

Su3aN



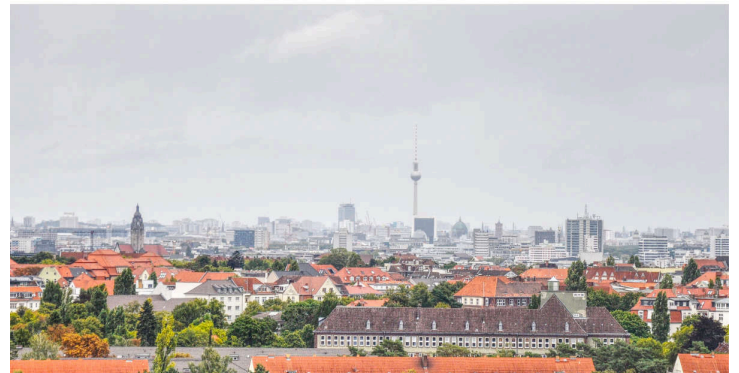
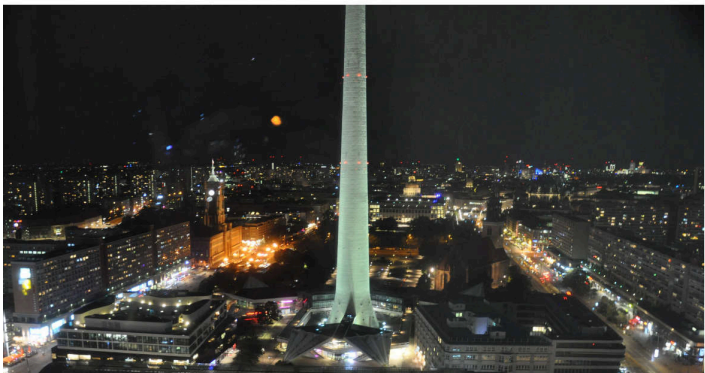
u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Sudbury Newsletter

November 2024



The wall in 1975



Holiday Group trip 8th to 16th September 2024 to Berlin

Chair's Message

Dear Members,

after a very busy and successful 2024 of Sudbury u3a this edition of Su3aN will be the final one until the next edition in January next year.

I say a successful year, new groups have been introduced, we have a nett increase of membership of 90 and now at 1st November we have 965 members.

I have recently appealed for members to step forward to become committee members. Notably we required a Treasurer and Webmaster as well as general committee members. I also advised the membership that without a Treasurer, Sudbury u3a would fold.

Well, great news! Sudbury u3a will be continuing after our AGM next year as members have stepped forward to be nominated for those roles together with others for General Committee members. A big thanks to them.

I think it's important to bring in new 'blood' to a committee and am sure post AGM we will have a robust committee.

I would like to give you advance notice that our AGM will be held on the 25th February 2025. This is when our new committee will be elected. The minutes of our 2023 AGM and the Agenda and Nomination form for the 2025 AGM can be found on the web site <https://sudbury.u3asite.uk/> under the AGM 2025 tab. The AGM is important and we really need as many members as possible to attend, so please put 10:00am 25th February 2025 in your diary and come along and support Sudbury u3a.

With Christmas rapidly approaching I would like to wish all of our 960+ members a peaceful and relaxing Christmas and New Year.

Best wishes

Ian Mathews

Chair, Sudbury u3a.

07471 211347.

Next Newsletter

For the January 2025 issue please send your contributions no later than 3 January 2025. If you miss the deadline we may not be able to include your copy. Please send details by email as a Word or Pages attachment in Arial 12p font in plain text, 350 words maximum, plus, if available, a photograph illustrating your contribution, to:

Su3aNeditor1@outlook.com

Whilst every care has been taken in the compilation of this newsletter, errors and omissions are not the responsibility of the publisher or of the editor. Opinions, where expressed, are not necessarily those of the publisher or the editor. If a group isn't mentioned in Su3aN, please check your Membership Card or the Sudbury u3a website, for details of Leader and Telephone Number.

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Telephone: 01787 880260**

Group News and Diary

Group News

I have enjoyed a busy year since I took over as Groups Coordinator. Currently we have 73 different groups, meeting from weekly to monthly, so involving lots of our members. In this role, I support Group Leaders through visits and phone calls and promote new groups. I could do with a hand now and again. If one or two members would like to assist me, I would be grateful. Please call me on 01787 883368.

Sadly, the Theatre Group has now closed and as none of the existing group have come forward to take over, I am appealing to see if anyone with an interest in theatre could take on this task? Again, please give me a ring to talk it over.

Photography Skills is taking a break until Spring. The actual Photography Group has one vacancy – please contact Bruce (redbloodcorpuscle@yahoo.com) if interested.

New Groups - the New Year

Spanish beginners - Tony Lee is planning a new group, having led his first Beginners upwards! Contact Tony by email or phone – 07875 685504.

Italian for Beginners - we have had some enquiries, are you interested?

Beginners Table Tennis - We have had a few enquiries, are you also interested?

Wine Group 2 - is closing in December after 16 years. If any of you are interested in forming a new group, we can arrange a demo and help you get started.

Lino Printmaking - one of our members is prepared to run a six weekly block of lessons.

Calligraphy - an interesting art form, failed to become established early this year. One of our members has the skills to run a group of sessions for those interested.

Singing - our current singing group (of 10) is full. Following a couple of enquiries, I wonder if there is enough interest for a second group?

If you are interested in any of the last six groups above please contact me.

Don't forget, you can find out more about our groups from our website or phone the Leader if you want more details.

Group Leaders' Workshop

By the time you read this we will have held this workshop on 13th November . Fifty of our Group Leaders have signed up for this event at which we update on changes and say Thank You for their great commitment which makes our u3a so successful.



Lyn Gray - Groups Coordinator

01787 883368

Walking Groups

Tuesday Amblers

3rd December - Long Melford Indigo Walk

Meet from 10.15 for 10.30am start in the Village Memorial Hall car park, Long Melford CO10 9JQ. A voluntary donation of £2 per car is requested. Felix Coaches and Chambers run a bus service between Sudbury and Long Melford.

This is a 3.5 mile walk through the countryside to the south of the village, taking in the old railway line, Long Melford Railway Station, the Maltings and the meadows along the way. There are a couple of short stretches of road walking and no stiles

The walk will be followed by our annual December lunch at The Swan in Long Melford for those who have booked.

Walk Leader: **Amicie Thompson** 07530 269813

Reminder: There will be no amble in January.

Amicie Thompson

Thursday Amblers

23rd January – Wickham St Paul

Meet 10.15 for 10.30am start at the car park Village Hall/ Post Office CO9 2PT

A pleasant amble of about 3.5 miles mainly flat with no stiles; a couple of stretches of walking on lanes. Donations for use of parking/ toilets would be greatly appreciated.

Refreshments at both the Victory Inn and farm shop if required.

Walk leader **Brian Orton** 07508 093631.

27th February - Groton

Meet 10.15 for 10.30am start at the Car Park of the Fox & Hounds, CO10 5ED.

A circular walk of 3.6 miles along country lanes, field edges, in woodland and across meadows with gentle ups and downs.

If you have the time at the end of the amble the Fox & Hounds offers lovely refreshments as a thank you to the landlord for the use of his car park.

Walk leaders **Colette & Dee** 07875 723153.

Colette Bentley

Walking

Walks for both December and January have yet to be finalised.

Once the walks have been finalised, Ian will email Walking Group members.

We are always seeking volunteers to lead walks, either their favourite or recommended walks.

If you would like to either join the group or lead a walk then please contact me on 07471 211347.

Thanks

Ian Mathews

Photography Skills

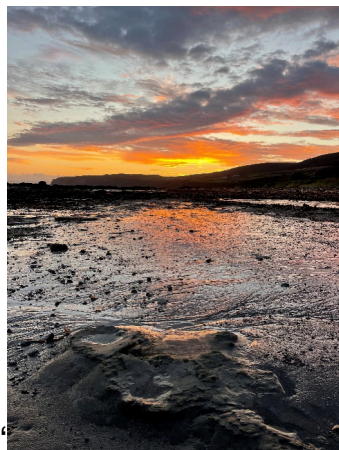
The group has decided to take a Winter break and will resume in March/April.

In the meantime a Facebook page will be developed to allow group members to upload their images.

If you would like to know more about the group then please make contact on 07471 211347.

Thanks

Ian Mathews



'Nature' Images from the group

Film Group – meets on the last Friday of the month at 2pm at The Christopher Centre, 10 Gainsborough Street, Sudbury CO10 2EU.

29th November: We will be looking to show 'Saving Grace' starring Brenda Blethyn, Martin Clunes, and Craig Ferguson. Green-fingered widow Grace Trevethen (Brenda Blethyn) is faced with a cash-flow problem and wonders how she will be able to pay for the upkeep on her Cornish manor. The solution comes from the manor caretaker (Craig Ferguson): why not start growing and selling marijuana? That's exactly what Grace does, with hilarious and unforeseen circumstances. After the film we will have mince pies and sausage rolls to celebrate the coming of Christmas.

31st January 2025: We will be looking to show 'The Help' starring Emma Stone, Viola Davis and Octavia Spencer. The Help is an inspirational, courageous and empowering story about very different, extraordinary women in the 1960s South who build an unlikely friendship around a secret writing project – one that breaks society's rules and puts them all at risk. Filled with poignancy, humour and hope – The Help is a timeless, universal and triumphant story about the ability to create change. (THIS FILM RUNS FOR 2 HOURS 26 MINUTES SO WE SHALL START AT 1.30PM AS AGREED AT THE OCTOBER FILM GROUP).

28th February: We will be looking to show 'Is Anybody There?' starring Michael Caine, David Morrissey, Anne-Marie Duff and Bill Milner. A comedy drama set in a seaside town in 1980s England, depicting the unusual friendship between a lonely ten-year-old, Edward (Bill Milner), and retired magician Clarence (Michael Caine). Growing up in the inauspicious setting of the old people's home run by his distracted parents (Anne-Marie Duff and David Morrissey), the inquisitive Edward spends his time tape-recording the elderly residents in an attempt to learn about death, a subject by which he is endlessly fascinated. His life changes with the arrival of the irritable embittered Clarence, who becomes part of Edward's ongoing quest to untangle the mysteries of mortality.

THERE WILL BE NO FILM IN DECEMBER AS THE 27th FALLS IN THE CHRISTMAS WEEK

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Jenny Filby

Berlin - Holiday Group trip 8th to 16th September 2024

It's overambitious to try to "do" a city in five days, particularly if that visit is to include all the art, architecture and history. We did our best with a typically full programme including two free days for the 45 of us to pursue our individual agendas with the Berliner Pass. Berlin has too much history - a lot within living memory - to make this just another holiday - though there was, for those who wanted it, a huge amount of art within 20 minutes' walk of the hotel.

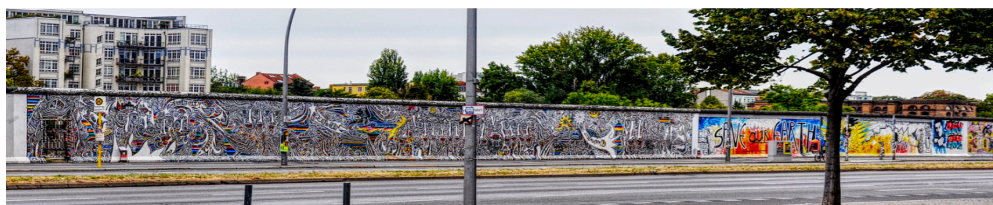
This is what we did:

Day 1: an orientation tour of the Wall, its impact and memorials (after that our driver always alerted us to the double row of cobbles marking its path), the Libeskind Jewish Museum - perhaps getting through security before the three tours was part of the experience; then Sachsenhausen, the first new concentration camp to be established following the appointment of Heinrich Himmler as the Chief of the German Police. It was conceived as an ideal concentration camp giving architectural expression to the world view of the SS.



Day 2: Bauhaus at Dessau- three destinations, the archive and museum, the original workshops and canteen and the masters' houses.

Day 4: East Side Gallery, nearly a mile long, the open-air art gallery on the banks of the Spree, the longest continuous section of the Berlin Wall still in existence;



then the Hohenschönhausen Memorial Stasi prison - the tours were powerfully moving. The day then became lighter with a tour of some of the UNESCO listed modernist housing with tours by residents of Corbusier's Unite d'habitation.

Day 3 and Day 5 were free time to do the art, boat trips, use public transport, drive a Trabi, buy Ampelmännchen merchandise, climb Foster's Reichstag etc etc.

There were also guided tours of Cologne and Aachen on the way there and back - tasters perhaps for future visits.

Jane Crumpton-Taylor

Future Speakers

28th January 2025

Our speaker at our January monthly meeting is Janet Dann talking about 'A question of Identity'.

25th February 2025

Our speaker follows our Annual General Meeting (AGM) when we will have Alan Burbidge talking about 'The Herveys of Ickworth'.

Anita Tuddenham

Need help with your digital equipment (phone etc)?

Visit Sudbury Library on Market Hill during the afternoon of the 1st Thursday each month and talk one-to-one with an expert who can help you with any problems.

Try it - I did and she helped with my Kindle problem.

Lyn Gray

Speaker's report for September

Heroes and Villains of our Locality by Ashley Cooper.

During this informative and entertaining talk on local heroes and villains, Ashley illustrated his heroes and villains using the wonderful paintings of the late Ben Perkins. These beautiful illustrations helped to bring the characters in his talk alive and set them in the context of their time.

One of the first characters he talked about was Caractacus who was no doubt a hero to the local tribes, who held out against the Romans for a decade. He was eventually defeated and fled to Welsh marches where he was betrayed by Queen Cartimandua who wished to maintain her important alliance with Rome. Luckily for Caractacus the Romans spared his life and gave him a home within Rome.

Ashley took us on a whirlwind tour through local history starting in early times. Notable Normans were mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086 such as Ralph the Haunted from Ballingdon and Roger God Save the Ladies from Felsted. Other local heroes were Thomas Loveday responsible for the remarkable chancel roof in Bulmer Church.

Simon of Sudbury was also mentioned as being considered a local hero for creating and building a college to educate the clergy and improving the church of St Gregory's. Unfortunately, he was also responsible for introducing the first poll tax. This was so unpopular a mob attacked him in London and beheaded him. The reconstruction of his face can be seen in the Heritage Centre in Sudbury.

The talk mentioned many more notable heroes and villains but maybe one of the most devastating was an animal – the black rat. After the effect we have all experienced with the recent epidemic of Covid it might be worth recalling that the plague killed one in three people.

Sally Card

Speaker's report for October

My life as a 'Hi Di Hi' Yellowcoat by David Webb.

In his illustrated talk David told stories of the early days in his career and how he and Tony, his twin brother, ended up at Maplins Holiday Camp, in the popular BBC comedy : "Hi Di Hi". He brought along his trusty Yellowcoat, which he wore in 58 episodes. He punctuated his talk with lively renditions of popular songs from the musicals.

He was keen on performing from a young age and starred in West Side Story with the Ipswich Dramatic Society. His first professional role was in Hastings at the White Rock Pavilion. He also did a tour of working men's clubs in the North of England, which was pretty tough going!

David and his brother managed to get booked for the pilot of "Hi Di Hi" written by Croft and Perry. Most of the filming was done at Warners Holiday Camp in Dovercourt, which was built in the 1930s. Croft and Perry contacted Butlins in Clacton initially and were politely told to "Go away!" The cast except for David stayed in the chalets as money was tight because it was a pilot. All reported back that the rooms were damp and so were the beds!

David said he had a fantastic time working on "Hi Di Hi" and found the cast lovely to work with and the character of "Peggy" was very much like Sue Pollard herself!

He showed us many clips and photos of the programme. He also told us of a near accident during one of the episodes. This was the one with the carnival float which caught fire and ended up in the "Olympic Sized Swimming Pool". Unfortunately, the costumes the calvary riders were wearing didn't float and they had to be rescued very quickly from the pool.

The cast were very sad when the programme ended in 1987. After that David didn't want to go on tour again. He still continues to work doing some commercials. In his career he worked with many stars including: Vera Lynn, Michael Barrymore, the Krankies just to name a few.

Helen Holton

u3a at sea

On the 6th September 2024, somewhere off the coast of North Africa on-board Fred Olsen's Borealis at 4 pm a group of u3a members had a brief but informative meeting. We were all on a cruise taking in the Azores, Madeira and Portugal, having sailed from Southampton at the end of August.

We introduced ourselves and as I had a camera and tripod with me we had a group photograph (that's me at the front in green shirt). Apart from yours truly, Bruce Clegg (Su3aN editor) there were Teresa Needs from East Suffolk u3a, Lydia Stonestreet from Sandhurst, Yately & Sandhurst u3a, Pamela and William Symes from Hoylake West Kirby & District u3a, Rosalie Morgan from Pontarddulais u3a, Joyce Faichney from Edinburgh u3a and Colin & Eve Burrows from Blackbourne u3a (meeting at Thurston in Suffolk). I know that there were other u3a members on the ship with whom I had previously had a conversation but they didn't attend the meeting.

Subsequently I have discovered, via the u3a 'Keeping in Touch' Facebook group, that Fred Olsen Cruises may give a discount to u3a members on production of membership number and name of the u3a. They certainly give a discount to the W.I.

Here we all are smiling at the camera. Well some are smiling.

Bruce Clegg



Membership Secretary update

Please be advised that my landline, as shown on the current membership card, is no longer in use; please use the mobile number below to contact me.

As always, please let me know of any changes to your personal details (phone numbers, email, home address, emergency contact and so on) and I will update our BEACON database accordingly. This information will then be available to the leaders of any Groups to which you belong.

Best wishes,

Richard Thomas

Membership Secretary

memsec.sudburyu3a@gmail.com

07709 401886

Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings are held on the third Wednesday of each month. They give an opportunity to meet Sudbury u3a committee and members in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Everyone is welcome - whether you are a long-established member or one who has just joined us. Non-members are always welcome as it gives a chance to find out exactly what Sudbury u3a has to offer - no pressure just coffee/tea and a chat.



Coffee mornings are free and our next meetings are: 18th December and 15th January 2025.

Venue: The Friends' Meeting House, 22 Friars Street, Sudbury. CO10 2AA. Start time: 10:00am, finish around 11:30am. If you would like any further information please contact myself or any committee member. I look forward to welcoming you.

Ian Mathews

07471 211347