

u3a 40th Anniversary

Picnic in the Park

1ST June 2022 @ Chesterton Community Centre

13:00 EVENT OPENING

M/C Announcements:

Historic overview of u3a.
Outline of games, activities, drinks, etc.
Quiz Question Sheets distributed.
Background Music - 1982 Top 10 Chart Hits.



13:15 Onward Games & Crafts
(Have a Go!!)

See Map:

Boules

Jenga

Quoits

Skittles



PLUS: Paper Crafting and Ball Games.

13:30 Ukulele Orchestra

Sing-a-long Entertainment.



14:00 Speed Meeting

Ice-breaking Sessions.

14:10 Egg & Spoon Race

Walking Relays.



14:30 Quiz Answers

Award Prizes.

14:45 Square Dancing

HAVE a GO!!



15:30 Draw Raffle

Award Prizes.

16:00 EVENT CLOSING

M/C Announcements:

Thanks to all our Sponsors and Volunteers.



Celebrating 40 years of U3A - Wednesday 1st June 2022.

The day dawned bright and then by mid-morning the clouds rolled in. But all was not lost: as the start of Bicester U3A celebrations witnessed light refreshing rain, which gave way to brilliant sunshine, for an afternoon of laughter and revelry.

Chesterton Community Centre was the venue hosting the party and by 12.30pm, with the carpark full and the hall buzzing with much chatter, it provided the ideal location to shelter from the damp drizzle for a short while.

The Chairman made his speech of welcome and stressed that U3A is a 'doing' body: encouraging everyone to participate in the various games and activities on offer. These ranged from boules, walking egg and spoon race, to a quiz and raffle. A packed hall meant at times it was difficult to hold a conversation easily as there were raised decibels from the majority of participants engaged in greeting one another and munching the picnic lunches they had brought.

Then the ukulele group struck up a rousing introductory chord, and with the aid of song sheets, members so inclined gave voice to the group's repertoire, many interrupting their picnic lunches to join in.

By now the weather had vastly improved and there was a general drift of chairs and their occupants to the great outdoors. I was able to wander around talking to various clusters of members, who voiced their general opinion that the event was well organised and they were enjoying the afternoon. Bowling and boules held my attention and practice for a while before I moved on to compete in the quoits. Having failed to deliver a knockout blow in these events, I returned to talking to more members and wandered eventually back into the hall. I bought some draw tickets, but unfortunately not the winning ones!

Now the walking egg and spoon race was underway, but without the aid of Bluetack to ensure no egg was dropped! This was followed by the Square Dancing which involved teams of four and seemed highly competitive: but counterintuitively, they seemed to process in a circle!

The afternoon drew to a close at about 4.15pm after the raffle, which had various attractive prizes: not least one rather large clock.

As a new member of the U3A and leader of the Creative Writing Group - hence being invited to write this report, by which I am honoured to do so - I think I can speak for the members in thanking the Chair and Committee for their hard work in providing the festivities to celebrate these first forty years of the U3A. Here's to the next forty!

Mike Wyatt



*Our Chairman's
View of the
Afternoon*





















Prizes and Gifts (Jan Laker)

Those who took part in the picnic on 1st June will recognise the trolley coin key ring in the picture, top centre. Hopefully by now each of our members will have received one as a gift to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the u3a movement. (There are a few left if not.)



The other u3a branded items in the picture; pencil, note pad, car sticker and coaster, were presented in a blue and white striped paper bag on the day as a small prize to those who won either one of the games, the quiz, or the medallion challenge. The prizes were presented by our chairman at the end of the day after all scores had been added up.

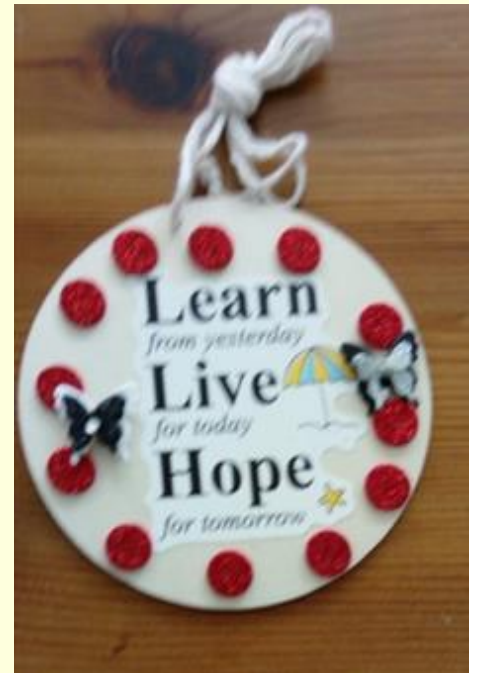
There were a selection of games including; skittles, boules, quoits, and jenga.

Then the egg and spoon four person relay race! Many thanks to the great sports who took part and congratulations to all who won a prize!

The medallion challenge was a bit crafty—we hoped to include something for everyone on the day! As well as provide a talking point.



Many people enjoyed choosing an inspirational sticker from a choice of about a hundred with captions that ranged from "I'd rather be in bed", to the ones you see in the pictures.



Janet Marshall, who is also our raffle organiser, won this challenge with the medallion above. She added her own decoration, alongside the inspirational sticker which was a pre requisite for entering for the medallion challenge prize.

"Learn from Yesterday, Live for today, and Hope for tomorrow"



Notes from your chairman.

What a great day, many congratulations to the organising team, Jan, Carolyn, Margaret and George, they did a tremendous job. We have had emails and cards thanking us for the day, and even suggestions that we do it every year! Many thanks to all the other helpers, setting up, running games, stalls and in particular the raffle run beautifully, as usual, by Janet Marshall. It raised a magnificent £216.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped both set up and clear up, just goes to show that members are listening to my comments that all members should be active, not passive, keep at it, volunteers are always required, putting chairs away after a monthly meeting, helping with refreshments, joining the committee, starting new groups.

Put a note in your diary for the next "Picnic in the Park", to celebrate 40 years of Bicester U3A in 2026!

Dave Jones