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**From the Editor**

This is a very short newsletter this month, but if members fail to provide me with their reports, then I am unable to publish their happenings. Thank you to all those members who did send in material. Of particular interest to the Thrapston & District U3A is the number of new groups that have started or are contemplated. Group Leaders, please let me have reports of your events and meetings. It doesn't have to be a long screed, a few lines so we all know what activities are available and how we are all enjoying, developing, socialising and learning. We hope we may publish some of the photography groups pictures. Other groups have plenty to offer.

**Guest Speaker in January**

Our guest speaker at the January meeting was Mike

Leonard who gave an entertaining and enjoyable talk about an accompanied tour he and his wife made in South Africa, including the Kruger National Park. He made much of the perceived dangers of such a safari including the hotel rooms being invaded with insects, or gogos, as they are referred to there. Mostly they are harmless except for the anopheles mosquitoes and tsetse fly and they would likely be eradicated in most parts of South Africa visited by overseas tourists. I'm afraid I lost patience with him when he referred to antelope as deer. But, I mustn't be too critical his talk was well received and apparently enjoyed by most of his audience.



Ed.

**Photography Group**

The photography group had its first meeting on 3 February with 16 members on the books. This first meeting was one of identifying levels of skill and ability and working up a programme. Meetings will be monthly with Margaret supplying some technical know-how and Rosemary proving an artistic input. Glynis coordinated the whole. The next meeting is on 3 March, when members will show their favourite photograph and members may discuss them critically but constructively.

## Forthcoming Events

Branch meetings are at 10.30am on the third Friday of each month at the Thrapston Plaza unless stated otherwise.

**2014**

### Date

- 21 February Martin Towsy - Role of the Garden Estates Manager at Woburn
- 7 March Midnight - deadline for copy to the Editor for inclusion in March newsletter.
- 18 March Day out in Norwich (See Theatre Trips and Outings)
- 21 March Dr Miles Ellis -The real Burma, an Englishman's View
- 18 April Glyn James - A Year in Sweden
- 23 April Fiddler on the Roof at the Derngate, Northampton
- 13 May Day out in Cambridge (See Theatre Trips and Outings)
- 16 May AGM
- 9 July Singin' in the Rain
- 15 August Annual barbecue in place of the regular meeting - details later.

The U3A holds several national events which may be of interest to you. Please check the U3A website ([www.thrapstonu3a.co.uk](http://www.thrapstonu3a.co.uk)) at the events and competitions page of the Member's Area Homepage.

## Monthly Lunch Group

The Group is presently going very well with 49 members, some attending regularly and others occasionally. It is becoming harder to find restaurants able to accommodate more than 30. We will probably have to resort to a first come, first served basis and once I have several meals booked in advance, I will place a list of venues on the table at our general monthly meetings in the Plaza, with the number who may be accommodated. You may then book as appropriate.

Prices are now creeping up and discounts are few. I would appreciate an indication from members of the prices they are prepared to pay for either a two or three course meal.

Iris Squires

## The Antiques and Bygones Group

Ian Goldsmith has confirmed that he will give us an insight into the world of **auctioneering** at noon on Friday 14 February. Meet in his car park [direction are go into Oundle via the main road and bridge, turn left at first the roundabout (Waitrose) into East Road, then first left at the next roundabout into the industrial estate and Goldsmiths Auction House is at the far end]. Ian gives a fascinating and informative talk and answers questions on auctioneering. Other U3A members are welcome to join us, but let me know so I can keep a check on numbers.

David Macey Tel: 01832732637 or e-mail [macey199@btinternet.com](mailto:macey199@btinternet.com)

**Q:** How many Microsoft designers does it take to change a light bulb?

**A:** None - they just define darkness as industry standard.

## **Priscilla, Queen of the Desert**

On Saturday, 25 January, a group of us went to Milton Keynes to see Priscilla, Queen of the Desert and it proved to be the perfect tonic to dispel January blues. It was fast-paced and full of laughs, flamboyant costumes, clever scenery and cheesy classic songs we all knew. It is the story of three drag queens who haul their glitzy frocks through the desert from Sydney to Alice Springs in a pink-spangled camper van, but behind the glitz there is a morality tale about standing against homophobia and stereotypes. This may not be everyone's cup of tea but it left me wanting more after the encore. It was a feel-good treat. I am a new member to the area and it was my first visit to Milton Keynes. I found the group of U3A members very friendly and was made welcome. Thank you to Brenda and Pauline for all your hard work in arranging these very pleasant outings and, as an extra bonus, we completely missed the storm as were in the theatre.

Pat Bettsworth

## **Come Country Dancing U3A**

The group has now met on two occasions at St James church hall. We meet on alternate Wednesdays 2-3.30 pm. The next few dates are 5 and 19 Feb, 5 and 19 March, 2, 16 and 30 April, 14 and 28 May. It is hoped that a few more members will come along, so we can at least cover the cost of the hall. Country dancing is very sociable and the intention is to keep things light-hearted with a sense of fun. Another aspect is helping to keep fit which must be a good thing. You do not need a partner and all dances are walked through. Beginners are particularly welcome. There are members have been country dancing in the past and I hope they will come along and support us. We hope to provide live music in the near future. For further information please contact George Hearnden on 01933 622827.

## **Advanced Driving Group**

The general aim of the group will be to assist each other to improve our driving. In our age groups most of us have a great deal of driving experience, but we are probably at the stage where we drive automatically and don't feel the need to concentrate on the task in hand. This is when we are most at risk; when other drivers do not do what we expect in a given situation. Advanced driver training teaches us to observe in advance and anticipate the unexpected. I am a member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM), and I passed my advanced test two years ago, so its never too late. I hope we can get some trained observers from the Corby IAM group to come along to our meetings to give us some tips; also to do some observed drives for those who may be interested. If there is enough interest in the group I propose a first meeting to agree when, where and how often we meet, also ideas for discussion and outings etc. Hopefully some members will want to go further and become advanced drivers.

I will be happy for prospective group members to contact me ether by E mail <geoffhill.hill5@gmail.com> or phone 01933 624645

Geoff Hill

## Theatre Trips and Outings

Transport will usually be provided and pick-up and drop-off outside the Thrapston Co-op. The cost of each coach trip includes the driver's tip. Once the theatres and coaches have been paid for, money paid cannot be refunded and members should try to find a replacement. If places are available, members may bring a guest at an extra cost of £1. Payment may be made by cash or cheque payable to Thrapston & District U3A.

**Tuesday 18 March - Day out in Norwich.** Please note the **change of date from Wednesday to Tuesday**. I have reserved a coach for a visit to and guided walk around the city of Norwich. I have five places still available. If you want to shop then there are all the usual stores - John Lewis, Debenhams, Jarrold (an independent shop) and the Norwich Lanes with cobbled streets and narrow alleys and a mix of shops, cafes, bars and museums. There is also the cathedral quarter and art galleries. The cost will be £28. Please pay the balance at our February meeting. Departure time will be 8.45 am. **Brenda** phone **730225**.

**Tuesday 13 May - Day out in Cambridge.** Sign up for this trip today and, if there is sufficient interest, it will be confirmed and payment sought at the March and April meetings. **Brenda** phone **730225**.

**Wednesday 9 July - Singin' in the Rain - matinee.** The coach price will be notified later and be payable at our May meeting. **Brenda** phone **730225**.

**Early September - Barnum, Curve Theatre, Leicester.** More details to be given at our next meeting. **Pauline** phone **732724**

### Summer Barbecue

The **Summer Barbecue** will be held on 15 August. Details will appear later, but the social sub-committee have asked for **volunteers to help** in various ways with the organisation and running of the barbecue. Will those willing to help please contact **Glyn Hill** phone **01832 735797**.

### The Jazz Group

The Jazz Group will be attending the following functions at

#### The Courtyard, West Street, Stanwick NN9 6QY

- 9 February Susan Valliant Speer Band - diva of the American songbook, she is from San Francisco but now a popular singer in clubs and festivals in the UK.
- 9 March Matt Palmer's Millennium Eagle Jazz Band is one of the busiest bands on the club and festival circuit today.
- 6 April Tad Newton Jazz Friends specialise in lively swinging jazz. Recreating the sounds of Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington and Count Basie among others.
- 4 May Barry Palser's Savoy Jazz Band. A one-off summer special. Bob Hunt brings his full 10-piece band to The Courtyard for an evening dedicated to the music genius of Duke Ellington. Definitely not to be missed.

See you all there.

## Renewing your membership

### and new members offer:

Your membership of U3A will be due for renewal in May and the Committee have agreed that the fee will be £16.50 for full members and £12.50 for dual members (those who are already members with another U3A group)

New members who enrol from 1 March will be able to pay £16.50 for 15 months membership – so please tell any neighbours, friends, relatives who are not already part of the U3A of this offer. The application form may be downloaded from the website.

Details of how to renew will be in the March newsletter

## Group Leaders' Report February 2014

The new groups have been launched and are going well. David Macey has spaces for more members in the Antiques and Collectables Group that meets on the third Monday afternoon 2-4 in the Methodist Church Hall. You can contact David on <[macey199@btinternet.com](mailto:macey199@btinternet.com)> and 01832732637. The Country Dancing Group is open to any members who wish to go along and meets fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons in St James's Hall; George's email is <[ghearnden@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ghearnden@tiscali.co.uk)> phone number 01933 622827. Irene's Ten-Pin Bowling games are on the second and fourth Fridays and more members very welcome, please ring 732948 to book a place. There is a change to Irene's Papercraft meeting times; they are now on the second and fourth Monday afternoons 2-4. There is space for two new members.

The Photography group met on the first Monday in the month and will continue to meet 10.30-12.30. We had a wonderful turn-out of 12 with 17 in the group. We are sorting out a larger venue and may have room for one or two more and so I am beginning a waiting list [glynishillo6@aol.com](mailto:glynishillo6@aol.com) 01832 735797.

Geoff Hill has approached me with an idea for an Advanced Motoring Group – details in this newsletter. He can be contacted on [geoffhill5@gmail.com](mailto:geoffhill5@gmail.com) and will be at the meeting for signing up.

At the Christmas meeting the Creative Writing group had their new book on sale and I bought a copy. I want to congratulate the group on how wonderful their work is – I've been dipping into the varied essays/stories and they're great! I thoroughly recommend that you buy a copy.

The Group Leaders' meeting and lunch is on Monday 12 May at 11.00 and the committee members will also attend. I hope the weather will be as good as last year – please ensure it's in your diary if you are a leader.

Glyn Hill  
Group Coordinator

My friend said to me, 'I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose fitting clothing. If I had any loose fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up in the first place'.

Paraprosdokians are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently humorous. Winston Churchill loved them.

Where there's a will, I want to be in it.

The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list.

Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.

War does not determine who is right - only who is left.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

### Photographs

I welcome photographs of any activity or event which may be of interest to readers. Please take the photograph on a camera of reasonable quality so that there is sufficient definition in the picture for reproduction. A camera that is part of a mobile phone is often not of a sufficiently high quality to provide photographs worthy of reproduction. If you can only supply prints of photographs, let me borrow them as I can copy them for the newsletter and return the original.

Many thanks, Editor

### Car Sharing and Other Costs

Several groups use car-sharing for visits. Our U3A mileage payment is 40p per mile and the committee has recommended that the mileage is calculated and each passenger pays their share to the driver.

When a host member provides coffee and biscuits we suggest that each member pays 30p to the host. These are guides and as such are not written in stone, so if you already have a system that works, please continue.

### Thrapston & District U3A Committee

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

**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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