



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
SAFFRON WALDEN
Registered Charity No. 250670

UPDATE

AUTUMN 2014



SAFFRON WALDEN U3A

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 by Jim Dwyer. The engine from the train that took our members from Aylesham to Wroxham, see page 13.

SAFFRON WALDEN U3A COMMITTEE

Chairman	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	Jenny Lauder	01799 599676	jenalauder@hotmail.com
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Events Coordinator	Maresi Bennion	01787 581532	mtbennion@hotmail.com
Co-opted member	Jean Little	01799 513411	

*From 16 September 01375 644636

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Monday	Line Dancing	URC Hall	1.00-2.15
Monday fortnightly	History Byways	Baptist Room	11.00-12.00
“	Writing for Pleasure	Members' homes	10.00-12.00
Tuesday	Sequence Dancing	URC Hall	9.45-10.45
“	Pilates 1	URC Hall	11.00-12.00
“	Pilates 2	URC Hall	11.00-12.00
“	Pilates 3 Beginners	Baptist Hall	12.30-1.30
“	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	Singing	Quendon	10.30-12.00
Wednesday	Spanish	Tutor's home	10.00-11.00
Thursday	Scrabble	Members' homes	10.00
“	French Conversation	Members' homes	10.30-12.00
“	Ramblers 1 & 2	L B Leisure Centre	10.00-12.00 appx.

CLASS COORDINATORS

Art 1	Esther Rawlings	01799 520203	egerawlings@greenbee.net
Art 2	Peter Divall	01799 524140	pswdivall@virginmedia.com
Art History	Suzan Bouton	01799 529163	ronsuebouton@gmail.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
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	bullough@gmail.com
Italian	Susan Humphries	01799 500066	susan.humphries@gmail.com
Keep Fit	Beryl Love	01799 521130	
Indoor Bowling	Grahame Wilmott	01799 587827	grahame.wilmott@btinternet.com
Line Dancing	Jean Little	01799 513411	little361@btinternet.com
Literature	Wendy Linney	01799 521003	
Lunch Club	Kate Barwood Bill Morris Terry Allen	01799 550271 01799 523167 01799 543233	kbarwood@btinternet.com wejm36@yahoo.co.uk terryallen606@btinternet.com
Mainly for Men	John London	01799 527729	johnlondon@avieda.com

CLASS COORDINATORS CONT

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	Pauline Smith	01799 521524	paulinesmith39@hotmail.co.uk
Photography	Jenny Lauder	01799 599676	jenalauder@hotmail.com
Pilates 1	Hazel Marshall	01799 524844	hazelmarshall263@btinternet.com
Pilates 2	Jackie Dibling	01799 502001	jackiedibling@hotmail.com
Pilates 3 beginners	Ann Cousins	01799 219072	tillyannie@uwclub.net
Play Reading	Gill Williamson	01799 524947	gill.e.williamson@gmail.com
Poetry	Beryl Ihm	01799 502512	berylhim@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
Singing	Joan Shadbolt	01799 516585	joanshadbolt@hotmail.co.uk
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	Wendy Smith	01799 599298	wendy@iswas.co.uk
Outings	Christine Pauline	01799 599636 01799 521524	christineduffywimbish@tiscali.co.uk paulinesmith39@hotmail.co.uk
Writing for Pleasure	Diane Drury	07870 900852	dianejgdrury@gmail.com
Website contact	Martin Hugall		website@saffronwaldenu3a.org.uk

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Summer sunshine – perhaps! But here we are in the last weeks of the academic year 2013/14, looking forward to the new one with interest.

Membership has now reached the dizzy heights of 627. There are new groups – Lunch Club, Pilates (3) and Mah-Jong (2) — which are all well attended. Efforts continue to introduce new classes, and at the AGM we intend to run a survey to gauge interest in setting up new ones.

We thanked our coordinators and volunteer tutors, who make our U3A what it is today, at a lunch recently in the Saffron Hotel. Special thanks to Billie and Maresi for arranging and managing this.

Open Meetings continue to be well attended. We have heard talks on subjects ranging from the history of Marconi, Saffron Walden Then and Now, the weather and not least our First Responder team's demonstration.

The Theatre and Travel group, under Mary Edwards' leadership together with Chris Duffy, Pauline Smith and Wendy Smith, continues to provide a valuable service to our members with trips, holidays and theatre visits.

Our AGM this year is being held in the Town Hall on Tuesday, 2 September at 2.15pm. It is your opportunity to come along and help shape our U3A as well as voting for your Committee. Refreshments will be provided as well as a free draw.

As you may well remember under the terms of the Constitution adopted in 2012, all Committee members retire at the end of each academic year. Sadly Wendy Parnell had to resign due to health issues. It is anticipated that the present Committee – Sue Barton, Mary Edwards, Ann Banks, Peter Long, Jenny Lauder, Maresi Bennion and Billie Rochford will stand for re-election. Our recently co-opted Editor, Jessica Jackson, will be seeking nomination as a new member. A public relations officer is being sought to sit on the Committee and help promote our branch and work to build relationships with other local U3As.

The AGM will be preceded by Registration from 1.30pm when you are able to come and renew your membership. In view of our financial reserves, our Treasurer, Peter Long, consulted the Third Age Trust and, following their advice, the Committee has decided to reduce membership fees in stages over a two to three year period. Your membership fee for the coming academic year will therefore be £10. The AGM also provides the opportunity to sign up for classes and activities. Our survey will focus on obtaining ideas and establishing the level of interest for new subjects. Look forward to seeing you.

Please be aware that there are events, talks and Summer Schools being organised by Essex Association and also nationally. More information can be found on the national website as well as our own: www.saffronwaldenu3a.org.uk. Thanks go to our very able webmaster, Martin Hugall, for his expertise in managing this.

Looking ahead to the Autumn term: our first Open Meeting will take place on the 15 September with a presentation from Tricia Moxey, Council for the Protection of Rural Essex.

Sue Barton, Chairman

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 Tuesday, 2 September 2014 at 2.30pm.

Business:

The Chairman will report on the business of the Association for the year ended 31 July 2014.

The Treasurer will present the financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2014.

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 2014.

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.

Jenny Lauder, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Hello All,

We finish another academic year with an even greater number of members, 627.

I am enclosing the renewal form, which please complete and bring along to the AGM on Tuesday, 2 September at the Town Hall. Doors will be open from 1.30pm. If you are unable to attend then please send it to me by post. I have on record all existing members who are eligible for Gift Aid, but would like to ask all new members joining if they would be willing to give us Gift Aid, as it helps with our funds, as HMRC returns 25p per £1 paid in subscription. As Sue has mentioned in her Chairman's Report, we are reducing the fee this year to £10 per person. This will be a flat fee for everyone, with no reduction for belonging to another U3A. If we have not heard from you by mid-October, we will assume you no longer wish to be a member, and you will not be able to attend any classes or activities.

Please let me know of any change in your details, address, phone number or e-mail, so that we do not lose touch with you.

Please do come along to the AGM, to meet with the Coordinators and register your interest for the different classes. Perhaps you could also suggest ideas for any new classes that you feel we could offer our members. All members, new and existing, who attend the AGM will be entered into a free raffle draw. Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM, and enjoy the new academic year's activities.

Ann Banks, Membership Secretary 01799 550328 annjohn.banks@uwclub.net

NEWS FROM THE CLASSES

BIRDWATCHING GROUP

We have been very fortunate to have had some fascinating monthly trips during the summer term, with several notable sightings.

Only 5 of us in April went to Rye Meads, Hoddesdon, on a drizzly morning, but it brightened literally and figuratively as we recorded 32 species seen (plus a red kite on the way home). Our main objective was nesting kingfishers, and we were lucky to see one or both of a pair about 6/7 times, often posing on posts after feeding their young, which we learned had only just hatched. We hoped they would be more successful this year than last, when we heard that the nearby nesting kestrels, with five greedy young to feed, predated the female kingfisher so its brood failed. Other sightings included chiffchaff, sedge warbler, little and great-crested grebes, pochard, gadwall, reed bunting, common gull, jay and a first swallow of the summer for some of us. We also heard a cuckoo clearly several times, an elusive grasshopper warbler and cetti's warbler.

In May, just 3 of us went to Lakenheath Fen, where we had a very good 5 hours in fine sunny weather. A quiet start, apart from songs from elusive warblers, but we gradually saw more, ending up with 33 recorded species. Many enjoyable highlights including seeing a cuckoo, and hearing two together once; several marsh harriers with close binocular views particularly of a handsome male, and some bittern boomings, until we arrived at the far end of the reserve just in time to see one rise from the channel to fly slowly around to another pond where we saw it stand and move among reeds. Also close views of a singing sedge warbler, reed bunting and whitethroat and a glimpse of a cetti's warbler, which all helped our song identity skills. No golden oriole, crane, garganey or otter, but mustn't be greedy!

Then in June, 11 of us had a lovely day at Minsmere, soon after the BBC's Springwatch had finished broadcasting. We were lucky to have good weather, good company and, totting up later, we must have seen about 34 species, and that's without "garden" birds, although I don't think there were many there. We saw bitterns (again!) flying on 3 or 4 occasions, and then spent time trying to spot one camouflaged in the reeds. Also marsh harriers, kittiwakes, spotted redshank, hobby, common and sandwich terns, many black-tailed godwits and nesting sand martins, barnacle goose, a glimpse of a bearded tit, reed warbler and reed bunting. Also lucky with mammals; a red deer peacefully eating reeds, a muntjac skulking through, and a water vole unconcerned with being stared at by us and allowing photo opportunities. Very fortunate!

July takes us to Rutland Water (just after this publication deadline), where we hope to see ospreys.

Visits for September onwards are to be arranged, and can be seen later on the website, as well as being e-mailed to our expanding group. We have about 20 interested members, and could take a few more, while being careful not to expand too much that we overwhelm the reserve hides and other visitors. Anyone interested may contact me via my details below.

Brian Linford, 01799 531392 or brianlinford@mypostoffice.co.uk



Woburn Trip, Young, startled deer eying us with suspicion , page 16



Diving Kingfisher, Brian Eastcott, Bird-watching



Hiding Bittern, Brian Linford, Birdwatching,



Wroxham Broads, Mississippi Paddle Steamer, Jim Dwyer, page 13

ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR'S REPORT

We have had a very eventful year and are pleased to report that our New Pilates Group 3 has proved very popular and we have 10 regular members with vacancies for another two or three members next term.

Unfortunately we have not been able to form a Beginners' Line Dancing Class due to lack of interest. If any of our NEW members are thinking about it please make contact with me .We do have a TUTOR but we just need people/members to make it happen.

Some of the other NEW Groups formed this year, including Italian, Mah-jong 2, Mainly For Men and Lunch Club, are doing well (I am sure that the Class Coordinators of these groups will be reporting on their achievements).

There are still vacancies in the SPANISH GROUP (Tutor Vicenta Macias Pacios), the Class Coordinator is Sue Rooney contact details 01799 525389, e-mail ma-rooney@dsl.pipex.co.uk. The Choir, now SAFFRON HARMONY CHOIR, has 29 members but only 8 Men (we could do with at least two more members to reach the magic 10) but *any* new member would be made most welcome. For details contact Joan Shadbolt, 01799 516585 e-mail joanshadbolt@hotmail.co.uk.

Someone asked me about a London Walking Group and I believe this could be the subject of a new day out organised via our Travel Coordinators. Watch for future announcements.

Is anyone interested in forming a CHESS GROUP? if so please make contact with me.

During the summer recess it is my intention to review some of the aspects of the Class Coordinators' Guide and any amendments/additions will be issued as an addendum document (either by e-mail or post), I would appreciate your comments and suggestions on the original document during the review timeslot.

We have seen a considerable increase in the number of members but I have not received many phone calls/enquiries from the new members. This is your U3A and the success and variety of classes depend on your interests, so please contact me with any new ideas or interests that you think could create a new group.

As you are all aware we have made Saffron Walden Bowls Club our principal meeting place for our monthly open meetings and I am pleased to announce that we are going to create a U3A Locked Central Equipment Store Cupboard at the Club, located in the ladies' changing room. This will house all our equipment (projector, laptop, projector screen, PA amplifier etc.), where it can be accessed and used by the various Class Coordinators. The equipment can be collected and must be returned to the store cupboard after use. Any Class Coordinator who needs to use the equipment will be issued with a set of keys on an annual basis, to allow access to, and return of, the equipment.

I will be moving house on the 16 September, please see **my new contact details** below. I will carry on as the Activities Coordinator for the coming year and will possibly review my situation in July 2015.

I wish to thank all Class Coordinators for your help and assistance over the past years and look forward to working with you all from September 2014 and hope you all enjoy your holiday.

Terry Allen, Activities Coordinator, **new contact details from 16 September:** Oozedam, High Road, Fobbing, Stanford-Le-Hope, Essex SS1 79HT, tel. 01375 644636, mobile 07974 260078. Email unchanged: terryallen606@btinternet.com.

VISITS, OUTINGS AND CLASS NEWS

WROXHAM BROADS

On the 12 July on the dot of 8 o'clock, well not quite, we left Saffron Walden for yonder horizons

All 60 of us aboard our coaches heading for our day on the Broads

The sun shone brightly as we sped along the road, passing lorries and cars, folks off to work we supposed - not us, we were on our jaunt to the Broads

Essex and Cambridgeshire soon flew by and before very long it was Norfolk

The dear little railway station of Aylesham, the first of our day's delights, with plenty of time for coffee and tea

Then onto platform 2 to catch the train with our carriages all marked with our name

A bright shiny engine building up steam to carry us all the 9 miles to the station at Wroxham

The driver blew his whistle and the engine tooted hers, and we were away with a wave from the two coach drivers left standing on platform 2

Clickity click, clickity click as we rode over the points with the steam blowing past our window

Embankments with hemlock and dog daises, fields with cattle and horses was our vista

With stops at all stations along the way an hour soon went by and then it was journeys end - once more onto the coach to our hotel for lunch. Turkey and roast beef and waist-expanding desserts was the menu of the day then post-haste to Horning for all aboard the Mississippi Paddle Steamer Boat

With the sun still shining brightly we set sail down river. Our kindly Captain pointed out lovely riverside houses, birds and fowl were identified. He told us of the making and use of the Broads and if we kept going we'd end up at the seaside

But that was not an option for today - he pointed out the Norfolk Reed Beds and their use in thatching, even let two of our members steer the boat, we luckily encountered no mishaps but kept saying our prayers just in case.

With lots of waving at other boats and their passengers it was time to turn round and come back

All too soon our adventures were over, time to go home, with the sun still shining bright we headed for home tired and (I hope) happy from an enjoyable day out.

Christine Duffy, S/W Travel Group

PS, please do not let the above be a reflection on our Writing Class 'cause a poet I am not.

MUSIC GROUP

As usual, we have been very well entertained with a variety of musical offerings chosen by Norman, with a little assistance from Bridget, Keith and Philippa. Classical instruments and themes have featured strongly, with Bach, Borodin, Bizet, Mozart and Strauss prominent among the composers.

One particular programme highlighted women's contributions to the musical scene, to celebrate the first ever appointment of a female 'Master (or should that be Mistress?) of the Queen's Music', Judith Weir. Emma Johnson, Nicola Bernadetti, Alison Balsom, Jane Glover and Angela Georgiou were amongst those whose talents we listened to. We anticipate another interesting and relaxing series of 'mini concerts' for an hour each Wednesday morning.

We have space for more members so, whatever your taste in music, do please join us.

Philippa Croft, Class Coordinator

VISIT TO PECKOVER HOUSE AND OCTAVIA HILL HOUSE

On Wednesday, 23 April, 41 of us spent the day in Wisbech. Our first visit was to Peckover House where we were greeted and then taken to the Reed Barn for a salad lunch with cake and tea or coffee. We all marvelled at the size of the cake, it was enormous!! From there one toured the house and the grounds at leisure.

Peckover is a lovely eighteenth century house which was lived in by the Peckover family who also operated their bank from the house. Lots of interesting rooms to view and when we were in the library looking at the collection of old family photo albums a lady was playing Strauss on the grand piano. The gardens were lovely, not too extensive for those with walking problems, with lots of interesting trees, shrubs and plants.



It was then across the road to Octavia Hill House the birth place of Octavia Hill. She was one of the founders of the National Trust and did a lot for social housing. Although sparsely furnished (they are gradually adding pieces of furniture of the type that would have been there in Octavia's day), it is nevertheless an interesting house. We had tea and biscuits there, either in the tea rooms or in the walled garden. One could also see the new River of Life garden that has recently been created, very small but attractive.

"Peckover-house-wisbech" by Theyellowtulip - Own work.

The weather was kind to us and I hope it was interesting and enjoyed by all.
Christine Duffy, Travel Group.

SUMMER SUPPER SOIRÉE

On the evening of the 10 July approximately 75 members met for a delightful social evening hosted by the Saffron Hotel. We were treated to a delicious buffet.



Peter Grimes entertained us to the sequel entitled The Organiser to the Sceptic which he composed for last year's 30th birthday party.

Thanks to Maresi and Billie for organising the event.



Peter Grimes reading The Organiser to the Sceptic.

WOBURN TRIP

On 22 May forty members set out for Woburn Abbey in glorious sunshine. As we entered the main gate we saw rhododendrons in every colour imaginable and observed herds of young deer who eyed our party with suspicion.

Our guide greeted us and we were treated to a welcome coffee and delicious home-made biscuits. We decided to visit the gardens in the morning as rain was forecast for the afternoon.

The flowerbeds were a joy to behold, the roses particularly abundant and beautifully scented whilst rhododendrons adorned the shrub areas. For lunch we all enjoyed our ploughman's plus strawberries and cream.

After lunch we made our way to the house as the heavens opened and the hail poured down. We viewed the historical interior at speed because we were asked to move along quickly due to the roof leaking and there being an urgent need for emergency repairs.

We were, however, able to view the gold and silver vaults at leisure before returning to the café for tea and catching our coach home earlier than expected – in glorious sunshine! Despite the weather we all agreed it was an enjoyable day.

Pauline Smith, Theatre and Travel, 01799 521524

TRAVEL GROUP

Royal Albert Hall – St George's Day Gala, 27 April 2014

Twenty-six members went to the St George's Day Gala and all said they thoroughly enjoyed the programme by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra with Soprano Claire Moore and Conductor Anthony Inglis. Brian Blessed, with his booming voice, presented the programme which was, of course, very English and patriotic.

We arrived with time for a quick snack and coffee and, as it was a nice day, some of us ate our lunch beneath Prince Albert – he didn't complain! The concert ended with a very rousing Rule Britannia when they released lots of red and white balloons from the ceiling.

We are now making plans to go to the Royal Albert Hall again on 22 November 2014 for the Classical Spectacular. Look forward to seeing you all again then.

Christine Duffy.

HISTORY BYWAYS

Over the summer term we have researched the lives and times of the later medieval English monarchs, debating the significant parts played by strong women behind the throne and investigating who really might have been responsible for the disappearance of the Princes in the Tower. With the demise of Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth, we shall now be turning our attention from the Plantagenets' 'Cousins War' to events just 100 years ago, as the centenary of the outbreak of The Great War in 1914 provides the perfect opportunity to look in more depth at the background and effects of that conflict.

If you would like to learn more about the history of our ancestors then do please join us. We meet on alternate Mondays at the Baptist Church Hall.

Philippa Croft

BUILDING BRIDGES

Sadly, Building Bridges will not be continuing as John Martin, the tutor, feels he can no longer continue. He will be missed as the subjects were of great interest, including the Middle East and Leaders of the Modern World who have made a difference.

Isobel Jones, Coordinator

SAFFRON HARMONY CHOIR

It's only been eighteen months since Irene asked me if I would contact Isobel to see if she would be willing to direct a U3A choir. And so a few weeks later ten of us met in Beryl's front room, most of us had not done anymore than sung around the house. We are now twenty-eight strong and, with a lot of practice and guidance from Isobel, we are sounding pretty good. In fact, we will have had our first concert in the Baptist Church by the time this goes to print.

We have space for a couple more would-be singers. Why not come along and try a free lesson.

Joan Shadbolt, Choir Coordinator, 01799 516585



RAMBLERS 2

We are steaming through the year, the days are getting shorter but still plenty of hot weather to come. The bluebells were magnificent this year, pity about the wet morning, which annoyingly cleared up after we had finished. The casual spring lunch walk at the Crown, Little Walden was a success. By the time you read this we would have had the summer lunch at the Bluebell, Hempstead. The autumn walk lunch will probably be at the Clavering Lakes. For new members we meet every two weeks at the Lord Butler centre, Thursdays about 9.45 leaving 10.00 sharp. If there is a walk near you I will let you know to save a journey. Rambling is one of the best ways for people to chat and become acquainted with each other, and to make new members feel welcome. Remember, you have only one chance at this life so make the best of it. And for those who believe in the after-life you won't be there for them to say "I told you so" and they won't be there to say "Oh dear I got it wrong".

John Banks, 01799 550328, jcbanks328@gmail.com

MAH-JONG

The table game of Mah-Jong became popular in the West in the early 1920s and is played with a set of 144 engraved or painted tiles. The oriental associations lend the game a certain mystique, however basic practices can be learnt in a short time, and it is not unusual for a beginner to do well. Both Mah-Jong Groups play according to the rules of the British Mah-Jong Association.

The weekly meetings in members' homes in Saffron Walden have proved very popular, and Mah-Jong 1 (which meets on Wednesday) cannot currently take new members. However, popularity has been such that a new group was formed during the year.

Mah-Jong 2 meets on Thursday afternoons from 2–4 pm during term time, and can accommodate a maximum of 12 members.

Contact: MAH-JONG 1: Christine Greet 01799-531732 johngreet@waitrose.com
Irene Bedward 01799-528178, irenebedward@hotmail.com

Contact: MAH-JONG 2: Jess Grinyer 01799-500344, jessgrinyer@ntlworld.com





MAINLY FOR MEN

Our two talks during this term covered widely different subjects. In April we listened to an interesting and entertaining account of the building of London's underground system; its early days of steam trains, followed by electrification and expansion into the future suburbs, and conditions during the 2nd World War. This was accompanied by many anecdotes and archive pictures. In contrast, our speaker in June gave an absorbing talk about the Chindits – soldiers who fought the Japanese in Burma during the 2nd World War. Graphic descriptions of the terrible conditions and heroism of those who fought were accompanied by an excellent display of actual kit and weapons.

We meet in the Garden Room in Jubilee Gardens, where our meetings have averaged 30 – 40 people, and we welcome anybody who would like to come along to listen, chat and drink a cup of tea or coffee. We have two meetings planned for the Autumn. On Monday, 6 October: "The Story of Two Warrior Queens – The Ships Queen Elizabeth and Mary"; the second meeting will probably be the first Monday in December, to be confirmed.

John London, 01799 527729

LUNCH CLUB

The Club was started in October 2013. Since then we have met at a different venue every month except December 2013. The lunches have been an unprecedented success, so much so that, by popular demand, one is being arranged for December this year. The number of members attending has varied between 25-45 and value for money has been good to very good. In one instance, service was lacking due to the management being inexperienced in dealing with large groups. This is something the organisers will bear in mind for the future.

We hope to continue to produce a programme for six months ahead and keep it continually updated.

Bill Morris

THEATRE

Recently, we have enjoyed two very different productions at the beautiful Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds – a wonderful example of a Regency theatre. In April, after time for lunch, our first visit was to see the much-loved "Birdsong" (Sebastian Faulks). From such an excellent production in every respect, it seems unfair to single out one performance but, for me, Peter Duncan's moving portrayal of Jack stood out.

In May it was a comedy – "Rising Damp", directed by Don Warrington (who played Philip in the television version). Memories returned of Rigsby's pursuit of Miss Jones. Stephen Chapman was very good as Rigsby (played on television by Leonard Rossiter). Sadly Rigsby's cat, Vienna, did not make an appearance but a cat basket was taken into the theatre as we left. Perhaps cats are only allowed to perform for a certain number of hours and Vienna was arriving for the evening performance?

A varied programme is on offer for the coming months including a sell-out trip to Aldeburgh for the Summer Theatre. Following requests, a ballet is featured for November.

My thanks to all who support the theatre. Please let me know your views, suggestions etc.

Wendy Smith

Dates For Your Diary

OPEN MEETINGS: 2.30pm at the Bowls Club

Monday 15/9/14	Tricia Moxey, Council for the Protection of Rural Essex
Monday 20/10/14	Elizabeth Palfreman, Director of Fund Raising and Marketing, St Clare Hospice
Monday 17/11/14	Professor Leon Freris, Wind Power without Hot Air – the history, technology and pros and cons of generating electricity from wind

NEW MEMBERS' COFFEE MORNING: 10.30-12.30 at the Bowls Club

Monday 3/11/14	We extend a warm welcome again to all new members, to attend a coffee morning at The Bowls Club (Abbey Lane, Saffron Walden). The committee members, along with class coordinators, will be on hand to give information on the classes/activities available to you during the coming academic year. Please do come along and have an enjoyable morning. Ann Banks, Membership Secretary, annjohn.banks@uwclub.net
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MAINLY FOR MEN

Monday 6/10/14	The Story of Two Warrior Queens – The Ships Queen Elizabeth and Mary
Monday 1/12/14 (tbc)	To be confirmed.

SAFFRON HARMONY CHOIR

Wednesday 20/9/14	Michaelmas Fair on the common - 11.30am. Performance in aid of charity. Donations at the event welcomed.
Tuesday 16/12/14	Baptist Church, the SHC will support the carol concert in aid of the Eat Anglian Children's Hospice.

Dates For Your Diary

OUTINGS/VISITS

Thursday 4/9/14	THE ANGEL & HARP, Gt Dunmow (max no. 40). See board for menu. Organiser Bill.
Monday 15/9/14	ELTHAM PALACE AND THAMES CRUISE (lunch included). Cost £49. Details Chris or Pauline.
Thursday 9/10/14	THE SWAN HOTEL, Thaxted. See board for menu. Organiser Kate.
Wednesday 15/10/14	MANSION HOUSE, London. £36. Full (reserve list). Contact Chris or Pauline.
Tuesday 11/11/14	THE WHITE HART, Wimbish (max no. 50). See board for menu. Organiser Kate.
Saturday 22/11/14	ROYAL ALBERT HALL, <i>Classical Spectacular</i> , 3pm, £39. Full (reserve list). Contact Christine.
Tuesday 2/12/14	THE ROSE, Stapleford (max no. 55). See board for menu. Organiser Bill.

Telephone: Christine 01799 599636 or Pauline 01799 521524

HOLIDAYS

Monday 22/9/14	EIRE, 7 day/6 night hotel dinner B&B in Co. Kerry, via Heathrow/Cork. Excursions to Ring of Kerry, Dingle Peninsula, Killarney, Limerick etc. Cost £789+£48 single supplement. Contact: Mary, 01799 551924.
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THEATRE

Wednesday 24/9/14	THEATRE ROYAL, Bury St Edmunds, <i>You're Never Too Old</i> . Free time in BSE before one act play (Ian Lavender and Ruth Madoc), £20.
Thursday 2/10/14	ARTS THEATRE, Cambridge, <i>Hay Fever</i> . Matinee. £38.50. Full (reserve list). Contact Wendy.
Tuesday 18/11/14	THEATRE ROYAL, Bury St Edmunds, <i>Swan Lake</i> . £38/42 (tbc).
Thursday 20/11/14	ARTS THEATRE, Cambridge, <i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i> . Matinee, £34 (only 2 tickets remaining). Contact Wendy.
Wednesday 26/11/14	THURSFORD, Norfolk, <i>Christmas Spectacular</i> . Matinee and lunch. £69. NB This trip is run by Richmond Coaches, who are holding 30 seats for members until end May. Contact Wendy.

Telephone: Wendy 01799 599298

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.

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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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