



Affiliated to the Third Age Trust
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Newsletter

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From your Chairman,

And so we arrive at the start of another decade. Can it really be 20 years since the Millennium celebrations? The dreaded word 'Brexit' had not even been thought up and people actually walked along the street without gazing into smartphones – a rare sight these days.

Fortunately, among all the changes of the last 20 years, BU3A continues to thrive, with a membership of over 600 and more than 30 Interest Groups. I know it's been said many times before, but none of this would happen without the sterling efforts of our officers, committee and the numerous helpers who organise tea, chairs etc. My thanks to all who have carried out these duties during my time as Chairman.

Due to our Constitution, officers and committee members may only serve a three year term, so we are constantly on the lookout for members who are prepared to come forward and fill these roles. Do please speak to me, or any Committee Member, if you would like to help BU3A continue to thrive during the 'Roaring Twenties'.

With best wishes,

Peter Lester.

The History of Spoken English



THE speaker for our December meeting was Charlie Haylock who gave an entertaining and informative talk on the

origins of our language.

After the Romans left Britain several peoples from Europe started to migrate to various parts of Britain. The Angles, Danes, Friesians, and Vikings all shared the same language but spoke different dialects. As the different groups became more settled the language gradually grew and has changed little since that time. The written language had accents on the vowels to help with pronunciation. When the Normans arrived in 1066 no change was made to the structure of the language as it was the majority language. The other languages were Norman French and Latin. However words were added to English from these other tongues.

By this time a lot of documents were being written, scribes simplified the written language and by the time of the Lancastrians, Parliament was recorded in English. Under the Tudors, church services were in English, the Book of Common Prayer and the Bible were heard in English too.

During the Renaissance, Italian and Latin words were absorbed and Shakespeare made up about 1750 words which have come into the language. In the 17th Century there was a move to standardise English by the schools at Eton, Harrow, Winchester and Westminster resulting in “received pronunciation”, although there are still dialects. Words from other sources are still being added.

As a result we have one of the simplest languages as we do not have to worry about complications of the gender of words, but we do have words pronounced the same but spelled differently, words spelled the same with different pronunciation. We can see some of the changes over the centuries from Shakespeare's rhyming couplets that no longer seem to rhyme.

Mary Dunbavin

Alice Hawkins, Suffragette 1863 – 1946



PETER BARRATT, who gave the January lecture, is the great grandson of Alice Hawkins and spoke from family knowledge and the large archive that Alice had collected. She was born in Stafford, one of nine children in a working class family. The family moved to Leicester. She left school at 13 to

King's Speech but there was nothing so they marched on parliament. Alice was one of the women arrested and was sentenced to 14 days in Holloway.

She formed the Leicester Branch of the WSPU. From thereon there were various campaigns and Alice had several spells in Leicester prison. She was unable to enter a meeting in 1909 at which Churchill was speaking but Alfred could and was ejected for heckling on behalf of the women. He did this again at a meeting in Bradford a year later and was again removed being thrown downstairs and breaking a leg. He sued and was awarded £100 in damages.

Alice was also still campaigning for equal pay and the women formed their own trade union. She was one of the women at a meeting with Lloyd George to explain their position.

The campaigning continued up to the start of the Great War when it ceased to support the war effort.

The full history and images can be found on the website: www.alicesuffragette.co.uk

“You must use your vote, we suffered for it.”

Mary Dunbavin

Thursday Walks with Interest



Members recently ignored the forecast of rain and met at Icklingham for a 4.5 mile walk led by Sue and Andrew Adams.

The village lies to the north west of Bury St Edmunds and is situated close to the River Lark. A settlement has existed at Icklingham since Roman times when it was known Camborito. The village is named after Boudica's Icenii tribe and was one of largest settlements in this densely populated part of Saxon England. Icklingham is often referred to as the village with two churches reflecting its past importance. St James is the active

parish church and the thatched church of All Saints is cared for by the Churches Conservation Trust

The walk took in part of Cavenham Heath, an area of Breckland which is nationally and internationally designated site of conservation importance with a range of habitats and associated species. We walked part of the Icknield Way and enjoyed good views across the Breckland landscape.

Following the walk, lunch and drinks were enjoyed at the recently opened Guinness Arms (formerly the Red Lion) in the village.

John Light

Essex Villages Tour

Our first stop for November's Educational Visit of Essex Villages was a short one in Long Melford to pick up our Blue Badge guide Ian. Our first Essex village was Halstead with its famous Antique Centre, and its association with the Lovejoy TV series. Then Bocking & Braintree with a long history in the silk weaving industry and continuing to Cressing.



Here, fortified by coffee and biscuits, Ian took us on a short tour around the [Barley and Wheat Barns](#), which are Grade 1 Listed, and originally built in the 13th Century on land that had been given to the Knights

Templar in 1137. They are amongst the oldest timber barns and some of the few surviving Templar buildings in England. There is also a Tudor walled garden and several other buildings to see including the well house with a well 45 foot deep before you reach the water level.

We then went via Great Dunmow and Thaxted, to the market town of Saffron Walden. This is a very pretty place with some beautiful timber framed buildings.



There are still remains of the 12th Century Walden Castle, built or expanded by Geoffrey de Mandeville, the first Earl of Essex, with an unusual turf maze nearby.



After lunch it was on to Finchingfield, with more timber framed buildings and the river Pan which, at the time of our visit, contained the village Christmas Tree!

Our walk around the village was curtailed somewhat by the wet

weather and the early sunset, not that we saw much sun at this time of year. But fear not, we were kept entertained by the story of Violet the chicken, a very famous lady not appreciated by all the villagers as she had the unfortunate habit of pooping on the Village War Memorial! She survived an attempt to dispatch her via an unmarked van and was subsequently insured by the owners for one million pounds. This was against abduction or worse still being eaten by the Parish Councillors! This story even made the local newspaper and TV.

We had a lovely cream tea in The Fox before making our way back to Thurston via Clare, Cavendish and Long Melford.

Linda Wells

Garden Visits for 2020



Snowdrops at Chippenham Park

This group is open to all members and the following visits are planned for this year.

Tuesday 24 March

Talk by Andrew Brogan about Henstead Exotic Gardens.

This will be at 2.30pm at New Green and will cost £5.00 to include tea/coffee and cake.

Wednesday 22 April

Outing to Bridge End Gardens, Saffron Walden.

Wednesday 27 May

Somerleyton Hall, Lowestoft

Wednesday 24 June

Grimsthorpe Castle, Bourne, Lincs.

Wednesday 22 July

Henstead Exotic Gardens. Following the talk in March

Wednesday 23 September

RHS Gardens, Wisley.

In November or December

A visit to Helmingham Hall for the Winter Lights Festival is proposed.

More details can be found on our website or by contacting the Convenor, Margaret Brackenbury.

Bookings are normally taken at the monthly lecture meeting when full payment will be required.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

To be held in New Green Community Centre, Thurston
at 10am on Monday, 2nd March 2020

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 4th March 2019
See copy below
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts
5. Appointment of Accounts Examiner
6. Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary,
Treasurer and other Committee members
7. Any other Business as previously advised in writing to
the General Secretary by 17th February.
8. Date of next AGM – 1st March 2021

Nomination forms for committee members are available to
download on our website

Only BU3A members may vote at this meeting

Monthly Meetings

Monday 2 March

AGM followed by...

From Barrow to Bagdad

The speaker's experiences in the
Middle East

Philip Caine

Monday 6 April

The Burston School strike

In April 1914 two teachers were
dismissed from their posts in the
rural village of Burston, Norfolk
and with it began the 'longest
strike in history'.

Ann May

Monday 11 May

The Rougham Estate

Its past and present

George Agnew

Monday 1 June

A Dairy Farmer's Wife

The speaker talks about her
passion for their dairy farm and
its wildlife in Leicestershire.

Jane Barnes

Minutes of Blackbourne U3A Annual General Meeting

held at New Green Centre, Thurston at 10am 4th March, 2019

Present: 197 members and 3 visitors.

Apologies for absence: Jill Rood, Sue Russell, Di & Ray Finney, Brian Milner, Ralph Brighton, Carol & Chris Ives and Rosemary Kelly.

Minutes of previous meeting 5th March 2018 have been circulated. Acceptance of these minutes as a true record was proposed by Bryann Ward, seconded by Howard Chandler and approved unanimously signed by Chairman Derrick Haley.

Chairman's Report: Derrick Haley presented his 2018-2019 report which is on file.

Treasurer's Report: Peter Seager displayed on the screen and copies circulated the Income and Expenditure Statements and Summary of Interest Group Reports, copies on file which have been approved by Chairman Derrick Haley and committee members. Peter thanked Grant Elliot for examining the accounts. Derrick thanked Peter for his report and the Treasurer's Account was proposed for adoption by Nick Chamberlain and seconded by Alex Parker; approved by unanimous show of hands.

Appointment of Account's Examiner for 2019-2020; thanks given to Grant Elliot for auditing the accounts and for agreeing to continue for another year. This being proposed by Alan Crouch and seconded by Nick Chamberlain and approved by unanimous show of hands.

Election of Chairman, Officers and Committee: those standing down this year having served 3 years are Derrick Haley, Peter Seager, Mary Dunbavin, Paul Peachey and Mary Balmer. New Chairman Peter Lester, Treasurer Jane Storey and remaining Secretary Helen Taylor have been proposed and seconded in writing (copies on file)

New committee members are Elizabeth Morgan, Linda Heywood, and Andrew Adams all proposed and seconded in writing (copies on file). Remaining committee are Alan and Sallie Crouch, Teri Carpenter, Di Finney, Maureen Morris, John Light and co-opted member Maxine Wilde. All approved by a show of hands.

Any Other Business: no pre-advised items, the meeting closed at 10-21am

Items and pictures for the newsletter should be sent to
bryann@brysuward.plus.com

The deadline for the next issue in May is 19 April