



ISSUE NO. 253

LUTTERWORTH
JANUARY 2024

Notices

YOUR U3A NEEDS YOU!

We may not be at war in Lutterworth U3A but we are in a very delicate position. In order for this U3A to survive we need more people to volunteer to share the work load.

Firstly, Linda (Patton) has been taking on more responsibility in order for us to continue, but now she needs people to relieve her of some of the tasks. Surely from within our membership someone (or a group of people) could be responsible for obtaining a speaker for our monthly meetings. There are other groups in the town who could be approached to pass on details of speakers they have enjoyed. At the moment Linda does this in addition to being the unofficial minuting secretary, running the history group, the board games group, the garden visits, the days out visits, the holidays, the groups co-ordinator and the Leicestershire Network representative. How much longer do you expect her to keep up this heavy schedule?

Happily, two people have offered to take over the running of the monthly refreshments. Someone else has offered to be the minutes secretary and we have another volunteer who will take over the role of treasurer when Liz Ayre steps down in March. This is certainly good news . There will be other vacancies on the committee as two more people have indicated their intention to step down after having served for several years. If you wish the activities that you enjoy to continue, please come forward. The U3A movement was set up for people to use the experiences they obtained earlier in their lives to benefit members within the group. Come forward and offer your talents. You will be given lots of support from a very welcoming committee. **Glenys**

Gill Alford

I regret to let you know that Gill Alford died at the beginning of December, just 13 days after her husband, Tony, a former U3A member also died.

Gill had been a very active member of our U3A, taking on the role of treasurer, using her expertise of previously working in Barclays Bank. She held this position for several years together with co-ordinating the theatre outings group. She enthusiastically took part in group activities. She learnt to play Bridge and Canasta and was a keen member of both groups. She was a member of the quiz group, the poetry group and played in several golf competitions. In one Christmas panto she was Cinderella and did a splendid Egyptian sand-dance with Fred Milsom and Derek Deacon.

Gill was the very epitome of a good U3A member, volunteering in many ways. I hope her lasting legacy will be to encourage many of you to follow her example. **Glenys**

Network News

As you may know, Lutterworth u3a is part of a network of u3as in Leicestershire and Rutland. Members from Lutterworth u3a meet with those from the other u3as several times each year and the

Network Secretary sends a newsletter out regularly with information that he thinks will be of interest to us.

Together with his latest newsletter he enclosed information about a survey being carried out by the NHR (National Institute for Health and Care Research), Nottingham Hearing Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) and the University of Nottingham in collaboration with Alzheimer's Research UK and the RNID (Royal National Institute for Deaf People). A short 10-minute survey has been put together by this body to collect priority questions for future research about the connection between dementia and hearing. They would like members where possible, to complete the survey which can be found at: <https://www.jla.nihr.ac.uk/priority-setting-partnerships/coexisting-dementia-and-hearing-conditions/> Please click on "Complete the survey" near the top of the page.

I am sure that we are all keen to help in any way to prevent dementia. Also, our speaker at the General Meeting in February is from Alto in Lutterworth when we shall be given a lot of information about our hearing. Please help if you can. **Linda**

Proposed New Group

In the New Year, it is proposed that we shall have a new group to replace the Wine Appreciation Group. It will be the Wine and Social group and will meet every two months on the second Thursday in the month.

As the group and its meeting place do not have a license to collect any money for alcohol, it is proposed that a topic will be suggested for either a specific type of wine or a country for each meeting. Members who then state that they would like to attend will be split into groups of six with one pair from each group being asked to bring a red wine from that type or country, another to bring a white wine and the third a rose wine. This means that no member will be paying for any wine other than the bottle that they will bring and share with the others in their group. We can all research the wines that we shall taste if we wish and I shall find out which foods pair best with these wines and when you come to the meeting, we shall share the cost of the food and the hall hire meaning that it will simply be a case of us sharing wines but not paying for anything alcoholic other than the bottle we buy and bring with us.

We shall spend one of the meetings during 2024 visiting a brewery, another visiting Rugby Gin, where I have been told that we can have a go at making our own gin, and another visiting a vineyard. This means that we shall not be meeting in Bitteswell Village Hall for every meeting.

Members are free to arrange social activities for the months in between the visits or those in Bitteswell Village Hall such as going to the Hollybush to play table skittles, going to a pub with a skittle alley or a social with fish and chips in a member's garden in the summer.

It is your u3a and you can let me have your views on what you would like from this group.

I suggest that we have our first meeting in Bitteswell Village Hall on the second Thursday in FEBRUARY with Rioja wines as they produce Red, White and Rose wines. Please let me know if you would like to attend this meeting so that I can form the groups. **Linda**

New banking hub in Lutterworth

For those of you who are not already aware, a new Banking Hub opened in the old Barclays Bank building in the High Street in Lutterworth in early December. It is open Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm where you can make cash deposits, withdrawals and cheque deposits for any bank. Please see the list below of days when each of the following banks will have staff available for any of your other queries:

Monday:	Barclays
Tuesday:	NatWest
Wednesday:	Santander
Thursday:	HSBC
Friday:	Lloyds

Pauline

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

Come and spend an enjoyable afternoon on the third Monday of each month in the Leisure Centre playing card and board games. It is a great venue as there is plenty of parking. Hope to see you there.
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

As is now traditional we enjoyed a Christmas Supper at the home of Linda and Ken Patton, who are very generous and excellent hosts. Twenty-two of us sat at three tables to devour the lovely food prepared by Linda. We had an excellent session afterwards of the television program 'would I lie to you'. Thank you Linda and Ken for such a successful evening.

On January 8th the hosts are Glenys & John and Katie & Howard. Please let your chosen host know what you will be bringing and please be there to start eating at 6.45pm. **Gwenda**

Reading Group - Co-ordinator Joyce Cairney

At the December meeting we discussed "The Marriage Contract" by Maggie O'Farrell. There was quite a long discussion about this book with very conflicting views. With some really liking it and some really disliking . I personally found it good to read with well-drawn characters and scenery descriptions as well as her clothing which were vivid and authentic. It had a very clever ending and I felt it was a good historical novel not to be missed where others found the descriptions A portrait of a young noblewoman married at only fifteen living in terror of her husband's unpredictable behaviour who is constrained and used in her father's and then husband's power game. It wove a rich portrait of life in medieval court. Some of us would read other books by Maggie and others disliked her style very much. Probably the strongest division of views in quite a while within the group.

We will be reading "The Spies" by Michael Frayn to be discussed at the January meeting and looking forward from that we will read and discuss "The Fraud" by Zadie Smith during January to be discussed in February and then "My name is Leon" by Kit de Wale read during February and discussed at the March meeting then finally "Apeirogon" by Colm McCann read during March and discussed in

April! Seem to have done a lot of planning ahead in this last meeting. It will be interesting to see how many more division of views there will be in the New Year!!! **Joyce**

History Group – Co-ordinator Linda Patton

We had our History Group meeting early this month as I did not think that many would turn up on the normal meeting date which, this month would have fallen on Christmas Day.

We met at Linda's house to watch two programmes: one was about Churchill managing to bring the US into WWII and the second was about the Dambusters. Both were very interesting and we learned a lot. We have now finished our discussions about the reign of King George VI and Jill Smith's grand-daughter kindly provided us with a precis of his reign for which we were very grateful.

We return to Bitteswell Village Hall in January to share our research on life in England under the Romans. **Linda**

Music and Memories Group 1 – Co-ordinator Gwenda Jones

We were without Ann and Dilys for this meeting. Ann had received a 'better offer' and Dilys was 'languishing' in the more luxurious hospitality of the Royal Infirmary recovering from an operation, of which she has recovered extremely quickly thankfully. Well done, Dilys!

Obviously being December, the selection of music was very Christmassy starting with The Sussex Carol by the Kings College Choir and finishing with Adeste Fideles by The Three Tenors with Elvis, The Drifters, Rod Stewart, Bing and Johnnie Cash keeping to the theme in between. A really lovely start to the festivities.

We will meet at Jim's house on the 2nd of January to start another year. Please let Jim know if you will be attending. **Gwenda**

Poetry Group - Coordinator Elizabeth Wilson

T'was the night before Christmas when all through the house,
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

By Clement Clarke Moore.

December's meeting was delightful with so many different aspects of Christmas from skilled poets. Some were seriously and sensitively written and others were atmospheric and descriptive, and others were very amusing, like ones by John Betjeman and Pam Ayers. It was a lovely ending to our poetry year.

A big thank you from me to all our members for coming all this way to Ullesthorpe and contributing, not only finding great poems, but great refreshments and good companionship.

There is no meeting in January so we start again on February 7th with poems by Coleridge. Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and a healthy and safe New Year, **Betty**

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

Instead of invading villages, in December, we had our usual combined Christmas lunch party on the same day as the general meeting where 49 of us enjoyed an excellent lunch at the Wycliffe Rooms. We both would like to thank you all so much for your kind gift to us, which is most appreciated as we generally enjoy our days out as much as you do. We will be back at the desk at the January general meeting with details of the January Strolls **Gwenda and John**

Short Walks Group – Co-ordinators Fay Goodwin/Lyn Foxwell no report

Jazz Group – Co-ordinator James Davey

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

Topical Discussion Group - Co-ordinator: Richard Whittington

What is the best way to spend Christmas?

1. Celebrate with family and friends. This was the most usual way for all of us to spend Xmas, especially with grandchildren.
2. Give back to the community. Charity lunches are a good example. Preparing hampers for the less fortunate, as many schools do.
3. Enjoy festive decorations. Many properties have superb displays as do many villages and churches. This may also help charities.
4. Traditions. The Xmas lunch, carol singing, midnight mass, concerts.
5. Exchange gifts. This is both traditional and a usual way to celebrate with the family although it may be very expensive!
6. Cooking and baking. Not always easy for the host with so many food problems these days. In hotter climates and different countries, it may need to be completely different to the usual British Xmas lunch.
7. Christmas films, repeats of various comedy shows, Carols at Kings. We all do some of these each year, especially after Xmas lunch!
8. Enjoy Nature. A good walk after lunch, a walk in Bradgate Park. These can also be a good family outing.
9. Relax and unwind. Family statistics show that Xmas may be a very stressful time for some families so finding time for relaxation is very important.
10. Travel. Nowadays this is much more common but is also very expensive. Traditionally Xmas has also been the time to start planning 'Summer Holidays'. Where families are involved travel at Xmas may be more problematic.

We all expressed our desires to spend Xmas in probably a more traditional way, which would include most of the ten suggestions above.

Our second topic was: Should we keep the Elgin Marbles?

We had many different opinions. To the Greeks they are like the crown jewels. Lord Elgin obtained them legally so we should keep them. How many of our population have even seen them or know what they are? If we give them back, then what about all the other museum artifacts which came from other countries?

The next meeting will be on January 3rd, 2024! **Richard**

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

The walk took place on the second Wednesday in December to avoid the busy Christmas period. There were 11 walkers that started from the Newton Lindford car park in Bradgate Park. There would have been 12 but one walker got stuck in a traffic jam near Whetstone and failed to arrive

Although we managed to almost complete the walk without it raining (there was actually a couple of minutes) it was grey and overcast and the recent wet weather made the first part particularly sloshy". It was uphill and there was a strong keen wind blowing in our faces. Full credit to the walkers they didn't complain (well not to me) and they gallantly soldiered on. We followed the park perimeter wall passing the Hunts Hill Gate and eventually reaching Hallgates to join the tarmac path. As we walked along the path, we watched students from Loughborough University training. Running, sometimes sprinting, back and forth from the Visitors Centre to Hallgates.

On reaching the Deer Barn Café we stopped for a break. Sue and I produced some mince pies out of our rucksack which went down well. A couple went into the café, such luxury! We then continued on along the path to the Bradgate House ruins where we turned off to ascend towards Old John. We passed a herd of deer grazing and as we rounded Bowling Green Spinney the weather started to look threatening. The plan was to go up to the War Memorial but the executive decision was to bolt back to

the car park as quickly as possible. Everybody appeared to enjoy the fresh air and the delightful scenery that Bradgate offers **Peter Creedon**

Wednesday 24 January 2024

Walk Organisers:- Sue and Peter Creedon

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

Start Point and Time:- Wharf Inn, Welford (NN6 6JQ) at 10:00am. Toilets will be available.

Directions to start:- Leave Lutterworth southbound towards the Whittle roundabout. Join the A4303 crossing the motorway to pass through Walcote and North Kilworth. After leaving North Kilworth and passing the marina, take the first right onto Station Road towards Welford. At the next T-junction, turn right. After about 1 mile, the Wharf Inn is on your right. The entrance is before the pub, with ample parking behind

Route and Distance:- The route is essentially the Mary Gilbert Walk, a mix of canal towpaths, field paths, tracks and hard surfaces, which a lot of us have done many times before. There will be a couple of small variations. There is, unfortunately, a lot of canal walking but with the very wet weather we have had recently, with not much sign of it improving, we were struggling to find a walk without too much mud (we got red carded last year for that). Saying that, unless it is frozen underfoot there "will" still be "some" mud. The distance is approximately 5 miles with 3 stiles.

Lunch Arrangements:- We will pre-order before we set off on the walk. Lite Bites start from £7:50. Sandwiches or a fuller menu are also available. Alas, no crumble but there is sticky toffee pudding

Scrabble Group - Co-ordinator Glenys Peverley

Six of us played at Linda's. Before the tea break one board was able to play two games during the time the others played one game. The outcome was that during the whole afternoon Linda won THREE games instead of her usual two! Congratulations to her being the overall champion. We next meet on January 17th at 2:30pm at Glenys's house. We'd welcome new members.

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

Although we have finished playing for the 2023 season, 17 of us gathered at Pesto in Wolvey for a celebratory lunch. We all had a very good mix of tapas dishes which made a welcome change from all the usual turkey dinners! Many thanks to Sue Sharpe for organising. The new season starts again next April with further details, nearer the time. **Pauline Elliott**

Art Appreciation – Co-ordinators Rae Flowerday and Sue Woodhead

Looking for Lowry

Our December meeting started with a glass of sherry (well it is Christmas) while being entertained by a documentary film about the life and work of the much-loved British artist L.S. LOWRY. This film is narrated, amusingly, by Ian McKellen. He illuminates Lowry's extraordinary vision, as we meet those

who knew him and those who have been inspired by his unique observations of Britain and his powerful artistic legacy.

We all agreed while discussing the film, how interesting, a person, we found Lowry to be. All this, while enjoying coffee and mince pies.

Apologies to Sue and Gordon for meeting in Feb 1st **Rae**

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

For our December meeting members were invited to bring along a piece of music to share with the group, and, if possible, a piece suggested by something we had read or something with a festive association. The outcome was an enjoyable mix of varied music. We heard "Galliard to Lachrimae", a piece for the lute by John Dowland, which was triggered by Rose Tremain's "Music and Silence". "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles gave rise to "Little Nocturne" by Chopin. "Phantom of the Opera" based on a book of the same name by Gaston Leroux featured, as did Brahms' Violin Concerto suggested by a biography of the composer. The Overture to Rienzi by Wagner was prompted by a reference to a Roman leader of that name in a poem by Byron. We heard the theme tune written by John Williams from Spielberg's film "Schindler's List" following thoughts of war by the writer and broadcaster Simon Reeve. Festive music was provided by the beautiful "Shepherd's Farewell" from Berlioz's "L'Enfance du Christ" and "Unto you is born a Saviour" by Purcell.

Thanks to John and Glenys for hosting the meeting and providing festive fare. Our next meeting will be at Tony's house on 18th January 2024. **Alan**

Quiz Group – Co-ordinator Glenys Peverley

Linda set the quiz in December. We battled with devilish Dingbats, Palindromes, Charles Dickens characters and numbers as table tops titles. Challenging!

The rounds were general knowledge, British sitcoms and Christmas lotto. A good afternoon was had by all, although numbers were lower than usual.

Our quiz in January is on the 11th in Bitteswell village hall at 2:00pm set by Marilyn. If you would like to join us and haven't been before just turn up. We'd like to see you. **Glenys**

Music and Memories 2 - Co-ordinator Eve Jackson – no report



Photography Group – Co-ordinator Alan Shean

We travelled to Market Harborough in December for an evening session of photography. Many pictures were taken of the Christmas lights, shop windows, colourful street stalls, fair ground, steam rollers and reindeers. The church had a beautiful illuminated Nativity scene with ukulele players performing and mulled wine available to add to the festive atmosphere.

There will be no meeting in January. We'll meet again on February 2nd 2024. **Alan**

Ten pin bowling - Co-ordinator: Richard Whittington

The January session will be on January 12th. Meet at the recreation ground at 10.30am. **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) – no meeting. Next is Friday 26 Jan 24.

Singles Lunchtime Dining Group – Co-ordinator Brian Fowler

For our Christmas repast we will gather at Ullesthorpe Court Hotel Restaurant at 12 noon on Dec 23rd. **Brian**

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	Glenys Peverley
Vice-chair	
Secretary/ Minutes Secretary	Linda Patton
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 09.45

FORTHCOMING SPEAKERS

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

February 2024: Adam Bostock from Alto Hearing

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 available on our website: <https://lutterworthu3a.com> and click on the Newsletters tab at the top of the page. Please contact Pauline if you need a newsletter posted or e-mailed.

Contact details: 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	4 th	2.15-4.15
TUESDAY			
Reading Group	Joyce Cairney	1 st	10.00-12.00
Music & Memories 1	Gwenda Jones	1 st	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		4 th	2.00-4.00
Singing for Fun	Hamish Paterson	1 st	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		1 st	As arranged
New Age Kurling Group	Trish and Alan , Maggie , Sue D, Lynne and Kathy	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	1 st	2.00-4.00
Art Appreciation	Rae Flowerday Sue Woodhead	1 st	10.00-12.00
Quiz Group	Glenys Peverley	2 nd	2.00-4.00
Wine and Social Group		2 nd	7pm Onward
Music Appreciation	John Peverley Tony MacDonald	3 rd	10.00-12.00
FRIDAY			
Photography Group	Alan Shean	1 st	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.

Please use the contact option button at the top of the website - <https://u3asites.org.uk/lutterworth> (COPY AND PASTE INTO YOUR BROWSER) to send a message to the Groups Coordinator or the Membership Secretary if you wish to contact a group leader as personal contact details are not being displayed in the newsletter in line with u3a Trust guidelines.