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Welcome From the Chair

Planning for our Christmas Special on 16 December is moving apace and promises to be rather different this year. Previous Showcases encompassed both entertainment and exhibition tables by the Groups, to demonstrate their specialist interests. With the growing membership, space is very limited and so we have decided to

concentrate on entertainment this year and showcase the Groups at the Open Day in May.

We have also decided to do away with the lines of chairs facing the stage and instead have tables and chairs where you can sit with friends and enjoy the entertainment. With the additional setting up is required and many groups wanting to perform, there have had to be a few tweaks to the timings. Hence we will be starting slightly earlier and finishing later. The new timings are listed in this newsletter, so please make a note so as not to miss the start or your post-U3A lunch.



Bring your friends and neighbours and give them the chance to find out about U3A and encourage them to join this wonderful organisation.

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 is an earlier start and later finish.**

18 November **Branch Meeting - Badgers** by **Brian Sanders** will elaborate on the life style of the Badger including information on its habitat, food and how it catches its food. There will be content on threats to the badger including culling and historical information relating to the badger population in North Northamptonshire. After the talk there is a Q&A session appertaining to badgers both locally and nationally. →

- 14 December **Thursford Christmas Event** - Our 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
- 16 December **Branch Meeting - Christmas Event** is a slightly longer morning than usual and you may need to make some minor adjustments to your usual schedule. The timing for the event is as follows:
 10am: Doors will open at 10am for refreshments; 10.20am: Welcome and notices
 10.30 am: Entertainment; 11.15 am: Interval; 11.30 am: Entertainment resumes;
 12.15 pm: Drawing the raffle; 12.30 pm: End of event
 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.

2017

- 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
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- 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 **Along the Nene** by **Martin Izzard BEM**
 16 June **School Holiday Fiascos** by **Mike Leonard**
 21 July **Amy Johnson** by **Roy Smart**
 18 August **U3A Summer Events** (details to be advised)
 20 October **The Plague Doctor** by **David Bell**
 17 Nov. **Day in the life of TV Licence enforcement officer** by **Mike Long**
 15 December **U3A Yuletide Event** (details to be advised)

On a recent visit to Peterborough dog track, Thrapston and District U3A sponsored one of the dogs and it won its race. Irene, Tony and Linda are pictured with the winning hound.



Interest Groups News

Here we are already in November – where has the year gone. Most of our groups have now had at least a couple of meetings after the summer hiatus so I hope all is going well. Groups are now busy rehearsing acts to entertain you at you at the December Branch meeting.

We have an embryonic **Gardening Group** just getting together and they are looking for new members and above all need a Group Leader. I know I have said in this in the past but I will reiterate – being a group leader is neither onerous nor difficult. All that is required is that you have enthusiasm for the subject and the willingness to be the contact for your group members and potential new members. As a group leader, you are encouraged to delegate tasks to others, whether it be organising a venue, a topic or anything else. You are not expected to teach or, indeed, to be an expert. If you would like to join this new group whether as a leader or not please contact me and I will arrange contact with the other group members.

I have received an anonymous suggestion for another new group – **Singing for Pleasure**. I think this could be enormous fun but, at the moment, I have no idea how this could work but I can find out! All I need is you! If you have an interest in this group contact me and I will arrange a meeting to find a way forward.

Sign-up sheets for these and any other group will also be available at your next Branch Meeting. **Marion Healey – Groups Coordinator 01832 720262**

groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com

Cycling Group

The Cycling Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 10:00, at The Woolpack Inn, Islip. Rides are usually less than 20 miles with a coffee break on the way. We are usually back by 12:30. This is a friendly group of riders and all are welcome. Why not come and join us on the 13th and 28th November?

For more details contact Frank Boydell 01832 735797

For those looking for shorter, easier rides, Rachel Thompson runs a second cycling group on the first Tuesday of the month. Contact Rachel for more details on 01832 734974.

Live Music Group

Do you play an instrument or sing? The Live Music group gives all musicians a chance to play together for fun and improvement. There are no professional players, we all do our best and accept our limitations. There are few pleasures in life that beat (bad pun) playing and singing with friends, so why not come and join us? We meet at the Baptist Church, Thrapston, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings at 10am. All welcome. For more details contact Frank Boydell 01832 735797.

PLACES2GO - 2017 Programme - Actual dates to be advised

Month	Event	Approximate cost
February	Winter Seaside Day	Free
March	Uno with casserole brunch and banter galore	£4 pp
April	Brewery Tour	To be advised
April	Assizes Tour	£4 pp
May	Car Quiz	£2 pp
May	Mosque Tour	£4 pp
June	Petanque	£5 pp
June	Rutland Belle cruise	£8 to £11
July (Sunday)	Clipsham Lunch The famous Avenue	£15 pp for lunch
July	Wherry Race	Free
August	Mariner's Dining	To be advised
August	Barbecue	£1 pp

September onward is being prospected – more details of the above shortly. This is an open group & anyone can come along to any of these events who is a member of Thrapston and District U3A.

Our great democracies still tend to think that a stupid man is more likely to be honest than a clever man, and our politicians take advantage of this prejudice by pretending to be even more stupid than nature made them.

Bertrand Russell

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

Publicity: Ann Carter

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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