

From the Chairman

Summer Continues!

What a contrast in the weather with the downpour on the day of the Garden Party giving way to four weeks of a mini heatwave. The weather for the Jazz Picnic on 25 June, allowed at least 1,500 people to enjoy DixieMix in the sunshine. U3A Wymondham is one three privileged organisations invited to have a stand/gazebo as acknowledged supporters of the event. We were there flying the flag for our U3A. A small number of U3A members gathered with their picnics but it would be good to see a few more members and may I encourage you to make a diary note for next year.

On June 22 at Central Hall we had another treat in the form of 'Opera Dudes' singing a mix of light opera and other songs. It was a unique combination of opera, pop and comedy, an evening with a delightful mix of humour, foot-tapping music and great singing or as one quote said 'Where Il Divo meets Morecambe and Wise'. We had the privilege of accommodating Tim and Neil overnight and it was very interesting to learn of Neil's transition from local builder in Nottingham to a singer travelling worldwide to perform. I was, however, a little disappointed with the numbers attending. 54 people had a most enjoyable evening and again I would encourage you to be bold and experience things that at first sight you may think 'that's not for me'.

By the time you read this a group will be on holiday in Kent benefiting again from this incredibly fine weather. Having previously spent two days in the historic dock yard at Chatham I know they will be having a superb trip. The holiday to Yorkshire is coming up at the end of August. I believe there may be one or two spaces still available and if you are interested please speak to John Dollimore.

I am grateful to all group leaders some of whom have been running groups for many years. I'd just like to highlight one new group and to thank Arthur Newton for being able to arrange some sailing taster sessions out of the Nancy Oldfield Trust sailing centre, which provides sailing opportunities for the disabled and under-privileged groups and is based at Neatishead on Barton Broad. I went out on one session and it was a delight to see someone who had never sailed before experience the thrill of taking the tiller and tacking the boat as we sailed. I repeat what I said last month "new groups keep popping up, some are in the process of being formed while others have got off to a flourishing start". I am grateful for people coming forward with ideas. Keep them coming. People willing to lead groups are essential for our U3A to flourish. You may think "I couldn't do that", but I find most people can do more than they ever dreamt of. I am happy to chat without any commitment to any who might wish to consider leading a group.

Membership remains steady at about 400. Our U3A continues to flourish; thank you for your support.

John Hooper
Chairman



a painting by a member of the U3A Wymondham Painting group

Social Events - Lunches

The July Open Meeting will be your last opportunity to buy tickets for the August lunch.

Coach Trips

Wednesday 18 July - Horse Racing at GY - cancelled
Friday 20 July - Sandringham House - £22
Friday 31 August - Norfolk Broads - £32
Monday 12 November - Thursford - £45

Holidays

Details of the 2019 Holiday programme will be announced at the August Open Meeting.

Old Salt - by Diane Smith, September 2016

Pressed I was, a stripling lad
into the Kings own fleet,
to serve upon the Unicorn
oak planks beneath my feet,
and many's the year we sailed away,
away from hearth and home.
to far lands across the oceans deep
where the wind did cry and moan.
Port of Spain drew me ashore.
the grog made me a swain.
a sloe eyed Caribbean wench,
made my lust, her gain.
south of Cadiz a battle fought.
shipmates lost to chance.
a jigger of rum to victory raised.
a merry hornpipe danced.
brave Unicorn she served us well.
but saved she cannot be.
and the siren calls me gladly
to the dark and rolling sea,
my lads.
to the dark and rolling sea.

A particularly appropriate poem by a U3A member since the holiday party will be visiting The Historic Dockyard Chatham. And the editor recently visited Portsmouth Dockyard and HMS Victory.

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

Sailing

This month we sailed Yeoman Keel boats on Barton Broad and on the last session we experienced exciting sailing with reefed sails. We also managed to persuade a passing police launch to supply us with milk for our tea break! There is just one space available on Wednesday 25 July so hurry if you want an adventure afloat.

Arthur Newton (01953 605284)

U3A Wymondham Painting Group

We are a friendly, thriving, Painting Group with six regular members which meets once a month on the third Thursday at 2pm at my house in Old Buckenham. We produce paintings or drawings using a variety of mediums, including watercolours, acrylic and oils, with our own equipment. We are amateurs and so take hints and tips from each other.

There is a waiting list as I am unable to accommodate more people in my house. If sufficient people should wish to join then we might be able to hold our meetings in the Tiffey Room at Central Hall, Wymondham, if it is financially viable.

Kathy Fleckney

(To see the painting overleaf and others go to the Painting groups page of the U3A Wymondham website)

One of our members, Penelope White, has been finding out about her family tree and would like to start an '**Ancestry Group**' where she can perhaps help others to investigate their family trees. If you are interested, please contact Lorna (Groups Co-ordinator).

Table Tennis group invite

Diss U3A is inviting people to join their Table Tennis group. This meets in Bressingham Village Hall on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, 2.00 - 4.00 pm. The aim of the group is not to play competitively but socially and for recreation. Up to three tables are available, and the group is led by Gerry Gunton. Members pay a small amount at each visit. For details email sylviaoomberu3a@btinternet.com or phone 01379 643010.

If anyone is interested in forming a U3A Wymondham Table Tennis group please contact Lorna (Groups Co-ordinator).

Discovering Norwich

Since the reconvened group started in January, we have had some varied visits, starting with the Faberge exhibition at the Sainsbury Centre. The highlight of this visit for most of us was seeing the actual Faberge egg which was really beautiful.

March saw us, on a cold day, traipsing around a part of Norwich that many had not been to before, starting at the old registry office and ending near Cinema City. Wendy had no problem keeping our attention with her interesting facts and witty remarks, although some noisy traffic at times did its best to drown her out!

Shire Hall in April proved to be a hidden gem. The giant shoes and the tapestries were a surprise, along with sitting in the old courthouse.

In May we visited the UEA Enterprise Centre, which is probably the most eco-friendly public building in the country with its thatched walls, panels made from nettles, re-used wood from the old chemistry laboratories and innovative lighting systems.

By the time you read this we will have been to The Plantation Garden on, hopefully, a beautiful sunny day.

Lorna Tomlinson

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)

Monthly meetings

In July the speaker will be Paris Agar, Project Curator, Norwich Castle: Gateway to Medieval England and not as previously advised.

In August Richard Black will return. This time his talk will be entitled 'Climate Change, a real but solvable problem'. To see something of the issues you may wish to go to <http://www.climate-lab-book.ac.uk/spirals/>. The spiral showing the reduction in Arctic sea ice volume (1979-2017) is very significant (in the editor's opinion).

Members who have joined recently

Mary Fletcher, Helen Illsley and Norman Illsley

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