



Thrapston & District

**U3A**



### From the Chair

This is my opportunity to wish all members a Merry Christmas and Peaceful New Year and also to reflect on the first few months of Thrapston and District U3A's existence. I am so pleased with how things have gone; we already have a thriving membership, at the last count it was 152 and approximately eighty of you attend our monthly meetings. The talks, organised by Richard Swindall have been lively and interesting and more are already planned for the coming months.

We have over twenty interest groups at differing stages of development and at least four new (Discussion, Poetry, T ai Chi and Classical Music) starting in the New Year. There's room for more and I note that members have expressed interest in Personal Finance, Ten Pin Bowling, Languages, Antiques and Photography amongst others. We just need volunteers to lead the groups and the crucial point is that to do this you do not have to be an expert; all you need is the enthusiasm to coordinate a group of people. The University of the Third Age's philosophy is that we learn together and above all have fun. So, for example, it would be perfectly feasible to have a  
(continued overleaf)

## Newsletter December 2012

- ♣ Membership meetings
- ♣ The Groups
- ♣ What's On

## Membership Meeting

Friday 21 December  
10.30-12.00

Doors open 10.25

The Plaza, Cosy  
Nook, Thrapston

Christmas celebration:

- ♣ Carol singing
- ♣ Free raffle
- ♣ Quiz



group who learn French or Italian by using a set of Linguaphone CDs supplemented by DVDs from the library, viewings of BBC language programmes and visits to restaurants or markets. So do let our Group Coordinator David Read know if you're interested in taking the lead!

Behind the scenes our Steering Committee has been working hard to get things off the ground, to ensure the smooth running of the organisation and to establish policies and guidance. There are eight of us, we meet monthly and we are; myself as Chair, newsletter Editor and Web master; Veronica Norwood, Vice-Chair; and, alphabetically; Bryan Elliot, Treasurer; Jo Hancock, Membership Secretary; David Read Group Co-ordinator; Richard Swindall, Speaker Seeker; Liz Treacy, Secretary; and Rachel Thompson, Publicity Officer. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work and commitment this year.

Please feel free to send me anything you'd like to be included in the newsletter, I'm always happy to receive comments and ideas.

With best wishes, Glyn Hill [glynishill06@aol.com](mailto:glynishill06@aol.com)

## Membership Meetings

The Christmas celebration on Friday 21 December will include Carol singing, led by Lindsey Burch and accompanied by June or Vincent Davy, a free raffle, a tombola and quiz with prizes. We are also hoping that the interest groups will use this as an opportunity to give a small display of their achievements so far.

Please contact our speaker seeker, Richard Swindall if you have any suggestions for lively speakers. He can be contacted on [richardaswindall@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:richardaswindall@tiscali.co.uk) or on 01832 734383

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 21 December | Christmas celebration                              |
| 25 January  | Jo Pratchet 'Surviving the sinking of the Laconia' |
| 22 February | Angela Cooksley "Upstairs and Downstairs"          |

## Interest Groups

David Read is the group co-ordinator please contact him for any queries.

[david.d.read@btinternet.com](mailto:david.d.read@btinternet.com) 01832 733407

Thought you might enjoy this poem—not just for Computer group members!—  
Editor



The computer swallowed grandma.  
Yes, honestly it's true.  
She pressed 'control' and 'enter'  
And disappeared from view.

It devoured her completely,  
The thought just makes me squirm.  
She must have caught a virus  
Or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin  
And files of every kind;  
I've even used the Internet,  
But nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked Jeeves  
My searches to refine.  
The reply from him was negative,  
Not a thing was found 'online'.

So, if inside your 'Inbox,'  
My Grandma you should see,  
Please 'Copy', 'Scan' and 'Paste' her  
And send her back to me!

*Valerie Waite*



## Interest Group News



### Bridge

Third Thursday of the month p.m. . This is very much a social group and a means of introducing players in the area so that they may subsequently meet in their own homes. Liz is interested to hear from any absolute beginners and , if there are four or more, she will be willing to organise a learning group. Liz Bryan 01832 734221  
[ebthrap@gmail.com](mailto:ebthrap@gmail.com)



### Card Making

Second and fourth Thursday – p.m. Irene Gandy 01832 732948. Still going strong.

**Classical Music.** This new group will take place on the third Wednesday afternoon of each month. I'm an enthusiast rather than an expert and so the approach will be music appreciation. I'll kick off with Elgar's Nimrod on 16 January and then I hope group members will take it in turns to present their own favourites. Please sign up at the meeting or contact Glyn—[glynishill06@aol.com](mailto:glynishill06@aol.com)



### Computers

First and fourth Fridays. This group is really going well. Members range from absolute beginners to experienced and many come along with a particular problem to be solved. For example, downloading photographs, what lap top to buy. The group can accommodate one or two more; please contact Margaret Bland 01832 732761  
[margaretbland@virginmedia.com](mailto:margaretbland@virginmedia.com)

**De-stress and relax** 1st Tues month 2pm The group is full now with eight members. The December meeting has taken place where we introduced ourselves and planned the programme. We had a short relaxation exercise at the end of the session. I'm a trained holistic therapist, counsellor and hypnotherapist. I can teach you how to use aroma therapy at home. I also use meditation guided visualisation and breathing techniques to de-stress relax and lower blood pressure. To register on the waiting list please contacts Rachel Thompson 01832 734974 [rachelk@uwclub.net](mailto:rachelk@uwclub.net)

**Discussion** The first meeting on Tuesday 8 January 1.30-3.30 and every second Tuesday in the month thereafter. At the first meeting, topics for the first two or three discussions will be negotiated. There is room for four additional members: Glyn Hill 01832 735797 [glynishill06@aol.com](mailto:glynishill06@aol.com)



### **Gardening 1**

First and third Wednesday of month at 3 p.m. One or two vacancies. Rachel Thompson 01832 734974 [rachelk@uwclub.net](mailto:rachelk@uwclub.net)

### **Gardening 2**

A visit is planned for Anglesey Abbey in the Spring. One or two vacancies. Please contact: Margaret 01832732761



### **Lacemaking**

We now have a group of 6 meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month. We're all absolute beginners but with interest in crafts. Lace making takes place alongside planned activities including a visit to the Lace and Craft Fair at St Ives and later in the year, the Old Lace Museum in Olney. Space for two new members. Margaret Bland 01832 732761 [margaretbland@virginmedia.com](mailto:margaretbland@virginmedia.com)

### **Family History**

Members of the the Family History Group are working hard on their research and are being very successful. The group will be open for additional members in March and any one interested should contact Neil Busby, Group Leader. on 01832731047 or [u3athrapstonfh@gmail.com](mailto:u3athrapstonfh@gmail.com)

### **Books, Patchwork and weekend Lunch**

Veronica is enjoying the sunshine in New Zealand and will report on her groups in January.

**Luncheons** Our Christmas lunch at Hartford Mill took place on a beautiful day with 33 members enjoying a cruise on the Great Ouse followed by lunch .

I have booked the Feast World Buffet for Thursday 17th January. This is excellent value for three courses, eat as much as you like Chinese, Thai and Indian. Although the price has gone up to £6.99 THEY HAVE AGREED TO LET US GO FOR THE FORMER PRICE OF £5.99!!!!!! Please sign up at the next meeting.

**ADVANCE NOTICE** - this will unfortunately be the last lunch I shall be able to arrange, so would someone out there consider taking on this little job. PLEASE LET ME KNOW. Joyce White 01832 734517 [joybob1983@talktalk.net](mailto:joybob1983@talktalk.net)



### **Military History**

Second Tuesday in the month. The group and already has seven members and a programme for the year has been agreed. The next meeting takes place 8 January at 10.00 . Open to new members, please contact [gerrymartin1@waitrose.com](mailto:gerrymartin1@waitrose.com)

**Play reading** The group are having a seasonal break and will reconvene in February. New members welcome. Please contact Liz Treacy 01832 733264  
[liz.treacy@talk21.com](mailto:liz.treacy@talk21.com)

### **Poetry Group**

3rd Tuesday of the month 2pm Starting January .To meet and read your favourite poems, classics, less well known or your own compositions, you are also very welcome to come along just to listen. Rachel Thompson 01832 734974  
[rachelk@uwclub.net](mailto:rachelk@uwclub.net)



### **Singing for fun**

A potential new group awaiting expressions of interest and a leader. Please sign up at the monthly meeting.



### **South African and Zimbabwe Group**

This group is up and running with six members so far, they had a really enjoyable first meeting and plan to meet set Saturday lunchtimes at the Bridge Hotel. They are also planning a SA themed meal in a local pub and also a Braai (weather permitting).

If you are interested in joining please contact Jacqui Brown on 01832 733291 or e-mail [jacqui.brown@virgin.net](mailto:jacqui.brown@virgin.net).



### **Tai Chi**

Linda Vickerman has volunteered to lead this new group, her contact details are t: 01933 380244, e: [linan-nvic2000@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:linan-nvic2000@yahoo.co.uk) . We already have 11 interested members but have room for more.





### Theatre Trips and Outings

15 members had a wonderful time at Olney Dickensian Christmas Market with wonderful weather, traders in full costume and opportunities for shopping at the many stalls. The team have 3 more theatre trips planned with more in the pipeline.

Transport will almost always be provided and will pick up and drop off outside the Co-op in Thrapston. The cost of the coach will include the driver's tip. Once the theatre and coach companies have been paid, money paid cannot be refunded and members should try to find a replacement. If places are available, members may bring guests at an additional cost of £1. Cheques should be made payable to Thrapston and District U3A and we will also take cash.

**THE LADY KILLERS 23 January 2013**

The cost of the coach to Milton Keynes is **£9 and is now due**. If you cannot get to the December meeting, please telephone me so we can make another arrangement. The coach will leave from outside the Co-op at 11.00 and the performance starts at 2.30. Tickets will be given out on the coach.

Milton Keynes Shopping— there are 10 places on the coach on 23 January, so if you would like to go to MK please telephone me. **Brenda 730225**.

**THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE—ABRIDGED Saturday 13 April 7.30**. After 10 years in the West End this fast and entertaining romp through Shakespeare's works is coming to the Castle in Wellingborough. The cost of tickets is £14 and on this occasion we will travel in shared cars. Booking at December and January meetings. Please indicate if you would be prepared to drive or would be a passenger. **Pauline 732724**

**CATS—Milton Keynes Theatre 26 June 2013**

36 seats in the stalls have been reserved for a matinee performance at £23 each. Deposits of the seat price may be made at the March and April meetings. The exact coach price will depend on numbers and will be advised in March newsletter. **Margaret 735040**

### **Walks and wheels.**

Every Thursday walk and cycle alternate weeks

Peter is taking a break from leading short walks due to other commitments. So

Rachel would welcome a volunteer to take on this role. Members who would be willing to lead one or more walks are very welcome.

A walking break in the Peak District is planned for the end of March, either at YHA or accommodation nearby – details to follow.

Rachel Thomson 01832 734974 [rachelk@uwclub.net](mailto:rachelk@uwclub.net)

### **What's On**

Wednesday 12 December Luncheon Club Christmas Lunch at Hartford Marina

Wednesday 23 January The Lady Killers at Milton Keynes Theatre

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April U3A's Inaugural Founder's Lecture by Eric Midwinter in London details on website

Saturday 13 April The Complete Works of Shakespeare, The Castle, Well.

Friday 17 May Annual General Meeting

### **Madame Butterfly**

As variety is the spice of life, the Oundle Theatre Group would like to offer something new for next year – a visit to the opera. The Welsh National Opera will be performing several different productions at Milton Keynes in March 2013 and we have selected the well known and much loved opera "Madame Butterfly" for U3A members.

This will be an evening performance on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March, at 7.15pm, with time to shop and have a bite to eat before the show. The cost of tickets, including the coach transportation (and driver tip) will be £44.50 per person.

This theatre visit is also being extended to Thrapston U3A members and the coach will be able to pick up passengers there en-route without them having to travel into Oundle.

If you would like to make a booking for this show, please contact Marian Cross on 01832 275326; contact her by email at [mariancross-talk@gmail.com](mailto:mariancross-talk@gmail.com),