

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

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

This is quite like old times, but after six years, I’m a little rusty and times move on as well.

I am going to change things round a bit and those of you at April’s open meeting will have seen the start. I shall do the announcements and then Georgette as Speaker Secretary will introduce the Speaker and Gilly has agreed to thank the speaker at the end of the talk and I will wind the meeting up

Similarly with the newsletter you will not have a “From the Chairman” every month, but instead all the committee members will take a turn so as to vary the contributors.

I am pleased to welcome Terry King and Sue King to help me man the Social Desk for the long Coffee Mornings. I hope this will speed things up for everyone.

This coming Saturday sees the Coronation of King Charles. I can just remember the Coronation in 1953 and I hope we have a better day for it this year. We have a talk about The Coronation Vestments on Thursday afternoon and then be able to watch it at Central Hall on Saturday together, rather than be alone at home.

I am aware that Jennifer Attwell wishes this year’s Christmas Lunch to be the last she masterminds, so if any members are interested in taking over, would they please speak to me.

I know it is elsewhere in the Newsletter, but please remember we have our first SUNDAY coffee morning on the 14th starting at 10am. I hope we see lots of you there having a relaxing time.

**Editors comments** (John Peat)

I am John Peat, Vice-Chair, and the new editor of our monthly newsletter. Just thought that I ought to take the time in my first issue, to outline plans for this publication.

The aim is to provide clarity in a one-stop shop scenario. The newsletter will pass on the necessary information that you as members need to know. This could typically be:-

- a) informing you of any decisions made by the elected officers and how it may affect you
- b) advising you of actions that you may need to carry out, such as paying for activities you have booked
- c) advising you of up forthcoming activities, diary dates, etc.

In this and future issues I hope to present you with all diary dates in the form of a Notice Board on a single sheet. This will allow you to print it off, stick it in your diary, or pin it to your fridge in plain sight. In this issue it can be found on page 4.

And as in this issue, always pleased to advertise any event and to publish visit reports.

**The New Committee 2023 – 2024.** (This information will not be a regular feature.)

Chair – John Dollimore - [chair@wymondhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@wymondhamu3a.org.uk)  
Vice-Chair and Newsletter Editor – John Peat - [newsletter@wymondhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@wymondhamu3a.org.uk)  
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Groups Co-ordinator - Stuart Crowther - [groups@wymondhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@wymondhamu3a.org.uk)  
Speaker Seeker – Georgette Vale – [speakers@wymondhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:speakers@wymondhamu3a.org.uk)  
I.T. - vacancy

## 4. **Membership News** (Jo Sinclair)

### 4.1. Membership

Thank you to all members who have renewed their membership promptly. There are still some members who have not renewed yet, so would be grateful if you intend to continue your membership from the 1<sup>st</sup> April please make arrangements to make your payment either on a Thursday coffee morning, by cheque or via your banking arrangements as soon as possible. If you need further help or information, please let me know.

We would also like to welcome the following new members:

Marian Thomson, Maggie Abbott, Gerry Green, Alan Henderson, Jean Beer, Pam Zarkar, and Pam Dawson

### 4.2. **Professional advice required**

The management committee are asking you, the members, for specific help. The U3A at national level is recommending some changes at branch level to meet the requirements of the U3A insurance policy. This policy covers both members' and third-party public liability claims.

If you have experience in health care directly with the public, and with a knowledge of patient confidentiality, would you please contact John Peat through [newsletter@wymondhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@wymondhamu3a.org.uk) as you may be able to provide the advice that the committee need. No commitment other than a chat.

### **Groups** (Stuart Crowther)

I would like to ask all Group Leaders who would like to publicise future activities, and to send any reports of any significant activity that has taken place, to email this information to [newsletter@wymondhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@wymondhamu3a.org.uk)

## **Activity Reports**

### 6.1 Monthly Talk April 2023. Charlie Haylock – the dig April 6<sup>th</sup> 2023 (Georgette Vale)

Charlie started by explaining that at first he thought it was a scam email asking him to be the accent coach to Ralph Fiennes for a film about the 1939 archaeological dig at Sutton Hoo.

As there have been quite a few films with accents purporting to be East Anglian, but are somewhere west of Swindon with a bit of Long John Silver, Charlie spent quite a bit of time "Suffolkating" the script.

It was initially a few days' work with Ralph Fiennes and workshops with the rest of the cast. However, the script was constantly tweaked so suddenly Charlie found himself with a five-and-a-half-month contract.

Accent depends on the vocabulary and grammar used as well as the voice production. However, there had to be a bit of balancing because the film was intended for a global audience who might not understand the Suffolk dialect.

Charlie then took us through the origins of English – the Saxons and the Angles, Old English, Middle English but also Old Norse. In the east we have also been influenced by the Flemish strangers. In turn it is the Suffolk accent which has had a great influence on the Australian accent.

Charlie demonstrated how lots of different accents all over the UK have been formed differently. He was expertly "accent riffing" so we could clearly hear the differences as he explained how each is formed.

We also learned some snippets of information about the lengths Ralph Fiennes went to. For the 5 months of filming, he stayed in the Suffolk accent the whole time – even when he went for an interview in the USA. He also wore tweed jackets constantly and cycled from Woodbridge to Rickingham on an (almost authentic) bicycle and went on midnight trips to lay on the burial mounds to observe the moon just as Basil Brown did. This was all on top of him doing lots of research reading Basil Browns books and getting involved with archaeological digs.

We learned all this whilst being regaled by hilarious anecdotes. This talk came highly recommended, and we were not at all disappointed. You will be pleased to know I have booked Charlie again for The History of Spoken English next year so we can learn even more.



## Isle of Man Holiday (Ann Clark)

On Tuesday April 19th as dawn broke over Central Hall, we started the 12-hour journey to the Isle of Man, the small Crown Dependency, with a population of 84,000 nestling in the North Irish Sea. It is a railway enthusiast's paradise as by the late 19 century the island was criss-crossed by network of electric and steam trains though now reduced to those connecting the major towns.

On Wednesday we took the Manx Electric Railway the 17 miles north from Douglas to Ramsey, a scenic journey of 75 minutes with the rolling countryside, villages, and glens on one side, and cliffs and coastal hamlets on the other, with 14 request stops like Fairy Cottage and Belle View. In Ramsey The Grove Museum told the story Life on the island in Victorian times.



Thursday was a rest day in Douglas. Time to enjoy the crescent of houses built by the Victorians to encourage tourism that later played an important role in both world wars as housing for internees. A walk along the promenade, a ride on the horse drawn tram or a tour of the town.



The Manx Museum was a particular delight. It has a wonderful collection of memorabilia depicting everyday life on the Island and a video explaining how 400 years of Vikings rule laid the foundation of the current parliamentary system, the Tynwald. In 1346 the English Crown took possession of the island leaving the Tynwald responsible local government and financial affairs subject to the approval of the Lord of Man.



On Friday we travelled on the steam train that took us across the Island to Port Erin with its railway museum and time to sit and relax on the cliffs enjoying the view.



Les's attempts to take us on the route of the famous Isle of Man TT races were thwarted by preparatory work for this year's races. Instead a surprise visit to the Isle of Man Motor Museum with its amazing collection of over 500 vehicles donated from across the world. From the unique Peel 50, built on the island, to the car used to take the Queen and Prince Phillip around Australia, to a unique bus built for kindergarten children



Clouds greeted us on Saturday morning as we travelled on the Snaefell Railway 2000 feet up to the mountain top to hopefully witness its panoramic views. The mist lifted slightly on the way down and we could see the lake and mining ruins in the valley.

After lunch it was time to investigate the Laxey wheel. The Isle of Man had rich reserves of lead, silver, copper, and zinc making the Laxey area very rich in the 1800 hundreds. However there were major problems with flooding in the Laxey mine.

With no coal reserves on the island for a steam powered pump an alternative had to be found. The solution, the world's largest working waterwheel, 72 feet 6 inches diameter and 6 feet wide constructed in 1854. Serious mining ceased in the early 19 hundreds leaving Laxey a quiet seaside resort. Jean and Stuart managed the 95 hazardous steps to the top of the wheel.

On returning to Ramsey it was a sunny evening. Time for a quiet stroll along the promenade and an early night in readiness for the journey home.





# NOTICE BOARD

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### OPEN EVENTS

#### Monthly Talk

**Thursday 4th May at 2.00 p.m. at Central Hall.**

Coronation Vestments by Jane Pavey

Jane is a member of the Guild of St Faith based in Westminster Abbey. They take care of the vestments, altar frontals and copes used in ceremonial occasions



#### Thursday Coffee Mornings

##### May

Thursday 9am-12pm 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>

Thursday 9am-11am 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

##### June

Thursday 9am-12pm 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>

Thursday 9am-11am 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>

#### Sunday coffee mornings (NEW)

Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup> 10am to 1pm

Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup> 10am to 1pm



### HOLIDAYS

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July to Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July, **Isle of Wight**: £570 per person

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September **Northern Ireland**: £790 per person

### GROUP EVENTS

#### The Coronation of King Charles III



#### Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

Spend the day with your friends at Central Hall instead of being on your own.

Watch the Coronation, have coffee, eat some food and have a celebratory drink all for £10



#### COACH TRIPS

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May, **Mannington Hall** £30

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June, **River Orwell Cruise,**

£45 PAYMENT NOW DUE

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July, **Sandringham Flower Show,** £30

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August, **Norfolk Broads Cruise,** £45

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September, **Kew Gardens,** £45

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October, **Gooderstone Water Gardens,** £35