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Chairman's Message



This month has been quite eventful with the first meeting of your new Trustee Committee . This was followed swiftly by U3A day on June 2nd when many colourful U3A posters adorned the Thrapston Library, Town Council offices and other poster points in town. Saturday 5th of June a wonderful sunny day there was a U3A stall at Farmers Market which was well attended, an event where people meet and talked face to face, just like the good old days, new members were recruited we caught up with current members, all in the sun and in person a really great day (Thanks to Roger Davies, Wendy Davies, Neil Busby, Paul Ollett and to the committee members who helped staff the stall)

As I write the golden glow that is the final deadline date for opening up completely seems to be dimming slightly, another two weeks possibly? As a U3A we will continue with our plans for Members Meetings via Zoom in June and July with a return to the Plaza and our members and friends meeting in person from September, the Summer Social in August will have a different look this year of which more later.

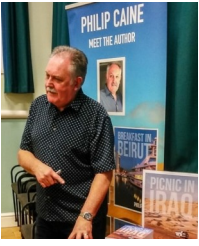
Stay safe

Ian Byrnes

Chairman



Review of the 21 May 2021 Zoom Presentation From Barrow to Baghdad and Back - By Philip Caine



Philip Caine, our Zoom speaker for the May meeting, narrated his career biography taking us on a long and fascinating journey through many countries and challenging situations. His talk was done in an animated manner entirely 'on the hoof' without PowerPoint or any graphics.

Born in Barrow in Furness in 1950 and educated there until leaving school at the age of 16 it was expected by his father that he would join the Vickers Armstrong ship building yard in Barrow like so many of his peers. However, Philip had other ideas and without his father's blessing he had already spent his spare time for 6 months working in a local hotel.

Philip's ambitions did not include shipbuilding and he was determined that he would become a Chef working in the catering and hospitality industry. His role took him to various establishments in the North gaining experience in busy kitchens until eventually his growing competence secured him a position in the renowned Ritz in London

Philip and his Glaswegian wife Sandra married and it was she who suggested that he went into Hotel Management as the hours worked by Chefs are decidedly anti-social. He was head hunted to manage a hotel in Stonehaven, Scotland where he spent three productive years.

Eventually the lure of a big salary increase and a challenging situation caused him to take on the role of Chef Manager working on North Sea oil rigs and still in his twenties he found himself on a helicopter heading out to the Neptune 7 oil production platform. The situation required him to work two weeks on and two weeks off which he confided was an arrangement that suited Sandra very well. Especially as he was earning twice the salary of a hotel manager.

After 10 years on the oil rigs he joined the British Petroleum company management team diversifying into logistical support for their operations.

In his early forties Philip was becoming bored and seeking a new challenge and through a friend he got an opportunity for a Project Management position with a tax free salary in the Algerian desert to establish an accommodation block for 500 ex-patriot workers. After eighteen months he was approached to take on a much larger project in the Nigerian Jungle and now with his team and experience he grasped the opportunity bringing his acquired experience and enthusiasm to the job.

By the early 1990s and with the breakup of the Russian federation Philip had moved his talents to Kazakhstan having joined petro-chemical giant Chevron where activities were underway to exploit the gas field there and Philip headed up a team building a base camp for 2500 ex-patriots mostly Americans, British and Italians.

Logistical supply problems to the camp lead to dealings with a shady Russian character who was a KGB agent and an arrangement was made to the mutual benefit of all parties to ensure that vital stores of food and materials were flown to the base avoiding vulnerable land convoys.

Eventually Philip and Sandra decided to set up their own company with a \$2.5m loan from a Kazakhstan bank but the project ended in near disaster with the collapse of the US bank Enron leaving them with huge debts which they have since battled to successfully repay.

In the spring of 2003 Philip won a contract with a US mining company to build nine accommodation blocks in Baghdad for 30,000 workers, a project which was completed in just 3 months.

Now at the age of 71 Philip is absorbed in a new career path as an author of novels with nine titles to his credit, all published through his own company established as regular publishing houses would not.

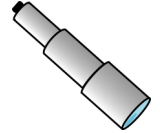


Review by Paul Ollett



*An introduction to the talks to be presented via Zoom on the
18 June 2021 and 16 July 2021*

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



18 June 2021



Andy Smith
Life in Music

Andy is a song-writing multi instrumentalist (guitar, mandolin, ukulele, banjo, tenor guitar, sitar, piano) and singer and is totally self sufficient with his own pa system.

This will be Andy's second visit to Thrapston. After his first appearance on 16 February 2018 when he gave a performance entitled 'John, Paul, George and Me' He was scheduled for a second visit on 19 June 2020. Due to the Covid pandemic this meant it had to be rearranged for June 2021.

Our past experience found him to be a versatile and personable entertainer with a fascinating repertoire of popular music so I think we will not be disappointed with his performance albeit by the means of Zoom.



16 July 2021



Steve Dimmer
Life of Ronnie Barker

Steve is a locally based and accomplished speaker who has entertained us in person on two previous occasions with his first visit in January 2015 and more recently when he brought his presentation on Victoria Wood.

Steve, by Zoom, now brings us a hilarious presentation, which reflects the very British comedian and comedy script writer Ronnie Barker with his very British style of humour.

It is indeed an affectionate look at the life of one of Britain's most loved and talented comedy actors. Liberally illustrated with clips from his career – Four Candles anyone?



To watch these presentations please see the guidelines below

Go to our website, www.thrapstonu3a.co.uk, and click the link on the **HOMEPAGE** 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.

AmazonSmile

Being a registered charity, we have joined the ranks of many other U3A's and charities across the country to be part of Amazon Smile

What is AmazonSmile I hear you ask - Amazon Smile provides an easy way for customers to donate to our U3A, whilst shopping, at no extra cost to themselves or our U3A.

When you shop at AmazonSmile, you will still have exactly the same process, selection and shopping experience that you would have using Amazon but with the added bonus that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your net purchase price to our U3A.

As of August 2020, AmazonSmile had donated over £4.5million to UK Charities. Let's become one of them.

You can do this easily as follows:

Go to smile.amazon.co.uk

Sign in as normal, or create an Amazon account

Go to Tab: Accounts and Lists

Choose : Your Smile Account

Here you can choose a charity or change the charity you already have.

Search for Thrapston And District U3A and Select

You can also now use Amazon Smile on the Amazon App on your IOS or Android phone

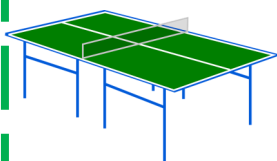
Simply follow the instructions below to select Thrapston And District U3A as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app.

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programmes & Features
3. Select Thrapston And District U3A as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app



I urge you to give it a go.....let's get shopping on AmazonSmile

Table Tennis Group



Hooray, at last the table tennis group has restarted.
We have 2 tables and provide all the required equipment.
Including anti bacterial gel and wipes etc.



If you fancy having a go on a Tuesday morning between 10am & 11am in the Baptist Church, please contact Gordon on 07846 611748 for more information.

Tai Chi Update

We have resumed our Tai Chi Group meeting in Islip Village Hall every Thursday afternoon.
We now have room for a few new members.
If you would like to join us please first contact me by Email or phone.

Linda
linannvic2000@yahoo.co.uk
01933 380244



*Why not try this easy short walk with no stiles as you continue
with your exercise.*

Barnwell – 7 Miles (about 3 hrs)



Starting in Barnwell - Parking in the Village Hall carpark behind the Montagu Arms

From the car park return to the road, turn left and in about 100 yds go through gap in the hedge on the right, taking the clear diagonal path through the crops. Go over the hardcore track and cross the footbridge continuing in the same direction to cross a second bridge and turn left on the track. Ahead passing the yard on the left then straight ahead with the ditch on the right ascending the slope on a wide grassy path to emerge on the road.

Turn left along the road for 200 yds to turn right at the sign post then ahead with the spinney on the right. Go through the gap in the hedge at the corner and immediately turn left across the field aiming for the nearest corner of the hedge ahead. Continue to the end of the hedge then turn right towards the farm and immediately left continuing in the same direction with the hedge/ditch on the left. On reaching the ditch at the end of the field turn right for 50 yds then turn left through the gap and ahead now with the hedge on the right.

Pass through the hand gate at the end into the sheep meadow continuing with the hedge on the right to the end where exit through a metal farm gate and turn left ahead (hedge on left) to another hand gate. Pass through keeping to the left of the field for a further 150 yds to turn left ascending a wide grassy path, with the ditch on the right. Continue to the wooden footbridge where turn right to cross the field on a cleared path, cross a second footbridge aiming to pass right of a wooden building to emerge on the road at Hemington.



At the road turn left leaving the village passing a magnificent oak tree and soon go round a double bend. Ahead passing the poly tunnels descending with the road for half a mile to take the footpath on the right at a gap in the hedge. Cross the field on defined path, soon descending towards Polebrook. At the foot of the hill keep to the left of the ditch and cross at the footbridge beside the derelict sheds. Turn left to follow the path aiming for the farm to find an enclosed footpath at the right hand side of the cottages soon to emerge onto the road at Polebrook.



Turn left away from the village and at the bend turn right on the track and then immediately left through double gates (usually wide open). Follow this single track road for about three quarters of a mile to Armston. After the farm on the left and houses on the right look for a kissing gate on the left, Pass through into the meadow aiming slightly right to go through a kissing gate in the opposite hedge. Turn right and follow the field edge to another hand gate. Pass through and aim slightly left descending the hill to pass through a kissing gate on to a concrete road.

Turn left descending with the road and as Barnwell Manor appears turn left through a metal gate and ahead through the field with a good view of Barnwell Manor. Go through the next gate in the same direction and a further hand gate at the end of the field. Continue down the metalled track to the road and turn sharp right to return to the village hall car park.

Enjoy

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE TREASURE QUEST QUIZ ANSWERS

Due to lack of space these are the shortened answers – for more information contact the writer or your local library (or Google/Wikipaedia!!!!)



- 1 - Thorpe Waterville (anag)
- 2 - Long Buckby (ref: Prof. Stanley Unwin and the Railway Station)
- 3 - Achurch - !!
- 4 - Bugbrooke – bugs swimming in the brook!!
- 5 - Denford (anag)
- 6 - Finedon - (Richard Coles – Priest in Charge of St Mary’s & former member of the pop duo The Communards ref: the Paris Commune of 1871).
- 7 - Geddington and Hardingstone – ref: Eleanor Cross sites in the County
- 8 - Nassington (anag) ref: Cnut the Great lived the Anglo Saxon Hall (now PrebendelManor)
- 9 - Irthlingborough (anag) Old meaning is Ploughman’s Town/Fort.
- 10 - Naseby – English Civil War battle site (1645)
- 11 - Overstone – 14lbs in a stone! (sorry....)
- 12 - Sulgrave –The manor was home to the Washington family.
- 13 - Wellingborough – is surrounded by 5 wells:- Redwell; Hemmingwell; Wiches Well; Lady’s Well and Whyte Well. Ref: The Castle (theatre) site.
- 14 - Warmington (ref: Dad’s Army characters Corp Jones, Ptes Fraser & Pike members of Warmington -on-sea platoon, The Home Guard.
- 15 - Titchmarsh – ref: Alan Titchmarsh
- 16 - Roade – look on map
- 17 - Lamport - (Sir Charles Isham credited with introducing garden gnomes to UK. There are swan sculptures on the main gates.
- 18 - Collyweston (Collie; Weston-Super-Mare; Collyweston slate)
- 19 - Dingley (Dingley Dell is destination in Pickwick Papers also title Lindisfarne album then lose Dell Boy and you have the answer.
- 20 - Barnwell – Richard, Duke of Gloucester is (at the time quiz was written!) 27th in line to throne.
- 21 - Clopton – The ghost of Dudley (mid. 14th century??) said to haunt the manor and surrounds. There are many stories surrounding this legend – take your pick!
- 22 - Rothwell – Red (Roth) ie blushing and Well. Birthplace of Jim Dale of “Carry On” fame
- 23 - Wilby - pigsWILL BYron lose fifty (L – roman numeral)
- 24 - Scaldwell – *Scal*d you hand in the hot water from the *well*
- 25 - Stanwick - STAN Laurel plus trim your WICK to brighten your lamp
- 26 - Ashton - Ash – remains of fire; heavy - ton.
- 27 - Higham Ferrers (anag) Henry ref. Henry Chichele (birthplace) later Archbishop of Canterbury
- 28 - Woodnewton – Coco the Clown buried here
- 29 - Corby – Big Foot was the nick-name of giant “walking” dragline used at the steelworks and Pluto refers to the PipeLine Under The Ocean (P.L.U.T.O.) in production at the works during WW2.
- 30 - Wigsthorpe. Once home to actor Geoffrey Hughes. (Eddie Yates – Coronation St; Twiggy – Royle Family; Onslow – Keeping Up Appearances). It is on a “No Through Rd” so you can go no further. It is also where I live!

I hope you enjoyed this quiz. If I have made any mistakes I apologise but please do not throw tomatoes at me.....!!!!!! Marion



NEW LUNCH CLUB

I volunteered to be a Group Leader for Thrapston & District u3a's Lunch Club just before the first lockdown last year. Since then, as we all know, we have been unable to meet up in restaurants with friends. I now wish to re-start the lunches, with effect from 11th August. However, at this stage it would be useful to have an idea of the number of members who would be interested in joining or re-joining the Group.

I have therefore reserved the Stables room at the Woolpack Inn, Islip on Wednesday 7th July @ 10am for an informal meeting. Hopefully enough members will turn up to make it worthwhile running the Group. This meeting will be a chance to get to know each other; where we can have a coffee & chat and discuss my ideas for the Group. Please note that whilst the Woolpack Inn are not making any charge for the use of the room, coffee will be costed @ £2.50 per person.

I have already booked lunches for 11th August & 8th September and I will give you further details at our meeting so that you can, if you wish, put your name down to join us for lunch on those dates. Menu choices will be available.

It would be really useful if you could please think about other possible venues ~ pubs, restaurants, etc. ~ that we could visit in the future. I am hoping that this will be a joint venture with everyone contributing something towards the New Lunch Club.

Please contact me by phone or e-mail if you would like to join me on 7th July, or even if you would like to be a member of the New Lunch Club, but can't make our inaugural meeting.

If you are looking for good food, good wine & good company ~ come and join the New Lunch Club. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards, Jean Mole

e-mail: peterandjeanmole@btinternet.com

Tel: 01933 626 608



LEMON AND ORANGE ICE CREAM

6 egg yolk
8oz caster sugar



Finely grated rind and juice of 2 oranges

Finely grated rind and juice of 1 lemon.

Half pint of double cream.

Place egg yolks and caster sugar in a bowl, whisk until thick and creamy

Whisk in rind and juice.

Whisk cream until it just holds its shape, fold into egg mixture.

Line 6 small pudding bowls with cling film, pour in mixture..... OR 1lb loaf tin

Freeze, serve and decorate ready to eat as quite soft texture.

For all you gardeners—John Percy has a well rotted supply of straw-free manure to give away. If you would like some please contact John on 01832 720130 or send an email to johnpercy1947@gmail.com to arrange collection near Aldwinckle. You will need to provide your bags, sacks or trailer.



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

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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.

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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