

# Stamford Third Age Group

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 47

January 2005

## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Our U3A Christmas celebrations commenced at the December meeting. The whole combination of home produced Drama Group performances, followed by the Choir singing Christmas music, leading into communal carol singing was excellent. We had no traumas this year with the timing of the buffet, and unlike last year, I did remember to unlock the gates well before members arrived. Afterwards, we received many comments from members who had enjoyed the event. This made the effort worthwhile.

A big than kyou goes to all those involved, the performers, scriptwriters, musicians, choristers, committee members, and many others who helped on the day.

By the time many of you read this, we will have completed our first meeting at the United Reformed Hall and Church. The committee have considered many aspects to enable the meetings to run smoothly in this new situation. Our contacts at URC have been very helpful and supportive to help us ensure that this temporary move is successful. We will need to know of any particular difficulties or other issues associated with this move if we are to address them.

Our meeting for new members took place on 29<sup>th</sup> November and we were pleased to welcome 38 new members and 15 group leaders. As with previous similar meetings I believe that learning more of the operation of all levels of the U3A proved useful for those attending. Of course, informal contact between members, group leaders and committee is beneficial to all groups.

Contact with other organisations can also be beneficial. Our U3A choir under the direction of Elizabeth Snowball recently performed at Sutton Court, Werrington. The audience there were delighted. The choir were given a donation to give to a church of their choice. The £20 was passed on to Barn Hill as a contribution to the refurbishment fund. The performance benefited all three organisations.

A happy New Year to you all. I hope that you have also had a good Christmas.

Best wishes, Dick Colgrove

Chairman

t: 01780 752101

e: dick@SU3ANews.co.uk

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dick Colgrove	Chairman
Hendy Farquhar-Smith	Group coordinator
	Deputy Chairman
Joy Paterson	Minutes Secretary
Kate Rogers	Speaker Finder
Paddy Thompson	Treasurer
Gill Bolton	Membership Sec
Percy Moss	Treasurer's Asst
David Ellis	

[www.StamfordU3A.co.uk](http://www.StamfordU3A.co.uk)

## MONTHLY PROGRAMME

### Tuesdays

**Feb 1<sup>st</sup>**      **Life on the Old Canals**  
Mary Matts

**March 1<sup>st</sup>**    **Pink Elephants over the Rainbow**  
Beryl Allen

Meetings will be held at the United Reform Church and Hall on the first Tuesday of each month. Coffee will be held at the Hall at 10 am, the meeting will start in the Church at 10.30

We welcome comments and contributions, please send them to the Editor: Hendy Farquhar-Smith  
t: 01780 756316      e: hendy@SU3ANews.co.uk

**FEBRUARY ISSUE DEADLINE 21<sup>ST</sup> January**

For Membership information please contact the Membership Secretary via Newsletter e-mail,  
e: members@SU3ANews.co.uk

# HAPPY NEW YEAR 2005

## COUNTRY DANCING

While the Methodist Church is undergoing renovations, the Country Dancing Group will meet only once a month - on the third Tuesday. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January in the URC Hall at 10.30 am.

Everyone with two left feet and a sense of humour is welcome!

Hendy Farquhar-Smith 756316

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## CREATIVE WRITING

A book of work produced by the Creative Writing Group will be on sale at the January meeting - cost £2

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## Harlaxton Summer Schools 2005

There are still some places available on some of the courses at both the Harlaxton Summer Schools/

10 - 13 July 2005

14 - 17 July 2005

### For more information, Pamphlets and Application Forms please contact:

Rosemary McCulloch 01778 346184  
Hendy Farquhar-Smith 01780 756316  
e: [info@HarlaxtonU3A.co.uk](mailto:info@HarlaxtonU3A.co.uk)  
Notice Board: [www.HarlaxtonU3A.co.uk](http://www.HarlaxtonU3A.co.uk)

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## LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The next meeting of the Local History Group will be held at the URC Hall (Broad Street) on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2005. Coffee will be served at 10 am and the meeting will start at 10.30 am.

Phil Day and John McNeil will speak on 'Steam Railways of Peterborough and Stamford'.

All members are welcome.

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## CHOIR

The choir will not be starting rehearsals again until February 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you would like more information about the choir, please contact

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## TRAVEL GROUP

The next meeting of the Travel Group will be on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2005 at 2.30 pm in the United Reform Church Hall, Broad Street.

Holiday plans for 2005 will be discussed and the speaker will be Derek Robbins from U3A Travel.

Paddy Thompson

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## ART HISTORY

**Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> January.** Visit to the Raphael Exhibition. Please pay at the January meeting—£17.50 please make your cheques payable to 'Stamford U3A'. Pick up times are: 8.30 at the Bus Station and 8.35 at the Danish Invader.

**Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January.** Leonardo da Vinci - 10.30 am at the Livingstone Room in the URC Hall.

Everyone is welcome - there is a £1 charge to cover coffee and the hire of the hall.

Hendy Farquhar-Smith 756316

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## THEATRE GROUP

The next meeting of this group will be Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2005 at 2 pm at All Saints and St. John's Church Centre.

The entrance to these rooms is across from Somerfield's supermarket and please note the new time.

Parking will be either at Scotgate or Somerfield's. The Drama Group will be doing a presentation for us. Please don't forget to bring along your diaries and cheque books with you as we will be selling tickets for the Spring plays.

Shirley Draheim-Jackson

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## NEWSLETTER ON LINE

The Newsletter On Line is working. You can reach it through  
or direct at [www.StamfordU3A.co.uk](http://www.StamfordU3A.co.uk)  
[www.SU3ANews.co.uk](http://www.SU3ANews.co.uk)

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## SCOTTISH STRATHPEY DANCING

The Group has room for a few new dancers. It is not too energetic, but is good exercise.

We are a friendly group who meet at the All Saints Church Centre every week on Wednesday mornings from 10.30 am to 12 noon. If you would like more details please contact

Barbara Carpenter

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## SCIENCE GROUP

Unfortunately there will not be a Science Group meeting in January.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup>

Percy Moss

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Walking Group			
Jan 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ferry Meadows</b>		John & Joan McNeill
Jan 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Apethorpe</b> King's Head	5	Derrick Warrick & Margaret Harkey
Jan 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Seaton</b> George and Dragon	4-5	Chris Rippington
Feb 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Fineshade Top Lodge</b> Lunch Slater Arms, Colyweston	5	Eric & Avery Woods
Feb 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Bulwick</b> Queen's Head	5	Roger & Marion Teasdale
Feb 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Greetham</b> The Wheatsheaf	5	Eric & Avery Woods

All walks start at 10.30 am. Queries on individual walks please contact the Leader. General queries contact José

If you have any doubts about the conditions please contact the Walk Leader.

In case of cancellations, or any other problems, Walk Leaders please contact José before 9 am. Please check your e-mails before leaving home!

If you do not have e-mail, please 'link' with someone who does, who can relay any messages.

## THE TRIP TO LISBON

Sixteen members of the Travel Group visited Lisbon for five days early in November - it was an excellent trip! The weather was so good that we all felt that summer had returned! The hotel was very central and everyone soon found out their way about making use of the excellent public transport which included trams.

It was very noticeable how the Portuguese like the English, perhaps it is not surprising as Portugal is England's oldest ally! This means that most Portuguese speak very good English, a fact that was amply demonstrated by the linguistic prowess of our young guide and our bus driver.

On the first full day we had a tour of this beautiful city, which dates from 1755 after an earthquake completely destroyed its predecessor. It impressive buildings include the Jeronimos (Mosteiro dos Jeronimos) (Photo above left). This building bears silent witness to the wealth of the Age of Discoveries as expressed in its unique Portuguese Manueline architectural style. Also very impressive was the Torre de Belem (Photo above right) which was originally built in 1520 as a fortress on a basalt island close to the right bank of the river Tagus. Such has been the progressive southward creeping of the shore over the years that the tower is not virtually moored on the bank itself.

We also visited the old quarter of Alfama with its narrow and cobbled streets. Throughout the visit we were continually reminded of Portugal's history with its emphasis sea voyages and discovery.

On the second day we all did our own thing! Some of us visited the ruins of Saint George's Castle (Castelo de Sao Jorge) high above Lisbon, with wonderful views of the city, the River Tagus and the famous Vasco da Gama bridge. Opened in 1998, this bridge is the longest suspension bridge in Europe, which revolutionised the approaches into Lisbon from its surrounds. We had a relaxed few hours at a

wonderful restaurant, but we did not forget our cultural pursuits and we viewed an exhibition of paintings of the modern artist - Antonio Carmo. Nor did we forget our retail therapy and we managed to fit a shopping trip to one of the nearby malls!

The next day we toured the lovely fishing village of Sesimbra where we all enjoyed a wonderful lunch in the sunshine by the sea. The tour also included a visit to Setubal, a large port with a stunning 16th Century cathedral. One of the highlights was a visit to a vineyard where we sample a variety of its wines - hic!

Our last morning was at leisure and many visited the nearby Gulbenkian Museum. This museum, a legacy from the famous Armenian oil billionaire, who died in 1955, is unique in that the terms of the legacy does not allow selling or buying additional pieces, so the vast collection of some 5000 works collection will remain the same size for ever. The collection includes European paintings ranging from the Renaissance to Impressionism, Egyptian sculpture, Roman medals, Islamic ceramics and textiles, illuminated manuscripts, 18th-century French furniture and silver, and spectacular jeweled objects by Lalique.

At the end of the day, what we all will remember of this holiday is the beauty of the city and its surroundings, the friendliness of the people, the wonderful shops and restaurants and Portugal's impressive past history. We were all very thankful to Paddy Thompson for all her work, and for looking after us so well.