

JUNE 2023

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

1. Notes from the Chair (John Dollimore)

We have now held our first Sunday Morning Coffee Morning and we had 39 members attend. This was considered successful and I would like to thank those members who came. The next one is going to be Sunday 11th June and a warm welcome is extended to all members. We will have a third one in July and the date will be announced shortly.

We are urgently in need of recruiting two volunteers.

The first is a new "Accounts examiner" as Ian Barnes has now finished his spell and we would like to thank him for all his hard work.

The second is a new "Head Chef" as Jennifer Atwell wishes to stand down after this year's Christmas Lunch. The role is to produce the main dish for the three meals we have each year. Jennifer has done a wonderful job over several years and those members who come to our lunches know how successful she has been.

These are two most important roles and we cannot function without an Accounts examiner as we would have to close, and the meals will stop next year if we cannot find a replacement for Jennifer .

Anyone wishing to contribute towards the success of our u3a by taking on one of these roles should please come and have a word with me.

I am now hoping for fine weather next Saturday when we hold our annual Garden Party and Vivienne and I look forward to welcoming members to our home.

John Dollimore

2. Editors Notes (John Peat)

Due to upcoming holidays this issue has all the information on activities and events you need to know for both June and early July, all to be found on page 5. Under Membership you are being asked about receiving the national Third Age Matters Magazine, and a reminder for renewing subscriptions. Group news covers several groups either looking to expand to accommodate new members, or others requiring additional help. There is also a new initiative of Life Long Learning, a series of one day and short courses. The remainder of the issue is dedicated to two activity reports that took place during May. The Notice Board this month is on page 5.

3. Membership (Jo Sinclair)

3.1. Third Age Matters Magazine.

I am sure you are all aware that you receive a copy of the UEA magazine "Third Age Matters" on a quarterly basis as part of your membership of the U3A. I have been asked recently by a few members whether it is possible to remove their names from the mailing list. It has been agreed by the committee that I bring to the attention of all our members that should you wish to no longer receive a copy of this magazine please let me know and I will ensure that your name is removed. Email address is membership@wymondhamu3a.org.uk . You should note that there is no reduction in membership fee relating to the magazine.

3.2. Renewal of Membership—Final Call

Just a final reminder to the last few members who have not renewed their membership this year that your membership will be lapsed as at 31st May 2023 and any participation in a chosen group activity will be cancelled unless there is a genuine reason for not renewing.

3.3. Welcome to our New Members

Linda Waupotitsch; Marion Bryce; Sandy Rodwell; David and Lynn Blake; Pauline Woolley; Robert Nevill;

Norman Yates; Stan and Brenda Hudson; Kate Wood; Denise Rutherford.

4. **Groups** (Stuart Crowther)

4.1. Carpet Bowls

This group meets every Wednesday between 1.00 – 3.00pm in the main hall at Central Hall. The group currently has capacity for new members and if you are interested having a look/joining please contact Group Leader – Kevin Stone by email at stonechat789@icloud.com or phone on 07789-553884 for more details.

4.2. Sunday Lunch for Singles

We already have 2 very successful Sunday Lunch for Singles groups and are now looking to establish a 3rd group but require someone to step forward and offer to Group Lead. The existing Group Leaders, Pam Yeomans and Alan Provis, are more than happy to provide support and advice to anyone willing to undertake this role. Please let me know if you would be willing to take this on board by emailing me at stuartgcrowther@aol.com (please do not miss out the “g” or it goes to my namesake in Halifax) or phone 07946-076325.

4.3. Book Groups

We have 3 existing book groups, all of which are fully subscribed at the moment, but there is constant demand for places. All 3 are hosted in private residences. Could you host/lead a new group of between 7-12 people. Such groups can either focus on one book at a time or each member can discuss a book they have read/are reading. Again, if you would be willing to host/lead a book group please contact me as shown above.

4.4. Historic Buildings

This group considers/investigates the history of a particular house and, in the past, meetings have been held at a members private residence although this need not be set in stone. There are 20 members who are interested in this group but sadly they currently do not have a Group Leader. Again, if you would be interested in taking on this role contact me as above.

4.5. Local History

A few members have asked if we have a group looking specifically at Local History (not sure how this might be defined in geographical terms). Does anyone feel able to lead such a group?

5. **Life Long Learning**

A steering group has been set up to arrange a series of one day and short courses to be held during Autumn 2023 and Spring 2024. The proposed programme is as follows:

Stand and Deliver - Highwaymen vs the Georgian judicial system. A day course on 15th September

Norfolk's Industrial Past. A short course: 22nd September to 13th October

An improvisation workshop. A day course on 24th November

Ignorance is bliss, or is it? – a morning seminar 15th January

Giant Molecules - the stuff of life. A short course - 6 days in February or March

Planning has begun for a **Special Interest Day** in March - the engineering problems and solutions of future energy generation. In outline the day consists of four 45 minute to 1 hour long talks followed by questions from the audience. Speakers will be drawn from leading innovators in delivering future energy needs for the UK and beyond.

More details of all the above will be published in the coming weeks.

6. Activity Reports

6.1 Monthly Talk May 2023. Coronation Vestments by Jane Pavey (Georgette Vale)

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

We were very lucky indeed that this talk worked out at the way it did.

Jane had always enjoyed embroidery and even studied it as part of her college training, and she then married into the clergy so taking care of the ecclesiastical fabrics was a natural step. She is a member of the Guild of St Faith which is based in Westminster Abbey – well next door to the Abbey itself. A team of skilled needleworkers whose mission is to take care of and repair or replace all the fabric ceremonial artifacts.

None of the items used in our coronations date before 1661 simply because they were all destroyed in 1649 by the Commonwealth, and had to be remade for Charles II.

Jane took us through the copes which are the semi-circular capes. There are three sets of three – red, gold and purple. We learnt about the different patterns on the edge which are intricate appliqué designs frequently metallic which is couched onto the background. The hoods are the semi-circular design on the back – a stylised version that would not actually go over the head as per the original meaning. I never knew what the name for the strip that holds the two sides together across the chest. Now I know it is the morse. I shall have to inspect them more closely in future.

It was always a bit of a problem adapting the various copes to meet the needs of different sized members of the clergy and even more so now that women are allowed to wear them.

Each coronation brings something new to the mix. Queen Mary lots of a burgundy fabric which was used for the chair upholstery. I was able to spot that a few days later. Strangely the items which are 70 years old appear to have worn less well than those which are over 200 years old.

The appliqué is done with a silk thread which only lasts 60 years so keeping up with repairs is a bit like painting for Forth Bridge. The guild of St Faith is constantly looking out for any repairs needed.

Apart from the vestments we also had a look at the altar Frontals and Dorsals (the embroidered cloths on the front and at the back of altars. A real feast for the eyes – especially for the crafters and quilters amongst us.

6.2. u3a visit to Strangers Hall (Roland Clark)

Behind an unassuming gate in Charing Cross lies one of Norwich's most historic buildings, Strangers Hall. Dating from the 14th century, the large vaulted undercroft built for the secure storage and display of goods by Ralph de Middleton, a wealthy merchant, can still be seen. Considered a prestigious dwelling, it was owned by a succession of wealthy businessmen including several mayors of Norwich.

We met our guide in the Great Hall, laid out for a 14th century feast with the lord seated at the high table arrayed with pewter, glassware and food appropriate for the age. In a corner a 15th Century oak aumbry used to store valuables (fig 1).

In the 15th Century William Barley added the Great Hall, a large space for entertaining one's peers with a display of wealth and ostentation. Later owners added a fan vaulted bay window and gallery (figure 1). The Great Hall is still used for private dinners, a memorable experience for those lucky to participate. Over time smaller and more private rooms were added extending the size of the house.



Figure 1

How the house got its name remains a mystery. In Elizabethan time's Dutch protestant textile workers, known as Strangers, fleeing religious persecution at home settled in Kent. However, Thomas Sotherton, a grocer, and mayor of Norwich who owned the Hall, was keen to attract these skilled workers to Norwich and records show he wrote several letters from the Hall inviting them. While they came, and contributed significantly to the prosperity of Norwich there is no record of them living at the Hall. The house is now a museum of domestic history displaying through a series of period rooms how the house changed from the 14th to 20th Centuries.

For a while, in the 18th Century, Strangers Hall became the official lodgings for visiting Assize Judges and its Georgian dining room with its light pastel coloured walls, large windows and candle lit chandelier were adapted to meet their needs.

Upstairs to Lady Paine's 17th Century Chamber with its original furniture, including the small mirror reflecting the price of glass at the time, and replica textiles, household goods and personal objects of the period (fig 2).

Here she would spend her time reading, embroidering and receiving guests.



Figure 2



Onto Joseph Paine's 17 Century Great Chamber with its dark wooden panelling (fig 3) Things had moved on and guest could be entertained in privacy. The table has chairs, a thick covering and examples of early knives and two pronged forks. Serviettes make an appearance, not to cover ones clothes, but to protect the ever enlarging ruffs.

Figure 3

The group reacted well with our enthusiastic and knowledgeable young guide but the tour was well over time and had to end. But there was still an opportunity to explore the Victorian rooms and the garden with its Elizabethan Knot Hedge (fig 4)



Figure 4

Everyone enjoyed the experience, a pleasing end to my association with the Discovering Norwich Group.

NOTICE BOARD

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

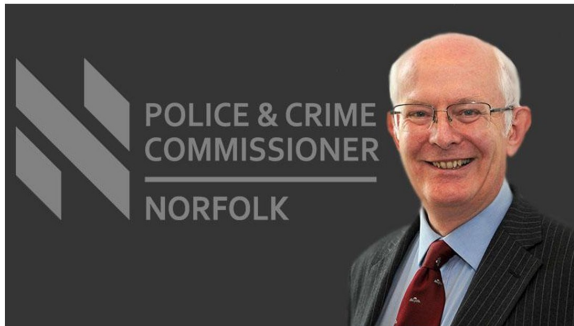
MONTHLY TALK

Thursday 1st June
At 2.00 p.m.



Wymondham Central Hall Monthly Talks

Giles Orphen-Smellie



The PCC has an overseeing role of policing in Norfolk

Free for members - £2 for non-members

For more information about Wymondham u3a
www.u3asites.org.uk/Wymondham

MONTHLY TALK - THURSDAY JULY 6th

The Yellow Caravan—Juliet Webster

A recreation of Honor Elwes ballad of The Yellow Caravan. This is a hilarious account of three young ladies touring Norfolk in a horse-drawn caravan in 1912.

HOLIDAYS



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

Monday 4th September to Sunday 10th September
Northern Ireland: £790 per person

COFFEE MORNINGS



Thursdays June

Thursday 1st, 8th and 22nd 9.00-12.00
Thursday 15th and 29th 9.00-11.00

July

Thursday 6th & 20th 9.00-12.00
Thursday 13th & 27th 9.00-11.00

Sundays (NEW)

Sunday June 11th 10am-1pm

COACH TRIPS



Friday 30th June, **River Orwell Cruise**,
£45 PAYMENT NOW OVERDUE

Wednesday 26th July, **Sandringham Flower Show**,
£30 (**BALANCE REQUIRED BY THE END OF JUNE**)

Friday 25th August, **Norfolk Broads Cruise**, £45

Friday 29th September, **Kew Gardens**, £45

Friday 6th October, **Gooderstone Water Gardens**, £35

LATEST NEWS

CURRY EVENING

Wednesday 16th August
Rose of India in Attleborough at 7pm

There are 44 seats available. If you wish to go please give your names to John Dollimore

THURSFORD CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

Thursday 14th December
We have been asked to sell 49 seats by Cairngorm Travel
Coach and Tickets cost £61 and leaves Wymondham at 11am