



ISSUE NO. 257

LUTTERWORTH

May 2024

## Notices

### Garden Group

Our next visit, on Thursday June 6th is to The Old Rectory at Quinton. We shall be stopping at Beckwith Emporium before we arrive at the garden where we shall have tea and cake. This garden is opened under the National Garden Scheme and all profits are given to charity. If you have not yet paid me for this trip, please do so asap. The cost is £27.50.

### Strollers

We had done our last stroll in March so we were totally overwhelmed when the strollers of both groups decided to give us a retirement party on the April Strolling date, and what a day that was!

It was a day we will remember for ever. We had a standing ovation from 48 people as we entered the room, a fantastic lunch and drinks with flowers and gifts to follow. Thank you so much, Alan, Lynda, Barbara, Roy and Pat for all your hard work, so very much appreciated. Our very best wishes for the future strolls, **Gwenda and John**

### A concert for Lutterworth

Linda Patton has asked me to let you all know about the following as Richard Hill has helped us out on a number of occasions with interesting talks at our meetings and this is an event which is raising funds for the town.

Richard Hill is putting on a concert on Saturday May 18th at Lutterworth College. Tickets cost £10 each available from Max Electricals phone number 01455 557177. The concert will bring together most of Lutterworth's performing groups to raise funds and equipment for Lutterworth Food Bank, Blooming Lutterworth and Lutterworth Museum. Wycliffe Drama Group, Lutterworth and District Choral Society, the Lutterworth Town Band, The Warrington School of Dance, the Phollies Choir and Future Faces will all provide a fabulous night of variety entertainment. Please support these entertainers if you can. **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 the highest turnout so far at the April meeting with Canasta, Bridge and Sequence still the most popular games. Please come along and join us for a friendly afternoon if you like playing games with others.

As the Wellbeing Hub at the Leisure Centre is being changed, the Leisure Centre has kindly allowed us to use half of the Main Hall for the next few months.

I look forward to seeing you there on the third Monday of each month at 2 pm. **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 Group 1 – Co-ordinator Gwenda Jones**

Carole was our host for the April Supper and ten of us were able to sit around her dining table to enjoy all the excellent food brought by the guests. Conversation was continuous all evening, leaving quizzes to the quiz group. As it always is, it was a lovely evening with friends in a most hospitable environment. Many thanks to Carole for making the evening so enjoyable. On May 6th the hosts are Linda and Shaun and Gwenda and John. Please let your chosen host know what you are bringing and please be there to start eating at 6.45pm

### **Buffet Supper Group 2 – Co-ordinator Gwenda Jones**

A very relaxed bank holiday evening enjoying special dishes and good wine, made us forget the rain. We look forward to next month's evening. **Sue Sharp**

### **Reading Group - Co-ordinator Joyce Cairney**

Today we discussed Apeirogon by Colum McCann. This book produced the most discussion of any book for quite some time and provoked stronger views and differences of opinion so as a Reading Group Leader I would say it had been an excellent choice. It is a story set in the Middle East, that you as much feel as read, based on the real-life friendship of two men, which seems to be interlaced with other tales to build a strong picture of horrific times. The person who had recommended it said that although she had found it worth the read first time around she felt that reading it again had really helped her to understand the conflicting views of the two sides. In discussion we all agreed that reading it demands a lot of the reader, but felt that it could have been 200 pages shorter in that some

parts were simply not needed and if the writer had stuck to the story better it would have been good and important to read. It was felt that the desperation of the current situation in the Middle East has brought forth from this author a work of art and some felt that its beauty, intelligence and compassion may go some way to changing things. I was not sure the group felt this to be the case as over the years nothing has seemed to change the way that region of our world behaves to one another though critics have suggested that maybe this well written novel that could change the world and may succeed where generations of politicians have failed.

Our next read will be "Our Man in Havana" by Graham Green to be discussed at the May meeting. At that meeting we each choose a book to read and tell the rest of us about in June. "The Fraud" by Zadie Smith will be discussed in July. **Joyce**

### **History Group – Co-ordinator Linda Patton**

We discussed how the Anglo Saxons lived at our April meeting and heard about Aetheflaed, the eldest child of King Alfred.

As the May meeting would fall on the Late May Bank Holiday, we shall not be meeting in May. At the June meeting we shall learn about how the Normans lived in England and Yvonne will tell us about the life of one of the Ladies in History. I look forward to hearing this as Yvonne has not told us which lady she will choose. **Linda**

### **Music and Memories Group 1 – Co-ordinator Gwenda Jones**

Once again we had a very enjoyable afternoon listening to some of our favourite singers and music along with the memories it all evokes. It amazes me how we manage to get so many different choices each month such as this month, The Beatles, Stacy Kent, Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra, Village People, Cliff Richard, Frank Sinatra, The New Seekers, The Louis Lester Band, Nat King Cole, Marvin Gaye, Brigadoon, Alfie Boe, Eva Cassidy, The Real Thing, Paul Anka, Neil Diamond, Andy Williams and even the wonderful Judy Garland. All of this with cake and coffee and great memories to talk about.

We are at the moment at full capacity but would take members names for a waiting list. On May 7th Dilys will be our host. **Gwenda**

### **Poetry Group - Coordinator Elizabeth Wilson**

We met at Peatling Parva to read poems about Spring Flowers. In all we read 31 poems including one 'home grown' one. Naturally we heard Wordsworth's 'The Daffodils'. familiar to most people and much loved. Peter read 2 poems by Chaucer in olde English, but then fortunately read modern translations! we heard 'Dewdrops' by John Clare, 'To an early Primrose' by Henry Kirk. After 18 poems, we had our tea break and admired Dilys's lovely garden with lots of spring flowers and lots of birds.

We resumed our readings with 'Apple Blossom' by Louis MacNiece, an amusing piece 'The naming of parts' by Henry Read and many other poems. It was a most enjoyable afternoon. We all sent our very best wishes to our Co-ordinator Betty Wilson who is still unwell and not able to join us at the moment.

**Dilys England**

### **Strollers: 'End of an Era'**

On 17th April both groups of Strollers, 45 in all, gathered together at The Shires at Peatling Parva to mark the end of an era as Gwenda and John Lee had decided that after 19 years of leading the two groups they needed to step down.

Roy Maiden thanked them both for their hard work over the many years and how much we all appreciated it; the destination, the information gathering and the lunch venue choice took much time and effort. Also thanked were Alan and Lynda Shean for their input during the last few years. Barbara Maiden then presented a garden voucher to Gwenda and John, and bouquets were given to the two ladies.

In response Gwenda thanked everyone for coming. She and John reminisced about some village visits and mentioned a few interesting facts about some of the churches they had visited; the association with the Gunpowder Plot at Ashby St Legers church and when a young lady decided to do away with herself by jumping down a well, but, due to her being rather comely she got stuck halfway down!

Gwenda said how pleased she was at how many people over the years turned out in all weathers to stroll often, to her amazement, when the weather was particularly bad!

We shall miss Gwenda and John leading us but we are hoping to carry on with the Strollers, possibly in a slightly different format, and this will start in September. We hope many of you will keep strolling!  
**Linda Griffin**

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

Mud! Mud! Glorious Mud! Although we started off well on our walk in Burbage Woods - and we were admiring the carpets of bluebells, we realised that the ground was getting worse, but the 14 happy walkers were in good spirits and we carried on regardless. We had to do some detours in areas and the fields were absolutely sodden. We eventually got to the cafe where we were warmly welcomed. The hot chocolate went down well too. After refreshments we continued our walk back to our vehicles.

Next walk will be at Fosse Meadows on Tuesday 28th May. Please meet on Coventry Road recreation car park at 10.00 am. **Lyn**

### **Jazz Group – Co-ordinator James Davey**

This month we were very pleased to welcome two new members who added their choice of music to our usual varied programme. Sadly, for various reasons, we will not be holding a meeting in May and our next meeting will be at my house on 25th June. **Jim**

### **Topical Discussion Group - Co-ordinator: Richard Whittington**

#### Topic one: Legal Migration.

There is a great deal of coverage in the media concerning illegal migration and the so called 'boat people'. There is little coverage concerning legal migration, which is far higher. The consequences of the latest initiatives to curb legal migration will have many consequences.

Reducing the number of dependants who come with overseas care workers will have a large effect on, care homes, nurses, doctors etc. How and when will their replacements be found/educated. Are the necessary training courses available.

Reducing the number of dependants for foreign students. Many of them could be a valuable resource for our economy. How will we train their replacements? How will industry cope without fresh expertise?

Should UK graduates have to stay in the UK for a specified time after they graduate and perhaps reduce their student loans?

How will universities make up their loss in revenue or will some of them 'go bust'?

Do we need to have more apprenticeships and careers advice for young people.

Reforming the shortage occupation list and removing the 20% salary rate reduction will also reduce our potential pool of workers as will raising the minimum salary income for family visas.

Are there any plans to cope with the probable problems produced by reducing legal migration? What is the timescale for these plans which we felt were going to be necessary?

#### Topic two: Public Schools, good or bad?

The quality of state schools can depend a lot on the catchment area and the desire of parents for a 'good education'.

Public schools prolong the 'class system' in Britain which we felt was undesirable.

Is a state education desirable for very affluent students as they may be ostracised by their peers?

Is the most desirable objective to raise the standard of ALL schools no matter where they are? Should parents have a choice where the children go to school?

Is it desirable that many government ministers went to the most elite schools?

Is selection a good idea? Should denominational/faith schools be allowed?

There is still more to discuss on this topic, perhaps next month.

The next meeting will be on May 1<sup>st</sup>. **Richard**

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Walking Group – Co-ordinators Sue and Peter Creedon**

It was the (almost) perfect spring day for walking when we assembled at The Bulls head in Brinklow: dry, a gentle breeze, and lots of fresh green on the trees and hedgerows. The only drawback was the unseasonable cold. Unfortunately, when the planned walk was checked three weeks ago, the fields were water-logged and impassable, and so it was thought prudent to modify the walk to try and keep to hard surfaces as much as possible. And so, 23 of us set off along the Rugby Road turning into Cathiron Lane where we followed the lane for about a mile and a half before turning onto a farm track leading to the Oxford Canal where we joined the towpath and walked back towards Brinklow, stopping for a coffee break on the way.

After coffee, we continued along the towpath before leaving the canal and joining a lane leading back to Brinklow. Before reaching Brinklow, we joined a footpath taking us to the remains of Brinklow motte and bailey castle where some climbed to the top of the motte and enjoyed a stunning view of the Warwickshire countryside. From there, we joined a quiet country lane back down into Brinklow and returned to the pub for a well-earned drink and lunch. Altogether, an enjoyable walk giving us a taste of the walks to come as the weather improves.

#### **Nigel Bones**



Wednesday 22 May 2024

Walk Organiser:- George Robertson. Tel: 07986

827270

Start Point and Time: The Pheasant, Withybrook CV7 9LT. Toilets will be available. Walk start 10.00am.

Anyone requiring transport to and from the start point please contact the walk leader a few days in advance.

Directions to start:- To Magna Park A5 roundabout. Take exit (B4027) to Pailton. After Pailton there is shortly a sharp

lefthand bend at a junction.. Go straight across onto the B4112 to Withybrook. The pub is on the right as you enter the village.

Route and Distance:- We will turn left up main Street, and then cross to a field path that joins a minor road and driveway past Hopsford Hall. Joining the tow path of the Oxford canal for a short stretch we return via Mobbs Wood. 4.5 miles, 2 stiles and a hillside staircase.

Lunch Arrangements: - We will dine at The Pheasant where they have a reasonable choice of Lunchtime mains at £10.95 and some homemade desserts to die for! Choices for mains will be made before we set off. **Peter Creedon**

### **Scrabble Group - Co-ordinator Glenys Peverley**

We had a reduced number when we went to Liz and David's (nothing to do with the venue). Linda won both her games so she is champion once again. Well done, Linda.

We will not meet in May as it's the holiday week in the North West. There may be a session in June, but the venue is to be arranged. **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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

A damp, but surprisingly well attended, very enjoyable first morning of the season. Our venue once again looking after us admirably. Some of us stopped over for lunch afterwards. We shall meet again at 10.30am on 17<sup>th</sup> April at Pesto's in Wolvey. **Sue Sharp**

### **Art Appreciation – Co-ordinators Rae Flowerday and Sue Woodhead**

Masaccio and Early Renaissance Art

Tommaso del Ser Giovanni (1401-1428) - nicknamed Masaccio from "Maso" meaning Tom and Accio meaning ungainly or large, was born in a village near Florence on the Arno river. The Brancacci family chapel became Masaccio's most famous work and one of the highpoints of Italian and European painting. The most discussed between the group was the altar piece Masaccio painted "The Madonna and child Enthroned" for the Church of the Carmine in Pisa. This alter piece was later dismembered and sold in pieces. In his fresco "The Trinity"-c1428, Masaccio applied the principles of perspective brilliantly. Leon Battista Alberti published an explanation of this system in 1435 . He used a helpful analogy-- that-- the painted surface was like a 'window'. Sadly Masaccio died in Rome aged just 28.

After coffee , the lecture chosen was 'Close Observations' of Cezanne, Van Gogh, Homer. Interestingly, we were encouraged by the lecturer to observe the differences between each painting, in more detail.

Next meeting is at Rae's on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. The following meeting will be on 6th June. Apologies to Glenys.

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

Judith's theme was choruses from operas. She had researched the background to them and provided a lovely selection to listen to. We also bought a disc each to complete the morning. Lovely refreshments too.

We next meet a week earlier than usual on Thursday May 9th at Alan's. This is because of the holiday to Chester taking some of us away on the third Thursday. **Glenys**

### **Quiz Group – Co-ordinator Glenys Peverley**

Barbara set a very enjoyable quiz in April with rounds including Space, Islands, Great Britain and the first lines of songs. Some people were particularly good on that round and scored twenty points (the maximum). There was an interesting on-going round to identify Leicestershire and Rutland towns and villages from cryptic clues. Thank you, Barbara. Susan will set the next quiz on Thursday, May 9th at 2:00pm. If you would like to join us please turn up at Bitteswell village hall. **Glenys**

### **Music and Memories 2 - Co-ordinator Eve Jackson**

Our April meeting was again a small group, due to various other commitments and holidays We heard a lovely selection of melodies. For a change, but quite coincidentally, we had mostly female vocalists this time. We heard from The Carpenters , and Glenn Miller., always popular choices. Vocalists included Mama Cass, Gloria Estafan Patsy Cline, Barbara Streisand and also Harry Connick Jnr As always, a happy afternoon **Eve Jackson**

### **Wine and Social Group – Co-ordinator – Linda Patton**

At last we had our Wine Group meeting to taste red, rose and white Rioja with accompanying food. The white Rioja was deemed to be rather tasteless and weak but the rose and red were OK. All in all, we had a lively evening.

Our next Wine Group evening will be at Blabers Hall vineyard. We have a coach to take us and we shall have a tour of the vineyard where we shall learn about the grapes they grow and methods they use with time for any questions before going to the tasting room. There we shall try 4 of their wines with cheeses, pickles, crackers, dried fruits, celery, grapes and salad.

This will take place on Thursday June 13th with the coach leaving from outside the Wycliffe Rooms at 6 pm and returning before 10 pm. The cost for the coach and cheese and wine tasting is £38.

This trip is not confined only to past Wine Group members but others who fancy an evening out. **Linda**

### **Photography Group – Co-ordinator Alan Shean**



images taken by the group. **Alan**

An arrangement was made with the Curator of The Gas Museum to grant us access at a time when the Museum would normally be closed. We were given a short presentation of the history of the museum along with a short video. We very much appreciated being alone in the museum with permission to handle and move exhibits and enter a re-creation of a 1940's kitchen rather than view it from outside a barrier. Between the 12 of us we took very many pictures both inside and outside the museum. The attached photos, taken by Alan and Maggie, are just two of the many fine



### **Ten pin bowling - Co-ordinator: Richard Whittington**

The next session will be at the Nuneaton Bowl on May 10<sup>th</sup> 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)**

Nine members of the birdwatching group went to Brandon Nature Reserve on a very sunny, calm but chilly day. Unfortunately, the numbers of individual birds were less than normal, apart from the usual noisy Canada Geese. Nevertheless, we saw nearly 30 different species of birds and heard the songs of Cetes Warblers and a Cuckoo even though we were unable to see them. The merlin birdsong app was very useful in identifying those that were hiding in reeds and high in the trees. We were particularly pleased to see both a Great Egret and 3 Little Egrets. The Great Egret is an extremely large type of white heron but which dwarfs our native Grey Heron which was also seen.

If you enjoy a walk in the countryside watching wildlife then please join us. We next meet at the Lutterworth rec at 9:30 on 24 May. **Pauline Elliott**

### **Garden Group – Co-ordinator Linda Patton**

It was with trepidation that we awoke on Wednesday for our trip to Thornbridge Hall after the weather of late. We had already had one Garden Group outing cancelled this year and hoped that this one would not be similarly spoiled. It wasn't. Although we did not have blazing sunshine, we had a good day for wandering around a Derbyshire garden. The tulips were all standing up proudly as were the narcissus. You could see that other plants were waiting only for a little sunshine before they bust into flower but there were other unusual plants in the garden and beautiful views from the balcony alongside the hall and over the Derbyshire countryside.

Thornbridge Hall had been purchased in 2002 by a lady who had made a great deal of money in business. She moved into the property which had been used as a Teachers' Training College for 40 years and really was not in a habitable condition. She did not want all the trappings of her wealth and spent £22 million restoring the property before putting it into a Trust. Now, profits from opening the hall and garden to the public are used to help under-privileged children.

The ethos of the property is completely unlike that of other properties open to the public in this way. Those with Foster children can visit the garden, which is very child-friendly, for free. Others who want to use the Hall for charitable purposes can similarly use it at no cost. The family lives in the property and may be encountered during a tour of the hall. It was a very welcoming place and we all had a lovely day there. **Linda**



### Singles Lunchtime Dining Group – Co-ordinator Brian Fowler



For our April lunch members of the group journeyed into East Leicestershire to the village of Saddington where we dined at one of our favourite venues, The Queens Arms. The Landlord and staff always look after us very well and the chef is a true artist in the way that food is presented on the plates. As always, we enjoyed convivial chat before the meal and between courses and at this event, we were delighted to welcome some newcomers to our U3A and the group. A warm welcome always awaits those who join us for meals on the third Thursday

in each month.

On May 16<sup>th</sup> we will go a little further into the rolling pasture of E. Leics to reach The Bell Inn in Gumley. Details at the May Wycliffe Rooms meeting or by e mail to : **Lutterworth.u3a@gmail.com**

### New Adventure Group – Co-ordinator Ken Patton

The outing to Holme Pierrepont where we shall be White Water Rafting is going ahead on Wednesday June 19<sup>th</sup> with two rafts booked for 2 pm. This should be a really good adventure and I shall contact everyone before the date so that we can travel there in shared cars and save money on the £7.50 parking charge. **Ken**

### Golf Group – Co-ordinators Ken Patton and Mike Harrison

We had a very good turnout for the first Golf Day of the year despite the fact that the ground was too wet for us to use buggies. The winner was not a current Lutterworth u3a member but was on a trial to see if he wanted to join us, Eddie Hemsley (a member of Wycliffe u3a) was second and Mike Harrison third. Ann Lindsay was winner of the nearest to the pin prize. The dreaded rain arrived as the last four finished their round!!!!

Twelve partners and friends joined the golfers for a meal after the match and enjoyed some lovely steak pie and fruit crumble at Whetstone Golf Club.

The next Golf Day will be at Lutterworth Golf Club in July. Details will be in the coming newsletters. **Ken**

### Take-away Supper Club – Co-ordinator June Clayton

#### April

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**

#### May

June Clayton was our hostess for an evening of dining that found us tucking into a variety of Indian food with mainly mild curries for our delicate digestive systems. This was followed by a superb fruit pudding, coffee and mints and joyful chat until all too soon the clock struck 10 and it was homeward bound time.

The folk who enjoy these occasions will meet again at the end of May. **Brian**

## **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.

<b>CURRENT COMMITTEE</b>	
<b>Post</b>	<b>Name</b>
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 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 09.45am**

### **FORTHCOMING SPEAKERS –**

**May** – Peter Turner-Powell – Life as a Surveyor

**June** - Bharat Patel - Behind the scenes as a TV journalist and his autobiography.

### **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](mailto: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 29<sup>th</sup> 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**

