



LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE

# LEICESTER NEWSLETTER

January 2020

Charity No. 1083274

[u3asites.org.uk/leicester](http://u3asites.org.uk/leicester)



How Hard Can It Be Group at Parklands Leisure Centre

*Photo by Gabi Garland*

## **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**

Speaker: Geoff Roe

*'The Big Difference Company'*

Attendance at the November Meeting: 109, including 84 members, plus 2 new members on the day and 3 visitors

## **Membership 2020 – Additions, Corrections and Updates**

The membership now stands at 466

*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.

## *Message from the Chair*

As I write this, Christmas and New Year are still in the future; as you are reading it, it is in the past, so I hope it went well for all of us. As usual I've absolutely no idea what I'm going to write about, so fingers crossed that the old grey cells start to kick in pretty soon. New Years usually start with a look back at the successes of last year, so let's have a look at some of our successes of 2019. As a U3A, we continue to grow. This time last year we had a membership of 415, with 72 groups. Just before Christmas 2019 we had 464 members and 76 groups. Some members feel that increasing our numbers and our groups is not a priority, as this can create problems with accommodation both in home venues and at the Monthly Meetings. But what a great 'problem' to have! If a group outgrows the space in someone's home, we have a strong precedence of starting new groups, hence multiple French, Bridge, Discussion, Philosophy, History, Music Appreciation, Poetry, Crossword, Scrabble groups etc. We outgrew the hall at the church for our Monthly Meetings, so have moved into the Worship Centre. The time may come when our numbers become such that we outgrow the Worship Centre, and the search will be on again for a new venue. That's still a long way off, but growth is healthy: it brings in younger members, people with new ideas for new groups, who have the energy and enthusiasm to offer time on the Committee, succession being an on-going problem for each Committee.



While we're on the subject of succession and success, we were very fortunate this year to be able to replace our excellent Speaker Finder, Elaine King, with someone who clearly has an equal amount of enthusiasm and expertise as Elaine. Keith Pyne stepped into the breach when Elaine left to move down to Devon with her family, and within only a few months, had completely filled all the Monthly Meeting slots for 2020! I think that very much counts as a success.

We eventually got ourselves a new Committee in April, with a maxi-

mum of 12 Committee members, which I haven't seen since I joined 4 years ago. We now have 11 Committee members, so we're actively recruiting for new Committee member right now. As you may well be aware, Bill Manners, who has been on the Committee for several years, has completed his allotted time as Treasurer and he steps down from the post in January. I would like to thank Bill for his sterling work as Treasurer, and I did think he would be very difficult to replace. However, we have achieved another success: the successful recruiting and training up of his replacement as Treasurer, Bob Holness, who takes over the role in January. Bill will stay on the Committee until the AGM in March when he will fully step down from the Committee, and finally have a rest! This does mean though, that the Committee will be down to 10, so we will be looking to recruit 2 new people onto the Committee at the AGM.

Other successes of 2019? Andy William's Computer Help group, which replaces the old Computer help team, and I'm looking forward to seeing some of the short courses Andy plans to run on how to get the best out of your devices (you know you need it!).

The Christmas Tree festival turned out to be a lot of fun, so if that's how we measure success, that's another one to chalk up. 15 membership application forms were taken over the two days the Festival was on, so I'm hoping that will result in some additional members fairly soon.

And finally, I wonder if this time next year we look back at the Open Mic afternoon and consider that as a success? I really hope so!

*Steph Smith*

## **All Members' Coffee Mornings.**

The coffee mornings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at The Friends' Meeting House, Queens Road from ten o'clock onward 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.*

## Reports from the Groups

### ***BRIDGE 2 COMES UP TRUMPS AT COUNTY EVENT***



*Photo by Henry Paulinski*

Leicester U3A's Bridge 2 quartet of Anne Graf, Alan Bowles, Carmel and Denis Cogan, playing as North/South and East/West respectively, gained top marks at the annual County Bridge Workshop event organised by Leicestershire and Rutland Network of U3As.

Averaging over 70 % between them, our team came out top of over 16 teams from the County. The workshop, which combines expert tuition, discussions, as well as an on-going competition, is a popular event aimed at players of all levels.

According to event organiser, Don Collins, "Looks like the Leicester U3A have some very reasonable bridge players. Please give them my congratulations and apologise that there were no prizes planned. This will be different the next time I am asked to arrange such a day."

Bridge 2 Convenor, Henry Paulinski, was understandably up-beat: "Two years ago we were a motley bunch of individuals, most of whom had not

played bridge in over 30 years. Now many of us play 2 or 3 times a week in other clubs and I am delighted our efforts at improving our understanding of the game, whilst having a lot of fun, have been rewarded in spades!”

Bridge 2’s philosophy is to learn the game with inputs from all its members in a friendly and light-hearted atmosphere, in the true spirit of U3A. As well as teach-ins led by members of the group, Bridge 2 occasionally calls on the expertise of more experienced players from other U3As to run informal masterclasses on key aspects of the game.

*Henry Paulinski (Bridge 2 Convenor)*

## **An Architectural Study Day at the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) in London**

The aim of this study day at the end of November was to introduce several hundred U3A members to the RIBA archive. This is one of the largest and most diverse architectural collections in the world. It holds over four million items ranging from ‘back of an envelope’ sketches, models, construction toys, to detailed architectural drawings, books, journals, photographs, letters and the administrative records of architectural practices.

All the archive is free and open to everyone. About 100,000 items are available on-line at [www.architecture.com](http://www.architecture.com). The models and drawings are housed at the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the RIBA Architecture Study Rooms at the Museum are open to the public. The RIBA Library Reading Room is also open to all. Opening times and arrangements for access can be found on the website.

Most of the material has come from donation rather than purchase, some from country estates. The Duke of Devonshire bequeathed design drawings by Palladio, and the RIBA archive has 85% of the Palladio drawings that have survived. Apart from the architecture of large country mansions most of the material relates to London. Outside the capital, architectural records are generally kept in county record offices and

local libraries and museums.

The study day was divided into five periods: Georgian, Victorian/Edwardian, 1914 - 1945, 1945 - 2000 and the 21st century. Five of the curators each gave a talk fully illustrated with items from the archive.

A study day bonus was seeing the inside of the Art Deco RIBA building in Portland Place and to be encouraged to have a look around during our lunch break. Also on the ground floor of the building is an excellent architecture bookshop. RIBA has free exhibitions; currently there is “Beyond Bauhaus. Modernism in Britain 1933 – 66” and a small exhibition of László Moholy-Nagy’s photographs.

If national U3A puts on another study day at the RIBA I would encourage Leicester members to make the journey for a stimulating day.

*Veronica Matthew (Architecture & Design Convenor)*

### ***Digital Photography***



*Photo by Angela Jennings*

The Digital Photography group had a 'hands on' session in November when we used light boxes to enhance our photos. A light box is a white cube with translucent sides that diffuses light coming from multiple sources, into which you put the object to be photographed. This allows for even, nearly shadow-less lighting against a simple, solid background. It is used by professionals to photograph jewellery etc for advertisements. It certainly was effective in improving 'still life' photos and was an interesting project. We will show our photos at the January meeting.

*Angela Jennings (Digital Photography Convenor)*

### ***Bus Pass Tours***

Having first announced no trips near Christmas we had two great seasonal outings: first to Nottingham Christmas Market, where three of us rolled back the years by taking a ride on the Carousel - I don't remember those horses being so high off the ground when a kid! - and then we all had a good rummage round the stalls, eating too much chocolate. Thanks for organising and leading this trip, Val, it was hugely enjoyable. Then, on 11th December, we had a trip on the steam train from Loughborough to Leicester and return, to meet Santa. The train was packed, with a lot of children which made it all the more fun. There were cordials and packets of sweets for them and for we 'grownups' a little tot of something a bit more warming. This trip followed a suggestion from Andy Brooks, thanks Andy for being such a fount of information about the potential of interesting places to visit.

Last, but not least, thanks to all the contributors of trips in 2019, both those who've led trips and those who've attended any of them, and may I take this opportunity to send my best Christmas wishes and for your health, wealth and happiness in 2020. I wish the same too to all members who haven't yet been able to join us on any of our outings, I look forward to meeting you sometime this year perhaps.

*Denise Buchan (BPT Convenor)*

## *Saturnalia Meal*

Saturnalia was a major Roman festival around the winter solstice, and slaves were given a day off.



*Photo by Chris Mitchell*

The U3A Latin Reading Group also gets a day off, where instead of reading, we each bring an item of food. The rule is that we can only bring food made with ingredients available in Roman times!

One great Roman delicacy that isn't readily available today is "glires" - dormice, so instead this spread has little dormice made from hardboiled eggs.

Anyone who wants to polish up their Latin is welcome (it's not for beginners - you'll need some experience of Latin) - contact Jean Cloud on [jean.nubilacaeli@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:jean.nubilacaeli@mypostoffice.co.uk)

*Chris Mitchell (Member of Polish Up Your Rusty Latin group)*

## Creative Writing

We are a small, friendly group of budding creative writers who meet monthly on the second Monday of the month, at 10.30am in members' homes. We write fiction and factual poems and prose, and short stories. We are bringing out a booklet of our writing after Christmas entitled, 'Our Memories'. Copies will be available at Steph's Extravaganza in January.

It would be nice to have some more members to input ideas, so if you feel you would like to join us, or just observe a meeting, please contact the Convenor by phone or email. You will be very welcome.

### *Trees*

You've been scorched, drenched,  
blown to pieces, struck by lightning,  
limbs torn off, cut down for wood and oil.

But you give us shelter from sun and rain,  
pour oxygen from your lungs.  
Birds sing and nest in your arms,  
bats and squirrels find safe haven.

You will be here long after me,  
still here after my kind have gone.  
We must protect you.

*Poem by Stella Memory  
(Creative Writing Group Convenor)*

### *'My Two-penny Treat'*

Big brother Tommy is eight years older than me (I am six) and every week he buys himself a boys' magazine called the Wizard. It is predominantly a series of illustrated stories about rip-roaring adventure with bandits on the NW frontier, big-game hunters, cowboys and

Indians, wartime heroisms and so forth. It is published by a company called DC Thompson in Dundee, and they are on to a good thing: every day of the week there is a different publication and I can still remember the titles; Wizard, Hotspur, Skipper, Adventure and Rover.

One day the Wizard announces the imminent publication of a new type of magazine aimed at a younger generation on the threshold of acquiring reading skills; this one will have a lot of comic drawings rather than a preponderance of text. It will be called the Dandy, and like its big brother it will cost twopence. It will come out every Friday. Hurry on down to your newsagent it said, and get him to save one for your kid brother.

They got me hooked from Issue One. Every Friday lunchtime I called in at the newsagent and he brought out from under the counter my very own Dandy. I never missed an issue for about three years and when I was evacuated at the start of WW2 my main concern was not so much getting bombed but whether the place I was going to would have a friendly newsagent.

DC Thompson had hit the bullseye again; the formula was something new. Previous comics were a series of formal drawings in sequence with whole sentences of printed text under each one which explained or reinforced what you were seeing in its companion illustration. The Dandy by comparison was positively anarchic; the drawings were sometimes in the form of a grid but often of variegated sizes, and the text was now innovatively in speech bubbles within the frame. Every week we followed the doings of Desperate Dan, Keyhole Kate, Hungry Horace and a host of Extraordinary Imaginaries. Somehow the characters embodied a new form of surrealism which clicked all the buttons for my age group. Straightaway we 'Got It'. So much so that within a few weeks Thompsons rushed out a companion comic called the Beano, published on Tuesdays.

Fifty years later I met someone who had a giant anthology of classic comics published in hardback form: and there within was a

facsimile of Number One The Dandy. Reading it I had a strange sensation of familiarity as though I had only put it down yesterday; not so much an act of cognition as one of re-cognition. Somewhere in my brain there was apparently still a fifty-year-old storage space marked Number One The Dandy. Later still I learned that someone else out there had kept his copy all those years and it ended up being auctioned at Sothebys; it fetched twenty-five thousand pounds

*Mike Westmoreland (Member of Creative Writing group)*

## ***Drawing & Sketching***



*Drawing by Paul McCann*

The Drawing and Sketching Group, which meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month between 10.30 and 12.30, has vacancies for two more members. The size of the venue and the space needed for drawing means that we cannot accommodate more than 7 people. Finding a larger venue is not an option at the moment.

Should there be enough applicants perhaps a second group can be organised.

Our next meeting is at Roy Priestley's on Thursday 16 January at 1030. Obviously, the address will be provided to applicants.

If you are interested please contact Paul McCann, Convenor for Drawing and Sketching, using the Leicester U3A Website.

Rubbish artists and people who can't draw are welcome. Budding Da Vincis please help us.

*Paul McCann (Drawing & Sketching Convenor)*

## *How Hard Can it Be: November Challenge*



*Photo by Gabi Garland*

The HHCiB group's latest challenge last November saw four of us taking on the various climbing walls at Parklands Leisure Centre. Wearing safety harnesses attached to automatic belay lines we climbed as far as individuals felt comfortable before falling backwards into a controlled abseil to the ground. We never did the abseil without fear but this is partly what our group is about and what an adrenaline rush!! We look forward

to further challenges in 2020!

*Gabi Garland (HHCIB Convenor)*

## *Singing for Pleasure.*

The U3A group Singing for Pleasure meets on the fourth Wednesday

of each month at 10.00 in the library of the Friends' Meeting House, Queens Road. This venue is on the 44/44A bus route and there is some off-street parking. We pay a six-monthly sub to cover the rent and coffee is served. Our co-Conveners are Muriel Harrison and Margaret Potter and we are very lucky in having Vicky Roe as pianist and teacher. She has the much-needed skill of lowering the pitch of songs when the notes seem a little too high for some of us! We compile our own song book full of personal favourites, ranging from show, folk, sea and general songs which Margaret downloads, copies and puts into the files so our repertoire is always growing as new members join and suggest new songs. We have up to fifteen of us which is enough to sing rounds in three or four parts but more singers would mean we could tackle something really ambitious... Please come and join us and re-discover your inner lark.

*Barbara Penrose (Member of Singing For Pleasure group)*

### ***Leicester U3A Facebook Page***

At the end of August last year, I took the plunge and dragged Leicester U3A into the murky depths of social media, by starting our very own closed Facebook page. This page is available for anyone who is a Leicester U3A member to join and just be, well, sociable. To be accepted onto the page, you must confirm that you are a Leicester U3A member, which I check against our membership list. Oddly I have had a couple of people try to join (and who were rejected!) who were not Leicester U3A members, including a 26 year old man living in Nigeria! I have been supported from the start by our second FB page member (me being the first), our very own tech guru, Andy Williams. Since then our numbers have rocketed to...33 members. So I thought perhaps for those of you who 'don't do social media' you might be interested in what on earth goes on there. So here's a list of things that have popped up so far: some reports, pictures or just comments from groups (Botany, Gardening, Bookworms, All Members Coffee Morning), interesting cryptic crossword clues, a video showing the Barnsley U3A playing the unofficial U3A Anthem, info about the sunflower lanyard scheme being adopted

by many supermarkets, a brief report about an unofficial Leicester U3A Quiz team taking part in the Cradock quiz, a heads-up from Andy about Yahoo email being off-line as well as regular technical updates, a reminder about John Florance's talk about John Betjeman, suggestions for new groups, suggested tips about staying healthy in older age, a list of keyboard shortcuts for computer whizz kids out there, photos of interesting things people have seen/done on holidays and days out (eg National Trust properties, trains in Wales, and we're currently enjoying regular updates of Angie and Dave Barnes' holiday in Australia), official Leicester U3A trips out (Saltaire), info about the Third Age Trust Newsletter, a How to Play Bridge on-line tutorial, info on TEDx Leicester, scam alerts, deaf cats, the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain, the Leicester U3A Christmas tree, advert for exam invigilators, alert about Lyme Disease, Christmas traditions, both national and our own family ones, info about what's on at the Phoenix cinema, several funny/interesting/poignant little videos, a regular Monday night quiz competition as we try to outdo each other with our correct University Challenge scores (as well as Only Connect) and lots and lots of silly jokes.



*Photo by Steph Smith*

I can hear a few bah-humbugs out there asking 'What's the point of

that?'. The answer my friend isn't blowing in the wind, it's in the name 'social media': it's a way to be sociable, to keep in touch, to share, have a bit of fun, learn some new things. Because it's a closed site, only Leicester U3A members who have joined the group can see it, and in the 4 months it's been up and running, there have been no negative comments about anything, only interesting articles and lots and lots of photographs. Why not give it a go? You will be very welcome.

*Steph Smith (Administrator of Leicester U3A Facebook page)*

### ***Change of Treasurer***

If you attended the last AGM, you may remember that I said this was to be my last year on the Committee and that Bob Holness had agreed to join the Committee with the aim of taking over as Treasurer at the start of the next Leicester U3A financial year on 1st January 2020. Sometimes things do go according to plan and by the time you read this, Bob should be in place while I put together the report for the AGM in March, and then retire to the back benches. The email address treasurer@leicesteru3a.org.uk will now be forwarding emails to Bob rather than to me. Further contact details for him are on the Contacts sheet. I have enjoyed my time as Treasurer, but am now looking forward to a change. I would like to thank all of you that I have worked with on the Committee and as Treasurer for your support and co-operation during the last six years.

*Bill Manners (Retiring Treasurer)*

## *News from the Groups Co-ordinator*

Hi everybody,

Firstly, a big thank you to Margaret for completing the Groups Audit: for her detailed, painstaking and sometimes very patient work.

In the New Year from January I will update the Groups Display on the Groups table, with the help of Steph.



Congratulations are in order for the Bridge group, who had great success at the Harborough Bridge event last month. No prizes unfortunately, but apparently this will be rectified next time, and Henry Paulinski wants to host a similar event on our behalf at some point in 2020. I've been in the middle of overjoyed card players before Christmas - and I was in touch with the Mayor's Office about an open-topped Bus Parade...or ought to have been!

Worth a mention is the History 2 group, who are always good in reporting what they are up to. Mike Bates' latest email to me was one describing the contacts he'd had with a London U3A, about Leicester, King Charles' time and the incidents around withdrawing all the coinage in England. Apparently, part was stored in Leicester, and the two groups are in touch researching it.

Our current Budding Groups are:

Drama

Scrabble 3

Italian

World History

Critical Thinking

Do think about signing up to these groups!

Remember to keep in touch with your Convenor and keep her/him up to date with plans, to make organising things that much easier.

See you at the table!

*Neil Taylor (Groups Co-ordinator)*

## ***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](mailto: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](mailto:@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](mailto: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 Exchange Bar (opposite Curve), 50 Rutland 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.
- Bridge 1** Bob Collins bridge1  
2.00pm every Wednesday at Bob's.

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

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

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

<b>Medieval People</b>	Peter Kilty 10.00am on the 3rd Friday of the month in members' homes.	medievalpeople
<b>Modern Novel</b>	Helen Parsons 10.30am on the 3rd Friday of the month in members' homes.	modernnovel
<b>(Mon) Music Appreciation</b>	Liz Warren 10.30am on the 3rd Monday of the month at Liz's.	music.mon
<b>(Wed) Music Appreciation</b>	Jill Reville 10.30am on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in members' homes.	music.wed
<b>Natural History</b>	Richard Edwards 10.00am on the 4th Tuesday of the month in members' homes or at a nature reserve.	naturalhistory
<b>Needlework and Knitting</b>	Elisabeth Watkin 2.30pm on the 2nd Monday of the month at Elisabeth's	embroidery
<b>Orienteering</b>	Dave Barnes This group is now closed for the winter season, meetings will resume in April 2020	orienteer
<b>Paranormal Phenomena</b>	Alan Baker 10.30am on the 3rd Monday of the month in members' homes.	paranorm
<b>Parks and Tearoom Strolls</b>	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
<b>Petanque</b>	Anne Harris 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.	petanque

<b>Philosophy 1</b>	Matt Matthew 10.00am on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month in members' homes.	philosophy1
<b>Philosophy 2</b>	Judy Hastings 2.00pm – 3.30pm on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at Judy's	philosophy2
<b>Philosophy 3</b>	Dennis Foxon 10.30pm every 2 weeks on Wednesdays at Evington Library.	philosophy3
<b>Poetry Appreciation</b>	Helen Parsons 10.30pm on the 1st Monday of the month at Helen's.	poetry1
<b>Poetry for Pleasure</b>	Jane Michel 11.00pm on the 2nd Monday of the month at Jane's.	poetry2
<b>Rambling</b>	Jan Hall Every 2 weeks, days and locations vary.	rambling
<b>Reading Music Made Easy</b>	Margot Comer 10.00am on Fridays every 2 weeks at Margot's.	readingmusic
<b>Reading For Pleasure 1</b>	Jill Reville 2.00pm on the 3rd Monday of the month (usually) at Jill's.	reading1
<b>Rummikub</b>	Barbara Sheppard 2.30pm on the 3rd Monday of the month (usually) at Roy Priestley's.	rummikub
<b>Science and Technology</b>	Richard Thompson 2.30pm on the last Thursday of the month at Age UK, Humberstone Gate.	science
<b>Scrabble 1</b>	Bill Manners 2.00pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in members' homes. The January meeting will be preceded by a bring-and-share lunch at 12.30 for 1.00 pm.	scrabble1

- Scrabble 2** Janet Stratford scrabble2  
2.00pm on the 4th Monday of the month at Janet's.
- Shakespeare** Liz Brandow shakespeare  
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.
- Singing for Pleasure** Margaret Potter (Deputy) singing  
10.00am on the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Quaker Meeting House, Queen's Road.
- Spanish Conversation** Lorna Pollard spanish  
2.30pm on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month in members' homes.
- Steam Railways** Mike Rowberry steam  
2.00pm on the first Tuesday of the month, venues vary.
- Summer Croquett** Janet Connolly croque  
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.
- Sunday Lunch** Patricia Thompson lunch  
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.
- Swanns** Dave Barnes swanns  
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.

<b>Table Tennis</b>	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
<b>Ten Pin Bowling</b>	Jenni Shelton 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
<b>Ukulele</b>	Steph Smith 2.30pm – 4.30pm on the 1st Tuesday of the month at the Leicester Progressive Jewish Synagogue, Avenue Road.	ukulele
<b>Video – Making A</b>	Bob Hall 10.15am on the 1st Thursday of every third month in members' homes.	video
<b>Welsh Improvers</b>	Brenda Worrall 2.30pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, usually at Brenda's.	welsh
<b>World History</b>	Jenni Shelton 10.00am on the 1st Monday of the month in members' homes. Ute will talk on Vienna and the Ringstrasse, and Vienna After the Fall of the Empire.	worldhistory

### ***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/>

## *Membership*

REMEMBER – If you have not already done so you can renew your membership at the January meeting. Margaret will be in the hall ready to take your subscription with the renewal form. We cannot accept one without the other although there will be a few spare forms on the day to fill in if you have printer troubles. Cheques are preferred made payable to LEICESTER U3A, however if you bring cash please have the correct amount ready. In the unlikely event that you decide not to renew it would help if you can tell us why so that we can address any issues. For those that have already renewed by post, THANK YOU. Your membership card will be available for collection on the day. If you cannot come and collect it but have a friend who is coming please ask them to collect it for you. Thank you in anticipation.

*Margaret Potter (Membership Secretary)*

## *Dates for your Diary*

Tuesday 14th January – Open Mic Afternoon – 2.45pm

Tuesday 21st January – All Members Coffee Morning at 10.15am

Wednesday 23rd January – Little Theatre Visit at 7.30pm – Bracken Moor

Wednesday 5th February – Little Theatre Visit at 7.30pm – Around the World  
in 80 Days

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

Little Theatre Visit details are on page 29.

Local Theatre Visits (Curve) Group visit details are on page 30.

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](mailto:mjgray220@gmail.com)

## ***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.]

### ***Little Theatre***

***Booking is open through the U3A Little Theatre Group.***

***Contact the Convenor via email***

***littletheatre@leicesteru3a.org.uk***

#### **Bracken Moor**

A ghostly drama by A K Campbell Wednesday, 23 January 2020 7.30pm

£15.00

Booking open to 13 January 2020

#### **Around the World in 80 Days**

Adaptation of Jules Verne's comedy Wednesday, 5 February 2020, 7.30pm

£15.00

Booking open to 21 January 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.

## ***Local Theatre Visits (Curve)***

**Contact Diana Barker**

### **CURVE EVENTS**

*We had to cancel Phantom of the Opera due to lack of response and it would be a great shame to have to do the same for the following performance as the balance due date is 4th Feb. Northern Ballet have a fantastic reputation so please get in touch to reserve seats.*

### **CINDERELLA**

Performed by the Northern Ballet

Thursday 2nd April 2020                      2.30pm                      £20

Stalls AA & BB – 16

Balance due 4th Feb so tickets must be reserved by 20th January

enquiries to [curve@leicesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:curve@leicesteru3a.org.uk)

In this sparkling adaptation of the classic rags-to-riches tale, Cinders is whisked away from her wicked step-mother to the glistening lake of ice where she first meets her Prince. You won't believe your eyes as Northern Ballet's remarkable dancers bring their signature magic to the ultimate feel-good fairytale.

## **Pictures in the Newsletter**

When submitting images for the newsletter just send the actual file, be it a photo, scan of a drawing drawing or any other graphic image, don't panic and feel you should do something to it. Simply attach the file to an email with an explanation of what it's for and I'll do the rest. If you're not sure how to do this there should be instructions in the 'help' section of the email program, they all seem to be slightly different. Placing it onto a file first, such as a Word .doc or a pdf file, just complicates the issue at this end.

Thanks.

*The slave who puts this all together.*

PS Sorry about some of the earlier cock-ups, I think I've about got it sussed now.

## *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 rerading the Newsletter from email (or do not have email) and cannot attend the monthly meetings to collect a hard cpy, 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 February 2020 Newsletter is Tuesday January 28th. Contributions (from members) should be sent to the editor: [newsletter@leicestaru3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@leicestaru3a.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.

<b>Subscriptions for 2020</b>	<b>Individual</b>	<b>Associate*</b>
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](mailto: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 page 31)