

Ashby:

Blaby:

Bradgate:

Charnwood: With 1041 members and 87 groups, plus 6 walking groups, there are always interesting things happening at Charnwood U3A.

Topics covered by the groups are varied and wide ranging, and include languages, history, science, sports, outings, lunch and supper clubs, board and card games, the Arts, music and many more.

Fairly recent additions include Philosophy, Yoga, Beading and Classical Greek, as well as second Canasta and Mah Jong groups and one can see from this variety that we really do cater for all tastes and interests.

The Travel Group had five days in Bristol, Bath and Wells in early May, while Days of Interest organise regular coach outings. They went in May to the Elgar Birthplace Museum in Worcester and Spetchley Park Gardens, to Harrogate and Harlow Carr Gardens and Cotswold Wildlife Gardens, among others, in June and are off to see a display of Cavalier Horsemanship at Bolsover Castle in August as well as visiting Renishaw Hall Gardens, home of the Sitwells.

The History Groups are equally active, taking in visits to Stokesay Castle and Ludlow, Stonehenge with its new Visitor Centre, the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge and Garendon Estate in Loughborough, while the Archaeology Group is exploring Burrough Hill Iron Age Fort and joining with one of the History groups in August for a visit to the Lion Salt Works near Northwich and the Grosvenor Museum in Chester. The Parish Churches groups have explored local sites such as the Forest churches of St Paul's, Woodhouse Eaves, and St Mary in the Elms, Old Woodhouse, the magnificent church at Breedon-on-the Hill and are off shortly to explore the religious heritage of Coventry.

At CU3A we pride ourselves on being flexible and catering for our wide range of members' needs and the success of our many and varied groups confirm that we are on the right track.

Countesthorpe:

Enderby Area: Whilst some of our groups are suspended for the summer months, we have been looking at broadening the groups we have.

In October we are commencing a bird watching group with our first outing to Attenborough Nature Reserve in Nottinghamshire. We are also looking at a play reading group which will commence in the Autumn. A darts group has also been mentioned, but again this would commence in the Autumn.

Our Kurling Group have been in a National Kurling Tournament recently and did rather well by getting themselves through to the last 6, a great result considering their opposition.

We joined forces with Hinckley U3A recently for an outing through 'City and Village Tours' to the Cotswolds and Adam Henson's Cotswolds Farm Park. It was a good trip with a guide joining the coach and taking us to Burford initially, where we all enjoyed lardy cake. The Family History and History Research groups recently visited Ashby-de-la-Zouch, where we had a talk on the Civil war in England, followed by a guided walk, lunch and a visit to Ashby Castle. We took advantage of English Heritage allowing us free entry into the castle because we are a U3A group and are studying the period.

Glenfield: Our U3A continues to flourish, largely due to the energy and commitment of the membership, which is now just under 300. There are 38 Interest Groups covering a wide range of activities. Monthly meetings are busy affairs, with lots of news and information. Where appropriate we work in tandem with other local groups. We also have a lively Social Calendar, dances, quizzes, skittles etc. Anything involving food is very popular! We are very proud of our Newsletter (edited by Gill Tapping, who also manages the Website), which is published quarterly.

Great Glen: The Committee recently held a very successful Group Leaders meeting which saw an almost 100% attendance. We started with a buffet lunch and followed this by a film, shot over the preceding couple of months by the Group Leader of our Digital Photography Group, of the activities of many of our groups. Our Treasurer made a very interesting presentation. The Chairman presented plans for our next Open Day, which has been extended into two buildings this year. We issued an updated group leaders advice sheet and spent time discussing this. We closed with a very lively, interactive session with a panel comprising the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer.

New groups started recently are English Country Dancing, Line Dancing, History and Crochet. All these groups have proved very popular. The reason we have extended our Open Day to two buildings is to accommodate demonstrations of English Country Dancing, Table Tennis and Line Dancing. We have appointed a Group Leaders Co-ordinator who comes into post on 1st September.

Hinckley:

Leicester: The total number of our interest groups has now reached 50, the latest additions being Parks and Tearoom Strolls, Intermediate Chess, Bookworms and a second Creative Writing group. We are looking into the viability of several others -- Astronomy for one looks as though it will achieve lift-off in the near future.

As our contribution to Adult Learners' Week we set up a stall in Knighton Library to illustrate the benefits of membership of U3A. Several members gave their time to staff the stall. Although our attendance was timed to coincide with other events in the Library for Adult Learners' Week, the level of interest shown was disappointing and we will be considering how best to continue our support for the Week next year.

Also as part of our advertising strategy for U3A, we rented a half-stall at the Clarendon Park Street Fair in June. Unfortunately, the weather conditions meant that leaflets had to be protected by a plastic sheet and were not readily available for passers-by. It also meant that attendance at the Fair was not as good as last year. Even so we managed to give out the equivalent of about 90 information packs. Time will tell how many of these will result in a positive response. We would be interested to hear of any recruits to neighbouring U3As who mention that they were encouraged to join because of learning about U3A at the Street Fair.

Loughborough:**Lutterworth:****Market Harborough:**

Melton Mowbray: Our numbers both in terms of groups and members continue to grow and our Group Coordinator works very hard to interest people in starting new groups. The Committee are, at the moment planning and organising our annual Group Leader's meeting and lunch which is usually very well attended. We have had some good speakers at our monthly meetings recently, in particular one by one of our own members entitled "To Base Camp Everest and Back" this was followed by a visit from one of Britain's International Fire and Rescue team accompanied by his search dog. He had just returned from Nepal where he had been post their dreadful earthquake. Many of our members mainly those in our craft groups have contributed hugely to an appeal to fill an aircraft with such things as warm knit ware for the youngest children and babies whose families were caught up in the disaster. The knitting needles and crochet hooks were flying and the member collecting all the contributions was swamped by almost daily deliveries of sacks full of baby clothes and blankets, some of them works of art!

2016 will be our 20th year and we are already thinking about a special commemorative meeting for all members with a mixture of nostalgia and forward looking themes. The last Vice Chairman, now that he has stepped down, has been through all our archive material, tidied it up and produced an excellent history of the Melton Mowbray U3A. We hope that will be of wider interest within Melton and also to the local paper.

Oadby & Wigston:

Rutland: Rutland U3A is extremely busy at the moment, the numbers continue to be around 460, with lots of new members, which in turn is enabling the creation of lots of new groups - we now have over 60 groups.

Our social events are many and varied with 43 attending Kilworth House's production of, Singing In the Rain, a trip on Rutland Water, a petanque evening and several forthcoming events including a Tapas evening in mid-August. Our monthly meetings continue to be well attended and we are currently planning to have an Open coffee morning in October for all, with publicity in the town to inform and attract new members to U3A.

Soar Valley:

South Leicestershire: Almost 1000 names continue to feature on the membership register with a steady flow of new members but an equally steady flow of members who for a host of good reasons decided not to renew when our new year commenced in May. We have just reached our 15th birthday with a sizeable collection of the original reprobates still fully paid up and active. Subs remain – as they have done for several years – at £15.00 and we have an established financial stability. Seventy two Groups carry on providing a wide range of traditional - and some new - educational, social and recreational activities. The latest groups include badminton; singles Sunday lunch No.1 & No.2; ukulele players and an additional walking 'assemblage'. We have 5 very popular walking groups. A recent addition, Spanish for Beginners, is extremely popular. Groups Co-Ordinators Geoff Woods and Alan Tuck are overseeing several other ideas and aspirations that are in the pipe-line. Our revamped committee for 2015/16 is headed by a new

chairman, Don Collins, and the tasks and duties associated with committee membership are proceeding with a fresh impetus. The monthly Newsletter is undergoing a layout transformation and we are endeavouring (not for the first time!) to assemble a register of member's Email addresses.

West Leicestershire: We now have 86 members, having lost just 12 with the start of the new membership year and gaining new members as a result of our Open Afternoon event at Barlestone and a stand at 'What's on in Newbold Verdon', an event aimed at people new to the village.

Our first AGM was held in June and we now have an elected committee. The AGM was followed by a Beetle Drive which proved to be very enjoyable (even to the sceptics!).

We now have a projector, screen and display boards as a result of a successful grant application.

Local history and Architecture Groups have continued with their visits to local places of interest to both subjects, the latest being National Trust at Stoneywell and a Guided Walk, 'Looking up in Leicester.'

Whitwick & District:

Wycliffe Lutterworth: