

Su3aN



u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Sudbury Newsletter

March 2023



Lamb in Brent Eleigh by Bruce Clegg

Chair's Message

Our **AGM** was very well attended on 28th February and I would like to think everyone was there for the AGM and not to listen to our excellent speaker **Charles Garland** who followed the formal part of the meeting!

I would like to thank the entire committee for all of their work and commitment over the past year. Without their efforts our u3a would be in a very sad place.

A new Committee of 12 members was elected and there have been several role changes. After five years **John Freeborn** has retired as Membership Secretary and I thank him for having done a fantastic job. John remains a committee member. **Richard Thomas** has become the new Membership Secretary.

Tony Lee continues as Treasurer but his role as Vice Chair is now being taken by **Ian Mathews**. I very much appreciate the help Tony has given to me as Vice Chair and I am delighted he will continue to do a great job as Treasurer.

Jennie Leech continues as Groups Coordinator, with the growth in the number of Groups and we are looking for someone to share some of the load Jennie has with a view to becoming the Coordinator when Jennie stands down in a year's time. If you are able to volunteer, please contact myself or Jennie.

I am very pleased to welcome **Anita Tuddenham** to the committee. Her role is Assistant to the Speakers' Secretary **Colette Bentley**.

A special thank you to **Dee Hoile, Janet Cruttenden** and **Sue Campbell** who have stood down from the committee after many years of service. Their work has been invaluable. The Committee meets six times per year and all members are welcome to attend meetings as observers. If you would like to attend, please let Secretary **Dorothy Beal** know in advance, if possible. Our next Committee meeting will be at the Christopher Centre on the 11th April.

During the AGM a member queried the size of our reserves being carried forward as being too large for our needs. A commitment was made that the committee would review the level of reserves during the coming year and if necessary take steps to reduce. There are several significant expenses due in 2023 which will reduce the reserves and there will be an overspend against income however we will still remain in a healthy financial position. The committee would welcome suggestions from the membership with ideas as to how we could use funds to benefit and further develop our u3a for its members. Please contact myself or **Tony Lee** if you have any suggestions or wish to express your views on our level of reserves. Copies of our accounts can be found under the AGM tab in the website.

Could I please remind members that the 1st of April is the start of a new membership year and that the unchanged annual subscription of £12 is due. On the website and elsewhere in this Su3aN you will find the options for paying.

I hope all of our members will enjoy their membership in the coming year.

Brian Orton

Next Newsletter

For the May issue please send your contributions no later than 3 May 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

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.

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Telephone: 01787 880260

Group News and Diary

The following groups are looking for more members.

Art Appreciation

Rob Worley 01787 46066



Current Affairs

Sheila Jones 01787 282686



Dutch Beginners

Naomi Lundgren
01787 466073



Economics and Finance

Paul Basan 07928 476219



French Beginners

Kim Smith 07719 629699



Fusion of Sewing/Craft

Chrissy Marshall
01787 282299



Music Appreciation

Steve Donnelly
01787 376166



Patchwork

Brenda Turner
07927 162508



Philosophy

Paul Marshall
01787 287247



Rummikub

Eileen Pearson
01787 379582



Upwords

Ros Hardy 01787 476581



French Conversation has closed due to lack of numbers.

A new leader/co-ordinator is needed by the **Thursday Amblers**.

Pétanque: Now on the 1st & 3rd Monday from April to October. 4.00 p.m. at The Brook PH. Parking is limited so please park on the nearby estate or share cars.

Group Leaders .. a date for your diary. I will be hosting a seminar and lunch for leaders on Monday, 19th May, 11.45 for 12.00 start. Further details will follow.

Jennie Leech

Groups Co-ordinator

Writing 1

Our stories usually have a beginning, middle and end but occasionally a stream of consciousness appears or a fantasy or poem pops up. Writing a script is sometimes more difficult but we like a challenge and we're happy to hear: Our aims are to be creative and entertaining and it's great to receive a constructive critique from fellow writers.

Several of our group have published books. **Lindsey Evans** has just published a book of very short stories: **Gate Six and Other Tales**, on sale in Prudent Nellie, Friars Street, Sudbury

Stained Glass. Taster sessions on weekday mornings. All materials supplied for 2 hour session, £5. Reserve a place by phone. **Mike Hall 07469 898283**

Tuesday Amblers

Meet at 10.15 for 10.30am start for all walks.

Tuesday 4th April – Newton Green Walk.

Start from Newton Green Village Hall, School Lane, Newton, Sudbury, CO10 OQS. Parking is at the village hall and there will be a donation of £1 per car.

A circular walk of approximately 3.19 miles with generally flat terrain. Some lane walking, mainly on footpaths around field/golf course edge and there are two stiles.

Leaders: **Ian and Janet Cruttenden 07905 051903**

Tuesday 2nd May – Leavenheath

Start at Leavenheath Village Hall car park, Wrights Way, Leavenheath, CO6 4NS. Grid Ref: 948 364. There will be a £1 donation per car.

A pretty, easy walk of approximately 3.5 miles with – hopefully – lots of spring bluebells to be seen, walking mainly on field edges and woodland paths. No stiles. It might be a bit muddy in places if we have had any rain leading up to the walk.

Leaders: **Grace and Vic Lewis 07806 464215**

Thursday Amblers

Thursday 27th April 10.15 am for 10.30 walk

Preston St Mary. Meet at the Church CO10 9NQ. Parking is restricted to the street but if visiting the **Bells** Public House afterwards you may park there CO10 9NG..

This is a leisurely 3.3 miles along quiet country lanes and fairly wide footpaths visiting Kettlebaston church on the route. There are no stiles or other obstacles as far as we are aware.

Leaders: **Colette Bentley 07875 723153** and **Dee Hoile.**

Thursday 25th May 10.15 am for 10.30 walk

Edwardstone. We have permission to park at the **White Horse Inn** CO10 5PX, so if you would like to have a drink afterwards you will be made very welcome

This is another 3.3 miles walk without any stiles, passing Edwardstone Hall & St Mary's Church along lanes & fields.

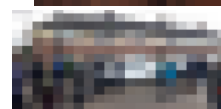
Leaders: **Colette Bentley 07875 723153, Dee Hoile** and **Sheena Byham.**

Architecture, Art Visits and Holidays

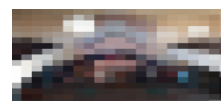
Holiday planning is in progress with a trip to Leicester for the 17th April holiday. There is some remarkable architecture in Leicester and unexpected art too.



On 1st January (when else), the **Architecture Group** assembled for its New Year Walk exploring the area to the north east of Queens Road.



In mid-January Gareth Cole lead us on an extensive tour of the United Reform Church/Friars Hall on School Street, outside, inside and into the cellar.



Later in January the **Art Visits** group were able to have a viewing of the very fine work of the artist John Grahn, the father of one of our members, who drew, among many wonderful things, 40 sheds.

In February the **Architecture Group** had a talk from James Blackie on the architect, designer, craftsman and, in many ways, social pioneer Arthur Heygate Mackmurdo.

Walking Group

Leaders: **Brian Orton:** 07508 093631, **Moira Orton:** 07928 092402

April 10th Spring Walk to Arger Fen 5 miles

Meet 9.45 for 10.00 start at Assington Village Hall car park CO10 5LW. Parking £1.00. A varied walk past Assington Mill into the nature reserve. The woodland paths can be muddy in places and uneven, with some steep up and down sections. Bluebells, spring leaves and maybe nightingales. Refreshments etc at the Assington Barn café. Please share cars if possible.

Leader Andy Edgecombe: 07766 714455

April 24th Dedham/Stratford St Mary 5.3 miles

Meet 9.45 for 10.00 start at Mill Lane car park Dedham, CO7 6DH right hand side, signed cars only. Parking charge £2.50. for 4 hours payable by card only. Toilets and refreshments available in Dedham. Lovely walk mostly along the River Stour and across fields with views of the A12 which we pass under twice! Good views from East Bergholt. No stiles, a few kissing gates and a couple of bridges. Mostly level except up to East Bergholt and down again.

Leader Sarah Tanswell: 07832 181858

May 8th Stoke by Nayland-Boxford circuit 4.7 miles

Meet 9.45 for 10.00am start at Stoke by Nayland recreation ground car park, CO6 4QY for a walk enjoying the gentle scenery of the river Box and discovering some of the hilliest countryside in Suffolk with wonderful views. Mostly paths and tracks with some minor village roads. Route can be very muddy in places and a steep ascent and descent just before Polstead.

Leaders: Brian & Moira: 07508 093631

May 29th Stanstead and Kentwell Downs circular 5miles

Meet 09.45 for 10.00 start at Stanstead Church. Stanstead is the first village on the Hartest Road (B1066). Turn right in the centre of the village until you see the church on your left, set back from the road behind an area of grass. Turn **very** sharp left and park in front of the church. Please park efficiently as space is very limited. Mostly level walking with no stiles. Just one long steady climb up Kentwell Downs.

Leader Martin Rose: 01787 312593

Film Group

Meets on the last Friday of the month at 2pm at The Christopher Centre, 10 Gainsborough Street, Sudbury CO10 2EU.

Thank you to all of those who came to the Film Group on Friday 24th February. I am sorry that we had trouble in setting up the projection equipment, and would like to say a special thank you to Conrad for helping us out at the very last minute so that we were able to watch Downton Abbey.

31st 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.

28th April: We will be looking to show: 'Belle' starring 'Tom Wilkinson, Emily Watson and Sam Reid'. Based on a true story. An 18th century English woman of mixed race is raised in privilege by her aristocratic Great-Uncle and his wife. She is denied a proper social standing because of her skin colour. But when she falls in love with an idealist lawyer who aspires to create positive change, she finds herself caught between two worlds.

26th May: We will be looking to show: 'Can You Ever Forgive Me' starring Richard E Grant and Melissa McCarthy. This film is based on a true story of Lee Israel, a best-selling celebrity biographer in the 1970s and '80s. When Lee (McCarthy) comes to the realisation that she's no longer en vogue, she spins her art form into a perilous web of lies, deceit and outright crime to get back on top.

Jennifer Filby

Gardening and Real Ale Appreciation Groups trip

On Wednesday 7th June the Gardening and Real Ale Appreciation groups are joining in a day trip to Wisbech to visit the Elgood's Brewery and its Award winning Garden.

We did the trip some six years ago and it was most enjoyable for both groups.

It is likely that there will be extra seats so if you are interested please give me a ring and I will keep you informed. This may sound a bit vague, but the next edition of Su3aN is too close to the date of the outing to offer the extra places.

Rod Gray 01787 883368

Future Speakers

Tuesday 25th April – leuan Evans “Tracking birds, unravelling the mysteries of migration”

Dr leuan Evans is a Director of Engagement at the British Trust Organisation and will share the BTO latest research which is using cutting edge tracking technology to follow birds across the globe. So join us to share in the marvels of bird migration!

Tuesday 23rd May – Adrian Wright “Earth on Fire”. Volcanic variety and their reasons for such diversity.

Adrian was head of Geography at Colchester Grammar and holds a Fellowship of the Royal Geographical Society. The talk will be illustrated by extensive photographic evidence.

Message from the Treasurer

Last year this u3a received a legacy payment from the estate of **Basil Ambrose**, a past member who passed away in 2021. The £1,500 is to be spent on a ‘party’/event for the members. The committee is considering the best way to do this and would appreciate any suggestions you may have. Please contact me or any other committee member with your ideas.

Tony Lee

treas.sudburyu3a@gmail.com

Membership Renewal

If you have joined since the first of January 2023, or already renewed for 2023/4, you need read no further as you will automatically receive your new 2023/4 membership card when available. For everyone else, now is the time to renew your subscription.

Both the printed and email versions of this Su3aN have the renewal form attached and this contains full guidance on how to renew.

The simplest way is by bank transfer and if you use this method you do not need to complete the form. Please add your surname and membership number, if known, in the reference field – to identify your payment. If you do not know your membership number, please put your postcode instead.

If you prefer to use the renewal form, then please complete it and post it, or email a scan/screenshot, to me.

It would be very helpful if you could deal with your payment promptly, to avoid effort in following up.

Many thanks for your co-operation and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

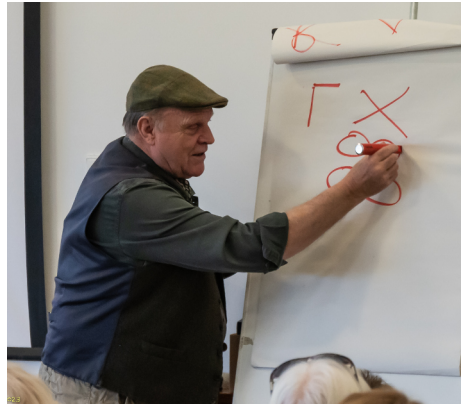
Richard Thomas

Membership Secretary

memsec.sudburyu3a@gmail.com

01787 310607

Speaker's report for January



Charlie and the Dig – Charlie Haylock

In this talk Charlie explained how a potential "scam" email from "The Dig" producer, turned out to be real, and was quickly followed by a phone call from Ralph Fiennes. Originally he was engaged to teach Ralph Fiennes how to talk in a Suffolk accent for "The Dig" but the celebrity extended his contract – so he could be the star's personal coach throughout filming.

The film tells the story of how local amateur archaeologist Basil Brown, played by Ralph Fiennes, discovered the Anglo Saxon Royal ship burial at Sutton Hoo. Suffolk Landowner, Edith Pretty employed Basil, an amateur archaeologist, in 1939 to satisfy her suspicions that the numerous mounds on her property had secrets to tell. Charlie spent two days going through the script of "The Dig" and phonetically breaking down the script into the Suffolk dialect and transcribing the phrases into the phrasing used in the area of Sutton Hoo in the 1930's.

Alongside giving us an insight into the complexities of learning the Suffolk accent Charlie described the extreme lengths Ralph Fiennes went to, in his quest to portray the character of Basil Brown. This included continually wearing similar clothes of the amateur archaeologist, riding a bicycle along the small country lanes of Suffolk he would have cycled and visiting the British Museum to see the original notes he made during the excavation of the burial site. Ralph Fiennes also read the book on astronomy written by Basil Brown to help understand the character of the man he was playing. Discovering the great lengths that the actors underwent to make this film authentic and to hear the amusing anecdotes behind the scenes was very entertaining.

However, discovering that Basil Brown left school at twelve and taught himself French, Latin, Spanish, German and Greek, wrote a book on astronomy as well as becoming a world renowned archaeologist was also amazing.

Sally Salisbury

Speaker's report for February

Vicar's son to BBC producer – Charles Garland.

Charles gave us a lively romp through his life from vicar's son to the beginning of his career as a BBC producer.

Charles moved to Hartest, Suffolk when he was 5, where he lived in a large cold draughty vicarage. He told us tales of giving out sherry to visiting clergy, secretly drinking the communion wine and of the housekeeper who only cleaned up to eye level in the house, thus missing all of the high splashes from his muddy boots in the cloakroom!

He thoroughly disliked his school; he did poorly in his academic exams and when he told his headmaster he wanted to go to Drama school, was told no such thing existed! He left and promptly received a grant of £25.00 to go to drama school!

He taught himself to play the piano, and supplemented his income by playing at a variety of places such as ladies keep-fit classes, pubs and restaurants.

He got small parts in the theatre which paid badly. He thought he ought to learn how to read music so decided to join the army. He applied to the Blues and Royals but was rejected because he was too short at 5ft 5¾". He finally got into the Royal Hussars.

After leaving the army he thought he ought to have a permanent job and he wrote to the BBC for one. They said: "no" so he kept writing!

Finally, they invited him to come to Television Centre, though they said there was no job for him and he was too old. He said: "Would you give me five minutes to tell you some of the things I can do? If the Dean of Salisbury came in, would you know how to address him? Do you know how to make a Hollandaise sauce? Do you know what a pirouette fouetté is? Can you put a spring back into a flute? I'd be very useful to you."

Three months later the phone rang. "Can you read a score?" Dr Jonathan Miller needed an assistant for his brand-new production of *Così Fan Tutte*. It was only for three months, but Jonathan asked them to give him a permanent job.

He worked on *Blue Peter*, and in science, drama, dance, ballet, opera, comedies, five big variety shows, and five series of 'Allo Allo!' and, of course, 'Dad's Army'.

Charles' overriding message to us all was: "follow your dream".

Helen Holton

Coffee mornings

Coffee mornings are held on the 3rd 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 them 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: 19th April and 17th May 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



Registered Charity No.1101615

Membership Renewal 2023/24

Your u3a Membership expires on 31st March, 2023 so it is now time to renew your membership for another year. Please therefore, complete the slip below, cut it off and include it with your cheque for **£12 per person** made out to “Sudbury u3a”, and return them both to me.

This year we continue with the schemewhereby, if you have already made arrangements with your bank to do so, you can make your payment by electronic cash transfer.

You will **not** need to use the form below if you do this.

Our Lloyds account is “Sudbury u3a”, a/c no. **00477485**, sort code **30-98-31**.

Please identify your payment with your **name and membership number** as the Reference – include your post code if you do not know your membership number. Amount £12 or £24 for two.

If you do not respond promptly, you will be deemed to be not wishing to renew your membership for this coming year and your name will be removed from the main membership list, and any Group membership lists to which you may belong.

If you joined earlier in this year (2023) and paid the full £12, you should ignore this request as your membership will continue through the end of March 2024.

If any existing member **who has not previously** taken the opportunity to complete the **Gift Aid Donation** form, whereby we can claim part of your membership fee back from the HMRC at no cost to yourselves, please ring me for an application form if you would now like to do so, 01787 310607. Alternatively, you can download the gift aid form from our website.

Sudbury u3a 2023/24 Membership Renewal Form for existing members.

Please return with cheque to ‘Sudbury u3a’ for £12 per person to:

Mr Richard Thomas, Membership Secretary, 85 Mulberry Gardens, Sudbury.
CO100WF

or by Bank Transfer £12 per person to our account:

Lloyds Bank, 30-98-31, 00477485, quoting your membership number and name as the reference.

Name(s) in full: Mem.No(s).....

Address:

.....

Postcode: Tel. No.

E-mail address:

Emergency Contact details: Name..... Tel.No.....

March 2023