

Su3aN



u3a learn,  
laugh,  
live

## Sudbury Newsletter

January 2023



Robin by Dorothy Beal

## Chairman's Message

A happy and healthy New Year to everyone! As John Lennon wrote "Let's hope it's a good one without any fear."

2022 was a successful year for Sudbury u3a. Our membership grew again and the number and range of group activities increased.

We suffered a setback towards the end of 2022. It was a problem that occurred nationally with the website, affecting 700 u3as, causing a significant loss of information and the re-building has caused major problems. We are extremely grateful to our webmaster **Brian Hemmings** for all the work he has done. The rebuild is not yet complete, but it is improving.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> February and this is a really very important meeting and includes the election of the new committee. Nominations for the committee close on the 14<sup>th</sup> February. A nomination and agenda form is enclosed with this Su3aN, It can also be found on the website under the AGM tab. If you have not thought of being on the committee previously, I would ask you to consider putting yourself forward now. We meet only six times per year and it is good to have new members as it refreshes the committee, introduces new ideas and helps with succession.

At our last committee meeting Ian Mathews, our Beacon Administrator, was co-opted and he will be standing for election at the forthcoming AGM. We have gone live with Beacon from the 1<sup>st</sup> January and members will start to see the effects the system will have upon improving our administration and management over the next few months.

I would ask as many members as possible to come to the AGM as we need your support. After the AGM we have a really good speaker, Charles Garland, who entertained us in 2021 with his anecdotes of his time as a producer on "Dad's Army". This time his talk is entitled "From Vicars Son to BBC Producer".

I am pleased to say we have had a good response from members with first aid training who have offered to join the proposed rota for our monthly meetings. If you have previous first aid or medical experience it is not too late to volunteer.

We are looking forward to 2023 with confidence and planning for what we hope is going to be an exciting year. Our finances remain sound and the Committee has agreed that our membership charge should remain unchanged at £12.00 for 2023.

It's a new year, so why not try a new activity?

Best wishes

*Brian Orton*

[chair.sudburyu3a@gmail.com](mailto:chair.sudburyu3a@gmail.com)

### Next Newsletter

For the March issue please send your contributions no later than 3 March 2023. If you miss the deadline we may not be able to include your copy. Please send details by email as a Word or Pages attachment in Arial 12p font in plain text, 350 words maximum, plus, if available, a photograph illustrating your contribution, to:

[Su3aNeditor1@outlook.com](mailto:Su3aNeditor1@outlook.com)

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

## AGM – 28th February 2022

Our 2023 Annual General Meeting will be held at Sudbury Rugby Club at 10.00 am on the 28th February 2023.

Nominations for the Committee should be submitted by the 14<sup>th</sup> February. An Agenda and Nomination Form is included as a separate document with the printed version of this Su3aN. Alternatively the nomination form can be found together with the minutes of last year's meeting on the AGM page of our website.

The AGM is important and we would like to see as many members as possible to attend and it is your opportunity to hear exactly how Sudbury u3a is performing and to ask questions, express your views and approve the election of the Officers and Committee members.

*Brian Orton*

### Coffee mornings

Coffee mornings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. They give an opportunity to meet committee members and other Sudbury u3a members in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Everyone is welcome – whether you are a long established member or one who has just joined us. Non-members are always welcome as it gives a chance to find out exactly what Sudbury u3a has to offer – no pressure just coffee and a chat. Coffee mornings are free and our next meetings are: 18<sup>th</sup> January and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Venue: The Friends Meeting House, 22 Friars Street, Sudbury. CO10 2AA. Start time: 10.00am, finish around 11.30.

If you would like any further information please contact myself or any committee member. I look forward to seeing you.

*Brian Orton*

07508 093631



### u3a Beacon Management System

Since the last report in Su3aN I am pleased to report that the committee and numerous group leaders have attended awareness sessions held at the Christopher Centre in Sudbury during November and December. Further awareness sessions will be held in the following weeks.

The u3a Beacon management system is now live for us to use, primarily for the management of membership with the addition of management of groups. Group leaders who attended awareness sessions will shortly be notified of their login details.

As a reminder for groups, u3a Beacon facilitates:

- Communications with group members.
- Contingency planning – temporary leader can be nominated in case of illness.
- Waiting List management – for groups with limited capacity.
- Emergency contact details (if they have been recorded) can be retrieved using a smartphone.
- Financial Management of groups.

Anyone who would like to know more can contact me on the email below.

*Ian Mathews – Sudbury u3a Beacon Administrator*



## Group News

Sudbury u3a now has 83 active groups. We have a very good mix of indoor and outdoor activities, educational and cultural, social and serious, small and large.

A reminder of some of our new groups-

**Latin for Beginners** meets every other week in **The Christopher Centre** and has made great progress, completing Cambridge Latin Course Book 1. Some members will be joining the **Hadrians Wall** trip.

**Patchwork**, lead by Brenda Turner, has been able to resume and is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday afternoon of the month at Brenda's home in Great Cornard. More members would be welcomed.

**Cathy D'Arcy** and her artists meet fortnightly at **The Hive, School Street** where they draw portraits.

**Pub Lunches for Couples** will continue to meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month. The contact is **Gill Rose** 01787 312 593.

**Upwords**, leader **Ros Hardy**, will meet at **The Eight Bells in Bures** on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 7 o'clock.

**Sewing and Craft** with **Chrissy** is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at her home in Glemsford.

Contact details of all these new groups can be found on our website and also on the noticeboard displayed at the coffee mornings and speakers' meetings.

*Jennie Leech* Group Co-ordinator  
01787 373684  
jennieleech@btinternet.com



## Woodcarving

The Woodcarving group meets at 09.30 on Friday mornings at **The Jetty, Quay Lane**. The Group includes members from beginners to those with years of experience. We would welcome new group members either experienced carvers with their own equipment or members who would like to try something new. We have the tools, benches and wood available so inexperienced members are able to try carving before making a financial outlay for equipment. Existing members will provide instruction and guidance, if required. This is a very friendly and sociable group, we break for coffee midmorning, and solve the problems of the world!

If you would like further details please contact  
**Brian Orton** 07508 093631 brian.orton2@gmail.com

## Tuesday Amblers

Meet at 10.15 for 10.30am start for all walks.

### 7<sup>th</sup> February – Groton

An easy 3.3 mile walk starting at the Fox and Hounds pub in Groton (CO10 5ED). Meet in the pub car park. This walk is partly along quiet, undulating country lanes with some field edges and meadows and with two stiles. The pub will be open for refreshments/meals at the end. Leaders: **Colette Bentley** 01787 374249 and **Andy Edgecombe** 07766714455.

### 7<sup>th</sup> March – Glemsford

Meet at Tye Green, Glemsford (CO10 7RQ) for an attractive 3.7 mile walk following lanes and tracks and open farmland in the parish of Glemsford. There are a couple of short sections of steepish gradients but no stiles and you are rewarded by lovely views over the Suffolk countryside. Leader: **Amicie Thompson** 07530 269813.

## Thursday Amblers

### 23<sup>rd</sup> February: – Newton Green

The walk, led by **Janet and Ian Cruttenden** is 5.14 km (3.19 miles), with flat terrain, some lane walking, mainly on footpaths around field edge, and there are two stiles. After heavy rain the route can be rather muddy and strong boots or wellingtons would be advisable. Parking is at the village hall and there will be a donation of £1 per car. We will leave from there at the usual time of 10.30 a.m.

**Janet:** 07905 051903

### 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Bures

**Jenny and Ray Filby** will be leading this walk. Please watch out for further details in due course, on the website "Events" page. **Jenny:** 01787 374205

## Walking

Leaders: **Brian & Moira Orton** mobiles: 07508 093631 or 07928 092402. Landline 01787 269432

### Monday 13 February: Little Henny, approx. 4 miles

Today's walk will be the postponed December walk and get together at Woodview  
Meet: 9.45 for 10.00 start. Parking at Gentry's Farm Stack Yard, Watery Lane, Little Henny, CO10 7NG, about 200yds down the lane on left. (Woodview on corner). Watery Lane is a left turn off A131 just under a mile past The Fox at Bulmer. Walking in undulating countryside with good views on a clear day. Some tracks will undoubtedly be muddy. No stiles and a little walking on narrow roads. As usual, take care. Afterwards drinks and nibbles at Woodview. Leader: **Brian**

### Monday 13 March: Gestingthorpe, 5 miles

Meet: Meet: 9.45 for 10.00 start in Church Street, Gestingthorpe. Road side parking near Church/Playing Field, CO9 3BB. Mainly easy walking, no stiles. Lovely open countryside/ woodland views. Field edge paths and three cross-field paths, woodland path and lanes. No road walking.

Gestingthorpe Church holds interesting information boards about Captain Oates for those interested. Leaders: **Sheena, Amicie and Dee**, 07973 680155

**\*Volunteers to lead walks April onwards please**

**Film Group** – meets on the last Friday of the month at 2pm at The Christopher Centre, 10 Gainsborough Street, Sudbury CO10 2EU.

**27<sup>th</sup> January:** We will be looking to show 'Hunt for the Wilderpeople' starring Sam Neill and Julian Dennison. Raised on hip-hop music and foster care, defiant kid Ricky (Julian Dennison) gets a fresh start in the New Zealand countryside. He quickly finds himself at home with his new foster family: the loving Aunt Bella, the grumpy Uncle Hec (Sam Neill of Jurassic Park and Peaky Blinders) and dog Tupac. When a tragedy strikes that threatens to ship Ricky to another home, both he and Hec go on the run in the bush. As a national manhunt ensues, the newly branded outlaws must assess their options: go out in a blaze of glory or overcome their differences and survive as a family.

**24<sup>th</sup> February:** We will be looking to show: 'Downton Abbey' – 'A New Era' starring Maggie Smith and Hugh Bonneville. The Crawleys and their staff welcome a film crew for a silent movie whilst the other members of the family go on a grand adventure to the South of France to uncover a mystery about the Dowager Countess and her past.

**31<sup>st</sup> March:** We will be looking to show: 'Belfast' starring Judi Dench, Ciaran Hinds and Jamie Dornan. The film chronicles the life of a working class Ulster Protestant family from the perspective of their nine-year-old son Buddy during The Troubles in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The film is based on true story events from Writer and Director Sir Kenneth Branagh's childhood.

*Jennifer Filby*

## Architecture, Art Visits and Holidays

**Architecture** – please request the monthly Programme from [jane@crumpton-taylor.com](mailto:jane@crumpton-taylor.com) so you do not miss joys like James Blackie on Arthur Heygate Mackmurdo, Anne Grimshaw's quiz and Ickworth, coming up in **February, March and April** or our **3<sup>rd</sup> March** Oxford Street Part 1 walk.

**Art Visits** – **8<sup>th</sup> March** there is a coach trip to London to Tate Modern, including the compelling Cezanne exhibition and the Imperial War Museum – War games, Holocaust, Ukraine and, how could we resist, an optional walk.

**Holidays** – **17<sup>th</sup> April** is our 5 day trip to Leicester, Richard III, canals, space, castles, bells, locks, battles and trains. There is a lot to do.

Our special "Hadrian's Wall" trip is 5 days from **8<sup>th</sup> May**–the daytime activities are almost complete & now we are lining up the evening talks – what is a vallum, why did even the Romans give up at Limestone Corner? We are hoping that the Latin group can act as translators.

## Future Speakers

**28<sup>th</sup> February 2023** The AGM will be followed by a talk from Charles Garland "From Vicar's Son to BBC Producer"

From life in the Vicarage to becoming Jonathan Miller's assistant he rose from making tea on "Hi-De-Hi" to becoming a producer of "Oh Doctor Beeching" and editor of "Dad's Army"

**28<sup>th</sup> March 2023** Sarah Doig and Hexachordia "The Food of Love " Words and music based on Shakespeare's references to music and instruments. Hexachordia have proved very popular in the past with our members as they also "act" out bits from his plays between the music

*Colette Bentley*



### **The Climbing of Denali. The highest point in North America. – Amanda Richmond.**

Amanda had previously spoken to us about climbing Everest in 2009. She also has climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. In this talk, she told of the highs and lows of climbing Mount Denali!

After Everest she wanted to climb a mountain in another continent. She chose Mount Denali, (previously known as Mount McKinley) It is located in the Alaska Range in the interior of the U.S. state of Alaska.

Denali was a much more technical climb than Everest and, in some ways, harder because there were not any Sherpas; you had to carry your own equipment, by pulling a sledge and carrying a heavy backpack.

She knew that there was a tiny chance of being successful because of the unpredictable weather conditions. There is a short season for climbing Denali and the success percentage for 2017 was only 13%.

She did a lot of training beforehand, especially carrying a large pack, she needed to be "super strong"

She climbed in a small group and the weather was very windy, especially Windy Corner.

Sleeping at night was hard because it never really got dark. They had to carry their own toilets on their sledges. The climb was going really well until they got to Camp 4, then the weather deteriorated; and they were stuck there for many days. It was very cold -40 wind chill and the food was awful, lots of dehydrated ready meals.

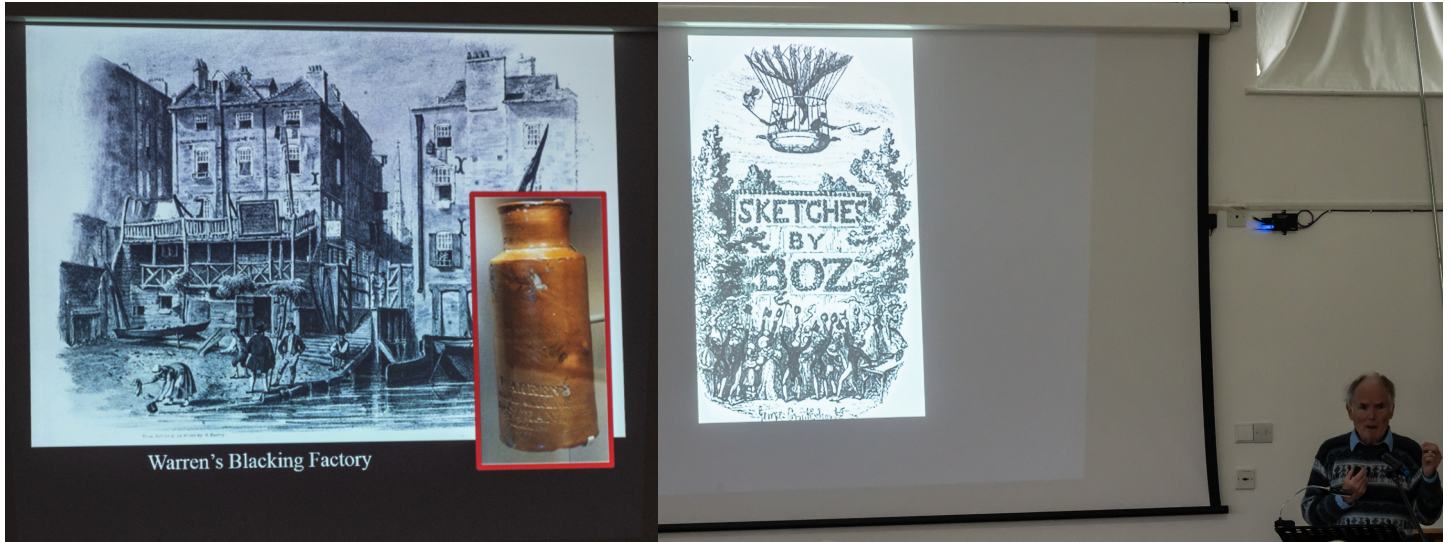
They waited for the weather to clear, but unfortunately it didn't and they ran out of time and had to turn round.

Obviously, they were very disappointed and now had to get down safely. The descent took 24 hours, it is often known as "the Death Walk", and they did not stop to sleep. They then had to wait many days at base camp for the plane to take them out.

The talk was gripping and at the end Amanda showed us some of her climbing equipment.

*Helen Holton*





### The Genius of Charles Dickens – Mark Mitchels

Charles Dickens was born in Portsmouth in 1812 where his father worked in the naval pay office. The family then moved to Chatham until 1822 and then lived in Camden Town where at the age of 12 he left school to work in a boot-blacking factory, when his father was incarcerated in a debtors' prison. Conditions would have been horrendous but for a young impressionable Charles Dickens these early events were gold dust and would be used in his future writings.

Having ended his brief formal education at fifteen, he took a job as a solicitor's clerk which he disliked intensely. He learnt shorthand in preparation for a career as a reporter. It was his first step in his pursuit of an ambition to become financially independent. He became a journalist on the newspaper, The True Sun, reporting on the activities of Parliament and a by-product for him was collecting comic and satirical occurrences, he would use at a later date. His tally of 15 novels, five novellas, hundreds of short stories are a testament to his work ethic as well as his vigorous campaigning for children's rights, education and other social reforms.

He created some of the world's best-known fictional characters and is regarded by many as the greatest novelist of the Victorian era. His works enjoyed unprecedented popularity during his lifetime. Dickens attained that status by sheer ability and drive. He excelled at one of the most difficult forms of writing – the magazine episode – and then went on to develop an entirely new pursuit for himself as a narrator of his works before eager audiences on both sides of the Atlantic. His inspired creations, from a long list, still hold our attention be it Oliver Twist, Scrooge or Miss Havesham and he continues to characterise the Victorian Age for us. He was not a perfect individual and his private life demonstrated a less attractive side to him.

Our very many thanks to Mark Mitchels for an exhilarating and informative talk and that he kindly returned a second time to complete, due to circumstances beyond his control.

*Nick Partridge*