CHAIR’S WELCOME

There seems to have been a lot happening since the last Newsletter. We had lots of groups and members involved in the Arts Festival and I think we everyone was amazed at the high quality of the displays, presentations and performances that we all enjoyed.
Well done to all those involved!

The Caribbean atmosphere of the Charter Fair was equally good, and the weather was kind to us. I enjoyed seeing many of you there and it was good to advertise our presence in the Town. It never fails to surprise me how many people still do not know about us!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Jenni Hall for all the time and effort she has put in to organising the visits and trips that I know so many of you have enjoyed. She is now stepping down from that role and we need someone to take over. The trip to Sandringham is to be last she will organise. It will be disappointing if we cannot continue to enjoy the opportunity to go on 2 or 3 interesting visits in a year. If you think you could help please get in touch with Jenni, myself or any Committee member and we can discuss it further.

A quick reminder that the tickets for the Autumn Social will be on sale at the next Plaza meeting.

Looking forward to meeting you there on July 19th when we hope to learn more about “Fotheringhay and the House of York”

Sheila
Tricia, having juggled with a wobbly stand supporting her lecture notes, continued unfazed into her talk about the life and music of Elvis Presley. After playing the song ‘Love Me Tender’, she took us on a journey through his life starting with his birth on January 8th 1935 and described how, as a toddler, he would jump off his mum’s lap and join in singing with the church choir.

Tricia talked of Elvis being bullied at school and about the close relationship with his mother and about his pathetic father who was jailed for fraud and lost them their home. Elvis taught himself to play the guitar by listening and watching others play. Aged 10, he gave his first public performance, dressed as a cowboy and stood on a chair to reach the microphone.

He later had guitar lessons, joined a group, greased his hair and sported sideburns. Leaving school in 1953, he decided music was to become his future. Along the way there were setbacks and put-downs, and he was forced to take a job as a truck driver. A friend told him that a professional bandleader was looking for a vocalist and some of his songs were aired on the radio. This led to stage performances. It is said that his legs shook on stage because he was nervous, but this was to become his trademark so to speak.

Young girls were screaming at Elvis’s gyrations, which had some reviewers claiming it was not for a family audience. He became known as Elvis the Pelvis. He then started to appear in films, most of which were panned by the critics, but some were hits at the box office and his name spread across the world. In 1957 he purchased a mansion called Graceland for himself and his mum and dad.

He then entered the US army, became a sergeant and fell in love with a girl called Priscilla. They separated in 1972 and then divorced. During his military service his mother had passed away. He’d lost the two women he loved, and from then on things started to go wrong. His health deteriorated through drug abuse and on stage his words were slurred. He was hospitalised for a period and shortly afterwards found dead in his bathroom. There was a funeral held at Graceland and over 80,000 people lined the route. Elvis was buried there, where thousands visit each year to pay homage to the King of rock and roll.

The talk was presented in an interesting and entertaining manner, together with humorous anecdotes and was well received by all.

Thankyou Tricia.
Calendar of Events 2019

19th July  
Fotheringay & the House of York - see below

31st July  
Stanwick Lakes - Local History Walk - see page 4

16th August  
Summer Event - see below

3rd September  
Peterborough - Local History Walk - see page 4

11th September  
Grease - see page 6

19th September  
Sandringham - see page 6

20th September  
Charles Dickens—Author & Conjuror - by Ian Keable

Monthly Plaza Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When?</th>
<th>3rd Friday of each month</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Where?</td>
<td>The Plaza in Thrapston</td>
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<tr>
<td>When?</td>
<td>from 10.30 to 12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please note that doors open at 10.00 a.m.
Visitors are also welcome to join us for a small charge of £2

This Month

Friday July 19th
Fotheringay & the House of York
by Mike Ingram

Next Month

Friday August 16th
Summer Event at the Sailing Club
(see below)

THRAPSTON & DISTRICT U3A - SUMMER EVENT

Friday 16th August 2019  
Tickets £7.00  
Venue: Thrapston Sailing Club

The gates to the Sailing Club open at 11.45am and your food will be served from 12.30. To delight you, in addition to your buffet lunch, boat trips (£1.00 per person) have been arranged and we have some puzzles and music to keep you entertained.

All that remains for us to arrange is fine weather!

Tickets will be on sale at the Monthly Meeting at The Plaza on July 19th.
Secure your tickets early, to avoid disappointment.
Local History Group

A report on the trip to Titchmarsh

On Wednesday 8th May, the group made a second visit to the village of Titchmarsh. Meeting at the parish church of St Mary the Virgin, we were greeted by Ian Curtis from the local history society, who suggested that we might all go into the church to commence the tour, in view of the rather wet weather conditions.

Following an introduction covering the general history of the village, it was decided that the tour go ahead. Starting from the church (beneath a canopy of very colourful and large umbrellas) we made our way across the adjacent field, which has only recently been identified as the possible site of the manor house of Sir Gilbert Pickering, passing the Old Rectory and then on to the terrace of Alms Houses, originally erected for single ladies of the parish.

We moved on through the village passing many old cottages and buildings of interest, hearing tales of roads being moved, graveyards being rearranged, and many other odd stories. By now we were all rather wet and it was decided to return to the church. The church has many fine features including beautiful stained glass windows.

Ian continued to entertain us with details of the history of the village, also showing us the timeline that the History Society has compiled, showing the Lords of the Manor back to 1250 and including many villagers who played key roles in major events in history.

The visit was concluded with a delicious tea provided by the ladies of the parish, with beautiful scones and cake, and very welcome hot tea.

Bernie Swarbrick

Upcoming Trips

Peterborough. Tuesday 3rd September

Tour of the cathedral and time for shopping, lunch and the museum. leaving Thrapston Co-op at 10.15 am.
We have secured a cathedral tour for twenty members at a cost of £6 per head, starting at 11.15 and finishing about 12.30. A bus has been booked, returning at 4 p.m. costing approximately £12 per head. (£18 total).
Please sign up and pay at the July meeting or ring Glyn on 735 797

Stanwick Lakes Wednesday 31st July

We have eight places left for this walk with a theme of 5,000 years of settlement led by Neil Busby, (Rockingham Forests Trust).

We meet at 9.30 for car sharing (at the Co-op) or 10 am at Stanwick Lakes. There is no charge except for parking. Please wear stout shoes. Please sign up at the meeting or ring Glyn. (see above)
**DRAWING FOR THE TERRIFIED**

Mandy Dawkins’ new group will meet for the first time on September 12th. She could offer just 5 places. These went like hot cakes at the June Monthly Meeting, but Mandy is keeping a waiting list.

Let Mandy know if you would like to be added to her list.

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**BRIDGE GROUP**

Liz Bryan is stepping down as Group Leader after several years of leading the Bridge Group so successfully. Many thanks, Liz, for your enthusiasm and support. She has found an admirable replacement Leader in the shape of Sue Hallam, to whom we are grateful for stepping into Liz’s shoes.

The group meets on the second Thursday of the month, in the afternoon.

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**CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS – A SHORT COURSE**

John McGill has kindly offered to lead members through the arcane mysteries of solving cryptic crosswords. Meetings will be on Wednesday mornings in July at John’s home, beginning on the 10th.

For more details contact John - phone 737 995

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**GREYHOUND RACING AT PETERBOROUGH**

Irene Gandy’s next trip to Peterborough Greyhound Racing Stadium will be on **Friday 8th November**.

The cost will be £27, which includes entry, tip for the driver (monetary, not a hot inside tip from a trainer!) and a good, two-course meal in the trackside restaurant. If you wish to place bets on the races, staff will come to your table to serve drinks take your bets – and bring you your winnings!

This is a thoroughly enjoyable and convivial night out. These trips of Irene’s run like a well-oiled machine and come highly recommended.

Please sign up at July’s monthly meeting or contact Irene on 732948 to secure your place. Payment is due on September 20th at The Plaza.

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**Vintage Popular Recorded Music**

John is still hoping to start a group to share his interest in music from the 1940/50s up to the mid 60s. If you ever owned records by any singers or musicians like Elvis Presley, Roy Orbison, Chuck Berry, Patsy Cline, Buddy Holly, The Shadows, Ray Charles, Connie Francis, Cliff Richard, Billy Fury, Everly Brothers, or Lonnie Donegan etc. then this may be of interest to you.

If so, please contact Roger or John Percy for more information.
Roger : email  groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
John : phone 720 130
Outings

A report on the visit to Peckover House & gardens and Elgoods Brewery & gardens

We were lucky enough to have a fine day for this trip. We arrived at Peckover House in time for a welcome cuppa in their barn tearoom and a look at the beautiful gardens. Our tour of the house commenced at 12 and we were welcomed with some lovely music being played on the grand piano. After lunch most of the group made their way to Elgoods Brewery for a very interesting talk/tour on how beer is produced followed by a tasting session of some of the finished product!

Elgoods also has 4 acres of stunning gardens and we had time for a quick look before boarding the coach home at 4.30.

Sandringham House and Gardens + free time in Hunstanton
19th September £28

As I already have 23 names for the above I have decided to make this the last trip I organise before retiring. If you are interested in one of the few remaining places please contact me asap or see me at the next Plaza meeting. As there is not a Plaza meeting in August, I will be collecting the money for this trip in July. If your name is already on the list please either pay me the £28 at the meeting or ring me to arrange payment.

If you are booked on this trip and are a member of the RHS please notify me asap as this affects the price of your ticket. Also if you have any mobility issues and will be taking a wheelchair or walker please notify me when you pay for your ticket.

Thank you.

Jenni phone 358 721

Theatre Trips

Don’t miss out on these two wonderful, uplifting, toe-tapping musicals;

GREASE Wednesday 11th September, Leicester Curve Theatre
Price £45pp, 1 PLACE REMAINING

CALENDAR GIRLS Thursday 10th October, Royal & Derngate, Northampton,
price £45pp, 6 PLACES REMAINING

A report on the visit to Annie

We arrived in Milton Keynes with time to spare for some retail therapy and lunch before the show. We all enjoyed a wonderful production of Annie, starring none other than Craig Revel Horwood as Miss Hannigan; he really does look exceedingly good as a woman and has a surprisingly good voice! Although he stole the show, the rest of the cast were exceptional and very versatile with their singing and dancing. We enjoyed hearing all the old favourites like “Tomorrow”, “You’re never fully dressed without a smile” and “Easy Street” to name but a few. There were quite a few smiling faces on our return journey, so it would appear everyone had a good day, made the most of the sunshine and enjoyed the show.

Jenni

Please be aware that an option for payment online is now available; please ask for details.

Please remember, tickets are non-refundable.

Moira - phone 07960 640 161
Here is the current list of groups, which will provide you with a handy reference. More details are available on the website or contact Roger at groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Leader</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Leader</th>
<th>When</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art Appreciation</td>
<td>v David Turner</td>
<td>Fri am 4</td>
<td>Lace Making</td>
<td>v Margaret Bland</td>
<td>Tue pm 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Games</td>
<td>v Irene Gandy</td>
<td>Tue pm 1,3</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>v Robert Dicken-</td>
<td>Tue pm 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Club</td>
<td>v Celia Busby</td>
<td>Fri am Last</td>
<td>Line Dancing</td>
<td>v Sue Pringle</td>
<td>Tue pm 1,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowls</td>
<td>v David Gray</td>
<td>Tue pm All</td>
<td>Lunces (monthly)</td>
<td>Iris Squires</td>
<td>Various</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge</td>
<td>Elizabeth Bryan</td>
<td>Thur pm 2</td>
<td>Makin’ Music</td>
<td>v Neil Mathieson</td>
<td>Wed am All</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sue Hallam</td>
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<td>Cake &amp; Bake pm</td>
<td>v Viv Tunstall</td>
<td>Fri pm 2</td>
<td>Military History</td>
<td>v Julian Brown</td>
<td>Mon am All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classical Music</td>
<td>v Glyn Hill v Mike Henderson</td>
<td>Wed am 4 Wed pm 3</td>
<td>Nordic Short Walks</td>
<td>v Pauline Johnson Rod Brown</td>
<td>Tue pm 4 Fri pm 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classical Music am pm</td>
<td>v Glyn Hill v Mike Henderson</td>
<td>Wed am 4 Wed pm 3</td>
<td>Nordic Walking</td>
<td>v Pauline Johnson Rod Brown</td>
<td>Tue pm 4 Fri pm 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computing</td>
<td>v John McGill</td>
<td>Fri am 2,4</td>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>v Neil Under-</td>
<td>Mon am 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Writing</td>
<td>v David Green</td>
<td>Wed am 2</td>
<td>Play Reading</td>
<td>v David Green</td>
<td>Wed pm 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cryptic Crosswords</td>
<td>v John McGill</td>
<td>Wed JULY</td>
<td>Science &amp; Technology</td>
<td>v Glynis Hill</td>
<td>Mon pm 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td>v Frank Boydell</td>
<td>Mon am All</td>
<td>Social Forestry</td>
<td>v Susan Collini</td>
<td>Mon am 1 Mon am 3 Wed am 2,4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drawing for the Terrified</td>
<td>v Mandy Dawkins</td>
<td>Thur am 2</td>
<td>Stitchers</td>
<td>v Wendy Davies</td>
<td>Thur am 2 Wed am Last</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English – 2 Groups</td>
<td>v Glyn James</td>
<td>Wed pm 1 Thur pm 3</td>
<td>Table Tennis</td>
<td>v Gordon Campbell</td>
<td>Tue am All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family History</td>
<td>v Neil Busby</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Tai Chi</td>
<td>v Linda Vickerman</td>
<td>Thur pm All</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flower Bunch</td>
<td>v Linda Vickers</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Ten Pin Bowling</td>
<td>v Irene Gandy</td>
<td>Fri am 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fork to Fork</td>
<td>v Rachel Thompson</td>
<td>Wed pm 2</td>
<td>Theatre &amp; Outings</td>
<td>v Moira Newton Jenni Hall</td>
<td>Various</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French – Encore</td>
<td>v Jan Pacey v Roger Davies</td>
<td>Thur am 1,3 Wed pm 2,4</td>
<td>Ukulele</td>
<td>v Marion Healey</td>
<td>Tue am All</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gardening</td>
<td>v Angela Gyves</td>
<td>Wed am 2</td>
<td>Walks</td>
<td>v Pauline Dennis-</td>
<td>Thur am Last</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History Walks</td>
<td>v Brenda Berry v Glyn Hill</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Weekenders (Lunch for Singles)</td>
<td>v Pam Richardson</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>v Marion Healey</td>
<td>Wed pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Key: v = current vacancies

Tuesday pm 1,3 = First and Third Tuesdays in the month
First Aid  

Short Course

If you are interested in joining a course on First Aid, then Tricia (Short Course Co-ordinator) would like to hear from you. If there is sufficient interest then a date which is suitable for most people can be arranged.

Contact Tricia email: coursesthrapstonu3a@yahoo.com

Telephone numbers given in the newsletter are usually preceded by the Thrapston STD code—01832. Any Raunds numbers (indicated by R) need the STD code 01933

Thrapston and District U3A Committee 2019/20

Chair: Sheila Underwood  
Vice Chair: Wendy Davies
Treasurer: Sue Campbell  
Secretary: Ian Byrnes
Groups Co-ordinator: Roger Davies  
Membership: Pauline Dennison
Short Course Co-ordinator: Tricia Eales  
Speaker Seeker: Terry Robinson
Newsletter Editor: Wendy Davies  
Publicity: Sue Campbell
IT Operations /Website Manager: Neil Busby  
Plaza Registration: Tina Jones

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