



Contents

	page
Chairman's December message	1
November Plaza Presentation Review	2
Christmas Event & January Presentation Information	3
Group Information	4
This months recipe	5
Kings Arm Review and Pictures	6
Pictures of November Presentation	7
Your 2021/2022 Committee	8

Chairman's December Message

Tickets:

December already, the tickets for the Christmas Social have all sold out and promises to be a very fun morning, don't forget to wear your Christmas jumper or that festive shirt.

Steps:

I was a trifle perturbed when talking to a member who said they had stopped coming to the Plaza meetings because of the steps at the front entrance, I do hope that there aren't too many like this because your problem was solved in the refurbishment of the Plaza several years ago,. If you walk to the right of the main steps and through the car park you will find a sloped access designed for all of us whose knees and other walking parts are giving trouble,. We will try to make sure that "less abled" access is clearly signed for all users. Do not forget you'll still need to pay your £1 per meeting if entering that way!

Situations Vacant:

Because of changes in the Committee we find that two roles have become vacant, Publicity and New Members Rep'. You don't have to be a new member to do that role but it would be nice,. Apart from delivering posters the Publicity role can be managed from the comfort of an armchair and a laptop. If anyone is interested please email me at: Chairman.thrapstonu3a@gmail.com and we could arrange a time for a telephone or face to face chat. Thanks.

Merry Christmas to you all and here's hoping for a Good New Year.

Ian Byrnes
Chairman



17th November Presentation Review by Paul Ollett
The Life of Charles Wicksteed – Ian Addis



There can be few people who have not visited and cherished Wicksteed Park as part of their life in Northamptonshire or indeed from much further afield. For this month's talk Ian Addis took us on a fascinating journey as we were lead through the biography of Charles Wicksteed's interesting life.

Ian was born and brought up in Kettering and like so many of us has often visited the park through three generations of his family. Surprisingly Charles Wicksteed himself was not a son of Kettering having been born in Leeds in 1847 and his family moved to North Wales where Charles spent his formative years on a small holding.

He was not academically inclined but liked to dismantle machines to see how they worked and then reassemble them. His talent was recognised by his father who sent him to a residential school in Lancaster where he developed engineering skills and eventually returned to Leeds aged 16 years to work in a company manufacturing steam powered locomotives.

Charles Wicksteed is described as a pioneer and indeed a risk taker setting up a business with steam ploughs that he had designed and constructed himself. Early attempts working the light soils of Norfolk were unprofitable for this young entrepreneur and he moved his activities to the East Midlands where agricultural conditions were more challenging and his machines were put to better use with a resulting improvement in income.

It was not until 1871 at the age of 24 that the young Charles made his first visit by chance to Kettering upsetting a resident of Barton Hall who made him move his noisy machinery on. There was a certain irony in this when many years later Charles purchased Barton Hall which became the home of the Wicksteed Village Trust from where the park interests were managed.

Having decided to settle in Kettering he took up residence in a small apartment in the town centre and his prosperity increased as his ploughing business continued to make excellent returns. Life was proving to be good and he married a lady named Mary Dibb. They raised a family including a daughter named Hilda. Eventually moving into a house in London Road in the town. Charles had realised the importance of play with his own young family who could enjoy a large garden to develop and exercise in safely.

He made early plans to build a People's Park in the Northern quarter of Kettering to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887 but these were rejected by the town council. Undaunted Charles took it upon himself to proceed and the result ultimately was Rockingham Road Pleasure Park, opened in 1891, the first of its kind outside of the capital.

With improving fortunes he purchased land in Stamford Road, Kettering and set up his engineering works there which with the passage of time in 1914 became a munitions factory making military shells for the conflict in Europe. The factory occupies the same site to this day.

January 1914 began with tragedy at the death of his wife Mary after illness but he appears to have buried himself in his work and by June plans were well in hand for the establishment of Barton Seagrave Garden Suburb Estate and with the acquisition of a large tract of land through the good offices of Lady Hood this formed the foundation for the Pleasure Park we know today.

Sadly Charles inexplicably took his own life in 1931 at the age of 84 years but what a legacy he left not just in our locality but for the whole country. Surely there can be few people who have, through their vision and benevolence brought so much happiness to so many people. As Ian reminded us "surely the joy in your eyes and the laughter on your lips" fittingly says it all.



The Christmas Event 2021
17th December at the Plaza, Thrapston
Entertainment by Dave Moylan
Don't forget your Christmas Jumper



Just a reminder that the doors open at 9.45 and you must be seated by 10.00. If you realise you cannot make the event please let Polly know as this will assist in the arrangements. We have reduced the numbers attending this year to 100 to allow for some distancing between tables. Tickets have all been sold but if you would like to be put on the reserve list in case of cancellations please contact Polly on 01933 625181

21st January 2022 Monthly Meeting at The Plaza in Thrapston

Speaker David Sweeney

The Tower of London (*revised) & Ceremony of the Keys



David says "At least one thing being a Detective and a police officer has taught me – It's not what you know BUT WHO you know that counts in this world!

My career has opened many doors and helped form many friendships. One that stands out is my association with the Yeoman Warders of the Tower of London.

This has enabled me to enter the Tower after hours and learn and see a lot more than the general public.

I have attended the prestigious `Keys Ceremony` at the Tower that occurs EVERY night of the year (since circa 1200AD) on several occasions. The Yeoman Warders are great characters and have shared with me (often oiled in `The Keys` Club) many stories about royalty, ghosts and traditions. Instead of just giving you a history of `The Tower` I can share with you inside knowledge and little-known facts stories & secrets





NEW—RUMMIKUB GROUP

This new group will be up an running from the 6 January 2022.

The Group will be held at Denford Village Hall every Thursday afternoon @ 2'oclock from 6 January 2022 . If anyone is interested (whether or not you have played it before) or would like to know more about how to play Rummikub please contact me on 01832732724. If the answer machine comes on please do leave a message with your telephone number and I will get back to you.

Pauline"



Reminder – New Group Leader required for the Monthly Thursday Morning Walks

The Group Leader has stepped down and unless a new leader comes forward the monthly walks will no longer be able to take place. If you are interested in taking over this role or would like more information please send an email to the Group Co-Ordinator to

groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com.

- The Group leader has many walks already prepared along with all the contact details of the people in the Group ready to hand over to the new Leader.
- The walks are between 6 and 8 miles starting at 10 am. The venues varies each month and are within a 20 mile radius of Thrapston, sometimes starting and finishing at a pub, other times we have refreshments part way round.

Why not give it a go – a chance to meet new friends and keep fit at the same time

Did You Know ???

Santa Claus is based on a real person, St. Nikolas of Myra (also known as Nikolaos the Wonderworker, Bishop Saint Nicholas of Smyrna, and Nikolaos of Bari), who lived during the fourth century. Born in Patara (in modern-day Turkey). He is the world's most popular non-Biblical saint, and artists have portrayed him more often than any other saint except Mary. He is the patron saint of banking, pawnbroking, pirating, butchery, sailing, thievery, orphans, royalty, and New York City.



The traditional three colours of Christmas are green, red, and gold. Green has long been a symbol of life and rebirth; red symbolizes the blood of Christ, and gold represents light as well as wealth and royalty.

Most of Santa's reindeer have male-sounding names, such as Blitzen, Comet, and Cupid. However, male reindeers shed their antlers around Christmas, so the reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh are likely not to be male, but female or castrated.

Layered Lime Cheesecake



Ingredients

250g Ginger Nuts
600g Cream Cheese
100g Icing Sugar
3 Limes, zested (save Juice for the glaze)
300ml Double Cream, whipped to soft peaks

For the Glaze

4 Gelatine Leaves
100g Caster Sugar
6 Limes, juiced and pared
3-6 Limes, zest, pared on 3 with a peeler, and the all juiced.

Method

Step 1

Whizz the biscuits to crumbs in a electric food processor or tip into a food bag and crush with a rolling pin
Mix with the melted butter, then press into the base of a 20cm springform cake tin.
Chill in the fridge until needed.

Step 2

Put Cream Cheese, Icing Sugar and Lime Zest in food mixer until smooth.
Tip in the Double Cream and continue beating until completely combined.
Put mixture into the biscuit base inwards making sure there are no air bubbles.
Smooth the top of the cheesecake with the back of a desert spoon.
Leave to set in fridge while you make the glaze.

Step 3

Soak Gelatine Leaves in cold water.
Put other ingredients for the Glaze in a saucepan with 200ml water , Cook gently until the sugar has dissolved and the syrup is simmering.
Drain and squeeze off any excess water and stir into the hot syrup to dissolve.
Leave to infuse until just warm and then sieve the syrup unto a jug.
When cold pour over cheesecake and put in fridge overnight to set.
Carefully remove from tin before serving.

Recipe by Viv Tunstall



Members Coffee Morning – Kings Arms – Thrapston 26th November 2021

Hard on the heels of the November monthly meeting we were delighted to hold a member's coffee morning as a chance to meet socially for a couple of hours to chat and to meet the committee members.

Some will remember the delightful time we had back in mid-August on a wonderfully warm Summer morning in the courtyard of the Kings Arms, welcomed by the new owners Chris & Mary who are now well established in the very heart of Thrapston.

This time we were pleased at the prospect of the possibility of staying on for a bite of lunch after the meeting but unfortunately the awful Covid pandemic intervened and before we were due to have the meeting we received a message that the young daughter of Chris and Mary had tested positive. As a result the whole family had decided to stay away from the pub and with the kitchen closed no meals would be available.

Fortunately Louise the manageress was on hand to help us and welcomed us into the rear bar where coffee or tea was readily available and now we must save our intentions for lunch for another day.

Thirty plus members were present chattering away and engaging in a merry banter with the majority staying on until the pub opened for its regular business but it had been a worthwhile event. These meetings are a real opportunity for us to get together and for opinions to be heard. They offer a forum for investigating just what Thrapston & District Branch U3A can do and how the torch can be carried further forwards.

Look out for future meetings and make your questions and opinions known. Many thanks to all who attended.

Paul Ollett

A selection of photos taken by Neil Underwood



*A selection of photos taken by Neil Underwood during the presentation
by Ian Addis on "The Life of Charles Wicksteed"*



Ian Addis contacted Paul our Speaker Seeker to say he enjoyed his visit to Thrapston and appreciated the warm welcome he was given. His message is shown below as Paul wanted to share this with you all.

"Hello Paul

Just a quick call to thank you for the warm response from you and fellow members of Thrapston U3A on Friday.

I found it most enjoyable and trust the audience did too.

Kind regards

Ian"





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

Chair: Ian Byrnes	chairmanthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Sheila Underwood/Network Liaison	vicechair2thrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Treasurer: Sue Campbell	treasurerthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Secretary: Wendy Davies	secretarythrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Groups Co-ordinator: Anna Bond	groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Membership Registrar: Pauline Dennison	membershipthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Speaker Seeker: Paul Ollett	speakersthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor: Tina Jones	editorthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Publicity & Facebook: Roger Davies	publicitythrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Plaza Welcome Manager: Viv Tunstall	welcomethrapstonu3a@gmail.com

Off Committee Roles 2021/2022

<i>Access Advisor: Glyn Hill</i>	accessthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
IT Operations/Website Manager: Neil Busby	websitethrapstonu3a@gmail.com
<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

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

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all



Thrapston & District U3A is a registered charity number 1179593