

STAMFORD THIRD AGE GROUP

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 213

STAMFORDU3A.ORG.UK

NOVEMBER 2018

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Hello Everyone,

At our meeting on 1st October, we had a stroke of good fortune after the scheduled speaker failed to show up. With 10 minutes to go, new member Robin Dunseath who only joined that day stepped in to fill the gap and presented what turned out to be one of the most interesting talks of the recent past.

He told us about his trip round the world some 10 years ago with four disabled people to raise money and prove that anything is possible with determination. Robin is a well known speaker anyway and will be returning to us again next year.

He received a rapturous reception from the audience, and we are most grateful to him for helping us out. **Thank you Robin.**

We were invited to attend the National Health and Well Being morning at Stamford library on 10th October with many other local support services. We were able to tell visitors of our activities. The event was such a success that the library staff have requested a supply of our newsletters each month to help promote our U3A.

As head office are always encouraging us to do this, we are grateful of the opportunity, and we thank the head librarian and staff for their co-operation.

We plan to distribute posters to other public venues around the town with immediate effect including the doctors' surgeries as they could be a source of new members. Meeting others is a great therapy.

You will see that we have had an offer to start a new

Ukelele Group, as have many other U3As across the country. The instrument is reputed to be one of the easier ones to learn, so would anyone interested please make themselves known to us at the monthly meetings.

Our member Lesly Hayes will be on hand to judge the interest.

Also please note that the second part of the First Aid course will be on Thursday 22nd November open to anyone interested in brushing up on their knowledge. Please let us know if you would like to attend.

The bookbinding and restoration group is off to a flying start, and we thank Chris Gardiner for his initiative in starting this.

Next month is our annual pantomime which is always a great event.

However this year we will miss one of our stalwarts in the drama group, Gordon Bland who has sadly died very recently. Many of you will remember with affection his performances. We send our condolences to his family.

Details of the mid January lunch at the garden centre are in this newsletter for anyone wishing to come along.

Thank you to our dedicated group leaders who do such great work for us here.

See you all in December.

Michael Crowe

e:chairman2017@StamfordU3A.co.uk

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Michael Crowe	Chairman
Jim Duncan	Vice-chairman
Anne Sedgwick	Secretary
Bill Niehorster	Treasurer
Jim Guthrie	Membership Secretary
David Woodman	Website and Newsletter
Patti Hallam	Speaker Finder
Roland Higgins	Minutes Secretary

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1077090

MONTHLY MEETINGS

NOV 5 LIFE ON STAGE FROM AGE ELEVEN

MIKE WALSH

DEC 3 CHRISTMAS PANTO, SONGS & CAROLS

DRAMA AND SINGING GROUPS

Monthly meetings are on the first Monday of every month at Barn Hill Methodist Church or the second if that is a Bank Holiday.

COFFEE AT 10 AM - MEETING STARTS 10:30 AM

WALKING GROUP		
DATE	LOCATION	LEADERS
Nov 16	OAKHAM - meet in the Council Offices car park, there is a charge but other parking is available in the town.	Nancy
Dec 7	KINGS CLIFFE - meet at the Church.	Peter
All our walks start at 10:00 am. New members always welcome. HELEN WRIGHT 01778 590037		

POPE PIUS XII AND THE JEWS

At the September meeting, David Damant, one of our members, gave a fascinating and informative lecture on Pope Pius XII. The Pope's leadership of the Roman Catholic Church during the Second World War has been much debated over the years when concerns were raised, and still are, regarding the persecution of the Jewish people and the Pope's links with Germany during that time.

David masterfully presented a comprehensive talk, along with copies of convincing documents, letters, newspaper reports and photographs, which dispelled many of the myths concerning the Holy Father. Spellbinding!

AROUND THE WORLD !

Our scheduled speaker for October failed to turn up, posing a bit of a problem. Meanwhile, Robin Dunseath was registering as a member that morning and surprisingly volunteered to take over. Within 10 minutes of arriving, he was wired for sound and took centre stage! No preparation, no notes, no film nor photographs. He didn't need any of them.

We were treated to a hilarious and heart warming story of how, under the influence of a few pints in the pub, he aspired to follow in the footsteps of Phileas Fogg and go around the world in 80 Ways! More remarkable was the fact that the brave folk who agreed to accompany him were Miles, who is blind, Mike, a paraplegic without legs, and Caroline who is visually impaired. Robin added that his heart wasn't too good either!

Setting out from London's Reform Club, without a major sponsor and only the 'foggiest' idea of where they were going, they embarked on this unlikely mission which posed multiple challenges. Thankfully, whichever country they ended up in, the overwhelming kindness and generous hospitality of strangers astounded them. Their heroic antics, which raised many thousands of pounds for disabled children, are too numerous to mention here, but Miles, pushing Mike in a wheelchair at the bottom of the Red Sea, while still carrying his white stick, is memorable. Robin will certainly be back to continue the story I'm sure.

PATRICIA HALLAM

COMMENTS & CONTRIBUTIONS

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER

Please send any items about your activities or local events to the editor -

DAVID WOODMAN
NEWS2018@STAMFORDU3A.CO.UK

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE — NOV 26TH

NEW UKELELE GROUP

We have had an offer to start a new group from scratch in learning the ukulele, a popular activity with other U3As around the country.

Our member Lesly Hayes will be running it, so would anyone interested, please let us know at this or the December monthly meeting. If not at these meetings, please email us to record your interest. We will then gauge the support with a view to starting in January.

EUROPEAN STUDIES

If you interested in the European dimension, come and join us at our next meeting on Thu Nov 8th at 10:30 am in St Augustine's Hall, Broad Street.

We present and discuss the politics, culture, history and other issues of individual countries, and some of the challenges which Europe as a whole faces: NATO, globalisation, anti-semitism, populism, immigration, Trump, Putin and Brexit.

The only qualification is an interest in the topics. You can just listen or contribute to discussions. The atmosphere is entirely informal

Contact me for more details or a copy of our next agenda—hope you can join us this month.

GEORGE GRAINGER

JAZZ - RYHALL RHYTHM

Our last meeting was Our Favourite Tunes, the choices were enjoyed by everyone. The next meeting is the 26th Nov at 2 pm. Please note, there will be no meeting in December. This month's theme is

ANY MODE OF TRANSPORT
TERRY AND JUNE WATKINS 751067

WELLAND U3A

We have been invited to attend the Welland monthly meeting on Tuesday 27th Nov at Barn Hill 10:30 am, when the speaker will be Sarah Castelvecci of Anglia Water and the subject is

THE FUTURE OF WATER FOR US ALL
All welcome, remember your membership card.

GORDON BLAND

We recently lost a long standing and valued member of the U3A, Gordon Bland, who died on Friday October 19th. Up to a year or so ago Gordon was an integral part of the U3A drama group, which he and his wife Doris, along with other members of the Play Reading Group, founded in the early 1990s.

The last decade or so saw Gordon take on many parts in panto and he also handled aspects of the group's admin. his wonderful speaking voice came into play as narrator for many productions. One of Gordon's chief delights was the opportunity to use his Geordie accent, which he did with great aplomb last year in the 'Albert and the Lion' sketch. He is remembered with great affection by younger members of the Drama Group for his encouragement and support when their self confidence failed.

Gordon was a brilliant artist and ran the popular and thriving Art Workshop at Essendine, where he lived until recently, for many years. Well into his nineties, he continued to take an active interest in many local issues.

His funeral will be at 12 noon on Monday 12th in St George's Church, followed by a private family burial at Ketton, then refreshments at Essendine village hall.

ANN LINTON

PLAY READING GROUP 1

We would welcome one or two new members. While we would not discriminate on the grounds of gender, we do need more men – they are an endangered species in this habitat!

CONTACT: GRAHAM CREEDY 481084

RED CROSS FIRST AID COURSES

PART 1 — Wendy Sanchez and I are taking over the leadership of the walking group next year and we thought it timely to do a First Aid course. I have contacted Sonia Lewis and we are going to her premises — Unit 22 on Langtoft industrial estate PE6 9NT on Wed 14th Nov at 10 am for Part 1 in preparation for Part 2. Sonia has said that if any other members would like to go on that date, she would be very happy to include them. If you are interested, contact me and I can let Sonia know.

ROSEMARY PECK 01572 822205

PART 2 — This course follows on and is also run by Sonia from the Red Cross. Anyone wishing to update their knowledge of First Aid is welcome to come and in particular our group leaders. It will take place as last time at Barn Hill at 10.30 am for about an hour on Thursday 22nd November.

Free of charge, no need to book, just come along, it is a worthwhile exercise.

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our next talk will be on Tuesday 13th November

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS OF WW I BY JOHN SUTTON

Meetings are in the downstairs hall at Barn Hill.
Coffee from 10 am, talk at 10:30.

Everyone is welcome,

CHRISTINE BEARNE 480286

ANTIQUES GROUP 1

Our next talk is on Tuesday 27th November

JOHN GOULD, THE BIRD MAN BY GERRY BURROWS

John Gould was an eminent ornithologist and artist (1804-1881) who produced lavishly illustrated volumes on birds. Gould's work was referenced by Darwin in "The Origin of Species".

Meetings are in the upstairs room at Barn Hill.
Coffee from 10 am, talk at 10:30.

New members always welcome.

JUNE DOWNS 01573 821337

LITERATURE GROUP 2

A couple of vacancies have recently arisen in this popular and long standing group. We meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at 2pm. The group covers a wide spectrum of literature, both fictional and non-fictional. For further details please ring

ANN LINTON 764552

U3A JANUARY LUNCH

We are proposing to re-instate the January lunch at Casterton Garden centre after the lapse last time. It will be a mid month event to compensate for the lack of some activities after Christmas. The date is Thursday 17th January at 12 noon.

It will not be a fixed menu this time, so we need to know who would like to come starting this month and again at the December meeting. Would anyone interested in this purely social occasion please see us and peruse the menu.

We would like a deposit of £5 either in December or at the latest at the January meeting.

MICHAEL CROWE

NEXT MONTH'S TALK

DECEMBER 3 IS PANTO TIME! - For our next meeting the Drama Group will once again present their low budget Christmas Extravaganza, with songs, gags, dancing and cross dressing! It's a fairy tale, so anything could happen!

You are invited to come and share in the merriment.