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Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to February. The snowdrops are out and the daffodils are in bud, so Spring must be on its way.

This is a busy time for the Committee as we come towards the end of the financial year and plan the activities for the year ahead. My thanks to all of you who took the time to provide us with feedback on the events of last year. All of the points raised have been fed into the discussions for this year.

As I said at the January meeting, we are now going to use your membership number as a way of identifying who is booking a place on trips etc. We now have a membership database and can use that to generate the e-mail and telephone list that Group Leaders need.

This saves having to try to "read and interpret" handwritten information and will hopefully guarantee that members get first chance at the things on offer. Please make sure you have your Membership Card with you and please see Pauline if you have not got one.

I would also like to share with you the fact that four of the Committee will leave in May. This means that there will be four places to fill and it would be of real benefit if people who might take up the roles could shadow those leaving. Our U3A will not thrive and grow if we cannot replace those leaving. The Committee only meets once a month for two hours, so if you think you could make your contribution to our U3A by being a Committee member, please speak to one of us and come to our next meeting to find out more.



I hope to see you at the newly refurbished Plaza on February 15th.

Sheila

The Ugly Duckling and The Magic Wand with Eugene Matthias

A late change had to be made to our scheduled speaker for the January meeting, when Mr Vince Eager had to undergo surgery to have a replacement knee. However, with a few phone calls, it was possible for Eugene to bring his visit forward from 17th May to entertain us with a show of fun and magic that had everyone laughing out loud in the true sense of the phrase.



It was a cool morning at St James Church and, without the benefit of the customary comforts of the Plaza Centre, currently undergoing refurbishment, it was pleasing to see such a large audience. Eugene commenced with a bit of background to his childhood when, being diminutive but a bit tubby and bordering on dyslexic, he was targeted by bullies at school. A chance Christmas gift from a relative of a magic set provided an unlikely route to winning favour with his aggressors. He found that, with practice, he could master the tricks in the set and slowly this allowed him to win the respect of his schoolmates.

With the simplest of stage props, he delivered a presentation of humorous content, encouraging people from the audience to help him with some of his intricate illusions. A glance around the church at any point revealed that everyone was entranced and clearly focused on Eugene's act. He performed some familiar conjuring tricks with a cup and ball. Eugene also explained the history of how the trick was performed in the street to scam unsuspecting punters out of their cash.

Perhaps the highlight of the show was when Sheila, our Chair, was invited to assist in the performance and reluctantly submitted her attractive eternity ring to Eugene, who had a special red jeweller's cleaning cloth in which he carefully placed the ring. Then, assisted by two of our members, (one seemingly holding the ring within the cloth and the other with cupped hands ready to catch it), Eugene caused the ring to vanish completely. Poor Sheila had a few minutes to wonder what had happened to her treasured piece of jewellery. Needless to say, all was well in the end.



Eugene proved himself to be a versatile performer and an excellent entertainer.

I am pleased to tell you that we can now expect Vince Eager to visit us on 17th May with his presentation 'You're Never Too Old Too Rock & Roll', so keep your dancing shoes well polished.



Paul Ollett



Calendar of Events 2019

15th February	Butler to Royalty by William J French
15th March	Shipwrecked in Antarctica by Georgie Hale PLUS EGM — see below
12th April	Trip to Greyhounds - see Irene Gandy
9th May	Gates Garden Centre and Farm Visit - see page 6
28th June	Network outing to Lamport Hall - see page 7

Branch Meetings

When? 3rd Friday of each month

Where? The Plaza in Thrapston

When? from 10.30 to 12,

Please note that doors open at 10 a.m.



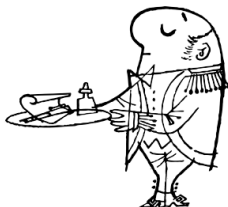
Visitors are also welcome to join us for a small charge of £2

This Month

Friday February 15th

Butler to Royalty

by William J French



Next Month

Friday March 15th

Shipwrecked in Antarctica

by Georgie Hale



Please Note: There will be an Extraordinary General Meeting at the start of the meeting in March for the purpose of changing the "examiner of the accounts".

**** EGM March 15th at The Plaza, Thrapston at 10.30 ****



Do you know..... Our Speaker Seeker is retiring

Paul has sent this message.....

I have been serving on the Thrapston & District Group U3A committee as the Speaker Seeker for nearly three years and in May my tenure will end. I hope that you have found our speakers at the monthly meetings to be of great interest. I think we have enjoyed a degree of good fortune with the diversity of the talks and entertainment value from the various individuals. For my part, it has been a very rewarding experience serving on such a dedicated committee and great fun in locating the speakers. I am sure that I will miss the good humour (and biscuits) shared amongst us at our monthly meetings.

Although my involvement will end in May, I can report that we are in a healthy state, with a list of speakers already booked up to April 2020. So from May 2019 we will need a new Speaker Seeker and, if you are at all interested, I am more than happy to show you what is involved.

Paul Ollett

Focus on.....Groups that meet on Wednesday afternoons (Part I)

Due to space issues, Part II will appear next month!!

Italian Conversation



The group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons from 2 – 4 p.m. at Marion's home.

We are a small, friendly and non-competitive group with a varied level of abilities, with none of us fluent. We are coached by an Italian lady who has a great deal of much needed patience and who has a background in teaching. We are learning to make ourselves understood in everyday situations and, more importantly, to be able to understand what is said to us.

We currently have spaces for 2 members, but they should have, at least, a little basic knowledge of the language, as we have progressed past the absolute beginner level.

For more information contact Marion Healey.

Phone : 01832 720262

email: marion_healey@msn.com

English Group meets on the first Wednesday afternoon of every month at my house.

We interest and entertain ourselves discussing modern usage and whether traditional grammar really matters. Eponyms, malapropisms, idioms, metaphors, euphemisms, accents and dialects have been among the topics in the past. We also look briefly at the lives and works of well known poets, dramatists and novelists throughout the ages.

As the group has been full for some time, a second group has just been started, meeting on a Thursday - but, unfortunately, that too is probably full.

Glyn James Group Leader

News from the groups

Book Group

The Book Group are recruiting new members at the moment. They meet on the last Friday of each month at 10.30am and anyone who is interested can contact Celia Busby (Group Leader) on 731047 for more details.



Military History

Due to a sad passing and house moves the Military History group has space for new members.

The group meets at 10 am on the second Monday of each month, (apart from August and December), at the home of whomever is giving that month's talk.

Subjects range widely in time and scope—from Roman marching forts to Viet Cong tunnels in the Viet Nam war, and from medieval sea battles to Jutland.

If anyone would like to join this group please contact :

Julian Brown (Group Leader) on 01832 734324 or aandjbrown1@btinternet.com



Ten Pin Bowling

The 10 pin bowling group meet every 2nd Friday in the month at the Wellingborough Bowl

T	19	28	34	52	60	69	78	87	96	104	104
L	6	23	30	39	46	53	61	77	94	103	103
R	27	45	53	62	68	77	86	95	114	123	123
I	14	18	27	35	44	50	58	66	76	76	76
D	3	12	28	34	40	60	80	99	108	126	126
M	8	15	22	40	48	63	72	80	87	95	95

Their first game of 2019! Note the strikes.



Contact the Group Leader - Irene Gandy for more details.

Phone: 732 948

Walking Group

Out enjoying the crisp weather!

Talk to Rob Brown or Pauline Johnson if you would like to join them on one of their outings.

Phone: 732 521 or 01933 625181



THEATRE AND OUTINGS.....

Outings



Gates Garden Centre and Farm Visit 9 May 2019



Thanks to everyone for their prompt payment of the balance for the above trip. Further details regarding departure time etc will be published in the April newsletter. Although this trip is fully booked, please feel free to add your name to the reserve list in case of cancellation.

Tour of Peckover House and Elgoods Brewery, Wisbech

26 June 2019

There are still tickets available for this trip. Firstly we will have a tour of Peckover House and gardens. There will then be free time for lunch and in the afternoon a tour of Elgoods Brewery and gardens. The cost will depend on whether you are a member of the National Trust and if you do the brewery tour or decide to just have free time exploring Wisbech. Please come and see me (Jenni) at the February meeting at the Plaza. I have some brochures and can explain the options on offer..

Any queries relating to outings please email me at jennihall207@gmail.com

Theatre Trips

Our recent visit to the Leicester Curve theatre to see **WHITE CHRISTMAS** proved to be a great success for our theatre-goers, as we were entertained by memorable songs and a storyline to wash away the post-Christmas blues...

Annie - 3rd July, at Milton Keynes Theatre.

This is now fully booked, but if you are still keen to attend, we have a 'reserve' list in case of last minute cancellations.

GREASE - Leicester Curve theatre on Wednesday 11th September at 2:15pm.

Tickets are priced at £45 to include coach travel. We are now collecting from those who have already signed up. There are currently just **two places remaining**.

Contact details below.

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

JUST ONE MORE THING... on theatre and outing trips we now require an emergency contact number. This must be someone who is not on the same trip as you and is easily contactable in case of an emergency. Please remember to bring your membership card with you on all theatre trips and outings, just in case.

Please contact Moira for further information or to inform us of your emergency contact number.

mo.beth@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 07960 640161



Answers to the Christmas Quiz

1. *As with gladness men of old*
2. *Christians Awake / Christmas alphabet*
3. *The First Noel*
4. *Go tell it on the mountain*
5. *Good King Wenceslas*
6. *Good Christian men rejoice*
7. *In the bleak midwinter*
8. *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*
9. *Joy to the world*
10. *Mary's boy child*
11. *Past three o'clock*
12. *See amid the winter snow*
13. *Unto us a boy is born*
14. *We three kings of Orient are*
15. *While shepherds watched their flocks by night*
16. *It came upon the midnight clear*
17. *O come, O come Emmanuel*
18. *O little town of Bethlehem*
19. *Zither carol*
20. *Once in Royal David's City*
21. *O Holy Night*
22. *Adam lay ybounden*
23. *Ding dong merrily on high*
24. *Coventry Carol*
25. *Angels from the realms of glory*
26. *God rest ye merry gentlemen*
27. *Hark the herald angels sing*
28. *Little donkey*
29. *The Holly and the Ivy*
30. *I saw three ships come sailing in*

Network visit to Lamport Hall and Gardens



The Area Network organises a trip each year and this year is visiting Lamport Hall. If you are interested, contact them directly.

Date: 28th June 2019

Time: 1.00pm

Cost: £13 per person (includes cream tea)

Access

If you know of anyone who would like to join our U3A, but has difficulty attending because of difficulties with mobility, hearing or sight, please contact Glyn. (details below)



We're hoping to improve transport accessibility for new or present members who live in the villages and would like to keep a list of members who would be willing to give lifts to the monthly meetings at the Plaza. Please would you let Glyn know if you are able to volunteer for this.

Glyn Hill

phone: 01832 735797

email: accessthrapstonu3a@gmail.com

Committee News

As you will have read in the Chair's Welcome, four of the Committee will leave in May.

This means that there will be four places to fill and it would be of real benefit if people who might take up the roles could shadow those leaving.

The Committee only meets once a month for two hours, so if you think you could make your contribution to our U3A by being a Committee member, speak to one of the committee and we can arrange for you to sit in on one of our meetings.

One of the vacancies will be on the Executive Committee, i.e. the Treasurer, **which we cannot function without**. We are intending to create a new post of Assistant Treasurer to ease the load on the Treasurer.

So if you think you might be interested in filling one of the four vacancies, do let us know.

Our U3A will not thrive and grow if we cannot replace those who are leaving.

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

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.