

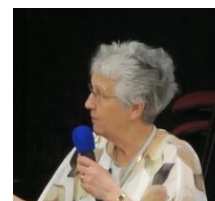


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Welcome from the Chair

My thanks to all those who attended the AGM. We managed to get through the business efficiently and the Minutes of the AGM and the new Constitution will all be on the website for you to view as soon as possible.



We still need someone to administer our Facebook page and be our Publicity Officer. It would be a shame if we have to suspend the Facebook page and if we do not have any information in local places and publications. I know that the information and photographs provide useful reminders of past and future events. Please speak to a member of the committee if you would think you may be able to help and would like to know more. You would be most welcome at one of our committee meetings to find out what goes on.

We are now planning the Summer Event at the Sailing Club. The tickets will be for members only and will be on sale at the June meeting at the Plaza. The number has to be limited to 90, so they will be available on a "first come—first served" basis. The Social Sub Group has been working hard to sort out the final details and I am sure it will be a most enjoyable event. I look forward to seeing you there.

I hope you all enjoy June and look forward to seeing you at the next Plaza meeting when the doors will open at the usual time of 10.00 am.

Sheila



Victoria Wood CBE

by Steve Dimmer

Steve came to talk about the life and work of the multi-talented comedian, actor, singer, songwriter, playwright, screenwriter and director on May 18th, the day before what would have been her 64th birthday. Victoria's early adolescence was blighted by unhappiness at Grammar School, a feeling of isolation and eating disorders. Luckily, music and drama became her passions; when she was 15, her father bought her a piano which she taught herself to play and she joined the Rochdale Youth Theatre. It was no surprise that she went on to study Drama at Birmingham University.



Victoria's career in television began when she was still a student, firstly, at the age of 21, in "New Faces", when she took second place behind a certain Lenny Henry. As a result, she became a regular on "That's Life", singing and playing her own material. Her friendship with Julie Walters began at this time and "Wood and Walters", on ITV, then "Victoria Wood, as seen on TV" saw her becoming a major comedian and TV star. During these early years, Victoria assembled her own Repertory Company of actors whom she regularly featured in her plays and sketches: Julie Walters, then Duncan Preston, Celia Imrie, Susie Blake, Patricia Routledge and Anne Reid, several of whom featured in the "Crossroads"-inspired "Acorn Antiques". Duncan Preston, who played many of her memorable characters, observed that Victoria "gave other people the best lines". Mrs Overall, Miss Babs, Miss Bertha, along with her long-lost brother Derek the handyman, gave us some unforgettable moments.



Steve spoke of Victoria's 22 year marriage to Geoffrey Durham, her 2 children, her OBE and CBE honours, her Best Actress and Best Screen Play awards for "Housewife 49", her branching out into the musical theatre with "Acorn Antiques: the Musical". From 1998 to 2000, Victoria wrote 16 episodes of the gloriously funny "dinnerladies", with Dolly and Jean bickering, Twinkle always glum, Anita who was "too nice to be an estate agent", Stan the handyman whose father had been a Desert Rat, Philippa the over-enthusiastic PR lady and that brilliant creation, Petula Gordini, Bren's fantasist mother. Throughout her work, Victoria used acute observational comedy which tapped into the British way of life. Steve showed us several hilarious clips from her TV shows, including a line which was new to me from Kimberley's friend, in her yellow beret and mac, who told of Kimberley's fondness for "penis colada".



Steve reminded us how fortunate we are that Victoria's entire oeuvre is preserved on film for posterity to see what a brilliant talent she had and to laugh at the wonderful comedy that she created. He concluded his presentation with two classics. First, we had Julie Walters performing wonderfully as a v-e-r-y s-l-o-w, aged waitress in the "Two Soups" sketch. Then Victoria played "The Ballad of Freda and Barry", with its manic "Let's do it" refrain and unforgettable lines such as "Bend me over backwards on a hostess trolley" and "Beat me on the bottom with a Woman's Weekly". Thanks to Steve for reminding us of her genius.

Roger Davies

Groups Co-ordinator



Calendar of Events 2018

12 June	History Walk around Kings Cliffe - see page 5
15 June	Tales from a Dairy Farmer's Wife by Jane Barnes (see below)
12 July	History Walk around Geddington - see page 5
20 July	Genealogy - Nick Barratt (see below)
8 August	Visit to Apethorpe Palace
17 August	Summer Event - see page 5
20 September	Warhorse - Milton Keynes
27 September	Bure Valley Steam Railway and Norfolk Broads

Branch Meetings

When? 3rd Friday of each month
Where? The Plaza in Thrapston
When? from 10.30 to 12,
(Doors open at 10am.)

Visitors are also welcome to join us for a small charge of £2



This Month - Friday June 15th

Tales from a Dairy Farmer's Wife

by Jane Barnes



Next Month — Friday July 20th

Genealogy

by Nick Barratt



Correction to the article in last month's newsletter following Paul Ollett's recent contact with Alan Gray MBE, our speaker in April, who talked of his experiences at Wimbledon.

*"I hope you will forgive me if I ask you to do one correction please
In Para 4, you refer to me umpiring 6 mens and 4 Ladies finals. In fact, I was a Line Judge on 2
Men's and 4 Ladies Finals. It sounds pedantic but hope you understand.*

Finally, many thanks to you all for a lovely day in May and good luck to Thrapston U3A."

Meet the Committee

This year's Thrapston and District U3A committee members are shown here along with their email addresses should you wish to contact any of them.

The details of each of the committee posts can be seen on the website

Chair

Sheila Underwood

chairmanthrapstonu3a@gmail.com



Vice Chair

Wendy Davies

vicechairthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
and

Newsletter Editor

editorthrapstonu3a@gmail.com



Business Secretary

Ian Byrnes

secretarythrapstonu3a@gmail.com
and

Equipment Manager



Treasurer

Tricia James

treasurerthrapstonu3a@gmail.com



Groups Co-ordinator

Roger Davies

groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com



Membership secretary

Pauline Dennison

membershipthrapstonu3a@gmail.com



New Member's Representative

Brenda Berry

repthrapstonu3a@yahoo.com



Publicity

Glyn Hill

publicitythrapstonu3a@gmail.com



Speaker Seeker

Paul Ollett

speakersthrapstonu3a@gmail.com



Website Manager

Neil Busby

IT Operations Manager

websitethrapstonu3a@gmail.com



There are currently two vacancies on the Committee. We would love to fill them with people who share our interest in Thrapston and District U3A.

If you feel you would like to join us, please speak to a member of the committee and come along to one of our meetings to see what goes on. We are a friendly bunch and you would be very welcome.





SUMMER EVENT



Friday 17th August 2018 - Thrapston Sailing Club.

Tickets, which cost £7, will be available at the June Plaza meeting and include a buffet lunch and a free raffle ticket.

Doors open at 10.45

Please note that tickets cannot be reserved so if you are unable to make the monthly meeting, ask a friend to buy your tickets for you or contact

Angela Gyves (Group Leader—Gardening Group) - phone 732005

who will arrange for you to collect tickets from her.

News from the Groups

Local History Walks and Visits

Our May Walk was in Brigstock which we explored for the first time. Our guide was Sally the Chairman of Brigstock history society and she was accompanied



by Bob and Carl, both Brigstock residents all their life. It was a great walk and we learnt so much about the village, which was an important royal hunting venue, alongside Kings Cliffe. It has a beautiful Elizabethan Manor House, an Anglo Saxon arch still present in the church and a market cross which was decorated ready for the May Day celebrations. Some of our members stayed to watch the school children dancing immediately after our walk. We also visited the Baptist church and a water mill which has been re-



stored by the private owners. It's a very beautiful village with many ancient and interesting houses and our guides were extremely knowledgeable and gave us many anecdotes from their own experiences as children. A really enjoyable morning.

The next Walk is on Tuesday 12 June and the venue is Kings Cliffe. We have room for five more. We shall meet at 10.20 at Thrapston Co-op or, if you prefer to make your own way, at 11a.m. at Kings Cliffe church. Ring Glyn to book.



In July we shall be exploring Geddington. It's on Thursday 12 July and the walk starts at 10.30 at Queen Eleanor's Cross. We shall also be visiting the church which will have been decorated ready for the weekend's flower festival. Please meet at 10 at the Co op for lift-sharing or at the Cross in Geddington. The Star at Geddington is happy to take bookings for lunch!

To book a place on the walk, please sign up at the June meeting or ring Glyn on 01832 735797

Glyn Hill and Brenda Berry

Group leaders

Science and Technology- The Shuttleworth Collection



What an amazing place! The Shuttleworth Collection was founded in memory of Richard Shuttleworth who had a passion for vintage aircraft and their restoration. There are six hangars full of aircraft from 1909 to the 1950s and some are the last airworthy craft of their type on earth.

Our visit in April was made even more special as our member, Wendy Davies's, son Simon had offered to lead a tour. He is a volunteer pilot for the collection, regularly flying at the displays. Needless to say, he brought an entirely different perspective to the visit; had we wandered around by ourselves we would not have learnt about the intricacies of flying each very different plane or heard stories of the challenges of flying such old aircraft.



Our photos show the group enthralled by Simon's enthusiasm and the second photograph is of a vintage bus with destination Raunds on the front! It was a really enjoyable day.

Our next visit is in July to Church's shoe factory in Northampton and in October we are visiting the Mini production line in Oxford. Between the visits we have talks from members and June's topic is Bees. The group is open to anyone who is interested in, and curious about, all aspects of science, technology and mathematics. We've been running for two years now and we've grown to 18 members.

Members are encouraged to present something that interests them but this is not essential and it's equally OK to choose to show an on-line resource e.g. TED talks (www.ted.com) or volunteer to organise a visit that interests you.

We meet on the third Monday of the month from 2-4 at the Baptist Church in Sackville Street in Thrapston. We can accommodate 25 comfortably and so we have eight vacancies. A charge of £2 covers the hall hire and a hot drink and biscuits.

If you're interested in joining us, please email me, Glyn Hill glynishill06@aol.com



Going to the dogs!!

More than 70 of our U3A members hopped onto our luxury coaches in high spirits, for it was Friday 11th May, the evening of Irene Gandy's 10th and biggest-ever excursion to Peterborough Greyhound Racing Stadium. Very comfortable coaches, jovial drivers, everyone on the correct coach at the correct time – it started well.



Once we arrived, things got even better. We found our seats in the smart, tiered dining area overlooking the finishing straight and studied our programmes. The “Beginners Guide to Tote Betting” and “How to read Greyhound Form Lines” were very informative, but so quickly forgotten! We had 14 races ahead of us so, as we sipped our drinks and enjoyed our meal, a lady came to the tables to collect our bets. No sooner had we cried into our beer/wine/water over our losses on one race, it was time to hand over another chunk of our pension to bet on the next.

What was our betting system? Needless to say, my wife and I had left our lucky pin at home, so we picked names that we liked. Such a daft idea. Our dining partners, Marion and Eric had a no more scientific system - they chose dogs whose names reminded them of pets and people they had known – but, by serendipity, it worked. They fared much better than we did. Well done to them !

The 8th Race was named “The Thrapston U3A Stakes”. Irene and her gang were obviously valued clients. The lady herself asked my wife and me to present the trophy to the winner, so we were led into the middle of the track to meet the winner and his connections. It was the highlight of our evening; a good job I had taken a decent jacket. Quivers Storm, a two year old dog, was very friendly, but a bit of a rascal at home, we were told. For future information, he beat Gone to the Moon and Ratiyvira River with something in hand (or paw).



The 14 races absolutely sped by and it was time to return to our coaches for the journey home. Our impressions? Well, we had a really good, interesting evening, good company in the shape of the Healeys, good food and our moment in the spotlight as a special, if unexpected, memory. (Let's not dwell on our losing bets.)



If you don't believe me, here's what Janet and Paul Hamer had to say:

“What were the odds of us enjoying taking our first tentative steps into the sleazy world of trackside betting? GOOD! We arrived home broke, but cheerful.”

Many thanks to Irene for her excellent organisation of the trip. If any readers are tempted to sign up for Irene's next excursion, don't hesitate! I can highly recommend it.

P.S. Best wishes for a speedy recovery, Irene.

Roger Davies

Groups Co-ordinator

Our thanks to tonight's race sponsors ...

Thank You to everyone from
Thrapston U3A
For joining us this Evening

Thrapston and District U3A Committee

Chair: Sheila Underwood

Vice Chair: Wendy Davies

Treasurer: Tricia James

Secretary: Ian Byrnes

Groups Co-ordinator: Roger Davies

Membership: Pauline Dennison

Publicity: Glynis Hill

Speaker Seeker: Paul Ollett

Newsletter Editor: Wendy Davies

New Members Rep: Brenda Berry

IT Operations Manager /Website Manager: Neil Busby

Equipment Manager: Ian Byrnes

A well-earned lunch for the Committee after the AGM

Thanks to Sheila and Neil for their hospitality!



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