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Chairman's April Message



As the weather improves and the government roadmap out of the lockdowns firms up, we look forward, as a U3A, to beginning again. Your Committee's current planning is that we will retain the "Zoom" Members meetings until July,

Our Speaker Seeker has some excellent speakers lined up. We hope to stage a form of Summer Social in August but venue is currently open for discussion.

By September, provided the government "roadmap" doesn't suddenly feature a U turn, it is our hope to restart meetings at the Plaza in Thrapston.

Next month sees our AGM so this is my final item for the Newsletter for the current year and I wish to say a big thank you to all of the Committee who have kept this Charity moving forward, especially to Neil Busby who has been webmaster for the past 3 years and who has been invaluable in that role in the 'Year of Covid.'

And a big THANK YOU to all of our members who have still been supporting and enjoying their U3A!

Ian Byrnes

Chairman 2020/21





Masters of Mirth – Mike Storr – 19th March 2021

Mike Storr was born in Lincoln and is a Freeman of the City of Lincoln. He has been a Rotarian since 1980 and is now settled in Burton Joyce, Nottinghamshire.

Mike brought his unique presentation to entertain us for our March Zoom meeting and it invoked memories for many as he delved into his subject with an affectionate look at some of the Music Hall ‘laughter makers’ mostly from the first half of the last century and how the Music Halls began, long before the days of ‘alternative comedy’.

Unashamedly working from his script he began with a few questionable jokes the like of which we might find in Christmas crackers which was almost like the ‘warm up’ act for what was to follow.

There was a brief lesson on the history of the Music Halls which had their origins in the mid 18th century when taverns in the larger communities of the day would gather and, no doubt after a considerable amount of ale had been consumed, would engage in sing songs.

Astute tavern Landlords of the day found that by employing entertainers to keep things moving along they could sell more beer and make larger profits. By the middle of the 19th century some enterprising Landlords built halls close to their premises where the Music Halls were started with the first of these being The Canterbury Arms in Lambeth. By the end of the century there were about 300 halls in existence up and down the country.

Entertainers of the day could take their repertoires around the various Music Halls without changing the format too much as this was of course long before the days of instant mass communication systems such as radio and TV.

The names of long passed entertainers such as Sandy Powell were brought back and Mike got into character with several of the artists by donning appropriate headgear to read through the monologues that were the essence of this talk.

The monologue artist Robb Wilton who was born in 1881 was brought to the fore when Mike enacted his monologue ‘The Home Guard’ an amusing exchange between husband and wife set in the Second World War.

Some transferred to TV such as Bernard Miles who was often on our black & white screens in the mid-1950s. Bernard Miles went on to found London’s Mermaid Theatre in May 1959 this being the first London Theatre to open since the time of Shakespeare.

We learnt a little of the life of George Robey (1864 – 1954) before Mike performed an extremely funny monologue entitled ‘It’s the first time I’ve ever done that’ which was possibly a little risqué for the time. Other representations followed from Marriott Edgar and Gerard Hoffnung whose tale of ‘The Bricklayer’s Lament’ was more recently recreated by Noel Murphy in his song ‘Murphy and the Bricks’. Mike further demonstrated his talents with by wearing a string of beads and relating modern poetess Pam Ayres tale, ‘The Embarrassing Experience with a Parrot’.

I cannot remember a speaker before whose topic brought forth such a stream of near continuous laughter from the Thrapston audience and in recounting these performances he had revived memories among so many of us.

The fee we agreed with Mike he has said he will donate to Asthma UK, his preferred charity which he supports as a tangible thank you for preferred charity in acknowledgement for emergency treatment he received eight years ago when he was taken seriously ill.

Review by Paul Ollett

Speaker Seeker





*An introduction to the talks to be presented via Zoom on the
16 April 2021 and 21 May 2021*

Not to be missed so don't forget to book you tickets



16 April 2021



Steve Herra - The QE2

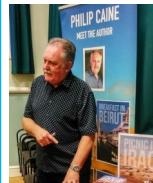
Steve Herra is a third generation Cunard employee whose father and grandmother both sailed with Cunard. Steve's last ship was QE2 where he was a Purser.

He met his wife aboard QE2 and some of the celebrities he introduces to the audience. After leaving Cunard, he joined the Royal Naval Reserve and served aboard HMS President.

He still has an interest in ships and acts as a visitor escort conducting guided tours of the ships when they are in Southampton



21 May 2021



Philip Caine — To Bagdad and Back

Philip was born in 1950, in Barrow-in- Furness. His working life began in the hotel business. His career developed in the oil industry and 30 years were spent in places such as the North Sea, Algeria, Nigeria, Kazakhstan and Russia.

From 2003, he spent 7 years in post war Baghdad, working with the American coalition, then a further 3 years running oil services companies in Dubai.

He retired in 2015 and began writing and public speaking. Since then he has spoken at over 400 venues and written 7 fictional adventure thrillers and 2 crime thrillers.



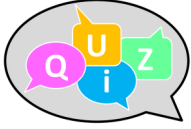
To watch these presentations please see the guidelines below

Go to our website, www.thrapstonu3a.co.uk, and click the link on the **HOME PAGE** to order your ticket.

Each member can order one ticket for one device only. There are 92 tickets available and you will be able to join the meeting from **10.10 am**.

A link for the meeting will be sent by email the evening before the meeting.

Guidance on using zoom can be found on the event page by clicking the ticket link on the website.



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE TREASURE QUEST – By Marion Healey

A mixture of anagrams, cryptic and general knowledge clues – good luck!

- Q1. View re Potter Hall (*2 words*)
- Q2. Once home to the inventor and fluent speaker of a nonsense language. Also the last stop before Diana's final resting place (*2 words*)
- Q3. Is there really only one place to congregate here?
- Q4. Place for a creepy crawly to take a swim?
- Q5. Did Fred nod here?
- Q6. Here the one-in-charge of St Mary was once a supporter of a revolutionary French government.
- Q7. The royal lady got annoyed on her way to Westminster but is still standing here and there.
v (2 towns required)
- Q8. At the inns tangos were performed before the king went off to tame the sea.
- Q9. Ploughman's town is through broiling!
- Q10. Parliamentarians triumphed here at Broad Moor in 1645.
- Q11. Is everything more than fourteen pounds here?
- Q12. The antecedents one of Sam's main founder lived in the big house here.
- Q13. A place surrounded by five water sources and a castle by the centre.
- Q14. A butcher, an undertaker and a mummy's boy tried to keep everyone safe here but not on the coast.
- Q15. Little Alan was bogged down here.
- Q16. Dissected by W Coast mainline and the birthplace of Glenys Kinnock
- Q17. Where swans guard gnomes in the hall gardens.
- Q18. Sounds like lassie or laddie weren't on the sea here but got slated instead!
- Q19. Did Samuel Pickwick and Lindisfarne both lose Dell-boy in this place.
- Q20. This place has 2 churches, a pub, a castle and a manor owned by the 27th in line.
- Q21. Moody Dudley has skulked here since 1390
- Q22. Where Jim carried on from the blushing water
- Q23. After landing in pigswill, Byron left fifty behind.
- Q24. Take care – the water comes out extremely hot.
- Q25. Where Oliver's partner had to trim this to shine more brightly.
- Q26. Remains of fires are weighty issues.
- Q27. Did Henry add gem to harsher fir while he kept warm at Canterbury?
- Q28. The last place to find Coco but not Chanel
- Q29. Birthplace of Pluto and the resting place for BigFoot.
- Q30. Finish here where Eddie, Twiggy and Vernon lived – you can go no further



Answers will be in May's Newsletter

FORMAL NOTICE of AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Thrapston & District U3A

Registered Charity 1179593

Will be held electronically on 21st May 2021

The Agenda and appropriate documents

will be forwarded by email or made available electronically

no later than 7th May 2021

Please note all written or electronic nominations:

Committee Nominations are normally made on the prescribed form. To facilitate easier nominations the Committee have agreed to use the following structure. A nominee for the Committee 2021/22 sends an email stating they wish to stand to "Secretarythrapstonu3a@gmail.com", stating their wish and quoting their membership number of this U3A. The 2 supporting members must also send an email to that same address indicating they are nominating the individual quoting their membership number of this U3A. **Nominations are now open and will close** at 23.49 on 29th April. Emails sent to any other U3A email address of this U3A will not be valid, nor any received after the closing date.

IN ALL instances your Membership Number must be quoted

Ian Byrnes
Acting Business Secretary
01/04/21

Extraordinary General Meeting March 2021

RESULT

The membership vote on adopting the new U3A Model Constitution was unanimously in favour, and passed the necessary threshold for adoption. Therefore from 01/04/2021 The Revised National U3A Constitution is now in effect and will govern the forthcoming AGM and events going forward.

Ian Byrnes
Acting Business Secretary
01/04/2021

Another tasty recipe from Cake and Bake ! Thanks Viv.

BACON & CHEDDAR SCONES

242 g Plain Flour
1/2 tsp Salt
1 tbsp Baking Powder
2 tsp Sugar
57g Hard Butter or Margarine
113g coarsely grated Cheddar Cheese
227g (about 8 slices) of crispy cooked bacon
21g finely diced shallots OR spring onion OR 14g chopped chives
198g Double Cream
2 tbsp Double Cream



- ◆ Preheat oven to 425
- ◆ Lightly grease or line a baking tray with a baking sheet
- ◆ Mix together the flour, salt, baking powder and sugar
- ◆ Work the butter into the mixture until it is crumbly still leave large pieces
- ◆ Mix in the cheese, onion and bacon until evenly distributed
- ◆ Add 198g of double cream and mix to a dough. Squeeze the dough and if it is too crumbly carefully add a little more cream.
- ◆ You can pat the dough into a 7" circle about 3/4" thick and cut into 8 wedges.
- ◆ Spread the wedges out Alternatively you can cut into 8 round scones and brush with the 2 tbsp double cream and bake for 10-12 minutes -12 minutes

Why not give it a go and book your place asap to avoid disappointment !!!!!

u3a Network Zoom Quiz

WEDNESDAY 2ND JUNE 2021

STARTING AT 7:30PM FOR ABOUT 1½ HOURS

Open to all u3a Members (& prospective members) in
LEICESTERSHIRE, RUTLAND & NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

BOOK EARLY
AS PLACES
ARE LIMITED

To register:

Send an email with your name and the name of your u3a (actual or intended) to:

coordinator@landru3a.org.uk

as soon as possible

If places are still available, you'll receive an email confirming your place in the quiz (normally within 24 hours)

Joining instructions will be emailed to you a few days before the Quiz

Part of the national
u3aday celebrations



This will be a
FUN QUIZ
Not to be taken too seriously
Specially created for
Singles and Couples
to take part by Zoom

Organised for your enjoyment by:

u3a Leicestershire &
Rutland
Network of u3as

& **u3a** Northamptonshire
Network of u3as



The winning entries of the Winter Photographic Competition

Animals: Colin Bloor



Animals: Paul Ollett



Trick of Light: Colin Bloor



Trick of Light: Anna Bond



Cycling Group

I am pleased to be able to announce that the Cycling Group are now meeting once again.

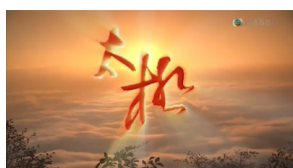
We meet on Monday mornings in the Co-op car park (Sackville Street) at 10am.

This is social cycling and everyone is welcome,

Frank Boydell



Tai Chi Group



We hope to meet on Thursday 20th May at 2.00 Hurray !

The Islip Village Hall is booked.

Looking forward to seeing you all again

Please pass the word to any group members you meet around town.

Linda Vickerman



Telephone numbers given in the newsletter are usually preceded by the Thrapston STD code—01832.
Any Raunds numbers (indicated by R) need the STD code 01933

Thrapston and District U3A Committee 2020/21

Chair: Ian Byrnes	chairmanthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
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Off Committee Roles 2020/2021

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<i>Social Committee Liaison: Sheila Underwood</i>	
<i>Zoom "Plaza" Meeting Host: Neil Mathieson</i>	

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 : Tina Jones - email: editorthrapstonu3a@gmail.com

Website : www.thrapstonu3a.co.uk where details of the committee and their roles can be found along with details of all the groups.

You can also join us on Facebook — Thrapston and District U3A



Thrapston & District U3A is a registered charity number 1179593