



Stamford Third Age Group

NEWSLETTER

Issue 78

ON LINE VERSION

August 2007

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

I think we are all breathing a sigh of relief that the freak weather did not come this far north and inundate Stamford. We are very lucky in that the Welland is a highly controlled river and has got proper flood plains with nothing built on them! Let's hope that we've seen the last of the bad weather this summer and the sun is going to shine for us in August.

There's an old insurance saying "Fire, flood and acts of God." Well we've had the floods and poor old Kathy Lynn James back in her home in Pennsylvania has had her house burned down! It appears she was in it at the time and in her own words she "rescued my lap top, data files, pictures (and of course the dog) before I ran out of the house." I was wondering why I hadn't heard from her since her return – now I know.

The two U3A Summer Schools at Harlaxton manor went off particularly well with everyone enjoying the "Harlaxton experience." It is the most amazing house – and people have become "Harlaxton groupies" – desperate for their yearly fix.

The weather was not as perfect as it has been in previous years but in many ways that was a bonus as some of the bedrooms can be very stuffy in hot weather – being designed for Victorian servants and not members of the U3A.

The conservatory which has had the best part of a million spent on it was found to be rather leaky in heavy rain and Aileen Marriott and Jill Day's group had to resort to covering their work in black bin liners! But perhaps that

was better than last year when we moved one of the art groups out of the conservatory because it was too hot.

We are already planning next year's Summer Schools and the themes are going to be Edwardian Britain for the first school and the East Midlands for the second one. We have already signed up Dr Jane Mackay, Jean Townsend, John Plumb, Paul White and me – as well as finding an excellent replacement for Anthony Burton. As soon as we have the publicity material ready, those already on the data base will be receiving theirs. Ideally it should be ready for the September meeting but as we are going to be away for the last week of August – this might be a bit optimistic.

There is a very interesting article in the Newsletter about a project that the Patchwork group worked on. This is their second charity effort – you may remember that they made a magnificent quilt which they raffled to raise money for the Sue Ryder Home. Well done Jane and her patch work ladies.

And finally, to end on a sad note. Once more I have to record the passing on of one of our members. Marjorie Clipsham died in July. She was a keen member of the European Studies group. We send our sympathy to her family and friends over their sad loss.

Regards,

Hendy Farquhar-Smith

t: 01780 756316

e: h@StamfordU3A.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
Sheila Halliday-Pegg	
Jill Haynes	

Registered Charity Number: 1077090

MONTHLY PROGRAMME

August 6th	Mansion House Mark Bush
September 3rd	A Wriggle and a Giggle Tales of a worm farmer Martin Clarke

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

September 2007 issue deadline 24 August

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

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

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e: h@StamfordU3A.co.uk

DISCUSSION GROUP

Please note that the Discussion Group meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 2.30 pm at the Tobie Norris in St Paul's Street.

The next meeting will be held on August 15th to discuss

'Is democracy in this country effectively dead - and was it ever really alive'

For more information contact

Tony Barry

TRAVEL GROUP

Durham Trip

Overnight trip to Bowes Museum and Durham on 9th - 10th September. Dinner, bed and breakfast in the Durham Marriott, a 4 star hotel in the centre of Durham, £98 all inclusive.

Some places still available, but not with single rooms. Final payment by August 6th, please.

If you are interested, book soon and contact

Paddy Thompson

ART GROUP I

There will be no meeting of the Art Group in August.

The next meeting will be on September 4th.

Marie Hare

VOLUNTEERS STILL REQUIRED FOR '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.

SCIENCE GROUP

The next meeting of the Science Group will be on Thursday, September 13th - a visit to World War II's most secret code breaking establishment BLETCHLEY PARK.

Sign up now or no later than September's Monday Meeting or contact me.

Percy Moss

RECREATION GROUND STUDY GROUP

Have you any memories or photographs of the Stamford Rec.? The Study Group needs your help.

If you think you can help, please get in touch with

Joan Newey

ART HISTORY GROUP

There will be no meetings of this group during July and August. The next meeting will be on Wednesday as follows:

September

12th Millais and Burne Jones

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.

SCOTTISH STRATHSPEY DANCING

The next meetings will be on:

August 8th, 22nd and 29th

September 19th

We start at 11 am in the large upper room at Barn Hill preceded by coffee in the Well. New members are very welcome - especially men.

All enquiries to

Graham Creedy

WALKING GROUP

PROGRAMME - FRIDAYS 10 am

August 3rd Clipsham The Olive Branch
Chris Rippington

August 17th Foxton Locks Long Stay Car Park
Note: 10.15 am for day out
Cost £1.50 (About 7 miles)
Chris Rippington

The walks are taken at a reasonable pace so that we can enjoy the views and the countryside. There is also an opportunity to have a pub lunch afterwards.

For more details, or if you wish to join this group, please contact

Chris Rippington

U3A BALLROOM DANCING

We plan to hold the first Ballroom dancing session on Wednesday 26th September at 2.30 pm. at the Roman Catholic Church Hall in Broad Street, and thereafter the fourth Wednesday in every month. Each session will last for 2 hours, the first hour tuition for beginners or those wanting to brush up, second hour dancing.

Cost is expected to be £3 per person, per session. If finances allow, we may be able to reduce this cost. Please contact

Meg Atkins Moss

Or **Maggie Colgrove**

CALLING ALL GROUP LEADERS

There will be a Coffee Morning for all Group leaders at HENDY'S house on 20th August at 10.30 am.

CHURCH VISITING GROUP

All Fridays - Visits start at 11 am

August 31st **Langham Church**
Peggy Aldridge 751584 Margaret Mills

September 28th **Morcott Church**
Jean Farmer 766650

All members welcome. After the visits lunch is organised nearby. If you need transport, or information, contact

Elaine Ward

STAMFORD STATION PETITION

The letter about the crossing of the line at Stamford Station, with the 86 signatures, was sent to Central trains with a copy to Quentin Davies and the Stamford Mercury in early July.

So far there has been no response from any of the parties apart from a mild comment in last week's Mercury. Further signatures are being obtained to accompany another letter. The pressure should be maintained until some answers are given which are satisfactory.

If you wish to sign please contact Rita Wood, Maureen Evans or Ellen Edmans.

SINGING FOR PLEASURE

This group is having its first meeting on Thursday 13th September and thereafter every 2nd Thursday of the month from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Please note the change of venue - we are now meeting in the Barnhill Methodist church.

We grew too big for Welland Mews but we thank the residents for considering us in the first place.

Sheila Halliday-Pegg

VISIT YOUR WEBSITE

www.StamfordU3A.co.uk

www.SU3ANews.co.uk

THEATRE TRIP ORGANISER

As no one has come forward to take over from Shirley Draheim-Jackson, there might be someone interested in organising just the theatre trips – dropping the idea of occasional theatre themed meetings and concentrating only on organising two or three theatre trips per year.

Shirley has offered to help anybody who wants to take this job on. If anyone would like to volunteer to organise theatre trips please get in touch with

Chris Rippington

SELF-HELP FOR HEALTH GROUP

The next meeting is on Monday August 20th at 2 pm at Ryhall Village Hall.

We will be learning about herbal remedies, past and present, so if you know of some, please come along and join in. Of course we shall be sampling herbal teas!

We shall also be discussing whether we can help at times of flood - both ourselves and others. For more information contact

Sheila Halliday-Pegg

PATCHWORK GROUP

Last October we embarked on making a Group quilt to donate to charity. We collected all our scraps of bright material which we put them together to make a lively patterned top with rich royal blue borders. The work was done largely done during the meetings with everyone adding their colours and fabrics to the mix. It also provided a learning experience for our two new members.

The quilt is now finished and delivered to the 'Linus Project' named after Linus in the 'Charlie Brown' cartoon, who always had his comfort blanket with him. The Project collects quilts donated by groups and by individuals. These are given to children, from babies to teenagers, who because of illness or abuse need the comfort and security of something to wrap themselves in. The recipient of our particular quilt was a nine year old boy called Joshua who developed a brain tumour just after his first birthday and had to undergo chemotherapy which resulted in some brain damage. However, he is now in remission.

We have received a letter from him thanking us for the quilt and saying that after seeing Comic Relief he decided that he wanted to help other children by taking part in a sponsored ride at Rutland Water. As he has trouble with his balance and coordination he used his specially adapted tricycle to complete four miles which, considering that his legs are not as strong as a normal child's of his age, was a magnificent effort and raised £880. He writes that he and his brother Elliot, who was also given a quilt so that he did not feel left out, take their quilts to bed with them every night. We are delighted that the quilt has gone to such a wonderful boy.

Jane Heyes.

COUNTRY DANCING

The next meeting of this group will be held at the Roman Catholic Church Hall at 10.30 am on Tuesday 21st August. Everyone welcome - more information contact

Mary Rowe

STROLLERS

Friday, 10th August. Meet for departure 10.30 am at Exeter Arms, Helpston, (order lunch before). The stroll is approx. 2.5 miles, flat area and one 1 easy stile.

After lunch we propose a short visit to the adjacent Botolph Barn.

Anna Bridger
