



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Saffron Walden  
Registered Charity No. 290670

# *UPDATE*

*Autumn 2015*



*SAFFRON WALDEN U3A*

*[www.saffronwaldenu3a.org.uk](http://www.saffronwaldenu3a.org.uk)*

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**OPEN MEETINGS take place on 3rd Monday  
at 2.30pm DOORS OPEN AT 2.15pm  
AT THE BOWLS CLUB IN ABBEY LANE**

***Should any members have difficulty in hearing at our meetings or classes or have difficulty with access through disability, please speak to a member of the Committee to try and make attendance easier and more comfortable***

Front cover image: Butterfly at Jordan's Mill by John Martin, see page 16

## **SAFFRON WALDEN U3A COMMITTEE**

Chair	Sue Barton	01799 540749	oldship@onetel.com
Vice Chair	Mary Edwards	01799 551924	mary.edwards17@gmail.com
Treasurer	Peter Long	01799 524443	peterlong.associates@virgin.net.
Secretary	Ann Treglown	01799 516707	ann.treglown@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Ann Banks	01799 550328	annjohn.banks@uwclub.net
Activities and Venues Co-ordinator	Terry Allen	07974 260078 01375 644636	terryallen606@btinternet.com
Update Editor	Jessica Jackson	01763 837294	sjessica.jackson@gmail.com
Speakers for Open Meetings	Sue Barton	01799 540749	oldship@onetel.com
Events Co-ordinator	Billie Rochford	01799 550223	billierochford@btinternet.com
Events Co-ordinator	Maresi Bennion	01787 581532	mtbennion@hotmail.com
Holidays	Mary Edwards	01799 551924	mary.edwards17@gmail.com
Co-opted member	Jean Little	01799 513411	little361@btinternet.com
Co-opted member	Pauline Palmer	01799 502560	pauline.palmer3@ntlworld.com
Website Management	Martin Hugall	01799 527805	website@saffronwaldenu3a.org.uk

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Monday	Line Dancing	URC Hall	1.00-2.15
Monday fortnightly	History Byways	Baptist Room	11.00-12.00
Twice monthly on Monday	Writing for Pleasure	Tutor's home	10.00-12.00
Tuesday	Italian 2 <sup>nd</sup> year	Tutor's home	9.30-10.45
"	Sequence Dancing	URC Hall	9.45-10.45
"	Pilates 1	URC Hall	11.00-12.00
"	Pilates 2	URC Hall	12.15-1.15
"	Pilates 3 Beginners	Baptist Hall	12.30-1.30
"	Pilates 4	Baptist Hall	1.30-2.30
"	Art Class 1	URC Hall	2.30-4.30
Wednesday	Music Group	Baptist Hall	10.30-11.45
"	Tai Chi 1	Baptist Hall	9.30-10.30
"	Tai Chi 2	Baptist Hall	11.00-12.00
"	Keep Fit	Baptist Church	11.10-12.10
"	Nice 'n' Easy Fitness	Baptist Hall	12.30-1.30
"	Mah-jong 1	Members' homes	1.30-3.30
"	Improvers Bridge	Bowls Club	2.00-4.00
2nd and 4th Wednesday	Choir	Quendon	10.00-12.00
Wednesday	Spanish	Tutor's home	10.00-11.00
Thursday	Scrabble	Members' homes	10.00

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES CONT./MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

<b>WEEKLY ACTIVITIES CONT.</b>			
Thursday	French Conversation	Members' homes	10.30-12.00
" fortnightly from 12/2/15	Ramblers 1	L B Leisure Centre	10.00-12.00 appx.
Thursday fortnightly from 19/2/15	Ramblers 2	L B Leisure Centre	10.00-12.00 appx.
Thursday	Mah-jong 2	Members' homes	2.00-4.00
Friday	Bridge	SW Bowls Club (throughout summer term)	1.30-4.00
"	Art 2	Baptist Church	2.00-4.00
Friday fortnightly	Art History/ Appreciation	SW Bowls Club	10.30-12.00
<b>MONTHLY ACTIVITIES</b>			
Various	Birdwatching	Contact Coordinator	
See Dates for your Diary	Lunch Club	Kate & Bill	12.15 for 12.45
Second Monday	Poetry	Members' homes	2.00-4.00
First Monday	Photography	Coordinator's Home	2.30
Last Monday	Play Reading	Members' homes	10.00-12.00
Last Wednesday	Literature	Baptist Room	2.00
Last Friday	Theatre and Travel	Baptist Hall	2.00
Third Friday	Gardening	Contact Coordinator	
Two meetings each term, contact co-ordinator and see page 13	Mainly for Men	John London	2.30-4.00

## CLASS COORDINATORS

Art 1	Esther Rawlings	01799 520203	egerawlings@greenbee.net
Art 2	Peter Divall	01799 524140	pswdivall@virginmedia.com
Art History	Ann Crawford Trevor Os- bourn	01763 838080 01799 500909	crawford.simmi@gmail.com trevor.osbourn@ntlworld.com
Ballroom/ Sequence Dancing	Pauline Palmer	01799 502560	pauline.palmer3@ntlworld.com
Bird Watching	Brian Linford	01799 531392	brianlinford@mypostoffice.co.uk
Bridge	Stella McSweeney	01799 520923	stella.mcsweeney@hotmail.co.uk
Bridge (Improvers)	Maureen Davey	01799 521534	mauroy1@btinternet.com
Choir	Joan Shad- bolt	01799 516585	joanshadbolt@hotmail.co.uk
French Conversation	Sue Rooney	01799 525389	marooney@dsl.pipex.co.uk
Gardening	Jo Ware	01763 838654	josphine580@btinternet.com
History Byways	Eleanor Bullough	01799 524783	eleanor.bullough@gmail.com
Italian	Susan Humphries	01799 500066	susan.humphries@gmail.com
Keep Fit	Beryl Love	01799 521130	
Indoor Bowling	Grahame Wilmott	07922187361	grahame.wilmott@btinternet.com
Line Dancing	Sheila French	01799 530364	sheilamfrench@btinternet.com
Literature	Wendy Linney	01799 521003	
Lunch Club	Kate Bar- wood Bill Morris	01799 550271 01799 523167	kbarwood@btinternet.com wejm36@yahoo.co.uk

## CLASS COORDINATORS CONT

Mainly for Men	John London	01799 527729	johnlondon456@gmail.com
Mah-jong 1	Christine Greet	01799 531732	johngreet@waitrose.com
Mah-jong 2	Jess Grinyer	01799 500344	jess.grinyer@ntlworld.com
Music Club	Philippa Croft	01799 599044	pcroft@waitrose.com
Nice'n' Easy Fitness	Jan Powell	01799 523855	janibobs@ntlworld.com
Photography	Anne Mount	01763 838271	anne.mount@btinternet.com
Pilates 1	Hazel Marshall	01799 524844	hazelmarshall263@btinternet.com
Pilates 2	Jackie Dibling	01799 502001	jackiedibling@hotmail.com
Pilates 3 Beginners and Pilates 4	Ann Cousins	01799 219072	tillyannie@uwclub.net
Play Reading	Gill Williamson	01799 524947	gill.e.williamson@gmail.com
Poetry	Beryl Ihm	01799 502512	berylihm@virginmedia.com
Ramblers 1	Keith Patmore	01799 527568	keithf.pat@tiscali.co.uk
Ramblers 2	John Banks	01799 550328	jcbanks328@gmail.com
Scrabble	Veronica Sylvester	01799 526932	veronica.sylvester@talktalk.net
Spanish	Sue Rooney	01799 525389	marooney@dsl.pipex.co.uk
Tai Chi	Angela Rowland	01799 521192	mrsarowland@gmail.com
Holidays	Mary Edwards	01799 551924	mary.edwards17@gmail.com
Theatre/ Outings/Travel	Wendy Smith Chris Duffy Pauline Smith	01799 599298 01799 599636 01799 521524	wendy@iswas.co.uk chrisduffywimbish@tiscali.co.uk paulinesmith39@hotmail.co.uk
Writing for Pleasure	Diane Drury	07870 900852	dianejgdrury@gmail.com

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Hello to you all

I'm sitting here preparing my report having enjoyed one of the hottest weeks of July weather on record..... bring it on! Perhaps I'm lucky because our thatched roof keeps us cool in summer and warm in winter.

And so to U3A business – I'm pleased to say that my plea for new Committee members did bear fruit and at our May meeting we were delighted to welcome four new faces each bringing their skills and ideas to maintain the smooth running of our Branch.

So please do come along to the Class Registration cum AGM event on the 7<sup>th</sup> September to meet them. Remember it is **your** opportunity to come along and help shape our U3A as well as voting for your Committee. As in previous years, refreshments will be provided as well as a free draw. The other important fact which I should remind you about is that under the terms of the Constitution adopted in 2012, all Committee members retire at the end of each academic year and require to be re-elected.

Billie Rochford, Maresi Bennion, Mary Edwards and Peter Long will be retiring from their roles on the Committee – a very big thank you for all their efforts. Each of them individually, brought their contributions to the running of our U3A and without their work, we would not have been able to deliver the valuable community amenity that our Branch does.

Look forward to seeing you at the AGM – old members and new.

Sue Barton: oldship@onetel.com





## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hello to all our members. We are at the end of another academic year, and are still going from strength to strength, completing the year with 672 members.

I am enclosing the renewal form, which please complete and return to me with your payment of £10 (we are continuing at this price level for at least another year). Also, please note, that there is an extra part to complete on the reverse of the form regarding the Data Protection Act. You must complete this section, as we must be compliant, and your membership cannot be continued if you fail to do so.

Please either send me your form by post to Fairfield, Arkesden Road, Clavering, Saffron Walden CB11 4QU, or bring them along to the Registration Day/AGM at the Town Hall on Monday, 7 September, doors open at 1.30pm. Refreshments will be available during the afternoon.

To all those new members who are eligible for Gift Aid, we would be very grateful if you could also sign the relevant form for that, as it makes a great deal of difference to our funds.

I hope that you will be able to attend the classes/activities that you would like to, in the coming year. Don't forget that if we don't have a class you would like to see, please try to arrange to get one going yourselves, as this is the way the U3A works.

We will be organising another New Members morning on Monday, 12 October, at the Bowls Club, Abbey Lane, from 10.30am, and hope that as many new members as possible will attend, to be able to meet the committee and the coordinators.

Best wishes to you all, and hope to see you on the 7 September.

Ann Banks Membership Secretary, 01799 550328 [annjohn.banks@uwclub.net](mailto:annjohn.banks@uwclub.net)



### ART 1

Art class is about the fun of exploring various ways of being creative – with paints, inks, pastels, charcoal, paper, scissors and glue etc. The above artworks were made by cutting shapes into a square of black paper, turning them outwards and sticking them down. One was made by our tutor and the others by me. Our tutor provides a programme of different projects, designed to improve our grasp of colour, tone and composition. It is interesting to see the individual ways in which we all interpret these ideas. We sometimes surprise ourselves! Last Christmas we lunched together at the Saffron Hotel and exchanged handmade greetings cards. At a recent session we tucked into homemade fairy cakes, collected donations and held a raffle in aid of Comic Relief.

The class is full at present and we have a short waiting list.

Esther Rawlings

## ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR'S REPORT

All classes have progressed well in the Summer Term and our academic year is nearly complete. I requested from our Class Co-ordinators a copy of their class waiting list to investigate if we needed to try and recruit some additional Co-ordinators to cover the vacancies but it would appear that this was not necessary. Classes that still do have vacancies are: Art History, Ballroom & Sequence Dancing, Bird Watching, Gardening, History Byways, Mah-jong 2, Nice 'n 'Easy, Pilates 4, Singing (we need two more men), Ramblers 3, and Tai Chi. Please contact the relevant Class Co-ordinator.

In my last report I did mention the newly refurbished Adult Learning Centre and there is a link on our website to assist you in investigating their courses.

As you are all aware we now have our marvellous new website, administered by Martin Hugall, who has done a magnificent job. I have received numerous comments from other U3As' Activity Co-ordinators all of whom have commended the new website and enquiring where we acquired the expertise. The two sections which are password controlled are: the Committee Members and the Class Co-ordinators. Both sections hold a tremendous amount of useful information, including the ability to download copies of U3A Paperwork eg. Class Attendance Logs, Class Co-ordinators Guide etc.etc.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Class Co-ordinators who do produce a Class Register for each Meeting. Unfortunately there are still a few who don't think it is necessary (especially for a meeting in a house). They are in breach of the U3A Class Requirements and so I will need to investigate the matter further after receipt of the Registers for the Summer Term.

I am pleased to announce we have received the details of a new yoga teacher who has advised a reasonable class cost for each session, which includes the venue hire (Dance Studio opposite Abbey Lane). At present I have six people on my list so to make this more financially viable; we are looking for at least another four. The maximum number the venue could accommodate is fifteen. We will also be looking to recruit a new Co-ordinator for this Group so that at CLASS REGISTRATION and AGM it can be advertised and a list of potential names acquired. Please make contact with me as soon as possible and I will try and finalize the details over the next few weeks.

Our membership numbers continue to increase but I still have to report that I have not received many phone calls/enquiries from any of the members regarding their ideas for new or existing Groups.

I am pleased to report that the U3A Locked Central Equipment Store Cupboard, located in the Ladies Changing Room, is proving a great asset and the equipment is used by several different groups on a regular basis. As you know, I don't live in Saffron Walden anymore but if you contact me I will provide a list of key holders who will be happy to assist you in collecting/returning the equipment to the store.

As stated previously, I have decided that since there will be several long-standing members of the Committee retiring, I will carry on as the Activities Co-Ordinator for another year. However I am pleased to announce that in the new fiscal year Sept 2015 to July 2016, we have several new faces joining us on the Committee and after the AGM feel sure that I will be able to hand over some of my duties to one of our new members.

I wish to thank all the Class Co-ordinators for your assistance and if I can be of any help please note my contact details.

Terry Allen, Oozedam, High Road, Fobbing, Stanford-Le-Hope, Essex SS17 9HT  
Tel. 01375 644636, M.07974 260078, e-mail terryallen606@btinternet.com.

## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Annual General Meeting of Saffron Walden U3A will be held at Saffron Walden Town Hall on Monday, 7 September 2015 at 2.30 pm, or at any adjournment thereof.

### **Business:**

The Chairman will report on the business of the Association for the year ended 31 July 2015.

The Treasurer will present the financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2015.

In accordance with Article 7.v. of the Constitution, all the members of the Executive Committee, including those serving as Officers, shall retire.

### **Resolutions:**

To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following resolutions:

To approve the financial accounts for the year ended 31 July 2015.

To approve the reappointment of the Examiner of Accounts.

To elect members of the Executive Committee.

Only current members are entitled to attend, vote and speak at the Meeting.

*Ann Treglown, Secretary*

## **COMMITTEE**

Under the terms of the Constitution, all the members of the Executive Committee, including those serving as Officers, will retire at the Annual General Meeting.

Non-officer members of the Executive Committee have a one-year term of office and may serve not more than three terms.

Officers other than the Treasurer have a one-year term of office and may serve not more than three terms in a particular Officer role.

At least four members will be standing down from the Executive Committee. Three members have indicated their willingness to stand again and the two co-opted members will also stand. This is the bare minimum of five as required by the Constitution. However, we may have, and really need, up to twelve members on the Committee to spread responsibilities.

## MAINLY FOR MEN

Two events this term: a visit to the RAF museum at Hendon in June and a talk about WW2 defences in Essex by the County Council military archaeologist in July.

Our visit to the RAF museum began with a reception with tea/coffee and biscuits and an excellent presentation on the history of the airfield and the early history of flight. This was followed by a fascinating tour of the exhibits led by one of the museum's curators, David Keen, and finished with free time for us to explore at our own pace.

Our thanks to Brian for transporting us there and back safely.

The speaker in July described his research into the various lines of defence which were constructed throughout Essex during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War in anticipation of invasion, from the anti-landing defences on the coast to the lines of pill-boxes and gun emplacements inland, including those around Saffron Walden.



Our meetings in the Autumn term will be on 5 October and 2 November. The speaker at our October meeting will be Dave Powel who will talk about the restoration of *President*, the only remaining steam narrow boat. *President* is owned by the Black Country Living Museum. Dave will trace the story of *President* from 1909 to its restoration and use now, with a video and slide presentation.

We have a trip organised to the Combined Military Services Museum in Maldon on 7 October.

We meet in the Garden Room in Jubilee Gardens, where our meetings average 30 – 40 people, and we welcome anybody who would like to come along to listen, chat and drink a cup of tea or coffee.

John London Tel: 01799 527729



## WRITING FOR PLEASURE GROUP

This group has grown not only in size but in an amazing quality of joyful and supportive performance. New members are welcomed and given individual help on how to begin to express their own thoughts and this sharing is powerful, giving meaning to life through personal opinions and experiences.

Each one of us is different. Some have gifts of expressing in poetry, others in words, others in gifts with animals and gardening and travel and others through art and music and spirituality but all of this is enhanced with help from our tutor and supporter, Barbara Russell Pitman, who so enjoys her role that she inspires all of us to be who we are in writing for pleasure. Join us - it is good!



Sheilah Girgis-Hanna



## BIRDWATCHING GROUP

Several interesting species again during the Summer, including Rye Meads in April, where we were fortunate to see kingfishers going in and out of nest holes in the sand-bank, plus a wren using another hole, and kestrels nesting in box on pylon.

At Lakenheath Fen in May, we got quite wet, but between showers we spotted a pair of cranes with two chicks, bitterns, hobbies, marsh harriers, cuckoos (one with an agitated grasshopper warbler on a bough beneath, perhaps to keep it away from its nest), whitethroat, common terns. In June we visited another RSPB site at Minsmere, where we saw another large variety of birds, including yet more bitterns. We generally see over 30 different species and hear a few more, with our identifying skills gradually improving between us.

We will end the term at Havergate Island, via a ferry from Orford Quay, with a guide to explore the uninhabited reserve on our own, where we hope to see many nesting common gulls, spoonbills and brown hares.



Kingfisher by Brian Eastcott

Next term, I was hoping to hand over to another, but will continue to take enquiries. We have been able to accept a few new members during this year, despite having enough to swamp hides if we all turn up together. Provisional dates are:-



Little Egret at Minsmere by Brian Linford

Friday ,18 September – Titchwell, North Norfolk

Wednesday, 21 October – Paxton Pits, Huntingdonshire

Friday, 20 November – Welney Wetland Centre, Norfolk

Wednesday, 16 December – Local TBA, perhaps with lunch together

Details are also available on our website page under Groups. Anyone interested in joining us may contact me as below.

Brian Linford, 01799-531392 or [brianlinford@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:brianlinford@mypostoffice.co.uk)



## SAFFRON HARMONY CHOIR

We are all enjoying our Choir so much we have extended our rehearsals to two hours 10 to 12am every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, each month. The Choir is now thirty, nine men and twenty-one ladies.

By the time you receive this *Update* we will have performed our second Summer Concert. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee, partners, and friends for all their help on the night. Hopefully we will be able to give a nice cheque to Saffron Sight.

We are expanding our repertoire of songs, with our excellent Musical Director Isobel Bradshaw. We will now start rehearsing new songs and carols for our Concert in December supporting East Anglia Children's Hospices.

Joan Shadbolt.

## SUMMER SUPPER

The Chairman welcomed fifty-eight members of our U3A to a Summer Supper hosted by Saffron Walden Golf Club. She asked everyone to give a BIG thank you to Billie and Maresi for organising this special event, the last before they pass on their responsibilities to enjoy a well deserved rest. The Golf Club proved an excellent venue, with tasty food enjoyed in their superbly refurbished conference hall.

Sue Barton, Chairman



## LUNCH CLUB



Image by Bill Morris

Our venue in June was The Duxford Lodge Hotel. Numbers were down at twenty-six, we think because of holidays. Members assembled in the bar for drinks, it was such a lovely day some people took them out to the garden before migrating to the dining room. The main course was a choice of fillet of haddock, chicken breast or vegetarian followed by selection of desserts and coffee or tea. The food was excellent as was the service and the occasion was very enjoyable.

Our venue for July was The George, Cavendish, with 38 people attending. The route to Cavendish is along the picturesque Colne Valley. The day before the event we discovered the road between Clare and Cavendish was closed with a diversion via Haverhill. Kate spent an hour that evening phoning everyone to advise them not to take the official diversion involving considerable more mileage, but to take some minor roads involving only a few extra miles. Unfortunately, two people didn't get the message, which made the journey for them much longer with extra travelling time. However, the occasion was very enjoyable, the service was good, with a choice of dishes on the menu with sea bass and crême brûlée proving the most popular.

See the programme for future events.

Kate Barwood and Bill Morris



Image by Bill Morris



## OUTINGS

### London Theatre Outing: Gypsy and Sunny Afternoon

Thirty-nine of us went to these shows. Both were excellent, In *Gypsy*, Imelda Staunton gave as they say 'a knock-out performance', her stamina was amazing, whatever it is she takes for her energy I want some of that!!!! Those who saw *Sunny Afternoon* were, I hear, dancing in the aisles at the end and that was a brilliant show also. We commenced the outing where most of us had lunch at The Strand Palace Hotel before going to our two different theatres. Lots of road works in London and diversions made the journey there a bit harassing. However, all said they had a very nice day out.



Voewood House  
by John Martin

### Holt/Voewood House

Forty-four of us went on this outing. Firstly to Holt with free time to wander, shop and have lunch before going to Voewood House. Voewood was an experience, some I know have been before

with Kate. It is an amazing, quirky house decorated by a very eccentric owner. Lots of odd things in odd places but captivating. There are also some very nicely kept gardens. Should you so desire, it's available for rent – whole house all forty-one beds for two days, high season for £9000.00!!!!



Chris Duffy

Voewood House by John Martin



### Mah-Jong 2

We are a small friendly, mixed ability group, meeting every Thursday at 1.30. I am always happy to welcome new players, beginners or experienced. Although I have twelve members on my register, some of the members have other commitments, therefore are not able to make the weekly game. If any members from the Wednesday group would like an extra session, do come along and join us. I am also very happy to welcome anyone to come along to have a taster session.

There is no charge for the game but members donate 50p per session towards beverages. A sum of £72 has been collected which will be donated to my daughter's charity. She will be swimming a gruelling Bridge to Bridge 14km for Cystic Fibrosis Trust down the River Thames on the 9 August. If anyone wishes to make a further donation, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jess Gryner

## THEATRE

Our last two visits of 2014 were in November. Early in the month, at the Cambridge Arts Theatre, we saw the excellent production by Regents Park Theatre of Harper Lee's much-loved classic *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Superb in every respect. An emotional afternoon.

Later in the month, a return to the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds, where Ballet Theatre UK treated us to an enchanting *Swan Lake*. Needless to say, seated in the intimate surroundings of this beautiful little theatre, it was a magical experience.

In March the one and only Kneehigh (Cornwall-based touring theatre company) returned us all to Manderley again for their adaptation of Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*. With sea shanties, comedy, stardust, amazing set and lighting, plus the puppet dog, Jasper, this was not the *Rebecca* members were expecting to see! As always, with Kneehigh, we were greatly entertained - they are very special.

In April we were back at the oh-so-comfortable Gordon Craig Theatre in Stevenage. After a good lunch in the theatre's Pi Bistro, we attended talking (sic) Scarlet's production of Arthur Ridley's *Ghost Train* – a fun afternoon.

From our front row, circle seats at the Arts Theatre in May, we loved this staging of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. A terrific cast, which included David Suchet as Lady Bracknell and Michelle Dotrice as Miss Prism (for me, Imogen Doel as Cecily was unforgettable.) They certainly deserved all the audience appreciation. It really was a joy to watch.

So far this year, I think our visits have been most enjoyable – let's hope the coming months will be as good. There will be plays, farce, ballet and summer theatre at both Southwold and Sheringham. So, there should be something for everyone. Thank you for your support.

Wendy – Theatre Co-ordinator

## RAMBLERS 2 and RAMBLING

For the benefit of new members thinking of joining the Rambling groups, both Ramblers 1 and 2 have quite a lot of members, but some do not walk very often, so it is difficult for me and Keith to know how many will turn up on the day. The



numbers who walk is not a problem, but it's the number of cars to start the walks. We often use village halls, recreation grounds and pub car parks, but roadside parking is a problem. If we use a pub car park, it would be rude to park there and use the toilets without purchasing anything, so we try to get the landlord's permission to park as it brings them some trade.

Cont./...



Ramblers Cont./...

News items, events, dates and times etc are on the U3A website.

Still no one has come forward to lead the much-needed Ramblers 3. It may come that the infrequent walkers on Ramblers 2 will be put on the waiting list to allow new members that really like walking to take their place.

The length of walks and conditions do not suit everyone, I can let you know what the next walk is like beforehand, so give me a ring.

The fittest walkers like to race ahead of the pack, while some hold back and are just out for a chat and not enjoying the countryside, without a clue where they are. So it's my job to round them all up in case they get lost (which has happened once or twice!).

Walks start promptly from the Lord Butler Leisure Centre at 10am on Thursday mornings, led alternately by myself and Keith Patmore.

John Banks 01799 550328 jcbanks328@gmail.com

## WESTCLIFFE THEATRE OUTING

Twenty-two of us went to listen to the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra playing Mendelssohn, Mozart and Dvorak on 29 March. It was an excellent programme enjoyed by all, with a supper before the concert.

## JORDAN'S MILL AND THE SHUTTLEWORTH COLLECTION

A most interesting and nice day out was had by thirty-two of us. We started with a guided tour of the Jordan Mill being told its history with flour and up-to-the-current-day restoration of the Mill, with pieces of its original machinery being switched on and demonstrated for us as it is no longer a working mill.

Fol-



Image by John Martin



Image by John Martin

Following lunch at the Mill, and purchase of their products from the shop, we went to Shuttleworth.

Again very interesting with their collection of cars and planes. We were treated to a real bonus as it was Pilots' Practice Week and we were able to watch a number ...Cont./...

of old planes being flown, with some zooming in low and then soaring up and 'loop the looping'. It was a real air display and totally free. The renovation of the Swiss Garden was delightful, really lovely to walk round. Would recommend a visit even if you went by car.

### **ALBERT HALL TCHAIKOVSKY CONCERT**

Twenty-eight of us attended this concert by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. It was a wonderful afternoon of music with a firework finale to the, of course, 1812. I believe everyone enjoyed this concert and we concluded the day with a meal at Whitewebs in Epping.

Christine Duffy

### **LINE DANCING: NEW COORDINATOR**

The Line Dance class is still very popular, but sometimes a space occurs, so that a person on the waiting list can join in, so please put your name down if interested.

I have been the line dancing co-ordinator for over eight years and feel I need to delegate some of my duties, so, with effect from September, I am resigning as co-ordinator for this class. Sheila French, a very able and enthusiastic dancer has kindly agreed to take over and all enquiries should be made to her, telephone 01799 530364 or e-mail [sheilamfrench@btinternet.com](mailto:sheilamfrench@btinternet.com).

Our new tutor, Betty George, together with her very helpful husband Rod, is proving to be a patient teacher and moves us along into many varied dances. The photograph was taken at Eastertime and as you can see, the Easter Bunny dropped in to dance too.



Jean Little, retiring Line Dancing Co-ordinator

### **SEQUENCE/BALLROOM DANCING**



We meet on Tuesday at 9.45 at the United Reformed Church Hall, situated in Abbey Lane, Saffron Walden, where we enjoy an hour of dancing in a variety of Sequence and Ballroom styles. Informal tuition is carried out when required. All this activity is enhanced by lively conversation, which continues seamlessly on into the adjoining cafeteria over refreshments.

Forming friendships and stimulating company are very much to the fore in this group, every member of which is hugely energised by the physical and mental exercise.

Pauline Palmer



## A HOLIDAY IN YORKSHIRE

For those of us who have spent most of our lives in the south a holiday in Barnsley promised an intriguing novelty. In fact our group of 18 never set foot in the former mining town, our hotel being 4 miles outside it in the countryside. However, equipped with hard hat, belt and torch, we did go down 450ft into one of Britain's oldest working mines at the National Coal Mining Museum. There we saw how the coal was won from the earliest days of pick and shovel to the massive machines of the twentieth century, and realized how hard, dirty and dangerous a miner's life always was.



Top Forge, Wortley by Sylvia Rochford

We also learned a lot of industrial history at an Engineering Museum, Wortley Top Forge, where enthusiastic volunteers are expertly restoring a significant ironworks dating back to the seventeenth century, including the furnace, hammers, air-pump, waterwheel and steam engines. And we went on a miniature steam train ride all round the site.



Image by Jean Little

But most of our time was spent enjoying the lovely Yorkshire countryside, the green fields and woods and dry-stone walls of the Peak District, with visits to the towns of Castleton, Bakewell and Chesterfield and the spectacular Matlock Bath. Nor did we miss out on the great historic houses of Yorkshire. An enthusiastic local guide showed us round Wentworth Woodhouse, the largest, privately owned house in Europe. Once an important Whig powerhouse and now newly re-opened, after being inaccessible to the general public for 60 years. We also visited Cannon Hall and Wentworth Castle at exactly the right time to see the huge glorious displays of rhododendrons and azaleas and the wide marvellous views of

the hills and dales. This was in so many ways an interesting and satisfying holiday.

Mary Knight

## A DOGGY TALE

Joy attends the U3A line dance class in Saffron Walden every Monday afternoon. She is registered blind and has been waiting for a guide dog for a while. Eventually she was allocated Buzz, her new dog, who had successfully completed his training. Joy proudly brought him to our lesson. A beautiful Golden Labrador was greeted by all. Before the dancing began Joy tied Buzz to her chair and told him to 'stay'. He laid down and settled quite happily.

We were learning a dance and as the instructor I called 'walk walk'. Like lightning Buzz pricked up his ears, jumped up and walked taking with him, his lead, Joy's chair and a few other chairs also tumbled over!

We were all laughing and Buzz did not appear to know what all the fuss was about. It was agreed that in future I would not call 'walk' perhaps 'step' for this class would be more appropriate. It is hoped that Joy and Buzz will have many happy years together and she will continue to enjoy her line dancing.

Betty George



Image by Rod George

## IN MEMORIAM



We recently lost Marie Conning, who passed away on 9 June, a few months after her husband Francis. Marie was a true survivor, having been born in 1927 weighing a little over 11lb. She survived through the efforts of her determined grandmother who, using her midwifery experience, nursed Marie to health — no small feat without the aid of incubators and ventilators. Marie went on to have a successful secretarial career, being described as the 'perfect secretary'. Marie and Francis were active in the community and particularly enjoyed performing in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Yeoman of the Guard*. In addition to her membership of U3A, Marie was active in the WI, especially the WI Choir. Marie is survived by her two daughters, Jackie and Alison, and numerous grandchildren. Jackie and Alison, as well as two of the grandchildren, gave tributes to Marie at the well attended funeral. The service was held at St Mary's, where Francis and Marie regularly attended, and finished with a rendering of 'I have a song to sing – oh' from the *Yeoman of the Guard*.



## **BRIDGE CLUB**

We have all enjoyed playing bridge each Friday at the SWBC and will be back on 11 September. We would welcome new members, so please contact me on the number below.

Stella McSweeney, 01799 520923

## **KNOW YOUR TATERS**



Some people never seem motivated to participate, but are just content to watch while others do the work.

They are called 'Spec Taters'.

Some people never do anything to help, but are gifted at finding fault with the way others do the work.

They are called 'Comment Taters'.

Some people are very bossy and like to tell others what to do, but don't want to soil their own hands.

They are called 'Dick Taters'.

Some people are always looking to cause problems by asking others to agree with them. It is too hot or too cold, too sour or too sweet. They are called, not Silly Billies but 'Aggie Taters'.

There are those who say they will help, but somehow just never get around to actually doing the promised help.

They are called 'Hezzie Taters'.

Some people can put up a front and pretend to be someone they are not.

They are called 'Immy Taters'.

Tony Treglown

## **U3A TERM DATES**

**Summer 2015**

**13/4/15-22/7/15**

**Half-term 25-29/5/15**

**Autumn 2015**

**3/9/15-18/12/15**

**Half-term 26-30/10/15**



# SAFFRON WALDEN



## Dates For Your Diary

### REGISTRATION (from 1.30pm) AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (at 2.30pm) On Monday, 7 September

### OPEN MEETINGS: Monday, 2.30pm at the Bowls Club

21/9/15	Steve Lester:	Insights into the Life of a Provincial Auctioneer
19/10/15	Mike Casson:	Life and Death in the Tower
16/11/15	Philippa Croft:	Art — WW1 with Donations to RBL

### MAINLY FOR MEN: Garden Room, Jubilee Gardens

6/7/15	2.00 for 2.30 WW2 defences in Essex, a talk by the Essex County Council archaeologist.
5/10/15	2.30pm Talk by David Powell on the Restoration of President—the only remaining steam narrowboat
7/10/15	Outing to Combined Military Services Museum in Maldon

**Contact:** John London, johnlondon456@gmail.com, 01799 527729

### LUNCH CLUB PROGRAMME: 12.15 for 12.45 (unless otherwise stated)

23/9/15	The Plough, Duxford, organiser Bill
20/10/15	King William IV, Heydon, organiser Kate
19/11/15	The White Hart, Wimbish, organiser Kate

To avoid confusion, communication should be made to the organiser, NOT the venue.

**Contact:**

Kate: 01799 550271, e-mail kbarwood@btinternet.com.

Bill: 01799 523167, e-mail wejm36@yahoo.co.uk.

## Dates For Your Diary

### HOLIDAYS

28/4/16	Bristol: 6 days
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1/10/15	Croatia: this has been cancelled due to lack of interest.
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**Contact** :Mary: 01799 551924

### THEATRE, BALLET, MUSIC AND OUTINGS

21/8/15	Outing: Waterloo and V & A Museum, inc. Two Course Lunch Roast Beef/ Brioche Bread and Butter Pudding £42. Contact Pauline.
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3/9/15	<i>Private Lives</i> by Noel Coward, Summer Theatre, Sheringham
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22/10/15	Outing to Buckinghamshire 'Chilterns', including morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea and biscuits
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28/10/15	<i>The Signalman</i> by Charles Dickens and <i>The Waiting Room</i> by Robert Aickman, Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds
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15/11/15	<i>Last Night at the Autumn Proms</i> , London Concert Orchestra, matinee, Cliffs Pavilion, Westcliff, Southend on Sea; £43-46 TBC
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29/11/15	<i>Christmas Music</i> , Jesus College
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8/3/16	<i>Guys and Dolls</i> , Savoy Theatre, London, matinee
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**Contact** Christine: 01799 599636 (mobile number to be used only during trips: 07786 402776)

**Contact** Pauline Smith: 01799 521524

**Contact** Wendy: 01799 599298

Theatre and Travel meet last Friday each month to give opportunity to those members wishing to book for one of the many trips on offer. Day trips, lunch dates, holidays, theatre trips, London walks all organized by Chris, Pauline, Wendy and Mary.

## Notices

Saffron Walden U3A is a Registered Charity No. 290670.

The views and opinions expressed in Update are not necessarily those of the U3A or of the Committee.

The Committee reserves the right to close any class or activity because of low enrolment or poor attendance.

Errors and omissions excepted.

We try to keep in contact with all members but it is not always possible to do so. This may be due to illness or other incapacitation.

If you hear of any member who may need assistance please contact any member of committee.

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For more information visit our website at [www.saffronwaldenu3a.org.uk](http://www.saffronwaldenu3a.org.uk).

## Legal Assistance

Legal Advice, including Private (including Holidays), Commercial and Employment advice, is available over the telephone to all members of U3A. This service is provided by the Third Age Trust (24hrs) and can be accessed by telephoning 01455 251500 and using code number 70494.

## Insurance

All members are covered by public liability insurance but Saffron Walden U3A accepts no responsibility for any accident not covered by that insurance.



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