



Contents

	page
Welcome from the Chairman	1
Amy Johnson by Mr Roy Smart	2
Calendar of Events 2017-18	3
Focus on FOOD	4
Forthcoming Branch Meetings	6
News from the groups	7
Stop Press	8
U3A Committee	8

Chairman's Welcome

Where does the time go? It is August already and I know that a lot of you are looking forward to the Summer Social at the Sailing Club. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend this year as Neil and I have to be at a family wedding . As you are enjoying sitting by the lake we will be on a ferry crossing the Irish Sea from the Isle of Man to Heysham. We will all be hoping for good weather and calm waters!

As I said at the last meeting the Committee will be starting to plan the December event soon. You may have ideas about the format it could take or which parts you have liked or disliked in the past.

Please let a committee member know your thoughts. All ideas will be appreciated and will be included in the discussions we have.

Please remember if you are going to the Summer Social **not** to arrive before 10.45 am unless you are on the helpers rota and also remember your ticket. Entry is by ticket only and you will need it in order to use the buffet. There will be no tickets sold on the day as the catering numbers have been finalised already. I am sure you will have a lovely time and I look forward to hearing about it.

Until then, enjoy the summer.

Sheila

August 2017



Amy Johnson – Mr Roy Smart

The July meeting of Thrapston & District U3A saw yet another full house and this time we were entertained with an account of the famous aviatrix Amy Johnson presented by Mr Roy Smart of Northampton.



It was abundantly clear that Mr Smart had comprehensively researched his subject and his presentation, lasting just on one hour, contained a plethora of biographical facts, starting with Amy's early childhood and tragedy she experienced with suicides from two of her sisters in a troubled family life.

Sadness and strife followed her throughout her life, having been spurned by her first and probably only love, followed later by a disastrous marriage to a philandering alcoholic which ended in divorce and saw Amy take herself off to France where for a year she where was obliged to resist the marital aspirations of a French aristocrat before returning to England to live a semi-reclusive life in the Cotswolds.

Amy had taken a keen interest in flying after a 15 minute 'joy flight' taken with her sister and later enrolled with the London Flying School and, although not a natural pilot, she persisted and eventually won her wings. Not content with this very significant achievement, she went on to study aero engineering and qualified as the first licenced female aero engineer at a time when it was considered to be only the realm of men.

In 1930 with her acquired skills and very little money of her own, but largely funded by her father, she set off upon her most famous expedition to fly solo from London to Australia. This was achieved to world acclaim in 19 days, but not without incident, including two crash landings. It was to be the first of many flying record attempts, although not all were as successful.

With the outbreak of the Second World War, there was a need for ferry pilots to bring planes from the manufacturing factories to their operational bases and women were recruited in the ATA (Air Transport Auxiliary) service to do their part in this vital work, flying on equal terms, both skilfully and financially, with their male counter parts.

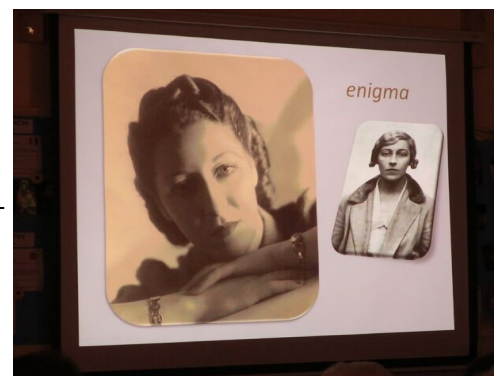
It was on one of these missions, undertaken in January 1941, from which she failed to return when her plane, at the end of its endurance and over one hundred miles from its intended destination, plunged into the Thames estuary with only a pig skin holdall bag embellished with the initials A.J. being recovered.

Amy had won the nation's hearts with her courage and endeavour, even to the point where popular songs were written about her, wonderful Amy!!

Roy's presentation was beautifully illustrated with clever graphics and interspersed with music, beginning and ending with the haunting notes of a mood setting piano concerto.

It has been the second visit of Roy Smart to Thrapston & District Group U3A, with an earlier visit in November 2015, and his future return will be welcomed.

Paul Ollett



Calendar of Events 2017-18

2017

- 18 August U3A Summer Event
- 29 August U3A Conference and AGM for details, contact
conference-2017.u3a.org.uk or ring 020 8466 6139
- 11 September Lamport Hall and Gardens - see page 7
- 15 September Branch Meeting - Rockingham Castle - 950 years of history by
Patricia Woods
- 17 September Canal Boat Trip - Places 2 Go trip
- 22 September Group Leaders meeting and new members' lunch - St James' Church
Hall 10–12.30
- 4 October Blood Brothers at Milton Keynes Theatre - see page 7
- 20 October Branch Meeting - The Plague Doctor by David Bell
- 3 November Peterborough Greyhounds - contact Irene Gandy
- 17 November Branch Meeting - Day in the life of TV Licence enforcement officer by
Mike Long
- 29 November Rockingham Castle tour - see page 7
- 15 December U3A Yuletide Event (details to be advised)

2018

- 19 January Branch Meeting - Mr. Philip Saxby – Cider Maker
- 1 February Mama Mia, Milton Keynes - details page 7
- 16 February Branch Meeting - Andy Smith.
- 16 March Branch Meeting - Britain through the seasons by Tom Way.
- 20 April Branch Meeting - You cannot be serious - tales from the
Centre Court at Wimbledon by Alan Gray MBE
- 18 May AGM and Branch Meeting - The Comedy of Victoria Wood by
Steve Dimmer.
- 20 July Branch Meeting - Genealogy by Nick Barratt.

Focus on.....FOOD

Food, glorious food.....

Whether you enjoy barbecues (weather permitting!), baking, eating out or watching the many cookery programmes on television, this is a topic which has a great impact on us all.

A number of our groups are primarily concerned with food, so here is an overview.

Editor

Cake and Bake

We currently have twelve members in the group and meet in Thrapston on the second Friday of the month from 2-4 pm. At the end of each meeting we discuss what the next bake will be, either by choosing an ingredient i.e. herbs, chocolate, fruit etc, or any type of bread made by hand (no machines allowed), plus different types of pastry. The theme for August will be a Sweet or Savoury Choux Pastry Bake which, from what I have been told, is going to be quite taxing for our bakers.



The items chosen are then cooked at member's homes and brought along to the meeting to be tried and tested. But before tasting each bake, we briefly discuss the ingredients and how easy or difficult it was to make. Plus, the odd occasion when the bake didn't go to plan and discussing what went wrong, as we also encourage everyone to bring their disasters too.



We mainly try to look for recipes we have never tried before, which means quite a selection of unusual bakes arriving on my table. A lot has been learned from initially setting up the group in February 2015, as we found it quite impossible to eat ten to twelve muffins or slices of cake or small pies in one session, although I do have to admit we did initially try with great enthusiasm and success, but this only resulted in many pounds on a lot of waistlines. The learning process has meant we cut each bake into much smaller portions— just enough to taste, as you can always go back for more (which has been known).

The testing and eating of the cakes usually takes an hour before the conversation drifts into wonderful stories from everyone about life in general. What more could you ask for in a Group than being able to eat lots of cake and pastries, drink cups of tea and coffee and all mixed with such lovely company.

Viv Tunstall

Group Leader

email : vicechairmanthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
phone : 732791

Fork to Fork

The Fork to Fork lunch group is fairly new; we only started earlier this year. We meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 12.30 at Maureen's house. We have plenty of space so would welcome new members.

Each month someone chooses a theme and we all bring a dish to share; it doesn't have to be home made. We don't tell anyone else what we are bringing so it can cause great hilarity. It's a very sociable group. We usually start talking about the food we have brought and end up putting the world to rights!

This month we chose eggs as our theme and two of us brought egg salad.
The holiday theme produced a savoury dish and three desserts.

Themes so far include:

who inspired us *holidays* *Mother's day*
eggs *healthy eating*



Rachel Thompson Group Leader email : rachelk@uwclub.net

Lunches

There are two lunch groups— the monthly group and the weekenders group

The **Monthly Lunch Group** is very popular and always well attended.

The challenge is to find different places that will accommodate over 30 people in just one sitting.

To date, success is in the growing numbers, meeting different people and generally having good food, a chat and fun into the bargain.

Our Lunch in July took place at Wadenhoe House and included an opportunity to tour the House and have a good lunch.



Our meal for September is booked at the Italian Venezia Pizzeria in Rushden. We always meet at 12 for 12.30 pm at the venue and a Sat Nav. reference is always provided, but, if you don't have transport, then please let me know in good time so I am able to sort it for you.

Anyone may join us and sign up sheets are available from me or any of the other members. You are not required to join us for every lunch, but you are free to join us whenever. I will make sure you receive all information so long as I have your contact details.

Iris Squires Group Leader phone : 730434 or 0777 8052078

The **Weekenders Lunch Group** is for people who live on their own. The group meets once a month at lunchtime on the 4th Sunday of the month, to allow members to enjoy a meal out together. The cost varies according to the venue and menu choice.

If you would like to join the group contact Pam.

Pam Richardson Group Leader Phone : 730634

Forthcoming Branch Meetings

AUGUST 18TH

SUMMER EVENT

SAILING CLUB

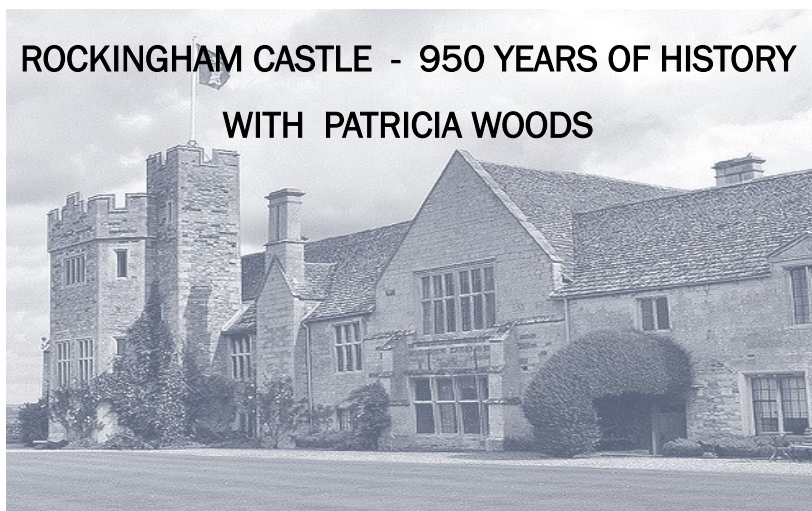
Entry by ticket only. Gates open 10.45.

SEPTEMBER 15TH

THEPLAZA, THRAPSTON

10.30 A.M.

ROCKINGHAM CASTLE



950 YEARS OF HISTORY

LATEST INFORMATION ON THE SILVERSTONE TOUR

There are a few places still available for September :

U3A Northants Network invites you to

TAKE THE TOUR

WHEN: 14TH SEPTEMBER

TIME: 9.00AM OR 3.30 PM

COST: £7.00 PER PERSON

TWO HOUR TOUR OF SILVERSTONE CIRCUIT IN A MINIBUS WITH A DRIVER WHO WILL GIVE YOU ALL SILVERSTONE'S VARIED HISTORY



Lace Making Group

The members of the group will be making lace at Stanwick Lakes on Saturday September 23rd and Sunday September 24th, from 11 am to 4pm, as part of the **Making History Event**. This free two-day Victorian Event will have a host of traditional crafts demonstrations, Morris dancers, period music, family activities and traditional refreshments.

Come and try your hand at lace making.

For further details see www.stanwicklakes.org.uk or phone 01933 625522

News from the Groups

Local History Walks

There will be another Thrapston Walk on 7th October.
Details will be announced in the September newsletter
Brenda phone 730225



Theatre and Outings Group



Lampport Hall and Gardens (approx cost 10.00)

A final reminder to anyone who is interested in a visit to Lampport Hall and Gardens in the week commencing 11.09.17. The actual day will depend on numbers attending but we will notify the exact date to everyone who has shown an interest by mid August.
If you haven't yet signed up and are interested in joining us, please contact Jenni (see below).

Blood Brothers 04.10.17

This is fully booked and final details re pick up times etc will be published in the September newsletter and announced at the September branch meeting.

Mamma Mia 01.02.2018

A production at the Royal and Derngate Theatre Northampton. We still have a few seats available for this show (tickets £48.50. plus coach fare). If you are interested please contact Jenni (see below). Although this seems a long way off we must confirm our numbers to the theatre asap, so if you want to join us for this great musical, do get in touch.

Rockingham Castle xmas tour 29.11.17

A sign up sheet and details of this tour will be available at the September meeting. If you can't make the September meeting and want to come along, please contact Jenni (see below)

Jenni Hall contact by email - jennihall207@gmail.com or phone - 01832 358721

Tai Chi

Our Group is busy as usual but we will be having a short break on Aug 31st / Sept 7th.

We have a waiting list but, unfortunately, we do not have room for new members at present, Sorry !

Keep practising Linda



STOP PRESS

NEW GROUPS TO START NEXT MONTH!!

September sees the inaugural meeting of FOUR new groups for Thrapston and District U3A.

- ◆ **Boys' Toys** will hold its first meeting. Contact Juris Trede at pattrede@gmail.com for details.
- ◆ **Bridge Training** will meet for the first time on Wednesday September 6th from 10 am to 12 noon at a member's home. Contact Ed Callaghan at pamcal49@gmail.com or on 735038. Beginners, novices or improvers, all are welcome.
- ◆ **French Encore** – Jan Pacey is the Group Leader who will give you all the details at dandjinthrapston@hotmail.com.
- ◆ **Italian**, under the leadership of Marion Healey, will meet in the Baptist Church, Sackville Street, on Wednesday 20th September, from 2 to 4 pm. Contact: marion_healey@msn.com

You can also contact **Groups Co-ordinator**, Roger, by phone : 07812 102773

Thrapston and District U3A Committee

Chair: Sheila Underwood

Vice Chair: Viv Tunstall

Treasurer: Tricia James

Secretary: Pauline Johnson

Groups Co-ordinator: Roger Davies

Membership: Pauline Dennison

Publicity: Viv Tunstall

Speaker Seeker: Paul Ollett

Newsletter Editor: Wendy Davies

Equipment Manager: Ian Byrnes

New Members Rep: Maddie Godden

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

Website : 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