

# Interest Groups 2024

Updated  
4<sup>th</sup> May 2024



Registered Charity: 1179593

STD Code for Thrapston is 01832 but numbers with “R” need the Raunds code 01933

Suggested cost for REFRESHMENTS when available in a member’s home is 50p

U3A members should take their Membership Cards to the next group meeting.

Group Leaders are requested to contact Roger, Group Co-ordinator, with any changes to group details.

This list will be updated as and when changes are reported

## List of Groups currently running

- |                           |                      |                          |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Art                       | French Encore        | Spanish                  |
| Board Games               | Local History        | Stitchers                |
| Bridge                    | Lunches              | Tai Chi (2 groups)       |
| Butterfly & Bird Watching | Makin’ Music         | Table Tennis             |
| Cake & Bake               | Nordic Short Walks   | Table Tennis 2           |
| Classical Music           | Nordic Walks         | Ten Pin Bowling          |
| Creative Writing          | Photography          | Theatre Visits & Outings |
| Cycling                   | Play Reading         | Ukulele                  |
| English                   | Science & Technology | Wellbeing with Nature    |
| Family History            | Singing for Fun      |                          |
| Flower Bunch              |                      |                          |
| French Revivers           |                      |                          |

<b>ART</b>	
Leader	Ann Thantrey <span style="float: right;">CONTACT 01234 709 836</span>
When/Where	Wednesday, fortnightly, 10 am to Noon <span style="float: right;">Thrapston Community Library</span>
<b>BOARD GAMES</b>	
Leader	Ken Broadhurst <span style="float: right;">CONTACT 07857 393935</span>
When/Where	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday, 1 pm to 3 pm <span style="float: right;">Thrapston Community Library</span>
<b>BRIDGE</b>	
Leader	Gordon Campbell <span style="float: right;">CONTACT 0784 6611748</span>
When/Where	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday, afternoon, 1.45 pm to 3.45 pm <span style="float: right;">Member’s House</span>
Cost	There are no costs involved except the price of books which are not essential.
	The aim of the group is for Bridge players to meet to play and help those who would like to learn, so we welcome absolute beginners to experienced players
<b>BUTTERFLY &amp; BIRD WATCHING</b>	
Leader	Bob Simpson <span style="float: right;">CONTACT simpson.robert@sky.com</span>
When/Where	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday, 9.30 am <span style="float: right;">From Thrapston Co-op Car Park</span>
Cost	Only costs are car-parking fees.
	Maximum of 10 members, visiting local butterfly sites and bird watching venues. Duration, 2 to 3 hours. Car-sharing would help.

<b>CAKE AND BAKE</b>	
Leader	Viv Tunstall CONTACT 07759 824457
When/Where	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday, afternoon Member's House
	Bake your pastries and cakes at home, bring them to be shared at the monthly meeting.
<b>CLASSICAL MUSIC (PM)</b>	
Leader	Glyn Hill CONTACT 735 797
When/Where	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Afternoon 2 to 4 pm Member's House
Cost	Optional concerts and prices vary according to the venue
	Listening to one or more pieces from a chosen composer together with a brief biography and background information on setting for the music. We also attend concerts and ballets using our own transport, mostly at Derrigate, The Castle at Wellingborough and Oundle, and mostly at lunchtimes.
<b>CREATIVE WRITING</b>	
Leader	David Green CONTACT 720 269
When/Where	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, afternoon, 2 pm to 4 pm Member's House
Cost	Members are invited to buy copies of "Pick 'n' Mix" either to give as presents or to sell on.
	The Group's purpose is to improve members' skills in writing fiction, non-fiction, prose, poetry and short drama pieces using varied genre. A different theme is chosen for each month and members read their own work, in turn, to the rest of the group. Criticism is intended to be constructive. The Group publishes a selection of its writings twice annually in a booklet titled Pick 'n' Mix, sales of which contributes to future publications and worthy local causes. Some members have published their own work independently.
<b>CYCLING</b>	
Leader	Frank Boydell CONTACT 735 797
When/Where	Every Monday, morning, 10 am From Sackville Street car park outside the Co-op
	Aims: - Social interaction and fun, Enjoy the beautiful countryside in which we live, and Promote Health. We are a relaxed social cycling group, not a racing group. Rides are on quiet roads or tracks and enjoy a cafe stop halfway round for refreshments and good humour. Everyone is welcome, all you need is a bike. The leader offers a full check out of your bike before you start, if requested.
<b>ENGLISH</b>	
Leader	Glyn James CONTACT 733 792
When/Where	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday afternoon Member's House
	After a brief look at the history and structure of our own language and all the events that have influenced it; from the arrival of the Anglo-Saxons, to the invention of print, we have now begun to look at literature too, working through the most important influences from Chaucer onwards. For most of the time however we engage in lively discussion about modern English, how it has changed in our lifetimes and whether it is unduly pedantic to disapprove of the changes. There are no exercises and no homework; the objective is purely to enjoy looking at fascinating aspects of our language.

<b>FAMILY HISTORY</b>	
Leader	Mandy Dawkins CONTACT 0793 1758 783
When/Where	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday, morning, 10.30 am to 12.30 pm Member's House
	Share your research experiences, learn from others about sources and delve into the history of your family.
<b>FLOWER BUNCH</b>	
Leader	Linda Vickerman CONTACT "R" 380 244
When/Where	Last Friday of the Month, morning Cole Court, Brook Street, Raunds
From 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Members bring flowers and produce an arrangement to fit the theme of the day. We have demonstrations and visits to Floral events, share equipment and ideas, help each other, and have lots of laughs.
<b>FRENCH REVIVERS</b>	
Leader	Roger Davies CONTACT "R" 623 047
When/Where	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, Afternoon Member's House
	French conversation, topic based, with the aim of extending vocabulary, fluency and grammatical knowledge.
<b>FRENCH ENCORE</b>	
Leader	Jan Pacey CONTACT 07803 250 406
When/Where	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday, Mornings, 10.15 am to 12.15 pm Thrapston Community Library
	Anyone seeking further information should telephone Jan. Intermediate level, not suitable for complete beginners.
<b>LOCAL HISTORY</b>	
Leader	Eric Franklin CONTACT 732 950
When/Where	Third Tuesdays, afternoon, 2 pm Members' House
<b>LUNCHES (Monthly)</b>	
Leader	Jean Mole CONTACT 01933 626 608
When/Where	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, lunchtimes. Restaurants & public houses in Northamptonshire
Cost	Pay as you go
	A social lunch group for those who like to share their lunch with friends. Emails will be sent to members prior to the date of the meal with all the information about the venue, menus, and to collect your choices for the pre-orders when required.
<b>MAKIN' MUSIC</b>	
Leader	Marion Healey CONTACT 07989 985 722
When/Where	Every Wednesday morning, 10.15 am - 12.15 pm Thrapston Baptist Church
Cost	£2 per session to pay for the hire of the Hall.
	We do what it says, for fun. All instruments are welcome. Currently we have vocalists, guitars, bass, keyboard, ukes, mandolin, harmonicas, flute, whistles, clarinet and cajon (it's a box played as a drum) What we need: - Any more of the above - whatever you've got!! Any level of ability is fine, as long as you can play a bit. You don't have to be able to read music. If you sing or play any sort of instrument or used to and want to take it up again, and want to join a group having a lot of fun <b>Makin' Music</b> , then give it a try.

	<b>NORDIC SHORT WALKS</b>	
Leader	Pauline Johnson	CONTACT "R" 625 181
When/Where	Every Tuesday Afternoons, 2 pm Meet at junction of Chancery Lane and De Vere Road	
	This is a one-hour walk, with members benefitting from the use of poles. If you are new to Nordic Walking you can borrow poles to try it out.	
	<b>NORDIC WALKS</b>	
Leader	Rod Brown	CONTACT 732 521
When/Where	Every Friday afternoon. Exact time and set off point decided a few days before	
	This group likes to walk 5 to 6 miles and usually sets off around 2.00 pm	
	<b>PHOTOGRAPHY</b>	
Leader	Neil Underwood	CONTACT 737 921
When/Where	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday, Morning, 10.30 am to 12.30 am	Thrapston Community Library
Cost	£2 per session for hire of the Hall and refreshments	
Anyone wishing to join should call me for date of next meeting/other information.	An opportunity to practice your Photography skills. It doesn't matter if you are a complete novice (as long as you have access to a camera) or if you are nearly an expert. We will be looking at composition and the technical bits and each month we'll have a slide show of our achievements. We pay QUARTERLY whether you attend or not to ensure sufficient funds to pay the bills!! The charge may change to reflect any cost increase.	
	<b>PLAY READING</b>	
Leader	David Green	CONTACT 720 269
When/Where	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, Afternoon, 2 pm to 4 pm	Member's House
	<b>SINGING FOR FUN</b>	
Leader	Marion Healey	CONTACT 07989 985 722
When/Where	Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday 1.30 pm to 3 pm	Thrapston
	Baptist Church	
	<b>SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY</b>	
Leader	Sheila Underwood / Phil Cox	735 797 or 07411 149 678
When/Where	3rd Mondays, 2 to 4pm	from 20 <sup>th</sup> March Baptist Church Lounge Thrapston
Cost	Tba	
	<b>SPANISH</b>	
Leader	Roger Davies	CONTACT "R" 623 047
When/Where	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4th Tuesdays, Morning 10.30 am to Noon	Thrapston Community Library
	Spanish for beginners and those with some knowledge, with the aim of building vocabulary, accent, fluency and a basic grammatical awareness.	
	<b>STITCHERS</b>	
Leader	Wendy Davies	CONTACT 0787 6743 464
When/Where	Last Wednesday, Morning, 10.30 am to 12 noon	Thrapston Community Library
From 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	We work on our own projects, but also share ideas and learn new techniques. We welcome all members, from beginners to experts. These details are the current plans, dependent on replies from the members of the group.	

<b>TAI CHI Group 1</b>		
Leader	Linda Vickerman	CONTACT "R" 380 244
When/Where	Every Thursday, Afternoon, 2 pm to 3.30 pm	Islip Village Hall
Cost	£2 per session for hire of the Hall	
	Gentle exercises to music to improve Balance, reduce Stress and promote better General Health. Group full at the moment with a waiting list.	
<b>TAI CHI Group 2</b>		
Leader	Colin Northern	CONTACT 721109
When/Where	Every Tuesday, Afternoon, 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm	Islip Village Hall
Cost	£2.50 per session for hire of the Hall	
	Tai Chi is a gentle form of exercise that improves balance, reduces stress and promotes general good health. This group will be learning Tai Chi based on the Yang 108 move form. New members would be most welcome	
<b>TABLE TENNIS (1)</b>		
Leader	Gordon Campbell	CONTACT 0784 6611 748
When/Where	Every Tuesday, Morning 9.45 am to 11 am	Thrapston Baptist Church, upstairs lounge
Cost	£13 per quarter for hire of the Hall	
	Vacancies. We provide the necessary equipment.	
<b>TABLE TENNIS (2)</b>		
Leader	Gordon & Sue Campbell	CONTACT 0784 6611 748
When/Where	Every Thursday morning, 9.45 am to 11 am	Thrapston Baptist Church upstairs lounge
Cost	£13 per quarter for hire of the Hall	
	Vacancies. We provide the necessary equipment.	
<b>TEN PIN BOWLING</b>		
Leader	Margaret Beston	CONTACT 735 236
When/Where	2nd Friday, Morning 11am	Wellingborough Bowl
Cost	£6.50 for two games	First meeting October
<b>THEATRE VISITS &amp; OUTINGS</b>		
Leader	Jean Mole	CONTACT 01933 626 608
When/Where	Matinee visits to various theatres. Costs depend upon coach, theatre ticket etc. costs	
<b>UKULELE</b>		
Leader	Marion Healey	CONTACT 07989 985 722
When	Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday, Morning 10.30 am to 12.30 pm	Marion's House
	The group is open to all including those with no ability! We will help anyone to play. Each week we play and sing songs of all genres and have an enormous amount of fun! A Ukulele is required, but spares are available to borrow whilst having a taster session.	

	<b>WELLBEING WITH NATURE</b>	
Leader	Susan Collini	CONTACT 07799 892 900
When/Where	Each Wednesday, Morning	Oxlip Wood, Sudborough
	<p>Spending time connecting with nature can deliver wellbeing benefits and there's a large body of scientific proof that it works. Engagement with nature, <i>through slowing down to 'notice'</i>, is the key to reducing stress and anxiety levels, lowering blood pressure, soothing mental distress, improving energy levels, increasing resilience, speeding recovery from illness and even boosting the immune system.</p> <p>Find out more by contacting Susan Collini. The activity is free but prospective members are requested to visit the wood prior to joining.</p>	