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A Welcome from the Chairman: JUNE 2017

As I start to write this, my first Chairman’s Welcome, the weather outside is sunny and bright. I think we may at last be saying “Hello summer”. After the recent rain, the garden is also looking good — so welcome to June.

May was a busy month for the U3A. The AGM was very well attended. We were delighted to see so many there—we even had to put out extra chairs. Perhaps the speaker, Martin Izzard, and the “Journey along the Nene” that he recounted, played a part in that too.

As I said at the AGM, we all owe the outgoing Committee Members a big vote of thanks for their efforts on our behalf, in their various roles over the past few years and I know that the new Committee is looking forward to the challenge of taking over from them.

Those who attended the AGM will remember that we had some difficulty sharing the Treasurer’s Finance Report, for which we apologise. To correct this, you will find a copy of the Statement of Accounts at the end of this Newsletter and we will make time at our June meeting to answer any questions that you may have. We will then have a vote on the proposal to accept the accounts.

The next event on the horizon will be the Charter Fair — the years certainly roll round, don’t they? We look forward to seeing you all there and, until then, enjoy the summer weather and one another’s company. See you all on June 16th.

Sheila Underwood. June 2017

Along the Nene – Mr Martin Izzard BEM

The River Nene meanders through our county, to discharge its some-time sweet waters into the sea at the Wash, on the Norfolk coast. Mr Izzard had chosen the river as his theme to bring us some magnificent photographs of sights and scenes and particularly wildlife to be seen in and out of the river valley.



As one would expect, there was an initial debate on the pronunciation on the name of the river, be it 'Nen' or 'Neen'. It was unanimously decided by the membership that for Thrapston and upstream, it should be the former, whereas the name changes to the somewhat softer sounding version at an unspecified point near Oundle.

Mr Izzard is married to Elizabeth and they live in Rushden. The quality of his works confirm that he is obviously an accomplished photographer, as well as being an author of several books, including definitive works on butterflies, of which there were many superb photographs of these often threatened insects in his talk.

The presentation always kept the Nene as its thread, from its source at Arbury Hill in the South of the county and, in addition to the wildlife, we were treated to pictures of the villages, countryside and magnificent stone buildings that are typical of Northamptonshire, always with the informative commentary from Martin, who clearly has a great passion for his subjects.

Mr Izzard spent his career as a scientist with Unilever and was deeply involved in the quest to develop the perfect ice cream before taking early retirement. His work took him to distant parts of the world including a challenging visit to Switzerland to assist the local population in this mountainous region in the prediction of avalanches.

Mr Izzard gratefully accepted a donation from Thrapston U3A which he will divide between Leukaemia research and Butterfly conservation, both being worthy charities close to his heart.

A packed out Plaza Centre gave the traditional Thrapston U3A warm welcome to our guest and great appreciation for Mr Izzard's presentation, which, in addition to its informative content, provided light relief after the business of the AGM.

Forthcoming Events

Summer Event 19th August 2017 11 a.m.—4 p.m. Sailing Club Thrapston

Tickets will be available at the June and July meetings at a cost of £6. When buying your tickets please let us know if you are vegetarian. Closing date for buying tickets is 31st July and admission on the day is by ticket only. Cheques should be made payable to Thrapston & District U3A. Single members may bring one guest, otherwise no visitors please. The Sailing Club will provide a bar. Please note that doors will be open at 10.45 a.m.

Brenda 01832 730225

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Third Age Trust Conference and AGM 29-31 August 2017

Workshops; Speakers; Meet and share ideas with other U3A members.

For further information and to book, see Conference website —conference-2017.u3a.org.uk or ring 020 8466 6139

Calendar of Events 2017-18

- 16 June **Branch Meeting - School Holiday Fiascos by Mike Leonard**
- 24 June **Charter Fair - U3A stall**
- 21 July **Branch Meeting - Amy Johnson by Roy Smart**
- 18 August **U3A Summer Event (details on page 2)**
- 29 August **U3A Conference and AGM (details on page 2)**
- 15 Sept. **Branch Meeting - Rockingham Castle - 950 years of history by
Patricia Woods**
- 20 October **Branch Meeting - The Plague Doctor by David Bell**
- 17 November **Branch Meeting - Day in the life of TV Licence enforcement officer by
Mike Long**
- 15 December **U3A Yuletide Event (details to be advised)**

2018

- 19 January **Branch Meeting - Mr. Philip Saxby – Cider Maker**
- 16 February **Branch Meeting - Andy Smith.**
- 16 March **Branch Meeting - Britain through the seasons by Tom Way.**
- 20 April **Branch Meeting - You cannot be serious - tales from the
Centre Court at Wimbledon by Alan Gray MBE**
- 18 May **AGM and Branch Meeting - The Comedy of Victoria Wood by
Steve Dimmer.**
- 20 July **Branch Meeting - Genealogy by Nick Barratt.**
- 17 August **U3A Summer Event (details to be advised)**
- 19 October **Branch Meeting - Brief History of Drinking and Inns, Public Houses and
Beer Houses of Thrapston and District by Eric Franklin.**

News from the Groups

It's all Greek to me. Foreign lingos in Thrapston?



Ici, à Thrapston, on parle français

Our French Revivers group is thriving, thanks to members who are keen and willing to express their opinions, speak *extempore* or after some preparation on any topic under the sun, share gossip, drink coffee or tea and eat biscuits in French. Perhaps the latter two activities are an exaggeration and better done with *bouches* well and truly *fermées!* We can be lively, fun or just pedestrian, as the mood takes us.

Now Thrapston and District U3A is to have a second French group, thanks to an intrepid member who is willing to lead this new group. We expect that it will be up and running in the very near future. Let's hope it, too, will be lively and fun. A number of members have expressed their willingness to join this group. If any others are interested, please contact Roger Davies, the new Groups Co-ordinator, on our website for more information.



¡Aquí, en Thrapston, se habla español!

Do you fancy learning or improving your Spanish? Our Spanish group of 8 held its first meeting on February 28th 2017 and has met fortnightly since then. Our knowledge of Spanish is extremely varied: some are absolute beginners (except for *sí*, *no* and *sangría*), some have acquired everyday transactional Spanish over the years, one claims to be grammatically competent but inarticulate, and Jenni, one of the group leaders, is fluent, *más o menos*. We should love to welcome newcomers, regardless of their knowledge of the language, so long as they are keen to have a serious go.

Contact Jenni or Roger - details on the website.



Qui, in Thrapston, si parla italiano!

Italian is coming! Marion, the outgoing Groups Co-ordinator, has arranged a meeting of members interested in learning Italian, at the Bridge Hotel in Thrapston on Friday June 9th at 10.30. Come along if you are interested, or let us know of your interest, if you are unable to be there. Just be prepared to shrug your shoulders, get emotional, speak like a machine gun and enjoy pasta or football in all their lovely forms.

As for other languages... If any member has a knowledge of another but, as yet, unexploited language, do please let the Groups Co-ordinator know. Perhaps we could start up more groups – Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Urdu, Arabic or even Welsh! After all, if you don't use it, you lose it!

Roger Davies

Groups co-ordinator e-mail: groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com

Places2Go

On Saturday 13th May, the social adventure group Places2Go did a Hindu Temple tour in Leicester for 12 people. It was an amazing building, both outside and inside, and it was lovely to hear about their religion and what it entailed. The day was thoroughly enjoyable.

The recent car quiz, which was followed by a meal at the Woolpack, was won by Frank, Glyn, David and Sandra who received a voucher for £30 to be spent at the Woolpack. Well done! If anyone is interested in a similar event in September, let Maddie know.



Maddie Godden Group Leader

Lace Making

The ladies of the Lace Making group were at Stanwick Lakes on Sunday June 4th, where they took part in the Hands on History day organised by Trading Places with National Lottery funding. The idea of the day was to demonstrate the working lives of Victorian Northamptonshire and to offer the opportunity for visitors to try their hand at this skilled craft. This was the third occasion on which the ladies have shown their skills at the Lakes but, if you missed it then, there will be another opportunity to see them in action in September as the lottery funding comes to an end.



Trading Places has also arranged for the group to spend a day in each of a number of local primary schools demonstrating their lace making (complete with Victorian costumes and hats) and encouraging the children to participate in producing their own wonderful lace bookmarks.

Margaret Bland Group Leader

Cake & Bake Group -

About six months ago the U3A Trust sent in a request for articles on food which they would consider adding into their summer magazine. I initially wrote what I thought was quite a humorous article but when they sent through the brief it advised no more than 300 words which meant the humour had to be dispensed with and it became more factual.

They also requested three to five photos plus one head and shoulders of myself. This amused me as I feel sure no one is interested in a 'Passport' type photo of me...unless of course they want to keep me on file in case I get up to some mischief. Some of our group have changed since these photos were taken but I wanted to give a warning that you might be gazing at yourself under the heading of Thrapston U3A during the summer months if my article is chosen to be included.



Viv Tunstall Group Leader

Editor: we shall all await the summer magazine with baited breath, Viv.

Science and Technology Group

Visit to Bletchley Park

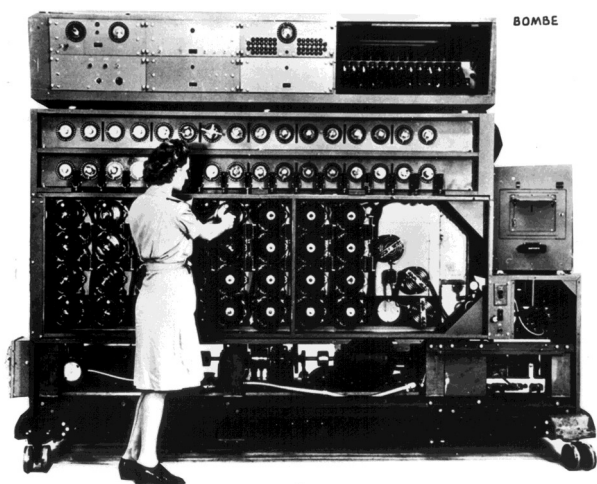
On a mostly sunny day, seventeen members of the S&T group spent a day exploring, experiencing and enjoying 'the once top-secret world of iconic Codebreaking Huts and Blocks set within an atmospheric Victorian estate'

Most of us had seen the film *The Imitation Game* with Benedict Cumberbatch as Alan Turing and thought we knew what to expect, but, as our guide said, there were many other people who were equally important.

The next two paragraphs are from the park's website to outline the background behind our visit:

In 1938 members of MI6, and the Government Code and Cypher School (GC&CS), a secret team including scholars and academics turned Codebreakers visited Bletchley Park to see whether it would work as a wartime location, safe from the risk of bombing in London, for intelligence activity by GC&CS, as well as elements of MI6. And so, Bletchley Park is now a place of exceptional historical importance. It is the home of British codebreaking and a birthplace of modern information technology. It played a major role in World War Two, producing secret intelligence which had a direct and profound influence on the outcome of the conflict.

The GC&CS devised methods to enable the Allied forces to decipher the military codes and ciphers that secured German, Japanese, and other Axis nation's communications. This produced vital intelligence in support of Allied military operations on land, at sea and in the air. Bletchley Park also heralded the birth of the information age with the industrialisation of the codebreaking processes enabled by machines such as the Turing/Welchman Bombe (see below), and the world's first electronic computer, Colossus.



So, to our visit; we started with just over an hour's talk and tour by a volunteer who was brilliant, so enthusiastic and knowledgeable. Then we could wander around the estate as we wished, visiting the Manor House at the centre, which is beautiful and had its own history as a family home. I enjoyed the present exhibition of life as a woman at Bletchley, working twelve hour days (plus), information about the social activities (tennis, a drama group, croquet) and the fact that some became so exhausted they were sent to their accommodation and ordered to sleep for four days! Then the huts which have been restored and con-

tained Enigma machines and a copy of the Bombe that had been built by Turing and Welchman. We watched a talk and demonstration, also by a volunteer. She was amazing, holding our attention for half an hour, talking without notes.

We ended the visit at about four but we could have spent days browsing through all the exhibitions and the beautiful gardens. Thankfully our tickets are valid for a year and so we can individually return at our leisure.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Glyn Hill Group Leader

Local History Walks

There are still places available for our walk around Islip on Wednesday 21 June at 10.30. We'll meet in the Woolpack car park. Eric Franklin, our guide, is even more enthusiastic than usual as it's the Summer Solstice!! Please sign up at the June meeting on Friday 16 June or contact Glyn glynishill06@aol.com 01832 735797

The next walk will be to Kings Cliffe on Tuesday 5 September, meeting at 10 in the church in Hall Yard, PE8 6XQ or at 9.20 at the Co-op in Thrapston. It will be led by Sue Trow-Smith of Kings Cliffe Heritage and, as well as the walk, she is arranging for us to see the church and the heritage centre and have coffee. So please expect to donate £2 and pay £1 for refreshments.

Frank and I visited the village pub, The Cross Keys last month, (purely for research purposes of course!) and the food was very good – two meals for £12 on a Tuesday or sandwiches. Please book independently if you'd like to partake after the walk.

Maximum 20 for the walk. Please sign up at the June or July meeting or contact Glyn on 01832 735797

Our walk in Wadenhoe

We chose a beautiful Tuesday in May for this walk and it ticked all the boxes for an enjoyable and interesting outing. Stephen Hall from the Wadenhoe Trust had booked the Village Hall for us, showing slides outlining the development of the village and gave each of us a handout showing the Wadenhoe Historic Landscape Trail. Three aerial maps compared the village in 1793 to the present day. We learnt about ridge and furrows, the impact of the Enclosure Acts between 1604 and 1914 and how the village was changed by the Lords of the Manor, rabbits, deer, lost houses, windmills, earthworks and quarries. Then we walked, not only in the village, but across fields, to see for ourselves the beautiful village houses, the church and the agricultural changes. We also saw the first telegraph post office opened in an English village; this was instituted by George Ward Hunt who was Chancellor of the Exchequer in Disraeli's cabinet of 1868.

It was wonderful to witness the effect that the establishment of a village trust has in preserving the history and character of a village. The Ward Hunt family created the trust in 1981.

If you were unable to come to the walk, Stephen told us of an exhibition in the Village Hall for the weekend of 21 and 22 October between 1 and 5 pm on both days. You will be able to see a selection of photographs spanning the period from the early 1900s to the present day.

Glyn Hill Co-group leader

Local History Visit

A guided tour has been booked for 10.30 a.m. on 18th July 2017 at Lyveden New Bield. Admission is £7.10 (free for National Trust members) plus £2 for the tour.



Please sign up at the June meeting, or by telephone and let Brenda know if you need a lift – car sharing is preferred and available. Meet at the Co-op car park by 10.00 a.m. to leave by 10.05 a.m.

Contact Brenda on 01832 730225

Latin

The Latin Group had a very well supported stand at the May 6th Open Day at the Plaza in Thrapston, and acquired 3 new members for the group out of the 29 new U3A members who joined that day.

The Latin Group Annual Excursion will be to Verulamium, Britain's best preserved Roman site, on 20th June.

Robert Dickenson Group Leader



Theatre and Outings

We have a variety of shows and visits planned/or in the planning stage in the next few months. These include a trip to Lamport Hall in September, the musical 'Blood Brothers' in October, a guided tour of Rockingham Castle in November and a possible theatre trip to 'Mamma Mia' in January.

For more information please contact either Jenni (email jennihall207@gmail.com) or Moira (email moira.newton@icloud.com)

Thrapston and District U3A Committee

Chair: Sheila Underwood

Vice Chair: Viv Tunstall

Treasurer: Tricia James

Secretary: Pauline Johnson

Groups Co-ordinator: Roger Davies

Membership: Pauline Dennison

Publicity: Viv Tunstall

Speaker Seeker: Paul Ollett

Newsletter Editor: Wendy Davies

Equipment Manager: Ian Byrnes

A note from the Editor

Please note that items for inclusion in the next newsletter should reach the Editor by the first Friday in the month.

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 : 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.

Urgent Plea

If anyone has a gazebo which they would be willing to lend to the committee to be used at the Charter Fair (in case of inclement weather!) please see the Chairman at the monthly meeting or email her at chairmanthrapstonu3a@gmail.com. Thank you.

Thrapston and District Annual Statement

2016–2017 U3A Account

	2016 -17	2015 -16
	£	£
Income		
Annual Membership fees	4031.50	3912.50
Monthly Attendance Fees	133.95	756.52
Raffle	150.00	99.00
U3A Grant	203.86	200.00
Insurance claim settlement	252.44	
Total Income	4771.75	4968.02
Total Expenditure	5213.88	3192.92
Net Income (Surplus)	-442.13	1775.10
Reserves B/fwd	5353.07	3577.97
Reserves C/fwd	4910.94	5353.07
Unpresented Cheques	0.00	40.00
Prepayments	99.00	0.00
Opening Cash & Bank	5009.94	5393.07
Available Cash & Bank		
Balance at bank	4926.80	5282.68
Cash	83.14	70.39

	2016 -17	2015 -16
	£	£
Expenditure		
Hire of Venues	669.50	450.00
Speakers	480.00	505.50
Refreshments	280.25	225.64
Postage	66.67	51.56
Stationery etc	68.22	50.89
Photocopying	21.58	29.00
Newsletter	113.20	101.00
Publicity	457.00	64.00
Webpage	76.86	83.94
Travel	128.01	102.50
Capital Purchase	1596.84	230.60
U3A Capitation	839.50	790.50
Third Age magazine	368.86	365.94
Conferences	10.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	37.39	141.85
Total Expenditure	5213.88	3192.92