

LINDSEY U3A
EDITION No. 43



JANUARY 2009

NEWSLETTER



U3A Walkers on their 5 mile walk

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LINDSEY U3A COMMITTEE MEMBERS & DUTIES

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the January 2009 edition of the Lindsey U3A Newsletter and a very Happy New Year from the Chairman and the Members of the Committee. I have just taken over as the editor of this Newsletter and would like to thank John Smallwood, the previous editor, for all the hard work he carried out over the last two years. I hope to continue his success.

Thanks also to all of you who sent in reports, pictures and short articles for this edition of your Newsletter. May I take this opportunity to encourage as many of you as possible to send contributions for the April edition as this provides a greater variety of interest for the readers.

My contact details are:

Email:

Telephone:

Address:

It will be appreciated if you send your contributions as soon as they are completed or, to meet the deadline for the next issue, by Wednesday 18th March.

Peter Abela
Editor

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor

Sub-Editor

Member

|

TEA AND COFFEE ROTA

February	Mrs. H. Ford, Mrs P Meanwell, Mrs. M. Shipp and Mrs. M. Hammond
March	Mr. and Mrs. H. Cooke and Mr. and Mrs. D. Peck
April	Mr. and Mrs. M. Cave and Mr. and Mrs. N. Aylmer

DOOR ROTA

February	Mrs. P. Harvey and Mrs. P. Davis
March	Miss D. Reams and Mrs. J. Stevenson
April	Mr. and Mrs. B. Brooke

SPEAKERS OF THE MONTH AND RESPONDERS

Thursday 8th January

Peter Brown "Ex Gossiper of the Echo". Thanks by Alan Campion

Thursday 5th February

Rev. Canon Alec Knight, Dean of the Priory of the venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem in England and the Islands.
Thanks by Bob Wise

Thursday 5th March

Prue Chadderton "Charity Bike ride across Cuba"
Thanks by Vince Kerrigan

Thursday 2nd April

Adam Daubney, Fields Liaison Officer L.C.C. Archaeologist, from The Collection inspects all finds from people using metal detectors. Thanks by Jo Smith

October General Meeting -TRAIDCRAFT

Mrs Liz Stephenson, the area co-ordinator for Tradecraft came from Wragby to talk to us about how buying Fairtrade can make a difference. Traidcraft was established in 1979 as a Christian response to poverty, fighting poverty through trade and promoting approaches to trade that help poor people in developing countries to transform their lives. Traidcraft works in over 30 developing countries in Africa, Asia and South America where almost a billion people are fighting a daily battle to survive on less than one dollar a day.

Fairtrade creates opportunities for poor producers and guarantees

- fair trading practices, both in terms of payment and price
- extra income for community development
- equitable and safe working conditions
- a greater respect for the environment.

In 2001 Traidcraft Exchange started working with Agrocel, training 35 farmers to grow Fairtrade and organic cotton and Traidcraft plc provided an initial market for the cotton. Mrs Stephenson mentioned that some stores advertise their garments as being produced from organic cotton but beware they may not be manufactured to Fairtrade standards. However she was pleased that more of the big supermarkets are now giving us the choice to buy Fairtrade items.

However, this does not stop at the growth of cotton. Apicoop has been supplying honey to Traidcraft for over 15 years and they are now diversifying into blueberry production. Fairtrade tea and coffee has, of course, been familiar to us for many years and many stores are now selling their own brands of Fairtrade. (A personal comment—think it has improved tremendously recently).

The Traidcraft catalogue contains a great variety of goods—Christmas cards and decorations, fashion items, children's gifts, items for the home and food and wine.

Mrs Stephenson has spent two weeks in the foothills of Kenya and in disabled people's workshops in Mombasa seeing first-hand how the organisation works and how thankful everyone involved is with the improvement in conditions.

The motto is "Our vision is a world freed from the scandal of poverty, where trade is just and people and communities can flourish."

Members had many questions and all were expertly answered. It was a most interesting and informative talk which will give us all food for thought with Christmas looming and of course 'present buying'.

Ruby Crofts

The November 2008 Meeting Report

When Jo asked me to do the Vote of Thanks for this meeting, I was aware of the rule that if you did the Vote of Thanks you did the write up for the Newsletter. I really had no clue about the speaker or his subject until I contacted Margaret the Speaker Seeker and on her advice I went on line and had a quick look at the Wild Man of the Woods in Wikipedia. Of course it is all related to mythology and local folklore, but little did I realise just how and why and when. I was totally immersed in the talk given by Dr David Bostwick, so much so that, although I had good intentions of making copious notes to refer to when I got to this stage, after less than ten minutes that idea was forgotten, totally.

David introduced his talk with a few slides from the Victoria and Albert museum of a hairy stooping character; he appeared in all

sorts of different forms as a gremlin or even a boss particularly in Church or Cathedral carvings, in stone or wood. Then there were the representations in paintings and tapestries all instantly recognisable as the Wild Man. The differences in the representations were quite amazing but it was still the Wild Man, cloven hoofed, with wide nostrils and thick black hair which covered his body as well. This Wild Man was unable to speak or communicate and nearly always carried a staff which was quite knobby. There appeared to be no evil intent in this Wild Man, in fact his appearance in the locality bode well for the lower class serfs and labourers, so much so that he became an icon who was capable of overwhelming the most overbearing landlords, Knights and Lords of the Realm. Similar, in many ways, to our conception of Robin Hood. Here again there were references to these similarities as we progressed into the talk. As he became more famous throughout the country, regionally he appeared in the Eastern counties as well as the South and West, so his manner and appearance changed, suffice to say that David saw in his investigations a marked lack of general hairiness as more good deeds were done. The Wild Man became a noble figure to which both the nobility and Church could look up to, and in the 14th century he became a protector of the Common Man.

From this time on several other names for the Wild Man became in common use, the Woodwose, or Wuduwasa and his fame became known all over Europe, in Switzerland, Austria and Germany, where both he and his 'Wife' became known as Fauns,

In order to enhance the value of nobility, when the time came for them to be buried, their images were made such that their feet rested on our Wild Man of the Woods, to say, 'Here is a noble man to whom even the Wild man showed abeyance' This I feel sure was to encourage the serfs to acknowledge the strengths and righteousness of this noble man and his family, and thus put everyone in their rightful places.

Dr Bostwick further spoke about the Wild Man in more modern guises, cross referencing to depictions of Adam and Eve, who as they became Christian lost their hairiness (and had to use fig leaves). Dancing Wild Men, and of late, Wild Women are still to be seen, though now quite scarcely, as Morris Men, with their, very humorous renditions, some of which have very moral tales, but the clothing and accoutrements bore resemblance to the coverings given to some of the Medieval depictions of the Wild Man of the Woods covered in twigs, leaves, flowers and other not quite so savoury items.

Finally, reference was made to the Green Man, which is a known icon towards fertility and good health with the odd smattering of good wealth. My own remembrances of the 'Green Man' were the pub at the other end of the 470 bus route, in Ewell in Surrey. It used to be a lovely ride on the top deck of the bus through rural Surrey from Warlingham, to quench one's thirst at the pub and then catch the next bus home, and that was before I was 18.

A very well constructed talk, thoroughly researched but very personalised by Dr Bostwick. I have just finished reading two very masterful historical novels by Ken Follett, *The Pillars of the Earth*, and *World without End*, describing the life and times of the Cathedral builders, each and every page has a remarkable likeness to what David has said and it is very easy to imagine difficulties of life for the common man, how the trades people became important and how the Lords lorded it. If you have a longish holiday envisaged then I can well recommend these two books, and if you are able to recall Dr David Bostwick's talk and that little bit of extra knowledge to complete a whole new experience in reading.

Many thanks to Margaret Campion for finding yet another worthy relater to our humble U3A

John Smallwood



The "5 Mile Walking Group" on their walk on Monday, 6th October at "Heath Walk" Wellingore.
Left to Right: Margaret Campion, Clive Budge
Robin Gulliver, Mary Gill

PLAYREADING GROUP - "TEARS BEFORE BEDTIME"

There were tears in the Howard household in Sturton-by-Stow on a recent Monday afternoon. Handkerchiefs mopped streaming eyes, noses were blown and spectacles were wiped. What could have caused such distress to the nine people present in the sitting room?

Only it wasn't distress! We were all convulsed with laughter at the November meeting of the U3A Playreading Group: Mike Harding's "*Comfort and Joy*" had us in stitches from start to finish. It was quite simply the funniest play we have ever read

and sometimes the reader was quite unable to get the words out for laughing, which started everyone else off again, of course. Vince Kerrigan's Irish accent and Alan Campion's Australian one were so good, and Bob Wise made a wonderful job of Uncle Goff, bad language and all, but it was so appropriate you couldn't possibly be offended.

We have had many good afternoons at Playreading Group, reading a wide-ranging selection of plays. After discussion, Margaret Howard does a wonderful job of picking the play, carefully selecting one to make the best use of the "talent" we have available. Trish Kerrigan reads and casts the play and we all receive our parts on the day. Sometimes if there are one or two very large parts, Trish will share those parts out, with someone reading it in the first act and someone else in the second. Everyone gets a chance and it all works very well. Other members of the "cast" are Rita Dobbs, Jo James, Margaret Campion, Ruby Crofts, Marion Plenderleith and, on occasion, Bob Howard.

If we have a farce one month, we try to choose something more serious the next month; something modern one month, perhaps something from previous centuries the next. All the participants clearly have such a good time, making the most of Margaret and Bob Howard's excellent hospitality (Margaret's mince pies are the 8th wonder of the world!). To give you a flavour of what we read, here are just a few of the many which have kept us entertained over the years: *Uncle Vanya*; *This Happy Breed*; *The History Boys*; *Celebrations*; *Daisy Pulls It Off*; *Noises Off*; *Separate Tables*; *Lady Windermere's Fan*; *Under Milk Wood*; *Blithe Spirit*; *Time and the Conways*; *Last Tango in Whitby*; *The Ghost Train* and *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. Sadly the Group is full at the moment; might it be time for someone to think of starting another??

Marion Plenderleith

GROUPS CONVENORS READ THIS

I am updating my Activity Sheets and if you are Group Convenors could you please check that the information on them is correct. Also it would help if there are vacancies in the Groups if you could let me know please. This would help new members.

There are clear spaces during the month for new groups to start. If you are wondering how to start a group there is a lot of help. i.e. from another group convenor, notes, which I leave on the 'New Group' table or from the U3a website.

Pamela Huggett

FRENCH SPEAKER WANTED

For some time now I have been asking if it would be possible to have a French Conversational group in our U3A. Roy McLauchlan ran a group in the early days of our U3A but ill health has forced him to give this up and there no longer appears to be an opportunity to 'Brush up your Franglais.'

My study of the French language finished at 'O' level more years ago than I care to calculate, but we tend to go on holidays in French speaking parts every year and this has enabled me to retain a 'lower tourist' level use of the language. I know my accent is appalling and I pronounce bits that the French leave silent. I would like to get together with a few more like minded people and practice conversational French every so often.

I thought that we could perhaps all have copies of a French newspaper copied from the World Wide Web, read it and work

out a translation in a light hearted sort of way. I have CDs, and videos to work with, and we could almost do this as a self teaching group, but I think that to make real progress we need a reasonable French speaker to correct bad pronunciations, misuse of tenses, correct grammar and guide the group to good conversational French.

If we have a French speaker in our midst who thinks they would be prepared to get involved I would be glad to hear from either a *Monsieur* or *Madame*, just *telephoner* Alan Campion, *sur* 01522 522679.

Alan Campion

POSTAL SCAM - BEWARE

The Trading Standards Office is making people aware of the following scam:

A card is posted through your door (or a message on your mobile) from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a premium rate number). DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize.

If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call.

Please advise family members/friends.

Mike Kirkby

Art Appreciation



This group meets on the second Monday of the month at 2pm but has a moving venue depending on whether we visit a gallery or studio or have an in-house speaker. One of the criterions for joining the group is that each member should be prepared to organise one event each year, and so far everyone has complied. Most members are not artists themselves but we are all interested in the subject and wish to learn more about both painters and pictures. We have visited the studios of two local artists, had guided visits to several local galleries and enjoyed listening to speakers from the local art world. Some of our events require the use of the Welton Methodist Church Hall and on these occasions we are happy to welcome non members, but the 'in house' sessions do mean only a limited number can be accommodated. If you are interested in any of the events planned for spring 2009 do speak to one of the members and we may be able to fit you in!

Monday 12 January: Elspeth Young will talk on Georgia O'Keefe.

Monday 9 February: A Visit to the Conservation Department, Lincoln College of Art.

Monday 9 March: 'Behind the Scenes' at the Usher Gallery.

Monday 12 April: 'Shirley Trevenna – Vibrant Watercolours'. Talk by Ruby Crofts.

Monday 11 May: 'Ism's in Art'. Talk by Margaret Howard.

Monday 8 June. Planning meeting.

Margaret Champion



INDUSTRIAL AWARENESS GROUP

New members may wonder about the name Industrial Awareness Group. It sounds a bit heavy but we have not come up with a better name as yet. We started out about six years ago as a group whose members were interested in visiting factories and seeing things being made. We soon ran out of local places to visit in this category, and as we could not get to China and back in one day we widened our scope to take in farms, retail developments, service bases, police and fire stations, theatres, the Lincoln University and just about anyone who will have us. The programme from January to July 2009 appears below.

In some cases there are special conditions attached to our visits, in most cases we are limited in numbers. Some visits are free and some we have to pay for.

If you are interested add your names to the signing up sheet for the appropriate visit. If you do this *please* make a note of the fact, and tell me, preferably more than a few minutes beforehand, if you have to drop out.

From now on all people signing up will be asked to agree that we can use photographs taken on our visits for U3A publicity purposes. This means in our Newsletter, or on our U3A Website.

I am currently working on a visit which will be fascinating if it comes off. Stoke Rochford Hall, now a Conference Centre near Grantham was burnt down last year. In July 2009 I hope to arrange a visit. We plan to have a presentation about the house, the fire, and the subsequent rebuilding. Further details will follow later.

Tuesday 13th Jan at 10am.

Cote Hill Farm, Cheese making. at Cote Hill Farm, Osgodby, Market Rasen, LN8 3PD. Talk on cheese making, watch

operations then coffee & cheese & biscuits. 20 to 25 allowed. No charge.

Fri 27th Feb at 10am

Mortons Print Limited, Horncastle. A visit to printers of national magazines. Howard Wright will be overseeing this visit.

Tues 3rd March

Visit to Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team (The Red Arrows) RAF Scampton, An opportunity to watch a flying display (weather permitting), look round a Hawk aircraft, and be photographed with the pilots. The time, provisionally set at 10am till 12.30, may vary on the day. Only 10 places are available for this trip. I will take names of those interested at the January general meeting, and draw lots for the 10 places.

Fri 20th or Fri 27th Mar

Visit to Fenmark of Swinderby, vegetable packers. The date is still to be decided. Dick Patrick is arranging this visit.

Fri 24th April

Hill Holt Wood, Near Newark. Up to 30 people. Cost £5 per head for this visit.

Friday 15th May Woodland management.

A two mile walk with Roger Brownlow, a woodland specialist. Appropriate footwear and clothing essential. Meet at Kettlethorpe Church (off A 156 , West of Saxilby) 0945am for a **Prompt departure at 10.** No dogs. Bring binoculars. Succour offered at Friendship Arms, Laughterton for survivors.

Friday 19th June at 10am. Uncle Henry's, (Kirton Lindsey, just off A15)

Farm walk then 'Do It Yourself ' sausage making. Farm shop and excellent home produced lunches available afterwards.

Alan Champion



GARDENING GROUP



On Tuesday 2nd December, 35 members of the Garden Group met at Brigg Garden Centre where they enjoyed a very good Christmas lunch followed by a spot of seasonal shopping.

January 27th 2pm-4pm. Welton Village Hall. A talk by Mr. Don Whitton, of Sheffield. Don is a specialist Euphorbia grower, and will give a talk entitled 'Euphorbias and Other Spring Flowering Perennials'. He will bring a selection of plants for sale. On this occasion we are asking members to bring a small amount of refreshments

February 24th 2pm-4pm. Welton Village Hall. Today we have Mr. Phil Phillips with us again. His slide presentation will be entitled 'Bulbous Plants of Southern Europe and the Mediterranean'. Many of you will remember what a wonderful photographer Phil is and we always appreciate his knowledge of plants.

March 24th 2pm-4pm. Welton Village Hall. Today we have David Matthewman talking about Sweetpeas. David's talk will be the "full works" as they say. From the minute a packet of seed is opened until cutting. This is a slide talk and he will go through the whole concept of sweetpea growing. Please note that there will be a members plant sale table on this occasion.

Pauline Haley

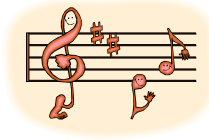
WINDS OF CHANGE GROUP

After a couple of meetings to thrash out a format, the group started in September. We meet in Arleen Gurnell's house at Horncastle Lane at 2 pm on the first Friday of each month and usually have 8 or 9 present. Bob gives the group one or two subjects to 'think about' for a month and we discuss them: always bearing in mind our "Winds of change" idea. It is surprising how we remember things no longer with us. It is interesting to exercise your memory of houses you have known, buses and trams, bicycles and so on.

Our December session talked about sports and games, sweets, puddings and cakes. We were amazed at the present expansion of sweets, and regretful of the demise of the steamed pudding!

January will deal with holidays in the UK; and clothes. We might get round to medical and nursing as well. February will hear about business and industry, weddings, funerals and christenings; are your memories stirring?

Bob Wise



MUSIC GROUP 3 **CLASSICS & THE VOICE**

Since we changed our venue last year to the Welton Methodist Chapel the group has gone from strength to strength, as we can now accommodate a much larger attendance than was possible when meeting at my home. Indeed we have had up to twenty members at times with room for many more. The chapel has an excellent sound system and the acoustics are first class, giving us what is virtually a concert hall in miniature.

The programmes are in "concert" format, with a printed programme pre-delivered to the group members, prepared and presented by the convenor or any other group member who might wish to do so, although, of course there is no obligation on anyone in this respect!

The music covers a wide range of orchestral and instrumental works—symphonies, concertos, suites and the like (including shorter works and extracts) and vocal items (scenes and arias from popular opera and operetta, songs ballads and the like). Programmes are in general predominantly orchestral/instrumental with a leavening of vocal items.

Recent presentations have included, among many others, the Bruch and Mendelssohn violin concertos, symphonic and ballet music by Tchaikovsky, piano music by Chopin and Rachmaninov, works by Mozart, a complete programme of Beethoven, and a potted version of Verdi's great opera Rigoletto.

You can't please everyone all of the time of course, but most of the members enjoy most of the presentations, and we often find that we are introduced to something new which is a complete revelation!

Our meetings take place on the third Thursday of the month, at 2.15 for a 2.30 start. Anyone who would like to give the group a try would be very welcome—either just turn up, or, if you would prefer, give me a ring first.

Vince Kerrigan

AGEING? - MOI?

A little while ago some friends and I were discussing the fact that none of us were getting any younger. Indeed it had to be admitted that most of us were already actually quite elderly, not to say old! As we couldn't really do anything about this state of affairs, we just had to accept the situation gracefully!

Afterwards, however, I began thinking about this and wonder whether in fact anything could be done about the matter. I had a feeling that anti-ageing research was being carried out fairly extensively, so I got on the net and started to look into it.

My investigations threw up a lot of 'hits' and so I found details of quite a few practitioners specialising in the field. Eventually, though, after a lot of research, I was led to one who stood out particularly.

This guy has a terrific international reputation, is reckoned to be diabolically clever at his job and seems to be the real bees-knees when it comes to the anti-ageing process. His methods, though, are considered very unconventional, not to say unethical, and he appears to be very much frowned upon by the regular medical establishment.

Still, I thought, that doesn't really matter – after all, new and different ideas are often slow to be accepted in any field, even when, as in this case, they seem to be very successful. Professional jealousy often rears its head in these cases I find!

He was pretty difficult to track down as he travels so widely - and rapidly. He has an uncanny ability to appear unexpectedly in any part of the world at very short notice it seems!

I did eventually find that he has consulting rooms in London although he isn't often there due to his extensive overseas commitments.

His name is Dr. M.E.F. Istofeles, a foreign gentleman I suppose, whose address is

His record keeping doesn't seem too good, however, as in his correspondence he appears to have mixed me up with a Mr. Faust – no doubt another one of his patients. I did hear that some of his records got lost in a fire, though, so perhaps that's the reason!

I have heard that he is so expensive that his fee takes a lifetime to pay off – but on the other hand he does offer a fireproof guarantee!

Still, all this will no doubt be resolved quite soon as I have finally managed to arrange an appointment for next week—I'll keep you posted.

Watch this space!

Vince Kerrigan



THEATRE GROUP

In November, the Theatre Group attended a performance of Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" at the New Theatre in Hull. Tchaikovsky wrote his ballet in 1891 based on a

fairy story by Hoffman and since then "Nutcracker" has always been considered as rather childish and twee. Not any more! This performance by the Northern Ballet was absolutely brilliant. The choreography had been completely modernised—gone were the delicate-looking ballerinas in tiny tutus dancing on their points—now we had a plethora of lifts and gymnastic movements demonstrating the strength and athletic ability of the two principal male dancers. Clara was no longer a sweet little girl, but instead had become an assertive adolescent discovering her new-found sexuality. The biggest change, however was in the Sugar Plum Fairy! Here was a mature, sensual woman, dressed as such, and she and her partner were the stars of the show.

Our group were lucky enough to be seated in the Upper Circle of the theatre and thus were able to fully appreciate the stage settings. In Act I we and the rest of the audience particularly enjoyed the sudden appearance out of an innocent-looking panelled room of the drawbridge leading from the Toy Soldiers fort and the Mice appearing out of their holes. The transformation scenes were extraordinary—the cold snowy forest had miraculously changed into a hot Middle Eastern scene after the interval and the corps de ballet snowflakes were now flames. The costumes throughout were extremely colourful and imaginative adding to an altogether magical experience. In my opinion Tchaikovsky is a much underrated composer but his music has endured and hearing the "Nutcracker" melodies once more was like greeting long-lost friends.

Congratulations and thanks to the committee of the Theatre Group for making such an excellent choice and for organising such a successful outing.

Tricia Kerrigan

OUR NEW WEBSITE

Lindsey U3A now has a new website to keep you informed of any changes and to bring you the latest news, in addition to the quarterly newsletter. Interest groups will be able to make changes to their pages on a regular basis so that you will always have access to the latest information. There will in time be other additions to the site to further improve its functionality. The website will also give new members an insight into our activities and invite them to join the club. Click on this link and save it to your favourites for future access

<http://community.lincolnshire.gov.uk/LindseyU3A/>

Mike Kirkby

A TOUCH OF HUMOUR

At a cocktail party, one woman said to another "Aren't you wearing your wedding ring on the wrong finger?"

"Yes, I am. I married the wrong man."

TIMETABLE OF INTEREST GROUPS					
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK ONE	9.45am 5/6 mile walk 2pm Poetry for Pleasure	10am Art and Drawing	1.30pm Bridge	10am General Meeting	2pm Winds of Change
WEEK TWO	10am Computer Studies 2pm Art Appreciation	10am Armchair Travel 2pm Book Group 2 Bookworms	1.30pm Bridge		
WEEK THREE	9.45am 5/6 mile Walks	10am Circle Dancing 2pm Book Group 1	1.30pm Bridge 2.30pm Music for Us	10am Architecture 10.15am Coffee Morning 2.15pm Classics & Voice	
WEEK FOUR	2pm Enjoying Classical Music 2pm Play Reading	2pm Gardening	1.30pm Bridge 2pm Discussion Group	2.30pm Photography	

NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF GROUP CONVENORS

Architecture
Armchair Travel
Art Appreciation
Art & Drawing
Book Group 1
Book Group 2
Bridge
Canasta
Circle Dancing
Classics & the
Computer Studies
Discussion
Enjoying Classical
Music
Gardening

A reminder for all Group Convenors.

It would be appreciated if Group Convenors were to write a brief resumé of Group activities and visits, from time to time, or as they occur, at least annually, for inclusion in the Newsletter. These items would be of interest to all, and would be of considerable help to new members when making a choice of which Group to join.

Your response to this request is essential to keep the Newsletter going!

EDITOR