



Contents

	page
Welcome from the Chairman	1
You're never too old to Rock'n'Roll	2
Calendar of Events 2019	3
Meet the Committee	4
Review of the Arts Festival	5
Group News	7
U3A Committee	8

CHAIR'S WELCOME

Thanks to all those who attended the last Plaza meeting. We had 135 people in the hall which is amazing for an AGM. I am sure that the speaker, Vince Eager, may have had something to do with the attendance! Those of you that were there know that we agreed to keep the full membership at a cost of £15 this year. We also agreed that from June 1st we would no longer offer dual membership as this causes concerns over insurance and is very time consuming to implement.



We are already moving forward on the suggestions we have received from the survey and Tricia Eales, a new committee member, is to be our Short Course Co-Ordinator. If you are interested in helping with short courses or in attending one, then please speak to her at the next meeting. Tricia will be at one of the Group tables.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on June 21st.

Sheila



Advance Notice

In the past few years, a New Years Eve Party has been held at the Plaza Community Centre and a community group are trying to assess the interest for this year. They propose having live music to dance the night away, food to sustain you and you can bring your own drinks, so no paying bar prices.

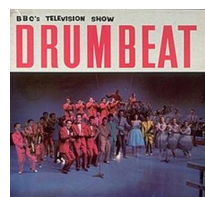
If you would like to come along, please contact Gordon Campbell on 07846 611748

You're Never Too Old to Rock & Roll - Vince Eager

At the May meeting we welcomed the long awaited visit of Mr Vince Eager to speak to us. Unfortunately, Vince had been obliged to postpone his visit originally planned for January, due to necessary surgery and although he was obviously sorry that he could not meet the original date, in no way did his talk disappoint.

Vince is a Lincolnshire lad and he still lives in that part of the world, but he has packed a lot into a life in the world of entertainment. In his early years in Grantham, he was encouraged by his grandmother to become a chorister, where his singing talent was recognised. He put his voice to good use at Christmas when he found that, as a carol singer, he could work the local residences performing solo and make good money from it.

Vince used a slide presentation to invoke memories of the early years when rock and roll was in its infancy and his anecdotes revealed that it was sometimes a hazardous pathway, due to characters in the business. At the time, attitudes to gay people were hostile and indeed homosexuality was against the law. On one occasion a 17 years old Vince found himself the subject of unwelcome advances from his promoter and was obliged to threaten the man to divert his attentions elsewhere.



The world of TV offered further opportunities for pop stars, with popular shows such as Six Five Special, Oh Boy, and Drumbeat. In later life, he spent many successful years as a Cruise Director working to arrange entertainment for the passengers on the big cruise liners.

Vince told of one concert when he and fellow pop artist, Joe Brown, had passed free chewing gum around to the audience, which was in fact laxative gum disguised as regular Beechnut gum, with predictable results. After the talk, one lady in the audience volunteered that she had been there and confirmed the outcome.

He recounted tales from the years when he and the likes of Tommy Steele, Marty Wilde and Joe Brown were cutting their teeth, in the days of Skiffle, using homemade instruments as well as acoustic guitars, long before the days of electronics and sophisticated amplification systems. The pinnacle of his Skiffle career was in reaching the World championship finals at the Locarno, Streatham in November 1957, where his group came second, winning the princely sum of £150.

After twenty years, and by 1977, the initial wave of rock and roll by individual artists was in slow decline, not helped by the appearance of popular groups such as the Beatles, and the early rock and roll stars found that they could still get payed work in the Northern working men's clubs.

Vince has made his mark on the rock and roll scene with three albums and several hit singles including one song titled 'The World's Loneliest Man' but, tragically, he was unable to benefit as much as he should have, due to a clause in his original contract that gave power of attorney to the show promoter.

Paul Ollett

Editor: Many thanks to Paul for his contributions to the newsletter over his time as Speaker Seeker.



Calendar of Events 2019

21st June	Love me tender—an Elvis Biography - see below
26th June	Peckover House and Elgoods - see page 6
3rd July	Annie - see page 6
19th July	Fotheringay & the House of York - see below
16th August	Summer Event - see below

Monthly Plaza Meetings

When? 3rd Friday of each month
Where? The Plaza in Thrapston
When? from 10.30 to 12

Please note that doors open at 10.00 a.m.

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



This Month

Friday June 21st

***Love me tender—
an Elvis Biography***
by *Tricia Thompson*



Next Month

Friday July 19th

***Fotheringay
& the House of York***
by Mike Ingram



THRAPSTON & DISTRICT U3A SUMMER EVENT



Friday 16th August 2019

Tickets £7.00

Venue: Thrapston Sailing Club

The gates to the Sailing Club open at 11.45am and your food will be served from 12.30. To delight you, in addition to your buffet lunch, boat trips (£1.00 per person) have been arranged and we have some puzzles and music to keep you entertained.

All that remains for us to arrange is fine weather!

Tickets will be on sale at the Monthly Meeting at The Plaza on Friday June 21st and again on July 19th if any remain unsold. Secure your tickets early, to avoid disappointment.

If you are unable to attend June's Monthly Meeting, contact **Polly on R 625 181**.



Meet the committee

This year's Thrapston & District committee members are shown here along with their email addresses should you wish to contact any of them. The details of the committee posts can be seen on the website

Chair

Sheila Underwood

chairmanthrapstonu3a@gmail.com



Membership Secretary

Pauline Dennison

membershipthrapstonu3a@gmail.com



Vice Chair

Wendy Davies

vicechairthrapstonu3a@gmail.com

& Newsletter Editor

editorthrapstonu3a@gmail.com



Speaker Seeker

Terry Robinson

speakersthrapstonu3a@gmail.com



Business Secretary

Ian Byrnes

secretarythrapstonu3a@gmail.com



Website Manager

IT Operations Manager

Neil Busby

websitethrapstonu3a@gmail.com



Treasurer

Sue Campbell

treasurerthrapstonu3a@gmail.com



Short Courses Co-ordinator

Tricia Eales

coursesthrapstonu3a@gmail.com



Groups Co-ordinator

Roger Davies

groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com



Plaza Welcome & Registration

Tina Jones

welcomethrapstonu3a@gmail.com



There are currently 2 vacancies on the Committee. We would love to fill them with people who share our interest in Thrapston & District U3A.

If you feel you would like to join us, 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.



The ***Making Music*** and ***Ukulele*** Groups teamed up with the ***Creative Writing*** and ***Play Reading*** Groups for two 'Evenings of Music and Comedy' at the Baptist Church on Wednesday 5th and Friday 7th June.



The ***Creative Writing*** Group held a display in Thrapston Library through out the week.



The ***Stitchers*** Group displayed a wall hanging depicting our U3A interest groups, in the Baptist Church, alongside examples of members' recent work.

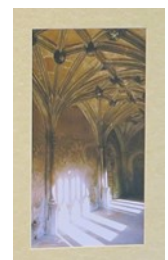
The ***Lace Making Group*** displayed examples of their craft and held a demonstration in the Baptist Church.



The ***Flower Bunch*** exhibited a floral arrangement in the Baptist church.



The ***Photography*** Group displayed examples of its work at Bennett's Café in town; this was refreshed several times during the week.



Editor : Well done to all those who participated - we have some very talented members!

THEATRE AND OUTINGS.....

Outings



Peckover House & gardens and Elgoods Brewery and gardens

26 June 2019

This trip is full but please add your name to the reserve list if you are interested or let Jenni know.

Meet in the Co-op car park at 9.20

Peckover House gardens and tearoom open at 11.00

House tour booked for 12.00 (approx 1 hour)

Elgoods Brewery 2.00 - tour starts at 2.15

Coach will depart from Elgoods Brewery car park at 4.00



Theatre Trips

We have **three** exciting musicals planned for the coming months;



GREASE Wednesday 11th September , Leicester Curve Theatre
Price £45pp , 3 PLACES REMAINING

Set in the late 1950's in an American high school called Rydell, this play provides rebellion and romance between the gum-chewing, chain-smoking "Burger Palace Boys" and the bobby soxers and pedal pushers known as the "Pink Ladies". Memorable songs include "Greased Lightnin' ", "We Go Together" and "Mooning", attributed to Buddy Holly, Little Richard and Elvis Presley.



CALENDAR GIRLS Thursday 10th October, Royal & Derngate, Northampton,
price £45pp, 6 PLACES REMAINING

Music by Gary Barlow, it is a true story of a WI group who raised money for a cancer charity by posing nude for a calendar. Tastefully done, it is an inspiring story of how communal strength and tenacity can help to overcome tragedy.



ANNIE Wednesday 3rd July, Milton Keynes theatre.
ONE place now available due to a last minute cancellation.

Please note; all our theatre trips are matinee performances. The coach will depart from the Co-op Car Park, Thrapston at 10:30 am, so please make sure you arrive in plenty of time. If you have any mobility issues and/or equipment, please let us know beforehand, so we can accommodate you as comfortably as possible!

Please be aware that an option for **payment online** is now available; please ask for details.

Please remember, tickets are non-refundable.

Moira - phone 07960 640 161

DRAWING FOR THE TERRIFIED ! A new Interest Group for **ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS.**

If you would like to learn drawing techniques, from sharpening pencils to producing masterpieces, Mandy Dawkins will show you how.

The group will meet on the second Thursday of each month, from 10.30 to 12.30, at Mandy's home and will be limited to just FIVE members. Sign up early at The Plaza on June 21st. These 5 spaces are sure to disappear quickly !



LOCAL HISTORY WALKS

POST NORMAN CONQUEST THRAPSTON

Thursday, 27th June :10.30 am to Noon

Thrapston was a thriving Saxon community and then the Normans arrived!

The walk will be led by Neil Busby, Thrapston Heritage, along pavements.

The walk will start from outside St James Church Hall.

Please book at the monthly meeting or ring Brenda 730 225

STANWICK LAKES:

Wednesday, 31st July 10 am to Noon

5,000 years of Settlement

Explore the lives of the Neolithic through to Medieval settlers that have lived on the site of Stanwick Lakes.

The walk will be led by Neil Busby, Rockingham Forest Trust.

Stout shoes are advised as some of the walk will be over grass and gravel paths.

Meet at 9.30 at Thrapston Co-op for car sharing or at 10 at the visitor centre where free drink refreshments will be available. The walk will begin at 10.30 am.

Please book at the monthly meeting or ring **Glyn 635 797**

This event is free, but standard car parking charges will apply, so car sharing is recommended.



A New Venture! - SHORT COURSES

The survey of members carried out earlier this year revealed a considerable interest in short courses, possibly of 4 to 8 weeks in duration. As a result, your new Committee has nominated Tricia Eales to oversee and co-ordinate this new venture of ours.

To begin with, we should like to canvass interest in a small number of courses. These will be advertised at June's Monthly Meeting and will include, among others, Cryptic Crosswords, Military Modelling, First Aid.... Our list is yet to be finalised.

If you are interested, please talk to the people who will be manning the Short Courses desk at The Plaza, see what is on offer and sign up for any course that interests you.

Alternatively, contact **Roger**, the Groups Co-ordinator on groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com or on R **623 047**



New Group: Vintage Popular Recorded Music

The group is for those people who already have a serious interest in some or all popular music performed in the period from 1940/50s up to the mid 1960s. This could be American Jazz / Blues, R & B, Country, Gospel, plus British and U.S. Rock'n'Roll and Pop.

Anyone enthused by Tricia's talk on ELVIS might find the proposed "Recorded Popular Music" group would also suit them. It could involve using recordings on vinyl, CD, film / video and even 78 shellac, or books, magazines and memorabilia from members' own collections.

Please see me at the next Plaza meeting for further details, or ring 720 130

John Percy

PARKING

The manager of the Bridge Hotel has kindly agreed to reintroduce parking for blue badge holders on Friday mornings during the monthly meeting. Please call into reception and give your registration number. Next month the hotel will introduce pay and display. It is expected to cost £1 for two hours and £2 for up to four hours. Refunds for Blue badge holders and customers.



Parking continues to be available in the cattle market car park in Market road opposite the old Methodist church.

SASHES

Look out for our helpers wearing welcome sashes. They are there for anyone who needs help for access or otherwise. Please feel free to contact me if you need access advice.

Glyn 735797 accesstheapstonu3a@gmail.com



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

Thrapston and District U3A Committee

Chair: Sheila Underwood

Vice Chair: Wendy Davies

Treasurer: Sue Campbell

Secretary: Ian Byrnes

Groups Co-ordinator: Roger Davies

Membership: Pauline Dennison

Short Course Co-ordinator: Tricia Eales

Speaker Seeker: Terry Robinson

Newsletter Editor: Wendy Davies

Publicity: Sue Campbell

IT Operations /Website Manager: Neil Busby

Plaza Registration: Tina Jones

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**