



Wroxham and District
Membership Number: 962/940/13

Chairman: John Long, 01603 722254

Secretary and Membership Secretary: Sue Badger 01603 737572

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2017

General meeting

Norfolk's participation in the National Garden Scheme.



Julia Stafford Allen's presentation wasn't limited to the NGS, but to the entire history of gardens opening to visitors, from the earliest period of Hampton Court and Kenilworth Gardens under Henry VIII, to the modern day, with 3700 gardens opened nationally to the public last year. Her own garden – Tudor Lodgings in King's Lynn, gives her a personal reason to promote the scheme, and create her own blog, ([the gardengateisopen.blog](http://thegardengateisopen.blog)) which has a huge following.

The National Gardens Scheme is 90 years old this year. It began life as the National Memorial Scheme for Queen Alexandria, raising money for District Nurses, and continued thus until the creation of the NHS in 1948, when the funding for nurses changed.

It continues to raise money for chosen charities, particularly for Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie and Hospice UK, but many other charities whose aim is to support people needing care. Over £3 million was raised last year; £120,000 in Norfolk alone.

The first Open Garden in Norfolk was Sandringham, and while initially it was the larger Houses that were involved, today as many as 58 Open Gardens events are registered, many with multiple gardens to view. The first one next Spring (17th February) will be Horstead House in Coltishall, with its stunning spectacle of snowdrops. We were there last year – hope to see you there again!

Our December General Meeting will be the Christmas party on Tuesday 12th December at 2.30 pm at The Hub, with quizzes, amusements and a special tea! Be there and have your share!

Extra News

Several members are meeting up at lunchtime at **Bijou on the 5th December** for a Christmas lunch. As far as I know, every U3A member has been contacted about this, but if your contact went astray, or you've changed your mind, you need to contact Sue A.S.A.P.

At the last General Meeting, the proposal to be part of a local **Cluster Group** was presented. All members with email contact were sent 5 documents relating to this, and they will be added to the end of this newsletter. A vote is to whether Wroxham U3A will join with local U3As in Aylsham, North Walsham and Hickling Broad will be taken at the Party on the 12th. If you are unable to attend this party, and wish to cast a vote, please contact Sue Badger before then.

Activities

Classical Music – and a few other kinds thrown in – takes place at the home of Brian Keane, Prior Thatch, Beech Road, Wroxham, and all are welcome. Bring your favourite pieces along if you like, and Brian will fit them in. Fortnightly on **December 6th and 20th 1.30 – 3.30 pm**. Brian, 01603 782774. **Please note the change of time**. It was agreed that an earlier start was preferable in these dark days, and will revert to the 'normal' time in the Spring.

French Conversation: Whatever your standard, you are welcome to come and chat in French over a drink at "Bouchon" (opposite Hoveton station) **every Thursday afternoon at 3 pm**. Jane Monks 01603 782496.

Bird Banter and Bird Watching will resume in January. For new members' information, bird watching usually takes the form of an expedition on a Saturday morning to a bird sanctuary or one of Di's favourite haunts. Bird Banter is in comfort on a Friday morning at Bouchon in Hoveton, when Di teaches us about all sorts of aspects of bird life over a coffee. Di 01603 784214.

Play Reading meets on the first Tuesday of every month, therefore **on December 5th at 2.30 pm** in Bouchon. New members would be welcome. Jane, 01603 782496. Please note: this coincides with the Bijou lunch; it has been decided by the majority to stay on after the lunch to complete the play An Inspector Calls. Apologies to Helen who is unable to stay.

Swimming Enthusiasts can meet at The Victory Pool in North Walsham on **13th Dec**, then not again until **13th Jan** (avoiding school holidays) **at 2.30 pm**. Corrie Mould 01603 782755 (who hopes to resume when her leg wound has healed).

History Group meets on the last Thursday of the month, which will be **Thursday 30th November** at The Hub at 2pm. This is the last meeting this year, and the last to be held in the Hub. Next year we will be meeting at a venue to be decided. The next meeting, therefore, will be on 25th January, and notification of where will be sent out beforehand. New members are welcome, and our new Group leaders are Frances Dewis and Brenda Gander.

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Lunch Out: Nine of us enjoyed excellent food at "The Bell" in Salhouse Friday 24th November.

What with the general invitation to lunch at Bijou on 5th December, and Christmas too close to our usual day on the last Friday of the month, we shall not be having a meeting in December, but will resume in January at "The Recruiting Sergeant" in Horstead. Corrie 01603 782755

Evening Dining: Maggi Flatman writes: meeting at Café Britannia on Thursday 14th December for a 3 course Christmas meal for £14.95 at 6.30. Maggie has booked for 8, so please contact her if your name needs to be added. Maggi: 01603 783091.

Photographic/Camera Club

The group had a very interesting meeting in November with some really good photographs and good discussion after.

The group decided that the December meeting was too close to Christmas to hold so the next meeting will be **Friday 19th January 2018** with Christmas Lights as the given subject.

That just leaves me to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and see you in 2018
Again, a huge thank you to our U3A chairman for taking the group in November.

CLUSTER GROUP PROPOSAL

COMMITTEE PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE DECEMBER MEETING

Wroxham U3A has been in discussion with other local U3As to form a cluster group. The other U3As considering joining the cluster are North Walsham, Hickling, Aylsham, North Norfolk and Great Yarmouth.



The formation of clusters is approved by the national U3A and our efforts to form a local cluster have the support of Jeff Carter, the regional organiser.

The main benefit of the cluster agreement will be to offer our members the opportunity to join Interest Groups (IGs) at other U3As within the cluster as well as to help maintain numbers within our own groups.

Another benefit will perhaps be the ability to start a group where we are aware that there is a small number of people who may be interested in a subject, say, learning a new language, but where there is no teacher, but that there IS somewhere else. Having looked at the IGs of some of the other U3As within the cluster, there are many topics which may be of interest to our members.

An additional benefit could be that cluster group U3As planning trips and visits to places of interest together could help share the cost of coaches, etc.

These are just some of the benefits. It must however be made clear that the IG leaders will always be in control of their groups regarding membership and numbers and it is not compulsory for leaders to advertise their group with the cluster if they do not want to.

Those members from outside Wroxham U3A who join one of our groups will only pay the individual group fee; however, if they join several of our groups they will be expected to pay an Associate Membership fee. This will be the same for Wroxham members if they wish to attend IGs run by another U3A in the cluster.

At no time will we permit one of the other U3A groups to take over our IG, as they will always be led by Wroxham members.

We will take a vote on this proposal at our December meeting (Party Day), and it will only be implemented if most members think it is a good idea.

There has been a dip in the number of Interest Groups recently, and it would be good to rejuvenate ideas and enthusiasm. If you have any ideas for a revived and new Interest Group, please speak to a member of the Committee, or specifically to Corrie as Groups Coordinator.

Interest Groups of U3As in the local area			
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Wroxham	Aylsham	Monday Movies	Digital photography
Bird watching	Photography Group	Movie Mania	Dining Group
Bird Banter	20 th C Social History	New Technology	Family History Group
Classical music	Badminton	Petanque	Film Study Group
Lunch out club	Book Group	Poetry	Folk Music Appreciation
Evening Dining out	Book group 2	Scrabble	Gardening Group
French conversation	Beginners Bridge	Short Walks	German Conversation
History	Bridge- social play	Singing	History
Photographic club	Card Games	Solo Group	Humour
Play Reading	Classic Cars	Ten Pin Bowling	ipad for beginners
	Craft	Table Tennis	Jazz Appreciation
Hickling Broad	Cycling	Trains, planes and automobiles	Mac Users Group
Art	Dining	Textiles	Paddling Partners
British History	Discussion group 1	Walking with dogs	Painting Group
Croquet	Discussion group 2	Ukulele/guitar	Philosophy
Gourmet Diggers	Family History Group	Writing for Fun	Poetry
Outings	Film club	Wine Appreciation	Reading Group
Pub Lunches	French conversation	Yarn n Yarn	Rock & Pop History
Sailing	Gardening group		Scrabble
Walks	German conversation	North Walsham	Sunday Lunch Group
Backgammon	Golf	Art Appreciation	Ten Pin Bowling
Country Dancing	Healthy Eating	Bowls Group	Travel & Trips
Cycling	Home Dining	Classical Music	U3Sings
Let's Discuss It	Intro to philosophy	Computer Group	UFO (Unfinished Objects)
Photography	Italian conversation	Craft	Walking Group
Reading	Line Dancing	Croquet 1	Wine Appreciation
Voices of Hickling	Longer walks	Croquet 2	Writing
Wildlife Walks	Mah-jong	Current Affairs	Yoga
	Medium walks	Cycling	

At the forthcoming AGM, the Committee will be losing 2 members who are performing Officer roles, namely Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary and Magazine Secretary. It is vital for the successful continuation of the Wroxham and District U3A that more members are willing to come forward, join the Committee and take on these roles.

To facilitate this, Margaret Cobbold and Sue Badger have outlined their roles, and would be most willing to help any transition to members happy to 'have a go'.

Treasurer, Margaret Cobbold, describes her position as follows:

This role from my own perspective relates to the following tasks:

1. Receiving incoming funds and Banking on behalf of our branch of U3A. Reconciling monthly Bank Statements with our accounts.
2. Settling debts incurred ie room hire, car parking, speaker fees, Third Age Trust, expenses incurred by U3A Committee Members in their various roles.
3. Maintaining accounts. This is currently done manually, but a succeeding Treasurer could set this up electronically if they wished to.
4. Attending bi-monthly Committee Meetings and reporting Status of Account.
5. Liaising with Group Leaders, mainly those Groups who are using the Hub for meetings.
6. Booking rooms at the Hub, car parking at Wroxham Church Hall etc.
7. Arranging for Accounts to be 'examined' prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and preparing a brief report and resume of income and expenditure to present at the AGM.
8. Our turnover is at present under £2,000 and not too onerous a responsibility for someone used to either handling expenses or accounting in a former life. Or indeed handling household accounts! It keeps the brain gently ticking over; at least that is my reasoning.

Secretary's role, as performed by Sue Badger

1. To take minutes at the committee meetings, put these into a lucid form and send them to other committee members.
2. To deal with all communication, both at a local group level and nationally, with the 3rd Age Trust. (Most of the latter is information and doesn't require action other than to circulate it to other members.) If the local Cluster group is formed, then it will be the secretary's role to deal with issues arising from that.
3. To complete the newsletter (the skeleton comes via the Groups' Co-ordinator (Corrie)) – this usually means summarising the General Meetings' speakers, and emailing the finished item to all members and printing and mailing it to non-email members (presently about 10).

The secretary must have access to the internet and email facility. A printer for the newsletters would be useful.

Membership and Magazine secretary's role. Sue felt these 2 positions naturally combined:

1. To receive the membership forms, issue membership cards and annual Events Programme. To keep the lists updated.
2. The main list contains all the members' details; the magazine database requires name and address only; this is sent off to the Direct Mailing company 5 times a year. For emailing purposes, I have constructed 'distribution lists' for use with any attachments, like newsletters.

The bulk of the work is obviously done at the AGM when members renew their subscription. Most are renewals, which makes the transference of details straightforward.

There are also vacancies for a **Publicity Officer** (contacting local Parish publications and local magazines) and for a new **Webmaster** to replace John Hardy.

Without sufficient support for the U3A Committee, the group will fold.