



February 2012

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Welcome to the Spring edition of our newsletter. As I am writing this I'm looking at the sunshine and wondering if we have avoided the worst of the winter weather. By the time this is printed, perhaps we will know. There is a lot to look forward to this year. The new group of croquet players winter activities has been a success and the family history group has begun. Our membership again has been increasing but we should not be complacent and should all try to encourage friends to join the U3A.

At the forthcoming AGM in April three of the current committee are standing down—Ruth Ward, Chris Morgan and Chris Ward. May I take this opportunity to thank them for their invaluable contribution to the Spilisbury U3A. They will all remain as active members. Whilst there is no compulsion to serve for more than a year and indeed the Chair and Vice Chair must go after three years new committee members are always welcomed. Please let any committee member know if you would be willing to serve.

My best wishes to everyone and have a good Spring and Summer.

Colin Gray, Chairman

NEWSLETTER

Summer Schools

Some of you will already be aware that the U3A runs Summer Schools at venues across the country. At Telford in July will be Cinema History, Design Principles in Art, France and the French Today, 19th Century English History, Music Appreciation, Philosophy and Fiction, Priests' Poetry, Recorder Playing Ensemble and Writing Fiction. In August 2012 at Cirencester on offer will be Comedy Drama, History (Orient and Occident), Literature (Last Works), Needlepoint, Lace-making, Greek Philosophy, Psychology (Reality and Imagination), Singing for Pleasure and Website Design.

You can't complain about lack of variety! The residential cost of attending a School will be £315 and Carol Hickling has more details on these for anyone interested.

Note that these Schools are very popular and usually fill up quickly.

Tattershal Fun Day

As you will have read in a recent U3A newsletter there will be a fun day being held in the grounds of Tattershal Castle on the 28th June. There will be various competitions with other U3A clubs including Croquet, country dancing and fancy dress.

Please note that all U3A members must pay £6 per ticket—there is no discount for National Trust members.





The East Lincs Neighbourhood Group invite you to join in the fun at the

Tattershal Castle

and Holy Trinity Collegiate Church **Fun Day** on 28th June 2012
from 11.00 to 16.00

There will be something for everyone on the day. Events planned include:-

- Croquet and Bowls Tournaments*
- Photography Displays and Competition*
- Play Readings*
- Scrabble Championship*
- Local History Display and Quiz*
- Sewing & Craft Displays*
- Country Dancing*
- Guided Tours of the Castle*
- Gardening Display*
- Local Walks*
- Medieval Fancy Dress Competition*
- Treasure Hunt*
- Medieval Dress Welcomed*

Snacks and hot and cold drinks will be available throughout the day or why not bring a picnic? There is limited seating available so bring your own folding chairs. Please note that **NO** food or drink may be consumed inside the Castle. Tickets cost £6.00. More details and tickets are available from your local 

Coaches are welcome but will be parked off site



Family History Group

This new group will hold its first meeting at Janet Gordon's house, 3 Grace Swan Close, Hundleby on Thursday, 16th February at 2pm. Janet has an extensive knowledge of family history and can provide many ideas on how to conduct research. It is intended to be an informal discussion group where members give ideas for accessing information and tell of their own experiences. Some members will have fairly extensive knowledge and guidance can be gained by newcomers as to how to go about researching this interesting and fascinating subject. If interested please speak to Janet on 01790 753895.

Computer Courses We feel we've made good use of the IT equipment we purchased with our Big Lottery grant and plan to continue in 2012 with Beginners' courses, improvers courses and workshops on topics you've requested. We now need to make a nominal charge for all IT sessions to cover our costs. These will vary depending on the session and the numbers attending but we'll keep you posted.

Group News

SPILSBY U3A NEWS

Committee

Chairman Colin Gray,

Secretary - Chris Ward,

Treasurer - John Crowhurst

Vice Chairman and Programme Secretary - Chris Morgan

Vice Chairman - Dave Middlehurst

Webmaster and Newsletter - David Stonehouse

Education Secretary, Press & Publicity - Carol Hickling

Friendship Secretary and Public Relations - Marian Gray

Membership Secretary & Coordinator's Coordinator -

Ruth Ward

Monthly Meeting. If anyone has any ideas for new speak-

ers please speak to Chris Morgan. The Monthly Meeting is held at 2.00pm on the second Wednesday of each month in the Franklin Hall, Halton Road, Spilsby. PE23 5LA. The April meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th and include the AGM. If you would like to serve on the U3A Committee please let Chris Ward know as soon as possible to ensure that your name is included on the AGM papers.

The following speakers are booked to appear in 2012:-
Wednesday, 14th March—Stephanie Round talking about the history of Spilsby 1939-1964
Wednesday, 11th April—Trevor Rogers on Auriculas
Wednesday, 9th May—David Round on The Epsom Derby

GROUP NEWS *continued from page 1*

Writers Group

2011 was an interesting year for the group. Members came and went leaving a rump of four stalwarts. Meetings are now bi-monthly and rotate between Jenny Williams' Jim Baily's and Denis Chandler's homes.

The members have had some success. Jim is working on, and near publication with, the second volume of his auto-biography. Jenny had a successful open mike session at 'Wolds Words' where the Lincolnshire Laureate, Joel Stickney, commented favourably on her work. Denis Chandler, under his nom de plume of Ed Lane, had his short story, *'Life Without Grace'*, included in the Third Age Press anthology *'It's never too Late to Fall in Love'*, along with having his second military thriller, *'Terrible Beauty'*, published.

The group is open to new writers of all standards and are happy to share their knowledge and experiences. The group meets on the Thursday, following the main U3A meeting, every other month.

Contact **Group Co-ordinator**, Jenny Williams, for details. 01790 752208

Croquet Group

The group meets every week from April to October. On the third Wednesday of each month we go to the Woodhall Spa Croquet Club in Jubilee Park) where we receive (tuition from 2-4p.m. We also play croquet each week at Dalby - dates

for 2012 will be announced in March.

Woodhall Spa Croquet Club is offering a "Taster Session" for beginners on Monday 9th April from 2-4p.m. at Jubilee Park. If anyone would like to attend this, please let Janet Harwood know (01790-752223) as the W.S. Club would like an idea of numbers likely to attend.

The Indoor Games Group.

This group meets every Wednesday from 2-4p.m. at Spilsby Pavilion. Table tennis, indoor curling and various board games are available to play. There is a charge of £3 and new player would be most welcome.

Poetry and Literature

This group meets on the fourth Monday each month. We have looked at various topics since we started, discussed and agreed on by all our members. These have included short stories, sonnets and currently "the seven ages of man". For this we have taken one age each month and all looked through our own collections, memories or the internet to find examples of poems or prose that we felt illustrated it, and which we could then talk about. The results have been very varied and interesting and we have read and heard a great deal that we would never otherwise have come across. It was striking, for example how much more there was about "the infant, mewling and puking in his nurse's arms", than about "the whining schoolboy,

how much more there was about "the infant, mewling and puking in his nurse's arms", than about "the whining schoolboy, creeping like snail unwillingly to school"; and how reluctant we were to face "sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything". We could take one or two new members so if you like this sort of exchange do get in touch with the Coordinator, Ruth Ward on 01790 752477

Current Affairs II

The second Current Affairs Group is now running, and there have been two meetings with a lively exchange of views. In turn we each present a news or opinion item from a newspaper or periodical and then all spend about fifteen minutes discussing it before going on to the next one.

We have not yet fixed on a regular date or a coordinator, and there is still room for a couple more people, so if you are interested in what is going on in the world and like to listen to others and exchange ideas, here is your chance. Get in touch with Dave Middlehurst or Ruth Ward. On 01790 752477.

Theatre Group

25th May Riverside Theatre, Louth to see "The Sound of Music" tickets £9.50.

15th June Riverside Theatre, Louth to see Utopia Ltd by Gilbert & Sullivan performed by The New London Opera Group tickets at £12.

6th December Thursford Christmas Spectacular—more details later