

## **Halesworth and District U3A Press release 27th February 2020**

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#### **From Marriage to The Cold War**

Our February 'open to all' talk saw Toni Newbald and Toni Broad give an entertaining description of marriage in the Victorian era. This was well illustrated with a number of amusing anecdotes and local customs. We learned that economic circumstances pressured many women into marriage.

Our next 'open to all talk' will be at The Cut on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30 when Dr John Greenacre who lectures at the University of Suffolk will give a talk entitled 'Berlin 1944 – 1989'. He will tell us about the historical role that Berlin played in European history from 1945, throughout the cold war and until the fall of 'The Wall'. As always, there is no charge for U3A members all others are most welcome for just £3.00 on the door or in advance from the box office. The Cut Café will be open before for coffee and light lunches and time to catch up with friends.

There are now over 1000 U3As across the UK with some 440,000 members. A national recently published survey of 4,500 U3A members found that 95% of members now use the internet, and that 70% of members were female. Also, that the average age of members had increased a little to 73, perhaps not surprising with so many now retiring a little later than in recent years. Some 59% of members volunteer for other organisations and almost 20% participate in 7 or more U3A activities each month. It is clear that many U3A members at a national level are busy people, who are involved within their local communities and it appears this is well reflected in our local membership. The complete details of the survey are publicly available and can be found on our website.

We continue to extend a warm welcome to 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, plus access to the 30 or so self-running interest groups many 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 on-line for 'Halesworth U3A',. Alternatively, if you need further information or paper copies of membership forms please contact the Membership Secretary by email at [uthreemembers@gmail.com](mailto:uthreemembers@gmail.com) .

For those not online or who prefer their information 'face to face' we invite you to come to our potential and new members hour next held in The Cut Café between 11.00 and noon on Friday March 27<sup>th</sup> when you can meet with some of our members over coffee.

As always we welcome new and current members to join us in our wide range of activities and groups to continue to 'Live, Learn, and Laugh' while enjoying each other's company and sharing each other's common skills and interests.



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Martin Stevens for Halesworth and District U3A