

### About NASO Discussion and Activity Groups

Adult Schools were formed in 1798 to teach working men and women to read and write. NASO has now broadened its purpose to take in other interests and pastimes to educate the “whole person”.

#### **Our three keys**

**Friendship** in a group of concerned and caring people, based on **Knowledge** gained from discussion of the wide variety of topics that make up human experience, leading to

**Understanding** of different opinions, making friendship deeper, knowledge richer, care more loving and life more meaningful

**At our meetings** we base discussion on many topics, sometimes introduced by outside speakers and sometimes by members. Topics can be chosen from our annual Handbook, or from current affairs, or a member may have a special interest to share. Members are encouraged to listen and talk, with a minimum of formality and in a spirit of friendship.

We also have activity groups – at present Table Tennis and Art, but others are possible depending on members' interests.

#### **NASO Groups**

**Northampton** (01604 627153) Meetings at the NASO Centre, St Michael's Road.

Tuesday mornings 10:15am

Wednesday evenings 7:30pm

Thursday morning Art group 10am (01604 832745)

Tuesday afternoon Art group 1pm

Friday evening Table Tennis group 7:30pm

**Higham Ferrers** (01933 386805) meetings at the Adult School Hall, Westfields Terrace, Higham Ferrers.

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm

**Cogenhoe** Meetings at Cogenhoe Village Hall

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 2:30pm

**For further information: 01604-858252**



Northamptonshire Adult School Organisation

# NASO NEWS

**Issue No: 13**  
**November 2008**

Dear Friends,  
Welcome to NASO News. As always, any comments or announcements to Di Liebscher at 01604-832745, or by email at [dianamliebscher@hotmail.com](mailto:dianamliebscher@hotmail.com)

#### **County AGM**

It was regretted that only 18 of our 80+ members attended the AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> October to hear how well we continue to function, independently of the National Organisation. Most of the Groups have added a few new members, partly due to the excellent publicity material prepared by Nick Berridge and Stephen Welyckzo. The finances are in good order thanks to our Treasurer, Di. The annual membership will remain at £6 and we will subsidise the penultimate Handbook to keep the price at £8 as in the past.

Surprise! Surprise! There were no nominations for new officers. Where were you all? The current officers were re-elected “en bloc” except for Peter Liebscher who stood down as Events Organiser. Now each County Event will be arranged by volunteers. Joan Simson and Emily Twistleton have agreed to be responsible for the Christmas party on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>

December. Ideas for subjects or speakers are being sought for a One-Day school, probably to be held in March as usual.

As participation in the County Outing is getting more difficult for some members it was suggested that we hold another mid-week County Lunch similar to our successful Anniversary Lunch in 2006. Ruth Chapman and Ann Johnson will organise this at the same venue, the Masonic Hall in St George's Avenue, Northampton, as it is central for most members and the food was very good and reasonably priced.

### **Northampton Groups Fundraising**

The fundraising day in September was a great success. Thanks to the efforts of all who attended, together with additional donations from the Northampton and Cogenhoe groups, we succeeded in raising £305. An additional £100 from the Diageo Foundation boosted the amount we were able to send to the local charity "Youth at Risk", an activities centre for young people run by the Abbey Centre in Hunsbury.

### **NASO History (continued):**

At the 1972 Autumn Council meeting I was approached by the Vice Chairperson of Council Louie Attack, and invited to become National President Elect, with effect from the 1973 Spring Council meetings. This was quite an honour. I was the first President from Northants and also the youngest.

The year in office started by addressing the Council for an hour, quite a formidable task. Then throughout the following 12 months giving up many weekends and most of my holidays visiting and speaking to gatherings up and down England from Wessex to Newcastle, supported by Doreen. This was a very memorable time; the warmth and welcome from so many NASO folk will live with me always.

I believe we all have a turning point in our lives. A major one for me was a Sunday in about 1950. A group of us from Unity

Hall (NASO Centre) caught a bus to Wellingborough to listen to a NASO speaker Pierre Edmunds whose subject was "The Lady's Not for Burning" by Christopher Fry. On that bus was an attractive young lady wearing a wine coloured corduroy coat, dark hair tied back with a black velvet ribbon, who was eventually going to be responsible for NASO's survival in Northants. Doreen Coleman being at a loose end that afternoon came with her sister and friend to the meeting. Afterwards it was usual for our group to meet in the lounge of the Hind Hotel for a drink and discussion. From that moment I had eyes for no one else and eventually we married, with many NASO friends present at the ceremony. Once our son and daughter were old enough to be left Doreen took an active part in NASO, giving me much support in my office of County Secretary and joining in at national events.

*To be continued – Eric Frost.*

### **Diary Dates**

**NASO Christmas Party**  
**6<sup>th</sup> December 2008**  
**2:00pm at Northampton, NASO Building**  
**£2 to Joan Simson or Emily Twistleton for your ticket**  
**which**  
**will also be your raffle ticket.**  
**Refreshments, entertainment, and festive fun!**

**Spring 2009:** One-day school at Northampton, to be arranged.

**31<sup>st</sup> March 2009:** National AGM at Birmingham, followed by 3-days of interesting visits, speakers, etc. These residential events attached to the 2009 and 2010 AGMs will be the last chance to meet and interact with NASO members from other counties. Do not miss these opportunities.

**14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2009:** Come and join Midland members for an enjoyable residential break at Offchurch. Further details from Pauline Smith.