

MARCH 2024

'Self-help educational and leisure activities organised for and by older people'

1. **Notes from the Chair** (*John Dollimore*)

1.1. **VERY IMPORTANT**

Over the last twenty three years we have built up a well run and thriving club. This has been because there has always been members ready to step up when needed. For the first time, I think, this has not happened and we are in a precarious position.

Immediate Requirement

We have an immediate vacancy for the Membership Secretary role.

With over 600 members there must be somebody who is willing to do the job.

The volunteer member who eventually takes on the role needs to be confident using a computer as we have our own Membership system (Beacon), and be available to come to Thursday coffee mornings as that is when most new members join.

Would anyone interested in undertaking this role please come and chat with me.

March 2025 AGM

In the longer term, and on an even more serious note,

In 2025 we shall need a new Secretary and a new Treasurer.

These are two of the four formal officers required for Wymondham u3a, as a charitable trust, to be able to operate. At the 2025 AGM the current incumbents will have served their allowed three years in office.

By the rules and guidelines laid down by the Charity Commission and the Third Age Trust we must have these positions filled. Our AGM is on Thursday 6th March 2025 and on the Friday Wymondham u3a will close if these two positions are not filled.

We have 12 months for interested members to have a chat and see what the jobs involve.

1.2. **Charity Coffee Morning**

I would like to thank all members who supported our Charity Coffee Morning in aid of the Nancy Oldfield Trust. To the many members who made cakes and donated prizes for the Tombola, you must all be very pleased with the overall results.

We raised £804.18 on the day, which was a fantastic result. Congratulations to everyone who attended.

1.3. **Holidays**

There is one twin, or double room available for our holiday to Northumberland in March

There are several twin, or double rooms available for our holiday to Holland in May

There are several twin, or double rooms available for our holiday to Portsmouth in June

There are 7 twin, or double rooms available for our holiday to the Lake District in September

Any members interested should see me on a Thursday morning

**This is a reminder of the 2024 AGM which will be held next week
on Thursday 7th March 2024 at 2.00pm at Wymondham Central Hall.**

Acceptance of Committee nominations has closed, with there being uncontested nominations received for the Officer posts of: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and for the Committee post of Groups' Co-Ordinator, all of whom are standing for re-election.

Voting will be conducted by a show of hands.

**After the AGM formalities there will be a short presentation by the
Wymondham Rotary Satellite Group about what they do.**

Howard Brown

Secretary: Wymondham u3a

2. Editors Notes (with a bit of Membership Secretary knowledge)

This issue is mostly to do with our future. The planned holidays, trips, and social events in 2024, and the management of our branch and its activities in this, and the following years.

In "Notes from the Chair" John Dollimore points out that probably for the first time we do not have any volunteers for officers and other committee posts, and that "we are in a precarious position".

From the membership data I believe that in April our numbers will be between 600 and 650. That means:

- a) only 1% of the membership is needed to form an effective six member committee on a rolling basis. **As of April we do not have that.**
- b) We need 10% to 15% of the membership as group leaders on a rolling basis for continuity of activities. **As of now, we do not have that.** Many individuals are managing more than one group.
- c) the good news is that we have volunteers that make social events a success, setting up the facilities required and providing the catering. **But again, we need to ensure the continuity of volunteers.**

Look at the u3a strapline below, the clue is in the words

'Self-help educational and leisure activities organised for **and by** older people'

Please ask yourself, "could I take on one of the committee roles, either now or in preparation for next year"?

OR "could I run an existing group, or on a topic of my own interest to share it with others?"

As usual, If you have any group or activity news that you think may be of interest to the greater membership, then please send the information to newsletter@wymondhamu3a.org.uk and I will see if I can fit it in.

3. Membership (John Peat)

3.1. Beacon Personal Account

An excellent response with over **160** of you having already opened your personal account, with many renewing membership through this route.

3.2. Existing members personal data collection.

This is proving to be a most useful exercise that is **currently 55% complete**. From these inputs we are building a list of those people that are offering their services as potential volunteers. We have not forgotten about you, and when we have completed the data gathering activity those **potential volunteers will be contacted and invited to a meeting to move the process on to the next stage.**

The responses are showing up errors such as,

- a) incorrect phone numbers and even phone number formats.
- b) changes to phone numbers and email addresses where the Mem. Sec. has not been notified.
- c) but most significantly, the introduction and updating of emergency contact numbers.

We still have some way to go with 600 plus members to be totally compliant with the mandated requirements. Each of us has a duty of care to each other and ourselves. The Committee has an overall duty of care for all of our members and activities. This is to ensure that each of us is protected by The Third Age Trust third-party insurance cover, and that our branch has taken all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of our own members, and the general public.

For those of you yet to complete this task, please do it.

YOU never know when WE may need it on YOUR behalf

3.3. Membership renewal

To date 300 plus members have renewed

The renewal notices have now been sent out to all members. For the second year running we are able to reduce all **membership renewals to £10**. Please be aware that **joint membership** is now a term, not a membership class.

Please consider renewing by registering for a personal Beacon account and managing your own details, including renewing by using your Credit or Debit card., OR by Bank transfer **and ensure you put your membership number and surname** of the payee as the reference, as this will help the Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

The renewal process is already underway. If you do not have access the above processes and tools, we will still accept card payment, cheques, and cash at Thursday coffee mornings **up to March 28th**.

Several members have already let me know that they will not be renewing for various reasons.

If you do not intend to renew, please let me know, as that will save any unnecessary chasing up.

3.4. Since the last issue we have welcomed the following new members:

Caroline and Colin Phillips; John Fraser; Tom Thompson; Charles Lacoste; Terry Bishop; Diana Smith; Mimm Fowle; Glenda Gunstone; John Laurie; Colin Harvey; Michael Breame; David Hazleton; Elizabeth Gilford.

4. **Groups** (Stuart Crowther)

4.1. **First**, this month, another appeal from Group Leaders. If you are on a waiting list to join a group and no longer wish to join that group, please advise the group leader or myself. Also, if you are a member of a group and are no longer able to attend regular meetings, again please advise either the group leader or myself. Finally, when group leaders send out dates of meetings, please do respond one way or the other to give them a clear picture of how many will be attending.

4.2. **Bookworms** – I am delighted to report that a new Bookworms group (group 3) has been established which will meet from 2.00-4.00 pm on the 2nd Wednesday monthly, at the home of Anne Mathon – 61 Orchard Way, Wymondham. There are a few places available in this group and if you are interested in joining, please let me know.

4.3. **Line Dancing** – We are still looking for someone to take over the leadership role when Gaynor Barnes stands down in April. This could either be as sole leader or perhaps jointly with others. It would be a great shame to lose this popular group so do please consider giving this a go.

If you wish to discuss anything related to Groups and activities then please contact me by email at:
stuartgcrowther@aol.com

LIFE LONG LEARNING

NOTICE BOARD

(Alan Browne)



ENGINEERING OUR FUTURE ENERGY REQUIREMENTS

SPECIAL INTEREST DAY 8TH MARCH

ONLY A FEW DAYS LEFT TO GET YOUR TICKETS: PAYMENT BY CREDIT / DEBIT CARD AND CASH WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE DAY. OR FROM JOHN DOLLIMORE AT THE NEXT COFFEE MORNING.

N.B. If you would like attend and pay on the morning, please let me know, so that we can be accurate when ordering the catering.

Presentations

A Vision for the Norfolk Research Triangle - George Freeman MP

Sizewell C – East Anglia's Next Nuclear Power Station - Jack Raven, Sizewell C

Managing eroding coasts – transition and working coastal change in North Norfolk, Dr Sophie Day, UEA

Fusion – powering our future? Chris Warrick, United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority

Future Courses

1.HATCHED, MATCHED & DISPATCHED Fridays April 5th to 26th, 10.00 to 12.00. Tiffey Room

This course looks at the many different types of documents and manuscripts produced by local and regional ecclesiastical organisations which help us to tell the stories of generations of ordinary parishioners from the Tudor period to the mid 20th Century.

2.EXPLORING THE DIARY OF A GEORGIAN PARISH CLERK Friday May 24th. 9.30 to 3.00. Tiffey Room

Charles Souter was Parish Clerk of the small rural village of Sileham just on the Suffolk side of the River Waveney. He regularly chronicled his everyday experiences in a diary and being a key officer of the local church he recorded the births, marriages and deaths of his fellow parishioners.

The cost of these courses will depend on the number of members attending.

To register for these, please email chrisyemmLLL@gmail.com

For further details on any courses please email courses@wymondhamu3a.org.uk

NOTICE BOARD: DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wymondham u3a AGM MARCH 7th 14.00 At Wymondham Central Hall

After the AGM there will be a short presentation by the Wymondham Rotary Satellite Group about what they do.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Thursdays

March: 7th and 21st 09.00-12.00
14th and 28th 09.00-11.00

April 4th and 18th 09.00-12.00
11th and 25th 09.00-11.00

Sundays

March:
Every Sunday
in the Tiffey Room 10.00—12.00



CURRY EVENINGS

Rose of India, Attleborough at 19.00

Wednesday May 22nd:

Wednesday August 24th

Wednesday November 20th

APRIL MONTHLY TALK

Thursday 4th April Wymondham Central Hall
at 2.00 p.m.

The Pantanal by Julia Burton

Julia combines her hobbies of photography, wildlife and travel. She will also consider concerns for conservation and climate change in this South American tropical wetland.

2024 COACH TRIPS



2024 HOLIDAYS

NORTHUMBERLAND March 2024
Sunday 24th March to Friday 29th
(one twin, or double room available)

HOLLAND May 2024
Sunday 5th May to Thursday 9th
(several twin, or double rooms available)

PORTSMOUTH June 2024
Monday 17th June to Thursday 20th
(several twin, or double rooms available)
Payment required by the end of March

THE LAKE DISTRICT September 2024
Monday 16th September to Friday 20th
(seven twin, or double rooms available)

Friday 26th April Neatishead £25

Payment required by the end of March

Monday 20th May Burghley House £35

Friday 28th June River Deben £35

Friday 26th July Audley End House £35

Friday 30th August Norfolk Broads £45

Friday 27th September Melford Hall £25

Friday 25th October RAF Duxford £40

Friday 29th November Springfields £15

Any members wishing to go on the above trips should see John Dollimore, or the Travel Desk, on Thursday mornings

A £10 deposit secures your seat on the coach.

All balances should be paid in the month before travel.

If you cancel, refunds are at the discretion of the Committee.

6. Activity Reports

6.1. February talk . Circled in the Radio Times – John Osborne 1st Feb 2024 (Georgette Vale)

This was a very entertaining performance, moving, poignant and humorous. Wonderfully written with delightful phrases. It was essentially a play, a solo performance, which John was inspired to write after finding a stash of copies of the radio times after his grandfather died.

His props included a cardboard box representing grandfather's TV with the coat hanger aerial and the little-girl-and-clown test-card. The actual TV had "Four channels and twice as many colours."

John began by giving us a few of the poems from his new show, Norwich a Love Story. Perhaps we will have that next year.

He then went on then went on to explain how his childhood was shaped by visiting his grandparents in Stockton on Tees. A legacy of cosiness. He beautifully described the quirks of a family as seen by a child. Ozzy the three-legged dog that ate Jaffa cakes, (Grandmother worked for McVities). The local sweet shop where the lady had fingers that were stained pink from strawberry bonbons.

That was also the shop where Grandfather bought his radio times every week. Except for the one copy of TV quick which obviously had not gone down well. Some missing weeks were tracked down to when Grandfather was in hospital or away spending Christmas with his family.

The era covered was mainly the 1980s. The days where if you missed a programme it was gone. The circling of the chosen programmes was done using his stash of little pens from the betting shop - strange because Grandfather was a retired police officer. Police dramas tended to be circled with a heart. Morse was his favourite, but he also liked A Year in Provence because it also had Morse in it (well - John Thaw) and beautiful scenery as well.

Some letters were picked out. One expressing discontent about the Archers because the affair between Brian and Caroline had come out of the blue. Someone was also complaining that To the Manor Born was wrongly named.

We were thoroughly drawn into this performance. He said afterwards it is 90% autobiographical but with some bits changed for, well let's just say 'artistic licence'. And it worked. We were all taken back to the days when TV was simpler, and we loved hearing about the relationship between the boy and the grandfather.

6.2. Visiting Norwich Group

St John The Baptist Roman Catholic Cathedral was our destination on 27th February, our brilliant guide was Dr Richard McGuire, who explained the following and more.

Originally the building was a Parish Church, built in 1882-1910, designed by George Gilbert Scott, and paid for by The 15th Duke of Norfolk, Henry Fitzalan Howard. Later to be consecrated in 1976 as a Cathedral. Two Chapels are dedicated to The Duke of Norfolk and his wife, Lady Flora Abney Hastings. Both were devout Catholics.

We were given a simple explanation and understanding of what Catholicism is as a religion. We saw inside a confessional box and were shown the modern sound system which replaces the Bells and organ for the Services.

The design is basically Gothic with a wooden roof, with East to West direction, the main Altar is in the East and contains three saintly relics, there are another twelve relics in the different Chapels in the Cathedral.

We climbed a circular stone staircase in the West Transept to an open space that was designed originally for the organ, which was never installed because the money ran out.

The bosses on the main roof graduate from Adam and Eve to Jesus at the East end, above the main cross.

Another circular stone staircase took us to a secret room in the East Wing, from which we could see down the side of the building, the wooden roof, and an Ariel View of the East End.



Most of the amazing stained-glass windows were made in the 1800s by an English company, who have their original designs even today., and they were all removed in the Second World War, being returned, and replaced after. They all tell stories of each of the Chapels, all contain Saints.

A very interesting and informative tour, enjoyed by all.



6.3. Sunday Lunch for singles Group 3

Some of Group 3 Sunday lunches for singles enjoying their meal at The Queens Head Wymondham, on 25th February.



ATTENTION: WE NEED u3a HELP!

The Rotary Youth Leadership Award (**RYLA**) is a unique development programme. It has a proven record of improving the leadership and communication skills of young people aged 18–26 years old so they can achieve their potential in work and the world in which they live. The Wymondham Rotary Satellite Group is now seeking your help in identifying individuals who may benefit from participating on the course.



The **RYLA** course will be held this year during the last week of August 2024 at Grafham Water Centre and is fully residential. Attendance fees will be paid by the Rotary Satellite Group for selected candidates.