

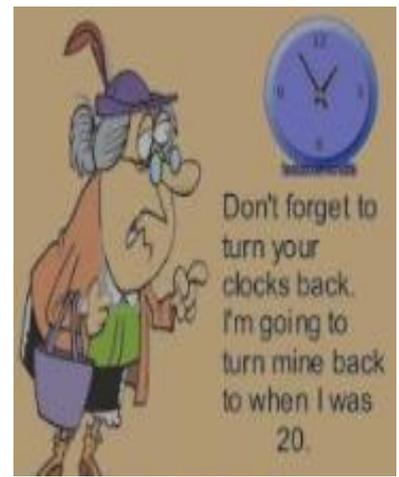


u3a

Halesworth and District Newsletter November - 2021



Clocks Back - Chin Up!



By now you will have put your clocks back. Stopping the clock for an hour is the easy bit and why do people always say it is worth the extra hour in bed? What compensation is that? Many of us would happily give that up to avoid the 'aggro' of finding the manuals for all the gadgets we own and trying to skim through the instruction manual to find the section on changing the time. Often it isn't only the time you change. You could end up putting the machine's memory into another language, or even worse, losing all that you had programmed on it in the first place. Oh what joy! It's only five months before you do it all over again... and then lose that hour in bed!

Perhaps you remember the years (1968 - 1971) when we just left the clocks alone. Then on a free vote Parliament decided to scrap it. There were obviously issues over darker mornings and even energy saving, without remembering the compensation of lighter nights when returning after a day's work. Amongst critics of the experiment were the Scottish farmers who said neither they nor their cows were happy with it. Presumably they are less adaptable than their counterparts in Scandinavia.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents has proposed adopting GMT+1 during the winter and GMT+2 in the summer, meaning the UK would be in the same time zone as France, mainland Spain and Germany. They argue this would reduce accidents as a result of lighter evenings and have called for the government to run another trial, but then came Brexit and in any case at our age, the clock I photographed in Greece above, probably says it all.



Time for a new u3a Group?

Suggestions have recently been made to the Interest Groups Facilitator, Jan Athis, raising the possibility of new groups starting in 2022. These are: Badminton, Table Tennis, Cycling, Photography, Local Flora and Fauna and Thorington Open Air Theatre Supporters.

Any offers to be a coordinator? The coordinator doesn't have to know **everything** about the group's interest, just be willing and able to organise things. Please contact Jan via the website if you are interested.

From the Chairwoman

We held a very successful AGM at The Cut on 21st September. The meeting was well attended and as a result we welcome two new committee members.

The Officers remain the same for a further year, Chairwoman Monica Edmonds, Secretary Sharon Collins and Treasurer Christine Billingham. However our constitution requires that no-one stays in post for too long so, we will be looking for replacements soon. Our new committee members are Katherine Kirk and Jill Daines who join Malcolm Ballantine, Jan Athis, John Treadway and Nina Warwick. We have co-opted Martin Stevens, who will be relinquishing his role of selecting speakers for our monthly meetings.

However we still **have vacancies** on the committee and we do **need helpers** for all sorts of things. Both our charming greeters (at monthly talks and at coffee mornings) have now retired so we are also **looking for two new volunteers** to greet new and prospective members to our events at The Cut. We also need help putting up posters and delivering leaflets in the villages.

Please contact me on uthreemembers@gmail.com if you can spare a little time once in a while. So if you would like to help us make the u3a a welcoming community please get in touch.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 16th November at 2.30pm at The Cut. Tony Diamond will talk to us about the Mayflower and Pilgrim Fathers. (see below)

Friday 26th November. New Members Coffee Morning - last Friday each month at The Cut 11:00 am.

Tuesday 14th December at 2.30pm. We plan to hold the u3a Christmas talk and social afternoon in **The Cut Café**, when we will be entertained once again by Mark Mitchels.

Tuesday 18th January at 2.30pm. There will be a joint presentation by Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Richard Symes about new ways of farming with environmental issues to the fore.

November Talk at The Cut

November 16th This will be the return, at short notice of Tony Diamond, who will give one of his engaging talks about The Mayflower and the Pilgrim Fathers. He will be including some local aspects of the story. Many may recall Tony's visits to us in the past and his Zoom talk to us about John Betjeman during lockdown.



The Atlantic Crossing



Mayflower 2 Below Decks - JT



Mayflower- Plymouth USA - JT

We are opening the doors to the auditorium at The Cut a little earlier than usual to help facilitate social distancing. With over 200 seats at The Cut, keeping a social distance does not seem too much of an issue. As always, there is no charge for members and of course friends are most welcome. Just pay £4.00 on the door. We hope to be able to rebook the talk initially planned for November about Suffolk Mills (including Holton) sometime during 2022.

Our December talk, by popular request will see Mark Michel's return once more to The Cut to give his Christmas themed talk. We hope to be able to run this in the Cut Café. This talk will be on Tuesday the **14th December** with tea, cake and time to chat.



Walking Group. Our October walk was attended by twenty one members who enjoyed a delightful walk around Walberswick. The weather was sunny and dry. There were wonderful views enjoyed across the heaths and the Blyth, followed by a good lunch shared by many at The Bell.

Thursday morning **11th November** will see us again walking slightly less than five miles with lunch to follow for those who want it. Should you like to join this group please make contact through the contact page on the Halesworth u3a website page. Just follow the link: <https://u3asites.org.uk/Halesworth/page/4041>

Then click on the 'blue bird' to send a message.



The Shorter Walks Group which started this autumn, is taking a break until the New Year. The plan is to have two to three mile walks in the Halesworth and district area. The pace will be a bit slower than for the main walking group and well-behaved dogs on leads are very welcome. More details to follow in future newsletters and on the website.



Bird Watching Group. In September the group visited Hen Reed Beds spotting twenty five species including Water Rail, Bearded Tits and Great Spotted Woodpecker. The October meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather although one member did visit Sizewell Beach and saw a group of skylarks and a few other species. The November meeting will be at RSPB Minsmere to try and spot some of the migrants. Bewick Swans and Cattle Egret have been present for some time, while Sooty Shearwaters have been passing through. We have a waiting list to join the group but do contact via the website if you are interested in adding your name.



Bearded Tit



Water Rail



Common Lizard



Parasol Fungus

These images were supplied by the Bird Watching and Walking Groups.



French Conversation Group. We continued our meeting over 'Lockdown' by phone meetings. Over the summer we met in each other's gardens. We have now resumed meetings in each other's houses. We meet on the **1st and 3rd Friday mornings** of each month from 10 to 12 o'clock. Meetings are informal, but we all do a piece of homework for each session which we read out to the group. We use a magazine called 'Rendez-vous' which includes topical articles in French and we are also reading some French short stories. We try to speak only in French during meetings but discipline is not always strict! We try to have fun.



Lunch on Friday Group. In October the group visited The Golden Key at Snape and our lunch venue for November will be Halesworth Golf Club. If anyone would like to join us then please make contact via the website



Music Appreciation. The group has settled happily into its new home at The Cut and welcomed some new members. We have two meetings remaining this year. The meetings are from 10.00.am to 12.00. noon.

November 9th. What is an overture? Exploring some famous examples
December 14th. 'Christmas Crackers'. Music arranged for or played on unusual instruments and please bring a carol and enjoy 'fizz' and mince pies. We welcome members to a free taster meeting. The programme to July 2022 is now on the u3a website.



Appreciating Architecture. The first meeting of group was held on Thursday 14th October. Six out of ten of those interested attended. There were two apologies. Twelve will make the group complete. Meetings will take place monthly on Fridays and would last no longer than an hour and a half. The next meeting is at **5pm on Friday 12th November.** Ben Cardwell will investigate a convenient venue and inform members.. Whilst the meetings in the autumn and winter would be held at the time stated, there will also be 'away days' in the spring and summer months. Various possibilities and suggestions came from the group. There was a strong interest in how and where we lived. A unanimous decision was made to pursue the development of vernacular domestic building. Brian explained

that many academics, including Nicholas Pevsner, considered that the majority of pre 17th Century vernacular buildings were not considered architecture. Prior to this, ordinary people, seeking shelter and warmth, used local craftsmen and locally sourced materials to construct their buildings, which would explain local and regional differences. In contrast the planning and design of the great country houses were developed by trained professionals. The focus of the group will therefore be an investigation into local domestic buildings, using the buildings of Halesworth as a source.



Science Group. On November 25th in the URC Hall. Brett Edmonds will give a talk on the life and times of Alfred Russel Wallace. He was a Victorian naturalist and traveller, who spent years in the tropics collecting specimens of birds and insects etc. He independently came up with a theory of evolution by natural selection, a topic that Charles Darwin had been working on for some twenty years, but was hesitant to publish due to its contradiction of prevailing religious orthodoxy. Joseph Hooker arranged for a reading of Wallace's theory alongside a presentation by Darwin at the Linnean Society in London so that both men would receive credit. Later Darwin published his book 'On the Origin of Species'. For further information please contact Ken on: u3aScience@btinternet.com



Real Ale Group. In October, the group had a most interesting and enjoyable visit to Lowestoft by train to visit the Green Jack Brewery and to sample a range of its beers in the Triangle Tavern. For information about forthcoming events please email Ken at: u3abeer@btinternet.com

Copy for the December newsletter by **November 26th** at the latest please, as there may well be a lot of information to include and we are one day shorter in this month: newsletteru3a@gmail.com JT.