



### Contents

	page
Welcome from the Chairman	1
Report of Branch Meeting — Britain through the seasons	2
Calendar of Events 2018	3
Focus on History	4
News from the groups	6
Notice of A.G.M.	7
U3A Committee	8



### Welcome from the Chair

I hope you all had an enjoyable Easter and that you managed to stay dry for some of the time at least. The weather did not seem to appreciate that British Summer Time had arrived.

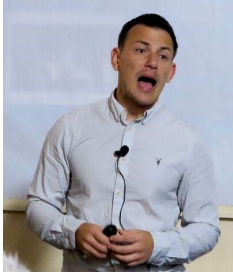
The New Membership Form and fees are now in place so if you are renewing, please make sure you use the new form. The new regulations (GDPR) require us to have your signature if we are to be able to store your email, address and telephone number, in order to communicate with you and send you the Newsletter.

Next month will be our AGM; it seems to have come round very quickly. The timing and the Agenda are available on the website and there is a copy included in this Newsletter too. Fortunately most of the Committee are willing to stand for another year to see us through all the changes required by the new Data Protection Regulations, which come into force in May. However, we do need someone to be our Publicity Officer. If you feel you could help with this please, speak to one of us or if you prefer there is a job description on our website.

At our April monthly meeting, we will be trying out a different seating arrangement in the Plaza. Our numbers have increased and it has been suggested that we could seat more people if we face the stage. We are going to try this, as many of you will have realised that we are almost to capacity with the seating facing the side wall. Please let us know what you think of the new arrangement, or if you have any positive suggestions about how we might cope with our own success.

Sheila





## Britain Through The Seasons

by Tom Way

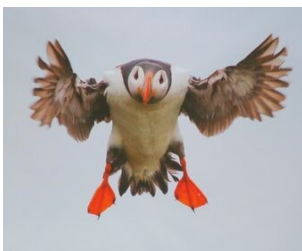
Tom comes from a farming background and still lives on a small farm in Iver, Buckinghamshire. Having graduated from university, he embarked on a career as a sports trainer but soon decided that this was not fulfilling his ambition. He resigned from his job and decided to travel, visiting Australia, New Zealand and Africa, where he has since returned on several occasions, latterly to take stunning pictures of big cats and other wild animals, in their spectacular habitat. With no experience as an amateur photographer, he changed direction and decided that he wished to establish himself as a professional wildlife photographer, which he has since successfully achieved.

Tom's passion for British wildlife was evident, with his beautiful photographs projected for our enjoyment and he gave guidance on what he termed to be key factors in taking a great picture. Firstly, he advised that consideration be given for the lighting of the subject and referred to the 'golden hour' sometimes to be found at dawn or sunset, when natural light takes on a different quality. Secondly, he recommended that the photographer looks for 'character' in a subject and his images certainly evidenced this. Although many of the images he displayed were filled with vibrant colour, his preferred medium is black & white, where, with the colours stripped away, the character of his subjects was seemingly revealed and magnified.

The images in Tom's portfolio were targeted and nearly all required remarkable patience and sometimes a little luck to obtain. In one instance, he had been endeavouring to photograph a Water Vole in January and to get the shot at eye level he had set up his tripod in a stream. With his waterproof chest waders he entered the water to wait. Nothing happened on the first day but on the second, the Water Vole appeared. As Tom leant forward, in anticipation of success, he managed to dip the front of his waders beneath the surface of the water and was obliged to retreat to dry out. However, undaunted, he returned to the location and on the fourth day the little animal obliged and Tom had a magnificent picture.



Tom does not enhance his images with digital computer programmes as he does not consider himself a digital artist, but he does allow himself certain ploys to get the pictures he desires. For example, this included strategically placing peanuts to entice a Greater Spotted Woodpecker into the frame for another great shot.



We were treated to a wide range of British wildlife images through the seasons and many anecdotes of Tom's sometime very unglamorous activities resulting in pictures that provoked such gasps within the audience. Probably his most stunning picture seen on the day was of a Puffin in flight, front on, which he described as 'comical'. The image was his first commercial hit and to date he has sold nearly 20,000 prints, including his beautiful greetings cards. Tom was asked to name his favourite picture and proudly projected a black and white image of two Lions nestling together, which he had entitled "Strongest Bond", and this brought forth a chorus of appreciation around the Plaza.

Having very recently returned from Kenya, Tom is soon to travel to India, where his mission is to photograph Tigers. No doubt he will bring back some stunning images and we wish him every success.



## Calendar of Events 2018

- 19 April            **An officer and a Gentleman - Leicester** - see page 6
- 20 April            **You cannot be serious— tales from a Wimbledon Umpire** by Alan Gray MBE
- 11 May             **Greyhound Racing** - see page 8
- 18 May             **A.G.M.** followed by  
                         **The Comedy of Victoria Wood** by Steve Dimmer
- 24 May             **History Walk around Brigstock** - see page 5
- 20 September   **Warhorse** - **Milton Keynes** - see page 6

### Branch Meetings

- When?    3rd Friday of each month  
Where?   The Plaza in Thrapston  
When?    from 10.30 to 12,  
            (Doors open at 10am.)

Visitors are also welcome to join us for a small charge of £2



**This Month — Friday April 20th**

***You cannot be serious! -***

***Tales from a Wimbledon Umpire***  
***1988 to 2012***

**By Alan Gray MBE**



**Next Month - Friday May 18th**

**A.G.M.** (see page 7 for details)

Followed by

***The Comedy of Victoria Wood***

***By Steve Dimmer***



### STOP PRESS

Unfortunately, we can no longer offer Bridge Training as one of our numerous activities and sad to say, Irene Gandy is closing her U3A Papercraft group. Irene does run a non-U3A group in Thrapston, and would welcome any interested newcomers. Contact Irene on 01832 732948 for further details.

## Focus on.....History

*History is not a burden on the memory but an illumination of the soul.*

Lord Acton

### Military History

This small group restricted (at this time) to ten members meets on the second Monday of each month (except August and December) at a member's house. There the host provides tea/coffee and biscuits and gives a talk on a topic related to military history of his/her choice. There is no charge (at this time) for attending a meeting. There is no restriction on what may be spoken about other than it relates to an aspect of military history. The length of the talk is up to the speaker although the average appears to be about 45 minutes.



Previous talks have ranged over such subjects as the Battle of Rorke's Drift, Border Reivers and the War of 1812 (with the USA).

At this time we have eight members so have space for another two. If you are interested in this subject contact me and come along for a taster, meet the group and see the level of discussion.

Parry Jones Tel: 01832 732668 or email [hjpi@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hjpi@hotmail.co.uk)

### Family History



This is a group in name only as I meet members individually in the Library for one-hour research sessions at times convenient to both of us. The location of these sessions is in some doubt now with the Library closing after 31<sup>st</sup> August. It has served us well in the past with free access to Online websites such as Ancestry and FindmyPast.

Since the "group" was formed five years ago, many U3A members have researched their family history with varying degrees of success. The records available are not always complete but we have always found information that hadn't previously been known.

Family History research is like a jigsaw puzzle. A piece of information found one month can link in with another piece found at a later date.

It is a fascinating pastime that is much more than collecting names of ancestors. The documents used for the research can tell you about where your ancestors lived, their neighbours, their occupations, family groupings, war service etc. You will most certainly know more about your ancestors after a session or two of research.

If you are interested in finding more out about your ancestors, I do have a small number of vacancies. The library is available until August, but I am looking to see what alternatives are available for September onwards.

You can contact me on [u3athrapstonfh@gmail.com](mailto:u3athrapstonfh@gmail.com) 0789 177 8407

Neil Busby

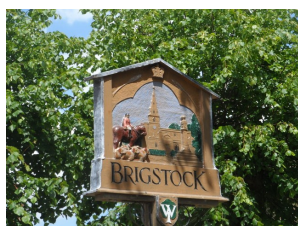


## Local History Walks and Visits

These are spring/summer monthly short walks around our local beautiful villages or historical houses with an aim of finding out more about their history and significant events. They are led by local historians or knowledgeable residents.

Walks are a maximum of 1.5 hours and 1.5 miles long and usually take place on weekdays. Past walks and visits include Thrapston, Titchmarsh, Raunds, Lyveden New Bield and Rockingham Castle.

All members of Thrapston and District U3A are welcome to sign up for the walks. Walks are advertised in the newsletter and you may book a place by telephone or at the monthly meeting.



Our next walk is on Thursday May 24 a.m. at Brigstock (maximum 20), please sign up at the meeting or ring Glyn on 01832 735797.

Walks are planned for **Kings Cliffe** in June and **Ringstead** in July.

We are organising a group visit to **Apethorpe Palace** for Wednesday 8 August p.m. English Heritage will provide a group guide. The maximum number is 25 and the cost is £7.65. We propose to car share. A full payment is required before booking is accepted and so if you'd like to book a place please pay at the April meeting or ring Glyn to arrange payment.

Apethorpe is a grade 1 listed building dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century and was a favourite residence for James I. It's now privately owned by a French Baron and is only open on Wednesdays in July and August.



## Lady Tresham Shared Learning Project



Work on this project has begun to tie in with the National Trust's national theme for 2018, "Women and Power", which is focussing on the female stories behind the Trust's properties. There is a lot of information about Sir Thomas Tresham, but little is known of his wife, Lady Muriel Tresham. Lady Tresham spent more time at Lyveden than her husband yet we know little of the life she led.



We are beginning to create a resource bank based on Lady Muriel and the broader experience of female Catholics in Elizabethan England. The aim is to record primary sources that we can find and document the secondary information available.

The National Trust will be able to use this resource to tell visitors more about the Tresham family and the experience of Elizabethan Catholics.

# News from the Groups

## Theatre and Outings Group



### Outings

On Tuesday 27 March a small group of us enjoyed an informative and amusing tour of **Sessions House**, Northampton. We were shown the courtrooms, where Brenda Berry took on the role of the judge and sentenced 3 of our members to "be hanged by the neck until you die" for such petty crimes as theft of a loaf of bread and poaching. We also saw the Council Chambers, the cells and the courtyard where the hangings took place and the public assembled to watch. The tour ended with a visit to the judge's accommodation and a welcoming coffee in the stunning dining room. The tour was enhanced by our wonderful guide, Roger, who proved to be a mine of information.

### Bure Valley steam railway and Norfolk Broads

27 September 2018

The cost of this trip is £32.00 per head (plus of course the cost of lunch if you take up this option).

We have just a few tickets available for this trip. If you are interested in joining us please either see me at the next branch meeting or email me [jennihall207@gmail.com](mailto:jennihall207@gmail.com).

The coach will take us from Thrapston to Aylsham station, a steam train will then take us from Aylsham to Wroxham Station. Our coach will pick us up at Wroxham Station and take us to where we pick up our boat on the Broads.

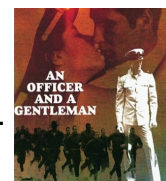
The Bure Valley steam railway has offered us the option of a 2 course lunch (a roast and dessert) at a cost of £10.00 per person. This will be served in the Whistlestop Cafe on Aylsham Station. If you are joining us on this trip and would like to take up this option please see me at the branch meeting or email me.



### Theatre

**An Officer and a Gentleman** - showing at the Leicester Curve theatre on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

Cost is £29



For those who have booked, please be at the Co-op car park, Thrapston by 10:15am and, as we have **ONE** place remaining for this super show, **why not invite a friend to come along too?** This is a romantic love story based on an Oscar winning film starring Richard Gere. Songs include 'Girls Just Wanna Have Fun', 'Livin On A Prayer', 'Up Where We Belong' and 'Material Girl'. It's just the ticket for an uplifting musical experience!



ALSO we have **THREE** places remaining for **Warhorse**, showing at Milton Keynes on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September. Cost is £55

This is a wartime drama which features astonishing life-size horses which gallop and charge on stage, yet operated by a puppet company. Again, if you have already booked for this exciting show, **why not invite a friend or two along?**

Please remember that these two events include time beforehand to browse around the shops, visit local places of interest and /or have a leisurely lunch. The coach travel enables a comfortable journey with no parking hassles!

Please contact Jenni ASAP on [jennihall207@gmail.com](mailto:jennihall207@gmail.com) or phone her on 01832 358721 if you would like to include a friend(s) in either of these wonderful shows.

### **CANCELLATION**

**'Les Miserables'** at the Curve Theatre, Leicester, Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November

Unfortunately we are unable to run this theatre trip owing to a lack of numbers. We are sorry for any inconvenience caused.

Thrapston & District



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

May 18<sup>th</sup> 2018

To commence at 10.15. Doors will open at 09.45.

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM
3. Chairman's Report
4. Group Co-ordinator's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Approval of the examined accounts
7. Approve appointment of the Examiner of Accounts
8. Election of the Committee for 2018/19\* composed of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Business Secretary, (the Executive Members) and a committee of 8 other members.

9. **Resolution:** To change the Object of Thrapston & District U3A (in line with the Charity Commission requirements) to read:

"The Advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work, by all means including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development"

(\* Please note all written nominations, duly signed, proposed and seconded, must be received by myself at 47 Oakleas Rise, Thrapston NN14 4JZ, no later than 10.00am on Friday 4th May 2018)

Ian Byrnes (Business Secretary pro tem) 07/04/2018

## Greyhound Racing, Peterborough

Friday May 11<sup>th</sup>



*Due to the popularity of this evening outing, Irene has been able to acquire a second coach. There are **10 seats now available**.*

Rendez-vous is the Co-op Car Park at 6pm, for a 6.15 departure. The cost is £26, which covers travel, entry to meeting, programme, reserved table in the restaurant and 2 course meal (starter and main).

*Those going on the trip should see Irene at the next branch meeting, to confirm which coach they are on and their table reservations.*

If you would like to join this popular excursion, see Irene at the monthly meeting or phone her on 01832 732948.

### **\* Erratum \***

Please note that the Ukulele group meet at Marion's house, not at the Baptist Church.

Contact Marion for further details. 07989 985722 or 01832 720262

### ***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: Glynis Hill

Speaker Seeker: Paul Ollett

Newsletter Editor: Wendy Davies

Equipment Manager: Ian Byrnes

New Members Rep: Brenda Berry

IT Operations Manager: Neil Busby

### **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](mailto:editorthrapstonu3a@gmail.com)

Website : [www.thrapstonu3a.co.uk](http://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