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Welcome from the Chair



Welcome to October and everyone seems to be preparing for Halloween and November 5th. We are thinking even further forward. Viv and her team are busy planning the December Plaza meeting. Due to the numbers having to be limited this will, once again, be a “members” and “tickets only” event. The tickets will be available at the October Plaza meeting at a cost of £3, on a “first come-first served” basis.

I did mention at the last meeting that the Town Council is now selling the tickets for the New Year’s Eve event at the Plaza. Some members have asked if there could be a U3A table and if single ticketed people could then sit together. I can try and organise that if there are enough members interested. Please let me know if you would like to sit at a U3A table and if you are hoping to buy a single or pair of tickets. I will get back to everyone, as soon as possible, so that you can buy your own tickets.



Autumn is now firmly on its way, with all the leaves starting to change colour. It is in its own way a beautiful season and I hope you will all enjoy it. I look forward to seeing you at the October Plaza meeting.

Sheila

Did you know.....?



On the reverse of your Thrapston and District U3A membership card there is space for your to put the details of someone to contact in case of emergency.

PLEASE fill it in and remember to take it with you when you are attending U3A activities.

Lyveden – An Unfinished Dream - Susan Lees

There was a great turn out for our meeting on 21st September when we welcomed Susan Lees, a volunteer for The National Trust at Lyveden New Bield, to talk to us on this magnificent although unfinished lodge, located between Brigstock and Oundle.

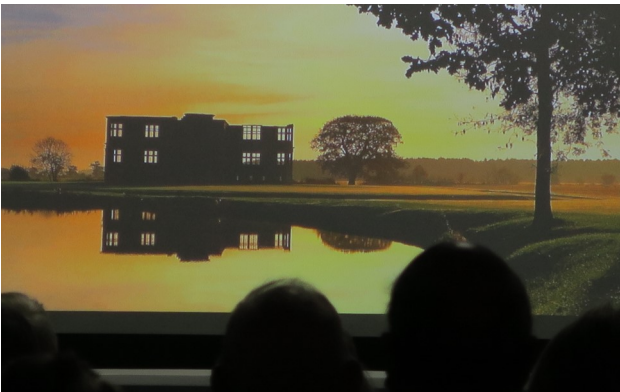


The scheme was designed as a complex of gardens and orchards with a lodge house, the approach to the property being through the gardens from the Manor House, which was the family home of Sir Thomas Tresham.

Sir Thomas, who had envisaged the New Bield scheme, was an educated man, although his handwriting belied this. It was at times difficult to decipher, due to a tendency for him not only to write across the page in the normal manner but to also to form his words up and down the page as well. He was an enthusiastic gardener with a broad knowledge of plants.

The works to construct the building and gardens commenced in 1595 but ended abruptly in 1605 following the death of Sir Thomas. The family had accrued massive debts of £1.7m and therefore no funds were available to complete the scheme. Lady Tresham, his widow, was obviously a woman of great integrity, as she sold off some of her husband's estate to Henry Cecil in part to repay the debts she was left with.

Works to partly restore the gardens and orchards by The National Trust commenced in 1995, including the planting of an orchard of fruit trees of traditional old English varieties. The location of the orchard in an area where the weather conditions are almost hostile, greatly affects the yields from the trees. A Labyrinth has been included with a mile long pathway where the grass is allowed to grow to knee height, being cut down only once each year. Other works include water features and spiral mounts, which were designed to facilitate an elevated view of the gardens. The lodge building has a 'footprint' in the shape of a Maltese Cross and has been carefully orientated 19° from true North to ensure that sunshine will naturally penetrate certain of the windows on 21st November, the day of 'The Presentation of the Virgin Mary'. Many other religious symbols are to be found in roundels carved in to the stonework and empty niches still exist that are thought to have been created to house religious statuary.



In 1744, plans to turn the unfinished structure into a hunting lodge were abandoned, with no further works having been carried out and at some point some of the stonework was taken away to Oundle where it may still be seen next to the Ship Inn.

Back in 1959 the owners of the property advertised nationally for a 'hermit' to live in the cottage at the site and in response, received 56 applicants interested in living in this very remote spot, with no services except for a well with hand drawn water.

Lyveden New Bield today is held within the care of the National Trust and largely maintained by volunteers. It is open through the Summer months daily and from the end of October until the end of March at weekends only.

Calendar of Events 2018 / 2019

2018

- 19th October **A brief history of drinking and inns, public houses and beer houses of Thrapston and surrounding area** by Eric Franklin. See below
- 26th October **Peterborough Greyhounds** - see Irene Gandy
- 16th November **That is the end of the news** by Paul Needle - see below
- 13th December **Canons Ashby and Nottingham Christmas Market** - see page 7
- 21st December **Christmas Event at the Plaza** - see page 5

2019

- 9th January **White Christmas—Leicester** - see page 7

Branch Meetings

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

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



***** Please Note: Doors open at 10 am *****

This Month

Friday 19th October



A brief history of drinking and inns, public houses and beer houses of Thrapston and surrounding area

by Eric Franklin.

Next Month

Friday 16th November

That is the End of the News

By Paul Needle



Focus on Tuesday Morning Groups

Time on your hands on Tuesdays ? Have a look at these group activities.....

UKULELE GROUP

The Ukulele Group has been in existence for over four years. We now have 15 members signed on and, regularly have between 8 and 10 at our weekly meetings. Our members range in ability from absolute beginners with no previous musical experience to some very experienced and competent all-rounders (thank goodness for them!). We do not take ourselves too seriously and are completely non-competitive but we do like to get things right in the end.



We play and sing along to an assortment of songs from the very old music hall numbers all the way through to the relatively modern (our most up to date piece is a song by Adele).

We often play in Residential Care homes as the music and singing are very stimulating for the residents and, in particular, have a very positive effect on those with dementia.



In the last few weeks we have played for a birthday party at The Falcon Hotel in Uppingham and at Kettering Daycare Centre. In the second week of September we played at a coffee morning in Thrapston Baptist Church lounge.

We meet every Tuesday morning from 10 until 12 at my home. If you want to give this happy little instrument a go, ring or email me and we can have a chat.

Above all we have lots of **FUN!**

Marion Healey

marion.u3aukuleles@gmail.com

phone 720262

Spanish

The Spanish group is a reasonably new group formed in 2017. We meet twice a month on a Tuesday morning from 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. Our venue is the committee room at the Town Council offices.



We are a group of 13 and are following the BBC "Talk Spanish" course which has two course books with accompanying CDs. Most of the group have some knowledge of Spanish, albeit rather rusty! We like to keep the mood fairly light and most weeks we all end up in fits of laughter.

Group Leaders Jenni (jennihall207@gmail.com) and Roger (groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com)



Did you know.....?

*Thrapston had the first U3A **Magic group***

When the group started 4 years ago, we started something that was completely new to the U3A nationally. Since then, many u3a magic groups have sprung up.

The group meets on the third Tuesday of the month from 10am to 12.00 noon.

Unfortunately the group is struggling, due to people leaving the area or retiring and they would love some fresh "blood" to join them.

As Terry says "If you could join, you would be most welcome, so as to continue the art of magic for the benefit of our friends and grandchildren.

You would also help to save our Christmas magic show!"

Contact Terry Robinson. Magic Group Leader on 01832 720750. Email: osmec@btinternet.com



The **Military History group** has vacancies for two new members.

The group meets at 10 am on the second Monday of each month excluding August and December.

If you are interested and would like to know more, please contact Julian Brown on 01832 734324 or email aandjbrown11@sky.com .



Christmas Event

Friday 21st December

Thrapston Plaza

Doors Open at 9.40 for 10 am start

Due to the space available, the event has to be restricted to members only

Admission is by ticket which costs £3 and includes refreshments

and a raffle ticket for lovely prizes

Tickets will be on sale at the Plaza meeting

or contact Viv Tunstall at 732791



News from the Groups

Local History Walks and Visits

The last history walk for the year took place in Ringstead. We had two wonderful guides Jon and Simon from the Heritage group who gave us a figure of eight tour of the village. We saw a wonderful hidden centuries-old farmhouse accessed through Dodson and Horrell's factory plus beautiful houses accompanied by stories old and new. It was an excellent and surprising walk. We ended at their beautiful newly-acquired Heritage centre, (see photo) - a visit is highly recommended.

Glyn and Brenda group leaders
Glyn Hill 735797



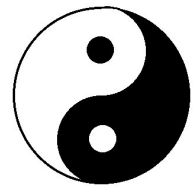
TAI CHI update

Our popular group has reverted to one session every Thursday 2.00-3.30 in St Johns Hall, Bull Ring, Thrapston.

We would be glad to invite any members on our waiting List to come along and join us on October 18th.

Tai Chi is suitable for almost everyone; it will improve balance, relieve stress, has lots of health benefits and is fun !

Linda Vickerman Group Leader



FLOWER BUNCH



We would love more members to join us. We meet last Friday of each month in St Johns Hall 10.00 - 11.30

We have competed at a local Flower Show, attended demonstrations, or have an occasional guest to show us something new.

No experience needed as we help each other, select a theme and then see what happens !!

Linda Vickerman Group Leader

Theatre and Outings

Outings



The Theatre and Outings Group had a wonderful day out in Norfolk on 27 September. An early start gave us time for an unexpected comfort break at Sandringham, a very welcome coffee and a quick look in the shop! On to Aylsham Station, where we enjoyed a roast dinner and dessert in their Whistlestop Cafe. At 12.40 we boarded our train to Wroxham, for a 45 minute ride through the Norfolk countryside. The coach was waiting at the other end to transport us to the Marina at Wroxham where we boarded our The Vintage Broadman for a 2 hour cruise on the Broads. We were extremely lucky to have been blessed with glorious weather - no coats required but sunglasses needed. The scenery was stunning and our passage very tranquil. We arrived back in Thrapston around 6.40 pm and I think, from people's comments, that everyone had an excellent day out.



Canons Ashby and Nottingham Xmas market

13 December 2018

This trip is now full but if you are interested please put your name on the reserve list in case of last minute cancellations.

Gates Garden Centre and Farm Visit 9 May 2019

This trip is also fully booked but, again, if you are interested please put your name on the reserve list. If you already have your name down for this trip, please note that a £10 deposit is due at the next branch meeting. If you now find you are unable to attend please advise me as soon as possible.

jennihall207@gmail.com

Theatre Trips

WHITE CHRISTMAS – Wednesday 9th January, (matinee) The Curve Theatre, Leicester

This festive show is now fully booked, but if you are keen, you can put your name (s) down on the waiting list.



THE BODYGUARD - cancelled

Unfortunately, as there was not enough interest to make this a viable trip, we will not be booking this show, so apologies to those who did put their names down.



Now booked for the matinee performance on the 3rd July, at Milton Keynes theatre. This is a powerful musical set in New York during the 1930's Depression. Little Annie is forced to live a life of misery at Miss Hannigan's orphanage. Her luck changes however, when she is chosen to spend a fairytale Christmas with billionaire Oliver Warbucks...

This show includes unforgettable songs such as 'It's The Hard-Knock Life', 'Easy Street' and 'Tomorrow'.

Please come and sign up as this is a show not to be missed!

Please remember, tickets are non-refundable.

Contact Moira for further information.

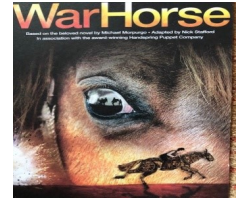
Tel: 07960 640161

mo.beth@hotmail.co.uk (previous icloud email address no longer available)

WARHORSE

20th September

A report of our trip



It was pouring with rain when the coach arrived so we hurriedly piled in, leaving our lovely coach driver to deal with the various mobility vehicles... We were off on our adventure to the MK shopping centre, cafes and restaurants. We had enough time to visit and enjoy the centre, before the theatre matinee performance began.

We became engrossed in the First World War drama, as the story was based around a horse called Joey and his wartime adventures which were both powerful and very moving. In the deadly chaos of warfare, Joey witnesses the reality of battle from both sides of the trenches.

At the heart of the show were the astonishing 'horses', brought to life by the Handspring Puppet Company who created realistic movements such as breathing, galloping and charging. This was a memorable production combining wartime drama with compassion, horror and life-long friendships.

Thrapston and District U3A Committee

Chair: Sheila Underwood

Vice Chair: Wendy Davies

Treasurer: Tricia James

Secretary: Ian Byrnes

Groups Co-ordinator: Roger Davies

Membership: Pauline Dennison

Publicity: Sue Campbell

Speaker Seeker: Paul Ollett

Newsletter Editor: Wendy Davies

New Members Rep: Brenda Berry

IT Operations Manager /Website Manager: Neil Busby

Access Officer: Glyn Hill

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

Website : 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