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Welcome from the Chair

Just in case you've been on holiday for the entire summer and haven't noticed, it's Christmas. Yes, I know some of you have been on holiday all summer; but your secret is safe with me. So, that means its Showcase time at the Plaza and this year should be really special. Do remember we will start on the dot of 10:15 and will not finish until 12:30. It's

going to be fun, with entertainment, a raffle, two quizzes and most importantly, cakes.

My heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who is contributing to make it all happen: performers, Group Leaders, volunteers and your tireless, hardworking Committee. All members of the committee join with me in wishing you all a very merry Christmas, Winterfest, Yuletide or Festive Season as is your wont, and add to that a healthy and prosperous New Year.

That's enough waffle from me, enjoy your Newsletter.

Frank Boydell, Chairman - 01832 735797



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. **This month, December, is an earlier start and later finish.**

16 December **Branch Christmas Meeting.** Doors open at 10:00 am and starting at 10:15 am there is a feast of fun and entertainment with excellent refreshments. The programme is expected to end at 12:15. At this meeting the Cake and Bake group have kindly offered to make cakes for all. There will be gluten free and dairy free items for those of us that need them. If you would like to reserve a piece of cake because you have special dietary requirements would you please let me know. You can email or call me email address: vicechairthrapstonu3a@gmail.com or Telephone : 01832737921

If you would like to bring your family and friends we would be delighted to welcome them to the event and we look forward to seeing you on the day. Looking forward to seeing you there. Sheila



14 December **Thursford Christmas Event** - The Coach will leave the Co-op car park at 9.30 am for Thursford. We will have a comfort stop on the way there and leave at approximately 5 pm. We will stop at the Brewers Fayre in Kings Lynn on the way back where we have booked tables for an evening meal of your choice. This is optional, although the stop will be as long as it takes if you choose not to eat. We do advise you to take a packed lunch with you as it is quite expensive to eat at the theatre and this year hot meals have to be ordered in advance. I do hope we all have a lovely day and am sure you will not be disappointed with the Show. See you all on the 14 December (Wednesday) Thank you. Iris

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20 January **Branch Meeting - My favourite Things** by **Will Osbourne**

17 February **Branch Meeting - Life with my Father** by **Gail Stuart**

2 March **Funny Girl** - There are only two tickets left for the musical Funny



Girl. This is at Milton Keynes on Thursday 2 March 2017 and we have good seats in the stalls. Payment of £55 (to include

seat, coach fare and driver's tip) is now due. Please pay at the November meeting or contact Pauline on 01832 732724

17 March **Branch Meeting - MBE, Investiture at Buckingham Palace** by **Guinette Davies**

21 April **Branch Meeting - Kicks & Frills, the Story of the Can-Can** by **David Price**

19 May **Branch Meeting - Along the Nene** by **Martin Izzard BEM**

16 June **Branch Meeting - School Holiday Fiascos** by **Mike Leonard**

21 July **Branch Meeting - Amy Johnson** by **Roy Smart**

18 August **U3A Summer Events** (details to be advised)

15 Sept. **Branch Meeting - Rockingham Castle - 950 years of history** by **Patricia Woods**

20 October **Branch Meeting - The Plague Doctor** by **David Bell**

17 Nov. **Branch Meeting - Day in the life of TV Licence enforcement officer** by **Mike Long**

15 December **U3A Yuletide Event** (details to be advised)

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19 January **Branch Meeting - Tales from the Cornerfield Apiary** by **Freddie Harris**

20 April **Branch Meeting - You cannot be serious - tales from the Centre Court at Wimbledon** by **Alan Gray MBE**

GROUP NEWS

Hello Everyone. Where has this year disappeared to? It seems that it was only six weeks ago that we packed away the Christmas decorations and now here we are fetching them out again!

Good news! We now have a new **Gardening Group** and Angela Gyves has kindly offered to be its leader. They are to meet on the second Wednesday morning of each month. Spaces are limited but if you are interested please contact Angela on 01832 732005.

Cherished Cars – I have received information from Higham and Rushden U3A – this could be fun. Jack Lee, of H&R U3A, would be interested to hear from any members of Thrapston and Wellingborough U3As who would be interested in starting a Cherished Car group. The idea would be to have occasional outings and meetings on any Cherished Car matters. The photo is Jack with my MG-TF! Please email Jack at jandmlee@btopenworld.com.



Creative Writing Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month in Thrapston, between 10:00 hrs and 12:00 noon. Its objectives are to improve group members' writing skills and to produce pieces of fiction, non-fiction and poetry suitable for publication.

The group produces a collection of its own members' works twice a year under the title *Pick 'n' Mix*; the latest edition, no. 5, is available from group members and at the Branch's monthly meetings, along with back issues of earlier productions. Sheena Dickenson is responsible for editing and David Read organises publishing and printing. Publication assures the authors' copyright to their works is established.

Sales of *Pick 'n' Mix* fund future productions and the modest profits will be donated to local charities/worthy causes; currently, we are working towards a donation to the Thrapston Branch of St John Ambulance, in order to assist its acquisition of a defibrillator.

Two of our members have recently published some of their own works independently in hard copy form: David Read, *Lines on God's Page*, a collection of faith poems, (also available on line), and Kevin Cooney, the first part of his autobiography, *Pulpits and Plain Sailing*, available either through him, Waterstones or Amazon.

Membership of the group is open to any member of the Thrapston and District U3A, there is no additional joining fee; (but we do appreciate contributions of £1 towards light refreshments at our monthly meetings).

Every writer everywhere starts off as an amateur and we welcome new members, whether they are already published or not. Our members' writings are as original and diverse as the members themselves. The common thread running through the group is its sense of fun and willingness to learn and laugh. Anyone who may be interested in joining, please contact the Group Leader, David Green, on 01832 720269.

Fork to Fork – another new group! Bring and share lunch (not necessarily home-made) to talk about all aspect food – growing, preserving, cooking, and eating. Suggested topics so far – My Favourite Meal, Childhood Memories, Holiday Disasters, Cheeses, Preserving, Cooking with Herbs, and Sustainability. Contact Rachel Thompson for more details 01832 734974 or rachelk@uwclub.net

Singing for Pleasure – we are hoping to revive this group. Ken Davies has now, very kindly, offered to help with the accompaniment so we will have real music, rather than backing tapes to sing to. This will be a non-competitive, no audition group, purely, as the name says, singing for pleasure. I suspect it will take its own direction once it is underway. I have to say that, as someone who sings in another choir (again non-audition), the therapeutic benefit of group singing cannot be ignored. It has been medically proven to be good for you – so give me a call if you are interested.

Spanish – Ola! This was a suggestion made at the November branch meeting. It was proposed as a group for members with some knowledge (not a lot) of the language and who wanted to brush up and, perhaps with the help of books etc, improve their fluency. Call me for more information. Ole!

Well that is about it for this year. I hope you will enjoy the entertainment at the December meeting and I wish you all a peaceful and joy-filled Christmas.

Marion Healey – Groups Co-ordinator 01832 720262 or
groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com

Thrapston and District U3A Committee

Chair: Frank Boydell

Vice-Chair: Sheila Underwood

Treasurer: Tricia James

Secretary: Guinette Davis

Groups Co-ordinator: Marion Healey

Membership: Madeline Fisher

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Speaker Seeker: Paul Ollett

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.

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