

KING'S LYNN



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



Kaleidoscope

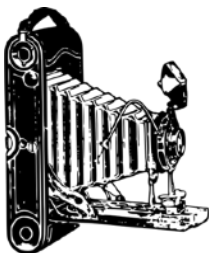
Spring 2018

For members, About members, By members

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Many thanks to all the members who provided photographs to illustrate this issue of KaLeidoscope, please keep them coming!



Editorial

Welcome to this issue of Kaleidoscope, the magazine for U3A members, created by them and for them.

This is the first issue to be produced by a new team, and we would like to thank Morag, Penny, Anne & Keith for their sterling efforts up to now (and for the latter's continued photography).

But first, we'd like to introduce ourselves. As there are just the two of us, we decided to jointly adopt the title of Editor, perhaps because neither of us are exactly sure what we are doing at the moment!

Anyway, we are:

Neil Prew



Norma Chaplin



There won't be any dramatic changes to your magazine as we feel it works fine just as it is, and we are still working out how to produce readable copy without embracing innovation!

As the motto of Kaleidoscope says that it is for members, about members, and especially BY members, we welcome your contributions for future issues. Not just articles from budding or frustrated journalists, but also photographs e.g. of group activities, will be gratefully received and considered for publication. Please submit them to either of us by e-mail (see above), or let us have a hard copy at one of the monthly meetings if you are not online.

In Brief.....KING'S LYNN

For the town's heritage day, the recorder and madrigal groups presented a programme of 16th century music in the Georgian Room at Hanse House, once a headquarters of the medieval trading association.

From the February, 2018, edition of 'Third Age Matters '

From Your Committee

Chairman's Report at the AGM

At last year's AGM I talked about our problem with accommodating our increasing numbers at our monthly meetings at the **PDC**. Little did I know then that it was a problem about to be solved, only to leave us with a greater headache. We learned late in April that the PDC would close at the end of August, so once again we were forced to move. After exploring a number of options we eventually settled on the ballroom at the Duke's Head Hotel, where we are today. Unfortunately they were unable to accommodate us on the dates we needed for November, December and January, so we moved back to the Gaywood Community Centre for those meetings, and I should like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility in bearing with us. Our membership is now **nearly 400** and a record number of **160** people attended the meeting in January, so perhaps our problem in finding somewhere large enough to accommodate us has not quite gone away.



One highlight of the year was the successful exhibition of the work prepared for the **Shared Learning Project** co-ordinated by Ann Higgins about imports and exports through the port of King's Lynn during the 18th and 19th centuries. Many members participated in the project in various ways and the exhibition was unveiled at Marriott's Warehouse during the Hanse weekend in May last year.

It transferred to St Nicholas' Chapel at the beginning of January, but was taken down at the end of the month. It is hoped to produce a series of leaflets based on the work done for use in the Tourist Office.

Ann has since been recruited to assist Jennifer Simpson, the SLP co-ordinator for the Eastern Region, and it is good to have our U3A represented at a higher level. On the same note, our Vice-Chairman, Edward Harrison, has also been active in co-ordinating a forum of U3As in West Norfolk and beyond. As it includes U3As in Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire, it has been named the Wash and Fenland Forum or **WAFF** (but not waffle!) and has held a number of useful meetings. Along with Ann, Julie Carter, Sylvia Cliffe and Rachel Seakins I attended the **U3A national conference** in Nottingham at the end of August and learned more about the workings of the Third Age Trust. For me the best bit of the two days was the performance by the West Bridgford U3A guitar group who played and sang music from the 60s and had everyone (or nearly everyone) dancing. Now there's a challenge for any guitar players among you! How about a guitar group, Julie?

Which brings me to the wonderful work done by our **Group Leaders Co-ordinator**, Julie Carter, throughout the year, in helping new groups to start and ensuring that existing ones can continue even when a leader gives up. We are now up to some

60 groups – congratulations to Julie and I hope there aren't too many people with sore arms! We will have a chance to see what some of the groups have been up to after coffee.

Other activities during the year have been the very popular theatre **trips** organised by Sylvia Cliffe and the **outings** organised by Rosalind Greene. Sadly, Ros has now moved away, but not before she managed to organise the first Kings' Lynn U3A holiday in the Cotswolds. I am happy that Mandy Raffan and Niki Jenkins have taken on Ros's mantle and already have some outings planned for this year.

All these activities have been well documented over five years in our newsletter, **Kaleidoscope**, creatively and meticulously edited by Morag Bean. Morag has now relinquished the editorship, which has been taken on by Norma Chaplin and Neil Prew and I wish them well in their task. Morag has set them a hard act to follow.

As always I am grateful to the other **members of the committee**, particularly Edward, who besides keeping the membership records up to date, maintains the website and is always on hand at meetings to set things up and make sure everything goes as smoothly as possible. Ann Higgins and Julie Carter have compiled a monthly bulletin over the past year, which has helped to keep people up to date with events and group activities, while Ann Smith has made sure that we get as much publicity as possible in the local press and beyond. We have also been treated to a wide range of talks, thanks to Ann Higgins, who is now stepping down as Speaker Co-ordinator, but I am pleased to say that Marion Newell has volunteered to take this on. One of the least popular tasks on any committee is that of treasurer and I am especially grateful to Vivienne Merryweather, who has kept the accounts in good order over the last five years. She is also now stepping down, but, again, I am happy to say that a successor has come forward in the person of Vic Newell.

Besides Viv, two other members of the committee have come to the end of their terms of office – Joy Dunham and Margaret Neal – and I should like to thank them both for all they have done in their time on the committee. In a few minutes we shall be electing new members of the committee. As you will see on your Agendas we have four nominations, which is very welcome. We could still have more members, however, so we may be able to co-opt some during the year.

My final thanks go to our faithful 'door people' who turn up before anyone else to be ready to cope with the influx. Once again, I should like to make a plea for people to arrive by quarter to ten, if possible, to avoid a last minute rush.

Penny Dossetor

Treasurer's Report: Year Ending December 2017

I would like to thank Ron Graham and Barry Keenan for verifying the U3A Main and travel accounts.

Income: Our income this year was £11295.95. It is difficult to compare this with last year as there was a much larger Gift Aid payment in 2016 and we also held a Bookfest and Afternoon Tea.

Expenditure: Our expenditure over the year was £10545.73. One of the differences this year is that we have paid £400 less for refreshments. Also we did not pay out as much in group funding in 2016. The invoice for the last newsletter or Kaleidoscope Magazine had not been sent to us for payment by the end of the year. This is why it shows a significant difference in the cost from 2016 to 2017. The invoice has now been paid so will reflect in the 2018 accounts. (£150)

I would also like to point out that the income and expenditure for the theatre trips are reflected in our income and expenditure. In 2016 the income and expenditure for the theatre trips went through the main account. However due to financial regulations I realised we are not allowed to do this, so in 2017 we paid a loan to the travel account to cover the initial payment for theatre tickets as they have to be paid for before Sylvia receives payments from members. This was paid back at the end of the year.

You will see at the bottom of the balance sheet issued at the AGM (*copies available*) I have identified the main items that make up the miscellaneous amounts.

Investment: The investment in COIF (Charities Official Investment Fund) still stands at £2,000 with a return of £5.42 interest.

Speakers: The cost of the speakers for 2017 shows very little difference from 2016.

Reserves: Our level of reserves is still at an acceptable £2,000 in the investment account and £4868.33 in the bank. We hold £7.10 in cash and have some fixed assets; a list of these is held by the Secretary. We had a profit of £750.22 for the year.

Membership: The membership has increased again this year and almost 200 have signed up for Gift Aid. For subscriptions paid up to March 31st 2017 we received £779.01 from HMRC. Due to this increased membership we pay a higher capitation and U3A magazine amounts to U3A Head Office.

Travel Account: This has a surplus of £732. Rosalind did a grand job in reducing this surplus again this year. I would like to thank Rosalind for all her hard work with the financial side of the excursions organisations. It is not easy.

Due to regulations we have to abide by from the Charity Commission we, as a committee, are responsible for all the money that is collected and spent which includes our groups. Consequently, starting in June 2017, we have asked group leaders who collect money from their members to submit a financial report of their income and expenditure twice yearly. I would like to thank all the group leaders who have submitted their reports for the end of 2017. All groups have sent me their report for December 2017.

Vivienne Merryweather

Special Interest Groups Update

Pétanque 2017/2018



In the 2017 season we had good and enthusiastic support at our Friday games. The average number playing each week was 19, ranging from 13 to 25, and there was a waiting list which scarcely changed.

New Groups

The second pétanque group began in May 2017. This group meets on Thursday afternoons, with Bob Hindry now Pétanque 2 leader. It is thriving and even continued to play throughout the winter. Playing under the name of "The Knights 2" they have also been

participating in the Winter League, their last game coming on Sunday 4th of March, when fortunately the snow which caused the cancellation of the Thursday session for the first time all winter had just about disappeared!



The group has now returned to it's Spring playing times of 14:00-16:00, however on the second Thursday of each month from April 12th there will be an extra hour between 13:00-14:00 for player skills development for those who would like to improve or widen their game.

Furthermore, as announced at the meeting in December, a third group led by new member **Tony Bellars** is planning to start in

March this year, playing on Wednesday afternoons. Tony is pleased to welcome new players. No experience is required and he will have several sets of boules available to use. One issue of Health & Safety to bear in mind though - please wear some solid shoes - these things are heavy if you drop one on your foot!

Competitions

Both pétanque groups have given welcome support to the West Norfolk Pétanque League at three open events at Heacham and Narborough, and both groups have had teams competing in the Winter League.

We have had challenge matches here, one against Hunstanton U3A, and one against Pétanque 2, the Thursday group, which they had the satisfaction of winning. The Summer League commences in May, and this year there are plans to enter even more teams.



The competition for the most successful player of the year in Pétanque 1 was won by Adrian Williams and the trophy was presented by Dorothy Rawlings at the December meeting.

Brian Smith Group Leader Pétanque 1

Bob Hindry Group Leader Pétanque 2

Theatre Group

Matilda on 6th December 2017: I believe that everybody enjoyed our trip to London and the Cambridge Theatre for “Matilda” on Wednesday December 6th, the children were brilliant. It was unfortunate that we broke down on the way home, under the



M25 on the M11. Paul, our driver was not a happy bunny as the very expensive year old coach had been serviced by Volvo just the day before. We could not do a thing about it but wait to be rescued. Thankfully, Paul kept us well informed, had enough bottles of water for all of us and more importantly had a loo on the coach! What more did we want -well, apart from a bed!

All the members were wonderful, there was a lot of chat and laughter as this incident did not spoil our enjoyable day. Our new driver was also superb and got us home safely and as quickly as possible.

Sylvia Cliffe certainly manages to get some very good seats at very cheap rates and I am sure we will all be looking forward to our next trip.

Julie Carter

Sylvia is currently attempting to secure tickets for an evening performance of ‘*The King & I*’

Digital Photography

The photographic group meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Scout Hut on Beulah St at 10am.

Every month we have a topic to photograph and January's topic was table top or still life. **The two photographs featured on the back page of this magazine** were from that session. The Snowdrops on a reflective top was by Penny Dossetor and the Dolls house was by Morag Bean.

Many of the group take photographs using a tablet, a phone, or a small compact camera. It is not necessary to have an expensive DSLR camera to take amazing photographs as you can see by the two examples. The difference between our group and a camera club is that we do not hold competitions. We are a group who are trying to improve our photography and at the same time have fun.

The photographs are sent to Mark Keightley via email and then, at the meeting, they are either projected onto a screen or a TV monitor. This cuts out expensive printing costs and we can all view and discuss the photographs together. The rest of the meeting is spent either talking about various topics in photography or looking at DVD's on photography. At the January meeting we considered colour space, photo stacking and HDR.

We have had talks from outside speakers. The December meeting was at the William Burt centre where we joined the King's Lynn Camera Club for a night with Tom Mackie, a world-renowned landscape photographer, and we saw some marvellous images from around the globe.

If you would like to join this group then please come along. The cost at the moment is £3 and this includes tea or coffee and biscuits, but if we can increase our group by one or two then the price will drop.

Mark Keightley

Discussion Group

The aim of this group is to facilitate informative and unbiased discussion of subjects chosen by its members, led by the proposer of the specific topic, met for the first time in December at the Friends' Meeting House in Bridge Street.

The pre-agreed topic, *Palestine and Israel*, was proposed and led by Julia Hay. Members had been provided with some outline preparatory notes taken from the internet and newspaper articles – as happens prior to all meetings – which helped to set the scene.

Our January programme comprised a dual presentation by Val Sparkes and Julia, the topics being *What happens when the icecaps melt?* and *How can we help the environment?*, proposed by Val and Julia respectively.

The February topic, *What was the motivation to settle in Norfolk?* offered both a historical and a contemporary look into the attraction the county holds for so many of us. This 'migration' applies to the majority of the inaugural membership,

prompting the question “*Why?*” by Valerie Staff. Although responses varied, there was a general agreement that “We’re here, we like it, and we’re staying!”.

Coincidentally, our meeting was held on the same day (Wednesday 14th) as the initiative launched by a consortium of council and local businesses, entitled ‘Love West Norfolk’ - which goes to show, once again, just how tuned into the local community mindset our U3A members are.

The programme also included a fascinating insight into the history of descendants of the Burney family, courtesy of member Sheila Burney.

Possible future topics suggested by members comprise: - *Deleting history (e.g. the destruction of monuments, etc); Whither our species? (just too many of us? colonise another planet?); Organ donation (opt in/out?); Should religion be taught in schools (and how?), and Terrorism and war.* *Peace of mind* has been selected for March, to be led by David Truman. The sessions offer opportunity for interaction, for thoughts and opinions to be voiced in non-judgemental company, for the absorbing of new information, and, should this seem just a bit on the heavy side, for tea, coffee and biscuits.

Discussion is not intended to result in resolution (the Middle East situation was just a little beyond our scope) but consensus may be reached – and if it isn’t, what does it matter? The sharing of knowledge and thought processes, and perhaps of pertinent personal experiences, all helps to foster the ethos which the U3A aims to nurture, namely that of personal development.

Anyone who regards living in Norfolk as being just one step away from heaven (interpret that as you will!) may consider coming along to our 2 o’clock meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. Whilst the outcome may not exactly impact upon the wider world (yet), in our own little domain we may come away thinking “Well, I got that off my chest, and feel much the better for it!”.

Morag Bean

Walking Group

A new walking group, organised by Marilyn & Neil Prew has recently been set up with the aim of providing county walks of between about six to ten miles.

In order to gauge interest and abilities, the first few walks have been arranged as figure ‘8’s’ - that is two loops of shorter length, so members need only complete one half of the walk if they feel unable to continue.

Walks will take place on differing days, probably about once a fortnight, though it is expected that the majority will be at weekends as this seems to clash the least with existing U3A activities.

The first walk started from Leziat on Saturday March 10th, and fourteen members turned up to walk the first loop of four & a half miles.

Unfortunately recent wet weather and a newly ploughed field which had to be crossed made for very muddy conditions, and only four hardy souls carried on to walk the second loop of three miles.



Smiling walkers at Leziate (this was before the mud!)

Perhaps this was one reason why only four members undertook the second walk at Harpley on March 25th, though we had dry conditions underfoot and after a dull start had sunny weather in which to finish.

As the year continues we aim to start ranging further away from King's Lynn, with themed Bluebell and Rhododendron walks planned when they come into flower.

As the days get longer, it is also hoped to have a few late afternoon walks, which might end somewhere in the vicinity of a country pub, which IF the leader has got it right should be then open.



Neil Prew

Special Interest Groups Information

Co-ordinator: Julie Carter

From the last issue onwards, it was decided that members should refer to the monthly Bulletins for the most up-to-date and accurate information.

New groups are being formed and existing groups' details may change. This news will be announced at the monthly meetings, and may also be obtained from the Group Co-ordinator.

Meeting Speaker Reviews

October: *“Two Frenchmen and a war” (Ralph Timms)*

Ralph Timms is a chemist with a PhD from Cambridge. After working in the Australian dairy industry and the Malaysian palm oil industry, he joined Unilever's Edible Fats Division. When the factory closed, he left and set up in business producing edible fats for the food industry.

Invention of margarine. During the 19th-century there was a huge increase in the population and life expectancy. In France much of the working population was malnourished. Getting enough fat in their diet was a priority as manual workers needed approx. 4000 calories a day. Most people lived on grains and carbohydrate which have only 4 calories per gram, whereas fat contains 9 calories per gram. Butter was an unaffordable luxury for most working people as a pound of butter cost £40.

Napoleon III planned a war against Prussia to attempt to halt its expansion but many of the new army recruits were malnourished. He offered a prize for inventing and developing a butter substitute.

Research scientists had already found that tallow was the origin of the fat in milk and butter, but tallow had too high a melting point to be used as a spread. In 1869 Hippolyte Mège-Mouriès applied for a patent for a butter substitute.

The process. Natural hard fats such as tallow were pressed mechanically to remove the liquid. The soft tallow, mixed with bicarbonate of soda, a little quantity of cow's udder, was processed for three hours to solidify it.

The patent was awarded to Mège-Mouriès and the first margarine factory was opened in 1870 at Passy, near Paris. He sold his patent for 60,000 French francs to two Dutchmen, Jurgens and Van Der Burgh, thus Holland became the centre of the European edible fats industry.

World production is currently 15 million tons, 3 times the 1965 figure. Most of the increase has been in the developing world, including China and India, and its production has overtaken that of butter

In the 19th century European margarine was made from animal fat and olive oil. By its end, refining and deodorisation processes had made vegetable oils edible and acceptable. Hydrogenation or hardening processes had turned oils into fat suitable for margarines.

In the USA soy bean oil is its major component. World wide, palm oil is the most important source but in Europe rape seed is also used. The oil-seed palm in the tropics has a 365-day growing season. A plantation can have 50% of the bio-

diversity of the original rain forest. Palm oil contains carotene, so it has a pleasant yellow colour and contains vitamin E.

Marketing. The margarine market in the USA and New Zealand was hampered by protectionist legislation in favour of the dairy industry. Adding colouring to the stark white margarine was prohibited in the US until 1955; in New Zealand until 1974.

In the EU, consumption is approximately 2:1 margarine to butter, but there has been a general decline in the demand for both due to decreased bread consumption. The popularity of ready-made sandwiches has led to a shrinking household market.

Unilever resulted from the 1930 merger of UK's Lever Brothers, who manufactured soap, and the Dutch margarine producer Margarine Unie (both fat-using manufacturers).

Margarine is defined as having 80% fat content, like butter, so low-fat products are classed as 'spreads'. The original Flora had a 60% fat content, now reduced to 45% with a mixture of seed oils and no animal fat. In northern Europe, to compensate for the shortage of sunlight, vitamins A and D are added. Flora Light with 30% fat includes starch to stop it separating.

Nutrition. In the USA saturated fats e.g. animal fats including butter, were demonised in the 1960s. Consequently vegetable oils were used but had to be hydrogenated to make them solid enough for use in spreads. Unfortunately Dutch researchers confirmed that these contained trans-fatty acids which are harmful. In Europe no margarines or similar spreads contain trans-fatty acids but butter and tallow naturally contain 5%.

Jon Higgins

Nov: "Designing, making & Marketing Accessories" (Amanda Sutherland)

We were pleased to welcome back Amanda Sutherland from South Suffolk who told us of her fifteen years designing and making accessories. Her original training was as a costumier and she worked for some time at the famous firm of *Angels* on Shaftesbury Avenue, London, making costumes for the theatre, film and television. Period authenticity was the key here which led her to the belief that fashion was rotational and that contemporary fashion can echo the past.

This led on to a fascinating survey of fashion developments and how the correct look was achieved over the last three hundred years. A vital aspect of previous fashions has been the underpinnings and under-layers required to enable a dress to hang correctly as the outer design indicated. Amanda demonstrated the padding around the hips in certain designs of the past and showed a crinoline cage for the wedding dress, also on display, which she had made for herself. Corsets were also important in creating the tiny waists which were fashionable until after the end of the First World War.

The twentieth century saw many changes in fashion from the free and easy styles of the 1920s and '30s, as women began to take part in sport and fight for more rights, to the present in which anything goes. To illustrate the points she was making Amanda showed us clothes from her own collection. An early woollen swimsuit was contrasted to a more modern red and white fitted one, which showed the usefulness of the invention of the zip fastener. The Dior New Look [with its increased quantity of fabric] was a reaction to the austerity and rationing of the years of World War II.

Amanda concluded her talk by outlining how she set up business in the bespoke design and hand manufacture of bridal accessories, her decision to have a stall on Cambridge's All Saints' craft market on Saturdays for five years and her subsequent move into using the internet. She spoke briefly about the materials used to trim her range of 1920s-style cloche hats, cravats and jabots, and her recycling of drinks cans to make an exciting range of necklaces and brooches.

Ann Smith (Press & Publicity Officer)

December: “Three’s Company”

The three ladies who make up **Three’s Company** quickly created a link with their audience through their bright and breezy introduction. Their readings of prose and



poetry were based on the two words 'Happy Christmas'. These were taken apart, one by one and each letter was shown to have significant words with reference to Christmas followed by an appropriate reading. Carols also featured as a brief introduction to each of the fourteen letters, although only the first line! We heard about school nativity plays, Adrian Mole's Diaries and reminiscences of memories of Christmas. Most of the extracts were

received with laughter from the audience - especially those relating to tales from Yorkshire School Nativity Plays! - and some called up nostalgic memories of past Christmases.

When “**Countdown For Christmas**” finished, the entertainers received a standing ovation and the U3A members all left the hall smiling and chatting energetically about their pleasure in this happy finish to their final meeting of 2017.

January: “The Littleport Riots” (Jeff Hoyle)



The speaker was **Jeff Hoyle**, a geographer, who also has a keen interest in local history. His talk started with a comprehensive overview of the social and economic background to the Littleport Riots. Many factors impinged heavily on the rural poor of England, such as enclosures, the Corn Law, other legislation which made taking game, or even collecting fallen branches from the woods, illegal. In addition, heavy taxes were imposed on farmers and other employers to finance the Napoleonic Wars. These taxes impoverished them so they could not afford to adequately pay their labour. There

was no democracy in the modern sense as voters had to be house owners, but the majority of the rural population lived in tied cottages. The Industrial Revolution had cities in the north expanding rapidly, but there were two MPs representing Castle Rising and none for Manchester!

The discontent and hunger led to riots in Littleport on 22nd May 1816. Houses and shops in the main street were broken into. The vicar was an unpopular figure as he was also a JP who handed out harsh sentences and the mob marched on his house. Next they set off for Ely and caused further disruption. On returning to Littleport they heard that the militia stationed in Bury St Edmunds had been called out. With this news they decided to barricade themselves in the *George and Dragon* public house. In the ensuing fight two men were shot, others arrested and sent for trial. Five men were hanged, several transported to Australia and some imprisoned. Nearly every family in Littleport was affected by the uprising.

Discontent arising from poverty and hunger among the rural population was nationwide and oppression of the poor has echoes into our present time.

March: “The Wisbech Stirs 1595 to 1598” (Father Peter Rollings)



At the end of the sixteenth century events occurred among Catholic religious prisoners imprisoned in Wisbech Castle which are little known about these days. Father Peter Rollings gave an interesting talk about the background to the controversies which became known as the Wisbech Stirs.

By 1592 there were 33 Catholic priests imprisoned in the castle, having been transferred from prisons in London where they were a focus for discontent. At this time Queen Elizabeth I was trying to steer a middle way between the various churches which existed in England, although the Catholic faith was banned in England and priests could suffer the death

penalty.

Not surprisingly factions began to appear among the Catholic prisoners. Conditions in Wisbech Castle were not harsh, even allowing visitors and the collection of

alms. The Jesuit priests however wanted a stricter and more disciplined way of life but the secular priests who had more experience of working in the community were more content with a more relaxed way of life.

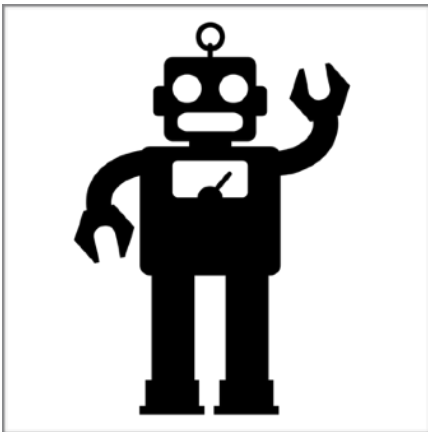
There was insufficient room in the Castle for two groups to establish their own rules but there was considerable friction between the opposing groups before reconciliation took place.

The Second Stir was on the subject of establishing a Catholic religious hierarchy in England with a bishop as leader of the Catholics in England. All this was happening when Catholicism was still banned in England although Catholic priests could easily get into the country via the port of King's Lynn.

However during this period, Queen Elizabeth I's Government was only too aware of the actions of the Catholic priests in the country. Led by Lord Burleigh and Francis Walsingham plus a network of spies and informers, they received regular reports of activities involving Catholic priests.

Ann Smith, U3A Press and Publicity Officer

The Robots Are Here



Our Exploring Philosophy group has Robots: Why Do We Like Them So Much? as our current topic. A recent explosion of interest in robots means it's hard to open a newspaper or listen to the news without them being mentioned. Often the question is whether robots will :- a) take over our jobs, or b) take over the world. Will they make our lives easier or harder?

In January, three of us went to a UEA talk and panel discussion, Are Robots going to Supplant Humanity? Chaired by Prof Catherine Rowett, the speakers were Gareth Jones, Ryan Davis and Rupert Read. After each had presented a 15-minute talk, questions were invited from the floor which led to discussion. Interestingly, the speakers did not necessarily agree.

They seemed to agree that 'dumb' robots are more of a threat than the ultra-smart ones. Dumb robots are masters of data collection. Every time you order a book online you will be 'nudged' into considering others you might like. Think forward to the future when we have robot cars. A dumb robot will be gathering our journey information (where, duration, purpose), and no doubt suggesting other trips.

The more robots do for us, the more information we give away. How much free will is left when robots predict what we want before we even realise it ourselves?

Gareth Jones and Ryan Dawson are sure that technology is evolving ever faster and becoming ever cheaper, so in thirty years robots will be adept in areas only just being considered. Rupert Read disagrees. He finds the ecology behind this rise

disturbing and cannot see how we can sustainably produce the immense amount of basic materials needed to make the robots of the future. After all, he said, humans will still have the same basic requirements as they do now – feeding, housing, entertainment. Add to this the amount of technology, from tablets to driverless cars, which will become the norm. Where will all these raw materials come from? He suggests that if we want more robots we must reduce the number of humans with their clamour for more of everything. Would we be happy with this?

There was disagreement about the intelligence of robots, including the meaning of the word. Rupert Read contends that a robot cannot possess intelligence, being unable to develop its abilities in the way a human can. It can only be programmed to follow rules and never act independently or problem-solve outside its programming. Gareth Jones' view is that, if a robot can be invented which is more intelligent than a human, it is capable of inventing something more intelligent still. He added that if robots can perform tasks faster and more efficiently than humans, then who cares how we qualify the concept of 'intelligence'; it is simply a different kind. For example, robots are being developed which can assess and diagnose medical problems with great accuracy and speed but we shouldn't imagine an NHS staffed entirely by robots. All three speakers agreed that the major part of medical care would still be by humans.

Fiction and reality have become blurred, with fear of robots taking over fuelled by films and novels. Rupert Read keeps a firm hold on perspective, saying robots cannot do any more than they are programmed to do. Human intelligence grows and develops; robotic intelligence is fixed. All living creatures have the need to reproduce, and robots, regardless of what we might like to think, are not capable of this. His concern about robots doing routine work is that it will create an imbalance. Although humans are always interested in reducing their workload and gaining greater leisure time, how would we actually use it? Rupert Reed seems not to place much faith in humans being sensible (intelligent?) about this and foresees trouble ahead.

What is certain is that robots are here now. They are all around us - and we like them. Research has shown that robots, built with some humanoid characteristics, easily gain our affection. If they have interactive eyes and the apparent ability to focus on us, we will respond.

And all three of the speakers agreed about that!

Maryanna Hailey

“If you don't read the newspaper, you're uninformed. If you read the newspaper, you're mis-informed.”

- Mark Twain

Quiz Time

On the 15th of November 2017, the Local History Group leaders Anne & Keith Lemmon hosted a Quiz for their members. The main part of this related to the outings the group had enjoyed in the past year, but there was also a page of brain teasers for each team to try and complete during the afternoon which was in the form of DITLOIDS. For those of you who don't know, these are letter and number puzzles in the form of abbreviations and named after the allegedly first one thought of, which was -

1 DITLOID = 1 Day In The Life Of Ivan Denisovitch

Another (easier) one is -

21 S on a D = 21 Spots on a Dice

Anyway, here are some for you to try and solve yourselves, several but by no means all of which can be related to our U3A Groups!

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 01 - 10 E in a D | 11 - 4 H of the A |
| 02 - 1 F in the G | 12 - 2 H are BTO |
| 03 - 37 P of WS | 13 - 3 H in a BB |
| 04 - 12 L of H | 14 - 8 P on a C |
| 05 - 3 G in a HT | 15 - 13 L in a BD |
| 06 - 39 B in the OT | 16 - 8 F in a M |
| 07 - 13 T in a GS | 17 - 4 S by V |
| 08 - 6 W of HTE | 18 - 6 P on a ST |
| 09 - 7 B for SB | 19 - 8 B in a B |
| 10 - 8 N in a O | 20 - 32 P on a CB |

Answers are on Page 23

Johnny's mother had three children. The first child was named April. The second child was named May. What was the third child's name?

Bridge - with Mark Keightley

| | | |
|---------|---------|--------|
| | ♠ J8532 | |
| | ♥ AK2 | |
| | ♦ Q43 | |
| | ♣ K2 | |
| ♠ AKQ | | ♠ 1097 |
| ♥ 876 | | ♥ 9543 |
| ♦ J1076 | | ♦ A98 |
| ♣ Q65 | | ♣ J109 |
| | ♠ 64 | |
| | ♥ QJ10 | |
| | ♦ K52 | |
| | ♣ A8743 | |

It is North to open the bidding: 13 points and a balanced hand so 1NT at first sight looks good, but we have heard "Never bid No trumps when you have a 5-card major" so should we open 1 Spade instead?

If we do this and partner responds 2 Clubs we must bid again, partner might have 13 points and so a game contract is likely but what do we bid?

Are the Spades worth repeating? No, they are not.

Should you bid 2NT? No, this would indicate a balanced hand with 15 to 17 points.

Should you support your partner's Clubs? No, you only have 2 Clubs.

So opening the 5 card major has made a second bid difficult. However, our first instinct of opening 1NT will give us fewer headaches. Your partner knows exactly what you are holding and if they make a Stayman bid what a pleasant surprise you will have.

The point about this hand is thinking ahead before you make your first bid, think about what your second bid is going to be.



*Mark Keighley is leader of **Bridge Group IV**, which meets weekly on Thursday Mornings in the Family Room at The Farmers Arms, Knights Hill. This group currently has some spaces available.*



"It has been a thousand times observed, and I must observe it once more, that the hours we pass with happy prospects in view are more pleasing than those crowned with fruition. In the first case we cook the dish to our own appetite; in the latter, nature cooks it for us."

- Oliver Goldsmith

A New Group Idea

There's a new group to be formed, starting in the early summer, to be called

"I'd Like to Have a Go at That!".

It'll include all those things that you've ever fancied having a go at but couldn't because there wasn't a group for it. Just tell us what you'd like to have a go at and we'll organise a session if there's enough members wanting to take part.

The idea came from an article on page 82 of the winter edition of 'Third Age Matters' where Bingham U3A described their group of this title. Their website shows that they've organised the following so far: Abseiling; Archery; Board Games (now an interest group); Boules/Petanque; Bowling (10 pin); Bowls; Canoeing; Clay Pigeon Shooting; Crazy Golf; Croquet (now an interest group); Darts; Dinghy Sailing; Gliding; Go-Karting; Hot-Air Ballooning; Ice-Skating; Indoor Climbing; Mah Jong; Music Making; Pottery; Rowing; Snooker; Star Gazing; Table Tennis (now an interest group); Treasure Hunt; White Water Rafting; Yachting.

You don't have to do them all, you might only ever do one thing, but you'll probably enjoy doing several. Perhaps you have some special knowledge on a subject and can offer help, either for an activity on our list or another one? Whether you want to help or to join, email richardcoates@inbox.com and be ready to enjoy something different in life in 2018!

Richard Coates 01.04 2018

Winning Ways with Scrabble?

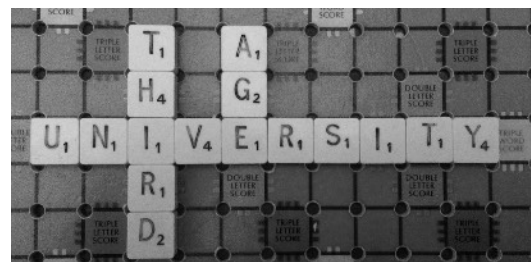
With a new Scrabble group due to begin shortly, I thought you'd like a head start, so here are a few point boosting words -

QUIZZIFY - You'll need to draw a blank as well as the only Q and Z from the bag, but play this across two triple word squares with the Z on a double letter square and you have the games highest 8 letter word score of **419**.

MUZJIKS - Without any bonus squares this is worth 29 points, but pull it out of the bag as the opening move of the game, and you'll net **126**. A Muzjik? - it's a Russian Peasant, as any fule kno.....

SYZYGY - Don't use your blank to make a vowel, go for an extra Y for this word which means an alignment of three celestial bodies get the Z on a double letter square and the final Y on a triple word score and you'll be a star with **93** points.

OXYPHENBUTAZONE - This is the big daddy of Scrabble (and an anti-inflammatory drug) in practice probably impossible as you'd need 8 already played tiles to be in the right places AND three triple word squares to be available to net the **1778** points available. Easy eh?



U3A and the Gaywood Community Centre

Sometime in the Autumn we were asked, as users of the Gaywood Community Centre, if we would help to form a new committee in order to access funds for essential repairs. A few people agreed to do it and on 16th October an initial meeting was held. We had a tour of the rooms and were horrified to see the condition that they were in. Piles of rubbish everywhere and ceilings fallen down!! Those of you who have been there know that the toilets have been less than savoury! A member of the borough council was at the meeting and she is the one who will sort out the grants.

Some of us agreed to be on the committee and started on the task of sorting out all the problems we had inherited. This is not easy as we have very little money and until the hall is renovated, not much chance of making any! Some ladies from the community came to one of the meetings and they are very keen to get the place up and running again in the state that it used to be in when it was booked all the time! With that in view, Car Boot sales are to be reinstated from March 11th, Bingo nights to be held again, starting on March 19th and an Easter Craft Fair on March 25th.

The Community Centre is in a sorry state at the moment, but we hope to restore it to its former glory.

Denise Mansell

U3A Scottish Country Dancing Group pictured at Gaywood Church Rooms - photo courtesy of



'The Lynn News'.

“The trouble with having an open mind, of course, is that people will insist on coming along and trying to put things in it.”

- Terry Pratchett

Lines On the Retirement of Mary and Dair from U3A Dancing 2018.

2002 saw the start of the dancing when U3A dancers all flocked to North Lynn
Mary and Dair were there with their music and soon had them setting and sporting
big grins.

The hall was a big one, but soon Mary filled it, the message soon spread that this
dancing was FUN!

They all learned new steps and odd ways of moving with Mary to show them just
how it was done.

They danced round in circles, in long sets and squares, they learned to do reels
and Strathspeys.

With figures of eight, and hands round and corners, it confused us in so many
ways!

The floor was important- should be wooden and sprung-and the one in North Lynn
was just right.

So year after year the dancing went on, and then came a TERRIBLE FRIGHT!
The centre was closing, there was no-where to go! We might have to dance it the
street!

But Mary and Dair put their thinking caps on and found somewhere else we could
meet!

So we moved up to Gaywood – a beautiful floor- though the rest was not as it
should be.

But still we danced on with a spring in our steps and enjoyed all Dair's biscuits and
tea!!

So now that we're bidding farewell to them both, now we've come to the end of the
line.

We can't thank them enough for all that they've done so let's join hands and sing -



'Auld Lang
Syne'!!

- Denise
Mansell



Quiz Answers -

- 01 - 10 Events in a Decathalon
- 02 - 1 Foot in the Grave
- 03 - 37 Plays of William Shakespeare
- 04 - 12 Labours of Hercules
- 05 - 3 Goals in a Hat Trick
- 06- 39 Books in the Old Testament
- 07 - 13 Tricks in a Grand Slam
- 08 - 6 Wives of Henry the Eight
- 09 - 7 Brides for Seven Brothers
- 10 - 8 Notes in a Octave
- 11 - 4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse
- 12 - 2 Heads are Better Than One
- 13 - 3 Holes in a Bowling Ball
- 14 - 8 Points on a Compass
- 15 - 13 Loaves in a Baker's Dozen
- 16 - 8 Furlongs in a Mile
- 17 - 4 Seasons by Vivaldi
- 18 - 6 Pockets on a Snooker Table
- 19 - 8 Bits in a Byte
- 20 - 32 Pieces on a Chess Board



Members of your committee pose at the March meeting. From Left to Right -

Edward Harrison, Ann Higgins, Julie Carter, Neil Prew, Sylvia Cliffe, Marion Newell, Sheila Burney and Ann Smith.

(Not present on this occasion were Vic Newell and Penny Dossetor).

The answer is Johnny, obviously.



The *KaLeidoscope* team is grateful for the interest shown in this publication by readers and contributors, without whom there would have been no *KaLeidoscope*. It should however be noted that, in this and any subsequent editions, the right to select articles for publication, to edit those items as considered appropriate, and to hold items over for possible publication at a future date may be exercised, whilst contributors have the right to expect all submissions to be treated with courtesy and respect.

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