

Su3aN



Sudbury Newsletter

u3a learn,
laugh,
live



Chairman's message

Sixteen months ago many of us had never heard of Zoom and yet it turned out to be a real game changer, enabling some semblance of normality to continue. But nothing compares with face-to-face meetings so I am delighted that at the time of writing this piece (with my fingers crossed) the Government has announced the lifting of Covid restrictions from 19 July.

Whilst some of our activities have been reopening since lockdown began to be eased in April restrictions as to numbers who may attend have had to be applied. Now at last we can meet as before without Covid rules as to the number of attendees.

Our regular speaker meetings will go ahead face-to-face from July at the Sudbury Rugby Club and I look forward to seeing you there. Our programme of interesting and varied speakers, organised by Colette and her team, through to April 2022 can be found on your membership card.

On 3 June we held our **u3a Day** in Sudbury market place and the interest we created was very encouraging, with many existing members visiting the stall as well members of the public unfamiliar with the **u3a**. I would like to offer a special warm welcome to those who joined our **u3a** at that event. I hope you will quickly find activities that are of interest to you and make new friends. Contact details of all group leaders and committee members are on your membership card.

Jennie Leech, our Groups Co-ordinator, will be pleased to help if you need further information on groups. To all new members receiving Su3aN for the first time I hope you enjoy reading it and that you find it interesting and informative. Our coffee mornings take place on the third Wednesday each month at 10am at the Friends Meeting House, Friars Street. This is an ideal meeting place for new members as it gives an opportunity to learn about our activities and events and to meet some committee members and group leaders.

To all members, perhaps now is the time to try something new? Don't forget, you can go along to a group for a 'taster' session - with no obligation - just contact the group leader for more information.

Finally, returning to Zoom, I would like to thank Tony for all his hard work in setting up and controlling our Zoom meetings over the past 16 months. Going forward I think there will be 'virtual' meetings still taking place, not instead of face-to-face but as an enhancement to perhaps hybrid meetings or joint meetings with other u3as?

Brian Orton

Front cover photo of beach huts at Felixstowe, taken by Belinda Ousbey, a member of the Photography group.

Next Newsletter

For the September issue please send your contributions by **Tuesday 7 September 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**

Speaker's report for May

Ladies of the Air



The 'It' Girl of the Air Transport Auxiliary and cover star of Picture Post

a field for a shilling, courtesy of Alan Cobham's Flying Circus, convinced her she was no Amy Johnson or Amelia Earhart!

Come WWII women joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF). They did not fly except a few, a very few, became ferry pilots in the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) and it was these women, Lettice Curtis, Mary Ellis, Joy Lofthouse and others, who have featured in recent TV documentaries. With the minimum of instruments, an AA road map and a loose-leaf book of cards entitled "How to fly a Lancaster (or Hurricane or Wellington, etc.)" they ferried planes from factory to squadron. A quick glance through the pilot's notes and they took off – usually alone. (Before my first flying lesson I'd swotted up the theory of flight...) And it wasn't just British women: there were Russian, German and American, some of whom flew in combat. After the war, some continued to fly for fun, others never boarded a plane again.

Fast forward to the present: women fly Tornados and Typhoons in combat and there has even been a female Red Arrow.

By the way, re my first flying lesson... it was also my last.

Anne Grimshaw

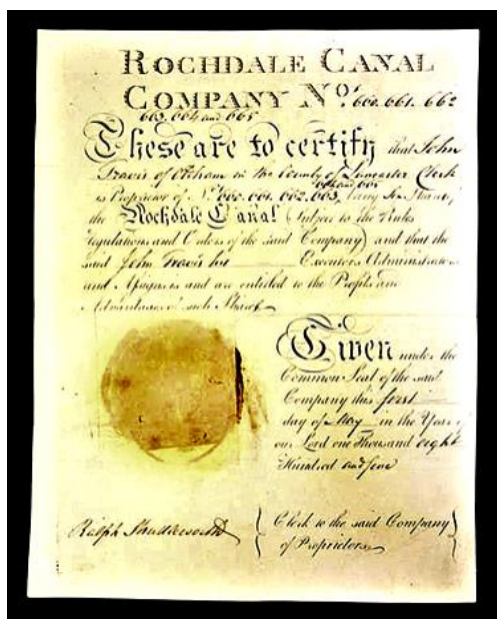
Future Speakers:

27 July: Solo Walk Across Africa: Fran Sandham's 3,000 mile walk from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean.

24 August: Art Attack. A history of Vandalism in Art. The reasons behind what motivated these 'criminal acts'.

Speaker's report for June

“Joseph Travis of Oldham, Grocer” – to the rescue!



It had to happen sooner or later, didn't it? There was the speaker, Robyn Lloyd-Hughes, amongst the faces of the Zoom audience. Then suddenly, he wasn't there anymore. Vanished! Every organiser's and speaker's nightmare.

So, the audience could not be sent home because they were already at home. I hesitated about offering to fill in for Robyn. But perhaps I was better than nobody and was given the go-ahead.

I uploaded a short PowerPoint entitled *Joseph Travis of Oldham, Grocer... and witness to Peterloo*. (Remember the riveting film of the inquest after the Peterloo Massacre we showed in July 2019?) My PowerPoint was the 'story' of an executor of my 5x great-uncle Edmund Elson's will in 1813: Joseph Travis who, as far as I know, was unrelated to my family – and proved to be more interesting than any of mine!

Joseph appeared to have been an upstanding citizen of Oldham, volunteering to defend the realm against a possible French invasion in 1799, then acting as a Special Constable on 16 August 1819, which involved counting the number of people going to Manchester for a meeting about electoral reform. He was accompanied by William Chippendale, the local spymaster (yes, really!) The speaker was Radical reformer Henry Hunt. But the cavalry were sent to 'disperse' the crowds, resulting in 18 deaths and hundreds wounded. Hunt was arrested and put on trial at York... and who should be a witness at his trial but Joseph Travis!

Joseph's father, John, owned a field next to Edmund Elson's house. After John died in 1820, Joseph inherited this asset and also his father's debts, probably incurred through money his father lost after buying shares in the shaky Rochdale Canal Company in 1805. Joseph was declared bankrupt but weathered the storm and lived with his cousin until his death in 1852.

And the shares? I found an image of a share certificate on the internet. Interesting! Even more interesting when I enlarged it and read that the purchaser had been John Travis!

What a fascinating story those five words in Edmund Elson's will revealed: "Joseph Travis of Oldham, Grocer".

Link to watch the Peterloo inquest drama/doc: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-P2qCAxArQo>
Also worth watching is the 2018 film *Peterloo* – William Chippendale has a one liner so watch out for him! (Sorry but Joseph Travis isn't in the credits!)

Anne Grimshaw

Table Tennis needs YOU! ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

We play on Mondays at the Stephenson Centre in Great Cornard and have managed to play on and off during the pandemic, most recently since 17 May. Playing singles in bubbles of six has brought fitness and social contact for both morning and afternoon groups. When the delayed end of restrictions arrives, we will revert to playing doubles, as was our tradition, and we'll be able to take on more members again. Costs are low - £10 for 7-8 sessions – so excellent value.

We welcome all levels of participation from beginner to expert and hope to inspire several of you to give us a try. Come along and see how we operate at 10.30am or 2.00pm on any Monday except Bank Holidays. Phone either group leader, Lyn or Conrad, whose details are on your membership card.

Lyn Gray

Leaderless groups



The following groups are currently leaderless so will be unable to function when we enter Phase 4 of the government's roadmap.

Cartography
French Improvers
Pub lunch (general)

Craft
Knitting
Theatre trips

Cartography

It would seem that a knowledge of maps and map-making would be needed by anyone who might lead this group but maybe just an interest in maps and the ability to enthuse and lead a group of people would be sufficient.

Craft

The leader need only be a point of contact. Members could take turns at demonstrating their craft skills, or the group could meet and each person could follow their own craft whilst enjoying a social 'get together'.

Knitting

I would see this in similar terms as a Craft group.

French Improvers

Since this is termed an 'improvers' group, all members would have some French language skills. The leader need only be a point of contact.

Pub Lunch (general)

Was running on the third Thursday of the month. The last leader has a list of past members and their contact details should anyone be willing to take over.

Theatre Trips

At present, theatre visits could be difficult. The way forward for this group might be to work with one of the local coach companies and join their trips. In this case, the leader would be responsible for the bookings which would by-pass much of the hard work. However, local bus/coach companies are not advertising theatre trips at present.

Groups can be led in different ways .. the leader does not necessarily have to 'be in charge' (!) the whole time. The leading role can be delegated to group members at times, or the leader can simply be a point of contact. The role of the leader is often determined by the nature of activity and the needs of the members, it is usually a two-way process between leader and group members, who find the method which suits them best.

I would be pleased to hear from anyone who feels they could lead any of the above groups. I will facilitate the restart and help to find a venue. If nobody comes forward, the above groups will be considered closed.

Jennie Leech
Groups Co-ordinator

Tuesday Amblers - Summer Walks



Tuesday 3 August: Evening walk and pub meal. Meet at the **Six Bells, Preston St Mary, CO10 9NG**. Start at 4.30pm for a 3.3 mile walk, fields and quiet lanes, no stiles. If you are not going to have a drink/meal afterwards please park along the road near the church, otherwise you can use the car park behind the pub. Bar snacks and meals available. Leader: Amicie Thompson: 01787 379291.



Tuesday 7 September: Start at 10.40am from the **Cock Horse pub, Lavenham, CO10 9SA** for a level 3.2 mile walk of fields, lanes and old railway line. 754 bus from Sudbury Bus Station arrives at 10.36am and returns at 12.46pm arriving in Sudbury at 1.29pm, which should give time for refreshments. **Drivers:** If the car park is being used for vaccines, please park at the far end. Leader Colette Bentley: 01787 374249.

Walking

Leaders Brian Orton 07958093631, Moira Orton 07928092402



Monday 9 August: Bures, Lodge Hills, out through Suffolk, home through Essex. Approximately 4.5 miles

Meet in front of St Mary's Church 09:45 for 10:00 start. Parking next to Bures Village Hall but often busy. Parking also possible on street near church. Bus: Chambers 754 from Sudbury 09:35 arrives Bures church 09:57. Return to Sudbury 12:34, 13:34, 14:15. Pubs: Three Horseshoes (no food) or Eight

Bells. Pleasant circular walk mostly on footpaths and field edges and across some uncultivated fields where tall grass can make walking challenging, numerous kissing gates and one stile.

Leaders Janet and Ian Cruttenden.



Monday 30 August: Evening walk, Great Yeldham. Approximately 4 miles

Meet at the Wagon and Horses, Great Yeldham, CO9 4EX, on A1017 road from Hedingham to Haverhill. Food can be ordered in advance of the walk if you wish to eat afterwards. 17.15 for 17.30 start. **Leader** Rod Gray.



Monday 13 September: Long Melford via Bridge Street. Approximately 6 miles

Meet at the Old School car park opposite Melford Hall 09.45 for 10:00 start. Easy walking along tracks or grassy paths. Two stiles. Can be muddy after wet weather so boots advised. **Leader** Sarah Tanswell.



Monday 27 September: Newton Green. Circular Walk, approx. 5.5 miles

Meet in lay-by just past the Saracens Head 09.45 for 10.00 start. Good views over Sudbury and the Stour valley. Five stiles. Steady climb from Cornard Lock back up to Newton Green golf course. Unfortunately the Saracens Head is closed on Monday. **Leader** Martin Rose.

Scrabble 2



Scrabble 2 welcomes new members

When: On the second and fourth Monday afternoon at 2.30 pm.

Where: The Brewery Tap, East Street, Sudbury.

Please contact Win May 01787 372642 for further details.

Mind your language!



Parlez-vous francais? If your answer is un peu because you haven't thought about all things Gallic since school, now is your chance to refresh those long-ago learned skills.

French Beginners is due to restart on Friday 23 July (subject to restrictions being lifted) and the group has a handful of vacancies.

It will meet weekly in the Freeman's Room upstairs at the Christopher Centre at the new time of 2-3pm (not as advertised on the membership card). The cost of the room hire is divided between members and

fees are payable quarterly. It should work out at £10 per head, making it less than £1 a week.

The group plans to start from scratch and follow an audio course, so all you need are your ears, plus a pen and notebook. A French dictionary would be handy, too. They are widely available in charity shops so there is no need to splash the cash on a new one.

If anybody is interested, please contact the group leader Kim Smith via email on kim_smiff@yahoo.co.uk (yes, that is smiff and not smith). You are advised to do so immediately to avoid disappointment as places are limited.

Kim Smith

Film Group



We are looking to restart showing films on 30 July, when we expect the problems with Covid to be much less. However we will still have to follow any relevant government guidelines.

We can go back to the Bridge Project, 20 Gainsborough Street, Sudbury, CO10 2EU, as I understand that it will not be relocating until after December 2021.

We are still under the government Covid guidance rules, but trust that from 19 July we will be able to start the Film group up again. When you read this in your Su3aN, hopefully we shall all know

what our restrictions are, if any.

30 July: We are looking to show **Notting Hill** starring **Hugh Grant** and **Julia Roberts**. This is a tale of romance and adventure in London when William (Hugh Grant) a British bookseller, meets and falls in love with Anna (Julia Roberts), a high-profile American actress.

THERE WILL BE NO FILM SHOWING FOR AUGUST 2021.

24 September: We are looking to show **Hugo** starring **Ben Kingsley**, **Sacha Baron Cohen** and **Christopher Lee**. The story is based on a book about a boy who lives alone in the Gare Montparnasse railway station in Paris in the 1930s, only to be embroiled in a mystery surrounding his late father's automaton of a man writing and embarks on a quest that will transform those around him and lead to a safe and loving place he can call home.

Jennifer Filby
01787 374205

Writing group 2

We are delighted to be back meeting in person, on the first Tuesday morning of each month. Although our creativity and inspiration remained unimpaired throughout the Covid period, with Zoom providing us with the means to keep in touch, virtual meetings cannot have the same value as personal contact. We continually surprise ourselves that our monthly 'tasks', on a different theme each month, can produce such a variety of style, content and humour. Any more aspiring writers out there? Get in touch! gwyneth.oakshott@hotmail.com

Sudbury u3a High Street Project



Which of these images best represents Sudbury shops to you? How many hairdressers are there? Do we have too many eateries? It is certain that Sudbury is a town of change - but how fast and for better or worse?

In March a team of 11 recorded the shops and other work places on the main streets of Sudbury. We did this as part of a national u3a project for a website - still a

work in progress - showing images and histories of the businesses on our streets.

Over 500 lines of data and hundreds of our pictures are now part of the national project. In September we are to be joined by more volunteers to record changes- will DOUGH&Co have moved again???



The plan is to add to the website at least annually, systematically recording changes. We hope too that our data will inspire related projects by other u3a members: art, photography, writing, history... what about those streets where the ghosts of shops remain only in the size of the front windows? We could be part of national "collections" too: silk towns, artists' towns, fish and chip shops and so on.

In the future will we struggle to recall the old favourites or those whose life was so brief?

The High Street Project could help us.

If you are interested in being part of the original project, or want to be part of something inspired by it, please contact Jane on 07491690510 or jane@crumpton-taylor.com



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