

'Shooting the rapids' taken by Gill Walpole



Winning entry in the Photographic Competition.
More photographs with results on pages 28 & 29

**Wishing A Happy New Year
to All U3A Members**

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U3A Norwich Website

To keep up-to-date between issues of the Informer, don't forget to visit our website for the latest news:

www.u3anorwich.org

U3A Norwich Email Address

Contact us now at:

u3anorwich@gmail.com

U3A National Office

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Website: www.u3a.org.uk

Email: national.office@u3a.org.uk

Copy Date for Next Issue

We hope to distribute our next Issue (Spring 2012) in April Please submit any material you wish to be included by **March 18th** All forms of copy will be gratefully received but the easiest form (for editing) is as a Word attachment to an e mail to:

gordoneditor@gmail.com

[Cc: u3apub@gmail.com](mailto:u3apub@gmail.com)

Alternatively, copy can be posted

to: The Editor, 'Informer',

133 Earlham Road

Norwich NR2 3RG

Telephone Numbers

Unless otherwise stated, all telephone numbers in this Informer are Norwich numbers (area code 01603).

Announcements

Monthly Meetings - Dates for Your Diary!

Venue: The Noverre Suite, Assembly House, Theatre Street, Norwich

Time: The third Wednesday in each month at 2 pm.

Doors open 1.30 pm.

No charge will be made to members but please show Membership Card.

Visitors will pay £2.50 each

Following the meeting, there will be an opportunity for new members to meet a member of the committee.

The Noverre Suite has a Hearing Induction Loop System for the Hearing Impaired, please switch your Hearing Aid to “T”.

2012

- | | | |
|---------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 18 Jan | After the Sinking of the Titanic | <i>John Balls</i> |
| 15 Feb | The Bayeux Tapestry | <i>Mark Mitchels</i> |
| 21 Mar | All Tucked Up-The History of the Witney Blanket. | <i>Jamie Everitt</i> |
| 18 Apr | Working Horses of Norfolk | <i>Stephen Pope</i> |
| 16 May | How NOT to destroy your Heirlooms. | <i>Sarah Norcross-Robinson</i> |
| 20 Jun | To be Announced | |
| 18 Jul | Hailstones & Highway Men-Travel in the 18th C. | <i>James Albone</i> |
| 15 Aug | Savages of Lynn - Makers of Victorian Funfair Rides | <i>Tim Thorpe</i> |

Chairman's Report

Chairman's Report to the 2011 Norwich U3A AGM

We have had another successful year in the twenty since the inaugural meeting of Norwich U3A. We exceeded 1000 in 2011. The average number of members in a U3A is 349, which makes us well above average in size. We get between 100 to 150 new members each year and lose around 100 by death, moving from the district and various other reasons. We are growing slowly, which is fine as we are after quality not quantity, in fact many U3As have limited their numbers to 500. Our Study and Activity groups are 115 and growing. I am pleased to report that we now have 13 Language & Culture Groups covering 6 languages – Classical Greek, French, German, Italian, Latin & Spanish. Study Groups started this Academic Year at 65, closely followed by 50 Activity and Social Groups. Your Committee has done sterling work on finding members willing to become co-ordinators and will continue to do so in the coming year. We are happy to give every assistance to new co-ordinators. As I continually mention in The Informer your Committee is always ready to help and advise members with any problems. We cannot, however, help, if you do not contact us; our e-mail addresses and telephone numbers are available to you all. Any member who has a problem joining a group, do please speak to one of us as soon as possible in order that we may perhaps arrange for a new group to commence. Perhaps you might consider being a co-ordinator yourself. We do ask you, though, to be flexible in the groups that you join; many are full because that is the nature of the group, as they meet in members' homes and are restricted so that all members can contribute to the discussion at every meeting. Other groups, such as the Travel Group, are able to be unrestricted because of the way they operate and the hall in which they meet. Each group is autonomous.

We again held a successful Co-ordinators Day in May, where we were able to get together and discuss problems and aid new co-ordinators. The website, run so very efficiently by David Olphin, really is a wonderful window into Norwich U3A and gives us publicity, seen by people all over the world – thank you David for all your work. We also publicise ourselves with our leaflets in all the local libraries and we have, in the past, been on BBC Radio Norfolk and given talks to Rotary Clubs and Norfolk Public Service Pension Fund Members (where I met several of our current members). Our quarterly magazine, The Informer, continues to provide news and information in very readable form on the range and content of U3A activities and records our Monthly Lectures, thanks to the talents of Jean Oldham. Our thanks go to Gordon Cardew & Bridget Adamson for all the work they do in providing us with such a well-produced magazine.

My thanks go to the Committee for their work and support during this past year: Peter Montague, our Vice-Chairman, for his help and support; Anne Cardew our Secretary, working quietly in the background keeping the wheels of administration oiled; Rosemary Brown, our Groups Administrator, who also spends many hours keeping our database up to date; Margaret Holmes, the Membership Secretary, very busy from August to October processing new members and renewals; Gill Dear, who took over as Treasurer this year, and has done a sterling job; Bridget, whom I have mentioned previously; John Rant, who took over from me as Lecture Secretary, who has provided us with a varied programme of Lecturers for our monthly meetings; Fay Cunliffe, our Publicity person, for her work especially on the organising of Events such as the Co-ordinators' Lunch and our 20th Anniversary Event; and finally John Ferguson, a committee member.

Our greatest asset is the number of members who are willing to be co-ordinators; without them there would not be over 100 successfully operating groups in Norwich U3A; thank you all. I would also like to thank those who, whilst not running a group, open their homes as a Group Host enabling more groups to operate. Finally, thanks for their work in the background go to Derek & Lesley MacLeod for their work filling envelopes and posting the Programmes and Informers.

In October we held our 20th Anniversary Celebration Study Groups Exhibition and Wine & Cheese Event, which was very successful and attended by approximately 150 members, with over a dozen groups mounting displays or providing a performance. It was marvellous to meet so many of you there in an event which covered both our Social & Educational Activities. As it went so well, it may become an Annual Event and I would hope that it could grow with more groups mounting stalls or performances. Thank you to everyone who worked to make it such a success.

As we move into our next 20 years I am sure that we shall grow in numbers and stature and provide an opportunity to continue our learning in the later years of our lives.

Derek Oldham

20th Anniversary Celebration Event

On Thursday 27th October about 150 Norwich U3A members took part in our celebration to mark 20 years since its foundation. We saw over a dozen groups mount displays including beautiful flower arrangements. Poetry & Creative Writing were in evidence as was a thriving Computer group. Two continuous Chess Games were played during the morning and there was interest and activity on the Curiosity Club Stand. Both the History & Culture of Tibet and the Knitting Circle had very colourful displays and Travel & Pitch & Putt Groups were also represented. We were entertained by our Singing Group of over 30 members. This was followed by a Latin Play staged by one of our three Latin groups. Our Activity & Social Groups were represented by the Long Distance Walkers, with a presentation by Esme Staniforth which included wonderful photographs extolling the variety and beauty of Norfolk. Refreshments of wine, soft drinks and cheese and biscuits were also provided. This was a first time event and very successful thanks to the hard work of the Committee, co-ordinators and friends. It may well become an Annual Event to celebrate Norwich U3A as it moves onto the next 20 years.

Jean Oldham



Esme Staniforth showing and describing some of the walks and countryside covered by the Monday Long Distance Walkers

20th Anniversary Celebration



The Choir



Captive Audience

See pages 8 for more pictures

Some of the Groups Exhibiting in the 20th Anniversary Celebration



Flower Arranging



Pitch and Putt



Creative Writing



Latin Group



Chess Group



Knitting Circle

The Greater Norwich Project

I felt quite inspired by an article in U3A Sources 44, October 2011, called 'Aspects of London's Natural History'. The article told of a Shared Learning Project in London co-ordinated by Kay Denny of Hammersmith & Fulham U3A. The project ran over four months, with members getting together fortnightly to discuss progress with their chosen subject, communicating by e-mail between times. At the end of the project an essay was written up by each participant, and the results printed and bound. The essay titles show the diversity of subjects studied, such as The Wildlife of the Tidal Thames, London in Sickness and in Health, Heaths, Commons and Victorian Cemeteries, The Lea Valley – Past, Present and Future, From the Top of Golders Hill, and so on. The chosen area of study was a 20-mile radius of St Paul's Cathedral, quite a large area.

I thought that we could do something similar here. Our area would cover a 3 and a half mile radius of the Castle, which would include the whole of Greater Norwich. I would prefer our project to run for a whole year, to include the winter period, with perhaps monthly meetings. It would not be just a book- and internet-based project, as the London one appears to have been, but would include outings and possibly some fieldwork. Finally, it would involve writing up our findings in the form of essays, possibly illustrated with photos, drawings and diagrams, but help could be given with this if required. The grand finale of course would be to get all our efforts compiled and printed.

I would like to co-ordinate such a project, which for the time being we will call 'The Greater Norwich Project' – a better title could be discussed at our initial meeting. The project would run from Easter for a year, and would involve monthly meetings with occasional outings and field trips for which knowledgeable leaders could be engaged. Subjects to be studied would be suggested at the initial meeting, but would mainly reflect participants' interests.

Interested? Then please ring me on Norwich 435547 or e-mail phyl@hardie24.plus.com

Phyll Hardie

U3A Norwich needs your email Now!

To improve our communication with members we now issue periodic emails to all members that have provided us with their email address details. This has the joint advantage of reducing our costs and immediately notifying members of changes or news items. Out of our membership of over a 1,000 we have been notified of only 475 email addresses, so if you have an email address and have not already given it to us please follow the instructions below. If you have recently received an email from the U3A Norwich Email-News Team you need take no further action as we already have your details.

How to give us your details:

Send an email to: u3anornews@gmail.com

Include your full name, membership no, and tel. no, & say if you are a co-ordinator.

Thank you from the U3A Norwich Email-News Team.



Monthly Lectures

An “almost” unique Photographer

On the 19th October Alistair Murphy regaled us with a very interesting lecture on a local lady professional photographer. Olive Edis' collection of autochromes and photographs was bought by Cromer Museum for £30,000; on examination it has proved to be beyond price as a record of British Society between the wars. Autochrome was a process invented in 1906 using grains of dried potato starch dyed red, green and blue which made a filter so that a colour transparency could be made. The autochromes and photographs have since been valued at £10,000 and £20,000 respectively so the 2000 glass plate negatives were virtually free. Olive Edis had her purpose-built studio in Sheringham. She decided to use only natural light and her studio had a very unusual plate-glass rooftop window. Her sitters ranged from grizzled local fishermen with faces full of character to the great and the good. She had a remarkable ability to reveal her sitters' character; sometimes, not to their advantage. We saw photographs of Thomas Hardy, Nancy Astor, Edward VIII, and George Formby, among others. In later life she married Edwin Galsworthy, cousin of the famous author John. Photographs of herself reveal a striking looking woman. Photographs of others reveal her ability as “almost” unique. Alistair Murphy took us on a wonderful journey through this period of British history, thanks to her work. Thank you, Alistair, for your knowledgeable and interesting lecture.

Jean Oldham



Self Portrait



Cromer Fisherman

Monthly Lectures

Emperor Qin and his Terracotta Army

Following the AGM John Rant gave us an interesting and well-presented lecture on the above topic. Although known to many of us, few, I think, will have realised the colossal amount of human effort involved in constructing this monument. We are used to the idea of The Great Wall of China – the only man-made artefact visible from space. To attempt to unwind the intricate tangle of rooms and pits comprising the huge mausoleum of the monarch is a formidable task. Belief in an after-life meant the Emperor Qin was buried with pits for his stables, horses, servants, and army. Other pits contained a complete six-horse chariot and hundreds of pieces of armour. This armour was made of stone and must have been appallingly heavy. We even saw an illustration of an armoured horse. The army of hundreds of terracotta men was truly amazing. Each man's face was that of an individual and different from any other. John gave us a glimpse of the painstaking work involved in unearthing these artefacts and piecing them together. It was surprising that colour was used on the originals, and this is being replicated. The mausoleum is a vainglorious attempt on the part of Emperor Qin to attain immortality. On the other hand, perhaps he really has! Thank you, John, for your interesting and informative lecture.

Jean Oldham



Monthly Lectures

December Lecture

Report for December Lecture will be in the next Issue of Informer - Spring 2012

Thank You

A big thank you to all of you who very kindly donated to the N&N Neo-natal intensive care unit. We raised a marvellous £2223.55 and are still counting. We are very pleased to report that our grandson is now, due to their fantastic care, well, and has no brain damage.

Don and Ann Wordsworth



Notice Board

1] If anyone is interested in starting up a Shared Learning Project, Jennifer Anning, the National SLP Co-ordinator, has produced a leaflet as a guide and a copy can be obtained from Anne Cardew: 01603 507053 or acanneseecretary04@gmail.com An SLP involves a team of U3A members exploring a specific topic proposed by a U3A or by an institution such as a museum, art gallery, stately home or library and normally there is a set time span. Advice can be obtained from Jennifer by e-mailing her: ja_ku3a@btinternet.com

2] U3A National Chess by e-mail: Why not join this newly formed group? Basically you have your own chessboard set up [via a grading system you will play someone of equal strength] and play via sending and receiving moves by e-mail. For full information e-mail Dick Chapman of Watford U3A at: dick.chapman@ntlworld.com

3] U3A Explores Science at the Royal Institution: Tuesday 27 March 2012 14.00 - 17.00 at The Royal Institution of GB, 21 Albemarle Street, London W1. Tickets £18 including refreshments. Lectures on Forensic Science, particle accelerators and food production in a changing climate. Apply in writing to The Third Age Trust, 19 East Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1QE enclosing a 2nd class stamp for up to 4 tickets or a large letter stamp if you require more [max. 15 tickets per applicant]. More details from Anne Cardew tel. 01603 507053 or acanneseecretary04@gmail.com

4] U3A Summer Schools:

Harper Adams University College Newport, nr Telford Monday 16 July to Thursday 19 July 2012: Cinema History, Design Principles in Art, France, History, Music Appreciation, Philosophy/Fiction, Poetry, Recorder Ensemble Playing and Writing Fiction. Cost £315 [full board residential] per person or £118 [non-residential]. Deposit £70.

The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester Monday 20 August to Thursday 23 August 2012: Drama, History, Literature, Needlepoint Lacemaking, Philosophy, Psychology, Singing and Website Design. Cost £315 [full board residential] per person or £118 [non-residential]. Deposit £70.

For booking notes and more details on both these Summer Schools contact Anne Cardew tel. 01603 507053 or acanneseecretary04@gmail.com.

Notice Board

5] Group leader bulk discount offer: if you run one of the following groups, you might be interested in this offer on books published in partnership with the Third Age Trust: Family History; Digital Photography; and Computing for the Older & Wiser [Laptops; Computing with Windows; Computing ; iPad; the Internet; Microsoft Office] To find out more call Scott Smith on 01243 770441 or email scsmith@wiley.com

6] U3A invites you to a special concert for U3A members "In Honour of Saint Cecilia" at The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, Duchy of Lancaster on Thursday 2 February 2012 at 14.00. Tickets [first come, first served] £18 [unreserved.] For more details contact Anne Cardew on 01603 507053 or acanneseecretary04@gmail.com . To apply for tickets send an SAE and cheque payable to The Third Age Trust to The Third Age Trust, 19 East Street, Bromley BR1 1QE For queries contact the National Office on 020 8466 6139 [or national.office@u3a.org.uk](mailto:national.office@u3a.org.uk)

7] Interested in theatre and drama? 4 workshops for U3A members created by the Ambassador Theatre Group at the Piccadilly Theatre, London: 12 & 27 March 2012 10.45 - 16.30 Directing, Backstage, Theatre History & Writing ... from page to stage. £20 including lunch and refreshments. If interested contact Anne Cardew on 01603 507053 or acanneseecretary04@gmail.com . Booking forms will be sent to me at the beginning of January.

Co ordinator Wanted

The Creative Writing Group who meet fortnightly in the centre of Norwich on Thursday afternoons requires a co-ordinator. The group at present consists of seven lively, enthusiastic, members. Discussion follows the reading of articles. Please contact Mrs. Margaret Godden (present co-ordinator) on 404506 if there is a possibility that you might be able to fill this role.

New Groups

EMBROIDERY & FABRIC COLLAGE – Thorpe St. Andrew 2.00pm-4.00pm

Co-ordinator: Phyll Hardie Tel: 435547 Monthly – Last Wednesday

Commencing 25 January 2012. Embroidery – bring your own work. Help will be given if needed. Fabric Collage – tuition given as required. Please telephone for list of requirements.

THE GREATER NORWICH PROJECT – Thorpe St Andrew 2.00pm-4.00pm

Co-ordinator: Phyll Hardie Tel: 435547 Monthly – Last Thursday

Commencing 26 April 2012. A one-year project looking at various aspects of Greater Norwich life, history, natural history, geography etc., to be chosen as individual projects by group members. Findings to be written up as essays at end of year – help given if required.

ART APPRECIATION – Unthank Road 2.00pm-4.00pm

Co-ordinator: Beverley Scott Tel: 618980 Monthly – 1st Thursday

Commencing 2 February 2012. Aimed at people who “know what they like” but would like to know more about artists and movements – learn through discussion and examples as well as visits to various galleries and museums in our area.

DRAWING & PAINTING - t.b.a. 10.30 a.m

Co-ordinator: Eileen Dixon Tel: 616929 Fortnightly – Tuesday or Thursday

Commencing 7 February 2012. First meeting to discuss venue and dates to suit most people. Following meetings, bring something to draw. Do your own thing. Share ideas. I’m not a teacher.

POSTAL WRITING GROUP

Co-ordinator: Anne McGowan Tel: 305069.

Continuous. This group is ideal for those who love writing and especially for those who find it difficult to get to meeting places. We write prose on subjects of individual choice (articles and stories), but once a year we will write on the same subject. We send our work through the post to the other group members to enjoy, make constructive comments and give feedback.

THE ‘IFS’ OF HISTORY – Hellesdon 2.00pm-4.00pm

Co-ordinator: John Browning Tel: 425641 Mon – Fortnightly

Commencing 9 January 2012. Discussing what might have happened IF the Persians had won at Salamis 480 BC; the Saracens had been the victors at Tours 732 AD; the Saxons had won at Hastings 1066 AD; and other events up to 1940; the Panzers had NOT halted outside Dunkirk.

New Groups

ARTISTS AND THEIR ART - Central Norwich

2.00 pm

Co-ordinator: Bernard Pearson Tel: 625812

Monthly – 4th Tuesday

Email: pearsonbw@hotmail.co.uk

Commencing: 24 January 2012. Talks with **PowerPoint** presentations on the **Visual Arts** and a whole range of Artists. It is hoped that members of the group would participate.

Memories of “Norfolk Miscellany” 1998-2008

I have so many happy memories of being Norfolk Miscellany’s co-ordinator for 10 years. Where do I start?

After a very debilitating time following a sudden attack of rheumatoid arthritis 1994-96, I felt I wanted to regain independence and get my brain working again. I was introduced to Norwich U3A and chose a group studying ‘Norwich during the Industrial Revolution’ run by dear Beryl Watkins. Getting an automatic geared car gave me mobility and freedom. This group and the car got me back into ‘the world’ again but after 2 years Beryl was retiring. Oh dear. Where now?

As the group shared a love of history, we decided to form “Norfolk Miscellany”. I volunteered to co-ordinate and see how it would go for a year. Surprisingly it started with 8 members and grew to almost 50 at one time! I was told it was the most popular group. During those 10 years I organised over one hundred visits, mainly to Norfolk venues. We very rarely doubled up on any of them. We visited castles, priories, churches, merchants halls, museums, Norwich Union Marble Hall, the undercroft of Norwich Law Courts and the Archant buildings where we saw newspaper presses rolling. We went on guided tours, and we saw the S.H.A.R.P. Archaeological Dig at Sedgeford the day after 17 gold coins were discovered in a cow barn; we were the 1st members of the public to see 8 of these coins after the TV and Press Release.

We never knew what the day had in store for us when we set off but magical moments turned up unexpectedly and it always seemed that the weather was on our side! My most abiding memories are of the wonderful people I met who went out of their way to help me to organise our days out, and the friendships I gained with the members, sharing a common interest. A selection of photographs I took during that time can be seen on www.u3anorwich.org.

Ann Haines



***Ann with members in
the Rose Gardens at
Houghton Hall***

A Winter Treat

One Hundred Cookies

These biscuits stay crisp for ages and are delicious.

1 cup white sugar
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup margarine
1 cup oil
1 egg
1/2 tspn vanilla essence
3 1/2 cups S.R. flour
2 tspns Baking powder
1 cup Rice Crispies
1 cup coconut
1 cup medium oatmeal

Cream together the sugars, margarine, oil, egg & vanilla. In a separate large bowl mix flour and baking powder.

Combine both bowls and add the rest of the ingredients. Mix well and roll into small [walnut size] balls.

Place on greased trays and flatten slightly with a fork.

Bake 10 - 15 minutes at 180C/350F/gas 4. [*These are excellent –Ed.*]

Chairman's Notes

A Happy New Year to all our members in this the 21st Year of Norwich U3A. We move into 2012 with at least six New Groups commencing. Our Monthly Lectures continue on the 3rd Wednesday afternoon of each month at 2.00pm. John Rant has arranged many good speakers and I hope that I shall see many of you at the Assembly House. I always feel that our Monthly Lectures are our "shop window" and also allow your Committee to meet our members on a monthly basis. Even if the title of the lecture does not at first interest you, do come, you may well be surprised at how interesting a lecture on an unknown subject can be, and can extend your learning experience. On Friday 25th May we shall be holding another Co-ordinators Day so please do put this in your diary. If any Co-ordinator has any items they would like to be discussed on that day, please do tell Rosemary Brown. If you have problems, complaints or queries regarding Norwich U3A during the year, please do contact me, or any member of the Committee, so that the matter can be addressed at the earliest opportunity.

Derek Oldham

Quick Quiz

This may be a 'little' difficult for those of us who are over 60. For anyone else, it's impossible.

- 1) As a participant in a race, you overtake the second person. What position are you then in?
 - 2) If you overtake the last person, then.....
 - 3) Tackle this arithmetical question mentally, with no aids – not even a pencil!: Take 1000 and add 40 to it. Now add another 1000. Now add 30. Add another 1000. Now add 20. Add another 1000. Now add 10. What is the total?
 - 4) Mary's father has five daughters: Nana, Nene, Nini, Nono and the name of the fifth daughter is.....?
 - 5) A mute person goes into a shop to buy a toothbrush. By imitating the action of brushing his teeth he obtains what he wants. Then a blind person goes into the shop to buy a pair of sunglasses. How does he indicate what he wants?
- Answers Page 25

Squash or Racketball, anyone?

Here's a great offer from England Squash and Racketball:

Two free taster sessions led by an ESR qualified racketball coach. Sessions would be specifically tailored to meet the needs of U3A members – as gentle or as strenuous as you want them to be! Equipment: rackets/balls, loaned free of charge by the Club.

What do you need to do? Wear trainers/shoes with non-marking soles Dress in loose comfortable clothing – no need for specialist sports gear. Be prepared to have a go. As a result of this scheme, we hope that you will be able to start a new group who play one afternoon a week at local club or leisure centre. Further information is available from: acanneseecretary04@gmail.com or 01603 507053 or direct from mark.williams@englandsquashandracketball.com

Bowls for All

Reminder: Don't forget the start date for bowls is 18th April 9.45 a.m. (Weather Permitting). Anyone interested please contact Ann Stagg Tel: 898881

Something for the dark days of Winter?

Derek (427566) has opened up places for indoor games to beginners, so you can try your hand at Canasta or Rummikub, or any board game of your choice. There are 2 groups available, taking place on Tuesdays from 2 till 4 pm, or Mondays from 7 till 9 pm, both fortnightly. The groups meet in Hellesdon. Call Derek.

Grand U3A Winter Quiz 2012

Subject to demand, a U3A members only quiz will take place on Wednesday 29th February 2pm at Chapelfield Road Church Centre. Admission £1. Tables of not more than six players. Please inform John Ferguson on Norwich 615387 if interested.

Group News

Coach Trip To Suffolk

It was one of the last fine, warm sunny days of our Indian Summer as our large group climbed aboard our coach for a day out in Suffolk. Our first stop was the Coach House, well hidden in the leafy lanes around Thornham Magna, for coffee and tempting, but very self indulgent, iced cakes (so soon after breakfast?). Then it was on to our main target for the morning, the Museum of East Anglian Life - set in 76 acres of parkland on the outskirts of Stowmarket. Issued with blue stickers as we disembarked it took a moment or two to realise that MEAL referred to our entry to the museum and was not simply the ticket for our lunch which was soon to be served in the Bistro!



Over the years a fine collection of historic buildings has been transferred to the site from all over East Anglia. These included a beautiful 15th century tithe barn with a wonderfully dusty wood interior, complete with cobwebs and glimpses of sky through gaps in the tiles, an even older 14th century farmhouse, a tin chapel from Great Moulton which I could remember cycling past as a

child, a working (but not during our visit) overshot watermill and that familiar sight seen all around the Broads - a wind drainage mill - all scattered around the site and linked by woodland paths and grassy walkways. Ever helpful museum staff ensured that everyone was well cared for as those less able to walk were shuttled around the site in open buggies. Informative displays within the buildings told of rural crafts and industries. I discovered the differences between a tun, a firkin and a butt, what was a fellow and that the old Ransome lawnmower in the back of my garden shed should probably be in a museum.



Group News

Shortly after 2 o'clock we reassembled at the coach and, after Rosemary's careful headcount, recrossed the A140 into the wilds of Suffolk between Ipswich and Framlingham to Otley Hall. Believed to be one of the oldest



houses in the county, with much of it dating from the 14th and early 15th century, it has had a varied past. Ranging from the abode of the rich and powerful to a spell as an old people's home, it is now the family home of the Beaumonts and is used for conferences, weddings and quiet

days, and only opens to the general public for a few days each year. Surrounded

on three sides by a moat, mature trees, and lavender filled gardens, the first impression is of a beautiful tall timbered building with mellow red brickwork set in a herringbone pattern, and massively tall and ornate chimneys. The interior was almost more striking. Our tour started in the comfortably furnished Great Hall with its



huge fireplace, dark wood panelled walls and unusual y-ended beams. From here we moved into the Parlour to look more closely at the detail (including

Group News



‘stitches’) of its intricately carved 'linenfold' panelling, believed to have been brought to Suffolk from Hampton Court by Cardinal Wolsey when he fell out of favour with Henry VIII, and from there through a succession of smaller rooms with uneven floors and less ornate beams, to finish our tour in the huge

kitchen, complete with minstrels' gallery, where children's toys and paintings mixing with a huge ancient fireplace and a more modern Aga reminded us that this was still very much a family home.

Our knowledgeable and entertaining guides enlivened our tour with tales of earlier residents, ranging from Bartholomew Gosnald, who led one of the earliest expeditions to settle America and was responsible for the naming of

Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard, to Mrs Sherston, whose friendship with Arthur Mosely and acquaintance with Hitler, Ribbentrop and Goering meant that, had the Nazi invasion succeeded, Otley Hall would have become the headquarters of the Luftwaffe. Our tour finished with tea in the adjoining



barn (and yet more delicious cream cake) after which there was time for a brief stroll in the gardens,

Group News

avoiding the inquisitive swans and peacocks, to look at the unusual H shaped moat, before climbing aboard the coach again for the return to Notcutts.

Our thanks must go to our coach driver Alisdair, whose ability to manoeuvre his huge coach - in spaces which most of us would have found perplexing in only a mini - continually amazed us, but above all to Rosemary for her seamless and efficient organisation of such an enjoyable, varied and fascinating day.

Sunday Lunch Club.

I would like to thank all of you who supported this event during the year and hope you will enjoy the coming year too. It is a fact that public transport is weak on a Sunday and it has been good to see you helping each other getting to the event. But perhaps those of you who have trouble with transport could think of setting up a weekday lunch club! It is really not difficult and there is lots of help for you.

The next Sunday lunch will be on 29th January at the Maid's Head, 12 noon for 12.30. There are steps to the restaurant from both the front entrance and the car park (only a few steps) but level walking from the entrance in Wensum Street. Please call me on 504144 or email penny.banks50@gmail.com for full details but briefly there is a choice of 4 starters (Wild Mushroom Cobbler or Tomato soup or Duck, Ham, cornichons etc or Moules Mariniere, and 4 Main courses (Roast Pigeon or Loin of Pork or Fillet of Lemon Sole or Potato, Cabbage and Cheddar Torte etc. This is, as usual, a two-course meal and the price will be £16.50 to include tea/coffee but not tips. I look forward to hearing from you.

Penny Banks

Answers to Quick Quiz (page 20)

- 1) If you overtake the second person, you take his place, so you are then second (not first!).
- 2) ...on a continuous track, and another lap ahead of the last person.
- 3) 4100. If you don't believe this, use a calculator.
- 4) She's still called Mary, not Nunu!
- 5) He asks for them.

Group News

Watercolour Group

The Watercolour group had two outdoor expeditions in the Summer, to River Green and to the Plantation Garden. River Green, in Thorpe St. Andrew, is well known. The Plantation Garden, next to St John's RC Cathedral, is a Victorian garden, which, virtually abandoned during and after World War 2, is gradually being restored by a group of enthusiasts. The first task was to clear a forest of sycamores and a blanket of ivy to reveal the treasure that was the original garden. The interesting wall, which inspired our watercolour painters, is built from 'wasters' from Gunton Brickworks at Costessey. It includes the arms of the Wallace and Amhurst families. There are still 'wasters' available and new walls, just as fascinating, are still being built in the garden. I would add that the Plantation Garden is a good place to take any visitors (along with the Grapes Hill Community Garden a short walk away). Either garden, as well as the Gunton Brickworks, could form the subject of 'projects' (see my article on the Greater Norwich Project).

Phyll Hardie



Group News



Photography Competition Results

First: Gill Walpole 'Shooting the rapids' (See Front Cover)

Second: Mary Robertson 'The pond'

Joint Third: Jean Tate with 'Just Sitting' and 'Whooh'

May we congratulate everyone who entered this year. The Judges felt that Gill's photograph was outstanding. We were very pleased to see an increased entry this year, possibly due to the fact that we allowed entries by email. Thanks to all the following U3A members who entered:

Phyllis Barber, Mike Forest, Mary Roberon, Julia Fane de Salis, Graham and Janet Smith, Jean Tate, Jill Walpole and Wendy Webb.

We would like to encourage more people to 'have a go' next year. The theme has been decided. As next year is 2012 Olympics we are giving you an open title of **SPORT**.

The judges would like to recommend that action photos are often more interesting than static photos. Do not be afraid to crop photos to highlight the points of interest. Think about lighting if it is possible and also unusual angles can sometimes add greatly to the final picture. More details will follow in the Summer 'Informer' but you could start getting ideas and photos together for next year's competition now.

Peter Montague, Barry Shapcott and Esme Staniforth (Photo. Comp. Judges)



The Pond



Just Sitting



Whoa

Winter Competition

Someone must be "deadly" at Scrabble. When they rearranged the letters they were able to give a meaning to the following words. How many can you do?

This is a competition. Please send your answers to Esme Staniforth at esmestaniforth@uk2.net so we can print the results. Have fun.

The first and last are given as examples,

PRESBYTERIAN

When you rearrange the letters you can get

BEST IN PRAYER

Now rearrange the letters for all the following:

1.ASTRONOMER

2.DESPERATION

3.THE EYES

4.GEORGE BUSH

5.THE MORSE CODE

6.DORMITORY

7. SLOT MACHINES

8. ELECTION RESULTS

9. SNOOZE ALARMS

10. A DECIMAL POINT

11. THE EARTHQUAKES

12. ELEVEN PLUS TWO

MOTHER-IN-LAW

When you rearrange the letters:

WOMAN HITLER !

A RIDDLE TO KEEP YOU AWAKE ! Only 5% of Stanford University graduates figured it out!

Can you answer all seven of the following questions with the same word?

1. The word has seven letters....

2. Preceded God...

3. Greater than God...

4. More Evil than the devil...

5. All poor people have it...

6. Wealthy people need it....

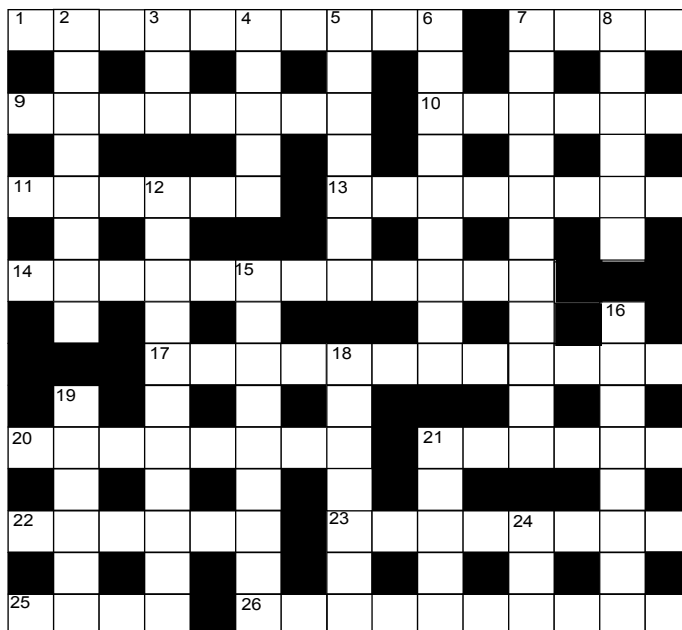
7. If you eat it, you will die.

A note from the editor:

Our regular competition writer, Esme, is taking a break from writing competitions. I'm sure everyone will wish to join me in thanking her for her many mind-twisting contributions. All contributions from other sources will be gratefully received! Please send them to me at: gordoneditor@gmail.com

Leisure

Michael's Crossword No 27



ACROSS

- 1 Crustacean prised apart type of apple (6,4)
- 7 Shaped like a cricket ground (4)
- 9 Hide rent deviously when owing some money (2,3,3)
- 10 Avocet expressed interval between two notes (6)
- 11 Weapon belonging to us gives battle protection (6)
- 13 Bless me, a terrible get-together! (8)
- 14 Looks towards Mecca when the sea facts unravel (5,3,4)
- 17 Challenging periods when trying a newspaper (7,5)
- 20 Mad if rep ignited gas in mine (4,4)
- 21 All the poison deadly (6)
- 22 Corner in part of local coveted (6)
- 23 In being protected by relation it's threatening (8)
- 25 Man is recorded as being in debt (4)
- 26 Corrupt State edited photo inside – and it stops the decay (10)

DOWN

- 2 Spare can replace organ (8)
- 3 Note deer sound (3)
- 4 More unusual are rights outside (5)
- 5 Bureaucracy involved in recovered tapestry (3,4)
- 6 Violently slam bongo and snake appears (9)
- 7 Book operation before said meeting with eye man (11)
- 8 Smithy equipment found in silvan setting (6)
- 12 Ecstatic about where the cow jumped (4,3,4)
- 15 Amended statement to produce evidence (9)
- 16 Treadle pushed for warning sign (3,4)
- 18 I'm a post decorated in thick paint (7)
- 19 Prisoner unwell inside, found on bed (6)
- 21 Start a missed meal (5)
- 24 Pa's rejuvenated in health resort (3)

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Michael's Crossword No 27 - Answers

15 Testament	2 Pancreas	20 Fire damp	1 Spider crab
16 Red alert	3 Doh	21 Lethal	7 Oval
18 Impasto	4 Rarer	22 Alcove	9 In the red
19 Pillow	5 Red tape	23 Sinstier	10 Octave
21 Lunch	6 Boomslang	25 Owen	11 Armour
24 Spa	7 Optometrist	26 Toothpaste	13 Assemble
	8 Anvil		14 Faces the east
	12 Over the moon		17 Testing times

DOWN

ACROSS