

Su3aN



u3a learn,  
laugh,  
live

u3a  
*40th Anniversary*

## Chairman's Message

A warm welcome to all new members who are receiving their first Su3aN. I hope you find it interesting and informative. I also hope that by now you have looked at what we have to offer and have made contact with groups you would like to join. If you need further information, please refer to your membership card, the website or contact a committee member.

2022 represents a milestone in the life of the u3a as it was 40 years ago that the u3a movement in the UK was formed.

The u3a originated in France in the 70's and was attached to universities; however, the UK founders felt that this was too elitist and excluded a huge number of people from participating. Their vision was that the u3a should be an organisation for all semi and retired people regardless of their academic achievements, previous employment, class, ethnicity, or disability, with no upper or lower age limits.

The organisation was formed to allow anyone no longer in full-time employment to join a movement of locally-run interest groups that would provide a wide range of opportunities to come together to learn in the widest sense and with enjoyment being the prime motive not qualifications or awards. There would be no distinction between learners and teachers, they would all be u3a members and contribute, in many different ways, to the success of the local organisation without the assistance of non-u3a members.

That movement in the UK has grown into a network of 1,057 individual u3as with over 400,000 members; and is open to everyone who is no longer in full-time work.

September 22<sup>nd</sup> will be u3a-day in Sudbury and, as we did last year successfully, we will be having a stand in the Market Place to promote and raise the u3a profile and it's benefits. It will be very helpful if there are a few members able to give a little time to help on the stand. Please contact me if you can assist.

In the May Su3aN I asked for views on the holding of evening groups. There has been very little response, although ironically the Sudbury Jivers Group has started and they meet at 7pm on Friday twice a month. So if you are a night owl find your blue suede shoes/petticoats and get down to the Stevenson Centre

Enjoy the summer and remember the strap line which I think sums up what the u3a represents **learn, laugh, live**.

*Brian Orton*

### Next Newsletter

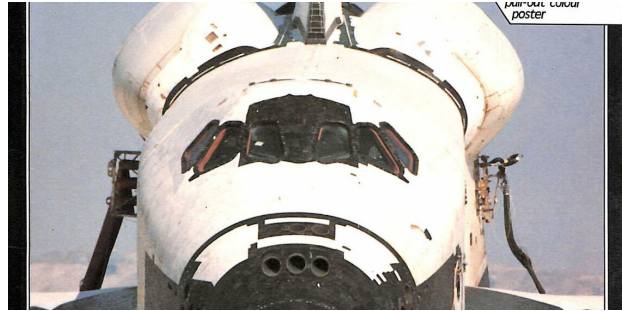
For the September issue please send your contributions no later than 3 September 2022. If you miss the deadline we may not be able to include your copy. Please send details by email as a Word or Pages attachment in Arial 12p font in plain text, 350 words maximum, plus, if available, a photograph illustrating 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

## Speaker's report for May



### **Adventures of a dyslexic writer... Nigel Macknight.**

Nigel explained that although the title mentions his experiences as an author with dyslexia, the talk is really about his love and passion for speed.

Nigel said that as a boy he was greatly influenced by the sudden death of Donald Campbell on Coniston water in 1967 during his attempt at the World Water Speed Record.

When Nigel moved to Glasgow he joined the Air Training Corps at the age of 13 years 9 months and he had plenty of opportunities to experience air travel with the Corps.

He had a continuing compulsion to get near aircraft, even to the point of fabricating himself a fake press badge so that he could get close to new aircraft on airfields. He even submitted articles to aircraft magazines and got his name in print!

Nigel went on to forge a successful career as a freelance author, working in the fields of aviation, space exploration, Formula 1, show business and sport. He had over a dozen books published and had interviewed many well-known personalities, ranging from Seb Coe to Tommy Cooper to Buzz Aldrin. In the early 1980s, the iconic Eagle comic was relaunched and Nigel was one of its regular contributors. In April 1981, Nigel travelled to the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida to witness the first launch of the Space Shuttle. This led to him writing and publishing a best-selling book about the Shuttle. The forward for this book was written by the Leader of the Red Arrows, and Nigel was lucky enough to fly as a passenger on two occasions from their base at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire. This famous flight was the subject of another book, selling 50,000 copies.

Nigel then wanted to do something else!

He decided he wanted to reclaim the World Water Speed Record for the UK.

Donald Campbell was the last Briton to hold the water speed record but died 40 years ago attempting to take his boat Bluebird through the 300 mph (480 km/h) barrier.

Nigel's project is called "Quicksilver". A futuristic jet-powered boat – using an ex-RAF Buccaneer engine providing up to 10,000HP – is now taking shape and she should be capable of speeds in excess of 300 mph. She weighs in at 3.5 tons with a length of 40ft and width of 20ft.

This project is sponsored by Southampton University and other agencies.

It is hoped that in 18 months' time, the boat will go onto the water with a record attempt in two years on Coniston Water, as it is the only body of water in this country where speed attempts are allowed.

Nigel explained that private individuals could also be part of the sponsorship club and have their name on the boat. His website and contact email, if we are interested:

<http://www.quicksilver-wsr.com> [nigel@quicksilver-wsr.com](mailto:nigel@quicksilver-wsr.com).

*Helen Holton*

## Speaker's report for June



### Bringing in the Bombs – Robin Lloyd Hughes

During the Second World War Hitler declared war on America which led to the 8th Air Force of the USAAF being stationed here to support our air force from late in 1941. According to a paper on logistics written by Major Sutterfield it is often underestimated the extent that Britain supported and aided their great ally.

The United Kingdom built airfields, supplied bombs and ammunition, fuel and stores and supplies to support the USAAF. This was a massive operation in logistics and expenditure as well as being a truly undervalued feat of organisation.

Britain built a great many airfields throughout the country including 27 within a 25 mile radius of Sudbury. These airfields were mainly used by the large bombers which required long runways with at least two feet of hardcore topped with 8 inches of concrete. Most airfields had 3 runways surrounded by a perimeter track and all this material needed to be transported and then the buildings and infrastructure built. Each airfield required about two to three thousand men to operate making a huge impact on the neighbouring towns and villages. The airfields were built by the large construction companies such as Wimpey and McAdam and the labour came mainly from Ireland. The buildings were often the huts designed by Peter Nissen, many of which are still standing.

The planes used were a variety, including the B20 Liberator, which could carry 2½ tons of bombs and 3000 gallons of fuel each sortie. It required a crew of 10 men. In 1944 the B17 Flying Fortress was introduced. In the first few months of flying the most frequent ailment dealt with by the local hospitals was frostbite caused by the high altitude flying.

The difficult task of supplying goods was carried out by ships which suffered great losses at the start of the war. Ships also brought in bombs and ammunition to Liverpool, Glasgow and military ports in Scotland. Later, east coast ports were used. Fuel was also brought in by sea and then by rail and road.

Trains including imported American locomotives from 1942 and Austerity trains which had many wheels to support the heavy loads they were carrying then moved the bombs and ammunition to where it was needed. The railways were carrying 10 times the normal amount of goods with the same staff. Jeeps were used to transport men and large 3 ton Bedford lorries to move goods and troops. Stores and supplies were either locally sourced or imported via Liverpool and then to their final destination by road or rail.

From June 1942 Britain provided the USAAF with half or more of their quartermaster, engineering and medical goods and supplies. During the height of 1944 half a million Americans were stationed here and over 27,000 of these young men were killed during this war. A sobering reminder of the price they paid.

*Sally Card*

## Group News and Diary

### Potential New Groups

Would you like to try something new? We have group leaders for **Philately** and **Public Speaking**, so if you would like some more details about these very interesting groups, please contact me.

We are also keen to get the following groups up and running: **Carpet Bowls**, **Sewing/Craft** and **Sign Language** - we have some interest in these but need more members/group leaders.

Also new for our u3a are **Evening Scrabble** and **Evening Wine Appreciation**. Would you like to be involved with either (or both) of these?

If you would like to speak to me about any of these groups please contact me, **Anita Floodgate**, on: 01787 312904 or email: [afloodgate@talktalk.net](mailto:afloodgate@talktalk.net)

**Book Group 1** recently celebrated seven years by visiting The Cock and Bell in Long Melford for some pleasant refreshments. Only one member was unable to make it so there were nine at the gathering, which followed a meeting where the latest and very popular book was discussed.

"A gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles turned out to be one of the best books we have read, combining fantastical romance, politics, espionage, parenthood, and poetry. The book is technically historical fiction, but you'd be just as accurate calling it a thriller or a love story and we learnt so much about Russian politics.

Following our next meeting in July, Don will be treating us to a cream tea at Melford Tea Rooms to celebrate his 90th birthday.

### Current Affairs Group seeks more members

Don't sit there shouting at the TV!

Stop shaking your fist at the clouds!

Join us for well-tempered, friendly considerations of the topics of the day. At each meeting one person presents information relating to their chosen subject. Other members, having done some homework beforehand, contribute to our polite discussions. Tea and biscuits follow.

If only world leaders, national politicians and local councillors would follow the same format! They could have solved all these issues, and others, as we have recently:-

- UK refugee and asylum seeker policy
- Smart meters – good or bad?
- Private schools – good or bad?
- The role of town councils
- The future of the BBC
- Belle Vue Park development in Sudbury
- Ukraine war
- Should Scotland be independent of UK?
- Is the news truthful?

We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, for two hours in a member's house. We do not discuss party politics or religion, and after refreshing tea we have sometimes descended from these lofty heights to (whisper it!) review last night's TV.

**Please do come and join us.**

Group Leader: **Sheila Jones**. 01787 282686

**Mike Hall** is again offering **Stained Glass**, hands on, taster Sessions on weekday mornings. If you are interested in producing a small item to take away, please ring 07469 898283 or Email, [tredis3@gmail.com](mailto:tredis3@gmail.com) Each session of 2 hours will cost £5, for the materials involved

**Snooker 2 Group** has vacancies. Anyone interested please contact **Richard Thomas** on [rthomas71@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rthomas71@hotmail.co.uk).



**Dutch (Beginners) Group** seeks new members. Please contact **Naomi Lundgren** – 01787 466073 – mobile 07806 508731 email: n.lundgren@btinternet.com

### **Economics and Finance Matters Group invites new members**

Formerly known as “Money Matters”, the **Economics and Finance Matters Group** meets monthly (second Thursday mornings) at the Quay Theatre (upstairs). As before, we seek to make sense of the financial world we find ourselves in and the economic forces that are in play. Every month one member leads the discussion on a topic he or she has chosen, the rest of the group having been given some time to consider the key issues regarding it beforehand. This is preceded by a review of the latest trends in financial markets (mainly British and US) and developments in the world economy.

Our meetings: 10.15 for a prompt 10.30 start, finishing at 12.00. Venue charge is £3 per person. Hot or cold drinks may be purchased.

If you are interested in taking part, or attending as a ‘taster’ please contact **Paul Basan** on 07928 476219, Email: [pbasan43@gmail.com](mailto:pbasan43@gmail.com) or **Andrew Kazimirski** on 07904 919378, Email: [andrew@ascot75.plus.com](mailto:andrew@ascot75.plus.com).

### **Film Group**

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

**29 July:** There will be no film showing this month as I will be helping my daughter move.

**26 August:** We will be looking to show ‘**Chariots of Fire**’ starring Ben Cross, Ian Charleson and Nigel Havers. This is based on a true story. England’s finest athletes have begun their quest for glory in the 1924 Olympic Games. Success brings honour to their nation. For two British athletes, the honour at stake is personal and their challenge one from within. Whilst one man runs for his faith, the other participates to leave prejudice behind.

**30 September:** We will be looking to show ‘**The Accidental Tourist**’ starring William Hurt, Kathleen Turner and Geena Davis. After the murder of their young son, the marriage between Macon (William Hurt) and his wife Sarah (Kathleen Turner) disintegrates, and she moves out. After a freak accident puts him on crutches, Macon goes to stay with his quirky siblings at the family home where he meets the spirited Muriel (Geena Davis), a dog trainer with a young son of her own, with whom he begins a friendship. When Sarah learns about this, she attempts reconciliation and Macon is forced to make a decision.

**28 October:** We will be looking to show ‘**A United Kingdom**’ starring Rosamund Pike and David Oyelowo. This film is set against the breath-taking backdrops of the African savannah and period London. It tells the inspiring real-life romance of Seretse Khama, King of Bechuanaland (modern Botswana) and Ruth Williams, the London office worker he married in 1948 in the face of fierce opposition from their families and the British and South African governments.

*Jenny Filby*

### **Future Speakers**

**23 August** Speaker Jenny Anthill Talk “**Between Heaven & Earth**” Reflections on the Russian soul over 1,000 years of history of the Russian Church from the first Baptisms in the river Dneiper to the Revolution of 1917.

After Jenny’s wonderful talk via Zoom in January 2021 “A Tale of Petersburg” our members suggested we meet her face to face but I am sure many of you already know Jenny as our local historian and town councillor.

**For the August meeting only, the meeting will be at The Granary, Quay Lane, Sudbury, CO10 2AN. This is a first floor room, with no lift and the capacity is limited to 100 people.**

**27 September** Speaker Graham Higgins Talk “**Tales from the Bench**” His life as a magistrate and some clarification of the English legal system along with some amusing anecdotes.

*Colette Bentley*

## Table Tennis Groups

There are two Table Tennis groups in our u3a. Both have some spaces.

I lead **Group 2** which meets Thursday mornings 10am until 12noon. **Group 1** is led by Conrad Bentley and meets Monday mornings at 10.30am, also for 2 hours.

Both groups are of mixed ability and enjoy playing with many members during our sessions. We welcome visitors who may be interested to come and see if it's for them.

We meet at the Stevenson Centre, Broom Road, Great Cornard. CO10 OWD.

Membership is currently a mere £10 for 10 weeks, 1<sup>st</sup> session free!

Contact details on your membership card.

*Lyn Gray*

## Walking Group

Leaders:- **Brian & Moira Orton**, 07508 093631/07928 092402

**8 August:** Chappel/Aldham Approx 5 Miles

Meet 9.45 for 10.00am set off at The Street, Chappel CO6 2DD Car Park on left just past The Swan Inn. Limited to about 12 cars. Car share if possible. Walk mainly on well trodden footpaths which can be muddy if wet. Some road walking and 2 busy roads to cross. Refreshments available afterwards at The Swan.

Led by **Anita Tuddenham** 07789 251211

**29 August:** Clare, circular evening walk 4.5 miles

Meet 5.15 for 5.30 set off, at Clare Castle Country Park Maltings Lane CO108NW Parking £2. The walk is primarily on gently undulating land, wide field tracks, an old drovers road (Long Lane, aptly named!) and open countryside with some wonderful views. One stile and a kissing gate. Could be muddy after rain. The Swan in the High Street is open for refreshments afterwards.

Led by **Moira & Brian**

**12 September:** Stanstead just under 5 miles

Meet 9.45 for 10.00am set off at Stanstead Community Centre, Lower Street, CO10 9AL. Open countryside, with very good views on clearly defined footpaths and tracks. A little road walking, on minor roads. No stiles, a few wooden ditch bridges and one narrow footbridge over river Glem. Some steps up and down including climb up about 25 good brick steps. A lovely varied walk.

Led by **Sheena Byham** 01787 311341, **Amicie** and **Dee**

**26 September:** 6 mile circular, Rodbridge

Meet 9.45 for 10.00 start from Melford Country Park, CO10 9HH. Peter says, "I've just tried out this walk at the end of June walking under sun and scattered clouds and the ground very dry. At the end of September it will probably still be warm and the ground may be damp. We may need walking boots and other protective gear. You will be able to decide when the time comes. Bring a drink and a snack if you need one. It is undulating terrain so after a gentle rise a fresh view and then another - including Temple End, Foxearth and Borley. No stiles but you can walk in style in good company."

Led by **Peter Whiteley** 01787 375269

## Tuesday Amblers

**Meet at 10.15 for 10.30 start for all walks.**

### 2 August - Alpheton and Shimpling

Meet at Alpheton Village Hall, Old Bury Road, Alpheton CO10 9BS. £1 donation per car please for use of the car park. The walk is slightly longer than most ambles being just under 4 miles but it is an easy walk with no stiles, over flat terrain along field paths and tracks with good views over open countryside. We have to cross the A134 twice and there is a short stretch of the A134 on a pavement towards the end of the walk. Walk Leader: **Joe Millard** 01284 830457

### 6 September - Bildeston

Meet in the Market Place, Bildeston IP7 7EN. A 3.3 mile walk across the fields from Bildeston to the village of Chelsworth and back. Along the way there are good views over rolling countryside, a lovely Grade 1 listed church, pretty half-timbered houses and a quiet spot by the River Brett. Walk Leader: **Amicie Thompson** 07530 269813

## Thursday Amblers

**25 August:** Follows a circular route of approx 3.6 miles around **Groton**,. The terrain is gentle ups and downs, around country lanes, field edges, in woodland and across meadows. It can be muddy in places and there are two stiles. We have arranged parking at **The Fox & Hounds** pub car park (post code CO10 5ED), where we will meet at 10.00 a.m. ready for 10.30 a.m. start. The pub opens at 12.00 p.m. for those who would like refreshments and/or lunch. Led by **Roger Floodgate**

**22 September:** Walk will be at **Stratford**. Meet outside **The Swan** pub in **Stratford St Mary** (CO7 6JR) at 10.00 a.m. ready for 10.30 a.m. start. Parking is in the street. The walk itself is quite flat with a couple of sections of public highway, but mostly off-road. It crosses three rivers, the Stour, the Brett and the Box. The distance is approximately 3.75 miles. Led by **Trevor Smith**.

Any questions please contact **Roger** on: 01787 312904 or email: [afloodgate@talktalk.net](mailto:afloodgate@talktalk.net)

## Architecture, Art Visits and Holidays – a look back at early 2022

In March the **Holiday Group** went to Sheffield via Lincoln where the Red Arrows gave us a fly past

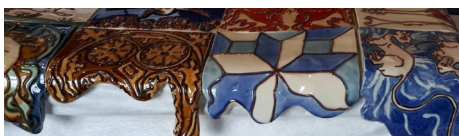


Monthly **Architecture Group** talks continued until April when we had a flying visit to 5 or 6, less well known churches in Cambridge. Also in April the **Architecture Plus Group** went to Birmingham, visiting the University.

Richard Kemp took select numbers on a revealing tour of Bishops Stortford and heroically repeated it to include as many of us as possible.

In May we went to Harwich. It was cold but we were very stalwart. In May we also went to Ironbridge, where we saw a lovely lot of tiles.

In June we had a splendid afternoon at Hill Farm with Ashley Cooper who vividly described the changes in farming practice and how that affected the buildings and people. The group made a collection for Breast Cancer Now and raised over £110.



On a particularly hot June day **Art Visits Group** took a coach to the Tates. Some members very sensibly took a boat trip between the two. Particularly admired was The Procession by Hew Locke.

## Coffee mornings

Our drop-in coffee mornings continue to be popular. They give an opportunity to meet some committee members and other u3a members in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Everyone is welcome – whether you are a new or prospective member, or you have been a member for a while. You may wish to learn more of our activities and Groups or you may just want to sit and chat. Coffee mornings are free and held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month so our next meetings are: 17th August and 21st September. 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 welcoming you

*Brian Orton*