

JULY 2022

Vice Chairman (read by Niddy Walpole)

I have enjoyed my year as Vice Chairman, although there have been moments when emails from the National Office or the Charity Commission have made me want to spit!

I have been called upon to stand in for Tim on three or four occasions— the Annual lunch, a Speaker meeting and a couple of Executive meetings. The Executive meetings could no longer meet at *Tesco* due to Lockdown, nor there in the morning either, so we moved to *Scotsdales* which is quite a pleasant venue.

I wish all the new Committee members a good year ahead. Also, to Tim our outgoing Chairman, a more easy-going future and a big thanks for all you have done while being our Chairman.

Activities (Events) (read by Niddy Walpole)

Our much looked forward to Annual Outing was on June 20th. Our first visit was to have a steam train ride from Bures to Wroxham. After a lunch break, we stepped on board the paddle boat *Mississippi Belle* for a leisurely trip around the Broads. A very enjoyable day out.

Although it may not be on the cards to participate in the Tree Festivals this winter, we have got enough baubles to decorate 3 trees and I would like to record a big thank you to our secretary. Joanne Garner who has spent many hours hand decorating the baubles. We wish her well in the move to Wymondham soon. Also a big thank you to Rosemary Foreman for once again organising the Annual Lunch, which had been held at *The Rosery*.

Coming up on September 9th is our Buffet Lunch. I hope you are all booking your places for that.

Speaker Secretary (read by Trish Newell)

My first job when I took over this role in 2020 was to cancel all speakers unable to present on Zoom. This year I have had the pleasant task of reinviting those same speakers to come and talk to us in person. So we have Niddy, my predecessor, to thank for many of the entertaining speakers we have welcomed this year. It has been a delight to welcome such a variety of speakers who all entertained us in their own way. Although it would take too long to talk about all of them there were a few surprises that I would like to highlight. If you had asked me to attend a lecture on physics, I would probably tell you “well not normally my thing”. Yet when Dr Stephen Ashworth came to talk to us about lasers, he had me riveted. Similarly, on the face of it listening to someone describe the building of a tower would not have sounded interesting to many. However, Horry Parsons description of the construction of the Millennium tower in Bury St Edmunds was so interesting and

entertaining that we have invited him back to talk again. I think these examples demonstrate that it isn't always the subject matter that is important but the ability of the speaker to bring his or her topic to life by humour, pictures and presentation.

I am in the process of booking speakers for 2023 so if you have a particular interest or know of a good speaker please do get in touch, my details are on the website.

Antiques Group (read by Niddy Walpole)

We have had to move venues a couple of times to suit everyone and the venues themselves. Kath has been working very hard at this for us. Thank you.

We are now back at Tesco Community room. David travels down to be with us from Peterborough with items that he has accumulated over the month at his freelance auctioneering. In May he was not able to join us, but we enjoyed a talk by Sam Norton in his stead who is a metal detectorist.

July's meeting we had to cancel very last minute as David had Covid in the family but I was able to meet some new people hoping to be members and have a chat with them over coffee.

All are welcome to join us on the first Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm.

Art Appreciation (read by Anna Smith)

The Art Appreciation group was brought back to life in October 2021. We planned a year of monthly meetings at the Newmarket Racing Centre (where we have been made very welcome by the young staff) on the first Tuesday of the month, 2.30pm-4.00pm, alternating with visits to galleries and museums, whenever something suitable was available. For the meetings at the Centre, we fixed on the umbrella subject of "Art I like", in the hopes of encouraging members to want to talk about their favourites. We started with Anna making a presentation on Pieter de Hooch's "*A boy bringing bread*", and in November Andy Webb took the subject of J. M. W. Turner, making use of the excellent technical facilities of the Moller Room. December found the group at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge to see something a little outside our usual scope: an archaeological exhibition including beautifully crafted gold objects.

In the new year we continued with talks on popular subjects, and in April members visited the Sainsbury Centre on the UEA campus to see the exhibition on the early works of Picasso and the other artists who influenced him. We had a change of format in May with a "show and tell" of favourite pictures and objects brought along by group members. June found us at the Fitzwilliam again, this time for "Hockney's Eye" which took us all through the galleries in pursuit of examples of different perceptions, and for "True to Nature" – plein air painting 1780-1870 – a thoroughly packed afternoon. We enjoyed an illustrated talk on Monet and the Impressionists at our July meeting, and planning to continue through the Autumn till our December lunch.

It is always a pleasure to welcome new members, so please feel free to come along, or contact Anna Smith. We are planning two talks on the "Artists of Venice", and in September a trip to the Higgins Art Gallery in Bedford.

Camera Group (read by John Herring)

Having sustained the group through Covid by migrating our meetings to on-line activities the Camera group were pleased to resume in person meetings in February 2022 on the first Monday of the month at 2:30pm, initially at the Racing Centre but now at Tesco in the community room.

For each month we have a theme for members' photographs in the competition.

The photographer with the winning and runner up photo in our vote share their stories of each photo and these photos are featured on the Camera Group web page and in the newsletter. After voting there is chance for members to discuss the other entries over coffee as well as any other photo related questions.

The calendar of competition themes is usually decided at our December meeting and is published on the Camera group web page. We usually have a field trip in May – this year was a photo walk in Lavenham (which was a fine and dry day).

Attendance at our meetings has not quite recovered to pre-covid levels but we normally are in double figures at our meetings with a dozen or so present.

New members are most welcome and you don't need to feel you need to be an expert or have a fancy camera, members who regularly win use mobile phones or iPad cameras.

In October we will hold an exhibition in Newmarket Library with the theme Nature's Wonders, using display boards within the main library, and the shop window. This will accompany a general promotion of the U3A and all our activities.

Carpet Bowls (Alan & Kath Gifkins, read by Tim Young)

Our bowlers were eager to get back into action once lockdown ended and as the ERC was initially unable to open, the first meeting was held in Ashley Pavilion.

Enthusiasm has not waned and although around 4 members were unable to resume playing, we have welcomed new members to the sport and to the group which now has a core 28-30 members.

Several bowlers took the chance to take a bowling break to Potters in November and we are proud to say that two of our number Brian and Grace Crump came out as winners of the tournament. We are off again later this year and hope they can defend their title successfully or maybe another of our couples can emulate their success. No matter the outcome we are sure the venue, bowling and company will be enjoyed by all.

We are also hoping to try our hand at Petanque alongside the bowls sessions this summer and if this proves popular it may become a regular summer activity.

We are grateful for the continued help from those members of the group who are willing to run the sessions when we are away.

Cook Off Tuesday (read by Stephanie Ellington)

Cook off, originally the idea of Niddy, was initially held as a zoom group to help keep us engaged lockdown. We then had a few meetings, including a really enjoyable Christmas celebration, in person in Ashley pavilion. The group then became Cook Off Tuesday and moved to Exning Road club (on the 2nd Tuesday) and starting on 9th August we will move to our new home at Tesco's community room at 11.15am on 2nd Tuesdays.

Each month one member of the group provides a recipe, as far as possible alternating sweet and savoury, and we all try it out, with some substituting one or two ingredients to suit her own tastes (or indeed using whatever is in the store cupboard). It is really interesting seeing the extent to which the end results vary in spite of us all nominally using the same recipe. We've all learned new techniques – some very pleasing others never to be tried again by some. Viennese fingers proved fiddly but, at best, came out beautifully, filo wrapped cheese parcels were much liked by some but others will NEVER use filo pastry again and the recipe for Portuguese custard tarts looked challenging but was fully worth the effort. So we have learned a lot and mostly enjoyed the outcome. Currently the modellers meet at the same time and also taste the results of our efforts. The recipe is circulated to members of the group and posted on the website.

We have the community room on 2nd Tuesdays from 10.30-12.30 and would like to extend the sessions to Craft, Cooking Off and Coffee, with anyone with particular skills (knitting, quilting, modelling etc) helping others trying to master them. Do come along and join us, you would certainly be welcomed, might learn some new techniques and possibly also get to sample our cooking!

Discussion Group (read by John Herring)

Discussion group meet for topical discussions over coffee on the third Tuesday of the month. From July 2022 the meeting has moved to the Racing Centre due to building works in our previous home – Newmarket Day Centre.

Our July meeting coincided with the hottest day on record and we were very pleased there was air conditioning for our discussions about global warming!

As there is now more room available, members are encouraged to bring their own topics for discussion.

You would be most welcome to join us!

Garden Group (Kath Gifkins & Rosemary Foreman, read by Rosemary Foreman)

We resumed our meetings in September 2021 with a core of members attending from the start. People are gradually drifting back but our numbers are still short of the 35-40 we regularly welcomed pre-Covid. It has been lovely to see so many familiar faces and those new ones who have joined us.

We have had talks on Hostas, Hellebores and Plantsmen's Plants. We also enjoyed three extended presentations from one of our most knowledgeable speakers on subjects as diverse as Miss Willmott of Warley Place, who managed to spend all her gifted and inherited money on plants, plants and yet more plants to fill the gardens she designed; Shakespeare's Flowers when we were introduced to the plant knowledge Shakespeare showed in just two of his plays, A Midsummer Nights Dream and a Winter's Tale, whilst Funny Garden features took us into the world of Follies, Caverns and other creations used by wealthy gardeners to impress their friends.

We also took the opportunity to visit Twentypence Nursery and Garden Centre in July (on the hottest day of the year) for an afternoon browsing, buying and treating ourselves to tea and cake.

Coming up in the next few months is a coach outing to Coton Manor gardens in Northamptonshire, a Plant and Produce sale, Gardeners Questions with Barry Gayton and a demonstration of Christmas Wreath Making.

Something for most people I think you'll agree.

At the suggestion of one of our members a Seed Swap board made an appearance in Spring. This proved very popular with those having too many seeds and those who perhaps had seeds but not the precise ones they were interested in growing. It's having a well-earned rest now but will be back!

Over the past few years some members of the group have enjoyed a garden themed coach holiday together. This year we visited Scotland, a holiday which had been postponed since 2020 (due to COVID obviously).

If any members of the group would like to be kept informed of future breaks, please let us know and you will be kept in mind when future holidays are planned.

Due to reduced numbers attending we have eaten into the reserves of money raised over past years which enables us to book good quality speakers for varied and enjoyable talks.

We ask that all members of the group help replenish some of these funds by supporting raffles, plant sales and trade tables in order that we can continue to enjoy the quality and number of speakers to which we have become accustomed.

History Group (read by Niddy Walpole)

Numbers coming to the meetings have been a bit disappointing since we could again meet face to face. During lockdown I put quizzes and wrote short articles on the website page but again with only small numbers reading them, I have cut back. Please do look at the website as there are museums to be found within an hour's travel of Newmarket which we researched and form good outings for you.

We are doing some research on East Anglian buildings chosen from a list, which we will cover in September's meeting.

In October we have a special guest speaker, Fran Saltmarsh who will be talking on Georgian fashion. This will round up a trilogy of talks on the Hanoverians.

Our 2023 project will be "Dalham", with an opportunity to discuss our findings over lunch.

Do come along and join us on the first Friday of the month at Exning Road Club, 2.30pm.

History of Science (Alison Giles read by Tim Young)

After a successful year and a half of online meetings in lockdown, we have decided to continue on Zoom but to change the time of the sessions to avoid clashing with real-life school parties at the museum. Join us on Zoom at 3pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month to explore objects from the collections of the Whipple Museum of the History of Science. This year we will be exploring the links between the Whipple Museum and other museum collections, starting with the Sedgwick museum and geology in September and the Zoology museum and biology in October. Meetings consist of a half-hour talk followed by questions and answers, optional museum visits may be arranged occasionally if there is demand. New members always welcome, please email Alison on are26@cam.ac.uk to be added to the list.

Group Co-ordinator Alison Giles, tel: 01223 513062, email: are26@cam.ac.uk

Local history (Alison Giles read by Tim Young)

We've been meeting under the title "Village Life" for the last year and have a very enthusiastic but small group, so we've changed the title and time in the hope of gathering a few more people! The history of Newmarket and the local area is fascinating and Burwell Museum and Windmill has a large range of documents and artefacts tracing that history. From September we will meet at Burwell Museum at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month to discuss a different historical event each time. We will be starting by looking at the history of the Burwell barn fire of 1727 in September, then the history of horse racing in and around Newmarket in October.

New members welcome, Alison Giles 01223 513062, or email education@burwellmuseum.org.uk to be added to the list.

Lunch Group (read by Rosemary Foreman)

The Lunch Group is now truly up and running, with average attendances now over 30. We had 38 members attend our lunch at *The Red Lion* in Kirtling! The system set up by Mike and Brenda works well, with most members ordering the next month's lunch while they are enjoying the current one!

Lunches are on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. There will be no lunch group in August – next one is on 14th September, at the Heath Court (the signing sheet is on the table). This is on the Wednesday after the Friday afternoon buffet, so I hope that you will attend. *(Tim commented that members would be hungry again by then!)*.

MOTO – Members On Their Own (read by Rosemary Foreman)

I'm please to say that the group I set up last year for members who live on their own has proved quite popular, with numbers attending varying from 6 to over 20. We meet once a month (no set day, it depends on the activity and opening hours of the venue) and have had a very varied programme, visiting such places as the Elveden Craft Centre, Fuller's Mill Gardens, the Suffolk Regimental Museum, the Ark Church at Isleham, Burwell Museum, and having afternoon tea at La Hogue (with the best attendance being for both the Ark Church, and surprisingly the S. R. Museum). In July, 24 of us will be enjoying a trip on the River Cam, with an optional afternoon tea on board – all of our activities somehow seem to involve tea/coffee and cake!

There will be no meeting in August, but on September 17th Kirtling Church are holding their Friends Day, commencing at 2.00 pm – a talk by Matthew Champion about mediaeval graffiti, followed by refreshments. There is no charge for this but donations would be welcome.

I hope future visits will include Fordham Abbey Gardens, Bottisham Air Museum, Anglesey Abbey and, of course, afternoon tea somewhere! If you would like to join in some of our activities and are not currently on this particular mailing list, please let me know – you will then get notification/reminders on our planned activities.

Music Appreciation Group (read by Mike Jocelyn)

Our first meeting in 2022 was not until May! January was hit by Covid and members self-isolating, February storm Eunice battered us with fences and trees down, March we had a heat wave and April fell on Good Friday with ERC closed. But finally !!!!, amazingly, May saw no problems and it was a relief to have so many members enjoying programmes by Richard in May, Judy in June and Mike in July.

The meeting in July was our last at the E.R.C. the next one being on **September 16th at the Racing Centre** with its well provided audio/visual equipment. Handy for the buses and shopping in the Guineas (no August meeting as you will all be on holiday or otherwise engaged).

For September 16th Richard will put together a programme to welcome all to the **Racing Centre**. We will be in the Gibson Room which is upstairs. A stair lift is available for those who need it. Very friendly staff will assist.

Any U3A member is very welcome to join us for a taster. You never know you might enjoy a relaxing hour or so listening and watching some not too heavy classical music.

Please keep an eye on our U3A website group page in case of last minute changes.

Realm of Books (read by Margaret Jocelyn)

Once the restrictions caused by the pandemic were lifted, The Realm of Books were able to return to their face-to-face meetings at All Saints Church on the 4th Friday of the month following their successful Zoom meetings.

Over the last year our group have read a large variety of novels and some non-fiction. I'm not going to bore you by naming all of these because, should you be interested, you can easily find the full list of our current authors and our reviews either on our website or you can get details by contacting Margaret.

Just to give you a taste, with a small selection, we started off with a Scottish Crime mystery by Anthony Wynn *Murder of a Lady*; followed by one written by Rose Tremain who was a winner of the Whitbread Novel Award in 1999, *Music and Silence*; then we moved on to the popular book by Emma Healey *Elizabeth is Missing* which was televised and you may even have watched it. We also read Victoria Hislop's *Those Who are Loved* set against the backdrop of the German occupation of Greece.

In January 2022 we compiled a list for the year.

We get a great deal of pleasure from talking about our choice of books, some of them are much loved but others are less popular and we have different opinions about them. Often our discussions are followed by talk of other interesting subjects, whether related or otherwise.

In August 2022 we will be looking forward to our move to a new venue at the Racing Centre in Fred Archer Way, Newmarket. We are most grateful to All Saints Church for their hospitality over the months that we have been able to meet there (although pleased to be moving to a less draughty room).

Further information can be found by contacting Margaret on marg.jocelyn21@gmail.com or by phoning 01638 615252.

Rummikub (Rose Baxter, read by Tim Young)

Yes, the Rummikub group is indeed still active. We meet at the Tesco Community Room on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 2.00pm. It is a gripping tile-based game, and to join our group no previous experience is required. So, either contact Rose Baxter on 01638 731232, or just turn up to play.

Scrabble (Liz Langley & Janet Neville, read by Tim Young)

The Scrabble group is flourishing, meeting on the second Monday of each month at 2.30pm in the Tesco Community Room, but is always keen to welcome more members. We are meeting in August, so please do join us for a fun filled afternoon.

Walking Group (read by Rosemary Foreman)

The walking group was one of the first groups able to resume during the uncertain Covid times, with good numbers attending, most of whom stayed for lunch at a local pub afterwards. Walks have included Woodditton, Exning, Stetchworth, Cavenham Heath, Wicken Fen, Bradfield Woods and Ashley, giving a good variety of terrain and scenery.

We meet at 10.30 am on the first Wednesday of each month and the August walk is planned for Wandlebury (lunching at the *Wavertree Café* at the National Stud on the return home). In September we will be meeting at *The Red Lion*, Kirtling, for a walk in that area.

If you would like to join in some of the walks (usually 3-4 miles) and are not currently on this particular mailing list, please let me know so you can have notification/reminders of the planned activities.

Wings Wheels and Water Group (Tim Young & Steve Garner, read by Steve Garner)

The group maintained its activity throughout the year, returning to face-to-face meetings at the Exning Road Club from September 2021. The team of presenters and format have developed to both broaden the areas of interest, and increase the social interaction aspect of the meetings.

The three regular presenters and a guest speaker have given talks on topics ranging from those with a historical military interest, to the development of public transport and even a look at the use of drones in both public entertainment displays and military environments. There has also been a film show, and meetings now include an 'interval', for a drink and a chat while everyone is present and able to enjoy time with their colleagues. The group's page on the U3A website contains a programme for upcoming meetings and is updated each month, with details of the next talk, together with any last-minute information.

Overall, the group has continued with its solid core of supporters, although the average attendance of about 13 members has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. New members are always welcome, remembering that the topics for discussion are not always of the 'boys toys' category!