

### From the Chair



We have a very important meeting this month as we need to change our Constitution. This has come about as we struggle to get volunteers to become a Committee member. Your U3A cannot function without your help so please consider coming forward to help. After the EGM you will hear about a 'Solo Walk across Africa' which should be very interesting. Then we will enjoy some festive refreshments.

Please do not forget your membership cards as we will be using the scanning system.

Wednesday 3rd June 2020 will be National U3A Day. We will be taking part so if you have any ideas of what we could do as a group please let a Committee member know. Put the date in your diaries please.

For those of you who cannot join us, on behalf of your Committee we would like to wish you all a very happy festive season.




The Committee are seeking a member to take on the role of  
**Committee Minute Secretary**

For further information please contact our Chair Jean St Clair

**Coffee Morning**  
St John's Catholic Church, White Hart Street  
Thursday 5th December  
10.00 - 12.00

Join us for a choice of teas and coffees

Why not join us and start this Christmas Season with a Selection of Festive Treats

You will all be aware that your current Membership Card has a bar code printed on it. We will be introducing bar code checking in at our November monthly meeting. This will speed up the process as the scan take seconds.

To help us could you please remember to bring you membership card and have it ready as you approach the check in desk.

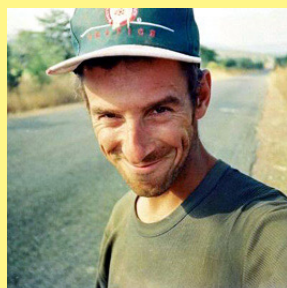
Do not worry if you forget your card but can remember your membership number that will suffice. Initially we will still have hard copy membership list at the meeting.

We hope to use this method when signing up for trips, but we still have further work to do on this.

## BAR CODING HAS ARRIVED AT AYLSHAM U3A



## NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING



- Speaker:** Fran Sandham
- Subject:** A Solo Walk Across Africa
- Venue:** Aylsham Town Hall
- Date:** Tuesday 26th November 2019
- Time:** 2.00pm (Doors open 1.15pm)



# Aylsham & District

## GROUP

- Advanced Style
- Badminton
- Book Group One
- Book Group Two
- Bridge - Social Play
- Bridge for Beginners
- Card Games
- Classical Music
- Discussion Group
- Creative Writing
- Cycling
- Lunch Time Dining
- Family History
- Film
- French Conversation
- Gardening
- German Conversation
- Healthy Living
- History of Art
- Home Dining
- Kurling
- Mah Jong
- Monday Movies
- Movie Mania
- Needles and Pins
- New Technology
- Pétanque
- Poetry (Let's Read poetry)
- Photography
- Scrabble
- Social History
- Solo
- 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

- 4th Friday 2.00pm
- Every Tuesday 6.00 - 7.00
- 1st Monday pm
- 2nd Tuesday pm
- 1st and 3rd Tuesdays am
- 2nd and 4th Tuesdays am
- 1st Thursday am/3rd Thursday 7.00pm
- 3rd Thursday p.m.
- 3rd Tuesday 2.30pm
- 2nd Monday 2.15pm
- Every Friday
- 4th Wednesday
- 1st Wednesday
- 2nd Wednesday am
- 2nd and 4th Tuesdays am
- 3rd Tuesday
- 2nd and 4th Fridays pm
- 1st Wednesday 10.00 - 12.00
- 3rd Tuesday 2.00pm
- 3rd Fridays 6.00pm
- 3rd Wednesday 7.00pm
- 2nd and 4th Monday 2.30pm
- 2nd Monday am
- 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
- 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

- Becky Gravenell
- George Straughan
- Pam Skillings
- Jan Slater
- Jean Warren
- Jean Warren
- Jean St Clair
- Heather Corder
- Robert Last
- Sarah Smith
- Andrew Christie
- Miranda Nash
- Lynn Naismith
- Mags Godden-Gray
- Kathy Smith
- Convenor required
- Nigel Hyde
- Martyn Fox
- Ros Hunt
- Judy Marles
- Jean St Clair
- Annette de Lacy
- Sheila Merriman
- Allan Groombridge
- Christine Southgate
- Pat Newsome
- Keith Hilton
- Marguerite Statham
- David Mitchell
- Robert Last
- Mags Godden-Gray
- Judy Marles
- 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



Day	Morning	Afternoon & Evening
<b>WEEK 1</b>		
<b>Monday</b>	10.00 Short Walks	2.00 Book Group 1 6.00 Wine Appreciation
<b>Tuesday</b>	10.00 Bridge - Beginners & Social Play	6.00 Badminton
<b>Wednesday</b>	10.00 Healthy Living	2.00 Family History
<b>Thursday</b>	10.45 Table Tennis 10.45 Cards <b>10.00 Coffee Morning</b>	
<b>Friday</b>	10.00 Cycling 10.30 Pétanque	2.00 Solo
<b>Sunday</b>	Sunday Lunch Dining	
<b>WEEK 2</b>		
<b>Monday</b>	10.00 Monday Movies 10.30 Needles and Pins	2.15 Creative Writing 2.00 Yarn & Yarn 2.30 Mah Jong
<b>Tuesday</b>	10.00 Bridge - Beginners & Social Play 10.30 French Conversation	2.00 In Focus Photography Group 2.00 Book Group 2 2.00 Scrabble 6.00 Badminton
<b>Wednesday</b>	10.00 Film Group	2.00 Textiles
<b>Thursday</b>	10.00 Poetry 10.45 Table Tennis (From 3rd October 2019)	
<b>Friday</b>	10.00 Cycling	2.00 German Conversation 6.30 Supper Club
<b>WEEK 3</b>		
<b>Monday</b>	10.00 Ten Pin Bowling	
<b>Tuesday</b>	10.00 Bridge - Beginners & Social Play 10.00 Movie Mania	2.30 Discussion 2.00 History of Art 6.00 Badminton
<b>Wednesday</b>	10.00 Longer Walks	2.30 New Technology 7.00 Kurling
<b>Thursday</b>	10.45 Table Tennis 10.30 Singing 11.00 Gardening	2.00 Classical Music 7.00 Cards
<b>Friday</b>	10.00 Cycling 10.30 Pétanque	6.00 Home Dining
<b>WEEK 4</b>		
<b>Monday</b>	10.00 Medium Walks	2.30 Mah Jong
<b>Tuesday</b>	10.00 Bridge - Beginners & Social Play 10.30 French Conversation	<b>2.00 General Meeting</b> 6.00 Badminton (also 5th Tuesday)
<b>Wednesday</b>	12.00 Lunch Time Dining	2.00 Textiles
<b>Thursday</b>	10.45 Table Tennis (from 3rd October 2019)	
<b>Friday</b>	10.00 Cycling	2.00 German Conversation 2.00 Advanced Style 2.00 Social History

## Report of the General Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd October 2019 at the Town Hall, Aylsham



Seventy years after it was published in 1935 our guest speaker, Charlotte Paton was reading the book, *I Walked the Night* written by the self-proclaimed 'King of the Norfolk Poachers' when she was struck by the similarity of a lodge described in the book which he had lived, to her own home.

Being a keen genealogist Charlotte could not resist the challenge to discover if indeed she did live in a house that was one lived in by one of Norfolk's best-known loved rouges. Her first quest was to find out his name: Frederick Rolfe.

Seven years later and after much research Charlotte was able to write her own book on the life of The King of the Norfolk Poachers.

The writing of Frederick Rolfe's book, Charlotte explained came about in unusual circumstances. In the early 1930's an elderly mole catcher presented the wife of a farmer he worked for with a notebook filled with stories of his early life as a poacher. The woman, a Mrs. Longrigg who did not approve of the fellow as he charmed warts, put the notebook in a draw and forgot about it for two years.

During a discussion with a neighbour, Lilisa Rider Haggard, the daughter of the author Henry Ryder Haggard Mrs. Longrigg remembered the notebook she had been given. Lilisa read the story, subsequently contacting Frederick Rolfe to encourage him to write more which she edited which became the published East Anglian Classic 'I Walked the Night'.

The book describes the depravation and the harshness of rural living in the late 18th and early 19th century, but also of a love and understanding for the countryside. As a child Fredrick Rolfe was difficult and a naughty schoolboy.

Several marriages, a possible bigamist, the death of children, negligence of his family and serving time in prison all laced with numerous untruths are all part of this story.

Time spent in Manchester before returning with a new wife, Kitty to the village of his birth Pentney, working as a gamekeeper on the West Bilney Estate a position that he was also sacked from.

He joined the Third Volunteer Battalion in 1916 at the age of fifty four and became the Regimental rat catcher and spent his army service at Bawdsey in Suffolk.

After WWI a move to Bungay saw Frederick working as a under keeper at Flixton a job he lost when he was caught poaching. A number of court appearances and a record of his final incarceration in 1927 see no let-up of his unlawful activities in his later years.

Frederick Rolfe committed suicide on the 23rd March 1938 in Bungay, allegedly after being spoken to by the police in the language of the time 'on a matter of some seriousness'.

Charlotte's autobiography of this character is well worth a read.

Top: Frederick Rolfe.

Above: The first page of Frederick Rolfe's notes.

Right: Charlotte Patons Book.

Far Right: The Lodge at Bungay.





**Janice Clarke**  
Group Link Coordinator

Another month and I have had two more suggestions for new interest groups!

**Chess** New member Rodney Waspe would like to form a new Chess Group.

Whether you have already played chess or would like to learn this could be the group for you.

Please let me know, either by email or by putting your name on the sign up sheet at the next main meeting on 26th November.

**Movement to Music** Again another new member has suggested this group. If you would like to find out more about it please come and see me at the meeting on 26th November or contact me via the website.

**Sunday Lunch Group** After a little gap there will be a Sunday lunch on 5th January - just not sure yet where at present. I will e-mail members with the venue etc shortly.



**Classical Music Group**  
Convenor: Keith Hilton

The October meeting of the group took place with five members present. The theme of the day was Piano Concertos. We listened to Rachmninov no 2 and Griegs piano concerto. We then discussed the similarities and differences and which one we preferred. An enjoyable afternoon.



**Pétanque Group**  
Convenor: Keith Hilton



*Left to Right:* The victorious team, David Selwyn, David Abbott, Allan Groombridge, Chris Groombridge, Steve King, Rosalyn Sewell and Derek Barber.

I am sometimes amazed by the enthusiasm and resilience of the group! Nineteen members turned up for our first session in November on what could only be described as a foul day. Wind and rain on and off throughout the session did not deter this hardy bunch.

The City of Norwich Wednesday Morning League held their the end of season Presentation and Lunch at the Bob Carter Centre on Wednesday 13th November. Our group were well represented with fourteen members attending.

Team Wun secured the runners up trophy in the League Plate Competition. Well done to team members, pictured left, after receiving their trophies.



**History of Art Group**  
Convenor: Ros Hunt

Our October meeting focused on Byzantine Art, known for its beautiful mosaics with their gold backgrounds that glisten by candlelight, and the frescos. We watched a short film entitled 'Hagia Sophia: Jewel of the Byzantines' about the Byzantine Cathedral in Istanbul (Constantinople) that was later transformed in to a mosque when Constantinople fell to the Ottomans in 1453. Now a museum, the lower level retains its later decoration whilst the plaster on the upper levels is being removed to reveal the original Byzantine artwork. Not a place that any of those present had visited.

We also looked at pictures of a lovely selection of simply decorated lamps used by the people on a day-to-day basis and had the opportunity to examine one example which was a real treat.

In November we are looking at art of the Middle ages.



## Discussion Group

**Convenor: Robert Last**

There was a full house for this month's discussion, on the question "Can there be an adequate substitute for religion as a guide to a moral life?"

Although there was very full participation in the discussion, unusually for our group there were no answers, other than the view that the question itself contained various obstacles to finding an answer. Quite clearly some religions contain strictures which are anathema to other religions, (and indeed to non-believers) and therefore are inimical to a moral life for those offended. Examples would be the treatment of women by some parts of Islam, and also the punishment for offences such as adultery and theft – and indeed the duty to kill non-believers.

What was perhaps intended was part of the Christian guide, not to kill or steal, but to "do unto others as you would be done by", etc. (Not the part seen in the Tudor period of the Catholics burning the heretical Protestants, and vice versa – whilst both of course enjoying pilgrimages to The Holy Land to slaughter some other faiths along the way.) It was suggested that the problem here was "organised" religion.

A further complication was the suggestion that "religion" includes any deeply-held belief – (and in English Law, Jedi Knights are one of the many groups protected by Discrimination Law.) So the plea to religion to provide the moral compass failed – and yet the thinking behind the question remains. How does one who believes that the moral life is based on not stealing, not killing, etc. (less popular these days is not coveting thy neighbour's wife) argue against the reverse – the doctrine that the victory of the strongest is the best for mankind, which, as Nietzsche claimed, was the view that Judao-Christianity turned on its head, so that "the meek shall inherit the earth", instead of the strong. Weakness was good, the powerful were "evil"

How does one counter someone like George Sorel, the originator of much of the early twentieth century philosophy absorbed by Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin. This rejected parliamentary democracy, with policy enforced by direct action – mobs on the street beating up or killing opponents. Hitler actually encouraged his top men to compete in the execution of their duties where these might conflict, so truly the survival of the strongest. The question was raised "what is meant by strongest?", and the answer is "whatever is necessary to win." Nietzsche again – the Will to Power. Bully, cheat, threaten, kill, manipulate, bribe – whatever represents strength in any given situation.

So, if faced personally with the question "I want XYZ, do I lie/bribe/steal to get it?" how can one justify saying "Always be honest." And what if the dishonest solution is far more likely to bring success? Indeed the question at the start assumes that the honest life is the moral life, whereas the followers of Sorel et al, genuinely believing that the triumph of the strong is best for (their view of) society/the nation could perhaps claim that their stance is the moral one in any event. (NB Kant's solution to ensure that moral value counts does not seem capable of countering sheer force or violence, other than perhaps that these enormous crimes of totalitarian regimes (political and religious) are made possible by the suspension of personal judgment and its replacement by the doctrines of the all-knowing great leader – be that Fascism, Naziism, Communism or the infallible Pope. These regimes, often called millenarium, all have an infallible great leader who demands unquestioning loyalty in order to obtain some quasi-mystical goal.)

The meeting therefore came to no conclusion, but nevertheless there had been two hours of lively discussion. The Discussion Group is now full, and there will be a waiting list.

The subject for the next meeting, which is on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November, is:-

*"Should the State – that is the Monarchy and Parliament – demonstrate neutrality in its support for religion?"*

Latest copy date for the December Issue Monday 16th December

We would appreciate reports from all groups, contributions do not necessarily have to come from Group Convenors  
Why not ask members of your groups to share the responsibility of this task