



Stamford Third Age Group

NEWSLETTER

Issue 74

April 2007

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Well we're back safe and sound from our trip "Down Under". It was not without incident, but enjoyable nevertheless. We had the best weather we've ever had in New Zealand and it caused a great deal of merriment that the outfit I wore to my brother and sister-in-law's golden wedding was one I had bought for tropical conditions and never worn – and it was so warm in Invercargill on the 24th of March that I had to wear it. For those of you unfamiliar with New Zealand, Invercargill is in the very south of South Island and is not renowned for warm weather at the best of times!

We visited Melbourne, Wellington and Napier – all of which we loved. Travel tip. If you want to visit Wellington there are very good hotel deals to be got if you stay Friday, Saturday, Sunday only as Parliament meets only Tuesday to Thursday.

One really cheering bit of information that greeted me on my arrival is that on the new membership renewal system only 165 (including me and Horace) out of over 600 members have yet not renewed their membership. Considering that the renewal date is 31st of March I think this is a remarkable response. Well done everyone – especially Jim Guthrie.

Another very interesting aspect of my New Zealand trip was that one of my brother and sister-in-law's friends was the Chairman of the Invercargill U3A. Their concept of how to run a U3A is totally different from ours. Instead of having interest groups run by volunteers from among the members, they run a series of weekly seminars, taken by paid experts.

For example their Art History consisted of a series of six weekly lectures on various aspects of Art History each taken

by an "expert" in each aspect. So once your series of lectures is over – that's it.

There is a deliberate policy to discourage a "coffee culture". That is – they don't really want to have a social aspect at all. We did have quite a lively discussion where we each thought that the other was not really fulfilling the aims of the U3A. When I pointed out that our way was the way all U3As in Britain were organised, she did seem to get the point that there were other ways of doing things – but she still thought the Invercargill way was best. However she did say that I was to bring greetings from Invercargill U3A to Stamford U3A.

This year sees the 25th anniversary of the founding of the U3A. There are going to be events in many parts of the country to mark this event but as we at Stamford U3A are always trying to keep a low profile, we are not organising any thing special.

Tomorrow there is the Inheritance Tax Seminar. I realise that this clashes with the Travel Group meeting but please do try and pop in either before or after. Remember you do not need to have replied with the special form that was sent to you. You can just turn up at 10.30 am or even drop in after the Travel Group meeting.

Regards,

Hendy Farquhar-Smith

t: 01780 756316

e: hendy@hf-s.co.uk

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Hendy Farquhar-Smith	Chairman
Paddy Thompson	Deputy Chairman
Percy Moss	Treasurer
Sue Webster	Minutes Secretary
Chris Rippington	Group coordinator
Jim Guthrie	Membership Secretary
Howard Jones	Speaker Finder

MONTHLY PROGRAMME

April 2nd	Shakespeare Dr Jane Mackay
May 14th	AGM

Monthly meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at Barn Hill, except for Bank Holidays. Coffee will be served at 10 and the meeting will start at 10.30 am.

Registered Charity Number: 1077090

May 2007 issue deadline 26 April

To become a member and for subscriptions please contact Jim Guthrie:

t: 01780 752755 e: Jim@StamfordU3A.co.uk

Please send comments and contributions to the Editor: Hendy Farquhar-Smith

t: 01780 756316

e: hendy@hf-s.co.uk

AGM 14TH MAY

We will be holding our AGM on Monday 14th May. Nominations are invited for committee members. Please send me your nominations before the April meeting, or give them to me at the meeting itself. Please don't be shy even if you are a new member – anyone can put themselves forward to be in the committee.

If you think you have something to offer this branch of the U3A please do get in touch with me and I am sure we will be able to use your help.

Hendy Farquhar-Smith 756316

TRAVEL GROUP

The Autumn trip is to the Istrian Riviera in Croatia from 2nd to the 9th October. Seven nights from £599.

For more information contact Paddy by phone, or collect written details from her at the next meeting.

MEETING

The next Travel Group meeting will be at the Barn Church Hall on Tuesday, 3rd April.

After Group business Mr Bryan Holdich will give an illustrated talk on 'My Indian Journey'.

All members welcome. For more details contact

Paddy Thompson

STRATHSPEY DANCING

This group will meet on Wednesday 11th April and Wednesday 26th April from 11 am till noon at Barn Hill.

Please note there will be no meetings during May. Watch this space for more details and date information, or contact

Shirley Jones

VOLUNTEERS STILL REQUIRED

BOOKS ON WHEELS

Volunteers are urgently required for Books on Wheels. This is a very well worth while service, taking books to the housebound elderly who cannot get to the Library.

It only entails about one Monday every two months but volunteers really need to be able to carry a bag of books. Car driving is useful but not essential. Full training will be given.

Either get in touch directly at Stamford Library or phone Hendy 765316.

MALCOLM SARGENT SCHOOL NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Malcolm Sargent School are looking for retired people who would like to listen to children read or to help in doing various other projects.

Please phone Hendy on 756316 if you are interested.

STROLLERS

The Strollers Group will meet at 11 am on Friday 13th April at the Water Street entrance to Burghley Park. The idea is to walk to East for lunch at the Blue Bell and then walk back again.

Rosemary Chappell and Jenny Whetstone

COUNTRY DANCING

Country dancing will be held at the Roman Catholic Church Hall at 10.30 on Tuesday 17th April. For more information contact

Mary Rowe

ART HISTORY GROUP

The next visit and meetings are of the Art History Group will be on:

April

Wednesday 4th – Visit to Dulwich Picture Gallery. 8 am at Bus Station, 8.05 am at Danish Invader.

Wednesday 11th – **Sir David Wilkie**

Wednesday 25th – **Turner**

The meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Hall upstairs in the Livingstone Room.

Talks will start at 10.30 am, coffee from about 10.15, everyone welcome. For more information contact

Hendy Farquhar-Smith 756316.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS WANTED FOR SRI LANKA

The Rotary Club of Stamford are working in co-operation with the Rotary Club of Kandy to house children orphaned by the tsunami.

They have helped build new schools and orphanages but they don't have books. They need children's reading books – not text books – aimed at ages 3 – 18.

English is the national language so our books are completely acceptable to them. If you have children's books you would like to give to this good cause, please contact

Carol Needham

WALKING GROUP

PROGRAMME - **FRIDAYS** 10.00 am

April 6th

Exton

Fox and Hounds

Barbara Stokes 764131

April 20th

Dyke

Wishing Well

Iris Clifford 01778 347281

May 4th

Harringworth

White Swan

Peggy Aldridge 751584

For more details contact

Chris Rippington

DRIVERS NEEDED!

Christ Church Day Centre desperately needs drivers under 70 for its mini bus. The job would entail possibly one Wednesday a month, picking up frail elderly people from their homes, driving them to the Day Centre and taking them home again. If you would like to help this very worthwhile cause, please ring

The Deacon, Janet Calderin on 754290.

SINGING FOR PLEASURE

After the success of the lady from Peterborough who conducted a very happy 'Sing-song' at the Self help Health group, would there be any interest in setting up a 'singing for pleasure' group here?

We are looking for a leader who can play the piano for us to sing along to. Singing is very good for the Wellbeing.

If you are interested please contact

Chris Rippington

SCIENCE GROUP

A trip to Foxton Locks is planned for Thursday 10th May. Details will be available nearer the date from

Peter Tibbett or Shirley Gardiner

Please note that there is no meeting in April

THEATRE GROUP LEADER

After a few years of being leader of the Theatre Group I would like to find someone to replace me. Plenty of help can be given to whoever wishes to take over, but you do need to have a computer.

Of course whoever takes over doesn't have to run the theatre group as I have done, you can use your own ideas and projects. Any volunteers please let me know,

Shirley Draheim-Jackson

DISCUSSION GROUP

It has been suggested that there might be an interest in forming a Discussion Group to discuss Current Affairs.

If you are interested and would like to join this group, please contact:

Tony Barry

INTERMEDIATE BRIDGE

This group is full at present and cannot take any more new members. The popularity of this group has made it necessary to do this because we are limited by the number of people we can fit into the Bridge Club. For more details contact

Jill Haynes

Visit your website at
www.SU3ANews.co.uk or
www.StamfordU3A.co.uk

ALL BARN HILL USERS

REDUCE OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Will all of those who use Barn Hill please try to reduce our carbon footprint by saving electricity as much as possible. There is no need to have the lights on in the toilets in day time as they receive a lot of available light. So if you find the lights on – switch them off! Some corridors do not need the lights on every day.

There is a little green tree symbol on all of the light switches – so use it to remind yourself – is this light really necessary?

SELF-HELP FOR HEALTH GROUP

At our meeting on April 16th in Ryhall Village hall, we are using our powers of observation and tickling our brain cells, with a series of quiz-style challenges intended to be fun.

This will be preceded by a discussion on Health Insurance - obtaining it, using it and problems with it.

Are you tempted to come along and express your point of view? Everyone welcome

Sheila Halliday-Pegg

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Tuesdays,

April 10th - Ray Biggs from the Grimsthorpe Estate will talk about the History of the Park and Gardens of Grimsthorpe.

Everyone is welcome to come to these meetings which are held at Barn Hill at 10.30 am.

OSPREY WATCH AND CRUISE

The Bird Watching Group are going on a Osprey and Wildlife Cruise on Saturday 10th May.

There will be an illustrated introductory talk followed by a cruise on the Rutland Belle. The event starts at 3.45 pm and finishes at around 6.45 pm. All members are welcome to join the Bird Watching group for this event but spaces are limited. The cost will be £15.

If you are interested please phone

Carol Needham

PETERBOROUGH MALE VOICE CHOIR

HARMONY SINGING AT ITS BEST

April 28th at St John's Church Ryhall at 7.30 pm.
Tickets £6.00 (accompanied children free) For more details contact
David Harrison

BRIDGE TEA

There will be a Bridge Tea at Ryhall Village Hall on Wednesday 18th April at 1.15 pm for a 1.30 pm start.

More information and tickets at a cost of £7, from

David Harrison
