

FEBRUARY HAS ARRIVED - SPRING IS ON THE WAY

I am writing this, having just returned from walking our little dog in the fields round here. It is an exquisitely beautiful day, with the fog lifting to reveal a clear blue sky and everything made magical by the heavy frost. Having crunched with delight through the frozen grass, I return a warm house and a cup of coffee, made by my lovely John, just how I like it. Life is good, I feel.

Likewise, our u3a is good. It gives so much to so many and its members reach out in turn to help others. For example: John Peat's band called the 'Dell Boys' don't charge when they play at a gig, but ask for a donation for their charity. Consequently I was able to hand over a cheque for £250 to the Eastern Area Air Ambulance, via our daughter who works there.

Also we had a lovely message from the Jenny Lind Hospital where some of our 'Stash Buster' group quilts were sent recently. See Page 6.

There are so many examples of the good we do as an organisation, particularly for bringing folks together in friendship, sharing knowledge and generally adding to the quality of life that social beings like ourselves need. We all know that loneliness and isolation leads to a downward spiral.

So, going onward and upward, to the AGM in March. Were there were none, we now have TWO candidates for the role of chair - Chris Yemm and John Dollimore! Please come along and have your say. We also need volunteers for the committee. So do not hesitate in getting yourselves nominated to help guide this wonderful u3a into the future.

My very best wishes, *Gilly*

New Groups Co-Ordinator

Stuart Crowther has taken on the role, with immediate effect.

He can be contacted on groups@wymondhamu3a.org.uk

COFFEE MORNING DATES FOR FEBRUARY

9th and 23rd - 11 am finish

2nd and 16th - 12 noon finish



Update Your Information

Certain emails to members have 'bounced back'. If you haven't received information from u3a for some time, please check your details with our Membership Secretary to update if necessary.

Editor and Vice-Chair - Chris Yemm - newsletter@wymondhamu3a.org.uk

Registered charity no. 1183055

Officers of U3A Wymondham (2020/21)

Chair - Gilly Spencer - chair@wymondhamu3a.org.uk

Secretary - Howard Brown - secretary@wymondhamu3a.org.uk

Treasurer - Geoffrey Briggs - treasurer@wymondhamu3a.org.uk

Chris Grant - it@wymondhamu3a.org.uk

John Spencer - Committee Member

Membership Sec. - Jo Sinclair - membership@wymondhamu3a.org.uk

Groups Co-ordinator - Stuart Crowther - groups@wymondhamu3a.org.uk

Linda Burkett - Social Wellbeing - tiptreelinda@aol.com

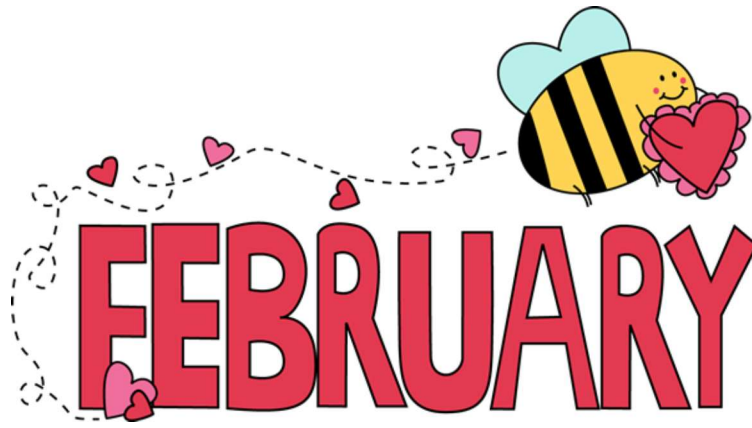
Thought for the Day



Raise your words
not your voice. It
is rain that grows
flowers not
thunder.



Iris



Primrose

The two Zodiac signs that fall in the month of February are **Aquarius and Pisces**.. Zodiac Sign: **Aquarius** February 1 to February 18 Zodiac Sign: **Pisces** February 19th to February 28th February's birthstone is the **Amethyst**.

Amethyst was connected with Bacchus, the Roman deity of wine, by the Romans. However, it was said that Saint Valentine, the patron Saint of love whose Feast day is in February, wore an amethyst ring with a sculpted Cupid on it. The amethyst sits atop the Sovereign's Sceptre with a Cross, which is part of England's Crown Jewels collection and is associated with knowledge, comprehension, love, passion, creative endeavors and honed intellect.

Interesting Facts for February

.1301 The son of King Edward I of England becomes the first English Prince of Wales.

1783 Death of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown the greatest English landscape gardener. His work lives on today throughout the great estates of England.

1797 Over 1,000 French troops attempted to invade Britain, landing on the Welsh coast. The brave ladies of Fishguard saved the day!

1926 Malcolm Campbell sets a new world land speed record of 174 mph (278 kmph) in Wales.

1958 Parking meters first appear on the streets of London's exclusive Mayfair district. The meters were first used in America in 1935.

1971 Pennies, bobs and half-crowns all disappear as Britain goes decimal

The length of February was finalised when Julius Caesar remade the Roman calendar and assigned the month 28 days and 29 days. In 713 B.C., February was officially added to the Roman calendar.

The name of February comes from the Latin word "februum," which means purification after a purification ritual which was like an early Roman spring cleaning festival.

Of all the words you can misspell, February is one of the most misspelled words in the English language.

February is the only month where it's possible to go the entire time without having a full moon.

The odds of being born on February 29th are about 1 in 1,461. Those born on a leap day can be called a "leaper" or "leapling."

14th February - St.Valentine's Day





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 2ND MARCH 2023

AT 2.00 PM

The position of your next Chair is up for re-election this year. We have two nominees and as their names have already been made public, we have to give all our members the opportunity to vote.

Nominees are: John Dolimore and Chris Yemm

See Page 5 for Statements

All officers and committee members will also be confirmed

Please attend to make your choice known - it is an important vote valid for the next year.



SPEAKER FOR THIS MONTH

Becoming a Famous Author

By Martin Lloyd

Commencing directly following the AGM

This is a copy of an e-mail sent recently to all our members by our Secretary, Howard Brown giving notice of our AGM on 2nd March. This is an important announcement for members to be part of electing your Officers and Committee to represent you for the coming year. Please attend and make your views known and to vote. As below, Nomination Forms have been attached to your email.

Subject: Notice of Wymondham u3a AGM 2nd March 2023

Text:

To all Members of Wymondham u3a

This is the official notice of Wymondham u3a's Annual General Meeting.

The AGM will be held on Thursday 2nd March 2023 at 2.00pm at Wymondham Central Hall.

All Committee posts are elected annually. If you would like to nominate anyone, please complete the attached **Nomination Form** (2 copies provided). Please note that the person must be willing to stand and be able to sign the **Trustee Declaration Form**, which is also attached.

The completed Nomination Form(s) can be sent by e-mail to: secretary@wymondhamu3a.org.uk or handed to any Committee Member at Coffee Mornings and/or the Open Meeting on 2nd February. The forms will also be available there for those who are unable to print their own. Nomination Forms can also be posted to myself at 3 Oak View Grove, Wymondham NR18 0YF. ***Please be advised that Nomination Forms should be received by myself no later than 16th February 2023.***

Where there is more than one nomination for a Committee post, voting will be conducted with a show of hands at the AGM.

There are currently 2 Members who are willing to be nominated for the post of Chair, these being Chris Yemm and John Dollimore. Both candidates have been invited by Committee to provide a brief statement of their suitability for the role, which will be included in the February Newsletter.

Howard Brown
Secretary
Wymondham u3a



Statement from John Dollimore in support of his nomination to become your next Chair

I have been asked to write a prospectus of why I should become the next Chairman. For those of you that have been members for some years, you will know that I have been at the forefront of the growth in our membership and increase in activities.

When I joined Wymondham u3a in 2012 there were about 120 members. I joined the Committee in 2013 and became Chairman the following year. In the four years to 2017 my wife and I introduced several new groups, Discovering Norwich, Wine Appreciation, Bridge, Games Morning, Knit and Natter and Carpet Bowls. We introduced Coffee mornings and we started Holidays, Coach Trips, Lunches and Garden Parties. We held the first open day and watched as the membership grew.

Today, I believe it is over 500. We have supported my successors, John Hooper and Gilly Spencer to the full and are thrilled at the success they both have had. I believe that I'm uniquely placed to lead once again. Wymondham u3a has an exciting future and I offer my services to you all to take it to the next level. Please come to the AGM and vote.

Statement from Chris Yemm in support of her nomination to become your next Chair

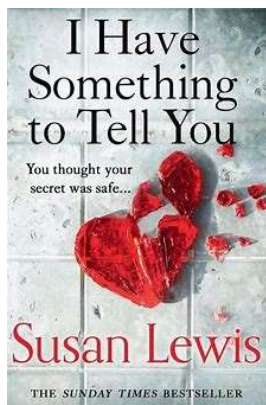
Briefly, I have over 35 years' experience with my involvement with Hethersett Social Club, first as the first woman to be elected onto their committee, first to become the Chairperson and the first Club President, encompassing the arranging of social events, publicity, and regularly maintaining the website.

As a member of Wymondham u3a, I have been Vice-Chair and Editor of the Newsletter.

As Chair of our amazing u3a, I see my role as focusing on the future and bringing a new and fresh approach to many areas, all in due course and with a combined effort from our committee giving the opportunity for us to be more inspiring and imaginative, whilst listening to our members opinions and suggestions.

One of the areas I would wish to contribute to, is the improvement of our website in becoming more vibrant and informative with ease of use. The capability for more interactive aspects and good design, will not only be an asset for our members but also be a good marketing tool for attracting new members.

We can be proud of our u3a and I respectfully acknowledge all the work that has been done up to now. There is always room for streamlining and improvement as we progress into the future. I am thankful and overwhelmed with the support I have had and I feel that if I am elected, we can together continue to move, with confidence and positivity into the next stage of our development.



I Have Something to Tell you

By Susan Lewis

Jessica 'Jay' Wells seemingly has it all - husband Tom, great kids, and a high-flying career as a defence lawyer - until one day Tom confesses something to her, and everything she values is threatened forever.

A gripping and compelling tale of justice and forgiveness.

Report on The East Coast Floods with Brian Hedge - last month's speaker

This was a different sort of talk as it was pre-recorded, although Brian was present to answer questions.

The disaster happened on the night of the 31st January to the 1st February 1953 - 70 years ago. Norfolk's greatest peacetime tragedy.

It was caused by a combination of factors. A very severe storm with heavy rain, a deep depression causes low pressure which makes the sea level rise, an exceptionally high spring tide and very high winds whipping the waves up.

Tides happen in different times at different places and in fact there was flooding along the Lincolnshire coast in the late afternoon and 42 people died - but there was no way of warning anyone else - so the residents of Canvey Island went to bed quite unaware that a few hours later the whole island would be under water.



The official figure was that 307 people lost their lives due to the flooding, but an incalculable number of lives were changed forever as homes and livelihoods disappeared overnight. In addition, the storm also claimed 224 lives at sea - over 100 people died on the MV Princess Victoria - an early roll-on roll-off ferry. Many smaller boats went down too.

We saw many of the photos of houses that had been washed away, or those that had their footings so severely damaged they had to be demolished. There were houses where the ground floor was engulfed by over 3 foot of sand and mud. Part of the problem in the East Coast was that after the war there were lots of people living permanently in what had previously been holiday homes. The highest death toll was in the prefabs which were not as resilient. Jaywick was a new town built mainly of bungalows - so they had no escape.

Transport was severely affected too as roads and railways were destroyed and some were never rebuilt. Many ships and boats were also lost or severely damaged, We saw lots of pictures of ships stranded on land - particularly a large one at Walcott.

Agriculture took its toll as farmland was put out of action due to seawater on arable fields and marshland.

There were many tales of rescues - the war-time spirit kicked in again quickly. Many of the rescuers drafted in were young men doing their military service and also the American bases in the area.



Because of the events that night it was clear that an early warning system needed to be put in place and flood defences needed to be strengthened.

The next time this was really put into practice was in 2008 when the same meteorological conditions happened and although there was some damage and we were shown what damage that did occur, it was clear that it was minimal compared 1953.

Although Brian did not mention it (the title of the talk was the East Coast Floods after all), we should not forget that on the other side of the North Sea, The Netherlands and Belgium were even more affected. It also struck me that the disaster of the killer London Smog of December 1952 had happened just before the East Coast Floods. Lynne Monck told us that she was present at both of those events - having lived in London and gone to visit family in Great Yarmouth.



**Are going
DOWN**



As most of you are aware, the renewal of your annual subscription is on the 1st April. We are delighted to inform you that due to a surplus of funds in the u3a account, the committee has agreed that **this year's** subscription will be reduced as stated below for all current members as at 31st December 2022.

Single Membership - £10

Joint Membership - £15

Renewal letters will be sent out to you via email where possible towards the end of February/ March to enable our very large membership to complete our renewal as smoothly as we can.



u3a Quilting Group

One of many fabulous quilts created by our Quilting Group and donated to the local Dementia Group




**FINDING IT
HARD PAYING
HEATING BILLS
THIS WINTER?**

If you are, come along to Wymondham & District Ex-Services Social Club's 'warm space'.

Meet friends or make new ones over a free cup of tea or coffee. Most importantly, keep warm.

Open every Monday from **9th January, 11AM to 3PM.***

* Until further notice






New Zealand Wines so much more than Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc!

As members of the Wine Appreciation Group, we are obviously missing our monthly Thursday night sessions with Pat Simmons and fellow members while we are staying here in New Zealand for three months. However, there are more than enough opportunities for us to pop into a vineyard for 'Tastings' and to buy from their 'Cellar Doors' - often wines not widely available.

We are now in our second month in the South Island and have moved to Alexandra in the Central Otago region. In the Alexandra Basin alone, there are 25 vineyards. The Basin is the most southerly of the Central Otago wine sub regions and in fact is the most southerly wine growing area in the world, but it shares geographical and climatic conditions with some of the world's most prestigious wine producing regions.

The first vineyard in this area was planted by a French goldminer, who once the goldrush had abated, turned his hand to growing grapes using vines he imported from Australia. By 1890 he had planted 1200 vines. However, commercial wine production in the Basin did not begin until the 1980s. Central Otago is very well known for it's high quality Pinot Noir wines, but Pinot Gris, Riesling, Pinot Rose amongst others are also produced.

We enjoyed a wine tasting tour with Vine2Wine Uncorked - a local company offering tours exclusively in the Alexandra Basin. We visited 3 wineries - Judge Rock, Three Miners and Como Villa, tasted 18 different wines (hic!) and didn't have to worry about driving. The 3 wineries were small and run by quality focused winegrowers who produce a variety of wines. One even had a sparkling rose and a port for us to try.

What a wonderful variety of wines are produced here in NZ!

Carol and Steve Rogers



Message recently posted on Facebook from Jenny Lind Children's Hospital

Well Done Quilters



Kerry Williams

31 Dec 2022 · 5

I would like to give a huge thankyou to the wymondham quilters, you have no idea the smiles you have created and the fun had choosing the quilts, you brightened alot of sad little faces on our wards, Buxton and Coltishall. Tiny, poorly babies have been wrapped up in love, bigger ones have sat with thier snuggly quilts over thier legs gazing at the patterns and animals, so many grateful parents and lots of comments of how beautiful the quilts are, thankyou from the bottom of our hearts and we all wish you a happy and peaceful new year, love from Jenny Lind Children's Hospital NNUH 💙



UPDATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DAYS OUT

Sunday 26th March

THRIPLow Tickets cost £25

Coach leaves Central Hall at 09.30am

Balances are due in February

Seats available

Friday 26th May

MANNINGTON HALL Tickets cost £30

Coach leaves Central Hall at 09.30am

Friday 30th June

RIVER ORWELL Tickets cost £45

Coach leaves Central Hall at 09.30am

Wednesday 26th July

SANDRINGHAM FLOWER SHOW Tickets cost £30

Coach leaves Central Hall at 09.30am

Friday 25th August

NORFOLK BROADS Tickets cost £45

Coach leaves Central Hall at 09.30am

Friday 29th September

KEW GARDENS Tickets cost £45

Friday 6th October

GOODERSTONE WATER GARDENS and OXBOROUGH HALL Tickets cost £35

Coach leaves Central Hall at 09.30am

GALA EVENING

On **Saturday 25th February** we celebrate the three years of Gilly being in the chair. We are having a Dinner Dance which is being held at Central Hall. The Dinner is at 6pm with the Dance starting at 7.30pm. Tickets for the whole evening cost £25 and for the Dance £10

If you intend going and have not purchased your ticket yet, would you please do so by Thursday 2nd February.

If sufficient tickets have not been sold, we shall have to cancel the evening



SOCIAL OCCASIONS

Wednesday 15th February

Join us at "The Rose of India" in Attleborough at 7pm
12 places available

Friday 7th April (Good Friday)

Join us at Central Hall for our Spring Lunch
Tickets cost £15

Saturday May 6th

Join us at Central Hall to watch the Coronation with your friends
Food will be available
(Further details will be announced next month)

Saturday 3rd June

Join us at Shackles Farm, Westcarr Road, Attleborough for the President's Garden Party
Tickets cost £20

Friday 4th August

Join us at Central Hall for our Summer Lunch
Tickets cost £15

Friday 1st December

Join us at Central Hall for our Christmas Lunch
Tickets cost £15

Let The Good
Times
Roll

HOLIDAYS

Isle of Man

Tuesday 18th April to Sunday 23rd April
Double or twin rooms available costing £640 per person
For those members already booked balances are due in February

Isle of Wight

Friday 7th July to Wednesday 12th July
Double, twin, or triple rooms available costing £570 per person

Northern Ireland

Monday 4th September to Sunday 10th September
Double and twin rooms available costing £790 per person
There a 2 single rooms available costing £930 per person

Are we
there yet?

HA!
HA!
HA!

Any members wishing to book should do so on a Thursday coffee morning, or open meeting 10

Sale of MND Association Christmas cards and merchandise at our U3A Coffee mornings

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported the work of the Norfolk, Norwich and Waveney Branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association by purchasing Association merchandise and Christmas cards at various coffee mornings and open meetings throughout October to December. Our thanks too to everyone who suggested we keep the change or added a donation. In total we raised £401.25.

I think by now most of you will know now why we at the local branch have a continuous need to raise money. We provide trusted information, advice and support through our volunteer Association Visitors and Care Service Navigators. As we all adjust to a life with Covid ever present we have returned to holding regular monthly support meetings at Notcutts and Fritton Village Hall. We have retained our successful online support meetings each month introduced during the first lockdown. These provide people with an opportunity to meet others in a similar situation where they can share their experiences. We are back to holding three open meetings a year with lunch provided.

We fund specialist equipment and services where these are not provided by statutory services or cannot be provided in a timely manner. Riser recline chairs continue to be our most commonly requested piece of equipment costing around £750 each, closely followed by bio bidets (washer drier loos) costing upwards of £500. Smaller items like hand held fans cost much less, but help improve people's quality of life - particularly to those relying on non-invasive ventilation. We continue to provide a range of grants funded by the branch following Association guidelines, these might pay wheelchair accessible taxi fares, rental of a stair lift, counselling or to top up funding for a home adaptation - these are needed more than ever with the increasing cost of building works.

We also campaign and raise awareness so the needs of people with MND and everyone who cares for them are recognised and addressed by wider society. As the Campaigns Contact for Norfolk I have worked on both local and national campaigns. If you would like to get involved please visit <https://www.mndassociation.org/get-involved/campaigning/join-us/campaign-network/> - the more people who take part in our e-actions the louder our voice and greater our impact on decision makers. We are, of course, very grateful to the high profile sports personalities who have done so much to raise the profile of motor neurone disease.

After three years of campaigning, this year the Motor Neurone Disease Association has welcomed the announcement that the Government has listened to the voices of terminally ill people and has scrapped the unfair six month rule, which barred many terminally ill people from fast track access to benefits. In response to the Scrap 6 Months campaign led by the Association and Marie Curie, the UK Government has pledged to make it easier for people with a terminal illness, including motor neurone disease, to claim benefits using the Special Rules for Terminal Illness.

Many of you will be aware that the United to End MND campaign led by people living with MND, MND Association, MND Scotland and My Name's Doddie Foundation successfully secured a Government investment of £50 million to be targeted to MND research over the next five years. We are continuing to work with Government to ensure that the money pledged is used to fund research targeted directly at MND. Most recently we welcomed an announcement by Steve Barclay on Monday 12 December, outlining how the investment will be made available to researchers. Although we are cautiously optimistic, we would still like more clarity and to understand the detail, processes and timelines behind it.

This ties in nicely with the third pillar of the work of the MND Association to fund research. Our vision is a world free from MND. Thank you Wymondham U3A! [Sue Heal](#)

All links shown in [blue](#) are live.

Just a reminder

Please click on link which will take you directly to the website or email



SPEAKERS FOR THIS YEAR

2ND FEBRUARY

Steve Gaskin

The Psychology of Mass Murderers

3RD AUGUST

Alistair Bielby -Footsure

Foot care

2ND MARCH

Martin Lloyd

Becoming a famous author

7TH SEPTEMBER

Leanne Neave

The RSPCA

6TH APRIL

Charlie Haylock

The Dig

(Accent coach to Ralph Fiennes)

5TH OCTOBER

Mike Wabe

That Rings a Bell

The History of the Town Crier

4TH MAY

Jane Pavey

Coronation Robes

2ND NOVEMBER

Andrew Clarke

Winter is coming - wildlife in a seasonal world

1ST JUNE

Giles Orpen-Smellie

Police and Crime Commissioner

7TH DECEMBER

Jim Stebbings

Sentiments of Christmas

6TH JULY

Juliet Webster -The Yellow Caravan

- Camping round Norfolk in 1912

*Thanks to Georgette Vale
For arranging this
programme*

Please print out this page for reference

Courses in February

It's not too late to sign up for one of our courses.

A Day School on Researching the History of Your Home.

Author of a number of local history books, Stephen Poulter reveals the research process he followed when uncovering the 350 year old story of the cottage in Norfolk where he currently lives. He describes the various procedures and resources involved in investigating the background of any historic property using online and archive sources.

Date 10th February, 10.00 to 3.30, North Wymondham Community Centre. Cost £10

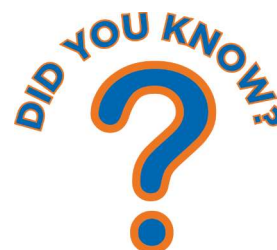
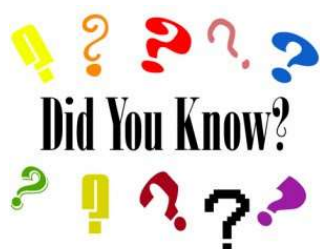
Rivals and Revolutionaries - Foundations of Modern Physical Chemistry.

A historical perspective from the 1880s to 1950s.

The course is a combination of history and science and aims to outline the organic growth of the field; it was contributions from individuals, not a concerted effort that defined the subject, featuring 6 prominent scientists. No prior knowledge of chemistry is required; mathematics and chemical equations will be kept to the minimum necessary.

The course will run from 10.30 to 12.30 on 6 consecutive Tuesday mornings, beginning 14th February and be held in the meeting room at Wymondham Library. Cost for the whole 6 weeks is £10

If you are interested in either course (or both) please let me know ASAP:
alanjackbrowne@yahoo.co.uk



Murder for a jar of red rum A palindrome is a word, sentence, or phrase which can be read the same forwards and backward. The word itself is from the Greek words "palin," meaning "back," and "dromos," meaning "direction." Palindromes have been around for thousands of years. The first known palindromes date back to Egypt during the Greek occupation around 300 BC.

Around 8% of the world population has an extra rib. This is known as the cervical rib and it comes from the seventh cervical vertebra. This is considered a congenital abnormality that is located above the normal first rib. There is a 1 in 500 chance that a person will be born with this condition.

Honey never spoils. When honey is heated and strained and sealed properly, it will not be able to absorb moisture and therefore will stay as it is forever. The oldest jar of honey ever found is stated to be over 5500 years old today.

A giraffe cleans its ears with its tongue. This is one of our most surprising did you know facts about these tall creatures. A giraffe's tongue is over a foot and a half long or 21 inches. They also use their tongues to get around thorns and acquire the leaves they want to eat.

The human brain is 78% water. Up to 60% of the adult human body is made up of water. Research has indicated that both the human brain and heart are around 73-78% water.

Hummingbirds are the only birds that can fly backward. They are also able to hover and change flight direction quickly. These birds are such skilled fliers that they are often referred to as the flying ninja.



Welcome

New Members



John Gibbins
Christine Bringham
Daphne Dickson
Ray and Trisha Black
Paul Martin
Martin Cavicchioni
Jane Murray
Jean Board



Sue Garwood
Elizabeth Ball
Angelika Cichos
Terence Minto
Trevor Kilham
Penny Banks
Marianne Moselle
David Biddle



Over the past year our group has been beavering away creating lots and lots of items for the Norfolk Knitters and Stitchers charity.

We have made: 177 Blankets 72 Small/baby Blankets. 71 Adult Hats. 214 Baby Hats.
126 Child/Baby Cardigans and Jumpers. 35 Gloves and Mittens.
49 Scarves. 52 Trauma Teddies.
16 Jubilee Blankets Also more than 20 other items.

Once a month Wendy Bowles and I take the donated items to the hub in Norwich and they sort them and distribute them to where they are most needed.

Many thanks to all our contributors and carry on knitting and crocheting!

[Vivienne Dollimore](#). Group Leader. Knit and Natter.





Gardening Corner

Jobs for February



January started mild but turned cold and frosty again so put a stop to a lot of the border work but crisp winter sunshine is so much nicer than damp and grey weather. Hopefully February will be kind to us.

Apart from the bare root planting and division of perennials which still continues as conditions allow now is a great time to prune roses if you have any. Some people panic at the thought of cutting things back but if you follow some basic rules of pruning you will not go too far wrong. Pruning is subjective, don't feel you have to prune trees and shrubs every year some plants can be left for many years with no adverse effects. Also position in the border determines how much and often you cut back. Plants at the front will be cut back harder and those at the back left taller to add height so the same species can differ greatly in height and appearance depending on how it is pruned.

The following basics apply to roses and other trees/shrubs.

When pruning always start with a clean, sharp pair of secateurs you may also need loppers and small pruning saw. Make clean cuts flat across the stems getting the blades in as far as possible for maximum leverage and less effort. As material gets thicker you may need to use the loppers or a saw. Avoid cutting into any adjacent good stems.

Firstly remove all dead and diseased wood. Then take out all weak and spindly growth completely, this will never produce any decent flowers. Next cut back any stems that are crossing and are rubbing on each other. You should now be left with a mix of healthy strong growth.

For hybrid tea and floribundas roses remove two thirds of previous years growth. This will be less if you have already removed top growth when autumn pruning. Cut cleanly just above an outward facing bud aiming to create an open structure. Be careful not to knock off any new buds that are forming, if you do cut again to the next suitable bud.

Not all climbing roses like to conform and some will grow straight up and have all the flowers at the top with no flowers on the bottom half. Supports and training will help and you may have to be brave and cut hard back every few years to start training again.

Prune late flowering clematis such as Polish Spirit and Hagleby White. These are the easiest type to prune. Cut back hard removing all previous years growth down to 30-40cm or first pair of healthy buds. You will be rewarded with strong healthy foliage and masses of flowers. Without pruning they get matted, flower less and get full of dead wood.

Early spring bulbs should now be brightening up your garden. Snow drops and winter aconites can be split 'in the green' so a great time to spread them round the borders.

Simply lift a large clump and carefully divide by teasing apart by hand or with a couple of border forks back to back. Split into groups of four or five, you don't need to separate individually, take a bucket full and lay out 10-12 inches apart where you want to plant, then pop in with a trowel or narrow spade. It is amazing how large an area you can create and the flowers usually stand up proud for an instant effect. Do this every year and you will soon have a fabulous display without spending any more money.

March next, lots of seed sowing, planting etc and hopefully not too much of the white stuff.



Happy Gardening

(Written by Alan Vanhinbergh and submitted by Lindsey Leveridge)

PHEW! A MAMMOTH READ THIS MONTH

Methinks you need some FUN TIME! Thanks to all Contributors

Link to Answers: <https://www.kensquiz.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Dingbats2A.pdf>

DAMN ?	JOB ^{An}	TOFEE TOFFE TOPHY TOFFIE
1	2	3
Quack Quack Cluck Cluck	SHOTGU 	revirdtaes
4	5	6
G ^P G ^P	HAMLET WORD WORD	PINNACLES
7	8	9
Waether	You Just Me	BOMGED
10	11	12
	02YRROW	TEMPER ^A TURE
13	14	15
cover cop	_ondon _aris	LIBERTY
16	17	18