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Editor's Piece

May I remind Group Leaders, please, to ensure their group reports are sent to the Group Co-ordinator **or** to the Editor by the deadline which is published with Forthcoming Events each month. Reports of your activities are needed to show the Thrapston and District U3A is vibrant and active. The Editor would also greatly welcome photographs of group activities.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Please note that the AGM of Thrapston and District U3A will take place on 15 May 2015 at 10.30am in the Thrapston Plaza.

Nominations for the committee must be received by the Secretary (michelleowen156@btinternet.com) with proposer and seconder no later than 30 April 2015.

Members may propose motions to be put to the AGM. They must be notified to the Secretary (michelleowen156@btinternet.com) with proposer and seconder no later than 30 April 2015.

Voting will be required only if there is more than one nomination for any of the posts of Chairman, Vice Chairman or Secretary or if the total nominations to the committee would cause its number to exceed twelve.

From the Chairman

I need to bring a number of important matters to your attention Committee Members.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find the formal notification for our AGM in May.

At the AGM we need to elect up to six committee members of whom three must be nominated specifically for the roles of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary. None of the current incumbents will be standing so nominations for these posts are crucial.

The remaining roles on the committee are agreed by the committee themselves but currently comprise; Membership Secretary, Speaker Seeker, Social Media, Group Co-ordinator, Publicity, Welcome Team Management and Newsletter Editor.

We are losing committee members who currently fill one or two of these roles and do need to replace them.

U3A is run by its members for its members and can only continue if volunteers come forward to join the committee. If you would like to discuss any of this please do contact me either at our next meeting, by phone 01832 733792 or by email chairmanthrapstonu3a@gmail.com .

Membership Renewal

During the year we changed membership renewal to be on the anniversary of

joining but for very many members that still means May. In order to make renewal as efficient as possible so that the meeting is not disrupted, members whose renewal is due in May can help by:

- paying by bank transfer (for details please email treasurerthrapstonu3a@gmail.com .
- posting or delivering your completed form and payment to the Membership Secretary at any time during the month
- arriving early and paying by cheque at the meeting. There will be a small team dealing with these renewals, but those paying by cash will need to queue for the Treasurer.

Auditor

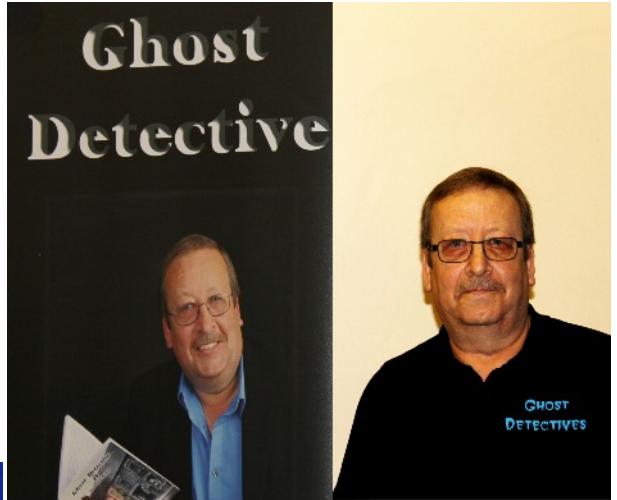
Whist it is not a requirement of the constitution, we do aim to have our accounts audited. If you have any knowledge of accountancy or bookkeeping and feel able to audit the accounts, or know of someone you feel might be willing to do so, please let us know.

Reciprocal Arrangement with Higham and Rushden U3A

I'm pleased to be able to tell you that we have just arranged a reciprocal arrangement with Higham and Rushden U3A, which means that members from our two U3As can in certain circumstances join groups organised by the other U3A. Members must of course telephone the group co-ordinator to see if there is room, as home members get preference. Sometimes, if the group is very small, it would be good to encourage members from the other branch to make the group more enjoyable. More details to follow.

March Branch Meeting

The Ghost Detectives, Adrian Perkins and Lewis Dellar, were our guests for this meeting. We received an illustrated talk about various paranormal experiences in the Northamptonshire area and elsewhere and learned that there **is** a difference between a ghost and a spirit. A ghost is apparently a



passing vision, much as a recording but ethereal. A spirit is more solid and substantial, can be seen and felt and can move objects. A ghost is reported as capable of being walked through, but a spirit has substance and is solid.

I will remember that the next time I meet either of them, but in the meantime I must not allow my scepticism to cloud my reporting. Despite that, I thought the speakers were entertaining and the subject was out of this world.

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 10.00am when tea/coffee and biscuits are served.

- 17 April Branch meeting - **Charles Bezzina, In Search of Ice Made in Heaven.** A journey into the Arctic, with film and stories of the lives of the Inuit tribes.
- 3 May Deadline for copy to the Editor for inclusion in the May newsletter.
- 15 May Thrapston and District U3A Annual General Meeting.
- 19 June Branch Meeting - **Don Chiswell, Alfred the Great, Statesman and Cook.**
- 15 July **Jesus Christ Superstar** at Milton Keynes - matinee performance. The last day for payment is the April meeting. The cost is £35 and cheques should be made payable to Thrapston & District U3A. There is one seat remaining for this show and if anyone would like it then please contact me on 01832 732724 or email dennison987@gmail.com Pauline Dennison
- 17 July Branch meeting - **Ian Keable, Satirist to Insanity, the Life and Works of James Gillray, the Successor to William Hogarth.**
- 21 August Thrapston and District U3A Barbecue. Details in later editions.
- 18 Sept. Branch Meeting - **Derek R Harris, Up the Cut, the Story of the Development of England's Canal System in Tales and Songs.**
- December Thrapston and District U3A are hoping to arrange a coach trip to the Thursford Spectacular Christmas Show. As we have to book as soon as possible to stand a chance of getting a block booking I need your names now together with £1 deposit pp to secure your seat. The balance will be payable in September and is non returnable or exchangeable. If we have a waiting list we will offer the tickets accordingly. The overall price for the coach fare, driver's tip and the show will be approximately £50 pp but I will let you know as soon as we have confirmation of our booking. The dates put forward are Wednesday 25 November, Tuesday 1 December and Wednesday 2 December - all for matinee performances. Give your names and contact number or email address to Iris together with your deposit.

For **Theatre Trips** you may add your name to the lists at the Branch Meetings. Pauline Dennison Tel: 01832 723724

The U3A holds several national events which may be of interest to you. Please check the U3A website (www.u3a.org.uk) at the events and competitions page of the Members' Area Homepage.

Group Leader's Report

New Short Town and Village Walks Group

Brenda Berry and I are the group leaders and our plan is to organise spring/summer monthly short walks around our beautiful local villages with an aim of finding out more about their history and significant events.

We anticipate that they will be about 1.5 hours and 1.5 miles long and will take place on a weekday morning from 10.30 until 12. Members might wish to follow up with lunch at a local hostelry.

The draft programme is:

Thursday 15 May 10.30 Islip: Guide Eric Franklin.
Start: Woolpack Inn, Kettering Road
Thursday 12 June 10.30 Thrapston: Guide Neil Busby.
Start: The Bull Ring

To be arranged:

July (Not Thursday) Higham Ferrers
August Oundle
September Grafton Underwood
October Geddington

We have 19 core members but all members are welcome.

For our first walk on May we'll meet at 10.30 at the Woolpack. Eric Franklin is a leader with Thrapston District History Society www.thrapstonhistorysoc.co.uk. He has prepared an eight page leaflet on Islip and will have them available. He won't charge for printing but would be happy to receive donations to the society. The walk will be through the High Street, crossing the river at the mill and back through Water's Edge.

Please email me glynishillo6@aol.com or phone Brenda 01832 730225 if you would like to come to the first walk

Current Group Vacancies - For new members or those established members who are looking to take on something new, we have places within groups including:

- Advanced Motoring
- Antiques and Collectibles
- Bowls
- Country Dancing
- Current Issues
- Cycling
- Family History
- Magic
- Papercraft
- Patchwork
- Photography
- Ten Pin Bowling
- Walks 2

Contact details are on the website or email me on <glynishillo6@aol.com>

Ideas for new groups are welcome. Please contact me for an expressions of interest list to be available at the April Branch meeting.

There are 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.

Military History - On 13 April Terry Needham is to give a talk on the Sudan Campaign of 1883/98. One might ask if Corporal Jones will make an appearance. Even if he doesn’t, we will have a very interesting and informative talk.

On 11 May Parry Jones will talk about the Selous Scouts, the Rhodesian Counter-Insurgency Specialists.

Photography - The Photography group meet on the first Monday in the month 10.30 to 12.30 at Thrapston Bowls Club and there are five places for new members. There is 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 01832 735797.

Glyn Hill, Group Co-ordinator

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, 15 August at 12.00. It will have the same successful format as last year.

In addition it is intended to have a Barn Dance as an annual event in December, possibly at the Plaza.

The committee is looking at a Warner’s Holiday which takes place at Thorsby Hall from 2 to 5 February 2016. For four days half board the cost is £208 per person with £50 deposit and the balance in September. There are double and twin rooms available but no singles. 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. Email me on glynishillo6@aol.com or ring Brenda on 730225 if you have any queries or would like to go on the list.

Some of the audience at the March Group Meeting preparing for the talk.





Mystery photograph: The photograph last month, as most of you knew, was of Farm and Garden on Midland Road. This is a photograph of an old Thrapston building. Do you know where it is, and what it is?
The photograph is courtesy of Eric Franklin.

Thrapston and District U3A Committee

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|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Chair: | Glyn James | Vice-Chair: | Glyn Hill |
| Treasurer: | Tricia James | Secretary: | Michelle Owen |
| Group Co-ordinator: | Glyn Hill | Membership: | Maddie Godden |
| Publicity: | Rachel Thompson | Speaker Seeker: | Richard Swindall |
| Website: | Neil Busby | Editor: | Parry Jones |
| Member: | Michelle Collison | Member: | Anne Carter |

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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