



Wroxham and District  
Membership Number: 962/940/13

Chairman: John Long, 01603 722254

Secretary and Membership Secretary: Sue Badger 01603 737572

## **NEWSLETTER MAY 2017**

### **General meeting**

The AGM was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> May at the Hub. Reports were given by John Long as Chairman and by Margaret Cobbold as Treasurer. The Officers were re-elected, with Marlene Corke's role as Membership Secretary transferring to Sue Badger, and Corrie Mould taking up the Vice Chairman role. Jane Monks, Mary Long, Di Stagg and Maggie Richardson were all re-elected as committee members; Jan Barrington was nominated and voted in as committee member. There were no contentious issues. John Hardy is hoping to retire as Webmaster and is anxious for someone to supersede him. If anyone who is computer-minded would like the task, please contact either Sue or John on 01692 630372.

Di Stagg entertained us for the second part of the afternoon. "I am a woman of passion", Di Stagg revealed to her audience. "My passions include birds, gems-stones and writing." All 3 passions were in evidence during the afternoon: her AGM report on her Birding and Bird-Banter interest groups mutated into a plea to save the diminishing bird population; she began her Creative Writing presentation with an elaborate gem-by-gem discourse – each gem imbued with emotional overtones, and lastly she revealed her passion for poetry and creative narrative.



As many U3A members know, Di Stagg has been hosting creative writing classes for many years. Her presentation immediately after the AGM gave an insight into her literary passion, which surfaced when she was a mere child of 8, but came to prominence when she was camping in Aran in 1987, endured a hurricane, survived a horrific night under canvas and was inspired to write a poem of her ordeal, and continued to do so for every night for the following 6 months.

Over the following decades she developed her skills at Wensum Lodge, and later at Norwich Writers' Centre; she collaborated in scripts for both theatre and film, and latterly was the driving force behind the Wroxham and Hoveton Creative Writing group.

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One of her students, Margaret Wheeler, was invited to read a personable narrative entitled “Confessions of 2 naughty girls”; Di rounded off the session with a delightfully amusing poem called “You Have a Dog!”

The next General Meeting will be on Tuesday May 16<sup>th</sup> and featured Mark Reynolds who will be presenting ‘Marco Cartoon Designs’. We await enlightenment with interest.

### **Jarrolds Printing Museum**

On 28<sup>th</sup> March 11 members of the U3A visited the Jarrolds Printing Museum, and were treated to an intensive 3 hour tour of the extraordinary room which houses a vast, historic range of printing artefacts, stretching across at least 250 years.

Split into 2 smaller groups, we traversed the museum in 5 stations, each attended with a former Jarrolds employee, now volunteer, who described in detail and with great precision, each stage in the development of printing. From single letter hand type-setting, through to the advent of mechanical typesetters, halftone plates for letterpress and off-set lithography and finally, book binding, these volunteers revealed not only their extensive knowledge, but their passion for the skills involved.

This remains a working museum, and the staff remain competent in their specialised field, demonstrating the skills that were once essential in providing the nation with literature, as well as keeping alive the heritage of the past to better understand the impact of future technical developments.

Hand type setting is demonstrated here:



On the right Duncan is setting lines for printing, with each letter, space and punctuation set individually (back to front).

On the left, an example is shown of a type face set at 18pts. The smallest, the diamond font is only 3pts large, and was used for miniature documents or manuscripts.



This is an example of 3pt diamond font. This type is set at 3 pts. You'll need a magnifying glass!

There are further images displayed on the website.

**Committee meeting** on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 2 pm at The Hub.

**Summer Party** Tickets are now on sale at £7.50 for the evening on the Southern Comfort paddle steamer which we have booked for **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July from 6 – 9 pm**. Our Chairman John Long would like names of those who want to come as soon as possible. The boat can take up to 100 people, and if we do not fill it we can invite people from other U3As, so get your name in with John on 01603 722254 or [johnhl@btinternet.com](mailto:johnhl@btinternet.com). Partners and friends who are not U3A members are very welcome. There will be a bar on board, and a buffet will be provided by your committee.

**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. This is costing the group £15 per session, in addition to the hiring of the Hub.

### **Activities**

**Walking:** Maggie Lomax writes that April was reluctantly the last walk she will organise. She is not available for most of the summer, and hopes that someone else will take over, or several different people will fill the gap on the first Monday morning of the month. Maybe with gardening and other outdoor activities taking over in the summer someone could take it on in September. Any offers to our secretary Sue Badger

**Classical Music:** Come for a relaxing afternoon at Brian Keane's home at Prior Thatch, Beech Road, Wroxham, on **April 26<sup>th</sup>, May 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>**. Brian provides an interesting and varied programme every time with a bit of jazz or oddities thrown in, but he is more than happy to play music brought by others. Brian 01603 782774

**Photographic/Camera Club** Mary Long writes that The Photographic Group had an interesting meeting in March when we used flash fill on various still life items. Friday April 21<sup>st</sup> there was a meeting at Bishop's Bridge in Norwich for a photographic session to capture a mix of views. Our meeting in May will be on **May 19<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm** We will be using Light and Shade and how that affects Panoramas and Spring time. Further details from Mary, 01603 7822254 [maryel@btinternet.com](mailto:maryl@btinternet.com)



**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** now also meets at Bouchon on the first Tuesday of the month, on **May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2.30 pm**. Any new readers most welcome. The next play will be 'An Inspector Calls', a classic by J.B. Priestley. Sue on 01603 737572



**Lunch Out** The March outing to "The Bridge Inn" in Acle was most enjoyable. There were 8 of us and we toasted Gloria and Mike on their engagement! **On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April** we re-visit The Brick Kilns on the Plumstead Road (the pink pub), at **12.30 pm**. All welcome, but you must let Corrie know as soon as possible if you wish to come. 01603 782755. My email address is changing to [candrmould@gmail.com](mailto:candrmould@gmail.com)



**Bird Watching:** This always takes place on the first Saturday of the month, which will be to Pygney's Wood on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00** Meet outside Di's home beside the double roundabout in Hoveton. Let Di know if you are coming. This is then followed two weeks later by "**Bird Banter**" on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 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. On **April 26<sup>th</sup>** there will be a history walk in Norwich, and on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May** Mary Freeman (01603 784749) is organising a trip to the Alfred Munnings Gallery at Dedham, for an introductory tour, arriving by shared car at 12 pm. There are a Garden and his Studio to visit, as well as a cafe. The history group is opening it up to anyone else who is interested; please contact Ann den Engelse on 01603 782121 if you wish to go.

**Evening Dining:** The next evening out will be on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30 at The King's Head at Ludham.** It had been planned to go the Pleasure Boat at Hickling, but fortunately it was discovered that the kitchen has been closed all winter. Maggie Flatman will be away, so please contact Nicole Rufford several days in advance if you wish to attend so that she can book. Nicole 01603 781880

**Swimming:** The group meets every other Wednesday, alternating with Music, at 2.30 p m when the pool is pretty clear and allows relaxed swimming. Our next swims will be on **Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30 pm in the Victory Leisure Centre, North Walsham.** NB No swimming group on 31<sup>st</sup> May which is school holiday. Enquiries to Corrie Mould 01603 782755

**Mah-jong** Carol Hodgkiss holds her sessions on **Fridays every week from 10 am – 1 pm** She has a 4-week plan to learn the game, and welcomes new pupils. The venue is in her home. Carol 01603 929368



**Petanque** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in the month. Therefore the meeting in May will be will be on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May April, 2.30 – 4.30 pm** at Hoveton Village Hall car park, on the Stalham Road, Hoveton, beyond the double roundabout and next to the Broadland Community Centre. If you are interested in joining us or would like to see what the game is all about before committing, please do come along. Balls can be borrowed. We do not normally stop for refreshment, but bring your own drink if you wish. Margaret and Dennis Cobbold 01603 784650

**Gardening:** On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April Corrie opened her garden, which is beautiful at any time of the year, but is particularly spectacular in Spring, with swathes of tulips and forget-me-nots, memories of daffodils, and an intriguing sunken garden backed by a magnificent pieris.

Penny Doe, who leads the group, is arranging a National Garden Scheme visit to **Witton Hall on Monday May 1<sup>st</sup> (Bank Holiday)**. It is open from 12 – 4pm, admission £3. It is a natural woodland garden, with carpets of bluebells, rhododendrons and azaleas, with stunning views over farmland to the sea. Sensible footwear is required as deer, rabbits and badgers inhabit this garden, and wheelchair access is difficult if it is wet. Let Penny know if you wish to go. Penny Doe 01603 783552



One other visit is planned this month. Penny writes “if you would like to join us, please let me know, also if you are able to offer space in a car or need transport.”

**27<sup>th</sup> May – Long Gores, Hickling** Set in undisturbed coastal pastures between Hickling Broad and the sea, semi-wild gardens surround the cottage on the edge of wetland nature reserve. Once home of the ecologist Marietta Pallis (1882 – 1963), the gardens contain interesting Mediterranean rarities collected by her and two subsequent generations of the same family. The main feature May/June is a large collection of bearded irises. £5 admission. Home-made teas. Leave the Hub at 1.15 pm. Penny 01603 783552 [pennydoesings@gmail.com](mailto:pennydoesings@gmail.com)

**Chess Club** We are hoping to organise a team to visit Broadland Chess Club (Mondays and Wednesdays, 7.30+ at the King’s Head in Coltishall). 2 chess meetings have been arranged for May: the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> .

Thanks to the group leaders who send me information by 20<sup>th</sup> month. It would be helpful if other groups could also inform me of any changes or special events, or anything else they would like inserted. Corrie Mould 01603 782755 [candrmould@gmail.com](mailto:candrmould@gmail.com)

The National Magazine, Third Age Matters, is circulated by way of a Direct Mail database scheme, which is regularly updated and contains only members who have renewed their subscription. The deadline for the current database is the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in May; if you have not renewed your membership by then, you will not receive the Third Age Matters.