



**Contents**

Important Notices  
 Photography Group  
 Forthcoming Events  
 Monthly Lunch Group  
 Military History Group  
 Come Country Dancing U3A  
 Advanced Driving Group  
 Car Parking at U3A Regular Meetings  
 Theatre Trips and Outings  
 Summer Barbecue  
 Jazz Group  
 Group Leaders Report February 2014  
 Renewing your Membership  
 Photographs  
 Car Sharing and Other Costs  
 Thrapston & District U3A  
 Committee

**Important Notices**

- 1 Bryan Elliott the Hon. Treasurer of the Thrapston &
- 1 District U3A is to retire at the AGM in May, and a new
- 2 Hon. Treasurer is sought. If you are interested in the
- 2 position, please contact Glyn James, Glyn Hill or Bryan
- 2 for further information.
- 3 Members are reminded that subscriptions for next year,
- 3 £16.50 (£12.50 for dual members) will be due as from the
- 3 1 June 2014. To avoid the Hon. Treasurer and assistants
- 4 being swamped with members paying their dues in May,
- 4 you are reminded that you may start paying at the next
- 4 two meetings. It will make things much easier if
- 5 payments are made to Thrapston & District U3A by
- 5 cheque. Cheques post-dated no later than 31 May 2014
- 6 will be accepted.
- 6 Further details of the AGM will appear in the next
- 6 newsletter.



Members of the Photography Group who met on 7 April at Glyn Hill's home, where interesting discussions took place, favourite photographs taken by members were shown on a screen and criticised in a friendly positive manner, and then broke into smaller groups to explain such matters as depth-of-field, trimming, composition and other tips to improve the quality of photographs taken. A useful and enjoyable two hours.

## Forthcoming Events

Branch meetings are at 10.30am on the third Friday of each month at the Thrapston Plaza unless stated otherwise.

**2014**

### Date

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 18 March  | Day out in Norwich (See Theatre Trips and Outings)                            |
| 21 March  | Dr Miles Ellis -The real Burma, an Englishman's View                          |
| 4 April   | Midnight - deadline for copy to the Editor for inclusion in April newsletter. |
| 18 April  | Glyn James - A Year in Sweden   |
| 23 April  | Fiddler on the Roof at the Derngate, Northampton                              |
| 13 May    | Day out in Cambridge (See Theatre Trips and Outings)                          |
| 16 May    | AGM   |
| 18 June   | Day out in Southwold (See Theatre Trips and Outings)                          |
| 9 July    | Singin' in the Rain   |
| 15 August | Annual barbecue in place of the regular meeting - details later.              |

The U3A holds several national events which may be of interest to you. Please check the U3A website ([www.thrapstonu3a.co.uk](http://www.thrapstonu3a.co.uk)) at the events and competitions page of the Member's Area Homepage.

---

### Monthly Lunch Group

The Group is presently going very well with 49 members, some attending regularly and others occasionally. It is becoming harder to find restaurants able to accommodate more than 30. We will probably have to resort to a first come, first served basis and once I have several meals booked in advance, I will place a list of venues on the table at our general monthly meetings in the Plaza, with the number who may be accommodated. You may then book as appropriate.

Prices are now creeping up and discounts are few. I would appreciate an indication from members of the prices they are prepared to pay for either a two or three course meal.

Iris Squires

---

### Military History Group

The Group met on the 11 March when an interesting and well-received illustrated talk was given on the early History of the British South Africa Police from inception in 1890 to 1905. A police force that engaged in the full gamut of everyday policing duties and was Rhodesia's first line of defence.

The talk next month will be about the Crusades.

If you are interested in military history and would like to join contact the Group Leader Gerry Martin on 01832 731174 or e-mail at [gerrymartin1@waitrose.com](mailto:gerrymartin1@waitrose.com)

---

If a tortoise doesn't have a shell, is he homeless or naked?

How do they get deer to cross the road only at those yellow road signs?

## **Come Country Dancing U3A**

The group has now met on two occasions at St James church hall. We meet on alternate Wednesdays 2-3.30 pm. The next few dates are 19 March, 2, 16 and 30 April, 14 and 28 May. It is hoped that a few more members will come along ,so we can at least cover the cost of the hall. Country dancing is very sociable and the intention is to keep things light-hearted with a sense of fun. Another aspect is helping to keep fit which must be a good thing. You do not need a partner and all dances are walked through. Beginners are particularly welcome. There are members have been country dancing in the past and I hope they will come along and support us. We hope to provide live music in the near future. For further information please contact George Hearnden on 01933 622827.

---

## **Advanced Driving Group**

The general aim of the group will be to assist each other to improve our driving. In our age groups most of us have a great deal of driving experience, but we are probably at the stage where we drive automatically and don't feel the need to concentrate on the task in hand. This is when we are most at risk; when other drivers do not do what we expect in a given situation. Advanced driver training teaches us to observe in advance and anticipate the unexpected. I am a member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM), and I passed my advanced test two years ago, so its never too late. I hope we can get some trained observers from the Corby IAM group to come along to our meetings to give us some tips; also to do some observed drives for those who may be interested. If there is enough interest in the group I propose a first meeting to agree when, where and how often we meet, also ideas for discussion and outings etc. Hopefully some members will want to go further and become advanced drivers.

I will be happy for prospective group members to contact me ether by E mail <geoffhill.hill5@gmail.com> or phone 01933 624645

Geoff Hill

---

## **Car Parking at U3A Regular Meetings**

David Bletsoe has permitted Thrapston & District U3A to use the cattle market as an overflow parking area on the 3rd Friday in each month subject to a list of five conditions summarised as follows -

1. Use at own risk. no liability on Bletsoes.
  2. Access through market to be kept clear at all times.
  3. To keep clear of the lorry washing area.
  4. There are no proprietary interests for vehicle owners or exclusive rights to parking space.
  5. Arrangements are informal and can be terminated by either side on 24 hour notice.
- 

## **Newspaper Headlines**

'Exclusive to all newspapers. Diana was still alive hours before she died.'

'On teenage adults - Statistics show that teen pregnancies drop off dramatically after age 25.'

## Theatre Trips and Outings

Transport will usually be provided and pick-up and drop-off outside the Thrapston Co-op. The cost of each coach trip includes the driver's tip. Once the theatres and coaches have been paid for, money paid cannot be refunded and members should try to find a replacement. If places are available, members may bring a guest at an extra cost of £1. Payment may be made by cash or cheque payable to Thrapston & District U3A.

**Tuesday 18 March - Day out in Norwich.** This, sadly, has been cancelled. So many were unable to come (with good reasons) that it was no longer financially viable.

**Tuesday 13 May - Day out in Cambridge.** There are a few places left so please sign up as soon as possible. The cost will be £17 and is payable now or at the April meeting.

**Brenda** phone 730225.

**Wednesday 18 June - Day out to Southwold.** Please sign up today and if there is enough interest, payment (to be advised) will be payable at the April and May meetings.

**Brenda** phone 730225.

**Wednesday 9 July - Singin' in the Rain - matinee.** The coach price will be notified later and be payable at our May meeting. **Brenda** phone 730225.

**Early September - Barnum, Curve Theatre, Leicester.** More details to be given at our next meeting. **Pauline** phone 732724

### Summer Barbecue

The **Summer Barbecue** will be held on 15 August. Details will appear later, but the social sub-committee have asked for **volunteers to help** in various ways with the organisation and running of the barbecue.

Will those willing to help please contact **Glyn Hill** phone 01832 735797.

### The Jazz Group

The Jazz Group will be attending the following functions at

#### The Courtyard, West Street, Stanwick NN9 6QY

6 April Tad Newton Jazz Friends specialise in lively swinging jazz. Recreating the sounds of Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington and Count Basie among others.

4 May Barry Palser's Savoy Jazz Band. A one-off summer special. Bob Hunt brings his full 10-piece band to The Courtyard for an evening dedicated to the music genius of Duke Ellington. Definitely not to be missed.

See you all there.

---

Q: What's the difference between an etymologist and an entomologist?

A: An etymologist knows the difference.

A Higgs boson walks into a church. The priest says, 'Get out, you blasphemer. How dare you call yourself the God particle?' The Higgs boson replies, 'But I make up the mass.'

## Renewing your membership

### and new members offer:

Your membership of U3A will be due for renewal in May and the Committee have agreed that the fee will be £16.50 for full members and £12.50 for dual members (those who are already members with another U3A group) and may be made at the March, April and May meetings. New members who enrol from 1 March will be able to pay £16.50 for 15 months membership – so please tell any neighbours, friends, relatives who are not already part of the U3A of this offer. The application form may be downloaded from the website.

## Group Leaders' Report March 2014

For new members or those established members who are looking to take on something new; we do have spaces within groups and these include:

- Photography
- Antiques and Collectables
- Magic [osmec@btinternet.com](mailto:osmec@btinternet.com) (new group)
- Walks 2
- Ten Pin Bowling
- Country Dancing
- Current Issues
- Papercraft
- Family History
- Cycling
- Bowls (from April)
- Patchwork
- Photography
- Advanced motoring  
[geoffhill5@gmail.com](mailto:geoffhill5@gmail.com) (new group)

There are also spaces in other groups– the best way to find out more is to look at the group pages on the website or contact me and I can advise you on what's available.

**Antiques and Collectables** - David Macey has spaces for more members in the Antiques and Collectables Group that meets on the third Monday afternoon 2-4 in the Methodist Church Hall. He has also organised an extremely interesting and enjoyable visit to the Rennie Mackintosh Museum at 78 Derngate, Northampton on Tuesday April 15 at 1.30. The cost is 17.50 including the coach and this is open to ALL members, not just those in the group. I highly recommend it – we went about a month ago and it's very well worth a visit – a hidden gem in Northamptonshire. You can contact David on [macey199@btinternet.com](mailto:macey199@btinternet.com) 01832732637.

**Photography** - The Photography group meet on the first Monday in the month 10.30-12.30. We have 17 in the group and because of the size we are moving to Thrapston Bowls Club for our April meeting onwards and so we have 5 places for new members. We have a wide range of experience and expertise, from those of us just finding out what our cameras can actually do to those who already produce stunning photographs. In just the first week I've learnt a huge amount from fellow members on focus, the rule of threes and all sorts of other tips. We plan to have a show of our photos each month. Our present task is to take photos that include a number or letter – I'm finding that I'm constantly looking for quirky subjects (how about a tyre for 'O', a tree trunk for 'Y'?). If you'd like to join us please contact me on [glynishillo6@aol.com](mailto:glynishillo6@aol.com) 01832 735797.

continued on page 6 →

**Current Issues** - We've now met for 6 months and have discussed a great range of topics to discuss including, The Wearing of the Veil, How should we be taxed?, Does the Right to Vote confer a duty to do so?, Immigration, and Volunteering. Our future topics include, What are Prisons for? and Room 101. We have lively debates and although sometimes it hasn't been possible to come to a definite conclusion, we have formulated plans to take our ideas and thoughts to external agencies. We have room for three new members, so if you'd like to join us you are very welcome. We meet **Second Tuesdays in the month 2.30-4**. Please contact me on [glynishillo6@aol.com](mailto:glynishillo6@aol.com) 01832 735797.

**The Group Leaders' meeting and lunch** is on Monday 12 May at 11.00 and the committee members will also attend. I hope the weather will be as good as last year – please ensure it's in your diary if you are a leader.

Glyn Hill Group Co-coordinator

### Photographs

I welcome photographs of any activity or event which may be of interest to readers. Please take the photograph on a camera of reasonable quality so that there is sufficient definition in the picture for reproduction. A camera that is part of a mobile phone is often not of a sufficiently high quality to provide photographs worthy of reproduction. If you can only supply prints of photographs, let me borrow them as I can copy them for the newsletter and return the original.

Many thanks, Editor

### Car Sharing and Other Costs

Several groups use car-sharing for visits. Our U3A mileage payment is 40p per mile and the committee has recommended that the mileage is calculated and each passenger pays their share to the driver.

When a host member provides coffee and biscuits we suggest that each member pays 30p to the host. These are guides and as such are not written in stone, so if you already have a system that works, please continue.

### Thrapston & District U3A Committee

Chair:	Glyn James	Vice-Chair:	Glyn Hill
Treasurer:	Bryan Elliott	Secretary:	Michelle Owen
Group Co-coordinator:	Glyn Hill	Membership Secretary:	Maddie Godden
Publicity:	Rachel Thompson	Speaker Seeker:	Richard Swindall
Website:	Neil Busby	Editor:	Parry Jones

**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, Tel: 01832 732668 and

e-mail <[editorthrapstonU3A@gmail.com](mailto:editorthrapstonU3A@gmail.com)>

Website [www.thrapstonu3a.co.uk](http://www.thrapstonu3a.co.uk)

Thrapston & District U3A committee e-mail is <[U3Acontact@gmail.com](mailto:U3Acontact@gmail.com)>