



Contents

From the Editor	1
Stop Press	1
Forthcoming Events	2
The Book Group Review	2
The Gardening Group	2
Barn Dance	2
Group Leaders' Reports	3
Theatre Trips and Outings	4
Summer Barbecue	4
December Meeting	5
Photographs	8
Car Sharing and Other Costs	8
Thrapston & District U3A Committee	8



The raffle prize won at the December meeting

From the Editor

A Happy New Year to you all and welcome to the January 2014 newsletter with a new format. The committee intends that this year will see a more lively and vivid newsletter with many reports of U3A activities, accompanied by photos of the events and participants. If you do not wish your photo to appear in the newsletter, it is incumbent upon you to advise me and the photographer. I welcome your responses whether favourable or not. Thank you to Gail Corby who wrote, 'Thank you for a very informative newsletter - and the jokes!'.

Stop Press

U3A Magic Group

Thrapston & District U3A Magic Group. We are a small group looking to improve our conjuring skills, learn new tricks and look at illusions performed by others. Impress your grandchildren and amaze your friends.

Magic for Grandparents. An introduction to basic and simple magic to entertain the family.

Thrapston & District U3A Magic Group is to meet once or twice a month. If you are interested in magic and conjuring then contact Terry Robinson by e-mail at osmec@btinternet.com - Terry's background includes performances and experience as a magic circle club secretary.

Forthcoming Events

Branch meetings are at 10.30am on the third Friday of each month at the Thrapston Plaza unless stated otherwise.

2014

Date

- 17 January Mike Leonard - Sadistic Safari
25 January Priscilla Queen of the Desert
7 February Midnight - deadline for copy to the Editor
21 February Martin Towsy - Role of the Garden Estates Manager at Woburn
21 March Dr Miles Ellis -The real Burma, an Englishman's View
18 April Glyn James - A Year in Sweden
23 April Fiddler on the Roof at the Derngate, Northampton
16 May AGM
9 July Singin' in the Rain
15 August Annual barbecue in place of the regular meeting - details later.
The U3A holds several national events which may be of interest to you. Please check the U3A website (www.thrapstonu3a.co.uk) at the events and competitions page of the Member's Area Homepage.

The Book Group Review

The Poison Tree by **Erin Kelly** was reviewed this month. This is Erin Kelly's first novel, a mystery/thriller. We all found it an intriguing and enjoyable read although a little implausible at times. We gave it 7/10.

Michelle Owen

The Gardening Group

Tip for the Month - Enjoy an evening or two by the fire browsing through seed catalogues.

Rachel Thompson

Barn Dance

For those who had the courage and energy to take part, the barn dance in December was a great success. Congratulations and thanks to the small organising team of Glyn (Hill), Richard and Brenda. We are also particularly grateful to Kevin on accordion and Lesley on violin, and the callers, Douglas and Jane. The music was invigorating and the directions were clear enough for most people; those of us who occasionally found ourselves proceeding in the wrong direction, sometimes with the wrong partner, were not barred or even subject to reproach and somehow the structure of the dance always managed to reassert itself. It was a lively, entertaining, friendly and very enjoyable afternoon.

Barn Dancing group leader - George Hearnden phone 01933 622827

Group Leaders' Reports

I am particularly pleased to tell you that five new groups are being launched in January and February.

The **Country Dancing** group starts on Wednesday 8 January at 2.00, finishing at 3.30. It will be fortnightly in St James's Hall and all dances will be walked through and fully explained, and will be light-hearted fun. Partners are not needed and plenty of room for more members. George Hearnden's email is ghearnden@tiscali.co.uk, phone 01933 622827.

The new **Antiques and Bygones** group will be meeting on the third Monday afternoon of each month at the Methodist Church Hall, Market Road, Thrapston at 2.00. The first meeting on 20 January will be an illustrated talk on Rattan Cane, where and how it is grown; its historical use and its modern use in many types of furniture.

Some other topics proposed for this year are:

- Charles Rennie Mackintosh, art nouveau and the Northampton House
- Behind the scenes of an auctioneer and visit an auction gallery
- Our own U3A antiques road show. Bring yours for comment and valuation
- Conserve or preserve - the care and repairs of antiques
- Clocks, how to date, and a look at Thrapston's clock makers
- Silver collecting and metals cleaning without damaging your treasures

Group Leader is Dave Macey, email macey199@btinternet.com

Irene's first **Ten-Pin Bowling** games are on Friday 10 January. She already has 17 people on the list and asks that you confirm your place by 8 January so that she can book the lanes. More members are very welcome, please phone 01832 732948.

Irene plans to launch **Board Games** in January and has seven members signed up with space for more. It will be on an informal basis rather than a set day and she will let you know of the first date. Please phone 01832 732948

I am launching a **Photography** group and the inaugural meeting will be on Monday 3 February at 2.30 at my home. Please contact me if you are interested and haven't as yet put your name down, contact Glyn on glynishillo6@aol.com or phone 01832 735797.

Glyn Hill, Group Co-ordinator

Theatre Trips and Outings

Transport will usually be provided and pick-up and drop-off outside the Thrapston Co-op. The cost of each coach trip includes the driver's tip. Once the theatres and coaches have been paid for, money paid cannot be refunded and members should try to find a replacement. If places are available, members may bring a guest at an extra cost of £1. Payment may be made by cash or cheque payable to Thrapston & District U3A.

Saturday 25 January - Priscilla Queen of the Desert - matinee. The coach will leave from the Co-op at 11.00am giving time in Milton Keynes for shopping or lunch. **Brenda**

Wednesday 23 April - Fiddler on the Roof at the Derngate, Northampton at 2.30pm. Several members showed they would like to attend. I now have a waiting list and need confirmation that you would still like to see the show. The cost (coach, driver and show) is £32 and pay me at the January meeting. Cheques to be made payable to Thrapston and District U3A. If you are unable to attend the meeting and would still like to go then please contact **Pauline Dennison** phone **01832 732724**.

Wednesday 9 July - Singin' in the Rain - matinee. Last day for reserving a seat is 20 January. This is a long way off, but by reserving tickets as a group we have got good seats at £26. The theatre will only hold the tickets until that cut-off date. Coach prices will be notified later.

At present there is insufficient interest to make the visit viable. Brenda

Wednesday 19 March - Day out in Norwich. I am booking a coach for a visit to and walk around the city of Norwich. The price will be available at the February meeting when I know how many people are interested. Please sign up today with your deposit of £10.

Any questions phone **Brenda** phone **01832 730225**.

Summer Barbecue

The **Summer Barbecue** will be held on 15 August. Details will appear later, but the social sub-committee have asked for **volunteers to help** in various ways with the organisation and running of the barbecue. Will those willing to help please contact **Glyn Hill** phone **01832 735797**.

Two behaviourists met in the street. One said, 'You're OK. How am I?'

The professor discovered that his theory of earthquakes . . .

was on shaky ground.

No garden one dragon, Niagara bar again, Drowsy sword, Stop spots, Nip a pin.

December Meeting

December's meeting was a great success in showcasing all the activity groups. There were so many lively and fascinating displays on offer that every table in the Plaza was in use. From Antiques and Bygones at one end of the alphabet through to Weekend Lunches at the other; there were Board Games, Bowls,



Bridge, Classical Music, Country Dancing, Craft Sewing, Computing, Creative Writing, Cycling, Current Issues, English, Family History, French Revivers, Gardening (1 and 2), Jazz, Lace Making, Lunches, Military History, Patchwork, Papercraft, Photography, Singing for Pleasure, Ten Pin Bowling, Theatre and Outings, Tai Chi and Walks 2.

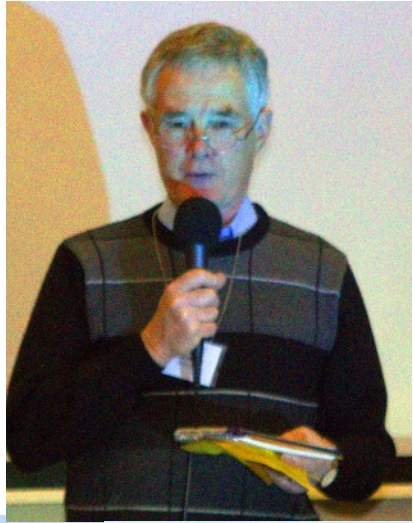
As well as the static displays, there were talks and presentations. We were treated to four very polished short stories from Pick 'n' Mix, the collection of stories recently published by the Creative Writing Group. Glyn Hill introduced a series of photos of the year's trips and outings, Veronica Norwood spoke about the activities of the Jazz, Patchwork and Weekend Lunch groups, a short shopping scenario was enacted in French and we were impressed by an enthusiastic display of Tai Chi. Less



static than the surrounding display, John Gregg was splendid in the uniform of a seventeenth century soldier, complete with a fearsome looking musket. All in all it was a wonderful illustration of what U3A is about and how much is already on offer in Thrapston; indeed the only complaint appeared to be that there were too many options to fit them all in. Everyone who contributed to the displays and presentations is to be congratulated and deserves our thanks.

Glyn James

More photographs on the following two pages.





Photographs

I welcome photographs of any activity or event which may be of interest to readers. Please take the photograph on a camera of reasonable quality so that there is sufficient definition in the picture for reproduction. A camera that is part of a mobile phone is often not of a sufficiently high quality to provide photographs worthy of reproduction. If you can only supply prints of photographs, let me borrow them as I can copy them for the newsletter and return the original.

Many thanks, Editor

Car Sharing and Other Costs

Several groups use car-sharing for visits. Our U3A mileage payment is 40p per mile and the committee has recommended that the mileage is calculated and each passenger pays their share to the driver.

When a host member provides coffee and biscuits we suggest that each member pays 30p to the host. These are guides and as such are not written in stone, so if you already have a system that works, please continue.

Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge even where there is no river ~ Nikita Khrushchev, USSR politician

We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them ~Albert Einstein

Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.

Thrapston & District U3A Committee

Chair:	Glyn James	Vice-Chair:	Glyn Hill
Treasurer:	Bryan Elliott	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

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.

Editor and publisher - Parry Jones, Tel: 01832 732668 and

e-mail <editorthrapstonU3A@gmail.com>

Website www.thrapstonu3a.co.uk

Thrapston & District U3A committee e-mail is <U3Acontact@gmail.com>