

## **JULY MEETING 2016 - Chairman's Report**

The Chair welcomed 125 members (including 8 new members) to the July meeting. Membership now stands at over 600, and Beccles U3A is no longer actively seeking to increase membership, concentrating instead on developing and improving the group. The U3A nationally now has 1,000 U3As, with more than 366,000 members, and Beccles U3A, with over 600 members, is well above average.

Printed copies of the new Newsletter are available. The next edition will appear in September, and items for publication (reports, photos, perhaps even a poem) should be sent to the editor, Angela Williams, who can be contacted via the Contacts page on the website. This is an excellent opportunity to promote your interest group.

The Latest News page on the website has been refined. Details of national U3A events will no longer be included since this information is available in the Third Age Matters (TAM) magazine and on the national U3A website. Any posters supplied by the national office will be posted on our information board in the Public Hall foyer at the monthly meeting. Advice on avoiding fraudulent scams is now available via a link. The Legal Helpline detail will remain at the bottom of the Latest News page. This advice service is free to members, and could be used before consulting a solicitor.

Editors of Interest Group pages are asked to ensure that pages are up to date.

The importance of volunteering to serve on the Beccles U3A committee was highlighted. Membership of the committee is limited to three years, and it is essential that there is continuity of management as current committee members retire, with new committee members having the time to learn from the existing team. Please contact the Chair for more information.

Mu Gurbutt then introduced the speaker, Dr Mary Fewster of the Norfolk Industrial Archaeology Society.