

March 2015 Monthly Meeting

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and highlighted that Beccles U3A had now been running for 6 months and was still growing and there for the people of Beccles to enjoy. He announced details regarding the AGM which is on May 20th, and that all members attending should now have their packs with information on the AGM including the Nomination form for the Executive Committee, and invited members to consider whether they had skills to offer and would like to join the committee. Other information in the packs included the Constitution, Membership Renewal Forms and Notice of the AGM. Packs will be posted out to those people who were unable to attend. The AGM will be followed by a talk by Chloe Veale from the History of Advertising Trust.

The speaker was Iris van Zon from [Clinks Care Farm](#), which is a 143 acre Norfolk County Farm in Toft Monks. This was a most interesting talk, much enjoyed by the 137 members present. Clinks Care Farm was launched in 2010 and all the profits made are put back into the farm. Here care of the land is combined with the care of people and opportunities are offered for disadvantaged people. This natural therapeutic environment can aid peoples' recovery and prepare them for work. Iris gave examples of people who had overcome their fears and anxieties and who were now working on farms and had families of their own. They have 8 employees and 25 volunteers and work alongside East Coast Community Health. There is a Produce Box scheme and they now sell vegetables, salads, fruit, eggs, lamb and pork to the public as well as greengrocers, butchers and farm shops. They also have a permanent stall at Beccles Farmers Market. There will be an open day at Clinks Care Farm on Sunday 7th June.