



# Newsletter May 2014

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## From the Editor

This next Friday, 16 May is the Thrapston and District U3A Annual General Meeting. There should be a copy of the minutes from the meeting last year and the agenda for this year attached with this newsletter. I urge you all to attend and give your support to the new officers and committee members. Please note the new request that appears with the instructions for Theatre Trips and Outings, and enlarged upon on page 6, 'You should always carry an emergency contact telephone number with you, advising people to have Next of Kin details on you'. Thrapston and District U3A has a new home page [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) and to access the members' area you must create an account even if you had one on the old page.

## 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.

## Renewing your membership

Your membership of U3A is due for renewal in May and the Committee have agreed the fee will be £16.50 for full members and £12.50 for dual members (those who are already members with another U3A group). New members are welcome – so please tell any neighbours, friends, relatives who are not already part of the U3A. The application form may be downloaded from the website.



**Make sure you get your ticket from Brenda Berry, Richard Swindall or Glyn Hill. Only £6 per person.**

## 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 10.00 am.

### Date in 2014

2 May	16 May	AGM
6 June	Midnight - deadline for copy to the Editor for inclusion in the newsletter.	
12 June	Cottesbrooke Hall	
18 June	Day out in Southwold (See Theatre Trips and Outings)	
20 June	Lt Col Derek Kimberly. B'ham Olympic Bid, The Presentation Show	
21 June	Woburn Abbey Garden Show.	
9 July	Singin' in the Rain	
18 July	Possible that the Plaza will be closed for renovation - details to be advised.	
24 July	Cottesbrooke Hall	
15 August	Annual barbecue in place of the regular meeting - details later.	
11 September	Barnum at The Curve, Leicester and Leicester Shopping.	
17 October	Andy Smith. Under the Influence	
27 November	Calamity Jane at Milton Keynes.	

The U3A holds several national events which may be of interest to you. Please check the U3A website ([www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.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

## Sewing Group

A workshop is planned on Fusing Fabric: creative cutting, bonding and mark-making with a soldering iron. This is open to anyone but will be particularly enjoyable for those interested in discovering new ways to use and manipulate fabric.

Places are limited but we need at least 12 persons in order to cover costs for our speaker/demonstrator. All equipment and materials will be provided. No date has been fixed yet but it will be between Monday and Friday from 9.30a.m - 4p.m approx. Cost: £18.50 to £24.50 - depending on numbers

Contact: Guinette Davies 01832 733436 for more details and to book a place.

## **The Antiques & Bygones Group**

On 27 May, in the Methodist Church Hall at 2pm, James Burton will give us an Antiques Road Show of our own. Bring your own oldies for a frank opinion and valuation (Valuations on books, paintings, husbands or wives values are not considered). I am away for June so I propose that our next meeting be the 21 July when I will talk on, Clocks! (What is the time? Where on earth are we.) and the Thrapston clock makers. This last subject is a stretch of my ideas and, please, have you any ideas for our future activities?

David Macey

## **Tai Chi Group**

Formed a year ago group has gone from strength to strength since its beginning. We are slowly learning our Tai Chi 88 Forms also useful exercises which help improve our balance and muscle strength, all performed to relaxing music. We have recently moved to a new venue, St John Ambulance room, but due to our popularity we are unable to accept any new members. If you are interested please contact us and we will add you to the waiting list.

Linda Vickerman e-mail [linannvic2000@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:linannvic2000@yahoo.co.uk)

## **Advanced Driving Group**

The general aim of the group will be to help improve our driving. Most of us have a lot of driving experience, and perhaps don't feel the need to concentrate on the task in hand. This is when we are most at risk. Advanced driver training teaches us to observe and anticipate the unexpected. Contact me to check on spaces and venue either by e-mail <[geoffhill.hill5@gmail.com](mailto:geoffhill.hill5@gmail.com)> or phone 01933 624645

Geoff Hill

## **Book Club Review**

The Blasphemer by Nigel Fardall - brilliant. A good read. Held interest from start to finish. It was a fascinating, interwoven story of peoples lives. We gave this book 8½ out of 10.

Michelle Owen

## **Cycling Group**

The first cycle ride this year was a pleasant, easy off-road route taking in the nature reserve at Aldwincle and Wadenhoe Tearoom. Cake is always guilt free if you combine it with exercise.

Rachel Thompson



## **Military History**

On Monday 8 April Ron Wood gave a very interesting talk to the group on the logistical problems facing many of the Crusades of the Mediaeval period. The group is now full, but if anybody is interested in joining, contact Gerry Martin to join the waiting list.

## 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. You should always carry an emergency contact telephone number with you.

**Saturday 21 June - Woburn Abbey Garden Show.** Many of you enjoyed our February talk about maintaining the gardens at Woburn Abbey, and now you have the opportunity to see it all. Expressions of interest are asked for at the next U3A meeting where we will have details of a coach trip to The Woburn Abbey Garden Show. The show is open from 10am - 5pm. There will be lots to see that will tempt you to try it in your garden. Travelling by coach will relieve you of the hassle of driving yourself and then having to find somewhere to park. Please think about it.  
Guinette Dennison

**Wednesday 9 July - Singin' in the Rain - matinee.** The coach price is £20 and payable now. There are still a few places available. We will leave Thrapston at 10.30 am. Brenda phone 730225.

**Thursday 11 September - Barnum, Curve Theatre, Leicester** Matinee performance



We have very good seats and this is your last chance to book a ticket for the show. The price of £42 includes the theatre ticket, transport and tip for the driver. Payment should be made at the May meeting. The bus will leave The Co-op car park at 1.00pm and return immediately after the show (approx 5.00pm) There will be time for shopping/lunch. Pauline 01832 732724 dennison987@gmail.com

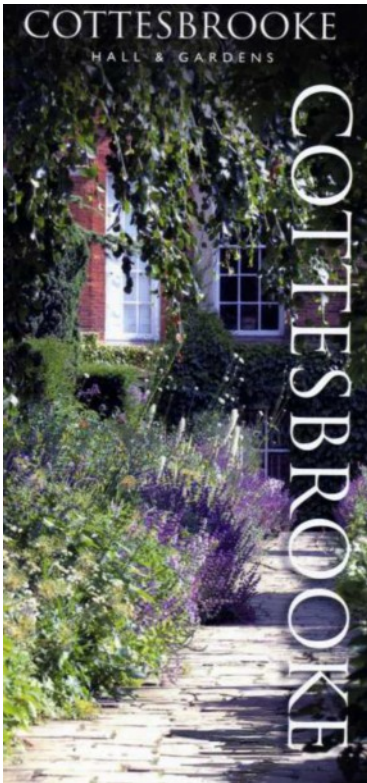
**Thursday 27 November- Calamity Jane at Milton Keynes.** Matinee performance The show stars Jodie Prenger (Oliver, Spamalot and One Man Two Guvnor's). I have booked good tickets and the price will be approx. £32 to include ticket, coach fare and tip for the driver. Provisional bookings will be taken at the May meeting. Pauline 01832 732724 dennison987@gmail.com

**Walk 2** - Last month the sun shone on us and we had a very enjoyable walk from Southwick going through woods, a plum orchard and grassy fields as well as a beautiful bluebell wood. On the last Thursday of this month (29th) we will be meeting in Blatherwycke for a 6.5 mile walk via Top Lodge and Kings Cliffe, probably stopping at Top Lodge for a coffee stop. New members are welcome to join the group. Pauline 01832 732 724 dennison987@gmail.com

### Newspaper Headlines

Marijuana issue sent to a joint committee  
Homeless survive winter: Now what?  
Homicide victims rarely talk to police.  
17 remain dead in morgue shooting spree.  
Cow urine makes for juicy lemons.

Worker suffers leg pain after crane drops 800  
pound weight on his head.  
City unsure why the sewer smells.  
Study shows frequent sex enhances pregnancy  
chances.



Two visits to **Cottesbrooke Hall** [NN6 8PF] have been arranged for Thursday 12 June **and** Thursday 24 July 2014, both from 1.00pm. All members within the Northamptonshire Network of U3As are invited, following last year's successful visit to Boughton House.

Members [sorry but no visitors] may choose their day **but must** arrive between 1.00pm and 1.30pm so that timed tours can be organised. Each guided tour takes about 45 minutes with a maximum of 18 people per group at 15 minute intervals. The maximum number for each day is 100, as it is a private house lived in all year, so I hope that everyone can be fitted in. They are opening early on those two days especially for U3A. **The cost is £12.00 per member** to include a guided tour of the Hall, admission to the gardens plus tea/coffee and cake. **Please make payment to Thrapston & District U3A.** All tickets will be available on arrival at the Hall, where there is a large car park. Please note that picnics are not allowed anywhere within the grounds, including the car park.

Closing date for the June visit is Monday 12 May and

for the July visit it is Monday 23 June. If you have any questions concerning these visits please do not hesitate to contact me by email at [glynishillo6@aol.com](mailto:glynishillo6@aol.com) or phone 01832 735797, **but** please do not contact Cottesbrooke Hall itself. I will be taking names with payment (cheques payable to Thrapston and District U3A) at the April and May (AGM) meeting.

Glyn Hill



### Social Committee News

Brenda Berry, Richard Swindall and Glyn Hill are the Social Sub-committee. The events definitely confirmed are the Barbecue at the Sailing Club on Friday August 15 at 12.00.

We intend to run the same successful format as last year. Plus we'd like to have a Barn Dance as an annual event in December, possibly at the Plaza.

We're also looking at a Warner's Holiday which takes place at Thorsby Hall 2 - 5 February 2015. Four days half board and the cost is £208 per person with £50 deposit and the balance in September. There are double and twin rooms available but no single. Brenda will be taking expressions of interest at the next two meetings and will organise travel (either a bus or shared cars) if there are enough takers. Please ring her on 730225 or email me on [glynishillo6@aol.com](mailto:glynishillo6@aol.com) If you have any queries or would like to go on the list.

Glyn Hill

## Group Leaders' Report April 2014

I'm really pleased with the continued success of established groups and with the number of new groups that are evolving as we enter our second year. If anyone has any ideas for new groups, or (even better) are happy to run a group, please contact me and I can arrange for an expressions of Interest list to be available.

### ICE (in case of emergency)

When discussing the redesign of the membership form the issue arose regarding contact details for members should they be taken ill. The committee decided not to continue with this information on the form but that a more sensible place would be for members to have it on their person. So please would you record ICE (in case of emergency) contact details firstly on the back of your U3A membership card and secondly as a saved contact under ICE on your mobile phone. [The Emergency Services recommend everyone puts ICE into their mobile phones, e.g. 'ICE John Smith (son) 01832 732123)' - Ed.] You may wish to inform your group leader of the whereabouts of these details – but this is not obligatory.

### New Groups

#### Short Town and Village Walks

Brenda Berry and I are the group leaders and our plan is to organise spring/summer monthly short walks around our local beautiful villages. The aim is to find out more about their history and significant events. We anticipate that they will be about 1½ hours and 1½ miles long and will take place on a weekday morning from 10.30 until 12. Members might wish to follow up with lunch at a local hostelry.

Draft programme

Thursday 15 May 10.30 Islip Guide - Eric Franklin Start: Woolpack Inn, Kettering Road

Thursday 12 June 10.30 Thrapston Guide - Neil Busby Start: The Bull Ring

To be arranged

July (not Thursday) Higham Ferrers

August Oundle

September Grafton Underwood

October Geddington

For our first walk on 15 May we'll meet at 10.30 at the Woolpack. Eric Franklin is the leader. [www.thrapstonhistorysoc.co.uk](http://www.thrapstonhistorysoc.co.uk) is the Thrapston District History Society website. He has prepared an eight-page leaflet on Islip and will have it available. There is no charge for printing but he will be happy to receive donations to the Society. The walk will be through the High Street, crossing the river at the mill and back through Water's Edge. We have 19 core members and the walks are open to all members. Please email me [glynishillo6@aol.com](mailto:glynishillo6@aol.com) or phone Brenda 01832 730225 if you would like to come to the first walk.

Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.

I'm supposed to respect my elders, but its getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

## **Ukelele**

A new member, Marion Healey, has offered to set up this group. We have two people interested and would like a few more. The planned time is Tuesday mornings but frequency has not been decided. Please contact Marion on 01832 720262 or email [marion.healey@icloud.com](mailto:marion.healey@icloud.com)

## **BSL Sign Language**

Rachel Thompson is keen to set up this new group and will do so if there are enough interested members. Please contact her on 01832 734974

## **Photography**

The Photography group meets on the first Monday in the month 10.30 to 12.30 at Thrapston Bowls Club and we have five places available for new members. We have a wide range of experience and expertise, from those just finding out what our cameras can do, to those who already produce stunning photographs. If you'd like to join us please contact me on [glynishillo6@aol.com](mailto:glynishillo6@aol.com) 01832 735797.

## **Current Group Vacancies**

If you are looking to take on something new, there are spaces within the following groups.

- Tai Chi
- Advanced Driving (new group) [geoffhill5@gmail.com](mailto:geoffhill5@gmail.com)
- Photography [glynishillo6@aol.com](mailto:glynishillo6@aol.com)
- Antiques and Collectables
- Magic (new group) [osmec@btinternet.com](mailto:osmec@btinternet.com)
- Walks 2
- Ten Pin Bowling
- Country Dancing
- Current Issues
- Papercraft
- Family History
- Cycling
- Bowls
- Patchwork
- Photography

There may also be 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. Glyn Hill

A young man reported for his first day of work at a supermarket. He was greeted by the manager who welcomed him to the store, smiled and shook his hand. He handed him a broom and said, 'The first job is to sweep out this warehouse'. The young responded, 'But, I'm a graduate'. 'I'm sorry', said the manager, 'I forgot, Give me the broom and I'll show you how.'

A feminist walks into a 'Men Only' bar. I'm sorry, Ma'am, but I only serve men in this bar'. 'That's all right', said the feminist, 'I'll take two of them'.

## Come Country Dancing

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 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.

### 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.

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