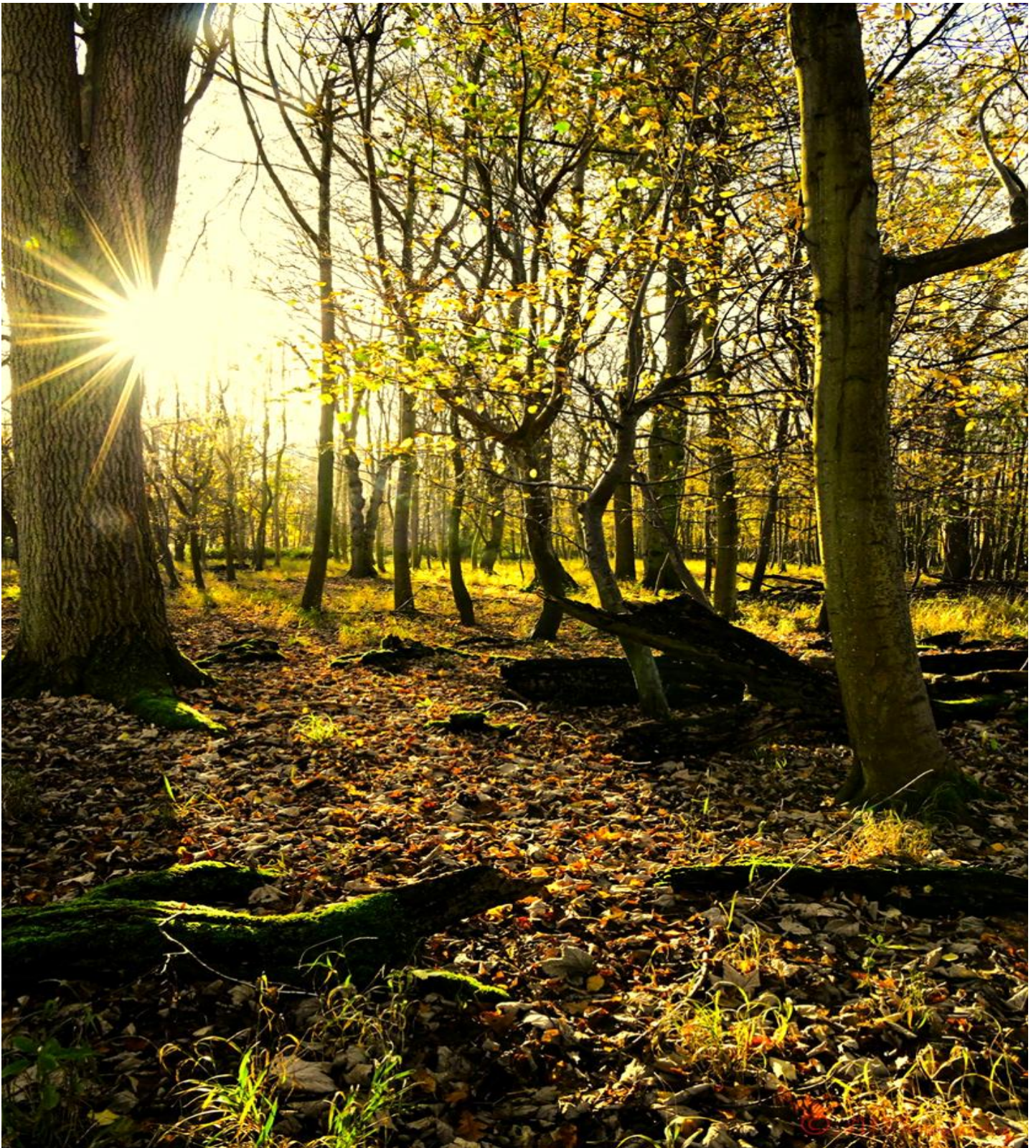


Su3aN



u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Sudbury Newsletter



Chairman's message

I am writing this with the radio on and it has just been announced that it is the last day of meteorological summer. Really? It doesn't feel to me as if summer ever started!

It is very pleasing to report that we have a steady stream of new members joining our u3a and I offer them a warm welcome.

Many of our groups have restarted and it is welcome news that others will also begin in September. In August more than 40 members attended the Art Visits Group's very successful trip to Yorkshire. In the pipeline there are several Group holidays planned. To participate in any of our group activities contact the appropriate Group Leader whose details can be found on your membership card.

Our general meetings are now back live at the Rugby Club and a very varied programme of speakers has been assembled.

It takes a lot of volunteers to make our u3a work including Committee members, Group Leaders, Meeters and Greeters and Really Useful Group – RUG – and I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and commitment through what has been a really difficult period.

In August the committee returned to face to face meetings and I would like to remind all members that they are very welcome to attend committee meetings, as observers. The Committee meets bi-monthly and the next meeting is 10.00am on 12 October 2021 at the Friends Meeting House. If you would like to attend please drop Janet Cruttenden an email and she will make sure there is a place for you and that we have enough coffee and biscuits. Who could refuse an offer like that?

Brian Orton

Sudbury u3a Covid 19 Policy

The Covid 19 policy of Sudbury u3a is that we should follow the advice provided by the UK Government and u3a National Office at all times.

From 19 July, when the Covid 19 lockdown was lifted, all of our activities and groups have been free to re-commence and we are able to make our own rules, providing they apply to all members.

If a group is meeting within a private house then the householder has the right to set rules for the meeting, including who may or may not enter their property.

For other indoor meetings held at a venue then the group must follow any rules stipulated by the venue.

All members are encouraged to assess themselves prior to attending a meeting and to stay away if they feel unwell or have any of the symptoms of Covid 19.

You will find the National u3a information in the **Latest Covid Advice** link on the Noticeboard page of the Sudbury u3a website.

Sudbury u3a Committee

17 August 2021

Next Newsletter

For the November issue please send your contributions by **Thursday 4 November 2021**. If you miss the deadline we may not be able to include your copy. Please, wherever possible, send details by email as a **Word attachment to the email in Arial 12p font in plain text, 350 words maximum, to heavenly_white_one@yahoo.co.uk**

Alternatively handwritten contributions may be sent to:

Jean White, 64 Vicarage Lane, Acton, Sudbury CO10 0UQ. Tel: 01787 370654

Whilst every care has been taken in the compilation of this newsletter, errors and omissions are not the responsibility of the publisher or of the editor. Opinions, where expressed, are not necessarily those of the publisher or the editor.

If a group isn't mentioned in Su3aN, please check your Membership Card or the Sudbury u3a website, for details of Leader and Telephone Number.

**Printed by Indigo Ross, Spectrum House, Woodhall Business Park, Sudbury CO10 1WH
Telephone: 01787 880260**

The Life & Films of Alec Guinness



Simon Frampton has been involved in the film industry for a considerable amount of time and also runs the Film Club, which meets at the Quay Theatre. His talk was both entertaining and knowledgeable.

Simon showed us many clips of Alec Guinness's films. Because the audio was not working Simon did a fantastic job of narrating the films and his knowledge of the dialogue was very impressive!

Alec was born as Alec Guinness de Cuffe on 2 April 1914. The identity of Guinness's father has never been officially confirmed. Guinness himself believed that his father was Scottish banker Andrew Geddes, who paid for Guinness's boarding-school education at Pembroke Lodge in Southbourne and Roborough in Eastbourne. Geddes occasionally visited Guinness and his mother, posing as an uncle. Alec did not have a good relationship with his mother.

He was a very modest and generous man in public, but in private could be controlling and forbade his wife to continue her acting career after marriage. When his son was ill with polio at the age of 11, Guinness began visiting a church to pray, and a few years later he converted to the Roman Catholic faith.

In 1936, Guinness joined the Old Vic where he was cast in a series of classic roles, working with many actors and actresses who would become his friends and frequent co-stars in the future. These included John Gielgud, Ralph Richardson, Peggy Ashcroft, Anthony Quayle and Jack Hawkins. Alec preferred smaller parts rather than lead roles in theatre, and he did not like playing roles that were close to his own personality.

He also struck up a partnership with David Lean which was to span many years and productions, making his speaking debut in film in *Great Expectations* in 1946. However, he was initially best associated with the Ealing Comedies; he starred in seven of them. One of his most noteworthy was for playing nine characters in *Kind Hearts and Coronets* in 1949. Other films from this period included *The Lavender Hill Mob* and *The Man in the White Suit* (1951) and *The Ladykillers* (1955), with all three ranked among the best British films.

His portrayal of Fagin in *Oliver Twist* (1948) was controversial. It was refused a release in the USA as it was thought to be anti-Semitic. Criticism was focused in particular at the accent used by Fagin and his very large prosthetic nose.

Guinness won particular acclaim for his work with director David Lean, appearing in five Lean films that were ranked in the British Film Institute's top 50 greatest British films of the 20th century. After appearing in Lean's *Great Expectations* and *Oliver Twist*, he was given a starring role opposite William Holden in *The Bridge on the River Kwai* as Colonel Nicholson, the British POW commanding officer. Guinness won an Academy Award and a BAFTA Award for Best Actor in the role. Despite a difficult and often hostile relationship, Lean referred to Guinness as "my good luck charm". Guinness for his part did not completely trust Lean. Lean continued to cast Guinness in character roles in his later films, including *Lawrence of Arabia*; *Doctor Zhivago* and *A Passage to India*. This latter role did not go down well with the critics as Guinness "blackened up" for the part, which was seen as very insensitive in 1984.

Guinness later starred as Obi-Wan Kenobi in the original *Star Wars* trilogy. This brought him worldwide recognition to a new generation, as well as Academy Award and Golden Globe nominations. In letters to his friends, Guinness described the film as "fairy-tale rubbish". The films made him wealthy as he negotiated 2.25% of the gross royalties.

His most notable television work was as George Smiley in the 1979 serialisation of John le Carré's *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*.

Guinness died on 5 August 2000 at King Edward VII's Hospital in Midhurst, West Sussex.

Helen Halton

Speaker's report for August

Art Attack



Art historian and lecturer, **Tania Harrington** presented us with a most enjoyable and interesting talk on the history of art vandalism.

She started with the mob toppling the statue of Edward Colston into Bristol Harbour. A mediocre piece of late Victorian art that for a time took on the mantle of the most important object you could select if you wanted to relate Britain's tortuous relationship with it's role in the Atlantic slave trade. It is now lying horizontally in a local museum complete with the inflicted damage. She grouped the motives behind most of the attacks as being artistic, political or just plain bonkers.

Maybe one of the most surprising acts of vandalism was that on the portrait of Sir Winston Churchill, painted by Graham Sutherland. Churchill detested it as he thought it made him look like a drunkard rescued from the gutter and it's fate was sealed when the family decided to incinerate it. It's ironic that Churchill's own statue in Parliament Square has also been defaced a number of times. Shoreline sculptures are the most frequently prone to attack.

Topping the list at twelve attacks is surprisingly, The Scallop (pictured above) erected on the beach at Aldeburgh by our own Maggi Hambling and slightly less is the inoffensive Little Mermaid in Copenhagen encountering 10 attacks.

Vulnerability to attack increases with it's fame and the choice of weapons includes lipstick, explosives, meat cleavers, spray paint, knives, hammers, acid, rocks, shotguns, moustachisation and saws. Governments are themselves not immune to sponsoring large scale attacks on art. In 1937 confiscated works by artists including Chagall, Kandinsky and Klee were shown in The Degenerate Art Exhibition in Munich and viewers were left in no doubt how they should interpret them and this was followed by another exhibition during 1939 in Berlin, where it is said that 5000 works of art fell victim to Nazi destruction.

Tania's fondness of art as an optimistic force shone through and it was apparent that in all these attacks, committed by a variety of individuals with feelings of hostility, art emerged as the champion and in the process made the works significant again.

Nick Partridge

Future Speakers:

Tuesday 26 October: Speaker **Tracy Mackness**, talk "**Life and Times of an Essex Bad Girl**". She tells her story, warts and all, from her time in prison to her eventual release and building a successful business known as The Giggly Pig Company.

Tuesday 23 November: Speaker **Charles Garland**, talk "**Dad's Army - The nation's favourite comedy**". Charles was the Co-Producer of **Dad's Army**. A laugh a minute behind the scenes of this popular BBC programme. Just perfect for our Christmas meeting. ***However you will need to provide the refreshments for this meeting. We usually ask all our members to bring a plate of food so if you are happy to do so it would be much appreciated***

Tea and coffee will be provided

Colette Bentley

Diary and Group News

Group News



Most groups are now up and running and we are enjoying the company of our u3a friends once again.

There have been several changes of leaders, venues and times and these are all documented on our website.

Art appreciation re-commenced on 13 September at The Stevenson Centre in Great Cornard. This group would like some new members.

Canasta restarted on 15 September under new leader Kathy Rose, contact details 01787 375551 or 07939 044858. The mobile number is for members to let Kathy know if they are unable to attend at the last minute so she can arrange for another player to take your place.

Cartography. Tony Parmee has offered to rekindle and run this group. Please phone Tony on 01787 280104 if you are interested.

Latin Beginners. New group will start on Friday 22 October from 10.00-12.00. The venue will be in Sudbury but will depend on the size of the group. Contact Jennie Leech if interested.

Spanish Conversation continues to meet via Zoom. The new leader is Nick Hallidie nickah3559@gmail.com.

Table Tennis has vacancies.

Jennie Leech
Groups Co-ordinator

Tuesday Amblers - Autumn walks

Start time 10.30 so please arrive by 10.20. If you have not walked with this group before email Andy Edgecombe to give her your contact details: a.edgecombe41@btinternet.com.



5 October: A walk of 3¾ miles from the Edwardstone White Horse pub CO10 5PX along field paths and a wooded area with one stile and some short sections on quiet roads. Pub closed, but the Fox and Hounds at Groton is the nearest place for refreshments. Leader: Sheena Byham 07817162481.



2 November: Meet at Clare Country Park car park, £2 charge essential. A three mile walk round the park, town, common, fields and along the river. No stiles. Refreshments and toilets available. Leader: Andy 01787 371670 or 07766714455.



7 December: Meet at the Long Melford Old School car park, voluntary charge £2. A walk of 3.2 miles towards Kentwell and the option of stopping at The Hare pub for food/drink. Please contact Andy (see above) a week before if you would like a meal.

Thursday Amblers

Thursday 28 October: 3.5 mile walk around Wissington (Wiston) near Nayland. Parking is on the road just as you enter Nayland and we will rendezvous at the Nags Corner sign on the other side of the A134 (CO6 46T) at 10.15am ready for 10.30 start. This is a pleasant walk which will include a visit to the lovely Norman church - St Mary, Wiston - to see the 13th century wall paintings. **Walk leader: Conrad Bentley.**

Thursday 25 November: A gentle undulating walk of approximately 3.5 miles around the north side of Cavendish - which will give us some wonderful views. Parking is along the main street and we will meet outside the George pub (CO10 8BA) at 10.15 ready for 10.30 start. **Walk leader: Roger Floodgate.**

Roger Floodgate

Group Leader 01787 312904

Film group

The Film group started up again in August and it was lovely to see some of our regulars. We meet on the last Friday of the month at 2pm at the Bridge Project, 20 Gainsborough Street, Sudbury CO10 2EU. This may change in the new year.

29 October: We are hoping to show '**Downton Abbey The Movie**' starring Hugh Bonneville, Maggie Smith and Imelda Staunton. The story is about the Crawley family getting ready for a royal visit which then unleashes scandal, romance and intrigue and leaves the future of Downton Abbey hanging in the balance.

26 November: We are hoping to show '**A Street Cat Named Bob**' starring Luke Treadaway and Bob the Cat. The true feel-good story of how James Bowen, a busker and recovering drug addict, has his life transformed when he meets a stray ginger cat.

December: No film this month.

Jenny Filby

Garden Visits

Monday 4 October, 10.15am, Quaker Meeting House



We have had four lovely visits this year and good weather!! Our last meeting will be at the Quaker Meeting House, Friars Street at 10.15am. Coffee and biscuits will be served. A charge of £1 each should cover the costs. There will be a quiz, a plant and book swap as well as a chance to chat and perhaps think about places you'd like to go next year.



I do hope I'll see you there. Don't forget to bring along any plants or books you may wish to swap.

Maira Orton

Group leader 01787 269432 / 07928 092402

Walking

Group leaders:- Brian Orton, Moira Orton 01787 269432 / 07508 093631 / 07928 092402

Monday 11 October: Mount Bures, approximately 5 miles

Meet 09.45 for 10.00 at St John the Baptist church, Mount Bures CO8 5AR. Parking very limited (seven to eight cars) and car sharing will be necessary. Please try to travel with a full car! We can offer three spaces (see phone numbers above) and so can Anita. Give us a ring. Or Bus 754 leaves Sudbury bus station at 09.35. Get off at the right turn to Mount Bures – 10 minute walk to church. Return every hour at 30 mins past. Walk mainly on well trodden footpaths which can be muddy. Some road walking on minor roads. **Leader: Anita Tuddenham 01787 373432 / 07789 251211.** .

Monday 8 November: Leavenheath to Nayland, circular, about 5 miles

Meet 09.45 for 10.00 at Leavenheath Village Hall, Wrights Way, CO6 4NR. Walk in undulating countryside Good views of Stoke by Nayland Church and many native trees and shrubs of note along route. Mostly on quiet lanes, bridleways and footpaths though the A134 must be crossed twice. Five stiles, a kissing gate and two sets of steps. Walking boots recommended.

Leaders: Janet and Ian Cruttenden 01787 311208.

Science and Technology

Following a gap of some 18 months due to Covid, this group restarted with a meeting on 7 September.

There was lively discussion about new battery technology and electric cars, and the use of heat pumps combined with better insulation in houses. This was followed by a video TED Talk featuring an interview with Dr Ugur Sahin and Dr Özlem Türeci, the husband and wife team who founded BioNTech and developed the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 13 October at 2.15pm at the Jetty. New members are always welcome.

Alan Ryder

Art trip to Yorkshire



It takes some believing that the day we set off for Bradford was 451 days after we were originally scheduled to depart and I daresay that for a lot of us this was the first time since the pandemic began that we had stayed away from home. It was Lyn's steadfast determination for it to happen that saw the trip through to the end and it was no disappointment.

We arrived at our first port of call, the Yorkshire Sculpture Park (pictured left) situated in the 500 acre Bretton Estate. All of the great and good are here; Weiwei, Hepworth, Hirst, Moore etc. Sometimes modern sculpture can seem a little gimmicky but in the wide expanse they either

speak to you or die. In the underground gallery, modernism of a more delicate nature was on display.



Haworth street scene

Staying at the refurbished Midland Railway Hotel in the centre of Bradford with its renowned ornate plaster and painted ceilings was a jolt back to another age. The next morning we visit Haworth, home of the Bronte family, a picturesque small town on a hill with cobble lanes and a fine array of small shops displaying local artworks and handmade chocolates. I'll wager the town won't look any different in a hundred year's time. We head to Bolton Abbey for lunch and to spend time looking at the ruins of an Augustinian Priory situated in an attractive riverside setting.

Wednesday and The Hepworth Gallery at Wakefield beckons with a guided tour of the permanent collection and very instructive it was too. An afternoon of free time in Bradford and dodging the rain showers we explored the Cathedral and the area known as Little Germany where German merchants set up shop trading the locally produced worsted cloth. Others took the opportunity to sample the local beers or dine out on the famed Curry Mile or just feast one's eyes on the wonderful Victorian buildings. We are so spoilt for choice in this city!

On the return journey we stop off at the World Heritage site, Saltaire Village, named after Sir Titus Salt who built a huge textile mill and was one of the more caring Victorian employers. Now given over to boutique shops and cafes and exhibiting some of Hockney's finest paintings.

I know I speak for all on the coach when I say thank you to Lyn for the time and effort she put into making the trip such a resounding success.

Nick Partridge



Saltaire street sign



© R B Clegg 2021