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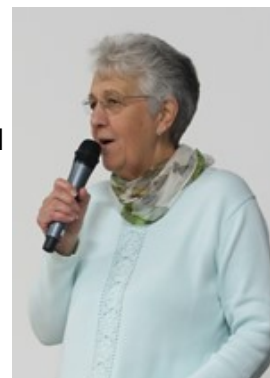
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**CHAIR'S WELCOME**

This year seems to be flying by. By the time you read this, the clocks will have been turned back, Halloween will have come and gone, and we will have enjoyed the fireworks on November 5th. The plans for December are already in the pipeline. I know of some Groups that already have dates in their diaries for a different type of meeting and the plans for the December Social are well advanced thanks to Viv and her team.

I am pleased to say that we now have a full Committee. It was very pleasing to get so many responses from you all after our last appeal. However, and there is always a however or a but: In May both Wendy and I must step down as we have both served our three years. Our U3A will therefore need a new Chair and a new Newsletter Editor. I think you would agree that it would be a shame to lose our Newsletter and the Committee will find it more difficult to operate without someone as Chair. If you think either of these roles may be the way you could contribute, please come and sit in on a Committee meeting or two and find out more. If you know a member who may be well suited to either of these roles, then please encourage them to find out more.

I am looking forward to hearing Chief Superintendent Bob Thorogood speaking about "Behind the Call of Duty" at the Plaza meeting. After the items in the news recently I think some of those events may not always be pleasant and sometimes even gruesome. However, I am sure the talk will be interesting and informative. See you there



**Sheila**

[www.chairmanthrapstonu3a@gmail.com](mailto:www.chairmanthrapstonu3a@gmail.com)



# Hunters In The Sky (Raptors)

by Jennifer Anderson.

Jennifer is Director of Studies for Wildlife at Akkadium College and her talk centred on birds of prey, otherwise referred to as raptors.



Jennifer began by summarising their shared physical characteristics, such as their binocular vision, sharp talons, hooked beak and, of course, their speed. She explained the two main classifications, falconiformes and strigiformes. The former applicable to eagles, hawks and falcons and the latter to owls. Supported by overhead slides, she described their behaviour and habitats, explaining that, on grouse moors, they are an enemy of man. We learnt that the peregrine falcon has the ability to reach a height of over 3000 feet and hurtle down touching speeds of 200mph, thus establishing it as the fastest living creature on the planet.

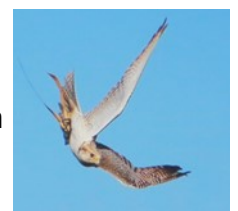
She talked about the various species of owls, hawks and vultures but explained that the osprey was one-of-kind. The latter, previously in declining numbers together with the Red Kite, have now been given a new stimulus by conservationists. Some species have been declining due to changes in land use and destruction of their habitats. This includes the impact of herbicides, lack of hedging, deforestation and commercial development.



Jennifer continued with a look into ancient history, showing a map, where falconry was first used. A photo was shown of a 2700 year old stone carving of a falcon handler. This was discovered at a palace, in what is now known as Syria, by the English archaeologist Austin Henry Layard. Falconry later spread throughout the East to China, India, then to Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Sicily, the rest of Europe and in the 5th century, to England.

Jennifer engaged the audience by asking people's thoughts in response to various questions, such as how to describe falconry. Various dictionary definitions followed, resulting in "the hunting of live quarry by a trained bird of prey". There followed a description of the necessary kit to handle and train falcons. The hood, it was explained, was to keep the bird from being distracted in noisy environments, the bird keeping calm as if it were asleep in the dark.

Rachel Hands, in 1486, wrote a treatise on hawking and hunting in which she outlined the social hierarchy of the users of hunting birds. Various birds were assigned to be used depending upon your social status. For example, if you were a servant, you were expected to use a kestrel for hunting, but a baron would use a buzzard. Jennifer showed a long list of those who were allowed to use each kind of bird. This was extracted from Rachel's book called 'English Hawking And Hunting - The Boke Of St. Albans'. It has been reproduced from that period and is currently available from Amazon. It was interesting to learn that Henry VIII was keen on falconry. In addition, Jennifer pointed out that there are references to falconry in Shakespeare's plays. Jennifer, in conclusion, emphasised how falconry has been part of the fabric of our society throughout the ages and continues to the present day.



A well delivered talk, I'm sure enjoyed by all, which ended with 'raptorus' applause.

(Sorry. I couldn't resist it.)

*Terry Robinson*

*Speaker Seeker.*



## Calendar of Events

### 2019

- 8th November Greyhound Racing  
15th November Behind the call of duty - Chief Supt. Bob Thoroughgood - see below  
16th December Science & Technology - guest speaker - see page 5  
20th December Christmas Event - see page 7

### 2020

- 17th January India - Tigers - Tom Wray  
21st February Kinky Boots Story - Steve Pateman  
8th April Beautiful - Carole King musical - see page 6

## Monthly Plaza Meetings

- When?** 3rd Friday of each month  
**Where?** The Plaza in Thrapston  
**When?** from 10.30 to 12 noon



*Please note that doors open at 10.00 a.m.*

*Visitors are also welcome to join us for a small charge of £2*

### *This Month*

*Friday November 15th*

## ***Behind the Call of Duty***

*by*  
*Chief Supt. Bob Thorogood*



*Please note that some of the details of the talk may be a little gruesome*

### *Next Month*

*Friday December 20th*

## ***Christmas Event***

*See page 7*



## News from the Groups

### Line Dancing Group



LINE DANCERS, dust off your dancing shoes!

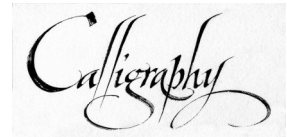
While our own Shirley Ballas of Line Dancing, Sue Pringle, is temporarily incapacitated, SHEILA HANKINS will stand in as your Line Dancing Group Leader. The venue will be the St John's Ambulance Hall, as usual.

We wish Sue a very speedy recovery and thank Sheila for her willingness to have the girls strutting their stuff once more!

To find out when the first session will be, telephone Sheila on 07720 638 613.

### CALLIGRAPHY

We currently have 5 members who wish to learn the ins and outs of Calligraphy.



Can you help them to get started?

We are looking for a person in our U3A who has some knowledge and experience of Calligraphy and who would be willing to act as a guide or mentor to our wannabe calligraphers. You don't have to be an experienced teacher or instructor!

What we are looking for is someone who knows what tools to use and the best ways of using them and who has a love of Calligraphy that you would like to encourage in others.

If you think you can help, contact Roger on R 623 047 or [groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com](mailto:groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com).

### NEW GROUP !

Are you interested in playing a wide range of Table Games on the 4<sup>th</sup> WEDNESDAY of the month, from 2 to 4pm?

The sessions will be held at a member's house in Thrapston

### TABLE GAMES



### NEW GROUP !

To find out more, please contact [SHIRLEY HAYNES](mailto:SHIRLEY HAYNES) on 731 471.

The standard contribution for refreshments would be appreciated

Try some new games such as **Qwuzzle**, **Genius Square**, **Coloured sudoku**, **30 cube**.....

The aim is to have fun and exercise the mind!!



## Science and Technology Group



We have booked Michael Brown, a lively and humorous speaker, for our Christmas event on **Monday 16 December at 2 p.m.** in the **Baptist Church**.

His talk is entitled '**Death in the Garden**', about poisonous and dangerous plants.

It is open to all U3A members and the charge will be £4, to include mince pies and coffee or tea.



Please book a place by calling Glyn on 735 797 or emailing [glynishill06@aol.com](mailto:glynishill06@aol.com)

## Creative Writing Group

has just published its Autumn 2019 collection of works, entitled *Pick 'n' Mix 9* which will be available to purchase at £2 per copy at monthly branch meetings. Previous issues of *Pick 'n' Mix* will also be available at £1 per copy.



This A5 size soft bound publication runs to 50 pages of 20 short stories and poems, two from each group member, and has proven to be a jolly good read in its own right and a popular 'stocking filler' for Christmas. Proceeds from sales go toward the publication of further editions; none of the contributors receive any payment.

## Short Courses Update

### H.E.Bates

After a first meeting abandoned due to bad weather, we are restarting on Wednesday Nov 20<sup>th</sup> at leaders home in Rushden at 2 30-4 15pm.

Our 2nd meeting is on Tuesday 10th Dec. 2 30-4 15pm

We are planning to read and discuss his works and watch some of his short TV dramatisations.

We have room for another 4 members. Please contact Linda Walker on R 387 892



### First Aid



There are still a few places available on the next First Aid course.

Contact Tricia if you are interested.

### Elvis

If you are interested in the music of Elvis, then perhaps you would like to join with others who have a similar interest to explore his music and what influenced him.

If so, contact Tricia for more details.



To contact Tricia send an email to [coursesthrapstonu3a@yahoo.com](mailto:coursesthrapstonu3a@yahoo.com)

## Theatre and Outings



### Theatre Trips



On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October, a small but enthusiastic group of theatre-goers boarded the coach at the Thrapston Co-op to travel to Northampton for a pleasant day out, culminating in the entertaining and emotional show **CALENDAR GIRLS** at the Derngate Theatre.

It is based on a true story, which focuses on a branch of the Women's Institute in Yorkshire. We were moved in the early part of the story by the loss of a much loved husband to cancer. As a way of focusing the grief in a positive way, it was decided that the ladies from the WI would pose semi-naked for a calendar to raise funds to supply a local hospital with a settee, in memory of the husband who died.

The show continued as an emotional roller coaster of ups and downs, with a group of brilliant characters and their antics, culminating in a range of ladies in cheeky poses with sunflowers discreetly positioned to cover any embarrassment!



We were left with one lasting message - a quote from the show; 'be a sunflower - facing towards the sun and being proud, not hiding away in the shadows'.

### ***STOP PRESS***



By popular request, we have just booked 20 matinee seats for the fantastic Carole King musical **"Beautiful" on Wednesday 8th April at Milton Keynes.**

The cost will be **£48.00 per person** which includes return coach fare.

If you are interested, we will need to collect the full amount of £48.00 per person at our next branch meeting on Friday 15th November.

Payment options;

1. Cash
2. Cheque made payable to "Thrapston and District U3A"
3. By BACS (ask for details)

**\*\*Please remember that trips are for members only and once a booking has been made and paid for, no refunds will be possible.\*\***

For our next theatre trip, scheduled for September or October 2020, we are always interested to hear your suggestions once these shows become advertised.

Please contact Moira so that an interest list can be started:

***email - [TheatreThrapstonU3A@gmail.com](mailto:TheatreThrapstonU3A@gmail.com)***

For all our theatre trips, the coach leaves Thrapston Co-op at 10:30am and returns approximately by 6pm.

Please make sure you arrive at the Co-op in plenty of time, especially if you have a mobility aid which will need to be stored on the coach.

## **\*\* Christmas Event \*\***

**Friday December 20th 2019**

**Doors open at 9.45 a.m. for a 10 a.m. start.**



All those in the ballot have been allocated tickets for the Christmas event.

If you have not yet collected your tickets, then please do so before or at the **November Plaza meeting**.  
(*You will need to have your membership card with you*).

After that date, tickets not paid for will be re-allocated.

If you are unable to collect them at the Plaza and cannot arrange for someone to do so on your behalf, then please contact **Polly (R 625 181)** as soon as possible.

**Please note:** if you are unable to use your tickets, please return them so that they may be passed to other members .

This year, we will be entertained by Eugene Matthias, the magician who kept us enthralled at our January meeting, (held in the Parish Church).

Music will be provided by our talented Makin' Music and Ukulele Groups.

For your convenience (and to avoid congestion!), drink orders will be taken at your table, and the drinks will be delivered to you in the interval. This will also give you time to complete the quiz and enjoy some magic tricks at your table.

### **News Update**

Congratulations to Thrapston's Mayor, Cllr Karen Draycott, who recently completed a sponsored silence from "Sunrise to Sunset".



The day's donations and sponsorship pledges raised an amazing £5,700 in aid of the MIND Charity.

Karen was hoping to raise awareness of mental health issues and highlight the need for improved mental health provision in the community.

Well Done, Karen

### **Note from the Editor**

Apologies to Jan Pacey and the French Encore Group for my typing error in last month's newsletter.



I should have said that the group meet on the **1st and 3rd THURSDAY** of the month (not Tuesday!).



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

## 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, such as the Christmas Event.



### ***Thrapston and District U3A Committee 2019/20***

Chair: Sheila Underwood	<a href="mailto:chairmanthrapstonu3a@gmail.com">chairmanthrapstonu3a@gmail.com</a>
Vice Chair: Wendy Davies	<a href="mailto:vicechairthrapstonu3a@gmail.com">vicechairthrapstonu3a@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer: Sue Campbell	<a href="mailto:treasurerthrapstonu3a@gmail.com">treasurerthrapstonu3a@gmail.com</a>
Secretary: Ian Byrnes	<a href="mailto:secretarythrapstonu3a@gmail.com">secretarythrapstonu3a@gmail.com</a>
Groups Co-ordinator: Roger Davies	<a href="mailto:groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com">groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com</a>
Membership: Pauline Dennison	<a href="mailto:membershipthrapstonu3a@gmail.com">membershipthrapstonu3a@gmail.com</a>
Short Course Co-ordinator: Tricia Eales	<a href="mailto:coursesthrapstonu3a@yahoo.com.uk">coursesthrapstonu3a@yahoo.com.uk</a>
Speaker Seeker: Terry Robinson	<a href="mailto:speakersthrapstonu3a@gmail.com">speakersthrapstonu3a@gmail.com</a>
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### **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](mailto:editorthrapstonu3a@gmail.com)

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