



Contents

	page
Chairman's message	1
February Zoom Presentation Review	2
Forthcoming Zoom Meetings	3
"So You Think You Know Thrapston" Quiz	4
Group News	5
AGM & EGM Information/Pictures from Summer Competition	6
Recipe from the Cake & Bake Group/ Answers to Quiz	7
Your Committee	8



Chairman's Message

As the year goes on so the nights are getting lighter slowly, just as the outlook for the return to normal from our self imposed internal exile gets brighter by the day As the number vaccinated rises and Covid-19 cases in hospital falls, as part of our U3A plan to return to normal we will keep the "Zoom" Member meetings going until July with the 'break-out' time after the Speaker finishes kept in place.

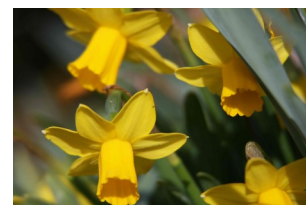
We have asked the Social Committee to plan for the Summer Social as near to normal as regulations at the time will allow, we plan to return our U3A to face to face meetings at the Plaza from the September meeting, Groups can meet at Leader discretion as soon as government instructions allow, and that I am sure is much anticipated.

A little later this month you will receive notification on how to vote to approve the changes needed to our constitution, changes needed to update the document after recent national changes as I outlined last month.

Stay Safe

Ian Byrnes

Chairman





*Review 19 February 2021 Zoom Presentation
Sex, Secrets, Scandals & Salacious Gossip – Sarah Slater*

Sarah has been a State Department Warden for 2 days each week at Hampton Court Palace and on other days gives guided tours of the palace, some that include a visit to the roof where a panoramic view can be enjoyed. She also includes Ghost Tours in her repertoire for which she dresses in black garments including a full veil, her widow's weeds of the mid-19th century.

The clothes she wears for her roles as a guide are made by herself after considerable research and in her talk gave details of undergarments worn in the period explaining the practicalities of dealing with the everyday bodily functions while wearing such cumbersome although glamorous outfits.

Sarah delivered her vibrant presentation to our largest Zoom meeting audience to date and she imparted an enormous amount of facts in the short hour. To illustrate her talk Sarah had dressed in the style of clothes for the Restoration period 1660 – 1680 when the monarchy was restored after 11 years of puritanism under Cromwell's Parliamentarians, years when even the Christmas festival was banned.

The dress she wore was of green satin with a white linen shift beneath that was exposed around the neck line and sleeves. The figure was enhanced with a foundation garment to support and preserve her feminine shape. The dress skirt covered an underskirt and petticoats. Her hair was pinned up at the back with tendrils dropping either side of her face. Pearls were worn as a necklace and of the period were a representative sign of purity.

Sarah spoke of the makeup and cosmetics of the period being an opaque coating of a white lead based pan for the face and neck with blue 'veins' painted on to avoid any suggestion that skin had been tanned by working outside. She described the period as the 'Liberal Age' and remarked that the 'Swinging Sixties' was nothing compared to the activities across the classes across the period.

The focus of the talk widened to the Royal Court between the years of 1660 to 1830 and the disreputable behaviour that became the norm for many during that period.

Sarah gave an overview of the accession to the British crown and personal details on the royal personages and their marriages advising that in some occasions the Kings and Queens may not even have met in advance of their weddings. The main purpose of royal weddings being political and to secure or extend dynasties in the royal families of Europe as well as at home.

It was tradition and almost expected of Kings of the period with few exceptions that they would take mistresses as part of their rights, although for the females of the court following a similar path of extra marital liaisons needed to be very discreet. With such licentious behaviour venereal disease became rife and with no proper medical treatment or cures available the likelihood was that death would result from such infections.

Contraception was a very much a hit and miss affair with crude devices and practices which basically did not work and unwanted pregnancies were common in all levels of society.

A revealing and surprising fact to emerge from the talk was that the lineage of our current Prime Minister Boris Johnson can be traced back to George I who is a direct ancestor.

This was a very informative talk on a huge subject, not for the prudish or one to watch with your Grandchildren but nevertheless educational and extremely entertaining.

Review by Paul Ollett

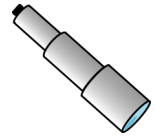
Speaker Seeker



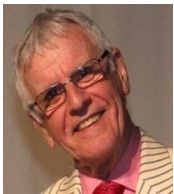


*An introduction to the talks to be presented via Zoom on the
19 March 2021 and 16 April 2021*

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



19 March 2021



**19th March 2021
Mike Storr – Masters of Mirth**

Mike Storr was born in Lincoln and is a Freeman of the City of Lincoln. He has been a Rotarian since 1980 and is now settled in Burton Joyce, Nottinghamshire.

His Zoom presentation is an affectionate look at some of his Music Hall 'laughter makers' mostly from the first half of the last century and how the Music Halls began.

We can look forward to seeing and perhaps reliving examples of the famous monologues given by such characters Robb Wilton, Stanley Holloway, Bernard Miles to name but a few.

Mike has offered his services free of charge but has invited us to make a donation to his preferred charity Asthma UK which naturally Thrapston & District U3A are more than happy to do.



16 April 2021



**16th April 2021
Steve Herra - The QE2**

Steve Herra is a third generation Cunard employee whose father and grandmother both sailed with Cunard. Steve's last ship was QE2 where he was a Purser.

He met his wife aboard QE2 and some of the celebrities he introduces to the audience. After leaving Cunard, he joined the Royal Naval Reserve and served aboard HMS President.

He still has an interest in ships and acts as a visitor escort conducting guided tours of the ships when they are in Southampton.



To watch these presentations please see the guidelines below

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

So you think you know Thrapston - Where would you find these individual Date Stones? Insert your answers below - Answers on page 5



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



I



J

A	B
C	D
E	F
G	H
I	J

Are you Interested in a Trip To Hampton Court Palace ?



Following the highly entertaining recent talk given by Sarah Slater entitled “Sex, Secrets, Scandals and Salacious Gossip”, we would like to gather your thoughts about arranging a U3A day outing to visit Hampton Court Palace, possibly in early autumn. The trip would include return coach travel plus admission to the Palace and hopefully a tour of the premises given by our speaker, Sarah Slater. NO arrangements have been made so far; we just need to judge the level of interest to make this trip viable. Please use the following email address TheatreThrapstonu3a@gmail.com to record your interest in this trip, your preferred dates, mobility issues and other relevant questions you may have.



*Moira
Theatre Group*



Group Leaders Meetings

Two Group Leaders meetings were held by Zoom on the 15 February and 17 February 2021.

Both were well attended and covered a total of 27 groups.

Unfortunately, most group have been unable to hold face to face meetings. However, some of the groups which are shown below have been able to keep in touch by email, phone or Zoom.

JAN PACEY (French Encore)

Jan is able to have zoom meetings at present.

VIV TUNSTALL (cake and bake)

Viv is able to have zoom meetings and holds a coffee afternoon every Friday for her group.

MARION HEALEY (Ukulele and Italian)

Marion is holding ukulele meetings on zoom

NEIL UNDERWOOD (photography)

Neil is holding zoom meetings

NEIL MATHIESON (making music)

Neil is holding zoom meetings to discuss various things and have quizzes

SUE HALLAM (bridge)

Sue plays bridge on line with a group

DAVID GREEN (Creative writing and play reading)

David is managing to hold zoom meetings for his creative writing group

JEAN MOLE (weekday lunches)

As soon as we can get back to meeting people again, Jean has kindly accepted to be group leader for this event. Jean has also offered to organise special events/outings.

If you are interested in joining any of these groups or have ideas for special events/outings please send an email me to Groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com. Look forward to hearing from you.

Anna Bond

Group Co-Ordinator

AGM & EGM IMPORTANT INFORMATION

"Our U3A needs a Committee with all the roles filled to ensure that our members are represented and their wishes are being carried out! If anyone wishes to discuss Committee roles please send me email to chairthrapstonu3a@gmail.com or telephone me Thrapston (01832

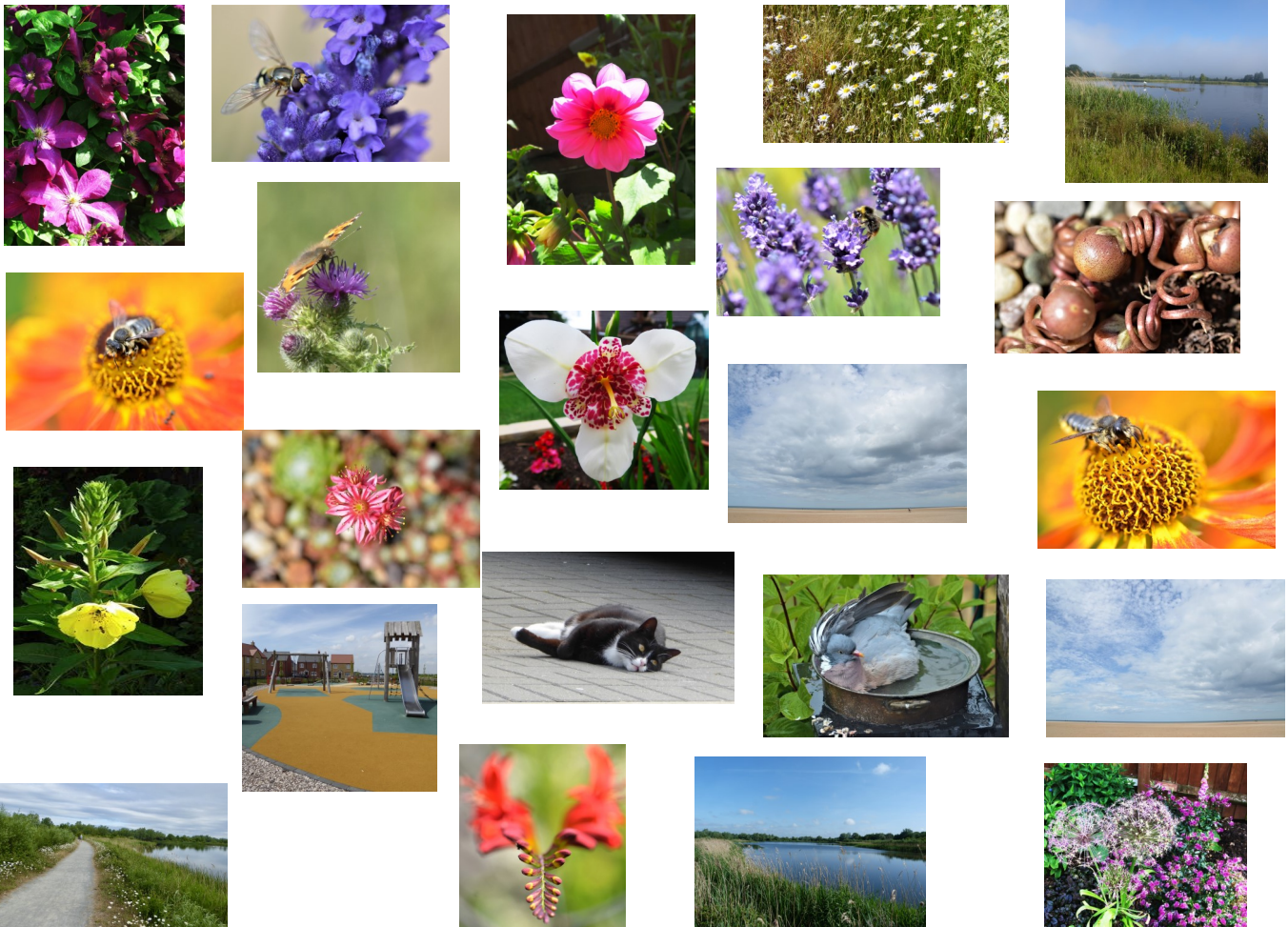
Committee Nominations are normally made on the prescribed form. To facilitate easier nominations the Committee have agreed to use the following structure. A nominee for Committee 2021/22 sends an email stating they wish to stand to "Secretarythrapstonu3a@gmail.com" stating their wish and quoting their membership number of this U3A. The 2 supporting members also send an email to that same address indicating they are nominating the individual quoting their membership number of this U3A.

Nominations are now open and will close at 10.00 30th April. Emails sent to any other U3A email address of this U3A will not be valid, nor any received after the closing date.

EGM voting on the single question EGM closes 31st March 2021"

Ian Byrnes
Secretary
Thrapston & District U3A
Charity Number 1179593

Pictures from the Summer Photographic Competition



Answers to “So you think you know Thrapston”

- A. 21-23 Chancery Lane B . 91 Oundle Road
- C. Chicheley Lodge, Hortons Lane D. Denford Edge Cottage, Denford Road
- E. 46 Huntingdon Road F. 129 Huntingdon Road
- G. 131 Huntingdon Road H. 113/115 Huntingdon Road
- I. Cemetery Chapel, Oundle Road J. Barn at Springfield Farm – Oundle Road

Zoom Meeting – Steve Herra 16th April 2021

Our speaker for the April meeting offered us seven different talks from his repertoire and you will remember that we asked you to submit your choices.

To judge the result was not straight forward as two talks received equal votes and so we had to devise a tie breaker where people had given choices in order of preference looking at their second choice.

The most popular answer was **Talk B. The QE2 Story** as it had received five more votes as a second choice in addition to its first choice than its nearest rival **Talk D. The Prince’s Murderous Mistress** which had only registered one extra vote as a second choice. **Talk G. Titanic, a Night of Ice** was not chosen by anyone.

Many thanks for your participation.

Paul Ollett

Speaker Seeker

Another Delicious Recipe for you to try from the Bake & Cake Group Lemon Coconut Sugar Cookies

4oz Demerara Sugar
8 oz butter or margarine
8 oz granulated sugar
1 tab lemon juice
zest of 2 lemons
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 egg
8 oz plain flour
1 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
1/2 tsp salt
8 oz coconut



Lemon Coconut Sugar Cookies

Put the Demerara Sugar to one side then melt butter slightly and stir in the granulated sugar.
Add the lemon juice, zest, vanilla extract and whisk in the egg
Fold in the flour, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda, salt and coconut
I use an ice cream scoop for large biscuits
Cover each one with Demerara sugar. This will give them a crisp outside.
Put on a baking tray. I use baking parchment to stop them sticking
Oven 180 for 13-15 minutes



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	chairmanthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
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Secretary: Ian Byrnes	secretarythrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Groups Co-ordinator: Anna Bond	groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
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<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

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