



Contents

	page
Chairman's October message	1
September Plaza Presentation Review	2
October & November Plaza Presentations Information	3
Singing for Fun Update & This months recipe	4
Latest Lunch Club News	5
Access Matters & New Tai Chi for Beginners Group Update	6
Archive Group & Pictures from September Plaza meeting	7
Your 2021/2022 Committee	8



Chairman's October Message

And they're off!

Off and running; the Plaza face to face meetings restarted in September with a hugely amusing and really enjoyable talk. It was so good to be with people and hear them laugh and Mr Moylan will be back for the Christmas Social for those who missed him.

PLAZA £1.00 because not all members attend the Plaza meeting ; only 25% of the membership in September; the Committee of the Trustees decided a year ago that the Plaza meeting will be defined as a group meeting and the £1 fee will be re-imposed. Of course with the pandemic throwing everyone's plans into chaos the publicity of the re-imposition was now a long time ago. Fees for Plaza are now £1 for members and £3 for visitors.

Future, hope to see you all at the next Plaza Meeting. Our hard working Speaker Seeker is profiling the talk elsewhere in the Newsletter and November 26th is the Members Coffee Morning at the Kings Arms 10.30-12.00

Ian Byrnes

Chairman



Review of the 17th September Plaza Presentation

Magic & Music Halls - Dave Moylan



It was almost like the first day back at school after a long, long holiday and there was a certain perceptible nervousness on just how the morning would pan out with our first Plaza meeting in so many months.

We were doing things differently and the 'toe was definitely in the water' testing the temperature but we needn't have worried as our loyal members filed in and the air was filled with chatter as they sought refreshments and found their seats with many taking the opportunity to renew their membership.

Derby based Dave Moylan started his presentation in complete silence with an illusion whereby he produced a white serviette and carefully folded it then set fire to the end only to open the paper out a minute later to reveal it was totally undamaged and following this he crafted the paper into a long stemmed rose to our total amazement.

With his opening completed the silence was broken and he picked up his guitar to lead the audience into a song based on making coffee in which we were encouraged to participate shouting the word Oi! At the end of the chorus line.

Dave told us of his love and admiration of the comedians and performers from the latter days of the music halls and the golden age of radio through the 40s & 50s. It was a time when many of the artists would relate their comedy in rhyming fashion. Referring to a performer named Billy Bennet who was active on the comedy circuit just after the First World War and accompanying himself on the guitar he recited a very humorous rendition of 'A Sailor's Farewell to his Horse'. Quite apart from being very funny it was quite a feat of memory to get through the piece without stuttering.

His routine continued with reminiscences of the comedians who made it on radio to entertain us before TV was so widely available to the public and with familiar names such as Tommy Handley, Tommy Trinder, Al Read and Jimmy Clitheroe among many others.

Interspersing his performances on the guitar and songs with unfathomable illusions he certainly gave excellent entertainment value. He is a master of regional accents and it appears that some funny stories are enhanced for instance in a West Midlands accent although just how 'politically correct' this is in these enlightened times I could not hazard a guess.

Dave performed an excellent rendition of the George Formby song 'If Women Like Men, Like Men Like Those, why don't Women Like Me'? Looking around the room as he played it was noticeable just how many feet were tapping along to the tune, a sure sign that the audience are enjoying the performance.

Later in the show we were introduced to Marcel The Mind Reading Mouse and using an active little mouse puppet and enlisting a lady in the audience the mouse 'apparently' and no doubt with a fair bit of help, wrote a number onto a piece of paper that matched the number thought of by the audience member.

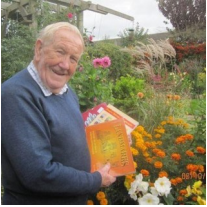
Telling all that Liverpool was a source of much in the comedy world he told a string of jokes in the 'Scouse' accent that he called his homage to this Northern city and certainly left us laughing.

Dave remains the resident Magician at Warwick Castle where he has performed for 25 years and we are delighted that he has been booked to return to Thrapston for our Christmas social later this year on 17th December. We are assured of another 'side splitting' experience.

Review by Paul Ollett
Speaker Seeker



Preview of the Monthly Meetings at The Plaza in Thrapston 15th October & 19 November 2021



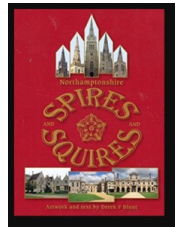
Friday 15 October 2021
Derek Blunt
Saints, Sinners, Stars and Scandals

Derek Blunt was born in Northampton and has lived and worked in our county all his life. He believes that Northamptonshire is 'in his blood' and can trace his family back to the early part of the 16th century with all of his ancestors having lived and worked in and around Northampton.

Derek is a prolific author having written seven books to date describing and recording varying aspects of the county. All of his catalogue are limited editions.

One of his most recent works is 'Manors Maketh Man'. A history of Manors and Landed estates in the county from the time of William the Conqueror to the present day

His talk introduces us to some of the fascinating characters, both the famous and infamous, who have lived in Northamptonshire from past times to the present day



Friday 19 November 2021
The Charles Wicksteed Story
By Ian Addis

Charles Wicksteed is best remembered for the park which bears his name. Yet little could the young man, who arrived in Kettering very much unsung in 1872, have imagined the impact he would have upon his adopted town.

Engineer, entrepreneur, philanthropist, visionary, pioneer and politician, this is the compelling story of Wicksteed's remarkable life and lasting legacy.





Sing to feel Good - - A New Group—Singing for fun

“Singing for Fun” is on every Friday starting from Friday 8 October at the Thapston Baptist Church

The cost is to be arranged but depends on the number of people as the costs has to cover the charge for the room hire.

Everyone is welcome. Please come along if you enjoy singing for pleasure and find singing with others with others uplifting. It improves mental health and some say physical health too.

If you would like to know more please contact our Group Co-Ordinator, Anna on the following email address:- groupsthapstonu3a@gmail.com



Berry Bakewell Cake

Ingredients

- 150g Unsalted Butter/Stork
- 150g Golden Caster Sugar
- 150g Ground Almonds
- 150G Self Raising Flour
- 3 Medium Eggs
- 2 tbsp Whole Milk
- 1/2 tsp Vanilla Extract
- 250g Berries(125g Blueberries/Raspberries)
- 25-50g Flaked Almonds
- 1 tbsp Icing Sugar



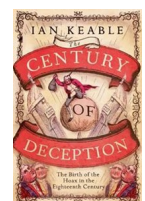
- 1) Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/350F and grease a 8”/20cm cake tin
- 2) Add your Butter, Sugar, Flour, Ground Almonds, Eggs, Milk and Vanilla to mixer and beat till smooth.
- 3) Spread half of the mixture on the bottom of the tin and then spread the berries on top of the first half. Then spread the rest of the mixture on top.
- 4) Sprinkle the cake with the flaked almonds and bake in the oven for 50 minutes or until a skewer comes out clean.
- 5) Leave to cool on a wire rack and sprinkle with the icing sugar—serve.

In July 2020 our Speaker Seeker arranged for our first monthly meeting since the first Lockdown began, for a zoom presentation by Ian Keable,

This was entitled “The Century of Deception: The Birth of the Hoax in the 18th Century, which some may remember proved to be a fascinating talk.

Ian has contacted our Speaker Seeker as he thought some may be interested to know that he has written a book called “The Century of Deception: The Birth of the Hoax in 18th Century England.

The book was published on the 7th September this year and is now available to buy in major bookshops or online. For those that may be interested more details can be



The New Lunch Club



Following on from the success of our first two New Lunch Club dinners at the Woolpack in Islip and the White Horse at Tilbrook, I am now taking bookings for the **Pheasant at Keyston** on **Wednesday 13th October**.

Please contact me for a copy of the menu. Please note that for this meal the restaurant require a **£10** deposit which should be sent to me in the first instance. I will then forward to the restaurant. The balance to be paid on the day.

I have also just arranged for our November meal at **The Old Friar in Twywell** for **Wednesday 10th November**, and this menu will be available at the Plaza meeting on Friday 15th October. All lunches are booked for arrival at 12 noon and for the meal at 12:30. Any cancellations must be made more than 24 hours prior to the lunch.

Please don't forget that we are having a get together at the Plaza for all those members who want to be included in the New Lunch group. The date is **Monday 1st November**. The time is **10am to 11am**.

When we meet up one of the things I need is to make sure I have all your contact details (e-mail addresses & phone numbers). I also want to hear your ideas on good pubs and restaurants to visit; how far you want travel, how much you are prepared to pay, etc, etc. In return I am offering you coffee/tea & cake! I am looking forward to seeing lots of you at this get together and exchanging information.

Jean Mole Tel: 01933 626 608
peterandjeanmole@btinternet.com



BEST of BRITISH

MUSIC NIGHT



WITH CASH BAR

raising funds for the Mayor's charity, NDAS

**FRIDAY 12TH NOVEMBER £6
AT THRAPSTON PLAZA**

7 FOR 7:30PM

TICKETS FROM TOWN
COUNCIL OFFICE OR
CALL 01832 734673



 @THRAPSTON.TOWNCOUNCIL

Music Night Friday 12th November 2021 to be held at the Thrapston Plaza

Thrapston Town Band are holding a Music Night to help raise funds for the NDAS, The Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service,

This is the Mayor of Thrapston's chosen Charity so why not come along and show your support,

ACCESS MATTERS REMINDER

A reminder that for monthly meetings the front row at the plaza has reserved seats for members with visual, hearing and mobility problems. Please feel free to use the seats together with your companion. I'm also happy to provide a named reserved seat notice for you if you are a regular attender. Just let me know.#

Can you help by giving a lift?



We are still hoping to obtain a lift to the monthly meetings for one of our members who has visual impairment .



Gerry lives off Huntingdon Road in the Orchards estate, he has a blue badge which he can use in any car, so the added bonus would be that the lift giver could park for free in the Bridge . Please let me know via email if you can help

If you have any issues with accessing your U3A, either for the monthly or group meetings, please let me know and I'll endeavour to help.

Glyn Hill

acessthrapstonu3a@gmail.com

01832 735797

News update for the new Tai Chi Beginners Group

This is a new group that met for the first time on September 28th.

They will be learning Tai Chi based on the Yang 108 move form

The group will meet every Tuesday 2.30pm to 4.00pm in Islip Village Hall at a cost of £2.50 per session.

If you would like to know more or would like to try Tai Chi then please contact Colin on T 721109.



Stitchers Group



The Stitchers had their first meeting since March 2020 this week.

We had a lot of catching up to do and so not a needle or thread / wool made an appearance. BUT we did have a wonderful "Show and Tell" session.

Knitted cardigans, crocheted blankets, patchwork wall hangings, shopping bags and even a Christmas tree skirt all testified that we had been very busy during lockdown.

We now meet at the Woolpack at Islip on the last Wednesday in the month, from 10.30 to 12 noon and welcome new members. We are a friendly group, always willing to share our ideas, patterns and expertise with each other.

If you would to know more about this group please contact the Anna, the group co-ordinator on the following email address:- groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com

Wendy

Memories

It's the 10th Birthday of Thrapston & District U3A & 40th Birthday of the U3A

The Archive group is putting together information about our first 10 years. They have the newsletters and all the minutes from the meetings. They would like more photographs ,especially from the first five years . It would also be useful o have information about the groups particularly I when they started, who were the Group Leaders, how often they met and what they did or do.

Can you please send any information you may have to Sheila at the following email address:-
vicechair2chairthrapstonu3a@gmail.com.

Pictures of our first face to face Plaza Meeting on 17th September by Neil Underwood





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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<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