

King's Lynn

U3A



Newsletter

Autumn 2010

Contents	page
Editorial	2
Officers' Reports	
Chairman	3 - 4
Secretary	5
Obituary	
Alan Pearcey	6
Special Interest Groups	
Mondays	7 - 11
Tuesdays	12 - 14
Wednesdays	14 - 16
Thursdays	17 - 19
Fridays	19 - 20
Sundays	21
Visits	22 - 24
Talks	24
Miscellaneous	25 – 26
Committee	27

Editorial

Ann and I only moved to King's Lynn in March last year but we are by no means strangers to the area. You could say our roots are in the Fens; each born and raised no more than an hour's drive from here. In our careers we moved about the country but spent the majority of our working life at Lowestoft before retiring to northern France in 1994.

Joining U3A, amongst other societies and groups, was part of a strategy for integrating, but editing the newsletter could have been over-ambitious. In fact we have found support with Penny Dossetor as coordinator, and more recently have been joined by Edward and Judith Harrison. In a way this edition mirrors our experience in discovering U3A.

I found that the nature and status of U3A was not well known in the town. The brief statement from the official web-site is (may I say?) rather daunting:

U3As are self-help, self-managed lifelong learning co-operatives for older people no longer in full time work, providing opportunities for their members to share learning experiences in a wide range of interest groups and to pursue learning not for qualifications, but for fun.

Our experience is that the King's Lynn U3A is an organisation which is varied and welcoming, catering for an eclectic range of interests and activities. This newsletter provides an opportunity for us the members to review what we have established here, and to reflect that this U3A is what we make of it.

We greatly appreciate the support we have had from the committee, group leaders and members. We hope that you enjoy reading this autumn.

Liz Francois, Chair

On your behalf I attended the AGM at the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester on September 9th.

The opening speaker was Dr Peter Morris who welcomed us all and introduced us to the history and workings of the college. He then gave us a humorous account of his circuitous route to his role as Lecturer in Law and Equine Development Director, mainly it would seem as a sports reporter and an ex Wasps player!

Business 1 To receive and approve minutes of 2009 AGM

2 To appoint tellers for the AGM

3 Chairman's Report

Ian Searle outlined business carried out by the NEC during the year as these reports are all on the national website I will not go into further detail. He did however urge us to attend regional meetings – all U3A's must be invited. He also stressed that we could raise funds for U3A by purchasing their merchandise (details available from Maureen Reeley)

It was acknowledged that many U3A's were disappointed that this year there was no conference. Major factors include suitable venues, which have to be booked 18mths in advance, rising costs and importantly delegates not booking by the deadline so incurring financial risks. . There will however be a conference in 2011 on 17th-19th September in Nottingham and again he urged delegates to seek sponsorship from their U3As.

4 Annual report and accounts approved.

5 Knox Cropper appointed auditors.

6 Following appointments all carried

Chair	Ian Searle	
Vice Chairmen	Beth Butler and Barbara Lewis	
Hon Treasurer	Terry Hardie	
Regional Trustees	North West	John Ellison
	W. Midlands	Hillary Stringer
	Scotland	Morag Tamisari
	Wales	Arnold Jones
Other regions – No change		

7 Resolutions

(1) When planning future conferences the Third Age Trust should make every effort to arrange that they be held in a central location to ensure that the majority of U3As and their members have reasonable access with regard to transport and costs.

CARRIED

(2) Given that the lease on current TAT premises in Bromley is shortly up for renewal, and given the anticipated growth of the organisation in the next few years, we propose that serious consideration be given to the relocation of the national offices to a more central and cheaper geographical position in the UK, in particular to avoid a future increase in capitation and in general, to reduce overall costs whilst making provision for additional office space.

FAILED

(3) At AGM and at Extraordinary General Meetings where appropriate :-

A) All votes cast for officers are declared. CARRIED

B) All votes for regional trustees are declared. CARRIED

C) After a show of hands on any proposal, the chairman of the meeting shall decide whether, in the knowledge of the postal vote, a count of votes cast in the hall is required. If a count is required then the count of both the votes cast in the hall and the postal votes shall be declared. If a count is not required then both the outcome and the postal votes shall be declared.

FAILED

D) A total of electoral votes held by all affiliated U3As and a total for each region shall be declared.

CARRIED

E) All procedures governing elections shall be published in advance of the meeting .

FAILED

Amendment to clause C

All votes, both postal and by show of hands, on all resolutions shall be counted. The outcome shall be declared. The count of the votes shall be declared before the close of the general meeting .

CARRIED

(All these decisions were as agreed at our meeting. in August)

Honorary Secretary

This is the second edition of our new format newsletters and with it new editors. Alan Cleps and Dorothy Rawlings have relinquished their respective roles and we thank them for their hard work over the past years. The editorial sets out our new team and we wish them well. Please remember that the newsletter is only as good as the material received, so keep the articles and photographs coming.

We continue to have excellent speakers at our monthly meetings and attendance seems to be a steady 80/90. We need more help in the kitchen so if you feel you can lend a hand please let me know, this applies to guys as well, after all you benefit from the welcome cup of tea or coffee.

Will you also give some thought to joining the committee? All committees need fresh blood and we should have a turnaround. I have now been secretary for seven years (not sure where the time has gone) so would somebody like to take this on?

Lastly, do remember if you know of anybody who is ill please let Iris Perry know. Her number is 01553 672088 and a get well card will be sent.

Maureen Reeley

*Our congratulations to Phil Aelberry
on his recent marriage to Anne.*

Obituary – Alan Pearcey

Muriel Toby writes:

News has reached us to say that Alan died on 10th September having just had his 80th birthday. A considerable number of members will not know of him. My husband and I met Alan and his wife Norma twenty years ago in October 1990 when a feasibility meeting was held to discuss whether starting U3A would be viable in this area.

On a very snowy and icy morning in January 1991 King's Lynn U3A opened at the Friends Meeting House in Bridge Street, twenty people joined. The first Chairman was James Forster who, though rather reluctantly, agreed to see us through the first six months. At the end of that period we held the first AGM when Alan became Chairman. The Third Age Trust accepted King's Lynn as a member on 13th June which is now our official Anniversary. Alan had retired from teaching and he and Norma had purchased The Old School in Brandon Bank which they were renovating. Both were very active and enthusiastic members. Alan was Chairman in 1991 and 1992. In 1993 Olive Gold took over the Chairmanship. Those early years were difficult times, no funding, trying to build up the membership, finding suitable venues and speakers. For some years Alan and Norma brought their own P.A. System to set up at each meeting. Unfortunately both suffered serious health problems and could no longer attend. They kept in touch with our developments thanks to Dorothy Rawlings sending the new letter to them.

We send our condolences to Norma and wish her well at this difficult time.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

French Conversation

Monday

We are a small group and we meet on the third Monday of every month.

Jill Price is our tutor and we've been following the BBC 'The French Experience ' book- (a media course for learning French including discs.)

We are now in the process of reviewing from the beginning what we have learnt and what we have forgotten. By using this book we are trying to improve our French conversation.

We are also usually asked by Jill to write a diary of our news and activities. Naturally the meeting ends with tea and biscuits.

Lena Sturman and Jill Price

Very Interesting Information

1981

Prince Charles got married.
Liverpool crowned soccer Champions of Europe
Australia lost the Ashes.
The Pope died

2005

Prince Charles got married.
Liverpool crowned soccer Champions of Europe
Australia lost the Ashes.
The Pope died

Perhaps the next time that Prince Charles gets married.....

Someone should warn the Pope!

Art Appreciation Group**Monday**

On the first Monday afternoon of the month we view a video or DVD obtained from U3A on the subject of an artist or art movement. There is no particular system or order in our choices. We just select artists that sound interesting and talk about them afterwards. Our tastes are catholic, being willing to try anyone from Giotto to Jackson Pollock, though we tend to prefer conventional art rather than Tracey Emin's bed sort of thing.

Shirley Jackson

Card Making**Monday**

This took off very well to begin with, but we could now take two or three new members. We are currently working on Christmas cards which are easy to make.

We have been given permission to bring our surplus cards to the Monthly Meetings and sell them at cost to pay for new materials.

Dorothy Rawlings

The famous Bayeux Tapestry

Waiting for their wives, and drinking yet another beer at a cafe in Bayeux, one bored American was heard to say to his friend

“Gee, how can those dames spend so long looking at a RUG?”

Mixed Games Group**Monday**

Once a month on a Monday afternoon a group of members gathers and plays an exciting game called 'Phase 10'. We did vary our games at the beginning, but now we have found one that everyone likes we stick to that. It's not just luck, there is a certain element of skill as well in playing the game.

We are unable to accept new members at the moment; actually there are 7 of us in the group and we hope that one doesn't come because my table only accommodates 6 in comfort!

It would in fact be simple to set up another group (although you do not have to be simple to do so!), and in fact there are many card and board games which could be played. The choice is yours.

Margaret Fox

Stitchery Group**Monday**

We meet on the third Monday of the month at Margaret Bradley's house at 35, Mannington Place, South Wootton, or at another member's house if Margaret is not able to have us. There are five members in the group at the moment but we can accommodate two more

Everybody does the work they want to do and we help each other with advice or ideas that may be needed. We also try some new skills with stitches or patchwork. I am happy to look into my "library" of embroidery books to help members, including myself, to learn new stitches and to pass on more advanced ideas I have learned at a class I attend.

Anybody is welcome. As long as you can thread a needle come and have a go. Needlework really is not as difficult as people imagine.

Brigitte Bayley

Nostalgia 2**Monday**

This group has seven members and is now currently full.

Recently we've seen 'Walk on by, the History of Swing'. We now plan to explore the Frank Sinatra era and its singers.

Dorothy Rawlings

Recorder Group**Monday**

We are indebted to Andrea Haylett for volunteering to lead the group. The preliminary meeting will be on Monday 22nd November at 2 pm at 13, Briar Close, South Wootton.

Four members have expressed an interest in this group and there is room for two more. Descant recorders can be purchased from the East Coast Music Shop in Norfolk Street, price £7.

January 2011 will see a real start for the group.



Ann Smith

Mah Jong**Monday**

This group started in January 2010 and six months on has around twelve members, although they rarely all come at once. It takes place on the third Monday of the month at our home at 63 Castle Rising Road, South Wootton from 2 - 4 p.m. Although Mah Jong is really a game for four players, it is possible to play with three or even two, so no-one ever has to sit out. Between us we have four sets of tiles, including one kindly donated by Mrs Jenkins, a former U3A member who lives in West Winch.



Most people were new to the game and the first two or three sessions were spent becoming familiar with the basics, but people are now able to enjoy several games during the course of the afternoon.

There is still a lot to learn however, and we make frequent use of the various rule books available.

Allowing for the fact that it is rare for everyone to turn up on any one afternoon, we could accommodate two or three more people.

Penny Dossetor

Opera and Ballet**Tuesday**

There is really nothing new I can add to my previous notes on the group. We continue with the same format of viewing videos and DVDs. The number of members has remained at 9 for several years but increased to ten from September when we resumed after our two month summer break. This is the maximum number we can accommodate comfortably for viewing. Several members have been with us from the start, almost 12 years.

Muriel Toby

Handbell Group

Tuesday

There are ten members in our group which suits the number of bells we have. We practise at the North Lynn Community Centre on the first and third Tuesdays every month. We are charged a small fee for the room. At first we found it difficult ringing two bells at once instead of one as before but our new bells are much easier to handle and we are making good progress.

Ann Bolton has taken on the tasks of writing out all of our music sheets. This means one sheet for every tune for every ringer which is a great deal of work for which we are very grateful to Ann.

We have two requests for us to ring for groups before Christmas and three requests during Christmas. I am sure that we shall be ready for the Christmas events but we still have some way to go to be ready for those before Christmas.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the team for their effort and support.

Terry Greenacre



Play Reading and Theatre Appreciation Group**Tuesday**

This group has been running successfully for many years and I became it's leader about eighteen months ago.

In recent months we extended the interest to include theatre appreciation.

We meet on alternate Tuesdays 2 – 4pm at my home. We read a variety of plays comedy, farces, thrillers and dramas by popular authors/playwriters matching the number of characters to the number in the group so all can participate.

As a group we visit relatively local (40 - 50 miles) theatre productions professional and amateur to see plays we may have read or are of interest to us

At present we are 10 members -- all ladies --by accident not design. Gentlemen are welcome to join us!.

Margaret Neal

Scrabble**Tuesday**

We always have an entertaining morning. Sometimes we play Scrabble and sometimes UpWords. We all hate the Scrabble Dictionary so don't use it, referring to the Oxford English Dictionary instead. This must be one of the easiest Groups to host, all I have to do is remember to buy the biscuits.

Unfortunately we haven't got room for more people but we have a Scrabble set and an UpWords set which belong to U3A so another Group could be started quite easily.

Ann Bolton

Nostalgia 1**Tuesday**

This group continues with a small membership when they are available. We recently saw `The Unseen Eric Morecambe`, which told us a lot we hadn't known before.

Bob Rawlings

Book Groups I and II**Wednesday**

Group I has been going for over fifteen years and although membership has changed we have tried to average not more than ten-twelve members with some loyal from the beginning.

The method of conducting the meeting has varied but we find our present method of all trying to read the same book in preparation for discussion has been the most successful.

During the tea break discussions continue on a wide range of subjects including information about other books read by members recently. We come to joint decisions about suitable options, trying to plan 3 months ahead to give members time to order, borrow or buy in good time. If for any reason members are unable to read the book beforehand they are still welcome to attend and perhaps be stimulated to read it later. We try to stick to one person speaking at a time, sometimes difficult because of the enthusiasm!

Unfortunately we are full at the moment but I would be very happy to talk with anyone who would be prepared to start a new group.

Olive Gold

Group II started in 2002 and takes place on the fourth Wednesday of the month except December. We are about ten - twelve in number. We use the Norfolk Libraries Book Group facility – this enables us to borrow books with an extended time permitted, so no charges. During the last year we have read books by Joan Bakewell, Sebastian Barry, Gavin Essler, David Lodge, Sarah Walters and others.

Anne Lindley

Local History Group

Wednesday

This very active group led by Ann Bolton has had an interesting programme during the year. Work has been done on King's Lynn street names and visits made to the King's Lynn Town House Museum, to Hunstanton and Sedgeford, this last one for the second time. The August visit was to the Fenland and West Norfolk Aviation Museum at Wisbech, and in September Collectors' World at Downham Market. We have chosen to highlight Ann's report of the visit in May to Wicken Fen.

Editors' Note

Wicken Fen- Local History Group May 2010

At the suggestion of Members of the Group we went to Wicken Fen which showed us what our cultivated fenland used to look like. We took a stroll along the boardwalk through the fen and saw how much work is involved in managing it. (See Cover picture.)



Along the route we saw a wind pump, the last working drainage pump in the Fens.

One of the volunteers came in specially to open Fen Cottage, now one dwelling but was two. The last resident left in 1972. He told us the history of the cottage and the road it is in and pointed out an area of wall made from dried peat blocks which, when covered in daub and lime washed, remained dry and stable.

We poked around the scullery, kitchen and parlour amid comments about remembering some of the items on show. The outside privy with its galvanised bucket made us realise how necessary a chamber pot would have been. The shed yielded a wealth of tools many of which were specific to living in a fenland environment.

Ann Bolton

The Bridge Group**Wednesday**

The Bridge group which meets every Wednesday is still going strong after five years, thanks to our leader Phil Aelberry. At present we have sixteen members and are at full capacity. Most of our members have moved on to play confidently at local bridge clubs at Downham Market, Norhwold and Leziate. At regular intervals charity events are held. Bridge weekends and holidays are also enjoyed by our keener members.

We are pleased to announce that Kathleen Lees, a new U3A member is keen to start a Beginners' Bridge Group based at her home in Gaywood. Kathleen is an experienced player and would be happy to include not only people who would like to start Bridge but also those who have some experience of our wonderful game. Kathleen will negotiate a mutually convenient day and time for the new group with those members that contact her.

Val Shaw

A woman was telling her friend

“It is I who made my husband a millionaire”

“What was he before you married him?” asked the friend.

The woman replied “A multimillionaire”(!)

And it is said that behind every successful man

there is a good woman.

History Group**Thursday**

This group has been going since 1993 and of course we have studied many topics since those early beginnings. Also its membership has changed quite considerably although there are a number of us who were here from the start. Our present numbers are twelve to thirteen. We can accommodate more people if required. We meet on the 4th Thursday of the month from 2pm – 4 pm in Downham Market.

The choice of each topic is made by each person making a suggestion of an historical subject in which they are interested. One meeting is used to give members a chance to present a brief outline of the topic they have chosen. Then the group votes for the subject favoured. Previous subjects have been: The Unification of Italy, The Seventeenth Century, Slavery, Iran, Japan and many more.

The topic is then divided into parts and the group select a part they would like to research and then present a paper to the rest. There is always lively discussion to follow. No-one is obliged to give a talk but it does lessen the burden for others if there are plenty of volunteers. No-one gives more than ONE presentation a year.

This year's topic is NAPOLEON including Early life and beliefs, The Italian Campaign, 1797, Campaigns to conquer the East, 1798, Political situation in Paris, War with England 1803/05, Trafalgar etc..

Gertrude Seddon-Stoves

Scottish Country Dancing**Thursday**

Eight years ago, Dair and I decided to form a Country Dance Group and with a little gentle persuasion we managed to acquire 8 to 10 members. Now we have between sixteen and twenty four members regularly attending each week.

We meet every Thursday morning in the North Lynn Community Centre from September to April. We meet every week because if we had the usual monthly meeting common to most U3A interest groups, the continuity of memory might be lost. We start at 10.00 am with a little gentle warm-up and then practise set dances until 11.00 am when we have a welcome coffee break. After the coffee break we continue to dance until noon.

One of the problems teaching the group is to ensure that those members who have been coming for a long time do not become bored through too much repetition, but on the other hand that newcomers are not plunged too quickly into dances which are too advanced for them. From my point of view, I cannot speak too highly of the friendliness and encouragement from the more experienced dancers towards beginners. Without this encouragement the group would not function.

Editor's Note:

Mary included several comments from her dancers about the group. Here is one that seems to catch the essence of this activity:

“This presses all the right buttons for me, dancing, exercise and good company. I love it.”

Mary Cox

Genealogy**Thursday / Friday**

Most people know it as “Family History”.

The family history group was formed several years ago. We meet at Sue Rowe’s house on the 1st. Friday of the Month. At present we have a full group and because of demand we have set up another group with Doris Watson leading.

After the usual chat about our aches and pains etc. we then get down to the real discussion and talk about what we have discovered since the last meeting. If a member has a problem we give our advice on the best way to resolve the problem.

The internet is now a very good source of information. There are many web sites where we can obtain (hopefully) the info we want. You have to be careful though and check the source, as there are many errors on some web sites. Original Parish records are the best. They are usually held at the County Record Office.

Joining a Family History Society relating to the area you want to research may help as they have a lot of records that could help you.

Barry Keenan

Petanque

Friday

We meet every Friday 10:00 – 12:00, (2:00 – 4:00 on monthly meeting days).

We are enjoying a good, competitive season and generally very fortunate with the weather. At this stage of the season bright but cold is good. A great feature of this activity is the sociable exchanges on and off the 'terrain'.



Our Lunch has been booked for Friday 26th November and as usual we've asked our now retired non-playing members to join us. Play starts again (weather permitting) on the 4th March 2011. We have been fully subscribed once more, and have only had to cancel 3 meetings due to bad weather.

As far as the Annual Trophy is concerned – all will be revealed at the December U3A Meeting.

Bob Rawlings

Gardening Group**Sunday**

We have based our meetings largely on visits to gardens open in the National gardens Scheme. Gardens open for charity in the summer, generally on the fourth Sunday in the month. We meet at the garden concerned at 2.00 pm and tour around, admiring the skill and hard work involved and delighting in the beautiful plants and flowers on show. Then there is always tea and cakes to complete the pleasure.

Shirley Jackson

Sunday Lunch Group

The Sunday Lunch Group is a sociable and friendly occasion which is arranged so that the venue is different each month. During the summer months we venture further afield and stay nearer to King's Lynn during the winter months. We try to get recommendations of different places to visit from the group. The only constraint is finding venues which can accommodate the large party (about 30).

Recent venues:

The Kings Lynn Golf Club
The Anvil, Congham
Caley Hall, Hunstanton.

Middleton Golf Club
Black Horse, Castle Rising

The next venue will be:

The Castle, Downham Market

Les Watson

Summer Visits

Keats' House and Kenwood House, Hampstead, London

It came as something of a surprise to find that Keats' House was a modest semi-detached house in a pretty garden with views over Hampstead Heath. After an interesting introduction by the curator, we had a chance to tour the house from the cellars to the bedrooms, all of a modest size and now converted into one dwelling after Keats' death. The house was originally designed to look like one property and was shared by two friends, Charles Brown and the Dilke family. Keats lodged with Charles Brown from 1818 until 1820 and it was during this time that he met Fanny Brawne when her family became the tenants of the other half of the property. Fanny was the inspiration for several of Keats' most famous poems during this period.

In contrast to Keats' House, Kenwood House is a magnificent neo-classical mansion set in wonderful parkland. Lord Iveagh of the Guinness brewing family bought Kenwood to house his fine collection of Old Master paintings. These range through Rembrandt, Vermeer, Hals and Van Dyck to Gainsborough, Reynolds, Turner and other great artists. It was a great thrill to see in reality pictures in such a grand setting which before our visit had only been seen as reproductions in books or postcards.

Our thanks go to Rosalind for organising a wonderful day of visits to two such contrasting but equally rewarding houses.

Ann Smith

Bure Valley Railway and River Cruise.

We chatted and viewed the small engine and carriages until we were told to board. We left at 10.05 and the sedate chugging and rattle of the train was delightful as was the sound of the whistle and the smell of smoke - we even went through a tunnel and the lights came on so we weren't in the dark!

The views were a sight to behold, more fields of gold with a combine harvester already starting to reap. Further along the small banks each side of the track were bedecked with various summer flowers growing in dappled sunshine. On one side of the track was a sturdy, natural path for cyclists and walkers who were only too pleased to wave a greeting to us as we chugged past.

Our narrow gauge single track came adjacent to the main line in Wroxham and we enjoyed our train ride for forty five minutes. The coach took us the short journey into Wroxham. We had lunch by the waterside and watched passing rivercraft, swans, ducks and geese who pleaded prettily for scraps.

We queued for thirty minutes to board our boat for a cruise named 'The Queen of the Broads' in the rain, but the sun came out later! We sat in the saloon away from the inclement weather but the throb of the engine was rather loud, and a group of noisy people spoiled the hour long commentary.

Many thanks go to Terri our Harrods coach driver and to Rosalind for organising our day out.

Anne Pugh.

sic

A minister announced:

'Now that Sister Christine has successfully completed her examinations we want to congratulate her. Will you please remember to pray for all the patients on ward 3D where she will be working.'

Summer Visit

Time Time and Tide Museum Great Yarmouth, and the Transport Museum at Carlton Colville near Lowesoft



The September visit was to Long Melford and Lavenham.

Talks

We would like to thank Penny Dossetor for arranging such an interesting and varied programme of speakers this year. They have included subjects such as Syria and Nicaragua, whetting members' appetites to perhaps travel to more unusual holiday destinations, the preservation of our heritage and the history of the National Health Service with questions about its future, early telephones and a wonderful musical morning about both classical and electric violins. A practical talk about power of attorney proved useful for many of our members. The final talk before this newsletter went to print was about the link between social history and fine art. We thank all our speakers for helping to inform us on such a variety of subjects and for their time and professionalism.

Ann Smith

Land's End to John O'Groats

I set myself the challenge of cycling from Lands End to John O'Groats this summer to mark my 60th birthday, which was in February this year. I did the ride with two close friends from North Wootton, Bob Murray, 54 and Gerry Bird, 55, and we completed the 1,008 mile ride in just over 11 days, averaging almost 90 miles a day.

We decided to use the ride to raise money for Park House, the Leonard Cheshire Disability hotel at Sandringham, where I work as a volunteer, taking disabled guests and their carers out on minibus trips to local attractions in Norfolk. Park House needed a new minibus, and we set out to raise the £36,000 it would cost.

We have been cycling together most weekends for the past 3 years, and have been stepping up the distances to enable us to cope with this ultimate British cycling challenge. Earlier in the year we spent a long weekend in Yorkshire tackling the Dales Cycleway, 150 miles of extremely hilly roads with some stretches of 1 in 4 gradients, including a climb to Tan Hill, Britain's highest pub. This proved invaluable training for the hills we were to face in Cornwall and Devon, the Lake District, and the Scottish Highlands. We can proudly confirm that every hill was ridden to the top, with no dismounts.

It was an enormous help being able to borrow the Park High (now Kings Lynn Academy) minibus for the trip, not only to carry our stuff while we were cycling and store our bikes overnight, but also to get us to Land's End (about 400 miles from Kings Lynn) and back from John O'Groats afterwards (another 700 miles)!

Everything went pretty much according to plan, apart from the wind direction being predominantly from the North West or West, which made the ride much tougher than expected. But the rain held off for the most part, and we even had sunshine on the final morning for our arrival at John O'Groats. There were many memorable moments along the way, the highlight probably being the welcome

we got after cycling just over 99 miles to reach Moniaive, a small village in the south of Scotland, where we were given free food in the only pub and entertained by a group playing Scottish Country music who also did a whip round to boost our fundraising.

The great news is that, thanks to donations from friends and families, many local schools and businesses, Lions, Rotary, Round Tables and Masonic Lodges, collections from pubs, cafes, takeaways and local events, and activities including a quiz devised by U3A member Ann Bolton, we have succeeded in raising the full £36,000 and the minibus has been ordered and should be with Park House by the end of October. Needless to say, I have bagged first drive!

Phil Davies



2010/2011 Committee

Chairman	Liz Francois
Vice Chairman	Gloria Pantling
Membership Secretary	Gloria Pantling
Secretary	Maureen Reeley
Treasurer	Doris Watson
Group coordinator	Val Sparkes
Newsletter coordinator	Penny Dossetor
Speaker Organiser	Penny Dossetor
Meeter/Greeter	Margaret Neal
Door	Yvonne Keenan
Committee	Bob Harrod
Committee	Anne Lindley

Non-Committee Positions

Outings	Rosalind Green
Welfare	Iris Perry
Newsletter Editors	Brian & Ann Smith
	Edward & Judith Harrison