

### **April 2015 Monthly Meeting**

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and highlighted that Beccles U3A was still growing and was there for the people of Beccles and area to enjoy. He reminded members of the AGM which is on May 20th, and that membership renewals needed to be completed by 30th April in order for members to participate in their groups and events. **Those who do not renew their membership by the end of April will need to complete a full application form to re-join Beccles U3A.**

Please note the start time of the AGM meeting is 10.25am, doors will open as usual at 9.45am and at 10.00am the Ukulele group will entertain us with their music.

The chair also highlighted the fact that a few members of the steering group had decided to stand down and that new committee members were required to take their place to ensure that the U3A continued to grow and develop soundly. The position of Publicity will become vacant and would suit someone who enjoys writing articles for the local press, free newsheets and parish magazines. The full job description is available on the website on the AGM page; just follow the links on the right hand side. Please consider this role as it is very important for the communication and promotion of the Beccles U3A. There is a special AGM page (with its own button) where you can find links to all of the AGM documents.

Information from National Office included:-

- Photography Competition 2015- Britain's Wildlife
- The Story of Music and Memory
- Northern Renaissance Treasures

Please contact the Business Secretary for more information [sec.becclesu3a@gmail.com](mailto:sec.becclesu3a@gmail.com)

**CHANGE OF VENUE:** - Due to the refurbishment of Beccles Public Hall, the Monthly Meetings for both **AUGUST 19TH AND SEPTEMBER 16TH** will be held at **HUNGATE CHURCH** in Beccles

For the main meeting 150 members and guests enjoyed a very interesting illustrated talk given by Alan Gray from [East Ruston Old Vicarage Gardens](#) on Fantastic Flowerpots or "How to get crafty with containers". Alan writes the Gardening Column for the EDP as well as partaking in the Gardening programme on Saturdays on Radio Norfolk. He told members about the history of the Vicarage Gardens where there was no garden whatsoever, and it was a blank canvas. The gardens were established in 1973 by Alan and his partner Graham Robeson, who they have created a 32-acre design which incorporates exuberant and innovative planting alongside a more traditional formal design. On an unpromising site, the garden lies 1½ miles from the North Sea in an exposed prairie landscape containing large arable fields. The soil is of excellent quality, a light sandy loam with a neutral pH. Alan does not necessarily follow the "rules" of gardening and puts his success down to his grandmothers ideas and his strong interest in gardening at an early age. His slides showed members how he had made use of pots and various containers, large and small within the garden to allow change of colour and a wide use of various seasonal plants.