

# KING'S LYNN



# Newsletter

*Spring 2013*



*For members, About members,  
By members*

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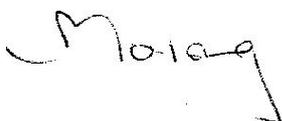
## Editorial

*At last, we bring you – without fanfare, but with a collective sigh of relief – the Spring 2013 issue of your King's Lynn U3A Newsletter. In doing so, the team acknowledges the sterling example set by our previous Editors, Ann and Brian Smith. Whilst we have decided to continue with a similar overall layout and frequency, the odd bit of personalisation has crept in, which we hope you will regard as 'creativity' and 'innovation'.*

*In preparing this issue, the word 'opportunity' comes to mind. In every U3A activity observed and participated in, there has been opportunity - to learn new skills, absorb new information, visit new places, meet 'new' people, and to give and to share. Where else might we have opportunity to participate in such diverse and rewarding activities as Card Making and Computing, Bird Watching and Mixed Games? There is also opportunity, as evidenced at our December meeting, to shed inhibitions and don a pink wig or display one's legs, without censure. Perhaps our new Philosophy Group will take the opportunity to discuss how stimulation and participation nurture perennial, active minds (yes, that's us, folks!).*

*The Committee and the Newsletter team continue to welcome your input – this might be in the form of suggestions for monthly topics, possible new activities or suggested articles. Constructive comment is also invited, giving you (even more) opportunity to share thoughts on how the delivery of U3A matters can be shaped to suit members' requirements. At each meeting, comment sheets are available, primarily designed to capture suggestions for the Newsletter, but need not be restricted to this.*

*Continued production of the Newsletter is very much dependent upon knowing what interests you, and receiving suitable articles for print. Have you, for example, had an experience – whether in a personal or professional capacity, light hearted or life changing – which you think may be of interest to others, either to entertain or just to share? In this edition, Norma Chaplin shares precious memories in her extracts from letters written by her parents following the 1953 floods. Thank you, Norma, and all others who have contributed, for enabling the Team to bring you this Spring 2013 edition. And thank you to our readers for supporting us.*



Morag Bean, Acting Editor

## Apologies and clarifications

We wish to apologise to Dorothy Rawlings for the omission of her name against the excellent poem 'Guy Fawkes', published in the Autumn 2012 *Newsletter*. So sorry, Dorothy – we deserve a rocket!

## From Your Committee

### New Chairman's Message

*I feel very honoured to be Chairman of King's Lynn U3A. I know how much being a member means to many people; it has proved to be a life-line into the community for many who have recently moved into the area. This also applies to recently retired people who have hitherto been too busy at work to have time to pursue their own interests. Many friendships have started and flourished at the monthly meetings and within interest groups. This can be particularly welcome during times of illness and after bereavement; a number of members have been eased back into a social life as a result of their membership.*

*As to the future – I would like to build on the strengths which have been developed over the last quarter century and also make changes which reflect the wishes of members. Our Speaker Organiser, Ann Higgins, and Group Co-ordinator, Val Sparkes, are always keen to receive and respond to suggestions from members in relation to subjects for talks or new interest groups. We are guided by the The Third Age Trust to which we belong but we are free to develop in a way that suits the inclinations of our wide range of members. We have a very enthusiastic and hard working committee, but we do need input from members to ensure that we are 'fit for purpose'.*

*Finally, I would like to thank everyone for their support over the past few years during my time as membership secretary and look forward to an interesting and vibrant future at King's Lynn U3A.*

*Gloria A. Pantling.*



*Words of Wisdom* The art of taxation is so to pluck the goose that the maximum number of feathers is obtained, with the minimum amount of hissing.

*Jean Cobert 1665*

## **Retiring Chairman's Report**

*This is my third and final report as your Chairman.*

*The past year has been successful and busy with a good attendance at meetings.*

*In May a letter was sent to her Majesty the Queen expressing our good wishes on her Diamond Jubilee and inviting her and the Duke of Edinburgh to become honorary members of our U3A. Regretfully, this was declined; however, we received a personal message of thanks.*

*As usual, we had a varied programme of speakers, some giving much food for thought. Once again, thanks to Penny Dossetor, our retiring Speaker Organiser. We were also entertained by performances from the Recorder and Hand bells groups; congratulations to you both, and to the group leaders, Ann Higgins and Terry Greenacre. At the December meeting we all enjoyed the wonderful pantomime, 'Cindyella'. The memory of a certain person's Hot Pink Knickers will last a long time!*

*In conclusion, I would like to say a very big thank you to my fellow committee members for all their hard work throughout the year, and to you, the members, for all your support.*

*Liz Francois*

### **Treasurer's Report: Year Ending December 2012**

Firstly, I would like to thank Barry Keenan and Jeff Graham for verifying the U3A accounts, and Grace Hogan and Ron Graham for verifying the U3A Travel accounts.

**Income:** Our income this year was £4,226, the result of an increase in membership.

**Expenditure:** We will not have to make any payment for insurance this year, as it is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the U3A.

We have paid monthly for the hearing loop, which has been a great success: in view of this, I think we should look into purchasing one to save paying out monthly

. (We have since purchased one for £107.34)

**Investment:** The investment in COIF (Charities Official Investment Fund) still stands at £2,000 with a return of £17.25 interest, a slight increase on last year.

**Speakers:** The cost of the speakers decreased this year.

**Reserves:** Our level of reserves is still at an acceptable £2,000 in the investment account and £3,259 in the bank. We are required by the Third Age Trust to hold a minimum of 12 months' expenditure in reserve. We have a surplus of £999.

**Membership:** The membership has yet again increased and, at time of drawing up these accounts, we have 240, of whom 112 have signed up for Gift Aid. If you are a tax payer, this is an efficient tax free way to increase our income, with no cost to you.

**Outings Account:** This has a surplus of £604, which enables the Outings Organiser to pay deposits.

*Doris Watson*

### **Members of Neighbouring U3As**

We are very pleased to welcome members of neighbouring U3As to share the range of groups we offer. However, in response to the pressures of increased membership, we have clarified our position.

Anyone who is already a member of another U3A can join the King's Lynn U3A as an associate member at a reduced cost. They would then have all the benefits of full membership but we would not pay the allocation to headquarters which would already have been paid for them nor would they receive the U3A magazine which they would receive via their main group.

Only full and associate members will be able to join our interest groups in the future. We hope this will result in a fairer system for all.

*Gloria Pantling*

## **Meeting Reviews**

### **October 2012: 'Photography' – Tracey Robinson**

Tracey Robinson has been 'doing' photography for just five years, but in that time has reached an excellent standard and is obviously very talented. She has had her work reproduced in several photographic magazines.

Born with a rare disability, she was almost at breaking point in her life when she first picked up a camera. She originally used an easy 'point and shoot' camera, with good results. She now also uses Bridge and Digital Single Lens Reflex cameras.

Tracey explained the basics of photography, including camera settings, how to get better straight lines, get rid of shadows, position yourself for the best photographs and avoid unsightly backgrounds, the Rule of Thirds and the patience required. It all sounded very simple (not so easy when we try it for ourselves!).



She also restores old photographs and the results we were shown were very different from the originals. It can sometimes take over 12 hours to achieve the perfection she aims for.

Her photographs are truly inspiring and she is a very stimulating person. Her talk interested so many that some members went to an open evening on 7 November and a taster evening on 11 December held locally, and we are hoping to set up a Photography Club possibly under her tutelage.

More details can be found on: [www.redfish-collection.com](http://www.redfish-collection.com)

*Cynthia Handscombe and Edward Harrison*

### **November 2012: 'Rapid UK' – Janette Wilson North**

Rapid UK is a voluntary organisation, set up in 1996 to provide a rapid response to disasters occurring anywhere in the world. It is based in Gloucester and run solely by volunteers, who undergo extensive training.



Of possibly 200 or more hopeful applicants, very few actually complete the thorough and rigorous training, to be considered suitable for the hard and stressful work required. An introductory day is held for applicants, followed by an induction weekend. Those selected for the next stage undergo a training programme lasting about 18

months, which comprises one full weekend per month, culminating in a week long assessment.

Generally between 35 and 40 operational members plus a support team, living in very basic camp conditions, assist in any disaster, such as hurricane, mud slide, floods or earthquake, with attendant risks such as fire and water contamination. Very powerful equipment is used in a rescue and every team member must be competent in its use. Work undertaken in Peru in 1996 is still ongoing, and includes medical training and assistance; the team was also active in Oman in 2007–8.

A screen presentation of the October 2005 Pakistan earthquake illustrated in detail the work required in the rescue of many people, under extremely difficult conditions. Members later put questions to the Speaker, who answered in detail from first hand experience. Spontaneous donations to Rapid UK made by members at the close of the presentation were gratefully accepted.

*Cynthia Handscombe*

Following is an extract from Ms Wilson-North's letter of thanks:

*The amount came to an amazing £172.45! (which includes the £25 cheque donation). Thank you to you and your members for making me feel so welcome and again for the very generous donation that I can assure you will be put to very good use.*

*Janette*

### **December 2012: Members' pantomime – 'Cindyella Seeks the Knowledge'**

Under the very capable direction of Louise Smith, an enthusiastic cast of 14 entertained fellow members with an adaptation of Cinderella with a topical twist, penned by Ann Bolton and Louise. Travel pass toting Cindyella (*oozing glamour and bearing a remarkable resemblance to Gloria Pantling*), desperate to be awarded honorary membership of the 'Youth 3A', scootered and hootered her way through a life of sobbing drudgery, finally discarding broom for v-v-v-room to emerge triumphant from the U3A entrance exam, having gained 'best test score'. Aah! (*No indication was given of the standard she had to reach to achieve this acclaim, but it must have been at least Mensa level.*)

Cindyella was supported in her quest by the snazzily booted Wellington (Maggie Neal), the resplendent Fairy Liquid (Pat Jones,

not washing dishes but dishing out wishes), the Glamorous Sisters and doyennes of drag, Mona and Lottie, aka Edward Harrison and Ann Bolton - no way could we call them Ugly, not with those two very fine pairs of legs on display - and a very dapper Daddy (Ron Boxer). The seven members of the chorus (Denise Mansell, Penny Dossetor, Val Shaw, Fran Baines, Vera Boxer, and Gill and David Cassidy) provided tuneful vocal support, albeit with somewhat unorthodox wording, whilst narrator Phil Mansell kept the storyline - which at times gave renewed meaning to the term 'away with the fairies...' - on the straight and narrow.

As ambassadors for King's Lynn U3A, this glitter strewn, flag waving group of over active pensioners (*what on earth did Louise slip into their coffee?*), supported by musical and sound effect accompaniment from Ann Higgins and Jonathan Dossetor, and by Wardrobe Mistress (or should it be Wardrobe Mischief?) Judith Harrison, did us proud.

Thanks and congratulations are in order to those who made this enjoyable event possible, each one worthy of the coveted Gold Star presented to Cindyella by retiring Chairman Liz Francois.

Arthritis and memory willing, we look forward to a next production. Oh, yes, we most certainly do.

*Morag Bean*

[See Photo Gallery](#)

### **Treading the boards (Behind the scenes in Cindyella)**

*At Knight's Hill on Tuesdays we rehearsed the pantomime,  
The script had been rewritten and was partially in rhyme.  
Parts were given fairly, volunteers took them on,  
But that meant the poor chorus line numbered only one.*

*Ann, who did the music, recruited several more,  
In total there were seven, some who'd never sung before!  
Louise was the director, and narrated from the start,  
But very soon she persuaded Phil to do the talking part.*

*And so the show progressed each week,  
Fairy Liquid learnt her spells;  
She found her wand worked better after Judith added bells!  
The costumes took a lot of thought and got better every week.  
Ron's waistcoats, Maggie's wellies  
and Edward's knickers were unique!*

*Louise was always thinking and her very active mind,  
At four o' clock in the morning, came up with many different lines.  
To hear her say "I've been thinking" made the cast all groan and  
quake,  
But they strived to learn the changes... for entertainment's sake!!*

*The sisters mean and ugly sneered and argued all the time,  
They thought themselves so lovely, sweet and friendly, so sublime.  
They mocked and bullied Cindy, deprived her of the U.3.A.  
But Cindy did the entrance test and easily won the day.*

*So the happy story ended and we all had had such fun,  
That we just can't wait till next year when we'll do another one!!?*

*Denise Mansell*

**January: 'A Nice Little Job'  
- Mary Mackie**

Mary Mackie, who now lives in Heacham, is well known for her series of tales based in Norfolk. She describes her books as mystery/romances with the required inclusion of romantic sex. She has also written some one-act plays for local groups, given creative writing courses and run creative writing groups.



Mary's husband, Christopher, administrator at Felbrigg Hall for seven years, introduced the 'Attics to Cellars' tours that now take place in many National Trust Houses, which many of you may have enjoyed. It was her time at Felbrigg Hall that inspired Mary to write the Felbrigg Hall

trilogy, followed by these historical novels based on Victorian Sandringham.

Two biographies followed. She was commissioned to write the official history of Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing service. She then wrote 'The Prince's Thorn', the biography of Louisa Mary Cresswell, a Sandringham farmer. Altogether, she has written around 68 books some of which have been translated into 20 languages. I hope U3A members will be sufficiently intrigued to read her books, encouraged by her interesting talk. Look up her website: [www.stillscribbling.co.uk](http://www.stillscribbling.co.uk)

*Anne Lindley*

**March: 'The Norfolk Poacher'**  
**Charlotte Paton**

Charlotte Paton had us all fascinated by her story of Frederick Rolfe, the King of the Norfolk Poachers. Finding his name on the deeds of the cottage in which she lives, for seven years she tracked his story across Norfolk and into Suffolk, giving us an insight into the life of the poor from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century into the 20<sup>th</sup>.



Frederick was born in 1862, when life was hard for farm workers and their families and, at times, poaching became the only way to feed them. Penalties were severe, and fines which couldn't be paid resulted in imprisonment, as Fred found out several times.

It seems incredible to me that one could be sent to prison for taking a rabbit from farmland. Farmers detested the creatures as they ate the crops, but clung to their ownership to the detriment of families fallen on hard times.

I was left with a feeling of sympathy for Fred, tempered by the thought that he hadn't been a particularly nice person.

*Ann Bolton*

## **Group Activities**

### **Computing**

Autumn 2012 and more recent activities have included an open lecture/demonstration about social networking (Facebook in particular) at True's Yard, by Marc Simmons ([www.cpwiz.co.uk](http://www.cpwiz.co.uk)). In November, the Computer User Group met in my home for a self-help session covering an exploratory range of a dozen topics.

In 2013 we are pursuing a format of lecture/demonstration followed by DIY on members' laptops. The focal points for the first three months were iPad (Bob Rawlings), Music (myself) and Windows Movie Maker (Edward Harrison).

Activities and topics are evolving, and are appreciated by the eight members on my circulation list. There is no plan to expand, but I would be pleased to talk to anyone interested in future possibilities.

### **Scottish Country Dancing**

I arrived at 10 am for my first dancing session with a little trepidation, since I don't know my left from my right, have been told I have no rhythm and dance with two left feet! We were greeted by the beautiful sound of Scottish music and Adair (Andrews) wanting to know whether we would like tea or coffee during the break. I put on my soft shoes whilst others laced up their ghillies (Scottish dance shoes). After the welcoming greetings and chat, Mary (Cox) summoned us to form a large circle where we warmed up by going through the basic dance steps. After several more exercises, we were asked to take a partner. The more experienced dancers selected the less confident ones, some of the ladies donning tartan sashes to identify them as taking the male role. Most dances involve sets of three or more pairs. Mary patiently talked and walked us through the dance phrases, starting with the first dancing couple, and progressed by repeating this with each subsequent couple. We 'set', 'cast', and did 'grand chains' and 'circles'.

When we all felt reasonably confident, Adair started up the music on the CD player and we began with a bow or curtsy to our partner. If I did not remember a sequence, my partner or one of the other dancers shouted instructions, or took my arm to guide me through the steps. Luckily, there are positions during most dances when you are not actively participating, but still have to be aware that you might suddenly be involved in that sequence. Eventually it all ended in the pleasing relief that I had got through that dance without too many mistakes.

This is gentle (or perhaps genteel) Scottish Country Dancing, not the energetic Highland fling or Strip the Willow or Dashing White Sergeant. We then changed partners for other reels and jigs with evocative, poetic names such as The Highland Rambler, The Piper and the Penguin, Postie's Jig and Mairi's Wedding. Then we performed a much slower dance - the strathspey, such as MacDonald of the Isles and Monymusk.

After an hour we broke for refreshments with superior biscuits, as well as a chat and any announcements, before returning to the dance floor until 12 o'clock. I felt relieved that I had got through my first session, not perfectly, but grateful to all who had been most considerate and helpful and most of all, having met some new friends and having had such fun. If I can do it, so can you, so why not come and join us.

*Edward Harrison*

[See Photo Gallery](#)

### **Dancing on Thursday**

**1** *We come together on Thursdays  
To learn to Scottish Dance.  
We have to move in special ways,  
Not allowed to jump or prance!*

**2** *Mary is our teacher.  
She is always patient and kind;  
Sometimes we're very muddled  
But she doesn't seem to mind*

**3** *We dance in groups of six or eight,  
In long sets, or in squares.  
We dance to jolly music,  
Most of it is 'Dair's!*

**4** *Sometimes we're very noisy,  
Don't listen as we should  
But Mary gets us organised;  
She's really very good!*

**5** *Scottish Dancing's a good hobby;  
It lifts you when you're sad; So let's  
say "Thanks" to Mary  
'Cos I'm sure we drive her mad!!*

*Denise Mansell*

[See  
Photo  
Gallery](#)

### **A look back in time ...**

#### **A recollection of Local History Group activities**

Our first meeting really gave me the incentive to continue when everyone seemed to enjoy handling Roman artefacts. It gave me heart. Our visits to Sedgeford have always been enjoyable for Mike and me, the best moment being when a bronze pin which had just been dug up was placed on my hand. 2000 years old and seeing daylight for the first time. Wow!

I have been impressed with the friendly welcome given to us by various people contacted by email or phone. Local History groups at Castle Rising who gave up their time to show us their village, Narborough who opened their museum specially for us and provided delicious refreshments, the Maritime Museum at Clenchwarton again opened specially for us with refreshments too, but probably the Manager of the Port of King's Lynn who had never been asked before and delighted in showing us 'his 'port.

As Mike and I love museums and things mechanical I've enjoyed these, but the best of all was the visit to RAF Marham. The look on Mike's face as he sat in a Tornado was brilliant. I now know where our Grandson gets his big grin from. We also enjoyed taking a group from Sheffield U3A round our lovely old town. I'd like to thank all those who came to our sessions, they made it worthwhile.

*Ann Bolton*

[See Photo Gallery](#)

# Photo Gallery

## Kaleidoscope



These members of the Computer Group seem happy. Brian must have solved a difficult problem for



Ann Bolton steps down from leading the Local History Group from 2006 to 2012. In this photograph (left), she is being presented with a token of appreciation by Anne Lemmon who, with husband Keith, has taken over the running of the group

Anne Lemmon, in her role of committee member of the King's Lynn branch of the National Osteoporosis Society, is introduced to Prince Charles at the 2012 Sandringham Flower Show



Gloria Pantling shows us her 'fascinating' Royal hat



Goodies contributed by members on sale at our meeting in March raised approximately £80 for Red Nose Day charities

Front cover. Forerunner(!) of the amphibious vehicle, or just finding their sea legs? Spotted at the 2012 King's Lynn Heritage Day

# Activities



Cast of Pantomime,  
Cindyella



Scottish Country  
Dancing

Hand Bells



Bird  
Watching



Local History  
Visits



Sedgeford  
Dig



Cooper  
Roller  
Bearings

*Our thanks to those who have taken photographs, submitted photographs, or allowed themselves to be photographed, all in the name of the U3A.*

## Group Activities (cont ...)

### Mah Jong

My diary shows it's the third Monday of the month. Put brain into gear. Think Winds and Dragons; Heavenly Twins and Wriggling Snake; Gates of Heaven and Buried Treasure. It must be Mah Jong day.

Meeting in the home of Group Leader Penny Dossetor, between eight and twelve members come together for two hours, a mix of purists and "let's play by the rules of today" enthusiasts. The latter method possibly signifies the biggest challenge of the afternoon, i.e. can the brain accommodate the switch to playing the wall clockwise, as opposed to the more usual anti-clockwise (or is it the other way around)? As I do not rise beyond an elementary chows and pungs level, this presents no risk to my winning or losing a hand, as any win is generally by luck rather than wits or skill.

Mah Jong, originating in China and played with cards representing suits but now using sets of either 136 or 144 'tiles', traditionally made from bone or ivory, was apparently introduced to the Western world following the first World War. The name means 'sparrow', a bird of great mythical intelligence which is depicted on a tile of the Bamboo suit.\* Many variants of the game now exist, reflecting its international appeal.

If Confucius had had anything to say about Mah Jong, it might have been along the lines of "She who makes the rules has a sense of achievement; but he who can follow those rules has the greater achievement". (Note: This would have been circa. 500BC – attitudes have changed in the interim.)

Quite regardless of rules and winners, and oblivious to complex scoring algorithms (we don't take it that seriously), members enjoy being in like-minded company in a convivial setting, and very much appreciate the hospitality extended by Penny and Jonathan.

\* *The Cambridge Encyclopaedia, Cambridge University Press*

*Morag Bean*



*Words of Wisdom* Make ye the world a bit better  
or more beautiful place because ye have lived in it.  
*Francis Bacon*

## Members' Miscellany

### *What is King's Lynn U3A?*

**K**nowledge gained in the past  
**I**s shared and used in a pleasurable way with  
**N**ew found friends of all ages of retirement. Interest  
**G**roups covering many  
**S**ubjects give us the opportunity to discover interests  
 we have never had time for in our

**L**ong working  
**Y**ears  
**N**o longer tied to the working day we are  
**N**ow able to

**U**se our time as we wish.  
**N**evertheless  
**I**t is good to have the more relaxed discipline of the  
**V**arious interests in which  
**E**veryone participates. Our  
**R**egular meetings, in good company, are  
**S**omething that each  
**I**ndividual member anticipates  
**T**hroughout the  
**Y**ear. Exceedingly well planned

**O**utings in company with our  
**F**riends are a pleasure shared by all of us.

**T**here is no limit to  
**H**ow much  
**E**ach member may participate in

**T**he many interest groups, even starting a new group if they  
**H**ave a skill to share or the wish to do so.

**I**t  
**R**eally has to be said that U3A is  
**D**efinitely the most enjoyable, friendly

**A**nd caring  
**G**roup of people you have ever  
**E**ver known.

Dorothy Rawlings

### **Her Majesty Commands ...**

I was rather nonplussed when I first received the letter from the Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk informing me that I was being considered for an invitation to a Garden Party at Sandringham in June 2012. I had never hankered after such an invitation and had always been slightly amused when watching people gathering in their finery in the grounds of Buckingham palace. However it wasn't long before my scepticism had been replaced by an urge to search my wardrobe for a suitable outfit.

I had been chosen as a result of my role as Chair of Governors of a Churchill Park Complex Needs School, and I accepted on behalf of myself and the vice-chair. Eventually, a stiff gilded invitation arrived plus accompanying instructions in rather archaic language on suitable dress and appropriate etiquette for the occasion.

The afternoon itself was more enjoyable than I had anticipated. Approximately two thousand of us gathered on the lawns in front of the house. Fortunately, the sun shone, but I noticed that most of the ladies were holding 'wedding' umbrellas which are pretty and also transparent. The organisation and security was efficient but welcoming; the gardens were beautiful; the food was delicate and delicious; and the music from local bands helped to set the scene. It was good to see that College of West of Anglia students had been given this catering and waiting work experience opportunity, and they looked very happy to be there. Most of the time we walked around greeting people we knew and commenting on the many fashions displayed.

At last the royal standard was raised on the roof - the Queen had arrived! She was accompanied by Prince Andrew who was standing in for the Duke, still convalescing after his Jubilee hospital stay. Everyone gathered in long lines as the Queen walked slowly from the terrace, speaking to a few people previously brought forward. Her Majesty looked remarkably beautiful in top to toe tangerine. I hadn't appreciated how lovely and genuine her smile is.

After tea in the marquee, she made her way to a shaded seat where she could sit comfortably whilst we enjoyed a short concert by a military band, then we left to the strains of bagpipes, which continued as we wandered back to the field to try to find our cars.

*Gloria Pantling*

[See Photo Gallery](#)

### **Flooding of the rail line**

At 6.45pm on 31 January 1953, a passenger train with 3 or 4 coaches (a Claude Hamilton D16/3 class) left Hunstanton station for King's Lynn, driven by Frank Parnell; the fireman was Doug Skate.

They had got just past the Gate House, about 1/4 mile from the station (where Searle's roundabout now is), a downhill run, when the front of the engine was hit by a floating beach hut. Water got into the ash pan and put the fire out, totally disabling the train and all of the lights.

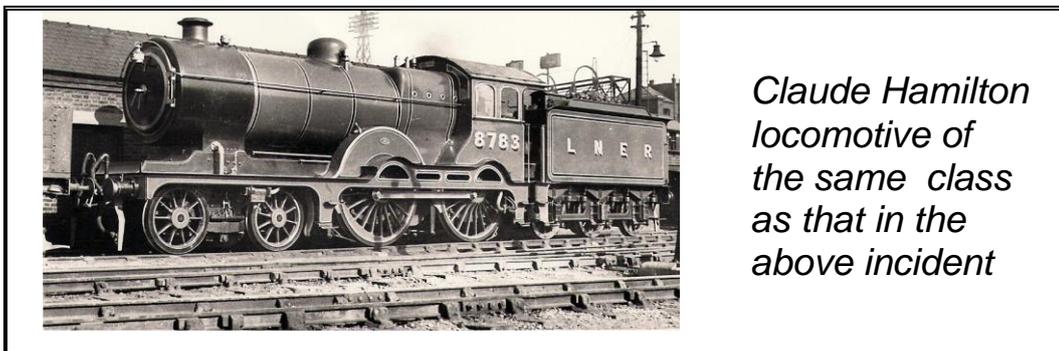
Doug, with the help of the train's guard, climbed over the tender and got into the first coach. Fortunately, there were not too many passengers on board, so they moved them all to the back coach to keep warm, remembering there was no lighting. They then opened the doors of the other coaches so the water could flow through, helping to stop the coaches from tipping over. When the water level started to drop, they broke up the wooden footplate, and, with paraffin (used to light the headlights), managed to light the fire.

When they got up steam, it was discovered that there was a hole in the vacuum pipe, caused by the damage from the hut. The fireman and the guard managed to block the hole with rags and bits of wood, and, as the water was now subsiding, they were able to reverse back to Hunstanton.

A few yards further along the line, the track had been washed away; if the train had continued travelling forward, it would have been derailed and many lives would potentially have been lost.

In total, about 70 lives were lost from Lynn to Hunstanton on that day.

*Anne Lemmon*



## Coronation Programme

Copies of the Coronation programme, as relayed for public viewing in St George's Guildhall and submitted by Norma Chaplin, are featured below. The screening was quite an event in itself - 1953, a temporary facility, on a local authority budget. Were you there? Perhaps your family purchased a television especially for the occasion. Do you remember Fullers Radio and Television shop?



THE GUILDHALL OF SAINT GEORGE

JUNE 2nd, 1953





**Coronation**  
of  
**Her Majesty**  
**Queen Elizabeth II**

LARGE SCREEN TELEVISION  
PRESENTED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN KING'S LYNN BY  
**FULLERS RADIO & TELEVISION LTD.**  
LONDON ROAD, KING'S LYNN





### PROGRAMME

Apart from the 10.15 start all the timings below are approximate only. There may be two short pauses in the broadcast at about 2.0 p.m., and again at about 4.35 p.m.

9.15-10.15 Tuning Signal

#### THE CORONATION

##### The Queen's Procession to Westminster Abbey

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 10.15 Outside Buckingham Palace                                   | 10.30 Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother arrives at Westminster Abbey |
| 10.26 The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh leave Buckingham Palace | 11.0 The Queen arrives at the Abbey                                 |

##### The Coronation Service

- 11.20 The Service begins
- 12.30 The Crowning
- 1.50 The Service ends

##### The State Procession through London

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 2.20 Outside Westminster Abbey                           | 3.40 The Queen passes Grosvenor Gate        |
| 2.50 The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh leave the Abbey | 4.30 The Queen returns to Buckingham Palace |

##### The Queen's appearance on the Balcony of the Palace

- 5.0 Outside Buckingham Palace
- 5.15 The R.A.F. Salute
- 5.20 The broadcast ends

## Large Screen Television



Elizabeth R  
1953

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THE Picture is projected to the screen through a special optical system by means of which it is enlarged from a two inch picture to sixty square feet.

The receiver is specially designed for this purpose, very high voltages being employed. The picture tube works on a voltage of 25,000 volts, giving an intensely brilliant picture as received on the tube.

This is an extreme fringe area and whilst we have had excellent results which fairly compare with the average cinema picture, we cannot guarantee reception quality on June 2nd, as results entirely depend on weather conditions at this distance from the transmitter (Holme Moss, 120 miles). We have had numerous tests over the past four months and no trouble or expense has been spared to obtain the best results possible.

We regret that as we must completely black out the hall and there is no smoke extraction system, we must request **NO SMOKING**. Apart from the discomfort smoking would cause, it would seriously affect the picture for viewers in the rear of the hall.

Refreshments are available in the Undercroft, where we have placed a television receiver. If you wish to take refreshments you will not miss any of the programme.



## The Osteoporosis Society

During 2012 I joined the committee for the local Osteoporosis society and we had a stand at the Sandringham Flower show.

Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall came straight to our stand as they left the Rose tent, because Camilla is President of the

National Osteoporosis Society (her Mother had Osteoporosis) and she is very supportive of all that we do.

Both Charles and Camilla are well informed of our activities and were pleased to hear that, through the society's hard work, we now have a local Dexa scanner, for the measuring of bone density, and a specialist Osteoporosis Nurse.

They had both spoken to our Chairman about what we had achieved to date, and were pleased to learn that the exercise group is going well. Charles asked me if we had any male members and I introduced Keith. With that he commented "I can see the benefits of building bones!!"

*Anne Lemmon*

[See Photo Gallery](#)

### **The Floods of 1953: Letters of thanks**

I was too young to remember much. I vaguely recall being rushed upstairs, and of being carried out to some military vehicle the next day. We lived in the lowest part of South Lynn, in Langham Street. If you look at right angles, when facing the Baptist Chapel at the junction of Saddlebow Road and Wisbech Road, you will see how much lower the land is.

A few years back, when sorting through my parents' papers, I came across two draft 'thank you' letters to people in the USA who had sent aid parcels, which I have transcribed. I thought you might be interested to read this account, compiled from the interweaving of the two letters, to avoid too much duplication.

*Dear Lulu,*

**Mum:** *We have been fortunate to be the recipient of the parcel through the C.A.R.E.\* organisation. I must thank you for the parcel which you can be sure was very welcome.*

**Dad:** *In thanking you for this I am enclosing a copy of the town guide, and a newspaper published two days after the disaster. Also a photograph of our children, Norma aged 5 in June and Paul 2 years this month [April], and another of some of the damage as seen from the front window of our home. Needless to say there had been a considerable amount of tidying up done before the second photograph was taken as my camera had to be repaired following the flood.*

**Mum:** In the newspaper I have marked our home on one of the photographs. This was taken I presume on the Sunday afternoon after the water had subsided.

The water, once on the move, did not take long to reach us. In a second the Electricity had failed. I took our two children upstairs naturally screaming in the dark and got lights lit while my husband rescued a few things and in doing so got trapped in the kitchen as door jammed closed. He managed to get out back door [break] a window to get back into sitting room and so to stairs.

By this time the furniture was floating around in 3-4 ft [of water] including a [heavy] record cabinet. The door at front burst [its] locks [and] in poured a greater force of water. A wall which divides us from a neighbour found to be down to the ground and shed floated along while we watched to see when the tide would turn.

**Dad:** The first we knew of the flood was the water pouring in at the doors, the lights went out and we were plunged into darkness, we rushed the yelling children upstairs, found some small oil lamps and put on Wellington boots. The water was knee high, I went into the kitchen, an outside dividing wall collapsed, the front and back doors burst open, the kitchen door slammed and shut me in. Furniture moved in water chest high, the door would not open. I managed to get outside the house and by smashing a window returned inside and so got up the stairs. Only the fact that my boots filled with water kept me from being swept away.

**Mum:** This all happened at about 7pm on Jan 31st but we didn't get out till about 9 am the next morning, even then the water still lay a good foot deep.

**Dad:** We remained upstairs until the water subsided to about a foot and daylight revealed the muddy wreckage of furniture. The water line was 5ft 8ins inside the house. The RAF rescued us [by] motor truck and took us through the deeper water onto the main road. From thence we made our way to my parents' house [in Vancouver Avenue] which was on higher ground and had escaped the flood water.

**Mum:** *We found refuge with my husband's people for a month, during which time we went home daily to clear out the mud and try to dry the rooms out. They are still damp of course, and salt still comes out in [crystals] on the wall especially at 5ft 8in (tide mark).*

**Dad:** *We [remained] there for 4 weeks and have now returned having cleaned up most of the mess. The picture is now brighter, repairs have been executed and redecoration is in progress, and fortunately we were insured [against] flood.*

*The U.S. servicemen in this area have wor[ked] hard and brought a complete kitchen to a nearby church hall in a few hours and were serving hot meals to the hungry. This they did daily for about 4 weeks until gas and electricity supplies were restored. This was greatly appreciated and such acts as this and yours gives the true meaning to "friend" and brings nearer worldwide peace.*

I find my Dad's account especially dramatic as he was a non-swimmer and we must remember how cold the water must have been.

\* *Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe, Inc*

*Norma Chaplin*

### **Dates for your Diary**

Thursday 16 May - Ellys Manor House, Gt. Ponton, nr. Grantham

Wednesday 19 June – Anglesey Abbey, nr. Cambridge

Thursday 12 September - Southwold Electric Picture Palace

*For full details, contact Roz Greene or visit [www.kingslynnu3a](http://www.kingslynnu3a)*

The deadline for submissions to the  
Autumn 2013 *Newsletter* is **Tuesday 17 September**  
(but earlier receipt would be preferred)

### There's no one like an old one ...

**1** Granddad Joe was keen to go  
To KL U3A  
Where he danced, rang bells,  
And played petanque,  
And googled his time away.

**2** Grandma said "You're easily led  
And may be doing too much.  
You may be in gear  
But I fear  
You could wear out your clutch."

**3** Granddad said "Do not fear,  
This engine ain't for stalling,  
The U3A claims  
One of its aims  
Is life and learning prolonging

**4** My crank's in fine fettle,  
Tho' I think my metal  
May be beginning to rust.  
Some WD40 will sort my aorta,  
And keep me on tick over – just.



**5** Joe", said Gran  
"You're a real vintage man  
But the bodywork is getting rusted.  
And where would I find  
A new model, as kind  
And as loved, and cared for, and  
trusted?"

Morag Bean

### The lighter side of life...

U3A's new member displays her confidence, authority, leadership potential and drive, as befits an aspiring Chair.



"Yes, dear, but when I said I wanted a new dress that would make me sparkle, this is **not** what I had in mind."

*The **Newsletter** team is grateful for the interest shown in this publication by readers and contributors, without whom there would be no **Newsletter**. It should however be noted that, in this and subsequent editions, we exercise the right to select articles for publication, to edit those items as considered appropriate, and to hold items over for possible publication at a future date, whilst treating all contributions with courtesy and respect.*

*We hope you will continue to enjoy this and future editions of the **Newsletter** and visit our website ([www.kingslynnu3a](http://www.kingslynnu3a)) for further information.*

*We look forward to receiving more of your articles and photographs, and your feedback.*



*Who will fill these empty chairs? Why not bring a friend to our next meeting?*



*Waiting in anticipation for the gavel to fall*



*Not giving fashion advice to members, surely!*



*... and finally, what is this all about? Find out in our next **Newsletter** - make sure you don't miss the boat.*