



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Newsletter
September 2015

The Social Committee thanks the Ukulele and Live Music Groups for their wonderful contribution to the Barbecue. Their music and the choice of songs was perfect for the summer afternoon.

The sub-committee intend to run the barbecue every year so please would everyone (especially the band members) put the third Friday in August in their diaries

The Social Committee

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.

18 Sept. **Branch Meeting - Derek R Harris, Up the Cut, the Story of the Development of England's Canal System in Tales and Songs.** An amusing and informative history of the canals of England and Wales. Up the Cut is a whistle stop tour, starting at the beginning of the modern canal age with James Brindley and the Bridgwater Canal, through the growth of commercial carrying, to its decline and neglect. Added to this is a number of songs with audience participation.

16 October **Branch Meeting - Polly Feeley, Music and Memories from a 1950s Childhood.**

December **Thursford Spectacular Christmas Show** is fully booked.

2016

6 January **Aladdin.** A pantomime matinee at Milton Keynes. See page 3

PRISCILLA PRESLEY

**GARY
WILMOT**

BEN ADAMS

**WAYNE
SLEEP**

**KEV
ORKIAN**



Continued

12 February (possibly) **To the Dogs** - Peterborough Greyhound Stadium - See page 3
16 March **Chicago**. A matinee performance at Milton Keynes - See page 3

For **Theatre Trips** you may add your name to the lists at the Branch Meetings.

Pauline Dennison Tel: 01832 732724

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.

Group News

Autumn is on its way and most groups are now re-convening after their summer break. I hope you all have had a good summer and are now bursting with enthusiasm for the coming months.

The Cake and Bake Group recently had an enjoyable baking session and no doubt held an equally enjoyable tasting experience.

Book Group - The re-formed group is now running and, at the time of writing, has space for one more member.

Creative Writing Group - Space for new members. We currently have vacancies for up to three new members. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each calendar month, 10:00 - 12:00 hrs, usually in Thrapston; (September and October meetings are being held in Aldwinckle). We welcome beginners equally alongside existing and previously published writers. There are no additional membership fees but members of the group contribute £1 each month towards refreshments.



Who baked all the pies?

Anyone interested, should contact me by phone or e-mail.

New publication Pick 'n' Mix 2

The group published its first compendium of short stories and poetry in 2013. The second is now on sale at £2 a copy. Those wanting copies should contact David Read or myself either personally or by telephone. The group intends to produce this new format publication quarterly and each group member will be represented in it. It is professionally edited by Sheena Dickinson and professional printing and publishing is arranged by David Read. All contributors retain the copyright of their own works. All proceeds go towards funding future publications, no author receives any payment for contributions to this publication. **David Green**, T: 01832 720269, M: 07934 143494, Email: david.green1@sky.com

Lacemaking - The group, which meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month in the St. John's Ambulance Hall, is open to beginners, improvers and more proficient lacemakers. They are a friendly bunch who welcome new members – so why not go along, and have a look at what happens. They are also happy to share the room with other needlecraft groups to keep costs down.

Local History Walk - The next in the series of Thrapston walks will be on Saturday 3 October. We will meet at Peace Park, opposite the Court House, at 1.30pm from where Neil Busby will lead the walk. The maximum number is 20 and there will be the usual charge of £2. A sign-up list will be available at the Branch Meeting and as I will be away, please telephone Glyn Hill (01832 735797) if you cannot attend the meeting. This will be the last walk in 2015. Brenda

Nordic Walking for Fitness - This is possibly a new group that may be formed if sufficient interest is shown. If you would like to find out more about this please let me have your details and I will organise a meeting.

Continued

Places-2-Go - Is open to all U3A members. On Sunday 23 August 16 members enjoyed punting on the River Cam in Cambridge. The day started wonderfully sunny and warm, when we met to travel to Trumpington from where we took the Park N Ride to Cambridge. We enjoyed a gentle stroll through the streets to our pub, The Anchor, in Silver Street, for a Sunday lunch, which we had pre-booked for 12:15. We enjoyed pre-prandial Pimms on the riverside terrace. The service was superb (swift, kind and thoughtful) and we consumed our food with gusto, enjoyment and companionability.

At 13:45 we wandered to our punts a hundred yards distant and shared two punts. There was much oohing and aahing at the sights as we toured the college backs for about an hour.

Once on dry land it was time to do our own thing, and that we did like school-children on an outing. The little drop of rain didn't bother us at all. It was a lovely, lovely day.

If you are a member of Thrapston and District U3A please ask for a programme - Maddie 01832 734510, 07961 919740 or maddie.places2go@gmail.com

Ukulele Group - Has been running throughout the summer (it seems they just can't get enough!) and is a very happy little band! They hope you enjoyed their entertainment at the BBQ. There are now a couple of vacancies in the group.

Keep your ideas coming – the more interest groups we have, the more people we can interest! If you cannot find a group that covers your particular subjects have a chat with me – either at the Plaza meetings or somewhere to suit you. We may well find enough members with a similar passion to start a new group. This does not mean that you will have to lead the group – so please don't be put off.

Remember - Groups are Fun and Rewarding

For information on any group either contact the group leader – details on website or you can contact me Marion Healey, groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com Tel: 01832 720262

News from Irene

Peterborough Greyhound Stadium - suggested date for next visit – Friday 12 February 2016. The cost is estimated at £25 to include entry, programme, two course meal (starter and main) and transport to the venue from Thrapston (Co-op car park). Optional dessert and drinks are payable individually on the night. Sign up at the September or October monthly meetings at the Plaza with a £5 deposit or ring Irene. The balance to be paid by, or before 15 January meeting.

Ten Pin Bowling - at Wellingborough resumes on Friday 11 September at 10.30am.

Papercrafts and Cardmaking resumes 14 September at 2pm and the following meeting 28 September at 2pm.

Card/Board Games etc. - Anyone wishing to play, or learn to play, whist, rummicub, mahjong, chess, dominoes etc. please add your names to the sign-up sheets at the next monthly meeting at the Plaza or Ring Irene for details. Dates are to be confirmed but hopefully second Thursday afternoons.

Irene – 01832 732948

News from Pauline, From Theatre Trips and Visits.

Pantomime Aladdin at Milton Keynes on 6 January at a cost of £25. The cast has just been announced, and seats have been booked for the matinee performance. Seats can be booked at this month's meeting or contact Pauline on 01832 732724 Payment please when booking. The coach will leave the Co-op car park at 11.30am

Seats have also been booked for **Chicago** at Milton Keynes on 16 March. The price will be approximately £48 and includes seat, coach and driver's tip. Bookings will be taken at the next meeting.

Application forms often ask who is to be called in case of an emergency. I think you should write, 'An ambulance.'

I was wondering why some people seem to read the Bible more often as they get older. Then it dawned on me. They are cramming for their finals.

You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

Chairman's Welcome

Hello again; it's amazing how quickly the month passes. August saw our annual BBQ at Thrapston Sailing Club, and what an event it was. This was a sell-out event, with sunshine, food, music and sailing. My personal thanks go out all who worked to make it such a special day, including the Sailing Club who made their facilities available to us and even put on trips around the lake in a traditional Broads Cruiser.

As summer turns to autumn, normal service resumes with a monthly meeting in the Plaza, which now features an upgraded kitchen and new bar. Please support the front-of-house as they get to grips with the new facilities and layout. If you would be prepared to help them, Michele Collison is looking for volunteers to assist with the teas and coffees. On a general note, we also need people prepared to help with putting the chairs away at the end of meetings. Please don't leave it to the willing few; if we all chip in a little, it's easy for everyone. Please call Michele on: 01933 623668.

Regrettably, we have not had any volunteers for the Secretary's role and existing members of the committee have had to take on the extra duties. This is not an onerous role and requires just a few hours per month. Full support will be given, so please call me if you are prepared to consider the role.

Frank Boydell
01832 735797

Said by a Thrapston and District resident, 'I'm not having anything to do with U3A. It's not a real university!'

Oh dear. What a reaction. Does that person know what he/she is missing?

East Midlands U3A Summer School 2016

The East Midlands U3A Summer School will run from Dinner on Tuesday evening on 16 August to lunch time on Friday 19 August. It is planned to run up to eight courses as indicated below. The cost will be approximately £225 and includes dinner on Tuesday evening and an en-suite room. [I presume other meals will be provided, but the brochure does not indicate that - Ed.]

The subjects to be studied are:

- Below Stairs in Country Houses, by Marilyn Palmer MBE;
- Churches: their architecture and changing function with John Elkington and Roger Willson;
- Digital Scrapbooking: a way to share photos by Susan Hewson;
- Encouraging Participative Learning by Mandy Topp;
- Gardening: the ultimate downsize by Anthea Lock and Karen Taylor;
- Lawrence Landscape and Literature by Malcolm Gray;
- Environmental studies by Mark Benthall; and
- Walking and Wildlife by John Martindale and Steve Lovell.

If you wish to know more contact the Chairman, Frank Boydell 01832 735797 or check out the website for East Midlands Region. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Thrapston and District U3A Committee

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Treasurer:	Tricia James	Secretary:	To be advised
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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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