



HALESWORTH U3A NEWSLETTER ~ DECEMBER 2019

1. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **Saturday 14th December at 11:15 the U3A Recorder Group performs at Halesworth Library.**

Visit Halesworth library as the U3A Recorder Group entertain us with a varied programme of cheerful seasonal music.

- ◆ **Tuesday 17th December Christmas Social Afternoon at The Cut at 14:00**

You are invited to join us for a convivial afternoon, please note the earlier start time of 14:00. We will begin with a film, "The Second Best Marigold Hotel", starring Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Bill Nighy and Dev Patel. After the film there will be refreshments in the Cut Café (cake!).

This is the final "open to all" meeting of 2019. It's free of charge to U3A members and £3 for guests; in either case please arrive early enough to obtain your entry tickets from the Cut Box Office before the film starts. You can of course obtain tickets in advance; or perhaps arrive early enough to have lunch at The Cut Café.

- ◆ **January 21st 14:30 Open Meeting at The Cut**

"Forensics - A scientist turns to crime"

At 14:30 (our usual time) on 21st January the Rev. Dr Anthony Peabody, a Chaplain with the Thames Valley Police, will talk about his work in the world of Forensic Science. This promises to be a very interesting afternoon; a must for anyone who enjoys "whodunits"!

- ◆ **Friday 31st January 11:00am - New Members Coffee Morning at The Cut**

On the fifth Friday of the month. New members and those interested in finding out more about the U3A are welcome to come along and pick up information about the activities of Halesworth U3A.





2. RECENT ACTIVITIES

Our **November talk** by Richard Symes about the history of Dunwich Heath was a most successful event. Richard is a local farmer 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. Richard has been instrumental in developing a new project at Dunwich that will explain some of the history of the Heath to visitors.

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 changes on the Heath during both 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 without charge.

It is worth pointing out that the car park fees charged to non-members by the National Trust are used wholly for the benefit of Dunwich Heath. Also, that every time an NT member uses the car park machine Dunwich Heath receives the income. *Every parking ticket helps to pay for staff wages and machinery used on the Heath.*

3. GROUP NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- ♦ Learning Portuguese. A group has now been set up to learn Portuguese. See the Halesworth U3A web site for contact details.
- ♦ There have been expressions of interest in new groups to study genealogy and local Suffolk history. If you would be interested in helping to start one of these activities or have useful skills and information that you would be willing to share, please contact us at uthreemembers@gmail.com
- ♦ and finally, if you would like to learn to play the recorder, perhaps the U3A Recorder Group concert at the Library sparked your interest, the tutor would consider starting a new beginners group. Please make contact with "Recorders R Us" via the Groups page on our web site.

Festive greetings to all our readers from Halesworth U3A

