

From the Chairman - Truant again!

Confession time - I will be missing another open meeting, making two in a row. However, by my term as chairman ends in March, I will have missed just 6 out of 36 in three years. This caused me to go onto the U3A Trust website to see what it says about the role of Chairman. Rather like many leadership roles it stresses the role of enabling; enabling other members, not just committee members, but all members to be as involved in as many ways as possible.

At a recent East of England U3A Trust seminar it was suggested that all who played any kind of role in helping a U3A to be a success were not volunteers but contributors. I like that because it signals that all of our members are contributors. It may be in a significant role but by turning up regularly at coffee mornings, open meetings and group meetings everyone is making a contribution. This is very much part of U3A ethos.

That ethos seemed very present at our coffee morning last week when so many people helped to make it a roaring success. We raised a record sum of £827.60 for Macmillan Nurses. Thank you all who made it such a success. Will we reach £1,000 next year? - come on, you can do it.

Our Christmas lunch this year will be managed by Jennifer Atwell. As ever we need a good team of people to make it a success and to spread the load, particular in preparation, clearing tables and washing up. So, we are looking for 'contributors' not 'volunteers'. If you are able to help please let Jennifer know or contact me via the Chair contact button on our website.

Our current membership is around 430. At the seminar referred to above I was able to ascertain the size of quite a number of U3As. They ranged from around 200 to 1,700 (yes 1,700) so we are very much within the 'medium size' bracket. As a U3A we have a good reputation for being welcoming. I recall one member telling me how being part of U3A Wymondham was a 'lifesaver' after her husband died. May we continue to make people feel welcomed and valued.

OK - so you may be wondering where I am this month. On the day of the October open meeting I shall be beginning a trek up Mount Kilimanjaro. Interesting fact: earlier this year a woman of 89 set a new record by being the oldest person to make the summit. Not that everyone is capable of that but it does signal to me the importance of maintaining the health of body, mind and spirit, I think that as we get older we need to keep our eyes focused on the distant horizons of opportunity and achievement and I believe the U3A movement plays no small part in that.

John Hooper



Members of the Canoeing group on a recent outing

Groups Astronomy 1

The members of this group note with great sadness the passing of their tutor, Bob Greef, who had fulfilled this role for approximately eight years. He had acted as the conduit through which group members were introduced to the wonders of the cosmos. The breadth of his knowledge was extraordinary, he could provide a fact or a figure to whatever question he was thrown at him. At each meeting he delivered a presentation on an aspect of the universe that made sense to a group of diverse learners. Sessions were often enhanced with glimpses of his many other interests and voluntary activities. We offer our condolences to his wife and daughter.

members of Astronomy 1

"The Canoeing group was set up following a conversation I had with Lorna, our group co-ordinator. I haven't been canoeing for years, but remembered that I had enjoyed it in the past. To date we have had 2 meetings, the first at Whitlingham Broad, where we received some tuition from the staff and had a pleasant trip along the length of the Broad. For our second outing we hired canoes at Hickling Broad,. The weather wasn't quite so good, but we had a very enjoyable three hours exploring the Broad and a long creek, where we had a brief stop for lunch. The group doesn't have a set timetable, we just meet occasionally. We would be happy to include new members. At the moment we have 6 regulars. (Our next outing will probably be around end of September.)"

Ian Anderson

(Groups continued) **Discussion group**

We are a small group that get together once a month, 2nd Thursday at 2pm. We take it in turns to suggest one or two subjects to be discussed, it can get quite lively but always friendly, with everyone having their say. Unfortunately, at present, we do not have space for new members. I am sure there must be sufficient interest to start a second group and it has to be one of the easiest groups to manage. I would be happy to help set up another group.

Angela Sewell

Stash Busters

When I started this group about two years ago, it was primarily to help me literally 'bust the stash' of fabric I had accumulated. I knew I couldn't live long enough to use it all! As we live in a 'bijou residence' Jennifer Attwell generously offered her larger home for us to meet and store the stash.

What I didn't quite expect was the enthusiasm with which our lovely members have used the stash. We must have made over eighty quilts for babies, children and adults since then, all of which have gone to charities. We have displayed the fruits of our labours at two AGM. meetings and received many compliments, which is great. However, the real joy of this group is the friendship, sharing of ideas and support that we give each other. It is wonderful to see how each member has gained confidence in their work and ideas. And of course, we have many laughs together. This is U3A at its best - live, learn and laugh. We do that alright!

Gilly Spencer

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.

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

"Last month's Open Meeting talk was

thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. Our very own member Linda Burkett, ably assisted by her daughter Kim, gave us a moving account of her late father in law's wartime experiences. It was good to see how being a member of our great U3A has given Linda the confidence to stand up and deliver a talk so competently. She now wants to go on the Speaker's Circuits to tell this tale on behalf of all the other young men who went through the war.

Linda is organising a P.O.W. Day on 9th May, 2020 to celebrate 75 years since all P.O.W's were returned. This is will be at R.A.F. Cosford, near Wolverhampton. If you are interested in attending book a hotel now! For further information contact Linda on 01953 601838. This promises to be a Big Event."

Gilly Spencer

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.

Members who have recently joined:

John W Aldous, Doreen Alexander, Arthur Causton, Angela Eden, Lin Hardiment, Janet Lansdale and Lindsey Leveridge

The talk at the November Open Meeting

Miss Lucilla Reeve tells the story of the wartime eviction of 800 people to make way for creation of the Battleground training area.

Purchasing a Senior Railcard? - check out whether you are eligible for the Disabled Persons Railcard (3 year £54 instead of £70).

Motor Neurone Disease Ass. Christmas cards

Sue Heal will be selling cards at coffee mornings on 3, 10, 17 and 24 Oct and before the Oct monthly meeting. All proceeds go to the Norfolk, Norwich and Waveney Branch of MND.

The WOW FACTOR - ceramics from selected East Anglian artists chosen to amaze and intrigue with a wide range of styles and techniques. Free entrance - Tues 1 to Sun 13 Oct - Wymondham Arts Centre, Becketts Chapel, Wymondham.

Most items for sale.

Julian Gillett

Registered charity no. 1183055

Officers of U3A Wymondham (2019/20)

Chair - John Hooper - johnhooper66@btinternet.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