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Chairman's May Message

And another year is over, in a couple of weeks we will hold our Annual General Meeting, elect a new Trustees Committee and the year will begin again, with all our wonderful volunteers giving up their time and expertise to make sure OUR U3A runs smoothly, legally and efficiently. Thank you to all the 2021-2022 Trustees especially Sue Campbell who is stepping back from Treasurer after three years but not leaving the trustees, and a warm welcome to Ann Thorpe who is joining the Trustees as our new Treasurer. As none of positions are contested your trustees are returned for another year as the submission of candidates deadline has expired.

A BIG THANK-YOU to everyone who made May 7th, our 10th anniversary even such a success, to the Cake and Bake Group lead by Viv Tunstall such an array of cakes that we were all left stunned for choice absolutely wonderful. To all the table setters and display erectors thank you, displays were really great. To Sheila Underwood go the grateful and immense thanks of OUR U3A for all the efforts that went into the co-ordination and organisation of the whole day.

See you all May 20th to start Year 11 of this, OUR U3A!

Ian Byrnes

Chairman



May 20th & 17th June Monthly Meetings

at The Plaza in Thrapston

Doors open at 09:45 a.m



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.



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.





Review of Plaza presentation 22nd April - by Paul Ollett

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

Speaker: Christine Green

Something completely different was the order of the day for our Spring meeting at the Plaza when we welcomed Christine Green to relate her stories of working behind the scenes for the BBC. She described her career as being her ‘Dream job’ and had been writing to the BBC hoping to join the staff there from a very early age.

Christine’s power point presentation began with a picture of her in a newspaper cutting when as a young girl she had sort to follow her dream. She was selected for an interview as a production assistant working with the TV artist Tony Hart whom many will remember from the days of black and white television.

Unfortunately her first attempts were unsuccessful but she was persistent in her efforts and largely undaunted by her initial lack of success she eventually got her break.

The work of a graphic designer at the start of her term was involved in the production of title sequences, mostly for drama and documentary programmes and the presentation contained many examples of her early work.

At this time computers for this type of work were generally not available and the necessary art works were produced in a laborious manner taking many hours of skill, concentration and a variety of specialist graphic artists, model makers and camera teams.

The technology of the time employed on US TV programmes simply was not available in the UK and in one instance the BBC had a huge map of the world made entirely from different coloured Lego bricks to achieve the desired effect when displayed on the small screen.

We were shown the logistics of the title sequence production starting with the brief for the show from which the designer produces a ‘story board’ of simple sketches that link together to take the viewer from start to finish of the show title. It was normal for the designer to be working on four or five projects simultaneously. Christine worked on shows familiar to many of us including The Holiday Programme, a project she was involved with for four years.

Another of her successes was the ‘Life and Loves of She Devil’ starring the actress Vicki Hodge who played the role of authoress ‘Mary Fisher’. Christine’s work included the design of many of the title pages for the fictitious books ‘written’ by the authoress in the featured drama.

In the BBC Schools programme Mad about Music aimed at 8 – 12 year olds. Christine produced two colourful title animations which were produced in conjunction with the BBC Radiophonic Workshop in which each instrument was represented by different colours in segments of the Story board. The vibrancy in this work helped to spark interest in the young minds to which it was targeted.

Christine worked on the titles for the familiar dramatization of Dr Zhivago even having access to the original hand written manuscript with the author’s handwriting style being partly adopted in the title graphics. Although Graphic Designers are seldom allowed onto the sets of the productions they work on, in this case Christine was invited to join the production team in Scotland where she met the actor Robbie Carlyle.

The projects Christine has worked on are many and diverse including sewing buttons onto the original ‘Pudsey Bear’ of which there were twenty five produced, one each for every region of the BBC. Two of the bears were pictured with Terry Wogan and Joanne Lumley.

Christine spoke with great enthusiasm of her time working with the BBC and although she considers herself partly retired she is still busy producing intricate papercut patterns cut by hand that she uses to produce attractive prints. She teaches paper crafts and creates beautiful quilts that she stitches herself as well as giving fascinating talks on her talented career.



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.

Free Event — Free Event — Free Event

CarKraft is a unique FREE event, which features lifesaving practical driving skills/workshops and is held at the Porsche Experience Centre, @ Silverstone on 21st May 2022

This event has been brought to our attention by The Third Age Trust , The scheme is aimed at young qualified drivers aged 17 to 30 and young non-drivers aged 15 years or over. The implication is that you may have grandchildren who drive or want to learn to drive and get them ready to take their test and would benefit.

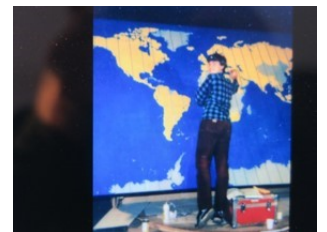
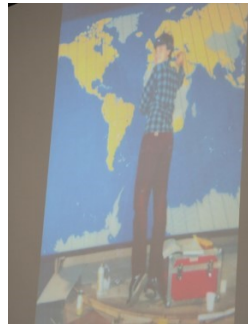
So do you know a young driver who is under 30? If so, then sign them up for the CarKraft event to be held @ Silverstone on 21st May 2022.

They will learn invaluable, potentially lifesaving new skills with a mix of dynamic workshops and driving challenges, which will enhance their skills by helping to make them a better, safer driver.

To book your FREE place visit www.carkraft.info



Pictures taken by Neil Underwood at the 22nd April 2022 presentation





Members Mile

As part of our 10th birthday and the u3a 40th anniversary we are hoping every u3a member in Northamptonshire will walk one mile.

OUR ROUTE

Start at the Kings Arms go through the garden and across the Bullring Car Park to the Meadows Surgery. Walk down the path past the skatepark and over the bridge. Now bear left and follow path along the side of the river round to the Nine Arch Bridge. Bear left again and walk back into town to the Kings Arms. You have now walked a mile!!

You can take part by joining us on July 22nd at 10.00am

(Hopefully at the Kings Arms)

Or

if you cannot make it then meet Polly at 1.45pm on a Tuesday by the Meadows surgery.

Could you get some sponsorship for your mile?



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed un-

We would like to support the Park Project and have a u3a bench near the river so that we can all sit, chat and enjoy the view.

If every member could raise £5, we would have enough for a bench and to plant some trees as a permanent reminder of our 10th birthday.

Park Makers Group

They will need volunteers to help maintain the park areas when they have been cleared.

Would you be interested in being a u3a Park Maker?



Tombola-Charter Fair Saturday 25th June



Our U3A will again be having a stall at this year's Charter Fair on Saturday 25 June and the Committee look forward to seeing you there.

We will be using this event to publicise the purpose of our U3A and to encourage both lapsed and new members to join us.

To entice people to stop and have a chat, we will be running a tombola, which we hope will also raise some funds.

Please could I ask that if you have any items that you feel would be appropriate for the tombola, you contact me so I can arrange collection, or bring them along to the next Plaza meeting on the 20th May.

Many thanks

Sue Campbell

Treasurer

07753 635666



Charity of the month **The Brain Tumour Charity**

The Brain Tumour Charity is a UK-based, Charity Commission registered, charity no. 1150054 dedicated to funding research, raising awareness of brain tumours, reducing diagnosis times and providing support and information for people with brain tumours, their families and friends. The charity's goals are to double survival of a brain tumour diagnosis within 10 years in the UK, and to halve the harm that brain tumours have on quality of life.

The Brain Tumour Charity currently fund a portfolio of research across the UK with the aim of doubling survival and reducing long term harm through improving the understand and complexities of brain tumours, better diagnostic techniques and new treatments.

If you would like to support the research into this dreadful disease a donation can be made at the 20th May meeting.

Thank you.

Linda & Carol





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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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