

STOKE BY NAYLAND WEA

Report to Stoke by Nayland Parish Meeting 27th April 2022

Stoke by Nayland branch of the WEA was pleased to be able to return to face-to-face lectures in September 2021, having opted not to have online lectures during 'lockdown.'

With strict Covid precautions in place in the Village Hall, twelve people were enrolled on the September course, 'Myths of Sky and Underworld – An Introduction to Mythology' with Ben Pestell. This was a fascinating and much enjoyed exploration of early myths of earth, sea and sky from around the world and the customs and rites relating to them.

The January course 'From the Renaissance to Modern Italy' with Denise Bianchini attracted twenty-two enrolments. This was a wide ranging look at Italy, its formation from kingdoms to Unification, political parties, culture, geography and notable people and events throughout Italy's history, including during the two World Wars and up to the current era. It was an enjoyable and informative course which was well received.

Our AGM this year on 10th March included an excellent illustrated talk by committee member, Beth Baker, entitled 'From Gravel Pits to Nature Reserves : Suffolk Wildlife Trust & Lackford Lakes.' This talk was postponed from our Summer School which had to be cancelled during 'lockdown'.

As a group we were saddened to receive the news of the death in December of Ruth Bellairs, past Secretary, Chair and still active supporter of the branch. This was followed in January by the death of Sir Martin Berthoud, long serving current committee member. Both were loyal supporters of our branch over many years.

No future courses have been booked for the Stoke by Nayland branch of the WEA although an initial selection was submitted to WEA Eastern Region. For a variety of reasons, several members of the Committee, including the Chair, Secretary and Finance Contact, did not stand for re-election to the Committee at our AGM. Efforts to recruit new members to be nominated for these roles and for additional Committee members have proved unsuccessful. For the moment, it seems that, after forty years as a thriving branch in the village, Stoke by Nayland WEA will fall into abeyance.

Anyone interested in WEA courses can find out about classes being offered at other branches in the area, as well as online courses, from the WEA website: www.wea.org.uk

