



LUTTERWORTH

ISSUE NO. 252

December 2023

General Notices

A night at the races

Although I don't believe that any of us made our fortunes at Nottingham Greyhound Stadium, at least, if anyone did, I did not see my COMMISSION !!!!! we did have a most enjoyable evening. The food was good, the staff efficient and it was a very buzzy fun evening. **Linda**

www.lutterworth u3A.com

Roy and Barbara have worked hard to create our new website and, if you try and remember to look at it from time to time you may find articles that will increase your enjoyment of your u3a membership.

Often information comes through about events that may interest you but which we have not been able to communicate because they take place before the next newsletter is printed. Now we can ask for them to be included on the website so that you will not miss out. **Linda**

Days out

We had a lovely day out in Stamford and at Burleigh House Christmas Fair. The weather was perfect with no rain until we were on the coach on the way home. Stamford has lots of lovely shops, churches and places to eat and the crafts on sale at Burleigh were delightful. **Linda**

INTEREST GROUPS AND EVENT REPORTS

Always check online for possible timing variations. Check with the group leader if you are not sure. A number of groups have room for more members. If you wish to join any of them, please contact the Group Coordinator.

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Table Games – Co-ordinator Linda Patton

Another enjoyable afternoon this month although we finished a little earlier than usual as some of us were rushing off to go to the greyhound stadium.

We shall be back to the full allotted time in December so hope to see you then. **Linda**

Music for Fun – Ukulele – Co-ordinators – Barbara Wilkinson and Peter Sneath

We meet at 10.00 in Bitteswell Village Hall on 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. We are currently full but if anyone wishes to join us in the future, please contact us and we will start a waiting list. **Barbara**

Table Tennis – Co-ordinator Carole Harrington

We meet every Monday (except Bank Holidays) together with Wycliffe U3A from 2pm to 4pm at Walcote Village Hall. This group is not accepting new members at present. **Carole**

Buffet Supper Group 1 – Co-ordinator Gwenda Jones

An evening spent with friends around Glenys and John's dinner table, enjoying a lovely selection of food, was a pleasant way to forget about the cold outside. Conversation flowed and a rather silly game got everyone's logical thought processes activated. **Gwenda**

Buffet Supper Group 2

We had a Halloween themed buffet supper at the home of Lyn and Derek this month as we really did have a witch in the wardrobe who leaned out and took your coat, in her hallway, scary. As usual, Lyn and Derek were generous hosts and we all had a good time putting the world to rights. Thank you, Lyn, for your hard work.

The December supper is, as usual in December, one week later than normal, which will be 11th December at the home of Ken and Linda. **Gwenda**

Reading Group - Co-ordinator Joyce Cairney

The Reading Group's view of our latest read "Demon Copperfield" by Barbara Kingsolver, was that most of them would give a qualified recommendation for this book though some did not like it. This is the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-coloured hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. In a plot that never pauses for breath, relayed in his own unsparing voice, he braves the modern perils of foster care, child labour, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses.

Those who knew the story of David Copperfield by Charles Dickens, which were based on his own experience as a survivor of institutional poverty and its damages to children in society, felt these were still to be solved in ours! We felt that the author was trying to be helpful in encouraging people to

improve themselves but it showed that nothing changes over time no matter what good intentions there were out there then and still we hope to change things for the underprivileged now. A lively discussion! **Joyce**

History Group – Co-ordinator Linda Patton

We had a lovely time at our November meeting when invited guests, Anne Hayes, Jill Smith, Pat Foster and Rhona Ash shared their memories of their young lives during the reign of King George VI. We had afternoon tea with cakes from Lynne, tea-bread from Glenys and cream scones from Frances as well as cheese scones and sandwiches. Other members shared their reminiscences of their lives during this period and Anne then entertained us with two poems that she had learned as a child. We heard about visits to the cinema and memories of food rationing, of refugees and Land Army girls. Rhona had seen the effects of the bombing of Manchester from her home in Derbyshire whilst Doe had witnessed it from Rochdale and of course others had seen the attack on Coventry. It was a most interesting afternoon.

We have almost finished our discussion of the reign of King George VI and in January will start our research anew with life in England under the rule of the Romans. All are welcome to join us. **Linda**

Music and Memories Group 1 – Co-ordinator Gwenda Jones

What is a better way to spend a cold November afternoon than in a cosy warm house with good friends listening to music, which brings back long forgotten memories, along with tea and chocolate cakes. That was the Music and Memories group's good fortune. We had an eclectic mixture of CDs which got our feet tapping, at Ann's house in Broughton Astley.

On 5th December we will be at Gwenda's house to enjoy our Christmas music and memories.
Gwenda

Poetry Group - Coordinator Elizabeth Wilson

Our November's meeting was entitled "Remembrance". We read some very sad and moving poetry based on the problems and agonies of war, poverty and loneliness, exploring the poet's feelings of grief and the question "why?" We also read a few more light-hearted poems like the following:

Tarantella

By Hilaire Belloc

Do you remember an inn, Miranda?
Do you remember an inn?
And the tedding and the spreading
Of the straw for a bedding,
And the fleas that tease in the High Pyrenees,
And the wine that tasted of tar?

We also read a modern poem "Forgetfulness" to which most of us could relate!!

The subject of our December's meeting is Christmas Poems. 2pm at Betty's.
We wish all members of the U3A a very happy and healthy Christmas. **Betty**

Strolling Groups 1 and 2 – Co-ordinators Gwenda Jones and John Lee

Group 1

We visited the interesting village of Leire in November and heard a lot of interesting facts about the church and the occupants of the village over the years. It was a cold day but we still had two ladies in their nineties amongst us and we all warmed up whilst enjoying a lovely meal at the Hollybush in Ashby Parva afterwards.

We don't go out in December, we just have our usual Christmas party instead. In January we will, as usual, be visiting The Waterfront in Market Harborough, sign in at the January meeting. **Gwenda**

Group 2

Our November stroll took us to Kilsby. This village has many thatched cottages and interesting buildings. St Faith's church is built of mellow Northampton stone and dates from the 12thC with the north aisle added shortly after. Kilsby was a strongly puritan village. Following the Reformation, the church's medieval decoration, including wall paintings, rood screen and stained glass, were destroyed. The present stained glass is mostly Victorian and the pews are Georgian. The church building has withstood many potential disasters, including a fire in the tower in 1911 and, due to subsidence many years ago, the north aisle leans quite alarmingly but is quite safe.

We moved from the church and walked back through the village passing Cedar Lodge where Robert Stephenson, inventor of the locomotive the "Rocket" lived. Stephenson planned and was in charge of the construction of the one-and-a-half-mile long Kilsby tunnel.

While we were in the church Alan gave us lots of interesting facts relating to the building of the tunnel. Then it was onto The Red Lion for a lovely lunch. For our January stroll we will be going to Leire.

Linda Griffin

Short Walks Group – Co-ordinators Fay Goodwin/Lyn Foxwell

November's walk was a lovely stroll through Coombe Abbey. It was a good day for walking and warm in the sun. We could see the lights that were up for Luminare Coombe. We had lunch at The Malt Kiln farm shop afterwards and all-in-all had a lovely morning.

Please join this friendly group if you fancy some light exercise on a Tuesday morning once a month.

Linda

Jazz Group – Co-ordinator James Davey

We held our usual meeting this month after we had paid tribute to and remembered our good friend , Geoff Dean, who collapsed and died on Remembrance Sunday. Our meetings will not be the same without Geoff and his fund of knowledge.

There will be no December meeting,(it falls on Boxing Day!) our next one will be in January at Chris Martin's. **Jim**

Singing for Fun – Co-ordinator Hamish Paterson no report.

Topical Discussion Group - Co-ordinator: Richard Whittington

1. Israel and Gaza.

We were all very saddened by this ongoing war. To some extent it is a war between two religions, Shia Muslims and Jews. It could be said that Hamas has the same end goal as the Nazis, ie. the elimination of Jews. It is understandable that Israel wants to defend itself against such ideology but eliminating an idea is very difficult.

The actions of Israel against Hamas are destroying Gaza, along with very many innocents and is probably creating more Hamas members for the future.

During this conflict it appears that the UN is very weak.

We get a lot of useful intelligence from Israeli intelligence that we wish to continue using.

The conflict in Northern Ireland was only solved after both sides agreed to stop the violence and begin to learn to live together.

Israel and the Palestinians need to do the same and give Hamas no reason to fight.

The two-state solution is possibly the best option although not without problems.

2. Should the Wycliffe and Lutterworth U3A groups join together.

We already have many sessions where we can join each other's groups. Both groups are suffering from falling numbers and perhaps insufficient numbers of 'younger' members joining. This is often evident when trying to form new groups or asking people to help with running and organisation of the U3A.

If the two groups joined there would be a larger group of 'talent' to take up more active roles. There could easily be some duplication of groups as there are at present. There could well be some initial teething problems to overcome but the outcome would surely be worth it??

The next meeting will be on December 6th at 10.00 am. **Richard**

1st Wednesday Walking Group – tba

4th Wednesday Walking Group – Co-ordinators Sue and Peter Creedon

November 23 walk report

A combination of factors resulted in the choice for this month's walk. It was November, so try to find a walk avoiding too much mud. Find a pub that serves food on a Wednesday lunchtime and is not too expensive. Stay fairly close to home for the start. A bonus would be a coffee stop point with some seating.

Setting off from The Elms in Lutterworth ticked a couple of boxes and the walk itself was fairly good under foot for the most part. We set off in grey but dry weather and it remained fine for the entire walk. 16 of us plus dog headed for Walcote via Misterton Church and had a break in the playground at Walcote where we all found somewhere to sit, another box ticked. We had a bit of retracing our steps on the second leg of the walk but no one seemed to mind and the views can look quite different when facing the other way

12 of us went into The Elms for lunch where a long table had been reserved for us. Several of us had received money off vouchers in the post for meals at The Elms so they were put to good use. The carvery proved a popular choice.

Not done much group walking for a while or maybe not at all? Come along and give it a try it's a very sociable uplifting pursuit.

Wednesday 13 December 2023 – organized by Sue and Peter Creedon

The walk, as you may have noticed, is NOT on the normally scheduled 4th Wednesday of the month. We thought it might clash with your Christmas arrangements, So, to avoid you getting walk withdrawal symptoms, as the next scheduled walk would not be until the end of January 24, we have slipped this walk in

Meeting Point For Lifts:- Lutterworth Recreation Ground car park at 09.15am to leave at 09.20am.

Start Point and Time:- Bradgate Park, Newtown Linford car park [LE6 0HB]. Carpark charges £3.30 for 3 hours/ £4.50 Full day. Toilets available. Start of walk 10:00am.

Directions to start:- :- M1 north to Junction 22. Right onto the A50 until the first roundabout then left to Newton Linford (along Markfield Lane. At the T junction turn right (onto Main Street) eventually crossing a small roundabout. Shortly after then passing All Saints Church look for a well disguised turning in the car park

Route and Distance:- :- An undulating route around the park. Approx 5 miles and no stiles

Lunch Arrangements: There are none. Sorry, but there are plenty of places around. **Peter**

Scrabble Group - Co-ordinator Glenys Peverley

Six of us were able to play in November, so two games of three. Three of us managed to play all seven letters at one go so earned bonuses of fifty. Extraordinarily, Glenys won both her games so was champ for the session.

We next meet on Wednesday, December 20th at 2:30pm at Linda's. New members would be welcome. **Glenys**

New Age Kurling Group – Co-ordinators, Trish and Alan Green, Maggie, Sue, Lynne and Kathy

New Age Kurling group runs the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at Ullesthorpe village hall. New members always welcome – come along for an afternoon of fun. **Margaret**

Canasta Groups 1 and 2 – Co-ordinator June Hartopp

Both Groups now meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, Canasta 1 from 10am-12noon, Canasta 2 from 2-4pm both at June's house. **June**

Petanque – Co-ordinators Sue Sharp and Rae Flowerday

There is a Christmas meal organised for Wednesday 20th December at Pesto in Wolvey. The group is now finished playing for this season but will return again next Spring. Date to be advised. **Pauline**

Art Appreciation – Co-ordinators Rae Flowerday and Sue Woodhead

The Black Death swept through Europe and parts of Asia that killed three-quarters of the population in 20 years. When the plague exploded, it resulted in radical changes to the course of society and Art. In the cloistered burial ground called Campo Santo in Pisa, a fresco attributed to Francesco Traini "" Triumph of Death"" summed up the prevailing pessimism from the plague.

Such pessimism could no last, and toward the end of that Century, a new spirit arose throughout Europe called "International Gothic" style. An anonymous work, the " Wilton Diptych" (1395-1399) was a magnificent, but small diptych and commissioned for the private devotions of Richard 2nd of England. It has an image of Richard, which is probably a real portrait. It shows Richard's patron saint, St John the Baptist, touching the Kings shoulder. This style moves on from the previous century, by having the simplicity of a symmetrical design.

Next meeting will be on January 4th 2024. Apologies to Rae.

Music Appreciation Group - Co-ordinators John Peverley and Tony MacDonald

In November we were made very welcome as always at the home of Alan and Lynda Shean where Alan's topic was Classical Music One Hit Wonders of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

As always Alan's research was meticulous as he related the life stories of the chosen composers who, despite their initial success, were not able to join the "big boys", Beethoven, Mozart etc popular at the time.

We listened to music from seven composers: Luigi Boccherini, Pietro Mascagni, Franz Lehar, Albert Ketelbey, Jeremiah Clark, Charles-Marie Widor and Amilcare Ponchielli and then voted for our top three of these.

They were: in third place, Mascari's Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana, in second place, Widor's Symphony No 5 in F minor Op 42 No 1 and in first place was Ponchielli's La Gioconda Ballet Interlude Dance of the Hours which, if you were to hear it, you would recognise from Allan Sherman's 1963 book and comedy song "Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh here I am at Camp Granada". **Linda**

Quiz Group – Co-ordinator Glenys Peverley

Chris set our November quiz, his first one. We were challenged to identify products by a small part of their logo - not too easy. We also brought our knowledge of classic novels and history to bear on some of the rounds. Thank you, Chris.

We next meet on Thursday December 14th at 2:00pm in Bitteswell village hall. You would be very welcome to join us if you haven't been before. Just turn up. **Glenys**

Music and Memories 2 - Co-ordinator Eve Jackson

It was good to be together again in November, after missing three meetings due to illness and holidays. Thank you to everyone who continue to support the group.

This time we heard another varied selection of melodies. These included Matt Munroe, Abba, Tony Bennet, Adam Watkiss, Mama Cass and Jack Jones. Some songs evoke very real memories, others are played purely for pleasure. Always a very enjoyable afternoon with plenty of chat and laughter along with the music. **Eve Jackson**

Wine appreciation – Co-ordinator tba

This is my last report for the wine group as I have tendered my resignation. I have written to all concerned and felt very humbled to receive back so many emails showing appreciation of my efforts over the past couple of years. Thank you to all and although the group will likely be very different from now on, I hope it continues well into the future and is successful. Cheers **Nick**

Photography Group – Co-ordinator Alan Shean



In November we visited the National Memorial Arboretum. Luckily, it was the only fine day in a spell of wet weather. We arrived in time to attend the Two Minutes Silence Service and listen to the talk about the features of the chapel. It is always an emotional experience to walk around the memorials and reflect on the horrors behind these scenes. Fred took us to the memorial plaque which honours his father, a gunner of F Troop, 155 Battery ,172 Field Regiment Royal Artillery who was killed in action in February 1943 aged 30. **Alan**

Ten pin bowling - Co-ordinator: Richard Whittington

The next session will be on Friday December 8th. Meet at the recreation ground at 10.30 am. **Richard**

Bridge – Co-ordinator Kathy Scott-Simons

Bridge Group meets each Friday at June Hartopp's home at 2 pm to play. If members need to know the address, they should contact Linda Patton via the website. **Kathy**

Birdwatching Group – (Co-ordinator Ann Fletcher)

Seven of us travelled to Brandon Nature Reserve on a bright but chilly day. Apart from the usual garden birds (Blue Coal and Great Tits, Chaffinch and Dunnock) we saw a further 15 species of water fowl. The highlight this time was two pairs of Goosander which we had not seen there before.

There is no meeting in December but, for anyone wishing to join the group, we meet again at the Recreation Car park in Lutterworth on 26th January at 9.30am with your lunch pack. Hopefully the café will reopen by then. **Pauline**

Singles Lunchtime Dining Group – Co-ordinator Brian Fowler



12 happy diners gathered at the Hollybush Pub Restaurant in Ashby Parva on Thursday November 16th. The Hollybush retains many olde worlde characteristics with a homely feel and pictures dotted around the walls. There was some warmth in the autumn air so not time yet for the landlord to light the log fire in the bar, but all was cosy enough as we set to in tucking into our pre-ordered meals. As always, the dishes were served up piping hot and it was sometime later when all plates were cleared, before we could catch up on stories and plans for Christmas. For our Christmas repast we will gather at Ullesthorpe Court Hotel Restaurant at 12 noon on Dec 23rd. We are sure to be in Festive mood by then and with promise of Turkey, Christmas Pud, mince pies and all to stretch our tums we can prepare for the Big Day.

Happy Christmas to everyone and a warm welcome awaits any U3A members who would like to join us in 2024 as we sally forth again. **Brian Fowler**

Give it a Go Group –November report Co-ordinator Hamish Patterson

This group is organised by Lutterworth Wycliffe U3A but Lutterworth U3A members are invited if places are available. If you are interested in this group, contact details are given below.

We had 2 activities this month African Drumming and Making Traditional Chinese Dumplings

African Drumming:

Six of us tried our hands at African Drumming. It was great fun and after a while we sounded reasonably rhythmic!

Their group leader was very encouraging and shows us some rudimentary sequences.

If anyone is interested in having a go then the African Drumming meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm in Bitteswell Village Hall. They are not a u3a group and are keen to attract new members.

Chinese Dumplings:

A week later 4 people had a go at making Chinese Dumplings.

It can be a bit messy but everyone was instructed to wear an apron! At the end of the session people got to taste their efforts. Everyone took home some samples for their family.

We are holding another session after the New Year on the 20th January. If anyone wants to have a go then please contact Hamish on the email below.

Contact: wlu3asecretary@gmail.com

NOTICES AND MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

HOPING TO JOIN LUTTERWORTH U3A?

If any members have friends who are interested in joining us, please give details of their address, telephone number and email address to our membership secretary, Liz Ayre.

CURRENT COMMITTEE	
Post	Name
Chair	Brian Poulter
Vice-chair	Glenys Peverley
Secretary/ Minutes Secretary	
Treasurer/ Membership Secretary	Liz Ayre
Social Account Treasurer	Shirley Tegg
Newsletter Editor	Pauline Elliott
Online Coordinator	Roy Maiden
Programme Secretary	Linda Patton
Groups Coordinator	Linda Patton
Committee Member	Lynne Grindlay
Committee Member	Frances Blythe
Committee Member	Caren Simpson
Co-opted member	Mick Barrows (Equipment Organiser)
Co-opted member	June Clayton

MONTHLY MEETINGS AT WYCLIFFE ROOMS - 2nd Tuesday of the month at 09.45am

FORTHCOMING SPEAKERS

December – in house entertainment

January 2024: Richard Hill will entertain us with his talk on "The Life and Works of Agatha Christie"

NEWSLETTER BY POST; E-MAIL or ONLINE

If you change your e-mail address, please let me know so that you do not miss out on your newsletter.

The newsletter is now available on our new website: <https://www.lutterworthu3a.com>. Please click on the Newsletters tab at the top of the page. Roy would like you to check this out and give him any feedback on it. We still have copies on the old <https://u3asites.org.uk/lutterworth> at present. Please contact Pauline if you need a newsletter posted or emailed on Lutterworth.u3a@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER ENTRIES Please ensure group notices and any other news entries are submitted **before** the 29th of the month.

LUTTERWORTH U3A GROUP MEETINGS – TIMING GUIDE

GROUP	LEADER	FREQUENCY	TIME
MONDAY			
Buffet Supper Groups	Gwenda Jones	1 st	From 7.00 pm
Table Tennis	Carole Harrington	Weekly	2.00-4.00
Table Games	Linda Patton	3 rd	2.00-4.30
Music for Fun - Ukulele	Barbara Wilkinson Peter Sneath	2 nd & 4 th	10.00 – 12.00
History Group	Linda Patton	4th	2.15-4.15
TUESDAY			
Reading Group	Joyce Cairney	1 st	10.00-12.00
Music & Memories 1	Gwenda Jones	1st	2.00-4.00
Strolling Group 1	Gwenda Jones	3 rd	am - varies
Strolling Group 2	John Lee	3 rd	am - varies
Short Walks Group	Fay Goodwin Lyn Foxwell	4 th	10.00 onwards
Jazz Group	James Davey	4 th	2.00-4.00
Singing for Fun	Hamish Paterson	1st	10.00-12.00 noon
WEDNESDAY			
Poetry	Betty Wilson	1 st	2.00-4.00
Topical/Current Affairs Group	Richard Whittington	1 st	10.00 onward
1 st Wednesday Walking		1st	As arranged
New Age Kurling Group	Trish and Alan Green, Maggie Hiorns, Sue Dickerson, Lynne Grindlay and Kathy Mason	2 nd & 4 th	2.00-4.00
Scrabble	Glenys Peverley	3 rd	2.30-5.00
Canasta Groups	June Hartopp	3 rd	Group 1 10.00 - 12.00 noon Group 2 2-4pm
4 th Wednesday Walking	Sue & Peter Creeden	4 th	9.30 onward
Petanque	Sue Sharp Rae Flowerday	1 st & 3 rd	11.00 onward
THURSDAY			
Music and Memories 2	Eve Jackson	1st	2.00-4.00
Art Appreciation	Rae Flowerday Sue Woodhead	1st	10.00-12.00
Quiz Group	Glenys Peverley	2 nd	2.00-4.00
Wine Appreciation Group	tba	2 nd	7pm onward
Music Appreciation	John Peverley Tony MacDonald	3 rd	10.00-12.00

FRIDAY			
Photography Group	Alan Shean	1st	10.00-12.00
Bridge	Kathy Scott-Simons	Weekly	2.00-5.00
Canasta Group 1	June Hartopp	1st	10.00-12.00
Ten Pin Bowling	Richard Whittington	2nd	11.00-1.00
Bird Watching Group	Ann Fletcher	4th	9.30 onward
VARIOUS			
New Adventure Group	Ken Patton	As arranged	Varies
Garden Visits	Linda Patton	Varies	Daytime
Singles Takeaway Group	June Clayton	Varies	Evening
Singles Dining	Brian Fowler	Varies	Varies
Joint Golf Section	Mike Harrison Ken Patton	As arranged	Varies

Always check online for possible timing variations.

Please remember to update your online Group page in order to keep your group members and potential new members informed.

CONTACTING GROUP LEADERS

Group leaders have been asked to contact their current group members to provide contact details.

If you need to contact a Group Leader, please go to the membership tab on our website <https://www.lutterworthu3a.com> and send a message to the Groups Coordinator or the Membership Secretary as personal contact details are not being displayed in the newsletter in line with u3a Trust guidelines.