

## From the Chairman - New Horizons??

Jeff Carter was recently re-elected Regional Trustee for a further year and my note this month is a precis of some of the subjects covered in his recent letter to U3As in our region.

A current major national project is the upgrade of the Beacon system\*. This will incorporate much that Beacon users have been asking for and is on track to deliver a product that does everything the existing system does plus many additional features.

Another important longer-term project is the production of a three year development plan. This will include:

- Upgrading the U3A Trust's IT systems to improve the level of support to individual U3As
- Raising the profile of U3As. One idea is for U3As to promote a local activity within the National Volunteering Week. June 3 2020 has been chosen as the day for this initiative and grants may be available to assist with a chosen activity.
- Another strand of the development plan is growth, but this is not just about new U3As. The objective is to enable anyone eligible to be able to join a U3A near to where they live. For some parts of the country this may require new U3As to be established, however in others it will be about existing ones being creative and increasing capacity. Suggestions include having two open meetings a month or putting more emphasis on study groups rather than monthly meetings.
- Another strand is 'enquiry led learning', where U3A study groups get involved with organisations or activities outside their U3A. e.g a local museum, art gallery or landscape to undertake some research that is primarily of interest to the U3A members but can also generate material of interest to the wider community.

We have a great U3A, now with circa 430 members and full and varied social programme but we are always on the look-out for new ways to sustain interest and diversity and promote the learning-led ethos of the U3A which gives it a distinctive character.

In connection with increasing capacity I would encourage groups where there is a waiting list to be creative in increasing capacity. This may mean considering both venues and technology to increase capacity or sometimes with large groups creating two out one.



*Hands of members of the Sign Language group spelling out 'U3A'*

Meanwhile keep the ideas coming and if you have thoughts about new activities or groups but not sure where to start please talk to me or Lorna our groups co-ordinator who has a wealth of experience in supporting groups.

*John Hooper - chairman*

\*Beacon - the online system that Wymondham and many other U3As choose to use for administration

## Social News

**Curry Evening** - 7pm for 7.30 Wed 20 November at the Rose of India, Attleborough. All members welcome. To go book a place with John Dollimore. Would members who have previously booked a place please check with John Dollimore as the original list has been lost. We can have a maximum of 44 and it is a very good evening.

**Thursford** - Fri 29 Nov - We have 4 tickets left costing £46 each. The Coach will leave Central Hall at 11am. If you would like to go to Thursford on your own we have individual tickets available costing £36 each. Please ask about dates.

**Holidays in 2020** - bookings for the 4 holidays are going well. If you are interested in double or twin rooms please ask for further details.

**Coach Trips 2020** - advance bookings for next year's coach trips goes on apace. There are now just 5 seats available for Thriplow, 9 seats for River Witham, and 11 seats for the Sunday lunch on the North Norfolk Railway. If you are interested in joining any of our coach trips, please get your name on the list.

## 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 her at [lorna.gplead@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lorna.gplead@yahoo.co.uk).

## News from Groups

### The U3A Sign Language Group

We are a small but very friendly group that has been learning the finger spelling alphabet and the basic British Sign Language signs. We can also provide useful tips on hearing aids, and general additional aids. The group meets every fortnight, in Wymondham, on Friday 2-4pm in my home. If interested please contact myself or email me at [Tiptreelinda@aol.com](mailto:Tiptreelinda@aol.com).

*Linda Burkett*

### History Group 3

Last year we explored many aspects of the Anglo-Saxon era, and took in a visit to the village at West Stowe, on the hottest day of the year! We were mighty grateful for the shade of the houses. This year we've examined the English Civil Wars, their causes and conduct. We concluded that of the many factors involved, Charles' personality was probably the most significant. We ventured to the Cromwell museum in Huntingdon and his house in Ely, on what was the wettest day of year! This month sees us embarking on a journey through the Enlightenment.

*Alan Browne*

### U3A Wymondham speakers - 2020

- 2 Jan - Composting and Food Savvy - Norfolk Composters
- 6 Feb - East Coast Truckers - a volunteer
- 5 Mar - AGM & The Lady Mole Catcher - Louise Chapman
- 2 April - Step by Step, the:shoe trade in Norwich - Barbara Miller
- 7 May - To the Hammer Born - Stephen Poulter
- 4 June - Theatre Royal - Jason Raper
- 2 July - The Life of a Journalist - Lynn Mortimer
- 6 Aug - Thursford - John Cushing
- 3 Sept - Dynamic Aging - Danielle Woods
- 1 Oct - Community Policing - a volunteer
- 5 Nov - Numbers
- 3 Dec - the history of Peter Beales Roses and floral arranging - Simon White or Linda Pope

### Members who have recently joined:

Morag Banham, Shirley Betts, David Clarke, Mary Clarke, Christine Collins, Mary Dougherty, Mary Loose, Joanne Stopp and Susan Walker

## U3A 2020 Diary

2020 diaries are now available at £2.75 each and can be obtained from our Treasurer, Stuart Crowther, at Coffee Mornings and Open Meetings.

### An open meeting of the Travel Adventures Group

John Hooper will give an audio-visual presentation on his recent ascent of Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. 1:30 - 3:30 on Mon 11 Nov in the Tiffey Room Wymondham Central Hall.

### December Open Meeting

Doreen Read will be reading some of her festive poems and telling tales of everyday life.

### Meet the author of Mother Moon

The newly combined U3A Wymondham Astronomy groups will be holding an open evening on the 11 Dec at 7.00pm in the Tiffey Room of Wym. Central Hall.

The speaker will be Robert Goddard, a member of U3A Wymondham, and the author of a very 'factional' book on moon colonisation called *Mother Moon*. He will be describing why he chose the specific location on the Moon to place his settlement and his many years of lunar research before writing the book.

The event will be open to all. £1 for Wymondham U3A members and £3 for non members. For more information about the book please go to [www.goodreads.com/book/show/28094622-mother-moon](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/28094622-mother-moon)

*Georgette Vale*

### Silent Films with Bruce Vogt, 'The Pianist'

2.30pm on Wednesday 4 Dec at The Regal, The Ex Service's Social Club, Wymondham

Wymondham Music Festival will be showing two silent films with Bruce Vogt, an improvisation master pianist, providing the music. Bruce will also speak about the films.

**Programme** - Charlie Chaplin in *Easy Street* and Buster Keaton in *Our Hospitality*.

**Tickets** (£5) available online from [www.wymfest.org.uk](http://www.wymfest.org.uk) or on the door.

**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)  
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Membership Sec. - John Spencer - [wymu3amem@outlook.com](mailto:wymu3amem@outlook.com)  
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