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Chairman’s Message

2021 AGM

Elsewhere in this Newsletter is a copy of the full agenda for the May 21<sup>st</sup> AGM. Because of the pandemic it will be a “hybrid meeting”, all the documents and reports needed for the AGM are available on the website (or will be posted to those without an email address). There will be a voting proforma as last year to return your decision. For those attending the Members Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May you will have the option to vote in person by show of hands on the screen. As membership numbers are required to book tickets for the monthly member meeting you will be required to validate your electronic ballot. There will be no room to vote twice. If you vote electronically, your cut off time is 11.59pm on 20<sup>th</sup> May. For those attending the meeting, the electronic doors will open at 10.00am with the AGM to start at 10.15am.

U3A Restart

The Zoom Member meetings will continue on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month until July. In September, the current plan is that our Member Meeting will revert to the Plaza in Thrapston as face to face meetings with a Speaker. Tea or coffee, chocolate biscuits and I am sure the most important ingredient will be myriad catch-up chats, as we race to catch-up with what friends have been doing. It is also intended that circumstances allowing that Group Meetings will also restart in September, Covid 19, vaccination programmes and possible foreign holidays permitting.

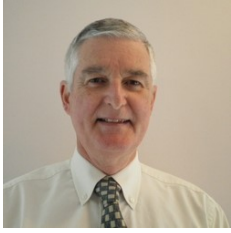
Stay well; the light at the end of the tunnel grows brighter?

Regards

Ian Byrnes



## *Review of 16th April 2021 Zoom Presentation*



### **The QE 2 Story – Steve Herra**

Steve Herra brought his fascinating story of the iconic Cunard Liner QE 2 by Zoom to our April meeting delivering a wealth of facts about the famous ship and its many, perhaps equally famous passengers from past years.

Steve is a third generation Cunard employee who lives in Southampton and served on the vessel as a Purser. Although now semi-retired, in normal Covid free times he still leads guided tours of the large cruise ships when they are berthed in his home port. An advantage of our Zoom meetings is that it allows us to have such interesting speakers as Steve without the prohibitive costs of travel from his home base.

We heard of the history of the ship that was commissioned to replace the ageing trans-Atlantic liners Queen Elizabeth and Queen Mary both of which were constructed during the 1930s and saw service in the Second World War.

The keel of the ship was laid down in John Brown's Glasgow shipyard in 1965, designated shipyard Hull No 736 but known as the Pride of the Clyde, with her lasting name being chosen by the British public. She was launched by her majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1967 prior to her fitting out and completion. Her first Master was Captain Bil Warwick who headed a crew of 1000 including seamen and other staff responsible for the enjoyment and wellbeing of up to 1800 passengers.

The construction of the ship used lighter materials than its predecessors and consequently its weight and draft were reduced therefore using less fuel making her more economical to run.

During her life as a cruise liner and on the trans-Atlantic route between 1968 and 2008 she covered six million nautical miles but in the early years was dogged by problems with her propulsion system which initially slightly marred her reputation. On one occasion she lost all power off the Eastern seaboard of the United States and was towed to Bermuda for emergency repairs.

The QE 2s fastest crossing of the North Atlantic, Southampton to New York was in June 1970 when she made 31 knots (38 mph approx.), making the crossing in 3 days 20 hrs & 42 minutes but unfortunately not quick enough to take the coveted Blue Riband award which is still held by the USS United States that was eight and a half hours faster.

The ship was designated the Flagship of the Cunard fleet and was therefore custodian of the Boston Cup given to the company founder Samuel Cunard by the City of Boston in 1840 until eventually the ship was decommissioned at the end of its service life and the Boston Cup was passed to the new Flagship Queen Victoria.

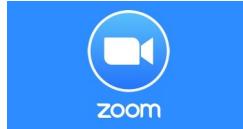
Like her forbears the QE 2 saw military service and conveyed troops and equipment to the Falklands Islands in 1982 with her pleasure decks converted to helicopter landing pads. Her crew for the mission was a compliment of 650 personnel who were all volunteers. It took just 9 days to prepare the vessel for the journey to the South Atlantic and 9 weeks to restore her to cruising condition afterwards.

Steve related interesting anecdotes of life on board and the many celebrities who had travelled aboard during the 40 years active life of the ship. The QE 2 is now moored in Dubai continuing a luxurious retirement as a floating hotel. Steve's thorough knowledge of just how this great ship functioned had us all enthralled for an hour and we would welcome him back.

*Review by Paul Ollett*

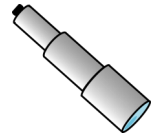
*Speaker Seeker*



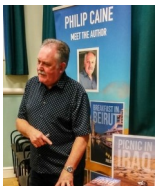


*An introduction to the talks to be presented via Zoom on the  
21 May 2021 and 18 June 2021*

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



**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 Bagdad, 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.



**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.



***To watch these presentations please see the guidelines below***

Go to our website, [www.thrapstonu3a.co.uk](http://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.



## Thrapston & District U3A

Registered Charity (Number 1179593)

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING to be held online

21<sup>st</sup> May 2021 to Commence at 10.15 - Online will open at 10.00.

Voting to be in the form of a 'hybrid' meeting. Members not attending will have the ability to vote up until 23.59 20th May 2021. Members present online on 21st May will be able to vote by show of hands on screen

#### AGENDA

1. Chairman's welcome and introduction.
2. Minutes of the 2020 AGM as circulated. Vote Yes to approve Vote No to reject .
3. Chairman's Report as circulated. Vote Yes to receive Report to the Charity Commission. Vote No to Reject.
4. Group Co-ordinator's Report as circulated. Vote Yes to approve Vote No to reject
5. Treasurer's Report as circulated Vote Yes to approve Vote No to reject
6. Approval of the examined accounts as circulated Vote Yes to receive Report to the Charity Commission. Vote No to reject,
7. Approve appointment of the Examiner of Accounts. J Essam & Co of Cozy Nook, Thrapston Vote Yes to approve Vote No to reject.
8. Annual Subscription to rise to £18.00 per annum from 01/06/2021 To be Noted by the meeting.
9. Election of the Committee for 2021/22  
(Chairman Ian Byrnes, Vice Chairman Sheila Underwood, Treasurer Sue Campbell and Business Secretary Wendy Davies ,the Executive Members) and a committee of 8 other members. Nominees: Anna Bond, Pauline Dennison, Angela Gyves, Tina Jones, Viv Tunstall, Roger Davies, Paul Ollett. **(All are Elected unopposed,** nominations as notified via the U3A Newsletter closed at 23:59 on 29/04/2021),

Ian Byrnes  
Acting Business Secretary  
07/05/2021

**In all instances when voting your Membership Number must be quoted,**

## Day Trips



### **HIGHCLERE CASTLE** **WEDNESDAY 14TH JULY ~ £35**

We now have a few limited spaces available for our day trip to Highclere Castle (of Downton Abbey Fame) on Wednesday 14th July. The cost is £35 and includes the coach and entry to Highclere Castle in Newbury, Berkshire.

Unfortunately on this occasion we are unable to pick up at the Thrapston Co-Op. Instead the pick up points will be Stanwick Village Hall @ 8:45 am, Higham Square @ 9:00 am & Orbit Tyres, Rushden @ 9:10 am. The journey should take approx 2 1/2 hours including a comfort stop, and this will enable us to arrive at Highclere in time for our entry ticket at 12 noon. (Please note that there is plenty of free parking opposite Orbit Tyres in Rushden).

The booking is for a self tour of the Castle, the Egyptian Exhibition and the Gardens. The special 2021 Egyptian Exhibition covers 6 rooms and explores the discovery of the most famous tombs and includes the magnificent reproduction of the Sarcophagus, so whether you are a Downton Abbey follower, enjoy beautiful gardens or are interested in the Egyptian exhibition, there is something of interest for everyone. There is also a tea room and gift shop for you to enjoy during your visit.



### **NEWMARKET STUD & BURY ST. EDMUNDS** **21ST JUNE ~ £35**

**MONDAY**

This is for a private tour of Newmarket Stud followed by free time at Bury St. Edmunds. The pick up point is at **Thrapston Co-Op @ 8:45** to arrive at the National Stud's Waveney Café @ 10am for a cup of tea/coffee, which is included in the price.

At 10.30am their guide will board our coach for the behind the scenes tour of the beautiful 500 acre stud, which is the only thoroughbred stud in the UK open to the general public. The guide will explain the history of the stud and other interesting facts, including a stop at the Foaling unit, the Nursery Paddocks to see the mares and foals and the superb Stallion Unit with the opportunity to see the stallions in their paddocks. The tour takes 1.5 hours.

In the afternoon we will travel to **Bury St Edmunds** for a free afternoon with plenty to see including the 1,000 year old St Edmundsbury Cathedral, the award winning Abbey Gardens, the shops and restaurants. There is also the option to join us for one of the town's guided tours at **an additional cost of £7.50**. See their website: [www.burystedmundstourguides.org](http://www.burystedmundstourguides.org).

If you wish to book either trip, please first contact Jean Mole on **01933 626 608** or e-mail: [peterandjeanmole@btinternet.com](mailto:peterandjeanmole@btinternet.com) to ensure that there is still availability and then forward your cheque in the sum of **£35**, made out to **Higham & Rushden U3A**, and send to **17 Courtman Road, Stanwick, NN9 6TG**, stating which trip you wish to join and confirming your pick up point.





Apologies to all you quizzers but due to limited space the answers to April's quiz will now be in June's newsletter.

### *Tai Chi Reminder*

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*



### **NEW LUNCH CLUB (Advance Notice)**

For those members who would like to join the New Lunch Club, please put the 7th July in your diaries. I am having a meeting at 10 am @ the Plaza to register interest and book for lunches in August and September. More details in next month's Newsletter or contact me, Jean Mole on 01933 626608 or email [peterandjeanmole@btinternet.com](mailto:peterandjeanmole@btinternet.com) .



### **Thrapston & District**

**On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, thousands of people in this country will be celebrating u3a Day. You will see posters locally and, on Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup>, we shall have a stall outside Bletsoe's at the Farmers' Market.**

**Come along and talk to us to find out how we shall operate once Covid restrictions are lifted. We'd love to see you!**

**Or contact Roger on [publicitythrapstonu3a@gmail.com](mailto:publicitythrapstonu3a@gmail.com) for information.**

## SPICED APPLE CHARLOTTES

6 Ramekins or 6 Dariol Moulds  
6 Braeburn Apples peeled and diced  
2 oz Raisins (optional)  
2 oz Sugar  
1/2 level teaspoon of Cinnamon  
Large pinch of fresh Nutmeg  
Juice and zest of 1 Lemon



Sliced Brioche Loaf  
3 oz Butter  
2 oz Demerara Sugar

Put all top ingredients in a pan and cook slowly until tender but still have a bite. Take crusts off Brioche and cut the bread into 6 small rounds for the bottom of your moulds if using Dariol and 6 larger ones to put on the top. If using Ramekins then cut 12 discs the size of your moulds.

Cut the remaining slices into strips the height of the moulds. You will need 5/6 for each one.

Butter the moulds lightly with some of the butter.

Melt remaining butter.

Brush each piece of Brioche with the melted butter (one side only) and dip in the Demerara sugar

Line the moulds by first putting in the smaller disc on the bottom and adding the strips around the sides overlapping as you go. SUGAR SIDE ON THE OUTSIDE FACING THE MOULDS. Fill the moulds with your apple mixture and top with the 6 larger discs again sugar side facing upwards

Oven 180c. Place moulds on a tray and bake for 30 minutes. Ease the Apple Charlottes out of the moulds and plate with the crispy side up.

### *The Cycling Group*

It's been a long hibernation and it's always hard to get your enthusiasm back for outdoor activity. The good news is, that the Cycling Group has been back in action for some weeks now, enjoying our wonderful countryside and supporting our local cafes with coffee and cakes as part of rides. Well, we've earned them, haven't we?

What we would really love are some new members to join us on our regular Monday morning social outings. We are *not* Lycra clad road warriors tearing up the tarmac on carbon fibre bikes that cost more than your first house! Much as I hate to admit it, it's much more like 'last of the summer wine', but not just for men and hopefully, without the wrinkled stockings.

We meet in the Sackville Street car park (Co-op) at 10am every Monday and typically do between 12 and 20 miles with a halfway stop for refreshments and a good chat. We keep to quiet roads or tracks, so nothing too scary. I also offer a full check over of your bike to make sure it's roadworthy and everything is operating correctly before you go.

So, a free bike check, great company and gentle exercise: what are you waiting for?

No more procrastination - it's the thief of time and some of us can't afford to waste it.

Give me a call if you want to chat or a free bike check.

Frank Boydell  
07928 747840  
01832 735797





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	<a href="mailto:chairmanthrapstonu3a@gmail.com">chairmanthrapstonu3a@gmail.com</a>
Vice Chair: Wendy Davies	<a href="mailto:vicechairthrapstonu3a@gmail.com">vicechairthrapstonu3a@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer: Sue Campbell	<a href="mailto:treasurerthrapstonu3a@gmail.com">treasurerthrapstonu3a@gmail.com</a>
Secretary: Ian Byrnes	<a href="mailto:secretarythrapstonu3a@gmail.com">secretarythrapstonu3a@gmail.com</a>
Groups Co-ordinator: Anna Bond	<a href="mailto:groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com">groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com</a>
Membership Registrar: Pauline Dennison	<a href="mailto:membershipthrapstonu3a@gmail.com">membershipthrapstonu3a@gmail.com</a>
Speaker Seeker: Paul Ollett	<a href="mailto:speakersthrapstonu3a@gmail.com">speakersthrapstonu3a@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter Editor: Tina Jones	<a href="mailto:editorthrapstonu3a@gmail.com">editorthrapstonu3a@gmail.com</a>
Publicity & Facebook: Roger Davies	<a href="mailto:publicitythrapstonu3a@gmail.com">publicitythrapstonu3a@gmail.com</a>
IT Operations/Website Manager: Neil Busby	<a href="mailto:websitethrapstonu3a@gmail.com">websitethrapstonu3a@gmail.com</a>
Plaza Welcome Manager: Vacant	<a href="mailto:welcomethrapstonu3a@gmail.com">welcomethrapstonu3a@gmail.com</a>

#### ***Off Committee Roles 2020/2021***

<i>Access Advisor: Glyn Hill</i>	<a href="mailto:accessthrapstonu3a@gmail.com">accessthrapstonu3a@gmail.com</a>
<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](mailto:editorthrapstonu3a@gmail.com)

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