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Chairman's Welcome



Happy New Year! Or should that be Happy New Lock Down? So we are back to isolating, board games or just bored?

This time of year is not one for gadding around outside unless we have some hardy members who are still undertaking their socially distanced bracing walks. If they are, then they are regrettably the only U3A group currently continuing the elemental struggle! However, we all have an option to meet at least monthly, through the wonderful series of speakers that our ever resourceful Speaker Seeker Paul Ollett organises, via the Zoom app in place of our meetings in the Plaza. The next meeting in this sequence is on Friday 15th January; book a ticket and please come join us - it beats de-icing the car on a frosty morning!

To the future and May will see the AGM come rolling around. It is really essential that we recruit new members to your committee as several members will step down this May at the end of their term of office. With a glimmer of light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, we need, as an organisation, to begin to plan for the future; one that will be bright and full of members who have fine tuned their IT skills during lockdowns.

We may not be at the beginning of the end but hopefully, in Churchill's words, "the end of the beginning" with regards to this health emergency

Stay warm and stay safe.

Ian Byrnes

Chairman





Dr James Taylor – A History of the British Postcard

It was for certain that Dr Taylor invoked quite a few memories among the audience for his presentation at the members December Zoom meeting.

Early in his beautifully illustrated talk we learned of a prolific local artist named Alfred Ambrose Chew Leete who was born at Thorpe Achurch on 28th August 1882. He was the eldest of six children of farmer John and Harriet Leete.

At the age of 11 Alfred Leete moved with the family to Weston Super Mare, Somerset when his parents, obliged to give up farming due to John Leete's failing health set up a boarding house and hotel business.

Although Alfred Leete is not well known today one of his drawings, originally a cover illustration on the now long forgotten penny weekly magazine 'London Opinion' remains one of the most famous posters of all time. Alfred Leete was the designer for the celebrated and often imitated First World War recruiting poster, 'Your Country Needs You' featuring Lord Kitchener, the Secretary of State for War and his dramatic pointing finger.

The earliest recorded postcard delivery dates back to 1840 complete with a 'Penny Black', postage stamp. Towards the end of the 19th century the number of cartoonist style artists had increased and accordingly the volume of cards produced also increased exponentially.

The General Post Office monopoly on postal items was ended in 1894 and by 1899 a standard size for the postcard of five and a half inches wide by three and a half inches deep was agreed which still stands today as the normally accepted size for cards. In 1902 the dividing line down the centre at the back of the card was introduced thereby leaving the front of the card free for cartoon style pictures and later photographs.

Postcards and posters were widely used to disseminate information at the end of the 19th and early 20th century often with a political message. The Suffragette movement started in 1903 by Emmeline Pankhurst was featured on cards of the time and with the advent of the First World War topics associated with recruiting for the army and navy to carry on the war. At the Western Front serving soldier Captain Bruce Bairnsfather was a prominent British humourist and cartoonist whose work featuring 'Old Bill' was published in 'The Bystander' weekly magazine during WW1

With people in the armed services posted abroad for extended periods the postcard was often the only means of communication between families and their serving sons and daughters.

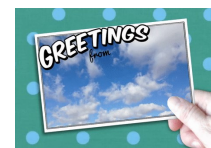
The tradition of sending postcards continued during the Second World War but after the hostilities were over the population of Britain were eager to take seaside holidays and risqué postcards were readily available in shops within most towns and villages to send to the folks back home.

Dr Taylor had many examples from a large variety of artists naming among them Donald McGill who created over 12000 individual postcard designs from his birth in 1904 until he died in 1962. Donald's cards depicted anything and everyone, his watchful eye never missed a humorous situation as he witnessed the years roll through the 20th century. Donald McGill's work is preserved in a museum at Ryde on the Isle of Wight.

With common use of the telephone and the advent of the mobile phone and instant communication the days of postal communication have lost popularity but perhaps the modern use of social media such as Facebook, Instagram and the like has parallels with the days when we would tell our friends and family that, "We wish you were here".

Paul Ollet

Speaker Seeker





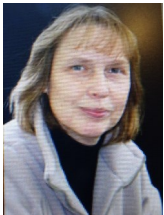
An introduction to the talks to be presented via Zoom on the

15 January 2021 and 19 February 2021

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



15 January 2021



15th January 2021
Speaker Barbara Meyer
Wildlife Photography in Sherwood Forest

Apart from her outstanding professional career in taking remarkable and stunning photographs of big cats in their natural habitat, closer to home. Barbara has conducted wildlife surveys in the wider Sherwood Forest area and raised awareness for wildlife in Britain for over 5 years.

The talk will cover what wildlife species Barbara has been able to record in England's most famous forest, their distribution and some seasonal events. This is a riveting talk with questions and answers invited to correct some of the facts that you thought you knew.



19 February 2021



19th February 2021
Speaker Sarah Slater
Sex, Secrets, Scandals and Salacious Gossip
(Revelations from Hampton Court Palace)

Sarah Slater is a qualified Guide Lecturer for the Royal Palace at Hampton Court. She is also a qualified affiliate of the Institute of Tourist Guiding, and registered speaker for the Women's Institute.

Her talk 'Sex, Secrets, Scandal and Salacious Gossip of the Royal Court, 1660 to 1830' is very popular. Sarah wears one of her beautiful costumes to reveal about all the naughty bits of history you would probably not have learnt about at school! She includes information on the royal mistresses, prostitution, sexual diseases of the time and the methods used to prevent STDs and unwanted pregnancies. Warning, this talk is not for prudes, it is fun but rude!



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.

Bottled up at Home Again due to Covid?

Why not try this easy short walk to get your permitted exercise.

Ashton Mill – 6 Miles (about 2.5 hrs)

Starting in Oundle - Parking in the long stay carpark in East Road

From East Road turn right following the road to the T junction. Turn right into Station Road crossing over at the garage to turn left into New Road. Continue to where New Road bears left and cross over turning right into St Peter's Road continuing to the Rugby ground. Turn right with the rugby pitch on the left continuing to the end to cross the footbridge at the gap in the hedge. Continue through the next field again passing through the gap and crossing the footbridge.

Cross the wider part of the next field aiming slightly left ascending to pass through the kissing gate in the top left corner. Turn right and ahead descending with the trees on the right eventually to cross the footbridge. Continue in the same direction ascending now to the opposite side and enter an enclosed path between the houses in Cotterstock emerging onto the main street.



Turn right continuing round the double bends crossing the river at the Mill and then a second bridge up to the road junction where turn right, cross the road to pass down the driveway at the right of the house opposite continuing to the field beyond. Ahead in the same direction through a series of gates to the main road. Cross with extreme care as the road is very busy.



Ahead on the Bridleway ascending with the hedge on the left. At the edge of the first field boundary bear left at the gap (homemade footpath sign) keeping in the same direction but now with the hedge on the right. Pass through a farm gate and continue to the end of this long field with the ditch on the right.

At the hard track (Roman Road) turn right to pass through metal barrier continuing passing farm buildings and crossing firing range. (Not if Red Flags are flying)! Continue for about three quarters of a mile to follow road around to the right, cottage on the left, continuing through Ashton village passing the Chequered Skipper pub on your left.



Walk on the footpath on the right hand side passing the church gate going straight ahead as the road bears left soon to pass through a metal kissing gate descending the field in between the fences to pass through a further kissing gate, descending steps to the road. Cross with care to the opposite path and turn left down the right hand side of Ashton Mill. Follow the path to a large green metal bridge over the river and walk across the field to emerge beside the busy A605 Oundle Bypass.



Crossover with Great Care and take the enclosed footpath opposite to the end where turn right and cross the mini roundabout soon to turn right into East Road returning to your car.

Walk provided by Paul Ollett

U3A Committee – IT Management

Volunteers Needed

Currently U3A IT is managed by Neil Busby, but his term of office ends in May 2021 and he is standing down from the Committee.

U3A Committee members are currently considering the options available to them from May next year. If some of the elements are sought from a company then it will be expensive, so ideally volunteers from the U3A would be a better solution.

The IT requirements can be managed **by more than one person**, as the different aspects are quite different, and significantly some aspects can be carried out off-committee.

The different roles are:

U3A Website - public window” for U3A activities

NOTE: Rebuild needed in 2021

Maintenance & Management of Website plus 1&1 Web-hosting Account

Regular updates:

Core information (Committee, Policies etc.)

Activity Pages (Groups, Meetings, photos etc.)

U3A EMAIL ACCOUNTS (This a role for a committee member)

Maintenance & trouble shooting for all U3A email accounts

Custodian of Passwords and account recovery processes for all U3A accounts

Monitoring use of email accounts

Creation of new email accounts when approved by Committee

GENERAL IT ISSUES (This a role for a committee member)

Ensure that U3A is always compliant with its Privacy and Data Protection policies.

Ensure Privacy and Data Protection & Social Media policies are reviewed each year prior to the AGM.

U3A LAPTOPS (x3)

Maintenance of Operating Systems and general housekeeping

Maintain and update the Membership & Financial software, (Excel & Office 365)

Maintain and update McAfee Antivirus software

IT HELPDESK

For Committee & Off-Committee members

Provide specialist advice to the Committee on IT and web-based issues.

U3A ACCOUNTS

Maintenance & Management of Accounts:

U3A Dropbox

U3A Zoom

U3A Mail Chimp

U3A Eventbrite

To help ensure that Thrapston & District U3A continues to be supported by the appropriate technology please contact Neil Busby at the email address below if you would be interested in taking on one or more of these roles.

Websitethrapstonu3a@gmail.com



50 things to do for WINTER FUN

01. Play charades
02. Build a roaring fire in the fireplace
03. Write a family letter
04. Take a winter walk
05. Knit or crochet a new scarf & mittens
06. Listen to a new book on tape
07. Visit a Christmas market
08. Light a candle
09. Cut snowflakes out of white paper
10. Sip hot apple cider
11. Go sledding
12. Make squash soup
13. Build a blanket fort
14. Play flag football
15. Paste pictures in a photo album
16. Go ice skating
17. Make pomanders from cloves & oranges
18. Make New Year's resolutions
19. Eat blackeyed peas
20. Get new pajamas or houseslippers
21. Lounge in your PJs and read a book
22. Cuddle up by the fire
23. Put out a birdfeeder
24. Volunteer at the local food pantry
25. Force indoor daffodils or narcissus
26. Build a snowman
27. Make snow angels
28. Play a board game
29. Dress in plaid flannel
30. Eat snow ice cream
31. Make creamy potato soup
32. Start a stamp or coin collection
33. Make scented playdough
34. Skype faraway family or friends
35. Shoot fireworks
36. Go bowling
37. Make a home movie
38. Have a ping pong tournament
39. Send homemade valentines
40. Make snowglobes
41. Bake a breakfast quiche
42. Make pinecone firestarters
43. Study a foreign language
44. Make a pot of lentil soup
45. Bake cinnamon rolls
46. Learn to play dominoes
47. Feed pigeons at the park
48. Make salt water taffy
49. Plant onions
50. Eat fondue



For more free printables, visit www.flandersfamily.info

Information about the Red Cross On-line Digital Classrooms For Tackling Loneliness Digitally



Our new Loneliness Digital Classroom is now open for booking, where participants can explore how it might feel to be lonely or isolated and learn skills to help others who may be experiencing loneliness. There are two sessions available, one for children and young people aged 10-19 and one for adults aged 19+.

Sessions can be booked by emailing RedCrossEducation@redcross.org.uk or by calling 0344 412 2734.

They also have hard copy wellbeing packs available to those who cannot access online resources,.

Memories of Christmas 2018



We weren't able to have our Christmas event this year so here are a few photos from Christmas 2018 to remind you of better times and to give us a taste of what Christmas 2021 might have to offer!!





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

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IT Operations/Website Manager: Neil Busby	websitethrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Plaza Welcome Manager: Vacant	welcomethrapstonu3a@gmail.com

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Social Committee Liaison: Sheila Underwood	
Zoom "Plaza" Meeting Host: Neil Mathieson	

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