



Thrapston & District



NEWSLETTER October 2013

Chairman's Notes

We were delighted to welcome five new members at our last meeting, as well as a number of guests who had come to hear Brian Sumpton's informative talk on the RSPB and the fascinating story of the red kites which are once more becoming an impressive sight in our skies. I believe the new members have already all signed up for a number of interest groups which is very encouraging.



The website is now fully updated with details of interest groups; what there is on offer, when they meet and how to make contact. Some groups are full and have a "waiting list" but there are still plenty with space so do make sure you are getting as much as possible out of U3A in Thrapston. You will notice the section for photos is a bit bare; we do need a few contributions, just of Thrapston or especially reflecting the activities of U3A members for both the website and the newsletter. (But we need the permission of everyone in a picture to be able to use it).

From time to time we receive information from U3A regionally and nationally about various events. Some of them are mentioned later in this newsletter, they are also on our website and as far as possible we will make any literature available at meetings.

Producing a monthly newsletter is just one of many tasks for the committee, which in this case falls to me. If there is someone who has a flair – or just enthusiasm – for a bit of local journalism, it is a job that I would happily surrender. Taking it on could involve joining the committee but need not if you did not wish to do so. What it mostly needs is someone who would enjoy trying to add a bit of colour and splash to the monthly issue. Do please get in touch with me, or any other committee member, if you are prepared to give it a go.

Regards

Glyn James

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Group Co-ordinator's Report - September 2013

I am planning to have two new groups commencing in November and these are Board Games/Rummikub (led by Irene Gandy) and Ten Pin Bowling (Group Leader to be found). I shall be fact-finding at AMF Bowling in Wellingborough on Thursday and will then organise a meeting of the eight members who have expressed an interest in the next week or so. If you haven't put your name down and you are interested, please let me know via email or telephone. In addition to these two new groups, Rachel has formed a Cycling Group in place of her walks and wheels group, for details please contact her on 01832 734974. My group; previously Discussion, has been re-launched as Current Issues. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month and I have vacancies for two or three. Our first meeting was very successful with a lively and interesting debate on wearing the veil.

I'm really keen on setting up a photography group as we have a number of interested members but I do need a Group Leader. Remember that you don't have to be an expert, just be an enthusiast and be willing to coordinate the meetings. It could be two people sharing the task. Please let me know if you'd be willing to volunteer.

There are still vacancies in Family History, Military History, Walks 2, Tai Chi, Current Issues and of course Theatre Trips and Outings. Ken aims to recommence Singing for Pleasure in January and we shall have a sign-up list available until then.

Jazz Appreciation which takes place on Sunday evenings at the Courtyard in Wellingborough also has some vacancies. There are great bands with a programme which includes:

Sunday 20th October - Zoltan Sagi with the Courtyard Quartet

Sunday 17th November - Big Chris Barber Band Rhythm section

Sunday 15th December - Richard Exall's Shooting Stars!

Please put in your diaries and come along for a good evening of music.

From Walk Group 2: Our walk on the 31 October is approximately 7.5 miles and will start at 10.00am from the Green Dragon (park opposite). We will go through Meadow Leys Wood and then over to Fermyn Woods before coming back to Brigstock. Refreshments can be had at either the Cafe in Fermyn Woods or at the pub. New members welcome.

Please contact me if you're interested in joining a group or if you would be willing to lead a new group.

A number of groups use car-sharing for visits and I've been asked about sharing costs. Our U3A mileage payment is 40p 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 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.

Glyn Hill
Group Co-ordinator
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Theatre Groups and Outings

Transport will usually be provided and will pick up and drop off outside Thrapston Co-op. The cost of the coach will include the driver's tip. Once the theatres and coaches have been paid for money 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

Wednesday 13th November 2013

THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY - Royal & Derngate Northampton

Please note that the coach for this show will leave from outside the Co-op at 12.45pm

Tuesday 3rd December 2013

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

The permit has been received and the coach booked. The coach will leave from the Co-op at 7.30am and the cost of £20 is now payable. **The final date for payment is 18th October.** Should anyone wish to cancel please let me know ASAP as I do have a reserve list.

Contact Margaret on 735040

Saturday 25th January 2014 (matinee)

PRICILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT - Milton Keynes Theatre

This international hit sensation musical, direct from the West End is booking fast but we have reserved 30 seats at £25. Deposits of the seat price will be taken at the October meeting and the **closing date for booking is 15th November** and then the coach price will be advised.

Contact Brenda on 730225

Advanced Notice

Early bird tickets are being reserved for the West End's SINGING IN THE RAIN at Milton Keynes next July. More information in November.

Members meetings

18th October 2013 'Shoe Boxes to Kyrgyzstan ' Jean Fouhy

15th November 2013 **The Meaning of Flowers** Brian Jones

20th December 2013 **Christmas Programme** To be finalised

County Events

NORTHAMPTON U3A RAMBLERS AND STRIDERS WALKING HOLIDAY

10TH MAY- 14TH MAY 2014

The holiday is organised by H F Holidays Ltd with 4 levels of Walking in the Shropshire Hills with leaders and transport are supplied. Our base, with full board, is The Longmynd Hotel, a large purpose built hotel strategically placed in an elevated location above Church Stretton. Further information, without commitment, is available from:

CLIVE OR CHRIS SPINNEY 01604 711747 (Walks Leaders Northampton U3A)

The closing date for people making enquiries is Saturday 9th November 2013.

National Events

For information about the events below - email: philippa@u3a.org.uk

- 24th October** **Hansel and Gretel** Glyndebourne opens its doors to U3A
- 12th & 20th November** **The Nut Cracker** Marlinsky Theatre, St Petersburg at Odeon, Shaftesbury Ave
- 4th December** **U3A Christmas Concert** Queen's Chapel of the Savoy

*Items for the next newsletter to be sent to Glyn James by Friday 1st November
glynjames@btopenworld.com*