



Contents

Welcome from the Chair	1
May Meeting, Forthcoming Events	2
T S Eliot Festival , From The Groups	3
News from The Groups	4
U3A Committee	5
Minutes of Thrapston and District	
U3A AGM	6

Welcome From The Chair

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's Newsletter.

With our new Committee voted in and our first meeting completed, we are already pushing ahead with our planned objectives for the year. For those of you who were unable to

attend the AGM, a set of minutes and a copy of my Chairman's Report are attached to this newsletter.

Those who attended were treated to what was probably the best talk of the year about the battle of Jutland. Roy Strong gave a storming performance that is still being talked about in the group meetings I attend. The person with the challenge of following Roy is our very own Paul Ollett, who will be enchanting us with images and stories of travelling through India on a motorbike. It might not make you want to buy a motorbike, but you will be looking to book The Best Marigold Hotel at the travel agents.



I reported at the AGM that our finances are healthy and as a result we

have decided to drop all subscriptions for members at our monthly meetings. So now you can enjoy your drink and biscuit for free.

On that happy note, I'll leave you to enjoy the rest of this Newsletter.

Frank Boydell



The unsung heroes of our meetings, without whom we would not have refreshments

May Meeting was, of course the AGM and I'm sure most of the audience, and especially the committee, were quite relieved that his was not a lengthy affair. Roy Smart gave another of his interesting and illuminating talks on The Last Naval Hero, David 1st Earl Beatty. Our Hero appears to have been a sailor in the Nelson mode, with his dash, daring and more than just an eye for the ladies. He also appears to have retained a mind-set of the age of sail and failed to adjust to the great changes that heavily armoured battle cruisers with their large calibre cannons, capable to firing two or three ton shells a distance of fifteen miles. He appears to have failed, possibly along with Jellicoe, that flag signals were no longer predominant when the size of the battle area extending over many miles. His failure to back up his flag signals with (admittedly, a very rudimentary) wireless-telegraphy and signal lamps probably resulted in signals not being seen, misunderstood or ignored.



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.

- 17-June **Branch Meeting - India on a Motorcycle** by **Paul Ollett**
- 29 June **Flag Fen.** The coach will leave from the Thrapston Co-op at 9.15 am and the guided tour will start at 11 am and last for about 90 minutes. Mobility scooters and wheelchairs are available for visitor use. The cost is £19 and there are four places left – Phone Brenda – 730225 or Glyn - 735797
- 15 July **Branch Meeting - Eyes and Optometry** by **Kim Durden**
- 4 August **Sister Act** - at The Curve, Leicester. This is the last chance to book for this



show, which is on the 4 August at 7.30pm . The price is £43 which includes seat, coach and driver tip. We shall leave at about 4.30pm to enable people to have a meal before the show or just wander around the shops. To book please contact Pauline on 01832 732724 or book and pay at the June meeting. Pauline Dennison, 2 Riverside Way, Islip, NN14 3LF or telephone 01832 732724. Cheques should be made payable to Thrapston and District U3A.

- 19 August **Barbecue** and Group activities
- 8 September **Elton Hall and Gardens** has been in the Proby family since 1660. Every room contains treasures and the garden has been stunningly restored. A guided tour of the hall has been reserved for 11 am and will last for about 75 minutes. The cost of the tour is £9.50 (and there is a minimum quorum of 20). Those attending should make their own way →

and/or arrange with others who are going to arrange lifts or car-share. You will be met in the car park of the Walled Garden by the guides. The tour of the gardens can be made at leisure. Food is available at the garden centre or at a Loch Fyne restaurant across the road (it might be better to book). As a deposit is required sign up and pay at the June meeting on 17 June. Telephone bookings, via Brenda - 730225, will be accepted **after** that date.

16 Sept. **Branch Meeting - Life in the Music** by **Andy Smith**

18 Nov. **Branch Meeting - Badgers** by **Brian Sanders**

For **Theatre Trips** you may add your name to the lists at the Branch Meetings. Pauline Dennison
Tel: 01832 732724

The T S Eliot Festival

Susan Waters, who is a member of the Rushden U3A is tasked with publicising The T S Eliot Festival at Little Gidding, Cambridgeshire PE28 5RJ on the weekend of 9/10 July. Little Gidding is the place that inspired the last of Eliot's Four Quartets sequence is a hidden local gem with a fascinating history. You can search for it up on the web at www.ferrarhouse.co.uk.



Tickets include a two-course lunch or supper, with wine and hot drinks are available from Oundle Tourist Information Centre Telephone 01832 274333 or email www.eliotssociety.org.uk/festival-2016/. You can book refreshments for your visit on telephone 01832 293383.

From The Groups

Cycling Group

Our next meeting will be on Monday 13th June at 10:00 from the Woolpack Inn, Islip.

The ride will be selected on the day based on who turns up, fitness levels, weather etc. Our rides are about enjoying our glorious countryside and some stress-free exercise. It is about fun, not lycra-fuelled exhaustion, so come and join us. Everyone is welcome.

Cycling Quote for June from Daniel Behrman: *The world lies right beyond the handlebars of any bicycle I happen to be on.*

Latin Group - On 17 May, the Latin Group made a light reconnaissance of the barbarian town of Verulamium, misnamed St Albans. The group, lead by Robert Dickenson, travelled in a few chariots. On arrival they had to hold a favourable defensive position while waiting for some who had detoured for various reasons.

of the main parts of the town and sacred groves, the group sallied forth to a local hostelry - Ye Olde Fighting Cocks - where the local delicacies were sampled, the wine and beer tasted (very fine they all were) and much discussion followed. After having happily settled the barbarian horde in their places, the brave Latins returned to their various homsteads. **Domum dulce domum**, which, as you all are aware, means, Home, sweet home.

Places -2 – Go - An afternoon Car-Quiz was held at 4pm on Friday 03rd June, it was deemed great fun, with many back-seat drivers too! It took in several villages - Slipton, Sudborough, Brigstock, Grafton Underwood, Cranford, Twywell which throughout included a few off-circuit roads. Then finally back to The Woolpack Inn where glorious food awaited us, a big thank-you to you all who took part – maddie.places2go@gmail.com

Military History – In April, David Lamburn entertained the group firstly with a talk on Gallipoli, which was a continuation of his previous talk. He then finished with a commentary on the Battle of Hastings in 1066 and how important luck is in deciding such disputes.

In May, Gerry Martin gave us a very interesting discourse on the Battle of the Bulge (no, not part of a weight watchers' group) during World War II and enlightened his audience with a number of new facts.

Town Walks - On 21 May a small group of us met at the Plaza for a guided walk round a small part of the town. We hoped to learn about how the



town looked and something of the families that lived there.

The weather was kind to us and we stayed dry!

Neil Busby of the Thrapston Historical Society led us round and had prepared an excellent set of information which he presented in an informal but organised way. There were maps to look at and photographs to compare what we could see with what had been there in the past. The time flew by.

I really enjoyed the event and am looking forward the next one. I am only sorry that I have missed some in the series but perhaps there will be a re-run sometime. Thanks to Glyn for organising it and to Neil for his expert knowledge. Did you know that the Nine Arch Bridge once had 24 arches?



Sheila Underwood, the vice-chair Pauline, Johnson, a committee member

Thrapston and District U3A Committee

Chair: Frank Boydell

Treasurer: Tricia James

Groups Co-ordinator: Marion Healey

Publicity: Ann Carter

Social Media: Rachel Thompson

Website: Neil Busby

Vice-Chair: Sheila Underwood

Secretary: Guinette Davis

Membership: Madeline Fisher

Speaker Seeker: Paul Ollett

Editor: Parry Jones

Member: Pauline Johnson

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.

Editor and publisher - Parry Jones, 18 Roman Way, Thrapston NN14 4TE

Tel: 01832 732668 and email <editorthrapstonU3A@gmail.com>

Website www.thrapstonu3a.co.uk

Thrapston & District U3A committee e-mail is <chairmanthrapstonu3a@gmail.com>

This page has deliberately been left blank

Minutes of Thrapston & District U3A AGM, 20 May 2016

1. The meeting began with a warm welcome from the Chairman, as well as notices and announcements being made.
2. Apologies for Absence: There were none.
3. Minutes of the previous AGM in 2015 were projected on the screen. Michelle Collinson proposed that the minutes be accepted. This was seconded by Ann Carter and carried by the meeting.
4. Chairman's Annual Report. This was comprehensive and a verbatim copy is attached to the Minutes. He described the Thrapston & District U3A as growing continually and being in excellent health. Membership is about 250. There are 35 activity groups at present, some of them had only recently been established. Our monthly meetings draw around 47% of the whole membership which is higher than many other U3As. The annual programme had bought an excellent and eclectic mix of speakers who talked to us, sang to us, and played a variety of music for us. We heard about Talking Machines, Pantomimes, King Alfred, and life on a barge travelling the canal network, and transporting many goods around the country. We had been able to participate in a variety of outings: going to theatres and concerts. Visiting Hamerton Zoo to take pictures, going greyhound racing, punting on the Cam, visiting gardens, as well as eating numerous lunches in a huge variety of venues. Recently the Science & Technology group had attended lectures at Birkbeck and Cambridge Universities. The committee are planning a range of initiatives for the coming year with the intention of making our meetings very welcoming to visitors. We will be reviewing the Constitution and preparing for possible changes required should we need to register as a charity. A number of social events were in the pipeline in addition to preparing for our Open Day in November and the now traditional Christmas Showcase in December. Finally the chairman offered a vote of thanks to all the committee members and the Group leaders who make our activities happen. We were reminded that the group has just about reached its fourth anniversary and thanks were due to the pioneers who took the step of setting up a U3A for those of us who live in and around Thrapston.
5. Statement of Accounts. The treasurer talked us through the Annual accounts for May 2015-2016. Our finances were in a healthy state and they had been seen and approved by Mr Robert Dickenson. Glyn Hill

proposed and Marion Healy seconded the motion that we adopt the Statement of Accounts. This was carried by the meeting.

6. Election of Executive Committee. Tricia James (Treasurer), Guinette Davies (Secretary) Maddie Godden (Membership Secretary), Rachel Thompson (Social Media), Hywel Parry-Jones, Sheila Underwood, and Pauline Johnson were all accepted unopposed. Frank Boydel (Chairman) would be standing until next year.

The committee wished to co-opt Paul Ollett as Speaker Seeker. This was proposed by Marion Healy and seconded by Richard Swindal. This proposal was approved by the meeting.

6. Discussion of proposed motions. There were none.

The AGM concluded at 11.05a.m and was followed by Roy Smart talking about The Last Naval Hero, David 1st Earl Beatty.

Signed:

Date: