

From the Chairman

Summer Continues!

We have entered what the newspapers call the 'silly season'. Parliament is in recess, the schools are out, holiday fever is upon us, and the silliest of stories and surveys start to flood our newspapers and news media. This season is not peculiar to Britain. The Spanish call silly season stories *serpientes de verano*, or summer snakes, because they go on and on. In practical Germany the season is formally known as *das Sommerloch*, or the summer hole, or informally as *die Sauregurkenzeit*, or pickled gherkin time. Many countries, in fact, have taken the cucumber route, for reasons unclear but possibly to do with the idea that all that's left for an honest reporter to do in August is cover record-breaking vegetables: thus the Dutch *komkommertijd*, the Polish *sezon ogórkowy* and the Norwegian *agurktid*, not to forget the Hebrew *onat ha'melafefonim*. In Sweden, though, it's the *nyhetstorka* (news drought), and a silly season story is a *rötmånadshistoria*, literally a "rotting-month story". The French refer to *la morte-saison*, or the dead season, while the kind of articles that often crop up in it are *marronniers*, or old chestnuts.

You may be thinking that this rambling is to excuse the fact that I was having difficulty in thinking of something new to say in my editorial and at the outset you may have been right, but as I scribed other thoughts flooded in. Two more stories.

In 1990 BT began the process of devising a new advertising campaign to follow on from the highly successful campaign featuring Maureen Lipman. Yes, it is that long ago. With 67 per cent market share and no significant competitor, it was fundamentally about changing attitudes towards communications. They realised that were, in fact, in the business of 'Reciprocated Confidences'. In particular, it was about changing the attitudes of the (male) bill-paying gatekeeper. Women were BT's heavy users and naturally more disposed to reciprocate confidences with friends and families.

It was the blokes who didn't do it. And who didn't approve of it being done. Not satisfied with the brilliant simplicity of the line, they also wrapped up the whole campaign by employing Bob Hoskins to deliver it in his inimitable macho Cockney style, thus talking directly to the blokes.

Thus, the long running campaign 'It's good to talk' was born.



Delivering two cycles donated by U3A Wymondham member, Helen Roberts, to Bicycle Links, Norwich. Bicycle Links acts as a commercial cycle shop and runs several schemes to support people in the community. They also act as a collecting point for the charity Re-cycle (www.re-cycle.org) that sends refurbished cycles to Africa.

Story No. 2: the other day for the first time in decades I had to change a tyre that had gone flat, fortunately at home. I found myself in STS tyres in Wymondham with quite a wait for my car to be ready. From her sighs and body language a young woman sitting in reception was clearly having a trying day. It culminated in her struggle with the coffee machine which led to us having a conversation. In the past month I had been in email correspondence with a certain person regarding the renewal of a lease of land belonging to a local Trust. It emerged that I was talking to his wife and the whole experience of yet another 'small world encounter', which brightened both our days.

These thoughts and experiences made me reflect upon the essence of U3A. More than anything else it is about the formation of relationships, the sharing of confidences, finding it is good to talk and from time to time even discovering more of those 'small world encounters' that brighten up our lives. That as much as anything else is why I, and I suspect many of you, enjoy U3A.

*John Hooper
Chairman*

Social Team News

Holiday in Kent 2 - 8 July 2018

Some photographs taken during the holiday have been placed on the website. Go to:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/wymondham/page/72357>

or follow the links:

U3A Wymondham/Holidays/Past Holidays/
Kent July - 2018

Coach Trips

Final payments are due at the August Open Meeting for both Norfolk Broads boat trip and Thursford. Anyone who would like to join us is very welcome, there are places available.

Christmas lunch

There are 10 places available for Christmas lunch on Friday 7th December.

There will be a Sausage and Mash evening in Oct with entertainment organised by Gilly - full details to follow.

There will also be a Curry Evening on Wednesday 14 November at the Rose of India, Attleborough - details from Brenda Guardi or John Dollimore

Beacon News

Paul Moss's expertise in running our Beacon data system has been recognised by his appointment as a **Beacon Regional Supporter** and secondly as a **Beacon Functional Tester**. The first role involves visiting or contacting U3As who may be considering using the Beacon administration program and giving presentations prior to their applying to adopt it. Subsequently he will be advising them throughout their Beacon Journey from initial interest to going live and providing support for up to six months thereafter. The second role involves assisting the Beacon Development team to ensure that Beacon remains stable and continues to function as it should after any software change. The role also offers the opportunity to contribute to the development and enhancement of Beacon.

Members who have joined recently

Fred Cooke, Sylvia Cooke, Pamela Halhead, Janet Healy, Alma Thorn and Ella Websdale

Officers of U3A Wymondham (2018/19)

Chair - John Hooper - johnhooper66@btinternet.com
Vice-Chair - Paul Findlay - ap.findlay@btinternet.com
Secretary - Georgette Vale - georgette@ValeMail.eu
Treasurer - Stuart Crowther - stuartgcrowther@aol.com
Membership Sec. - John Spencer -
wymu3amem@outlook.com
Groups Co-ordinator - Lorna Tomlinson -
lorna.gplead16@yahoo.co.uk

Discovering Norwich - Future visits

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)

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

Appreciating the significance of interest rates

In the past I have allowed myself to feel that the difference between an interest rate of 1%, 2% or 3% was fairly insignificant. And then I came across another way of expressing the effect of the variation in rates. That is to consider how long it would take for the capital sum to double. To gain an approximation you just divide the rate into seventy. So, if the rate was 1% it would take 70 years, 2% - 35 years and 3% - 23 years, approximately.

This thinking can be applied outside finance. Supposing a politician says "A town's water consumption is increasing by 3% per year". Sounds manageable. But if that is rephrased to "We need to double water supplied every 23 years" does it still sound manageable?

editor

FutureLearn and OpenLearn

The Open University's 'FutureLearn' project provides many free courses of study together with a discussion forum and comments from tutors. But, it now restricts access to the course material and forum after the course's completion unless a payment is made.

However, some of the course material is now available for an indefinite time on the OpenLearn site without payment; but without the discussion forum or tutor input. To see available courses goto

<http://www.open.edu/openlearn/>

editor

Future monthly meetings

Sept 6 - The History of Policing in Norfolk - Peter Billingham

Oct 4 - Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies - Martin Lloyd

Nov 1 - Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe, two medieval mystics - Georgette Vale

Dec 6 - Education for Disabled children, what an outrageous idea - Anna Cottrell

Preliminary details of U3A Wymondham 2019 Holidays

South Wales - Monday 6 May to Friday 10 May

Staying at the Fishguard Bay Hotel, Fishguard

<http://www.fishguardbayhotel.co.uk/>

Price £350 per person, which includes coach, dinner, bed and breakfast and entrance to excursions.

Paignton - Sunday 30 June to Saturday 6 July

Staying at The Redcliffe Hotel, Paignton

<http://www.redcliffehotel.co.uk/>

Price £550 per person, which includes coach, dinner, bed and breakfast, swimming pool and entrance to excursions.

Cotswolds - Monday 26 to Saturday 31 August

Staying at The Oxford Belfry, Milton Common,

Nr Thame

<https://www.ghotels.co.uk/our-locations/the-oxford-belfry/>

Price £480 per person, which includes coach, dinner, bed and breakfast, swimming pool and entrance to excursions.

Chester - Monday 2 Dec to Thursday 5 December

Staying at The Beaufort Park Hotel, Mold, Flintshire

<http://www.beaufortparkhotel.co.uk/>

Coach, Dinner bed and breakfast, entrance to all excursions.

Price £250 per person, which includes coach, dinner, bed and breakfast and entrance to excursions.

Please note:

- Single rooms are in very short supply this year. Please ask if you require one. Single room supplements will apply.
- A deposit of £50 is required if you wish to reserve a place.
- A full itinerary will be published later in the year.
- It is your responsibility to make final payments on time. Dates for final payment:
 - South Wales by the February Open Meeting
 - Paignton by the March Open Meeting
 - Cotswolds by the May Open Meeting
 - Chester by the August Open Meeting

If you are interested, please see John Dollimore

Johndollimore45@gmail.com

07928887780



Fishguard Bay Hotel



The Redcliffe Hotel



The Oxford Belfry



The Beaufort Park Hotel