



**Stamford Third Age Group**

# NEWSLETTER

**Issue 100**

**June 2009**

**100 Issues!**

**From the First Newsletter published in March 1994**

## 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       |
| Lynn Darwin, Kathleen Fryer, Judy Westwood |                      |

## MONTHLY PROGRAMME

**June 1<sup>st</sup>** **BRIXMIS** Beyond the Front Line  
Mike Thompson

**July 6<sup>th</sup>** **Titanic Lincolnshire Connection**  
Rod Fanthorpe

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**

**July Issue** deadline **22 June**

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

## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

As I was checking May's Newsletter I happened to notice that it was Issue 99. So this is Issue 100. We are very fortunate that we have copies of those very first Newsletters, although I do not have any copies of the information sheet that appeared between the twice yearly publication of the Newsletters. The first Newsletter is in fact dated 18<sup>th</sup> March 1994, although the group was started by Philip Payne in April 1993. Amazingly enough Dorothy Piggott is still leading the Literature Group she started up in 1994. Other founder members such as Jean Farmer, Mary Burnett and Ken Riley still take an active part in U3A activities.

The initial groups were History of Stamford (now Local History), Discussion Group, German Conversation Group (still going strong), Literature Group, Painting and Drawing (now two groups), Luncheon Club, Rambling Group (now Walking Group), Play Reading Group and Creative Writing (both still going strong.)

One aspect of the first Newsletter that struck me was its formality. The Chairman signs off as P G Payne MBE and when I talked to one of the founder members recently she said that the women only socialised with other women – they would not go up and talk to a man. However some things don't change. They were looking for a Theatre Group leader back then as well.

The membership at the time of that first Newsletter was 64. Now it is more than ten times that. The first Christmas Dinner at the Crown in 1993 attracted 12 members. But where things have changed is in the monthly contribution. Then it was 80p – now it is 50p. This must be the only thing that is cheaper today than it was in 1994.

By the time the second Newsletter came out some familiar names started to appear. – Mrs J Kempson – Janet of course and Mr & Mrs Wignall who ran the

Outings Group. Mrs M Mitchell set up the French group in 1994 and it continues today under her leadership. Anna and Harold Bridger, Michael Whetstone, John McNeil, and Ann and Tony Linton were all on the scene by October 1995 when the fourth Newsletter came out.

The Newsletter as such was replaced in 1998 by the Link, with Tony Linton as editor. This again came out twice a year until it was replaced by the present format of the Newsletter which was published every second month until 2002 when it started to come out monthly - since then it has never failed to be published every month!

I could carry on mentioning all the people who have continued to make such a contribution to Stamford Third Age group over the last 15 years. Perhaps we should start to give awards for Long Service!

Of course there is a long list of names that feature in the Newsletters of members who are no longer with us. But it would be too sad to give you that list here especially as I have to report the death of one of our very active members – Joan Shields MBE. Joan first appears in the archives as Leader of the Art group in 1999 and also for a short time leader of the Garden Group. She was an active member of the Theatre Group, the Craft Group, the Drama group and was the Leader of the Family History group when she died. She was an example to us all in the way she did not allow her physical handicaps to prevent her taking part in activities – especially when it involved climbing on and off coaches. Her funeral will take place at Marholm Crematorium on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 12 noon. Please ring either me or Joan McNeil if you would like to go.

Hendy Farquhar-Smith

t: 01780 756316 e: h@StamfordU3A.co.uk

### A1 THEATRE

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>All matinées</b>               | - <b>top price seats</b>   |
| <b>Wed 10<sup>th</sup> June</b>   | <b>OLIVER</b> , with Rowan Atkinson<br>Royal Drury Lane                |
| <b>Wed 10<sup>th</sup> June</b>   | Backstage at the Royal Opera House<br>Covent Garden                    |
| <b>Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> July</b> | <b>La Cage aux Folles</b><br>Playhouse Theatre                         |
| <b>Sun 30<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>    | <b>Shall we Dance</b><br>A tribute to Richard Rogers<br>Sadler's Wells |
| <b>Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>    | <b>Twelfth Night</b><br>Richard Wilson as Malvolio<br>RSC Stratford    |
| <b>Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov</b>    | <b>Classical Spectacular</b><br>Royal Albert Hall                      |

For information, prices and application forms contact  
Karyl Rey 753769

### CHURCH VISITING

Future Visits: (All Fridays)

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>June 26<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>Apethorpe</b> 11 am<br>Lunch at Apethorpe<br>Peggy Aldridge |
| <b>July 31<sup>st</sup></b>   | <b>Uppingham</b> 11 am<br>Maisie Hand                          |
| <b>August 28<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Wansford</b> 11 am<br>Ken Moss                              |

### SELF HELP FOR HEALTH

The next meeting is a Walk-Quiz in Stamford. Please meet at the Stamford Arts Centre at 2 pm on Monday June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The walk should last about an hour. Meet back at the Arts Centre for a cup of tea and the answers.

The July meeting is on 27<sup>th</sup> July – please note this is not our usual meeting date.

Sheila Halliday-Pegg

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### FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

I have posted, personally delivered and sent almost by return a membership card to everyone who has renewed their membership this year. However, several people have told me that they have not received their new cards so if you would please get in touch with me, I will make out new ones for you.

Jim Guthrie 752755

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### SCOTTISH STRATHSPEY DANCING

Forthcoming dates are 3rd and 17th June and 1st and 15th July. After that there will be a break until 15th September.

Dancing takes place in the Upper Room at Barn Hill at 11 o'clock. New members are very welcome.

For more information contact

Graham Creedy

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### BALLROOM DANCING

The next meeting of this group will be held on June 24<sup>th</sup> from 3 – 4.30 pm in the Roman Catholic Church Hall in Broad Street.

Everyone welcome. No need to have a partner.

Meg Atkins Moss

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### FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Joan Shields, who died last month, has been extremely generous to our little group and has bequeathed many books, magazines and pamphlets for our reading and research when we resume next September. Her own fabulous records have been passed on to her family, but there is still a wealth of interesting information given to us by this kind, interesting and modest lady.

Jim Guthrie 752755

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### PARCELS FOR THE TROOPS

The British Legion are continuing with their Parcels for the Troops programme. As you know, you don't have to make up the parcel yourself - the British Legion will do that for you.

The sort of things that are most appreciated are Bic Razors, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, wipes, sweets, crisps – especially Pringles because of the packaging, crossword books, notebooks, pens etc. Please do not send any liquids or chocolate.

Please bring the items to the next meeting or get in touch with the British Legion direct.

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### FINANCIAL DISCUSSION

The next meeting of this group will be at 2.30 pm in Priory Court on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June. There will be a speaker who will talk about Investing in Stocks and Shares.

New members are always welcome but please contact Betty Meadows on or George Birch on if you wish to attend.

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### TRAVEL GROUP

Following the cancellation of the trip to Vienna the Travel Group Committee have now arranged a 5 day visit to Jersey commencing on 12<sup>th</sup> October. Details and application forms will be available at the U3A meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> June and at the Travel Group meeting which will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 10 am in Barn Hill. At that meeting John Bloomfield will give an illustrated talk on "The Loire Valley and Monet's Garden."

Dick Colgrove

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### ANNECY AND THE BEAUTIFUL ALPS

On the first day we had a guided walking tour of attractive Old Annecy which is criss crossed by a network canals. It lies at the northern tip of Lake Annecy and is surrounded by snow capped mountains. After lunch we visited the magnificent, deep Gorges du Fier – one of the greatest phenomena in the Alps where most of us took an exciting walk on the footbridges suspended high above the river. Then we visited the mediaeval Chateau de Montrottier.

On another day – not quite as sunny as we would have liked, because we didn't see much of Mont Blanc – we visited the ski resort of Chamonix-Mont – Blanc from where most of us took the mountain railway up into the Alps to see Mont Blanc's Mer de Glace glacier. Some of us walked the quite steep, several hundred steps there and back to see the small ice grotto.

On other days we visited France's largest lake, Lake Bourget and the elegant spa town of Aix-les Bains. Some of us particularly enjoyed a visit to the small Musee Faire which houses works by Impressionists. We all enjoyed a visit to the Abbaye d'Hautecombe with its wonderful architecture and carvings – very much a modern, vibrant ecumenical establishment.

On a lovely sunny day we visited the scenic Alpine historic town of Chambéry whose benefactor, a local man, made his money in India. There was an unusual monument to him of four fountain elephants where the water came out of their trunks. On the Sunday we went to the mediaeval village of Yvoire with its superb flower decked old world buildings and the smart and pretty towns of Thonon-les-Bains on the banks of Lake Geneva.

There were still treats for us in store for our last day. Before we caught our plane to Luton our guide gave us a walking tour of the city of Geneva, taking in sights such as the famous fountain on Lake Geneva, the floral clock, St Paul's (Protestant) Cathedral and the Reformation monument, erected in 1917. Large statues of Farel, Calvin, Beize and Knox – four Genevese reformers stand in the centre of a 329 foot wall commemorating the Reformation.

I would like to thank the Travel Group committee for arranging this holiday with special thanks to Dick and Maggie Colgrove for their never ending care and concern for us throughout and to other members of the group who were good company and so friendly.

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## RED HAT SOCIETY

This ladies group was started in America with a view to meeting up every month for fun and frivolity. Maureen Naylor has set up a Stamford Branch – the A1 Hattractions – and is looking for members.

The only qualification you need to join this group is a sense of fun and a red hat!

For more information contact Maureen on or e-mail at [maureen.naylor@googlemail.com](mailto:maureen.naylor@googlemail.com).

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## STROLLERS

**June 12<sup>th</sup> Fineshade** – Smelters' Walk. £2 parking charge.

**July 12<sup>th</sup> Old Quarry Pit Lane** (The Geology Trail Car Park). This walk has been arranged by Jose Fox and it will be led by Philip Rudkin who will show us the flora and fauna. There is no food at the Northwick Arms at the moment. If there is a change - please check the July Newsletter.

**Leaders Wanted for strolls from September onwards.**

All walks start at 11 am. For more information contact

Anna Bridger

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## GERMAN CONVERSATION

From May onwards this Group has a new meeting place – 17 Ryhall Road, Stamford and in future the Group will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday afternoon at 2.30 pm.

For more information contact

Shirley Draheim-Jackson

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## EUROPEAN HEALTH INSURANCE CARD (EHIC)

Ensure that your EHI card is still valid before you travel. If it needs renewing this can be done easily by visiting [www.nhs.uk/healthcareabroad](http://www.nhs.uk/healthcareabroad) or by phoning 0845 6062030.

If you do not have a card, these contacts can also be used to acquire one - the cards are free.

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## GROUP INFORMATION

The back page of the Newsletter has the latest information about Groups, up to the publication date. If there are any changes in between Newsletters, the information appears on the Group page of the Website, which is reviewed weekly.

We can add additional information about Groups on the Website. If any Groups would like to make use of this facility please contact Hendy 756316.

So far no Group appears to be interested. If we do not receive anything during the month we will cancel this option.

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## WRITE AGAIN

Our Creative Writing Group has produced its annual booklet. Copies will be on sale at the meeting or contact Ann Linton

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## A CORNUCOPIA OF COMPOSERS

St Mary's Church Ketton are celebrating the anniversaries of Purcell, Handel, Hayden and Mendelssohn on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 pm on both days.

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June The Cantus Ensemble will be presenting an Orchestral Concert featuring works by these composers and on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June the Cantus Choir will be performing a choral concert with works by these composers.

Tickets for individual concerts are £10. A joint ticket for both concerts is £15. Tickets available by calling 721015 or 721005 or at the door.

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## ART HISTORY

The last meeting of the Art History Group before the summer break will be on June 10<sup>th</sup> when the subject will be the Futurists – ahead of the Exhibition at the Tate Modern.

The meetings start with coffee around 10.15 am and the talks begin at 10.30 am. They are held in the Livingstone Room of the United Reformed Church in Broad Street. New member are always welcome. For more information contact

Hendy Farquhar-Smith 756316

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## WALKING GROUP

**June 5<sup>th</sup> Bainton** by the Church

Aileen Marriott

**June 19<sup>th</sup> White Horse, Empingham**

Meet in the car park

Ann Hedley

**July 3<sup>rd</sup> Bertie Arms, Uffington**

Meet in the Car Park.

Hendy Farquhar-Smith 756316

All walks start at 10 am. New members will be particularly welcomed. For more information contact

Chris Rippington

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## CREAM TEA AT BANTON

The Welland Golden Trefoil Guild are holding a cream tea on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 3 pm at Bainton House by kind permission of the Hon Mrs Birkbeck.

Cost £3, and children £1.50. Proceeds go to the Sue Ryder Hospice, Peterborough.

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## JAZZ APPRECIATION

The next Jazz meeting of the Ryhall Rhythm Club will be at Terry Watkins' house on 22nd June 7 pm. The theme will be 'Home Comforts'.

For more information contact

Terry Watkins

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