

## **APRIL 2024**

‘Self-help educational and leisure activities organised for and by older people’

### 1. **Notes from the Chair** (*John Dollimore*)

#### 1.1. 2024 Annual General Meeting (Some key points are as follows)

**N.B.** This report is dated March 7th **and some information has been superseded by events.**

##### a) Committee

At last year’s AGM, for the first time ever we believe, we had a contested election. This year we have had nobody come forward to join the Committee. Within the next twelve months we need four members to volunteer to join the Committee, or this wonderful club that we have all made together will have to close.

The last time we functioned without a Secretary was in 2014 when we had 120 members, and we were below the Third Age Trust radar. Today we have some 650 members, and we have to conform to Third Age Trust and Charity Commission requirements. Our current Secretary, Howard Brown keeps our records meticulously, and when he speaks you just listen as he focusses the committee to keep us compliant with requirements. The significant increase in membership and group activities has required the rewrite of our policy documents and the introduction of risk assessments for compliance with third-party insurance requirements

The Committee also just lost two key members for very different reasons. At the time of the AGM, Membership Secretary *Jo Sinclair*, had recently stepped down due to ill health. Jo had streamlined our membership operation and is sorely missed in Committee.

Georgette Vale has been retired by rules of office imposed by the Third Age Trust. One of these rules is that you can only serve for nine years on the Committee. Georgette joined the Committee in 2015 as Secretary and when we included the Secretary in the 3-year rule she had to step down and became Speaker Secretary. Whilst she will continue as Speaker Secretary, it will be from outside the Committee. Georgette has played a huge role over the nine years in developing our u3a and her contribution will be missed at Committee meetings. We are currently looking at our Constitution alongside Third Age Trust regulations and it is hoped that we shall be able to welcome Georgette back on the Committee in the future. Georgette was presented with a hamper by Vivienne Dollimore, Co-Honorary President of Wymondham u3a, in appreciation of her hard work.

So at the time of this AGM report there is a need four new Committee Members in the next twelve months. There is an immediate requirement for a Membership Secretary. and IT Controller, and by the next AGM in 2025 there is need for a new Secretary and a Treasurer, under the three-year rules of office.

##### b) Groups

A key role in our u3a is that of Group Leader and the whole membership has to thank the 50 or so members who lead groups. Without them our u3a would not function. Coordinating all the groups is Stuart Crowther. He manages to place many new members into groups and create many second and third groups to keep waiting lists down and members happy. It is also good to see completely new groups starting up being led by new members.

##### c) Learning activities

One of the initiatives coming out under the leadership of Gilly’s Spencer is our Life Long Learning section organised by Alan Browne. These are courses, seminars, and special interest days being offered to fill the void left by the demise of Wymondham WEA.

##### d) Finance

Our financial position is robust. We do not follow other u3a’s in building up large sums of money but retain enough to be prudent and as you have all seen we return surpluses to you the members in the form of reduced subscriptions.. The Committee also authorise spending money when it benefits us all..

d) Finance cont.

Moves had been made towards the 'cashless society' by the increased use of the Square bank card payment system. However the thorny problem remains over the 32% of cash (approximately £7,500) handed to the Treasurer for banking. This was mainly due to the £1 entrance fee on Thursday mornings. The closure of the NatWest bank, possible uncertainties over the long-term visits by the 'Bank Vans', had resulted in having to bank the cash in Norwich. This had raised concerns over where this cash could continue to be deposited. (Members in attendance later provided several suggestions to help resolve this problem, which would be subject to further study).

e) Social Activities

Our social activities were most successful last year and are being supported by more members. The regular coffee mornings attendance is also increasing. We are indebted to Iris Burden, who welcomes everyone to coffee mornings and open meetings; Sandie Fellingham and her team of volunteers who serve coffee every Thursday morning; and Gilly Spencer who has taken on the role of greeting new members and making them feel welcome.

f) The A.G.M. confirmed the re-election of the following five Committee Members/Trustees, plus the enforced retirement of Georgette Vale, *and the resignation of Jo Sinclair.*

Chair – John Dollimore

Vice-Chair and Newsletter Editor — John Peat

Secretary — Howard Brown

Treasurer — Geoffrey Briggs

Membership Sec. (acting) — John Peat

Groups Co-ordinator — Stuart Crowther

— [chair@wymondhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@wymondhamu3a.org.uk)

— [newsletter@wymondhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@wymondhamu3a.org.uk)

— [secretary@wymondhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wymondhamu3a.org.uk)

— [treasurer@wymondhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@wymondhamu3a.org.uk)

— [membership@wymondhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@wymondhamu3a.org.uk)

— [groups@wymondhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@wymondhamu3a.org.uk)

## 1.2. Charity Coffee Morning



I would like to thank all members who supported our Charity Coffee Morning in aid of the Nancy Oldfield Trust. To the many members who made cakes and donated prizes for the Tombola, you must all be very pleased with the overall results. We raised £804.18 on the day, which was a fantastic result.

As a result, on a bright sunny spring day in early March, John and Viv Dollimore made their way along the daffodil strewn lanes to the village of Neatishead in the northern Broads to visit the Nancy Oldfield Trust. They were met by the centre manager, Stephen, and shown round the impressive facilities. The centre offices, a very large accessible bungalow, a slip way into the water leading to Barton Broad and a large workshop. There were many different boats ranging from canoes to sailing boats and other various craft all of which were accessible showing the vast array of facilities the trust offers. John is pictured presenting Stephen with the cheque for the money raised at the charity coffee morning, and we hope it will contribute to the continuing success of the charity.

**Notes from the Chair** (*John Dollimore*) continued

1.3. Additional Holidays and Social events

1.3.1. Short Notice Holidays

**(You should have received and email with much greater detail for all three holidays and how to register interest)**

**Wednesday 12th June,2024 visit Chester**

Thursday 13th June visit Liverpool

Friday 14th June return to Wymondham

Cost £190

**Sunday 8th September 2024, travel to Canterbury**

Monday 9th September visit Canterbury Cathedral

Tuesday 10th September visit Deal and Walmer Castle and Gardens

Wednesday 11th September, visit Dover Castle

Thursday 12th September return to Wymondham

Cost £450

**Wednesday 18th December 2024, Travel to Kingussie**

Thursday 19th December.....Day out

Friday 20th December.....Day out

Saturday 21st December Day out

Sunday 22nd December, return to Wymondham

Cost £275 .

**Portsmouth Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June to Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> (Payment was required by the end of March)**

Would the three members who have not paid the outstanding balance on this holiday do so as we are now late with our payment

Thank you

1.3.2. Social

Thursday 27th June

Chinese Meal in Attleborough 7pm

44 places available

**2. Editors Notes**

In addition to all the regular information and reports, this issue brings you all the key points from the recent 2024 AGM held on March 7th, and additional social events to consider.

The Eastern Region of u3a has also asked each branch to make their members aware that they are entitled to attend learning events organised on a national basis and available through the likes of a ZOOM delivery.

These are in addition to the locally organised Life Long Learning events organised by Alan Browne.

Information for these national learning events can be accessed by GOOGLING either:

REGIONAL U3A WEBSITES  
EVENTS  
On-line learning events  
Sign up for mailing

REGIONAL U3A WEBSITES  
LEARN  
Interest groups on-line

NATIONAL U3A  
HOME  
On-line learning events  
Sign up for mailings

As usual, If you have any group or activity news that you think may be of interest to the greater membership, then please send the information to [newsletter@wymondhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@wymondhamu3a.org.uk) and I will see if I can fit it in.

### 3. Membership (John Peat )

#### 3.1. Beacon Personal Account

An excellent response with 162 of you having already opened your personal account, with many renewing membership through this route.

#### 3.2. Existing members personal data collection.

This exercise is **currently 60% complete** and continues to show up errors such as;

- a) incorrect phone numbers and even phone number formats.
- b) changes to phone numbers and email addresses where the Mem. Sec. has not been notified.
- c) but most significantly, the introduction and updating of emergency contact numbers. Group leaders are currently having to obtain this information from individuals when undertaking activities.

**This information should be available through Beacon.**

**N.B.** This information is not for Personal Accident or Holiday cover that you may already have and not considered it.

This is to ensure that each of us is protected by *The Third Age Trust third-party insurance cover*, and that our branch has taken all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of our own members, and the general public.

### **THIS ACTIVITY WILL BE CLOSED DOWN AT THE END OF APRIL**

For those **261** members yet to complete this task. **Please provide this information.**

**YOU never know when WE may need it to help YOU and YOUR family**

From these inputs we continue to create a list of those people that are offering their services as potential volunteers. We have not forgotten about you all, and when we have completed the data gathering activity you will be invited to meet the committee to discuss the various options available.

3.3. Membership renewal To date **457 members have renewed**, there are **161 outstanding renewals**

#### **To those who have not renewed by April 1st**

There is a period of grace of EIGHT weeks to renew

**OR YOU WILL HAVE LAPSED AND assumed to have RESIGNED**

Membership renewal is £10. Renew by:

- a) Personal Beacon account by credit or debit card
- b) Bank transfer **and ensure you put your membership number and surname** of the payee as the reference
- c) by card , cheques, and cash at Thursday coffee mornings

**If you do not intend to renew, please let me know, as that will save any unnecessary chasing up-**

3.4. Since the last issue we have welcomed the following new members:

Daphne Prentice

Sadly, in this period we have also lost Linda Waupotitsch, Jo Sinclair, and Odile Bulline.

Linda died after a swim at Park Farm Hotel in the afternoon of March 14th. She had attended the Thursday coffee morning and a Gardening Club meeting earlier in the day. Her funeral will take place at Breckland Crematorium on Wednesday 10th April , at 11 am. The wake will be held at Wymondham Rugby Club afterwards. If members are wanting to attend, then please contact Alan Provis, on email , [alanprovis@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alanprovis@yahoo.co.uk) or tel. 07815 486 941 for catering purposes.

Jo died in hospital on the evening of March 19th after a long illness. Jo joined us in June 2021 and took over the role of Membership Secretary in November 2022. She was taken ill the Autumn of 2023 and officially resigned as Membership Secretary in January 2024. We understand that her funeral will take place in Yorkshire, but at the moment we have no further details.

Odile passed away in the morning of March 30th . She joined u3a when she moved to Wymondham in 2009 and was very active then – of course less so in recent years.

Our thoughts are with the families of Linda, Jo, and Odile at this sad time.

#### 4. Groups (Stuart Crowther)

Nothing specific to report this month but If you wish to discuss anything related to Groups and activities then please contact me by email at: [stuartgcrowther@aol.com](mailto:stuartgcrowther@aol.com)

### LIFE LONG LEARNING

#### NOTICE BOARD

(Alan Browne)



#### 5. LIFE LONG LEARNING

##### 5.1. Special Interest Day

For a report on this successful event see 6.2.

##### 5.2. Future Courses (Coming up after Easter)

**HATCHED, MATCHED & DISPATCHED** Fridays April 5<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 10.00 to 12.00. Tiffey Room

This course looks at the many different types of documents and manuscripts produced by local and regional ecclesiastical organisations which help us to tell the stories of generations of ordinary parishioners from the Tudor period to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

**EXPLORING THE DIARY OF A GEORGIAN PARISH CLERK** Friday May 24<sup>th</sup>. 9.30 to 3.00. Tiffey Room  
Charles Souter was Parish Clerk of the small rural village of Sileham just on the Suffolk side of the River Waveney. He regularly chronicled his everyday experiences in a diary and being a key officer of the local church he recorded the births, marriages and deaths of his fellow parishioners.

The cost of these courses will depend on the number of members attending.

For further details, or to register, for any courses please email [courses@wymondhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:courses@wymondhamu3a.org.uk)

### REPORT

#### Life Long Learning Special Interest day: Engineering our Future Energy Requirements

Over 70 of us gathered in Central Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> March. We had fifteen attendees from other u3as, 4 four non u3a members, and four students from Wymondham College and Attleborough Academy.

There were four speakers.

George Freeman MP spoke enthusiastically about the opportunities for the economy of Norfolk, and especially the burgeoning developments in life sciences research.

Jack Raven from Sizewell C took us through its planning stages and outlined the economic benefits of the scheme to the local economy, in addition to electricity generation.

Dr Sophie Day from UEA provided some graphic examples of the effect of climate change on our Norfolk coast and explained the science behind erosion.

Chris Warrick from the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority outlined how Nuclear Fusion works and how difficult it is to use it for electricity generation.

A lively audience posed many questions for all our speakers.

Thanks are due to Randal Richards for tempting our speakers to Wymondham; to Georgette Vale and Steve Broderick for managing the audio /visuals; to Sandie Fellingham, Pat Speller, Barbara Fielder and Sylvia Vickers for the refreshments and setting out and clearing away the buffet lunch; to those who set up and cleared the hall; and to John Dollimore for his organisation skills and advice.

## NOTICE BOARD: DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 4th April

At 2.00 p.m.

Wymondham Central Hall      Monthly Talks



# The Pantanal

**Julia Burton**



Julia combines her hobbies of photography, wildlife and travel. She will also consider concerns for conservation and climate change in this South American tropical wetland

Free for members - £2 for non-members  
For more information about Wymondham u3a  
[www.u3asites.org.uk/Wymondham](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/Wymondham)

### COFFEE MORNINGS

#### Thursdays

April	4th and 18th	09.00-12.00
	11th and 25th	09.00-11.00



May	4th and 18th	09.00-12.00
	11th and 25th	09.00-11.00

#### Sundays

**APRIL ONWARDS**  
Every Sunday  
in the Tiffey Room 10.00—12.00

### CURRY EVENINGS

**Rose of India, Attleborough at 19.00**

Wednesday May 22nd:

Wednesday August 21st (**N.B. corrected date**)

Wednesday November 20th

### MAY MONTHLY TALK

Thursday 2nd May At 2.00 p.m.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Nik Chapman CBE

### 2024 COACH TRIPS



### 2024 HOLIDAYS

#### HOLLAND

May 2024

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>

(several twin, or double rooms available)

#### PORTSMOUTH

June 2024

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June to Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>

(several twin, or double rooms available)

**Payment required by the end of March**

#### THE LAKE DISTRICT

September 2024

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 20<sup>th</sup>

(seven twin, or double rooms available )

**Balance due by the end of May**

Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Neatishead	£25
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Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Burghey House	£35
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**(Payment due by end of April)**

Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	River Deben	£35
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Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> July	Audley End House	£35
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Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> August	Norfolk Broads	£45
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Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Melford Hall	£25
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Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	RAF Duxford	£40
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Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Springfields	£15
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Any members wishing to go on the above trips should see John Dollimore, or the Travel Desk, on Thursday mornings

A £10 deposit secures your seat on the coach.

All balances should be paid in the month before travel.

If you cancel, refunds are at the discretion of the Committee.

## **6. Activity Reports**

### **6.1. March talk . Wymondham Rotary and Rotary Satellite Groups– John Betts (Georgette Vale)**

Following the AGM we had a short presentation about these groups by John Betts – assisted by other members of both groups. He dispelled a few common myths. Rotary is not a secret organisation, neither is it political or religious. It is not exclusive and is certainly not “men only”.

Founded in Chicago in 1905 it came to London in 1912. The mission statement is “To provide service to other people, promote integrity , advance world understanding, goodwill and peace.” This has been shown as globally they have been instrumental in working on eradication of polio.

The Wymondham Rotary Club was founded in 1959 and Wymondham Rotary Satellite Group was set up in 2015. They work closely together. The main differences being the original club meets weekly for lunch at the Bird in Hand at Wrenningham – and the Satellite group meets fortnightly from 6.00 to 7.00 pm at Star Throwers and they only have tea (and maybe biscuits). Together they have raised a great deal of money for local causes including Star Throwers, Headway, Wymondham Dementia Group, and Home Start.

They organise events in the town – including the very successful Food and Drink Festival, their Quiz nights, and the Jazz Picnic. They also sponsor young people to attend RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards).

Reasons given for being a Rotarian are that it is sociable, fun and rewarding with opportunities to be creative and to make a difference locally and globally.