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December Branch Meeting

The Christmas Branch Meeting was erroneously stated in the last newsletter as being on 17 December. It is, as pointed out by many of you, on **19 December**. Branch meetings are **always** on a Friday.

December Branch Meeting

The meeting will start at 10am with free festive refreshments available for all. This will also allow you to look at the displays put on by groups.

At 10.45am the Live Showcase will take place on the stage and will include: Creative Writing 1, Tai Chi, French, Magic, Ukulele and Creative Writing 2.

Bring your friends and other guests to this festive showcase that demonstrates what Thrapston and District U3A does and can do.

Age Matters

Will those of you who do not keep your copies of Age Matters, the magazine of the U3A, please consider passing them to Ann Carter. She would like to have them on display at the branch meetings to give to potential new members.

Forthcoming Events

Branch meetings start at 10.30am on the third Friday of each month at the Thrapston Plaza unless stated otherwise. Doors open at 10.00am when tea/coffee and biscuits are served.

19 December Special Christmas meeting at 10am - a festive occasion with mulled wine and mince pies to socialise and learn more about our many group activities. Guests will be particularly welcome.

2015

3 January Noon. Deadline for copy to the Editor for the January newsletter.

16 January Branch meeting - **Steve Dimmer, Walt Disney (The Struggles of a Legend)** The personal story of Disney, a commentary with films.

21 January Wednesday at 2.30pm, **The Full Monty** at Milton Keynes. All seats have been taken and there is a waiting list.

20 February Branch meeting - **Susan Copperwheat, Spires Saints and Martyrs.** Stories relating to churches in our area.

20 March Branch meeting - **Adrian Perkins, The Ghost Detective.** Stories of the paranormal with explanations, by a mystery writer and a psychological back up.

26 March **The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole.** This is a brand new musical and is a matinee performance at The Curve Theatre, Leicester. The price will be £32 which includes theatre ticket, coach fare and driver's tip. The coach will leave the Co-op at 11.00am so you will have plenty of time for shopping or lunch. Full amount required at the December meeting.

17 April Branch meeting - **Charles Bezzina, In Search of Ice Made in Heaven.** A journey into the Arctic, with film and stories of the lives of the Inuit tribes.

December 2015 Thrapston and District U3A are hoping to arrange a coach trip to the Thursford Spectacular Christmas Show. As we have to book as soon as possible to stand a chance of getting a block booking I need your names now together with £1 deposit pp to secure your seat - the balance will be payable in September to Thursford and is non returnable or exchangeable. If we have a waiting list we will offer the tickets according to position on the list. The overall price for the coach fare, driver's tip and the show will be approximately £50 pp but I will let you know as soon as we have confirmation of our booking. The dates that have been put forward are Wednesday, 25 November, Tuesday 1 December and Wednesday 2 December - all for matinee performances. Give your names and contact number or email address to Iris together with your deposit.

Thank you to those of you who came to Wicksteed Park last week for the lunch and Christmas Show, I do hope you all enjoyed it .

I have to start making bookings for 2015, and have managed to get a booking for January and taken the first venue where they were prepared to confirm my booking. Most of them have not yet got a diary for 2015, or they are too busy with Christmas bookings to deal with our lunch in January.

However it is not all gloom, as I managed to book us into The Axe and Compass at Ringstead where they looked after us very well last February and it will give me more time to book venues for our lunches for the rest of the year.

The date for your diary is Wednesday 28 January 2015 at the usual time of 12 noon for 12.30 and I look forward to seeing you there. I will email you with menu and prices nearer the time as it is a pre-order booking for a maximum of 30 People. I take this opportunity to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year and thank you once again for your support. **Iris**

For **Theatre Trips** you will be able to add your name to the lists at the branch Meetings. As many of you are aware, to obtain group booking discounts the seats have to be paid for approximately two months before the show and as The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole is in March I shall need the full payment before the end of this year. If you cannot get to the meetings I can take bookings by telephone. Pauline Dennison Tel: 01832 723723

The U3A holds several national events which may be of interest to you. Please check the U3A website (www.u3a.org.uk) at the events and competitions page of the Members' Area Homepage.



Mystery Photograph

Do you know of what or where in the Thrapston area this photograph is? Let the editor have your answers by letter, email or telephone. The first person to give the editor the answer will have their name published in the next edition. There is no prize, only the enjoyment of observation and local knowledge.

This is the first of a monthly competition of mystery photographs kindly supplied by Eric Franklin.

The editor's contact details are on the last page.

Group Co-ordinators' Report - December 2014

The December meeting is of course our Showcase for groups with displays of all the creativity, learning and energy that has been experienced over the past year. I can't wait to see the performances and to spend time looking at the displays. There won't be a central signing-up point for expressions of interest and new groups but if you're interested in joining a group, do have a word with the group leader or ring me.

I am delighted to tell you that there are three new groups; Live Music, Latin and Line Dancing. They are in varying stages of development. The group leader for Latin is Robert Dickenson, and the first meeting will be on Tuesday 20 January at 2 pm, when ideas for a programme will be put together. The thinking is that meetings will take place monthly on third Tuesday afternoons. There are spaces for more members so please ring me and I shall pass your details on to Robert.

Live Music also has group leaders, Frank Boydell and Sheila Guilford, who will share the task and intend to meet for the first time on Wednesday 14 January at 2 pm. There are spaces so please contact Frank direct on 01832 735797

Line Dancing has ten enthusiastic members but at present there isn't a leader. Tuesday 13 January has been set as the launch date with a hope that a volunteer will be found by then. It will be monthly on the second Tuesday at about 2 pm for an hour. Please let me know if you'd like to go on the list and better still if you are able to lead the group or know someone who can!

As well as new groups, we have a number of vacancies in our established groups and I've listed those below. Terry is particularly keen to recruit to Magic which I've heard on good authority is great fun. Gerry has two places for Military History.

Any ideas for new groups please feel free to contact me and I can arrange for an expressions of interest list to be available at the January meeting, and of course we need Group Leaders!

I'm aware that we have lots of new members who may be thinking about joining a group in the New Year so please have a look on the website where there is a table of the groups including when they are running and by whom with contact details. If you'd like advice on which groups are available or have an idea for a group or any group queries then please contact Glyn on 01832 735797 or make email contact via the website.

Cycling Group

The cycling group continues to grow, though we still have places for anyone wanting to join us. Our objectives are to promote health, explore the area we live in, social interaction and most importantly, have fun.

In addition we promise, no lycra! We are **not** about head-down, lung bursting, self-destruction, so come and join the fun and discover the many beautiful villages and rural idylls of Northamptonshire. Call Frank Boydell 01832 735797 for further information.

Live Music Group

A feasibility meeting for a live music group was held on 9 December and it was decided that we should go ahead and form the new group. Frank Boydell and Sheila Guilford will co-lead the group which will meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 2 pm. The aim of the group is bring together musicians to play for fun and further development. We have keyboard, guitar, bass guitar and ukulele players, but would welcome anyone who would like to get together and make music. This includes singers. Where it will lead, no one knows, but it will be an interesting and rewarding journey. Call Frank 01832 735797 or Sheila if you're interested.

Current Group Vacancies

For new members or those established members who are looking to take on something new; we do have spaces within groups and these include:

- French Revivers
- Photography
- Antiques and Collectables
- Magic
- Walks 2
- Ten Pin Bowling
- Country Dancing
- Papercraft
- Cycling
- Books
- Sewing
- Lunches
- Live music
- Latin
- Line Dancing (new group awaiting leader)
- Military History

Glyn Hill
Group Co-ordinator

November Branch Meeting

On Friday 21 November a Thrapston and District U3A welcomed a number of members from Oundle U3A to our branch meeting. An illuminating and interesting talk, entitled 'A Family and Local History Roadshow' was given by Eric Franklin and Neil Busby. Eric started with a series of very interesting photographs, some from the mid 19th century through the years to fairly modern times, of views of Thrapston and District, accompanied by more



modern photographs of the same scenes.

Neil spoke about Family History and particularly about the research into the history of A Blakesley Boy, and how important it is to speak with the more senior of our citizens and record their memories. Without them being recorded those histories will be lost for ever, and who knows what treasures may be gone.

The meeting was very well received by the audience.

Have you seen the new aluminium Christmas trees? You can't tell them from the real plastic ones.

Thrapston and District U3A Committee

Chair:	Glyn James	Vice-Chair:	Glyn Hill
Treasurer:	Tricia James	Secretary:	Michelle Owen
Group Co-ordinator:	Glyn Hill	Membership:	Maddie Godden
Publicity:	Rachel Thompson	Speaker Seeker:	Richard Swindall
Website:	Neil Busby	Editor:	Parry Jones
Member:	Michelle Collison	Member:	Anne Carter

This newsletter is published on behalf of the committee of the Thrapston & District U3A. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor, or of the committee of the Thrapston & District U3A or of the U3A Trust.

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