

Charity No.



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## Leicester Newsletter

December 2022



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## MEMBERSHIP

Your membership expires at the end of December (unless you joined from 1<sup>st</sup> November) and, as usual, reminders were sent out in early November. I am pleased to say that a steady trickle of renewals and a few new members have been received already for which we extend our thanks. This year we are again accepting renewal by bank transfer which has made it easier for many members. There have been a few resignations, mainly due to the frailty of the members concerned, or lack of time to benefit from membership. We wish them all well for the future.

We ended October with 417 members but still have 416 after these changes. Still to renew are 248 members. As usual, the January meeting will be your opportunity to renew in person. Otherwise please contact me if you have lost the reminder email and need any details. There is a grace period to the end of January after which those of you who have not yet renewed will cease to be a member and will be unable to attend any general or group meetings. After the splendid activities this year I do hope you will think it worthwhile to stay with us and look forward to hearing from those of you still to renew.

Margaret Potter  
Membership Secretary  
0116 2911814  
membership@leicesteru3a.org.uk

### **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR - Tony Davison**

We wouldn't usually produce a newsletter in December but as we have been busy this year staging the three events for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary we have not had time to organise the usual Christmas Lunch. As such, we have produced this newsletter express to wish members a merry Christmas. Whether you are part of a large family gathering or spending it quietly at home just one or two we hope that it is a pleasant occasion and, above all, keep warm, stay safe and we look forward to seeing you in 2023.

### **PROGRAMME**

**General meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month and start at 2:30p.m. The doors open to members at 2:00p.m.**

### **December Meeting**

There is no monthly meeting in December.

## **January Meeting**

This January meeting will be on Tuesday January 10<sup>th</sup> 2023 and is for members who wish to renew their membership or just come for a coffee and a chat. There is no speaker but there will be a quiz identifying people who have been in the news in 2022. The membership secretary will be on hand to receive your cheque or cash if you have not already renewed. Remember these are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January and your membership will lapse at the end of the month after which you will not be able to attend any meetings or groups.

## **ALL MEMBERS COFFEE MORNINGS** - *Sandra Barker – Hospitality and Wellbeing*

The final coffee morning of 2022 will be on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December from 10.00 a.m. onwards and we may even stretch to mince pies and a few nibbles.

The first coffee morning of 2023 will be on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **WELFARE**

Just a reminder that if you know of a member who is ill or bereaved to let Elizabeth Hassall know at: [cards@leicesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:cards@leicesteru3a.org.uk)

## **THANK YOU BUT NOT GOODBYE**

Irene Ault has previously been an active member of the committee, including the Secretary of Leicester u3a, and since then has been systems administrator for many years. Without her expert IT knowledge and help in running and maintaining our IT systems and generic email addresses we would, amongst other things, not be able to keep email contact with the membership, carry out the groups audit and it would make the job of Treasurer significantly harder. Irene is now taking well deserved retirement and I am sure that each and every member will join the committee in thanking Irene for her many years of service. Thank you to Irene for all of her hard work and dedication. Your expertise will be hard to replace but we will try not to annoy you with too many questions!

## WEBSITE

If you check your emails or just the website you will have noticed that the website has been down. This is not just Leicester, the National u3a has been experiencing problems with the TSO host. It is now available again although some links may not yet be working as it is taking time to reload files. Thank you Graham Williams for keeping us up to date.

## REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

### Leicester u3a Facebook Page - Steph Smith, Administrator

Those of you on social media might not be aware that Leicester u3a has its very own Facebook page. It was started in August 2019 by the then Chair, Steph Smith, who continues to administer the page. It's a closed page, so only Leicester u3a members are eligible to join. If you do apply to join, there may be a slight delay as your name has to be checked against the membership list. So what can you expect to see on our FB page? Well, just about anything the members might want to post, topics are not exclusively u3a-related. So far posts have included a regular weekly life-blog from our very own Andy Williams, frequent pictures of plants from Steph Smith, scam alerts, pictures of gardens, holiday photos, notifications of local craft fairs, articles and photos about group visits, family visits, notifications of local events/activities, jokes, to be honest, just about anything that takes your interest. We avoid anything overtly political or religious, in accordance with the guidelines for u3a groups, but apart from that, we see a real variety of posts. Our membership has increased steadily to the current 44, and I feel there may well be people who are not aware of the page who might be interested to join. If that's you, then do a search on Facebook for Leicester u3a and look out for the statue of Richard III. We'd love to see you on there.



## Alternative Christmas Dinner

As a volunteer at the RSPCA I know that the stories of the current Avian Flu epidemic have not been exaggerated. There is, therefore, a shortage of free range turkeys for sale this year. Geese are equally as susceptible. Not ordered yours yet?

Member Tony Locke left his house he noticed a spider hanging on a single thread. When he returned two hours later it had caught its own lunch and wrapped it all neatly wrapped up for later.

Photo Tony  
Locke



For tips on how to catch your own Christmas lunch contact your nearest spider.

Warning not suitable for vegetarians, terms & conditions apply.

### ALL RIGHT POP PICKERS?

It seemed like a festive issue should be about favourite festive songs. In line with the above article about the Facebook page I thought I would throw this question open to the Facebook group and got a couple of really interesting replies so here we go:

#### **Sadie Ghelani - Member:**

- Fairy Tale of New York – The Pogues
- Santa Claus is Back in Town – Elvis
- I Believe in Father Christmas – Greg Lake
- Gaudete – Steeleye Span

Sadie says that “the killer line by Greg Lake is - The Christmas we get is the Christmas we deserve - I have certainly had Christmases when I have thought what did I do to deserve this?” I think that is possibly something many of us can relate to!

### **Steph Smith - Member:**

We find ourselves bombarded in every supermarket, TV channel and radio station with Christmas number ones from over the years on a loop. So much so that when I asked the question of the Facebook group I was expecting a rush of “It’s Christmasssssss” and the like. I had forgotten that Christmas carols are the songs that don’t usually get the airtime outside of the annual carol service. Steph thankfully had not! She took a lot of time thinking about her answer and recalled lots of old favourite carols that take us back to our childhood and, whatever our adult religious views, they can still remain firm favourites. She eventually narrowed it down to:

- In The Bleak Midwinter
- The Sussex Carol
- Carol of The Bells
- Angels from the Realms of Glory

Steph also added a link to Classic FM Website for anyone who would be interested in listening to more carols, including some you may or may not have heard before: <https://www.classicfm.com/discover-music/occasions/christmas/nations-top-30-christmas-carols/>

Fancy letting us know your favourites? Why not join the Facebook group and join the discussion.

### **NEWS ABOUT THE GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR – Neil Taylor**

We haven’t allowed Neil any column space in this mini edition of the newsletter but that doesn’t mean we can’t write ABOUT him 😊  
“Come in a Christmas jumper or a Christmas hat if you don’t have a jumper” they said. In every group there is always one who thinks



they can get away with it, sneak in under the radar. Not at Leicester u3a, always prepared! Friends we give you Leicester u3a's Groups Co-ordinator, Neil Taylor, in a £3 Tesco "emergency Christmas jumper kit".



The moral of this story is next time bring a Santa hat if you don't want to look like a badly dressed Christmas tree 😊



**CARTOON CORNER** by member Tony Locke





## ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

### **Delivery**

The newsletter is usually printed for those who prefer a hard copy. It is available on a first come first served basis at the monthly meeting and coffee morning. If you would like a hard copy but can't make these events the secretary is happy to send a copy by post to anyone who sends her a supply of stamps and their full address. It will, also, continue to be delivered to members by email as a pdf file before each monthly meeting. There is no printed copy of this edition.

### **Contributions**

Thank you to all those who have submitted articles, please do keep them coming. Write and tell us about a group or activity that you have enjoyed. We would love to see more from members making a contribution and, if you prefer, we can publish it anonymously as "member". It doesn't matter whether it is a short paragraph or longer article (of up to 350 words), with or without a photograph.

**PHOTOS** – Please remember to get permission from any people in your photos for us to publish them. This permission will be assumed if you send them to the editor.

**The deadline for items to be included in the January newsletter is Friday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2022.** Contributions should be sent to the Editor at: [newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk)

If you want to submit your entry as hard copy, please contact the Editor or Membership Secretary for the postal address.

*Karen Closs – Newsletter Editor*

## GROUPS IN THE NEWSLETTER

A few members were asking whether groups could be included in the newsletter as they used to be some years ago. I have enquired but this isn't really viable because:

- We don't have the software that former Editor, Cliff Ault, used to do this.
- The cost of printing the newsletter is going up significantly in January.
- The information is available on the website.
- When it has been printed in older newsletters it was subject to inaccuracies due to changes made between compiling the newsletter and going to print. Convenors think to communicate with their group but not necessarily the newsletter editor.
- The Groups Co-ordinator has undertaken to have a few spare paper copies of the groups list that people can take away from monthly meetings and coffee mornings.

We apologise that we are unable to meet this request at present but will keep the matter under review.