

From the chairman

All Change - the membership renewals process

Whilst we all tend to resist change, change is important in keeping all things healthy and this is no less true of our U3A. We are in the process of instigating a major change to our membership renewals process to make it more efficient and eliminate long queues at our open meetings. It is important that you not only read this editorial but keep a careful watch on your emails in the coming weeks. For those not on email we will communicate in alternative ways.

Historically U3A Wymondham renewed all members in April of each year. However, moving membership records to a new administrative system (Beacon) has allowed us to change to a rolling membership. New members can now join at any time of the year and renew their membership on the anniversary of joining.

Beacon also makes it possible to manage our records on-line utilising email to reach the 85% of our members that have this facility. This helps to keep our running costs and membership fees down. Updating personal details has been separated from the membership renewals process (an email was circulated last November) and therefore you will no longer need to queue at the AGM or other open meetings for this purpose.

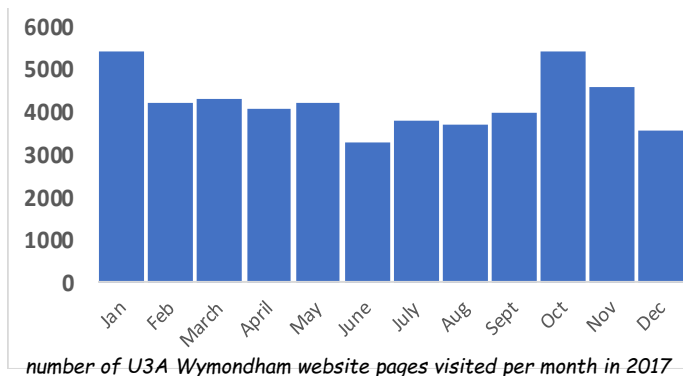
Those who are on email will know that we already use email each month to access the newsletter and provide news and other information. Beacon and the email system is also now used extensively for and by groups. In addition, there is a wealth of information on our website and the attached graph shows it is well visited.

When you need to renew your membership you will receive a renewal notice by email approximately 8 weeks before that date. Full details and instructions on how and where to make payment will be included in this email. If you are not receiving emails, or having trouble opening them, please speak to the Membership Secretary, John Spencer, as we may have the wrong email address for you.

So message of the month is **'Read your Emails'** and check them regularly otherwise you might miss your renewal notification. Those not on email will receive your renewal notification by post approximately 8 weeks before your renewal date.

Should you have any questions then please contact the Membership Secretary, John Spencer.

John Hooper



Social Events

Coach Trips - bookings for are now being taken.

Details of trips are on the website, notice board and leaflets at open meetings.

Holidays - twin/double rooms available for the three holidays (Scotland in May, Kent in July and Yorkshire in August). Single rooms available for the Kent holiday. See John for full details.

Theatre - tickets (£12) are available now for 'Here I Belong' on Saturday 7 April.

Lunches - tickets (£10) for the April Lunch. are now on sale. Tickets for the August and Christmas Lunches will also cost £10 per person. The December Christmas Lunch will be held on **Friday 7 December**.

Chairman's Garden Party on Saturday 2 June - tickets (£10) will be on sale in March.

Great Yarmouth - On a Friday in June there will be a tour of Great Yarmouth with the guide describing the history of the town. After travelling by bus, we will meet at St Nicholas Church, Great Yarmouth at 11.30 am. There will then be a one-hour walk, a break for lunch and a second one-hour walk. Apart from the cost of lunch the guided tour will be free.

Thirty members can be accommodated on a tour, and if necessary a second tour could be arranged. Anyone interested going should contact John Dollimore.

Annual General Meeting

U3A Wymondham's AGM will be held on 1 March 2018 at 2pm, before the Open Meeting.

If you would like to stand for election onto the Committee, please complete an Election of Officers form, available on the U3A Wymondham website or from the Secretary, Georgette Vale, 26 Sycamore Ave, Wymondham, NR18 0HX (01953 605434 or 07867 681839). Completed forms should be handed to Georgette Vale, Secretary, as soon as possible, preferably by the 1 February.

News from the Groups

Lorna, Groups Co-ordinator, will be at most Coffee Mornings.

A new **Bridge Club** meets in the Tiffey Room on Monday mornings between 10am and 1pm. They play Chicago Bridge at an intermediate level and this is not suitable for beginners. Any members who plays Bridge, would be welcome. Cost is £2 a session.

Wednesday Games Days - in the Tiffey Room, games of Bridge, Mah Jong and Rummikub are played from 10am until 12.30pm. Anyone wishing to learn to play Bridge would be most welcome.

Carpet Bowls are played in the afternoon (Wed) and usually at least 3 of the 6 available mats are in use. Anyone wishing to play should arrive at Central Hall just before 1pm. Cost £2 per session.

Possible new or potentially revised groups

Aviation - possible topics could be aviation history, future developments, basic aerodynamics and aircraft construction. Visits to museums etc could also be included but that would incur costs. (Keith Tomlinson)

A Beginner's' Digital Photography group

German Conversation - is there sufficient interest to form such a group?

Science & Technology - anyone interested in joining such a group? (and to raise interest links have been added to the website Notices page to sites dealing with: average climate temperature change, proportion of electricity currently being generated by wind, gas etc. and a 'Retro Technology Museum'! *Editor*)

Ukulele Group to be revived - Margi Ferrari and Alan Browne invite players and beginners to join them in fun packed, enjoyable sessions. We're hoping to meet fortnightly. If you're interested please contact Margi (marg.ferrari@gmail.com) or Alan (alanjackbrowne@yahoo.co.uk).

Contact Lorna Tomlinson - lorna.gplead16@yahoo.co.uk if you are interested in any these proposed groups.

Bookclubs

"Hallo my name is Wendy and I am hostess and co-ordinator for two bookclubs. 'Lets Talk Books' and 'Bookworms', which meet at my house every 6 weeks.

We don't have set books, but each person comes and tells us about the books they have been reading. It seems to work, for when you hear about other people's preference's it widens our horizons.

If you want talk to me about books you enjoy reading please find me at an Open Meeting or coffee morning."
Wendy Bowles

History for the Curious: a sideways look at history

There are two groups meeting in the afternoon on the first Tuesday and the third Monday of the month. We are study groups where all of us carry out some research before each meeting so that we can contribute to the general discussion. We look at social and political history, culture and some scientific developments.

Currently, **Group 1** is researching 20th Century History and have just been looking at all aspects of life during the period 1900 to 1939. We are currently looking at the causes of WW2.

Group 2 has been investigating the History of Medicine, looking at its development and the impact of gender, class and religion on the provision of medicine. This group is currently researching Influential Women in the UK.

Here is a perspective from a recent new member: "I joined the group because I like history and enjoy learning. I enjoy undertaking the research each month because I believe the more you put into it the more you get out of it! Ultimately you can research as much as you wish but it just gives the next meeting more structure and adds to the enjoyment. I found our recent study of the History of Medicine very interesting, with each member researching specific periods and myself taking the Tudors and Stuart period. I now know much more about the four humours and have an overall understanding of the history of medicine from Galen to Christiaan Barnard! We are now moving on to Influential Women in Britain which I suggested - Eleanor of Aquitaine here I come! Oh and I nearly forgot to mention that I also get to enjoy Ros's excellent home cooking!" (Mike Stopp)

There are no vacancies in either group at the moment.
Ros Krieger

Members who have joined in January

Jaqueline Barnes, Neil Baxter, Wendy Baxter, Janet Chatting, Alan Clingo, Carol Ann Diack, Charles Newby, Karen Overton and John Smith

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

Four by Four Stage Plays - 22 & 23 Feb in Central Hall. Wymondham (Price Concession)

The next stage production of Wymondham-based play writing group, Four by Four, will be their tenth and to mark the occasion U3A members are being offered a ticket price concession.

Tickets are normally £7, including light snacks, but a special concession price of £6 has been agreed for U3A Wymondham members, on presentation of your U3A membership card at the door.

Tickets can be booked in advance on 01953 861336 or by e-mail via playline4x4@hotmail.co.uk

Toadwatch - Volunteers Needed.

The common toad is no longer common in the UK. Every springtime, at nightfall, toads try to get back to their ancestral ponds to spawn a new generation. The problem is that many of them get killed on the roads.

Several U3A members are Toadwatch volunteers but we could always do with more. All it entails is being on a rota and being prepared to go a few times during the springtime each week for an hour or so with a bucket, a torch and a hi-vis vest.

If you are interested - or if you just want more information - please contact Georgette Vale on 01953 605434 or 07867 681839 or Georgette@ValeMail.eu.

You could play your part in saving a species from extinction. Even if you cannot help us then please drive extra carefully at dusk in springtime near to ponds especially if you see people with hi-vis jackets and buckets.

All Aboard! (a response to isolation issues)

(This is an abbreviated press release)

Hub Community Project, a Wymondham based charity, is launching a new project for those who feel lonely or isolated to meet up with others for companionship, food & fun. This will be in the format of a 'holiday at home' with 3 days of themed activities and entertainment including a coach outing. Refreshments and lunch will be provided. The project is supported by two local retailers, One Stop and the Co-op, each by making a grant towards the costs. The Manager of Wymondham Co-op (Wymondham Market Place), Alan Tilley, said "I am really proud that we can support such a worthwhile cause in our community"

All Aboard, will take place Tues 10 to Thurs 12 April at the Hub, Ayton Road, Wymondham, NR18 0QJ. The aim is to gather older people and connect them with those with similar interests so that lasting friendships can be formed. At the close of the project people will be signposted to local activities; with a companion it is hoped that they will be able to play a fuller part in the community.

Speakers booked for 2018

March 1 - AGM + Medieval Graffiti, the lost voices of English Churches - Matt Champion

April 5 - People Power, the History of Portraiture - Tania Harrington

May 3 - Getting to know Garden Birds, the work of the British Trust for Ornithology - Claire Boothby

June 7 - The Prince's Trust - Tom Browne

July 5 - Norwich Castle Keep, rebuilding for the Twenty First Century - Dr Tim Pestell

Aug 2 - Climate Change, a real but solvable problem - Richard Black

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

WEA - Spring term course

FLAPPERS 'n' FLIERS - Pioneers of the Air starting 8 February

This course covers developing air-routes; air-races embodying the national pride of participating nations; striving for records of endurance, altitude, speed with both men and women seeking to be 'first'. It also encompasses the politics of aerial domination and aerial policing - influences that extended well beyond the decade. In a lighter note, it looks at flying fashions; barnstormers and stunt pilots, male and female - Flappers 'n' Flyers - frolics through the golden age of aviation looking at the antics and escapades of the airmen and airwomen. The young woman sunbathing naked on the wing of her machine to more serious developments in air travel and the courage of those trail-blazing pioneers who began shrinking the world for countless folks to follow in unheard of comfort - well, sort of.

This is a 7 week course on Thursday mornings, 10am-12 noon, from 8 Feb to 22 March 2018. The tutor is Ian McLachlan, the venue Wymondham Abbey Hall, Church Street, NR18 OPH and the fee £51.

For more information, please contact: Ros Krieger on 01953 600639 or email rkrieger@talktalk.net

The project costs £30 per person inclusive of refreshments, lunch, coach & entry fees. Booking is essential, for a booking form please call 01953 798505. For more information please contact Linda, email linda.bradbeer@lineone.net or call 01603 812619

Hub Community Project runs a number of support activities for families in the community, see their website www.hubproject.org.uk for full details.