

Charity No.



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## Leicester Newsletter

May 2023



*Photo Irene Ault*

<https://u3asites.org.uk/leicester/home>

If this link does not open, just copy, and paste it into your browser.

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**For news from the Third Age Trust, you can sign up for your own Trust newsletter at:**

**<https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/newsletter#signup>**

## **URGENT MESSAGE FROM NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

The newsletter belongs to you, the members. It naturally contains news and information from your committee that is relevant but to produce a varied, interesting and, sometimes, amusing newsletter it does require more input from members and convenors. It is exceedingly difficult persuading people to participate. To those who contribute regularly, a huge thank you. However, I find that I am increasingly reproducing posts from our Facebook page, making last minute pleas to members and convenors directly to help and it is usually the same few that respond. Compiling the newsletter is time consuming and hard work and costs, on average, 3 membership fees per edition to print. Do you read it? Do you want it to continue or are members tired of it? If so, is there anything that we can do to improve it? It is your newsletter we want to make it about you and of interest to members. Please feel free to email suggestions: [newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk)

We have 70 groups and I suspect, like me, members would love to know more about these groups and their activities. Finally remember you DO NOT have to be the convenor to contribute about a group. Photos are fantastic too (just ensure that anyone not wanting to be published is out of shot).

ADDENDUM – Karen is currently unable to respond personally but all messages to [newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk) will be dealt with. Please do NOT email Karen personally with newsletter articles.

## **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: - Angie Barnes, Membership Secretary**

Membership now stands at 366 an increase of 4 since last month.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR – Neil Taylor

First this month an advertisement. Henry Paulinski, our Publicity Co-ordinator, wishes to hand over the role after many successful years telling the wider world of u3a events and activities. Do you have you had experience, in your previous life, of publicity? Advertising? Circulating information to local papers, local radio, further afield? Have you supplied information to other organisations about your company's work? Then you may be interested in taking up the Publicity Co-ordinator's role. However experience is not essential, if you are interested Henry would be happy to show you all that you need to know.

And have you booked your seeds at the library? In an excellent initiative Leicester's libraries are offering all members three packets of vegetable seeds from their "seed library". For spring you can choose from beetroot, climbing French beans, fenugreek, mixed lettuce and spinach. In the autumn broad beans, coriander, mixed salad and radishes are being offered. I'm going to try my window ledge...you never know!

By the time you read this many of you might have brought along those small items of memorabilia asked for in our Coronation Celebrations. The essence is not so much in the item, or the occasion, but in the memories, the reminiscences, all those things we associate with an ornament, or an illustration we have saved. We do this all the time in our groups and activities, and we will have more times in the future where we can gather things together and talk about their importance to us. Do keep your suggestions coming, and we will be happy to try to bring your ideas to fruition.

## **PROGRAMME**

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

### **APRIL MEETING REPORT:**

#### **The Life & Times of Rudyard Kipling**

Thanks to Keith Pyne, our speaker finder, for organising April's fascinating talk, by Paul Adey, on the life and times of Rudyard Kipling.

Paul's talk was a moving and thoughtful look at one of our greatest poets and authors, exploring his early childhood in the days of the Raj in India and his lifelong affection for the country, the loss of two of his children, his writing, and his journey to America to meet Mark Twain.

Rudyard Kipling was born in Bombay (now Mumbai) – “the mother of cities”. At five years old he went to a boarding house and wrote of it as “a house of desolation” where discipline was brutal. At the age of 13 he went to Westward Ho Military College, the inspiration for his novel *Stalky and Co.* Here he met his first love Maisie Gerrard. Then he became a journalist, missed Oxford, and got a job on the Lahore Times as an Assistant Editor.

In 1889 Kipling travelled to London, then America, where he met Samuel Clemens, pen name Mark Twain. They became great friends and during long conversations, Twain's novel *Huckleberry Finn* came into being.

In 1892 he met and married Carrie Balestier. The couple lived happily in Vermont, in Bliss Cottage. Here *Jungle Book*, *Captains Courageous*, and the poetry *Mandalay* and *Gunga Din* were written.

In 1899 his daughter Josephine passed away from pneumonia. It was for her that he had written the *Just So* stories. Josephine's last words were “Love to Daddy”.

Paul listed the many films made of Rudyard Kipling's stories: The Light That Failed, starring Ronald Colman, Kim, with Errol Flynn; Gunga Din, starring Cary Grant and Douglas Fairbanks Jr.; Soldiers Three; and the outstanding Captains Courageous with Spencer Tracy; Jungle Book and The Man Who Would be King, with Michael Caine.

Kipling died in 1930, his pall bearer Stanley Baldwin. His grave is in Westminster Abbey next to Charles Dickens and Thomas Hardy.

Join us next time, for the Leicester u3a Coronation Celebrations – "Crown Your Day, with food, music, and the Recollections of a Country Vicar.

### **MAY MEETING: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

The speaker will be Reverend Canon Alan Haycock: Confessions of a Country Vicar. This will be followed by our Coronation celebrations.

### **JUNE MEETING: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

The speaker will be Robert Leake: Those Radio Days

**HOSPITALITY & WELLBEING – PLEA FOR HELP:** Sandra has asked if anyone would be able to help in the kitchen serving tea and coffee after the monthly meetings. Please see Sandra at coffee mornings or the monthly meeting if this could be you.

**ALL MEMBERS COFFEE MORNINGS:** Sandra Barker – Hospitality and Wellbeing

Coffee mornings continue to be well attended and enjoyable. They are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 10.00 am onwards at the Quaker Meeting House, Queen's Road. Why not join us for refreshments, friendship and chat. Look out for Sandra's wonderful lemon drizzle cake and, if we are lucky, Dave's prize winning ginger cake.

### **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)



## **OBITUARY**

We are incredibly sad to announce the death of one of our founding members, Alan Roy Priestly, (known as Roy), who passed away on 11<sup>th</sup> April. As well as being one of the initial members it was Alan who cut the Leicester u3a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration cake.

The celebration of life Service is being held at 3.45/4.00pm on Friday 12th May followed by a wake at Fieldhead Hotel Markfield. Roy's son, Dave, extends the invite to anyone who knew his father. Anyone wishing to send a message of condolence can do so to: [david.priestley68@gmail.com](mailto:david.priestley68@gmail.com)

## **NEWS FROM THE GROUPS COORDINATOR NEIL TAYLOR**

By the time you read this New Groups Tai Chi, French Intermediate Conversation 2, Italian, Bowls, Current Affairs 3, Social History and Afternoon Tea will have started. If you are interested in joining these, all details will be announced as soon as they are available.

Get in touch with me at any time at [groups@leicesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@leicesteru3a.org.uk) to put your name down, and of course to suggest more.

### **Possible New Groups:**

- Scrabble 2
- Welsh Beginners
- Guitar Starters
- Creative Writing
- Ukulele
- Whist
- Mah Jong Beginners
- Bookworms 2
- Real Ale (And Wine) Club

### **Wanting New Members**

- Music Reading Made Easy, (see later article),
- Backgammon,
- Cryptic Crosswords 1,
- Cryptic Crosswords 2,
- Gardening,
- Orienteering,

- Discovering Architecture and
- Ten Pin Bowling

In addition to the new groups starting we have plenty of the possible new groups very near to having sufficient interest to start, and I look forward to more initial meetings in the near future. Looking forward to you signing up to any of these groups,

### u3a ISLAND DISCS

Any member is invited to share their top three playlist, together with background stories. As well as **pop** and **rock** it would be interesting to get some **classical music, hymns, arias, country, folk, jazz, punk or any other genre**. This Month David Fox shares his favourite three songs:

1. Johnny Reggae - The Piglets – a timeless classic.
2. My Boomerang Won't Come Back - Charlie Drake - great lyrics.
3. You Need Feet - Bernard Bresslaw - what a voice!

Many thanks, David. If anyone would like to share your top three with fellow members please email: [newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk)



## **REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

**Parks & Tearooms Strolls (PATS) – Member Irene Ault** The first PATS walk of spring was to the Botanic Garden on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April. It had to be cut short because of the rain, but tea and cakes at Brown's in Allandale Road were able to be enjoyed by those who could stay.



Cherry Blossom



Willow-leaved Pear

### **Bus Pass Tours – Convenor Denise Buchan**

We had a delightful trip last Friday, to Northampton; at least we Convenor thought so. The weather forecast hadn't been good so the day could have been disastrous but for once the heavens were on our side and, although we were told afterwards that there had been a lot of rain in Leicester, there had only been a couple of heavy showers in Northampton, most of which we'd been able to dodge. Being quite a long journey our first thoughts upon arrival was to immediately enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and, being so close to lunchtime, why not throw in lunch as well? (Not literally you understand!). So that is what we did, leaving later with appetites satisfied and having had a very sociable time chatting and swapping news.

The next stop was to see the so-called 'Rennie Mackintosh' house. On arrival there, only a short distance away, half the group wished to go round it to see the inside and the rest of us didn't so instead we walked back to the town's recently renovated Museum and Art



Gallery where we whiled away an enjoyable hour or so wandering around the shoe gallery. Although the early footwear on display didn't look as if it would have been particularly comfortable or practical to wear, it is surprising how little it has changed through the ages.

The next trip will be to Quorn (a trip planned for a previous occasion, but which had to be postponed) on 26th May.



Photos Sue Took

**Luncheon Club** – is the second Sunday of each month. Numbers are limited so book early. Contact Ros Devine on: [lunch@leicesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:lunch@leicesteru3a.org.uk)

### **Music Reading Made Easy – Convenor Margot Comer**

I have been Convenor for quite a while now and so inevitably our membership has changed...now to the extent that we would welcome some new interest and more members in the group. We meet fortnightly, usually on a Tuesday at 10.30 am at my house. (Email [groups@leicesteru3a.org](mailto:groups@leicesteru3a.org) for details or you can contact Margot directly through the website). Bit by bit we learn how to make some sense out of the dots and squiggles that musicians appear to be able to make use of ....to the extent of deciding which dots to use and how to play them. We look forward to welcoming you.

### **A SMALL POEM TO SPRING – Barbara Russell, Member**

Did you look and did you see  
That golden gleam beyond the tree?  
That broke the dark grey winter sky  
and seems to promise Spring is nigh.

A day of warmth, another too  
And soon a myriad buds break through.  
Spring flowers nod towards the sun,  
Bees fill the air with gentle hum.

Yes, Spring has come.

### **BLUEBELL WALK – Meena Voira, Member**

We recently did a circular walk around the Hambleton peninsula and called it the "bluebell.walk" as they were all out. This was followed up with lunch at the outlet store in Oakham and for anyone who wished to peruse the store.



Currently, we have no men coming on any of these walks and wondered if there are any who would be interested in joining us.



### **PICKLEBALL? – Pamela Richardson, Member**

A few members are interested in setting up a Pickleball group. Pickleball was highlighted in the latest U3A magazine, Third Age Matters. It is a cross between ping-pong and badminton. It is a fast growing sport. It is great fun to play. We have played some games at the Braunstone Leisure Centre as part of a wider club but would like to set up a U3A group.

Anyone interested should let Neil Taylor our groups coordinator know so that he can arrange a start-up meeting.

[groups@leicesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@leicesteru3a.org.uk)

### **NATURAL HISTORY GROUP – Steph Smith, Convenor**

The April meeting of the Natural History Group found 7 members discovering the peace and beauty of The Outwoods near Woodhouse Eaves. Quite a drive, but well worth it. It's part of the woodland area that covers Swithland and Charnwood, and is currently looking resplendent in its gown of bluebells. Unfortunately, my phone camera absolutely does not do justice to just how lovely it is. Lots of birdsong, we saw a jay, robins, blackbirds, dunnock, and



heard many more including redstart, chiff-chaff, wren, song thrush, black cap and crows. There are various carved animals along the trails, and many small plants and trees starting to establish their new growth. Here's a few, identification in comments.  
P.S: we saw a muntjac grazing amongst the bluebells before we got out of the car, but no photo 😞



**COACH TRIP TO THE AVONCROFT OPEN AIR MUSEUM OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS - Veronica Matthew, Convenor  
Architecture and Design Group**

The Avoncroft Coach Trip on Wednesday June 14th is virtually full so if anyone is interested in going and wants to be put on a waiting list in case anyone drops out, please e-mail [veronica.matthew@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:veronica.matthew@tiscali.co.uk)

**CORONATION Of King CHARLES III**

Our celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III will take place at our monthly meeting on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2.00pm, at Christchurch, Clarendon Park Road and will take place after the speaker. There will be a light buffet and entertainment, further details to be announced.



**LEICESTER U3A  
CORONATION CELEBRATIONS  
2023  
CROWN YOUR DAY!  
CELEBRATE THE CORONATION  
OF KING CHARLES III**

**WITH LEICESTER U3A!**





## CONSERVATION, WILDLIFE & NATURAL HISTORY

Now that Spring has sprung, we would love to hear details of any nature or wildlife you encounter, on walks, in gardens, the countryside, by the sea or elsewhere.

Remember No Mow May is a national campaign to encourage people not to mow their lawns until the end of May in order to boost the flowers and nectar, available to pollinating insects such as bees, butterflies and moths.



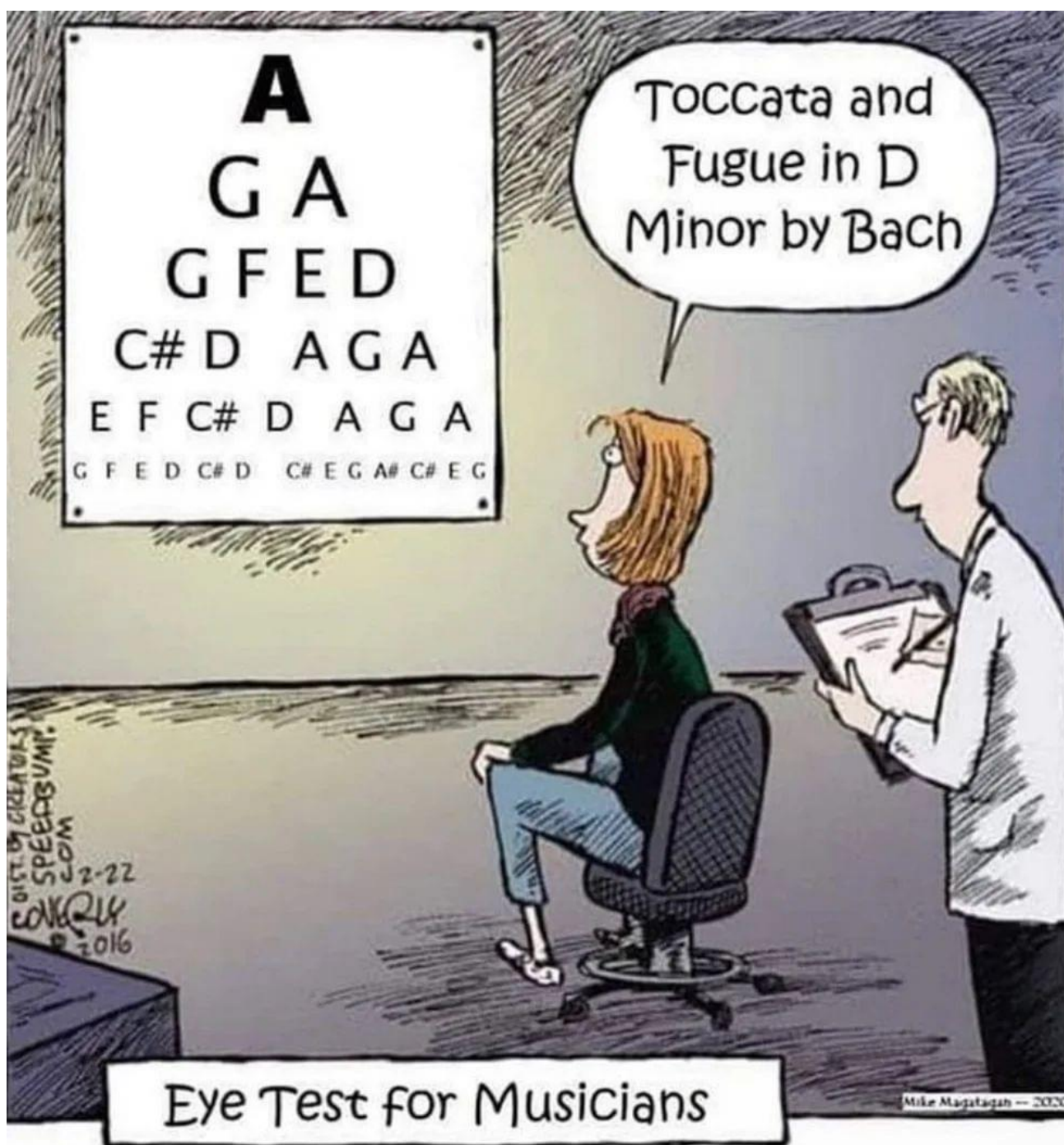
## COOKERY CORNER

Member Margaret Potter shares her favourite easy vegetarian mushroom pate recipe.

1. Clean, chop and sauté 150 gm of mushrooms in a little butter until soft. I use chestnut or well flavoured variety.
2. Add 1 level teaspoon of porcine mushroom powder and cook stirring for a further 30 seconds. I found this in Waitrose but haven't checked other outlets.
3. Blitz until smooth. Add 150 grams Boursin cheese and blitz again to combine.
4. Add black pepper to taste.
5. Refrigerate. Will keep for about a week in a sealed container. Delicious with small snack crackers (beetroot ones are good) and a G and T or aperitif of your choice. CHEERS!

Please do let us know if you have a favourite recipe that you would be happy to share <mailto:newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk>

## COMEDY CORNER



If you have any funny/interesting stories or pictures, we would be interested to receive and share them.

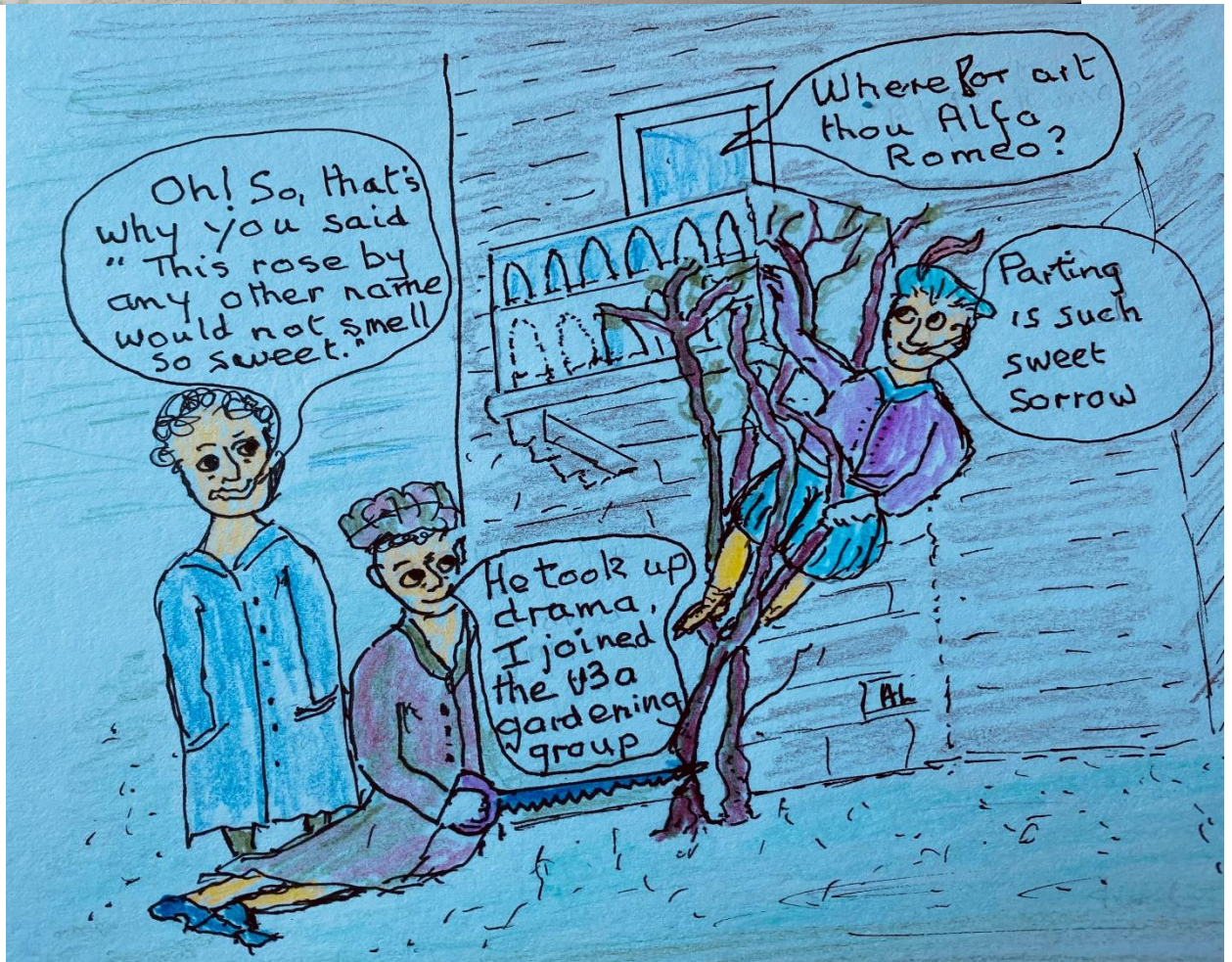
<mailto:newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk>

**PUZZLE CORNER - A Sudoku** (created by Cliff Ault – Member  
Cryptic Crossword Group) [Solution on page 20](#)

				8		5	6	
		8		2	3			
	5		6				1	
	8				7		5	
	3		2				4	
					4	2		
		4				1		
				3				9
	6	7	4					



## CARTOON CORNER – MEMBER TONY LOCKE





## ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

### Delivery

The newsletter is 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.

I would like to apologise that there were no hard copies of the newsletter last month. Due to medical appointments I was unable to finalise the newsletter before Lionheart Print (Beauchamp College) broke up for the Easter holidays. Entirely my fault.

### Contributions

Thank you to all those who have submitted articles, please do keep them coming.

**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 June newsletter is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023.** Contributions should be sent to the Editor at: [newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk) **PLEASE NOTE EARLY DEADLINE!**

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

**Groups in Newsletters** – I continue to receive a request from a few members to publish a list of all groups in the newsletter. This was discussed by the new committee and, as the software used to do this no longer exists it would be too labour intensive. However full details of all groups and contacts are available on the website and via the groups convenor at the monthly meetings and coffee mornings. The groups convenor is also always willing to answer queries either in person at the above or via email to [groups@leicesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@leicesteru3a.org.uk) *Karen Closs – Newsletter Editor*

## SUDOKU SOLUTION

2	4	9	7	8	1	5	6	3
6	1	8	5	2	3	7	9	4
7	5	3	6	4	9	8	1	2
4	8	2	3	6	7	9	5	1
9	3	1	2	5	8	6	4	7
5	7	6	9	1	4	2	3	8
3	9	4	8	7	5	1	2	6
8	2	5	1	3	6	4	7	9
1	6	7	4	9	2	3	8	5