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CHAIR'S WELCOME

Happy New Year to one and all. It is the time of year when everyone starts to plan for the year ahead. Some make resolutions and some make lists of things to be achieved or things to be attempted. Whatever you decide, I wish you every success.

Your committee is also planning for the year ahead . We have to consider that, as we grow, the numbers at the monthly Plaza meeting are reaching capacity and we are therefore putting into place some procedures which will make sure that we do not breach any Health and Safety regulations. Please read the section later in this newsletter to find out how this might affect you.

As our numbers grow and more members choose to pay for membership and trips by bank transfer, it is also becoming very important that you put your **membership number AND the reason for the payment** on any transfer you make. This is the only way we can identify who has made the payment . Sue , our Treasurer, has lots of payments going in and out of a single account and, without your membership number, she cannot identify the source of the deposit.

At the beginning I said that some of you may be planning for the year ahead. As part of those plans, please think about how you can contribute to your U3A. We need several volunteers if we are to keep Thrapston U3A the forward looking , happy , welcoming group that it has always been. Please look at the "Situations Vacant" piece later in this newsletter and if you feel you could contribute to filling those gaps, please speak to one of the Committee to find out more.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting on January 17th.

Lastly , but by no means least,I would like to congratulate and thank all those who made the December Social such an enjoyable event.. It really was an excellent start to Christmas.

Sheila

www.chairmanthrapstonu3a@gmail.com



CHRISTMAS EVENT 2019

Our Christmas Event on December 20th was very successful, and everyone seemed to have a good time. Thanks to Neil Underwood for the photographic record of a fun morning.

Preparations began on Thursday evening :

Decorating the tree



and tuning up



Friday's "Welcome" Committee!

Sheila, Viv and Jenni dressed for the occasion.



Refreshments ready to go



Ready for the off!



We sang along to Makin' Music and the Ukulele Group.



And then we were entertained by Eugene Matthias and his able assistant, Viv.



The interval gave us time to enjoy our refreshments and to complete the quiz, whilst our own magicians visited tables with their magic tricks. (thanks Terry and Mandy)



Eugene returned after the interval, again assisted by his patient assistant, Viv.

And then Frank was 'persuaded' to help with Eugene's tricks.

And they both did a great job!



Raffle prizes awarded and quiz answers read out - all that was left was The Twelve Days of Christmas, ably led, as last year, by Angela.



Many Thanks to all those who made the event possible.



Calendar of Events

2020

- 17th January **India - Tigers** - Tom Wray
21st February **Kinky Boots Story** - Steve Pateman
8th April **Beautiful - Carole King musical** - see page 6



Monthly Plaza Meetings

The monthly meetings take place on the 3rd Friday of each month at The Plaza in Thrapston, from 10.30 to 12 noon.

Please note that the doors will not be open before 9.50 a.m. to allow time for us to set up the room.

We welcome visitors **BUT**, unfortunately, we are unable to allow them access before 10.15 am and only then if there is seating available. Fire regulations restrict the numbers permitted in the hall and it is important that priority is given to members. The cost for each visitor is £2.

Individuals may attend 2 Plaza meetings as visitors, before joining Thrapston & District U3A



If any member has access issues, please contact our Access Officer in advance to book your place.

Access Officer Glyn Hill acessthrapstonu3a@gmail.com

Parking is a continuing problem for those of you with access issues and Glyn has put together a summary of what is available:

If you have a blue badge, there is one space available in the car park to the right of the Plaza; this will be available on a first come basis and it will be marked with a cone and labelled. The Bridge Hotel has free parking for blue badge holders on Friday mornings during the monthly meeting. Please call in to reception and key in your registration at the desk. Pay and display is on offer at the Bridge for those without badges at £1 for two hours and £2 for up to four hours. This is reimbursed if you become a Bridge customer.

Parking continues to be available in the Cattle Market Car Park in Market Road, opposite the old Methodist Church.



This Month

Friday January 17th

India—Tigers

by Tom Wray

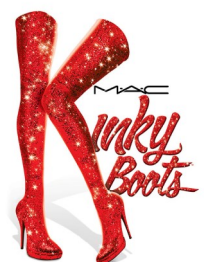


Next Month

Friday February 21st

The Kinky Boots Story

By Steve Pateman



News for January

Casual cycling

Why not come and join the new cycling group starting in early Spring? Cyclists of any ability or experience are welcome; the objective is to enjoy a casual ride at a pace that caters for everyone.

If you would like to join us, dust off your bike, blow up the tyres but first please sign the interest sheet which will be available at the January meeting or contact Glyn or Glyn (no, not a misprint).

The next step will be to arrange a meeting to finalise details.

We envisage rides every other week but the day and time will be chosen to suit the majority of those who express an interest.



*For more information, or if you will not be at the January meeting, contact
Glyn Hill 735 797 or Glyn James 733 792
Or email groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com*

News
Flash

Situations Vacant

News
Flash

Business Chair

There will be a vacancy on the committee of Thrapston & District U3A in May 2020 for a new Business Chair. This role does not include acting as MC at the Plaza meetings. Our U3A cannot function if we do not have a Chair. Could you support your U3A in this role? There would be plenty of opportunity to shadow the current chairman. Speak to a member of the committee to find out more or email chairmanthrapstonu3a@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

The Editor will have to stand down in May, after three years in the post. The job involves collecting articles and information to pass on to the membership. Our website manager is available to do the computer work, if required. Speak to a member of the committee to find out more or email editorthrapstonu3a@gmail.com

Monthly lunches

Iris Squires has been organising monthly lunches for the last 6 years and is now taking a well-earned rest.

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. Iris is very willing to offer volunteers her guidance as to organising dates, venues and members and so on. Email groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com for more information.

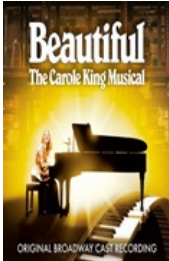
Outings

We have had some excellent trips over the past few years, but since Jenni Hall's 'retirement' we have not had anyone to organise these outings. If you felt you could arrange one such trip, or could work with a group of friends to do so, then please email groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com

Theatre and Outings



Don't miss this fabulous opportunity to see the Carole King musical - 'Beautiful'



We now have just four 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.

- Payment options;
1. Cash
 2. Cheque made payable to "Thrapston and District U3A"
 3. By BACS (bank transfer) Please include your name, membership number and reason for payment (e.g. Bill Bloggs; 007; Beautiful)

****Please remember that trips are for members only and once a booking has been made and paid for, no refunds will be possible.****

Any tickets not sold by January 18th will be offered to other local U3As, so contact Moira asap if you are interested in joining this trip.

Our next theatre trip is scheduled for September/October 2020, so we are always interested to hear your suggestions once these shows become advertised.

Please contact Moira so that an interest list can be started:

[email - theatrethrapstonU3A@gmail.com](mailto:theatrethrapstonU3A@gmail.com)



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.

Maddie Godden (Fisher)

We have been really saddened to hear of Maddie's recent death.

She served on the U3A Committee as our Membership Secretary for over four years and was an active member of a number of groups including group leader of Going Places.

We understand that her funeral is at Kettering Crematorium on Friday 24th January at 15.30 but at present we have no further details. Please contact Glyn Hill nearer to the date when, hopefully, she may be able to provide further information. Phone 735 797 or accessthrapstonu3a@gmail.com.



Current List of Groups

Are you looking for a new group to join in 2020?

Group	Leader	When	Group	Leader	When
Art Appreciation v	David Turner	Fri am 4	Lace Making v	Margaret Bland	Tue pm 4
Board Games v	Irene Gandy	Tue pm 1,3	Latin v	Robert Dickinson	Tue pm 3
Book Club v	Celia Busby	Fri am Last	Line Dancing v	Sheila Hankins	Tue pm 1,2
Bowls v	David Gray	Tue pm All	Lunches (monthly)	<i>Vacancy for new leader</i>	
Bridge	Elizabeth Bryan Sue Hallam	Thur pm 2	Makin' Music v	Neil Mathieson	Wed am All
Cake & Bake pm	Viv Tunstall	Fri pm 2	Military History v	Julian Brown	Mon am 2
Classical Music v	Mike Henderson Glyn Hill	Wed am 4 Wed pm 3	Nordic Short Walks v	Pauline Johnson	Tue pm 4
			Nordic Walking v	Rod Brown	Fri pm 4
Computing	John McGill	Fri am 2,4	Photography	Neil Underwood	Mon am 1
Creative Writing	David Green	Wed am 2	Play Reading v	David Green	Wed pm 2
Cryptic Crosswords v (short course)	John McGill	Wed tba	Science & Technology	Glynis Hill	Mon pm 3
Cycling v	Frank Boydell	Mon am All	Stitchers v	Wendy Davies	Thurs am 2 Wed am last
Drawing for the Terrified	Mandy Dawkins	Thur am 2	Table Games v	Shirley Haynes	Wed pm 4
English – 2 Groups	Glyn James	Wed pm 1 Thur pm 3	Table Tennis v	Gordon Campbell	Tue am All
Family History v	Neil Busby	Various	Tai Chi	Linda Vickerman	Thur pm All
Flower Bunch v	Linda Vickerman	Various	Ten Pin Bowling v	Irene Gandy	Fri am 2
Fork to Fork v	Rachel Thompson	Wed pm 2	Theatre & Outings v	Moirra Newton	Various
French – Encore v – Revivers	Jan Pacey Roger Davies	Thur am 1,3 Wed pm 2,4	Ukulele v	Marion Healey	Tue am All
Gardening	Angela Gyves	Wed am 3	Walks v	Pauline Denison	Thur am Last
History Walks v	Brenda Berry Glyn Hill	Various	Weekenders (Lunch for Singles)	Pam Richardson	4
Italian v	Marion Healey	Wed pm 1,3	Wellbeing with Nature v	Susan Collini	Thurs am 1,3

Key v = current vacancies

Tues pm 1,3 = First and Third Tuesdays in the month



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

Chair: Sheila Underwood	chairmanthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Wendy Davies	vicechairthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Treasurer: Sue Campbell	treasurerthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Secretary: Ian Byrnes	secretarythrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Groups Co-ordinator: Roger Davies	groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Membership: Pauline Dennison	membershipthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Short Course Co-ordinator: Tricia Eales	coursesthrapstonu3a@yahoo.com.uk
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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