



Wroxham and District
Membership Number: 962/940/13

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Newsletter for February 2017

General Meeting

Peter Lawrence: Plotting the Change in Social Policing

An exposition of recent social history is a retrospective stroll down memory lane for members of any U3A audience, and there were audible and amused recollections as Peter Lawrence presented his talk on “This Policeman’s Lot – a view from the Krays to the Crown” at the Wroxham Hub in the U3A’s mid-January meeting.



He took us from the 1960s, where standard uniform included whistles (but certainly no bells), truncheons and keys to the Tardis-style blue boxes, and where police mobility began (in London) with the ‘Grey Ghost’ motorbike, the ponderous Wolsey 610 and the Panda car and where policing encounters were with Ronnie and Reggie and Oswald Mosley with his provocative, leather-booted henchmen.

The mid-1970s saw a massive social change, with the advent of anti-establishment organisations, such as the IRA, the Baader-Meinhof gang and the Angry Brigade. A new 600-strong department was created in London to protect the 134 diplomatic embassies; Peter himself was seconded to the counter-terrorism service, liaising with foreign ambassadors, and visiting dignitaries, and was actively involved in both sieges of the Iranian and Libyan embassies in the 1980s.

Protection of the Royals became his most prominent role in his later years, being the Queen’s ‘right-hand man’ for 13 years during the Trooping of the Colour, and being a near presence at the wedding of Charles and Diana. What was clearly evident was Peter’s vast wealth of experience and expertise, his calm composure and level-headed approach (helped no doubt by retirement from the service), and his ever-present sense of humour. A most entertaining afternoon.

The speaker for the next general meeting, on February 21st, will be **Karen Norton and Holly**, speaking about **Guide Dogs for the Blind**. This promises to be instructive, insightful and a heart-warming account of how Karen and her dog Holly have developed an inseparable relationship.

Summer Party This year we are hiring the Southern Comfort 'paddle steamer' which can accommodate up to 100 people on **Friday 14th July from 6 – 9 pm from Horning**. Make a note of the date, and tickets will be on sale in a few months at £7.50, including buffet (provided by us). There is a bar on board. Partners welcome.

Parking at General Meetings: Most of you will know now that we have booked the Church Hall next to The Hub for General meetings only to ease the situation with parking at The Hub. It remains to be seen whether our finances can support this throughout the year. Many thanks to those of you who complied with this request.

Erratum Please note that the AGM will be on April 18th, not April 20th as on the little programme cards.



“Masters of Japanese Photography” exhibition at the Sainsbury Centre: several people have shown an interest in visiting. However, the date I suggested, 28th March, is after it has closed! Sorry! However, I hope you could all come on **Monday 13th March at 10.30** instead. Corrie Mould 01603 782755

It is not too late to put your name on the waiting list for the visit to the **Jarrolds Printing Museum**, planned for 29th March. Although there is a full complement of visitors, if enough people express an interest, a second visit can be arranged. The visit is scheduled to start at 1.30, and arrangements for car-sharing can be discussed nearer the time. Phone Jane on 01603 782496.



There is no maximum number relating to the visit to **Neatishead's RAF Air Defence Radar Museum**, which is now scheduled to go ahead on Saturday 10th June. Guided tours around both the museum and the bunkers are programmed. Contact Sue (01603 737572) for further details.

ACTIVITIES

Walking Our January walk was across Mousehold Heath, stopping at Brittonia Cafe for coffee, and then down Gas Hill and through the Cathedral grounds to catch the bus back to Wroxham. We dodged the rain and enjoyed the splendid views across Norwich.

In order to avoid too much mud our February walk on **Monday 6th at 10.30** will begin at Littlewoods Lane, near Jewsons in Hoveton, heading northwards towards Horning. It will be about 4 miles, mostly on country roads. If you wish to come, contact Maggie Lomax, 01603 783870

Classical Music come for a relaxing afternoon to Brian Keanes's home at Prior Thatch, Beech Road, Wroxham, on **Feb 1st, 15th and March 1st, all from 2.30 – 4.30**. On **1st Feb** Brian has asked people to bring a recording of their own choice of 5 to 15 minutes. Brian 01603 782774

Photographic/Camera Club Mary Long writes: The Photographic Group held its first meeting of the year in the large room at the Hub on the Friday 20th January. What a difference the move made, we were all able to photograph with plenty of space to move around; it was a good move from the small room. We had an amazing afternoon with Sandra and Damian from Happisburgh Owls. They brought six owls with them and gave us a short talk on how Sandra became interested in owls. She is DEFRA inspected regularly and the owls are kept in large aviaries where they can fly around as much as they want to. Each owl has its own special teddy bear that helps them to bond and not miss siblings. Sandra doesn't breed the owls but she does take them to photographic groups and nursing homes especially for people with Alzheimer's. We photographed the owls sitting on wood piles surrounded by leaves and an ivy background and Obelisks from the garden.



Our meeting in February is on the third Friday and is a members one, when we will be catching up on all the photo sessions we have had over the past couple of months.

French Conversation is held every Thursday afternoon at 3 pm at Bouchon (opposite Hoveton station). All welcome whatever the standard. Jane 01603 782496

Play Reading Group. In the first meeting of the year we discovered a gem of a short play by Thornton Wilder, called 'The Long Christmas Dinner'. Written in 1932, it was a forerunner of his most famous play 'Our Town'; in a mere 28 pages, the play spans 90 years and several generations, and therefore every word and every stage direction is concise, and has directed, specific meaning. The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month, ie **7th Feb at 2 pm** at the home of Ann Wilson, "Carousel", Ashmanhaugh 01603 782293 More readers would be made very welcome.

Lunch Out The next one will be at “The White Horse”, Crostwick, on **Fri Jan 27th at 12.30**. In February we will venture to “The Lighthouse” at Walcott on **Friday 24th Feb at 12.30**. Please let Corrie know 2 days beforehand at the latest. 01603 782755.

Bird Watching: This always takes place on the first Saturday of the month, which will be **4th February at 10.30**. We meet outside Di’s home beside the double roundabout in Hoveton. This is then followed by “**Bird Banter**” on **Friday 17th Feb at 10.30** at Bouchon in Hoveton to talk about all aspects of bird life over a coffee. Di Stagg 01603 784214

History Group meets on the last Thursday of the month, which will be **February 28th at 2 pm** in the Hub. Several members are attending a 10 week course run by the Cromer Society. Ann den Engelse 01603 782121

Evening Dining: Best wishes to the usual organiser, Maggie Flatman, who had to interrupt a cruise in Malaysia with a serious illness. Nicole Rufford has kindly taken responsibility for the next meeting, which will be on **Wednesday February 15th, 6.30 pm, at The King’s Head in Coltishall**. Nicole 01603 781880, please let her know at the latest a few days before if you wish to come.

Swimming: There has not been much uptake by U3A members of the swimming at the Victory pool in North Walsham, but those who go enjoy a pool almost clear of other people (and it is one of the warmest places to be!). Forthcoming dates are **25th January, 8th and 22nd of February, meeting at the pool at 2.15**. Enquiries to Corrie Mould 01603 782755

Mah-jong: The advanced group is continuing on Friday mornings, and now Carol is about to start another beginners group on Thursdays. The time of this new group will be flexible, according to their accessibility for time. She welcomes more students – but please ring her before to confirm time. Carol 01603 929368

Gardening: Horstead House gardens (by the mill) will be open for snowdrops on **Saturday Feb 18th, 11 am – 4 pm**. It is suggested we meet at 2 pm, but if that is not possible people can suit themselves. Entrance is £4 for the National Gardens Scheme. Refreshments available. Dogs on leads welcome.

Chess Club: Continues to meet alternate Monday mornings, from 10am, although there will be a slight disruption to this pattern in February. Next dates are: **30th Jan, then in Feb: 6th and 20th**

Full marks to the leaders of the Walking group and the Photographic Club for always providing information in good time (ie before the 20th of the month) to insert in this newsletter. It would be helpful if other groups could also inform me of any changes or activities or anything else they would like inserted. Corrie Mould 01603 782755 candrm@staithehome.co.uk