



**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live

**2014 to 2024**



**It all started in 2014 with a new group**



**24<sup>th</sup> September 2014 Beccles u3a Launch Meeting  
at Beccles St John Ambulance Hall**



**Beccles U3A group celebrates its first anniversary  
at Beccles Public Hall October 2015**

**The rest as they say,  
is History**

**Helen Hemming** "I was thrilled to hear of the possibility of a, u3a starting in Beccles, having friends who were members elsewhere in the country.

The inaugural meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2014 to gauge interest was a real eye-opener ( I remember it well as my grandson was born that morning ). The Blyburgate hall was packed, with a real buzz in the air.

Just a few weeks later, Beccles U3A was born.

I joined at the earliest opportunity and have thoroughly enjoyed the last 10 years and I'm now a keen advocate of the benefits of u3a membership. Congratulations on 10 great years and here's to the next decade".



The u3a Table Tennis group  
5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary get together



The u3a Short Tennis group  
1st Christmas get together

**Janet King,** “I joined Beccles u3a at its inception in 2014, which luckily for me coincided then, with my recent retirement from work.

It was good to feel, in the absence of work, a sense of belonging again.

Over the years I have joined several interest group and currently am in two.

I have enjoyed several trips and excursions and many entertaining speakers, some of which were hilarious, very notable were ‘My Tutu Went AWOL’, and the ‘Bluebell Girl’ – fab”.



## **Beccles u3a Growing Together group**

**September 2015**

**New allotment plot gives older people the chance to grow together**

After months of fundraising and dedication from volunteers, a project to give older people the chance to grow their own fruit and vegetables has got off the ground in Beccles.

Drawing and  
Painting Group  
Hungate Church  
Tree 2016



**Diana Wardley,** "My husband and I joined Beccles u3a at the inaugural meeting in 2014 and enjoyed the monthly talks together until his death 2 years ago.

My life then changed dramatically, and I feel so lucky to have been able to join four groups, meet new friends, socialise and take on new challenges.  
Thank you u3a"



**The ukulele is hitting the right note in Beccles**  
Beccles U3A Ukulele group. Brian Lever with his  
group. May 2015

**Sally Norfolk,** “Our two drawing and painting groups were both started by a lovely lady, Sue Rhodes. Sue was a pastel artist who was brilliant, especially doing the eyes of the animals or people she did, she made them look real, alive”.

“We miss you, Sue”.

# 19 Dec 2017 - Beccles Town Council Community Long Service Award



Peter and Susan Shannon were presented with the Community Long Service Award, by the Mayor of Beccles on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017, in recognition of their achievement with the Beccles u3a.

In June 2018, after 4 years as the Chair of Beccles u3a, Peter Shannon stepped down and handed the role over to Graham Jermyn.



Thank you Peter & Susan  
for all your dedication and hard work.

Everyone in Beccles U3A appreciates your  
achievements.

<b>Graham Jermyn</b> Vice Chair	<b>Carole Moore</b> Treasurer	<b>Jena Mason</b> Membership Secretary
<b>Paul Gurbutt</b> Groups Co-ordinator	<b>Mu Gurbutt</b> Programme Secretary	<b>Irene Squirrell</b> Events Secretary
<b>Lacey Baxter</b> Group Expenses	<b>Julia Deary</b> Committee	<b>Mary Wright</b> Committee

And all the other 600+ U3A members  
whose names won't fit on this card

## PETER & SUSAN ~ THANK YOU

Four years have gone since the two of you founded Beccles U3A.  
When you booked the very first meeting - what were your thoughts that day?  
'Will the people come?' 'Is it what they want?' 'Is it just a daft idea?'  
Well, the people came, and they all signed up – the answer was loud and clear.

~~~~~

Beccles wanted U3A – there was never any doubt.  
Meetings, speakers, groups, events – that's what it's all about.  
Each year the membership increased; the numbers grew & grew.  
Everyone plays their part now, but it started with just you two.

~~~~~

So much effort and hard work, now it's time to step aside.  
We all know how much you've done – you can walk away with pride.  
Our gift to you is a bowl, made of glass so bright and clear,  
You can fill it with fruit or flowers, even trifle, but please – not beer!

~~~~~

With our other gift, you get to choose, what you would like it to be.  
Perhaps a garden statue or a beautiful, evergreen tree.  
Enjoy your new adventures, and fun that comes your way  
And thanks again from everyone, for our Beccles U3A.

~~~~~

Carole Moore, 20th June 2018

A Special Poem by Carole Moore

**Diana Barton,** "After my dear husband died, the Beccles u3a was a real lifesaver for me. It was very helpful for me to be able to join new groups, revive my interest in Jazz and set up a dog walking group. I have enjoyed being a member of several groups, and the talks are usually very amusing; interesting; intriguing".



**The Gardening  
Group Team –  
May 2020**



# March 2020 Lockdown

**Marion Binding,** “Sitting on a train from Beccles to Woodbridge with a group from History Walking, they were speaking French and Latin, (there was a gap in my education, but the company was great).

During COVID, lovely Graham came into our homes via Zoom, he was like an old friend with lots of humour.

Thank you u3a Beccles”.

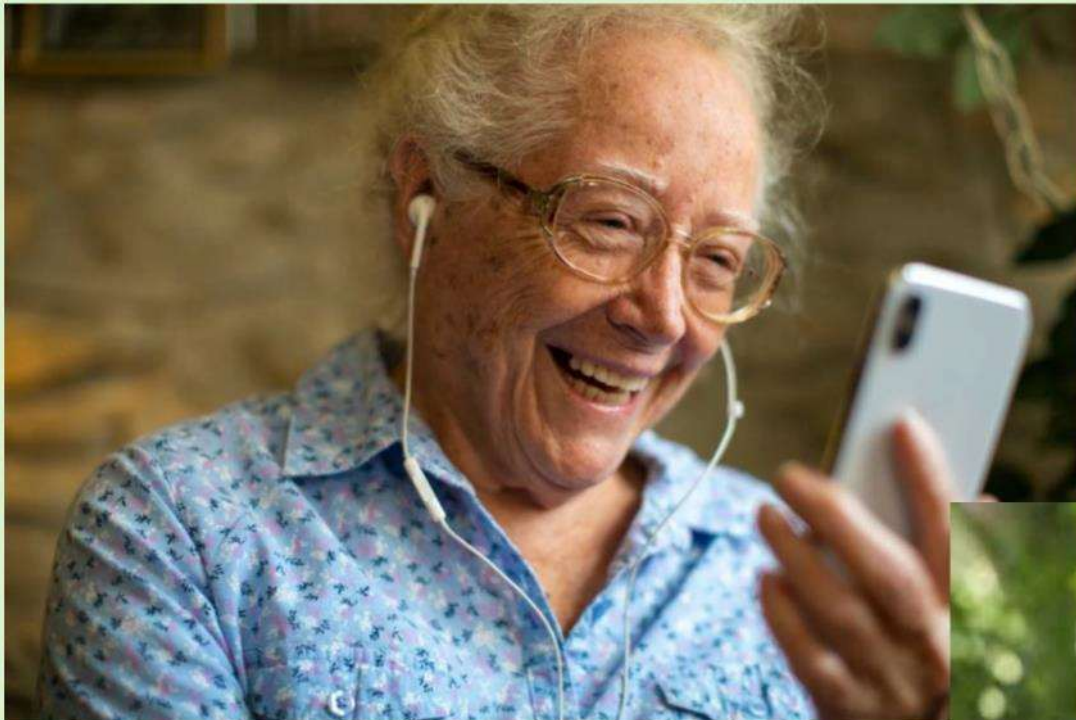


Monthly ZOOM Meetings with Graham Jermyn

**From Fast-Jet To Wobbly-Head**  
**Presented by: Sally Dearman-Cummings**



**James Binding,** “A memorable time - Speaker: June 2020  
- Sally Dearman-Cummings, First Female RAF Jet Fighter Pilot.  
When she spoke so graphically, everyone in the hall believed – An  
amazing life story. A privilege for us”.



October 2020  
During Lockdown



Don't forget we offer a **phone buddy scheme** if the latest rules keep you indoors and you want someone to talk to.

Lockdown Phone Buddy Scheme



# Beccles u3a Committee Meeting March 2021 Via Zoom !!



Covid Phone Buddies Meet At Last at Paws for Tea



**Mary Wright,** "I went along to an open afternoon in spring 2017, and came away as convenor of a new group "Creative Writing", I enjoyed the experience and made some lovely new friends - our meetings were enjoyable, and it was amazing the talent some people had for writing!

I also became the business secretary for a term of 4 years - I really enjoyed being able to use my admin skills and being actively involved in the day to day running of this wonderful group.

I wish Beccles u3a many more years of providing such great social and learning opportunities for local people".

# January 2021

## Tree planting

The tree group, led by Philip Evans, started planting willows on Little Wembley in the centre of Beccles as a beginning to rewilding Beccles.

They hope to plant more trees early in the new year.



**John Allen,** "My first experiences of u3a on joining in October 2022, my wife and I have enjoyed some excellent walks with the Historic Walks group 3 and singing with the Singing for Fun group. A pity we didn't join earlier! Good to meet so many friendly people".



## February 2022

The members of Beccles U3A History of Beccles Lido Research Group are delighted that the fruits of their work have been published. The Group was asked to take on the project following the success of their earlier history of the Public Hall.

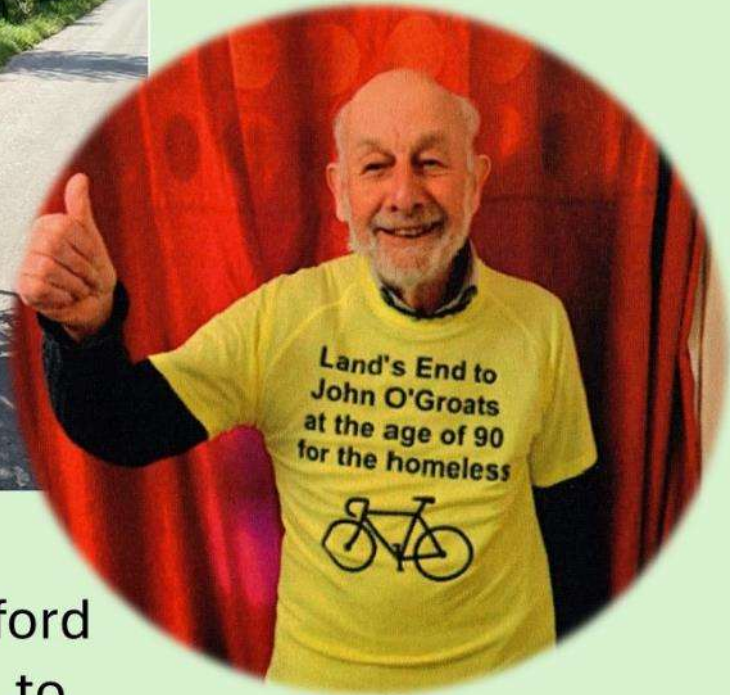
History of Beccles Lido Published Feb 2022



Renewals Day 2023

**Peter Langford**  
The oldest person to cycle  
from Land's End  
to John O'Groats  
**Aged 90**

Aug/Sep 2023



**August/September 2023**

Beccles Cycling Group Member Peter Langford became the oldest person, at the age of 90, to cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats.

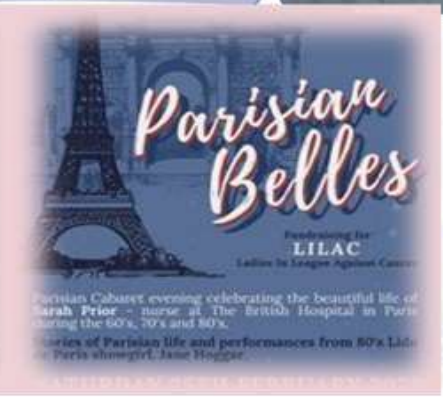
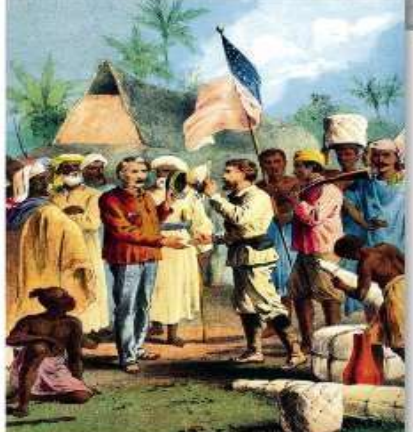
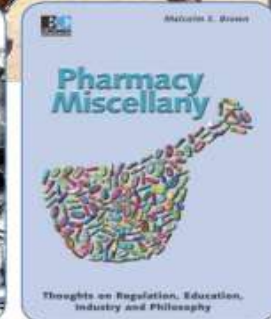
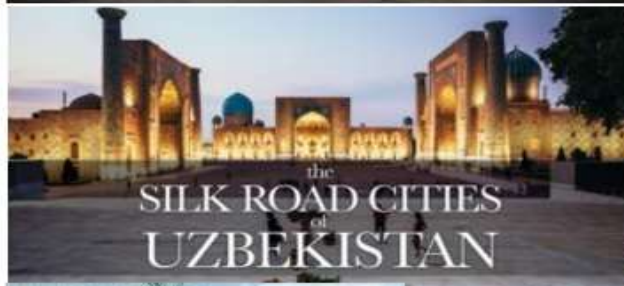
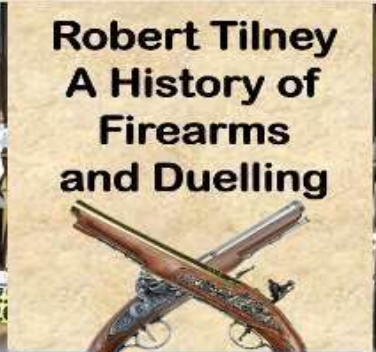
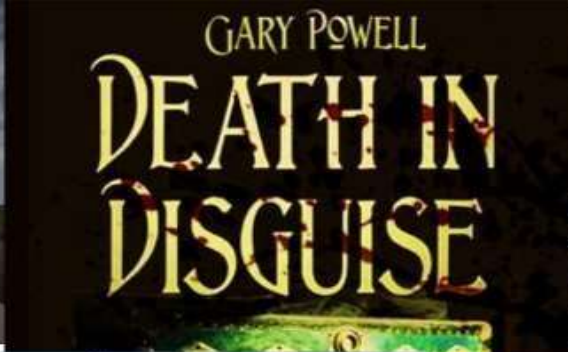
**Peter Langford Breaks a World Record aged 90**



Unveiling The u3a Notice Board In The Waveney Centre 2024



Beginners DIY Group at the Men's Shed, Built the Notice Board



## Guest Speakers at the Monthly Meetings

**Thoughts by Mo,** "I moved to Beccles in 2021, and joined Beccles u3a to meet new people, and I am so glad I did. It is very well run and has so much to offer.

My Highlights are:

- Art appreciation with Shirley
- Talks by Terry Waite and Charlie Haylock.
- Christmas trips to Thursford.

I look forward to the next 10 years. Happy Birthday Beccles u3a".



After an August break, the Singing for Fun group has resumed its sessions for the rest of 2023.

We now have 28 new songs (all chosen by the group) plus lots of songs already sung in past terms.

Our main criteria is Fun, so you don't need to have a good voice, some do, and we are not a choir

Singing for Fun

## **Beccles u3a - A Capella SATB and SSA singing groups.**

In the autumn the Capella SSA group sang at Foundry Place, and Geldeston Church Fete.

Before Christmas, a small group sang carols in Beccles Market



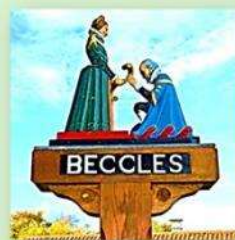


On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November, to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Beccles u3a, a special Legacy Bench was unveiled in Exchange Square by the Mayor of Beccles.

Members of the founding committee joined past and present committee members to mark the occasion.



## 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Legacy Bench



**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live

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**Welcome to the  
10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
of the Beccles u3a  
2014 to 2024**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



Meet and Greet At The Hive



Hello From The Hive and Fire Instructions

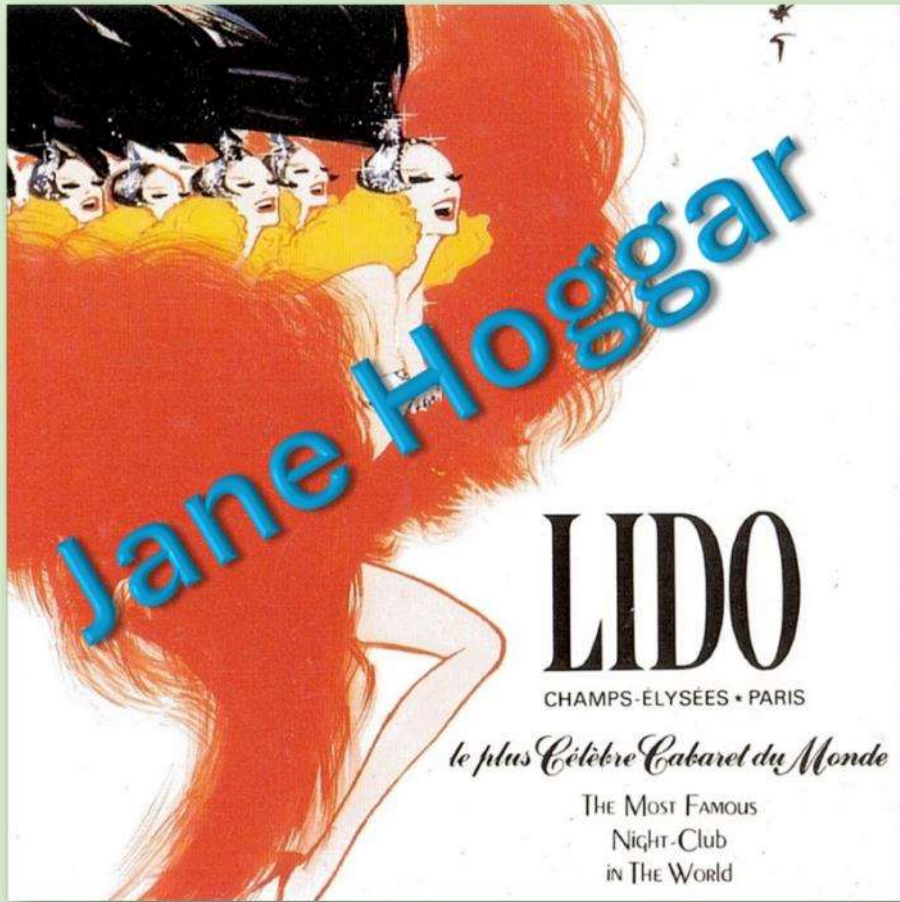
# The morning session



Welcome Speech by the Mayor of Beccles



How "Beccles u3a" Was Formed in 2014



Jane Hoggar  
"LIDO de Paris,  
One of the Most Famous  
Nightclub in the World"



Guest Star Jane Hoggar



# Scottish Country Dancing

Scottish Country Dancy Display

# The Winner of the Morning Raffle



# The afternoon session



How "Beccles u3a" Was Formed in 2014



# Creative Writing

Readings By The Creative Writing Group

To Pippa & your U3a Team  
Sent from my iPhone

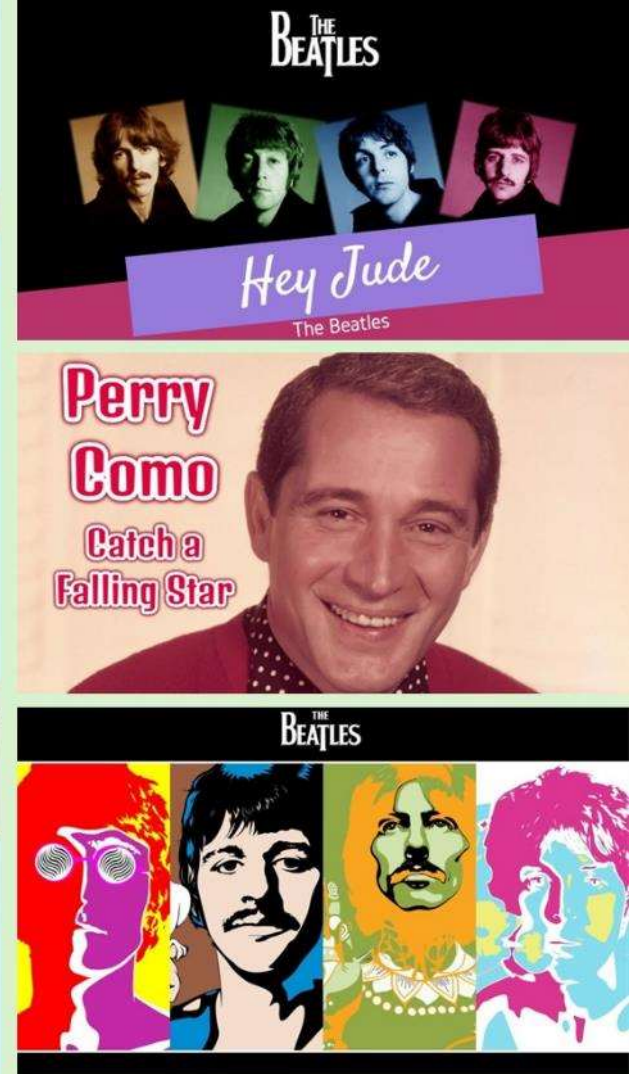
Thank you to Beccles U3a for a really enjoyable 10th Anniversary event at The Hive. Everyone was very welcoming & inclusive. It was great hearing about the inception of U3a & progress, giving over 700 people the opportunity to join in & develop their interests with other folk. We appreciate all the hard work that has gone into the gathering. We loved singing along to Beatles music & listening to the creative poetry & of course the shanties..GREAT !

THANK YOU..

Jim & Marion Binding



Singing for Fun



Singing for Fun Group with Songs by Perry Commo and The Beatles

# The Lowestoft Longshore Men Sing Sea Shanties



Sea Shanties by The Lowestoft Longshore Men

# The Winner of the Afternoon Raffle





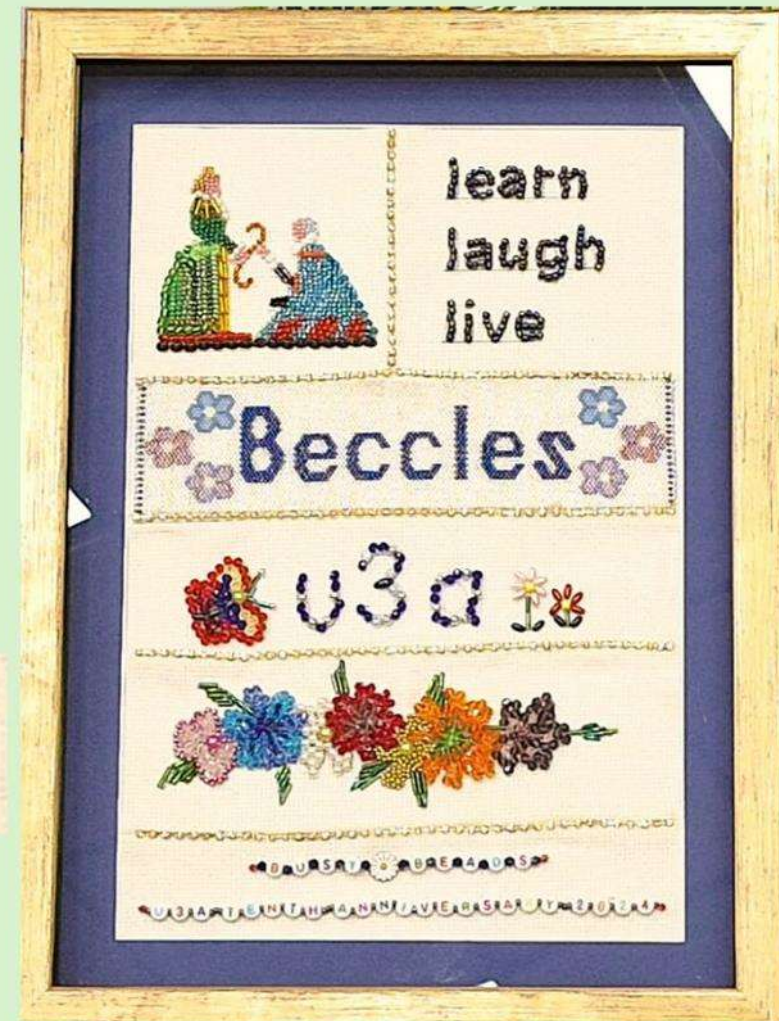
Home Welcome Membership Latest news Groups Outings Meetings FAQ Access Contact Links U3A  
**Beccles** History of the Beccles u3a Website **u3a**

# Special Interest Group Static Displays



The Special Interest Group Displays

A celebratory creation by the Busy Beads group, with over 1,000 beads, and hours of dedicated work.



Busy Beads Special Creation For 10 Years of Beccles u3a



Busy Beads Group



Creative Writing Group



Members on their Own Group



Family History Group



Digital Photography Group



Table Tennis Group 2



Dog Walking Group



French On Y Va Group



Drawing and Painting Groups 1 & 2





The History of the Beccles u3a Website



Walking Group 3 – 10 Years of Walking



The Catering Colleagues



## Essential Services



The Meet and Greet Team

Hello Pippa,  
Many thanks to you and to all the committee who were  
involved in organising Wednesday's 10 year celebration.  
It must have taken a lot of planning and organisation.  
I came to the morning session and thoroughly enjoyed it.  
Thank you once again .

Best wishes, Joan



The Way Out

Thank You For  
Your Support  
Over The Last  
Ten Years

Enjoy the rest of your day



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