



The Thrapston & District U3A website is www.thrapstonu3a.co.uk

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From The Chairman	<p>I am delighted to be able to announce that Parry Jones has agreed to be co-opted onto the committee and to bring his experience to the production of the newsletter, starting with the current issue.</p> <p>My thanks to Tricia and her organising skills and to all the volunteers who have put out chairs, made refreshments and met people at the door. We have been getting compliments about the friendly welcome members, new members and guests have received. Tricia is still looking for volunteers for future meetings and the lists will be available at the next meeting for you to add your name. If you are keen to help please e- mail me at Glyn James <glynjames@btopenworld.com> or 01832 733792</p>
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Islip viewed across the Thrapston Boating Lake with the Sailing Club in the mid-foreground

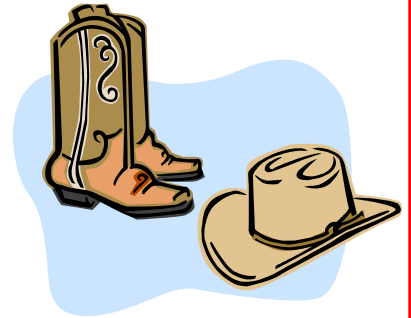
From the Editor

I approach this new task with some degree of trepidation. How critical are readers going to be of my style, my grammar, my spelling, my syntax. Well, here is my first effort and unfortunately, it is a bit rushed. I hope that future editions will be improved by having had more time to prepare and format; and hopefully receive constructive feedback. Please contact me if you have any matters you wish to

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Q: Why are quantum physicists reported to be terrible in bed?
 A: Because when they find the position, they can't find the momentum, and when they have the momentum, they can't find the position.

AFTERNOON BARN DANCE



12 DECEMBER

2 - 6 PM

TICKETS £8,
INCLUDING REFRESHMENTS

THE BRIDGE HOTEL,
THRAPSTON

FAMILY AND FRIENDS VERY WELCOME

Tickets will be on sale at the
monthly meeting on 15 November or
from Glyn Hill, contact 01832 735797 glynishill06@aol.com

Cheques payable to Thrapston & District U3A

Forthcoming Thrapston & District Events

2013

- 15 November The Meaning of Flowers with Brian Jones
3 December Visit to Parliament (see page 3)
6 December **Midnight.** Deadline for copy for the newsletter to be with the editor.
12 December Afternoon Barn Dance at the Bridge Hotel, Thrapston on Thursday 12 December 2-6.
Tickets are £8 including refreshments, and will be on sale at the Monthly meetings on
15 November or from Glyn Hill contact 01832 735797 glynishill06@aol.com
Cheques payable to Thrapston and District U3A. Family and friends very welcome
- see the advert. on page 2
20 December Christmas Programme. Doors will open from 10.00 am for mulled wine and mince
pies) and viewing of displays by the various activity groups. The meeting proper will
commence at 10.30 am and will consist of representatives of the various groups
expanding upon and explaining their displays. We look forward to some interesting
and entertaining displays, including a reading by the Creative Writing Group of
extracts from their soon to be published book of short stories.

2014

- 17 January To be finalised
25 January Priscilla Queen of the Desert (see page 3)
21 February To be finalised
21 March To be finalised
18 April To be finalised
16 May AGM
9 July Singin' in the Rain (see page 3)

Q: What does a dyslexic, agnostic, insomniac spend most of his time doing?
A: Staying up all night wondering if there really is a dog.

Forthcoming Northamptonshire U3A Events

10 December **Oundle U3A** has arranged a **coach trip** to London on so that they can see the Christmas lights, windows, do some shopping and so on. The cost is £15 and there are 6 seats left. The coach will drop us off at Hyde Park where there is a big Christmas Fair with hundreds of stalls, restaurants, entertainments, ice-rink etc. It is close to Oxford Street and not far to Kensington. We will leave Oundle at 9am and depart London at 4pm. If any of your members are interested I am sure the coach would pick them up.
My phone no. 01832 274 286 Sheila Henderson

Forthcoming National Events

20 November The Nut Cracker Marlinsky Theatre, St Petersburg at Odeon, Shaftesbury Ave, London.
4 December U3A Christmas Concert Queen's Chapel of the Savoy

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 will include the driver's tip. Once the theatres and coaches have been paid for, money paid cannot be refunded and members should try and 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.

Houses of Parliament - Tuesday 3 December 2013. We depart from the Co-op at 7.30 am and depending on the volume of traffic, we may not be able to stop for refreshments. I suggest you take a drink and a sandwich with you to eat on the coach.

A committee room has been booked for 12.30 to 3.00 pm. This gives flexibility when we have questions and answers with Andy. Please have some questions ready for him. We should start at 12.30 until 1.30 pm which allows the rest of the afternoon to take lunch in the restaurant and a debate.

We should leave about 4.00 pm and I expect the coach will stop for refreshments and comfort. Any problems, including cancellations, please phone **Margaret** on **01832 735040**.

Priscilla Queen of the Desert - 25 January 2014 (Saturday matinee). The tickets are all sold and the cost of the coach is £1. The coach will leave from the Co-op at 11.00 am giving time in Milton Keynes for shopping or lunch. Any questions phone **Brenda** on **01832 730225**.

Singin' in the Rain - Wednesday 9 July 2014. This matinee at Milton Keynes Theatre is a long way off, but by reserving early tickets for groups we have got good seats at a good price of £26, but they will only hold them until 20 January 2014 - hence the early notice. I have booked 36 seats and you may reserve these by paying a deposit of the seat price at the November and December meetings, or by telephoning me. The coach price will be notified later and the payment of that can wait until next April or May. Any questions phone **Brenda** on **01832 730225**.

From a Zimbabwean newspaper

While transporting mental patients from Harare to Bulawayo, a bus driver stopped at a roadside shebeen (illicit beerhall) for a few beers. When he got back to his vehicle, he found it empty, with the 20 patients nowhere to be seen. Realizing the trouble he was in if the truth was uncovered, he halted his bus at the next bus stop and offered lifts to those in the queue. Letting 20 people board, he shut the doors and drove straight to the Bulawayo Ingutsheni mental hospital, where he hastily handed over his charges, warning the nurses that they were particularly excitable. Staff removed the furious passengers; it was three days later that suspicions were roused by the consistency of stories from the 20. As for the real patients: nothing more has been heard of them and they have apparently blended comfortably back into Zimbabwean society.

Car Sharing and Other Costs

A number of groups use car-sharing for visits and I've been asked about sharing costs. Our U3A mileage payment is 40 p per mile and the committee have recommended that the mileage total is calculated and then each passenger pays their share to the driver. In addition, when a host member provides coffee and biscuits we recommend that each member pays 30 p 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.

An Englishman, a Frenchman, a Spaniard and a German were walking down the street. A juggler was performing on the street but there are so many people that the four men couldn't see the juggler. The juggler climbed on top of a platform and asked, 'Can you see me now?' The four men answered, 'Yes', 'Oui', 'Si', 'Ja'.

A classics professor went to a tailor to get his trousers mended. The tailor asked, 'Euripides?' The professor replied, 'Yes. Eumenides?'

From the Editor Continued from page 1

air. I do not promise to publish all correspondence, but I will if it is likely to be of interest to the readers. Having agreed to become the editor of the Thrapston & District U3A newsletter, I was asked to attend the committee meeting last week. I was made very welcome and briefed on what was wanted of me in this role, and this is to produce a monthly newsletter to be distributed to members about one week before the meeting held on the third Friday of each month.

There is a surprising amount of work involved in formatting and publishing a newsletter such as this, and so I need to set out a few ground rules. I will need a minimum of seven days to collate and format the newsletter, so I must set a deadline of copy to be sent to me, which will be midnight on the first Friday of each month. **Material that is late will not be published that month.**

To save me having to transcribe material, I would greatly appreciate correspondents sending me their copy as an attachment to an e-mail. The e-mail address appears at the bottom of this page. I also welcome letters from members, which I do not promise to publish, but if I consider them worthy of interest to our readers, I will do so.

About myself. I was born a few thousand years ago in Wales, and lived and later worked mainly in London, until I moved to Rhodesia when aged 20, and later to Papua New Guinea. I returned to live permanently to Britain twenty years ago and moved to Thrapston six years ago with my wife. Sadly, she died only a few months after we moved into our house. I now live alone with Miss T, my cat, although my elder son and his family live in a nearby village. I also have two daughters and one other son. I am a member of the Family History and Military History Groups of our U3A and I participate in a number of other Thrapston organisations. I am sure that as I settle in to the job of editor, I will become more familiar to you, and in turn you will become more familiar to me. I look forward to that.

Parry Jones

Your U3A Committee

Chair	Glyn James	Vice-Chair	Glyn Hill
Treasurer	Bryan Elliott	Secretary	Michelle Owen
Group 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 in this newsletter 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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