

Leicester Newsletter

June 2023

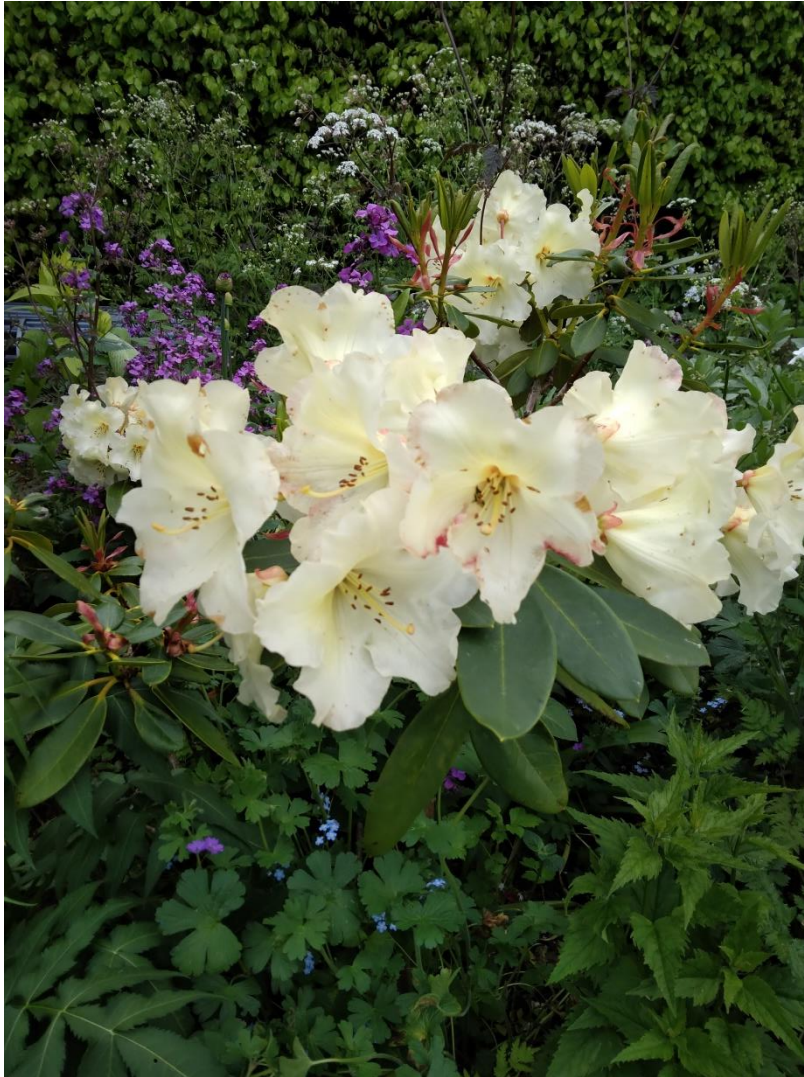


Photo – Angie Barnes, Convenor Gardening Group

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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>

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR – Karen is currently unable to respond personally but all messages to newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk will be dealt with. Please do **NOT** email Karen or Margaret personally with newsletter articles.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: - Angie Barnes, Membership Secretary

Membership now stands at 369 an increase of 3 since last month.

Angie Barnes - Membership Secretary

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR – Neil Taylor

Hi everybody,

Thank you to all who attended our Coronation Celebrations! I'm sure everyone would agree it was a lovely afternoon, with the Rev Canon Alan Haydock being a brilliantly funny speaker, the Leicester u3a Guitar Players as great as ever, superb catering, another showing of our 40th Anniversary video, and bunting galore! We had a Coronation Memorabilia table with ornaments and written descriptions – and a Coronation Bible that had travelled all the way from Venezuela – I hope to continue this, and do please carry on sending, and bringing in for our next Monthly Meeting, photos and written descriptions of your memories from Elizabeth's Coronation. Maybe you already have personal cherished memories of Charles' Coronation too.

You may have seen on television in the days running up to the Coronation, and the local Council Elections, the Third Age Trust's Spam Avoidance Workshop, with Rishi Sunak and Suella Braverman visiting. Never respond to a telephone number you don't recognise is the unfortunate reality we live with, but there are more sophisticated ways in which people try to trick us. The workshop was run by experts from the National Fraud Squad, and on our behalf I have expressed a wish that this is repeated on a wider scale. I will keep everybody informed of future online workshops.

The Committee and I continue to be open to expressions of interest in the vacant Publicity role - you may have read our recent press release in the Leicester Mercury. We also have vacancies for the Audio Visual Team, who help with the setting up of the projector, sound and microphones on Monthly Meeting days. Talking of which, do enjoy yourselves everybody, all 57 of you, who are going on our Avoncroft trip. Best wishes, Neil

Coach Trip to Avoncroft on June 14th No more bookings are being taken for this trip. If you would like to join the waiting list if anyone finds they cannot go please contact Veronica Matthew by e-mail on architecture3@leicesteru3a.org.uk

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.

MAY MEETING REPORT: Tuesday 9th May 2023

"Crown Your Day With the u3a!!"

So said the title, and on Tuesday 9th May 2023 Leicester u3a treated itself to right royal Coronation Celebrations. Held at Christchurch, Clarendon Park, not too much Pomp, but a lot of Circumstance took place, with a record 107 members attending.

All enjoyed a full afternoon, with first our wonderful speaker the Rev Canon Alan Haydock recounting the Confessions of a Country Vicar. Alan was trained at Kelham Theological College, ordained at Southwell Minster in 1965, and became a Canon there in 1986. Over the past 32 years, Alan has donated over £100,000 through his speaking fees to charity. He proved an ideal speaker for our day, requiring no slides, no screen, and few notes.

He was very funny and told of the time he spoke at the same event as Nobby Stiles, everyone interested in football, of his talk at the British Institute of Scrap Metal Merchants, speaking on the Conservation of Medieval Ceilings, and, as a Rural Dean attempting to pay for petrol without any money: "I am the Canon of Southwell Minster!" "What? Will they pay?" showing his collar - "Does that keep the gnats and tics off?" asked a small boy.

Alan took us on a gentle stroll through his career, at Rainworth, Nottinghamshire, and then at Hucknall, sometimes amongst great poverty; the difference between heifers and f***ers; and also WC and Wesleyan Chapel (you can only go once a week there).

Lots of jokes and anecdotes took us to the food and music of our buffet. The audience queued out of the door to the hall, partook of kingly portions of food, listened to Leicester u3a Guitar Players, introducing the Carolinian Era with Neil Diamond's Sweet Caroline, and – of course – witnessed the Cutting of the Leicester u3a Coronation Cake.

In the background past good times were shown, with our video of last September's month long 40th Anniversary Celebrations - and displayed -with some of our Coronation Memorabilia, brought in by members to show their memories of that previous Coronation, Elizabeth's. We hope to continue the ornaments, photos, illustrations and descriptions – do keep contributing them. And of course, do join us next month, for another interesting talk and lots of conversation!

JUNE MEETING: Tuesday 13th June 2023

The speaker is Robert Leake: Those Radio Days

JULY MEETING: Tuesday July 11th

The speaker will be Martin Grant from Leicester & Rutland Remap He will talk about how they are able to help the disabled by manufacturing appliances.

ALL MEMBERS COFFEE MORNINGS: Sandra Barker – Hospitality and Wellbeing

Coffee mornings continue to be well attended and enjoyable. They are held on the 3rd 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

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS COORDINATOR NEIL TAYLOR

Hi everybody,

Lots of activity with our Groups continues, with plenty of ideas for new groups and interest in joining groups very high.

Pickleball You will be familiar with this indoor or outdoor racquet sport from reading Pamela Richardson's recent Newsletter article. Singles or Doubles, and similar to tennis or badminton, it is most suitable for all levels of fitness, and ability. This group is very near to starting so do get in touch to express your interest.

Keep Fit Sessions We have a possibility of a fitness trainer leading some sessions of Keep Fit. The more people involved, the cheaper this becomes, and this is a great opportunity to have expert advice while improving our fitness.

We aren't complete without a Ukulele group, so our latest idea is...Pop Up Ukulele! If you want to have a go, but you are a beginner, would you like to join some sessions to learn the basics and get your confidence going? If so do get in touch and we can get started. The emphasis would be on enjoying learning to play – mistakes allowed!

Possible New Groups: Many of these are nearly at the point where we can organise an Initial Meeting for them, so do put your name down if you are interested.

- Scrabble 2
- Welsh Beginners
- Guitar Starters
- Whist
- Mah Jong Beginners
- Book Club 2

Wanting New Members

- Backgammon,
- Cryptic Crosswords 1,
- Cryptic Crosswords 2,
- Gardening,
- Orienteering,
- Discovering Architecture and
- Ten Pin Bowling

Contact me on groups@leicesteru3a.org.uk to put your name down and of course to suggest more. Best wishes, Neil

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 Helen Parsons shares her favourite three pieces:

1. Lacrimosa from Britten's Requiem
2. Eleanor Rigby by the Beatles
3. When I survey the wondrous Cross, hymn by Isaac Watts

Many thanks, Helen If anyone would like to share your top three with fellow members please email: newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk

REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

BEWARE! Having recently had an odd accident (don't climb on sideboards in your sixties...) and suffered a broken shoulder 😞, I'd like to take advantage of the medium of our wonderful newsletter, to pass on my sincere thanks to friends for messages of support, cards and phone calls, which were very much appreciated, during my ongoing recovery. They gave me such comfort, and just reinforced the fact that I have the pleasure of belonging to a wonderful organisation, full of caring, warm, thoughtful people.

Thank you Leicester u3a. 🙏

Phil Proud -Member

Architecture and Design Group's Visit to the former Fenwicks' Building

The Leicester branch of Fenwicks, the department store chain, closed in the spring of 2017. The original shop on Market Street had been opened by Joseph Johnson in 1880. Three years later Richard Allen built another shop on the corner of Market Street and Belvoir Street. About 1900 Joseph Johnson took over the corner shop. In the 1930s an art deco extension was built which took the shop up to the corner of Bowling Green Street and Belvoir Street. Fenwicks bought the Joseph Johnson store in 1962. The whole building has

now been converted into the Gresham Aparthotel. The old green exterior has been replaced by grey.



*Former Fenwicks building
← Photo Alan Murray-Rust*

and →

*The refurbished building at the
junction of Market Street and
Belvoir Street
Photo Anthony (Matt) Matthew*



We were split into two groups to be taken round. All 120 rooms have a small fully equipped kitchen, some residents stay for a night or two whereas others, such as someone who came because his house had been flooded, stay for some months. We asked about the occupancy rate and found out that for some nights recently it has been 100%. Most of the rooms cost between £100 - £120 a night but the price varies, not only with the size and luxuriousness of the room, but also how full the hotel is on on a particular night. Some of the rooms had a double bed or two single beds and a sofa bed so could put up a family. The Group was curious to see whether any interior features from the old Fenwicks Building remained. All we found was the staircase which led from the ground floor to the first and second floors, but much altered. The lift to the left of the staircase was still there. The original building, being made up of several buildings, had 40 different levels. When we went down below ground level we reminisced about the excellent kitchen department in the Fenwicks basement.



*Members of the group in the
Black Iron Social Restaurant
Photo Anthony (Matt) Matthew*

The restaurant, the Black Iron Social, is not run by the hotel but is under the same management as the City Rooms and Winstanley House in Braunstone Park. The Group visited Winstanley House, which has been converted into a hotel, some years ago. After our

visit we didn't have a convivial cup of tea at the Black Iron Social as the price quoted to us was too high so we went to the Chapel Café in Bishop Street. It is run by the Zinthiya Trust giving employment to young people with learning difficulties.

Veronica Matthew

Convenor, Architecture and Design Group



Bowling Green Street Frontage



Market Street Frontage



Photos by Anthony (Matt) Matthew

Petanque/Boules

Angie Barnes – Convenor

We are in need of new members for the Petanque group. It is on the 3rd & 4th Mondays at 4.15pm held at the Leicester Bowling club. Come along & enjoy the fun with plenty of friendly competition. No Boules required to have a go. If you are interested contact Angie Barnes, petanque@leicesteru3a.org.uk



Gardening Group

Angie Barnes – Convenor

A lovely afternoon was had with 9 of us going to a NGS garden in Sapcote. The garden was bigger than I thought it was going to be and was split into areas so there was plenty to see. After a lovely walk around discovering lovely plants & walkways we sat down for tea & cake in the sunshine.



Photos – Angie Barnes, Convenor Gardening Group

DISCUSSION GROUP 2

Henry Paulinski - Convenor

ADVICE FOR GENERATION Z Amongst the topics debated by our lively Discussion Group 2 recently was the question: *What advice gleaned from years of experience or passed down from your parents would you give to Millennials, or Generation Z?*

Our members have views ranging from old school socialist to *Daily Mail* readers, but here are a few "hints" from our discussion.

Order a bottle of wine at the beginning of the evening if you expect to drink more than 4 glasses between you.

Roast potatoes take longer to cook than you think.

Don't be vain: wear glasses/hearing aids, give up driving when the time is right.

Don't get a comb-over or a ponytail, gents: it is not a good look when you have lost your hair.

Viewing life with a detached irony or cynicism will not make you happy. Find a challenge or something to believe in.

Don't discuss politics, unless you are drunk and with friends.

You can judge the quality of a restaurant by its toilets and bread.

Develop lots of hobbies when you are younger: they will keep you busy in later life.

Be kind to yourself.

Adopt the u3a motto: LIVE, LAUGH, LEARN.

Try to smile every day.

Reading for Pleasure

Mary Neilson - Convenor

Reading for Pleasure would welcome new members. We are a small group who meet in the Cradock Arms at 2pm on the third Mon of the month. We choose the books by voting from a selection of titles put forward by the group. It is all very democratic! Our current book is *Lily* by Rose Tremain. Later this year we will be reading *Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles, *The Credit Draper* by J David Simons and *Bournville* by Jonathan Coe. For more details contact Mary at reading1@leicesteru3a.org.uk

Summer Croquet

Janet Connolly – Convenor

The group is now playing through until September. It would welcome some more members. Contact Janet at croquet@leicesteru3a.org.uk if you are interested. The group will then start again in April 2024.

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.

COOKERY CORNER

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 Moderate Sudoku (created by Cliff Ault – Member Cryptic Crossword Group) [Solution on page 16](#)

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

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.

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 July newsletter is Friday 23rd June 2023. Contributions should be sent to the Editor at: newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk

There is no newsletter in August

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 *Karen Closs – Newsletter Editor*

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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