



September 2023

ISSUE NO. 249

NOTICES AND EVENTS

U3A Picnic

Despite the weather report, a large contingent of Lutterworth u3a members congregated in Liz and David White's garden for our annual picnic. We had planned to have our very popular horse-racing game and skittles but the drizzle put paid to these two activities. Despite this we all had a lovely afternoon. Glenys had come up with a very taxing quiz which everyone tackled. There was a picture quiz and the ever-popular marble game. Plenty of members had a go at chipping the golf ball into a net with varying success but we all joined in with the singing and had a good time. The cakes were really good as always with Lynda Shean bringing some lemon drizzle cakes, Lynne making her lovely traybakes and June Clayton providing lots of jam and cream scones despite being unwell and unable to attend the picnic. Thank you to them all.

It was sadly the last time that Derek would be providing the music for the singing as he and Pat are off to Sheffield as soon as they can sell their house to be near their family. We will really miss them both. Derek kept the Songsters going for many years.

We could not have the picnic without the generosity of Liz and David White. Their garden is a perfect venue and they are very welcoming to us. Brian and his team erect and dismantle the marquee which provides us with cover every year either from the sun or, as this year, the drizzly rain. Brian also brings the urn etc to provide us with tea and coffee before we head home. Thank you to all who worked so hard to make this event such a success.

October Meeting

This is advance notice that a member of the NHS will be attending our October meeting to give a short presentation regarding a consultation they are planning on the subject of "Care for the Elderly". **Brian**

Third Age Trust Request

In the UK, there are over 1000 u3as. The Third Age Trust is the body under which we all operate and, in addition to collecting a sum from each u3a for each of its members, it arranges insurance for us when we attend u3a events and meetings and arranges training sessions via zoom that we can attend to find out how to run our u3a effectively.

There are smaller groups within the country, called Networks, where local u3as can meet and find out what is happening in other u3as. These meetings are often interesting but the Network also needs a committee to enable us to meet and interact.

In the same way that Lutterworth u3a finds it difficult to recruit members to take roles on our committee each year, the Network does as well. I was Chairman of the local network consisting of most u3as in Leicestershire and Rutland for two years. If you are interested in attending the next Network meeting in October with either Roy, myself or Brian, please let me know. Without a committee, the Network will fold and this resource will be lost to Lutterworth u3a in the same way that without willing members on Lutterworth u3a it will hinder our work in running our u3a.

Please consider whether you could offer to take a role on Lutterworth u3a's committee from next March or if you would like to join the Network committee where you will be working with members of other local u3as. If you are able to join either committee, I am sure that you will find it interesting and rewarding.

Farmer Barnes Visits

Although I could not go to the farm after all, I had very good reports from members who went to visit Farmer Barnes Dairy on both the 17th and 24th August.

They loved seeing and feeding the calves, watched the very up-to-date milking systems and enjoyed the tea, cakes and cheeses. Those who visited on the 17th also watched the birth of a calf. All in all, a very satisfactory day out as many visited Gates Garden Centre and had lunch there before going to the farm. **Linda**

Leicester Race Night

Although I did not win on any of the races at Leicester Racecourse, almost everyone else did!!!!!!!!!! We had to arrange for Securicor to meet the coach on our arrival as the Tote had run out of cash to pay out some of our gamblers on the last race!

We had a good evening and the gamblers amongst us may be going to try their luck again later this year if I arrange a trip to the Greyhound track in Nottingham. **Linda**

Graham Ruff

As we start another U3A year I would like to thank all those who came to Graham's service in May. Thankyou also to those who contributed in Graham's memory to the two charities. It meant a lot to me to have you there at the crematorium and Graham would have enjoyed his tea party at the Wycliffe Rooms! Sophie and her team did us proud. Lutterworth U3A was an important part of our lives for a long time. Graham valued the friends he made and the many interest groups he belonged to. He loved the research he did in order to make his contributions, especially to the history, quiz and Jazz appreciation groups. Of course, he relished the occasions that we hosted groups at our home, a good excuse to request home baking! He certainly made the most of his membership of Lutterworth U3A. **Nohline Ruff**

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 large turnout for our Card and Board Games Group this month with one table of Bridge as well as Rummikubs, Canasta, Sequence being enjoyed. We do have other games available so if you fancy an afternoon of games with friends do come along. **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. **Pauline**

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 – Co-ordinator Gwenda Jones

Although the weather was not kind enough for us to be able to eat outside, we could enjoy the beautiful garden from Brenda and Mick's conservatory while we dined. We had a cold buffet and the food was delicious. Thank you to Brenda and Mick for being excellent and attentive hosts. **Sue Jones**

Gwenda and John hosted the other Buffet Supper this month and as the weather was reasonably warm, we decided to eat in the garden where we stayed during the dining period moving indoors as the evening cooled down. Conversation flowed as it usual does after food and liquid refreshment.

Next month the hosts are Sue Sharp and Brian Fowler, Please let your chosen host know what you will be bringing and be there to start eating at 6.45pm.

As I am standing down as co-ordinator of this group at the end of the year, having done it for over twenty years, I am hoping that one of the present members will take over this task and I will be happy to give any assistance if required. Please give it some thought. **Gwenda**

Reading Group - Co-ordinator Joyce Cairney

The group thought that the book "Elizabeth is Missing" was a good read with a bit of humour and some very good description of someone with dementia though did not find it uplifting. Written in first person singular in 1940's. The character seemed to have a daughter who was not supportive but a granddaughter who was much more patient. The book was written by Emma Healey, an author who is apparently very shy and does not like being interviewed. It was her debut novel which received lots of awards. The person who suggested the book chose it because it was something she was not familiar with and she thought it well written and one who had not had time to read it said they would now as those who had read it on the whole liked the book but were glad it was not any longer.

The reading group is sorry to say goodbye to Pat Deacon who is moving to be near her family in Sheffield and her contribution to the group will be missed.

Our current read is "Act of Oblivion" Looking forward to the discussion on this at the 5th September meeting. **Joyce**

History Group – Co-ordinator Linda Patton

As the August meeting date for the History Group fell on the Bank Holiday Monday, only 12 members were able to meet this month so, instead of meeting in Bitteswell Village Hall, we met at Linda's house. This enabled us to watch a recorded programme about Queen Mary.

I admit that although we had studied the reign of George V and knew that his wife was Queen Mary, we had considered her to have had little influence. How wrong we were.

The programme suggested that if it had not been for her, the monarchy may have disappeared after the abdication of King Edward VIII. She and her husband had insisted on meeting all their subjects and not simply being interested in the wealthy and important that previous kings and queens had indulged. I found the programme very interesting.

We shall meet next month in Bitteswell Village Hall and discuss the life of the Duke of Windsor and reign of George VI. As we are nearing the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, we shall soon be starting to look at the Welfare State, National Health Service etc rather than simply the lives of our monarchs. I hope to see you there. Linda

Music and Memories Group 1 – Co-ordinator Gwenda Jones

All of our members enjoyed another nostalgic afternoon of interesting recollections for our monthly get together at Gwenda's home. We were particularly pleased to have Jim back with us again. Sometimes the memories take over the music when several members have similar memories but it is always a good afternoon with good friends, good music, many memories and cake.

The next meeting in September is at the Bitteswell home of Sue at 2pm. Please let her know if you will be attending. **Gwenda**

Poetry Group - Coordinator Elizabeth Wilson

There are no Poetry Group meetings in July and August. We start again on September 6th when the topic will be the poet D. H. Lawrence at Betty's house 2pm, refreshments Marian. **Betty**

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

There were no Strolls during August but please visit the Desk at the September meeting for information about September's strolls for both groups. **Gwenda and John**

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

A lovely day for our walk which we decided on the day to start from The Country Park and on to the lake at Magna Park where were we had a rest overlooking the water. There was a family of swans that came out of the water to say hello. From there we made our way to Woodby Lane and a selection from The Grazing menu for lunch at The Man at Arms as the Royal Oak was shut. We then went part way up Valley Lane to cross fields of sheep and a field with a couple of friendly horses to Brookfield Way back to the car park . The next walk will be 26th Sept TBA meet at Coventry Rd car park. Why not join us , all welcome. We are a friendly chatty group **Fay**

Jazz Group – Co-ordinator James Davey

In previous years we have not held a meeting in August but because we always enjoy our meetings, this year the consensus was that we should hold one. As always, we had a good session (and chat) with a varied programme covering over 100 years of jazz. Our next meeting will be on 26th September at Jim Davey's.

Topical Discussion Group - Co-ordinator: Richard Whittington

Topic 1 Where and how to propose, or any other significant event between two people.

This question was prompted by an article on the radio where a young man had proposed to his girlfriend on the graduation stage during the ceremony. On the radio there was a varied response, however the group was very definitely of the opinion that such a proposal was inappropriate. The question could have been asked in a more private setting. How could she say no, what happens if she should change her mind afterwards. Had there been a discussion beforehand?

Topic 2 Is our justice system fit for all of us?

This item was chosen because of the recent judgment freeing a man after a rape conviction when he was innocent and had served 17 years in prison.

This topic raised many questions. How was the compensation decided? The injustice of charging for board and lodgings for an innocent man, which thankfully has now been reversed. How can such an injustice go through the appeals system which failed to recognise the importance of the current DNA evidence and the flawed investigation originally carried out by the police? It seems that justice in our country can take an awfully long time to reach a decision e.g., claims for haemophiliac patients and their compensation for contaminated blood transfusions, the injustice of the post office officials who were prosecuted or even imprisoned for inaccurate accounting systems. Who finishes up paying for these compensations? Us or the companies involved and the CEOs who should have been held responsible.

Topic 3 ULEZ- good or bad?

There will soon be a charge for more people entering London of £12.50, for small business this will be a considerable expense if they must make many journeys into the city.

Have the pollution controls made any difference to the air quality in the capital? The evidence varies from a 20% reduction to a marginal reduction, and it is quite different depending on the pollutant. The number of vehicles entering London has decreased. When compared to USA and China we produce very little carbon dioxide. Should we stop buying products from the USA and China? Should ULEZ be used in more towns and cities? The next meeting will be on September 13th.

1st Wednesday Walking Group

August walk - I had 12 walkers lined up but unfortunately had to cancel due to a very bad weather forecast. **George Robertson**

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

August walk - This walk started from Everards Meadows. In my 12 years of walking with any of the walking groups this starting point was a first. It was a nice morning and 15 walkers set off down to the Grand Union Canal and the towpath towards Glen Parva. My recollection of the exact route is not entirely clear as I was chatting too much (but then that's half the fun of the walking group). After passing several locks we left the canal and entered a Glen Parva housing estate. Leaving the houses, we joined a tarmacked path that followed the line of a disused railway line. Eventually we stopped for a break in a playground.

Setting off again along the old railway line and passing under Soar Valley Way we eventually reached Aylestone Meadows car park. We then left the railway line using the access ramp and crossed the canal over the old packhorse bridge. Picking up the towpath we returned back to Everard's Meadows

passing King`s Lock and the tea rooms with the River Soar running close every now and again as it meandered through the countryside.

The walking was easy and mostly flat. It was very pleasant and enjoyable. Thank you, Stephen and Rawdon, for planning and leading the walk

Wednesday 27 September 2023

Walk Organiser: Nigel Bones

<u>Meeting Point For Lifts</u>:- Lutterworth Recreation Ground car park at 09.25am to leave at 09.30am. <u>Start Point and Time</u>:- The Chequers Country Inn, Ullesthorpe (LE175BT) at 10:00am. Please note that toilets will NOT be available.

<u>Directions to start:-</u> Take the road to Bitteswell and continue to Ullesthorpe. The Chequers Country Inn is on the right as you go through the village.

<u>Route and Distance:-</u> From the pub we will follow the old railway line towards Leire. As we reach the Leire playing field, we will turn onto a footpath walking towards Frolesworth. Before reaching Frolesworth, we turn off towards Claybrooke Mill, walk through the mill grounds and on to Claybrooke Parva. From there we will pass through the edge of the village and into the area known locally as "Bittesby Gallops" and on to Ullesthorpe. The distance is 5.5 miles, and there are just 2 easy styles. <u>Lunch Arrangements</u>: The pub would like us to advance book our food. Please can you advise Nigel Bones your menu choice preferably as soon as possible but no later than 20th September. The menu can be found on their website https://www.chequerscountryinnlutterworth.co.uk and they do the full menu for lunch. **Peter Creedon**

Scrabble Group - Co-ordinator Glenys Peverley

In August we travelled north to Liz and David's in Burbage. We had a pleasant afternoon, playing two games of Scrabble and we were kindly able to pick blackberries beforehand - a bonus. We next meet on Wednesday September 20th at 2:30pm at Brenda's. If you enjoy Scrabble and would like to join us, you'd be very 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 a n afternoon of fun. **Margaret**

Canasta Groups 1 and 2 – Co-ordinator June Hartopp

Please note that the timings of the Canasta Groups have changed. 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**

Petangue – Co-ordinators Sue Sharp and Rae Flowerday

The rain stayed off; nine members enjoyed a rain free morning; the result was a draw. We will be having a lunch after the next meeting on 16th of August. **Sue**

Art Appreciation – Co-ordinators Rae Flowerday and Sue Woodhead

Our August Art Appreciation took us to Market Harborough Museum and Art gallery.

The Hallaton Treasure caught our interest. It is one of the most important Iron Age discoveries in Britain. A Roman Calvary helmet found at Hallaton was a sign of importance and power, made around the time of the Roman invasion, which began in AD43. The helmet and its cheek pieces were intricately designed in bronze. What the Iron Age people who buried the helmet thought of this image of Roman Military power, remains a mystery.

The small art gallery was taken up with children's stories, especially, ones by the Ukrainian children, of the plight, from their war-torn country to the safety and support given to them in Market Harborough.

October 5th meeting will be hosted by Sue and Gordon. Apologies to them if you cannot attend. Thank you. Rae

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

No meeting this month. We next meet on Thursday, September 21st at Doe's. If you would like to join us, please contact John or Tony via Linda. **Glenys**

Quiz Group – Co-ordinator Glenys Peverley

Dilys set our August quiz telling me that it was very easy. It is when you know the answers! It proved to be sufficiently challenging with rounds including fruit, catchphrases and Thomas. One of the ongoing rounds was the popular but elusive Dingbats. Our next quiz on Thursday September 14th at 2:00pm will be set by June in Bitteswell village hall. Please join us if you like quizzes. We'd like to see new faces. **Glenys**

Music and Memories 2 - Co-ordinator Eve Jackson

There is no report for our August meeting. I had to cancel it just the day before as I had tested positive for Covid **Eve. Jackson**

Wine appreciation – Co-ordinator Nicholas Harrington

We met on 10 August to drink some sparkling wine. It was our one sunny day that week! We had the following wines:

- 1. Gustave Lorentz Cremant d'Alsace
- 2. Fresita Strawberry Sparkling wine
- 3. Syn Rouge Sparkling Shiraz

The first wine was straightforward and was enjoyed by everyone. The second had mixed comments. To be fair it did taste like fruit pop! These wines are going down a storm in the USA and will no doubt gain in popularity over here in time but most of us would happily leave it. The sparkling shiraz was a new concept to most of us with the majority taking to it very well. All the wine disappeared and we all staggered home afterwards having had a good evening.

No meeting in September, but we will meet again on 12 October where the topic will be "which type of wine do you prefer?" **Nick**

Photography Group – Co-ordinator Alan Shean

Our August trip was to Watermead Country Park which provided us with ample opportunities to take a variety of photos. The attached examples taken by Alan, Mick, Nick and Sue give some ideas of the range of our creative ideas **Alan**





Ten pin bowling - Co-ordinator: Richard Whittington

The next session will be at the Nuneaton Bowl on September 8th at 11.00am. 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)

With most of the group otherwise engaged, just two members travelled to Brandon Marsh on a pleasant warm day. The water was low and fewer birds than usual were in evidence but it was enjoyable and relaxing watching the ones that were there. An egret was in good view and very busy looking for food. Our sound app identified a yellow wagtail nearby but we failed to spot it. Our next meeting will be on Friday 22nd September. We meet up at the Recreation ground car park at 9.30 with our packed lunches. **Alan**

Garden Group – Co-ordinator Linda Patton

The final day out for the Garden Group has been arranged with a trip to Hanbury Hall on Thursday September 28th. This is a National Trust property so members will only have to pay for the coach which will be £16 per person. Non-members will have to pay a further £13.50 for entry. If you wish to join this trip to Hanbury Hall, a William and Mary style country house with gardens and parkland which will give us a glimpse into life at the turn of the 18thc with original wall paintings by Sir James Thornhill and faithfully recreated formal gardens, an orangery, orchards and walled garden, please book and pay at the September meeting.

The coach will leave from outside the Wycliffe Rooms at 9 am as there is another group visiting the property who are having an afternoon tour whilst ours is at 10.30 am. **Linda**

Singles Lunchtime Dining Group – Co-ordinator Brian Fowler

On a beautiful August summer day 11 members of our group were seated in the restaurant area of The Blue Pub in the village of Wolvey. With oak beams holding some of the history of the pub through its 600 years of serving the locality it was a splendid venue for lunch. Super service and piping hot food served in generous portions had all present gasping at the quality of the fare they were receiving. Main meal platters were cleared and then some ventured to choose from the 23 dessert choices on the menu. As always happy chatter ensued and life experiences were shared. Two hours quickly passed and now we look forward to our next lunchtime outing on Thursday September 21st . Details will be mailed to all dining group members. Brian is not present at the Wycliffe Rooms General meeting on Sept 12th so anyone interested in joining the group can contact Linda, the Groups Coordinator. **Brian Fowler**

NOTICES AND MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

HOPING TO JOIN LUTTERWORTH U3A?

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

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

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

FORTHCOMING SPEAKERS: September Wendy Martin will talk on "Jordan Highlights October: - Tim Coltman will be telling us about his great-grandfather's involvement in World War 1 who, despite his refusal to fight, became the highest-decorated soldier.

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:<u>https://u3asites.org.uk/lutterworth</u> 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 28th September 2023.

LUTTERWORTH U3A GROUP MEETNGS – TIMING GUIDE

GROUP	LEADER	FREQUENCY	TIME
MONDAY			
Buffet Supper Groups	Gwenda Jones	1 st	From 7.00 pm
Table Tennis	Carole Harrington	Weekly	2.00-4.00
Table Games	Linda Patton	3 rd	2.00-4.30
Music for Fun - Ukulele	Barbara Wilkinson Peter Sneath	2 nd & 4 th	10.00 – 12.00
History Group	Linda Patton	4th	2.15-4.15
TUESDAY			
Reading Group	Joyce Cairney	1 st	10.00-12.00
Music & Memories 1	Gwenda Jones	1st	2.00-4.00
Strolling Group 1	Gwenda Jones	3 rd	am - varies
Strolling Group 2	John Lee	3 rd	am - varies
Short Walks Group	Fay Goodwin Lyn Foxwell	4 th	10.00 onwards
Jazz Group	James Davey	4 th	2.00-4.00
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WEDNESDAY			
Poetry	Betty Wilson	1 st	2.00-4.00
Topical/Current Affairs Group	Richard Whittington	1 st	10.00 onward
1 st Wednesday Walking		1st	As arranged
New Age Kurling Group	Trish and Alan Green, Maggie Hiorns, Sue Dickerson, Lynne Grindlay and Kathy Mason	2 nd & 4 th	2.00-4.00
Scrabble	Glenys Peverley	3 rd	2.30-5.00
Canasta Groups	June Hartopp	3 rd	Group 1 10.00 - 12.00 noon Group 2 2-4pm
4 th Wednesday Walking	Sue & Peter Creeden	4 th	9.30 onward
Petanque	Sue Sharp Rae Flowerday	1 st & 3 rd	11.00 onward
THURSDAY		•	·
Music and Memories 2	Eve Jackson	1st	2.00-4.00
Art Appreciation	Rae Flowerday Sue Woodhead	1st	10.00-12.00
Quiz Group	Glenys Peverley	2 nd	2.00-4.00
Wine Appreciation Group	Nicholas Harrison	2 nd	7pm onward
Music Appreciation	John Peverley Tony MacDonald	3 rd	10.00-1200

FRIDAY			
Photography Group	Alan Shean	1st	10.00-12.00

Bridge	Kathy Scott- Simons	Weekly	2.00-5.00
Canasta Group 1	June Hartopp	1st	10.00-12.00
Ten Pin Bowling	Richard Whittington	2 nd	11.00-1.00
Bird Watching Group	Ann Fletcher	4 th	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 - <u>https://u3asites.org.uk/lutterworth</u> (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.