



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
SKEGNESS



January—April 2012

Letter from the Chairman

It's incredible how the weeks have flown by, and another year is just begun. They say that time flies when you enjoy yourself, so we must be having a good time! We do hope that you will enjoy another year of happy membership in our U3A group.

As always, we need your help to keep it going, so any small contribution you can offer would be gratefully welcomed. Please think about it.

I thank all of the committee, our helpers and group leaders for all their loyal and devoted service to the group. Without their willingness we could not survive. Membership is growing and we are delighted to see so many of you enjoying the opportunities available within Skegness U3A group.

The committee and I wish you all a really happy and healthy new year 2012.

The Committee

Chair	Amy Eaton	Tel: 610868
Vice Chair	Norman Barker (Group Coordinator)	Tel: 811121
Secretary	Jan Ward	Tel: 880032
Membership Secretary	Carrol Morris	Tel: 763224
Treasurer	Hilary Webb	Tel: 810699
Web Master	Mike Dakin	Tel: 610868
Committee Members	Jean Hartnup	Tel:881818
	Anthony Shipstone	Tel: 612063
	Ann Bliss	Tel: 765882

Notice of Members' Contribution Increase

At our recent committee meeting it was proposed and agreed that the 20p contribution towards tea and biscuits when attending an activity in someone's home should be increased to 30p. Likewise, the mileage contribution has been raised to 30p per mile. This is shared by everyone in the car, including the driver.

Your Newsletter

Have you got any interesting news items? Perhaps you have visited somewhere exciting or you might have an anecdote to share. Tell us about what is happening in your group. Remember this is your newsletter and your contributions will be most welcome. The next newsletter is due out in May. Please contact: Jan Ward on 880032. email jan.ward3@btinternet.com

Knitting Group

Some may knit blankets, some do hats, booties, mittens, cardigans and sweaters, all get the treatment from Carrol's gang. Now it's ruffles and a scarf. All together there's one thing we all do. The stitches we have mean we all knit a laugh!
Thank you Carrol for your hospitality.

Frances Grafton

Just a Thought!

Don't let ageing get you down.
It's too hard to get back up!

Skegness U3A

The Skegness U3A general meeting takes place at 9.30a.m every 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Crown Hotel on Drummond Road. It is £1 admission for visitors and 50p for members with coffee as an optional extra. There is a speaker and we have the room until 1pm. Visitors and guests are always very welcome to attend a meeting and two taster sessions before deciding whether or not to join.

Skegness U3A started in 2002 and we now have more than 180 members. We have an enthusiastic approach and you will be able to join us in a wide range of pursuits.

Forthcoming Speakers

18th January	Pam Cox	Age UK
15th February	TBA	Water Aid
21st March	David Robinson	Louth Floods
18th April	Chris Manning	Wildlife
16th May	Sarah Broome	Library Services

Skegness U3A Groups

Groups	Leader	Phone
Book Lovers	Jennifer Mackley	611542
Bridge	Janice Kerr	768007
Card Craft	Jennifer Mackley	611542
Cottage Crafts	Alec Gurney	765187
Crib	Janice Kerr	768007
Digital Photography	Mike Dakin	610868
Drums & Music	Phill Watson	610798
French Advanced	Jim Mackley	611542
French Improvers	Bridget Barker	811121
Genealogy	Jill Norris	890499
German	Jim Mackley	611542
Holidays	Carrol Morris	763224
Italian	Jim Mackley	611542
Local History Films Local History Study	Bridget Barker Nigel Chapman	811121 763316
Lunch Club	Janice Kerr	768007
Music Appreciation	Eileen Bradbury	611972
New Age Kurling	Janice & Bill Kerr	768007
Scrabble	Janice Kerr	768007
Solitaires	Sandra Oliver Diane Green	873288 611022
Theatre	Bill Kerr	768007
Walks	Mike Dakin	610868
Wolds Walks	David Riggs	764579

Groups' News

Quiz. Marigold Chisnall has been the Quiz group leader for many years and we extend our grateful thanks to her for all the fun quiz nights enjoyed in the area.

Social. For the last three years many of you have shared in a lot of sociable occasions. Amy has now retired from being the group leader, although she would be very willing to help or guide a new group leader. How about the idea that a group of you each arrange one event each? A burden shared is much lighter.

Both of these groups are now on hold, pending new volunteers to help us out.

Singing for Fun. This is a new group just starting; there will be further developments, so please watch and listen for more information.

New Age Kurling. This new group will start in February. Kurling can be enjoyed by everyone and is great way of socialising while keeping fit. Initially, the equipment is being hired from Lincolnshire Sports but it is hoped that before long we will be in a position to buy our own.

Costs. Many of the activities are held in members' own homes. From January 1st we each give 30p to the host to cover the cost of tea and biscuits. When travelling by car to an event with a member, the contribution will be 30p per mile this is divided by the number of persons in the car, including the driver.

Some of the groups have monthly coffee mornings to which you are invited to help plan forthcoming events.

The Walks Group meet on the first Monday of the month at Finnegan's Bar, Beacon Park at 11am.

The Solitaires Group meet on the second Monday of the month at Southview at 11am.

The Theatre Group meet on the third Monday of the month at Finnegan's Bar at 11am.

New groups are always welcome. If you have an interest or hobby that you would like to share with other members then please make contact with a member of the committee.

Remember this is your U3A. The more you put in to it the more you get out.

Lincolnshire's U3A's Neighbourhood Group

It was through this group that we were able to share the wonderful day out with the hog roast and picnic at Withcall Farm in July 2011, courtesy of Louth U3A.

Now, it is planned to have a special fun day out at Tattershall Castle on Thursday 28th June, courtesy of Woodhall Spa U3A.

Please mark this date in your diary. All the groups will be participating and there will be something for everyone.

The castle will be closed to the general public on that day and there will be many activities available, including refreshments and a guided tour.

We plan to book a coach so that we can all travel together and take our picnics and chairs if wished.

Social Group

Butlins – Skegness Tour – Thursday 6th October

A large group of our members enjoyed a tour around Butlins in Skegness.

We arrived at 10am and were met by a representative who took us to the “Sun and Moon Bar” where we were all served coffee. The representative called Jacky gave us a very friendly chat about the holiday venue which was invented by Billy Butlin whose aim was a family holiday for everybody to enjoy. During the war years the camp was used by The Royal Navy as their headquarters and it was then known as “The Royal Arthur”. Jacky then invited us to view a Gold Apartment which is the best grade of accommodation they offer (this was very comfortable). We were then taken along to the original chalet which has been kept as a listed building to show the history of the accommodation from when the camp first opened (this was very basic). We then were invited at our own leisure to tour the remaining venues which are open to all the holidaymakers who attend the resort. We went into the swimming pool and spa which was very nice you can have a swim, sauna, Jacuzzi and also enjoy the latest equipment in the gym.

There were several night time bars which feature shows for all ages in the daytime and evening. The tented main pavilion has all sorts of shops, a cinema, various amusements for young and old, an ongoing stage show for youngsters in the daytime and families in the evenings. We then visited the Fun Splash World which is a haven of adventure for everybody to enjoy in their swimming attire.

All in all the entire visit proved to be an interesting one and gave us the chance to get an insight into our local Butlins Resort.

Brenda Webb U3A Member.

Holiday Club: Isle of Man 26th – 30th September 2011.

Oh with what joyful anticipation twelve disciples from Skegness U3A embarked on a trip to Douglas, Isle of Man with Eagre Coaches. We were picked up at 7:10am and enjoyed a trip in a footballers coach until 10:10am when we transferred to our tour coach at Ferrybridge. Once loaded up we set off for Heysham to catch the ferry with our lady driver, Diane. Once on the M6 we did not realise we were in a 10 mile tail back from an ‘incident’. No hassle, Diane said we could make ourselves hot drinks from the machine. What disappointment when someone realised the machine was not functioning! In between catching up with the vehicles in front and getting into the luggage compartment of the coach Diane managed to get the machine working. For an hour we were in that traffic jam and Diane realised we were not going to get to the ferry in time. There was no way they would hold the ferry; she was informed by the office. Thus we caught the ferry at Liverpool as foot passengers and Diane would join us the next evening with the coach. Barbara had the “assistance” of a crew member, who promptly demolished her walking trolley!

We were met at Douglas with a coach and driver who took us to the hotel for our 10pm evening meal! Day one successfully completed.

Tuesday, a cloudy day was a free day and I think we were all glad of that and went about our various plans.

Wednesday was the Island Tour with a Manx guide. What a beautiful day, clear skies and views. At Ramsey we were told we could get coffee and toilets. Toilets, yes. Cafes were on holiday! Never mind, we could get coffee on the coach if necessary. Oh yes? Machine not working again! On to Peel.

In brilliant sunshine we set off to get our lunch out of the way. With only an hour we would need to hurry. Many of us could not find room in the cafes that were open! The scenery was superb and some managed to find excellent refreshments and were even late back to the coach whilst eating their ice-creams! No names mentioned.

Our guide gave us plenty of information, even about his family! The next stop was at The Sound, for a photo stop as there was no room to park the coach.

The politics of the Isle of Man was explained in detail as we went to St John's and saw the Tynwald 'Wedding Cake'. Another photo stop and then on to Port Erin. What a beautiful stop, we could have done with longer than 30 minutes allowed. They even have a walking bus stop there!

On the way back to Douglas we were told how we would have to say 'Good Afternoon Fairies' in Manx as we went over Fairy Bridge. I could not say what we said, but I don't think the fairies were listening, as we proceeded to the climax of our visit.

Thursday, oh joy, the day of our mountain trip. It was a bit misty but we were sure we would be able to see seven the seven kingdoms when we reached the summit, as we were booked on a 1:45pm electric railway carriage.

Firstly, we went round Laxey, some to the Wheel, some to the Woollen Mill. Then our lunch break. Then, at last, THE TRIP.

We should see England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Isle of Man, Heaven and Sea! As we progressed up the mountain all disappeared. The sheep, the trees, the grass. We were enveloped in the mountain mist! We had 30 minutes to enjoy the quick dash to the café out of the roaring wind. We could hardly see our feet! Quick dash back to the carriage, and that was that trip finished.

Friday we had to have our luggage outside the door of our rooms by 7am. A quick start you might think. Wrong again. 12 noon the coach would pick us up for the 1:30pm ferry. Another beautiful day. When we got to the ferry check-in we were informed there would be an hour's delay as the ferry coming in was late. There must be some curse about going to Ferrybridge. The change to a 22 seater coach for 14 people should be straightforward but there was only room for 11 cases! The rest had to go on seats.

A great trip, with great company. Ken and I are looking forward to return to the Isle of Man at a more leisurely pace in the future.

Frances Grafton.

Obituaries

The first of our Honorary Members - **Hettie-Mary Paulson** - died on 13 December after a short illness aged 94. She had had a very interesting life, having been a GI bride and living in America for many years. She originally trained as a teacher but also ran a dancing school in Lincoln. She was a member of Mrs. Mac's

Merry Mascots who entertained all over Lincolnshire during the war. She was also a member of the Court Players who were a well-known repertory company in Lincoln. She ran a dancing school both in America and, on her return to England, in Oxford, where she also continued to teach. She only gave up her dancing school in her eighties when she came to Lincolnshire to live near her sister. Hettie-Mary counted many in the ballet world as her friends.

She had travelled the world in her latter years and members will remember her fascinating talk on her journey to Iceland a few years ago. She kept her mind active, and, until her unfortunate accident two years ago, drove herself all over. She also enjoyed her line-dancing., where she made many friends. She will be sorely missed.

Marigold Chisnall

Patrick Sykes was born 28th September 72 years ago in the family home in Skegness. He was a builder and decorator in his working life. He was a true ambassador for Skegness, always friendly to tourists so that they would want to come back to the area.

He was a loving and beloved brother, father, grandfather and friend to many.

I knew him for four years, during which he overcame his heart problems and became as happy as he had ever been. He spent his time dancing, walking and gardening as well as enjoying the theatre and painting flowers.

It was a shock when Patrick died on 11th December 2011, ten days after diagnosis. His family and friends miss him very much, but are glad his suffering was short lasted.

Ida Okonta

Christmas Meeting

Christmas with Fred was an entertaining talk given by Sheila Dibnah at our December meeting. Sheila, the widow of steeplejack Fred Dibnah described some of the unconventional Christmas's they spent together and some of the equally unconventional gifts he bought. A professional dancer Sheila is also a wonderful mimic and her mannerisms and vocal delivery were so good you only had to close your eyes and it was like listening to Fred.

Sheila kindly judged a Christmas Table Decoration competition. A raffle raised £150 which was donated to L.I.V.E.S. (Lincolnshire Integrated Voluntary Emergency Service) and a buffet was laid on for members to enjoy.

Eileen Chantry



Competition winners Amy Eaton and Shirley Noble with Sheila.

Fun Bit

1. In Fawlty Towers what was the name of Manuel's pet hamster, which was really a rat?
2. The 1977 novel, 'The Dead Of Jericho', was the first novel to feature which Detective Inspector?
3. Which American film director had the middle name Blount?
4. Which character, who first appeared in a 1712 pamphlet by John Arbuthnot, is the personification of England?
5. Dido & Aeneas is the only opera by which 17th century English composer, who was organist at both Westminster Abbey and the Chapel Royal?
6. Which famous seafarer was born in 1540?
7. What nickname is shared by a Nationwide football team and an England footballer's wife?
8. Which 1983 Grand National winning horse shares it's name with a lighthouse on Jersey?
9. Which make of rifle was the standard infantry weapon of the US Army from 1873 to 1936?
10. Jacqueline Gold is the Chief Exec. of which chain of lingerie shops?
11. What is the well known word for 'sailor of the universe'?
12. The song titles of which two UK number one hits from the year 1983 are the names of women with the initials 'BJ'? One point for each correct answer.
13. Until the mid 16th century "sea dogs" was the English word for which type of predator?
14. What are the two missing words in this famous quote from the film Casablanca?
"Of all the — — in all the towns in all the world, she walks into mine"
15. The name of which famous band is also the Aramaic word for 'the father, my father'?

The answers will be displayed on the board next month.

Please note that the closing date for material for the May edition of our Newsletter is Friday 27th April 2012.

[See page 2 for details.](#)

Website: www.u3askegness.info