



## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

**Hello Everyone,**

**This is AGM and entertainment day**, and you will see reports on the back page from our membership secretary and treasurer.

Last month, we had the interesting talk on dairy farming by Jane Barnes who stepped in to fill the gap, and we are very grateful to her. She offers farm visits to see her new milking parlour and the workings of a super modern farm as an organised tour. If anyone would like join a group visit later in the year, will find details in the Newsletter.

**Our new history group** held their first meeting on the 18th April, which was well attended by 26 members.

We are now working with the Welland U3A equivalent group whereby we can go to their monthly meetings to increase the range of our knowledge. Our group is still open to anyone who wishes to come along as there is space in the downstairs room at Barn Hill. Meetings are on the morning of the third Thursday of the month.

**At the Welland AGM** on 30th April, our regional Trustee Jean Hogg came to tell us what is happening at head office. Briefly, they are working to promote the U3A movement at Government level as a vital way to combat the epidemic of loneliness which seems to be prevalent across the land. We can do our part locally as we do.

**You will know that Christine Bearne** has stepped down from running the upstairs coffee lounge at these first Monday meetings. She has been doing this every month for over eight years. We are all most grateful to her for such dedicated commitment.

**Thank you Christine and also Peter** for his huge support.

Luckily, Christine has found help to take over, so we will continue to use the top room. The possible use of the "well" has not been necessary as yet.

**Likewise, Jim Guthrie has handed over** the membership job to Beverley Meader with effect from today. He has done an amazing job of keeping all the records of members over so many years. Thank you so very much Jim and also Beverley for taking over this task.

**We were all saddened** to hear of the death very recently of Dorothy Piggott. She was a founder member some 25 years ago. There must be very few left from those early days. We would like to hear if there are, just to thank them for starting what we have today.

A brief report of Dorothy's life is in this edition.

**With the new colour format**, David Woodman can now accept photos from any group who has an interesting one. We need permission from everyone in such a photo to comply with the data protection rules.

Thanks go to our committee, group leaders and all those who help in any way with our meetings and activities. We depend on you.

**Finally, please do remember to sign in** at our meetings as required for insurance purposes. Thank you.

Enjoy today's performances and what is left of this month.

See you next time.

**Michael Crowe**

[e:chairman2017@StamfordU3A.co.uk](mailto:chairman2017@StamfordU3A.co.uk)

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<b>MICHAEL CROWE</b>	<b>CHAIRMAN</b>
<b>JIM DUNCAN</b>	<b>VICE-CHAIRMAN</b>
<b>BILL NIEHORSTER</b>	<b>TREASURER</b>
<b>BEVERLEY MEADER</b>	<b>MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY</b>
<b>DAVID WOODMAN</b>	<b>WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER</b>
<b>PATRICIA HALLAM</b>	<b>SPEAKER FINDER</b>
<b>ROLAND HIGGINS</b>	<b>SECRETARY</b>

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1077090**

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

<b>MAY 13</b>	<b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING DRAMA AND SINGING GROUPS</b>
<b>JUN 3</b>	<b>BUSY BEES SUE JAKEMAN</b>

Monthly meetings are held at Barn Hill Methodist Church on the first Monday of each month, unless it falls on a Bank Holiday when it is then moved to the second Monday.

**COFFEE AT 10 AM - MEETING STARTS 10:30 AM**

## WALKING GROUP 1

DATE	LOCATION	LEADERS
MAY 17	<b>BRAUNSTON</b> – Meet at the church LE15 8QT. Parking in the village. Two pubs in the village for refreshments afterwards.	<b>Wendy and Rosemary</b>

## WALKING GROUP 2

MAY 26	<b>UPPINGHAM</b> – Meet outside The Falcon Hotel in the Market Place. Parking available at Uppingham Co-op in North Street East LE15 9QL. Charge £2.30 for 3 hours. Coffee afterwards in the town. <b>A shorter walk (about an hour) each month over a more gentle terrain</b>	<b>Wendy and Rosemary</b>
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**All our walks start at 10:00 am. New members always welcome.  
Lunch venues are suggestions only — Make your own arrangements  
ROSEMARY PECK 01572 822205 WENDY SANCHEZ 01572 747037**

### SINGING FOR PLEASURE GROUP VISIT TO WHITEFRIARS APRIL 2019



### CHESS GROUP

We try to keep our brains active by playing chess, coaching beginners and mentoring new members. Do come along and join a friendly group. We meet at 23 Priory Gardens, Stamford, PE9 2EG (plenty of parking). We start at 13:45 and finish when you've had enough. Dates for the forthcoming summer fixed as below. They are broadly every two weeks but I have had to make the gaps longer or shorter at times because of the various Bank Holidays - all dates are Mondays.

May 13, June 3 & 24, July 8 & 22, August 5 & 19

**STAN DANIELS 752706**

### CHURCH VISITING

Our visit this month is to Fotheringhay church on Friday 31st May at the usual time of 11:00 am. This will be another interesting one - it's association with Richard III and the Royal House of York and the story of Mary Queen of Scots. This magnificent 15th century church with octagonal lantern tower can now be viewed without the scaffolding of last year's restoration. Parking is on the main road on either side of the avenue leading to the church. Lunch will be available at a suitable hostelry nearby and full details will be sent to members later.

**MICHAEL CROWE 762490**

### COMMENTS & CONTRIBUTIONS

#### THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER

Send any items about activities or local events to

**DAVID WOODMAN  
NEWS@STAMFORDU3A.CO.UK**

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE - MAY 24TH**

### MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES

**CONTACT OUR MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

**BEVERLEY MEADER 593212**

**EMAIL: MEMBERSHIP@STAMFORDU3A.CO.UK**

### HISTORY GROUP

The next meeting will be on Thu May 16th at 10:30 in Barn Hill downstairs room - wheelchair friendly.

Our speaker is Adrian Roberts whose U3A Cambridge talks are highly praised. Adrian will describe the hardships in the trenches in World War 1, with comparisons between the reactions by British and other troops. There will be WW1 pictures and memorabilia. Members with memorabilia of relations etc are encouraged to bring the items along.

**DAVID DAMANT 07770 938374**

## DOWN ON THE FARM

Jane Barnes hilariously entertained us at the April meeting with her tales of being a Dairy Farmer. Jane is married to Mark, who is a rare breed apparently. Son Harry (enough said), is Harry, who works tirelessly alongside them. Their daughter, Charlotte, named after Mark's first cow, 25 years ago, fled off to university leaving her wellingtons behind her.

The farm manages a huge herd of Pedigree Ayrshire cows (along with a few bulls to keep the ladies amused twice a year) and their milk is used to produce the world-famous Stilton cheese.

**They raise many calves from the herd twice a year** which Jane compares with child rearing. Up and about by 5.30 am bottle feeding, checking and tidying up after them, while tackling the other numerous other jobs in the home and on the farm throughout the day, until it's bottle at bedtime and hopefully some sleep until the next round starts.

We were treated to lots of lively information about the sheer hard work and devotion farm life involves, all described with great wit and humour. So much information! The Archers, a story of country folk, is never as interesting or as entertaining as this. Jane should write the script!

**Farmer Barnes' Tour:** If you would like to visit Jane's working farm, they conduct tours for parties for a minimum of 30 people, maximum 40. No wellies are needed. You will be taken round the farm by tractor and trailer, learn about the logistics of farming in general, which is jaw dropping; watch the cows being milked, say hello to the calves, and refreshments are available at the end of the tour.

For those interested we could organise a U3A group tour, or you could arrange your own groups. The first dates available are Monday 15th and Monday 22nd July, 2.30 pm start, depart at 5 pm. The price is £15 per person, to include tea, cakes and Stilton cheese and biscuits. The farm is at Somerby near Melton Mowbray and there are plenty of parking spaces.

Contact me - Patti Hallam. hallamspain@gmail.com - 591156 or checkout Jane's website [www.farmerbarnesdairy.com](http://www.farmerbarnesdairy.com) and look under the tab FARM TOUR.

## THE BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

Would you consider becoming a volunteer for the British Heart Foundation in Stamford's High Street shop? It really is worthwhile; the team are great and you certainly see life. We really do need a few more volunteers to work on the counter. Don't worry, the till doesn't bite, and training is given. Even I can do it! It's only a heartbeat away, so if you have a half day to spare on a semi-regular basis and want to meet lots of interesting people and work for a marvellous cause, do give the lovely Claire a call on 01780 756538 or pop into the shop – she would be so pleased to see you. You won't regret it.

**PATTI HALLAM**



## DOROTHY PIGGOTT 20TH MARCH 1925 - 14TH APRIL 2019

Many of you will know by now of the sad death of one of our founder members.

Dorothy was born in Douglas, Isle of Man - one of four sisters. Her father was chief executive of the Manx Steam Packet Company.

At the onset of WW2, they moved to Barrow in Furness for work in the shipyards. After moving several times after the war, the family settled in Horncastle where her father was head of the Grammar School.

Dorothy progressed and became a JP, specialising in child cases. Then she became a social worker as her career. She moved to Ketton in 1980 and after retirement became one of the founder members of our U3A in 1994. She was well known in several of our groups and many will remember her with affection.

Our condolences go to her family at this time.

## ANTIQUES GROUP 1

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday May 23rd**

### VALUATION TALK

**BY SOPHIE CHAPMAN, BATEMANS  
AUCTIONEERS**

Bring an article for Sophie to value and tell us about.

Meetings are in the small upstairs room at Barn Hill.

Coffee from 10 am, talk at 10:30.

**New members always welcome,**

**JUNE DOWNS 01572 821337**

## BRIDGE GROUP

**Our bridge group have now changed meeting day** from Tuesday to Wednesday afternoons. We hope also that this change might bring about an increase in our membership which we would very much appreciate. Players of all standards are all most welcome.

**We play in a friendly relaxed atmosphere** and draw for partners at each meeting, and stop for tea and a chat. **Please do come and join us.**

**ELLEN EDMANS 762610**

## NEXT MONTH'S TALK

### BUSY BEES

It's that time of the year again when everyone is busy in the garden and the bees are busy (and buzzing) around your flowers. Sue Jakeman knows a lot about bees (and honey) and will share her light-hearted knowledge on the subject with you.

**Not to be missed!**

## Chairman

This past year has seen a steady rise in membership as the word of our existence spreads. This is essential to replace those who drop out for a variety of reasons. Our finances are sound with steady income and expenditure in line with predications. We thank our treasurer for keeping tabs on these.

A new secretary will be required by the end of the year, so if anyone would like to come on board to understudy our present secretary and learn the ropes, please do see one of us at any of our meetings. It is not too arduous, and we would be eternally grateful.

The committee do a good job, and they would like to express their own thanks to our group leaders for all their work. Thank you all for your tremendous support in all our activities.

## Monthly Meeting

### Average Monthly Attendance

Year	Members	Guests
2003	163	1
2009	213	8
2010	217	8
2011	218	9
2012	189	6
2013	187	5
2014	175	6
2015	166	6
2016	185	6
2017	132	6
2018	125	7

## Treasurer's Report

### Stamford U3A Financial Accounts Year Ending 31st March 2019

2017-18		2018-19	
<b>£6,291.57</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£6,214.38</b>	
<b>£6,675.94</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£5,593.78</b>	
<b>-£384.37</b>	<b>Surplus/Deficit for the year</b>	<b>£620.60</b>	
	<b>Balance brought forward at 1 April 2018</b>		<b>£7,057.05</b>
	<b>Plus surplus for year</b>		<b>£620.60</b>
	<b>Balance at 31 March 2019</b>		<b>£7,677.65</b>

## Communications

Thanks you to all those who have sent in such a variety of items and photos for the newsletter and website over the past year. We now print 400 newsletters every month, with both Stamford Library and the Arts Centre having extra copies to give to visitors and hopefully prospective new members.

We have recently started printing in full colour, so photographs and illustrations can now be accepted for both the newsletter and the websites. Keep them coming!!

## Membership

Total Members	617
Members renewed to March 2020	473
Members Gift Aiding	444
Members resigned, died, moved or not renewed	12
New Members joined since Jan 1st	67
Newsletters sent by post	9