



ISSUE NO. 255

LUTTERWORTH

March 2024

Notices

AGM and Annual lunch

This is a reminder that our next meeting on 12th March is our AGM and we would like as many of you to attend as possible. The following day, Wednesday 13th March, is our Annual Lunch. Please can anyone who has not already paid for this please give your money to Linda. She needs all money for the lunch by the AGM. **Pauline**

Garden Visit

On the morning before we were due to set out to see the beautiful display of snowdrops at Thenford Arboretum, I received an email from the venue telling me that the gardens would be closed due to torrential rains over the weekend.

I had to change the coach, for which we had paid, until August 2nd. Thenford Arboretum will be open once more on that date and I have asked them to book us in on that date instead. It is a garden for all seasons and will be, I'm sure, a lovely place to visit then.

Of course, not all who booked to go to see the snowdrops will be available in August and have been told that they can request a refund. **Linda**

Bridge

We have had enquiries from members over the years who have wanted to play Bridge and that is why I started the Card and Board Games Group. We now have a new member who is prepared to help lead a second Bridge Group if we have enough interest. At present, the only way to play other than with the present Bridge Group, which meets every two weeks, is at the Card and Board Games Group which meets in the Wellbeing Hub at the Leisure Centre on the third Monday each month at 2 pm.

If you do want to play PLEASE let me know so that we can start a second group. **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

We had a very good turnout at our February meeting. I hope to take two tables suitable to play Bridge to the March meeting so if you want to play Bridge, we may have enough players for two tables. There will also be another new game available for us to try so come along and join us. It is much better than sitting indoors when the weather is so inclement. **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

Ten of us assembled at the home of Brian Fowler for our monthly Buffet Supper. As usual Brian was extremely organised when we arrived, with two tables beautifully set out for us. The food arriving with the members was of a very high standard and was later found to taste as good as it looked. The conversation afterwards was at times serious but more often hilarious. Another very good Buffet Supper, thank you Brian. **Gwenda**

Buffet Supper Group 2

Predictably the varied dishes that were brought to Alan and Lynda's were exceedingly good. To help settle the food we enjoyed a quiz with a difference which generated a great deal of laughter. The evening passed very quickly as we reflected on the state of the nation and the world. Fortunately, the raconteurs in the group provided the humorous relief. **Alan**

The March Supper hosts are Brenda and Mick and Roy and Barbara and in April it is the turn of Sue or Carole. Please let your chosen host know what you are bringing and please be there to start eating at 6.45pm. **Gwenda**

Reading Group - Co-ordinator Joyce Cairney –

No report this month. Next meeting is on 5th March discussing "The Whalebone Theatre".

History Group – Co-ordinator Linda Patton

We spent another meeting discussing life for Britons under Roman rule this month and plan to look at life in Saxon times at the March meeting. **Linda**

Music and Memories Group 1 – Co-ordinator Gwenda Jones

We welcomed a new member this month which now brings us up to full capacity. Once again we enjoyed the music or singing of many of our youthful memories. We were all amazed at how we could remember all of the words of songs of fifty or more years ago but could not recall the name of the next village to ours at times. We listened to 'oldies' like Bob Dylan, The Walker Brothers, The Bee Gees, Gerry and the Pacemakers and Dickie Valentine and many more. It was raining outside but we didn't notice that. Another enjoyable afternoon.

On March 5th we will meet again at the home of Ken. **Gwenda**

Poetry Group - Co-ordinator Elizabeth Wilson

The members of the group gathered in Claybrooke on Feb 7th with the works of Samuel Taylor Coleridge on the agenda. Group Leader Betty was unable to lead the session as she had been hospitalized shortly after Christmas and was still recovering. Good wishes for her speedy return to health were expressed.

Coleridge, born in 1772 had been a close friend of Wordsworth and Charles Lamb during his lifetime and had nurtured a great love for Wordsworth's sister-in-law Mary Hutchinson. Like Wordsworth Coleridge lived for several years in The Lake District. Many of his poems reflected the influence of nature on his life and through a great deal of his writing his melancholy and indeed the influences of drug taking can be discerned. His poems Kubla Khan and The Rime of The Ancient Mariner will have been studied by many a scholar and many of the passages from The Mariner were recalled by those present.

In March, the group will meet on when the topic will be Children and then on 3rd April the focus will be on Spring Flowers. **Brian Fowler**

Strolling Groups 1 and 2 – Co-ordinators Gwenda Jones and John Lee - no meeting in February. Back in March.

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

Bouskell Park in Blaby was our destination for our shorter walk. It's very small so 9 of us walked round it twice! It was a very cold day and a bit muddy after all the rain with lots of water, more ponds than normal. After, we walked into Blaby and had refreshments at Jennas.

Next walk 26th March 10.00 Coventry Road car park Coombe Abbey weather permitting and a following wind. **Fay**

Jazz Group – Co-ordinator James Davey

We held our usual fourth Tuesday in the month meeting and as usual, we were able to listen to a varied programme of music from all the many different eras of jazz. This combined with conversation and refreshments at the half way point make a very enjoyable afternoon's entertainment. **Jim Davey**

Topical Discussion Group - Co-ordinator: Richard Whittington

1. Should the children conceived by sperm donors have the right to know who their biological father was?

In general, these donations were made from kindness and with the understanding that they were anonymous. However, nowadays they can be traced using DNA and genealogy. This may open a whole can of worms. What about the relationship with their parents? It is very difficult to empathise

either way. Some who successfully traced their trees found that they had several half siblings, was that good or bad. What about the donor whose family suddenly expanded?

2. Two teenagers murder another teenager. Was the sentence correct and what led up to the murder. Was the internet to blame? What about the cost involved in prison sentences?

The sentences were approved. It was felt that the internet, in particular the 'Dark Web' almost certainly had an effect as did the use of social media. Is it possible to redeem such murderers? The cost for those underage is considerable. Should mobile phones with social media be banned for those under 16 or 18? Should parents receive training on social media and use by children?

The next meeting will be on Wednesday March 6th at 10.00am.

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

Mike and Lesley Chapman lead this walk. As 18 of us gathered to set off Mike announced that when they checked the route at the weekend they found some stretches, because of the incessant wet weather, had become a bit heavy going and unsuitable for the group. Over the weekend they had to frantically try to find a revised route. Without changing the start and finish this was a bit challenging and they had to eventually compromise on a 'there and back' route. In all my U3A walking experience this was a first.

The weather was overcast. We set off westwards around the back of Dunchurch village leaving the houses into going into the countryside to pass Ryefield Farm. We then turned south towards Draycott Reservoir passing under the M45. This was just passable. Reaching the tarmacked perimeter road we took the anticlockwise direction, passing Thurlaston, until we had walked about 2.5 miles where we stopped for a break. At this point the rain started to mizzle a bit, encouraging some walkers to put on their waterproofs only for it to stop so soon as we had started off again. We then retraced our outbound route covering 4.8 miles in total.

Despite all the trials and tribulations encountered by our leaders this was an extremely pleasant walk made even better by the fact that instead of the sticky clay you get on your boots around Lutterworth I could actually hose clean the mud off our boots.

Thank you, Lesley and Mike, for your last-minute endeavours to ensure there was a walk. Your efforts are really appreciated. **Peter Creedon**

Date of walk: Wednesday 27 March 2024

Walk Organisers : Tony Allen and Paul Butler

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

Meeting Point and Time : For car sharing - Coventry Road Recreation Ground, 9.15 to leave at 9.20.

Start Point and Time: The Bell Inn, Main Street, Gumley, LE16 7RU. Leave at 10.00am. Toilets will be available.



Directions to start : Avoid narrow country lanes by going to Lubenham and taking the 3rd turn left signposted Foxton. Continue towards Foxton for 1.5 miles and at the T junction turn left and then **immediately** left again for another 1.5 miles to Gumley. Watch out for the S bend after the humped canal bridge! There is limited parking at the Bell Inn (see picture) but Main Street is wide (beware of sharp granite kerbstones). It is 13.25 miles each way.

Route and distance : A 4.75 mile figure of 8 route between Gumley and Laughton. Domesday villages (last walked in October 2019) with 5 “normal” foliage-free stiles on route. Regular walkers will gather by now that Gumley is a firm favourite of ours, with great views of sheep meadows, thickets and hills. Walk duration is 2 1/4 hours plus a 15 minute break, and lunch afterwards at The Bell is booked for 12.30pm.

The walk begins by turning left off Main Street and descending through horse meadows to our first stile at a small brook. Crossing over and swinging right along a bridle way we emerge at Gumley Lodge and walk along the drive's grassy verge to bear right at a fence and through a gate. Climbing uphill through pleasant sheep meadows we emerge on a minor road to enter Laughton's eclectic village.



Taking our half-way break at the 13th century church of St Luke gives us a chance to admire the fine wattle and daub walls on its boundaries and also to study the building itself. This was originally of cobble walling and ironstone but was tastefully extended in 1879-80 by the Victorians to compensate for the earlier removal of the church's cross-shaped naves back in 1780.

Our return leg to Gumley then retraces our entry road before swinging left on to a bridle way which drops down to Gumley Lodge again through a series of kissing gates. This gives us opportunities to see the distant views that couldn't be easily seen on our outward leg, without having to turn around. From the Lodge it's then just a short distance, and unfortunately a final steep climb, to Gumley village and the Bell Inn.

Once there, those of us who have been before will enjoy renewing their acquaintance with this cozy beamed Inn and its proprietor Michelle. Not forgetting of course Carol in the kitchen and friendly serving staff and regulars.

The mid-day lunch is good and reasonably priced, Mains being £7.75 and Starters £3. Most importantly, they also serve crumble the proper way with custard in a jug. For gourmets, the still good value main menu offers more variety for £5 or £6 more. Enjoy. **Tony and Paul**

Scrabble Group - Co-ordinator Glenys Peverley

There was no Scrabble in February so we next meet at Brenda's on Wednesday, March 20th at 2:30pm. 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

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

Art Appreciation – Co-ordinators Rae Flowerday and Sue Woodhead

Early Renaissance Sculpture in Florence

The lecturer explored his reasons that Sculpture rather than paintings, led to the development of the *Renaissance style*. He singled out several great sculptors of the early 15c. including Brunelleschi, Ghiberti and Donatello. ... Brunelleschi and Ghiberti were the finalist in a competition to design a second set of bronze doors for the baptistery of the Cathedral of Florence. Ghiberti was awarded the commission. His famous "*Sacrifice of Isaac*", a relief work of 28 bronze panels, took 20 years to complete(1401). Donatello's most famous work is probably his bronze, life-size "*DAVID*" (1430's) The Medici owned the sculpture, but it is not known if they commissioned it.

After coffee we looked at and discussed the differing landscape paintings from 3 different artists. They were, JW Turners "*Fighting Temeraire*" (1839), John Constables "*Wivenhoe Park*" (1816), Eugene Delacroix "*Liberty*" - *Leading the people.*(1830).These three artists would have been aware of each other's work and admired them.

Our meeting in April, will be Thursday 4th. Apologies to Penny (at Jeffs.) **Rae**

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

A celebration of winter in music and verse , was given by Glenys, with music by Tchaikovsky , Rimsky- Korsakov, Prokofiev, Debussy , Vivaldi, Purcell and Chopin. Glenys was in her element with verse by Shakespeare and Robert Frost.

An interesting and enjoyable morning was completed with some tasty sweetmeats. Thank you Glenys!

Our next meeting will be on the 20th March with Judith. **Donald and Tony**

Quiz Group – Co-ordinator Glenys Peverley

Fay set our quiz in February but unfortunately she was unable to present it in person. I asked the questions and gave the answers. I was pleased to do so as the questions were very challenging, especially the round on American history. However, we enjoyed the usual debates trying to solve all the table rounds. Thank you , Fay.

Our next session is on Thursday March 14th at 2:00pm in Bitteswell village hall. If you would like to join us and haven't been before, just turn up. You will be very welcome. **Glenys**

Music and Memories 2 - Co-ordinator Eve Jackson

Our February meeting was well attended, and we heard a good variety of melodies.. Songs from the shows came from Phantom of the Opera and Evita, and regular favourites included Shirley Bassey, Tommy Steele, Abba, The Beatles and The Everley Brothers. Stephane Grappelli made a complete change. We also heard Robert Goulet, and Brian Wilson with the Beach Boys (I'm told there will be a Beach Boys tribute band at the Wycliffe Rooms in April).

Lots of chat and laughter along with tea and cake made a lovely afternoon. **Eve Jackson**

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

At our February meeting we stayed indoors and discussed Macro and Close up Photography followed by a practical session. An example taken by Barbara is attached.



Ten pin bowling - Co-ordinator: Richard Whittington

The next session will be at the Nuneaton Bowl on Friday March 8th at 11.00am. Please meet at the recreation ground car park at 10.30am.

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)

There was no meeting in February as Brandon Nature Reserve was closed due to flooding. Next meeting 22nd March at Lutterworth Recreation Ground at 9.30am.

Singles Takeaway Supper Group – Co-ordinator June Clayton

The group met at Sue Sharp's house to celebrate the Chinese New Year. We were delighted to welcome two new members into the group. Caren Simpson was unable to join us having recently had an operation, but sent a lovely Chinese New Year E-card. The takeaway was splendid, as was the delicious dessert provided by Nohline. As always it was a light-hearted and most enjoyable evening. I am happy to report our group is again at capacity. **June Clayton**

Garden Group – Co-ordinator Linda Patton

The next garden group outing that has been booked is to Thornbridge Hall on Wednesday April 24th. There is currently one space available on the coach for this trip but it is worth putting your name on the waiting list as people often find that their situation changes after booking on a trip. **Linda**

Singles Lunchtime Dining Group – Co-ordinator Brian Fowler

The Singles Lunchtime Dining Group prides itself on seeking out excellent places to meet, eat and chat. Our policy of staying fairly close to home in the winter months took us to The White Horse in Broughton Astley. Although we achieved our aims in terms of great company the other elements that we seek from a dining occasion were somewhat lacking so maybe no return visit to this hostelry. In March we hope that Spring weather will have kicked in with sunshine instead of rain as we will journey to West Haddon to a greatly recommended venue.

To join us on Thursday March 21st, drop an e mail to me – fowlerclaybrooke@aol.com or sign in at The Wycliffe Rooms on Tuesday 12th **Brian Fowler**

NOTICES AND 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, 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 09.45am

FORTHCOMING SPEAKERS -

March – AGM followed by talk from VASL Community Champions

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://lutterworthu3a.com> - 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.

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

