



Wroxham and District  
Membership Number: 962/940/13

Chairman: John Long, 01603 722254    Secretary: Jan Barrington 01603  
712150

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## **Newsletter for November 2018**

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Well, that was different our general meeting on Tuesday 16th October was planned as a talk by Peter Kimpton who is a Christmas Historian, but unfortunately the computer would not “talk to” the projector and after at least half an hour trying to rectify this, we had to give up on this idea. However in the audience was Franz Plachy one of our members who volunteered to talk to us all about the workings of a Flour Mill and this turned into a really interesting afternoon.

He has a history of working in a water mill in his previous home area, but the nearest one to him in Norfolk is in Letheringsett, which is too far away for him to volunteer at, they did offer him a full time position when he went over and introduced himself to them!

Before it was discovered that water could be used to power mills rubbing stones were used in Ancient Egypt. Milling moved towards the Mediterranean and the Romans were very good at it, they used spelt, rather than wheat, which is very difficult to get to rise and therefore many Roman loaves were flat. Their milling stones were conical shaped a bit like an hour glass and can still be found in Pompeii.

There are only a couple of remaining water mills one of which is on the Thames. Some hand milling was achieved by using Querns and there was a factory in Folkestone which is the biggest site to find these as they are falling onto the shore as the cliffs retreat.

In the early Middle Ages the Saxons starting milling again and these were built by “chippies” as part of the economy of the Manor. When the plague hit England almost

two thirds of the population was wiped out and there was a shortage of labourers, they wanted more money and the mills started to lose money for their owners and so they let them to the people and this opened up competition. Although some millers were unscrupulous and would use blighted grain if they could get away with it, there were very strict Weights and Measures laws,

Milling started to expand during the Industrial Revolution, when the nobility wanted white bread, which has no nutritional value. The demand has turned 180 degrees in modern times as now white flour is the norm and wholemeal a speciality.

Very informative Franz thank you. Maggie (speaker secretary) has promised she will re book Peter Kimpton so we can hear and see his talk at a later date, when we have the equipment available.

## **Groups News**

Welcome to all new members, we hope you find pleasure in joining the groups that we have. As you know, they are all run by members, and if you feel you could contribute by starting a new group of some interest or talent that you have, you would be most welcome. Contact the Groups Organiser Corrie Mould on [candrmould@gmail.com](mailto:candrmould@gmail.com), or ring 01603 782755

Items for the next newsletter to Corrie by 20 November, please (details above). Sometimes I get news of meetings still to be held in the second half of the month, which will have happened by the time the newsletter comes out, and no news of what is happening in the relevant next month. Please take note.

**French Conversation: Weekly, Thursdays 15.00 – 16.30** at Bijou Wine Bar (opposite Hoveton Station). We have a regular core of about 6 people who drop in and out. We are comfortable with those who come just mainly to listen while they gain confidence. We encourage everyone to prepare a few words on a subject of their choosing. It might be a question of vocabulary, or you could bring a photo or an interesting object. If you give me your email address I can let you know of any changes, and I occasionally forward a snippet I have found on line. I don't teach as such, but give advice, help with vocabulary, and suggest on-line methods such as *Duolingo* which is free for those who want to improve their French. *Venez nous rejoindre vous serez bienvenue(s)*. This group is dementia friendly (as are all our groups) Jane Monks 01603 782496.

**Photographic Group:** We are undergoing a change in the format of our meetings. What won't change is the friendliness and fun that we have had over the past two or three years. We are not a competitive group, we are just a few people who enjoy photography and are willing to help each other to learn new techniques.

The idea is a more structured meeting once a month with subjects that we are comfortable with and those we are less comfortable with. We need a total of 32 subjects: we have 27 so far with more being put forward by the day.

A really kind member of the group who has a great deal of experience with photography will help and advise us on how to use our cameras and obtain good photos, as well as viewing DVD's on Photography.

Our meeting in October featured portraits that were completed in October, and the 3 – 4 pm session was Dogs and their Owners, which was great fun. We meet on the third Friday of the month at The Hub, which in November will be **Friday 16th November, 2 – 4 pm at The Hub.** Mary Long 01603 722254

**Art Group:** The first meeting was a success with 7 members attending, with each producing some of their former work to get some idea of interest and ability, from beginners to some very impressive efforts. The meeting on 23rd October will be painting flowers, please bring some along if you can.

At present the group plans to meet once a month. Our next meeting will be **Tuesday 20th November 2 – 4 pm** in the Hub side room, when we will be painting Christmas cards which can then be printed. Liz Smith 01603 670468

**Bird Watching:** Outings to bird reserves take place on the first Saturday of the month, usually meeting at Di Stagg's home (by the double roundabout in Hoveton) at 10 am, where we organise car sharing. Our outing to the Cley reserve in October was in strong wind and driving drizzle, and the birds did not think much of the weather either, but a lovely cup of coffee in the centre made up for it to some extent. The November outing will be on **Saturday 3rd November**, when we hope for better weather on the east coast near Caister to see migrating birds. Di Stagg 01603 784214

**Bird Banter** takes place on the third Friday of the month, **16th November 10.30 – 12** at Bijou Cafe (opposite Hoveton Station) to talk about birds, look and listen to laptops, books and drink coffee. Di Stagg 01603 784214

**Evening Dining** takes place on the third Wednesday of the month. Our next date will be **Wednesday 21st November at 6.00 for 6.30 pm** at the King's Head in Coltishall, where they will have a 2 for 1 evening. All welcome, but please let Nicole Rufford know a few days before if you wish to come. Nicole 01603 781880

**Poetry Reading:** We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at the Horse and Groom in Tunstead, and the next meeting will be **6th November from 1.30 – 3 pm.** Anyone can come along and bring a poem to read twice, which gives everyone a chance to appreciate it more. You may just come and listen if you prefer. A list of the poems read will be kept so that they can be looked at again. I will contact everyone on my list if there are any changes. Like all U3A's groups, the group is dementia friendly. Jane Monks [jane@youtt.co.uk](mailto:jane@youtt.co.uk) 01603 782496

**Classical Music** The group meets fortnightly on a Wednesday afternoon for a relaxing presentation of classical music at the home of Brian Keane, Prior Thatch, Beech Road, Wroxham. Brian has a great variety of records, CD's and tapes, and sometimes asks one of the members to present a programme from their collection. Brian also generously provides tea and cake in the interval! The meetings this month will be **7th and 21st November 2.30 – 4.30.** Call Brian if you are not one of the regulars and would like to come. Brian 01603 782774

**Lunch Out:** This group meets on the last Friday of the month at a pub within reasonable reach. For our November booking we will be going to The Fur and Feather in Woodbastwick on **Friday 30th November at 12.30**. All are welcome, but please let Corrie Mould know if you wish to come by Wed 28th so that she can book. If you have difficulty with transport let her know. There will be no meeting in December. Corrie [candrmould@gmail.com](mailto:candrmould@gmail.com) 01603 782755

**History Group:**

On September 27th 14 members of the history group enjoyed a Ber Street woodland walk and talk, led by Ted Doe.

We explored the history of Pleasure Gardens, city walls and tower , bombed churches and an altogether hidden part of Norwich followed by a thoroughly enjoyable lunch at the King's Centre.

Next meeting is on October 25th at 2.00pm when we will be sampling the new venue of The Kings Head Wroxham

New members always welcome

Brenda 01603 738788. Frances 01603 737110

The Committee are planning the Christmas Party and are grateful for your offers for contribution to the “eats”. There are still some slots that could do with being filled



Crisps, Ham sandwiches, Smoked salmon sandwiches!, and Beef sandwiches.

Or any sandwiches you would like, we are catering for the Gluten Free as well.

Thank you again for your help.

Joe Stirling lighting a candle outside the Forum to mark the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz (Photo from Happy Norfolk Humanist)

Our next meeting on November 20th will be very interesting Phyllida Scrivens will be telling us the life story of Joe Stirling who escaped from the Germans on the “Kinder Transport” and hopefully will be joining us in November, looking forward to this.

See you there

Jan