

From the Chair



It is with regret in view of the ongoing Coronavirus situation your committee have decided to cancel the March Monthly General Meeting on 24th March and the Coffee Morning scheduled for Thursday 2nd April.

As we anticipate the government will be coming forward with self isolation recommendations in the near future we feel this is the correct course of action for our group.

Interest groups may wish to continue to meet but this must be with the agreement of it's members, convenors and hosts.

We urge you to all observe all the hygiene rules that are being recommended and not to attend any group if you have recently returned from a holiday outside the UK.

On a different note we are well into the planning of our National U3A Day. This will take the form of an Open Day where many of our groups will be showcasing what they are up to.

Nationally the U3A has recognised that the U3A Day may not go ahead as planned and have set aside a provisional date later in the year so any planning or preparation we undertake will not be wasted.

Annual General Meeting

We are also fast approaching our Annual General Meeting in May. Committee nomination forms will be available on our website. Please consider joining your committee.

You just need to get a member to nominate you and another to second that nomination. If you would like to nominate yourself for a particular committee position then please state this on the form.

Membership Renewal 2020/21

Renewal of membership fees are due on the 1st April. Renewals Policy, a Standing Order Form and BACS details can be found on pages 10 and 11 of this newsletter.

If you are unable to renew using any of the above methods, please post or hand deliver to Christine Frederick our Membership Secretary at 32 Mileham Drive, Aylsham NR11 6WD

New membership Cards will be available as soon as possible after you have renewed and will probably be distributed by post.

Membership application forms can be downloaded from the website.

**MARCH
MONTHLY
MEETING**



Speaker: Richard Gibbons

Subject: D-Day & the Norman's Aftermath

Venue: Aylsham Town Hall

Date: Tuesday 24th March 2020

Time: 2.00pm (Doors open 1.15pm)

Meeting Cancelled

Report of the General Meeting held on Tuesday 28th February 2020 at the Town Hall, Aylsham

The February meeting welcomed Jason Raper with his talk on the History of the Theatre Royal in Norwich.

He commenced by telling the audience that the first dramatic performances in Norwich were the religious plays acted out in the city centre in the 15th century by local tradesmen's guilds. These plays – which had their origins in the miracle plays of over a century earlier had been created by members of the clergy to bring home the key teachings of the Christian faith.

Throughout the 16th and 17th Century the city was visited by numerous groups of what could be described as strolling players, attracted by the fact that Norwich was, by now the second largest city in the country.

The Red Lion and the White Horse Inn near Tombland seem to have been the most prominent venues, in the early 16th century The King's Arms and The White Swan close to St Peter Mancroft Church became more prominent venues in the 17th century.

By the mid 17th century the Norwich Company of Comedians had become a professional and well-paid company and had a substantial following. It seemed clear from that point that the city could support a theatre which would be better equipped than the public houses that currently housed the dramatic performances.



Thomas Ivory's New Theatre of 1758



William Wilkins Jr's Theatre Royal rebuilt in 1826



The Theatre as it looked when Jack Gladwin took it over in 1926

In 1757 a man stepped forward to take on this challenge. The theatre he built became the first Norwich Theatre.

The building known as The New Theatre was built in Chapel Field where much of the land and property was owned by Sir Henry Hobart who was persuaded by a number of prominent businessmen to sell them a lease on the property and land. In turn they engaged well-known local architect and builder, Thomas Ivory to design the building. Ivory's new theatre opened on 31st January 1758 with the performances of William Congreve's *The Way of the World* and Henry Fielding's *The Mock Doctor*.

The original 1758 building required a considerable amount of maintenance and was continually renovated during the Georgian period 1768 – 1825 with improvements to the gallery, boxes, orchestra pit, lighting, stage and exterior.

By the early 18th century the theatre was in a poor condition with increasing maintenance costs. By 1817 William Wilkins was calling for a new building, after his death his son William Wilkins Jr. continue with this project.

Plans were approved in April 1825 and was constructed in a year and is on the same site that the building occupies today at a cost of £6000. A performance of Richard Brindly Sheridans *The School for Scandal* was performed at its opening on the 25th March 1826.

Fred Morgan assumed ownership of the theatre in 1885 and remained in charge for some 30 years finally selling the building to theatre entrepreneurs E. H. Bostock and F.W. Fitt in 1916. A decade after they had assumed ownership, they sold their interest to Jack Gladwin and Joe Collins. After Collins death in 1931 Gladwin purchased his share of the theatre. In spite of the depression of the early 1930's things were going reasonably well. However, disaster was around the corner, on June 3rd 1934 it caught fire and was completely destroyed.

The theatre was rebuilt at a cost of £75,000 and was opened on the 30th September 1935 with its art-deco exterior design finished in white tiles. Not popular with some!

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Left: *The Art-Deco exterior 1935 - 1965*

Centre: *The 1960's Civic Theatre refurbishment*

Right: *The 2007 refurbishment*

The building managed to escape any serious damage during the war years and continued to function, apart from a brief three-week period. Gladwin handed over the running of the theatre to a number of companies during the period to 1956, when Essoldo took on a 21 year lease. Essoldo presented all year-round film programmes with occasional weekend concerts and Christmas pantomimes.

Essoldo did not invest in the building and it became run down and dilapidated. In November 1965 the Essoldo Group lodged an application to turn the theatre in to a bingo hall this was rejected by the City Council. Essoldo then exercised a clause in their lease to purchase the theatre for £50,000. After much wrangling over the next couple of years the City Council finally agreed to purchase the building for £90,000 and it would become a civic theatre.

Subsequently the Theatre Royal Trust was formed and has successfully run the theatre, with many improvements and additions to the 1930's building, including a £10 million refurbishment in 2007. The inspired appointments of Lawrence Hill, Dick Condon and Peter Wilson as its managers since the late 1960's has led the Norwich Theatre Royal to be acknowledged as one of the foremost civic theatres in the country.

A very interesting talk full of facts, figures and anecdotes.



An Invitation

Aylsham Ex Service & Social Club

Hungate Street

Would like to invite the members of

Aylsham & District U3A

To view the premises and facilities on offer and then enjoy some refreshments and a quiz
Thursday 30th April at 12.30

The Social Club is open to all members of the public and not restricted to Ex-Servicemen

Opening Times: Monday to Thursday 7.00pm - 11.00pm

Fridays 3.00pm - 12.00pm

All day Saturdays and Sundays

Facilities include two public bars, a pool table, darts and two full size snooker tables

The main bar has two large televisions showing Sky and BT Sports channels

A meeting room is also available

Live entertainment is held every two weeks on Saturday Evenings
 and quizzes on alternative Sunday evenings.

Drink prices are less expensive than normal licensed establishments
 Membership costs £20.00 a year - Discounted £12.00 membership is available

If you would like to join us at this event please e-mail Richard Laxen at
richard52@talktalk.net

We require numbers to assist with catering arrangements



Janice Clarke
Group Link Coordinator

The recently formed new groups - Canasta, Golf, Knitting/Crochet, Style - are doing well.

A new Mid - life Music Group ?

Are there any musicians among you?

If you can play piano, guitar, drums or some other musical instrument and would like to get together with like minded people please let me know as I know someone who might be willing to lead a Mid - life Music Group.

Whether it be playing for your own enjoyment or giving us a tune at a future U3A event it could be good fun.

If interested send your name, together the instrument which you play, to me initially please.

Don't forget that if a group you are interested in is full there is always the possibility of forming a second, or third, group. So don't be put off, just let me know and I will see what I can do.



Classical Music Group
Convenor: Heather Cordner

The group met in February with six members present. First we listened to a compilation of Chopin's exquisite solo piano music followed by the wonderful orchestral waltzes of Johann Strauss the younger.

We ended the session with one of my favourites, Strauss's The Blue Danube. An enjoyable afternoon on a wet and windy day.



Canasta Group
Convenor: Gilly Hewetson

The newly formed second Canasta group met for the first time on Friday 21st February having decided to meet on the third Friday of the month. On this occasion we met in The Conservatory in Aylsham having checked that this would be ok. We were made very welcome. Having quickly established the rules we would follow we enjoyed several rounds of Canasta, some of us being novices. The general feeling was that the newbies were quick learners and an enjoyable time was had by all.



Healthy Living Group
Convenor: Martin Fox

We had a very interesting meeting with the group watching two videos about Ketogenic (Low Carb, High Fat) diet.

The videos can be found on-line at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?y=Kw5iwzHs> and <https://www.dietdoctor.com/video/interviews/berry#part1>

As always check with your GP before taking on any diet. We will be meeting at the same venue in April as we are having renovations, or rather our home is, not myself or Sue.



Petanque Group
Convenor: Keith Hilton

With even better weather, our first March session saw the terrain full to capacity with thirty members playing, indicating that the decision of the group to play every week starting in April was the correct one.

However, we are waiting to hear what the government are intending to do about gatherings, this could have a profound affect on our monthly sessions and the City of Norwich Wednesday Morning League which is due to start on the 1st April. These matches are played at venues that may have restrictions imposed on them.



Longer Walks Group

Convenor: Chris England



All our walks are six miles and over and are led by different members of our group. Our February walk, led by Gordon Crook, started from Pigneys Wood. After going through the woods, we crossed fields and followed country lanes to Bacton Woods and onto the Dilham Canal.

We followed the canal for a while and then returned to Pigneys Wood, an enjoyable and varied walk of about 7 miles.

There were fifteen on the walk, a record turnout for the group. Lunch was at the Bluebell Public House who catered magnificently with a surprise group of thirteen for lunch.

Our April walk will be a Norfolk three peaks and a bump. An 8.5 mile walk starting from Roman Camp and covering Beacon Hill, Stone Hill, Incleborough Hill and Beeston Bump.

If you wish to join us on our walks please contact me via the Aylsham U3A website. Non-members of the U3A may join us as a guest for one walk. However if they wish to continue, they must join the U3A.



Film Group

Convenor: Mags Godden-Gray

The Film Group met as usual on 11th March to watch my choice: The Impossible. This was released in January 2013 and tells the true story of one British family's experience of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami in Thailand.

Wonderful acting by children and adults alike (Naomi Watts, Ewan McGregor, Geraldine Chaplin, Sam Holland, Harry Holland, Samuel Joslin is supported by superb cinematography including brilliant CGI.

For me, but not for everyone in the group, the harrowing turn of events was somewhat mitigated by the fact that this was an entirely natural occurrence unlike the horror of terrorist attacks, for example, and it showed the incredible healing power of human resilience, courage, altruism, and the kindness of strangers. Next time we will be watching Joan's choice.

Article contributed by group member Gilly Hewetson

Membership Renewal 2020 -2021

All memberships are due for renewal with effect from 1st April 2020 and are valid until 31st March 2021

Wherever possible payment should be made by Standing Order or BACS

Please quote your name and membership number if making payment by Standing Order or BACS

Bank Details

Account Name: Aylsham & District U3A

Sort Code: 77-66-10

Account Number: 16427468

Payments by cheque or cash can be made at the March or April monthly meeting.
Please use black ink when writing cheques

Please **DO NOT** renew your membership before April 1st 2020

Details of Renewal Policy and a Standing Order form can be found on pages 10 and 11 of this newsletter

Social Secretary's Update

Further to our first round up of this years trips I am pleased to advise that we have added another couple of outings for this Autumn and plans are well under way for selecting a new venue for the Christmas Dinner. (Details to follow shortly).

Details of the Theatre Royal Backstage Tour and Lunch and our outing to Bury St Edmunds Christmas Market can be found below.

On page 7 of this newsletter you will find a complete list of this year's outings.

General information regarding payment methods, contact details can be found on page 7 of this newsletter. Please can I ask you to read this. I hope these trips will be of interest and look forward to hearing from you.

Outing 12 - Norwich Theatre Royal - Backstage Tour & Lunch Wednesday 11th November 2020 - Tickets £20.00



Fancy a peak behind the curtains to see where the Phantom of the opera lurks? Well this is the trip for you. Stand in the spotlight of East Anglia's premier theatre and experience first hand the set of Mama Mia, the stage and the sights and sounds of live theatre.

Each tour lasts approximately 60 minutes followed by a two course lunch taken from a seasonal menu. Please note though wheelchairs are accepted there is a small part of the tour that is not accessible (The under stage area).

We are planning this trip as a car share event. With the round trip from Aylsham of 26 miles and fuel charge of 25p a mile the cost for this trip will be approximately £6.50 in total. We hope this information will help you come to a fair and amicable agreement with the vehicle owner as to the division of cost between the passenger.

We are limited to a maximum of 44 people split over two tours in the morning. If demand is strong enough, we have made a reservation for additional tours on the 10th November All tours are in the morning followed by lunch in the theatre restaurant.

Payment by Mid October please

Outing 13 -Bury St Edmunds Christmas Market Thursday 26th November 2020 - Tickets £15.00



One the best Christmas markets in the country. We are planning another trip to this wonderful event and will confirm departure times as soon as possible.

We have reserved a nominal 20 seats on the Wrights Coach trip with a discount from the full price of £17 subject to 10 people booking.

Tickets £15.00 per person.

Payments will need to be received by the 1st November 2020



Excursions 2020

3	Saturday	28th	March	Thriplow Daffodil & Country Fair	Coach	£24.00
4	Monday	27th	April	Lavenham & Beth Chatto's Garden	Coach	£28.00
5	Monday	11th	May	Smugglers & Strawberries	Coach	£50.00
6	Tuesday	2nd	June	Brick Lane Music Hall Variety Show	Coach	£62.00
7	Wednesday	22nd	July	RHS Wisley Gardens	Coach	£20.00
8	Sunday	23rd	August	How Hill Open Air Theatre	Car Share	£14.00
9	Saturday	19th	September	Epping Fryer	Coach	£43.00
10	Wednesday	21st	October	Sutton Hoo & Woodbridge	Coach	£30.00
11	Wednesday	28th	October	How Hill Craft Show	Car Share	£3.00
12	Wednesday	11th	November	Norwich Theatre Royal Tour & Lunch	Car Share	£20-.00
13	Thursday	26th	November	Bury St Edmunds Christmas Market	Coach	£15.00
14	Date & Venue to be confirmed			Christmas Lunch	Car Share	tbc

Departure times and details will be issued with ticket/receipts closer to the date of the outings.
Please note these prices do not include drivers gratuities

BOOKING INFORMATION

Payment Details are as follows:

- At monthly meetings or coffee mornings by cash or cheque.**
- Cheques made payable to: Aylsham & District U3A. Could you please use black ink. The bank get grumpy with us otherwise.**
- By BACS to: Aylsham & District U3A**
Sort Code 77-66-10
Account No 17440068
Please reference the trip you are making payment for.
Please note THIS IS A DIFFERENT account to the one used for membership payments.
- By post or hand delivered to: 37 Buxton Road, Aylsham NR11 6JD**
Please ensure to give your name, number of tickets required and trip reference.

CONTACT DETAILS

Social Secretary: Ian Gravenell, Mobile (Best point of contact) 07423 280110

Email: u3asocialsecretary@gmail.com





Day	Morning	Afternoon & Evening
WEEK 1		
Monday	10.00 Short Walks 10.00 Snooker	2.00 Book Group 1 6.00 Wine Appreciation
Tuesday	10.00 Bridge - Beginners & Social Play	6.00 Badminton
Wednesday	10.00 Healthy Living	2.00 Family History
Thursday	10.45 Table Tennis 10.45 Cards 10.30 Coffee Morning	
Friday	10.00 Cycling 10.30 Pétanque	2.00 Solo
Sunday	Sunday Lunch Dining	
WEEK 2		
Monday	10.00 Monday Movies 10.00 Snooker 10.30 Needles and Pins	2.00 Yarn & Yarn 2.30 Mah Jong
Tuesday	10.00 Bridge - Beginners & Social Play 10.30 French Conversation	2.00 Photography Group 2.00 Crochet 2.00 Book Group 2 2.00 Scrabble 2.15 Creative Writing 6.00 Badminton
Wednesday	10.00 Film Group	2.00 Textiles
Thursday	10.00 Poetry 10.45 Table Tennis	
Friday	10.00 Cycling	2.00 German Conversation 6.30 Supper Club
WEEK 3		
Monday	10.00 Ten Pin Bowling 10.00 Snooker	
Tuesday	10.00 Bridge - Beginners & Social Play 10.00 Movie Mania	2.30 Discussion 2.00 History of Art 6.00 Badminton
Wednesday	10.00 Longer Walks	2.30 New Technology 7.00 Kurling
Thursday	10.45 Table Tennis 10.30 Singing	2.00 Classical Music 7.00 Cards
Friday	10.00 Cycling 10.30 Canasta 10.30 Pétanque	6.00 Home Dining 2.00 Social History
WEEK 4		
Monday	10.00 Medium Walks 10.00 Snooker	2.30 Mah Jong
Tuesday	10.00 Bridge - Beginners & Social Play 10.30 French Conversation	2.00 General Meeting 6.00 Badminton (also 5th Tuesday)
Wednesday	12.00 Lunch Time Dining	2.00 Textiles
Thursday	10.45 Table Tennis	
Friday	10.00 Cycling	2.00 German Conversation 2.00 Style





Aylsham & District

GROUP

- Badminton
- Book Group One
- Book Group Two
- Bridge - Social Play
- Bridge for Beginners
- Canasta
- Card Games
- Classical Music
- Discussion Group
- Chess
- Creative Writing
- Cycling
- Lunch Time Dining
- Family History
- Film
- French Conversation
- Gardening
- German Conversation
- Golf
- Healthy Living
- History of Art
- Home Dining
- Kurling
- Knitting & Crochet
- Mah Jong
- Monday Movies
- Movement to Music
- Movie Mania
- Needles and Pins
- New Technology
- Pétanque
- Poetry (Let's Read poetry)
- Photography
- Scrabble
- Social History
- Solo
- Snooker
- Style
- Sunday Lunch Group
- Supper Club
- Table Tennis
- Textiles
- Ten Pin Bowling
- Wine Appreciation
- Yarn and Yarn
- Walking**
- Short Walks
- Medium Walks
- Long Walks

MEETING DAY

- Every Tuesday 6.00 - 7.00
- 1st Monday pm
- 2nd Tuesday pm
- 1st and 3rd Tuesdays am
- 2nd and 4th Tuesdays am
- 3rd Friday
- 1st Thursday am/3rd Thursday 7.00pm
- 3rd Thursday p.m.
- 3rd Tuesday 2.30pm
- tbc
- 2nd Tuesday 2.15pm
- Every Friday
- 4th Wednesday
- 1st Wednesday
- 2nd Wednesday am
- 2nd and 4th Tuesdays am
- 3rd Tuesday
- 2nd and 4th Fridays pm
- Various days & venues
- 1st Wednesday 10.00 - 12.00
- 3rd Tuesday 2.00pm
- 3rd Fridays 6.00pm
- 3rd Wednesday 7.00pm
- 2nd Tuesday 2.00
- 2nd and 4th Monday 2.30pm
- 2nd Monday am
- Starting January 2020
- 3rd Tuesday am
- 2nd Monday am
- 3rd Wednesday pm
- 1st and 3rd Fridays am
- 2nd Thursday am
- 2nd Tuesday pm
- 2nd Tuesday pm
- 3rd Friday 2.00 pm
- 1st Friday 2.00pm
- Mondays 10.00 am
- 4th Friday
- 1st Sunday
- 2nd Friday 6.30 pm
- Every Thursday 10.45 am
- 2nd and 4th Wednesdays
- 3rd Monday am
- Contact Group Convenor
- 2nd Monday pm
- 1st Monday am
- 4th Monday am
- 3rd Wednesday am

CONVENOR

- George Straughan
- Pam Skillings
- Jan Slater
- Jean Warren
- Jean Warren
- Gilly Hewetson
- Jean St Clair
- Heather Cordner
- Robert Last
- Rob Waspe
- Sarah Smith
- Elizabeth Letzer
- Miranda Nash
- Lynn Naismith
- Mags Godden-Gray
- Kathy Smith
- Convenor required
- Nigel Hyde
- Andy Christie
- Martyn Fox
- Ros Hunt
- Judy Marles
- Jean St Clair
- Jean St Clair
- Annette de Lacy
- Sheila Merriman
- Dawn Willson
- Allan Groombridge
- Christine Southgate
- Peter Curbishley
- Keith Hilton
- Marguerite Statham
- David Mitchell
- Robert Last
- Mags Godden-Gray
- Judy Marles
- Tom Wilkinson
- Pam Skillings
- Convenor Required
- Dorothy Cain
- Wyn England
- Liz Windmill
- Miranda Nash
- Peter Gluth
- Sally Barber
- Miranda Nash
- Kate Mackenzie
- Chris England

Due to some recent data protection advice received by the committee initial contact with the Group Link Coordinator and Group Convenors should be made via the website

KEY

Groups that are currently running

Groups that are in various stages of formation





AYLSHAM & DISTRICT U3A

Membership renewals policy – effective 1 April 2019

Renewal date

- All memberships (single, joint & associate) are due for renewal with effect from 1 April, and are valid for the twelve months to 31 March in the ensuing year.
- Members attending the March and April monthly speaker meetings will be reminded to renew their subscriptions, and a further reminder will be published in the March and April monthly newsletters.
- If members fail to renew their subscription by 31 May, their membership will lapse and they will no longer be entitled to attend the monthly meetings as members nor participate in any interest group activities.

Payment

- Wherever possible, payment should be made by Standing Order (see form attached), or through internet banking after 1 April. Please DO NOT renew your membership before 1 April.
- Bank details are as follows:
Account name: Aylsham & District U3A
Sort code: 77-66-10
Account number: 16427468
- For reference purposes, please quote your name, membership number and post code.
- If payment by Standing Order, or through internet banking, is not possible payment will be accepted by cheque (payable to Aylsham & District U3A) or cash at the March or April monthly meeting.

Contact

- If you require any further guidance on renewing your membership, please contact the Membership Secretary, Chris Frederick by e-mail: u3amembershipsecretary@gmail.com or telephone: 01263 733282.



New Membership and Renewals

Prospective and current members are reminded that Aylsham & District U3A's membership year runs from 1 April to 31 March, so subscriptions are due at the beginning of April. Subscription rates for 2020/21 are the same as for the current year.

It would greatly assist the process of recording subscriptions if payments could be made by standing order or via internet banking, wherever possible, thereby reducing the amount of administration associated with cheque or cash payments.

For members wishing to use the standing order option, a form is below which should be completed and returned direct to your bank. For those wishing to use internet banking, please note that details of the sort code, account number and reference field are shown on this form. Thank you for your cooperation and continued support

Payment of Annual Membership Fees by Standing Order

In order to simplify the renewal process and reduce the costs and time associated with maintaining our membership records, the Committee would urge members to pay for their annual membership fee by standing order. Members with electronic banking facilities can set up the standing order on-line. Alternatively, please complete the form below and return it direct to your bank. This form can also be downloaded from the website.

Annual Membership Rates From 1 April 2020

Individual £15.00 Associate * £12.00

Joint £28.00 (2 people living at same address)

** Associate membership is only available to those who are already members of another U3A group*



To [your bank or building society]

Bank / building society name:

Branch address:

.....

.....

Sort code: Account number

Account name (s):

Please pay: **TSB Bank plc, Market Place, Aylsham, Norwich, Norfolk, NR11 6EH**

Sort code: 77-66-10 Account number: 16427468 IBAN: GB86 LOYD 7661016427468

For the credit of **Aylsham & District U3A**

Quoting reference: *[Your name(s)/ membership number (if known)]*

.....

The sum of £ on 1 April 2020 and annually thereafter until you receive further notice from me in writing.

This order supersedes any other order payable to Aylsham & District U3A

Signed: Date: