

Leicester Newsletter

July 2023



Photo – Margaret Potter

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

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CONTENTS

Page

Message from the Editor	3
Membership Information	3
Message from the Chair – Neil Taylor	3
Programme – Monthly meetings	4
June report	4
July	5
September	5
All members Coffee Morning	5
Welfare	6
News from the Groups Coordinator - Neil Taylor	6
u3a Island Discs	7
Reports from Groups and from Individuals	7
Conservation, Wildlife and Natural History	14
Cookery Corner	15
Puzzle Corner	17
Cartoon Corner	18
About the newsletter	19
Puzzle Solution	20

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 – Unfortunately due to ongoing family illness 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 271, an increase of 2 since last month.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR – Neil Taylor

As I write we are either caught in bright sunshine or heavy thunderstorms, and in the heart of the summer. It is the longest day, (so quickly), and Glastonbury and Wimbledon are around the corner. We are thinking of our holidays and some groups are leaving the confines of their usual meeting places to go out on trips. Have a wonderful time. However please do give venues plenty of notice when you will not be using a room to give them sufficient time to let the room in our absence. **Please be aware that, although we have the privilege of using the Blue Room at Knighton & Clarendon Park Club at no cost, it is otherwise let commercially. It is, therefore, still particularly important to cancel the booking if you will not be using it for a week.**

Or are you fed up with the thought of holidays? Of the expense? Traffic? Irritated by children playing noisily? Then worry not, as Leicester u3a brings your holiday to you with our Summer Garden Party, on Tuesday 15th August at the Quaker Meeting House. Come early for the coffee morning and then as the morning drifts into the afternoon partake of food and entertainment. Details will follow shortly.

It will soon be Christmas so look out for our Christmas lunch, at Taste restaurant, on 22nd November. Again, details of this and our Christmas Party will follow.

Keith Pyne finds wonderful speakers for us at the monthly meetings, but the talks would not be as enjoyable without our audio-visual team to set up the screen, laptop, and projector, and to give us sound. We urgently need new volunteers. Would you be to help at Monthly Meeting? If so, it would be appreciated by the committee and the audience. Christchurch instructions are on the desk at the back of the worship Centre and Irene Ault has written clear procedure for the laptop and projector. Please do speak to or contact me or any member of the committee to find out what is involved.

Right! Time to fish out my wellingtons for Glastonbury...maybe not! Better my Panama hat for Wimbledon.

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.

JUNE MEETING REPORT: Tuesday 13th June 2023

Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin. Just to coin a phrase from Listen with Mother.

At the monthly meeting we were taken back in time with Radio Days, by Richard Leake, Publicity Officer for Hinckley and District Parkinson's Disease Group, Aim for Change, and retired Assistant Principal of Oadby Beauchamp. He spoke of the early days of wireless entertainment illustrated by evocative theme tunes in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the BBC.

The BBC started as 2LO, and 2ZI radio station in 1922 – station 5IT served Leicester and Leicestershire – then becoming the National and Regional Programmes, before merging to the Home Service in 1939. In 1940 the Forces Programme began, later to be the Light Programme after the War.

We were reminded of Victor Sylvester and his Orchestra, Sing Something Simple, and "Goodnight Children everywhere." Listen

with Mother began at 1.45 p.m. and Woman's Hour, with Daphne Oxenford and Julia Lang, at 2.00 p.m.

Radio Luxembourg was where numerous personalities began their career including Michael Miles (Take Your Pick, including the Yes/No Interlude), Hughie Green (Double Your Money), Perry Mason, Dan Dare and Ward Sister, "sponsored by Lucozade." The disc jockeys: Don Moss, Sam Costa, Pete Murray, Jack Jackson, Brian Matthew, (memories of many personal lie ins on Saturday, my Mum cooking the lunch to the Saturday Club), Leslie Welch, the Memory Man and, of course, Horace Batchelor, with his posh voice and his Infra Draw Method, promising us untold success on the football pools, if only we would send him some money to " Horace Batchelor...

K-e-y-n-s-h-a-m... Bristol."

Jessie Matthews and Mrs Dale's Diary, "I'm worried about Jim" and The Archers, "The everyday story of country folk," replacing, to general dismay, Dick Barton. ITMA "It's That Man Again," the most popular radio programme ever, with, at its height, 20 million listeners and starring Tommy Handley, whose funeral drew thousands to the streets.

Our members' smiles as they left Christchurch have ensured that Richard Leake will return, for more stories, because we...

" Shall always worry about Jim"!

JULY MEETING: Tuesday July 11th

The speaker is Martin Grant from Leicester & Rutland Remap He will talk about how they are able to help people with disabilities by manufacturing appliances.

SEPTEMBER MEETING: (there is no meeting in August)

The speaker will be Jo Dale from Vista: Vista is a leading charity supporting people with sight loss.

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. See the advance notice in the chairs message about the August coffee morning.

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

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

Second month for Pickle ball - This racquet sport is suitable for all levels of fitness and ability and the group is near to starting.

Pop Up Ukulele - If you are a beginner and you want to have a go, do get in touch and we can get started.

Possible New Groups: Several new groups are at the point where we can organise an initial meeting, so please put your name down if you are interested:

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

Wanting New Members:

Backgammon, Cryptic Crosswords 1&2, Gardening, Orienteering, Discovering Architecture, Ten Pin Bowling, Petanque/Boules.

Looking forward to you signing up to any of these groups, through the contact details on our website, at the Groups Table at the Monthly Meeting and the Coffee Morning.

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

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 pieces:

1. Dusty Springfield - All I See Is You - Not the hardest song to sing but could anyone make it sound better? I think not.
2. Conway Twitty - It's Only Make Believe - Try singing it.
3. Evanescence - My Immortal - Good Goth.

Many thanks David 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

POETRY CORNER – poetry by individual members

Tempting Fate

Barbara Russell – Member

My pleasure is my garden
But a gardener I am not.
I look out of the window
It's too windy, it's too hot,
Or it's misty and it's murky
And it's really far too cold.
So, I leave it to my gardener
It's a perk of being old!

Oh!!
Why did I write those words above?
It was not right, I tempted fate.
My gardener has gone,
I know not why.
I only know that I must try,
To keep it going on my own.

Underground Lines

Peter Kilty - Member

Next stop Angel.
Who will I meet?
Gabriel, Raphael or even Michael?
Or is it the woman on the opposite seat?

Are you a budding poet? Creative writer? We would love to have more creative writing, poetry, or prose, published in the newsletter. Please email: newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk

Summer Croquet - *Janet Connolly – convenor*

Did you play golf, but it is now a walk too far, or played putting whilst on holiday? Why not come and try croquet. We play the golf form of croquet on a tennis court size pitch, taking it in turns to hit our own ball through the hoop or our partners, but not our opponents!

We play at Leicester Croquet Club, Vicarage Lane, Humberstone, Leicester, LE5 1EE on 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings until the end of September.

Contact Janet at croquet@leicesteru3a.org.uk if you are interested.

Architecture & Design - Trip to Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings - *Jill Reville with photographs by Anthony Matthew*

Our convenor, Veronica Matthew, originally planned this trip for 2020, but events made it impossible to run it until this year. It proved very popular, and a coachload of u3a members set off for Avoncroft, near Bromsgrove, on a sunny June day.

The museum opened in 1967, with the aim of rescuing buildings from demolition, to preserve their architectural, historic, or social importance. Sited over 19 acres, this predominantly open-air museum consists of 30 buildings from the surrounding area, informally positioned in pleasant, wooded grounds.

Our visit started with coffee in the Guesten Hall, a modern brick building with a remarkable wooden medieval roof. This originally covered a 14th century hall from Worcester Cathedral, but in the 1850s the original building was demolished, but the roof was reused at Holy Trinity Church, Worcester. In danger of being lost again when the church was demolished in 1969, the roof was dismantled and moved to Avoncroft.

We had plenty of time to explore the site by ourselves, but included in our day were tours of the site in small groups, enabling us to

admire the range of buildings, their history, technology, and workmanship.

Some of the buildings at Avoncroft are purely domestic. The first building to be installed was the 15th century Town House from Bromsgrove. It had been in danger of being lost due to a road widening scheme. Built in wattle and daub, with lime washed walls, this had a central hall, complete with a hearth – and the smell of lingering smoke. A downstairs room off this had housed the occupants' textile business. A jettied first storey was added in the 16th century. Being able to go into this house, and see the space and domestic arrangements, gave invaluable insight into life at the time. A later domestic building was a Toll House, built in 1822 and erected at Little Malvern. This small, charming building would have housed the toll keeper and his family, who lived there for a rent of £30 p.a. In return, they could collect and keep the tolls paid by vehicles using the turnpike. The windows at the front of the building were angled, so that the toll keeper had a good view of the road and could maximise the amount of tolls he collected. The property had a scullery, a central room with a range, two bedrooms upstairs, and a privy. We learnt that it had been subject to vandalism recently, and the nearby timber frame had been all but destroyed in an arson attack.



The Toll House

Moving into the 20th century, is an Arcon MkV prefab, one of over 3 million built to ease a housing crisis. This modest dwelling, comprising a kitchen, living room, bathroom and 2 bedrooms, would have seemed quite luxurious to its occupants who had moved from the poor quality of life in Birmingham, and even had running water, central heating, built in storage space and a garden. Steel framed, and clad in asbestos cement sheeting, these houses were intended to have a life of 10-15 years. This one was lived in until 1980.

The prefab



The Mission Church, built in 1891, was purchased as a flat pack from a catalogue with a wood panelled interior and an exterior of corrugated iron. The font, lectern, pulpit, pews, and vestments all come from the original church. We had a welcome sit inside while our guide explained that the local gentry were concerned about the numbers of people attending a new Methodist chapel so donated to build a C of E church.



The Mission Church

The agricultural life of the area is amply represented. The 16th century threshing barn is of cruck construction, the crucks unusually being cut from black poplar. The framing of the walls is in oak, and the wall panels infilled by weaving split green oak. The Perry Mill, from Redditch, reflects the process of perry making traditional to Worcestershire, where this alcoholic drink is made from bitter pears. The mill was probably built at the end of the 18th century and housed within it is the large stone trough round which a donkey would push an upright stone to crush the fruit, which was later squeezed to extract the juice. Nearby is a stable used to house



The Perry Mill

working horses. The cattle market counting house, where farmers would come to pay bills and receive payment for livestock, dates from the 1850s. Remarkably, it was transported in one piece from its original site in Bromsgrove. The trades needed to support the agricultural life in the area are represented by a nail shop and a chain shop.

Community life is not forgotten. A brick-built court cell block from Ledbury had 3 cells to house prisoners awaiting trial before the local magistrates. A late 18th century cockpit would have accommodated the rather dubious, but nevertheless highly popular sport of cockfighting. The mission church, originally built in 1871 at a cost of £70, with a softwood frame and clad in corrugated iron, was moved to Avoncroft in 1996, when it was rededicated and is still in use.

Last but not least, the pub. The String of Horses Inn was originally built as a mansion on the outskirts of Shrewsbury but became an inn during the 18th century. Much of the original timber frame had to be remodelled using modern materials, and the building now houses Avoncroft's Edwardian Tearooms.

There are many other buildings to explore at Avoncroft. The more energetic among us visited the working windmill, while others simply enjoyed a picnic lunch and a rest on an extremely hot day.

On our return journey we stopped off for tea and homemade cake at the Art Studio, Ten2 Gallery, and Art Café in Hinckley, returning to Leicester on schedule having had a most enjoyable and informative day. It was impossible to see everything at Avoncroft in one visit, and several people were already planning return visits.

Sunday Lunch is on the second Sunday each month. On July 9th it is at The Cedars, Evington LE5 6DN at 1:15pm. Menus have been circulated. Let Ros know your choice if you wish to go.

lunch@leicesteru3a.org.uk

History 2

Mike Bates – Convenor

We are still looking for new Members for the History 2 Group. The group suggested it might be more interesting if we mentioned our forthcoming Talks which include History of Track Cycling, the Family History Gt Gt Aunt Nellie, Queen Aethelflaed (King Alfred's daughter), Dorset Archaeology LiDAR Project.

Gardening

Angie Barnes - Convenor

The gardening group had a lovely afternoon at Earl Shilton National Garden Scheme followed by cakes and tea.



Bus Pass Tours went to Nottingham. They obviously had a good time!
Pictures by Sue Took.



CONSERVATION, WILDLIFE & NATURAL HISTORY

Asian Hornet

From Henry Paulinski – Member

These are photographs of the confirmed sighting of an Asian Hornet in Kent. This is a serious problem we cannot let them take hold. If you spot them, please report to Defra or via the Asian hornet App. Take a photo of it and an exact location so it can be tracked to its nest and destroyed. One Asian hornet can eat 50 honeybees a day!

What to look for... yellow "socks" on each leg, deep orange head, and black thorax



Newts *By Steph Smith – Convenor Natural History*

My baby newts from last year have grown up! I know some of you have had newts in your pond for ages, but I am extremely excited by these. I only put plants into my lockdown pond, so all the animals have found their own way there. This proves to me that I have improved the biodiversity of my garden 😊😊



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>

Apple Strudel - *Margaret Potter*



Whilst on a recent river cruise through Europe we had a demonstration on how to make Apple Strudel.

STRUDEL DOUGH

300 g Flour (10.5 ounces)
200 ml Water (warm) (6.5 ounces)
4 teaspoons Oil (Sunflower, Rapeseed, Canola, etc.)
1/2 teaspoon Salt

PROCEDURE

- Combine all ingredients in a mixing bowl, using a dough hook.
- Mix on medium speed, for about 10 minutes, until smooth.
- Form a ball and place it into an oiled container (using extra oil).
- Brush the top of the dough with oil and cover with plastic wrap.
- Set aside at room temperature. Ideally, this should be made 2 hours ahead.

APPLE FILLING

6 pieces Granny Smith apples, medium sized
60g Walnuts, chopped (2.5 ounces), or any desired nuts
3 Tablespoons Bread Crumbs, golden brown toasted
3 Tablespoons Sugar
5 Tablespoons Rum Soaked Raisins
Cinnamon, dash of
Lemon Zest, from 1 lemon

PROCEDURE

- Peel, core and chop the apples (or shred into thin strips).
- Toast the breadcrumbs, golden in color, set aside to cool.
- Mix cinnamon and sugar, until blended.
- Chop walnuts, finely.
- Grate the skin of 1 lemon, reserve the zest.
- Soak the raisins in rum, for minimum 10 minutes.
- Melt 140g butter (5 ounces), reserve.
- Reserve all ingredients aside. Make the apple filling.

MAKING THE STRUDEL

- Place a cotton tablecloth over the working table. Dust well with flour.
- Thinly stretch the strudel dough over the table cloth.
- Use a rolling pin, if necessary.
- Brush with melted butter.
- Spread a thin layer of bread crumbs along the length of the dough.
- Spread the apple filling on top of the bread crumbs.
- Trim the edges of the dough on all sides.
- Roll the strudel, with the aid of the tablecloth.
- Cradle log gently onto a buttered sheet pan or baking tray.
- Brush generously with melted butter (or egg wash, optional).
- Bake in a preheated oven, at 370F (180C) for 20 minutes, until golden brown.
- Dust with powder sugar, slice and serve warm, with vanilla sauce.

VANILLA SAUCE

1000 ml milk (1qt)
2 pieces Vanilla pods
90g sugar (3oz)
90g egg yolks (3oz)
30g Cornstarch (1oz)

- Bring to a boil 2/3 of the milk, together with the sugar and vanilla.
- Mix separately the rest of milk, together with egg yolks and starch.
- Add to the boiling milk, to thicken.
- Cook on low heat for 2-3 minutes.

PUZZLE CORNER - A Sudoku (created by Cliff Ault – Member
Cryptic Crossword Group) [Solution on page 19.](#)

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

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 cannot 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.

There is no newsletter in August. The deadline for items to be included in the September newsletter is Friday 25th August 2023.

Contributions should be sent to the Editor at: 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.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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