



From the Chair

What a truly wonderful summer! It's so great to have seen so much patriotism and good cheer from the UK both during the Queen's Jubilee and in the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

I was over the moon to have been accepted as one of the 70,000 Games Maker for the Paralympic Games and so for 11 days my husband and I de-camped to a Caravan site in South London, with, believe it or not, a flock of Parakeets in the tree tops.

I had a great time; my role was to meet, greet and direct the crowds of spectators as they walked to and from the rail station. I was the proud owner of a pink foam hand for pointing and also for 'high fiving' hundreds of children and their parents. I finished on Saturday very tired but really, really pleased that I'd had the experience.

Being a volunteer is not normally so easy and also doesn't receive the accolade of thanks that were given to the Games Makers both during and after the games. Here at Thrapston and District U3A, we rely on volunteers; from the people who make tea at the monthly meetings to the Group Leaders and to the members of the Steering Committee. As with the games, you are the essential cogs in the wheels; it certainly couldn't function without you. I know that volunteering takes time and effort but I hope you are finding it as rewarding as I did for the short period this summer. Thank you to those who are already helping to get the branch off the ground, you are really appreciated! We do of course need more and if you're willing to become a group leader, make the tea or meet and greet our visitors you will be welcomed with open arms – probably with a pink foam hand included!

With best wishes, Glyn Hill (Gamesmaker!) glynishill06@aol.com

How to get involved (part 2)

'The years between fifty and seventy are the hardest. You are always being asked to do things and you are not yet decrepit enough to turn them down' (T.S. Elliot)

The groups are up and running and being very ably led by our leaders. We have a large number of members interested in Theatre Trips and Outings and our Group Co-ordinator David Read will be meeting with you immediately following the monthly meeting on 21 September to enable the group to get started. We're also looking for members who can help with setting up the room for the meeting, meeting and greeting and also to make tea. Please let Veronica Norwood know if you are willing on 01832 731960.

Newsletter September 2012

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Membership Meeting

Friday 21 September 10.30-12.00

Doors open 10.25

**The Plaza, Cosy Nook,
Thrapston**

Speaker: Margaret Burgon

**'It couldn't happen at a
wedding'**

Membership Meetings

Meetings take place on the third Friday of the month 10.30-12.00. We had a wonderful speaker in Greta Palmer in August; she gave a fascinating account of her visits to India and her interest in decorative trappings worn by elephants. The various accessories she brought along were beautiful and were supplemented by slides.

I know that some of you queried the charge of £1 for members and £2 for visitors. This is to cover the hire of the hall and speakers and not for the coffee and biscuits which are provided free. It's especially needed since charges for the Plaza are to be increased from this month.

Our speaker seeker Richard Swindall has 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

- 21 September Margaret Burgon 'It couldn't happen at a wedding'
- 19 October Mick Boyce 'The Story of Rockingham Castle'
- 17 November 'Upstairs downstairs' (to be confirmed)
- 21 December Glyn Hill 'Gamesmaking at the Paralympics' followed by mince pies and Carol Singing
- 18 January Jo Pratchet 'Surviving the sinking of the Laconia'

Interest Groups

16 groups have been established so far with more in the pipe line. David Read will be reviewing the sign-up sheets from last meeting and where there are six or more interested members, he will be approaching people for group leader volunteers. He intends to get the Theatre/Trips group/s up and running since this is most popular.

The committee meeting felt that it would be a good idea to consolidate our present groups and then have a second phase of new groups in the New Year. There is one exception, it was suggested that a Singing Group could be established, particularly since we have carols at the December meeting. David will arrange a sign-up at the September meeting or please contact him to express an interest david.d.read@btinternet.com 01832 733407

Interest Group News

Creative Writing The Group is proving popular. It is currently fully subscribed. We meet once a month to share our work and to look at ways of developing our writing skills. Learning from each other and exploring different genres is both enjoyable and rewarding. As the leader, I have been very impressed by the contributions made by group members. Who knows, we may have a budding novelist amongst us!
Ann Barrowcliffe annbee1@hotmail.co.uk

Books We have finished the first book and met on Friday 31st. August, to discuss it. It was well liked by all and scored an average out of 8 out of 10 for enjoyment. Next month's book is The Secret Life of Bees which we shall be talking about on 28th September at 10.30 a.m. in the library: Veronica Norwood 01832 731960
vdbbaker@talktalk.net

Bridge The first group meeting takes place on Thursday 20 September 1.30-3.30 with up to 20 people expected. 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 – 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

Family History We have 14 members and we held our first proper monthly meeting in August. 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 We have met at my house and Cathy's and we have also visited the rectory garden at Sudborough and Bosworths garden centre. Our next two outings are to The Olive Grove at Polebrook and the orchard at Lyvden New Bield. We have a feature plant each month which has been Calendula (pot marigold) and Huauzontle(astec brocolli)

Rachel Thompson 01832 734974 rachelk1983@uwclub.net

Gardening 2 This is awaiting a group leader. Anyone interested? Please speak to David Read (contact above)

Luncheons On Friday 7th September 21 members of the luncheon group had an excellent meal at the Old Friar, Twywell. Really good food, venue and service. Our August meal was at Feast World Buffet in Kettering for an Indian, Chinese and Thai Buffet. Also excellent value.

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. Names can be given to Nella Mathieson at the September meeting at the Plaza together with menu choices for this one. We have an initial 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.

Patchwork is going along well; a new member will be joining us next week. People have finished their first project and are starting to organise themselves with choices they have decided to tackle next. 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

Walks and wheels. We have had several short and long walks, exploring Woodford, Drayton estate, Denford, Aldwinkle including some lakes rivers and woodland. Plus one cycle ride along to Stanwick lakes. We have included refreshment breaks at Willy Watt Mill Tea Room and Pear Tree Farm Tearoom. Peter has led several enjoyable short walks. I'm investigating future walks which will begin with a bus ride and a return linear walk and also a trip to Graham water where people can walk or cycle or chill out. By request, in future I will be doing a mix of different walks:

- First Thursday - long walk 8-12 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 rachelk1983@uwclub.net

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.

The Newsletter

So far, the letter has been informative rather than entertaining but that will all change and so I am looking for those who can write and/or take photographs to please contribute! It can be anything from poems, successes at your interest groups (a creative writing piece, a photograph of a study group, a photograph of patchwork or cards..) Please email or phone me for an address to send them to. Glynishill06@aol.com 01832 735797