

JULY 2015 MONTHLY MEETING

The July Monthly Meeting was held on Wednesday 15th July. The Chairman, Peter Shannon, welcomed everybody including four new members and eight guests, and explained that, for guests thinking of joining now, the membership fee through until the end of March next year would be £12. This would enable them to join groups and participate in trips and visits. The chair suggested that members might introduce a friend or family member to join Beccles U3A.

There is still a vacancy on the committee for Programme Secretary. Help is also sought for deputies to assist the Webmaster and the Minutes Secretary in their absence. Felicity Hillier, our Webmaster, offered help to those who were uncertain of how to navigate our website. An information sheet was available about the groups available for members to take home with them. This will be available to new members in our Welcome Pack. Reference was made to a new television programme "Trust me I'm a Doctor" which highlights the importance of being active and learning a new skill to help boost your brain power. Members were encouraged by the chair to study the groups listing and to consider joining a group and developing a new interest.

A few spaces are still available for the visits to Lincoln Castle and the Magna Carta, and Fairhaven Woodland and Water Gardens.

John Allport, who is a member of the Allotment section of the Garden Group, brought along some produce to show the enthusiasm for the development of this group. He was passionate in thanking the U3A in making it possible for him to enjoy allotment gardening, and very proud of the peas and beans he and his wife Sally had grown on their allotment.

A reminder that the next two meetings - August and September - will be in Hungate Church while Beccles Public Hall is undergoing renovations.

Leading us a merry dance: We were then royally entertained by Ancestral Voices, who talked and sang their way through the story of Kemp's Jig - an account of how Will Kemp danced his way from London to Norwich. The presentation comprised a slide show with narrative plus live period music on instruments including the lute, baroque guitar, recorder and treble viol. The presenters were Sarah Doig and Tony Scheuregger who really entered into the spirit of the character and everyone in the audience enjoyed the whole performance giving a huge round of applause in appreciation. I am sure we all learnt something more about a local historical event. (Vicki John)