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Chairman's April Message

At this time of year, the end of the financial year the Trustees (well Sue our Treasurer, who has been a treasure in the role), have to prepare the accounts of this charity for the Charity Commissioners, as do I as your Chairman I have to prepare a report which summarises the year, here below is that report:

**"Thrapston & District U3A Registered Charity
1179593**

Report to the Members, Trustees & the Charity Commissioners

2021-2022

The past year from March 2021 has seen its share of issues with further lockdowns and an initial unwillingness by members to come to face to face meetings. We faced a similar initial reluctance to attend face to face group meetings, but things have improved in 2022, and we are seeing our membership numbers beginning a steady return.

During the lockdown your Committee of Trustees have worked really hard to ensure that there was a Thrapston & District U3A still around for members to re-join. My thanks go to you all, especial thanks go to your Treasurer Sue Campbell who has ensured that our accounts have been balanced and has waved the red flag concerning the effects of declining membership on fixed costs. Also to Paul Ollett your Speaker Seeker who sourced some excellent speakers for our "Zoom" Plaza meetings during lockdown and his high standard has continued now we are back to meeting face to face at the Plaza.

In summary 2021-2022 was a little tricky for our U3A but was better than 2020-2021. Already 2022/2023 is looking better with rising membership numbers and new interest groups being formed. In the gloom of lockdown many including HM Queen were quoting the lyrics of the late Dame Vera Lynn's "We'll Meet Again!" and lo the sun has come up; the vaccines have come through and' We are meeting again!

Ian Byrnes
Chairman



18th April 2022 & May 20th Monthly Meetings
at The Plaza in Thrapston
Doors open at 10:00 a,m



Speaker: Christine Green - 22nd April 2022

“Working for Auntie: Behind the scenes
at the BBC as a Graphic Designer”

I was a graphic designer at the BBC for 13 years and worked on shows as diverse as the Queen's Christmas Speech, 'Our Friends in the North', 'Island Race' and, once I'd gone freelance, 'Foyles War'.

I received several international awards for my work including a BAFTA nomination for my work on 'Cambridge Spies'.

The talk includes title sequences, storyboards and artworks and a couple of unexpected crossovers into my textiles work.



Speakers: Carol & Steve Robson –20th May 2022
“Fools Gold”

We are acoustic musicians, loosely in the Folk genre and we travel all over the UK (and beyond) to bring our shows to many audiences each year.

Our shows are a bit different as they are usually not just a straight music recital. All shows are themed and each song fits the theme and has a strong story, history or mystery attached to it.

We tell the stories, supported by projected visuals, the song is played live (supported by more visuals) and usually there is plenty of opportunity to join in!

The programmes are varied and usually include a mixture of well known and original music - the stories are fascinating, moving or funny and always engaging.



“Goa” – an Indian adventure, by Phil Threefoot

Friday 18th March, at the Plaza



Phil Threefoot was a name new to me, but I had a tip-off from Sheila (Vice Chair) that this was the “nom de plume” of our u3a’s Speaker Seeker, Paul Ollett. Sure enough, 5 minutes before the start of his presentation, through the side door came a tall figure in biker gear – it was, indeed, Paul who was to entertain us.

Paul has belonged to the Waendel Walkers Club for 35 years, edited their quarterly magazine and wrote articles when necessary to pad out the publication under the apt name for a walker of “Phil Threefoot”.

Paul is a man of many adventures and keen motorcyclist, so he booked a place on a motorcycle tour of Goa with a French company, “Vintage Rides”, from “21st November to 3rd December 2019. The company provided the bikes and fuel, as well as a guide, a mechanic and a back-up minibus which carried spares and mechanical equipment and the riders’ belongings. The bikes were Royal Enfield 500cc Bullets. Royal Enfields are a common sight in India; a group of Indian businessmen having bought the rights to manufacture these motorcycles in 1967.

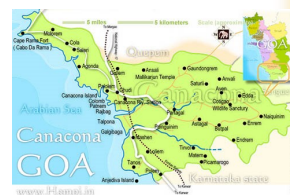
Before flying out, Paul had Hepatitis A and Polio injections and started taking probiotic tablets 3 weeks before departure. He also bought a stock of Imodium tablets. As you may imagine, diarrhoea and motorbikes don’t go well together! He also had to arrange repatriation insurance, just in case!

The state of Goa is on the West coast and, with its agreeable climate, is very verdant. The fertile soil means that cotton, sugar cane, rice and many other crops are grown, the fields being tended mostly by hand. Paul’s route started in the capital, Panjim (*Panaji*), and proceeded clockwise crossing the plateau to the west of the Western Ghat mountain range. His photos showed us his European travelling companions, Bruno, Jean-Luc and Carstene, ancient churches in the Portuguese style, large river boats housing casinos and a new half-mile long bridge. Paul highlighted several scary Health and Safety issues, including electric wires trailing out of buildings and connected to sockets not by plugs, but by bare wires! At the end of the first day, they enjoyed the comforts of a resort hotel, while the bikes were checked over, as they were each day by Britesh. In contrast to the hotel, we saw poor housing complete with satellite dishes, a community water supply coming from a central tank, animals – pigs, goats, cattle – in the streets.

Despite the poor living conditions, schoolchildren were immaculately turned out and there were motorbikes of all shapes and sizes. If you had a motorbike, you had a business! Motorbikes were used to carry everything, including trays of eggs, as well as to ferry whole families.

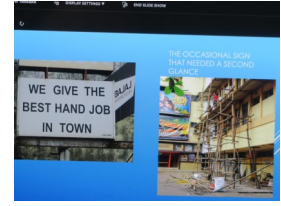
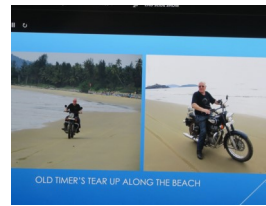
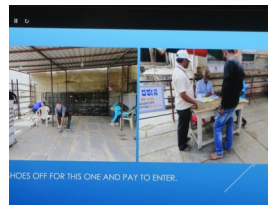
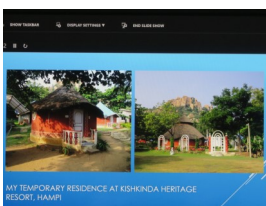
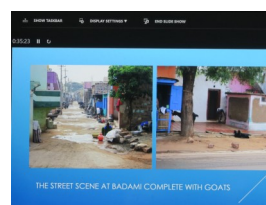
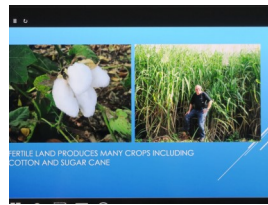
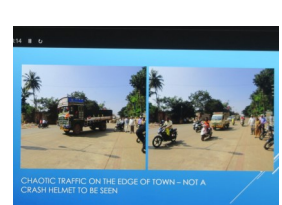
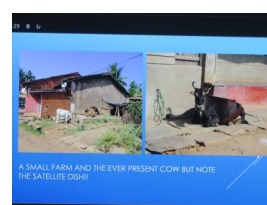
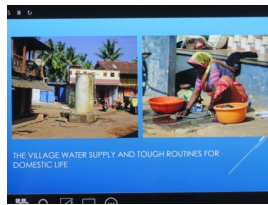
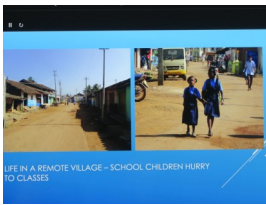
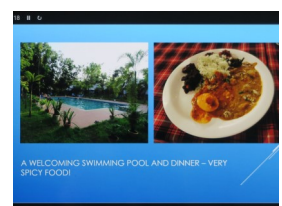
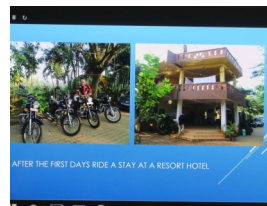
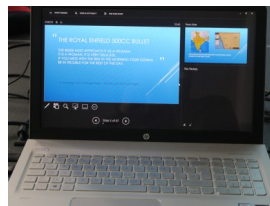
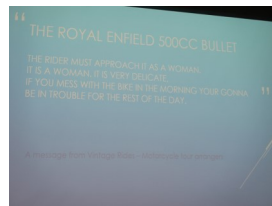
Near the town of Badami they came across an ironing service hut in the street and, nearby, ancient temples hewn out of the sandstone cliffs. The next day, they travelled through a banana plantation on their way to a long-abandoned 16th century Muslim city named Vijayanagra which once boasted a palace and a huge swimming pool; it is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A little further on, they took off their shoes and paid their 25p to visit a 14th century Hindu temple. Paul shared with us a shot of some desperate-looking gents’ toilets, and later we saw him biking along a beach with the Arabian Sea behind him, reminiscent of a 60s or 70s hooligan.

It was a fascinating presentation. We could imagine the accommodation, some fairly basic with no air con and others with 4-star luxury, the beautiful scenery, while being amazed by the notion of cows on a beach or scaffolding poles tied together with string ... and, of course, Paul finishing the presentation back in Europe with a video clip of those bikini-clad line-dancers in Holland!



Pictures taken by Neil Underwood at the 18th March Plaza presentation
“Goa—An Indian Adventure “

Presented by our very own Speaker Seeker Paul Ollett



Newsletter Items

Please don't forget to send your group activity reports and photographs to the editorthrapstonsu3a@gmail.com before the last day of each month.





Some Dates for your Diary



This summer sees us celebrate **our 10th Birthday**
and u3a's 40th anniversary

Make sure you don't miss anything by making a note of these dates now.

Monday April 8th

Archive section on our website goes live! Check it out.

Saturday May 7th

Open Day at Plaza from 9.30 to 11.30 am.

Saturday June 25th

See our stall at Thrapston Charter Fair.

Friday July 22nd

Mile-a-Member Event in Thrapston.

Friday August 19th

Summer Social at Thrapston Sailing Club.

Wednesday Sept 21st

**u3a Day - a Network Event at Chester House
from 12 to 4 pm. End of the Members' Mile!**



November & February's Charities of the Month

NGNPUK



I would like to thank members for donating to 2 Charities recently at the Monthly Meetings .
In November a Donation of £25.00 was sent to Pancreatic Cancer Action.
In February a Donation of £30.00 was sent to NGNPUK.

Linda Lewis

Ukraine Appeal

At the monthly meeting on the 18th March the collection for the
Ukraine Appeal collected £50.00





The Lunch Club

We have 25 members booked to have lunch at **The Lilacs**, Isham NN14 1HD, on **Wednesday 20th April**.

They are offering 2 courses for £15 and 3 courses for £18.

If you would like to join us and haven't already signed up, please contact Jean Mole (details below).

Our next lunch will be at **The Willow & Brook**, Kings Cliffe Rd, Apethorpe, Peterborough PE85DG on **Thursday 19th May**.

Please note the change of day from our normal Wednesday lunch.

I will have this menu available at the next monthly Plaza meeting and also at The Lilacs.

However if you are not going to be at either venue I can e-mail the menu to you.

Jean's contact details: 01933 626608 peterandjeanmole@btinternet.com

Day Trips

Syon House & Gardens

There are still a couple of seats available on this trip which is being organised by Higham & Rushden u3a on Wednesday 18th May.

The cost is just **£31** for the coach, entry to the gardens and guided tours of both the House and the Gardens.



Banbury & Broughton Castle

Higham & Rushden u3a are organising a coach trip on Thursday 23 June to Banbury (market day) in the morning followed by a private guided tour of Broughton Castle in the afternoon, at just **£23 pp** inclusive.

This is a combined day trip stopping at **Banbury**, Oxfordshire in the morning for free time

We then re-board the coach in the afternoon to travel the short distance to **Broughton Castle**, where we are booked for a private tour of the Castle. As the Castle is not open to the public on this day, the cafe will be closed. However there will be time for you to eat in Banbury, or bring a picnic lunch which you can eat in the Castle gardens.

Please contact Jean Mole if you are interested in either of these trips. Details above.



Great News!as someone once said,

**“Our u3a is showing the green shoots
of recovery.”**

(I loosely quote the poetically inclined Mr Ollett)

Our **Gardening Group** is restarting under the leadership of **Angela Gyves**. Members will meet on the **first Wednesday afternoon** of each month at the Leader’s house.

So the **first meeting** should take place on **Wednesday April 6th**.

For further details, call Angela on **732005**.

Line Dancing Update

Line Dancing



Please note that our classes now start at 12:15. This was the class’s choice and I was happy to oblige. We do have room for any U3A. Ladies who have not yet given line dancing a try.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thrapston & District U3A

May 20th 2022 at The Plaza, Thrapston

To commence at 10.15. Doors will open at 09.45.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the 2021 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 2022/23* - Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Business Secretary, (the Executive Members), and a committee of 8 other members.

*

Please note all written nominations must be received no later than 10.00 am on Saturday 23rd April 2022.

Nomination forms are available from Committee members and on the website – www.thrapstonu3a.co.uk



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 2021/22

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Treasurer: Sue Campbell	treasurerthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Secretary: Wendy Davies	secretarythrapstonu3a@gmail.com
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Plaza Welcome Manager: Viv Tunstall	plazawelcomethrapstonu3a@gmail.com
New Members Representative: Irene Northern	Repthrapstonu3a@gmail.com

Off Committee Roles 2021/2022

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IT Operations/Website Manager: Neil Busby	websitethrapstonu3a@gmail.com

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