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Welcome from the Chair

Hello Everyone,

The feedback we have received about the new seating arrangements has, on the whole, been very positive. There are some minor adjustments that we are going to try out to see if we can address the issues that have been highlighted. However, we think the arrangement worked well and we will keep the seats facing the stage from now on.



The next monthly meeting is our AGM and therefore the doors will open early at **9.45 am**. They are unlikely to be open before that because, as I explained at the last meeting, we cannot have people in the Hall when we are still getting seats and tables out. The only people allowed in before 9.45 will be those helping to set up the hall. Registration will be at the ticket office, as this seemed to work well last month.



The attendance at the **free outdoor gym session** (Wednesday 11.00 am to 12.00) was disappointing on the first week but perhaps some people did not know about it and others may have forgotten. Freedom Leisure is providing a fitness buddy for people who attend. This means there is someone there to show you how to use the pieces of kit in a way that suits you and to give guidance on the best way forward. There is a different set of pieces in Raunds and the same fitness buddy is there Wednesday 9.30am to 10.30 am to help and support, if that time and place suits you better.

The Town Council has done its best to provide us with some outdoor activity and it is designed for adults. It would be a shame if it is not used - an opportunity missed. Perhaps I will see you there!

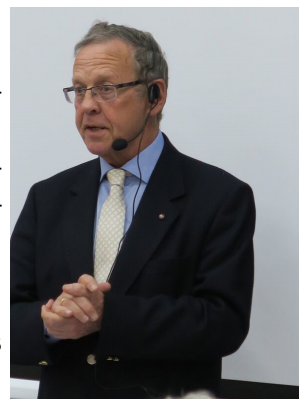
Sheila

You Cannot Be Serious – Tales from a Wimbledon Umpire

by Alan Gray MBE

Alan Gray, former Wimbledon Tennis Umpire, gave an extremely interesting presentation to our group when he visited for the monthly meeting on Friday 20 April 2018. Although his largely biographical tale was woven around the topic of world class tennis, it was also of general interest and gave a good insight into some of the personalities of the period and to the present day.

Alan imparted many facts related to Wimbledon including the full name 'All England Tennis & Croquet Club' and some of the history of its 19 courts and the 662 matches that are played there in the annual Wimbledon Tennis Tournament.



Alan related humorous events from his memories and asked the audience if they knew the name of the lady in the most popular photograph of a tennis player? He advised that her name is Fiona Butler, unknown to most but when Alan placed the picture of the lady on the stage the somewhat cheeky and familiar pose of the rear view of Fiona with spare tennis balls tucked into the back of her knickers was known to all, with over two million copies of the image revealed it was hardly surprising but poor Fiona never made a penny piece from the photograph.

Alan's umpiring career lasted for 25 years, during which time he umpired six men's finals and four lady's finals. He saw many changes in those years, including equality of prize money, where currently the cash prize for both finals stands at about £2.2 million. It is a far cry from the 1961 Ladies final between Angela Mortimer and Christine Trueman when Miss Mortimer pocketed a £20 voucher to be spent on tennis equipment at a Lillywhites London store.

There have also been significant changes to the Wimbledon Courts complex with the introduction of the electronic Hawkeye line judging system installed in 4 of the 19 courts and most importantly the closing roof of the centre court so that play can continue in vital matches, however inclement the weather. The closing and introduction of blown dry air takes about 30 minutes to achieve.

It was of great interest to learn something of Andy Murray's early years, when his mother Judy would bring a mini bus with aspiring young tennis players south of the border from their home in Scotland's Dunblane, to compete against better quality opposition than they would have found on home soil. Although Andy was possibly hyperactive as an adolescent, there is no doubt that he has a great skill and passion for the game, which has made him the competitive champion that we see today.

Touching briefly on John McEnroe's widely reported comment from June 1989 Alan revealed the full quotation which was very nasty in content and delivery. A similar outburst in current times would result in disqualification from the tournament.

Alan brought back to our memories tennis related poems and read a few of the verses from the John Betjeman poem 'Miss Joan Hunter Dunn' and spoke of the two lines from Kipling's poem 'If' to be found above the players entrance to Centre Court:-

*'If you can keep your head when all about you,
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you'.....*



Tennis has been Alan's life since he first won a junior championship in Scotland and later on in the administration of the game, meeting many stars of the game and show business personalities, he named his favourite lady player as Serena Williams, but he described his meeting her majesty The Queen as being the most magical

Paul Ollett

Speaker Seeker

Calendar of Events 2018

- 11 May **Greyhound Racing**
- 18 May **A.G.M. followed by**
 The Comedy of Victoria Wood by Steve Dimmer
- 24 May **History Walk around Brigstock - see page 6**
- 12 June **History Walk around Kings Cliffe - see page 6**
- 15 June **Tales from a Dairy Farmer's Wife by Jane Barnes (see below)**
- 8 August **Visit to Apethorpe Palace - see page 6**
- 20 September **Warhorse - Milton Keynes**
- 27 September **Bure Valley Steam Railway and Norfolk Broads - 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 May 18th

A.G.M.

(Please note doors open at 9.45 for this meeting)

Followed by

The Comedy of Victoria Wood

by Steve Dimmer



Next Month - Friday June 15th

Tales from a Dairy Farmer's Wife

by Jane Barnes



And Finally....

If you have mastered **Computing**, why not consider **Board Games** or
the **Magic of Photography** ?

Computing

The group meet in the mornings of the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month at a member's house.

Members come along to find the answers to any specific problems they have or to develop their IT skills further.



Confused by the *CLOUD* ?

Trouble with your zip files?

Too many cookies?

then contact

John McGill

Group Leader

737995

Photography

The Photographic Group meets once a month, usually on the first Monday, in the lounge at the Baptist Church. We each contribute £2 per session to cover the cost of the venue.



We are a very "mixed" group of fifteen, with some members having high tech gear, others have simpler cameras.....but that doesn't matter.....we all join together to enjoy and learn more about the art and science of photography.

Most months we have a "Theme" and will view photographs that we have produced around that theme, alongside a presentation by a group member.



We also go on photoshoots (Weather permitting!) and enjoy time together usually finding a Tea Room on the way!

For more details contact Neil Underwood

phone 737921

THE MAGIC CIRCLE GROUP
"WE ALL NEED SOME MAGIC IN OUR LIVES"

This group is in its third year. The meetings are full of fun, magic and mystery and they take place on every third Tuesday of the month from 10am to 11.30am.



If you had looked on the internet for U3A magic groups a few years ago, you wouldn't have seen any. We are proud to be pioneers in the setting up of our group. If you now search the internet, you will find quite a number of such groups.



It is for those who perhaps want to satisfy a childhood dream of becoming a magician, so that you can entertain your family, grand-children, friends and neighbours.

The magical content has the guidance of their Group Leader. However, members are encouraged to choose and practise their own tricks.

Constructive criticism is given to ensure every aspect of their magic includes aspects of performance, presentation, patter and the wow factor. So whether people are interested in close-up magic, stage magic, or children's magic, there is something for everyone.



For further information contact:

Terry Robinson.

(Member of Northampton Magicians Club)

Group Leader. Tel. 01832 720750

Terry's Magic Ode

I'll Shuffle you cut.
 And If you'll be so kind
 Choose one and put
 The card in your mind.

Place the card back
 And give a good mix.
 Now give me the pack
 I know you like tricks.

Here is my wallet.
 And a tenner therein.
 And you can have it.
 If I fail, then you win.

Is that not fair?
 Open it and look.
 The money's there.
 Here goes - good luck.

Now here's the deal.
 In a while,
 Simply by feel,
 By dealing a pile

Your card will be found.
 My tenner's on it.
 How does that sound?
 Damn and blast. I lost it.

What was your card,
 The queen of hearts?
 It wasn't so hard -
 I knew from the start

Cos Inside my wallet
 Is the result of the bet.
 With magic it's not hard
 To predict your card

Here's your card. See?
 Magic, I think you'll agree.

Oops! Something's wrong
 My tenners gone.
 Beggar, how can that be?
 I vanished my own money!

Terry Robinson

Board Games

The Board Games group meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 2pm to 4pm. in the lounge of the Manor Court Flats.



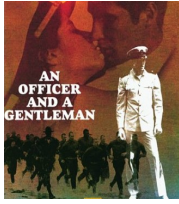
The members enjoy playing Rummikub, Mah Jong and similar games in a relaxed atmosphere. If you would like to join in the fun:

Contact Irene Gandy (Group Leader)

Telephone 732948

News from the Groups

Theatre and Outings Group



What a lovely day we had for our visit to the Curve Theatre in Leicester to see **An Officer and a Gentleman**. Prior to the matinee performance we had some spare time to explore Leicester, stroll around in the sunshine, have a coffee and a leisurely lunch, all very civilised.

The show was good, although most preferred the second half to the first. I mean who doesn't love a man in uniform who comes in and sweeps you off your feet? Personally I have not been to Leicester or the Curve Theatre before, but I will definitely be going again.

Bure Valley steam railway and Norfolk Broads 27 September 2018

There has been a surge of interest in this trip, so I have increased the group size and have now booked a 33 seater coach. I have 1 one ticket left for this event (or I can put your name on a reserve list)



The cost of the trip is £35 This covers the coach fare, a tip for the driver, the train fare and the cruise on the Broads. There is also an option for a 2 course lunch, served in the Whistlestop Cafe on Aylsham Station, for £10. This will consist of a roast for the main course and a choice of sweets for dessert.

I will be collecting the money for this trip at the next branch meeting on 18 May. I would be grateful, therefore, if you could let me have a cheque made payable to "Thrapston and District U3A". If you intend to pay with cash, please try to ensure you have the correct amount.

If you have already paid a £10 deposit, then £25 is due but, if you want to add lunch, then the total due will be £35. Obviously if you have not yet paid a deposit, then the amount due will be £35 (or £45 if you want lunch).

If you are not coming to the May meeting or would like to settle up before then or have any questions regarding this trip, please email me on jennihall207@gmail.com or ring 01832 358721. Thank you

Local History Walks and Visits

Our next walk is in **Brigstock** on Thursday May 24 at 11 a.m. or 10.30 at the Co-op in Thrapston. We have just **one** place left. Please ring Roger (Groups Co-ordinator) on 01933 623047 to secure.

In June we shall be visiting **Kings Cliffe** on Tuesday 12th leaving the Co-op at 10.20 or at the Church in King's Cliffe at 11. Please sign up at the May meeting or ring Brenda on 01832 730225. In July we plan to visit Geddington.

Our visit to **Apethorpe Palace** in August is full and we have four people on the waiting list. If you are booked in and are now unable to go please would you ring me, Glyn, on 01832 735797 and I will arrange for you to sell your ticket to a waiting list member.

Tai Chi Group Update.

Due to popular demand we have now started a second session and have room for more members. We meet weekly in St John Ambulance Hall on the Bull Ring at 3.15 for 3.30 start. If you are interested, just come along and join us in gentle exercise accompanied by relaxing music. Tai Chi can help with balance and has general health benefits..... including learning which is your right foot and which your left !!!!!

Leader Linda Vickerman 01933 380244



Thrapston & District



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Plaza, Thrapston

May 18th 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"

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

Please note

- * The minutes of the 2017 AGM are available on the website
- ** A summary of the Financial Statement is included in this newsletter.

Full statements and asset register are available on the website or from Tricia James (01832 733792).



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

Website : 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**

Thrapston District U3A
Annual Financial Statement - Summary

Note 1			11 months to 31/03/2018		12 months to 30/04/2017
			£		£
Note 2	Income	Business	5,385.58		4,771.75
		Activities	8,273.81		7,801.20
			<u>13,659.39</u>		<u>12,572.95</u>
	Expenses				
		Business	5,248.00		5,213.88
		Activities	6,636.49		7,742.35
		Depreciaton	746.53		
			<u>12,631.02</u>		<u>12,956.23</u>
	Net Income		<u>1,028.37</u>		deficit <u>(383.28)</u>

ASSETS

		As at 31/03/2018		As at 30/04/2017
		£		£
	Fixed Assets	<u>1,994.51</u>		
	Liquid Assets			
	Business bank	<u>5,026.88</u>		<u>4,926.80</u>
	Activities bank	2,084.07		446.75
	Cash	21.64		83.14
		<u>7,132.59</u>		<u>5,456.69</u>
	Liabilities			
	Prepayments	0.00		99.00
Note 3	Accruals	990.50		0.00
	NET ASSETS	<u>6,142.09</u>		<u>5,357.69</u>

FUNDS

	Reserves brought forward	<u>5357.69</u>		5740.97
	Net Income	1028.37		(383.28)
	Reserves carried forward	<u>6386.06</u>		<u>5357.69</u>

Note 1 11 month year to change end of Financial year date in relation to AGM

Note 2 Business relates to administration & monthly meeting s
Activities relates to group activities, trips & theatres and Social events

Note 3 Accruals
Capitation fees @ £3.50 pp 283 990.50

Prepared by Tricia James April 2018

Please note:

Full statements and asset register are available on the website or from Tricia James 01832 733792