

## Life on Mars: - The History of the Science -- not the song.

Our meeting at the Cut on March 19<sup>th</sup> found Steve Aylward from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust giving over 70 of us a wide ranging, interesting and informative talk with some wonderful pictures of butterflies. His talk looked at how habitat management work is improving Suffolk Wildlife Trust reserves to the benefit of both the number and variety of butterflies. He told us how the populations of some species have fared over recent years and included some surprising new arrivals. He concluded with how we might best adapt our own gardens to improve them for butterflies having attracted some 20 species to his own garden near Wickham Market

On April 16<sup>th</sup> at The Cut we come once again to our Sir Patrick Bateson Memorial Science talk and are delighted to have join us Dr Joshua Nall curator of Whipple Museum of the History of Science at Cambridge University . He says that we humans have long been fascinated by the possibility that Mars may harbour life and will tell us how this has developed over time now that we look forward to the real possibility of us visiting the red planet . He will suggest that we look back before we look forward to consider how humans thought about Mars before we entered the Space Age.

As always the talk is free to members with non-members most welcome for join us for just £3.00 on the door. A good number now come earlier to chat, drink tea and perhaps enjoy a light lunch at The Cut Café.

Tickets for our coach outing to Ely on 18<sup>th</sup> June will be available from the Cut Box Office from 1st April both in person or by phone. U3A members who use email will also be able to purchase tickets online using a dedicated link which will be sent to them. Tickets are £10 for members and £15.00 for all others. As last year the coach will leave from Saxon Road bus stop opposite the Town Park at 9.00 am and returns to Halesworth at about 6.30. For those that wish, a guided walking tour of Ely has been organised and is included in the cost.

As many members will be aware Halesworth and District U3A is part of an ever-increasing group of locally run organisations both here in the UK and now in many other countries, the U3A concept initially hailing from France Here in the East of England alone there are now over 140 U3A organisations with some 65,000 members, of which we are one.

So, if your retired (or about to be) or have completed your full-time family caring responsibilities and are looking for something new to do why not look to join us. There are now over 30 self-running interest groups many of which have space for new members, along with a monthly programme of talks or social events open to all members. To find out more please take a look at our website (just search Halesworth U3A) where you can find out more detailed information, and click through to make contact, or find and print a membership application forms (£15.00 pa.).

For those who prefer their information over a coffee and on paper and to talk to a friendly face, you can meet with some of our longer standing members at our U3A new/potential members hour in the Cut Café from 11.00 until noon on Friday 26th April.

As always, we welcome new members to join us to continue to 'Live, Learn, and Laugh' while enjoying each other's company and to share their common skills and interests.

Martin Stevens for Halesworth and District U3A