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Message from the Chairman

You will find the formal notification for the AGM on page 2 of this newsletter. You will see that our Treasurer, Bryan Elliot is standing down and I think we would all like to thank him for his hard work over the last two years. This is a very important and demanding role and it is essential that we find someone willing to take it over. Please think about whether you are able to do the job or know someone suitable.

We would like the AGM to provide an opportunity for members' views. If you have any suggestions or other points you would like to raise, please email me, glynjames@btopenworld.com or telephone 01832 733792 before 30 April. We will then be able to present the selection of views to the meeting and if appropriate, take soundings from everyone present.

Dr Miles Ellis -The real Burma, an Englishman's View



We were treated to a very interesting illustrated talk at our last regular meeting by Dr Miles Ellis. He had been inspired by his great-aunt, Beth Ellis, who had been permitted to read at Oxford University, but forbidden to study for a degree as part of the syllabus was philosophy, a subject considered too dangerous for the female mind. Beth had toured many parts, including Burma and her first of many books was entitled, An English Girls Impression of Burmah (sic). Beth had such success with

this that she wrote many more books in her relatively short life, but she unfortunately died prematurely, in childbirth. Dr Ellis gave many interesting facts including one pagoda roofed with 60 tons of 24 carat gold. An interesting and entertaining ramble in a country so very different from Britain.

Notice of Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Please note that the AGM of Thrapston and District U3A will take place on 16 May 2014 at 10.30 am in the Plaza.

Any motion a member wishes to put to the AGM must be proposed to the Secretary (michelleowen156@btinternet.com) with a named seconder no later than 30 April 2014.

Nominations for the committee must also be proposed to the Secretary (michelleowen156@btinternet.com) with a named seconder no later than 30 April 2014.

The Treasurer (Bryan Elliot) is standing down and nominations for this position are urgently needed. The remainder of the executive committee, Chairman (Glyn James), Vice Chairman (Glyn Hill)* and Secretary (Michelle Owen) were elected for two years at the last AGM.

Committee members, Rachel Thompson, (Publicity) and Richard Swindall (Speaker Seeker) were also elected for two years at the last AGM.

Neil Busby (Web Master), Maddie Godden (Membership Secretary) and Parry Jones (Newsletter) were co-opted onto the committee and will stand for election at the AGM.

Voting will be required only if there is more than one nomination for the post of Treasurer or if nominations to the committee in general would cause its number to exceed twelve.

*The Vice-Chairman elected at the AGM resigned and was replaced by Glyn Hill, an elected member of the committee, who under the terms of the constitution remains in post for the remainder of the two years.

Summer Barbecue

The Summer Barbecue will be held on 15 August. Details will appear later, but the social sub-committee have asked for volunteers to help in various ways with the organisation and running of the barbecue. Will those willing to help please contact Glyn Hill phone 01832 735797.

Military History

On Monday 8 April Ron Wood gave a very interesting talk to the group on the logistical problems facing many of the Crusades of the Mediaeval period. The group is now full, but if anybody is interested in joining, contact Gerry Martin to join the waiting list.

The Jazz Group

The **Jazz Group** will be attending the following functions at **The Courtyard, West Street, Stanwick NN9 6QY**. On 4 May, Barry Palser's Savoy Jazz Band. A one-off summer special. Bob Hunt brings his full 10-piece band to The Courtyard for an evening dedicated to the music genius of Duke Ellington. Definitely not to be missed. See you all there.

Car Parking at U3A Regular Meetings

David Bletsoe has permitted Thrapston & District U3A to use the cattle market as an overflow parking area on the 3rd Friday in each month subject to a list of five conditions summarised as follows -

1. Use at own risk. no liability on Bletsoes.
2. Access through market to be kept clear at all times.
3. To keep clear of the lorry washing area.
4. There are no proprietary interests for vehicle owners or exclusive rights to parking space.
5. Arrangements are informal and can be terminated by either side on 24 hour notice.

Forthcoming Events

Branch meetings start at 10.30am on the third Friday of each month at the Thrapston Plaza unless stated otherwise. Doors open at 10.00 am.

Date in 2014

18 April	Glyn James - A Year in Sweden
23 April	Fiddler on the Roof at the Derngate, Northampton.
2 May	Midnight - deadline for copy to the Editor for inclusion in the newsletter.
16 May	AGM
18 June	Day out in Southwold (See Theatre Trips and Outings)
20 June	Lt Col Derek Kimberly. B'ham Olympic Bid, The Presentation Show
9 July	Singin' in the Rain
18 July	Possible that the Plaza will be closed for renovation - details to be advised.
15 August	Annual barbecue in place of the regular meeting - details later.
11 September	Barnum at The Curve, Leicester and Leicester Shopping.
17 October	Andy Smith. Under the Influence

The U3A holds several national events which may be of interest to you. Please check the U3A website (www.thrapstonu3a.co.uk) at the events and competitions page of the Member's Area Homepage.

Monthly Lunch Group

The Group is presently going very well with 49 members, some attending regularly and others occasionally. It is becoming harder to find restaurants able to accommodate more than 30. We will probably have to resort to a first come, first served basis and once I have several meals booked in advance, I will place a list of venues on the table at our general monthly meetings in the Plaza, with the number who may be accommodated. You may then book as appropriate.

Prices are now creeping up and discounts are few. I would appreciate an indication from members of the prices they are prepared to pay for either a two or three course meal.

Iris Squires

Sewing Group

A workshop is planned on Fusing Fabric: creative cutting, bonding and mark-making with a soldering iron. This is open to anyone but will be particularly enjoyable for those interested in discovering new ways to use and manipulate fabric.

Places are limited but we need at least 12 persons in order to cover costs for our speaker/demonstrator. All equipment and materials will be provided. No date has been fixed yet but it will be between Monday and Friday from 9.30a.m - 4p.m approx. Cost: £18.50 to £24.50 - depending on numbers

Contact: Guinette Davies 01832 733436 for more details and to book a place.

The Antiques & Bygones Group

The April meeting will be a visit to 78 Derngate on Tuesday afternoon 15 April. The cost including coach transport and full guided tour will be £17.50 and we will be getting the coach from outside Thrapston Library at 1.30 pm. The visit has been opened to anyone in the Thrapston Group. To ensure that members of the Antiques & Bygones group have priority on the trip. Please let me know if you will be coming.

The May meeting has now been set for Tuesday 27 at 1400 at the Methodist Church Hall. James Burton, an acknowledged expert who will give us opinions and values on items that you bring along. He excludes Pictures and Books from his area of knowledge.

To cover the cost of his fee and travel expenses etc the meeting cost will be £5.00 per person. In response to several persons' interest we will make this an open meeting and any U3A member is welcome to come along. David Macey

Walk Group 2

The group is going strong, and despite the wet and muddy conditions this winter we have only had to call off one walk. Instead we had a very pleasant couple of hours at a member's house eating mince pies and drinking mulled wine whilst the rain came down outside. Our walks take place on the last Thursday of each month and start at 10.00 am. We usually walk between six and eight miles, stopping to look at anything that might be of interest (especially coffee shops). This month we will start from the church in Geddington and will do a circular walk via Newton and Gt and Lt. Oakley - between six and seven miles. If anyone would like to join the group, please telephone me on 0750 8325030 or email dennison987@gmail.com. I will have leaflets with details of further walks at the April meeting. Pauline

Tai Chi Group

Formed a year ago group has gone from strength to strength since its beginning.

We are slowly learning our Tai Chi 88 Forms also useful exercises which help improve our balance and muscle strength, all performed to relaxing music.

We have recently moved to a new venue, St John Ambulance room, but once again due to our popularity we are unable to accept any new members. If you are interested please contact us and we will add you to the waiting list. Linda Vickerman e-mail linannvic2000@yahoo.co.uk

Advanced Driving Group

The general aim of the group will be to help improve our driving. Most of us have a lot of driving experience, and perhaps don't feel the need to concentrate on the task in hand. This is when we are most at risk. Advanced driver training teaches us to observe and anticipate the unexpected. There will be a preliminary meeting at my house at 7.30 pm on **Thursday 23 April**, to agree when, where and how often we meet, also ideas for discussion and outings etc. Hopefully some members will want to go further and become advanced drivers. Contact me to check on spaces and venue either by E-mail <geoffhill.hill5@gmail.com> or phone 01933 624645

Geoff Hill

Theatre Trips and Outings

Transport will usually be provided and pick-up and drop-off outside the Thrapston Co-op. The cost of each coach trip includes the driver's tip. Once the theatres and coaches have been paid for, money paid cannot be refunded and members should try to find a replacement. If places are available, members may bring a guest at an extra cost of £1. Payment may be made by cash or cheque payable to Thrapston & District U3A.

Wednesday, 23 April - Fiddler on the Roof - A reminder for all of those booked on this trip that the bus will leave the Co-op at 1.00pm

Tuesday 13 May - Day out in Cambridge. This, sadly, has been cancelled. So many were unable to come (with good reasons) that it was no longer financially viable. Refunds will be made. **Brenda** phone 730225.

Wednesday 18 June - Day out to Southwold. The numbers wishing to go on this trip are still too low to make this viable. I will keep it open until the May meeting. If it does go ahead payment (to be advised) may be made at the meeting. **Brenda** phone 730225.

Wednesday 9 July - Singin' in the Rain - matinee. The coach price is £10 and payable before or at the June meeting. We will leave Thrapston at 11 am. **Brenda** phone 730225.

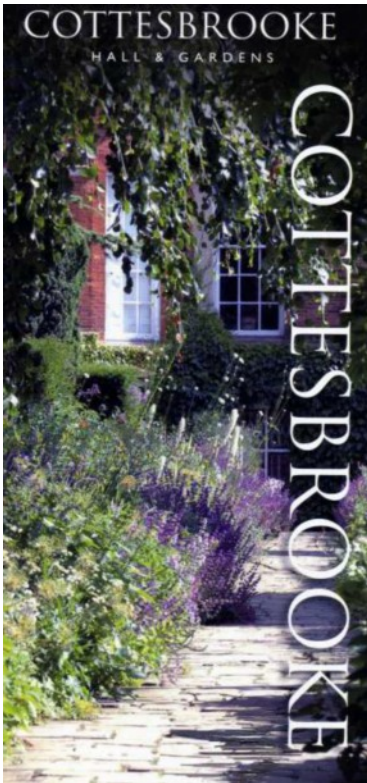
Thursday 11 September - Barnum, Curve Theatre, Leicester at 2.30pm. The coach will leave the Co-op car park at 11.00am and drop shoppers off in the centre of Leicester near to the Haymarket and Highcross Shopping Centres. Return at approx. 5.00pm. Cameron Mackintosh and Chichester festival theatre's record-breaking production starring Brian



Conley as Barnum - the greatest showman on Earth. This exhilarating Broadway musical follows the Irrepressible imagination and dreams of Phineas T Barnum, America's Greatest Showman, who lit up the world with colour, warmth and the excitement of his imagination.

'Barnum's the name, P T Barnum, and

I want to tell you that tonight, on this stage, you are going to see – bar none – every sight, wonder and miracle that name stands for! Thrills and spills ... smart brassy songs. A fast and enjoyable two hours – The Times. Big, sharp, witty, breathtaking, emotional – The Observer. It's a real event – exuberant – BBC Saturday Review. I have very good seats for this show and provided we pay for them by 14 June we have a substantial discount. Depending on numbers, the price for the seats, bus and driver's tip will be approximately £40 (Shoppers £15). For those of you who have not been to the Curve, it is situated in the heart of the shopping area, not far from both the Haymarket and the new Highcross centres and there will be space on the bus for anyone who would just like to shop (bus fare £15). I have already taken a number of names of people wanting to go to the theatre and will have the list at the meeting. The final date for payment will be the May meeting and I will let you know the final cost prior to that. **Pauline** phone 732724



Two visits to **Cottesbrooke Hall** [NN6 8PF] have been arranged for Thursday 12 June **and** Thursday 24 July 2014, both from 1.00pm. All members within the Northamptonshire Network of U3As are invited, following last year's successful visit to Boughton House.

Members [sorry but no visitors] may choose their day **but must** arrive between 1.00pm and 1.30pm so that timed tours can be organised. Each guided tour takes about 45 minutes with a maximum of 18 people per group at 15 minute intervals. The maximum number for each day is 100, as it is a private house lived in all year, so I hope that everyone can be fitted in. They are opening early on those two days especially for U3A. **The cost is £12.00 per member** to include a guided tour of the Hall, admission to the gardens plus tea/coffee and cake. **Please make payment to Thrapston & District U3A.** All tickets will be available on arrival at the Hall, where there is a large car park. Please note that picnics are not allowed anywhere within the grounds, including the car park.

Closing date for the June visit is Monday 12 May and

for the July visit it is Monday 23 June. If you have any questions concerning these visits please do not hesitate to contact me by email at glynishillo6@aol.com or phone 01832 735797, **but** please do not contact Cottesbrooke Hall itself. I will be taking names with payment (cheques payable to Thrapston and District U3A) at the April and May (AGM) meeting.

Glyn Hill



Social Committee News

Brenda Berry, Richard Swindall and Glyn Hill are the Social Sub-committee. The events definitely confirmed are the Barbecue at the Sailing Club on Friday August 15 at 12.00. We intend to run the same successful format as last year. Plus we'd like to have a Barn Dance as an annual event in December, possibly at the Plaza.

We're also looking at a Warner's Holiday which takes place at Thorsby Hall 2-5 February 2015. Four days half board and the cost is £208 per person with £50 deposit and the balance in September. There are double and twin rooms available but no single. Brenda will be taking expressions of interest at the next two meetings and will organise travel (either a bus or shared cars) if there are enough takers. Please ring her on 730225 or email me on glynishillo6@aol.com if you have any queries or would like to go on the list.

Renewing your membership

and new members offer:

Your membership of U3A will be due for renewal in May and the Committee have agreed that the fee will be £16.50 for full members and £12.50 for dual members (those who are already members with another U3A group) and may be made at the April and May meetings.

New members who enrol from 1 March will be able to pay £16.50 for 15 months membership – so please tell any neighbours, friends, relatives who are not already part of the U3A of this offer. The application form may be downloaded from the website.

Group Leaders' Report April 2014

New Short Town and Village Walks Group

Brenda Berry and I are planning a series of five or six summer walks around our local villages and towns. The first is in May and the provisional date is Thursday 15 May at 10.30 and will be confirmed at the meeting on 18 April. They will be ambles/strolls and will be one or two miles long. We're aiming for an emphasis on buildings and views of historical or local interest. Participants may also wish to end with a lunch at a local hostelry. The walks will be in Thrapston, Oundle, Higham Ferrers and Islip and lift sharing is encouraged. The group is open to all but we will take names at the April meeting to gauge interest. Please also email or phone me if you would like to go on the list or will definitely need a [lift. glynishillo6@aol.com](mailto:glynishillo6@aol.com) or 01832 735797.

For new members or those established members who are looking to take on something new; we do have spaces within groups and these include:

Photography glynishillo6@aol.com

Antiques and Collectables

Magic osmec@btinternet.com (new group)

Walks 2

Ten Pin Bowling

Country Dancing

Current Issues

Papercraft

Family History

Cycling

Bowls (from April)

Patchwork

Photography

Advanced motoring

There are also spaces in other groups– the best way to find out more is to look at the group pages on the website or contact me and I can advise you on what's available.

Photography

The Photography group meet on the first Monday in the month 10.30-12.30 at Thrapston Bowls Club and there are five places for new members. We have a wide range of experience and expertise, from those of us just finding out what our cameras can actually do to those who already produce stunning photographs. If you'd like to join us please contact me on glynishillo6@aol.com or tel: 01832 735797.

Glyn Hill
Group Co-ordinator

Pavlov is enjoying a pint in the pub. The phone rings and he jumps up and shouts, 'Hell, I forgot to feed the dog!'

Come Country Dancing U3A

The group has now met on two occasions at St James church hall. We meet on alternate Wednesdays 2-3.30 pm. The next few dates are 19 March, 2, 16 and 30 April, 14 and 28 May. It is hoped that a few more members will come along ,so we can at least cover the cost of the hall. Country dancing is very sociable and the intention is to keep things light-hearted with a sense of fun. Another aspect is helping to keep fit which must be a good thing. You do not need a partner and all dances are walked through. Beginners are particularly welcome. There are members have been country dancing in the past and I hope they will come along and support us. We hope to provide live music in the near future. For further information please contact George Hearnden on 01933 622827.

Photographs

I welcome photographs of any activity or event which may be of interest to readers. Please take the photograph on a camera of reasonable quality so that there is sufficient definition in the picture for reproduction. A camera that is part of a mobile phone is often not of a sufficiently high quality to provide photographs worthy of reproduction. If you can only supply prints of photographs, let me borrow them as I can copy them for the newsletter and return the original.

Many thanks, Editor

Car Sharing and Other Costs

Several groups use car-sharing for visits. Our U3A mileage payment is 40p per mile and the committee has recommended that the mileage is calculated and each passenger pays their share to the driver.

When a host member provides coffee and biscuits we suggest that each member pays 30p to the host. These are guides and as such are not written in stone, so if you already have a system that works, please continue.

Thrapston & District U3A Committee

Chair:	Glyn James	Vice-Chair:	Glyn Hill
Treasurer:	Bryan Elliott	Secretary:	Michelle Owen
Group Co-coordinator:	Glyn Hill	Membership Secretary:	Maddie Godden
Publicity:	Rachel Thompson	Speaker Seeker:	Richard Swindall
Website:	Neil Busby	Editor:	Parry Jones

This newsletter is published on behalf of the committee of the Thrapston & District U3A. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor, or of the committee of the Thrapston & District U3A or of the U3A Trust.

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