



Newsletter – June 2015

Chairman's Welcome

Hello and welcome to this month's Newsletter.

It's a great privilege to be your new chairman and I only hope I can maintain the incredibly high standard set by the outgoing chair and committee members, who dedicated the last 2 years to the continuing development and success of the Thrapston and District U3A.

I absolutely believe in the importance of the U3A to our community. Thrapston is a very progressive and welcoming U3A and we should all be very proud of what we have achieved. In the coming year the committee will continue to build and develop on the hard work of the past to make Thrapston ever better and spread our membership further into the surrounding towns and villages.

Finally, I must give my thanks to the most important people in the U3A, the Group Leaders.

Without them, there would be no U3A, so please give them your support.

Enjoy your newsletter. I look forward to meeting you all at our next monthly meeting on the 19th June.

Frank Boydell

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.

6 July Deadline for copy to the Editor for inclusion in the July newsletter.

15 July Jesus Christ Superstar at Milton Keynes - matinee performance. The coach will leave the Co-op car park at 11.30am.

17 July Branch meeting - Ian Keable, Satirist to Insanity, the Life and Works of James Gillray, the Successor to William Hogarth.

21 August Thrapston and District U3A Barbecue. Details will be in the July edition of the newsletter.

18 Sept. Branch Meeting - Derek R Harris, Up the Cut, the Story of the Development of England's Canal System in Tales and Songs.

2 December Thursford Spectacular Christmas Show. The payment has to be made no later than the Branch meeting on 17 July; the balance of £46.50 (payable by cash or cheque) should be made payable to Thrapston and District U3A. The price includes the coach fare, the Show and the driver's tip. The meal on the way home will be paid individually. There are people on our waiting list, so if you are unable to keep your seats at Thursford, please let us know as soon as possible.

We will keep you informed of the timetable of events nearer the day, meanwhile any problems please contact Iris or Pauline.

For Theatre Trips you may add your name to the lists at the Branch Meetings. Contact Pauline Dennison Tel: 01832 723724

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.

Our previous chairman, Glyn James has provided a copy of his speech to the AGM. It is too long for inclusion in this newsletter, but it has been posted onto the Thrapston and District U3A website should you wish to read it.

The new Groups Co-ordinator is Marion Healey. Her contact details are: Tel: 01832 720262 and email: marion.healey@icloud.com

Groups Co-ordinator's report - Hello everyone! At the AGM in May, I became the new Groups Co-ordinator, taking over from Glyn Hill who has stepped down after two years. She will be a hard act to follow and, as a group leader, I can tell you that we all give her a very big thank-you for her help, support and enthusiasm.

As I have only been in the job for a couple of weeks, I am still finding out who's who and have not yet spoken to all the Group Leaders for a status report, but expect that we will have a full update after the summer exodus from Thrapston. I was, however astonished to find that we have over 30 groups up and running successfully. Not bad for a very young U3A!

Thrapston Arts Group Display - Thrapston Art Groups meet on the first and third Thursday of the month at 154, Oundle Road. There are two groups of five, one group from 10.30 - 12.30 and the other 1.30 - 3.30. The groups originally started at Ise valley U3A over eight years ago, when the group leader, Mandy Dawkins, was a member of that organisation. As Mandy is now only a member of the Thrapston U3A any new places go to Thrapston members. At the moment there is a waiting list for places.

We now have a display board and would like to show you some of the pictures members have produced, twice a year. There will be a display at the June meeting.

When we first started the art groups, they were very structured as most members had not painted before. Originally, we only painted in watercolours; now, as members have progressed they now do their own thing in whatever medium they prefer. We do not cover oil painting. Anyone wishing to join the waiting list must have had some experience of painting before. Perhaps there is someone out there who would like to start a beginners group?

Mandy Dawkins - Group Leader

Creative Writing - This group has a new leader – **David Green** david.green@sky.com

Local History Walks - The walk for July will be at Geddington. Full details and the sign-up sheet will be at the June meeting in The Plaza. If you are unable to attend the meeting and you would like to join the walk, contact **Glyn Hill** glynishillo6@aol.com or 01832 735797.

Military History – On 11 June, Parry Jones gave a well-received talk on the Selous Scouts, Rhodesian Counter-Insurgency Specialists. On 8 June, Julian Brown talked about the Build-Up to the Battle of Waterloo and introduced to his audience a deal of fascinating information that was generally not previously known to them. The Build-Up appears to have been a catalogue of errors, and it may have been that the armies with the fewer mistakes were in the stronger position!

Ukelele and Live Music - April and May saw these two groups working together to produce a joint entertainment for the AGM in May. We had a huge amount of fun getting to know each other and rehearsing new songs. We thoroughly enjoyed the performance (although tinged with a little stage-fright) and hope those of you who were there had as much fun as we did.

Both these groups are continuing to run through the summer and both have limited vacancies contact Marion Healey (Ukulele) marion_healey@msn.com 01832 720262 or

Frank Boydell (Live Music) 01832 735797 or 15 boydellfrank@gmail.com

Country Dance Group

From September, the country dance group will meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays only. The first meeting will be September 2nd at the usual venue, St James church hall at 2-3.30.

George Hearnden

Initial meeting for new Crochet Group

An initial meeting will be held on Monday 3rd August 2015 at 45 Market Road, Thrapston, 2-4 p.m. This is for those who want to learn to crochet from scratch. We will have a tutor with us to get us started on the basic chain, and she will then help us master more intricate moves. We hope to have a left-handed crochet expert with us too. Call Guinette Davies 01832 733436 for details of what to bring and initial cost to cover tutor's fee etc. This could possibly become a regular group with occasional input from a tutor.

From Marion Healey (Groups Co-ordinator)

Membership of the Committee (2015/2016) and their roles

Chairman	Frank Boydell	Vice Chairman	Michelle Collison
Treasurer	Tricia James	Secretary	Margaret Shilham
Membership	Maddie Godden	Group Co-ordinator	Marion Healey
Publicity	Ann Carter	Social Media	Rachel Thompson
Newsletter Editor	Parry Jones	Speaker Seeker	Brian Elliott

Web site Manager: Neil Busby

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, 18 Roman Way, Thrapston NN14 4TE

Tel: 01832 732668 and e-mail <editorthrapstonU3A@gmail.com>

Website www.thrapstonu3a.co.uk

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