



From the Chair

I am delighted to be able to tell you that Thrapston and District U3A is now a full member of the U3A Trust. We were able to start with a 3 month temporary agreement and then as we became established, to apply for full membership. What does this mean to our 143 members? Well, each year £3.50 of your fee is paid to the Trust (we have paid a pro-rata payment this year) and with that fee comes a number of benefits. This includes insurance, access to the Resource Centre with free postal loan for materials, National Summer Schools, Online courses (including Digital Imaging, Creative Writing and Garden History), Subject Study Days, Computer software and educational discount rates, exclusive events and offers and many others. The website gives more detail;

<http://www.u3a.org>

For most members the delivery of 'Third Age Matters' the Trust's in-house magazine to your door five times a year will be your reminder of your National membership. We're hoping that you will receive your first copy at the end of November with the second in mid-January. It has interesting articles and information and of course a Calendar for sale for £3.50 including postage.

For our U3A, things have progressed well incredibly well over the four months of our existence and continue to do so. Three new groups have been formed since my last newsletter due to volunteers coming forward as Group Leaders. My thanks to Margaret (Gardening Group 2 and Lacemaking) and Brenda, Margaret and Pauline (Theatre Trips). Details about Salcey Forest and 'The Lady Killers' below! I must also of course thank all those Group Leaders who continue to support our branch; your hard work is so appreciated.

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

With best wishes, Glyn Hill glynishill06@aol.com

How to get involved (part 3)

We're still looking for members who can help with setting up the room for the meeting, meeting and greeting and also to make tea. Please let me know if you are willing on 01832 735797 or just turn up on Friday!

Newsletter

October 2012

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Membership Meeting

Friday 19 October 10.30-12.00

Doors open 10.25

The Plaza, Cosy Nook,
Thrapston

- Speaker: Mick Boyce
'The Story of
Rockingham Castle'

Membership Meetings

On September 21st Margaret Burgon gave an excellent talk 'It couldn't happen at a wedding' which was an entertaining, lively and humorous account of her life as a Vicar's wife. Our speaker seeker Richard Swindall has also organised the following talks but is always on the lookout for suggestions. He can be contacted on richardaswindall@tiscali.co.uk or on 01832 734383

- 19 October Mick Boyce 'The Story of Rockingham Castle'
- 16 November Lt Col Derek Kimberley 'The Pageantry of Ceremonial Music'
- 21 December Christmas celebration
- 18 January Jo Pratchet 'Surviving the sinking of the Laconia'
- 15 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 01832 733407

Interest Group News

Creative Writing

The Group is continuing very successfully and we're having a ball! I continue to be very impressed by the contributions made by group members, most have not written before and the quality of work is remarkable. We're at present writing Children's stories. One of our tasks has been to write just 50 words on a set topic; an example, entitled 'Mystery' is included below. The work is so good there are plans to publish a collection of work ready for the AGM in May. Group is full. Ann Barrowcliffe annbee1@hotmail.co.uk

A MYSTERY

David had felt its powerful force once before. It had nearly destroyed him and he had taken a long time to recover. He spent many years searching for it again, believing that the rewards outweighed the risks. At the age of 84 he finally found it with Elsie in a nursing home in Croydon. Love is a mystery.

Ann Barrowcliffe

Books

The group continues positively. The Secret Lives of Bees went down well with our readers and we are now into 'London Under' by Peter Ackroyd. Veronica Norwood 01832 731960 vdbbaker@talktalk.net

Bridge

The first group meeting took place on Thursday 20 September. There is a waiting list for inexperienced players but those with experience are very welcome to contact the group leader if interested in joining. Liz Bryan 01832 734221 ebthrap@gmail.com

Card Making

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

Computers

First and fourth Fridays. This is progressing well. There are two vacancies, possibly on a temporary basis until January, please contact Margaret Bland 01832 732761 margaretbland@virginmedia.com

Discussion

This group will begin in the New Year with 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

Detox and relax

Fourth Wednesday of month at 3 p.m. Rachel Thompson 01832 734974 rachelk@uwclub.net

Family History

We have 14 members. Pre-booked one to one sessions are also available to use the free access to subscription family history websites at the Library. Potential new members should contact the group leader: Neil Busby 01832 731047 or u3athrapstonfh@gmail.com

Gardening 1

First and third Wednesday of month. Rachel Thompson 01832 734974 rachelk@uwclub.net

Gardening 2

The first meeting takes place on Wednesday 17 October in Salcey Forest. Meet at 10.00 in the car park of the Woolpack Islip. Bring packed lunch or use café. There are spaces for two new members. Contact: Margaret 01832732761



Lacemaking

A newly formed group meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Lace making takes place alongside planned activities including a visit to the Lace and Craft Fair at St Ives next Saturday and later in the year, the Old Lace Museum in Olney. Space for two new members. Margaret Bland 01832 732761 margaretbland@virginmedia.com

Luncheons

The October meal is booked for Thursday 18th October at the Thornhill Arms in Rushton which is highly recommended by the Ise Valley U3A lunch group. We have a booking for Tuesday 13th November at The Dukes Arms, in Woodford and our Christmas lunch will be at Hartford Mill on Wednesday 12th December which can be preceded by an optional hours cruise on the Great Ouse in the Captains Table boat. Names can also be given to Nella or me for this and will require pre-payment in October. A non-refundable deposit of £5 is required for the Christmas meal. We are varying the day and time each month to make it possible for all members to get to some if not all of the meals. Group places available, contact Joyce White 01832 734517 joybob1983@talktalk.net

Military History

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

Patchwork The group is flourishing. We have a couple of new people join our numbers recently and everyone is working hard. Some pieces have been finished including cushion covers, cot quilt (see photograph below) and pin cushions. New designs now under way each to individuals own choice and adaptations made from patterns according to desired requirements. Veronica Norwood 01832 731960 vdbbaker@talktalk.net



Play reading The group has been meeting monthly and have a core membership of 9 or so ladies; we meet in each other's houses and have read 3 plays and one or two one act plays. We would welcome more members particularly gentlemen as some of us have had to develop deeper voices than we usually have. ~Everyone has enjoyed the sessions.no pressure to read, just come along and listen if you prefer. Liz Treacy 01832 733264 liz.treacy@talk21.com

Singing for fun

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

Theatre Trips Brenda, Margaret and Pauline have got together to get theatre visits off the ground and have reserved 48 seats for 'The Lady Killers', a matinee performance at Milton Keynes Theatre on 23rd January 2013. The cost per seat is the very good price of £15 and this will be the deposit for the trip. A coach will be running from Thrapston (probably from outside the Co-op) and will drop us outside the theatre and pick up from the same place. The balance will be the cost of the coach and will be advised as soon as we know how many people are going and will include a driver tip. Once the closing date of 30th November has been reached the deposit will be non-refundable as the U3A will have paid for the tickets by then. If necessary a waiting list will be kept and it may be possible to sell on tickets. For theatre visits we will usually leave mid/late morning so people can have lunch if they wish – or indulge in retail therapy!

If you wish to join this trip please give your name and deposit of £15 at the theatre table at the monthly meetings in October or November. Cheques should be made payable to Thrapston and District U3A and we will also take cash.

If you cannot make the meeting to book your place, please telephone Brenda on 730225.

Walks and wheels.

By request, in future I will be doing a mix of different walks and cycles:

- First Thursday - long walk 8-10 miles 10 or 11am (tbc)
- Third Thursday - medium walk 5-7 miles 1pm
- Second and fourth Thursday - cycle ride 1pm

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

Weekenders lunch group Going well went to Old Friar at Twywell for September's meal and enjoyed a lovely lunch even if I tried to knock myself out on a roof beam!! . Veronica Norwood 01832 731960 vdbbaker@talktalk.net

What's On

- Wednesday 12 December Luncheon Club Christmas Lunch at Hartford Marina
- Wednesday 23 January The Lady Killers at Milton Keynes Theatre
- Friday 17 May Annual General Meeting

The Website

It's up and running and our url is <http://u3asites.org.uk/thrapston> Please use it to check on your group meetings and to keep up to date with events, you can also print off the latest newsletter and the membership form. Photographs from groups are very welcome; please email them to me glynishill06@aol.com.

An appeal for help 1

LOTTERY FUNDED

“SCHOOL OF LIFE”
DIFFERENT AGES – DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES

**Intergenerational
Volunteers Needed**

**“Give a little,
gain a lot”**

01933 396382
Email: info@nvca.org.uk
Charity No: 1130024

**NENE VALLEY
COMMUNITY ACTION**

The School of Life will enable younger and older people to share and learn new skills together. Whether you are under 25 or over 50 years, we need you to volunteer and take part.

Come and join us in an exciting range of community based projects near you.

Contact us NOW for more details.

Julia Baulch from Nene Valley Community Action is appealing for help from our U3A members for the 'School of Life Project'. She is running a Tea Dance at St John's School on 23rd November 2-4 and would like volunteers to come along and dance. Other projects include a knitters group. Please contact Julia directly.

An appeal for help 2

On Friday 21 December we plan to have a Christmas event with mince pies and singing. Is anyone able to accompany the singers on a piano or organ, please? Please let Richard know.

richardaswindall@tiscali.co.uk or 01832 734383

The Newsletter

I am looking for those who can write and/or take photographs to contribute! It can be anything from poems, successes at your interest groups or photographs of members at work or play. Please email or phone me for an address to send them to. Glynishill06@aol.com 01832 735797

Our first contribution, from our Gardening 1 Group Leader, Rachel Thompson is a beautiful and timely poem!



Ode to a parsnip

You wait and wait
To no avail
Was it a pigeon?
Slug or snail?

You dug and weeded
Hoed and raked
Diligently worked
Till you're back ached

You studied the packets
Which one for you
Countess, Gladiator,
Tender and true?

You sowed them with care
One day in May
The day it stopped raining
Hip hip hurrah

You watch and watch
Till fed up you stop
But they're crafty and wily
Catch you on the hop

Once you give up
Full of despair
Next day sneak out
Heads in the air.

You tend them with love
Watch them grow
Through sun and rain,
Wind and snow

You scan them all closely
Which one to choose
Hoping for perfection
No forking or bruise

You dig up a long one
Hell of a beast
Pride of the table
For a grand Christmas feast