



Contents

	page
Welcome from the Chairman	1
Report from the summer event	2
Calendar of Events 2017	3
Focus on the <i>magic of words</i>	4
News from the groups	6
U3A Committee	8

Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to September!

August seems to have flown by, but then they do say that time flies when you are having fun. It certainly looked as though those who attended the summer social event at the sailing club had a lovely time. I believe the weather was kind until almost the end. I hope those of you who stayed did not get too wet getting home.....and our thanks to all those who helped make it such success. If you have any ideas or comments that will help us plan next year's event, please let a member of the committee know.

The next item on our planning agenda is the December meeting. Some of you have given us feedback on last year's event and we have some ideas for this December. However, there is still time for your input. Just have a word with one of the committee, either before or at the Plaza meeting this month.

Our U3A goes from strength to strength, with new groups starting up all the time and new members joining us. If you would like to know more about the U3A as a national organisation and the opportunities it offers, then the national website (www.u3a.org.uk) is very useful. For those using Twitter and Facebook, links are: Twitter:@U3A_UK and Facebook :@u3auk respectively .

Sheila

September 2017



The Summer Event at the Sailing Club



What a lovely day we all had at the Summer Event.

The sun was shining, the food was excellent and lots of members enjoyed trips around the lake in either the sailing or motor boats for the very modest price of £1 a trip. I have to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped. As Sheila was on holiday I took over her role and couldn't have made it happen without Brenda, Jenni and Richard guiding me through all the things that needed to be set in place to make this lovely day such a success. Then a thank you to Glyn and Linda for helping with salads and, of course, the committee and helpers who set up the tables and posters guiding everyone to the venue. The sun was such an added bonus and, apart from a heavy shower just after 2.30, it decided to raise its beautiful head again for the remainder of the afternoon. I have heard two guys had to be rescued from the lake....not literally but the wind picked up and the Mayday call went out for the motor boat to come to their rescue. It is a story they will be telling for a while. We have lots of lovely photos for you to look at here and some more of them up on the board at the monthly meeting at The Plaza on the 15th September. Lastly, a big thank you to all of you who came along to enjoy the day with us.

Viv Tunstall

Vice Chairman





Calendar of Events 2017

- 11 September **Lampport Hall and Gardens - see page 6**
- 15 September **Branch Meeting - Rockingham Castle - 950 years of history by Patricia Woods**
- 17 September **Canal Boat Trip - Places 2 Go trip**
- 22 September **Group Leaders meeting and new members' lunch - St James' Church Hall 10–12.30**
- 4 October **Blood Brothers at Milton Keynes Theatre - see page 6**
- 20 October **Branch Meeting - The Plague Doctor by David Bell**
- 3 November **Peterborough Greyhounds - contact Irene Gandy**
- 17 November **Branch Meeting - Day in the life of TV Licence enforcement officer by Mike Long**
- 29 November **Rockingham Castle tour - contact Jenni Hall**
- 15 December **U3A Yuletide Event (details to be advised)**

Focus on.....THE MAGIC OF WORDS

To quote Professor Albus Dumbledore, “*Words*, in my humble opinion, are the *most inexhaustible* source of *MAGIC* we have”

Editor

Creative Writing Group

Founded in the earliest of this Branch’s days, the Group now has 9 members, with room for 1 more. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month, usually in Thrapston, at 10:00 hrs for 2 hours. It must be one of the jolliest groups around because people keep coming, with their stories on a theme agreed at the previous meeting, which they read aloud for the pleasure and enjoyment of the rest of us.



We are a pretty mixed bunch representing diverse backgrounds, upbringing, political and religious beliefs and life experiences. That’s partly what makes it fun, because ‘at our age’ it’s those things which are a rich source of supply for our material. Not that there’s anything fuddy or duddy about it, for we have explored the many hidden depths of genres such as the supernatural, science fiction, romance, comedy, tragedy and, (yes, this is true), sex – nothing unduly explicit or smutty, mind you, but as a challenge to find how writers of our generation, or any generation for that matter, could deal with a subject in a way that could be presented to (almost) anyone without causing embarrassment or offence. That already done, of course, means we can leave that particular subject alone for evermore, if we wished to.

We deal in a variety of media; fiction prose, journalism, poetry, play script/dialogue, autobiography and biography. We are each currently embarking on research into a subject about which we know absolutely nothing, or very little, in order to hone our skill and ability to write authoritatively, in fact, about (almost, again) anything.

Two of our members have self-published some of their own works and we are all published in the twice-yearly editions of *Pick ‘n’ Mix*, a selection of works chosen by the individual authors themselves, the sales of which have so far guaranteed future publications. Any surplus is earmarked for local charitable/worthy causes.

Now, I wouldn’t want any of this to put off anyone who might have been considering joining us but now thinks we are just a bunch of ageing intellectuals who like showing off – far from it. We are as ordinary as any other people; but wait - nobody is ordinary, really, are they? Furthermore, anyone who wants to do it, can; there is nothing to be frightened of. We are a Group in the true spirit of the U3A – the learners also teach and the teachers also learn. None of us started off as an accomplished writer, but, five years down the line, I think we are all beginning to get there. If you want to join us, please give me a call. If you just want to read our out-pourings – that’s fine too; but please do one of the two!



David Green Group Leader

email : david.green1@sky.com

Phone : 720269 Mobile : 07934 143494

The Book Group

The Book Group is for people who love reading and talking. We meet monthly in members' homes to discuss a wide variety of authors and genres, from highbrow to lowbrow and all points in between. Recently, we've tackled works by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and Alan Titchmarsh, a murder mystery by Nicci French, a fantasy by Philip Pullman, a best seller from Paula Hawkins and a classic from Jane Austen, to name but a few.



We tackle two books each month, so that our fast readers have plenty to go on and, if someone absolutely hates one choice, then there's always the hope that the other will be better! Our discussions are lively, our opinions are varied, but the one thing that we all agree on is that, since we've belonged to the group, we've read and enjoyed books that we would never have chosen ourselves. That in itself makes the Book Group so much fun.



Our group is full at the moment, having recently expanded following the Open Day, but we are happy to put names on a waiting list.

Celia Busby Group Leader phone: 731047

English Group

The idiosyncrasies of our language provide a wonderful source for discussion and some gentle research. Its history, starting, not with the arrival but the departure of the Romans, the subsequent invasions of the Germanic tribes, the Vikings and of course the Normans, throws light on our confused spelling and our rich and unpredictable vocabulary. Chance has played a part in the evolution of the language, as well as conquest, but it has been influenced by many other things, among them science and medicine which needed to coin words, fashion and even ignorance.



We grew up with the idea of grammar, right and wrong, but who set the rules? Why can't you have a double negative? (The French do and so did Shakespeare and Chaucer). Some phrases though, are at the very least unfortunate, like the so-called dangling modifier such as, "*being in a dilapidated condition, I was able to buy the house very cheap*". *Though whether the Rev Spooner really did tell a student he must "leave by the town drain" is another matter.*

We interest and entertain ourselves discussing these things and many more in the English group; eponyms, malapropisms, idioms, metaphors, euphemisms, accents and dialects have been among the topics in the past. We also look briefly at the lives and works of well known poets, dramatists and novelists throughout the ages.

Sadly there are no spaces at present; the exchange of views and anecdotes would not be possible if the group were any bigger. Over the years of running the group I have, however, built up a large collection of material which I would happily share with anyone wanting to start a second group.

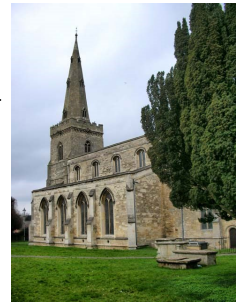
Glyn James 01832 733792 or contact me at monthly meeting or through Groups Co-ordinator

News from the Groups

Local History Walks

The next in Neil's fascinating "Thrapston's history walks" will take place on Saturday October 7th. The group will meet at the junction of Market Road and Huntingdon Road at 1.30 p.m. The maximum number is 20. Please sign up at the September meeting or telephone Brenda.

Brenda phone 730225



Theatre and Outings Group

Blood Brothers – Wednesday 4th October @ 2:30pm, Milton Keynes



Not long now!

The minibus will depart at 10:30 am from the Co-op car park in Thrapston. Please make sure you arrive in plenty of time to enable those of us with mobility issues to get safely on board. *Remember there will be time to shop and lunch in the shopping centre before the theatre performance at 2:30pm.*

The minibus will pick us up from the theatre after the performance at approximately 5.30p.m. and should arrive back in the Co-op car park around 6.30p.m.

Please contact Moira at moira.newton@icloud.com

Mamma Mia – Thursday 1st February (matinee performance)

Royal and Derngate Theatre, Northampton £48.50 + coach fare

Fancy an uplifting evening out early next year at the Royal and Derngate? There still a few places left to see this popular, sing-a-long musical containing many of the famous ABBA songs. Don't forget to add your name to the Theatre list.

Please contact Moira at moira.newton@icloud.com

A Tour of Lamport Hall and Gardens – Thursday 14th September

As this is a reasonably close venue we will be car sharing, so the cost will therefore be £8.50. Meet at the Co-op car park at 1.30p.m.

Please contact Jenni a.s.a.p. if you are interested in visiting this beautiful venue.

jennihall207@gmail.com

Tour of Rockingham Castle (decorated for Christmas) - 29th November

If you are interested in this tour a sign up sheet, with more details re price etc, will be available at the next branch meeting or contact Jenni

Phone : 01832 358721 or email : jennihall207@gmail.com

News from the Groups

“Makin’ Music”

U3A Live Music is not dead, but it is born again!! (Spoken like a true Baptist!!)



First of all, **HUGE** thanks to Frank B who started the group three years ago, and has led it successfully since then. At the end of June he decided to hang up whatever it is you hang up when stopping being a U3A group leader and challenged the rest of us whether we wanted to carry on.

We agreed we did want to carry on, or rather, have a bit of a re-think and start again.

So, after some deliberation, we have decided to re-brand and re-name the group “**Makin’ Music**”. OK, so it’s not the most creative and sexy name but we felt it does what it says on the tin and it says what we want it to be about, which is:

- ◆ Reflect that we played and not just listened to music
- ◆ It was for all instruments and types and styles of music, including vocals and instrumentals
- ◆ It was to be fun

We’ve got a clear idea of some of the songs we want to start learning, but we are also clear that we want new people to join us, to expand the mix of instruments and styles of music, and give us some challenges.

So, if you sing or play any sort of instrument, or used to and want to take it up again, and want to join a group having a lot of fun ***makin’ music***, then give it a try.

Most of us can’t read music well, so if you can’t either, you won’t feel threatened – but if you can, come along and help us so we can learn!!

We agreed we don’t necessarily want to have all instruments playing all the time in every tune, but in the group currently, as well as vocalists, we have guitars, keyboards, ukes, harmonicas and an occasional cajon (it’s a box played as a drum). But we do want to have others – flutes, whistles, strings, sax, brass, percussion ... whatever you’ve got!!

We meet every first and third Wednesday morning, 10:00am, at Thrapston Baptist Church, St Paul’s Gardens. Just turn up and start “**Makin’ Music**”

Contact Neil on 07977 413 424 or namathieson@gmail.com for any more details.

The Walking Group

In August a group of us (and a dog!) set out from The Woolpack, Islip to walk to Woodford where we stopped off for refreshments at Tiggiwinkles Tea Room, before returning to Islip—a very pleasant walk of about 5 miles in lovely weather.

The Walking Group meets on the last Thursday of the month and anyone is welcome to join us. The September walk on the 28th will start from Lowick at 10 a.m. and will be about 5 miles. More details from Margaret Beston . Email: m_beston@hotmail.co.uk Phone: 735236

Flower Arranging Group

Congratulations to Anne, Doreen and Janet !!!

Recently these three members were persuaded to enter the Floral Art Class at a local Flower Show. They achieved 2 Firsts and 1 Second and a Novice Shield. Well Done !



Next meeting Friday 28th Sept 10.00a.m. at The Shrubberies, Woodford to make an Autumn Colours Design. If you would like to join this friendly group, contact Linda 01933 380244

Silverstone Tour Update

If you had signed up to the September trip, you will have heard of the likelihood of the cancellation of the event from Steph. Please make sure that Jenni has your name (if you paid through her) so that any refunds can be made. If you sent your payment to Steph she will be able to refund you directly.

CAN YOU HELP ?

If you have a garage standing unused and would be prepared to rent it out to the committee for storing some of Thrapston U3A's equipment (notice boards, stands etc.) then please have a word with a committee member at the next branch meeting, or by email.

Thrapston and District U3A Committee

Chair: Sheila Underwood

Vice Chair: Viv Tunstall

Treasurer: Tricia James

Secretary: Pauline Johnson

Groups Co-ordinator: Roger Davies

Membership: Pauline Dennison

Publicity: Viv Tunstall

Speaker Seeker: Paul Ollett

Newsletter Editor: Wendy Davies

Equipment Manager: Ian Byrnes

New Members Rep: Maddie Godden

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**