

## From the Chairman - Last but One!

This is my penultimate editorial, the last three years having passed amazingly quickly. More will be said at the AGM next month which I urge you to support. The AGM is your opportunity to elect officers and committee members for the coming year and it is important that we have at least 20% of our members present for a quorum to enable elections and other decisions to take place.

I would like to thank you all for the support you have given to your U3A and to me personally these past three years. During that time there has been indispensable support from a vast army of people, much done unnoticed by 'unsung heroes'. The list of jobs is endless, setting up the hall, providing tea and coffee at coffee mornings and open meeting, dealing with all our audio visual needs, accounting for our funds, secretarial works, group leaders, promoting holidays and day trips, occasional lunches and committee meetings. Thank you each and every one of you for your contributions.

Last month I referred to the 'problem' of groups being full. Only this week I received an email from a lady who has recently joined only to discover all three groups she was interested in were 'full'. Once again, I would urge members to think 'outside the box' and think imaginatively and boldly of ways to increase group capacity; maybe a larger home or room, is there scope to split a group despite a natural reluctance to do so; are there cheap or free meeting rooms available elsewhere.

I also spoke last month of how the U3A Trust is promoting a U3A Day on Wed 3 June 2020. I understand that it has been decided that our celebration is going to be on Sat 6 June. I regret that I shall miss it as we have a wedding in the diary for that date, but would again encourage you all to give it your full support.

During my term as Chair we have seen some groups 'disappear', new ones springing up and others rising Phoenix-like from the ashes. Thank you to all those leaders and hosts. There have been other things that I have sought to promote such as U3A study days and similar educational based events. I have not forgotten golf and after March I will have more time???

In supporting your new committee after the AGM do make them aware of your views on all aspects of your U3A, whether it be the kind of holidays and trips, feedback on open meetings, how you pay for things and anything else. It's your U3A and the committee is there for the purpose of meeting your needs and sustaining a healthy, sustainable, enjoyable and fun organisation.

*John Hooper*



*Some members of the Discovering Norwich group learning about the history of Norwich's Dragon Hall.*

## Holidays

Street, Somerset - final payment for this is now overdue and should be paid immediately - two double rooms available.

All other holidays - twin/double rooms available

## Coach Trips

Thriplow Daffodils - final payment is now due.

All other day trips - seats available

**GALA Evening** - 7.30pm Sat 22 Feb in the Central Hall - tickets are now on sale (£15).

**Raffle Prizes** - if anyone has unwanted Christmas presents that would make good raffle prizes, would they please give them to John Dollimore.

## Discovering Norwich

Feb 20 - Roman Catholic Cathedral - with optional tower tour

## Speaker at the March Open Meeting

Louise Chapman, the Lady Mole Catcher

## Members who have recently joined:

Marina Anon, Alan Archer, Marion Archer, Geraldine Bullimore, Pearl Claydon, Sonia Foster, Anne Gill, Angela Hollidge, Trevor Hollidge, Marina McKay, June McKrell, Deborah Nicholas, Jane Pavey, Marian Elizabeth Platt, Amanda Seabrook, Edna Standley, Mark Wilkinson and Richelle Wilkinson

**The Annual General meeting of U3A Wymondham will be held on Thursday 5 March at 2pm in The Central Hall, Wymondham.**

## News from Groups

If you are interested in any of our groups please let Lorna, the group co-ordinator, know. She is at most coffee mornings or email [lorna.gplead@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lorna.gplead@yahoo.co.uk).

Lorna

## Do you need help with a IT related

**problem?** Sam Dennis will be available at the coffee morning on Feb 13 to help you.

## Stitchcraft

This group meet monthly at the Station Bistro, where we indulge in our creative crafts which covers any hobby involving a pointy needle or crochet hook. We don't specifically set out to teach each other, but share our combined knowledge. With laughter and chat, of which there is a lot, we share new techniques and improvements. The café provides refreshments, which are much appreciated. Our pre-Christmas meeting is, I think, the one that everyone enjoys the most where Secret Santa makes an appearance and everything is a little bit of fun. If you think this may be just your 'cup of tea' then please put your name on our waiting list.

Moira Yeates

## WEA Wymondham - History of Norwich

How much do you know about the History of Norwich? Find out more by joining us in February. Our tutor, Charles Lewis, says his course will look at the history of Norwich, once described as "the second city in the kingdom". It will consider its origins, events and activities which shaped the city, people who contributed to its development and the city's heritage as expressed in its historic streets, buildings and other sites.

We meet on Thursdays from Feb 27 to March 26 (5 weeks) from 10:00 to 12:00 at Abbey Hall, Church St., NR18 0PH. The fee is £38.50.

You can enrol on-line at [www.wea.org.uk](http://www.wea.org.uk) (course reference C2226933) or by phone on 0300 303 3464.

For more information contact Ros Krieger on 01953 600639 or email: [rkrieger@talktalk.net](mailto:rkrieger@talktalk.net)

## History for the Curious -

### a sideways look at history

Group 1 meets on the first Tuesday and Group 2 meets on the third Monday of the month in the afternoon. These are study groups where all of us carry out some research before each meeting so that we can contribute to the general discussion. Each person takes on a different aspect to research. We look at: social history; political history; culture and some scientific developments. We spend several months studying each topic deciding how we will progress at the end of each meeting, selecting the aspect we will research depending on our individual interests.

In the last year Group 1 has looked at the history of 'Writing' and the history of Western Europe during the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and the lead up to the outbreak of WW1.

Group 2 has explored Justice in the UK from the Roman era to 1900 and has just started looking at the Crusades considering religion, politics, economics geography, military leadership, battles and warfare techniques.

To quote one of our members who has temporarily withdrawn owing to health problems "I've loved the meetings and all the banter/discussion/arguments (whatever you want to call them). ..... I learnt a lot through them."

There are no vacancies in either group at the moment.

Ros Krieger

## Beacon News

Throughout the last 18 months our Membership Secretary, John Spencer, supported by our Treasurer, Stuart Crowther, have transitioned our U3A from a 'Rolling' type membership, where you renewed on the anniversary of your joining date, to an 'Annual' one. Very few of you will have noticed this change so I thought I'd let you know that it has been successful - we are now all on an annual membership that renews each year on the 1 April.

There are currently about 450 U3A's using the Beacon Membership Management System of which, only 3 were of a 'Rolling' type. Moving from one type of membership to another has never been done before so the fact that it was hardly noted is a testament to the time, effort and dedication of those few volunteers behind the scenes that keep your U3A going. I'm sure you are with me when I say a big thank to all those involved. Where would we be if it were not for the few who keep things ticking over?

Paul Moss IT

**New photos on website** - Discovering Norwich, Moderate Walking, Painting and Spanish 2. On the website select Groups/Group Photographs

**Registered charity no. 1183055**

**Officers of U3A Wymondham (2019/20)**

Chair - John Hooper - [johnhooper66@btinternet.com](mailto:johnhooper66@btinternet.com)

Vice-Chair - Gilly Spencer - [gillyflour4@gmail.com](mailto:gillyflour4@gmail.com)

Secretary - Georgette Vale - [georgette@ValeMail.eu](mailto:georgette@ValeMail.eu)

Treasurer - Stuart Crowther - [stuartgcrowther@aol.com](mailto:stuartgcrowther@aol.com)

Membership Sec. - John Spencer -

[wymu3amem@outlook.com](mailto:wymu3amem@outlook.com)

Groups Co-ordinator - Lorna Tomlinson -

[lorna.gplead16@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lorna.gplead16@yahoo.co.uk)