



Contents

The Summer Barbecue	1
Absence from Group Meetings	1
Branch Meeting July 2014	2
Forthcoming Events	2
Social Committee News	3
Group Leaders' Reports	3
July Town and Country Walks	4
U3A at Snibston Mining Museum	5
Letters to the Editor	7
Thrapston & District U3A Committee	7

**Absence from
Group Meetings**

The committee has had reports that some members are failing to advise the group leader when unable to attend a group meeting. This can cause inconvenience to the host, not only with regards to catering, and is considered a discourtesy.

There is provision for those who fail to attend meetings on three occasions without notifying the group leader of their absence, to be excluded from the group, and their place offered to the next person on the waiting list.

Advertisement

Thrapston & District
U3A

Summer Barbecue

Middle Nene Sailing Club
Meadow Lane Thrapston
NN14 4QL

Friday August 15
11.30-4.30
Food from 12.30

Tickets £6 including food
Licensed Bar
Adult guests welcome

If you contact Glyn Hill
(735797 or by email
glynishillo6@aol.com)
immediately, you may be able
to get a late ticket.
Don't delay as food needs to be
ordered and it will very soon be
too late to participate in this
enjoyable event.

Branch Meeting July 2014

Our meeting on 18 July was a little smaller than usual, but what it lost in quantity was not lost in quality.

It was reported that the display we had for the Charter Fair was washed out by the rain. A suitable shelter will be obtained for the next Charter Fair. Meanwhile, the next branch meeting, the Summer Barbecue will, without doubt, be a major success and lots of fun. There was an appeal for more people to assist the tea-team at our branch meetings. The more members there are, the more the duties can be shared about. The Whist Group want more people to join to make the games more interesting.

Our speaker, Eric Nixon, gave a very informative and interesting talk on honey bees. He



invited his audience to imagine they were all only $\frac{3}{4}$ inches long and enter a hive. They would be one of between 50 and 100,000 individuals working pre-ordained in perfect harmony to service a solitary queen, who throughout her life produced all the fellow bees in the hive. Some of the bees were bred to be males. Drones who had no duties but to be fed and pampered by the many workers. 'That can't be bad', thought some of the men. The courting habits of the virgin queens (bred and programmed to immediately leave the hive) had the men in the audience wincing at the thought of total castration during coitus with the queen. Still I suppose the drones die happy. The queen mates with as many drones as she can, building up a supply of sperm within her spermatheca (a special receptacle for holding and storing all the sperm) and which she uses to fertilise the many thousands of ova she produces. Fascinating.

[Congratulations to Richard for sourcing such interesting speakers - Ed.]

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.

- 15 August Annual barbecue in place of the Branch meeting - see notice on Page 1.
- 16 August 1940s weekend with vintage vehicles, fashion show, military displays, music and dancing, dig for victory display. fly past, loads of re-enactors at Ramsey. Open to all members. Join the fun and (optionally) dress in period costume. £10 plus car share. Contact David Macey of Antiques and Bygones Group, e-mail < macey199@btinternet.com >
- 11 September Barnum at The Curve, Leicester and Leicester Shopping . For those members booked in , the bus will leave the Co-op car park at **11.00am**.
- 19 September Branch Meeting. Ashley Grove, Shetland to Scilly, birds of the British Isles.
- 17 October Branch Meeting. Andy Smith - Under the Influence

continued →

- 21 November Branch meeting. N Busby and E Franklin. Recording Family History
- 27 November Calamity Jane at Milton Keynes - matinee. The show stars Jodie Prenger (Oliver, Spamalot and One Man Two Guv'nors). I have booked good tickets and the price will be approx. £32 to include ticket, coach fare and tip for the driver. Provisional bookings will be taken at the August meeting.
Pauline 01832 732724 or email dennison987@gmail.com
- 17 December Special Christmas Branch meeting.

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.

Social Committee News

Brenda Berry, Richard Swindall and Glyn Hill are the Social Sub-committee. The most important event for the Summer is the Barbecue at the Sailing Club on Friday 15 August at 11.30am with tickets at £6. We have already sold over 90 tickets. You can request a ticket by phoning Glyn on 735797 or by email glynishillo6@aol.com

Group Leaders' Reports

Bridge Group – This group meets at 2.00pm on the second Thursday of each month (except August) at a member's house. There will be no charge and tea/coffee and biscuits are available. There are vacancies available and Liz doesn't mind how rusty you might be.

Contact Liz Bryan ebthrap@gmail.com 01832 734221

Country Dance Group – meets fortnightly at St James's Church Hall, Thrapston from 2:00 to 3:30pm. Future dates are 3 and 17 September, 1, 15 and 29 October, 12 and 26 November, and 10 December (for the Christmas Party). The Group will restart on 7 January 2015. Contact George Hearnden on 01933 622827.

Ramsey 1940s Weekend - Saturday 16 August at Ramsey there is to be a 1940s weekend with vintage vehicles, fashion show, military displays, music and dancing, dig for victory display, fly past, loads of re-enactors.

Open to all members. Join the fun and (optionally) dress in period costume. £10 plus car share. Contact David Macey of Antiques and Bygones Group <macey199@btinternet.com>

Town and Country Walks - Oundle on Tuesday 12 August from 10:30am to about noon. It will be led by a member of Oundle History Society. Meet at 10.00am at the Thrapston Co-op car park for car sharing, otherwise at Oundle market square at 10:20am. Numbers are limited to 20 so let Brenda (730225) know if you wish to participate.

Titchmarsh 17 September – Meet at Titchmarsh village shop by 10.30am where we will be met by our guide. Please telephone Brenda if you would like to join this walk and if you would like a lift. The walk will last until approximately 12 noon and will end with a look round the church and a cup of tea/coffee. Maximum number 20. Brenda 730225

Thrapston 8 October – This will be the second of four stand alone walks around different areas of Thrapston and will leave from outside the library at 10.30am finishing about 12 noon. Maximum number 20 so please sign up at the September meeting or telephone Brenda. Neil Busby will be leading the walk. His first walk was really interesting and enjoyed by all. Brenda 730225

Glyn Hill Group Co-ordinator

July Town and Country Walks - Higham Ferrers was the venue on a sunny day in July. We

met in the Market Square and proceeded to the perpendicular gothic St Mary's church for a tour and potted history of the town. We were told about Henry Chichele, Archbishop of Canterbury who founded Chichele College and the Bede House, built to be a dwelling place for 12 men over 50 years old to live 'in close company', with one woman to look after them. In the church grounds we entered



a tiny door into the old Grammar School building, now used mostly for musical events, and then crossed the busy road to view the remains of the Chichele College and beautiful recently-restored gardens. We passed the Green Dragon to enter the castle fields to see a

great view of the church spire and surprisingly a wonderfully preserved dovecote built into the walls.



Our next walk will be on 12 August in Oundle. Why not join us?

Linda Vickerman



U3A at Snibston Mining Museum

Leicester &
Rutland Network
of U3As presents:



U3A at Snibston Mining Museum

Friday 10th October 2014

10am to 5pm

Be entertained, illuminated and stimulated by a full day with something for everyone

Tickets £10.50
including Afternoon tea

Book your tickets soon!

- **Cool Science**—sound vibrations and balloon science – illustrated talk
- **Blue Box talk**—learn about England's oldest travelling theatre
- **Mining**—enjoy a Colliery tour
- **Fashion Gallery talk & Quiz**



Bring a picnic lunch, roam around the Museum at your leisure

Leicestershire & Rutland Network

“U3A at Snibston”

Friday 10th October 2014 Booking Form

Please print out and send to:

'Snibston' 10 Springfield Close, Loughborough, LE11 3PT

Numbers are limited – Please send your application as soon as possible and **include a stamped addressed envelope**
Name/s

I am/we are a member/s of.....U3A

Contact name:.....

Home address:.....

Telephone number:

e-mail
address:.....

I enclose a cheque for £_____ (£10.50 per person) for tickets payable to **SLU3A**, and include an **s.a.e. envelope**.

Mobility: If you have any requirements/issues regarding mobility please let us know so that we can confirm accessibility and capability with Snibston.

Signed.....

If you have any queries please contact a member of the L & R Team:

Lynne Cox: 01530 831752; Helen Davison: 01509 561050;

Carol Knill: 01162 919464; John Redshaw:01572 720191

Dear Editor

Your comments on the Union Flag in the last newsletter provided useful material for our English group where we occasionally debate objections to modern usage and ask ourselves whether they are pedantic. I fear, however, that in this case both you and Lt Col Kimberley are attempting to perpetuate an old myth. The Oxford English Dictionary merely notes that 'Union Flag' is 'another term for Union Jack' (which it defines as the national flag of the UK). Both terms have been used indiscriminately for a very long time, including by the Admiralty who issued a circular in 1902 stating that either term could be used. In 1908 Parliament stated, 'the Union Jack should be regarded as the National flag'. Sadly the bit about the jack staff doesn't hold up either, as the staff came into use 150 years after the flag and was named after the flag, not vice versa. (The term jack simply referred to something small.)

If you are still unconvinced, I refer you to the chief vexillologist of the Flag Institute who has recently pronounced on the matter.

Regards Glyn James

[Thank you, Glyn, for setting the record straight and correcting another urban myth. I have naturally checked with the chief vexillologist, Cdr Bruce Nicolls OBE RN (ret'd), who confirms your assertion. I am also very pleased that the newsletter provided useful material for your English group to discuss. I had, perhaps, better participate. In the meantime, I will still continue to refer to the Union flag as such while simultaneously retaining a fond affiliation with Y Ddraig Gôch (The Red Dragon) - Ed.]

You're never too old to learn something stupid.

I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.

Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

Thrapston & District U3A Committee

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