

## From the Chairman - Autumn Beckons!

It's seemed a long summer and we have been blessed with some fantastic weather although it been quite disastrous for many of my farming friends enterprises. It also happened to be the summer I chose to sow a new lawn. The good news was, 'no hose-pipe ban'; the bad will be when I get my water bill!!! Mid-August arrived and suddenly the nights began to draw in rapidly and it is sobering to think that autumn begins in two weeks.

I hope you have all had a good summer. I particularly enjoyed the U3A holiday to Yorkshire. The Parsonage Hotel was welcoming and comfortable with a good indoor swimming pool. Some members could be found taking advantage at 7:00am. There was a varied programme with visits to Harewood House and Castle Howard, both places I had never visited in my travels. The latter was especially interesting with its connection to 'Brideshead Revisited' which I am now viewing for the first time.

Holidays for 2019 are already well booked up and you need to act quickly if you don't want to miss out. The Wine Appreciation group is also organising a short trip to Sussex vineyards in 2019. Watch out for details.

This week the schools go back, but for all of us there is a feeling of 'back to school' following a summer break. All organisations seem to step up a gear with events and conferences taking place in the run up to Christmas and we begin to look forward to 'organising 2019'. We have reached the point where we are obliged to register as an individual charity with the Charity Commission. This will bring a new set of rules and regulations with which we have to abide and your committee is currently considering the implications. It particularly impacts on how we deal with finance.

It's a bit like a new term for the committee and if members have any thoughts about meetings events etc which you would like us to consider do please let me know. Looking ahead there are still things we would like to do in supporting members and we would welcome offers of help. Come and talk to me about opportunities there might be to serve your fellow members.

There have been changes in the way you access information with the linking of our website and the Beacon database, so do explore our website. Finally, we have been saddened to learn of the deaths of two members in the past few weeks; Mike Poulton and Geoff Kirk both well known to many members. Do remember their families at this difficult time.

*John Hooper Chairman*



*U3A Wymondham members Christine and Colin Wood sailing on Barton Broad.*

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

This year's fund-raising coffee morning will be on Thurs 27 Sept in the Tiffey Room. There will be a raffle and members are invited to donate prizes. If you are willing to make and donate a cake please give your name to John Dollimore. Last year we raised £337 and this year we are hoping to beat that sum.

## Social Activities

**A Nautical Night** Calling all land lubbers! Come to this evening of nautical fun on Thur 25 Oct at 7.30pm in the Central Hall . Tickets are £10 for good grub and grog (sausage and mash and wine or fruit juice), pirates and more. To add to the occasion come dressed in nautical attire if you wish.

**Curry Evening** - Wed 14 Nov - any members who wish to join the 20 who have already put their names down should speak to Brenda Guardi or John Dollimore,

**Thursford** - Mon 12 Nov - balances are due at the Sept Open Meeting. If any members wish to see this year's Christmas Spectacular they must book and pay in full (£45) at Sept Open Meeting.

**Christmas Lunch** - Fri 7 Dec - 1 ticket left

**Cruise on Norfolk Broads** - Fri 23 Aug 2019 - 3 hour cruise plus coach trip and buffet lunch £32 - reserve your place today

## Dare we mention Christmas....?

Following last year's success, we will be selling beautiful hand-made items at the coffee morning and Open Meeting on Thurs 1 Nov. Funds raised will allow us to buy more wool and fabric for our charity work. Please support us.

*The Knit and Natter and Stash Buster Groups*

## Requests for lifts or other help

We have some members in need of transport for meetings and events. If you are able to offer help in this area please let our secretary know and we will seek to match offers and needs.

## News from the Groups

Lorna, Groups Co-ordinator, will be at most Coffee Mornings. She can also be contacted by email - [lorna.gplead16@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lorna.gplead16@yahoo.co.uk)

## Travelling Tales Group

Our relatively new group has met for several months now. So far we have seen and heard about Pakistan and Tibet, taking us through wild mountain passes and the friendly people who live there.

Then we moved down to New Zealand and the Northern Territories of Australia. I'm pretty sure I won't be going there in the near future so it was good to listen to others' adventures. Yes it's possible to see these places on TV but hearing personal views of places is even better!

We then had a trip through Jordan, learning about its history and connection to religion. The latest meeting was my experience of living in France for 4 years, which hopefully others found interesting and enlightening.

Future meetings include the west coast of Canada with Alaska, the Azores and Peru. However if your adventures haven't taken you as far as some other people, they are still interesting to listen to - Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Northumberland, The Peak District, Yorkshire ..... and even Cleethorpes! (apologies to anyone from Cleethorpes). There is still room for a few more people on the settee so why don't you come and join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month.

Contact me at the Groups table or at [lorna.gplead@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lorna.gplead@yahoo.co.uk)

Lorna

## Members who have joined recently

Ian Anderson, Pam Anderson, Ray Archer, Gary Cannon, Caroline Chapman, Ann Clark, Roland Clark, Sheelagh Creegan, Mary Fitch, Susan Knight, Allan Pointer, Christine Pointer, Richard Pye, and Wendy Thrower

## Officers of U3A Wymondham (2018/19)

Chair - John Hooper - [johnhooper66@btinternet.com](mailto:johnhooper66@btinternet.com)  
Vice-Chair - Paul Findlay - [ap.findlay@btinternet.com](mailto:ap.findlay@btinternet.com)  
Secretary - Georgette Vale - [georgette@ValeMail.eu](mailto:georgette@ValeMail.eu)  
Treasurer - Stuart Crowther - [stuartcrowther@aol.com](mailto:stuartcrowther@aol.com)  
Membership Sec. - John Spencer - [wymu3amem@outlook.com](mailto:wymu3amem@outlook.com)  
Groups Co-ordinator - Lorna Tomlinson - [lorna.gplead16@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lorna.gplead16@yahoo.co.uk)

## Sailing Group

This month we were fortunate to enjoy two warm and sunny sailing sessions with a friendly wind. Barton Broad was sparkling in the sunlight with an interesting array of boats of all shape and sizes from twenty odd toppers affording single hand sailing and capsizing exercises by junior sailors; to the mighty wherry Albion. Wymondham sailors have had several sessions complete with instructors onboard and on the last sail the instructors were able to step out of the boat to allow the students to take complete control of their yacht. All acquitted themselves successfully by completing their adventure with broad smiles and a feeling of achievement for both them and their instructors.

Arthur Newton

## Stitchcraft

Our group covers many crafts, but most members use pointy needles, although one of our members also does tatting. Our members are a happy bunch that meet monthly at the Bistro at Wymondham Station on the 3rd Friday. Over the last few months we have been busy with various projects for home and family, including patchwork and embroidery. On occasions we also make items to be donated to the Norwich Wool Loft such as hats and scarves. We also produce squares at coffee mornings that Wendy Bowles joins together to form blankets. The popularity of the group means we have to have a waiting list. So, if you are interested in joining please let me or Lorna know and we can add you to the list. If the waiting list becomes too long we may be able to start a second group.

Moira Yates

## Discovering Norwich 2018/19

Oct - a walk with Wendy (Strangers - Huguenots)

Nov 14 (Wed) 1.30 - 3.30 - Printing Museum

Dec - no meeting

Jan - The Undercroft

Feb and March - TBA

April - Ketts Hill

Please would people who wish to go on a visit but are without email ring Lorna (01953 607151) a month before, or see her at the groups table.

U3A Wymondham member Gwen Jenson has several boxes of transparencies that were taken by her late husband, Neil. Neil was a keen photographer and took photographs to document the subjects he was interested in, such as churches, church fonts, Turkey Egyptology, buildings and landscapes. If you feel that there might be items of interest to you please contact Gwen on 01953 601605 or email [g.jenson@ouvip.com](mailto:g.jenson@ouvip.com).

## Yorkshire Holiday August 2018

As is now expected with John Dollimore's holidays - a good time was had by all.

We stayed at the Parsonage Hotel Escrick, which is just a few miles outside York. Escrick was the home of the other branch of the Knyvett Family. It was Thomas Knyvett from Escrick who arrested Guy Fawkes, and his cousin Thomas Knyvett from Ashwellthorpe who wrote the Knyvett Letters during the Civil War. The Church next door to the hotel gave the impression of being a Norman Church although it was actually Victorian. The Parsonage was initially built rather grandly and has been tastefully extended by means of glass walkways to house us all. Some of us made full use of the pool and leisure centre

Our first day trip was to Castle Howard which is still owned by the Carlisle Branch of the Howard Family but descended from the original Duke of Norfolk. The house was built on the site of a ruined Norman Castle and a whole village - but at least the evicted villagers were rehoused and given work. The impressive gardens were designed by Capability Brown, with views up to a pyramid folly and a Four Winds Temple - a marbled summer house. The Rose Garden was beautifully laid out - not many roses but lots of beautiful things. The wood, cut down in the war and replanted in the 1970's, has become a wildlife haven. The main design of the building was a joint enterprise - Sir John Vanburgh having great flamboyant ideas while Nicholas Hawkesmoor had to work out how to actually build it. It was extremely impressive looking up inside the grand dome - but that was a replacement because the original was burnt down in 1940. Many of the staterooms were unusable for years but were saved because they were rebuilt for filming of *Brideshead Revisited* which is why we can see it today. Tony quipped that *Brideshead Revisited* prevented Howards End.

The next day we took the steam train from Whitby to Pickering. We only had time to have a quick look around Whitby - just enough to see that it would be worth spending a few days there another time. I was keen to see Whitby Jet but I reckon every other shop sold it! There was a folk festival on and Morris Dancers enlivened our wait for the train. We chuffed our way through the moors and at Pickering some of us had a trip to the ruined castle and some just sampled the tea shops in town.

Our third day - another stately home - Harewood House (pronounced Har-wood but the village outside the gates is pronounced Hare-wood). Princess Mary (only daughter of George V) married Henry Lascelles the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Harewood. The grounds are extensive including a mini zoo and several different gardens and

a big lake (well it would have to be because Capability Brown designed that too). Much of the furniture is Chippendale - Thomas Chippendale was born in Otley not far away. I was most taken by the Chinese room. I always wondered what it would be like to walk around inside a willow pattern plate!

Our last day was spent in York. Some of us did a boat trip - a cruise on the Ouse - and some the Castle Museum. This was founded by Dr Kirk who allowed his patients to pay in kind if they had no money. He had so many items he had to house them all in a museum. The highlight is the Kirkgate Street full of life size shops as they would have been in Victorian times. One of the exhibits was a tree with a bench around it just like the one in Wymondham Market Place! You could spend a whole week in that museum and still see things you have not seen before. Some of us went to York's Chocolate Story exhibition, and some did the open top bus tour and some the Minster. Some tried to go to the Jorvick museum but even though they had pre-booked timed tickets online they could not get in.

Well done John Dollimore. Bookings are being taken for next year's holidays and places are filling up, so you need to get in quick if you want to go.

*Georgette Vale*

## WEA events at Wymondham Abbey Hall

### The Jazz Revolution - 1900-1940

(tutor: Dr Graham Platts)

A one day event celebrating some of the pioneers who kept our grandparents dancing and enriched our lives. With commentary, discussion and musical illustrations, we will follow a jazz journey from the dance halls and sporting houses of New Orleans to the largest theatres in the USA's major cities.

Saturday 15 Sept from 10:00 to 15:30. fee £17

### The Norfolk Landscape - (tutor: Chad Goodwin)

Why does Norfolk look the way it does? The answer lies, at least partly, in the soil! We shall be studying this distinctive range of landscapes and unravelling where today's landscapes have come from.

This is an eight week course costing £59 held on Thursdays from 10am -12 noon starting 27 Sept ending 22 Nov with half term 25 Oct.

For more information please contact: Ros Krieger - 01953 600639 - [rkrieger@talktalk.net](mailto:rkrieger@talktalk.net) or call the WEA on 0300 303 3464 or visit [www.wea.org.uk](http://www.wea.org.uk)

Community Arts Project [www.wikiflicks.org](http://www.wikiflicks.org) wishes to collect videos and photographs of the Wymondham Vintage Day 2018 ( Sun 9 Sept). Go to their site for further details.



## **Wine Appreciation Group**

About four years ago my wife and I joined the Wine Appreciation Group, at which time it was being enthusiastically fronted by John Dollimore. Roughly two years later John stepped down, since when he has been obliged to return to the cellar to mature a little more and, like good champagne, he has to be 'quarter-turned' every day to retain his sparkle.

Pat Simmons - a rare vintage himself - has taken over 'front of House' with his unique, knowledgeable, engaging and entertaining style ably supported by those paragons of sobriety, Paul and Marge Findlay, who provide the glassware, mats, spittoons and other miscellaneous hardware items to ensure a seamless and hygienic imbibing session. Unfortunately, Paul Moss, treasurer, at the beginning of the evenings' festivities, has an irritating habit of demanding money, sometimes up to half an hour, before our lips have even been whetted.

It should be remembered that we are an informal lot, with nary a hint of wine snobbery, more interested in the social interaction than the in-depth technicalities of viticulture. Neither experts nor amateurs we are a simply a group of like-minded individuals which happens to enjoy a common appreciation for the most varied of alcoholic beverages. However, we are occasionally caught 'twixt our intellectual aspirations and our alcoholic diversifications'.

The recognized format is for six bottles of wine to be presented, usually but not necessarily three white and three red. Each bottle is introduced, circulated and, after tasting, the merits and de-merits are frankly discussed until thirst breaks out and the routine repeated. Conversation habitually becomes livelier as successive bottles complete the tour.

Wine - is often affectionately referred to as - 'the milk of Bacchus', the Roman god of wine. Bacchanalia (dictionary definition) - a wild, noisy party, drunken revelry, orgy. No surprise then that our members are constantly smiling.

Simplistically speaking wine is the juice of grapes after it has fermented and contains alcohol. Red wines are made by allowing the juice of dark-coloured grapes to remain in contact with the skins while fermenting. White wines are made from light or dark-coloured grapes whose skins have been removed. Wines are also classified as sweet or dry, still or sparkling.

In conclusion, other than to comment that the collective term for grapes should surely be 'group' rather than 'bunch'. And that "The juice of grapes is the liquid quintessence of concentrated sunbeams." I would wish to add that it is a privilege and delight to

be able to sample wines from 4 of the planets, 5 continents and that with climate change products from the 5<sup>th</sup> may not be too far off.

*Simon Fellingham*

## **The Kitchen Catastrophe - Almost**

The tables cleared, the plates piled high  
The team all set to wash and dry,  
When suddenly all loud and clear  
Came the cry, "Disaster's here!  
Alas, alack, all is in vain  
We have a sink that will not drain!"

Four ladies fainted at this news,  
Others wept or blew their fuse,  
"Oh, who who will help, come to our aid?  
Who is fearless and unafraid?"  
Jane said, "We need a handsome hero  
But our chances of that are almost zero."

Then suddenly light was everywhere  
And Hooper Man was standing there.  
"Don't worry girls, let me attend  
'Tis but a nasty blocked 'u bend'.  
There lies danger foul bugs and stink  
Lurking there beneath that sink  
There's creatures too, unknown to man  
But I can do it! Yes, I can!

With gritted teeth and manly stance,  
He sallied forth to take his chance.  
With rolled up sleeves and on his knees  
He gave that trap a real hard squeeze,  
Out rushed the gunk, the gloop, the mess,  
He'd saved those damsels in distress.

Now with hearts aglow and thanks all round,  
Hooper man leapt off the ground  
To boldly go where help's required,  
Not bad, eh, for chap, retired!

*Gilly Spencer*

### **Wyndham Vintage Day Sun 9 Sept**

Classic cars, vintage bus rides, Dad's Army van, live music, stalls, Memory Lane exhibits, Cake-Off competition, film shows, children's activities and so much more!

Come dressed in your favourite era and join us for a day of fun!

From 10am to 4pm

Wyndham Town Centre and locations nearby.