

## HALESWORTH U3A NEWSLETTER ~ NOVEMBER 2019

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**The November U3A 'open to all' meeting takes place at The Cut on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm.**

We will have a talk about "The History of Dunwich Heath - Love affairs, life and death, fortunes made and lost".

Richard Symes has been researching the extraordinary and fascinating story of Dunwich Heath. Over the last 300 years the Heath has been dug up, cut down, shot over and burnt. Smugglers and shipwrecks; submarines grey and yellow, poets, artists and military men, it may surprise you, but it all happened here.

The Cut café will be open for refreshments before the talk.

Entrance is free to U3A members, non-members pay £3.

**The November coffee morning for new members** will take place at the Cut on Friday 29th November.

New and potential members and those wishing to join are welcome to come along and find out what your local U3A has to offer. From 11.00 to 12.00. (Please note that there will **not** be a new members coffee morning in December.)

**Christmas Social Afternoon at The Cut on Tuesday 17th December**

You are invited to join us for a convivial afternoon. We will begin with a film, "The Second Best Marigold Hotel", starring Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Bill Nighy, Dev Patel.

The film will be followed by complimentary afternoon tea and The Cut's excellent cakes.

Free of charge to U3A members and £3.00 for non-members.

The **film starts at 2:00pm** (NOT 2.30) so please arrive in time to obtain your tickets.

More information about the film and the trailer is to be found at:

<https://www.google.com/search?q=2nd+marigold+trailer&oq=2nd+marigold+trailer&aqs=chrome..69i57.8702j0j8&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

~~~ We look forward to seeing you at as many of these events as you can fit in ~~~

### NOTICES

**1. Are you interested in learning Portuguese?** Do you have some experience of Portuguese language that might help others? One of our members has a Portuguese son-in-law and would like to learn the language. It would be great if there is someone who knows something of the language and could help, but if not then learning in a small group with books and discs would be easier than trying alone. If you are interested please contact [uthreemembers@gmail.com](mailto:uthreemembers@gmail.com).

## **2. Report on the October U3A talk about the PRO CORDA TRUST**

An audience of over 50 members and non-members enjoyed an interesting talk by Andrew Quartermain CEO of the Pro Corda Trust about the work of the Trust. Pro Corda, which is based in the historic buildings of Leiston Abbey, is a unique music school providing tuition in ensemble performance for chamber music players. Primarily aimed at children and young adults, the Trust has provided tuition to individuals and schools since the 1960's. Andrew described the work of the school, including the particular success Pro Corda has had in helping young people with autism and related conditions realise their musical potential. As a finale Andrew, who is a pianist of considerable renown, treated the audience to a fine solo performance. This was a wonderful conclusion to an uplifting talk.

A sale by the Music Appreciation Group of classical CDs raised over £100 towards The Cut refurbishment fund.

## **3. Report from Halesworth U3A Community Technology Group**

Community Technology and 'Smart Cities'

The original Halesworth U3A Community Technology group (now known as 'ComTech2') has been going for almost six years. The purpose of the group is 'To create our own technologies for the benefit of the community, especially older people such as ourselves'.

What has made this possible is that suitable electronic components are now readily available and can be very inexpensive to buy. Since we started we have achieved a reasonable level of proficiency in constructing electronic projects and in programming.

We have now reached an important point in our development because we have completed all our existing projects and we are looking for new challenges to work on.

Above all we need new ideas and to help us we would welcome new members.

You don't need any technical ability and what we would value most of all is fresh ways of looking at the things we are doing.

One area we have been looking at is that of 'Smart Cities'. This idea originated in the United States and the meaning of the word 'city' in American English is rather different to the way we use it. The nearest British English word is probably 'municipality' – a town with its own local government – so in this sense Halesworth is a city. A 'smart city' involves 'the effective integration of technical and human systems in the built environment to deliver a sustainable, prosperous and inclusive future for its citizens'. For example, this could include matters such as

- Energy management;
- Sustainable building design & green buildings; and
- Cultural and social interaction

A moment's thought reveals that these, and other factors, aren't independent. They interact with one another.

Right now we don't know whether this will take us anywhere but it's going to be interesting finding out. If you'd like to join us, please get in touch through our web page where you can find out more about what we have done and what we are planning to do. You can contact us using the "Blue Bird" link or <https://bit.ly/36Ms2qk>.

Malcolm Ballantine

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