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From the Editor

Autumn is upon us and dark and dank winter is lcoming. This is reflected in some of the outdoor activities going into hibernation, but hopefully, other cosier activities will flourish. There are a number of new Groups in the offing some of which should be of interest to members. The main hindrance, as always, is a lack of Group Leaders. Can you fill the gap?

Barn Dance

The social committee are pleased to announce that the Barn Dance is planned for **Friday 12 December at the Plaza from 2-5 p.m.** Tickets at £5, with refreshments provided, will be on sale at the October and November meetings or email glynishill06@aol.com

September Branch Meeting

Ashley Grove of Experience Nature gave the talk at this meeting. Mr Grove is an experienced wildlife photographer and bird-watching tour guide. His talk about British birds was illustrated with many of the photographs he has taken, some common and others quite rare or difficult to properly photograph. At the completion of his talk Mr Grove opened his display stand and sold copies of his many pictures and too the opportunity to advertise his birding tours.

For further information contact Ashley Grove at www.experiencenature.co.uk or telephone him on 07704 189835.



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 10.00am when tea/coffee and biscuits are served.

- 8 October **Town and Country Walks** This was the last walk for this year. Resuming again in Spring 2015.
- 13 October **Whist** from 2.30 to 4.30 pm. Venue to be determined, but contact Doreen 01832 732046. If you wish to participate.
- 15 October **Classical Music** 2.00 pm. See Page 6 for more information.
- 17 October **Branch meeting** - Andy Smith, Under the Influence. A second visit from this very amusing raconteur, with music and original self-written songs.
- 20 October **Cycle Group.** Meet at the Bridge Hotel, Thrapston at 9.30 am for a cycle to Stanwick Lakes and back - an approximate distance of 12 miles. This will be followed by an informal lunch at the Bridge Hotel. Contact the Group Leader, Frank Boydell on 01832 735797.
- 21 October **Book Group.** Resumption of this Group with Veronica. See Page 4.
- 21 November **Branch meeting** - N Busby and E Franklin. Family and Local History Roadshow. Our own Neil with fellow Thrapston historian Eric Franklin helping us understand our backgrounds.
- 27 November **Calamity Jane** - this is full and the coach will be at the Co-op car park at 11.00am
- 12 December **Barn Dance at the Plaza** from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm. Tickets £5, with refreshments. Tickets will be on sale at the October and November meetings or email glynishillo6@aol.com
- 17 December **Special Christmas meeting** - a festive occasion with mulled wine and mince pies to socialise and learn more about our many group activities. Guests will be particularly welcome.

2015

- 21 January Wednesday **The Full Monty** at 2.30pm, at Milton Keynes. This is already proving very popular and tickets are going rapidly. The cost will be £32 to include theatre ticket, transport and driver's tip. Bookings will be accepted at the October Branch meeting.
- 26 March Thursday at 2.15 **The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole** at The Curve, Leicester. This is the World Premier and hopefully will transfer the West End. The cost will be approximately £32 - this will be confirmed nearer the date.

For **Theatre Trips** you will be able to add your name to the lists at the branch Meetings. As many of you are aware, to obtain group booking discounts the seats have to be paid for approximately two months before the show and as the Full Monty is in January I shall require payment either at the time of booking or at the October meeting.

The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole is not until March but I shall need the full payment before the end of this year. If you cannot get to the meetings I can take bookings by telephone. Pauline Dennison Tel: 01832 723723

The U3A holds several national events which may be of interest to you. Please check the U3A website (www.u3a.org.uk) at the events and competitions page of the Members' Area Homepage.

The new **Cycling Group** had its inaugural meeting and ride on the wonderfully sunny afternoon of Friday 3 October. Perhaps the choice of The Woolpack Inn, Islip, encouraged a good turnout and a relaxed atmosphere, which made for an informal and productive meeting. This was followed by a most enjoyable ride around the Thrapston and Titchmarsh lakes to Aldewynclle, returning via Ridge road.



The Group plan to meet on the third Monday morning of each month over

the winter and perhaps, more often through spring and summer. The next ride is scheduled for Monday 20 October. The group will meet at 09:30 at The Bridge Hotel, Thrapston, for a ride to Stanwick Lakes and back; a total of 12 miles. It is planned to afterwards have a well-earned lunch together in the Old Bridge Hotel. If you would like to join us, please call the Group Leader, Frank Boydeell on 01832 735797.



Monthly Lunch Group - it is coming up to that time of year when I have to start thinking of the bookings for next year 2015. I do like to add a few new venues to our list and if any body knows of any places that can accommodate 20 + members at any one time for a lunch time meal that we have not already been to, then I would like to hear from you so that I can get details and maybe a booking.

The next meal is the Christmas Lunch/Show at Wicksteed Park in November, and all places have now been taken.

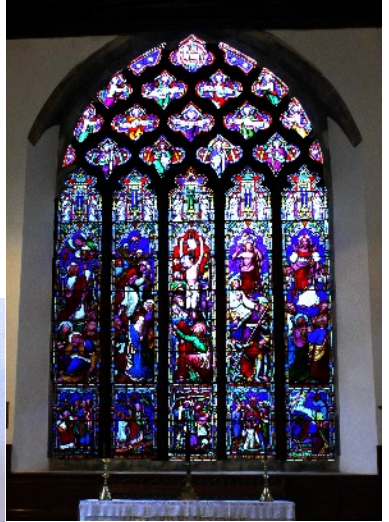
That just leaves the Christmas Buffet at The Bridge Hotel on Thursday 18 December, and I am taking names now, but I shall not be at the October meeting. Please let me know in good time if you would like to join us as places will be limited. Thank you all once again for your support during this year, it is much appreciated. Contact Iris on email <iesquires66@sky.com>

Whist - The group had a successful initial meeting on Monday with nine members and they have decided to go ahead with games on the second and fourth Mondays 2.30-4.30, venue to be advised. The next meeting will be on Monday 13 October. Please contact Doreen on 01832 732046.

Jazz Group - Due to unforeseen circumstances the Jazz at the Courtyard has been cancelled therefor there will be no more meetings, for the time being.

Advanced Driving - The next meeting of the advanced driving group will be on Wednesday 15 October. John from IAM will be giving a talk on winter and night driving. The time will be 7.30 as usual at 10 Meadow Close, Ringstead NN14 4TZ. Guests will be welcome. Geoff Hill phone 01933 624645 or email geoffhill.hill5@gmail.com

Photography - a group of eight members attended St James' Parish Church where we were welcomed by the Rector, Rev. Charles Jefferson. He gave us a potted history of the church and its ministry, pointing out objects of interest within the church. We were given full access to the church in order to photograph aspects. Some of these photographs will be displayed by the members at a future meeting after they have been edited.



Still life, part of the harvest festival; one of the many carvings (does it remind you of anybody?) and a composite photograph of the East window.

Group Leader's Report October 2014

Two groups have launched this month; eight members played **whist**, including me, and we had so good a time that we've decided to go ahead and meet twice monthly (further details below). Doreen Morson is taking on co-group leadership and we're hoping to recruit another member of the group to join her.

Frank Boydell has re-launched the **cycling group**, leading a cycle around Thrapston Lakes following the initial meeting. He has already put in a report and photograph. Both groups welcome new members.

At September's meeting we recruited six people to the **Latin group** and so I shall be organising an initial meeting in the next month or so. There's still time to sign up. I have a feeling I may find it difficult to find a group leader but if anyone has contacts or indeed would like to volunteer, please let me know! [I live on Roman Way, so named after the Roman site discovered there during building, but despite odd sounds I have not yet met any ancient Roman who might instruct the Group and ensure correct pronunciation and idiom - I will continue to look - Ed.]

A **group leaders meeting** takes place three times a year and I have arranged a meeting for Friday 31 October. If you have anything that you'd like your group leader to raise at the meeting (concerned with groups) please let him/her know by the 24 October so it can be included in the agenda. This meeting will discuss the Christmas Showcase and information from U3A national alongside specific issues submitted by the leaders and members.

Any ideas for new groups please feel free to contact me and I can arrange for an Expressions of Interest list to be available at a meeting, and of course we need Group Leaders!

All groups are listed on the website and a newly formatted table of the groups and when they are running and by whom. There is a contact email address to make contact with the leader.

Outings and Days out – The Group is still looking for a leader to succeed Brenda Berry. Brenda is happy to support anyone who would like to organise a one-off outing. If we have three or four of these each year, we can go some way to replacing Brenda's sterling work until a permanent group leader is found. If you have an idea for an outing or even better, if you'd like to volunteer as leader please let me know,

Current Group Vacancies - For new members or those established members who are looking to take on something new; we do have spaces within groups and these include:

- Whist
- Photography
- Antiques and Collectables
- Magic
- Walks 2
- Ten Pin Bowling
- Country Dancing
- Papercraft
- Cycling
- Books
- Lunches
- Advanced motoring

There are also 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, Group Co-ordinator

Books - I'm delighted that Veronica is back in business and proposes to re-launch her book group. She has set Tuesday 21 Oct. to get together at her house at 2.30, p.m. to discuss a new format and future times for getting together and venue.

Please contact her if you'd like to join her on 01832 731960 or email <vdbbaker@talktalk.net>

Classical Music - This groups is going really well and this month Os and Margaret introduced us to a Gilbert and Sullivan Opera, The Yeoman of the Guard. Wonderful entertainment. Next month we shall listen to Handel provided by Tricia. In between our meetings we enjoy various local concerts with three members attending a recital by students from the Royal College of Music at the Castle in Wellingborough. We have a vacancy for one member. The meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month and the next is on 15 October at 2.00. Please email me on <glynishillo6@aol.com> if you are interested in joining us.

Town and Village Walks - In September Ian Curtis and Sylvia Prestwich led a group of twenty of our members on the Titchmarsh heritage trail, taking in most of the historically significant features in the centre of the village. It was really fascinating; we learned about the six pubs, the castle, various characters from the village including John Dryden and a Sir Gilbert Pickering who seems to have had various arguments with the Church. He was also Oliver Cromwell's Lord Chamberlain and in 1583 added an upper storey to the church porch to house the Pickering family pew, complete with fireplace! We also viewed the possible location of Sir Gilbert Pickering's manor house in the Church Field. Ian provided a lively and interesting review of the village history over thousands of year up to recent times when Land Girls were housed in Nissen huts in a field on the outskirts.

We finished our tour with refreshments in the church. It was the penultimate walk for this year and all walks have been incredibly successful and will be continued in the spring. My thanks to Brenda for her inspiration and organisation.

Whist - The group is newly launched and will meet every second and fourth Monday at 2.30. The next game will be on Monday 27 October and it's planned that it will be in the Bridge Hotel with a payment of £2 for hot drink and biscuits. More members are welcome. Please ring Doreen on 01832 732046 or email her <dennismorson@aol.com>

Social Committee News - Our Annual Barn Dance will take place on Friday 12 December at 2.00 in the Plaza. Tickets will be £5 with refreshments provided. George Hearden is in charge of the music and has arranged a live band. Tickets will be on sale at the October and November meetings or by telephoning Glyn on 01832 735797 or by email to <glynishillo6@aol.com>

Military History - There will be a meeting of this Group on 14 October. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Gerry Crawford at <gerry.crawford@me.com>

Children Need Help With Literacy



Beanstalk is a national charity that recruits and trains people like you to volunteer to go into a local primary school to support children who are struggling with their reading. Beanstalk has been working with schools for almost 40 years to help raise literacy standards.

In Northamptonshire we are currently supporting around 450 children across the county but we currently have more schools and children waiting for reading helpers than we have volunteers.

As a reading helper you will work with three children and spend 30 minutes with each child twice a week - you will chat, read and play games.

Before they start we provide training to our reading helpers and ensure they have resources for their sessions. These are suited to the children they're helping by providing them with Beanstalk book boxes.

Could you help change local childrens' lives for the better?

Contact the Northampton office on 01604 720969 or email

northamptonshire@beanstalkcharity.org.uk

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit.

Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

Thrapston and District U3A Committee

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
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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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