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CHAIR'S WELCOME

The festive season has arrived.

The Thrapston Christmas lights are as excellent as ever and the event to switch them on was equally good. The atmosphere in the High Street during the early evening was great and made you realise how lucky we are to be part of such a friendly and vibrant community.

I know lots of "our" groups are planning a "special" meeting in December and we are really looking forward to the December Social at the Plaza.

Whatever you are doing, and however you celebrate Christmas, I hope you enjoy every minute. For those of you travelling, I hope you do so safely and without too many delays.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. ...may they both bring whatever you would wish for.

Best wishes

Sheila

www.chairmanthrapstonu3a@gmail.com



Behind the Call of Duty

Chief Superintendent Bob Thorogood



Supported by photographs, Bob recounted his early childhood, his teen years and the various jobs he had prior to becoming Chief Superintendent. He had initially decided to write a story about his unusual upbringing for his children, but it took on a life of its own and it became a book, which he named 'Behind the Call of Duty.'

He recalled how his mother liked her drink and was away from home for extended periods. He used to stay with the neighbours Mrs. Pentelope and Mr. Marzetti. During WW1, Mr. Marzetti made a pact with a friend that if one of them died, the survivor would look after the other's wife. And so it was to be, as his friend hadn't survived.

He was well cared for and loved by the neighbours. He was 10 years old when an intruder stole his savings stamps. He and Mr. Marzetti reported it to an officer who said, "When we catch these people you will have to go to court to give evidence". This Bob has always remembered, because it wasn't 'if' but 'when' they were caught.

The police caught the offenders, so Bob had to go to Northampton's magistrates court to give evidence, where the Duty Sargent gave him a shilling for being a good boy. Many years later when he joined the police force, the first Superintendent he met was the Detective Constable he'd reported the burglary to.

He met his future wife at a dance. Mr. Marzetti, on his death, had left everything to Bob, including the house, but his mother had seen to it that he didn't get it. Bob succeeded in putting that right, so he and his wife had a home.

His first job was as a Co-op errand boy. Soon after that, he went into the building trade as a bricklayer. Even though he also hated this new job, he was resigned to completing the required apprenticeship. At the age of 24, he was at a Cobblers football match, where a policeman recommended that he join the police, as "we've become £1000 a year-men". After a 10-minute interview with the Deputy Chief Constable, he was welcomed into the police force.

He was sent to training school and served in Corby in 1969. He learnt a valuable lesson: avoid arresting drunks as they can make an awful mess of a Panda car, which the driver would have to clean up.



Bob reviewed a number of cases, some in shocking detail.

On a lighter note, Bob spoke of his role as an advisor to the Crime Watch TV programme. He was also made a liaison officer for the Home Office, the House of Commons and House of Lords, concerning the new Police And Criminal Evidence Act.

In 1998 after 28 years-service he finally served in Northampton, where he'd wanted to be at the very start of his police career. Bob retired 2 years later.

The talk was full of surprises, humour and shocks. At the end, he quipped "if you have any questions, buy the book! "

Terry Robinson

Speaker Seeker.

Calendar of Events

2019

- 16th December Science & Technology - guest speaker - see page 5
20th December Christmas Event - see page 6

2020

- 17th January India - Tigers - Tom Wray
21st February Kinky Boots Story - Steve Pateman
8th April Beautiful - Carole King musical - see page 7

Monthly Plaza Meetings

- When?** 3rd Friday of each month
Where? The Plaza in Thrapston
When? from 10.30 to 12 noon



*Please note that this month's meeting is just for members
Admission is by ticket only
Doors open at 9.45 for a 10 am start*

This Month

Friday December 20th

Christmas Event

See page 6



Next Month

Friday January 17th

India—Tigers

with Tom Wray



News from the Groups

Table Tennis



The Table Tennis Group is growing in numbers, so much so, that a new table has been purchased by the group. They meet on Tuesday mornings at the Baptist Church, from 10 am, and usually finish up at the church's Coffee Morning for coffee and cake to restore energy levels after an hour of exertions!



Skill levels vary enormously, from beginner to experienced, but a warm welcome awaits all.

Group Leader : Gordon Campbell

Stitchers



Members of the Stitchers Group have been preparing for the Christmas Festivities by making fabric decorations .

The Christmas trees involved clever manipulation of fabric and an opportunity to use beads and sequins for decoration.



The no-sew fabric baubles proved very popular, and for once, you could “hear a pin drop” (excuse the pun!!) as we all concentrated hard on our folding techniques.



We did find time for coffee and Christmas nibbles, though!

The group meet on the second Thursday and last Wednesday in the month from 10 am at the Town Council Offices.

Wendy Davies

Group Leader

R 623 047

Monthly Lunches

Over the past 6 years, which is from the birth of our U3A, Iris Squires has organised 64 Monthly Lunches – just think of that! – to keep our members well fed, watered and entertained. The number of different venues she has found comes to over 60! This is a wonderful achievement for which Iris must be heartily congratulated. She is stepping down from her rôle as Group Leader after the Christmas lunch for 30 of you.

We should obviously like this very healthy group to continue. So, if one of you regular attendees would consider stepping into Iris's shoes, that would be awesome. *Alternatively, if the task seems too daunting, a small number of you could make up an organising group, so that the load is shared and the task less onerous.* The wonderful Iris is very willing to offer volunteers her guidance as to organising dates, venues and members and so on.

Please contact Roger, the Group Co-ordinator, if you would like to find out more, on R 623 047 or by email at groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com, or talk to him at the Christmas Event at the Plaza on December 20th.

Science and Technology Group



We have booked Michael Brown, a lively and humorous speaker, for our Christmas event on

Monday 16 December at 2 p.m. in the Baptist Church.

His talk is entitled 'Death in the Garden', about poisonous and dangerous plants.



It is open to all U3A members and the charge will be £4, to include mince pies and coffee or tea.

Please book a place by calling Glyn on 735 797 or emailing glynishill06@aol.com

Thrapston & District
U3A
Learn, Laugh, Live

SHARED RESEARCH PROJECT.



Over the past 18 months a group of us, as some of you will know, have been researching the Life and Times of Meriel, Lady Tresham. Much is known about her husband, Sir Thomas Tresham, and we set ourselves the target of finding out more Meriel.

On Thursday 21st November the group attended the National Trust end of season volunteer meeting where we handed a file of all our findings over to Emily Wolfe, the National Trust Operations Manager at Lyveden. It is hoped that this file will be a useful resource in preparing some of the in-depth interpretation content for the Great Chamber when Lyveden reopens next year.

As always, the research has raised as many questions as it has answered and has provided us with lots of ideas to follow up. We will be enjoying Christmas before meeting again in January to see which of these ideas appeal to us. We have really enjoyed the project, visiting new places, meeting a wide range of people, reading books and manuscripts as well as eating cake and drinking tea!

Sheila Underwood (On behalf of the Group)



Here members of the group can be seen handing over the printed copy of their research to Emily from the National Trust.

**** Christmas Event ****

Friday December 20th 2019

Doors open at 9.45 a.m. for a 10 a.m. start.



Please note: This is a ticket only event

If you are unable to use your tickets, please return them so that they may be passed to other Members.

This year, we will be entertained by Eugene Matthias, the magician who kept us enthralled at our January meeting, (held in the Parish Church).

Music will be provided by our talented Makin' Music and Ukulele Groups.

For your convenience (and to avoid congestion!), drink orders will be taken at your table, and the drinks will be delivered to you in the interval. This will also give you time to complete the quiz and enjoy some magic tricks at your table.



**** Advance Notice ****



East Midlands Regional Conference - Making a Difference

Tuesday 21st April 2020

Eastwood Hall Conference Centre NG16 3SS

Speakers Prof Chris French : The psychology of false memory

And Sam Mauger : CEO of the Third Age Trust

+break out groups

Put the date in your diary

News from the U3A Northants Network

Free Heritage talks and heritage volunteer research project

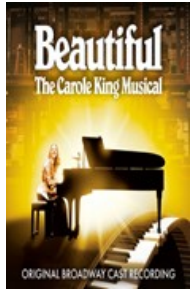
Free heritage talks are to take place at All Saints Church (High Cross St) in Leicester.

If you would like more information or to book then please see:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/79316968187

It is also hoped to recruit some volunteers for a heritage research project, about All Saints, which will feed into a community performance in March next year. Information for that volunteer opportunity can be found at: artreach.biz/heritage-research-volunteers-leicester/

Theatre and Outings



We now have just eight matinee seats remaining for the fantastic Carole King musical “Beautiful” on Wednesday 8th April at Milton Keynes.

The cost will be £48.00 per person, payable in advance, which includes return coach fare.

Please note that there can be **no refunds** and only **U3A members** can attend.

There are a number of payment options available;

1. Cash

2. Cheque made payable to “Thrapston and District U3A”

3. By BACS (bank transfer) - ask Moira for details.

(Please make sure that you add the name of the show and your membership number, eg ‘Calendar Girls 000’ as your reference.)

Do not miss this opportunity to enjoy this wonderfully memorable show!

For further details, please email Moira at theatrethrapstonU3A@gmail.com

For our **next theatre trip** (scheduled for September or October 2020) we are always interested to hear your suggestions, once these shows become advertised.

Please contact Moira at the email above, so that an interest list can be started.

General Information

For all our theatre trips, the coach leaves Thrapston Co-op at 10:30am and returns approximately by 6pm.

Please make sure you arrive at the Co-op in plenty of time, especially if you have a mobility aid which will need to be stored on the coach.



Merry Christmas

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a New Year full of good things.

From all the members of the committee

of Thrapston & District U3A



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

Membership Cards

Please remember to carry your membership card with you when you attend meetings or outings. The reverse of the card has space for the contact details to be used in case of emergency. Your membership number is also required if you wish to book an outing or buy tickets for an event, such as the Christmas Event.



Thrapston and District U3A Committee 2019/20

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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**

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