

Chairman's Annual Report

Another year has flown by and now only one year of my three-year term remains. It has been yet another good and successful year for U3A Wymondham. Membership has continued to grow and now exceeds 420. At the same time while some groups have ceased to function, several others have developed in their place. Few groups are full and there are not many people waiting to join a group.

I would like to thank all group conveners and hosts. Groups are the life-blood of all successful U3A's and the Third Age Trust (U3A's national body) sets great store by them. Indeed the chairman's manual, accessible on-line to anyone who registers with the Trust, contains several pages of advice on recruiting group conveners. Thank you for all that you do and thank you Lorna for the work of co-ordination.

Another group I wish to thank is my committee. Just as it did under John Dollimore it continues to work away at many tasks. Every area of our work is so well covered there often seems little I need to do. Much is done behind the scenes. This year we have had to wrestle with new regulations concerning data and then produce policies. We have also produced a finance policy, the need for which has become quite apparent. National Office is now suggesting that we need to have a policy on children and vulnerable adults.

Monthly speakers are also important. Bobbie Aughton has done a great job for several years and we welcome Teresa Woods who will be taking on this role with time to look for speakers for 2020. We listen to feedback and some speakers have been very good while some: ok let's not go there, but we can probably all name the same ones!!!. The role of speaker secretary is a demanding one and largely unseen except in the outcome.

We will be welcoming new faces onto the committee which will increase to 12, the maximum number permitted under our constitution. It will be good to have new voices ensuring dynamic succession and keeping our U3A in a healthy state.

Speaking of constitution, you will see on the agenda for the AGM that we are having to tweak it yet again. We are now obliged to register with the Charity Commission as a separate charity (previously our charitable status flowed from association with the Third Age Trust). You wouldn't believe how difficult



The Theatre Group at the Maddermarket to see 'The 39 Steps'. This was to be one of the last outings planned by their leader for the last five years, Brenda Guardi. However, the lighting failed after ten minutes, the play was cancelled, and they will all now have to read the book to find out how it ends!

this task has been, much to the frustration of our vice-chairman.

Our social side continues to flourish with trips and holidays ever popular. Thank you, John (and Vivienne who I think does a lot behind the scenes) and your team of helpers. Thank you also Bill Yeates for creating a new talking point: a tour of Sussex vineyards in July.

Several much-loved members have died this year and others have suffered ill-health. Thank you, those members who have known them and done all that they are able to support them and their families. Not directly a U3A matter but I think a reflection of the caring and welcoming nature of our U3A.

And finally thank you, all our members for your support. Seeing the enjoyment that our organisation generates makes me proud to be, and causes me to recognise the privilege of being your chairman.

May I wish you all another successful and enjoyable year.

John Hooper

Social News

After our February Open Meeting talk on the Mid Norfolk Railway an exclusive train has been hired on Fri 3 May to travel from Wymondham Abbey to Dereham and back. The cost of this trip is £7.00. Bookings and payment are now being taken. You should be at the Station by 2pm to travel.

Fri 3 May - Tramps evening - (change of date)

Fri 19 July 07.30pm - Quiz Night in Central Hall
Teams will consist of 4 members and the entrance fee will be £10 per team. Nine teams needed to make event viable.

News from the Groups

As groups Co-ordinator may I thank all group leaders for another year of running so many successful groups. I know it can be quite a lot of work, but hopefully you also get some personal reward for doing it.

We have lost several groups this year, but at the same time gained some new ones. If you have an idea for a new group but feel you need some help to set it up, please come and talk to me.

I hope those of you who are in groups continue to support them, remembering to inform the leader if you are not able to attend. Also please remember that it is our U3A's policy that everyone who attends a group in someone's home and gets tea, coffee, biscuits etc leaves 50p. Don't wait to be asked just leave it. If the leader doesn't want it they can give it to charity.

I will be at most Coffee Mornings and can be contacted by email - lorna.gplead16@yahoo.co.uk

Lorna

Bookgroups

Hallo, my name is Wendy and I run two bookclubs. one is called 'Lets Talk Books' and the other 'Bookworms Chapter One'. We meet at my house every 6 weeks on a Monday and a Tuesday and I make sure the house is spick and span, at least on the surface. We have no set books so people can bring along books they are reading, books they love and, best of all, books that are a disappointment. We need to know! We discuss spy stories, crime, sweet romances, biographies, travel and many others. Anything goes but I do like a good ending and recently the final page of two books have been spectacular.

Before starting these clubs, I was a rigid same old type every time sort of gal but now I'm all over the place, or should I say, page, with so many good recommendations.

We are an interesting bunch of gals with our lovely one man and I have made some good pals.

Wendy Bowles

Aviation

We are a group of aviation enthusiasts who can tell our ailerons from our elevators! So far, we have visited the Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation Museum at Flixton, the Norwich Aviation Academy and Simfly, a flight simulator experience. A visit to RAF Marham is scheduled for just after Easter. We have also had several presentations including little known Concorde facts, the possible Boeing 797 and inline versus radial piston engines.

Keith Tomlinson

Spanish

A fluent Spanish speaker would like to set up a new Spanish group. If you are a beginner or a bit rusty and would be interested in learning more, please contact Lorna.

Ancestry

A group, led by Penelope White meets once a month during the Thursday Coffee Morning (which week varies). Help is offered to anyone wishing to start researching their family tree.

Ghost Walk

Would U3A Wymondham members enjoy joining a 2 hour Norwich Ghost Walk? If so then Linda Burkett has proposed an outing on Tues 23 April from the Adam and Eve pub (NR3 1RZ). The cost would be £8 (£6 concessions) payable to the company on arrival. For more details Linda may be contacted on 01953601838 or by email tiptreelinda@aol.com.

Thickthorn Hall

Georgette Vale (Georgette@valemil.eu) wishes to research the history of Thickthorn Hall. Does anyone know who owns it now or someone who lives there that she could talk to?

Downsizing

U3A member, Tony Vale, is launching his not profit, drama-based Social Enterprise (A Stage in Your Life), with a free seminar on 19 March entitled "The Upside and Downside of Downsizing".

It will take place between 10.00am (for a 10.30am start) until 1.00pm at the Town Green Centre, Town Green, Wymondham.

Prior booking is required on 01953 625100.

WEA Day School - New Directions in Jazz

Sat 6 April - Wymondham

Part Two of a jazz journey, from around 1940 to about 1980, with guided commentary/discussion and musical illustrations. From the ubiquity of Swing to the relative obscurity of Bebop, Hard Bop, Cool, Free Jazz and Fusion, we consider the challenge to jazz of more commercial music from the 1940s, the reasons for this and musicians' response.

For more information go to <https://www.wea.org.uk/> or contact Ros Krieger on 01953 600639 or rkrieger@talktalk.net

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 -

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