



u3a

Halesworth and District
Newsletter April 2022



Images of Spring



Let's hope we can enjoy Springtime with no more lockdowns!

From the Chairwoman

I am pleased to report that our monthly meetings at The Cut have resumed and are attracting an enthusiastic audience. Similarly, almost all our groups are meeting again and we have several new activities starting up. Details of all our activities are available on our web site. If you are not an internet user, then you are welcome to pop along to the New Members Coffee Hour at The Cut (see dates below) and collect a list of activities from me there.

This year is the 40th Anniversary of the foundation of the University of the Third Age (now known as the Third Age Trust). We will be celebrating with a special outing for our members in September. We are all aware that the pandemic is still very active in our area. There are no mandatory government restrictions in place at the moment. However we ask our members to take sensible precautions day to day.
Monica Edmonds

Please note: Aafke Groenwald has informed us that The Cut Arts has a new email address:
info@thecut.org.uk

Dates for your diary:

New Members Coffee Hour: From **11:00 to 12:00** noon on the last Friday of every month. Spring and summer dates are: **29th April, 27th May, 24th June and 29th July.**

Monthly "Open to All" talks at The Cut, Halesworth. These are all Tuesdays.

April 5th 2.30pm. Chris Bell - The Weatherman.

May 15th 2.30pm. Christine Beadle - Essex Scrubbers.

June 15th 2.30pm. Elizabeth Cooper - Gainsborough Museum, Sudbury.

July 19th u3a Coach outing to Bury Saint Edmunds (please see important details below).

We look forward to welcoming you to these events.

New Groups



We have eleven new groups forming this year Are you interested in joining.....

- Guitar group - See below?
- Beginner's Spanish course?
- Appreciating Jazz?
- Learning the Recorder?
- Reading Music?
- Playing Table Tennis?
- Photography - including on mobile phones and tablets?
- Indoor / Carpet Bowls?
- Badminton?
- The short walks group?
- Pool, darts and snooker?

If you are interested in any of these possible new groups, please visit our website and contact the [Interest Groups Facilitator](#), stating which group you would like to join.



The Guitar Group met for the first time on Wednesday 16th March at St Mary's Church, Halesworth. The acoustics in the church were fabulous and really suited the eclectic mix of songs played by the individual group members and it was also great to hear a couple of original songs written by group members. Although the group's existing members are quite experienced guitarists, it would be a great opportunity for beginners and those with little experience to meet other guitar players to help them develop. New members are welcome. Please contact Kevin via the website.



The next session will be held on Wednesday 13th April.



Play Reading Group. Meetings of the play reading group have now resumed, on the third Monday of the month. The next one will be on **Monday 18th April.** The group coordinator can be contacted via the Groups page on the web site.



Country Dancing. We are currently meeting on the 2nd and 4th Monday afternoons in the URC upper hall. We have a core membership of seven and would love to get to at least ten. If any U3A members cannot make Monday afternoons, please let the groups' co-ordinator know in case another group can be formed.

Annual Summer Outing

This has been arranged for **Tuesday 19th July** with a visit to **Bury St Edmunds**. This was postponed from 2020.

There will be a free optional guided tour of the cathedral and an opportunity to take a tour through time at Moyses's Hall Museum, or enjoy the Abbey Gardens, plus of course, a chance to indulge in some retail therapy!

The coach will leave Halesworth at 9.00am from the Saxons Way bus stop, with the tour starting at around 11.00 am. The subsidised cost is £6, as the committee is aware that it is now three years since the last such visit took place. Return time tbc.



Anniversary Coach Trip

The date is Tuesday 27th September

Your committee has organised second coach trip to the newly refurbished **Gainsborough's House and Museum in Sudbury**. The cost will be £15.00 including admission (which is usually £20.00). This will include an introductory talk.

Before the visit, Liz Cooper from the Gainsborough Museum will be giving our monthly talk at The Cut on **Tuesday June 21st at 2.30pm**.



Important note about booking either of the above visits.

We will be selling tickets for both visits on 'a first come basis' through The Cut Box Office. Please do not contact them now. Details of when these will be on sale will be sent out by email and posted on our website in due course. The coach has 53 seats.

The March Talk.

We enjoyed a fascinating talk from Bill Griffiths the Suffolk mill restorer. Bill has turned a hobby into a profession; moving from being a volunteer to a full-time rescuer of wind and water mills. He gave us an insight into the complexities of repairing and restoring these ancient landmarks and the joinery and metalworking skills that he has developed along the way. Bill told us of the satisfaction he has derived from re-discovering and using the millwrighting techniques that were developed when the mills were originally built. His illustrations of past and present projects showed the scale of the work and an impression of the risks involved in caring for these large structures. Millwrighting certainly calls for a good head for heights!

Although he generally works alone, Bill is a member of the Suffolk Mills Group; a Voluntary Association founded in 1977 for those helping to care for Suffolk's Heritage of old windmills and watermills.

Website <http://www.suffolkmills.org.uk/about.html>



Thorpeness Windmill



Woodbridge Tide Mill



Saxtead Windmill



Bird Watching Group. In January the group were at Southwold and the Town Marshes, spotting twenty five species. February was an excellent morning at RSPB North Warren. The marshes were flooded and several species new to the group were sighted. In total 35 species including Great Egret, Goosander, Pintail and Whooper swans Unfortunately the March meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The group now has a waiting list, but do get it touch via the website if you are interested as you will be invited to join a meeting when space allows. Welcome to three new members, we hope to meet you at Iken in April.



Whooper Swans



Pintail



Goosander



Great White Egret



The Walking Group is attracting around 15 - 20 members. Walks are typically, 4 - 5 miles with a pub stop at the end. The wet winter has kept us in local coastal territories to avoid mud but we will be venturing further from April onwards! The walks remain at a moderate pace ensuring everyone has time to enjoy the countryside. Please see the website for more details.



Shorter Walks Group. The next walk for this group will be on the third Friday of the month. This will be on 15th April (Good Friday).The time and the meeting place can be found on the u3a website under 'Interest Groups'.



Lunch on Friday Group. In January the group enjoyed an excellent lunch at The Rumburgh Buck. Unfortunately the February lunch was cancelled due to the gale force winds, but we rebooked our visit for March at The Ship, Dunwich. April will see us visit The Star, Wenhaston, but on the 4th Friday of the month due to Easter being on our usual day. The group now has a waiting list, but do get it touch via the website if you are interested as you will be invited to join a lunch when space allows. We welcome three new members but are sad that two long standing members of the group no longer feel able to join us.



The Music Appreciation Group met in March to consider the musical refugee Sergei Rachmaninoff. He left Russia in 1917 following the revolution and never returned. Settling in the USA, he spent much of his time in an exhausting recital and conducting schedule that left him little time or energy for composition., He wrote just five works in twenty five years but they did include two masterpieces; the 'Variations on a theme of Paganini' and the 'Symphonic Dances'. In April members will be sharing a favourite movement from a symphony to be followed by mornings on Shostakovich and Mahler



The Wine Appreciation Group continues to meet every month at Holton village hall where we can accommodate everyone. We have room for new members. The most we have had so far is 36 members. Transport from the town to Holton and back has proved popular.

A feature of this year's programmes has been 'Rivers and the Wine along Them' and we have covered the Douro and Rhone with the Loire to follow later this year. Of particular interest in August will be a talk by a local Master of Wine about the wines of Bordeaux and before that, in June, a dinner with wines at the Dennington Queen.



Science Group. The Science Group meets on the fourth Thursday afternoon of each month. Usually members research a topic and present it to the group. Occasionally we have a visit to a location of scientific interest or a guest speaker. PDFs of presentations from previous meetings can be viewed at the Science Group page of the Halesworth u3a website.

Any members of Halesworth u3a who might be interested but who are not already members of the group or on the email list, are welcome to contact us at u3aScience@btinternet.com.

Forthcoming topics for the Science Group:

- Special Theory of Relativity
- A Farm Walk, with discussion on science and technology in modern agriculture
- A Geology Primer
- Parasites
- Fuel Cells
- Women in Science



Appreciating Architecture. The group meets monthly at Morton Partnership. We have been fortunate in having Halesworth born and bred Brian Haward leading us, who has run an architectural practice for fifty years. We have dealt with walls and the materials which are used in their construction and roofs and chimneys. Brian's grandson Toby has constructed a model for us to use. This can be constructed and deconstructed, so we have finished each session in building our house. We have studied brick bonds and wattle walls, the sort of roofs that could go on these and the position of chimneys. Brian has planned six modules of study so that we can more completely appreciate what we can see in buildings. We have focused on vernacular architecture, examples of which can be found in Halesworth.



The Architecture Group investigating the construction of vernacular building techniques.



The Genealogy Group meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 2pm upstairs at Halesworth Library. There is a broad range of experience and knowledge within the group helping with genealogical “brick walls” which fellow members are happy to share. The March topic was the use of various maps in family history research. At the April meeting we are hoping to hear a brief history of the Quakers. We are planning to look at our family history for colleagues who may be new to the topic. This would include help with the use of computer websites such as Ancestry in one’s research. Another project is our assistance with the Old Chapel at Walpole in transcribing their genealogical registers, enabling us to view old documents.



Philosophy Group. After the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, we are now once again holding regular face-to-face meetings. We have a programme which has been agreed into 2023 in which we are systematically investigating a wide range of philosophical schools of thought. To this end, we are following the well-known book *Sophie’s World* by the Norwegian novelist Jostein Gaarder. Although a work of teenage fiction, we have found it suits our purpose well. If you would like to join this vibrant group, please make contact through the website.



Jazz Group. An initial meeting for those interested will be held at **The Cut on 26th April at 10.30 am**, in the lower room also used by the Music Appreciation Group. If sufficient demand is realised, it is hoped that meetings would then proceed on the fourth Tuesday monthly. Please contact Harold Heller via the website, to give him some idea of the numbers attending



The Mah Jongg Group 1. I regret, the group will **close on 31st March**. My wife and I are down-sizing and moving to a property in Halesworth, ending an association with Halesworth & District U3A which has lasted since the foundation of the branch. It’s all been great fun, not only playing together, but getting to know each other, arguing gently and realising that if we had played for money we would all be bankrupt by now. We haven’t played since Covid began, so perhaps it won’t be such a break for any of us. Good luck to the continuing Yoxford Group! John Hewlett

Can you help?



Do you know of any good speakers or have ideas for speakers in 2023? Please contact the secretary on the u3a web link. Thank you!

As many members will know, Martin Stevens has for several years been the driving force in planning and organising our u3a’s programme of monthly talks and events. He has very successfully arranged talks for us on a diverse and interesting range of subjects.

The programme for the remainder of 2022 has now been planned and Martin is stepping down from his role as programme mastermind. He’ll be a hard act to follow. We’re looking for 2 or 3 people to join a few of our committee members to form a small group to plan and organise our programme for 2023. If you have ideas about the kind of talks that would be of interest to our u3a members and would be willing to take on tasks including identifying and liaising with speakers and making arrangements for staging the events, please contact the secretary.

Copy for the July newsletter by **June 25th**. Please use: halesworthu3anews@google.com