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CHAIR'S WELCOME



We are coming towards the end of our financial year and the Committee is therefore looking at next year's budget. Over the past two years the cost of room hire, refreshments and hiring speakers have all increased. The Committee has therefore made the decision to reinstate the £1 entry for attending the Plaza monthly meeting. The fee for visitors will go up to £3. The March meeting will still be free as the reinstatement decision will come into effect in April.

If you have any suggestions for the future year, please do speak to a member of the Committee.

Last, but by no means least, you may be surprised to know that we now have 50 activity groups.

All of these are supported by our Groups Co-ordinator, Roger. He does a great job of advising and helping Group Leaders. Our thanks go to him. Our thanks also to the 50 members who lead those groups. Our U3A is great because of you!

Sheila

www.chairmanthrapstonu3a@gmail.com



Membership Cards

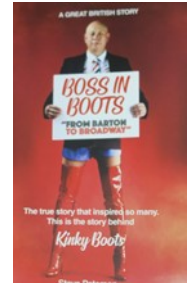


Please remember to carry your membership card with you when you attend meetings or outings. The reverse of the card has space for the contact details to be used in case of emergency. Your membership number is also required if you wish to book an outing or buy tickets for an event.

Meet the real Charley Price - From (Earls) Barton to Broadway.

Steve Pateman

.....



At last, local personality Steve Pateman had come to Thrapston to deliver his talk on the story of 'Kinky Boots', the hit film and musical play. He made his entrance into the auditorium at the Plaza, resplendent in his patent red leather thigh boots, striding out on "impossible" heels. The story follows the fortunes of Earls Barton boot and shoe manufacturers W.J Brookes Ltd., (founded in 1889), which originally specialised in fisherman's waders, gentleman's country footwear and Russian Cossack boots. The firm also provided boots for officers and men for both world wars

Steve's animated presentation took us through shoe manufacture from the 1950's 'winkle pickers' and 'brothel creepers', to the 'groups' era of the 1960's Chelsea boots and Cuban heels and the 1970's 'Glam' rock shoes styled on those worn by Elton John. In the 1980's the company was producing shoes sold through the iconic Shelly's Shoes brand in London.

Steve eventually became Managing Director of the family firm which had existed for four generations. The business was badly affected by significant financial events including cheap imports of shoes. It was a very low point in Steve's life when a phone call 'out of the blue' seemed to offer an interesting opportunity. He was called by a person introducing themselves as Sue, (*who turned out to be actually named Martin*) to supply on time, and to a reasonable quality, ladies-style thigh boots, knee length boots and court shoes but in men's sizes up to size 15.



He persuaded female staff from the Closing Room to model some of the shoes, but it was left to him to model the larger sizes, after learning the finer points of walking on high heels from his wife. The new products were first marketed at the Dusseldorf show in Germany. After the show, there were 80 new customers awaiting samples. The launch was such a success that the company's fortunes began to change for the better and the BBC made a very successful 40-minute programme, following how the shoe-making business functioned.

The film rights to the 'Kinky Boots Story' were acquired by the same company that made Calendar Girls. The principal screenwriter for 'Kinky Boots' was Nick Dee and he included a small cameo for Steve's father, who played a mourner at his own funeral. Scenes were shot in front of Earls Barton Church with funeral cars provided by the local funeral director, in a restaurant in Covent Garden and the 'Milan' shoe fair was actually at Canary Wharf.

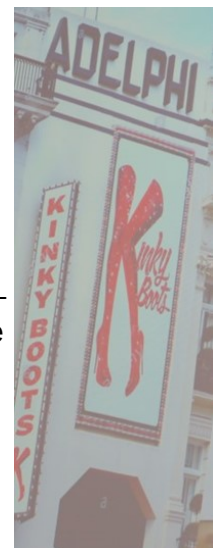
The first performances of the musical play version of 'Kinky Boots' were made in New York in 2012. Steve's name was changed to Charley Price, and the transvestite, Lola, whose character was an amalgam of ten individuals, became even larger than life.

The show was enormously successful and, in the first 6 months, earned 6 Tony awards. Early in 2019, the musical finally 'came home' with a two week booking at the Derngate Theatre in Northampton, where a total of 25,000 people saw the show. Unfortunately Steve was not allowed to set up in the theatre foyer or bar for his book sales, but was present at the Premier Inn next to the theatre, to welcome all comers to meet him for a drink and maybe to buy a copy of his story.

This was a very entertaining talk, and one had the feeling that Steve could have continued with his interesting anecdotes and experiences for as long as the time allowed. He certainly has an ambitious approach to life and with his alter ego as a Fireman with Northamptonshire Fire Service, he is fully committed to our county.

Paul Ollett

Speaker Seeker



Calendar of Events

2020

20th March	Phil Threefoot - Explorer
8th April	Beautiful - Carole King musical - see page 7
17th April	Bee Keeper - Neil Hallam
23rd April	Gervase Phinn - see page 6
15th May	Thrapston & District U3A - A.G.M. - see page 7
5th June	Greyhounds trip - see page 6

Monthly Plaza Meetings

The monthly meetings take place
on the 3rd Friday of each month
at The Plaza in Thrapston,
from 10.30 to 12 noon.



Please note that the doors will not be open before 9.50 a.m.
to allow time for us to set up the room.

We welcome visitors **BUT**, unfortunately, we are unable to allow them access before 10.15 am and only then if there is seating available. Fire regulations restrict the numbers permitted in the hall and it is important that priority is given to members. The cost for each visitor is £2.

Individuals may attend 2 Plaza meetings as visitors, before joining Thrapston & District U3A

This Month

Friday March 20th

****Please note the change of speaker****



Phil Theefoot

Explorer

Next Month

Friday April 17th



Bee Keeper

Neil Hallam

****Advance Warning****

As you will have read in Sheila's welcome on page 1, the cost of the Plaza meeting is being reinstated. Attendance will cost £1 (but still includes free tea / coffee and a biscuit) and the charge for visitors will increase to £3 per meeting.

These charges will take effect at the **APRIL** meeting.

News for March 2020

ITALIAN CONVERSATION GROUP – CHANGE OF DAY



The Italian Conversation Group has changed the day it meets from Wednesday to Monday. We will now meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday afternoons of each month at 2p.m at my home. The date of the next meeting will be Monday 16th March.

If this new arrangement means you are able to join us please contact me as we do have spaces in the group.

Marion Healey phone 720 262

Gentle Cycling Group

The photo is of our first outing of 12 miles from Thrapston to Stanwick Lakes. Five electric bikes and five man/woman powered bikes took part.

We plan to meet on the first and third Thursdays at 9.30 at Thrapston Co op. Come and join us.

Ring Glyn J on 733792 Or Glyn H on 735797



ENGLISH FOLK DANCING AT THRAPSTON U3A

I am a member of Towcester U3A where I run an English folk dance group, (we do a bit of Welsh, Scottish and Irish too but mainly English dances). I also call dances for the folk dance group at Daventry U3A.

Dancing as, you may have read recently, is good for us as it provides gentle exercise combined with fairly quick thinking' especially for people in the U3A age group

My present dance groups range from people in their late fifties to early nineties and they all manage pretty well.

If there are people in Thrapston U3A who would be interested in starting a Folk Dance group I would be happy to help. Ideally we need as many as possible for longways sets but we could start small and see how it goes.

Both of my groups pay about £2 a head per session to cover hall hire and if the kitty grows bit we have free week. I am assuming that there are halls for hire in the Thrapston area at a reasonable price.



If anybody is interested please get in touch with your groups coordinator Roger Davies groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com. I will try to attend the meeting on March the 20th at the Plaza.

Ken Judd

Advice from Third Age Trust - Coronavirus

The Third Age Trust has issued the following advice to members:

****If a member has returned from one of the areas identified by the government and has any of the symptoms identified on the government website they should not hold interest groups in their own homes, or attend interest groups or attend monthly meetings until they have followed the NHS advice provided after calling 111**

If a U3A finds that a member has contracted coronavirus, please let the Trust know immediately.

****The members of interest groups that any member with coronavirus has attended should all call 111 to ask for advice**

****The monthly meeting should be cancelled for that month (and possibly longer) until the spread of the virus has been assessed.**

In general a U3A may consider other precautions such as using hand sanitiser gel in interest groups and monthly meetings and reducing physical contact such as shaking hands until further information becomes available.

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Editor; I am sure that everyone is taking sensible precautions.

If you know of anyone who is self-isolating, or who has tested positive, please let a member of the committee know.

Card and Board Games

The group meet once a month, in the afternoon of the 1st Tuesday, at the Manor Close Flats.

They play a variety of games including Rummicub and Mah Jong but are particularly keen to see some more Scrabble players — whether beginners or experienced players.

Contact Irene for further details. Phone 732 948



Off Committee Roles

We are very grateful to a number of our members that generously give of their time to support our U3A, in Off-Committee Roles.

Glyn Hill is our Access Adviser, working to help anyone with access issues.

(acessthrapstonu3a@gmail.com)

Diane Strickland is our New Members' Representative, organising a welcome coffee morning and helping them to feel at home. (repthrapstonu3a@gmail.com)

Ann Thorpe is responsible for the team of helpers that provide us with tea/coffee and biscuits at the Plaza. Do let Ann know if you feel able to help on the rota.

Viv Tunstall is in charge of the social committee, organising the Summer and December Events that we all enjoy.

Editor: Thank you to all those who volunteer, in whatever capacity, to help make our U3A so successful.

If you feel you would like to help in someway, contact a member of the committee.

invite you to an afternoon with

GERVASE PHINN

Gervase is one of Yorkshire's most popular raconteurs and will keep you entertained with his hilarious stories of his time as a teacher and schools' inspector. This promises to be an afternoon to remember.

When? 23rd April 2020 at 1.30 p.m.

Where? United Reform Church, High Street, Wellingborough, NN8 4HW

Tickets cost £5 per person, to include refreshments.

To book your seat, email: u3anorthantsnetwork@hotmail.com OR phone 01832 735440

Invitation to join a Cornish holiday

Northampton U3A have some spaces on their U3A holiday in Cornwall in September.

If any members are interested in joining them to visit Newquay, The Eden Project and Padstow. They will be leaving Northampton at 9:30 am on the 14th of September (so not too early).

If you think you might be interested, please contact Jackie Brame at jackiebrame17@gmail.com



Greyhounds Outing

The next trip to the Greyhounds, at Peterborough Greyhound Stadium, will be on Friday June 5th, subject to there being sufficient numbers.

As usual, the cost (approximately £ 28) will include travel, entry to the meeting, programme, reserved table in the restaurant and a two course meal. If you are interested in going, please see Irene at the next Plaza meeting to book your place, or you can phone Irene.



Irene Gandy phone 732 948

Monthly Lunches - A reminder

Jean Mole invites all those who are interested in the Monthly Lunches group, to a meeting on 31st March 2020 at 10.30am at the Bridge Hotel, Thrapston. Jean has ideas to share with you and would also appreciate hearing your views and ideas. Let's hope that her initiative and energy will lead to a welcome succession of good food and good company in pleasant surroundings.

If you will be unavailable to go to the meeting, please let me know and I shall pass on your name to Jean.

email: Roger (Groups Co-ordinator) groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com or telephone R 623 047



Theatre and Outings

Beautiful Wednesday 8th April Milton Keynes.



All tickets are now sold, but there are 6 seats available for the return trip to Milton Keynes on the coach, at a cost of £10.

For further details, please email Moira at theatrethrapstonU3A@gmail.com



For our **next theatre trip** (scheduled for September or October 2020) we are always interested to hear your suggestions, once these shows become advertised.
Just let Moira know.

TEN PIN BOWLING

Ten pin bowling will take place at Wellingborough as usual this Friday March 13th.

Irene is investigating the Kettering centre for future months, should the road works at Chown's Mill prove problematic, and she will keep everyone informed.

Irene can be contacted on 732 948.



Thrapston & District

U3A

Learn, Laugh, Live

Thrapston & District U3A

Registered Charity (Number 1179593)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

May 15th 2020 to Commence at 10.15 Doors will open at 09.45.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence,
2. Minutes of the 2019 AGM,
3. Chairman's Report
4. Group Co-ordinator's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Approval of the examined accounts
7. Approve appointment of the Examiner of Accounts.
8. Resolution: "To Adopt as the approved Constitution of Thrapston & District U3A (Registered Charity 1179593), the Third Age Trust Model Constitution dated December 2018"
9. Election of the Committee for 2019/20*
(Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Business Secretary, Executive Members)
and a committee of 8 other members

Ian Byrnes

Business Secretary

04/03/2020

- * **Please note** : all written nominations must be received duly signed, proposed and seconded by paid up members of Thrapston & District U3A (a Registered Charity : Number 1179593) by myself at 47 Oakleas Rise Thrapston NN14 4JZ no later than 10.00am on Friday 1st May 2020
- * Nomination forms are available on the Thrapston & District U3A website, or from Ian Byrnes



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 2019/20

Chair: Sheila Underwood	chairmanthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Wendy Davies	vicechairthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Treasurer: Sue Campbell	treasurerthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Secretary: Ian Byrnes	secretarythrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Groups Co-ordinator: Roger Davies	groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Membership: Pauline Dennison	membershipthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Short Course Co-ordinator: Tricia Eales	coursesthrapstonu3a@yahoo.com.uk
Speaker Seeker: Paul Ollett	speakersthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor: Wendy Davies	editorthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Publicity: Sue Campbell	publicitythrapstonu3a@gmail.com
IT Operations/Website Manager: Neil Busby	websitethrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Plaza Welcome Manager: Tina Jones	welcomethrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Committee Member: Anna Bond	

Off Committee Roles

Access Advisor: Glyn Hill	accessthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Diane Strickland: New Members Rep	repthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Ann Thorpe: Refreshments Organiser	
Viv Tunstall : Social Committee	

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