

The Chairman welcomed 200 people to the March monthly meeting at the Public Hall. This figure included 22 guests and members from other U3As: Lowestoft, Halesworth and Dereham.

It was announced that there will be a Showcase of Beccles U3A in the Public Hall on **Friday 11th March** between 9.15-12.15pm. Primarily it is for the benefit of members, but it will also be open to the general public. Members will be able to find out about what all the groups have to offer. Most of the convenors will be there to offer advice and explain what they do, and how often they meet etc. The Chairman encouraged members to attend the event, and also to take the opportunity for members to renew their U3A membership for 2016/17. This will ease the pressure of queuing for renewals at the March meeting.

The Chairman highlighted that we now have a suggestion box in the foyer at the monthly meeting for members to express their opinions and ideas. Members can do this anonymously if they wish. Your comments can also be made to the Chairman via the link on the contacts page of our website.

Members were reminded to book and commit early for visits and outings by filling in the booking form, and paying the deposit, where applicable, to help the process of running events.

The Interest Groups Co coordinator gave an update on new groups:

English Country Dancing the 1st meeting is **24th March** in the Quaker Hall at 10.00am.

Beginners German has its inaugural meeting on **10th March** and commences on **24th March**.

Tourist French starts **15th March**

Madrigal Singing is running fortnightly on **Thursdays**. Please check the website for further details on these new groups.

Groups in the pipeline are a Travel Group, Card Games and Coffee mornings.

The Chairman then introduced the speaker, David Tipling - wildlife photographer.