



January 2010

NEWSLETTER



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LINDSEY U3A COMMITTEE MEMBERS & DUTIES

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Chairman | Margaret Campion |
| Vice Chairman | David Lee |
| Secretary | June Charles |
| Treasurer | Mike Kirkby |
| Membership Secretary | Janet Crees |
| Groups Co-ordinator | Pamela Huggett |
| Hall Organiser | Janice Wright |
| Village Hall Rep | Norman Clarke |
| Newsletter Editor | Peter Abela |
| Regional Representative | Robin Gulliver |
| Speaker Vote of Thanks | Jo Smith |

General Monthly Meetings

Note from the Editor

The Chairman and Committee wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. This Newsletter is published 4 times a year and I want to thank all of you who sent in contributions making this January 2010 edition a bumper 32 pages, filled with news and photographs of your U3A activities.

The next edition will be in April and the deadline for that publication is Friday 12th March. The contact details are:

Email: lindseyu3a@googlemail.com

Thanks also to the Editorial Team: Sub-Editor: Dawn Bowskill,
Member: Anne Driver

*Peter Abela,
Editor*

Door Rota

| | |
|-----|-------------------------------|
| Feb | Mrs R Marshall, Mrs M Hammond |
| Mar | Mr & Mrs N Aylmer |
| Apr | Mr & Mrs M Cave |

Tea and Coffee Rota

| | |
|-----|--|
| Feb | Mr & Mrs R Bennett, Mr & Mrs T Asquith |
| Mar | Mrs A Lucas, Mrs M Clark, Mrs R Croft Mrs B Leverington |
| Apr | Mr & Mrs A Stainton, Mrs P Holmes, Mrs P Woods |

Thursday 4 February at 10.30am

“City Livery Companies” by Colin Cullimore. Thanks by Hugh Cooke

Thursday 4 March (Note: earlier start at 10am)

The U3A AGM and. “The Luttrell Psalter” by Alan Heyward Kenny. Thanks by Alan Campion

Thursday 1 April at 10.30am

“Vision Aid Overseas” by Paul Davies Todd. Thanks by Irene Roddham

The Woodland Trust (October General Meeting)

Peter Cox, the Speaker, went to great lengths to explain the objects of The Trust, which were formulated when The Trust was created way back in 1972. The Woodland Trust was created as a conservation charity and as such put itself in the unenviable position of being the only group of people that had the intent to speak, lobby and campaign for what is left of our very depleted forest and tree population, which has decreased mainly by human pressure, such as development of the land for habitation and farming.

An offshoot of this initial concept was that they were able to give constructive views on woodland management, and their intent was to create further woodland areas and expand existing woodland sites. Quite an onerous ideology, but well intentioned, considering the lack of support from respective Governments, whether local or central, who had really given no thought to what

was happening to our country and urban areas since the end of World War 2.

Once it was discovered that trees have tremendous benefits to society in the dispersal of quite a large proportion of increased carbon dioxide and creating more oxygen as part of their natural cycle, then other benefits could also be discovered, to give the Woodland Trust more fire power in their arguments with the 'powers that be'.

Peter went on to discuss the main assets of trees and their different uses throughout the ages and how much destruction there has been of forested areas. In Europe, some countries have as much as 40% of their total land area covered in woodland, whereas in Britain we cannot raise anything more than 10% which is a very sad reflection of lack of proper thought and management, not only recently, but over several generations.

The value of a tree was discussed at length; for example, providing living quarters for all sorts of birds and mammals, insects, bugs and moths and providing food and shelter to 'we humans'. Even when the tree dies naturally, the fungus and wood-borers take over to rot the tree down and provide natural fertilisation of the area. Again, this is a normal annual function of deciduous trees. Their leaf drop in the autumn creates a readily useable tilth for the following year's seeds. Hearing Peter speak made me realise just how wonderful and necessary these trees are to our survival and the term trees includes bushes and hedgerows, to my way of thinking.

The most worrying aspect of the talk was the fact that there is no legal protection for ancient woodland or ancient solitary specimens and, as a result, very heavy lobbying has to be done to prevent the destruction of such areas and specimens. This is why the Woodland Trust was created: to speak on behalf of

trees, not just to hug them, but to plan, manage and nurture them for our benefit and for the benefit of future generations.

I thanked Peter for a very well constructed talk on a very interesting and difficult subject, on behalf of our U3A assembled members.

John Smallwood.

Honeybees (November General Meeting)

I am seldom accosted after a general meeting by one of our members saying, 'Why did you stop her? I could have listened all day!' I was delighted because the speaker for November was my suggestion.

Margaret and I used to keep bees, and for many years I have been associated with the beekeeping scene in Lincolnshire. I heard in March that Dr Jennifer Berry, from the University of Georgia, USA, was to lecture to the British Beekeepers' Association at the National Honey Show in Wadebridge. Dr Berry is a well known international lecturer on apiculture, bee diseases, queen rearing and other specialised aspects of the craft.

I made enquiries to see if she could be persuaded to drop in to Lincolnshire to talk to our County BKA, and after lots of negotiation she agreed. Margaret and I offered to put her up overnight, and I then asked how she felt about talking to our U3A on beekeeping the following day. She does not usually address non-beekeeping audiences but I was very persuasive (!) and she eventually agreed. I am now very glad that I persisted.

There has been much publicity about bees and beekeeping in the last year or two. Most readers will be aware that in the States

large numbers of colonies have perished, many in unusual and puzzling circumstances and many bee experts are working on the problem, including our speaker Dr Berry, but the exact reason for the losses has yet to be proved.

Dr Berry started with an introduction to beekeeping, and then talked us through the various castes of bees in the hive, their developments and their lifestyles. It was anything but a biology lesson. Before taking the academic route Dr Berry had tried her hand at stand-up comedy and used this to good effect. Her description of the mating of virgin queens was amusing in a way I have never heard before and in her Power Point presentation she showed us an excellent photograph of a queen mating. I have attended many lectures on all aspects of beekeeping, but this was the first photo of a mating I have ever seen. The mating takes place high in the sky anywhere within a mile of the hive. The act is fairly quickly accomplished, and is therefore not easy to spot and even less easy to photograph.

Dr Berry worked her way through the lecture with huge enthusiasm, warming to the game, and enthusing the audience, as she went. The finish time came and went and, suddenly realising this, she was forced to a rather abrupt finish, telling us at the same time that she still had the best material to come.

The questions from the floor proved that she had gone down well, and we barely finished by 12 noon. I was delighted to thank her for her talk.

At this point I would also like to thank Alan Heywood Kenny for his cooperation. Alan was down to talk to us for the November slot in the original list of speakers, but kindly agreed to defer his talk, thus allowing us to ask Dr Berry. Thank you Alan and we look forward to hearing your talk next year.

Alan Champion

“HE’S BEHIND YOU!” Oh, no he isn’t! Oh, yes, he is! (December General Meeting)

At the December meeting of Lindsey U3A, we were thoroughly entertained by Ruth Andrews’ lively talk and demo of “Widow Twankey and her Sisters”, ably assisted by Christine Hughes who made a very fetching Principal Boy. I had always thought of pantomime as a very British sort of entertainment and was surprised to learn that it had its origins in ancient Greece. Ruth reminded us of the use of masks in early pantomime and mentioned that 20th century pantomime had its roots in Italian comedy; great characters from the past included Harlequin and Columbine, Pantaloon, Scaramouche and the clown Grimaldi.



**Ruth Andrews talking
about ‘Xmas Panto’**

The most famous character in modern-day traditional pantomime is The Dame, always outrageously dressed and coiffured, and to demonstrate this, Ruth called on the assistance of a member of the audience. In this case, Alan Champion “volunteered” to be attired as Widow Twankey, but I rather think he was not expecting pantomime custard pies in his face! He took ‘em on the chin though!! Well done, Alan. Ruth incorporated many of today’s panto tricks to encourage the audience to join in singing and taking part in a slapstick routine.

There was a large gathering of members for this meeting and every single one of them had, at one time or another, seen a pantomime. Quite a record! This was a very pleasant start to the celebration of the Christmas season, and was enjoyed by all.

Marion Plenderleith

Membership News

Membership subscriptions are due for renewal at the end of December each year. Thank you to all of you who have renewed already. If subscriptions are not paid by 16th February 2010, then places will be offered to someone on the waiting list. We currently have a waiting list of 30 names.

Janet Crees
Membership Secretary

Lindsey U3A – SOS – Committee Members Needed!

The Annual General Meeting for 2010 is on Thursday 4th March. The meeting will start rather earlier than usual, at 10am instead of 10.30, to allow for business before our speaker for the morning starts at the usual time of 10.45am.

This year there will be a number of changes on the committee with several long-serving members leaving and we really do need some new faces 'at the top'. Although we have a very strong membership of 300 people plus 30 on our current waiting list, it is amazingly difficult to tempt existing members to take a turn at the organisation of this U3A. I do not need to remind you that without a committee Lindsey U3A cannot survive and some serving members have put in far more years than they really should simply because no-one has volunteered to relieve them.

So far, after my pleas at the September meeting, only one person has come forward to volunteer their services – could we please have a few more names before the AGM on 4th March? Just contact either me or your secretary, June Charles for the necessary papers.

Margaret Campion
Chairman

Equipment

Many of you will be aware that we were fortunate to receive a grant from the Lottery Fund to buy equipment for use by the Lindsey U3A and its interest groups. This was provided for the enhancement of our interest group activities along with improvements to our monthly meeting presentations.

Here are some of the uses that were envisaged:-

Group Equipment

8 x Toshiba laptops with Microsoft Office Professional 2007 and Adobe Photoshop Elements 7 – *To provide training & instruction on applications ie. word processing, spreadsheets, publishing, slide presentations and photo enhancing etc within your group. Will also run CD/DVD's for presentations in conjunction with the projector*

1 x Canon A4 wireless printer/scanner/copier- *To operate with the laptops for all printing, scanning and copying requirements, any pictures or drawings can be used as part of a slide presentation*

1 x Wireless network router - *For operating with the printer/scanner*

1 x Optoma projector – *For operation with any of the laptops to provide a bright large picture for group viewing, with or without a screen*

1 x Projector screen – *For use with the projector*

1 x USB slide & film copier – *Copy old slides plus colour & B/W film onto the laptop for inclusion into a laptop for presentation etc*

1 x USB memory card reader/writer – *Use your camera memory card to put pictures on to a laptop for slide presentations, enhancing etc*

1 x Aiptek A4 Drawing tablet – *Drawings can be made onto the laptop for slide show presentations, posters etc*

4 x 2m 4way surge protected extension sockets – *Must be used with the above*

1 x 8m 4way extension cable – *For use with the above*

Hall Equipment

1 x Fujitsu laptop with Microsoft Office Professional 2007 – *For slide show presentations by our invited speakers*

1 x Optoma projector – *Large bright pictures via the laptop*

1 x Integrated PA system with three wireless microphones and two speakers - *giving excellent clarity in all situations*

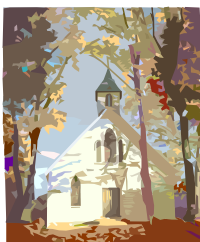
1 x Stage projector screen – *Large screen which can be viewed in any part of the Hall*

Should the speaker use 35mm slides, there is a spare slide projector available if theirs fails. If they wish to convert them to use on the laptop they can have access to the fast film slide copier. There is also a portable screen available for use in another room if required.

If anyone would like to discuss the use of the equipment in their group please call me. My phone number is on the inside cover, or email lindseyu3akit@googlemail.com

*Mike Kirkby
Treasurer*

Architecture Group



The Architecture Group of the Lindsey U3A celebrated the start of the autumn 2009 programme with a visit to Stow Minster guided by Paul Howitt-Cowan, the chairman of the Friends of Stow Minster. It was a marvellous visit. Although most of the group had visited the church before, seeing it through the eyes of a real enthusiast really was 'seeing it afresh'.

Paul guided us round looking not only at the architectural wonders but also explaining the liturgical significance of the building. To the medieval pilgrim any visit to a great church such as Stow – and also, of course to the Cathedral – would be a

journey through the Christian life, starting at the entry and baptism, travelling through the nave to the great crossing with the tower pointing to heaven above and passing from the crossing, symbolising death, into the chancel symbolising our eventual



resurrection and life eternal. The architectural glories of Stow – the amazing Anglo Saxon doorways uncovered during the 19th century restoration, the remnants of early wall paintings and the overwhelming effect of the Norman chancel made the visit truly memorable.

The stories of the fights and struggles of the ambitious Victorian parson to get those restorations started, even though he did not live to see them completed, was another story in itself! It was altogether a most worthwhile visit and one we all enjoyed – as can be seen by the accompanying photos!

Margaret Campion

Architecture Group Programme

Thur 21 Jan just before 10am. Visit to the Norman parts of the Cathedral with Brian Smith. Meet in the Narthex. There will be a charge - £3.75 each or £5.00 if fewer than 12 people in the group.

Thur 18 Feb at 10am. Welton Methodist Church Hall. "French Doors and Australian Houses". Richard and Beryl Carter.

Thur 18 Mar Visit to the Drill Hall and Sessions House. (Not yet confirmed).

Thur 15 Apr at 10am. Visit to the Bishops Old Palace (To be confirmed).

ART APPRECIATION GROUP.



'Painter and decorator', one would not think this description would refer to one of the emerging French painters of the 19-20th century. But such was Raoul Dufy born 3rd June 1877 - 23rd March 1953. Born in Le Havre, Normandy, he developed a colourful, decorative style that became fashionable for designs for ceramics, textiles and decorative schemes for public buildings. He is noted for scenes of open-air social events.

Starting evening classes at Le Havre Ecole des Beaux Arts he and another school friend, Othon Friesz, studied works of Eugene Boudin in the museum in Le Havre.

Whilst the works of the impressionists landscapes, such as Monet and Pissarro influenced him, he was to cast off their interpretation of Art. He was to direct his interests towards Fauvism, Les Fauves (wild beasts) emphasised bright colours and rich bold contours in

their work, and Dufy's work reflects this approach, in his painting and decorations throughout his life.

Dufy had a tremendous love of life, and the need to see his interpretation in the paintings of animals, the seaside, and social events that showed people enjoying themselves. A red horse is not expected, but something that draws you into the painting, and the joy of life.

Wall hangings, dress designing, murals for public buildings, tapestries and ceramic designs were to follow. His plates appear in books. It was the richness of his work and the ease and pleasure with which to be amongst it that gave him the title of 'painter and decorator'.

In 1938, Dufy completed one of the largest paintings ever done - a huge and immensely popular epic to electricity, the fresco La Fee Electricite for the Exposition Internationale in Paris. Dufy died in March 1953.

The hospitality of Margaret Campion and the resource of the Bromley U3A who hold a tremendous amount of information and who provided an excellent video to set the scene for a lively discussion and indeed discovery of Dufy, gave us all a very pleasant afternoon, and the need to find out more.

Muriel Ball

Art Appreciation Group Programme

Monday 11 January 2010 2pm.

The Works of Camille Claudel by Jeannie Rowan (technical assistance by Margaret Howard) at The Bee Field, Lincoln.

Monday 8 February 2pm.

Visit to Bob Oakes, Blacksmith. To be arranged by Marion Knowles. Details later.

Monday 8 March 2pm

Talk by (hopefully) Tim Wheeldon on the work of Dame Laura Knight. Jeannie Rowan will organise. If this fails, Ruby will try to organise a studio visit or talk by local artist Nigel Denham. If both these fail – we will think again!

Monday 12 April 2pm.

Visit to Southwell Minster to see the sculpture by Peter Eugene Ball, Combined effort by the two Margaritas & Jeannie.

Monday 10 May.

Visit Hull to see the Hull Tapestries. Elspeth Young to organise. Details later.

Armchair Travel – not the end

It seemed fitting that in December the very last Lindsey U3A Armchair Travel Group should meet at my home.



It was like old times, tinged with a little sadness, but full of many happy memories, experiences and hopefully, knowledge. The Group has travelled the world since the inaugural meeting here in September, 1997 when there were only 3 members present and has met around 120 times! Doesn't this just demonstrate that U3A groups, however small, have so much potential, ideally only needing a little 'kick-start'.

After 12 years, the last 3 under Heather's able guidance, the Group has naturally progressed and for many good reasons made the right decision to combine with Witham U3A Travel Group. We all wish them happiness and great travel for the years to come.

Marlene Curtis

Armchair Travel

The Armchair Travel Group of which I was convenor held its last meeting in December. The members in the group have gradually dropped and we were down to just a faithful few each time.

The group has been going since the beginning of Lindsey U3A, first run by Marlene Curtis and about four years ago by me. We have been all round the world from our armchairs - some from our own holidays and some speakers brought in to "travel" still farther.

As a group we have decided to join Armchair Travel at Witham U3A as they are a bigger group and meet in a hall, so a wider range of holiday experiences will be available.

Thank you to all the friends I have met and shared tales with over the years; see you in Witham U3A in January 2010.

Heather Ford

Aspects of History



The next group meeting will be on Thursday 14th January 2010 at 2 pm in the Methodist Church Hall at Welton and the subject is changed to 'The Vikings' instead of the Spanish Armada.

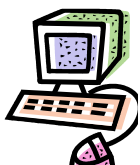
February will feature King Charles I and March his son, King Charles II. April will bring Kublai Khan and May, - 'Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire'.

Subjects for the future will include President Theodore Roosevelt, the coming of the railways, King George IV, Florence Nightingale,

Crime and the Law, The French Second Empire, Queen Elizabeth I and the American War of Independence.

Let Bob Wise know if any of these are your special interests - and if you want to join our group.

Bob Wise



Computer Users Group Meetings

Monthly meetings at 10am 2nd Monday in month

Mon 11 Jan 4 The Bee Field, Lincoln

Mon 8 Feb 4 The Bee Field, Lincoln

Gardening Group Programme



January 26th Welton Village Hall, 2pm to 4pm. The speaker will be Mr Neil Timm from the Fern Nursery at Binbrook. This will be a practical demonstration which covers the pruning of most trees and shrubs plus a little on fruit. Also at this meeting we will share festive nibbles and drinks. There will also be a raffle. The cost of

the meeting will be £1.50 to cover the speaker's fee and the hall charges.

February 23rd A visit to Anglesey Abbey, Cambridgeshire by coach leaving Welton at 9am. This is a National Trust property and is world famous for its wonderful collection of snowdrops. The cost of the coach is £9.50 each and the entrance fee is £4.95 per person (for NT and RHS members the entrance is free). Coach fare is to be paid either at the U3A meeting on January 7th or at Gardening Group on January 26th.

March 23rd Welton Village Hall, 2pm to 4pm. The speaker will be Mr Robert Chapman who will give a talk on "Violas", discussing the many varieties. He will also have plants for us to purchase. The fee for the talk and to include refreshments will be £1.50 per person.

Industrial Awareness Group

Visit to Wool, Shawl, Fall and Antimacassers.



We first became acquainted with Wool, Fall, Shawl and Antimacassers (which is the title of the now disbanded Union) when the Industrial Awareness Group made their final group visit to the small factory of G. H Hurt & Sons in Chilwell, near Nottingham. It was one of the most interesting

visits the group had made – largely because of the marvellous opportunities for Christmas shopping in the factory shop afterwards – and because the owner, the fourth generation Mr. Hurt, proved a most able and informative guide. Of retirement



age himself, he had worked in the business since leaving school, firstly under the tuition of his grandfather and then from his father and had a fund of stories about the business, the workers and the machines.

The factory was founded on shawl and scarf production but had adapted to whatever fashion need their retailers required – for example the time of greatest expanse came in the 70's and 80's when Laura Ashley gave away a small lacy scarf with every dress purchased – how many of us still have those scarves tucked away at the back of a drawer? Today the fashion need is for pashmina-sized lacy wraps and for blankets and shawls seamed to make sleeved garments from the basic large rectangular shape, giving rise to Mr. Hurt's quip "We now make Slaps and Slankets instead of wraps and blankets"!

The first knitting machine was developed in 1589 but the inventor was denied a patent because Queen Elizabeth was concerned that machinery would result in hand knitters becoming redundant. Eventually, the patent was granted in Rouen and over following generations the frame knitting machine came into general use. History repeated itself when it became possible to mechanise the hand frame knitting machine and the Luddites energetically set about smashing the 'new-fangled' machines which had to be operated in factories rather than in the home – we were actually shown one machine with marks of one such Luddite attack – living history indeed!

We were regaled with lots of anecdotes including the fascinating fact that Nottinghamshire had such good cricketers because the knitters worked at their own pace and if the day was sunny, the word would go round "drop everything, cricket on the green" and they would then work most of the night to make up their quota of scarves for the week without any loss of income!

This was a happy final visit for a very long-running group.

Margaret Campion

IAG Group Gliding at Klrton

IAG spent an afternoon gliding at Kirton on Wed 16 Sep



In spite of the cold weather it was a memorable afternoon



Natural History Walks- Bird Watching (All U3A members welcome)

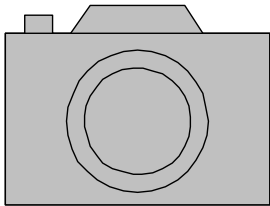


Thur 14th Jan at 1pm Gibraltar Point: Meet in main car park
N.B. If weather doubtful please ring me before 10am (only if you are coming).

4th February at 1.30pm Whisby Nature Reserve. Meet outside Centre

Peter Chapman

PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP



The meetings are held on the fourth Thursday in Welton Methodist Hall – 10 – 12noon. For the next three months (Jan to Mar) we will also meet on the second Thursday.

The purpose of the extra three meetings is to concentrate on Photoshop. We will only cover one element of Photoshop at each meeting. The element will be agreed at the previous meeting. This gives all of us time to “have a go” at home enabling us to learn from each other when we next meet.

We agreed at our last meeting that the element will be “Cloning” for our next meeting on January 14th. I have booked the Welton Methodist Hall for: Jan 14th and 28th. Feb 11th and 25th. March 11th and 25th.

Tony Davis
anthony_davis@sky.com

Singing Group (A new Group)



The first meeting will be held in the Welton Methodist Chapel on Thursday, 21st January 2 - 4pm.

A small charge for the hire of the hall will be made.

Do come along and support this group, it will be fun and a good voice is not essential.

Theatre Group Trip



This autumn sees the close of the fortieth season of the Northern Ballet Company whose wonderful ability is somehow, so easily, to tell a story in dance and acting. The story we who were fortunate to attend on 3rd October at the Theatre Royal in Norwich, was *Wuthering Heights*, Emily Brontë's only novel. We were transported to the Yorkshire misty moors and our memories of Cathy and Heathcliff and their turbulent and passionate love story unfolded. All was enhanced by the splendid music and its haunting sound of the wind sweeping across the moors. I think there may have been a few moist eyes after the final scene where a kneeling Heathcliff, back on the moor, snow falling, is an old man whose tired heart gives way!

Very many sincere thanks to our theatre team. We know that jobs don't arrive done. In particular this time, Shirley, for organising the trip.

Marlene Curtis

Résumé Of the Stage Shows

Guess which silly fool volunteered to write a résumé of the stage shows we visited in 2009. Well, you could be in for the shortest article in the Magazine as the fool in question (namely me JMS) only managed to see one out of the four events....

We started the year with a visit to Peterborough for an "Ice Spectacular". I gather the skills of the skaters were second to none. Then on to "Dancing Queen": This show was an absolute RAVE - the audience were said to be dancing in their seats. I didn't make either of these dates as they both clashed with 'Big Family Do's'. Yipee the next one I actually did get to see; the Buxton Theatre's production of "Pirates of Penzance" - it was BRILLIANT. Finally to Norwich to see "Wuthering Heights" (put on by our old favourites the Northern Ballet) - another first class show, danced and dressed to perfection. I heard that some of the audience felt "quite wrung out" emotionally by the time the curtain came down - aah not a dry eye in the house! I didn't make this one either I was "proper poorly".

We are off to Belvoir Castle next Thursday 10th December for our last trip of the year and as I don't own a Crystal Ball I can't tell you a thing about it. But I do know one secret. The Duke is booked to give us our guided tour of the Castle but as you won't be reading this until January it is still a secret isn't it?

On a different note: we will do our best to keep up the standard of the past years but new productions are very thin on the ground these days, so it is getting harder for us to find the right show at the right price! But, rest assured we shall keep on trying.

Jo Smith

Addendum It was a beautiful day for yesterday's visit (10th December) to Belvoir Castle. The sun was shining, a Piper playing on the forecourt to greet us as we stepped off the coach, hot drinks available just inside the door followed by a first class lunch for those who decided to indulge. What more could you ask for?



This was followed by free time to do what ever we fancied: wander at leisure around the building, spend our money in the shops, listen to live music being performed in various rooms or just stroll around the grounds. At 2pm prompt 'Our Duke and Duchess' arrived to give us a tour of the castle itself. They entertained us with stories of the many generations who have lived at Belvoir, some of these tales had the hint that there may have been a few 'scandalous carryings on'. Nothing changes does it?

The tour was rounded off with a short concert of carols which took place in the Castle Armoury followed by our usual free Christmas raffle on the coach. We do hope everyone enjoyed themselves, 'cos the organisers certainly did!

By the way we didn't have the present D&D as our tour guides. We were shown around by the 200 year old pair (beautifully costumed) who built the castle as it is today. Though, in truth it was the young Duchess who oversaw all the work connected with the rebuild.



Husband must have been too busy 'huntin, fishin, and shootin' to help, though he did have some spare time on his hands as the Duchess managed to produce 11 children in between all her other jobs.

Jo Smith

Theatre Group Forthcoming Event.

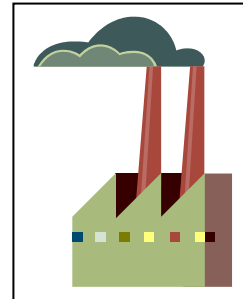
"Hairspray"

The UK Tour Presented by
The Grand Theatre Wolverhampton

Wednesday June 16th 2010.
2.30pm Matinee Performance
Dress Circle Ticket & Coach £41.00
On Sale January Meeting
Pickup times to be advised next month

'Visits' Group Programme (A new group that replaces IAG)

**Fri 29th Jan at 9.50am - Wren Library,
Lincoln Cathedral**



We have been fortunate in being able to arrange a guided tour, conducted by one of the Librarians, of the Wren Library. The library houses a magnificent collection of books and other documents, many dating from Mediaeval times. For this tour there will be a charge of £2 payable on the day, and a maximum number of 25 can be accommodated. Members need to meet at 9.50am near the coffee shop using the coffee shop entrance to the cathedral to avoid having to pay the standard cathedral entrance fee. **Organiser** Margaret Campion email margaret.campion@btinternet.com to reserve your place.

Fri 19 Feb RAF Cranwell

There is a limit of 25 people and the list is now full but Sheila is taking names for the reserve list. I suggest those going try to share cars. **Organiser** Sheila Sherwood

Mon 22 Mar.7.30pm.Gainsborough Model Railway Exhibition.

A chance to see one of the largest model railways in 'O' gauge, depicting The Old East Coast Main Line from Kings Cross to Leeds Central. A magnificent model railway covering over 2500 sq ft and needing 10 operators to work it! This visit will cost £2.50 entrance, payable on the night. **Organiser** Beryl Carter

Remember that members of this group agree to organise a visit, possibly with a friend or friends. Let me have your ideas for incorporation in the programme.

Alan Campion
campion133@btinternet.com

Walking Group



The Walks are about five miles and take place the first and third Mondays of the month starting at 10am.

Mon 4th Jan Leaders: Alan & Margaret Campion. Navenby and Wellingore. Meet near Navenby church.

Mon 18th Jan Leader: Joy Babington. Hartsholme Park. Meet in main car park

Mon 1st Feb Leader required:

Mon 15th Feb Leader required:

Alan Campion

Credit Crunches (Information about consumer rights)

As with most Credit Crunches, when we look in the past 100 years, the tendency is for the non affected to have a spending spree, to try and bolster the economy, whether consciously or unconsciously this appears to happen. Successive governments have tried to encourage this spending in various ways, and we, the consumer, appear to be so protected from bad deals and bad equipment that we tend not to look into our rights as purchasers. I therefore did a mini study of what we know and what we don't know and what the sellers do not necessarily divulge when the deal is struck.

We all tend to know that the manufacturers offer a one year's guarantee, should the product fail to operate then cash refund or replacement product is the norm. However there are variations, if we cannot produce a receipt or have not registered the guarantee or prove the purchase date, then the cash option is usually foregone, and vouchers to the value of the purchase are issued, to be used at the retail outlet. This is the confusion; this

is offered by the retailer as part of their guarantee, as they also give a one year's guarantee, which runs concurrent to the manufacturers deal. It is often very difficult to try and separate the two deals, without reference to the retailers terms of purchase, which I defy anyone to find, and reading the small print on the contract for the guarantee supplied by the manufacturer.



If the manufacturers offer extended guarantee for an extra two to four years, then this tends to be part of a sales promotion, and forms have to be completed by the sales person to bring this offer into operation. Be mindful that the first year's guarantee is still in the power of the retailer, so there is double cover during these first twelve months. Quite a few of the national retailers offer extended cover, for a payment very similar to an insurance premium, when you work out the payments for this cover you find that during a period of between two to six years you can nearly double the cost of the article, which seems very unfair to us the consumer.

But there is a ray of hope, the EU, (God bless her and all who sail in her), has created a law which states quite categorically that there is now a minimum period of two years during which any faulty product can be returned. In our Country (ditto and likewise) the Sale of Goods Act affords consumers protection for up to six years from the date of purchase. Now that's an interesting state of affairs. Most manufacturers will have changed the model during this six year period, but our laws state that the product should be replaced or compensation be given. I wonder if there is anyone out there that has tried to invoke this two to six year period. If the defective article is not repairable through lack of spares etcetera, then the consumer is entitled to a new replacement article of similar price and quality.

None of the above information is relevant, when, after purchasing an article it is found that it is not fit for purpose, the consumer is usually protected by either a fourteen day to twenty eight day

cooling off period, which the retailer is bound to honour, providing the article has not been used or removed from its packet. Which is a bit farcical, how can you prove its fitness for purpose without taking it out of the packet and trying to use it! The government has been looking into this quirky bit of consumer protection for something like two years and have not yet reached a solution, I believe. I think it would be fair to say that a proportion of the price would be taken off the compensation to the consumer, if the article has obviously been used. I'm thinking as an example of the bride to be, purchasing a very expensive wedding gown and all the fittings, after the wedding day, takes the whole lot back to the gown shop, claiming unfit for purpose and demanding her money back. I can't find anywhere in any reference, of any way that the retailer/manufacture is protected from such a transaction, apart from going through the courts.

The Consumer Wins.....OK

John Smallwood

Branston and District U3A

The Archaeology, Ancient and Medieval History Group have a meeting on 2nd February 2010 at Heighington Village Hall in Fen Lane. The speaker is Dr Pam Marshall who lectures at Nottingham University on the medieval period. The talk is on 'Comparing Lincoln Castle with other Medieval Castles'.

The group assembles at 10am for coffee and notices and the lecture commences at 10.30. The cost will be £2. If any Lindsey U3A members are interested in going perhaps they could let me know so that I can give an idea of numbers to the group convenors. Many thanks

Janet Crees
Email jancrees@googlemail.com

TIMETABLE OF INTEREST GROUPS

| | Week 1 | Week 2 | Week 3 | Week 4 |
|-----|--|--|---|--|
| Mon | 9.45am 5/6 mile walk 2pm Poetry for Pleasure | 10am Computer Users Group 2pm Art Appreciation | 9.45am 5/6 mile Walks | 2pm Play Reading Enjoying Classical Music |
| Tue | 10am Art and Drawing | 10am Armchair Travel 2pm Book Group2 Bookworms | 10am Circle Dancing 2pm Book Group 1 | 2pm Gardening |
| Wed | 1.30pm Bridge | 1.30pm Bridge | 1.30pm Bridge 2.30pm Music for Us | 1.30pm Bridge 2pm Discussion Group |
| Thu | 10am General Meeting | 2.00pm Aspects of History | 10am Architecture 10.15am Coffee Morning | 10.00 am Photography |
| Fri | | | | |

Lindsey U3A Website

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

Webmaster: John Haley email John.Haley.j.p.haley@btinternet.com

GROUP CONVENORS

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Armchair Travel | Heather Ford | |
| Architecture | Marie Clark | |
| Art Appreciation | Margaret Champion | |
| Art & Drawing | Norman Clarke | |
| Aspects of History | Bob Wise | |
| Book Group 1 | David Jones | |
| Book Group 2 | Dawn Bowskill | |
| Bridge | Nadine McKee | |
| Canasta | Arleen Gurnell | |
| Circle Dancing | Cynthia Watson | |
| Computer Users Group | Alan Champion | |
| Discussion | Michael Whalley | |
| Enjoying Classical Music | David Jones | |
| Gardening | Pauline Haley | |
| Industrial Awareness | Alan Champion | |
| Music For Us | Hugh Taylor | |
| Photography | Tony Davis | |
| Play Reading | Margaret Howard | |
| Poetry Group | Sheila Gravells | |
| Theatre Group | Jo Smith | |
| Theatre Group | Shirley Droy | |
| Visits Group | Alan Champion | |
| Walks: 5-6 Mile | Joy Babington | |

Some U3A Activities



Knitwear Factory



Gliding



Visit Stow Minster

Lindsey U3A Website

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