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### Welcome from the Chair



Welcome to March and I, like a lot of you I suspect, am looking forward to the end of the cold weather and the beginning of Spring. The daffodils are always a cheerful sight and the sign of better weather on the way.

In April, we will have to implement some changes in the way we operate. This is due to the incoming General Data Protection Regulation and also to the changes in the agreement between the Charity Commission and the Third Age Trust. We are fortunate that committee members have agreed to stand again and serve another year. This means that we could have the same team in place to start and complete the process of change that we will have to go through.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April we will have a new Membership form which we will need **all of you** to complete, in due course. This is in order to be compliant with the data protection regulations that come into force in May.

Please speak to a member of the committee if you have any questions and we will try to answer them.

I would also like to repeat the appeal I made at the last Plaza meeting. We now have over 120 people regularly coming to hear our speakers. This is great, but putting out and clearing away the equipment and all those chairs, takes time and effort. We really need a team of people to do it. If you feel you could help, then please see Ian Byrnes at the next meeting. Ian will organise the team and sort out a rota. We have enough members, so that it should be possible to be needed only once a year!

I look forward to seeing you at the next monthly meeting .

Sheila



## John, Paul, George and me by Andy Smith

Another brilliantly sunny morning for our monthly meeting on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018 brought forth 130 members to share a morning of pure nostalgia, centred on the works of Lennon, McCartney and Harrison, all expertly presented for us by Andy Smith of Rugby.



Andy has visited our U3A group before, but this time his set was completely original having taken many months to collate.



He demonstrated his proficiency on a variety of guitar styled instruments including the modest ukulele sometimes favoured by George Harrison and the mandolin. Andy's interest had begun early in life as a child of six and his first guitar was in fact a 'Beatles' guitar from Woolworths costing 15 shillings (75p). A modest beginning indeed, but he was soon 'hooked' on the highly original works of the more artistic elements of the Beatles.

We were encouraged to sing along with the numbers that were so familiar to those of us of a certain age, but we were also given an insight into some of the interaction and friendly rivalry that took place between John, Paul & George, as they sought to write better and more popular songs, as well as the collaborations in producing the familiar Beatles music.

There was a section of the presentation on 'Guess the intro', in which he would play the first few bars of the instrumental introduction to a Beatles number and ask the audience to name the tunes. Thrapston U3A appear to know their pop music very well and got each one right.

Andy interspersed his playing with anecdotes from his experiences and family life, where he has imposed his love of the Beatles onto his children (some of whom are also musicians) to carry the music forward. Many hearts were touched with a story of his daughter's wedding which was to be held outside in the open air. The day had dawned very wet but improved slowly. Andy and his son were to play at the ceremony and as they began the tune 'Here comes the sun', almost as if by magic, the clouds parted and the sun shone through. In the Plaza, a chorus of "aahs" filled the room on hearing this story.



Andy has been using his talents to raise funds for two favoured charities from the sale of his CDs and with generous donations from his audiences. He is very proud that he has so far donated in excess of £6,000, shared between MacMillan Nurses and Cystic Fibrosis Research, as both of these causes having affected his family.

Andy Smith's talents are not restricted to the Beatles, as he has been writing a musical entitled 'Snowfall in July' and has obtained Crowdfunding to enable him to develop the show and to take it on tour. He has aspirations to bring it to Thrapston Plaza in the future and it will be something not to be missed.

The performance was am sure that it is not the from Andy Smith.

Paul Ollett

Speaker Seeker



greatly appreciated and I last that we have heard

Note

## Calendar of Events 2018

- 16 March      **Branch Meeting - Britain through the seasons by Tom Way.**
- 22 March      **Stay Safe - U3A fraud workshop - see page 7**
- 7 April        **Local History Walk - see page 7**
- 19 April      **An officer and a Gentleman - Leicester - see page 6**
- 20 April      **You cannot be serious— tales from a Wimbledon Umpire by Alan Gray MBE**
- 11 May        **Greyhound Racing - see Irene Gandy**
- 20 September **Warhorse - Milton Keynes - see page 6**

### Branch Meetings

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



#### **This Month — Friday March 16th**

##### **Britain through the Seasons**

By Tom Way



#### **Next Month - Friday April 20th**

You cannot be serious! -

Tales from a Wimbledon Umpire 1988 to 2012

By Alan Gray MBE



### ***Sad News — Afternoon Tea cancelled***



After an encouraging start with ticket sales, the number of members buying tickets for the afternoon tea has been insufficient for the event to go ahead.

We apologise to those who were looking forward to sandwiches and cakes, or have even made their Easter bonnets, but the event was not viable.

If you have bought tickets, then your money will be refunded. Just see **Viv** at the next monthly meeting **with your tickets**, or contact her on 01832 732791.

## Focus on.....New Horizons

Spring is here; a perfect time to think about trying something new.

The following groups have room for new members .....

*Editor*

### **French Encore** formed in Autumn 2017



The group concentrates on French conversation with a view to building up and consolidating vocabulary, grammatical skills and fluency in a relaxed atmosphere. We aim to meet twice a month usually on the 2nd and 4th Thursday afternoon 2pm-4pm but as a small group we are flexible and sometimes reschedule by agreement to maximise attendance. There are currently no costs to our meetings as we vary our venue (our homes). We are using 2 texts (one is the BBC Talk 2 French book), to enable us to cover a variety of topics and cater for our varying levels of fluency.

To find out more why not come along to a meeting?

Contact the group leader Jan Pacey 07803 250406

### **Italian Beginners' Conversation**



There are a few spaces available in the group. This is a fun, non-competitive way to ease you into the very beautiful language and prepare you for that holiday.

We follow the BBC Italianissimo course with book, CDs and videos. We will also be using music and watching films to add to the enjoyment.

The group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm at Marion's home.

For more details please contact Marion 07989 985722 or 01832 720262

### **Ukelele Group**



The Ukulele group is open to everyone who would like to give it a try. You do not need to have any musical knowledge or to have played any other musical instrument.

Our group has a wide range of abilities from very skilled, talented and experienced musicians right down to those of us whose first ever attempt to play a musical instrument came with the Ukulele. Do not feel intimidated; you will be helped and encouraged all the way by everyone in the group.

The group meets every Tuesday morning from 10am to Midday, at the Baptist Church, Thrapston.

For more details please contact Marion 07989 985722 or 01832 720262

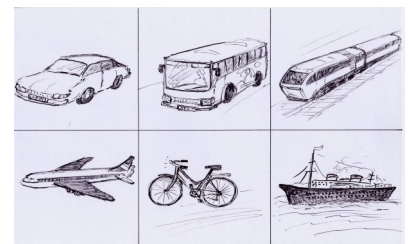
### **Boys' Toys**

(Although it's called Boys' Toys, ladies are very welcome!)

If you are interested in Planes, trains, boats, and automobiles and like to learn more, talk about them and visit collections, then this group is for you.

The group meets at The Fox, Thorpe Waterville, on the 4th Wednesday morning of the month.

If you are interested in joining them, contact Juris Trede on 01933 557348





## ***New Group***



## ***Play Reading***

David Green, who leads our Creative Writing group, is very keen to start a Play Reading group to read a wide variety of published plays and to discuss their themes, characters and construction and has already sourced a rich collection of material. Those members who are keen theatre-goers will be able to deepen their appreciation of the theatre, while those with a more limited experience will be able to dip their toes into a wide variety of dramatic works.

For more information, please contact David at [david.green1@sky.com](mailto:david.green1@sky.com)



## ***New Group - Art Appreciation***

The name of this new group is self-explanatory. David Turner, the Group Leader, has trained in Art and is well-placed to lead discussions about the finer points of works of art and the work, techniques, themes, approaches and methods of artists. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. David will be able to open your eyes to the merits of the works and artists that you will consider.

For more information on where and when they meet

please contact David at [d.turner335@btinternet.com](mailto:d.turner335@btinternet.com)

## ***Classical Music A.M.***

This group enjoys listening to one or more pieces from a chosen composer together with a brief biography and background information on the setting for the music. They also attend concerts using their own transport, mostly at the Derngate, The Castle and Oundle. The group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 10 to noon in a member's house.



If you are interested in joining them, please contact Michael Henderson on 01933 461545



## ***An important message about Activities and Events***



Our financial year starts on April 1st and our new systems must then be implemented. As part of that process, the committee has agreed that the following will apply from the beginning of April.

**“To book a place on any activity or event, the full amount must be paid by the date set. All monies paid are non-refundable unless the activity or event is cancelled by the organiser.”**

This will enable us to cost any activity or event more effectively and lessen the stress on the organisers.

## News from the Groups

### Theatre and Outings Group



#### Outings

##### Guided tour of Sessions House

I will personally contact the people who put their names down for this trip to advise them of the date, time and cost.

##### Saffron Walden and Audley End

Unfortunately the proposed trip to Saffron Walden and Audley End will not go ahead. There was not enough interest shown to make this a viable option.

##### Bure Valley steam railway and Norfolk Broads

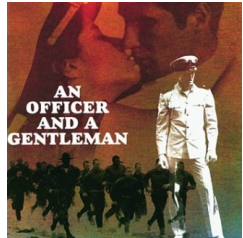
There was however a strong interest shown in the trip to Norfolk in September which includes a journey on the Bure Valley steam railway and a short cruise on the Broads. There are still some places available, so do come and see me at the next branch meeting or contact me



on [jennihall207@gmail.com](mailto:jennihall207@gmail.com) or **01832 358721** if you would like to join us. To confirm your booking on this trip I will require a £10 deposit so if you have already put your name down for this, please provide me with your deposit at the next meeting.

#### Theatre

We currently have four tickets available for *An Officer and a Gentleman – The Musical*



This is based on the Oscar-winning film starring Richard Gere. Its feel-good soundtrack includes the hit song from the movie *Up Where We Belong* along with many 80's classic anthems including *Girls Just Want to Have Fun*, *Livin' On A Prayer*, *Heart of Glass*, *Material Girl*, *Don't Cry Out Loud*, *I Was Made for Lovin' You* and *The Final Countdown*

It's booked for **Thursday 19th April** at the **Curve Theatre, Leicester**. The cost of £29 pp includes coach fare.

If you fancy an uplifting, feel-good experience, this one's for you!

Also we have **one seat left** for *WarHorse*

Based on the beloved novel by Michael Morpurgo, this powerfully moving and imaginative drama is filled with stirring music and songs. At its heart are astonishing life-sized horses by South Africa's Handspring Puppet Company, who bring breathing, galloping, charging horses to thrilling life on stage

**It's booked for Thursday 20th September, Milton Keynes Theatre @ £55 pp including coach fare.**

Here's a **great opportunity** for you to enjoy this **award winning musical**.

Please contact [moira.newton@icloud.com](mailto:moira.newton@icloud.com) for more details.

If you have signed up for this performance this September and have not yet paid, PLEASE remember to bring your cheque book or cash to the branch meeting this month.

Also please note that theatre tickets are **NON- REFUNDABLE**.

Lastly, your suggestions are needed for our 2019 theatre trips; for example, the moving musical **Calendar Girls** is touring the home counties...

[moira.newton@icloud.com](mailto:moira.newton@icloud.com)

[jennihall207@gmail.com](mailto:jennihall207@gmail.com)



## **LOCAL HISTORY WALK** - Saturday 7th April

This will be the next in the Thrapston walks led by Neil Busby. It will start at 1.30 p.m. at the zebra crossing at the junction of Huntingdon Road and Market Road and will last approximately 1 – 1.30 hours.

A donation per person of £2 would be appreciated (for Thrapston Local History Group expenses)

There is a limit of TWENTY for this walk.

Please sign up at the monthly meeting or telephone Brenda.

Brenda 730225



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

## **Stay Safe**

# **Northampton U3A present a free financial fraud workshop**

**11 am Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

**At the National Leather Collection**

**Grosvenor Centre**

*The museum entrance is located off the Market Square, opposite EuroChange. It is located on the 2nd Floor and accessible by stairs or lift.*

Northampton U3A presents a one hour workshop on how to keep yourself safe from financial fraud. Representatives from Northamptonshire County Council Trading Standards Service and Northants Police Economic Crime Unit will give us some simple tips on how to avoid becoming a victim of the fraudsters, what to look out for and what action to take if we are not sure if an organisation contacting us is genuine.

**This event is open to anyone, and tea and coffee will be provided.**

**Free admission, no booking required.**





## ***Advance Notice of A.G.M.***

The Thrapston and District U3A Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at the Plaza, Thrapston, on **Friday 18th May** starting at **10.20 am**.

It is hoped to keep this as short as possible, as it will be followed by Steve Dimmer's talk entitled "The Comedy of Victoria Wood".

Further details of the AGM and the formal notice will appear in the next issue.

## ***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:** Glynis Hill

**Speaker Seeker:** Paul Ollett

**Newsletter Editor:** Wendy Davies

**Equipment Manager:** Ian Byrnes

**New Members Rep:** Brenda Berry

**IT Operations Manager:** Neil Busby

## **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.**

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