

August 2016 Monthly Meeting

The Chair welcomed just over 100 members and guests to Hungate Church for the August meeting.

Last December, when we held our festive December meeting at the Public Hall, we had 400 members. Now we have over 600 members this year's festive meeting, on 21st December, will be held in the main hall at Sir John Leman High School, where up to 300 people can be accommodated. The school has a large car park and we shall run a free bus shuttle service between the centre of Beccles and the school before and after the meeting. Details of the meeting are yet to be finalised.

Two members of the Executive committee will meet with representatives of U3As from all over the UK at the National Conference next week in Nottingham. There will be a number of talks and workshops in the programme, and places have been booked for the workshops/discussions on Managing Growth and Maintaining a Vibrant U3A.

Beccles U3A recently applied for charitable status in its own name. Our application was approved and we now have our own registration number. A reminder now that if you are a tax payer you can complete a gift aid form enabling us to recover tax from your annual membership fees.

Members were reminded that the executive committee is always open to suggestions and comments - whether good or bad - and suggestions for speakers.

Members were also reminded that the committee, as trustees of our U3A, are responsible for all U3A activities and monies handled within Beccles U3A. Please keep us informed of any trips or visits that you plan for your group, not just out of courtesy but to ensure that the U3A national insurance covers your plans. It might be that you are not fully covered, in which case members must be made aware of this. The communication must be clear and members must be fully informed. We plan to produce some guidelines after the National Conference for group guidance.

Any items for the Newsletter including pieces to promote your group would be appreciated for the next Autumn edition. Please send these to Angela Williams who can be contacted via the Website, Contacts page – click Newsletter Editor to send your report/photos.

Mu Gurbutt then introduced the speaker, Andrew Brogan