



Stamford Third Age Group

NEWSLETTER

Issue 82

December 2007

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

It's that time of the year again. Christmas seems to come round quicker and start earlier every year. We have our usual festivities – the Christmas Entertainment and Buffet Lunch today and the Christmas Lunch at the Crown in a couple of weeks.

An innovation this year is the Singalong Messiah that Rita is organising in the Church at Barn Hill at 2.30 pm on the 20th of December. Copies of the work will be available but if you have your own, bring it along.

Since the last meeting your Chairman has been experiencing the delights of the new St Pancras Eurostar Terminal and did Paris to Peterborough in four hours! It really is an interesting experience and much more hassle free than flying. We were on the 7.30 am train to Paris and lots of people were obviously just going for the day. It's not that expensive if you can fiddle around for cheap tickets on the Internet.

As you can see from the inside pages we are once more in need of someone to run the tea and coffee making at the monthly meetings. Please get in touch with me if you would like to help with this vital job.

The station saga continues. After all the controversy and just when we thought it was all sorted out, the franchise has changed and although the new franchisee should honour the arrangement made with the previous one, when Rita Wood went to try it out,

she didn't get very far!

So we come to the end of another year and time to take stock. Our membership continues to increase – the November meeting had a record attendance of over 260 members, new groups have been formed, a few have fallen by the wayside. One or two suggestions have been made about organising Theatre trips but when I tried to find out what was on at our more local theatres, all I could find was Pantos until March! However, I do hope we will get the Theatre trips up and running again in 2008.

Finally a great big thank you to all our group leaders who have organised special Christmas related meetings this month.

I hope you all have a relaxed and enjoyable Christmas despite the commercialisation and I wish you all health, wealth and happiness in 2008.



All the best,

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	

MONTHLY PROGRAMME

December 3rd Christmas Entertainment and buffet

January 7th Grimsthorpe Castle
Ray Biggs

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.

Registered Charity Number: 1077090

January Issue deadline 28 December

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: h@StamfordU3A.co.uk

BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO FAMILY HISTORY

The University of Cambridge are running a series of 10 lessons on this subject at Burghley House. The lessons are being held on Tuesdays at 11 am – 1 pm, starting on January 8th 2008.

The cost will be £72 (£56 for concessions). For more information contact The Courses Registrar, University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Learning, Madingley Hall, Madingley, Cambridge CB23 8AQ or ring them on 01954 280399.

SINGING FOR PLEASURE

The next meeting of this group will be on Thursday 13th December at 10.30 to 12.30 at Barn Hill. Everyone welcome.

For more information contact

Rita Wood

TRAVEL GROUP

Bookings are now being taken for the holiday in Ireland from 15th – 21st May, staying in Dublin and Killarney.

Details and booking forms are available from Dick Colgrove on the Travel Desk at this meeting, or alternatively phone him on 752101.

The next meeting of the Travel Group will be held on Tuesday 15th January at 10 am in the Lower Hall at Barn Hill. The speaker will be Anthony King talking about a trip to the Himalayas.

LIVERPOOL ART TOUR

The Deepings U3A are organising a five day Art Tour to Liverpool on the 9th June 2008.

Price is from £339 and there will be visiting the Walker Art Gallery, the Liverpool Tate, the cathedrals, Speke Hall, Shugborough Estate and calling in at the Lowry at Salford on the way back.



Merry Christmas

and

a

Happy New Year



ART HISTORY GROUP

The next meetings of the Art History Group will be on Wednesday,

December 12th – Christmas in Art

January 9th – Van Goch

January 23rd – Fauvism

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.

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

John Plumb has resigned as Leader of the Local History Group and we are looking for someone to step in with enthusiasm, a deep interest in the subject and new ideas.

Whoever comes forward will receive support from the well established, experienced and hard working committee.

Shoestring are unable to make a presentation at the Christmas meeting on Tuesday 11th December. Instead Peter Edwards will be giving us a fascinating insight into "The Life of the Romany".

Meetings are held in the lower room at Barn Hill Methodist Church and start with coffee at 10 am. Everyone is welcome.

ART 1

The last class of the year of this group will be held on 4th December and will restart on 15th January.

Olive Vinter

VISIT YOUR WEBSITES

www.StamfordU3A.co.uk

www.SU3ANews.co.uk

DISCUSSION GROUP

As the last two meetings have experienced seriously reduced numbers, it is proposed not hold a meeting in November, unless a number of members express interest in holding a discussion. Also Tobie Norris would not be able to offer a room for use in December, because of Christmas. For more information contact

Tony Barry

COUNTRY DANCING

The next meeting of the group will be held at the Roman Catholic Church Hall at 10 am.

Every one welcome. For more details, contact

Mary Rowe

ST JOHN'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

This lovely annual event will take place from 7th to 15th December daily from 10 am to 4 pm. Many of the Stamford Clubs and Groups, (including Stamford U3A) decorate Christmas trees. If you are new to Stamford, or have not been before, it is really worth a visit. Those who have been, always go back.

SCOTTISH STRATHSPEY DANCING

Future dates are: 12th December starting at 10.30 and 9th and 23rd January starting at 11 am.

We do not do the Highland Fling or the Eightsome Reel – just Strathspeys which are the slowest of the Scottish country dances. You do not need to bring a partner. Anyone who thinks they might be interested in some gentle exercise for the mind and legs is welcome to come to the upper room at Barn Hill and give it a try – or even just watch. For more information contact

Graham Creedy

TEA AND COFFEE ORGANISER NEEDED

Unfortunately Jean Farmer has decided to give up doing the teas and coffees at the monthly meetings. If you would like to do this vital task please ring me on 756316. All you have to do is buy the milk for which you will be refunded, turn up at 9 am on the morning of the meetings. There is a rota of helpers. There is now a new plumbed in boiler which means that the old chore of manual filling the boiler has gone.

Ketton, Church and Parish by Geoffrey Fox

Several people have asked about Geoff's book. This was hurriedly edited and printed privately so that he should see it before he died.

Copies are being produced in small batches and Jose has a copy with her today if anyone is interested to see it. They are selling at cost price of £20.

CREATIVE WRITING COURSE

Those of you who attended Taff Lovesey's talk to the Creative Writing Group might be interested to know that Taff is going to deliver a 10 week Creative Writing Course at Wake House, North St, Bourne, starting on January 7th 2008.

The course will take place on Mondays from 1pm – 3 pm and will cost £80 for the 20 hours of tuition. More information on e-mail newfocusLL@btopenworld.com.

WHO WILL DO IT?

This is a story about four people named **Everybody**, **Anybody**, **Somebody** and **Nobody**. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it but Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done!

WALKING GROUP

Programme Fridays 10 am

December 7th South Luffenham (by Church)
Chris Rippington

December 21st Leader required, any offers

For more information contact, and to volunteer contact:

Chris Rippington

STROLLERS, Fridays

December 14th Normanton Car park, Rutland Water for an 11 am walk. Leaders Davina Williams and Nancy Alexander

Leaders required for January 11th, February 8th, March 14th and April 11th. Volunteers for leading these walks, please contact Anna Bridger, before November 20th.

Anna Bridger

WINE GROUP 2

This group has vacancies for new members. If you are interested in joining this group please get in touch with Hendy Farquhar-Smith on 756316.

MESSIAH

Come to a sing along Messiah! Music Appreciation 3 invite you to join us at Barnhill 2.30 to 4.30, on 20th December when we will play a CD, and you can join in when you hear your favourite choruses and also the solos. Mince pies and maybe tea or coffee will be available. The more people come the cheaper it will be. 48 people mean it will cost 50p. Everyone welcome. Now is your chance to sing!
