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Chairman's June Message

After a really successful Open Day in May we got U3A Year eleven off to a great start with the excellent performers who made up "Fool's Gold" with some social insight and memories stirred.

It was a really great pleasure at the end of the May meeting at the Plaza to make another significant announcement on the Road to Recovery of our U3A and of us as individuals. An event I enjoy and I know many others do, the tickets for the Summer Social in August are to go on sale at the June Plaza meeting, £10 per head and all tickets must be purchased and used by members of our U3A. Sorry it's an insurance issue that doesn't allow guests.

What next? 25th of this month is Charter Fair in Thrapston High Street, so we are trying something new at this year our stall will have a Tombola. If you have any items for prizes please bring them to the Plaza meeting on the 17th. edible items that are being donated please could you make sure they are still in "use by" date by 30th June.

It's great to be back meeting and socialising hope to see you all at the Plaza on the 17th!

Ian Bynes
Chairman



17th June & 15th July Monthly Meetings

at The Plaza Thrapston

Doors open at 10:00 am



Speaker: Colin Hill –17th June 2022
“Dancing with Diana” Royal Protection Officer

Colin Hill brings his intriguing story to Thrapston U3A for the 17th June meeting. The presentation will focus on the reasons he joined the force, his years initially as a regular policeman and the subsequent special training he received to become a Close Protection officer for high profile members of the Royal family including Princess Diana.

Colin's talk will also reveal stories of other Royals that he worked with in this very important role spanning a number of years.



Speaker: Nick Corbie—15th July 2022
“Diagonal Walking “

Like many others, back in 2018 Nick Corbie was confused. Where was England headed, what were people thinking? There was only one way to find out.

The author of various walking books he decided to walk across England - not using any conventional route, but one of his own devising following a 45 degree line cutting right through the centre of the country.

Starting north of Liverpool and ending on the Kent coast, he used only public footpaths, meeting and staying with people from all walks of life, to see what he could find out.

Along the way he passed through affluence and austerity, met iron men, was confronted by angry cows and was surprised by clever sheep.

This talk covers why he decided to undertake the walk, what it actually involved, what he intended to achieve and lessons learned upon the way.

Using humour and honesty, he relates the ups and downs of the walk and answers the ultimate question: would he do it all again?



Fool's Gold & Tragic Tales 20 May 2022

Review by Paul Ollett



We welcomed Fool's Gold, the husband and wife duo Steve & Carol Robson to The Plaza meeting for the first time this month and what a treat it turned out to be with a mixture of music and song with the background stories to some of the songs. The couple are based in Durham so it was a considerable journey for them to make but they were resourceful enough to make two other 'Gigs' on their way down to Thrapston.

They brought with them a van full of musical equipment which included modern electronic amplification kit as well as traditional stringed and wind instruments. The array of guitars included a Bouzouki guitar and an eight stringed ukulele that had a mandolin like sound to it and Carol played the Flute and Clarinet as well as guitar and bass guitar.

Some of their material they had written themselves and they began the performance with a song 'The Northumbrian Miner's Lament' about the mining industry in the North East, where Steve originates from having lived in Newcastle upon Tyne, and whose Grandfather had been a coal miner. The song reflected the difficult lives of those courageous men in their dangerous occupation deep underground where sudden death often stalked in the darkness.

Later in their routine Steve gave us some back ground to the song 'Scarborough Fair' revived by Simon & Garfunkel in the 1980s. We learned from Steve that the origins of the song go back to around 1470 and it was originally a love song written in the Berwick area about a witch whose love for a local lad was unrequited. Carol gave a beautiful rendition with her fine soprano tones ringing soulfully around the auditorium to the familiar words in the song we know now.

There was a crash course in 'Geordy' and to help us understand this, to us unintelligible dialect, Steve had a projected slide with such phrases as 'Howman' (I say), 'Whyeman haddaway' (Surely Sir but you jest) 'Hoosyersel' (Hail fellow what ails).

Steve related an account of a visit the pair had made to the North East coast former fishing village of New-Biggin-by-the-Sea and particularly to St Bartholomew's Church perched high overlooking the sea. Walking in the churchyard and seeing the weathered gravestones they were taken by the names on the stones fast disappearing from erosion. Many of the graves are of Lifeboat men who selflessly had given their lives in failed attempts to rescue seafarers in distress offshore from this wild coast. The scene before them gave the inspiration to an emotive song they penned called 'Space on a Stone' which was performed for us.

As the show progressed we were taken across the water in song to Dublin, obviously a city for which they have a particular affection and with full audience participation we joined in the chorus of Molly Malone, as Carol and Steve harmonised and played for us. 'Alive, Alive Oh'! Yes we felt very much alive after such a rewarding morning and it would be good to have Fool's Gold visit us again at some future date.



U3A Online Learning Event

u3a Science Network Anniversary meeting

26 July 2022

The July meeting on 26 July has been designated as the Anniversary meeting and is now available for booking on the national website.

This is a science-based learning event with 3 presentations of 45 minutes followed by questions after each, with a break for refreshments and for lunch. The meeting will start at 10:30 (doors open at 10:15) and will end with a short Summary and Thanks session at 3 o'clock.

Booking

To book a place on this Free event, please go to Events on the u3a national website and click the registration option for the u3a Science Network anniversary meeting on 26 July .

Tie then	Speaker	Chair
10:30	Welcome and Introduction Leigh Edwards Science Subject Adviser	Michaela Moody
10:35 - 11:35	John Marriage Lyme Regis u3a Blowing Hot and Cold in the 1980s	Michaela Moody
11:35 - 11:45	Break	
11:45 - 13:00	Mike Perry Tring u3a The Carbon Imperative	Leigh Edwards
13:00 - 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 - 14:30	Leigh Edwards Exeter u3a Human colonisation of Space	Jane Tietjen
14:30 - 15:00	Plenary session for feedback and announcement of details of October meeting	Michaela Moody

The meeting will conclude with a Plenary session, addressing general questions posted in the Chat and announcing details of the October meeting.

Tickets can be booked via the following website :-www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events

TENTH ANNIVERSARY EVENT ON MAY 7TH AT THE PLAZA

Thank you to all the Group Leaders and anyone else that helped make this such a super event.

Everyone appreciated your efforts, and it was a lovely way to spend a morning.

The cakes and refreshments were delicious.

The raffle prizes were all claimed very quickly.

The Ten-Year Archive was on display. (If you missed it you can find it on our website.)

Everyone enjoyed meeting up and looking at the group Displays.

Pictures of our U3A 10th Anniversary Open day on 7th May taken by Neil Underwood



Ten Pin Bowling Club Group



“Good fun was had by all”

A selection of photographs taken by Linda Lewis on 13 May at Wellingborough Bowl..

The group meets at 11:00 a.m. on the 2nd Friday of the month.

Tickets costs £6.50 for two games.

If you are interested in joining this group please contact Margaret Beston on 01832 735236



MEMBERS COFFEE MORNING AND MEMBERS MILE

A date for your diary

WHEN Friday July 22nd 10.00am to 12.00

WHERE Kings Arms ,Thrapston

Come and meet up with other members for a coffee and a chat.

If you are able, then join us for a circular stroll round Thrapston to walk your mile.

Leave around 10.30a.m. and be back around 11.30a.m.

Could you get sponsorship for your mile?

Sponsor forms will be available at the next Plaza meeting, and you can also see the route.

If you cannot walk your mile, you might consider sponsoring someone to walk it for you.

Any money raised will be used to buy a u3a bench.

(Type and Place to be decided later when we have raised the money)



It would be good if we could have place somewhere along the route to sit and enjoy the view.

[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author

The final section of the Members Mile will hopefully take place on u3a day (September 21st) at Chester House...more details later.

Charity of the Month



Canine Partners is a registered charity that partners specially trained assistance dogs with people who have physical disabilities enabling them to lead more independent lives. They also have a number of dogs working for disabled service personnel in association with Help For Heroes.

Amongst those who have dogs are those with MS, arthritis, a variety of neurological conditions and so much more.

Some of the tasks carried out by the dogs are to help with dressing/undressing, opening/shutting doors, picking up dropped items however small, going for help, filling/ emptying a washing machine and lots more. Every dog is trained specially to meet the individual needs of the person they are partnered with. As well as helping their partner with tasks, they become a real companion for life.

Locally puppies are trained at Bedford & may be seen at Milton Ernest G.C & Rushden Lakes while training. Postage stamps & 5p pieces are collected by regular subscribers & would be much appreciated.

The Charity receives no official funding and currently the cost of training a dog is approx.£10,000.

If you would like to know more about this charity further information can be found on their website www.caninepartners.org.uk

If you would like to show your support for this charity donations can be made at the 17 June meeting.



Are you available on the 25 June 22. ?

Your U3A is having a stand at the Thrapston Charter Fair on the **25 June 2022** and we are looking for people to help man the stand for a one-hour slot.

If you would like to show your support and be involved please telephone the Chairman Ian Byrnes on T 73002 register your interest.



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 2022/2023

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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 last day of 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