



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Newsletter
September 2014

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From the Editor

August was a quiet period, when a few groups had a rest while many members had their holidays. The group meeting was replaced by the Summer Barbecue and what a great success it was.
This picture was taken by Linda Vickerman from the photography group.



HOST and International Students

There are international students at our universities hoping to have the privilege of meeting people who live in the UK. Having a well-educated younger person from another part of the world visit you for a day, a weekend, or over Christmas, is an ideal way of exchanging ideas about your respective cultures. It's an opportunity to take a pride in our own country and to understand more about another one, while showing kindness to someone far from home. It's also great fun. If you're not sure about doing this on your own, why not get together with another U3A member and make a great international weekend of it? HOST is a well-established charity whose hosts are volunteers. Please see www.hostuk.org or call HOST 020 7739 6292.

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.

- 19 September **Branch meeting** - Ashley Grove, Shetland to Scilly, birds of the British Isles. Top digital images of birds projected during a fascinating talk with 130 species.
- 8 October **Town and Country Walks** - Thrapston. This will be the second of four stand-alone walks around different areas of Thrapston under Neil Busby's leadership. The first walk was really interesting and enjoyable. We will leave from outside the Library at 10.30am, finishing at about midday. Maximum number is twenty. **This will be the last walk for this year. We will start again in Spring 2015.** Please sign up at the September meeting or telephone Brenda - 730225
- 17 October **Branch meeting** - Andy Smith, Under the Influence. A second visit from this very amusing raconteur, with music and original self-written songs.
- 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** at Milton Keynes - matinee. The show stars Jodie Prenger (Oliver, Spamalot and One Man Two Guv'nors). I have booked good tickets and the price will be approx. £32 to include ticket, coach fare and tip for the driver. Pauline 01832 732724 or email: dennison987@gmail.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.

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.

Absence from Group Meetings

The committee has had reports that some members are failing to advise the group leader when unable to attend a group meeting. This can cause inconvenience to the host, not only with regards to catering, and is considered a discourtesy.

There is provision for those who fail to attend meetings on three occasions without notifying the group leader of their absence, to be excluded from the group, and their place offered to the next person on the waiting list.

Wisdom from Training Manuals

- ☺ If the enemy is in range, so are you. - Infantry Journal.
- ☺ It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed. - US Air Force Manual.
- ☺ Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword, obviously never encountered automatic weapons. - General MacArthur.

The Thrapston and District U3A Barbecue

The barbecue was a great success, with almost 100 people attending. As this was our second barbecue, I hope we learned better how to organise it. With the increased numbers, unfortunately a delay in cooking enough to serve everyone as quickly as we would have liked was noted. We have decided next year to have an extra barbecue and two chefs, to speed things up. The weather was lovely, so many people stayed on to enjoy this lovely social event into the afternoon, and some went for a sail, courtesy of the Yacht Club.



Frank slaving away over a hot barbie, while Glyn does what all good chairmen do - supervises

Left and below - just relaxing and enjoying the sun, company, food and drink



Some relaxed with a brief experience of sailing - courtesy of the Yacht Club



Group Leader's Reports September 2014

I hope you all had a wonderful summer. Some of our groups took a break while others continued throughout the summer. I'm delighted that our new Ukulele group led by Marion Healey is due to start this month and others are awaiting enough members to be launched. These include First Aid, Sign Language, Whist and more recent suggestion of Latin and Maths. At our Branch meeting on 19 September I will have sign-up lists waiting. I'm particularly keen to have Whist ready to go. We need at least sixteen members and a group leader but we already have a good number signed and waiting.

Any ideas for new groups please feel free to contact me to arrange for an Expressions of Interest list to be available at a meeting, and of course we need group leaders.

Two of our group leaders have been unwell and I wish David (Antiques and Collectables) and Veronica (Patchwork, Weekend Lunches, Book Club and Jazz) a speedy recovery. We will let you know when their groups recommence.

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

- Tai Chi
- Photography contact glynishillo6@aol.com
- Antiques and Collectables
- Magic contact osmec@btinternet.com (new group)
- Walks 2
- Ten Pin Bowling
- Country Dancing
- Current Issues
- Papercraft
- Family History
- Cycling
- Bowls
- Photography
- Advanced contact motoring_geoffhill5@gmail.com

There are 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 on what's available.

My thanks to Margaret and Parry who have taken over joint group leadership of photography. New members will be very welcome.

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 contact information for the group leaders.

Finally, I'd like to give my thanks to all the group leaders. You are all volunteers and put a huge amount of effort into making the groups so successful. Thrapston and District U3A couldn't run without you. You are greatly appreciated.

Art Group - Mandy Dawkins, an Ise Valley member and ex-Lifelong Learning tutor, who has lived in Thrapston, for many years ran an art group in Thrapston for Higham and Rushden U3A. She is now a member of Thrapston and District U3A and has offered to change the morning group to Thrapston, with vacancies made available to us as they arise. At the moment one member of Thrapston is part of the group and there are no vacant places.

When the group started seven years ago, it concentrated on only water colours, and was called the Thrapston Watercolour Group. Two years ago group members decided they would like to try different mediums and the name was changed. Two groups of five have met twice a month, first and third Thursdays of the month in the morning 10.30 to 12.30 and the afternoon group 1.30 to 3.30. The groups meet at 154 Oundle Road.

Mandy Dawkins writes, 'I am willing to take names of anyone who would like to join the group when there are places but I am not looking for absolute beginners as it would not be fair to those who have been coming for years to go right back to basics. As a group we have purchased some acrylic paints and as an artist I have many different mediums of paint and pastels and a good library of books and photographs to use to paint with. I will be at the October meeting to take names and answer any questions.'

Classical Music - This groups is going really well with seven members packed into my conservatory last week listening to a brilliant programme about JS Bach. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 7 September when Os and Margaret will introduce us to a Gilbert and Sullivan Opera. We could accommodate one more member. Please email me on glynishillo6@aol.com or phone 01832 735797 if you are interested in joining us.

Current Issues - We had an extended summer break and recommence on Tuesday, 4 October at 2.30. The varied programme included Scottish Independence, Prisons, Taxation and Voting. The NHS and Room 101 are planned for discussion. There is a core of six members but have room for three or four more, so there will be a sign-up or contact me at glynishillo6@aol.com or phone 01832 735797.

Outings and Days out - Brenda Berry has been a star in leading this group and has organised days including Oxford, Olney Christmas Market and Ironbridge. She now feels she'd like to step down and so we need a volunteer (or two!) to replace her. If you have energy, organising skills and would be willing to take on this task, please, please, please let me know. There will be help available; Brenda is very willing to support the new leader. Please email or ring me glynishillo6@aol.com or phone 01832 735797.

Sewing - This group has room for some new faces. Currently we are all working on our own projects - from embroidery to dressmaking. From time to time we elect to tackle a specific project. This has varied from making a door stop, to making fabric boxes and Christmas tree decorations.

We help and stimulate each other, and value each other's experience. Charges: 30p for refreshments plus costs for materials when required. Details on the website are correct. We are down to four regulars although one member will be back once she has finished boating all through the summer.

Best wishes, Guinette <guinette.m.davies@btinternet.com>

Ukele Group - The group is now meeting regularly and our numbers are very slowly increasing. We still have spaces and look forward to welcoming new members of any ability. Even if you have never picked up a musical instrument, the ukulele can be learned very easily and quickly. There are spares, so if you would like to try it out come along and have some fun - we do! Due to my globe trotting we are only meeting once in September on Tuesday 23 from 10am to 12noon. From 7 October onwards the group will meet every Tuesday 10am to noon. Of course, not everyone can make every session - it doesn't matter come as often as you can. See you soon.

Marion Healey Tel: 01832 720262 email: marion_healey@msn.com

Oundle Walk - Our guided tour of Oundle took us to places familiar and unfamiliar, enhanced by lots of interesting information about the town and school. The student names engraved on a wall in the school grounds was unexpected.

We found delightful courtyards full of flowers, admired the cakes in the bakery and saw a tree in the church yard being removed piece by piece ... hair-raising! The visit ended with a dash for the car in pouring rain.

Linda Vickerman



Above - Oundle School,

right Oundle Church



A colourful floral display and hair-raising tree management in Oundle

Social Committee News

Brenda Berry, Richard Swindall and Glyn Hill are the Social Sub-committee. We were delighted at how well the barbecue went with about 97 people attending and lovely weather. We had an enormous amount of help and we must thank the committee members, Glyn, Tricia, Anne, Neil, Maddie and Parry plus Frank, Margaret, Joan, Kate and Linda. They all worked so hard, we really appreciate you!

Our next branch event is the Barn Dance in December. Details will be in the October newsletter.

☺ I am a nobody; nobody is perfect, and therefore I am perfect.

☺ Every day I beat my own previous record for the number of consecutive days I've stayed alive.

Thrapston and District U3A Committee

Chair:	Glyn James	Vice-Chair:	Glyn Hill
Treasurer:	Tricia James	Secretary:	Michelle Owen
Group Co-ordinator:	Glyn Hill	Membership:	Maddie Godden
Publicity:	Rachel Thompson	Speaker Seeker:	Richard Swindall
Website:	Neil Busby	Editor:	Parry Jones
Member:	Michelle Collison	Member:	Anne Carter

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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