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Welcome From the Chair

Hello everyone and welcome to September's Newsletter. Didn't they do well? 'They' being the organisers of the Summer Social at the Sailing Club. Personally, I thought this was the best summer event ever and I would like to thank everyone involved in the

planning and running of it. Whilst the weather may have been disappointing, everything else was superb. Particularly heart-warming was how so many of you got involved on the day and mucked-in. This was the very essence of U3A in action. Special thanks though must go to Michele Collison who did most of the organising. Michelle has been our Front of House, social sub-committee interface and Vice Chairman over the last few years, but is now leaving us for the sunnier climes of Australia. We wish her well in her new adventure and will miss her enthusiasm and hard work.



I don't know about you, but I'm already looking forward to next year's event. Enjoy your Newsletter.

Frank Boydell, Chairman - 01832 735797

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.

- 16 Sept. **Branch Meeting - Life in the Music** by **Andy Smith**. 'Sing a Century' - Singing and playing at least one song from each decade for the last 100 years. Accompanying himself on guitar, ukulele and mandolin - he'll take you on a journey through the last century with lots of songs you'll know - and a few surprises!
- 12 October **Branch Meeting - Thrapston Miscellany** by **Eric Franklin** (see page 3)
- 18 November **Branch Meeting - Badgers** by **Brian Sanders** will elaborate on the life style of the Badger including information on its habitat, food and how it →

catches its food. There will be content on threats to the badger including culling and historical information relating to the badger population in North Northamptonshire. After the talk there is a Q&A session appertaining to Badgers both locally and nationally.

14 December **Thursford Christmas Event** - We have the numbers for our trip to Thursford in December and can now confirm that the coach fare will be £12 per person to include a tip for the driver. I hope to collect this from you at the September meeting. Your tickets for the show will be distributed on the coach as last year. You are advised to take a packed lunch with you as it is very expensive to buy food there but there are seating areas for you to eat your lunch in comfort.

Arrangements are made for us to stop at Kings Lynn on the way home so we can have a meal then. It is anticipated that the coach will leave the Co-op car park in Thrapston at 9.30 am. on the 14 December, but I will confirm all arrangements for you in the November newsletter. Regards Iris.

16 December **Branch Meeting - Christmas Event.** More details later.

2017

20 January **Branch Meeting - My favourite Things** by **Will Osbourne**

17 February **Branch Meeting - Life with my Father** by **Gail Stuart**

2 March **Funny Girl** - Tickets have been booked for this musical at Milton Keynes. The



price is to be confirmed but should be in the region of £55, which as usual, includes a theatre seat, the coach fare and driver's tip. We have good seats in the stalls. Bookings

taken at the next meeting or contact Pauline on 01832 732724

17 March **Branch Meeting - MBE, Investiture at Buckingham Palace** by **Guinette Davies**

21 April **Branch Meeting - Kicks & Frills, the Story of the Can-Can** by **David Price**

For **Theatre Trips** you may add your name to the lists at the Branch Meetings. Pauline Dennison Tel: 01832 732724

Refreshments

Do you enjoy the refreshments at our monthly meeting?

It has been Michelle who has met us at the door and organised the welcome and refreshments to members and their guests. Michelle leaves us at the end of this month. We wish her well in her new venture and I would like to thank her for the contribution she has made to making our U3A welcoming and friendly.

However her absence will leave a gap. Someone is now needed to organise the rota of volunteers for the monthly meetings and **we also need people to make the coffee /tea and wash up.** (We have someone who buys and brings the coffee, biscuits and so on.) It takes three volunteers each month and with 11 meetings this means if we have 33 people we all do it once a year !

If you feel we should continue to enjoy the refreshments and could help please either contact a committee member or email me, Sheila, at vicechairthrapstonu3a@gmail.com or ring Brenda on 01832730225.

A Local Miscellany in Word and Pictures

Thrapston U3A, 21 October 2016. Introduced by John Dawkins and Eric Franklin

Thrapston Heritage are pleased to introduce a morning of views, tales, a poem, stories from the past and a sound recording from 1959 of old Thrapston. Much of this presentation is of previously unseen material and will be presented by John Dawkins and Eric Franklin, with technical support from Neil Busby. The morning is designed to inform and entertain.

It will include:

- Bridge Street Station whilst in operation and its demolition with pictures from the 1930s to 1965;
- a children's rhyme from Ringstead and an excerpt from Wally Jacques' memories from before World War I;
- an excerpt from the recording of the last passenger train to leave Midland Road Station in 1959;
- a few Where Are Theys of places in town you have passed, possibly without noticing;
- short items on Thrapston Baptist Church and Oundle Road Cemetery;
- pictures from the past fading in to the current view;
- Edwin Cottingham, an internationally known clockmaker from the area, now virtually forgotten and the Thrapston Church clock he built for the town;
- the beginnings of cycling in Thrapston and the Nene Valley Wheelers;
- railways in town and the demolition of Midland Road railway bridge and a recent view;
- Northamptonshire County Council's 1970 proposed replacement for the Nine Arch Bridge.
- and many other one-off items.

Voices Whispering Around About Gardens.

Various individuals are suggesting that Thrapston has an Open Garden event some time in 2017. What do gardeners think about this? Would you permit strangers walking into your garden and commenting on your pride and joy?

We are proposing that there is public meeting sometime in October. Here we will get a good idea of the level of interest and also set up a small steering group to deal with the practicalities.

Posters, showing where and when will be distributed soon.

If you are interested in helping in any way please let me know either by phone or email.

Guinette Davies: Tel: 01832 733436 or guinette.m.davies@btinternet.com

WILD WOOD HERITAGE TRAIL

A Nene Valley Festival Event - Friday 23 September

Oxlip Wood, Sudborough, East Northants

Outdoor Tribe's **Wild Wood Heritage Trail** will provide a vivid insight into the history of Oxlip Wood and the varied ways it has been used over a period of 600 years.

We also have several reenactment experiences planned, providing entertainment to illustrate how people have used the wood through the centuries. There will be two trails, lasting approx 1 hour, starting at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

We are unable to accommodate large number of visitors as parking is limited, so please register for your free tickets soon to avoid missing out.

Thrapston and District U3A Woodland Wellness Group is a part of this



ecological charity and is on this list having subscribed via Outdoor Tribe or Oxlip Wood websites and has expressed interest in being kept informed about events

Follow the link -
www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wild-wood-heritage-trail-tickets-25836411402

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to register your interest.

Our mailing address is:

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Places2Go - Just updating everyone on the events we recently enjoyed - in August, a party of 11 went punting in Cambridge after enjoying a lovely Sunday luncheon at The Anchor Inn, and we had a lovely sunny day for it.

On Saturday 3 September, 13 of us boarded a Mississippi paddle boat for a 1½ hour river trip which was peaceful and relaxing, after which we had a hot meal at The Swan Hotel. The weather was again very kind to us until it was time to come home, but by that time we didn't care about a drop of rain!



Thank-you to everyone for their company on both outings, very much enjoyed and appreciated **To come** - A day in **Bouton-on-the-Water** in October and a **Christmas luncheon** on a **steam train** in **December**, please email/phone me if you are interested or for any information. **Maddie.**
maddie.places2go@gmail.com or 01832-734510



Local History Group

On Thursday 8 September the group gathered at Elton for an arranged visit to the Hall and Gardens. It was suggested by our guide that we split into two groups to better facilitate our journey through the house, which made for a more personal visit. On first viewing the house from the garden it presents many different styles of architecture, from medieval through to the 18th century. Still the home of the Proby family it remains warm and friendly, despite the Keep dating back to the time of Henry VII. As you would expect the house contains many treasures collected over the centuries, including very fine paintings, some by old masters, together with beautiful furniture and porcelain. The extensive library includes among its collection a prayer book given to King Henry VIII, supposedly by Katherine Parr.

On leaving the house we had a stroll in the sunshine through the lovely gardens before taking a leisurely lunch in the walled garden tea rooms, very nice, albeit a little breezy.

A most enjoyable morning, on behalf of the group, thank you Brenda. BS

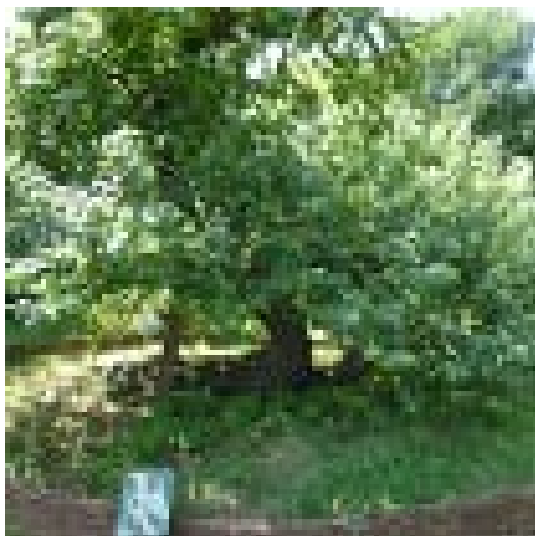
Science and Technology Group

Visit to Woolthorpe Manor

On a glorious August day thirteen members of the group visited Sir Isaac Newton's home near Grantham. The tour started with a look at the Manor House aided by the very interesting and knowledgeable guides, then walked past Newton's apple tree, which is apparently descended from the very tree that inspired his Law of Gravity, then into the orchard where we



off with a really fun exploration of the science centre where we played with all sorts of gizmos that illustrated gravity and light. It was an enjoyable day - well done to the National Trust! Next month we shall be listening to Glyn James' account of his journey through 50 years of the Computer World.
Glyn Hill, Group Leader



Thrapston and District U3A Committee

Chair: Frank Boydell

Treasurer: Tricia James

Groups Co-ordinator: Marion Healey

Publicity: Ann Carter

Vice-Chair: Sheila Underwood

Secretary: Guinette Davis

Membership: Madeline Fisher

Speaker Seeker: Paul Ollett

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.

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