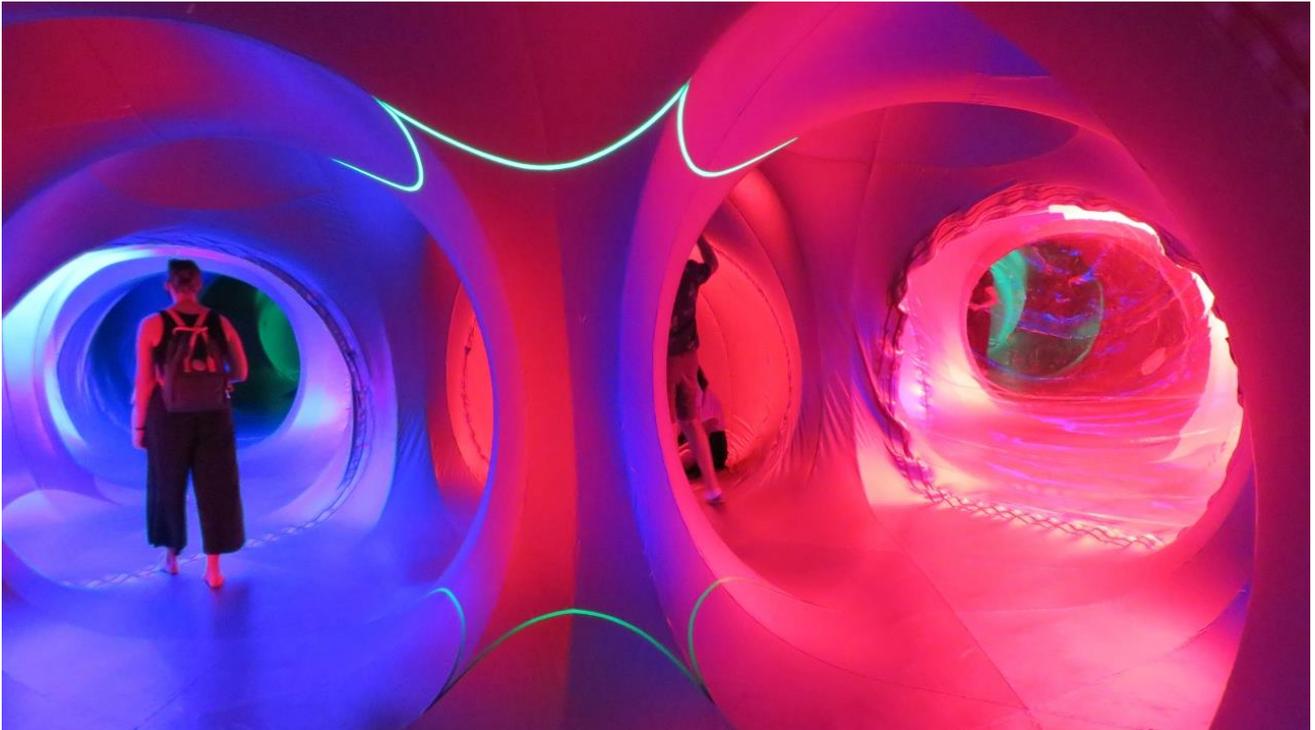


Leicester Newsletter

JANUARY 2022



'Wonder'

Picture by Cliff Ault at Luminarium Exhibition in Green Dragon Square

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

If this link does not open just copy and paste it into your browser

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Membership Information : The membership at the end of the year stood at 391. Of these 160 had not yet renewed and five had resigned. If you have not yet renewed please contact me urgently as your membership will expire at the end of this month and you will no longer be able to attend any meetings or groups. You should have received a renewal notice in late November/early December and a subsequent reminder.

Margaret Potter (Membership Secretary)

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR - Tony Davison

One of the challenges of being Chair is the requirement to write something for the monthly Newsletter. Deadlines seem to come round relentlessly. Every month I am faced with the problem of finding something to write about that might possibly be of specific interest to u3a members. This is especially difficult at a time when not much is happening because everyone is stuck at home in a pandemic. It is comforting to know that this is also a problem faced by professional writers and journalists faced with a sheet of blank paper. Private Eye often attributes their spoof press reports to a certain Phil Space. This month, however, something directly relevant to our own u3a has turned up. You will probably have seen the article in Third Age Matters about the stories of the Kindertransport, which were the subject of an online u3a event on 2nd December. The magazine gave details of how to book for the event but unfortunately it arrived after it was all over. Nevertheless, it is worth mentioning that one of our own members, Ben Abeles, was one of the children saved by the Kindertransport. Sadly, Ben died back in January but he was a remarkable man and his personal story, outlined in Wikipedia and in his obituary in the Guardian, was quite astonishing and well worth reading. It would have been a wonderful contribution to the u3a event. Finally, at the time of writing this, (just before Christmas), nobody seems to know how 2022 will start. There are signs that the government is thinking of locking us all up again, which is depressing. Oh well, let's hope for the best so, here's wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

PROGRAMME

General meetings normally start at 2:30pm. The doors open to members at 2:00pm. Please don't come earlier than that as we are setting up and moving furniture and equipment and there may be a risk of injury to you. Thank you for your cooperation, and please remember your face covering unless you are medically exempt. You may remove this when seated in the hall with your refreshments. Please do not move around with refreshments or without the face covering

DECEMBER MEETING REPORT– Christmas Social

“We need to meet, don’t we?” said one of our members. He shrugged his shoulders, took a bite of his mince pie and sat back. Everybody around the table agreed.

So on Tuesday 14th December at the new time of 2.30pm, we did meet for a Christmas social. No speaker; just chatting over tea, coffee and mince pies.

Despite the onset of the Omicron variant, (and I hope our reminding ourselves of the Greek alphabet stops there), our members had difficulty parking their sleighs as the event was very well attended. Over 50 people attended during the afternoon. We talked, laughed, asked about joining groups, planned new ones and generally passed the time of day. Membership renewal was also available and this will be continued at the next meeting on Tuesday 11th January, Covid guidance permitting.

Many Christmas events also took place within groups. I attended the Shakespeare get together, where, to quote Sir John Falstaff “Much sack (non–alcoholic I speedily add) was drank”, Twelfth Night, and a viewing of the wonderfully odious Richard Briers’ Malvolio. If we didn’t have a good time, again to quote Falstaff, “We were a bag of radishes”!

As I write this we do not know what, if any, further restrictions, may apply after Christmas. By the time you read this we may know. We will continue to follow national requirements, take guidance from The Third Age Trust, and keep members updated. Everything permitting, we look forward to seeing you on 11th January.

Neil Taylor

JANUARY MEETING – Tuesday 11th January 2022

This meeting is for members who wish to renew their membership or just come for a coffee and a chat. There is no speaker. The membership secretary will be on hand to receive your cheque or cash if you have not already renewed. Remember these were due on 1st January and your membership will lapse at the end of the month after which you will not be able to attend any meetings or groups.

FEBRUARY MEETING – Tuesday 8th February.

Ian Tidd will talk about the Didgeridoo. More details in the next newsletter.

ALL MEMBERS COFFEE MORNINGS *Sandra Barker – Hospitality and Wellbeing*

Thank you to everyone who attended the coffee morning. The next coffee morning, regulations permitting, will be on Tuesday 18th January.

NEWS FROM THE THIRD AGE TRUST (TAT) (extracted from their newsletters)

Festive Activities

There is so much on the Third Age Trust learning pages - from [seasonal photos from u3a members](#) and a new photography challenge for you to get involved in, [festive paintings](#), and a special holiday episode of [our u3a radio podcast](#).

AND

See all our events on our [online events page](#).

Do you have skills that you could share with other members in a u3a event or national talk? [We would love to hear from you](#).

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS COORDINATOR - Neil Taylor

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a relaxing few days over the holidays. A new year, new resolutions, new hopes, new wishes, new targets. A new pot of tea I think is the best solution.

Government and The Third Age Trust guidance permitting, (as already mentioned we'll keep you informed of those), Leicester u3a groups are open for business again. All of the convenors are ready and willing to answer any enquiries about joining their groups. Email addresses for all of the groups are on the contact sheet.



If you've thought of a group we currently do not have feel free to get in touch with me at groups@leicesteru3a.org.uk and I will try to get it started. We will advertise any provisional new groups on the website, in the newsletter, and in the news sheet. When enough people are interested, (usually around five), I will organise a meeting to firm up details, decide on a convenor and commence.

Bookworms has a new venue. Future meetings will be at Café Roma (upstairs), 11 Halford Street, LE1 1JA.

The group is now full, but should anyone be interested in establishing a second group please contact me.

I'm always keen for us to start new groups. One we used to have, but which unfortunately has now closed, is a Ukulele group. Is there anyone out there interested in starting one again?

I am also in contact with the National u3a Subject Advisers. There are a couple of ideas which strike me as very interesting. One is Opera, (including talks, visits, watching and discussing performances), from Mozart to Puccini and beyond. Also Wine Appreciation, for research, presentations, conviviality, and learning about grapes, wines, regions, countries, and methods of preparation. Food, or perhaps, beverage for thought! New Year, new resolutions, new hopes, new wishes...new glass of wine anyone?

Best wishes,

Neil Taylor Groups Coordinator

MEET THE CONVENOR – Nick Arlett - Bookworms Group

Q: Are you originally from Leicester?

A: Leicestershire, yes, I actually started out in Hinckley. Not too far away.

Q: What brought you to Leicester & what did you do before you retired?

A: Work. I taught English at Leicester College, mainly on the St Margaret's campus.

Q: What made you join Leicester u3a, and what do you like most about it?

A: When I retired I started a Latin course at Leicester University but it was stopped. I asked around and a friend asked if I had tried u3a, which up to that point I had never heard of.

Q: What groups did you join to start with?

A: Latin of course.

Q: What's your TV guilty pleasure?

A: I'm currently watching 'Narcos' on Netflix

Q: What was the last book you read?

A: I'm reading The Plot by Jean Hanff Korelitz. She is a brilliant American author and we are reading it in my Bookworms Group.

My grateful thanks to Nick for his time.

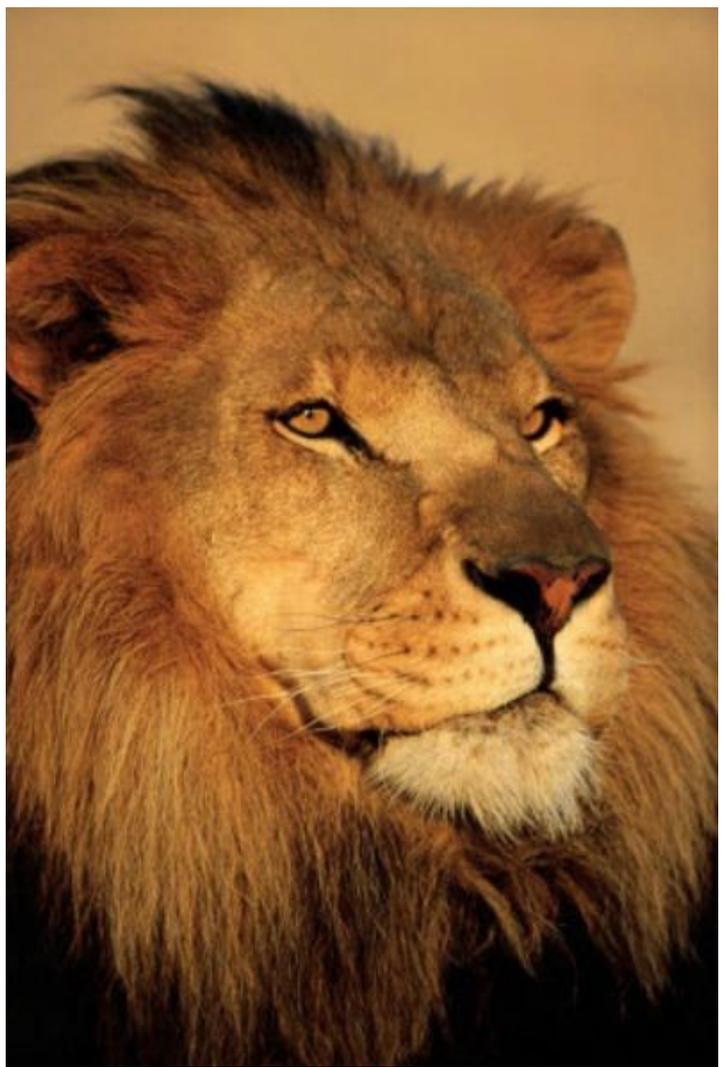
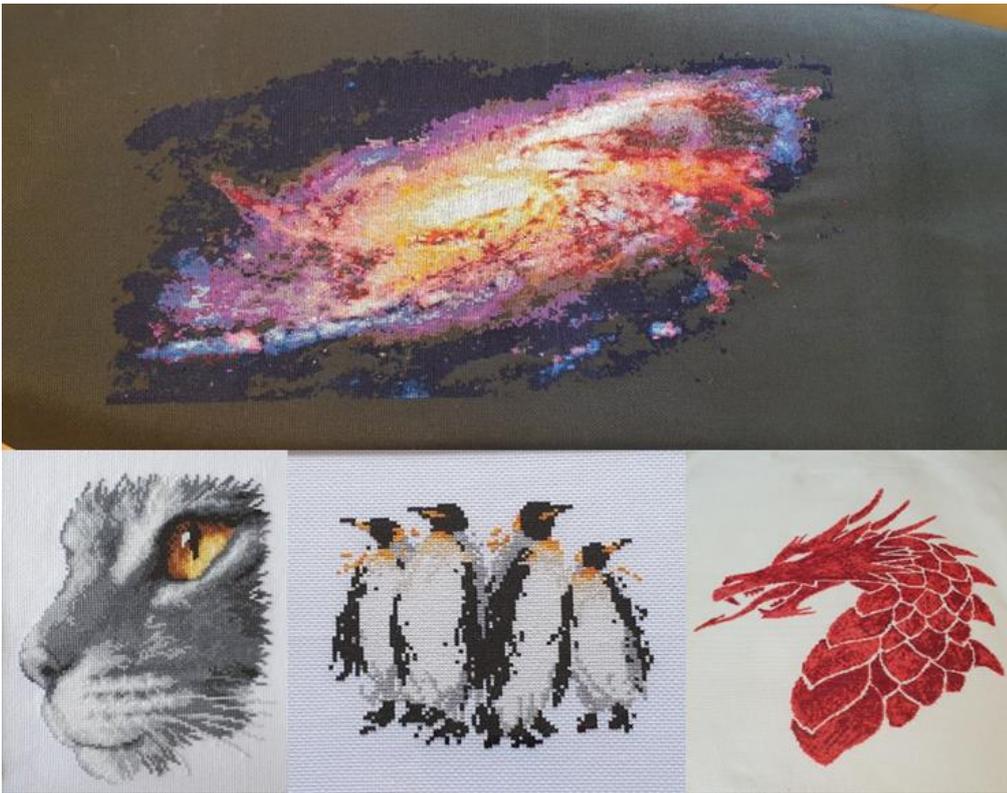
REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Craft Group *Margaret Potter - Convenor of the craft group*

During lockdown when the group couldn't meet I made the mistake one day of saying I needed something to do having cleaned out every cupboard in the house at least once! What a mistake. I ended up creating cross stitch pictures for one of my sisters to give as Christmas presents to her family. These were duly completed for Christmas 2020. The nebula had over 100 colours in and was by far the most complicated, added to which it was worked on black. The Lion was completed for a birthday in October this year. It had 35000 stitches worked in over 50 variations on yellow and brown.

Other members of the group also kept working, and the quilt pictured was done by Margaret Bowerman.

Thankfully we are now able to meet again



Swanns (short walks and nearly no styles) Walking Group

The Swanns on a walk in Braunstone Park: September, 2021



Rudbeckias



Photo by Cliff Ault – group member

PUZZLE CORNER

Cryptic Crosswords *Cliff Ault – member of Cryptic Crossword 2 Group*

A clue in a cryptic crossword consists of two main parts:

1. A definition of the answer to be entered in the grid usually at the beginning or the end of the clue.
2. The definition may consist of a single word or a short phrase. A cryptic section which points indirectly to the answer and which has to be decoded.

The clue should make some sort of sense when read out but needn't have anything to do with the answer.

Here are some typical **cryptic crossword clues** together with how the answer may appear in a partially completed crossword in which some of the letters may already have been entered from the answers to other clues. (Answers and explanations on page.)

- 1 Strange bipedal horse (7) *I*B**D
- 2 In a gun state, death by shooting is implicit (8) *N***T**
- 3 Designer of catalogue of porcine accommodation? (7)
S*Y***T
- 4 Computer language makes graduate ill we hear (5) B***C
- 5 Marry interest and no entry fee ordered. It's time to join the u3a
(10,5) R*T*R*M*N* Y***S
- 6 Leaders of Fashion and Design create a short-lived enthusiasm
(3) *A*

Cryptic Crossword Clues ~ The Answers

Definitions in **red** Cryptic part in **blue**

- 1 **Strange bipedal horse** (7) Answer: PIEBALD

This is an example of an "anagram" clue.

The answer is an anagram of "bipedal" as indicated by the word "strange".

This has the added feature that a horse would be strange if it were bipedal.

- 2 **In a gun state, death** by shooting is **implicit** (8) Answer: UNSTATED

This is an example of a "hidden" clue.

The answer is found hidden inside the wording of the clue (ignoring punctuation) as indicated here by the word "in".

Also one could expect shooting would be implicit in a gun state.

3 **Designer** of **catalogue of porcine accommodation?** (7)

Answer: STYLIST

This is an example of a "perverse" clue.

The answer could be read "perversely" as something other than the actual meaning as indicated here by the question mark.

Here "porcine accommodation" is a sty and "catalogue" is a list so a "sty list".

4 **Computer language** makes **graduate ill we hear** (5)

Answer: BASIC

This is an example of a "sounds like" clue.

The answer (or part of it) sounds like something it's not.

Here "BA" is a graduate and "sic" sounds like "sick" that is "ill".

"Sounds like" is indicated by the phrase "we hear".

5 **Marry interest** and **no entry fee** ordered. It's **time to join the u3a** (10,5)

Answer: RETIREMENT YEARS

This is another example of an "anagram" clue but in which one letter (or more) from the words to be anagrammed is (are) left out.

Here the letters to be anagrammed are "marry interest" and "fee" without it's entry letter "f" so "ee".

The anagram is indicated by the word "ordered".

6 **Leaders of Fashion and Design** create a **short-lived enthusiasm** (3)

Answer: FAD

This is an example of an "initial letters" clue.

The answer is made up of the initial letters from some of the words in the clue.

Here from "Fashion and Design" as indicated by the phrase "leaders of".

If you have enjoyed solving these clues and seeing how they are constructed, why not join one of the Cryptic Crosswords groups?

Group 1 is for beginners and Group 2 for the more experienced.

Both groups enjoy social meetings and have fun helping each other with solving easy and sometimes more difficult puzzles.

Clever clues can cause much amusement and discussion.

Contacts:

Group 1: Diana Barker cryptic1@leicesteru3a.org.uk

Group 2: Barbara Russell cryptic2@leicesteru3a.org.uk

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

Delivery

The newsletter is now being printed again. Those who have sent the secretary stamps will begin to receive copies after any general meeting they are unable to attend. If you would like copies posted to you in future please send the secretary a supply of stamps with a request and your full address. It will also continue to be delivered to members by email as a pdf file before each monthly meeting.

Contributions

A big thank you to all those who responded to previous pleas for articles. We have received a few but need more contributions. Please keep them coming!

PHOTOS – Please remember to get permission from any people in your photos for us to publish them. This permission will be assumed if you send them to the editor.

The deadline for items to be included in the February newsletter is Tuesday 21st January 2022. Contributions should be sent to the editor at: newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk

~~If you want to submit your entry as hard copy, please contact the Editor or Membership Secretary for the postal address.~~

We are always pleased to receive brief reports from groups about their recent activities and extend our thanks to all the authors who have done so. Please keep them coming. The occasional picture would be welcome as well. **Please keep all articles to a maximum of about 350 words.** If you have a story or a report that is considerably longer than that, we can edit it into two (or more if it's very long!) shorter articles to be published in subsequent newsletters if we are short of space. *Karen Closs – Newsletter Editor*