

King's Lynn U3A



20TH ANNIVERSARY NEWSLETTER

2011



1991

Contents	page
Editorial	3
Obituary – Joyce Noon	4
Chairman's Report	4
Secretary's Report	5
Treasurer's Report	6
King's Lynn U3A –How it began 20 years ago	7
Newsletters through the 'Ages'	8/10
Membership Survey result and comment	11/13
Photograph Quiz	14/16
Special Interest Groups no longer operating – A Survey	17
A Tribute to Dorothy Trudgett	18
Night Thoughts on a doubled diuretic - Flo Crookes	19
My Experience of King's Lynn U3A – Ann Bolton	19/20
Excursion Programme	20/21
Extracts from our monthly programme:	
The Sea - Prof. Walter Blaney	22
The Weather Business - Jim Bacon	22
A Very Strange Coincidence - Barry Keenan	24
Footnote on the Statistics - Morag Bean	25
Photos Answers	26
Special Interest Groups and Contacts	27
Committee Members	28

U3A Newsletter May 2011 - Editorial

It was quite a surprise upon reading about the foundation of our branch of U3A in 1991 and with it a list of original members to discover that we still have four out of the twenty members of 1991 attending meetings in 2011. We pay tribute to Daphne Bird, Olive Gold, Gwen Stanford and Muriel Toby for their continued interest and support. In many ways they remain the guardians of the principles on which U3A is founded with their long experience of the King's Lynn branch and the contributions they have made through committee membership and interest group leadership over the years. We find them a font of information about the branch and its members. We thank them for this.

Their long membership caused me to think about all the changes in technology over the past twenty years and yet the University of the Third Age has proved adaptable and progressive in that time. The mobile phone of course came earlier than 1991 - in fact in 1983 and the laptop computer in 1988 but since our foundation here in King's Lynn there have been a series of challenging changes. Was it only in 1994 that the digital camera began to make its appearance? Lithium rechargeable batteries had already been developed by Sony as early as 1991. Debit cards came in 1995, the same year as DVDs. The iPod, portable digital music player, first appeared in 2001 and so the list goes on.

Long may we as members of U3A continue to evaluate the rapidly changing times in which we live and show our continuing adaptability in taking what we can use for our own benefit from the changes.

U3A gets going

THE newly formed Lynn branch of the University of the Third Age (U3A) has got off the ground, having been highly motivated by Audrey Cloet, a founder member of Bath U3A. Audrey spoke of the practicalities of setting up a branch and starting small informal groups in a variety of subjects.

A steering committee was formed at a recent meeting held at the Teachers

Centre, Kilham Way, North Lynn. The group meets again next Friday, 10am-noon, at the Friends Meeting House, Bridge Street, Lynn. It is hoped to begin informal groups in French conversation, gardening, crafts and general discussion, plus a sharing of different subjects at each monthly meeting. New members are welcome; further details from Joan Weeks, telephone KL

Joyce Noon 1929-2010

Joyce had been a member of U3A since well before we played Petanque on our lawn in 2000. She went to school and grew up in King's Lynn, and we enjoyed her stories of what she and Eileen, her sister, used to get up to in their younger days. She met and married her lovely husband Tom, and had celebrated her 60th wedding anniversary.

In her younger days, Joyce had enjoyed dancing and swimming in the sea. On Friday mornings, even if the weather was doubtful, she would often be up at the Terrain to see if we were playing. She didn't like to miss a game. She was also a keen Bridge player. Even though she was a busy lady, her friends were always welcome. One of her greatest pleasures was getting out and about along the coast or into the Norfolk countryside.

Joyce will be greatly missed by us all.

Bob Rawlings

Chairman's Report

This year is our 20th anniversary and I am sure over the years there have been many changes, hopefully for the better. At present we have 30 groups catering for many different interests (there could be more if members would be prepared to start one up. It doesn't matter how long or short a time you have belonged to U3A.) Please give it some consideration. There will always be help available to get going.

In recent months the hall appears to have become rather cramped so we are trying to address this with a spot of furniture removing! It would be a great pity if we could not accommodate new members.

A reminder that the annual conference is in Nottingham, 16th - 19th September, the theme of which is 'Celebration', telling the stories of

members for whom joining U3A has significantly changed their lives. Please speak to a member of the committee for further details if you would like to contribute.

Liz Francois, Chairman

Secretary's Report

We are now into our 20th year. Things have changed somewhat in this time. A large number of members now use the internet. Although I'm not one of the most brilliant of users, it saves me a great deal of time and postage by being able to e-mail minutes and comments to the committee, something I would not have envisaged doing only a few years ago. We are getting more professional as new people join, not that we can't do more, it's always a learning curve.

Our numbers are steadily increasing, now nearly 200. The only problem is space. We had 120 members at the March meeting which became a bit of a squeeze. Our ladies (and a couple of fellas) do a fantastic job of catering at coffee break.

Looking at other organizations, most struggle to keep going but U3As in all areas of the UK seems to be going from strength to strength, so we must be doing something right. If for any reason you are not happy with the way we run any part of the meeting then do speak up. Unless we are told it can't be sorted!

A full list of committee members is on the back page. Judith Harrison has taken on the role of catering, as well as representative for the newsletter. We also welcome Joy Dunham to the committee.

Committee members wear bright yellow badges, so for new members we hope this will help. New members wear a bright green sticker so for the rest of us don't forget to welcome them with a smile and a few words. It's easy to forget it can be a bit daunting entering a room with so many people, making so much noise!

Maureen Reeley

Treasurer's Report for the Year ending December, 2010

Synopsis by Ann Smith

Thanks were extended to Barry Keenan and Jeff Graham for verifying the report which dealt with income, expenditure, investment, reserves, membership, outings and speakers.

There had been an increase both in income and expenditure, the former due to an increase in subscriptions and membership which stands at 194 and the latter due to rent, insurance and capitation increases. Investment with Coif still stands at £2000 with interest of £10.10 due to low rates of interest. Reserves are still at an acceptable level with £2000 in the investment account and £1,820.21 in the bank including a surplus from outings.

A new account was being opened for outings which up to now had been classified along with expenditure in the bank account. Speakers' costs were down this year as some speakers preferred to make a donation to a charity which they preferred.

This synopsis was taken from the Treasurer's Report presented by Doris Watson at the AGM in February, 2011

Ann Smith

Successful meetings of the University of the Third Age

I HAVE been to several meetings of the new King's Lynn group of the University of the Third Age on the second Friday of each month at the Friends Meeting House at 10am.

I have enjoyed meeting people there and feel quite enthusiastic about being a member.

The idea that retired people have some talent and knowledge to impart is not new, but it is interesting to see it work.

Already there are gardening, local history and handicraft groups, with the promise of music and literature and also the sharing with the Hunstanton uni-

versity. The recent talk about antique weaponry was enjoyed by everyone.

G S
King's Lynn
(full name and address
supplied)

W. G. G. G.
27. VI. 91

The King's Lynn U3A; How it began 20 years ago

The movement that became the University of The Third Age began in France in 1972 and in England in 1982, reaching King's Lynn in January 1991. The development was different in each country though aimed at the same group of people, those in their 'third age', namely over 50 and no longer in full time paid employment. The French ran courses for members to be taught and to study subjects of interest to them. The English follow a very wide and varied range of interests decided by members forming groups of like minded people.

The U3A began in King's Lynn when Jean Tinsley of the Further Adult Education at the (local) college set up a meeting to explain and explore the idea, as nothing of this kind had reached this part of the country. The result after further discussion was a meeting held in The Friends Meeting House on 18th January 1991 when twenty people became members, paying £2 yearly subscriptions and 60p for refreshments. No funds were available to us. Members generously gave their time and bore any expenses. We were accepted into The Third Age Trust in June 1991. At the end of the first year, several members living in the Dersingham and Hunstanton areas left us to begin the Hunstanton U3A.

Groups were inevitably small in the early years. Members offered what skills and interests they might have. Some groups had enough people joining from the beginning, e.g. local history and classical music, whilst others grew gradually and some still function today.

One worthy of mention which illustrates this was started by Bill and Gwen Sanford, now both in their 90th year and still members. Bill started teaching Bridge to a few novices anxious to learn, gradually attracting more members. Over many years of dedicated fortnightly and then weekly sessions, and supported by Gwen also instructing and providing refreshment, it was possible for many to have the confidence and skill to form their own clubs and house - groups with enthusiasm. They only gave up reluctantly through Bill's health problems, when they handed over to Phil so that this popular group could continue.

Hopefully K.L.U3A will continue to attract new members with new ideas for group interest and will flourish for the next 20 years. Only Daphne Bird and myself remain from the people who attended the initial meetings, along with Olive Gold and Gwen Sanford who joined as founder members.

Muriel Toby

Newsletters through the 'Ages'

1991

In its first year there were in fact five issues of a newsletter in the form of an A4 sheet. The first three were the work of Sandy Thorpe (Publicity Officer) and document the first steps and personalities involved, and there was much news to share.

Subjects were proposed for February through to June to start the series of monthly meetings, and members were invited to be speakers and to share 'something interesting' with the members. Small interest groups were already under way in January 1991, namely Gardening (with nine members). Local History had ten and Crafts eleven and in the February edition a Modern Literature group was offered, as well as suggestions for 'Happy Media', 'In Camera', 'Music', and 'Art Beats'.

The newsletter for June gave a progress report on groups and announced the AGM of June 14th at which the King's Lynn branch of the U3A was officially formed and affiliated. This saw the first Editor of the newsletter, Ivy Last.

1996

This year we had three issues in A5 booklet form. There were 12 groups listed with monthly meetings, plus a Gardening Group and a Monthly Lunch. The 16 pages comprised reports from Chairman and Secretary, reports on group activities and outings, but surprisingly half was devoted to what can be classed as creative writing or accounts of individual members' experiences.

One of the groups, here called 'Specialist Groups', is 'Third Age Study' led by John Humphries, the Vice Chairman. Their monthly meetings refer to talks and discussions with representatives from Social Services and in the Autumn edition contact numbers are listed for help by members and by services such as Crossroads.

2001

By the 10th anniversary of King's Lynn U3A, members were meeting at the Parkview Community Centre in Birch Tree Way, but in the Autumn Newsletter it is obvious that the move had been made to our present location at the North Lynn Community Centre. Other changes had seen

the appointment of a new chairman at the AGM when Gertrude Seddon-Stoves took over from Betty Yates.

The content of the two newsletters for that year remain much the same with comment on the 10th Anniversary of the foundation of King's Lynn U3A in the Spring edition. Groups and individuals had been to Chatsworth House, the Millennium Dome and specialist groups had reports from the Museum Talks group, Stitchery Group, Lacemakers and Scrabble. Forthcoming monthly meetings' speakers were highlighted plus a miscellany of articles, puzzles and poetry.

The Autumn edition showed some interesting developments in special interest groups with the arrival of an Art Appreciation Group, Complementary Medicines Group and Genealogy. The section called Viewpoints from our Members contained a variety of articles, puzzles and poetry. With reference to special interest groups, there was a meeting given over to reports from all these groups, how to start a new group and displays of their work if appropriate.

2006

This year there was only one newsletter charting the activities of our branch. Ann Bolton was Chairman at this time and was pleased to welcome the development of a Speaker Organiser to draw up the annual programme of speakers.

The rest of the newsletter is a lively mix of articles etc from the members, with the report of the Genealogy group taking pride of place. One piece of poetry caught my eye, and in the light of the interest shown at present by a number of members in improving their computer skills, this is included in this survey as a word of warning!!!

The Computer has swallowed Grandma

*The computer's swallowed Grandma
Yes honestly it's true
She pressed 'Control and Enter'
And disappeared from view.
It's devoured her completely
The thought just makes me squirm
Maybe she's caught a 'Virus'*

Or been swallowed by a 'Worm'.
 I've searched the Recycle Bin
 And Files of every kind
 I've even used the internet
 But nothing did I find.
 In desperation I asked Jeeves
 My searches to refine
 The reply from him was negative
 But nothing did I find.
 So, if inside your 'Inbox'
 My Grandma you should see
 Please Scan Copy and Paste her
 In an email back to me.

Betty

In surveying the archive of newsletters we are impressed by the originality, enthusiasm and loyalty which is in evidence. Many of the names found in these archives are still active members today, and their influence is evident in issue after issue.

It is an unfortunate fact of life that, sooner or later, the years begin to weigh heavily; we have to battle against or bear the ravages of time to varying degrees. Most of us 'keep a stiff upper lip', 'look on the bright side' and view the bottle as 'half full' not 'half empty'. Relevant quotations come from the newsletters themselves.

e.g. Daphne, Spring '96 - last verse of seven from 'Inside Out'

...young man,
 Don't give her a label like old age pensioner or grandmother,
 She's a person with dreams still to fulfil,
 Perhaps even talents yet to uncover.

and Eric, Autumn '96 - to start a limerick competition

A U3A member in Lynn
 Thought he'd like to try living in sin
 But he was too old
 And his blood had run cold
 So he settled for tonic and gin.

Brian and Ann Smith



Membership survey, January/ February 2011

Thanks to all of you who completed and handed back the survey forms. Of the more or less 120 members who attended the January and February meetings, we had 90 replies i.e. a 75% return. This represented 45% of the almost 200 members. Not everyone filled in every question which accounts for the slight discrepancies in the totals.

This survey has provided a snapshot of our U3A branch at the time of its 20th anniversary.

Figures and graphs are presented for your own interpretation.

Reasons for joining the U3A divide into two main groups - for friendship and for educational reasons, although at least one respondent commented that pressure had been brought to bear to join by their partner!

Edward Harrison

Age group and Sex

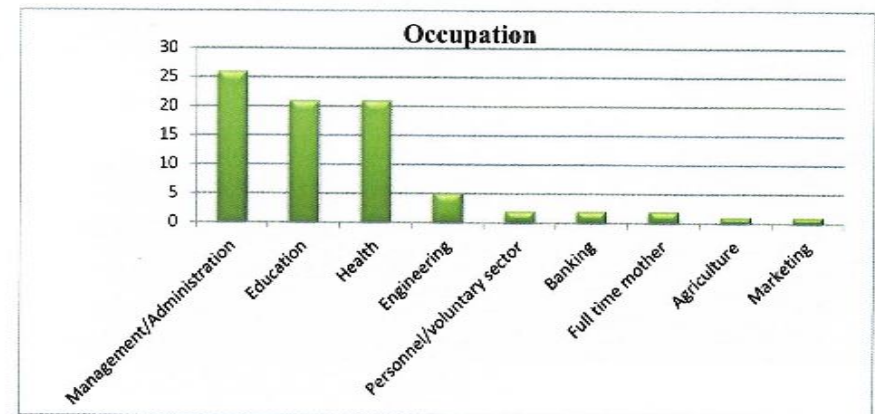
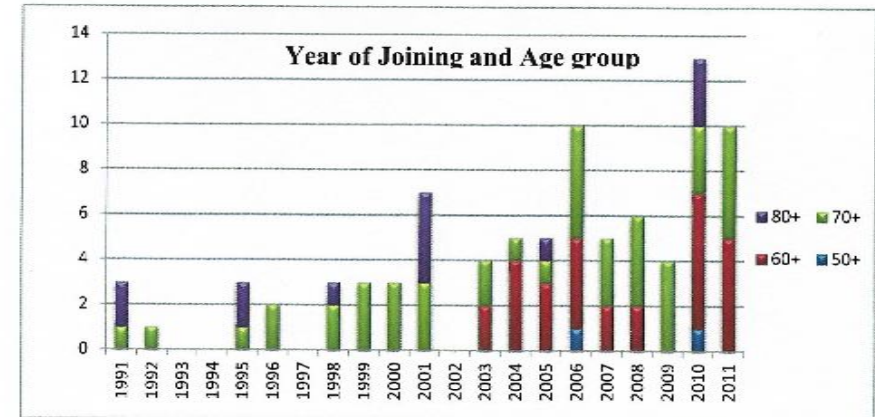
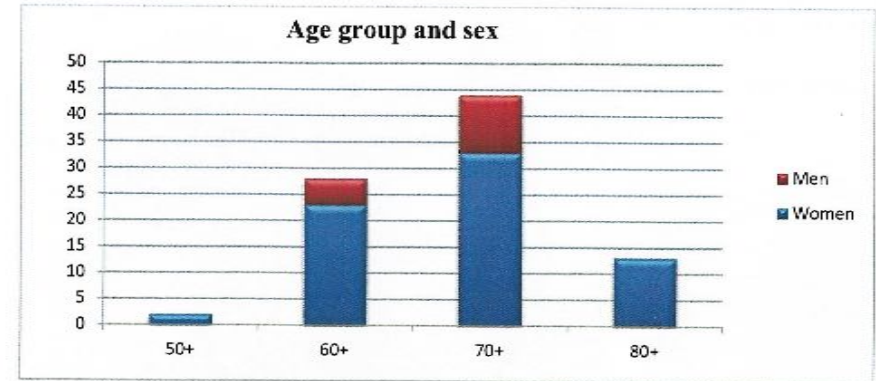
Age Group	50+	60+	70+	80+	Total
Women	2	23	33	13	71
Men	0	5	11	0	16
Total	2	28	44	13	87

Year of Joining

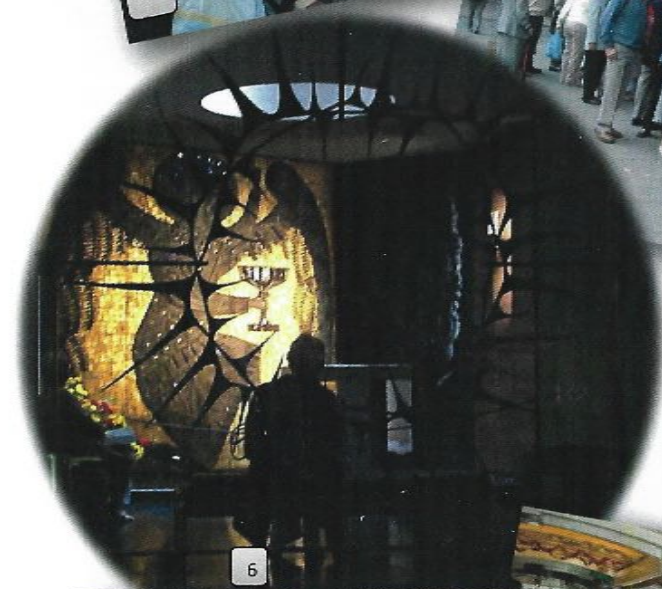
Age Group	50+	60+	70+	80+	Total
1991			1	2	3
1992			1		1
1993					
1994					
1995			1	2	3
1996			2		2
1997					
1998			2	1	3
1999			3		3
2000			3		3
2001			3	4	7
2002					
2003		2	2		4
2004		4	1		5
2005		3	1	1	5
2006	1	4	5		10
2007		2	3		5
2008		2	4		6
2009			4		4
2010	1	6	3	3	13
2011		5	5		10
Total	2	28	44	13	87

Occupation

Management / Administration	26	Banking	2
Education	21	Full Time Mother	2
Health	21	Agriculture	1
Engineering	5	Marketing	1
Personnel / Voluntary sector	2		81

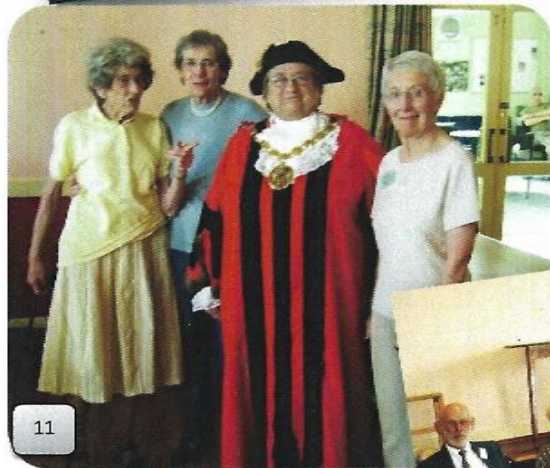


Who? Where?
And when?





9



11

Who? Where?

And when?

(Brief answers page 26)



12



13

Special Interest Groups no longer operating - A Survey

Some newer members regret that many of the special interest groups are full at present and in some cases feel that they are very limited in their choices but a browse through the King's Lynn U3A archives shows that there were other groups available in the past and perhaps they are capable of being resurrected or other ideas for new groups could be established. Our branch is expanding and with it there must be a number of people with skills or interests which could make new activity groups.

The Craft Group had a wonderful phrase in their description of their group - to quote they 'stitch, stuff and stick'. They made Hessian figures, crackers, greetings cards, quilted butterflies and added dyeing techniques to their repertoire. The Lacemaking Group was certainly in operation between 2000 and 2004 with pillows, bobbins and patterns available for beginners and experienced lace-makers alike.

Those members who enjoyed literature were able to join the Poetry Reading Group and there also existed a Writing for Pleasure Group. The Poetry Group decided on its programme each month and had a very varied mix of poems which members found most enjoyable. The Writing for Pleasure Group used a variety of techniques to explore each chosen subject - an article, short story, poem, conversation or even a letter.

In addition to the long-running French Conversation Group, there was also at one time a group developing their skills in speaking Italian. This started in 2004 using a BBC course.

For those members interested in art and painting, there was an Art Group which developed into a self-help group, hiring a hall for their meetings. They used a variety of different materials from water colours to pencil etc.

A Science group also flourished which was described as a Science Appreciation Group in which programmes from the BBC Learning Zone were seen and discussed. Some of these were remarkable for the light they threw on social, political and philosophical matters.

This has proved a fascinating look at past groups and perhaps will provide a stimulus to the re-forming or indeed the creation of new activity groups in our twentieth anniversary year.

Ann Smith

A Tribute to Dorothy Trudgett

It was with great pleasure that in the King's Lynn U3A branch archives we found examples of Dorothy's creative writing. She generously compiled a folder of her writings from about 1993 until 2002 and indicated that King's Lynn U3A should have any copyright in the event of publication. The subjects of Dorothy's writings are very diverse but here is just one to give a flavour of her work.

HOME

One of my memories from early childhood is, on returning from holiday, my mother saying, "It's nice having a holiday, but so lovely to come home".

What is it about our homes that make them so dear to us? Surely one of the main reasons is that we can relax, put our feet up, physically and metaphorically and just "be ourselves". The old song, much loved by Victorians, had the words "Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home!" There is certainly some truth in this: we do not need high ceilinged magnificent rooms; a small cosy warm den with comfortable furniture is sufficient.

I once read a short story, translated, I think, from the Russian, entitled "How much land does a man need?" The man was promised that he could own all the land that he could run around in one day. Greedily he ran and ran in ever increasing circles until at last he fell, exhausted and died from heart failure. The land he was to own was just the six feet needed for his grave!

No one would suggest that this was sufficient space in which to live but a snug cosy place can really help us to relax.

I wonder if the royal family and similar people feel completely "at home" in their grand houses or do they, perhaps, have small rooms where they can cast off their shoes, heave sighs of relief and be glad to be out of the public gaze.

We all need to meet other people. To entertain and be entertained, but we also need the privacy and seclusion of our homes,

Like a snail in its shell, I love to curl up in a warm bed, switch off the light and enjoy my slumber. This is truly "home".

Dorothy E. Trudgett May 1998

Night Thoughts – on a doubled diuretic

*At half past ten I made myself comfy.
Shook up my pillow, don't want it lumpy.
Settled now, with hopes of a good night's rest;
Six hours at least would suit me best.
I am out to the loo at one forty-two.
By one forty-three, I'd had my wee.
Enough, I said, and went back to bed.
Tired, yet still emitting plenty,
I'm out again at three twenty.
My bladder really is a pain,
Must try to go to sleep again;
Roused once more,
What time is it?
Five o'clock! Yet another visit;
Even that one failed to fix.
Out again at half past six;
Is it little wonder, then,
I cannot rise till ten a.m.*

Flo Crookes

Flo Crookes

Flo Crookes was a member of the U3A and the craft group for many years. She was very active and when a second reading group was formed became a very interesting, informative and lively contributor. She has now retired because it became so difficult for her to get around, but as can be seen her mind is still as creative as ever. She wrote this for Reading group II and has happily agreed for it to be included in this anniversary newsletter.

Anne Lindley

My experience of King's Lynn U3A

In 1999, I met Bob Rawlings while playing Short mat Bowls at Gaywood Community Centre and he suggested that U3A might be of interest. Rather nervously I attended my first meeting at Park View and was welcomed by Margaret Eyre and directed to where Bob and Dorothy were sitting. I thought the meeting was interesting and turned up the following month when a number of people said Hello and made me feel

welcome. A year later I offered to start a Bobbin Lacemaking Group. This was discontinued a couple of years later when circumstances meant that participants could no longer come along. If anyone is interested I could re-start it, I still have all the gear. I also began to play Petanque and Scrabble.

In 2001 I was asked if I would take on the role of Chairman. I felt that I didn't know enough about the U3A so Gertrude Seddon- Stoves took it on with me as Vice-chairman. There was a lot to learn but in 2002 I felt I could have a good go at it. I remained Chairman for five years and enjoyed every minute of it. Perhaps the best memory is June 2006 when we celebrated our 15th Anniversary. The Mayor of King's Lynn and West Norfolk Councillor Mrs Anne Clery-Fox attended in her full regalia, not perhaps the wisest thing to do on a very hot day, Henry Bellingham MP came along and our Speaker was Keith Richards (no, not that Keith Richards), Chairman of the Third Age Trust. Instead of biscuits we had a piece of delicious 'birthday' cake made by Smiths in London Road.

My days are still filled with U3A activities and I don't have time to feel bored. Long may it continue.

Ann Bolton

2011 Excursion Programme

Wimpole Hall, Cambs Tues 28th June 2011

We will have a leisurely start at 9.00 a.m. from Gaywood Library with Harrods Coaches and arrive at Wimpole Hall, Cambridgeshire around 10.30 a.m. Here in this impressive mansion, intimate rooms contrast with beautiful and unexpected Georgian interiors, including the breathtaking Yellow Drawing room and wonderful plunge bath. The basement corridors offer a glimpse of life below stairs. There is a full restaurant for those who do not want to take their own lunch. We leave around 4 p.m. and should be home by 6 p.m. Cost: £17.50 for non National Trust members; £9.35 for Nation Trust members.

Kirby Hall & Elton Hall Thursday 21st July 2011(Change of venue!)

We leave Gaywood Library at 8.30 a.m. with Harrods Coaches and arrive at Kirby Hall Leicestershire around 10.30 a.m.. The manor of Kirby

was acquired by Sir Humphrey Stafford in 1541 and work began on the Hall in 1570 and completed in 1590. The house underwent ups and downs and gradually deteriorated until it was taken over by English Heritage in 1930. Currently some parts of the house are in ruins but it is still an impressive edifice with magnificent gardens.

We then go on to Elton Hall, just south of Peterborough. The café serves a range of sandwiches, hot snacks/light lunches. We leave at 4.30p.m.and should be home by 6.30 p.m. Cost: £17.50.

Bletchley Park Wed 14th September

We leave Gaywood Library at 8.30 a.m. to arrive at Bletchley National Code-breaking Centre for morning coffee and biscuits around 10.30 a.m.. The morning tour of approx 1¼ hours takes place around the outside of the wartime buildings. We will be given a detailed history of the site and its code-breaking activities. After a one hour break for lunch we visit B Block museum which houses the Abwehr Enigma machine and many other interesting displays. There is quite a bit of walking but lots of seats, so members may wish to take their walkers with them or Bletchley loans wheelchairs. Please advise me if one is needed. We arrive home around 6.30 p.m. Cost: £22.00.

Rosalind Greene

U3A - At the meeting of the University of Third Age committee members reported on recent events. Speaker was Audrie Stratford, who also gave a slide show, on taking a different look at the buildings of Lynn. The next meeting is on August 9 at the Friends Meeting House, Lynn, where violinist Kathryn McMichael will present a musical illustration of The Symphony.

MERCURY 6.2.92

Chance to learn

Gardening, music, bird-watching and photography are among the interests being pursued by members of the King's Lynn U3A (University of the Third Age).

About 45 people with time on their hands, particularly the retired, meet on the second Friday of each month at 10am at Hillington Square community centre, Lynn.

An increasing number of smaller groups studying different subjects also meet each month in members' homes.

U3A encourages individuals to share their talents and to take up new interests. Anyone interested will be welcome at the annual meeting on February 14 at 10am.

Extracts from our 2011 monthly programme

The Sea: how it has shaped our lives - Professor Walter Blaney

Professor Walter Blaney entitled his talk: "Beachcombing through our maritime heritage" which proved to be a very apt summary of a fascinating lecture. The underlying theme was the many ways in which the sea has shaped the lives of the British people, from being a natural resource for food or energy, to a means of defence or a source of disaster as in the 1953 floods, as well as a wonderful recreational asset. Along the way Professor Blaney taught us a little about weather patterns, told a harrowing story about a shipwreck off the coast of Scotland, gave us a brief history of the navy and wondered why so little had been made of Vancouver and his many achievements. He illustrated his talk with many carefully chosen slides, including some very entertaining pictures of early bathers and also told an amusing story about the making of seaside rock. All in all, an excellent talk much appreciated by its audience.

Penny Dossetor

The Weather Business – Jim Bacon

Jim Bacon of Look East TV Weatherman fame gave us a very informative and at the same time entertaining talk, about meteorology and his love of the subject which it was always his aim to pursue.

His career in meteorology began in 1968. He spoke of his work at various RAF bases and at Stansted Airport. He mentioned his move to Bracknell, the London Weather Centre and his opportunity to work as a TV weatherman. He is now part of the Weatherquest organisation based at the University of East Anglia providing meteorological information on a world-wide basis to nationally and internationally known enterprises and also to private individuals.

Jim Bacon stressed the importance of the technological advances in recent years which have enabled the processing of enormous amounts of data. However even with the use of computers, mathematical models and the availability of satellite information it is still difficult to make accurate weather predictions a long time ahead because of the

instability of mixing air masses and their unpredictability. Every day is different in the work of a meteorologist.

Time was too short for many questions but there was time to deal with the issue of the great storm of October 1987 plus a number of varied other questions including weather patterns and climate change. Jim Bacon had given us a stimulating glimpse into the world of weather forecasting, its applications, and the variety of skills, knowledge and experience needed by our weathermen.

Ann Smith

Speaker programme changes

There have been one or two changes since the speaker programme was put together for the year. As already announced at the March meeting, the talks in June and July have been swapped, so that Dr Melissa Calaresu will be giving her talk about ice cream in Naples on 10th June, while Dr Christopher Fifield will entertain us with the Life and Voice of Kathleen Ferrier on 8th July.

A speaker has now been booked for 9th December – Doreen Reed, local poet and storyteller, will read some of her poems to us.

Penny Dossetor



A Very Strange Coincidence

My mother, Ellen Barrett, was fostered out a birth to an Ethel Michelboro-Saunders. The 1901 census gave Ethel's address as 111 Priest Hill, Old Buckenham, but we were not able to find it.

I know very little about my mother's early life in Norfolk so in November I contacted the editor of the Old Buckenham Parish Magazine and placed a "Missing Persons" article in it. The article was published in the December edition. The editor contacted me and said there could not be a 111 Priest Hill. She would contact a relative of the family now living in Norwich who might be able to give us more information.

On the spur of the moment, we decided to pay a visit to Old Buckenham to try to find Priest Hill. As we didn't know where to start looking, we went to the village store where I asked the postmaster if he could direct me to Priest Hill. He didn't know where it was, but a woman standing beside me as the counter said she knew and would take us there.

We duly followed her car around the outskirts of the village and into Fen Street. About halfway along the long curving Road she stopped, got out and pointed to a small, unmade road (which looked more like a farm track than a road) and said it was Priest Hill. We thanked her, got out of the car and walked up the road. Why it was called a hill I fail to grasp, as it was just a small incline, hardly noticeable. There were only two houses in the road so the census address of 111 Priest Hill was obviously wrong.

As I returned to my car I noticed a man getting out of his car in his driveway. We looked at each other and said hello. I told him I was looking for Priest Hill. He said it was almost opposite his house and had been renamed Nag Lane.

We started to explain why we were in the area. The gentleman said he had moved to the area about 16 years ago from Surrey. I mentioned that my paternal grandmother had lived in Surrey. He asked where. I replied, "Caterham". He said "I come from Caterham". I told him my grandmother had lived in Beechwood Road and her name was Bridget White. He looked surprised. "Not Biddy White? I used to live around the corner in Beechwood Gardens and went to school with her sons, Nicholas and Albert". He also remembered they had an old Studebaker lorry which they used to haul chalk and spread on the fields when they left school. (I remember my Father mentioning he had hauled chalk to

spread on fields in his younger years.) Nicholas and Albert are my uncles on my father's side!

We all stood there stunned. What a coincidence that he should decide to visit Old Buckenham on that day, and at that precise moment in time to meet a stranger on a quiet village road in mid Norfolk who had known my father's parents and brothers *and* was living within a few yards of where my mother had grown up.

Barry Keenan

Footnote on the Statistics

Assuming an average age of 65, and with a documented membership of around 200 spanning our 20 years, a cumulative 13,000 years of personality, experience, knowledge, enthusiasm and general dynamics have combined to make King's Lynn U3A what it is today.

Assuming 240 monthly meetings with attendance over the years averaging 50, then 12,000 cups of tea/coffee have been consumed and 18,000 biscuits (if you were lucky). Add to this the quantity consumed at Special Interest Groups, and you need no longer wonder why we suffer increasingly from bladder problems.

Assuming meetings of two hours with an average of 50 attendees to have been the norm, we have collectively spent 24,000 hours being enthused and enthralled (and still we complain there are not enough hours in a day.)

We have enjoyed every moment of greeting, meeting and eating - here's to the next 13,000 years (trillions of minutes!).

Morag Bean

Photo Quiz Answers

1) Hilborough Desert Rats camp.	2007
2) Any Questions at	2005
3) Warwick Castle	2007
4) Coventry	2003
5) Buckingham Palace	2002
6) Sutherland tapestry in Coventry Cathedral	2003
7) The Norfolk Broads	2004
8) Anglesea Abbey	2004
9) Petanque at Bob Rawling's home	2000
10) The London Eye	2001
11) 15 th Anniversary	2006
12) Any Questions	2005
13) Sandringham Gardens	2007

Thanks to these members who offered these and many more photographs, together with access to this information and evidently much more besides:

- Gerald and Mary Cross
- Bob Rawlings
- Jean Wilmore

Editor's thoughts: Such resources and systematic record keeping must be potential for future newsletter material!

Special Interest Groups and Coordinators May 2011

Group Coordinator	Val Sparkes
Art Appreciation	Shirley Jackson
Book of the month (1)	Olive Gold
Book of the month (2)	Anne Lindley
Bridge (1)	Phil Aelberry
Bridge (2)	Kathleen Lees
Card Making	Dorothy Rawlings
French conversation	Lena Sturman
Gardening: as announced at meeting	Shirley Jackson
Genealogy (1)	Sue Rowe
Genealogy (2)	Doris Watson
Hand Bells	Terry Greenacre
History	Gertrude Seddon-Stoves
Knitting for charity	Val Allison
Local History	Ann Bolton
Lunch Friday: of week after meeting	Barbara Andrews
Lunch Sunday: as announced at meeting	Les Watson
Mah Jong	Penny Dossetor
Mixed Games	Margaret Harvey
Music	Margaret Eyre
Nostalgia (1)	Bob Rawlings
Nostalgia (2)	Dorothy Rawlings
Opera and Ballet	Muriel Toby
Outings: as announced at meeting	Rosalind Greene
Petanque	Bob Rawlings
Play Reading and Theatre Appreciation	Margaret Neal
Recorder	Ann Smith
Scottish Country Dancing	Mary Cox
Scrabble	Ann Bolton
Stitchery	Brigette Bayley
Strollers: Sunday after meeting	Jennifer Berridge Pam Rowe

COMMITTEE 2011/12

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer

Liz Francois
Gloria Pantling
Maureen Reeley
Doris Watson

Membership Secretary
Group Co-ordinator
Speaker Organiser
Meeter And Greeter
Door
Catering Co-ordinator
Newsletter Representative
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member

Gloria Pantling
Val Sparkes
Penny Dosssetor
Margaret Neal
Yvonne Keenan
Judith Harrison
Judith Harrison
Bob Harrod
Grace Hogan
Anne Lindley
Joy Dunham

NON COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Outings Organiser
Welfare Contact
Newsletter Team
"
"

Rosalind Greene
Iris Perry
Brian & Ann Smith (editors)
Edward & Judith Harrison
Morag Bean

uk