

## April 2016 Monthly Meeting Report

Twenty-three new members were amongst 181 people attending the April Monthly Meeting. The total membership is now 560 members and rising. The audience were advised that attendance at the Monthly Meetings in the future may be subject to some restrictions because the Fire Regulations at the Public Hall restrict the attendance to 240 people sitting.

The Chair reminded the audience that they could have two taster sessions of a Monthly Meeting and or an interest group before registering as a member. It was then emphasised that members should then get involved and support the group by ensuring regular attendance. Members who lapsed without explanation could find their place at risk of being offered to other members wanting to join the group. If a member is unable to attend a group session then they should inform the group convenor.

Some members are still under the impression that they will taught and receive instruction when they join a group. This is not a principal of a U3A. Peter Laslett a founding member of the U3A in the UK quoted "Those that teach shall also learn and those who learn shall also teach"

The chair then stated the Self-help Principal of the U3A movement.

- (a) Members form interest groups covering as wide a range of topics and activities as they desire; by the members, for the members.
- (b) No qualifications are sought or offered. Learning is for its sake, with enjoyment being the prime motive, not qualifications or rewards.
- (c) There is no distinction between the learners and the teachers; they are all U3A members.

A request was made for a member to host looking after a projector which the U3A propose to purchase. That person would be responsible for booking the projector in and out to groups requesting its use. The ideal person should be a resident of Beccles.

A request was also made for people to volunteer for the tea team at the Monthly meetings. It is hoped that sufficient volunteers would come forward so that they would only have to do duty two or three times a year.

No one at the meeting volunteered for the role of hosting the projector or for joining the tea team.

The chair highlighted a number of National U3A events.

Elizabethan Experience - Globe London.

International Piano Competition – Birmingham (July 2<sup>nd</sup>)

Swan Lake at the London Coliseum (July 14<sup>th</sup>)

All details are on the National U3A website Members area. [u3a.org.uk](http://u3a.org.uk)

The August Monthly Meeting will be held at the Hungate Church due to further alterations and improvements being undertaken at the Public Hall.