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**Welcome from the Chair**

I'm writing this with mixed feelings: sadness that this is my last Welcome From The Chair and elation at the achievements of the last month. First of these was the award from Thrapston Town Council to our U3A for our Contribution to the Community and secondly, the most amazing Open Day

I could ever have hoped for. And it was all of you that made it happen. Everyone rallied to the call and pulled together to create a truly stunning spectacle. We had Chairmen and Committee members from Oundle, Wellingborough, Brixworth, Northampton and Higham & Rushden. All were blown away by the displays, organisation, friendly welcome and the party atmosphere. One simply said 'Wow, it's absolutely buzzing!'. These U3As have been putting on Open Days for years and some have over 650 members, but couldn't believe what little Thrapston had done. I only wish you could have seen their faces when they saw our Contribution to the Community award. Like Ireland, they were 40 shades of green.

Ultimately, we had 93 visitors of which eighteen joined on the day. So many others wanted information packs that we ran out and had to rob the membership packs. Hence, I am confident that many more of our visitors will be joining us at the following weeks.

A final quote from a member of Towcester U3A, who has just moved to our area. On his way out he said 'I feel at home already'. That's what makes Thrapston U3A so special.

Thank you and well done everyone. When we put our minds to it and work together, there is nothing we can't achieve.

Enjoy your Newsletter and I'll see you all at the AGM, which will start at the earlier time of **10:15**.

Frank Boydell, Chairman

01832 735797 chairmanthrapstonu3a@gmail.com



## **Notification of Annual General Meeting of Thrapston and District U3A .**

This will be held at the Plaza on Friday 19 May 2017 at 10.15 am  
**All fully paid up members** are entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.

The Annual Accounts will be available on the website. They are also available to inspect at Thrapston Library - please ask the librarian.

A list of members nominated for election will be distributed at the meeting.

### **Annual General Meeting Agenda**

1. Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of AGM 2016
4. Annual reports from the Chair and Group's Leader
5. To receive and adopt the statement of accounts for May 2016-April 2017
6. To receive and adopt a proposal for changing the financial year end for our U3A accounts.
7. To appoint an Independent Examiner of Accounts
8. To elect the Executive Committee and Officers.
9. To receive and adopt the proposed new Constitution.
10. To discuss proposed Motions

Following the AGM there will be a talk by

**Martin Izzard B.E.M 'Along the Nene'**

On behalf of the U3A Committee

Guinette Davies, Business Secretary.

8 April 2017

## **Forthcoming Events**

- 19 May **Annual General Meeting, plus Along the Nene by Martin Izzard BEM**
- 16 June **Branch Meeting - School Holiday Fiascoes by Mike Leonard**
- 21 July **Branch Meeting - Amy Johnson by Roy Smart**
- 18 August **U3A Summer Events (details to be advised)**
- 15 Sept. **Branch Meeting - Rockingham Castle - 950 years of history by Patricia Woods**
- 20 October **Branch Meeting - The Plague Doctor by David Bell**
- 17 Nov. **Branch Meeting - Day in the life of TV Licence enforcement officer by Mike Long**
- 15 December **U3A Yuletide Event (details to be advised)**
- 2018**
- 19 January **Branch Meeting - Tales from the Cornerfield Apiary by Freddie Harris**
- 16 February **Branch Meeting - Andy Smith with an as yet unconfirmed talk.**
- 16 March **Branch Meeting - Britain through the seasons by Tom Way.**
- 20 April **Branch Meeting - You cannot be serious - tales from the Centre Court at Wimbledon by Alan Gray MBE**
- 18 May **AGM and Branch Meeting - The Comedy of Victoria Wood by Steve Dimmer.**
- 20 July **Branch Meeting - Genealogy by Nick Barratt.**
- 17 August **U3A Summer Events (details to be advised)**
- 19 October **Branch Meeting - Brief History of Drinking and Inns, Public House and Beer Houses of Thrapston and District by Eric Franklin.**

## **Kicks & Frills – The story of the French Can Can**

At the April meeting we were entertained by Mr David Price of Rugby to a very informative presentation on the vigorous dance that we all know as the Can Can. David had investigated the subject which has its roots in 17<sup>th</sup> century France in great depth and in the process had uncovered many facts unknown to most of us. It was his ambition to research and produce a book on the subject as it appears that there was not a comprehensive history of the dance to be found. Early records of the dance show that it was originally performed only by men and later as couples but still with the high kicks and flamboyance of the movements made by the gentlemen. The performances had associations with country dancing similar to what we know these days as Barn Dances whereby enthusiasm and great amounts of energy are expended in equal measures.

Later in the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries the dance had progressed to musical variety theatre and vaudeville. David's presentation contained a selection of film clips including one classic from 1942 featuring a very youthful Angela Lansbury and George Sanders dancing with great exuberance in what David considered to be a close representation on how the dance was interpreted in the early days before some of the later Hollywood films which are perhaps more familiar to us all now. The dance is still performed all over the world to the familiar Jaques Offenbach music 'Infernal Galop' from Orpheus in the Underworld and specifically in Paris which is of course the home of the French Can Can.

### **Activities**

#### **Summer Event – 18 August 2017 – Middle Nene Saling Club**

As the buffet last year was so successful, it has been decided to have the same this year, using the same butcher for the meats. Home-made salads will be prepared by selected members of the Branch. The price per ticket will be £6, the same as last years and these will be available at the May, June and July meetings. Please buy your tickets by the end of July as we need to know numbers for catering purposes.

#### **Tickets will not be available on the day.**

If you cannot get to a meeting contact Brenda on 730225.

#### **Tuesday 23 May - History Walk in Wadenhoe**

This is now full. A reminder that we shall be meeting at 2.30 in the Co-op car park for lifts or, for those travelling independently, at 3 p.m. in the Village Hall car park in Wadenhoe. A donation of £2 is welcome. There's the lovely barn tea room in the village for refreshments after the walk.

#### **Wednesday 21 June - History Walk in Islip**

We shall be meeting at the Woolpack at 10.30 (please make your own way there).

Eric Franklin from Thrapston Heritage will be leading. We shall be walking up Kettering Road to the site of the Toll Cottage, then along

Toll Bar Road to the forge. The return will be along the path by the river to Nine Arches bridge.

He also plans to provide a leaflet . Eric says 'the 1 June is the Summer Solstice so the sundial may even work!'

A donation of £2 each to the society will be welcome.

Maximum 20, please sign up at the May meeting or contact Glyn on 01832 735797 [glynishillo6@aol.com](mailto:glynishillo6@aol.com)

### **Flower Arranging Group**

Our next get-together will be on 26 May at 10:00 am in St John Ambulance Room, Bull Ring, Thrapston.

Please bring along three blooms, foliage, oases etc and together we will have fun trying to produce a stunning arrangement whilst drinking coffee and biscuits.

We are a new group and if anyone is interested you are very welcome, just come along.

### **Invitation for U3A Groups**

#### **The Elizabethan Experience at Shakespeare's Globe**

#### **New dates for 2017 and 2018**

Many U3A members have appreciated the Elizabethan Experience arranged by The Globe for U3A groups. These visits have proved so popular that The Globe is kindly putting on extra dates from June 2017 until February 2018.

Visit [u3a.org.uk](http://u3a.org.uk) members' area Offers page or call National Office for copies of booking forms.

As you will see the full U3A programme is fascinating and includes The Rose archaeological site as well as the Globe. The programme includes two refreshment options at the Swan overlooking the Thames with stunning views to St Pauls

Stop Press – the Globe has a new general groups package for 2017 The Long View. Tracing the history of the Thames visit the Globe, take the long view from The Shard and enjoy afternoon tea at Hornimans at Hay's Wharf.

Visit [shakespearesglobe.com/group-and-school-visits](http://shakespearesglobe.com/group-and-school-visits) for further information.

## **Wildlife & Wetlands Trust ‘Talk on the Wild Side’ and ‘Getting closer to the Wildside’ (sic)**

‘Talk on the Wild Side’ at Arundel,, Llanelli, Martin Mere, Washington and Welney Wetland Centres. The day includes a talk about Sir Peter Scott and current conservation projects and guided tour of the wetland centre visited.

‘Close to the Wild Side’ at Caerlaverock, Castle Espie, Slimbridge and London Wetland Centres. The day includes a variety of activities getting U3A groups closer to nature, such as adult pond dipping and expert guided bird watching in hides (exact activity depends on centre)  
Both events start this autumn.

Visit [u3a.org.uk](http://u3a.org.uk) members’ area Offers page or call National Office for copies of booking forms or see [www.wwt.org.uk/groups/u3a](http://www.wwt.org.uk/groups/u3a)

### **From The Editor**

This is my last effort at a newsletter for Thrapston and District U3A. It has been a task I enjoyed, although I would have liked more copy, including photographs, from our members for publication.

Although The Editor, in my case, may be a curmudgeonly and fussy old git he has given of his best and tried to maintain standards of grammar and style. The Editor collates, formats and prepares what others have written for publication. The Editor should not need to draft any copy (except for a short comment or two).

I wish my successor all the very best and recommend - do it your way.

### **Thrapston and District U3A Committee**

Chair: Frank Boydell

Treasurer: Tricia James

Groups Co-ordinator: Marion Healey

Publicity: Ann Carter

Newsletter Editor: Parry Jones

Vice-Chair: Sheila Underwood

Secretary: Guinette Davies

Membership: Madeline Fisher

Speaker Seeker: Paul Ollett

**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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