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### CHAIR'S WELCOME



First I would like to thank all of you who took the time to complete and return our survey.

The average return for a survey is between 10 and 15%. We did really well, with over 37%.

There is just one problem. Some of you said that you would be willing to help with chairs or refreshments at the Plaza meeting or that you would like a member of the committee to contact you. Unfortunately, some of these forms did not have the membership number on them. If this might involve your survey return, please get in touch with a Committee member. We do not mean to ignore you but can do nothing without a name, membership number or contact details.

Next month is our AGM and there will be 5 vacancies on the Committee. We really do need to find someone who would be willing to look after our speakers (a Speaker Seeker), and someone to look after publicity. Both of these roles are set up and are not too arduous but our U3A will be not be the same if we cannot fill those posts. Please speak to me or another Committee member if you think you may be interested in helping.

Finally can I just remind you all that the April meeting at the Plaza will be on the fourth Friday this month. Our usual slot is Good Friday and we could not book the Plaza. I therefore look forward to seeing you at the **Plaza on Friday April 26th.**

Until then, enjoy the sunshine and have a lovely Easter.

*Sheila*



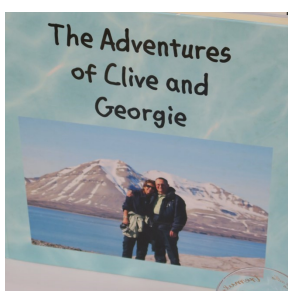
## Shipwrecked in the Antarctic

by **Georgie Hale**

Georgie and her husband Clive, were hit by a bombshell when Clive was diagnosed with an incurable blood condition that would eventually prove to be terminal. After the initial shock, they decided that now was the time to embark on travels to faraway places including New Zealand, the Galapagos Islands and Iceland. They enjoyed seeing the wildlife so much that five months later they embarked on a "cruise" to the Arctic. (not a cocktail dress in sight!).



Clive was experiencing long periods in remission from his illness so they made plans for "The Big One", travelling to the Southern Hemisphere via Buenos Aires, to the southern tip of South America on MV Explorer. In transit, Clive's luggage had become lost so the other passengers offered them items of clothing, and battery chargers for their photographic kit.



This voyage took in the Falkland Islands, then South Georgia and the South Shetland Isles, heading towards the Antarctic Peninsula. Ten days into the voyage, Georgie was on deck as they moved at night through an ice field when the boat shuddered and a floodlight came on from the bridge. The ship has been holed beneath the waterline by a spike of ice called a "growler". Passengers just had time to collect a few essential items, (Georgie cleverly picking up house and car keys, credit card and phone) before the ship began to list, as it drifted into an iceberg. The vessel was doomed.

The captain radioed a "May Day" alert which started an international rescue co-ordinated by Falmouth Coastguards. The 150 passengers and crew had to abandon ship with difficulty but with no panic. Luckily for them, after four and a half hours, a Norwegian cruise ship arrived to rescue them. Less than 30 minutes later, a blizzard caused a complete white-out, which could have been fatal had they not been safe.

They were taken to a Chilean research station on George Island, where news reporters soon arrived to cover the story. The passengers were then transferred to Chile, followed by the press, who often made a nuisance of themselves, making up stories if they were unable to get interviews with the passengers. The owners of the Explorer gave the passengers money to buy essentials before they were flown home.

Georgie described Clive's periods of remission from his illness as "like walking the plank and just when you reach the end of the plank, someone nails another piece of wood in place to allow you to continue". By now, Clive urgently needed a special treatment which was not available on the NHS and was prohibitively expensive. In a chance meeting with an ITN news executive, Georgie offered him all the video tape of the incident, which she had saved, if he would publicise their plight with the special treatment; after three months the medication was made available to Clive.

Sadly, Clive lost his battle with the illness in March 2009 and Georgie set up the Clive Hale Memorial Fund in his memory. The fund has made important donations to the Haematology Department of the University Hospital as well as providing money for small treats for people with terminal illnesses.



Georgie's moving tale of courage and happiness tinged with sadness, was greatly appreciated by the audience. Georgie was very pleased to receive £140 in donations from our members for the memorial fund and sent her thanks to all.

*Paul Ollett*

*Speaker Seeker*

## Calendar of Events 2019

12th April	<b>Trip to Greyhounds</b> - see Irene Gandy
16th April	<b>Kimbolton Castle</b> - see page 7
26th April	<b>A Tribute to Les Dawson</b> by Mike Leonard - see below
8th May	<b>Titchmarsh History Walk</b> - see page 7
9th May	<b>Gates Garden Centre and Farm Visit</b> - see page 6
17th May	<b>A.G.M.</b> followed by <b>You're Never Too Old to Rock n'Roll</b> - see page 8
26th June	<b>Peckover House and Elgoods</b> - see page 6
28th June	<b>Network outing to Lamport Hall</b>

### Monthly Plaza Meetings

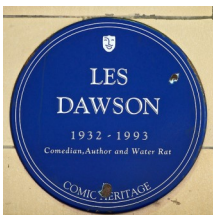
- When?** 3rd Friday of each month  
(except in April - see below)
- Where?** The Plaza in Thrapston
- When?** from 10.30 to 12  
*Please note that doors open at 10 a.m.*



### *This Month*

**Friday April 26th**

**Please note NOT on April 19th  
(as this is Good Friday)**



**A Tribute to  
Les Dawson**  
by Mike Leonard

### *Next Month*

**Friday May 17th**

**\*\* A.G.M. \*\***

**followed by**



**You're Never Too Old  
To Rock n' Roll**  
By Vince Eager

### Survey Results

Many thanks to all those who completed the survey, either online or as a paper copy. The team have been busy collating the results to help the committee to plan for the future and many useful suggestions were received. As mentioned in Sheila's welcome, a number of people who had offered to help in various ways, forgot to include their membership number. If you think this may apply to you, please contact one of the committee.

A copy of the results is available on request.

## **Focus on.....Groups that meet on Thursday mornings**

### **French Encore**

The Group meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday mornings of each month in the Thrapston Town Council offices. We are a small, friendly group who like conversational French. We speak French at varying levels but are all agreed that our aim is to improve/update our spoken French. Currently we use BBC Talk 2 book and will shortly be finishing this and have agreed to use Access 2. We also use another book with articles about life in France and its colonies. We listen to audio of sections of the books, read and discuss the articles. There is room for a few more members to join us or attend a session to discover what happens in the group. Currently we each pay £2 per session to cover coffee & biscuits and hire of the room.



Group Leader - Jan Pacey

phone 07803 250 406

### **Walking Group**

We meet at various locations at 10.00am on the last Thursday of the month and walk anything between 5 and 7 miles during the morning, so a reasonable level of fitness is required and, as we walk in all weathers, walking boots or shoes are advisable. If there is a café en-route then we are not averse to stopping for a cuppa and we have also been known to call in at the pub at the end of the walk. The walks are within a 20 mile radius of Thrapston and car sharing can be arranged.



We have walked in all weathers and I think in the 5 or so years we have been walking we have not had to cancel because of bad weather. We've walked through bluebell woods, seen the aconites and snowdrops, heard the deer rutting (fortunately not too near us), explored some of the lovely villages in Northamptonshire and enjoyed some wonderful sunshine.

If anyone is interested in joining us you would be very welcome.

Pauline Dennison

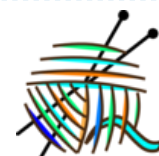
Group Leader

732 724

### **Stitchers Group**

The group meet at the Offices of the Town Council in Thrapston on the second Thursday of the month, and also on the last Wednesday.

We share an interest in all types of stitching - including cross stitch, embroidery, blackwork, crochet, knitting, .....We like to learn new techniques from each other and welcome anyone who wishes to acquire a new skill. We can even lend you materials to get you started! We are currently working on a banner depicting all the Thrapston U3A interest / activity groups to display at the Thrapston Arts Festival, using our various techniques.



If you would like to join us, contact Wendy Davies Group Leader R 623 047

## News from the groups

### New Group



### Table Tennis

The newly formed Table Tennis Group meet at the Baptist Church on Tuesday mornings from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. None of the group would claim to be experts but they are all improving fast! All the equipment is provided, but suitable footwear is recommended.

The cost is £2 per session to cover the rent of the room, and refreshments are available at the Coffee Morning at the Baptist Church at the end of the session.

Contact Gordon Campbell for further details

phone 07846 611 748

### Lunches

Due to the success of the Lunches Group, Iris is unable to accommodate new members at present.



Do contact her if you are interested in joining the group, and she can add your name to the waiting list.

Iris Squires

phone 730 434

### Thrapston Arts Festival

1st -8th June



A number of Interest Groups are looking forward to showcasing their skills during this eight day event, and, provisionally their plans are as follows -

The **Making Music** and **Ukulele** Groups have teamed up with the **Creative Writing** and **Play Reading** Groups for two 'Evenings of Music and Comedy' at the Baptist church on Wednesday 5th and Friday 7th June. This will be open to the public and refreshments will be available in an informal cafe atmosphere. Admission will be free, but donations will be welcomed.

The **Creative Writing** Group also plans a display in Thrapston Library throughout the week.

The **Stitchers** Group is planning a wall hanging, made of 36 squares, depicting our U3A interest groups. This will hang in the Baptist Church, alongside examples of members' recent work.

The **Flower Bunch** are planning floral arrangements for the Baptist church, also; this venue is certainly supportive of the Festival and will, doubtlessly, look wonderful.

The **Photography** Group will display examples of its work at Bennett's Café in town; as this may be refreshed from day to day it should be worth visiting more than once.

This is the first time the Town Council has put on such an event and the degree of success it achieves will influence the probability of further ones. It is a matter of some pride that Thrapston and District U3A interest groups will be making a significant contribution, along with many other arts groups in town.

## THEATRE AND OUTINGS.....



### Outings

#### Gates Garden Centre and Farm Visit 9 May 2019



There is **ONE PLACE LEFT** on the trip. The cost is £26 and this includes the coach fare, driver's tip, tour of Alma Bank Farm and tea and cake. Contact Jenni if you are interested, asap.

The proposed itinerary is as follows

1. Meet at Co-op car park at 10.30 am to depart Thrapston at 10.40 am
2. Arrive Gates Garden Centre approx 11.45
3. Just over 2 hours free time for shopping, lunch, coffee etc
4. Depart Gates Garden Centre at 2.00 pm
5. Arrive Alma Bank Farm at 2.15 pm; Farm tour starts at 2.30pm
6. Depart Alma Bank Farm at 5.00 pm to arrive Thrapston approx 6.15 pm

**PLEASE NOTE Appropriate footwear must be worn for the farm visit**

#### Peckover House & gardens and Elgoods Brewery and gardens 26 June 2019

There is **ONE PLACE** available. If you are interested please contact Jenni asap.—see below

#### NEW - Sandringham and Hunstanton - 19 September 2019

Approximate cost (depending on numbers) £28 per person

The itinerary for the day would include a tour of the house and gardens at Sandringham and free time in Hunstanton for lunch, shopping or a stroll on the beach.

If you are interested in joining us on this trip either sign up at the next Plaza meeting, or contact Jenni.

Thank you for your continued support.

Jenni Hall - 358 721



### Theatre Trips

#### Calendar Girls

A chance to see the much acclaimed musical 'Calendar Girls' is finally here! Music by Gary Barlow, it is a true story of a WI group who raised money for a cancer charity by posing nude for a calendar. Tastefully done, it is an inspiring story of how communal strength and tenacity can help to overcome tragedy.

**When: Thursday 10th October, matinee: 2.30pm**

**Where: Royal and Derngate Theatre, Northampton Tickets: £45.00**

There are currently 12 places remaining for this awe-inspiring show, so don't miss this opportunity!

Please be aware that an option for payment by BACS online is now available. Contact Moira for details.



**Grease - Leicester Curve Theatre** on Wednesday 11th September at 2:15pm, cost £45, including coach travel. If you have signed up for 'Grease', please make arrangements to pay for your tickets at the next branch meeting in April, thank you.

*Moira - phone 07960 640 161*

**Please remember tickets are non-refundable.**

Please note, all our theatre trips are arranged from the Co-op, Thrapston. The coach will usually depart by 10:30am, so please make sure you arrive in plenty of time. If you have any mobility issues and/or equipment please let us know beforehand, so we can accommodate you as comfortably as possible!

## History walks

There are four spaces left for the visit to Kimbolton Castle on Tuesday 16th April, 2 pm at the castle gatehouse or 1.30 pm at Thrapston Co op for car sharing. Cost £5. Please contact Glyn on 735 797.



## LOCAL HISTORY WALK - WEDNESDAY 8TH MAY - TITCHMARSH



This is a repeat of a very popular walk held some time ago. We will meet either outside the village shop in Titchmarsh at 10.30, or share transport from the Co-op car park at 10.15 a.m. There is a limit of 20 PEOPLE.

Cost is £4.00 per person which includes refreshments in the Church at the end of the walk. Please sign up at the April meeting, stating if you would like to share transport, or telephone Brenda on 730 225 or Glyn on 735 797

## Refreshments at Group Meetings

In order to achieve some consistency, it is recommended that the charge for refreshments at meetings in members' homes, should be 50 pence. This is in line with advice from the Third Age Trust.



## Thrapston & District U3A



Registered Charity (Number 1179593)

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

May 17th 2019 to Commence at 10.15 Doors will open at 09.45.

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence,
  2. Minutes of the 2018 AGM,
  3. Minute of the 15/03/2019 EGM
  4. Chairman's Report
  5. Group Co-ordinator's Report
  6. Treasurer's Report
  7. Approval of the examined accounts
  8. Approve appointment of the Examiner of Accounts
  9. Election of the Committee for 2019/20\*
- (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Business Secretary, Executive Members)  
and a committee of 8 other members

*Ian Byrnes*

*Business Secretary*

*16/03/2019*

\* Please note all written nominations must be received duly signed, proposed and seconded by paid up members of Thrapston & District U3A a Registered Charity (Number 1179593) by myself at 47 Oakleas Rise Thrapston NN14 4JZ no later than 10.00am on Friday 3rd May 2019

## Access Notice

A reminder that if you have mobility, hearing or visual problems, you and one other may use the reserved seats at the front right hand side of the Plaza. The induction loop will be on, so that you may switch your hearing aid to T to receive a clearer sound from the speaker.

If you, or anyone you know of, would like access advice, please feel free to contact Glyn on 735 797 or email [accessThrapstonU3a@gmail.com](mailto:accessThrapstonU3a@gmail.com)



Telephone numbers given in the newsletter are usually preceded by the Thrapston STD code—01832.

Any Raunds numbers (indicated by R) need the STD code 01933

## ***Thrapston and District U3A Committee***

Chair: Sheila Underwood

Vice Chair: Wendy Davies

Treasurer: Tricia James

Secretary: Ian Byrnes

Groups Co-ordinator: Roger Davies

Membership: Pauline Dennison

Publicity: Sue Campbell

Speaker Seeker: Paul Ollett

Newsletter Editor: Wendy Davies

New Members Rep: Brenda Berry

IT Operations Manager /Website Manager: Neil Busby      Access Officer: Glyn Hill

## **A note from the Editor**

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

**Please note that items for inclusion in the next newsletter should reach the Editor by the first Friday in the month.**

Editor and publisher : Wendy Davies - email: [editorthrapstonu3a@gmail.com](mailto:editorthrapstonu3a@gmail.com)

Website : [www.thrapstonu3a.co.uk](http://www.thrapstonu3a.co.uk) where committee contact details may be found along with details of all the groups.

You can also join us on **Facebook — Thrapston and District U3A**