



LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE

LEICESTER NEWSLETTER

February 2020

Charity No. 1083274

u3asites.org.uk/leicester



Edited Lightbox Picture
Photo by Cliff Ault

February Meeting: Tuesday 11th at 2.45

Speaker: John Nowell

'A Day Above Leicestershire'

John J. Nowell BA FRGS LRPS, is an ex-RAF pilot and author of many books of photos from the air over the UK and also further afield such as over Oman and the Emirates. His photos are used worldwide including on the Omani currency. His book, *A Day Above Leicestershire*, illustrates a day in the life of a DLRAA Air Ambulance pilot from dawn to dusk showing the diverse landscapes of Leicestershire from the air.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 10th 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 (tea/coffee and cake!) with the compliments of the committee.

Attendance at the January Meeting: 119

Membership 2020 – Additions, Corrections and Updates

The membership now stands at 449

Margaret Potter (Membership Secretary)

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 Speaker Finder, Keith Pyne to let him 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.

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.

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Message from the Chair

Doesn't time fly when you're having fun? Last month I was wondering how our first 'Open Mic' afternoon would go, and now I look back on it as a really fun memory of a lovely afternoon. There were a total of 38 people performing, and in my opinion, every one of them was a star! I have thanked each of them personally, but if you were there, and you enjoyed it, do tell the performers, it does give them a nice little warm glow. There were musical pieces and spoken word, some of which were well-known pieces by established authors, playwrights, poets, and other pieces written by our own members. The musicians varied from professional level to almost complete beginners, all of whom absolutely gave it their all. Some of us were performing in front of an audience for the very first time, which is both thrilling and terrifying all at the same time: I would do it again in a heartbeat! There were lessons to be learnt and I have taken them on board. The main one was that we really, really needed the microphone set up well before the beginning. That will happen next time, and I do intend there to be a next time, I'm practising pieces already for that.



Last month I mentioned succession, and that at the AGM our numbers on the Committee will be down to 10. Turns out I can't add up (or take away, not sure which now) and in fact the Committee numbers will be down to 8, due to people stepping down from their position on the Committee. So we are now actively recruiting for new Committee members. If you have never been on our Committee, let me just say that it really is true that the more you put into something, the more you get out. You get a more in-depth understanding and knowledge of how the U3A works, and of course, everything that goes on in the background. Someone once asked me "What on earth do you have to talk about on the Committee?" and I was completely stumped! Not because I couldn't think of anything, but there was so much I didn't quite know where to start! Not everyone on the Committee has a job, but everyone has a voice, has opinions and thoughts that contribute to all our decisions,

and as such, everyone is a valuable contributor to all that we do. So if you think you could contribute, please let someone on the Committee know, or if you know of someone whom you think would be good on the Committee, again, let us know. If you are interested, you might like to know that any member can attend a Committee Meeting as an observer. You won't be able to vote, but you'll get a good idea of what we do and how we operate, and it goes without saying that there is always tea and biscuits! If you'd like to come along, let one of us know and we'll arrange it.

Looking forward to the summer, the first week in June has been designated as 'U3A Week' by the Third Age Trust (the U3A National body, which looks after all the U3As in the UK, providing educational and administrative support), with Wednesday June 3rd designated as 'National U3A Day'. On this day, it is hoped that every U3A will do something locally to draw attention to themselves, hopefully to be reported in the local media (eg Leicester Mercury, Radio Leicester, East Midlands today) in order to raise our profile and encourage new members. We have twice as many members as the WI, yet how many times have you mentioned that you're in the U3A and the person you're speaking to has looked blankly back at you and said "U3A? What's that, then?". To that end, we have a sub-Committee comprising of three Committee members and two non-Committee members, who will begin meeting in February to discuss what contribution Leicester U3A will be making to U3A Week/Day. Watch this space!

(If you'd like to join the sub-Committee and get involved, do let any Committee member know.)

Steph Smith

All Members' Coffee Mornings.

The coffee mornings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at The Quaker Meeting House, Queens Road from ten o'clock and they usually finish when the coffee runs out! There is no need to sign up in advance, just turn up when you like and stay for however long suits you. To cover the cost of the monthly rent a charge of £2 is payable which covers the times when fewer people come. You will get a cup of proper coffee or tea and biscuits and fill-ups are free and we sometimes have home baking as well.

It is a good place and time to meet up with old friends, meet new members and explain the U3A to them and meet our community police officers who call in on a regular basis as part of their brief to engage with the community and enjoy the coffee. All sorts of topics come up and advice offered on everything from where to buy comfy shoes to the latest films on at the Phoenix! Come and join us.

Barbara Penrose, Convener and percolator owner.

KITCHEN ROTA

The kitchen situation at the Monthly Meeting is becoming critical. Last month, other than our already hard-working Hospitality and Wellbeing Co-ordinator, Sandra Barker, there was no-one to set out cups & saucers for around 100 people, prepare the tea/coffee/biscuits, serve it, collect it all in, wash up and tidy it all away. Our doughty Vice Chair, Jenny Foxon, rose to the occasion, and a couple of people did eventually help out. It nearly didn't happen, and this has become almost a regular situation despite adverts in the Newsletter asking for volunteers. So we are asking if you can give an hour of your time, perhaps once every two or three months, to help in the kitchen. At the next Monthly Meeting there will be a sheet that you can sign up to, to form a team of people on a two or three month rota to help in the kitchen. A couple of friends together or a husband and wife team would be great. This way, you can contribute without feeling obliged every month, and we'll be confident when we set up, that there will be enough people to manage. Unless we can ensure there are enough helpers each month, it might mean an end to the refreshments.

MEETER-GREETER ROTA

Whilst not quite as critical as the risk of not having a cuppa and a biscuit, the current lack of Meeter-Greeters is causing concern. Meeter-Greeters do an invaluable job of meeting new members and visitors, looking after them, introducing them to existing members, answering questions, handing out Newsletters, guiding people to where they need to be or pointing out the person they might be looking for, and just generally making people feel welcome as they come into the venue. Last meeting, there were none. Again, someone saw the need and stepped in, for which, grateful thanks go to Helen Parsons. Ideally, we need three people on the door each month, so again, there will be a rota to put your name on, if you feel you can offer about an hour of your time every two or three months. The more you put in, the more you get out.

Reports from the Groups

Parks and Tearoom Strolls

The group had a full programme of strolls in 2019 visiting our usual



familiar catalogue of parks including The University Botanic Garden, Abbey Park, Kings Lock, Bradgate Park, Wistow and Welland Park (Market Harborough) and tearooms - Browns in Allandale Road, Peppercorns in Abbey Park, Zeph's in Oadby etc.

This year we also found two new tearooms: Number 56, High Street, Kibworth and the Black Horse in Foxton both with suitable strolls nearby. The cakes at Number 56 were a little disappointing (very restricted choice) but those at the White Horse can be highly recommended (homemade and delicious) and we will definitely go there again.

We would welcome any members who would like to join us in 2020.

The strolls are very gentle lasting about one to one and a half miles and tea is an opportunity for a pleasant chat.

The programme starts after Easter in April and goes on till September.

Cliff Ault (acting Convenor) (strolls@leicesteru3a.org.uk)

Digital Photography

In the January Newsletter there was an article by Angela Jennings, Convenor of the Digital Photography Group, about the Group's session

PATs members taking a rest in the sunshine. Photo by Cliff Ault.



using a light box to take photos. This month we see what they did with their light box photos. Using a computer programme (in this case 'Art-works' on a RISC OS machine) Cliff Ault was able to take his picture of some little wooden figures and place them in different settings, including in the mountains. Irene has used the same technique to place Teddy up a tree!





Pictures by Cliff and Irene Ault

Open Mic Afternoon



January 14th saw our first ever 'Open Mic' afternoon. My original plan for the afternoon was for it to be as informal as possible, so rather than call it a 'show', which would have required re-hearsals, planning etc, everyone on the day was absolutely winging it! The afternoon started with the Singing for Pleasure group, who sang three beautiful rounds.

The audience waiting with bated breath.

They were followed by the Shakespeare group who entertained us with just how much Shakespeare's words have infiltrated our everyday speech, with Liz Brandow doing a solo piece on Pete the Parrot.

More spoken word followed with the Creative Writing group reading out their own very entertaining stories. Alan Baker was up next with his ventriloquist dummy whose name I've forgotten. Perhaps it was fortunate that the dummy had toothache so wasn't able to speak to us, so Alan told his own brand of eye-rolling jokes which had everyone groaning!

The Ukulele Group finished off the first half, with three songs complete with audience participation. Thank you to all who did join in with 'Clementine', 'If I Knew You Were Coming' and the 'Unofficial U3A

Anthem’!

After a short break for refreshments, the second half began with Neil Taylor reading the well-known monologue ‘Albert & the Lion’, followed by the much less well-known ‘Albert & the Lion Part 2 – Albert Returns’. Steph Smith amazed herself by performing two classical guitar pieces without being overcome by nerves!

We then heard Helen Parsons reading the highly entertaining ‘Twelve Day of Christmas’ which is written from the point of view of the poor woman receiving all the gifts. Eileen Breathwick gave us a very dramatic performance of ‘The Yukon Trail’.

The last act was the Guitar group, who performed three songs ending with ‘Let it Be’ by the Beatles. From my own point of view, I enjoyed being part of that so much I’m just wondering if I’ve got enough time left for a late career as a rock goddess?

All of this was held together expertly by our compere on the day, Henry Paulinski who even penned a poem to finish off the day:

“We’ve had lions and Eagles
Laughter and the Beatles
Culture and comedy, every way
Ladies and Gentlemen, this IS our U3A !”

A final mention of a valiant effort from Veronica Matthew, who produced a quiz for us all to do. Unfortunately, because of lack of advertising and lack of time, only six people actually did the quiz. This, and many other lessons were learnt that afternoon, and you can be sure, the next one will be even better! I hope that if you were in the audience, you enjoyed the performances, and if you weren’t present on the day, I hope you’re inspired to come to the next one.

Photos by Irene Ault and Steph Smith on the following pages

The Singing for Pleasure group



*The
Shakespeare
group*



*Alan Baker (left) and
Ginger (right)*



*Lesley Vann
reads Mike
Westmorland's
story*



*The Ukulele
Group*



Neil Taylor



Liz Brandow



Steph Smith



Helen Parsons



The Guitar Group

News from the Groups Co-ordinator

Hi everybody,

Can I congratulate all those who took part in the Open Mic at the Monthly Meeting! As far as I was concerned it was ve-ery nerve-wracking...but it was great to do.



There has been a small surge in ideas for new groups since the last Monthly Meeting with Bridge Beginners 2 and Backgammon already halfway to having their viability meetings. Which leads me to suggest we might try to add even further to our games groups. As I write the Mah Jong Beginners group has had its first meeting. We have Canasta, Petanque and of course our highly skilled Bridge players; and that group which combines two fine activities, the Pub Quiz group, will shortly get under way. What about a Snooker group...? Open to everybody.

As regards Critical Thinking, people are obviously pondering(!) their next course of action, but just to say it is still open for members to sign up.

Steph has kindly updated the material for the Groups' table, telling you everything that we currently have on offer, and that will be displayed at February's Monthly Meeting.

I am planning a Groups Convenors' Meeting for the third or fourth week in March and will decide upon a date soon and send out to the Convenors, or if you can't attend, someone else in your group. Could you to send to me thoughts, suggestions, ideas, and good advice to other Convenors and groups? Also worries and complaints, and I will try to answer these and discuss them. When I circulate the eventual date do send me these in good time, so I'm not caught on the hop! And of course, at any time: don't hesitate to get in touch with me about anything.

Separately I am exploring interest in Research Projects and Shared Learning. A first project might provisionally be “Looking up in Leicester”, researching into the fine buildings and architecture we still have around the city. We could hopefully arrange a meeting to start this. Just a mention that Elton Hall in Peterborough has contacted me regarding Group trips around the hall and grounds. This has been the ancestral home of the Proby family since 1660. It’s on unspoilt, landscaped parkland, where a house has stood since the 12th Century. It has gothic architecture as well as classical French-inspired aspects. Its art collection has many Old Masters and examples of English portraiture. There are recently-restored gardens and Henry VIII’s prayer book, given to him by Katherine Parr. If your group has a particular interest in architecture, history, or art and you think they might be interested in a visit, please let me know.

Finally, I am in touch with the Club on the corner of Queens Road and Clarendon Park Road, who invite the U3A groups to use their facilities for Groups meetings if they are too big for a member’s house, hire fees to pay, and tea, coffee and refreshments can be arranged, plus facilities to make these.

Budding Groups

Drama

Critical Thinking

Bridge Beginners 2

Backgammon

Do think about signing up to these groups, and of course to any others you might be interested in.

See you at the table!

Neil Taylor (Groups’ Co-ordinator)

GROUP CONVENORS' MEETING (early warning!)

2ND OR 3RD Week of March 2020

Just to give advance notice of the next Group Convenors' Meeting: all Convenors are invited, or if you can't attend, feel free to send someone else from your group

Please bring your:

Suggestions for topics to be discussed

Ideas

Tips and Hints to share

Advice

Questions: please send me these in advance so that I can answer them correctly!!

And...Chiefly...YOURSELVES!!

Please look out for my email to all Leicester U3A Group Convenors giving full information including the date, time and venue.

See you all soon,

Neil Taylor (Groups Co-ordinator)

Save the date!

On Wednesday June 10th 2020 the Architecture and Design Group are planning to go on a coach trip to the Avoncroft Open Air Museum of 30 historic buildings which is near Bromsgrove in Worcestershire. The trip, as in previous years, will be open to all U3A members. See <https://avoncroft.org.uk/>

Publicity Co-ordinator for Leicester U3A

There is an urgent vacancy for a Publicity Co-ordinator at Leicester U3A. Ideally this should be a Committee position, but this is not absolutely necessary. We are entering an exciting period where we will be aiming to promote the U3A to as many people as possible, so the Publicity Co-ordinator should be someone who will be confident speaking to local media, eg The Leicester Mercury, Radio Leicester etc, perhaps someone who used to work as a journalist, in publications, advertising, marketing or who is just enthusiastic about the U3A and wants to help spread the word. If this is you, please contact the Chair (Steph Smith) or any Committee member. All our details are on your Contacts sheet, or email Steph on chair@leicesteru3a.org.uk

Interest Groups

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 architecture@leicesteru3a.org.uk

Detailed information on all our groups is also available on our website and members can contact any of the Convenors from there. The information is also available as a “Contacts Sheet” sent out by email and at the Groups Table at all the Monthly Meetings.

If you have difficulty contacting the Convenor, try the Groups Co-ordinator instead.

The list below is a comprehensive list of all our current groups, when and where they meet, the name of the Convenor and the generic name of the group.

- Architecture** Susan Martin-Butt architecture1
2.00pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month in members' homes.
- Architecture and the Built Environment** Peter Kilty architecture2
2.00pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at people's homes.
- Architecture and Design** Veronica Matthew architecture3
2.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Leicester Progressive Jewish Congregation Synagogue, Avenue Road.
- Art Appreciation** Mary Neilson artappreciation
10.00am on the 1st Friday of the month in members' homes or at a gallery.
- Backgammon** Bob Collins backgammon
10.00am on the 4th Tuesday of the month in members' homes.
- Bones For Life** Jean Stone bones
10.30am on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at the Leicester Progressive Jewish Congregation Synagogue, Avenue Road. This group is currently suspended, the meetings will resume in the spring, date to be announced.
- Bookworms** Nick Arlett bookworms
10.30am on the 1st Wednesday of the month at the Cafe Roma, Halford Street. Please contact Nick if interested in joining. For more information, plus list of novels so far, see the Bookworms page on the Leicester U3A website.
- Botany** (Steph Smith) botany
2.00pm on the 1st Monday of the month, at Steph's or at a nature reserve or wood. This group is currently suspended until warmer weather and pending a new Convenor.
- Bridge 1** Bob Collins bridge1
2.00pm every Wednesday at Bob's.

Bridge 2	Henry Paulinski	bridge2
	2.00pm every Thursday in members' homes. Venue may vary from week to week. Play this wonderful game in congenial company. Ideal for Bridge players with two or more years' experience.	
Bridge Beginners	Keith Pyne	bridgebeginners
	2.00pm on the 3rd and 4th Tuesdays of the month in members' homes.	
Bus Pass Tours	Denise Buchan	buspass
	Trips are once or twice a month. Dates and venues will vary according to their destination.	
Canasta	Barbara Sheppard	canasta
	2.00pm on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month at Barbara's.	
Chess for Pleasure	Graham Williams	chess
	10.30am-12.30pm on the 1st Monday of the month at Graham's. Anyone who can play chess is welcome.	
Computer Help	Andy Williams	computerhelp
	Contact Andy for help with computer problems.	
Craft	Margaret Potter	craft
	2.00pm on the 2nd Friday of the month at Margaret's.	
Creative Writing	Stella Memory	creativewriting
	10.30 on the 2nd Monday of the month in members' homes.	
Cryptic Crosswords 1	Diana Barker	crosswords
	2.00pm on the 3rd Monday of the month at Diana's.	
Cryptic Crosswords 2	Barbara Russell	cryptic2
	2.00pm on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month at Barbara's.	
Current Affairs 1	Denise Aaron	currentaffairs1
	2.30pm on the 1st Tuesday of the month in members' homes.	

Current Affairs 2	Henry Paulinski 10.30am on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in members' homes.	currentaffairs2
Digital Photography	Angela Jennings 2.15pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month in the Quaker Meeting House, Queens Road.	photography
Digital Photo Help	Bob Hall Contact Bob for help with digital camera problems.	photographyhelp
Discussion	Erica Canfield 2.30pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in members' homes.	discussion
Discussion 2	Henry Paulinski 2.00pm on the 1st Monday of the month in members' homes. Topics include "Should we abolish the House of Lords?"	discussion2
Drawing and Sketching	Paul McCann 10.30am 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.	drawing
Family History	Sandra Barker 2.00pm on the 1st Friday of the month at the Leicestershire and Rutland Family History Society, King Street.	familyhistory
French Advanced 1	Fiona Oliver 2.30pm every 2 weeks on Fridays in members' homes.	frenchadvanced1
French Advanced 2	Peter Hampton 2.30pm every 2 weeks on Thursdays in members' homes.	frenchadvanced2
French Intermediate	Ivy Carr 2.30pm every 2 weeks on Fridays in members' homes. All members are involved in choosing topics for discussion, usually 2 or 3 meetings ahead.	frenchintermediate

Gardening	Angie Barnes	gardening
	2.00pm on the 2nd Monday of the month in members' homes or on a visit.	
German Intermediate Conversation	Paul McCann	german
	10.00am on 3rd Tuesday of the month at Helen Parsons'.	
Gilbert and Sullivan	Margot Comer	gands
	Meeting day and time currently under review, TBA soon.	
Guitar Playing	Pat Breen	guitar
	10.30am on the 2nd Monday of the month in members' homes.	
History 1	Deborah Hartridge	history1
	10.30am on the 1st Thursday of the month in members' homes.	
History 2	Mike Bates	history2
	2.30pm on the 3rd Monday of the month in members' homes.	
How Hard Can It Be	Sue Howard	hhcib
	In the morning on the 1st Friday of the month, time and venue to vary according to the activity.	
Irish Language	Pat Breen	irish
	2.00pm every 2 weeks on Thursdays in members' homes.	
Latin - Polish Up Your Rusty...	Jean Cloud	latin
	2.00pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at Jean's.	
Little Theatre	Elisabeth Somogyi	littletheatre
	7.30pm on Wednesday of the week of performance at the Little Theatre. See advert for The Little Theatre later in the Newsletter.	
Mah-Jong	Ann Allsop	mah-jong
	10.30am on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at Ann's.	

Mah-Jong Beginners	Barbara Penrose 2.15pm on 1st Monday of the month in members' homes	
Medieval People	Peter Kilty 10.00am on the 3rd Friday of the month in members' homes.	medievalpeople
Modern Novel	Helen Parsons 10.30am on the 3rd Friday of the month in members' homes.	modernnovel
(Mon) Music Appreciation	Liz Warren 10.30am on the 3rd Monday of the month at Liz's.	music.mon
(Wed) Music Appreciation	Jill Reville 10.30am on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in members' homes.	music.wed
Natural History	Richard Edwards 10.00am on the 4th Tuesday of the month in members' homes or at a nature reserve.	naturalhistory
Needlework and Knitting	Elisabeth Watkin 2.30pm on the 2nd Monday of the month at Elisabeth's	embroidery
Orienteering	Dave Barnes 2.00pm on the 3rd Friday of the month. Venue to vary. This group is now closed for the winter season, meetings will resume in April 2020	orienteer
Paranormal Phenomena	Alan Baker 10.30am on the 3rd Monday of the month in members' homes.	paranorm
Parks and Tearoom Strolls	Marjorie Mallory, Cliff Ault (Deputy) 2.00pm every 2 weeks on Fridays during the Spring and Summer months. Meetings suspended for the winter and will resume again in the Spring 2020.	strolls

- Petanque** Anne Harris petanque
4.15pm –6.15pm on the 3rd and 4th Mondays of the month at Leicester Bowling Club, Kenwood Road. A nominal fee of £1 per session will be charged. Please try to provide your own set of bowls. Information as to the starting dates for the 2020 season will appear early in the year. They are usually the 3rd and 4th Mondays in April.
- Philosophy 1** Matt Matthew philosophy1
10.00am on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month in members' homes.
- Philosophy 2** Judy Hastings philosophy2
2.00pm – 3.30pm on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at Judy's
- Philosophy 3** Dennis Foxon philosophy3
10.30pm every 2 weeks on Wednesdays at Evington Library.
- Poetry Appreciation** Helen Parsons poetry1
10.30pm on the 1st Monday of the month at Helen's.
- Poetry for Pleasure** Jane Michel poetry2
11.00pm on the 2nd Monday of the month at Jane's.
- Rambling** Jan Hall rambling
Every 2 weeks, days and locations vary.
- Reading Music Made Easy** Margot Comer readingmusic
10.00am on Fridays every 2 weeks at Margot's.
- Reading For Pleasure 1** Jill Reville reading1
2.00pm on the 3rd Monday of the month (usually) at Jill's.
- Rummikub** Barbara Sheppard rummikub
2.30pm on the 3rd Monday of the month (usually) at Roy Priestley's.

Science and Technology	Richard Thompson 2.30pm on the last Thursday of the month at Age UK, Humberstone Gate.	science
Scrabble 1	Bill Manners 2.00pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in members' homes.	scrabble1
Scrabble 2	Janet Stratford 2.00pm on the 4th Monday of the month at Janet's.	scrabble2
Shakespeare	Liz Brandow 2.00pm – 4.00pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at the Quaker Meeting House, Queens Road. A small contribution is required towards room hire and refreshments. New members are always very welcome.	shakespeare
Singing for Pleasure	Margaret Potter (Deputy) 10.00am on the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Quaker Meeting House, Queen's Road.	singing
Spanish Beginners	Lorna Pollard 2.00pm on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month in members' homes.	spanish
Spanish Conversation	Lorna Pollard 2.30pm on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month in members' homes.	spanish
Steam Railways	Mike Rowberry 2.00pm on the first Tuesday of the month, venues vary.	steam
Summer Croquett	Janet Connolly 10.15am – 12.00pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at Monks Rest Gardens Bowling Club, Vicarage Lane, Old Humberstone, LE5 1EE No further meetings for the winter, The 2020 season is due to commence late April.	croque

Sunday Lunch	Patricia Thompson 12.30pm on the 2nd Sunday of the month. The Convenor will need definite numbers 48 hours before the meal. An email is sent out a week before to enable the booking to go ahead. We aim for a 12.30 start and would really welcome new members.	lunch
Swanns	Dave Barnes 10.00am every 2 weeks, days to vary. 'Swanns' stands for 'Short Walks And Nearly No Styles' This group is now closed for the winter season, meetings will resume in the spring, 2020, date to be decided.	swanns
Table Tennis	Jackie Caunt, Pat Thompson (Deputy) Every Wednesday at Parklands Leisure Centre, Oadby. The group is being given different times – not always 2.00pm – 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.	tabletennis
Ten Pin Bowling	Jan Hall 10.30am on the 2nd Monday of the month at the Hollywood Bowl, Meridian Leisure Park. The emphasis is on fun, socialising, with tea and coffee at the end. Definitely not competitive (yet...!). Car sharing is available if needed.	tenpin
Ukulele	Ian Knox 2.30pm – 4.30pm on the 1st Tuesday of the month at the Leicester Progressive Jewish Synagogue, Avenue Road.	ukulele
Video – Making A	Bob Hall 10.15am on the 1st Thursday of every third month in members' homes.	video
Welsh Improvers	Brenda Worrall 2.30pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, usually at Brenda's.	welsh
World History	Jenni Shelton 10.00am on the 1st Monday of the month in members' homes.	worldhistory

Membership

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership. If you haven't already done so, please collect your membership card from the tables in the foyer. **MOST IMPORTANT** - please remember to sign in when you arrive. If your name is not on the register, if your badge is not there, or if you have any queries please see Margaret before you take your seat.

If you haven't renewed please see Margaret as you cannot now attend any groups or the general meetings until you have done so. Thank you in anticipation.

Margaret Potter (Membership Secretary)

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 18th February – All Members' Coffee Morning at 10.15am

Wednesday 25th February – Little Theatre Visit at 7.30pm – Beyond Reasonable Doubt

Wednesday 4th March – Little Theatre Visit at 7.30pm – HMS Pinafore

Wednesday 11th March – Little Theatre Visit at 7.30pm – Class

Wednesday 18th March – Little Theatre Visit at 7.30pm – Blue Stockings

Tuesday 17th March – All Members' Coffee Morning at 10.15am

Tuesday 18th February – All Members Coffee Morning at 10.15am

Little Theatre Visit details are on a following page.

Local Theatre Visits (Curve) Group visit details are on a following page.

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

Little Theatre

Booking is open through the U3A Little Theatre Group.

Contact the Convenor via email

littletheatre@leicesteru3a.org.uk

Beyond Reasonable Doubt

a courtroom drama by Jeffrey Archer Wednesday, 25 February 2020 7.30pm
£15.00

booking open to 11 February 2020

HMS Pinafore

a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta

performed by the Leicester Gilbert and Sullivan Musical Society

Wednesday, 4 March 2020, 7.30 pm £15.50 booking open to 15 February 2020

An amateur performance in the Hayward Studio

Class

a classroom drama

Wednesday, 11 March 2020, 7.30 pm £8.50 booking open to 25 February 2020

Blue Stockings

a historical drama by Jessica Swale Wednesday, 18 March 2020, 7.30pm £15.00
booking open to 3 March 2020

Interested parties meet for a pre-performance evening meal in the Tatra Restaurant, 1
Northampton Street LE1 1PA (just off Granby Street)
at 5.45 pm before the performance.

CURVE EVENTS

Contact Diana Barker

CINDERELLA

Performed by the Northern Ballet

Thursday 2nd April 2020 2.30pm £20
Stalls AA & BB – 16

Northern Ballet has an exceptional reputation from previous performances and this production has many popular music themes.

We need four more reservations by the 18th February otherwise will have to cancel the reservation which would be a great shame.

Please contact curve@leicesteru3a.org.uk

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.]

BRAIN, BEHAVIOUR AND BEYOND

WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH 2020
6.00PM – 8.00PM
GEORGE DAVIES CENTRE,
LANCASTER ROAD, LEICS LE1 7HA



In association with Brain Awareness Week

This free event is open to anyone who wants to know more about how the brain works and ongoing research into neuroscience, biology, genetics, health sciences, medicine and psychology.

Along with presentations there will be live demonstrations on many aspects of neuroscience research, including vision, taste, attention and movement, and the opportunity to meet junior and senior researchers.

5.30pm Doors open

6.00pm Talks

- Dr Eleanor Swan - Visual attention declines in older drivers – the impact on hazard detection
- Dr Ben Warren - Lend me your Locust Ears

7.00pm Demonstrations, posters and refreshments

Please note that there will be photography at the event.

Please register at www.le.ac.uk/baw

About the Newsletter

Delivery

The Newsletter is normally delivered to members by email as a pdf file with one page per side.

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 on 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 2020 Newsletter is Tuesday 25th 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 2020	Individual	Associate*
Joining between 1st January 2020 and 30 June 2020	£15.00	£11.50
Joining between 1st July 2020 and 31st October 2020	£9.00	£6.00

Membership runs from the date of joining until the end of 2020.

**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: 0116 291 1814)

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

(Details of subscriptions for 2020 are on the previous page.)