



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Newsletter February 2015

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From the Chairman

Spring is hopefully around the corner and it will soon be time for our May AGM. We will need to recruit to the committee.

The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary have to be elected to those specific posts and the incumbents have all come to the end of their two-year period of service. There are other roles to be filled too, determined by the members of the new committee. As you know, U3A is run for its members by its members, so please do give some thought as to whether you would be willing to help by joining the committee. If you would like to know more about how it works please get in touch at the next meeting or by phone with the Secretary, Michelle Owen (01832 736902) or the Vice Chairman, Glyn Hill (01832 735797).

January Branch Meeting



We experienced a welcome touch of nostalgia coupled with an interesting résumé of Walt Disney's life before fame, and off-screen. Steve Dimmer, told of The Struggles of a Legend.

The personal story of Disney, was far from the popular image presented to the public.



Mystery Photograph

Can you identify the photograph taken in the Thrapston area? Let the editor have your answers by letter, email or telephone.

There is no prize, only the fun of observation and local knowledge. The photo has kindly been supplied by Eric Franklin.

The picture in last month's newsletter was of the open space in front of East Northamptonshire House - see the photograph on page 3.

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.

- 20 February Branch meeting - **Susan Copperwheat, Spires Saints and Martyrs.** Stories relating to churches in our area.
- 9 March Deadline for copy to the Editor for inclusion in the March newsletter.
- 20 March Branch meeting - **Adrian Perkins, The Ghost Detective.** Stories of the paranormal with explanations, by a mystery writer and a psychological back up.
- 26 March **The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole.** Unfortunately there was insufficient interest in this and the booking has been cancelled.
- 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.
- 15 July **Jesus Christ Super Star**, Milton Keynes. Many of you may remember this musical by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber exploded onto the musical scene in 1971. It has some of musical theatres' most legendary songs from 'I Don't Know How to Love Him', 'Everything's Alright', 'Gethsemane' and 'Superstar'. I have booked seats for the matinee performance and the cost including coach, theatre ticket and driver's tip will be about £35. If interested please either telephone me on 01832 732724 or email dennison987@gmail.com Pauline Dennison

December 2015 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 to Thursford 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 732724

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.

Mystery photograph continued: On the right is the more familiar scene today. The original picture was taken in 1984 when the old workhouse (which was the building's original function) was in a very bad state of repair.



Group Co-ordinator's Report

I am delighted to tell you that we have a group leader for **Line Dancing**. Sixteen dancers arrived for the first group on Tuesday 13 January with Sue Pringle as its leader. Sue has extensive experience in leading line dancing and we had a great time. The group will meet initially monthly on the second Tuesday at 1.30pm for an hour in the St John Ambulance Hall in the Bullring. The next date is 10 February and it will cost £1.50. Sue is happy to take up to 25 and is thinking of running it twice a month. Feel free to just turn up or ring Sue on 01832 733476. Many of you will know that our Group Leader of Weekend Lunches, Patchwork, and Books, Veronica Norwood, has had significant health issues over the past months. She is beginning to think that she is keeping the NHS in business with her number of outpatient appointments. Veronica would like to continue leading her Patchwork group with its present membership but has stepped down from leading the other groups.

Pam Richardson has taken over as Leader for **Weekend Lunches**. They take place on Sundays and are for members who are single. At present there are 14 and so Pam says there's room for more. The next lunch takes place on 22 February at 1pm at the Samuel Pepys in Slipton. If you'd like to go to this, or future lunches, please contact Pam on 01832 730634.

Military History: On Monday 12 January Terry Needham gave a very interesting talk about The Indian Mutiny of the mid 19th century. He spoke about the causes of the mutiny, its progress and ending. On Monday 10 February Tom Beston spoke about the Reivers, the English and Scottish raiders of the Border Marches. There are eight members of the group and thus room for two more. If you have an interest in military history and would like to join this friendly, interesting and lively group, please contact Gerry Martin on telephone 01832 731174 or email gerrymartin1@waitrose.com

The **Books** group will be re-launched in April with a new leader and a members' list will be available at the next two Branch meetings, so please sign up if you are interested.

Lunch Group: Our next meal is booked for 23 February at The Old Friar, Lower Street, Twywell, NN1 43AH, at noon for 12.30pm. Should you like to join us you will be very welcome. Price is £10.50 for two courses and £11.50 for three. I look forward to seeing you all there. Iris

The **Photography** group has produced a display of photographs taken within St James' Church and it is on view there now. Please take a look, they're really great and from some interesting angles.

I will have an expressions of interest list for a proposed new group, **Science and Technology**. If you are interested please sign up at the next Branch meeting or ring me on 01832 735797. Volunteers for group leadership especially welcome. It's probably a group that would benefit from having two co-leaders from different interest areas.

Linda Vickerman is the leader of a new group, **Flower Arranging**, and she has four members so far but is looking for more to have a viable group. Please contact her on 01933 380244.

Linda's **Tai Chi** group is extremely popular and is full to bursting but she is keeping a waiting list so do contact her if you are interested.

Guinette Davies runs the **Sewing** group with five regular members and would welcome more. She would be happy to give people information and see if she can help to develop their skills or gain new ones. Please sign up at the Branch meeting or ring Guinette on 01832 733436.

Ukulele Group: Well, we have made our debut performance! We hope our nerves did not show too much and that you all enjoyed our contribution to the Christmas meeting. We had fun anyway and I am sure that came across. It just goes to show what can be achieved in a few short weeks with bucket-loads of fun and enthusiasm.

We had three new members after the December meeting which means that the group is now full. A waiting list is running and should there be enough support I am happy to think about starting a second group. Marion Healey 01832 720262.

Advanced Driving: We have taken a short break during the colder, wetter weather, but will resume soon. Congratulations to Parry Jones who has completed his advanced driving course and passed the advanced test. He advises that the course is for everyone, even those who might be lacking confidence. The course enhances an individual's ability and knowledge while making them a safer driver. They may also get up to a 70% reduction in car insurance premiums on passing the test.

We have another meeting for this group on Wednesday March 18 when I am hoping to arrange a short first aid course, complete with dummies to practice on. I am hoping to start a new course in September. Please contact me, Geoff Hill on 01933 624645.

Walk Group 2: On the last Thursday of January a group of us (including two new members) gathered near to The Woolpack in Islip to walk around the Thrapston Lakes. Luckily the weather was favourable and stayed sunny for most of the morning. We encountered one or two muddy patches, but nothing to complain about. Having finished the walk one of the members kindly invited us to her house where we enjoyed a belated new year celebration with mulled wine, sausage rolls and nibbles. Many thanks, Pauline.

We meet on the last Thursday of the month at 10 am at the nominated venue. All walks are circular and vary from six to eight miles. We walk at a pace to suit the group and if there is a coffee shop en-route we will stop. Occasionally we may stop for refreshments at the end of the walk.

This month we are starting from the Pocket Park in Lowick and will walk about six to seven miles taking in Sudborough, Slipton and Twywell before making our way back to Lowick. Members make their own way to the start of the walk, but if anyone from Thrapston would like a lift then I am happy to oblige. I usually send everyone an email reminder the weekend prior to the walk so if you would like to give us a try let me have your email address and I will include you.

A walk programme will be available at the February meeting. Pauline

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

- Antiques and Collectibles
- Books
- Country Dancing
- Cycling
- French Revivers
- Cycling
- Latin
- Line Dancing
- Live Music
- Lunches
- Magic
- Military History
- Papercraft
- Photography
- Sewing

- Ten Pin Bowling
- Walks 2
- Weekend Lunches
- Whist and Board Games

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 February Branch meeting.

Glyn Hill, Group Co-ordinator



The Walks Group taking a break to enjoy the views

Thrapston and District U3A Committee

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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