

From the chairman

I have asked for what I wrote for the March newsletter to be reproduced since it serves as my report for the delayed AGM. (April 2018)

My newsletter editorial this month is in effect the Chairman's address for the AGM.

I want to begin by saying an enormous thank you to everyone for making the first year of my chairmanship pretty easy (much easier than I had envisaged in the few months leading up to March 2017) but, more importantly, a task of great joy and pleasure. There are a considerable number of people who contribute in diverse ways: the committee, the officers, our Beacon Administrator, newsletter editor, group leaders (not forgetting the groups' co-ordinator) and those who find speakers, organise trips and holidays, support coffee morning rotas and serve tea after open meetings.

There is almost no end to the list. I was particularly struck last Saturday at the end of the Gala evening when the hall was cleared within minutes; chairs and tables stacked and everything cleared: a wonderful tribute to the ethos of you, our members.

A few days ago, we had a gathering of group leaders. I particularly wanted an occasion to thank them in particular because they/you are the life-blood of our organisation. Our membership has just topped 400 and sometimes people say 'are we getting too large'. As long as there are people willing to come forward and lead or contribute to leading a group size is not an issue and I am keen to maintain the ethos of being open and accessible to all. Some activities lend themselves to multi-leadership so I would urge you all to consider how you might be able to contribute or to encourage others to do so. Having said that, a good number of new groups have been started in the past year.

A big thank-you to all of you members for the support that you give. It is such that I am proud to belong and privileged to serve. About 90% of our membership is on email which makes contacting and disseminating information so easy. **But**, I am aware of how important it is to ensure that we are making the same level of contact with those who are not. I also believe we are in a way a caring organisation (I see that in the way that I see people caring for one another) but at a corporate level I am keen to ensure that everyone is included within our U3A family.

I was at a conference the other week of the holiday company I lead for when we spent time looking at a new set of values. I won't rehearse it all, but it included the desire to provide guests with exceptional experiences and to be inspiring, inspirational and fun. I think a lot of that applies to our U3A.

John Hooper



John Hooper and Parish Councillor Bob McClennig, joined passengers on the Flexibus, for a trip into Wymondham where they attended a Fairtrade coffee morning in the library. The town centre Co-Op is supporting an initiative to raise awareness of the Flexibus service.

Wymondham Flexibus

This is a 'ring and ride' service which anyone can use within Wymondham and its hinterland. There is no fixed timetable; instead the bus follows a route set by the pre-booked requests of passengers. The bus is fully accessible for wheelchairs, and shopping.

It is a Monday to Friday service, operating between 9am and 2.30pm during school term times and when the schools are closed between 8am and 4pm.

To request a journey telephone 0300 1231145 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday or search for <https://online.norfolk.gov.uk/flexibusjourneyrequest/>. Note this is a request rather than a booking. You will be contacted to confirm your travel date and time.

Bookings should be made before 3pm on the day before you wish to travel (Mondays - book on the previous Friday). Fares £4 return, National Concessionary bus passes accepted.

Discovering Norwich - Thurs 12 April

Members who have booked for the 'Behind The Scenes Tour' at Norwich Castle on Thurs 12 April should meet in the Rotunda shortly before their tour is due to begin. Both tours (10am and 11am) are fully booked.

If you find that you are unable to go please let us know as soon as possible so that we can offer the place to someone else.

If you have not yet paid the £5 charge please do so, either at one of the Coffee Mornings or at the April Open Meeting.

Ken & Sylvia Vickers

01953 789915 email: vickers271@btinternet.com

For details of May's visit see overleaf.

News from the Groups

Lorna, Groups Co-ordinator, will be at most Coffee Mornings. She can also be contacted by email - lorna.gplead16@yahoo.co.uk

Discovering Norwich 2018

April - Shire Hall

May - UEA Enterprise Centre

June - Plantation Garden

July - Norwich Bridewell Museum

Aug - Riverside walk with Paul and Marje

Sept - South Asian Decorative Arts and Crafts - old ice rink (to be confirmed)

Oct - Walk with Wendy - Strangers Hall (Huguenots)

Nov - Jarrolds Printing Museum (Wed 14 afternoon)

Dec - No meeting

Discovering Norwich - May

On Thursday 10 May we shall visit the UEA Enterprise Centre, one of the most green buildings in the country. Places are strictly limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. If you wish to go please contact Glyn Wright on gjmwright@sky.com.

Azaleas and Rhododendrons at Stody Estate

The Creative Photography Group is planning to visit the gardens of Stody Lodge (NR24 2ER, near Holt) to see the azaleas and rhododendrons and is arranging a private visit on Wednesday 9 May. The gardens will be open from 1-5 pm. The Group is offering twenty places to U3A Wymondham members. There will be no catering at the Lodge, because it is a private visit; however, the Hunworth Bell nearby offers excellent snacks and meals, though you can bring a picnic lunch if you prefer - there is plenty of car parking at the Lodge. If you would like to preview the gardens, their website is at <http://www.stodyestate.co.uk/stody-lodge-gardens/>. The cost is £6 per adult, payable on the day. We need firm commitments by 15 April. If you want to join the group please inform keith@scapewheel.co.uk or julian.gillett@btinternet.com as soon as possible, so that we can get an idea of numbers.

Julian Gillett

Schoolreaders

The charity Schoolreaders is looking for volunteers to listen to children read in local primary schools for a few hours a week. No qualifications are necessary, just a good command of spoken and written English. For more information visit the website www.schoolreaders.org or call 01234 924111.

Members who have joined recently

Linda Burkett, Clive Richardson, Melvina Richardson, Loraine Roebuck, Valerie Sheen and Angela Telfer

Scams, Scams and more Scams

They are everywhere and it is so easy to get taken in. Get informed by reading helpful leaflets and watching youtube videos. Follow the link to the material on our website:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/wymondham/page/71713>

(A suggestion - make a list and tick off each item when read or watched, start with the Little Leaflet, then the videos and then the two Books.)

The Priory Garden Bowls Club

This is a club for those aged 55 and over. It has a green in Back Lane, Wymondham, near the Post Office yard.

They will be having an Open Afternoon on Saturday 21 April between 1pm and 4pm. Anyone in that age group is invited to join them for a game. Club members will be on hand to assist and advise, and bowls will be available for use.

Future Social Events

Saturday 7 April - Here I belong - Wymondham Central Hall - 7.30pm - £12

Saturday 12 May - Rubber Ring - Wymondham Central Hall - 7.30pm - £8

Friday 18 May - Seal Trip and Holt - £20

Chairman's Garden Party - Saturday 2 June at 4pm; - Hog roast, dessert, wine - £10

Friday 22 June - Opera Dudes - Wymondham Central Hall - 7.30pm - £14 (U3A members £12)

Friday 29 June - King's Lynn - £30

Friday 29 June - Bowjangles - Ex-Servicemen's Club - 7.30pm - £16 (U3A members £14)

Friday 29 June - King's Lynn - £30

Wednesday 18 July - Horse Racing at GY - £27

Friday 20 July - Sandringham House - £22

Thursday 2 August - Lunch

Friday 31 August - Norfolk Broads - £32

Monday 12 November - Thursford - £45

Friday 7 December - Christmas Lunch

Officers of U3A Wymondham (2017/18)

Chair - John Hooper - johnhooper66@btinternet.com

Vice-Chair - Paul Findlay - ap.findlay@btinternet.com

Secretary - Georgette Vale - georgette@ValeMail.eu

Treasurer - John Dollimore - johndollimore45@gmail.com

Membership Sec. - John Spencer -

wymu3amem@outlook.com

Groups Co-ordinator - Lorna Tomlinson -

lorna.gplead16@yahoo.co.uk