



ISSUE NO. 256

LUTTERWORTH

April 2024

Notices

Lutterworth Strollers

It was with great sadness that I heard from Gwenda that she and John are giving up leading their two Strolling Groups after 19 years. They have been stalwarts of Lutterworth u3a and we are extremely grateful for all the hard work that they have put in.

They have travelled month after month to villages in the area to recce places of interest and to eat and the members of the Strolling Groups have really enjoyed their outings. Gwenda and John asked their members if anyone, or group of people, was willing to take over the roles of leading the group. They have details which I am sure they will pass on about the villages and I am sure that these groups will not fail. **Linda**

New adventure group

There are two adventures/experiences arranged which you may wish to take part in. The first is White Water Rafting at Holme Pierrepont on Wednesday June 19th at the cost of £43 per head. We did this adventure 5 years ago and only lost one member so thought we would have another go!!!!

The second is going to Mallory Park on Monday May 6th to a motor cycle race day. This is an all-day event and if we have 20 going along the cost will be reduced from £15 to £12 per person.

Please let me know if you would like to book on either event. **Ken**

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. **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 Groups 1 and 2 – Co-ordinator Gwenda Jones no report

Reading Group - Co-ordinator Joyce Cairney

At our March meeting we discussed "The Whalebone Theatre" by Joanna Quinn. It was her debut novel set in Dorset, where she now lives, and follows the lives of three children in the period 1919 to 1945. Cristobel and her half-siblings receive little parental attention and one day come across a whale which is washed up on the nearby beach. With the benefit of many adventure books found in the library, their minds are awash with stories and when Taras, a bohemian artist, arrives on the scene, he encourages them to put on a play. The skeleton of the whale is used to make the theatre's stage. The book follows the lives of these characters with both Cristobel and her half-brother Digby working in Nazi-controlled France with the French resistance. We learned a great deal about the work of the SOE and Land Army as well as the way in which the county set lived their lives in the Jazz age.

The book was nominated for several book awards being chosen by HM Queen Camilla for her book group, "The Reading Room", and was liked by members of the Reading Group, whose only negative comment was that it was a trifle too long.

At the April book group meeting, we shall discuss ""Apeirogon" by Colum McCann and our choice for May is "Our Man in Havana" by Graham Green. We are a friendly group, so if you enjoy reading a wide variety of books and sharing your views with others, please come along to our meetings on the first Tuesday in each month. **Linda**

History Group – Co-ordinator Linda Patton

At our March meeting we had a talk by Bob Wells from Lutterworth Museum. He brought along many items that he had made based on things that he had found out whilst field-walking to look for evidence of life in and around Lutterworth over many years.

He told us that he had always been interested in things left behind by others and had joined a group that reported to Leicester museum. He told us how weapons and other items were made and used and touched on the finds made near Cotesbach where evidence has been found of Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon life in the area.

I told members about a group set up at another u3a that studied the lives of Women in History and suggested that we set up a similar group but some members have stated that they would prefer this to be interspersed within the normal History Group timetable. I propose, therefore, to look at the life of Aethelflaed, Lady of the Mercians and eldest child of King Arthur at the April meeting. If you have any interesting items or facts to share at this meeting, please bring them along. **Linda**

Music and Memories Group 1 – Co-ordinator Gwenda Jones

On a lovely sunny afternoon, 8 of us met at Ken's for an equally lovely afternoon's music. We listened to the usual variety of music starting with 'Try to remember' followed by Operetta, The Hollies, Cantabile Youth Choir, then light numbers from the 50s and 60s, Bryn Terfel with Brahms's Lullaby, then more 50s and 60s. Linda's delicious cake at half time, then more lovely light and enjoyable music.

Next month we shall be at Gwenda's. Please let her know if you are able to be there. **Dilys England**

Poetry Group - Coordinator Elizabeth Wilson

In March members focussed their choices on the topic of CHILDREN and during the course of the afternoon session, hosted by Nohline Ruff., we read and listened to a wide range of poetic works. Some poems were melancholic, some greatly humorous and verses took us from life as a Chimney Sweep, school days, the thoughts of a Farm child and included works from Hilaire Belloc, Seamus Heaney, Dylan Thomas, William Blake to name but a few of the famous poets whilst also including verses written by children aged between 10 and 14 who may one day bask in fame for enjoyment of future generations.

All in all, a wonderful way to spend two hours and the group looks forward to April with the topic of Spring Flowers and into May when members will select and read their own favourite poems. New members welcome to join us on the first Wednesday in the month. **Brian Fowler**

Strolling Groups 1 and 2 – Co-ordinators (tba)

Group 1

We visited Kilsby Village for our stroll in March and visited the Church of St Faith which became a church in 1350. We were particularly interested in the window behind the Altar.

Matthew Holbeche Bloxam, steward of Kilsby Manor for 36 years in the 1870's made this window happen. Born in Rugby in 1805 where he attended Rugby School, he started off as a solicitor and went on to become a famous antiquary and wrote a book on Gothic Architecture. He located, in 1836, to the Roman Town of Trimontium (the three bridges). It was a military frontier post in AD 47. There were large public bath houses, an administrative building and an Inn. There were pottery and coins which are now in Rugby Museum as well as a statue of Bloxam. He was the sole author of the William Webb Ellis story. He died in 1888 and is buried in Brownsover Churchyard. He became, obviously a very wealthy man and so we had a beautiful window to look at on our stroll.

We ended our stroll with an excellent meal at the Red Lion in Kilsby. **Gwenda**

Group 2

Stoneleigh Village was the destination for our March Stroll and we visited the beautiful church of St Mary the Virgin. The earliest sandstone structure of the church is 12th century, much of which remains.

A Norman arch, which is in fine condition, leads to the Chancel. Most of the carving on this sandstone arch would have been done by monks and is over a thousand years old. The limestone font is late 12th century and features the twelve apostles. It is thought to have come from Maxstoke Priory in North Warwickshire and brought to the church by the Leigh family in the 19th century. The oak box pews are Georgian (1821), the oak coming from the Stoneleigh estate.

The Leigh family have some interesting history. In the 1640's Civil War they fought on the side of Charles I. Later Chandos Leigh, a minor poet, became a friend of Lord Byron. There is also a connection with Jane Austen and it is believed Mansfield Park was based on Stoneleigh Abbey. In 1960 a big fire caused serious damage to the Abbey and the family moved to Addlestrop.

At this point two poems were read out by Brian and Alan which referred to Addlestrop and the First World War. We were given lots of interesting facts about the church and the Leigh family by Alan. We walked into the lovely village of Stoneleigh and saw Alms houses, the old village smithy and several picture postcard cottages, after which we travelled to the Stoneleigh Deer Park Golf Club and enjoyed a lovely lunch in beautiful surroundings. **Linda Griffin.**

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

A lovely sunny Spring day saw 14 of us walking at Coombe Abbey. It was very busy due to Easter Hols, lots of Mums and youngsters feeding the water fowls and plenty of dog walkers . It was lovely to see the trees and shrubbery starting to break into leaf and hear the birds singing their Spring song. We then had lunch at the Lime Kiln farm shop at Brinklow. Next walk should be a bluebell walk through Burbage Wood subject to the weather and underfoot conditions. We meet at Coventry Road recreation ground car park at 10.00 am on April 23rd. Please join us the more the merrier. **Fay**

Jazz Group – Co-ordinator James Davey

The fact that there is nothing new to say about our March meeting means that, as usual, we had a good meeting with a varied programme, and a chat about jazz and other important matters, during refreshment break.

Our next meeting is at Vicki and Bob's on 23rd April **Jim Davey**

Topical Discussion Group - Co-ordinator: Richard Whittington

Topic 1 Conscription, should this be resumed?

There were a variety of responses that were generally not in favour. The UK could go neutral, for suitable cases the forces could be an alternative to prison. The services nowadays are very technical and require a higher level of skill than in the past. There is no longer such a high degree of national unity. Those under forty are very against conscription despite the abilities to learn new skills. After past conflicts many suffered for both physical and mental health problems.

At present there is some doubt as to the effectiveness of our armed services so many could see conscription as a necessary evil, but many would see this as against their free will and beliefs.

Topic 2 Is trial by jury good or bad.

The idea for this topic came after watching two recent series concerning trials and their debateable verdicts.

At present there is a very large backlog of cases awaiting a verdict, to complete all of these by jury would be almost impossible. The deliberations of juries are kept secret, in the UK for ever.

Juries are not accountable for their verdicts but the judge has discretion over the sentences.

Miscarriages are mainly due to poor witnesses whether expert or not.

In general, juries have compassion, but they do not receive any training in how they should discuss their possible verdict or the various meanings of the law.

The next meeting will be on April 3rd.

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

March 2024 Walk Report

In sunny cool weather of 7C, 14 walkers met at the Bell Inn Gumley for a planned 4.75 mile figure of 8 return route to Laughton (last walked in October 2019). However, due to recent rainfall it was suggested at the last minute to halve the field walking distance to 1.6 miles and replace it with quiet roads. Since this also eliminated 4 of the 5 stiles it was strangely accepted.

Our walk began by turning left off Main Street and descending through bridle gates and horse meadows (at times facing a strong cold wind) to a waterlogged stile at a small brook. Crossing over and swinging right along a squelchy, part flooded bridle way we passed through a watery bridal gate opposite Gumley Lodge and walked along the drive's grassy verge to its internal fence.

Bearing left we then climbed uphill through more puddled bridle gates and squelchy sheep meadows, and skirted a small copse to arrive at the minor road leading to Laughton's eclectic village. I think our parting thoughts on reaching this point were – just how could anyone be walking uphill and still have surface water underfoot?

Taking our (just-above) half-way" break at the 13th century church of St Luke, picture included to keep you all awake, we then departed for Gumley in a small shower along a quiet previously-gated road. Well, it was quiet, except for some mad black-clad cyclist who tried to run us over.



Even in the less than ideal conditions the panoramic views proved to be impressive, especially those from the unfenced section of our road; Saddington reservoir being clearly visible a mile away and 165 feet below. A further bonus was that we had retained most of our elevation from Laughton, and thus avoided the killer hill at the end of the original route.

After reaching the cosy, beamed Bell Inn around 12.10pm and avoiding another small shower, at bang on our 12.30pm target the proprietor Michelle and chef Marie made sure that our 10 diners and 2 later arrivals enjoyed some super home-cooked lunches, Crumble wasn't on the menu this time but delicious apple pie was; of course, served the proper way with custard in a jug. **Tony Allen and Paul Butler**

Wednesday 24 April 2024

Walk Organiser:- Nigel Bones

Meeting Point and Time For Lifts:- Lutterworth Recreation Ground car park at 09.20am to leave at 09.25am.

Start Point and Time: Bull's Head, Brinklow (9 Coventry Rd, Brinklow, CV23 0NE). Start of walk at 10.00am. There is plenty of parking but please park at the rear of the car park. Toilets will be available before the walk commences.

Directions to start:- Take the Lutterworth by-pass to A5 roundabout at Magna Park then B4027 to Brinklow. Turn right at T junction in Brinklow, The pub is on the right

Route and Distance:- From the pub we will turn left and walk along the Coventry Road. Crossing over the Rugby Road we continue along the B4455 and then turn left into Rugby Road. At its junction with Cathiron Lane, we pick up a footpath to reach Kings Newnham. We then turn left and walk along the road to pick up a footpath that passes Highfields to reach Cathiron Lane. Walking along Cathiron Lane we leave it to reach the Oxford Canal. Turning left and walking along the canal towpath we leave it at to get back onto Cathirons Lane and return along the road to the pub. It is approx. 4.5miles with approx. 6 stiles.

Lunch Arrangements:- You will not require to pre-order (and the food is excellent value). **Peter Creedon**

Scrabble Group - Co-ordinator Glenys Peverley

Only six of us met at Brenda's but a good social time nevertheless. It was Liz's birthday, so it was especially heartening that she won both her games and was the Champion. (She'd also won at Canasta in the morning - a memorable day for her!)

We next meet at Liz and David's on Wednesday, April 17th at 2:30pm. We would be happy to have 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

New season starts on 3rd April at Pesto's in Wolvey. **Sue Sharp**

Art Appreciation – Co-ordinators Rae Flowerday and Sue Woodhead

We return to Florence to some memorable architecture of early 15C. The lecture focuses on work by Brunelleschi and Alberti.

Brunelleschi's most famous commission was to design and complete the building of the dome of the Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral in Florence. Now, famously known as the "Duomo", Latin for 'house' therefore, being, 'the house of God'. This work, together with other projects made Brunelleschi the most visible architect in Florence. Outside Florence, Leon Battista Alberti (1404-1472) designed two churches in Mantua. Alberti is one of the seminal figures in Renaissance culture because of his architecture and because of his writings on art and architectural theory and practise. After coffee we repeated a lecture which had been watched last year. Nevertheless, repeating, Whistler, Degas, and Renoir, gave us enough renewed impetus for discussion.

The meeting on 2nd May takes us to Jan Van Eyck and Northern Renaissance. Apologies to **Rae**.

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

"When to the sessions of sweet sound and thought, we summoned up the remembrance of people past."

John's idea was that we would play pieces of music from past programmes which former members of the music group had chosen. Our founder, Barry Capon, really enjoyed Beethoven's music and had chosen in March 2003 part of his 8th symphony. Mary Carter's choice was Bryn Terfel; Hazel Francis—Chopin's Berceuse; John Adams had a Telemann's Trumpet Concerto. And so on. Dilys was our host and after lovely refreshments we submitted our own choices including The British Grenadiers, Karl Jenkins' Pie Jesu, Bruck's violin concerto and more . It is sometimes good to reflect as our own days hasten. Remembrances can make one feel deliciously aged!

We next meet on Thursday April 19th at 10:00am at Judith's. **John Peverley**

Quiz Group – Co-ordinator Glenys Peverley

Sue set a good, varied quiz in March. We were taxed by anagrams of American Presidents and British Prime Ministers and the ubiquitous Dingbats. We were also taken back to the Sixties, Kings and Queens and authors. Thanks Sue.

We next meet at Bitteswell village hall on Thursday April 11th at 2:00pm. If you would like to join us just turn up. Barbara will be quizmaster. **Glenys**

Music and Memories 2 - Co-ordinator Eve Jackson

Our numbers were somewhat depleted at our March meeting, leaving us with a 'select group' of four. However, this did not detract from a very enjoyable afternoon.

We heard first of all from Rosemary Clooney. Of course, we all remembered her, but none of us had heard her music recently. This was followed by melodies from Shirley Bassey, Cliff Richard, Scott Walker & the Walker Brothers amongst others.

We had a lovely piece of country music by an unknown artist, followed by Fields of Gold, played by harpist Rebecca Mills, who I was fortunate enough to meet when on holiday. A great afternoon! Tea and cake are always popular too! **Eve**



Wine and Social Group – Co-ordinator – Linda Patton

Sadly, due to Covid, the Wine Group meeting in February had to be cancelled. I propose to carry over what we were going to do in February until the second Thursday in April. Same venue same wines. I am very sorry for the cancellation. **Linda**

Photography Group – Co-ordinator Alan Shean

In March on a damp and cold day we were pleased to be able to go to Swinford Church where Lynne had arranged for it to be opened and the heating put on. After a productive session we headed for Lynne's house to enjoy some much appreciated and very tasty refreshments. We also looked at some classic cameras belonging to Lynne.

One of Sue's pictures is attached to this report. **Alan**

Ten pin bowling - Co-ordinator: Richard Whittington

The next session will be at the Nuneaton Bowl on April 12th at 11.00am. **Richard**

Bridge – Co-ordinator Kathy Scott-Simons

The Bridge Group now meets fortnightly at June Hartopp's home as from the 19th January. If members need to know the address they contact Linda Patton via the website. **Kathy Scott-Simons**

Birdwatching Group – (Co-ordinator Ann Fletcher)

The weather was kind to us today. We managed to spot 40 different species of birds. We observed a small flock of Sand Martins, we heard Chiff chaffs singing hopefully a sign that spring is on its way. The next meet will be on Friday 26th April. We meet at the Recreation car park at 9.30, with you pack up . We are a friendly group and welcome new members. **Ann**

Garden Group – Co-ordinator Linda Patton

As we are not going out with the Garden Group in May due to the u3a holiday, and, as the Garden Group outing to Quinton is full with a few on the waiting list, I wanted to offer you something else Garden-group wise.

I have spoken to Anna Smith who is willing to offer us a Flower-arranging afternoon on Thursday June 20th. The entry price and venue have not yet been decided as I need to know some numbers before I can give you more information but the ticket price will include a raffle ticket with a chance to win one of the arrangements and refreshments so I hope that you will take this chance for an enjoyable afternoon.

I shall have a list where you can let me know if you are interested at the April General Meeting. **Linda**

Singles Lunchtime Dining Group – Co-ordinator Brian Fowler

There was no lunch session for the group in March as on the scheduled date leader Brian was attending a funeral and other folk were on holiday. So, we will welcome a get together on Thursday 18th April at Foxton Locks Restaurant.

Details from Brian Fowler e mail fowlerclaybrooke@aol.com or at Wycliffe Rooms April meeting. **Brian**

New Adventure Group – Co-ordinator Ken Patton

Twenty-two of us made our way to Coventry to watch Coventry Blaze's Ice Hockey match against the Cardiff Devils. The play was fast and furious and, although most of us did not know the rules, it was very absorbing. The atmosphere was great with music booming whenever there was a break in play and those watching singing along or clapping. Coventry Blaze managed to win by the only goal scored but their goalkeeper had to work hard with at least two attempts by the devils hitting the goal posts and the goalie holding on to several attempted shots. I think that we all had an enjoyable time. **Ken**

Golf Group – Co-ordinators Ken Patton and Mike Harrison

The first golf day of 2024 will be at Whetstone Golf Club on Wednesday April 17th. We shall meet at 11 am for bacon rolls and coffee with tee-off times starting at 12 noon. There will be a meal afterwards at which friends and partners can join us. The meal will consist of steak pie and crumble at the cost of £12.50 per person. The cost of the golf is £22.50 and golf buggies are available at £15 each. If you would like to join us, please let Ken or Mike Harrison know. **Ken**

Take-away Supper Club – Co-ordinator June Clayton

Nohline hosted the supper club and provided us with a delicious Greek menu –home-made moussaka with salads and breads, followed by figs, yogurt and baklava. What a feast! Thank you Nohline for a delightful evening. **June Clayton**

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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, Peter Williamson.

CURRENT COMMITTEE	
Post	Name
Chair	Glenys Peverley
Vice-chair	June Clayton (temp)
Secretary/ Minutes Secretary	Linda Griffin
Treasurer/ Membership Secretary	Peter Williamson
Social Account Treasurer	Shirley Tegg
Newsletter Editor	Pauline Elliott
Online Coordinator	Roy Maiden (not on Committee)
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)
Committee member	Nicky Turner-Powell

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

FORTHCOMING SPEAKERS –

April – Jo Golby ‘Top to Toe - the Price of Vanity’

May – Peter Turner-Powell – Life as a Surveyor

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. Photos are welcome but please can they be sent to the Editor as a .jpeg if possible. Please contact Pauline if you need a newsletter posted or e-mailed. **Contact details: Lutterworth.u3a@gmail.com**

The newsletter is available on our website: <https> - click on the Newsletters tab at the top of the page. Please ensure group notices and any other news entries are submitted **before** the 29th of the month.

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 page on the website - <https://lutterworthu3a.com> to send a message to the Groups Coordinator or the Membership Secretary or any Group Leader. Personal contact details are not being displayed in the newsletter in line with u3a Trust guidelines

