

From the Chairman - Time flies!

My last editorial, where did those three years go?

It has been a privilege to serve your U3A for the past six years, first as vice-chairman and then as chairman. I am often asked if I enjoyed being chairman. For me the enjoyment is in being involved with others helping to sustain and develop an organisation which brings pleasure and more to others. I remember one lady telling me that the U3A had been her 'salvation' following the death of her husband. The regular attendance of 60+ members at coffee mornings is a testament to the benefit that so many find through membership.

When I first joined U3A Wymondham membership was around 180. When I took on the chair it was about 280 and today, we are around 430-440. Interest groups have thrived. Some have ceased 'trading' while new ones have sprung up. Others have risen phoenix like from the ashes of abandonment e.g. Discovering Norwich and the Garden Club.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support you have given your U3A and me personally these past three years. During that time there has been indispensable support from a vast army of people, setting up the hall, providing tea and coffee at coffee mornings and open meetings, 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.

There is much uncertainty in life at the present time; the impact of the Coronavirus, the outcome of Brexit negotiations and I know that many members have concern for their grandchildren's futures. We can take comfort from the consistency and values that the U3A organisation, along with many other institutions, create; something which we will be able to celebrate later this year with the first U3A National Open Day.

This sounds like a massive farewell but I will still be around, relaxing and enjoying the groups of which I am a member.

With every blessing to you all.

John Hooper



Membership renewals - John Spencer, Membership Secretary, will be at coffee mornings and Open Meetings. For other ways to renew click the Renewals Details link on the U3A Wymondham/Membership page.

Social Scene

Bridge - 1pm Tuesdays, Tiffey Room - 6 tables playing on a regular basis - could have 3 more - £2 a session. If you play Bridge and would like to join us you would be most welcome. If you have a playing partner, that's fine, but if you don't, we can find you one.

Games Mornings - 10am to 12.30pm Wednesdays - Bridge for beginners, Rummikub, and Crib. We have a new member willing to teach MahJong.

Curry Evening - 7.30pm Wed 11 March at The Rose of India, Attleborough. We usually take over the restaurant for the evening. Numbers are limited so book with John Dolimore.

Coach Trips

Thriplow Daffodil - trip is full. Anyone who hasn't paid their balance risks losing their seat.

All Other Coach Trips - places available apart from for the River Witham trip

2020 Holidays

Peak District - Sun 17 to Thurs 21 May - 6 Twin/Double rooms available, cost £400 pp

Bournemouth - Sun 19 to Sat 25 July - 13 Twin/Double rooms available, cost £600 pp

Scotland - Mon 26 to Sat 31 Oct - 11 Twin/Double rooms available, cost £380 pp

York - Mon 7 to Thur 10 Dec - 6 Twin/Double rooms available, cost £250 pp

2021 Norwegian Coastal Cruise - Sat 24 April to Sat 1 May - plenty of spaces available

Anyone interested the above should speak to John Dollimore

The Annual General Meeting of U3A Wymondham will be held on Thursday 5 March at 2pm in The Central Hall, Wymondham. To see the meeting's papers go to the AGM page of the website.

The Grand Gala Night

Central Hall bounced with great music and dancing at our Gala Night on Sat 22 Feb. Mike's band had our members bopping from the first song to the last, sustained by the tasty refreshments, provided by Jennifer and Vivienne.

Our thanks go to everyone who helped in any way to make this a most enjoyable and successful evening.

The Social Committee

U3A Wymondham Open Day

We need your help to make our Open Day a true reflection of our wonderful U3A.

There will be a National Open Day to promote the U3A movement on Wed 3 June, but we shall be holding ours on Sat 6 June in the Central Hall between 10am and 4pm. Group leaders are organising displays. I am looking for members to act as stewards to meet, greet, help, man displays and present the friendly face of our great U3A. You will not be expected to stay all day. Please contact me if you are able to help in any way.

Gilly Spencer

Book Groups

Now is the time to sit down with a cup of cocoa and read a good book. My name is Wendy and I run two U3A book clubs, so here are a few of our choices.

If you like a spy thriller, scattered with humour, **London Rules** by **Mark Herron**. Learn to dislike Jackson Lamb, discover the workings of Slough House (an offshoot of MI5) and never want to eat Haribo sweets again.

If you want to try a well written romance go for **The Cakeshop in the Garden** by **Carole Matthews**, a delightful story which will leave you wanting a canal boat.

The author **Elle Griffiths** writes mystery crime stories set in Norfolk and they are well worth a read.

Major Pettigrew's Last Stand, by **Helen Simonson** is a story of a gentle man of upright bearing with a sparkle in his eye, but who has an unkind son.

If you haven't tried **David Baldacci**, seek his books out as they are well written crime stories set in America.

Finally, if you want a book so exquisitely written it will blow your cocoa over try **Stoner** by **John Williams**. A simple tale of a mid-western college professor. Wonderful.

Happy reading.

Wendy Bowles

News from Groups

A possible new German group

I see it as a 'chat and learn' group that meets once a week for two hours, possibly taking turns in members' homes, the first hour spent in general conversation, and the second hour doing something more organised like reading a book or doing some grammar exercises based on an on-line course.

The emphasis would be on the social side with plenty of chat and refreshments such as coffee and biscuits.

There could be a problem with the different levels people might be at, but I already attend a weekly group which has a variety of competence levels and we arrange things so that the less experienced ones get helped along by the more advanced members - it seems to work ok.

John Andrews

Alan Browne is starting a third **Discussion Group**. The first meeting will be at 2pm, on Wed 18 Mar in the White Hart.

The next **History of Science** meeting is on Thur 12 March at 2pm. The cost is £2 per head. Meetings will be on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

A new member wishes to start a group to teach **MahJong**.

Sam Dennis will be at the coffee morning on 19 March for anyone who needs help with IT.

Lorna is our Group Co-ordinator. If you wish to enquire about any of our groups please contact her. She is at most coffee mornings or email lorna.gplead16@yahoo.co.uk.

New group photos on website - Coffee Mornings, Painting and Travel Adventures

Speaker at the April Open Meeting

Barbara Miller - Step by Step: the Shoe trade in Norwich

Members who have recently joined:

Dawn Clennell, Andrew Davis, Julian Adrian Fulcher, Annette James, Keith Lacey, Brenda Laidlaw, Paul Rix and Fiona Sykes

Registered charity no. 1183055

Officers of U3A Wymondham (2019/20)

Chair - John Hooper - johncampbellhooper66@gmail.com

Vice-Chair - Gilly Spencer - gillyflour4@gmail.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