

And so, to Christmas and then forward to the New Year

As the festive season approaches, we are pleased to bring you our next 'open to all' event at The Cut. This will be our annual Christmas 'Film and Cake' afternoon on Tuesday 17th December, starting a little earlier than usual at **2.00pm**. We will be showing the film "The Second-Best Exotic Marigold Hotel", to be followed by tea, cake, and time to chat in the Café afterwards. A gentle and amusing film, starring Judi Dench and Maggie Smith, with perhaps with a certain resonance with the demographic that is Halesworth U3A. This is open to all U3A members (no charge), all others including friends, guests, potential members are most welcome to join us for just £3.00 on the door.

Our November talk by Richard Symes about the history of Dunwich Heath was a most successful event. Richard is a local resident and also a volunteer for the National Trust at Dunwich Heath. Over the last few years he has researched historical sources countrywide to find out what happened at Dunwich Heath (formerly Dunwich Common) in past centuries. An audience of over 200 was enthralled by the stories, pictures and documents he has unearthed. We learned that in the eighteenth century smuggling was a huge operation; with ships landing contraband (tea, liquor and tobacco were favourites) almost every night, and gangs of up to eighty men offloading cargoes and moving them inland. Richard also told us about some of the huge changes on the Heath during both the first and second World Wars and the many shipwrecks due to enemy action. It is only since the National Trust took over in the 1960s that the heather has been encouraged to grow and the land has been opened up for everyone to enjoy.

The first Halesworth U3A meeting at The Cut in 2020 on Tuesday 21st January promises to be very different but just as interesting. The Rev. Dr Anthony Peabody will talk about "Forensics - A scientist turns to crime"!

The next new members coffee morning will be on Friday 31st January at The Cut. However, for those wanting to join us before then, our membership application forms are available to print from the Halesworth U3A website. If you need information or paper copies of the forms please contact the Membership Secretary by email at uthreemembers@gmail.com . We shall be repeating our popular summer coach outing again next July, when we hope to fill a coach or maybe two to Bury St Edmunds. A guided tour around the Cathedral will be available for those who are interested. Further details will follow in the Spring.

If you are new to the Halesworth area, and partly or fully retired from work or caring responsibilities, we believe the U3A can be a good way to meet new people and to pursue interests old and new. Longer term residents often find on joining that they renew friendships with those having similar interests.

We continue to welcome new members for just £15 per year for which there is free access to our monthly talks at The Cut, and an opportunity to attend our twice-yearly social events. Membership also gives access to those of the many self-running interest groups with space to welcome new members. For more information about the groups and to make contact with group leaders you can visit our website, just search 'Halesworth U3A'.

We welcome current and new members to join us in a wide range of activities and groups to continue to 'Live, Learn, and Laugh'; whilst enjoying each other's company and sharing each other's common skills and interests. Martin Stevens for Halesworth and District U3A

