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**Welcome from the Chair**

Some of you may be aware that the Town Council is in the process of refurbishing the Plaza. In order for the work to be done, all U3A items in the Plaza have to be removed and you will notice that our board on the wall in the Plaza has already been cleared, ready for the work to start. We also have to move our storage cupboard and its contents. **If you can help with the storage of the cupboard or know of someone who could, please let me know or contact one of the Committee.** We have been told that the Plaza has to be clear by December 15th and there will be no storage after the refurbishment. We have to find a long term solution!



It also means that we cannot have our January meeting in the Plaza. St James Church is the only venue in Thrapston that has sufficient capacity and so we have booked the church for the January meeting. Hopefully, we will be back in the Plaza in February.



I hope you all remembered to put the clocks back and then enjoyed the Halloween and Bonfire night festivities. Now all that is out of the way we can look forward to events in December. This always takes some planning if you belong to more than one or two groups, as we all seem to be involved in lunches or, at least, mince pies and tea or coffee. Enjoy!

I look forward to seeing you at the Plaza in November

Sheila

## Mr Eric Franklin - A brief history of Public Houses, Inns and drinking establishments in Thrapston.

We welcomed local historian, Mr Eric Franklin, to the Plaza, to talk to us on local pubs and the like in our area. Eric is well known to many of us and has made presentations on Thrapston and surrounding villages to our group on several previous occasions. Although not born in Thrapston Eric has lived here since 1982.



Eric had taken over three months to compile his facts for the talk gleaned from a variety of sources in the area, giving information not only on the plethora of drinking establishments through the years in the town and adjacent villages, but some of the history of the licenced trade in England from as early as 1446, when a Guild of hop flavourers was formed, right up to 2007 when smoking in pubs was banned by law.

His presentation began with a quotation attributed to Benjamin Franklin :- “In wine there is wisdom, in beer there is freedom, in water there is bacteria”. Apparently weak beer (low beer) was at times a more palatable and possibly healthier drink than water in the days before the public water supply was chlorinated and made safe. Children would have received this beverage with their meals instead of water.

Memories of early TV advertising from the 1950s were invoked with ‘I’d love a Babycham’ being the first time that brewers had specifically targeted the female population with adverts featuring alcohol. Other brands also received a mention, with Mackeson and Guinness stout, Coates cider, Watney’s Red Barrel and Double Diamond bitter beer. Many in the audience still remembered those slogans of sixty years ago.

Eric’s researches had identified references to 24 drinking establishments in the immediate area of which many have been closed for a number of years, including from Thrapston, The Cottage Inn (Oundle Road), The Red Lion (High Street) which was destroyed by fire, the Plumber’s Arms, opened about 1830 and described as a ‘small place of poor character’ and the Swan Hotel (High Street) that celebrated its last night of trading in 1965. The demise of the George Inn occurred soon after the railway arrived in the town and there was no longer trade with stage coaches. However, some pubs are still plying their trade after many years, with the Kings Arms holding the record, although even this has been closed occasionally for periods during its history.



Eric displayed many historic photographs of the various pubs and inns, including images of some of the town’s residents whom he had been helped to identify. The Mason Arms had been the headquarters for Thrapston Town Football Club and, in the 19th century, the changing rooms were in the yard behind the pub. From a later time, some of the individual players could be identified from a photograph of the team at the time and some from a picture of regulars taken in the 1950s. A picture was shown dating from 1960 with images of members of the Fox Inn Darts Team, some of whom are surviving today.

A collection of beer bottles and brewery advertising memorabilia was on show and attracted a lot of interest.

He has written and collated a book that includes his findings which, in time, will become an even more valuable record of our past.



*Paul Ollett*

*Speaker Seeker*

## Calendar of Events 2018 / 2019

### 2018

- 16th November      **Is that the end of the news?** by Paul Needle - see below
- 13th December     **Canons Ashby and Nottingham Christmas Market** - see page 6
- 17th December     **Science & Technology Christmas Event** - see page 7
- 21st December     **Christmas Event at the Plaza** - see page 5

### 2019

- 9th January        **White Christmas—Leicester** - see page 6
- 18th January       **You're never too old to Rock'n'Roll** - Vince Eager  
Please note the change of venue for this meeting—see Chairman's welcome.
- 15th February      **Butler to Royalty** by William J French

## Branch Meetings

- When?**      3rd Friday of each month  
**Where?**     The Plaza in Thrapston  
**When?**     from 10.30 to 12,



Visitors are also welcome to join us for a small charge of £2

**\*\*\* Please Note: Doors open at 10 am \*\*\***

## This Month

## Friday 16th November



### **Is that the End of the News? By Paul Needle**

Sales of daily and regional newspapers are in freefall. Broadcast news is expensive to produce and is fighting for audience figures.

In this presentation Paul Needle looks at the rise in social media news and how the way we get our news and information is changing

.....

**Paul** was ordained as a Church of England priest at Bradford in 1970. He then moved into religious broadcasting with the BBC in Leeds. This led to a full time career in Commercial Radio as a journalist, news editor and radio presenter. For 10 years he was Director of broadcast Journalism training at City University in London, before running his own media training consultancy. Latterly, he worked for the BBC in Cambridge and Northampton, as well as serving as a Vicar in local churches. For 12 years he was Director of Communications for the Church of England's Diocese in Europe, looking after printed and electronic media and advising on strategy. Allegedly retired, he still acts as a media consultant and enjoys locum ministry around Europe.

## Focus on Tuesday Afternoon Groups

*Time on your hands on Tuesdays ? Have a look at these group activities.....*

### TUESDAY NORDIC WALKING GROUP

Short Nordic Walking is held every Tuesday afternoon, starting at the sports field car park, on the corner of Chancery Lane and Meadow Lane. We meet at 13.45 and leave on the walk at 14.00 when the church bells ring.

The Tuesday walk is an easy, short walk for about an hour, following footpaths from the car park. We have a variety of walks, around the lake, along the river, into Islip and along the old railway line.



Nordic Pole Walking is an enhancement of walking, suitable for all ages and fitness levels, simple to learn and really sociable. By using the specially designed poles, it provides a gentle but effective way to work the whole body, with benefits including an improvement in mobility and fitness.



If you are interested, come along on Tuesday at 13.40 and have a short lesson before attempting a walk. Poles are available for trying before you buy.

Contact Polly on 01933 625181

### Board and Card Games

The group meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, from 2p.m. to 4p.m. at the Manor Close Flats.

They play a variety of games including Rummicub and Mah Jong but are particularly keen to see some Scrabble players — whether beginners or experienced players.



A warm welcome awaits anyone interested in joining the group.

Contact Irene Gandy for further details

Phone : 732948

### Latin

This small, friendly group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 2 to 4 p.m. at a member's house.

The group is currently looking at some grammar and some Latin texts, but they also enjoy the odd trip out to places of interest. The members have a fascination with all things Roman and new members would be made very welcome.

Contact Robert Dickenson for further details.

Phone : 733066



## Line Dancing

The Line Dancing Group meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 1.30 to 2.30 at the St. John's Hall, Thrapston.

We are a group of (mostly) ladies whose ages range up to the high 70's. We generally dance to Country music, but also to some Modern music. Whilst most dances are for beginners, we do try some intermediate dances.

We are a warm, friendly group and would welcome new members.

Contact Sue Pringle phone :733476



## Lace Making



The Lace Makers meet at Thrapston Primary School on the 4th Tuesday in the month, from 2p.m. to 4 p.m.

The group is made up of ladies currently, most of whom were beginners to this traditional craft. Helpful support is given to any new comers.

The group has demonstrated the craft to schoolchildren in Thrapston and some of the surrounding villages, as well as the general public at Craft Exhibitions.

The group also visits Lace and Craft Making Fairs and Lacemaking Days.

If you would like to learn this traditional craft, contact Margaret Bland : phone 732761



***Christmas Event***

***Friday 21st December***

***Thrapston Plaza***

***Doors Open at 9.40 for 10 am start***



***All tickets have now been sold, but there is a waiting list, in case some are returned.  
If you have purchased a ticket and find you are unable to attend, please let Polly know  
and she will endeavour to resell the tickets.***



***Contact Polly on 01933 625181.***



## News from the groups

### THEATRE AND OUTINGS

#### Outings



#### CANONS ASHBY AND NOTTINGHAM XMAS MARKET 13 DECEMBER 2018

If you have already booked and paid for this outing the schedule is as follows

- 8.40 Meet at Co-op car park for 8.45 departure
- 10.00 Arrive Canons Ashby
- 10.10 Tea/coffee and a mince pie in the tearoom
- 11.00 Entry to Canons Ashby (weather permitting, a look at the gardens and church)
- 12.20 Return to coach
- 12.30 Coach departs
- 2.00 Arrive Nottingham City Centre - free time for lunch, visit to Xmas Market or whatever may interest you locally
- 4.50 Meet at coach pick up point
- 5.00 Coach departs
- 6.30 Arrive back at Thrapston



On the day, I will provide a map of Nottingham City Centre, together with a list of nearby eateries, but please feel free to investigate other possibilities online.

This trip is now full, but if you are interested, please put your name on the reserve list.

#### GATES GARDEN CENTRE AND FARM VISIT 9 MAY 2019

This trip is also fully booked but, again, if you are interested, please put your name on the reserve list.  
[jennihall207@gmail.com](mailto:jennihall207@gmail.com)

#### Theatre Trips

#### WHITE CHRISTMAS – Wednesday 9th January, (matinee)

The Curve Theatre, Leicester £45 including theatre ticket and coach travel.

Owing to a recent cancellation, this fantastic festive show now has one available seat left. Please check your diaries to see if this could be yours and, if so, contact Moira.



**ANNIE** Now booked for the matinee performance on the 3rd July, at Milton Keynes theatre. Price (including coach travel) is £40.

This is a powerful musical set in New York during the 1930's Depression. Little Annie is forced to live a life of misery at Miss Hannigan's orphanage. Her luck changes, however, when she is chosen to spend a fairytale Christmas with billionaire Oliver Warbucks... This show includes unforgettable songs such as 'It's The Hard-Knock Life', 'Easy Street' and 'Tomorrow'.

There are currently six places available. We will start collecting from those who have signed up for this trip at our next branch meeting. Please have your cheques or cash ready. Thank you.

**JUST ONE MORE THING...** on theatre and outing trips we now require an emergency contact number for each theatre goer. This must be someone who is not on the same trip as you and is easily contactable in case of an emergency.

Please contact Moira for further information, ideas for future theatre events or to inform us of your emergency contact number. Tel: 07960 640161 [mo.beth@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mo.beth@hotmail.co.uk)

Please remember, tickets are non-refundable.

## Science and Technology Christmas event

17 December 2-4 at the Baptist Church



The group have arranged for Pete Wearn who carries out 'several fun demonstrations involving liquid nitrogen' to entertain us at our Christmas meeting. Pete was a success at the Third Age Trust science network conference.

We are opening the event to any other members who'd like to come.

Tickets are £4, to include a mince pie and hot drink and will be on sale at the November monthly meeting or by phoning me on 01832 735797

Glyn Hill                  Group Leader

### **\*\* An Important Notice About Accessibility \*\***

I have recently moved from my role in public-ity to commence as Access Officer on the committee. It's a developing issue with the Third Age Trust and they have recently produced a website called U3APlus which provides very useful information.

I've used this site as a resource to set our actions over the coming year and our overall aim is to enable all our members to access the activities in Thrapston U3A, regardless of any impairment and disability. We're starting at our November meeting by reserving seats at the front of the Plaza for those with mobility, hearing and sight loss. There will be six alternate seats for anyone with hearing and sight loss and two spaces allocated at the right hand side for those using wheelchairs (together with a seat for companions). Please use these freely. We do not, at present, know how many of you will wish to use these, but we'll start now and increase numbers, if needed, at future meetings.



We will also ensure that the Induction loop is available to you at the Plaza. It can be accessed by using the T switch on you hearing aid.

We would also like to post the Chairman's notices on the power point presentation, but this will require those group leaders who ask for notices to be announced to send their information to the Chairman and Group Coordinator by the Thursday morning prior to the Friday meeting. Please would you do this, if you can, for this month's meeting.

Other initiatives for the future include applying for grants to purchase a wireless tour guide system for history walks and visits and groups where there are presentations.

If you have a disability and would like help in accessing monthly or group meetings, or if you would be willing to be part of an advisory working group, please contact me on [acessthrapstonu3a@gmail.com](mailto:acessthrapstonu3a@gmail.com) or phone me on 01832 735797

Glyn Hill

Access Officer

## Going to the Dogs

The latest trip to the Greyhound Stadium in Peterborough took place on October 26th. A fine time was had by all, and some even made a profit!!



### ***Thrapston and District U3A Committee***

Chair: Sheila Underwood

Vice Chair: Wendy Davies

Treasurer: Tricia James

Secretary: Ian Byrnes

Groups Co-ordinator: Roger Davies

Membership: Pauline Dennison

Publicity: Sue Campbell

Speaker Seeker: Paul Ollett

Newsletter Editor: Wendy Davies

New Members Rep: Brenda Berry

IT Operations Manager /Website Manager: Neil Busby

Access Officer: Glyn Hill

### **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](mailto:editorthrapstonu3a@gmail.com)

Website : [www.thrapstonu3a.co.uk](http://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