

August 2015 Monthly Meeting

The chairman welcomed 121 members and 13 guests to the August Monthly meeting which was held at the Hungate Church whilst the Public Hall is being refurbished. Members were reminded that the September meeting would also be held at the Hungate Church but that we would be returning to the Public Hall in October to celebrate Beccles U3A's 1st Anniversary with tea, coffee and CAKE.

Members were invited to offer suggestions, opinions, either positive or negative about Beccles U3A. The committee who meet monthly would welcome your views to ensure that we are moving in the right direction. The chair stated that the attendance at the regular monthly committee meetings is usually 100% and expressed that any feedback would be discussed.

Two members of our Executive Committee would be attending the three day National U3A conference next week at Nottingham University. Here they will be able to network with other UK groups and hopefully bring new ideas forward for Beccles U3A.

The Drawing and Painting group will be at Redisham Hall for their next meeting on Wednesday 26th August. Meet at Redisham Hall for 9.30 am and bring a chair if possible. Webmaster Felicity Hillier is always available at our monthly meetings for anyone who may require help in navigating our website.

Berlin - Walking through History

Gerald Jenkins was the guest speaker at the August meeting. He has travelled extensively throughout the world and treated us to an extremely interesting talk centred on Berlin from the Nazi era to present day. The main focus was how the Berlin Wall was created to divide East Germany and East Berlin to 'protect its population from fascist elements'. In reality it was to prevent mass defection to the wealthier West.

The barrier included guard towers along large concrete walls that contained anti-vehicle trenches - this area was known as the death zone.

The eventual fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 paved the way for German reunification. Gerald gave an excellent summary of the events leading up to this and helped simplify what was a complex subject. Our thanks to Gerald for his most absorbing talk. (Vicki John)