



*Coffee Mornings (10.00 am - noon Thursdays) will be held in the main hall, apart from the days when NHS Blood and Transplant is present.*

## From the Chairman

May I begin by wishing you all a great time over Christmas and New Year and to thank you for your support during the past year at open meetings, groups, holidays, trips and other activities. Particular thanks to Group leaders, hosts and everyone who has organised activities during the past year.

Several changes are on the horizon as follows:

**Rolling membership:** you will be aware that we introduced a system of rolling membership i.e. your membership renewal date was the date of joining. Because of technical issues with our membership database we have decided to revert to an annual membership as from the 1 April each year. Full details of the process and payment will be given in the renewal letters issued in due course.

**Permanent membership cards:** innovation continues apace we will now be issuing lifetime membership cards similar in size and quality to a credit card. These will go easily into a purse or wallet and we would encourage you to present them at coffee mornings, open meetings and events so we can record attendance. Please keep them safe. We may introduce a small administrative charge for replacements.

**Name Badges:** feedback from members indicates a potential demand for name badges. Placing your new permanent membership card in a holder would enable this to happen. We will be sounding out the membership on this idea and if a significant number indicate this is something they would like to have we will seek to purchase holders at no cost to members.

**Computers:** Following an offer to help set up and lead a group the prospect for forming a group is looking more promising. If you are interested in developing basic computer skills please let Lorna our groups' organiser have your name.

This year I became aware of the death of at least four members, Mike Poulton, Eric Couzens and recently Janet Clements and Mary Fletcher. From time to time I am told about members who are unwell and/or unable to get to meetings. As an organisation we should be concerned for the well-being of members and their families and Marje Findlay has agreed to coordinate information about the death of a member or long term illness. If anyone becomes aware of any of these matters affecting members can they please let Marje know. You can contact her via: <https://u3asites.org.uk/wymondham/contact> and use the 'Welfare' button.

Finally, do remember to regularly explore our web site: <https://u3asites.org.uk/wymondham> which contains a wealth of information.

January's Open Meeting will be held at the Wymondham & District Ex Service's Social Club (The Regal, Friarscroft Lane Wymondham).

*John Hooper*

## Fraud and Scams

Paul Moss (IT and Website) writes 'I'm sometimes contacted by members who warn me of a particular fraud or scam in order that I can pass it on to you all. I thank all those who do so - we all need to be aware of such things.

Christmas is certainly the busiest time for scammers and fraudsters and we all need to be particularly vigilant. I couldn't possibly post details of each type of scam or fraud as there are thousands of them so, on our website, there is a page 'Scams & More'.

I have updated this page with the latest version of the 'Little Book Of Big Scams' and a link to 'Take Five' which has some very useful information.

Please take some time to read this page as most scams and fraud use the same basic principles.'

## Social News

**Spring Special** - Sunday Lunch on the North Norfolk Railway - Sunday 24 March 2019 - 3 course Sunday Lunch (silver service) with two return journeys from Sheringham to Holt  
Coach from Wymondham Central Hall - cost £52.50 - £10 deposit and balance in January  
Limited spaces, so please book your place at this month's Open Meeting.

### 2019 Coach trips

May 31 - Cambridge Botanic Gardens - £16  
Aug 23 - Norfolk Broads - £33  
Sept 27 - Imperial War Museum Duxford - £25  
Audley End House in July and Thursford in November - dates not yet confirmed

### 2019 Holidays

May 6-10 - South Wales - 2 twin rooms available @ £350pp  
June 30-6 July - Paignton - 3 twin rooms available @ £550pp  
Aug 26-31 - Cotswold - 2 twin rooms available @ £480pp  
Dec 2-5 - Chester - 8 twin/double rooms available @ £250pp  
*John Dollimore*

## News from the Groups

To register for a group or for more information contact Lorna Tomlinson.

**Scrabble** - with the sad loss of the leaders of both groups there is no longer a viable group. Anyone interested in forming a new group should contact Lorna.

**Personal Computers** - done the course, logged on, signed up to email? What next? How do you stay safe online, do backups, get along on Facebook, wonder about ebay, how do I find, buy, sell and exchange stuff online? These might be some of the questions you have, and some of the answers we can work through supply in informal 'how to' sessions of hints and tips with refreshments and a chance to ask more questions.

*Sam Denniss*

**Travellers Tales** - members have just had a very interesting afternoon learning about Peru, but we realise that an awful lot of you are missing out by not joining us.

If you are interested in hearing about The Azores or life in Abu Dhabi contact Lorna. These 2 sessions are early January and February. We would welcome some new members!

**Knit and Natter** and the **Stash Busters** groups thank everyone who supported their Christmas Craft stalls in November.

### Members who have joined recently

Ondra Allison, Catharine Anstey, Alison Cotterill, Keith Jordan, Susan Jordan, Caroline Moffatt, Daphne Pearson and Simon Wade

**Astronomy 1** - On a recent Wednesday evening in a dark region of Wymondham the hardy members of Astronomy 1 group were treated to magnificent views of the night sky. Lovely, clear sightings of Mars, Saturn and Jupiter plus various constellations, multiple other stars and, to top it all, the International Space Station.

Saturn and the rings were observed through my telescope and then we all braved the elements, while you were all warm and cosy, to stare and look at the magnificence of the evening sky. A delightful evening.

*Wendy Bowles*

### Pub walks group

We meet on the first Monday of the month starting at 11.00 o'clock at various pubs which provide access to circular walks of about 3 miles. The pubs are mainly within a few miles of Wymondham and offer a range of affordable meals and snacks. However, the consumption of food and drink is not compulsory. It is not a 'pub crawl' or a route march. It is just a pleasant stroll starting and ending at a pub.

Both the pubs and the walks vary. In October the pub was the thatched Chequers in Thompson and the walk was over open fields in the Brecks. In November it was the Feathers and roads in and around Wymondham. The Red Lion at Bishop Bridge and the riverside walk in Norwich have also featured in the past year.

The idea is to have a pleasant walk, enjoying the sights along the way, and then to get together at a welcoming hostelry. As with so many activities in U3A, it is as much about the people and the chat as it is about the walk or the lunch.

In Ringland, we called at the lovely medieval church only to find that they were holding an exhibition and serving tea and cakes. What with the friendliness of the people and the allure of the cakes, it was all we could do to persuade the group to continue on our way. On that occasion the route took us over part of the Ringland hills (rare things in Norfolk) and along the Wensum valley to the Swan pub.

Numbers taking part vary from twelve to twenty-four. In theory, we have a full complement of members, but if you would like to join us get in touch. We may be able to squeeze you in.

*Paul Findlay*

### Discovering Norwich 2019

January	The Undercroft	£10
February	TBC	
March	Norwich Cathedral	£5
April	Ketts Hill	
May	September	to be confirmed
October	Norfolk Records Office	

## Wine Appreciation Group's Sussex Vineyard Tour

If you like a good wine then don't miss this opportunity to taste some of the best. Join us for the tour in July 2019. Over 3 days starting 9 July we will visit 4 very different vineyards, from one of the smallest to one of the largest and including England's first organic wine producer. Experts will take us through the vines and the wineries, explaining the wine producing process and there will be a chance to sample and buy some of the best English wines.

If 4 vineyards are too much for you the tour offers an alternative. Visit 2 vineyards and have a free day in our base town, Eastbourne. You could explore the town and shop, soak up the sun on the marvellous beach or use your bus pass to explore further afield and maybe visit one of the many local attractions such as The Observatory Science Centre or Beachy Head.

The tour costs just £250pp (£225pp for the alternative tour) and includes travel by luxury coach, 2 nights B&B in a beach front hotel in Eastbourne and all vineyard entries.

For further details or to book, contact Bill Yeates  
019530605107 [yeates.ws@gmail.com](mailto:yeates.ws@gmail.com)

The tour is limited to 45 places so book today.

## 389<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Museum, Hethel

We have the opportunity to arrange a private visit to this very interesting local museum and met Fred, who as an 11-year-old befriended aircrew flying out of the airfield. Likely late February/early March. If you are be interested please let Lorna know.

*John Hooper*

## In Flanders Field

In Flanders Field  
The poppies grow,  
Much fuelled by the rain  
And by the bodies of the men  
Who gave their lives in vain.

They fought and died  
So we could live  
In families just like theirs,  
Left saddened by the loss  
Of boys, of men  
Across the years.

But God has brought  
The poppy fields  
To beautify their loss,  
So now we can remember them  
For ever from the past.

*Florence Willamott*

This poem, by U3A member,  
Florence, was read at the Coffee  
Morning on 8 Nov 2018.

## The Trial of Miriam Pratt

A group of us attended the re-enactment of the trial at the Shire Hall Court in Norwich Castle, performed by Springboard East.

Miriam was a teacher and a suffragette who was accused of setting fire to a house in Cambridge in 1913. She initially said she would not recognise the court until she had a vote, because it was a completely male institution.

We heard from her uncle - a police officer who said that a watch found at the scene was like one she had - she said there were lots like that. We heard from her landlady who said that night she saw that Miriam had a small cut on a finger. The headmistress at the school where she had worked spoke against her. It appeared that she was an excellent teacher but was dismissed simply because she thought women should have the vote. In her defence we heard a character reference from a fellow suffragette, Marian Aitken, daughter of the Dean of Norwich Cathedral and a well-known militant suffragette.

We were asked to give our opinion and the audience voted overwhelmingly for a not-proven verdict (which was not available at the time). Very few of us thought there was any evidence beyond reasonable doubt that she was guilty.

In reality the jury found her guilty within five minutes and she was sentenced to 18 months hard labour. She went on hunger strike and was force fed - we heard what an excruciatingly painful thing that was. She was released a couple of times under the Cat and Mouse Act - where suffragettes were released from prison until they got a bit better and then were re-arrested to go through it all again.

Well done Springboard East - and we look forward to the next re-enactment.

*Georgette Vale*

## Wymondham U3A Speakers 2019

- Jan 3 - SERV Norfolk Blood Bikes - Adrian Carey
- Feb 7 - Making Tracks through Mid Norfolk Railway - Paddy Anstey
- March 7 - Turning my life around - Tracy Mackness
- April 4 - AGM and Roadside Nature Reserves - Roger Jones
- May 2 - People Power Part 2, The Modern Era - Tania Harrington
- June 6 - Discover what really amuses your friends and why - Diane Simpson
- July 4 - From Mexico to City to Cancun - Pat and Philip Aker
- Aug 1 - Jane Pavey Bayeux a story told in Tapestry - Jane Pavey
- Sept 5 - Arthur's story as a POW and the Lamsdorf Death March - Linda Burkett
- Oct 3 - the History of Sewage Treatment - John Spencer
- Nov 7 - Miss Reeve's Own Battle - Georgette Vale
- Dec 5 - Festive Poems and tales of everyday life - Doreen Reed

**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 - stuartcrowther@aol.com  
Membership Sec. - John Spencer - wynu3amem@outlook.com  
Groups Co-ordinator - Lorna Tomlinson - lorna.gplead16@yahoo.co.uk