



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

LEICESTER NEWSLETTER

February 2019

Charity No: 1083274

u3asites.org.uk/leicester



*The Ramblers
on their (now traditional) “Mince Pie” ramble
in December
Picture by Jan Hall
More pictures on page 8*

February Meeting: Tuesday 12th at 2:45

Speaker: *Peter Barratt*

Alice Hawkins — Suffragette

With a bronze statue of Alice unveiled here in Leicester a year ago, and her very own suffragette memorabilia loaned to Parliament as a star feature in their major summer 2018 'Voice and Vote' exhibition, great-grandson Peter Barratt gives a stirring and passionate account of Alice's suffrage campaign over a 100 years ago. A shoe machinist by trade, lifelong socialist and mother of six, Alice formed the Leicester branch of the suffragette movement with the help and support of the Pankhurst family.

Peter was born and brought up in Leicester on the Eyres Monsell estate and was educated at Wyggeston Boys' Grammar School. Qualifying as a management accountant with the British United Shoe Machinery Company, Peter has lived for many years near Wellingborough and has recently retired. 2018 marked an extremely busy, but satisfying year, commemorating Alice in the centenary year of women first gaining the vote.



Membership 2019 – Additions, Corrections and Updates

At the January open meeting 91 members old and new attended, and 53 memberships were renewed. Renewals and new members also continued to come in by post. As at 23rd January we have had all but 70 renewals from the 2018 membership of 415 which included 10 new members since 1st November. Anyone who did not renew by 31st January has been lapsed from the membership and will no longer receive communications or be able to attend general or group meetings. If you are not sure if this affects you, or know anyone else that it does, please contact Margaret as soon as possible. You can either post your cheque AND renewal form to her or bring them to the February meeting. Badges for those who have renewed will be available then as well. Please collect yours. If you can take that for anyone who is not able to come it would be very much appreciated.

Margaret Potter (Membership Secretary)

Change of name: Please note that *Beth Moontree* has changed her name to *Stella Memory*.

Message from the Chair

I would like to start this month's message by paying tribute to Anne Kind who passed away on the 1st of January. I attended her funeral service a few days ago and learned what a remarkable person she had been. After coming to Britain as a refugee from Berlin, she learnt English then trained as a nurse where she met and married her husband – a GP. From there she came to Leicester and was involved with setting up the First Family Planning Clinic in Leicester then moved on to be the organiser of the £1.5 million fund raising to enable the LOROS Hospice to be set up. When she eventually retired, she was involved in the setting up of Leicester U3A as one of the founder members and ran a 'Writing Group'. I met her in Elaine King's Discussion Group where she was a very involved participant full of interesting anecdotes. Her family and close friends had put together a wonderful tribute to a life well lived. She will be very much missed.



I am sitting writing this wondering if Leicester is going to be deluged with snow. We have been lucky so far to avoid it and much as I like to see the picture postcard effect, the reality is not as nice. It has been cold but in compensation there has been some lovely winter sunshine, hinting that spring might not be too far away – the birds have started singing as if they are expecting better weather soon, and the days are slowly getting longer.

I spent New Year with my brothers and their families and it was very enjoyable. We even managed a walk with the dog in the Warwickshire countryside on New Year's Day.

The alert amongst you will have noticed that in my plea for a new speaker finder to come forward, I said that our last speaker meeting would be November 2018 when I clearly meant 2019. The need to identify a new speaker finder is now becoming urgent as we need to start booking speakers for 2020 very soon. It is a role that two friends could do together, so please come and talk to me or Steph whilst drinking your cup of tea.

Jenny Foxon

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 12th at 2:45

Annual General Meeting

The final documents for this meeting will be distributed either by email or, for those not on email, as hard copy by post after the February meeting.

The formal meeting will be followed by refreshments with the compliments of the committee.

Speakers

We are always keen to hear about good and interesting speakers.

If, somewhere other than U3A, you have heard a talk which you would like to recommend for a monthly meeting, please contact the Secretary to let her know.

(Contact details can be found on the separate contacts sheet.)

Committee News

The minutes of committee meetings are available at the Secretary's table at monthly meetings and also on the members' page of the website.

New Members Coffee Mornings

The Wellbeing and Hospitality team are very proud of the New Members Coffee Mornings - joining a new organisation can be very daunting, but having these events in members' homes means it's easy to get to know people. If you think you'd be interested in joining our Wellbeing team you'll always find me at the Monthly Meeting, or contact me, as we'd love to have you.

Sandra Barker

Wellbeing and Hospitality

Enabling everyone to take part

Do you find it difficult to hear or see at the monthly meetings?

Do you have any mobility issues?

Is there anything else that prevents you from fully participating?

Christchurch is fully accessible with Disabled facilities.

Members of the Wellbeing and Hospitality team (easily recognised wearing blue/yellow sashes) are there if you need to have an end of row/front seat.

If there is anything else we can do that enables you to take part please tell us.

If you would prefer to talk to someone before you attend then please give Sandra Barker a call and, if you have any suggestions, we'd be very happy to hear them.

Also, if you know of any member who is unwell or has suffered a loss, then please tell Elizabeth Hassall, a member of the Wellbeing team, and she will send a card. [Contact details on the separate contacts sheet.]

Use It or Lose It?

Time is ticking on and we still have no Speaker Organizer to arrange the speakers for next year. Elaine King has left us with copious notes on past and potential speakers so the next holder of the post will not be starting from scratch. Also the job would suit two people working together. So please give this some serious thought.

The Role of the Speaker Organizer

The duties of the role include:

- Within a budget set by the Committee and well in advance, arrange an annual programme of speakers for the monthly meetings to ensure that they cover a wide variety of topics, which are of interest to all members;
- Liaise with the speakers to ensure that those U3A members concerned have descriptions of the speaker and talk for publicity and know what equipment will be required for the talk;
- Act as the speaker's host for the meeting, checking they have all they need including refreshments or arrange for substitute if not available;
- Have a contingency plan for non-arrival of speaker;
- Keep a list of suggested speakers from other U3As, members, outside recommendation and own knowledge and also a list of previous speakers to avoid unwanted repetition.

Please consider helping us with this critical task. Without a good speaker our monthly meetings would be much diminished. Please talk to anyone on the committee if you have any questions or concerns. A more detailed job description is available from the Secretary.

Refreshment Helpers

Volunteers are needed to serve refreshments at monthly meetings. If you feel you could help, please contact Sandra Barker, Wellbeing and Hospitality Co-ordinator. (See the contacts sheet.)

Reports from the Groups

Little Theatre

Elisabeth Somogyi writes:

If you like good plays performed in a cosy local theatre at a reasonable ticket price, the Little Theatre on Dover Street is for you. The Little Theatre Group is an occasional gathering which was formed to enable members to attend plays together.

The Little Theatre puts on one performance each month for a week. Members of our Group attend on the Wednesday. The performance starts at 7.30 pm. Those attending can meet for a pre-theatre meal and drinks at the Last Plantagenet pub on the corner of Dover Street which offers 10% discount on its meals for those holding Little Theatre tickets.

Forthcoming performances are advertised in the Newsletter. Members of the Group are also notified by email. The Group Convenor takes bookings for the performance and buys the tickets for seats in near proximity to each other, as available. The Convenor's home address and phone number are provided to members of the Group, and the address and phone number of each member is collected by the Convenor for communication and posting purposes.

Booking can be made by indicating your interest to the Convenor by email or phone and sending a cheque to the Convenor made out to "Leicester U3A" for £14.00 (concession price), noting the performance on the back. 50p extra is charged by the Little Theatre Group to cover the theatre booking fee and occasional postage costs. You can order more than one ticket, and your guest need not be a member of the U3A.

A cut off date for accepting bookings for a given performance (about three weeks before the performance) will be advertised, after which date the tickets will be purchased. You can cancel your booking before the cut off date by notifying the Convenor, in which case your cheque will be returned to you.

You will be notified about your ticket availability by email or phone. The Convenor can hold your ticket until the performance, or post it to you. Alternatively, you can collect your ticket from the Convenor's home or at U3A events. In the unlikely event that no tickets are available from the theatre, you will be notified by email and your cheque will be returned to you.

For the upcoming programme see page 25.

Members may also be interested in a talk at the Greater Wigston Historical Society. (See page 25.)

Needlework and Knitting

The group was invited by AgeUK to knit “Twiddle Muffs” for use by the elderly to keep their hands warm while twiddling with the attachments.

The members responded with enthusiasm and 39 muffs were delivered to AgeUK, Wigston in December.

Pictures by Elisabeth Watkin.



Rambling

The group held its (now traditional) “Mince Pie” walk from the Curzon Arms in Woodhouse Eaves on 18th December. As usual the “Coffee” break consisted of mince pies supplied by Jan and mulled wine supplied by Debbie and Phil.



The pictures were taken by Jan on her smartphone.



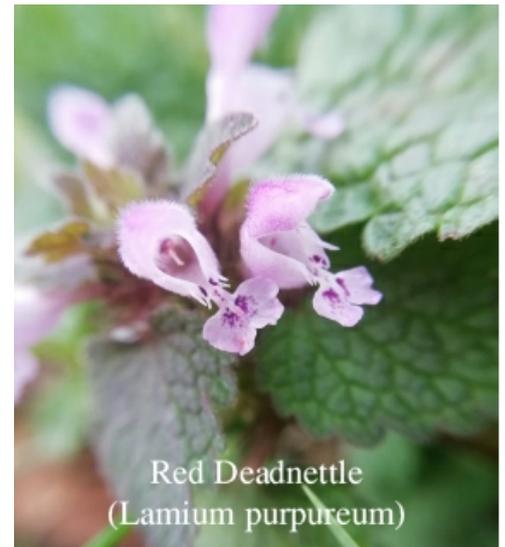
Botany

Can you imagine sitting and discussing twigs for over an hour? Looking at the fine detail of how the winter buds are arranged along the stem, whether they’ve got bud scales or not and if they have, how many? Then slicing the stem open to see if there are any divisions in the pith? No? Well how about arguing over the minutiae of leaves; their shape, the nature of their margin, what the venation is like, are they hairy, what kind of hairs are they? What do they look like down the microscope? These are just two of the sessions we’ve had in the relatively newly-formed Botany group.

As a Biology teacher I’ve always been interested in plants, but when I’ve been out in the countryside, I’ve never been able to recognise hardly any of the plants or to tell my Veronica from my Bittercress. I always said I needed a course, someone to point them out and tell me what they were. Nearly two years ago, one of the Monthly Meeting talks was by Dr Richard Gornall from the University of Leicester, talking about Arboreta. Towards the end, he spoke about courses for adults/non-students at the University, including a plant identification course. Light bulb moment! To cut a long story short, I did the course last year and it was wonderful. It was perfect for my needs, they did

indeed point out to me what all those lovely little plants were, or rather more importantly, they taught me how I can find out.

Through this I've learned about the wider world of Botany, about my local Botany group (BSBI VC55), about the National Plant Monitoring Scheme, about the Field Studies Council and lots more. I took part in my first New Year Plant Hunt: 3 hours around New Year's Day to identify as many plants in flower as you can (not planted garden plants), anywhere you like. My Botany buddy on the day and I identified 37. Next year, I'm hoping the new U3A Botany group will take part. Once the weather warms up a bit, we'll be developing the most important skill of all, identifying wild plants, out in the field, using Floral Keys. I say 'in the field', we could easily find ourselves in



town, in a car park, or alongside the canal, which was where we did our New Year Plant Hunt.



Because plants are everywhere. Next time you're waiting for a bus or just walking along the street, have a look round and see if you can see any plants. You will, I can almost guarantee it. They'll be tiny, probably scrappy, growing between the cracks in the pavement, or in the corner where the

front garden wall meets the pavement and they are always overlooked. But do you know what they are? These miraculous little survivors who despite being walked on, peed on by dogs, polluted by road traffic, and the salt they put on the roads, still manage to put out a few leaves and eventually some gorgeous tiny flowers. Once you know what they're called, which plant family they're in and what makes them different from other similar plants, suddenly they're no longer 'weeds'. There's a lovely quote from AA Milne, as said by Pooh: "Weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them". Never a truer word... So if you'd like to know a bit more about the plant life you see every day, then perhaps you're a budding Botanist. Come along and find out.

Steph Smith

Digital Photography

The theme for the first meeting in the new year was “Parallel”. This was interpreted in various ways by the members. Here are a few examples from Bob Hall, Angela Jennings, Rachel Mason and Irene and Cliff Ault.



News from the Groups Co-ordinator

Last night I spent a lovely evening catching up with some old work colleagues. I say 'old', they're far from old and are therefore still working. As I listened to their accounts of their daily increasingly stressful working lives in secondary education, I took time to count my blessings. It has taken me a long time to adjust to retirement, to be able to accept that it is actually OK for me to go into town in the middle of the day, or to spend my evenings relaxing instead of preparing tomorrow's lessons. One of the factors that has helped me tremendously has been the U3A, and I'm sure it is a huge boon to most people who might otherwise be struggling to fill their days. I've been on the Committee almost as long as I've been retired and as Groups Co-ordinator it's given me a privileged insight into the start of many groups as well as a lovely introduction to so many members. I honestly don't know why every retired person isn't a member! Anyway, I'm preaching to the converted, I'm sure you're already fully aware of the benefits of U3A membership. But how many times have you told someone you're in the U3A and they've said 'What's that then?'. I reckon it's the UK's best kept secret! So let's make sure everyone who could benefit, at least knows about it: tell people! I came away from my evening out eternally grateful that I'm not in the rat-race any more, and yes I do miss the money, and occasionally I look back fondly at some of the students I have taught, but I certainly do not miss the workload and the pressure that my lovely friends accept as normal everyday life. Thanks heavens for the U3A!



On that positive note, I've been having a look around at other U3As around the country to see if they can inspire me with ideas for groups that we don't yet have. Here's a selection:

Birdwatching (Ripley & District U3A)

Art & Painting (Wellingborough U3A)

Maps and Mapping (Bramhall U3A)

Anthropology (Swansea U3A)

You may well have a great idea for a group. Remember, every group was started by someone suggesting it in the first place. If you do have a suggestion for a group, just let me know, email is fine, or come along to the Groups table at the Monthly Meeting and we'll get the ball rolling.

Steph Smith

Budding Groups –those seeking members in order to start

Paper Craft (3rd Advert)

Are you a keen scrapbooker, love to make your own cards, enjoy making papier mache trinkets, or intrigued by quilling? Come along and share your expertise, or learn from other members. Let me know if you're interested but adding your name to the sign-up sheets, or drop me an email.

Running (3rd Advert)

One of the best and cheapest ways to keep fit, running in company is a great way to get some exercise and make friends. Beginners and experts, there's a run for everyone. So come along to my Groups table if you're interested or send me an email.

Orienteering (3rd Advert)

Ever noticed those intriguing wooden posts with an orange and white sign on, and with letters and numbers, that seem to be everywhere in parks, woods and arboreta? Have you wondered what they are?

Wonder no more, they are orienteering posts and form the basis of this interesting outdoor activity. Get some exercise in beautiful surroundings, whilst solving the puzzle of where on earth you are! Intrigued? Fancy a go? Put your name on the sign-up sheet or let me know.

Mini-Ramblers (3rd Advert)

Do you enjoy a good walk in the country, but find 5 miles a bit of a stretch? Mini-Ramblers will plan proper walks, but shorter, 2-3 miles at most. It definitely won't be an amble (any suggestions for a more appropriate group name gratefully received). Sign up if you're interested.

Although listed here as a Budding group, Mini-Ramblers has already got a walk planned. It will be on Tuesday 5th March, at 10:30 at Watermead Park. Cars will park at The Hope and Anchor pub. Those wishing to car share should meet at 10:00 at Glebe Road. The leader of this walk will be Anne Harcourt. Those wishing to attend the walk should put their name down on the sign-up sheet on the Groups table at the Monthly Meeting, or ask me for Anne's contact details. Please do let us know if you wish to come along on the walk.

Steph Smith

Next Group Meetings

Please remember, you **MUST** be a member of Leicester U3A and contact the convenor before joining a group. You can contact the convenor by email by adding @leicesteru3a.org.uk to the generic address given with each group. For example, to contact the architecture convenor, send an email to architecture1@leicesteru3a.org.uk

Detailed information on all our groups is also available on our website and members can contact the convenors from there. The information is also available as a “Contacts Sheet” sent out by email and at the groups table at monthly meetings.

If you have difficulty contacting the convenor, try the Groups Coordinator instead.

Dates included in the following list are for meetings taking place between 10 February and 15 March (inclusive).

Architecture	Susan Martin-Butt	architecture1	2:00 on the 3rd Thursday of the month in members’ homes. Next: 21 February at Mike’s. Presentation on Woodchester Mansion followed by a quiz.
Architecture and the Built Environment	Peter Kilty	architecture2	2:00 on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Quaker Meeting House, Queens Road. The group does a lot of local architectural walks (past and future walks include the West End, Leicester University, the New Walk and Humberstone Road). Further information from Peter. Next: 19 February at Michael’s. Final instalment of the DVD on the <i>Architects who made Modern Britain</i> — Rogers, Foster etc.
Architecture and Design	Veronica Matthew	architecture3	2:30 on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Next: 13 February at the Leicester Progressive Synagogue, Avenue Road. Topic: Georgian Architecture - members giving presentations. Later: 13 March. Visit to Friars Mill/Castle View area.
Art Appreciation	Mary Neilson	artappreciation	10:00 on the 1st Friday of the month in members’ homes or at an art gallery. Next: 1 March at Mary’s. Individual five minute presentations on favourite paintings.

Back-gammon	Bob Collins	backgammon	10:00 on the 4th Tuesday of the month in members' homes. Backgammon is one of the oldest games in existence, alongside Go and Chess. It is easy to learn the basic moves but, in common with Go and Chess, it takes time to become proficient. The group is open to anyone, whether beginner, advanced or any stage between. Come along and join in this fascinating game of planning and strategy, where even a raw beginner can beat the odds and win! Next: 26 February.
Bones for Life	Jean Stone	bones	10:30 on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at the Leicester Progressive Jewish Synagogue, Avenue Road. Next: 20 February. Later: 6 March.
Bookworms	Nick Arlett	bookworms	10:30 — 12:00 on the 1st Wednesday of the month at The Exchange Bar (opposite Curve), 50 Rutland Street. Next: 6 March. Book: <i>Conversations with Friends</i> by Sally Rooney. Please contact Nick if you are interested in joining. For more information, including a list of novels so far, please see the Bookworms page on the Leicester U3A website.
Botany	Steph Smith	botany	2:00 on the 1st Monday of the month at Steph's. First: 4 March.
Bridge 1	Bob Collins	bridge1	2:00 every Wednesday at Bob's. Next: 13 February. Later: 20, 27 February, 6, 13 March.
Bridge Beginners	Keith Pyne	bridgebeginners	2:00 on the 3rd and 4th Tuesdays of the month in members' homes. This group is for those who have never played Bridge but are intrigued by it and want to learn, or for those who played it in their youth but have forgotten it all. We are all learning together in a relaxed and friendly environment. Absolutely no experience necessary! Next: 19 February. Later: 26 February.
Bridge 2	Henry Paulinski	bridge2	2:00 every Thursday at Bunty Graham's. Play this wonderful game in congenial company. Ideal for Bridge players with two or more years' experience. Next: 14 February. Later: 21, 28 February, 7, 14 March.

Buspass Tours	Denise Buchan buspass	buspass
	Dates and venues will vary according to destination.	
	If you are interested in any of the trips and would like more details about which bus we'll be catching, where and what time, please send an email to the convenor, Denise Buchan, (see the separate contacts sheet), or contact Steph Smith. We look forward to seeing you.	
	Tours may be postponed until the weather improves in the Spring.	
Canasta	Barbara Sheppard canasta	canasta
	2:00 on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month at Barbara's.	
	Canasta is an absorbing card game, played with two packs of ordinary cards, including the jokers. It is based on the game of Rummy and can be played in groups of 2, 3 or 4 persons.	
	All are welcome, both experienced players and absolute beginners.	
	Next: 22 February.	Later: 8 March.
Chess Inter- mediate	Graham Williams chess	chess
	10:30 on the 1st Monday of the month at Graham's.	
	The meetings last for around two hours. The group is for those who want to enjoy a game of chess for fun. Anyone who can play chess is welcome and should not be put off by the 'Intermediate' in the group name.	
	Next: 4 March.	
Craft	Margaret Potter craft	craft
	2:00 on the 2nd Friday of the month at Margaret's.	
	Next: 12 April.	
Creative Writing	Stella Memory creativewriting	creativewriting
	Usually 10:30 on the 1st Monday of the month in members' homes.	
	We have decided to produce an anthology of our writing and poetry for the July Open Day.	
	Next: 11 February.	Beginning to write "Our Stories".
	Later: 4 March.	
Cryptic Crosswords 1	Diana Barker crosswords	crosswords
	2:00 on the 3rd Monday of the month at Diana's.	
	Next: 18 February.	
Cryptic Crosswords 2	Barbara Russell cryptic2	cryptic2
	2:00 on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month at Barbara's.	
	Next: 15 February.	Later: 1 March.

Current Affairs 1	Denise Aaron	currentaffairs1	2:30 on the 1st Tuesday of the month in members' homes. The first subject for discussion is chosen by the host. Next: 5 March.
Current Affairs 2	Henry Paulinski	currentaffairs2	10:30 on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in members' homes. Members bring an item of hot news, topics are chosen and then discussed. Next: 20 February.
Digital Photography	Angela Jennings	photography	2:15 on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Quaker Meeting House, Queens Rd. Next: 14 February. Theme: <i>Transparent</i> .
Discussion	Angela Kendrick	discussion	2:30 on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in members' homes. Next: 19 February.
Discussion 2	Henry Paulinski	discussion2	2:00 on the 1st Monday of the month in members' homes. Recent topics have included euthanasia, de-privatisation of the railways and faith schools. Next: 4 March.
Drawing & Sketching	Kamal Ohri	drawing	10:30 on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at Roy Priestley's. At each meeting the group decides what they would like to draw on that occasion: art objects that participants bring in for the day or flowering pot plants etc. Next: 21 February. Later: 7 March.
Family History	Sandra Barker	familyhistory	2:00 on the 1st Friday of the month at the Leicestershire and Rutland Family History Society, King Street. Next: 1 March.
French Advanced 1	Fiona Oliver	frenchadvanced1	2:30 every 2 weeks on Fridays in members' homes. Next: 15 February. Later: 1, 15 March.
French Advanced 2	Peter Hampton	frenchadvanced2	2:30 every 2 weeks on Thursdays in members' homes. An opportunity to talk in French and discuss topics of members' choosing. Next: 14 February. Later: 28 February, 14 March.

French Intermediate	Ivy Carr	frenchintermediate
	2:30 every 2 weeks on Fridays in members' homes.	
	All members are involved in choosing topics, usually two or three meetings ahead.	
	Next: 22 February.	Later: 8 March.
Gardening	Angie Barnes	gardening
	2:00 on the 2nd Monday of the month in members' homes or on a visit.	
	Meetings to start again in April.	
German Conversation	Paul McCann	german
	10:30 on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Helen Parsons'.	
	Next: 19 February.	
Gilbert and Sullivan	Margot Comer	gands
	10:00 on the 1st Thursday of the month at Margot's.	
	We will watch short portions of an operetta sometimes and will discuss how best to more fully enjoy the details of Libretto and Music with discussions on the details of each.	
	Next: 7 March.	
Guitar Playing	Pat Breen	guitar
	Normally 10:30 on 2nd Monday of the month in members' homes.	
	Next: 11 February.	Later: 11 March.
History 1	Deborah Hartridge	history1
	10:30 on the 1st Thursday of the month in members' homes.	
	Next: 7 March.	
History 2	Mike Bates	history2
	2:30 on the 3rd Monday of the month in members' homes.	
	Next: 18 February.	Topic: <i>Battles of Britain</i> led by Ken Reeve.
How Hard Can It Be	Gabrielle (Gabi) Garland	hhcib
	Morning on the 1st Friday of the month. Time and Venue to vary according to activity.	
	Next: 1 March.	
Irish Language	Pat Breen	irish
	2:00 every 2 weeks on Thursdays in members' homes.	
	Next: 21 February.	Later: 7 March.
Latin Polish Up Your Rusty -	Jean Cloud	latin
	2:30 on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at Jean's.	
	Next: 14 February.	Later: 28 February, 14 March.

Little Theatre	Elisabeth Somogyi	littletheatre
	7:30 on Wednesday of the week of performance at the Little Theatre.	
	See page 18 for a description of the group's plans.	
	Next: 27 February.	Play: <i>Goodnight Mister Tom</i> .
	Later: 5 March.	Play: <i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> .
Mah-Jong	Ann Allsop	mahjong
	10:30 on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at Ann's.	
	Next: 11 February.	Later: 25 February, 11 March.
Medieval People	Peter Kilty	medievalpeople
	10:00 on the 3rd Friday of the month.	
	Next: 15 February at Barbara's.	Topic: <i>Medieval Markets</i> .
	Later: 15 March.	
Modern Novel	Helen Parsons	modernnovel
	10:30 on the 3rd Friday of the month in members' homes.	
	Next: 15 February.	Book: <i>A Gentleman in Moscow</i> by Amor Towles.
	Later: 15 March.	
(Mon) Music Appreciation	Liz Warren	music.mon
	10:30 on the 3rd Monday of the month at Liz's.	
	Next: 18 February.	A member will present her musical memories.
(Wed) Music Appreciation	Jill Reville	music.wed
	10:30 on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in members' homes.	
	Next: 20 February at Aileen and John's.	Topic: <i>Gilbert and Sullivan</i> .
Natural History	Richard Edwards	naturalhistory
	10:00 on the 4th Tuesday of the month.	
	We meet at local sites of natural history interest, such as Brocks Hill, Aylestone Meadows etc, we have a walk around with some members taking photos of items of interest and exchange knowledge as we go along. We decide where and what we do for the next meeting during the walk.	
	Next: 26 February.	
Needlework and Knitting	Elisabeth Watkin	embroidery
	2:30 on the 2nd Monday of the month at Elisabeth's.	
	Next: 11 February.	Later: 11 March.

Paranormal Phenomena	Alan Baker	paranorm	10:30 on the 3rd Monday of the month in members' homes This group caters for anyone interested in UFOs, ESP, conspiracy theories or any of the wealth of unexplained phenomena out there in the world. We meet once a month to examine strange happenings, weigh up the evidence and discuss the different theories. Anyone with an open and curious mind is welcome. Next: 18 February.
Parks and Tearoom Strolls	Cliff Ault (Deputy)	strolls	2:00 every 2 weeks on Fridays during the Spring and Summer months. The strolls will start again in the Spring.
Pétanque	Anne Harris	petanque	4:15 to 6:15 on the 3rd and 4th Mondays of the month at Leicester Bowling Club, Kenwood Rd. A nominal fee of £1 per session will be charged. Dates for the new season in 2019 to be confirmed nearer the time.
Philosophy 1	Matt Matthew	philosophy 1	10:00 on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month in members' homes. Book: <i>Wickedness</i> by Mary Midgley. Next: 22 February. Later: 8 March.
Philosophy 2	Judy Hastings	philosophy2	Normally 2:00–3:30 every 2 weeks on Thursdays at Judy's. Starting <i>Human Nature after Darwin</i> by Janet Radcliffe-Richards. Next: 14 February. Later: 28 February.
Philosophy 3	Dennis Foxon	philosophy3	10:30 every 2 weeks on Wednesdays at Evington Library. Reading <i>Causing Death and Saving Lives</i> by Jonathan Glover. Next: 20 February. Later: 6 March.
Poetry Appreciation	Helen Parsons	poetry1	10:30 on the 1st Monday of the month at Helen's. Next: 4 March.
Poetry for Pleasure	Jane Michel	poetry2	11:00 on the 2nd Monday of the month at Jane's. Next: 11 February. Later: 11 March.

Rambling	Jan Hall	rambling
	Every 2 weeks. Days and locations vary.	
	Next: Week beginning 11 February.	
	Later: Week beginning 25 February.	
Reading Music Made Easy	Margot Comer	readingmusic
	10:00 every 2 weeks at Margot's.	
	Finding how to interpret the dots and squiggles in printed music that seem to make sense to the performers. We have decided to work through set books now, having sorted out and enjoyed some preliminary queries.	
	New enquiries would be very welcome.	
	Next: Friday 22 February. Later: 8 March.	
Reading for Pleasure 1	Jill Reville	reading1
	2:00 on the 3rd Monday of the month (usually) at Jill's.	
	Next: 18 February.	Book: <i>The Whistling Season</i> by Ivan Doig.
Rummikub	Barbara Sheppard	rummikub
	2:30 on the 3rd Monday of the month (usually) at Roy Priestley's.	
	Next: 18 February.	
Science & Technology	Richard Thompson	science
	2:30 on the last Thursday of the month at AgeUK, Humberstone Gate.	
	Next: 28 February.	
Scrabble 1	Bill Manners	scrabble1
	2:00 on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in members' homes.	
	Next: 19 February at Helen's.	
Scrabble 2	Janet Stratford	scrabble2
	2:00 on the 4th Monday of the month at Janet's.	
	Next: 25 February.	
Shakespeare	Liz Brandow	shakespeare
	2:00 to 4:00 on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at the Quaker Meeting House, Queens Rd.	
	Reading <i>Winter's Tale</i> .	
	A small contribution is required towards room hire and refreshments.	
	New members always very welcome.	
	Next: 13 February.	Later: 27 February, 13 March.
Singing for Pleasure	Margaret Potter (Deputy)	singing
	10:00 on the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Quaker Meeting House, Queens Road.	
	Next: 27 February.	

Spanish Conversation	Lorna Pollard	spanish
	2:30 on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month in members' homes.	
	Next: 15 February.	Later: 1 March.
Steam Railways	Mike Rowberry	steam
	2:00 on the 1st Tuesday of the month.	
	This is the group for those who long for the romance of the old steam trains. Were you a train-spotter in your youth, and mourn the passing of those iconic machines? Fancy learning even more, or sharing your passion with others? This group meets once a month, with discussions, presentations and visits, all with a steam railways theme. Doesn't matter if you don't know anything about them, you soon will!	
	Next: 5 March.	
Summer Croquet	Janet Connolly	croquet
	10:15 – 12:00 on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at Monks Rest Gardens Bowling Club, Vicarage Lane, Old Humberstone, LE5 1EE.	
	The group will meet again in April.	
Sunday Lunch	Patricia Thompson	lunch
	12:30 on the 2nd Sunday of the month.	
	We plan on a 12:30 start but always have to be flexible with a large group. We decide on the venue for the following month on the day. If you are intending to join the group, you must contact Patricia to confirm.	
	We'd really welcome new members to the group.	
	Next: 10 February.	Venue: The Cow and Plough, Gartree Road, Oadby.
	Later: 10 March.	
Table Tennis	Jackie Caunt	tabletennis
	Every Wednesday at Parklands Leisure Centre, Oadby.	
	The group is being given different times - not always 2:00 - by Parklands every week, Therefore it is advisable for new members and those who have missed a week or two to contact Jackie before attending a session.	
	Next: 13 February.	Later: 20, 27 February, 6, 13 March.
Theatre Visits	Jenny Foxon	theatre
	About 4 or 5 visits are arranged each year. Anyone wishing details please contact Jenny.	
	Other members of Leicester U3A are welcome to attend two plays before formally joining the group.	

Ukulele	Margot Comer	ukulele
	10:00 pm the 1st Tuesday of the month at the Quaker Meeting House, Queens Road.	
	Members are now equipped with instruments of various sizes and hoping to find a gentle teacher and suitable learning programme. At the last meeting we found ourselves able to sing and strum a song or two after only an hour of experimenting, ably led by our most able member due to a lot of practising!	
	Next: 5 March.	
Video Making a -	Bob Hall	video
	10:15 on the 1st Thursday of every third month in members' homes.	
	Next: 7 March at Rachel's.	
Welsh Improvers	Brenda Worrall	welsh
	2:30 on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month usually at Brenda's.	
	Working hard this term to improve our day to day questions and answers and learning rhymes to improve our pronunciation!	
	Next: 20 February.	Later: 6 March.
World History	Jenni Shelton	worldhistory
	10:00 on the 1st Monday of the month in members's homes.	
	This group meets once a month to learn about the history of other nations, and how this has impacted on the history of the UK: e.g. the Ottoman Empire, the Ahom Dynasty, the Toltec Empire. We take turns to present areas and times of particular interest to us.	
	Next: 4 March.	

Technical Help

Computer Help	Margaret Potter	computerhelp
	Contact Margaret for help with computer problems.	
Digital Photo Help	Bob Hall	photographyhelp
	Contact Bob for help with digital camera problems	

Venues for Group Meetings

Is your group getting too big for your present meeting place?

Are you thinking of starting a new group?

A *Suggested Venues List* is available from the Groups Co-ordinator.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 13th February — *Films at the Phoenix at 10:30.*

Tuesday 26th February — *All-Members Coffee Morning at 10:15.*

Note the change of date (from 19th) for this one due to maintenance work at the Meeting House.

Wednesday 27th February — *Little Theatre at 7:30 – Goodnight Mister Tom.*

Wednesday 5th March — *Little Theatre at 7:30 – Fiddler on the Roof.*

Tuesday 19th March — *All-Members Coffee Morning at 10:15.*

Thursday 16th May — *Local Theatre Visit at 7:30 – Matthew Bourne’s Romeo and Juliet - Ballet.*

Wednesday 3rd July — *Local Theatre Visit at 2:15 – The Color Purple.*

Wednesday 25th September — *Local Theatre Visit at 2:15 – War Horse.*

Thursday 17th October — *Local Theatre Visit at 2:15 – Cabaret.*

Wednesday 27th November — *Local Theatre Visit at 7:30 – West Side Story.*

Local Theatre Visits details are on page 24.

The *All-Members Coffee Mornings* take place on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10:15 at the Quaker Meeting House, Queens Road. There is a small charge to cover the cost of coffee and biscuits and hiring the room.

Films at the Phoenix are shown at 10:30 on the second Wednesday of each month. Cost: £6.00 including a drink of tea or coffee.

The film to be shown in a particular month can be found through a link on our website. Otherwise contact the organiser, Malcolm Gray, by email at mjgray220@gmail.com

Puzzle Solutions (Refer to page 26)

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

¹⁹ 3	9	7	⁸ 8	³² 4	6	1	²⁶ 5	2
³ 1	¹⁷ 8	¹¹ 6	5	2	7	9	4	²⁵ 3
2	5	4	¹² 1	3	³⁴ 9	²⁴ 8	7	6
¹⁴ 5	1	9	2	6	3	4	8	7
8	¹³ 6	3	4	7	5	2	1	9
⁷ 7	4	⁹ 2	¹⁸ 9	1	8	3	6	¹³ 5
¹⁶ 9	7	1	6	¹³ 8	⁷ 2	5	3	4
¹⁰ 6	¹³ 2	8	¹⁵ 3	5	²⁷ 4	7	¹⁹ 9	1
4	3	5	7	9	1	6	2	8

Local Theatre Visits (Curve) — Contact Diana Barker

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD (Cancelled)

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN (Cancelled)

MATTHEW BOURNE'S ROMEO & JULIET — BALLET

Thursday 16 May 2019 7:30 £27

Stalls rows AA and BB – 16 Balance due 01/03/19

A passionate and contemporary re-imagining of Shakespeare's classic love story. This is a new production of Romeo and Juliet, joined by Leicester's brightest young dance talent with live *New Adventures Orchestra*.

THE COLOR PURPLE

Wednesday 3 July 2019 2:15 £21

Stalls AA and BB – 12 Balance due 03/05/19

This unforgettable story told over the course of 40 years follows courageous heroine Celie with a profoundly evocative score of jazz, ragtime, gospel and blues, set in racially divided southern America.

WAR HORSE

Wednesday 25 September 2019 2:15 £35

Stalls AA and BB – 27 Balance due 24/07/19

War Horse is an unforgettable theatrical event which takes audiences on an extraordinary journey from the fields of rural Devon to the trenches of First World War France. Based on the beloved novel by Michael Morpurgo, this is a powerfully moving and imaginative drama.

CABARET

Thursday 17 October 2019 2:15 £24

WEST SIDE STORY

Wednesday 27 November 7:30 £17.25

Special pre-view price Balance due 27th September

1957. In the midst of gang rivalry and racial tensions, love at first sight strikes between Tony, of the White-American Jets and Maria, the sister of Bernardo, of the Puerto Rican Sharks. In the face of danger, the two young lovers continue to meet in secret – but the Jets and the Sharks have one last rumble to fight out.

All enquiries to curve@leicesteru3a.org.uk

Little Theatre — Contact Elisabeth Somogyi

GOODNIGHT MISTER TOM

Wednesday 27 February at 7:30 £14

A WW2 classic drama adapted by David Wood
from the novel by Michelle Magorian

Booking (through the Little Theatre Group) is open until 15 February

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Wednesday 5 March at 7:30 £15-50

A popular musical

Performed by the Leicester Gilbert and Sullivan Musical Society

Booking (through the Little Theatre Group) is open until 15 February

THE MAIDS

Wednesday 29 March at 7:30 £8.50

A psychological thriller

Booking (through the Little Theatre Group) is open until 13 March

The Little Theatre Past and Present

A presentation given to the Greater Wigston Historical Society

by Mike Bull

on 20 March 2019

at Age UK, Paddock Street Wigston, LE18 2AN

starting at 7:30

Non members £3-00

Free car parking opposite the venue

Meetings are popular, arrive shortly after 7 pm to secure a place

Puzzles (Sudoku and Killer Solutions on page 23)

Sudoku

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

Killer

19				8	32			26	
3		17		11					25
					12		34	24	
14									
		13							
7			9		18				13
16						13	7		
10	13				15		27		19

Crossword Solution from January

¹ A	R	² D	E	³ N	T		⁴ A	⁵ S	B	⁶ E	S	⁷ T	O	⁸ S	
M		I		A		⁹ S		O		V		E		T	
¹⁰ B	E	G	U	M		¹¹ C	O	L	L	I	N	E	A	R	
E				E		A		O		N		T		O	
¹² R	A	¹³ M	B	L	I	N	G		¹⁴ S	C	H	O	O	L	
		A		E		T		¹⁵ A		E		T		L	
¹⁶ B	A	T	H	S	A	L	T	S				¹⁷ F	A	C	E
A		U		S		I		P		¹⁸ M		L		R	
¹⁹ L	A	R	K			²⁰ N	E	E	D	I	N	E	S	S	
L		E		²¹ E		G		R		L		R			
²² I	N	Y	O	U	R		²³ A	G	R	E	S	S	O	²⁴ R	
S		E		R		²⁵ P		E		P					O
²⁶ T	R	A	V	E	L	L	E	R		²⁷ O	P	²⁸ E	R	A	
I		R		K		E		S		S		W		S	
²⁹ C	A	S	T	A	W	A	Y		³⁰ S	T	R	E	E	T	

About the Newsletter

Delivery

The Newsletter is normally delivered to members by email as a pdf file with one page per side. If you would prefer to receive it as a pdf with two pages per side (easier for printing), please let the editor know.

If you have trouble reading the Newsletter from email (or do not have email) and cannot attend the monthly meetings to collect a hard copy, then either:

- you can have them posted to you for the cost of postage (contact the Secretary for details of the scheme); or
- you may be able to collect one from AgeUK, Queens Road or Evington Library where a few copies are deposited each month after the meeting.

Contributions

The **deadline** for items to be included in the March 2019 Newsletter is **Tuesday 26th February**. Contributions (from members) should be sent to the editor. [newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk]

If you want to submit your entry as hard copy, please contact the Editor, or the Secretary, to get an address to which you can send it.

I am always pleased to receive brief reports from groups about their recent activities and I extend my thanks to all the authors who have done so, so far. Please keep them coming. The occasional picture would be welcome as well.

Subscriptions for 2019

	Individual	Associate*
Joining between 1st November 2018 and 30 June 2019	£15.00	£11.50
Joining between 1st July 2019 and 31st October 2019	£9.00	£6.00

Membership runs from the date of joining until the end of 2019.

**Associate membership is for those who have paid a full subscription to another U3A this year.*

LEICESTER U3A meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except August and December) at Christchurch, Clarendon Park Road, LE2 3AH, and there are special interest groups that meet regularly in members' homes and elsewhere.



INTERESTED IN JOINING?

You can find out more about joining Leicester U3A by visiting the website or by contacting the Membership Secretary.

Application forms are available to download from the website or they can be posted to you on request to the Membership Secretary.

(Email: membership@leicesteru3a.org.uk Tel: 2911814)

The form includes information on where to send your application and the annual subscription.

(Details of subscriptions for 2019 are on page 27)