
FRENCH CONVERSATION (1)		
Helen Mead	01449 677 846	
FRENCH CONVERSATION (2)	/-	
Neville Cox	01473 657 374	
GARDENS & THINGS		
Stewart Dorward (pro tem)	01449 774 213	
GEOLOGY		
Linda Reynolds	07880 516 926	
HISTORY		
Lorraine/Keith Shelton	01449 768 744	
LUNCH CLUB (Sunday)		
Ken Snow	01449 763 691	
LUNCH CLUB (1)		
Ken Snow	01449 763 691	
MUSIC - CLASSICAL		
lan Hooper	01449 770 179	
PATCHWORK		
Jean Roche	01449 675 984	
PHOTOGRAPHY (Virtual)		
Peter Dakeyne	01449 781 562	
PLAY READING (Virtual)		
Maureen Wingham-Eaton	01449 771 200	
POETRY		
Jenifer Adams	01449 615 581	
QUIZ		
Melanie Westenra-Hartley	01449 767 757	
SCRABBLE PLAYING		
Liz Power - for information	07799 761 336	
SINGING		
Hilary Foster	01359 241 773	
TABLE TENNIS		
Peter Dakeyne	01449 781 562	
WALK and TALK and SHORTER \		
Phil Webb	01449 614 616	
Keith Shelton	01449 768 744	

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Next Issue March 2023

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