



Newsletter

March 2016

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Welcome from the Chair

Gosh! It's March already. That means it's just two months to our AGM. There's no time to sit and daydream in U3A. Formal notification will go out with next month's Newsletter along with details of how to apply if you would like to become an Officer or member the Committee.

Apart from myself and the Vice-Chairman, everyone else is up for re-election and we still have one vacancy on the committee. If you would like to stand, see page 3 and watch out for instructions next month. Details of the various roles can be found on our web site under Useful Information.

If you plan to apply and would like to sit in on next month's Committee meeting and see how we work, please contact the Secretary at secretarythrapstonu3a@gmail.com - Enjoy your Newsletter.

Frank Boydell, Chairman Tel: 01832 735797

Notices

Self-Catering Holiday - Places2Go are planning a holiday, possibly for up to 25 people with twin and double rooms, sometime this year, no dates at present. The cost for a three night mid-week break would be about £100 pp. It should be great fun. If this is of interest please email, phone or leave me a message. maddie.places2go@gmail.com or 01832-734510.

For information: the first U3A East Midlands Summer School near Southwell, Nottinghamshire has been cancelled due to lack of support. There are a number of national events in March and April. If you would like to know what is happening visit www.u3a.org.uk, access the member's homepage and open events.

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.

- 18 March **Branch Meeting - Stanwick Handbell Ringers**
15 April **Branch Meeting - History of Pantomime by Delia Thomas**
20 May **Branch AGM - The Last Naval Hero. David 1st Earl Beatty by Roy Smart**
17-June **Branch Meeting - India on a Motorcycle by Paul Ollett**
15 July **Branch Meeting - Eyes and Optometry by Kim Durden**
4 August **Sister Act - at The Curve, Leicester. This will be an evening performance**



starting at 7.30 as Alexandra Burke is not appearing in the matinee performances. Tickets are in the stalls and the price will be £43 to include ticket, coach and driver's tip. Payment on booking or no later than the April meeting. Cheques will not be cashed until we have enough interest to make the trip. Please add your name to the list at the meeting

or contact me on 01832 732724. Pauline

- 19 August **Barbecue and Group activities**
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 U3A holds several national events which may be of interest to you. Please check the U3A website (www.u3a.org.uk) at the events and competitions page of the Members' Area Homepage.

The Newsletter Editor

I am due for re-election or de-selection at the May AGM. While I am happy to continue in this role, having done so since November 2013, I think it is time there was a change. This is partly to avoid the newsletter becoming stale, after all new brooms sweep clean and (mixing metaphors) fresh paint does wonders for old fittings. If you wish to take over as Editor, speak to the Chairman or you may prefer to discuss with me first.

Parry

February Meeting

Rachel Thompson has written, 'Chris Carr gave an entertaining and interesting talk about medieval medicine this week. I can't say I fancied having limbs amputated with no anaesthetic'.

The photograph shows barber-surgeon Chris Carr amputating Bryan Elliott's right index finger. Bryan does not look too concerned.



Notice of the AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Thrapston and District U3A will be held on Friday 20 May 2016 at 10.30 am.

Any member wanting to stand for the committee must complete a nomination form that will require the member's details and the names of a proposer and seconder. Nomination Forms can be obtained from the secretary at the March and April meetings or by email from <secretarythrapstonu3a@gmail.com>

Completed forms should be given to the Secretary by Wednesday 4 May. Any member wishing to propose a motion for discussion must submit their request (together with the names of a proposer and seconder) to the Secretary by 1 May.

Walking Group - February

What a fantastically early Spring we have been fortunate to enjoy in the Thrapston area during the first few weeks of this year. Relatively mild temperatures and moderate rainfall, with barely any snow, have caused the spring bulbs to be tempted to poke their noses out of the soil and burst into flower, lifting our hearts at least two weeks earlier than usual. It was such a bright and sunny day that also caused temptation among the U3A walking group on 25 February when a group of thirteen including two guests set off from the Rose and Crown at Islip for a circuit slightly over six miles.

After leaving Islip, the first section was directly across cultivated fields on rights of way, eventually leading to a Byway unfortunately churned up by the farmer going about his legitimate business of piling it high and smelling it strong but all part of the rural experience. However, with this part behind the route trailed downhill to emerge at the roadside at Woodford turn.

The road ascending into Woodford offered a chance to appreciate the properties and gardens in the village at a pace to be able to take it all in. Just beyond the green, secluded and tucked away in the farmyard at the right hand side, is the delightful Pickwick Café where a stop for light sustenance was made and taken in brilliant sunshine sitting on the terrace. February? It certainly didn't feel like it! Then back to the task for the return to Islip striding downhill, pausing just to enjoy the antics of a donkey presumably with a little bit of an itchy back and his companion, a charming and very tiny Shetland pony.

Then a short stretch of the riverside to enjoy before reaching Woodford Lock and the more or less direct return along the former railway track first to Thrapston and thence to Islip.

A beautiful circuit in excellent company at an easy pace, and I can only look forward to the next outing at the end of March.

Group News

Military History - At our March meeting Jim Hancock will talk about the 43 Royal Wessex Regiment.

Cycling Group - Our first meeting of 2016 will be on Monday 14 March at 10:00 from the Woolpack Inn, Islip and every second and fourth Monday thereafter. Whilst attendance remained fairly steady throughout 2015, we unfortunately lost all our ladies. So for this year, I propose to make the second Monday rides shorter and easier, to encourage everyone who would like to, to come and give it a try. The fourth Monday rides will remain longer and more varied.

Cycling quote for March: 'You don't have to go fast; you just have to go'.

Stop press - Iris Squires reports, 'I have today received confirmation of our booking for the **Christmas Spectacular at Thursford**. I have four seats available. If you would like to join us then please let me know as soon as possible. It will be on a first come, first served basis. Further information price, times etc. will be issued shortly. Please speak to Iris or Pauline.'

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: Michelle Collison

Secretary: Guinette Davis

Membership: Madeline Fisher

Speaker Seeker: Bryan Elliott

Editor: Parry Jones

Member: Vacant

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.

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