



u3a

Halesworth and District
Newsletter September - 2021



Dancing in the Gloom !



Banksy's recent 'Spraycation' visit to Lowestoft caused quite a stir and some controversy. It had at least two items that divided opinion including the image of a boy with a sand castle, which had required the destruction of a paving stone and 'We are all in this together', part of which involved a boat made from corrugated metal blocking a drainage channel. Then there was the statue given an ice cream cone and a bright pink tongue. However, apart from putting Lowestoft on the map, this image of a couple appearing to dance on a bus shelter perhaps encapsulates the nation's stoic acceptance of our disappointing summer.



Back in 2005, Banksy paid a visit to the Paleolithic Gallery of the British Museum and made a donation, but not in a way the museum would have desired. It became known as the 'Peckham Rock', essentially being a lump of coloured concrete with an imaginary prehistoric figure pushing a shopping trolley. It even had an inscription which was identical in style to the surrounding exhibits.

Described as a finely preserved example of art from the 'Post Catatonic Era', it described early man venturing towards his out of town hunting grounds. It was in place for three days before the gallery attendants noticed it. Understandably, their focus was on exhibits that went missing, rather than surreptitious additions. However, the museum took it in good part.

From the Chairperson

August may have been disappointing in terms of the weather, but for our u3a it has started well with many of you renewing your membership. Thank you for your continuing support. We look forward to our usual activities starting again during September.

Our **first event at The Cut** will be the **AGM on Tuesday 21st September at 2.30pm**. This will be the first time most of us will have met for well over a year and we look forward to meeting you there.

Thorington Open Air Theatre. Immediately after the AGM, we will enjoy an interesting talk from Lindy O'Hare the creative force behind the charming woodland theatre which has recently opened in Thorington. Many local residents have already visited the theatre and this talk will give us an insight into the concept and construction of this beautiful venue.



Lindy is the co-founder of the new open air 350 seat theatre in Thorington, just off the A12 near Wenhaston. Constructed in the woods from sustainably sourced local timber. It is a really inspiring space and enjoying great acoustics.

Mark and Lindy have financed the project and Lindy has taken on all the administrative duties, including the booking of events. The season finished at the end of August. By next year, the summer series is likely to be even bigger with nationally known bands and theatre companies. A definite date for your 2022 diary.

Although this event is not advertised to the general public, members may wish to invite guests to the talk. A modest donation by guests to The Cut would be very welcome. **Please note** that only members with a current membership card will be able to vote and speak during the AGM.

All members and guests are invited to **join us for coffee and nibbles** at the end of the AGM and talk. Jan Athis also has a message for all **interest group coordinators**. Please let her know if you change your email address or have taken on the role of facilitator, so that the website information is up to date.

A possible new group.

Architecture Group. Are you interested in buildings? We would like to establish a group to study the built environment; this could include visits to buildings and illustrated talks as well as group study. Please register your interest with the Groups Facilitator via our website and click on the bluebird 



Walking Group. Our August walk was attended by 19 members who encircled Westhall, walking along quiet lanes, paths and through woods, before most returned to The Racehorse, now a community owned pub for a well-earned lunch. Our next walk will be on **Thursday September 9th** and will see us meet at the Huntingfield Arms for 4.5-mile circular walk lead by Ken to be followed by lunch for those that wish to stay.



Pints away at the Royal Oak, Laxfield!

Real Ale Group. Our August visit to the Royal Oak in Laxfield was most enjoyable even though the Low House was not open at the time. **September's visit** is expected to be to the Rumbugh Buck, using the Halesworth Community Bus. **In October** we are hoping to go to Lowestoft on the train, so we will not be restricted by numbers. We plan to visit the Triangle Tavern, which is the brewery tap of the Green Jack Brewery. We are hoping we might be able to take in a brewery tour as well. Anyone interested in more information see us at the u3a AGM, where we will have a display table. For more information: u3abeer@btinternet.com



The Bridge Group is planning to restore its normal **Thursday afternoon sessions** in the Cut Café from mid-September. We are also likely to continue offering a weekly game online if there is a demand for it. As always new members are very welcome to join any of our activities. We are extremely pleased to say that we are now in a position to offer a short online beginners' course (led by a qualified bridge teacher) for u3a members who have little or no experience of bridge. Contact us via our website if you would like to know more.



The Music Appreciation Group is restarting after nearly eighteen months as usual on the **second Tuesday in the month** from 10.30am to 12.00 noon. We are now meeting in the Kiln Room at The Cut. It is on street level next to its office. It has direct access, with exterior ventilation and is socially distanced. The cost is £3 per session for venue hire, Close car parking, if required nearby, is £1.

Our programme to the end of the year is:

September 14th. Famous Film Scores by classical composers.

October 12th. 'Music as balm in troubled times'. Please select a piece of music to share that helped you through Lockdown.

November 9th. Famous Overtures.

December 14th. Christmas Crackers! Music written or arranged for unusual instruments. Plus bring a favourite carol to share with our usual fizz and mince pies. New members are most welcome. Try a free taster session.

For further information please contact: johnatreadway@yahoo.co.uk



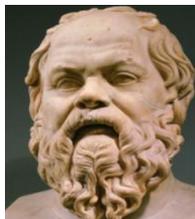
Bird Watching Group. The group did not meet in August but is starting again on **1st September** with a visit to Suffolk Wild Trust Hen Reed Beds. If anyone would like to add their name to the list for future events, then please contact via the 'blue bird' on the group page of the website.



Lunch on Friday Group. Nine members of the group met at Huntingfield Arms for our August outing and will meet at The Queen's Head Dennington in **September**. If anyone would like to add their name to the list then please contact via the 'blue bird' on the group page of the website.



The Science Group. Our **September meeting on Thursday 23rd** will be by Malcolm Ballantine on The Post Office Research Centre at Dollis Hill. This is where much of the early work on computers and telecommunications technology took place in the days before BT was formed. We expect the meeting to be in the Hall at the side of the United Reform Church in Quay St in a socially distanced and well-ventilated forum. In **October**, we aim to hold a discussion entitled '**Covid – What have we have learned.**' For more information about the venue or joining then please contact us at u3aScience@btinternet.com



Philosophy Group. This was previously known as the 'World Philosophies Group' and before that as 'World Religions'. Having held two face to face meetings at which we have discussed our future, the outcome has been that we have become a thorough-going philosophy group and we will start by considering the contribution made by prominent philosophers. We are starting on **20th September at 10.00am** in The Cut with a discussion on the contribution made by Socrates. All are welcome but please let us know in advance through the u3a website.



Church Crawlers Group. We have not been able to run our full programme for 2020 and 2021 due to COVID. However, we will have one visit which is a tour of Laxfield. This will be on **Wednesday 27th October**. We will be able to visit the church learn about its new set of bells, the recently extended museum, and walk along the main street in the village to view the interesting and historic properties. The visit will be approx. **11:00 am to 3.00 pm**. We will follow the current COVID advice on mask wearing. If there are other members who would like to consider joining this group, please contact me through the u3a website Jan Derham, Church Crawlers Group Coordinator.



The ComTech1 Group. 'Boost your IT skills'. We have been looking at 'password managers'. These potentially useful apps record all your 'log-ons', storing your usernames and passwords. Once set up they can log you on automatically so you don't have to remember the details. Best of all, faced with the need to set up or change a password, they will create one automatically. Once this is done you can rest assured that all your passwords will be different and highly secure. Our initial conclusions are that they could be easier to set up but once done they are really worthwhile. Join the discussion – on this and other topics. We next meet in The Cut Café at **10.00am on Friday 10th September.**



ComTech2 – Physical Computing. We have now established our first major project of the year – and a new approach. We are now aiming to first identify problems to work on and then seek to apply technological solutions. We are attempting to simulate a tropical environment within a tiny IKEA greenhouse and measure our success by seeing whether we can successfully grow plants which would not normally thrive in our British climate. All are welcome. Our next regular meeting will be at **The Cut at 2.00pm on 15th September.**

There will be no October newsletter as the editor is away.

So, some dates for your diary:



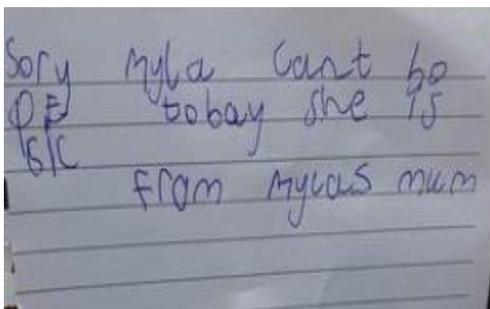
Our October meeting will be on **Tuesday 19th October** at The Cut, Halesworth starting at 2:30pm. We will have a very interesting presentation by Helen Frost about '**The Women's Land Army During The First World War**'. This will include some specific county focus on the Women's Land Army in Suffolk. So please join us in October to hear about the quite incredible contribution made by this oft-forgotten, overlooked 'Army' of women who, during The Great War years, were recruited mainly from towns and cities and often from wealthier backgrounds, to work on the land.

Tuesday 16th November at 2.30pm at The Cut. Speaker to be confirmed.

Tuesday 14th December. We plan to hold the u3a Christmas talk and social in The Cut Café, when we will be entertained once again by Mark Mitchels.

And finally.....

Last month I included the views of some six year olds on time travel. The teacher of the Year 1 class commented on their answers. He said of one girl 'Here's a smart thinker'. Last week the Daily Mirror reported on another smart thinking 6 year old. Myla Smith from Johnstone in Scotland, does not like PE and was determined not to take part in the lesson and knew the best way to excuse herself would be to present the teacher with a note from her mum to say that she was feeling ill. This was her note to her class teacher:



Good try Myla, but perhaps it might be better next time to use proper notepaper and also 'brush up' on your spelling and punctuation.

Myla's amused mum said she was a teenager before faking her sick notes.

