



Issue No.19 Post Pandemic Newsletter December 2023



Photo courtesy of Roger Jennings, Photography Interest Group Leader.

Welcome to this Newsletter. Please note that your Reporter, that will be me, has had a word with the Editor, that will also be me, on the matter of a holiday over the Festive season. We have come to an arrangement whereby the Reporter will get an additional week to prepare the January 2024 newsletter and on that basis the Editor anticipates that the January Edition will be published on January 8th.

This additional week will give everyone the opportunity to contribute photo's, stories full of Christmas and New Year fun and frolics so please do let me have them just as soon as you can after the New Year holiday.

From the Chair and Committee.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and share with you the dates for our General Meetings in 2024.

The dates all occur on the first Tuesday of each month and alternate between the Curlew Centre and the Market House.

We hope the chart below will be helpful, don't forget to put the dates in your diary.

Please note that we will not be holding a General Meeting in January because most people will still be busy enjoying the festivities.

<u>General meeting location</u>	<u>General meeting date</u>	<u>Month</u>
<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>JANUARY</u>
<u>CURLEW CENTRE</u>	<u>06/02/2024</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>
<u>MARKET HOUSE</u>	<u>05/03/2024</u>	<u>MARCH</u>
<u>CURLEW CENTRE</u>	<u>02/04/2024</u>	<u>APRIL</u>
<u>MARKET HOUSE</u>	<u>07/05/2024</u>	<u>MAY</u>
<u>CURLEW CENTRE</u>	<u>04/06/2024</u>	<u>JUNE</u>
<u>MARKET HOUSE</u>	<u>02/07/2024</u>	<u>JULY</u>
<u>CURLEW CENTRE</u>	<u>06/08/2024</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>
<u>MARKET HOUSE</u>	<u>03/09/2024</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>
<u>CURLEW CENTRE</u>	<u>01/10/2024</u>	<u>OCTOBER</u>
<u>MARKET HOUSE</u>	<u>05/11/2024</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>
<u>CURLEW CENTRE</u>	<u>03/12/2024</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>
<u>ALL MEETINGS START AT 2.00PM UNTIL 4.00PM</u>		

Thanks to you all, especially our Group Leaders for their dedication and time, we look forward to seeing everyone in 2024.

Best wishes

Paul

u3a Sutton Bridge Christmas Social

This event is being held on December 5th at The Curlew Centre, please note!

Admission is by ticket only and is a "members only" event. If you have not got your ticket(s) already please contact Sheila Palmer or Paul Reeve, their numbers are below.

u3a Christmas social

U3A MEMBERS ONLY

**TUESDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2.00PM START.
CURLEW CENTRE SUTTON BRIDGE**

TICKETS ON SALE AT THE
NOVEMBER MEETING HELD IN THE MARKET HOUSE OR
contact Sheila Palmer on 07955168744 or Paul Reeve on
07963066409

THE AFTERNOON'S ENTERTAINMENT INCLUDES:

THE DROVE END WARBLERS SINGING FESTIVE SONGS
HOME MADE LIGHT TEA
QUIZ
PRIZE DRAW
(INCLUDED WITH YOUR TICKET PURCHASE)
THE USUAL RAFFLE
BOTTLE OF FIZZ ON EVERY TABLE
FREE CHRISTMAS CRACKER

**PRIZE FOR THE BEST SEASONAL
COSTUME**

BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGES IF YOU FANCY A TIPPLE

TICKET NEEDED FOR ENTRY

TICKET COST £2.00

November General Meeting

The General Meeting on November 7th welcomed Sue Jakeman, niece of the famous ballroom dancer Peggy Spencer. I don't know whether her appearance as our Guest Speaker or that tickets were on sale for our Christmas Social influenced the attendance but she spoke to a packed house.

Sue arrived a little later than scheduled, she found herself in Moulton Chapel before calling us to ask directions but did arrive and entertained us all.

During Sue's presentation she showed some photo's of Peggy and other stars and personalities of that time and had a little problem in remembering some of the names. Fortunately in the audience one of our members was able to help her out so everyone was identified.

After the meeting when I was dismantling the sound system Sue spoke with me and mentioned how grateful she was to the lady member who helped her with the missing names. Sue went on to tell me that she was suffering from Long Covid and had some memory issues as a result.



Come to The Flicks?

In our area we are most fortunate to have two local Community Cinemas, one in Sutton Bridge and the other in Long Sutton. With winter on the way a visit to The Flicks could be just the thing to keep you entertained.

Sutton Bridge Cinema is at The Curlew Centre, seating is cabaret style and whilst watching a great film, and tickets are priced at just £3.00, there are homemade cakes and sausage rolls and hot drinks available to purchase. I am told that the afternoon, including treats will cost about £5.00.

Please note that previously the performances have been on the Saturday evening but with winter upon us the showings are now moved to Saturday afternoons. Please keep an eye open for posters regarding the

The Market House , Long Sutton

There are monthly Saturday matinee films shown at the Market House.

These are on the last Saturday of the month. Doors open 2.30pm for 3.00pm start.

Ticket price £6.00, tea and biscuits after the film are included

The films are usually fairly recent releases, about two months after initial release at the bigger commercial cinemas.

Tickets from Market House tel. 014106 366767

Note there will not be a film at the end of December.

If you are interested in being informed about upcoming film showings please contact Kay Jenkinson who will add your email address to her database kayjenkinson@talk21.com or call The Market House.

Both local Cinemas are real assets to our community so please do support them both if you can.

Interest Group News

The History Group

Hello everyone.

At our monthly meeting on the 7th November I told those in attendance about our History Group, what we are all about, and to invite you to join us.

Everyone was very kind as I rambled on, and they didn't throw anything squishy or squashy in my direction!

The History Group is held at the Market House on the 4th Monday of the month 10.30 – 12.30

The group had a little reshuffle a couple of months ago, and so far it's working out really well.

We have a cohesive little team that brings the group together.

We are lucky to have Janet York as – Group facilitator and Treasurer

Chris Livesey and Monica Reeve, who provide technical support for the group, and get things done behind the scenes in preparation for our Speakers.

Without them it just wouldn't happen!

Barbara Green and Anne Laing – Providing the refreshments, which is another important role!

Marian Boone – who is incredibly important as she takes the money from the members, and is also our shadow treasurer, so big thanks to Marian.

Maureen Sinclair-Currie, who welcomes everyone and makes sure that everything is running smoothly, and is always on hand for any new members.

And lastly

Eileen Hanbury and myself (Jackie Walker) who are currently 'Speaker Finders'

Looking back

In September, we had the highly entertaining and knowledgeable Paul Smith.

Paul entertained and enlightened us with the story of "Thomas Cook and the Origins of Popular Tourism" Looking at how he helped to make travel easier, cheaper and safer for millions of Britons in the Victorian era.

Paul's presentation was illustrated with photographs, posters and documents from the Thomas Cook Archives, detailing the Cook heritage, that reigned from 1841 – 2019 – His knowledge on the subject was amazing!

At the October meeting, we welcomed Richard Gibbons – who told the tale of Operation Market Garden Montgomery's attempt to end the war quickly in late 1944. The intentions, plans, the failure of the attempt, and the aftermath.

Richard was a wealth of information, and he speaks all over the country on the many conflicts that have taken place, some in our own lifetime.

How he manages to fit it all into one presentation is beyond me ... but he does!

27th November, we have our very own Frank Little.

Frank, will be telling us all about the History (perhaps lifting the lid on the mystery) of Freemasonry.

Freemasons have built up a mythology for themselves that ties their lineage to King Solomon. And despite having no direct religious affiliation, Freemasons have also tied themselves to The Knights Templar,

another historically secret society of Christian warrior-monks, so I can honestly say we are all looking to hearing Frank on the **27th November**.

As dedicated as we are to hunting down facts and revelations about historical events, our December date is the 25th so we will not be meeting that month ...

To kick off 2024 we have

22nd January 2024 We have two great local guys, who will be talking to us about Long Sutton, Sutton Bridge and the surrounding areas.

Places that are still evident, some that have disappeared forever. A great topic that we are all looking forward to interacting with – and afterwards, as we dunk our biscuits in our tea, we are going to have a little fun quiz! Little and fun being the operative words!!

26th February Tim Machin will be joining us. Tim is from The Long Sutton and District Civic Society and he has kindly agreed to talk to us about the history of Long Sutton Market Place.

25th March, As we move into springtime, Ray Howard will tell us all about 'The Formation of the Modern Police Service' which will be informative, interesting and offer a different slant on history.

Further dates for your diary are:

22 April - TBC

27th May – **Spring Bank Holiday – No meeting**

24th June - TBC

22nd July - TBC

26th Aug – **August Bank Holiday – No Meeting**

23rd Sept – TBC

As the year rolls on, we will be getting some more professional speakers on board to enlighten, entertain, share a cup of tea and get to know us, and hopefully, they will like us enough to agree to come back with more tales from their extensive catalogue of presentations!

So if you like a good story, please do come along and join us History really isn't just Kings and Queens dates, wars and battles!

While I am on the subject of History Groups within our U3A ...

I have been a member of Sutton Bridge U3A now for 2 years and a member of Spalding U3A for almost 11. The people I have met at both have been friendly, warm and welcoming, and many have become good friends, and it was the friends that I made at Spalding, who also shared an interest in History that prompted us all to get together and write a book.

It is called Tudor and Stuart Spalding.

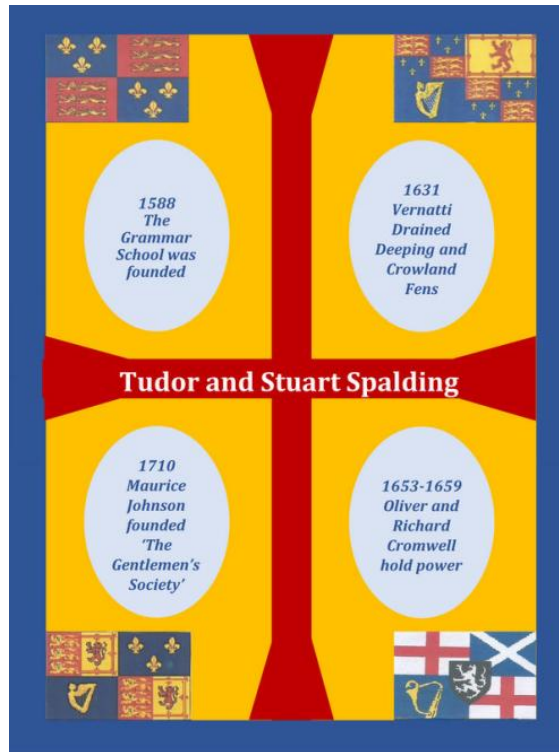
We each contributed to the book, by writing a chapter about what interested us in that period. My chapter was 'Crime and Punishment'

Every chapter covers a different element and is easy reading, light but informative. The time it took, and the research during lockdown, was all worthwhile, now that the book is finally in print.

At the meeting on the 7th November I was pleasantly surprised when I was asked if some of the members could buy a copy of the book!

I didn't expect that, and only had a couple with me, so at the December meeting on the 5th I will bring some more along for those who wanted one and I didn't have any to hand.

I will leave a few with Eileen at the November 27th History Group too.



Being in a U3A group can take you to places that you might never imagined. The U3A is more than just 'somewhere to go – something to do' it is a place where we can share knowledge, skills and interests in a friendly environment, and get together socially! If you think that the U3A might be of interest to any of your friends, who currently don't know about us, then please point them in our direction. Joining the U3A opens so many doors, so please walk through that door where everyone is welcome!
 Jackie Walker



SWIG (Suttons Wine Interest Group)



October 27th 2023

For our October meeting it was the turn of the boys to cook a dinner and the girls to provide accompanying wines to compliment the food. It was set on a mostly Italian theme.

Firstly may I say what a great job the boys did for us. (well almost all the boys, as one bailed and left it to Fay to rescue him)!! Many thanks Fay.

We began our feast with an Antipasti plateau, which was delicious and the accompanying wine was an excellent Mud House Sauvignon Blanc 2023 from Chile. This dry white wine was given a 8/10 to start our evening off on a high

Our next course was Gnocchi pasta with spinach and a cheese sauce. This delicious dish was accompanied by Rocca Alata Valpolicella 2022 from Italy. This gentle red wine was well suited to the pasta dish and was awarded another 8/10.

Next course (yes we did have 4)!! Was a delicious Chicken in a creamy white sauce with accompanying vegetables. (just to get the healthy bit in). The treat to accompany this dish was a rather good French Appellation Chablis Controlee 2022. This scored another 8/10. There is a pattern emerging here.

Finally, came the desert. Fay had excelled herself with Tiramisu for the majority and for those of us who are not coffee lovers she made a Lemoncello Tiramisu which was delicious. To accompany the puds we had Loschi L'Arte Contadina, Colli Piacentini Malvasia Passito 2009 which was very well met and scored.... yes you guessed, an 8/10. Unfortunately this wine is no longer available as it came from Jim's cellar. But there are good alternatives available.

As you can tell we had a really good meeting with good food, good wine and good company.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 16th November and Nanette will be hosting in Paul's "Man Shed" that has become our cosy home.

Cheers to All
Sheila Palmer

SWIG 1 Wine and Dine; Friday 27th October 2023

Sede; Menu della grotta di Paul's Man

Menu Mangiare Italiano

(Venue; Paul's Man Cave, Menu; Italian Cuisine)

1st Course (Cliff) **Piatto di antipasti**

(A selection of Italian cooked meats)



2nd Course (Jim) **Primi Piatti**

Gnocchi con spinaci e salsa al formaggio e grattugiato formaggio Pecorino Romano gusto to

(Gnocchi pasta with spinach and a cheese sauce + grated Pecorino cheese to taste)



3rd Course (Paul)

Filetti di petto di pollo in salsa cremosa al vino bianco con pancetta affumicata tagliata a dadini.



(Chicken Breast fillets in a Creamy white wine sauce with diced smoked bacon.)

Dessert; (Fay) **Tiramisù della casa di Barrett**



Tiramisu is a coffee-flavoured Italian dessert, usually made of ladyfingers (savoiardi) dipped in coffee, layered with a whipped mixture of eggs and sugar.

Vini di accompagnamento scelti da Sheila, Nanette e Frank

(Accompanying Wines chosen by Sheila, Nanette and Frank)

Extreme Beer,Wine and Bus Pass

Our second group meeting took us, all 10 of us, to The Mariner in Old Hunstanton.

This Pub and Restaurant is huge and almost on the Beach front, there were no takers for a quick dip which did not surprise me.

The Mariner is really conveniently located for arriving by Bus. As usual we all caught the infamous 505 to King's Lyn Bus Station where the X36 awaited our arrival and onward transportation. The Lynx Buses are so comfortable compared to the "Bone-shakers" that Stagecoach use.

A picture paints a 1000 words!

But why does someone always have to show-off? You know who you are don't you Monica?



The afternoon was spent in great company and with good food and I think that everyone is looking forward to our next adventure which will be in January 2024.

If you are interested in joining this elite band just get in touch and I will add you to the group membership.
Chris Livesey, Group Leader

A new Interest Group?

For those of you who are interested in Model Railways this could be your lucky day!

Our member Frank Heinrich-Tiller is a member also of The Long Sutton Men's Shed and they are proposing to start a Model Railway Group. Frank is floating the idea that if there is any interest among the members of our u3a there may be a way that both could collaborate. Note that to join this Group you will also have to be a member of the Men's Shed. I am not too sure of Frank's thinking on this as he did tell me this in a conversation at our recent Beer, Wine & Bus Pass meeting;)

Please contact Frank for further details if you are interested 07778 460398
heinrichtillerfrank@gmail.com

Baking Group

Baking group met at Barbara's in November. Two members were unable to come along but the remainder enjoyed two bakes: a chocolate and nut tray bake and a banana, sultana and walnut wholemeal cake.



So they all had a good meeting - thank you Barbara for hosting this meeting.

Diane Scott, Group Leader.

National Trust visit to Birmingham's Back to Backs and the famous German Christmas Market.

Last Friday, a coach load of National Trust volunteers, members and friends organised by Peckover, travelled to Birmingham to see a most unusual and memorable National Trust property - a row of Victorian terraced houses with a central courtyard with its washhouse and privies. The tour which took a little over an hour allowed us to see poor working class homes from 1840s onwards.

What was also in keeping with the properties and their times was our excellent guide who had actually lived in an identical one just around the corner. She could relate to us directly from her experience of what it was like growing up in a world unknown to most of us. So, we in turn could sense her life and the restrictions of living in such conditions. It was fascinating.



Following this we all made our way, through the decorated streets, to the German market and initially the German beer or hot drinks had a pull. There were also Bratwurst and other similar sausages in rolls and lots of sweetmeats to follow, for example crepes and churros. We looked at Christmas gift and artefact stalls and later met at the coach for the drive home with time for a snooze.

As usual, Peckover refunds us any monies remaining after costs depending mainly on the number attending. This time with good attendance and the coach company reducing their costs, we each received a £9.00 refund on the coach meaning we had paid £21.00 for this day out rather than £30.00.

Diane Scott, Group Leader and national Trust volunteer



SWIG 1 November 16th 2023 Report



SWIG 1 Group Thursday November 16th 2023

This was Nanette's turn to host but unfortunately her official business took over and she handed over to me. I have to thank her for all her brilliant preparation and good choice of refreshments.

Nanette's theme was "Blended Wines". And again due to her proficient buying we had some good wines at extremely good value for money. Discounted wine with 25% off for six !

The first tasting was a Freixenet Vintage Brut Cava produced in Spain, which was surprisingly good (I have since bought a bottle for my Bucks Fizz on Christmas morning) !! This wine is traditionally made from three vintage grape types and has crisp apple and citrus fruit flavours and a complex fresh finish. It was well received as we do not have many sparkling wines at our meetings. It scored a 7/10 with one member giving it a 9. This was bought from Morrisons for £7.50.

Next came a Sainsbury's Field Blend Chenin Blanc Grenache Blanc & Marsanne Taste the Difference white wine. Usually £10 this was bought for £6. This South African wine offered ripe stone fruits on the nose leading to poached apple and pear notes with hints of pineapple and underlying salinity. This wine is great with Cooked fish and seafood. This scored another 7/10.

Our third tasting was a blended red wine from California. This Apothic Red is rich in layers of dark fruit complemented by hints of mocha and vanilla. Apothic blends fuse Old World intrigue with modern sophistication. This was a lovely smooth wine. Bought from Tesco for £9. This scored another 7/10 with scores nearing an 8/10.

Lastly we tasted Campo Viejo from Spain again. This delicious and versatile limited edition wine is among the number 1 Riojas in the World and the number 1 premium Spanish wine in the UK. A great wine for any occasion and makes a perfect gift. The blends are crafted together to give a smooth, silky, dark red fruit flavour. This was bought from Sainsburys for £7 with the discounts. It scored another 7/10 again narrowly missing an 8/10.

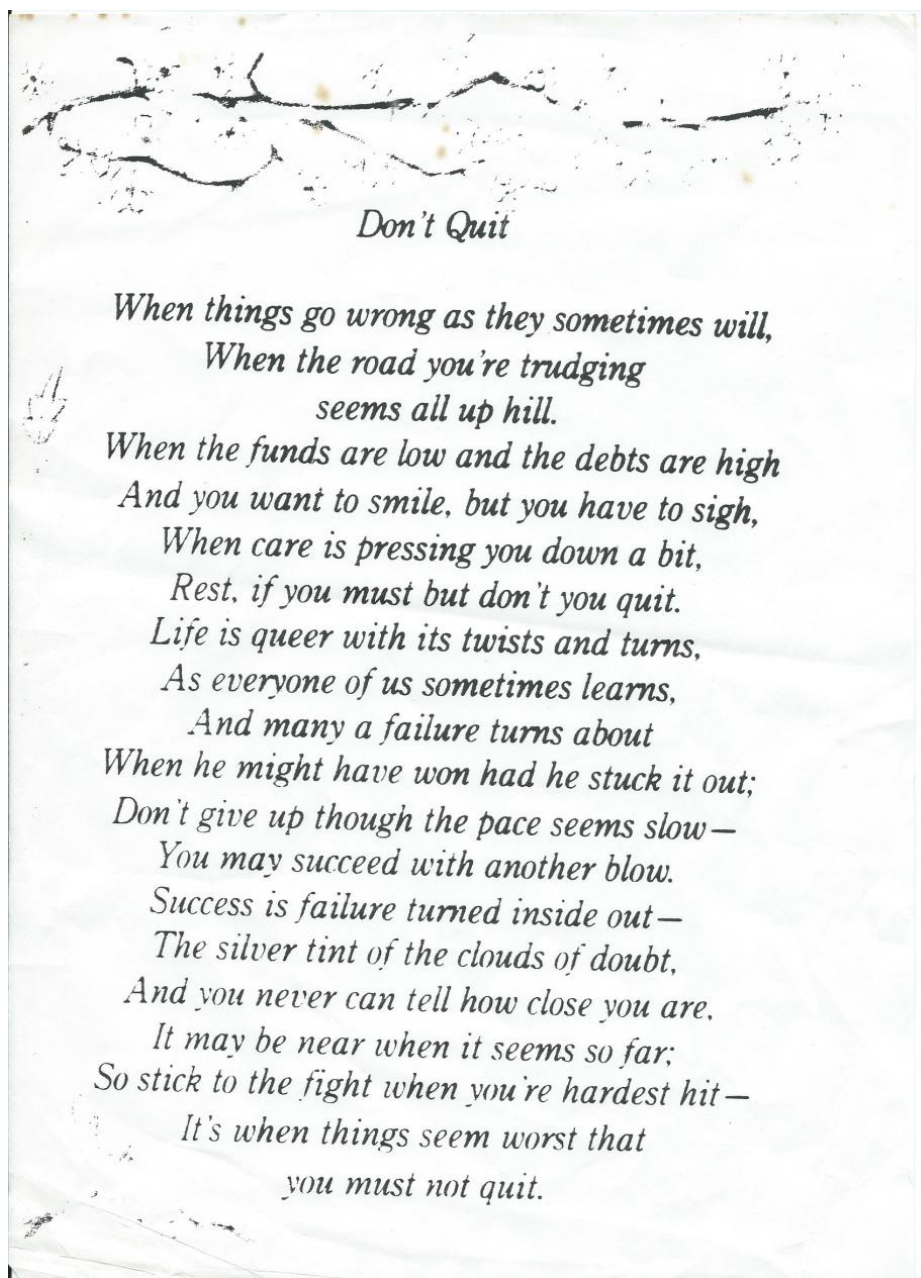


My thanks to Nanette who sadly missed the evening but was with us in spirit for some delicious wines. We did send the remaining wine home for her own personal tasting at a later time.

Thanks to Paul for the use of his Man Shed and now our official home!!

Our next meeting is at Fay's house for our traditional Christmas get together on Thursday 14th December at 6.30.

See you there, and Cheers Sheila Palmer



From The Speaker Secretary

Urgent reminder for all members that; "PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE A GENERAL MEETING THIS COMING JANUARY" as the first Tuesday falls on the day following New Years Day.

The next General meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th February 2024 when our member Frank Heinrich-Tiller will give a follow on presentation about his work, travels and some of the people he met whilst working with Lloyds of London.

And finally I would like to wish all our members, your families and friends a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Thank you to everyone who has made a contribution to our Newsletter and of course a big thank you to all who have read it!!

Chris Livesey

Reporter, Editor and Distributor of the u3a Sutton Bridge Newsletter.