



u3a

Halesworth and District Newsletter July 2022



Jubilee or Jubbly ?



Many of you will have seen the 'Jubbly' souvenir plate, which was featured in the news and on a recent episode of 'Have I Got News For You'. When you consider the number of processes that plate would have gone through before being produced in large quantities, estimated to be in thousands, the fact that no one noticed is truly amazing. 'Typos' on paper are bad enough, but set in china is a very different matter. For collectors these bone china plates can still be purchased online at around £20 each. The problem is that the sheer number produced will probably put any keen collectors off.

Full marks to Brittany Ferries on its route to Santander, for giving the following title to its evening menu:

Entrées Straters
Hors d'œuvre du Chef
Chef's Starter of the day

Hundreds must have been printed and no one noticed even though the correct spelling comes two lines later. Here's a warning to all newsletter editors and coordinators. Be sure when planning your group's activities for the next year, you don't end up with a 'jubbly'!

From the Chairwoman

I am glad to report that our many groups are in full swing and new activities are being planned. Since January we have been pleased to welcome twenty three new members.

We are inviting all members to join us at The Angel, Halesworth on Friday 29th July. You will receive your invitation in early July. The u3a provides opportunities for us to learn from each other and enjoy activities together. It's important that we understand how our members use their membership; what is enjoyable and good and what could be improved. We would also like to hear from newer members about their expectations and experiences in joining the u3a. We hope that this will be an enjoyable event. It is your participation that will help us to develop and improve.

Our membership year runs from 1st September to 31st August so look out for **membership renewal** information which will be sent to you in **August**. The call for nominations for the committee will also be circulated in August. The **AGM will be held at The Cut on Tuesday 20th September**. After brief formalities, local historian David Wollweber will be speaking about his latest local history researches.

I look forward to meeting you at The Angel on 29th July and at The Cut on 20th September.

Monica Edmonds

The June Talk. Liz Cooper, Commercial Manager, of Thomas Gainsborough's House, described the project which will provide a home to display many of Gainsborough's beautiful landscapes and portraits. Gainsborough's personal letters and artefacts will also be on display. In addition there will be a silk gallery showing examples of the local traditional silk weaving industry. A Constable Room and rooms devoted to other local artists will also be part of the gallery. Once open to the public again, visitors will be able to enjoy the newly laid out garden, the cafe and of course the extended museum. The major refurbishment work has over run due to Covid and other unforeseen events, but is due to open in mid Autumn. U3a members are looking forward to a group visit to the museum later in the year. (see below)
The next u3a meeting will be the September AGM.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday July 19th u3a Coach outing to Bury Saint Edmunds

The coach will leave Halesworth at 9.30am from Saxons Way, arriving in Bury at around 11.00am. The subsidised cost is £5, as the committee is aware that it is now three years since the last such visit took place. We will leave Bury late afternoon. There will be a free optional morning guided tour of the cathedral and an opportunity to take a tour through time at Moyse's Hall Museum, or enjoy the Abbey Gardens, plus of course a chance to indulge in some retail therapy!

Tuesday 27th September Coach outing to Gainsborough's House and Museum

Following a very interesting and informative talk on the redevelopment of Gainsborough's House at the monthly meeting in June, we have planned a visit with a guided tour on Tuesday 27th September .The centre has received a multi million pound National Lottery funded award to develop the museum and enhance the display of its collection, together with better educational opportunities. The cost of the visit will be £15.00 including admission, (which is usually £20.00).This will include an introductory talk. **Departure and return times will be the same as above.**

Tickets for both visits are now available from The Cut box office by phone or in person.

The Box Office is open from 10am - 2pm Tuesday to Saturday. The phone number is 0300 303 3211.



The Jazz Group, which was recently formed has already held three meetings. Its programme is still developing, but was launched with an initial series of video and audio presentations of classic jazz performances, broadly reflecting the early history and development of the genre. The last two sessions planned for summer will continue this broad overview and it is hoped that participants will by then reach some view of how they would like the group to continue in the coming autumn. The group meets at The Cut, on the fourth Tuesday of each month, starting at 10.30am and ending by 12.15pm. The next planned session will be on **26th July**. If you would like further details please get in touch via the website link.



Walking Group continues to meet every second Thursday morning of the month, to walk four but less than five miles at a moderate pace with usually a pub lunch to follow for those that wish. June saw Bob lead a delightful walk around the Homersfield and Flixton area, followed by lunch and much chatter in the sunshine in the garden of the Black Swan. New members are always welcome. Further information from Martin at mandp.stevens@gmail.com or make contact through the Halesworth u3a website



Night Jar

Dartford Warbler

Bittern

Bird Watching Group.

In April, the group visited Iken and saw or heard forty different species. The tide was out and although the light wasn't good at first, there were a splendid number of birds; the standout ones being Grey Plover, Ruff and Spotted Redshank.

In May, Wenham Heath and Marsh was our venue. Thirty two species were spotted or heard with several new sightings for the group this year. Swallows and Sand Martins were swooping over the marsh, Nightingales, Garden Warblers, White-throats and Blackcaps were singing in the bushes together with all the usual small birds.

June took us to RSPB Minsmere where a total of sixty nine species recorded by the group, including the Bittern, Bearded Tits, Hobby, Knot, Great White Egret and Curlew Sandpiper.

An additional visit arranged by Ken was for a Nightjar walk on Dunwich Heath. The sound of a Nightjar is quite special. We also encountered three species of bats flying overhead, and heard the Tawny Owl and Cuckoo calling and saw Dartford Warblers and Stonechats.

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 numbers allow.



Lunch on Friday group report. Our lunches have included The Ship, Dunwich, in April, The Buck, Flixton in May and The Bell, Middleton in June. We welcomed two new members to the group, which 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 numbers allow.



Local History Group. The group is making good progress with two interesting projects. The social historians are researching the history of older buildings in the centre of Halesworth. The landscape historians are learning to use LIDAR (light detection and ranging) maps to discover earlier archaeological features in the area around Halesworth. The group meets on the fourth Monday of the month at Halesworth Museum and welcomes new members.



The Music Appreciation Group has currently fifteen members and meets on the second Tuesday of the month in the lower floor room in The Cut from 10.30 to 12.00 noon. On the **12th July** we are focussing on the music that was written around the two world wars. We also have a summer outing to Carlton Marsh Visitors' Centre for an evening of music celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Ralph Vaughan Williams. This takes place on **Friday 8th July at 7.30pm**. The highlight will be a performance of 'The Lark Ascending'.

For the new season beginning in September, we are looking at the development of the string quartet, the 'Famous Five Symphonies', folk song arrangements from around the world, the piano sonata, a film on Mozart and the life and music of Gershwin. New members are welcome and can join the group with a free taster meeting. Please contact the organiser using the u3a group web link.



The Ukulele Group performing recently at Fressingfield Community Market

Things are a-changing at the Halesworth Strummers Ukulele Group, particularly with a change of Co-ordinator as Ian Clampin is passing his duties over to Chris Turner, after four years of much appreciated work. Thank you for what you have done and for still being actively engaged with the group to assist and offer advice whenever needed. Chris is focussed on continuing improvement in the group's musicality not only from our instruments but also in the wonderful singing that goes hand in hand with them.

During lock-down, there were no outdoor events. We were all locked away in our little bubbles but we survived like so many others. Using Zoom we were able to continue with our regular Tuesday meetings albeit in a different way. It was still fun, but how wonderful it has been to meet face to face again and even to play live at various events.

So far this year we have played live at the Halesworth Day of Dance, Henham Easter Show, The Queens Jubilee Event, The Lions Club Fete and most recently at the Fressingfield Community Market. It has been such fun for us to perform and we have had some wonderful feedback from those watching.

You can still catch us. On the **17th July at the Holton Flower Festival** held at **St Peters Church**, on the **20th August at the Framlingham Show**, or the **18th September at the Henham Steam Rally**. We would love to see you there, so if you do make it, come up and say 'Hi'. You can't miss us, we will be wearing very bright Hawaiian shirts so you might need to wear your sun glasses.

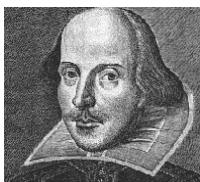
Wine Appreciation. The houses built recently in Halesworth have brought six new members to the group. We now have over forty members but as we meet in Holton Village Hall, we can accommodate them all. We will have to restart a waiting list if more people wish to join the group.

We have two meetings in July - one on the normal second Wednesday where we will be tasting wines from along the Loire and the second later in the month where we will be tasting old vintage Bordeaux and Burgundy wines that have been kindly donated to the group.





Appreciating Architecture. The group has continued to examine the elements of the houses that people live in. We have worked from the bottom of the building to the top, from the outside to the inside in six modules. After each meeting group members have gone off to find examples of the elements locally, using worksheets provided by our resident architect. The pictures in the last newsletter showed the group working on the model designed by Brian Haward and constructed by his grandson Toby. The picture below shows the model completed. We are indebted to the Morton Partnership for use of their boardroom at Brunel House, on the Norwich Road.



Shakespeare Group. Recently we have revisited 'Love's Labour's Lost' and 'King Lear', moving from comedy to deep tragedy in a matter of weeks. We study one play every month; no acting, simply reading and watching a play in our own time and then meeting to discuss our impressions. The group has space for one or two new members who would like to join our discussions.



The Bridge Group meets every **Thursday afternoon from 2 - 4pm in The Cut Café**. Members with a wide range of abilities enjoy playing in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. At the moment we have a number of players with little or no previous experience of bridge, and are currently looking for more experienced players to take on a mentoring role for part of our sessions.
If you feel you could offer this kind of help or would like to discuss it further, please contact the coordinator via the u3a website.



The Handicraft Group continues to meet in Wissett Village Hall on the third Monday of the month from 2.30pm until 4.30pm.
We have projects for all abilities.
Join us to learn new skills and keep heritage crafts alive. We have a group of friendly enthusiastic ladies and all materials are sourced locally.
Enquiries to Melita 07990 215033.



The **u3a Science Group** meets in Halesworth Library on the fourth Thursday afternoon of each month. Usually, a member of the group researches a topic and presents it to the group. Occasionally we have outside visits. So far this year we have a **Farm Walk**, on which we learned about modern food production and environmental issues, and a joint visit with the Bird Watching Group to see where **Turtle Doves** are bred and released. Meetings over the summer will include talks on **Parasites** and on **Fuel Cells and Sustainable Transport**. New members are welcome. For more information see the Science Group pages of the Halesworth u3a website or email u3ascience@btinternet.com



Community Technology Group. We haven't reported in recent newsletters but this doesn't mean we have abandoned our long-term project. To remind you, this has been to take a tiny greenhouse from IKEA and create within it a tropical climate. This has proved more of a challenge than we envisaged, but we have now overcome the problems we encountered on the way. Progress might have been slower than we hoped but we have learnt an enormous amount. About three weeks ago we had achieved our aim and since then we have assured ourselves that the conditions within the greenhouse are stable. Three days ago we planted our seeds, obtained from a seed merchant in Balangoda, Sri Lanka. We have selected *Murraya koenigii*, otherwise known as Sweet Neem or Curry Tree. We are now waiting to see if the seeds germinate. More news soon. If you would like to suggest new projects for us to work on (not necessarily horticultural) please get in touch via the u3a website



Table Tennis Group. The group started in late March 2022 and meet in the Rifle Hall every Wednesday and play from 3.30 to 5.00pm. We have a group of regular players. More people are needed, but no experience is required. Just bring a bat as we supply the balls. However we need to put away the tables and chairs. The charge is £3 a session. Please make contact through the group link on the u3a website.

Stop Press!

Historical Guided Walk around Great Yarmouth 16th August - Morning event.



Judith Condon a member of our walking group who hails from Great Yarmouth will be leading a two hour guided walk around Great Yarmouth. The starting place is yet to be confirmed. A dozen or so walking group members have expressed an interest, leaving space for a few more from our wider membership. So if you are interested email to Martin at mandp.stevens@gmail.com and he will add you to the list and send further details nearer the time.

Copy for the September newsletter by AUGUST 25th.

I shall be away before the end of August so I will not be able to accept any late entries.
Please use: halesworthu3anews@google.com

John Treadway.