

Leicester Newsletter

June 2nd 2021 is

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

June 2nd is national U3A day BUT any day is a good day to join LEICESTER U3A
Enjoy a myriad of activities with likeminded friends aged 50-90+ yrs in over 75 different interests

Day Trips | Arts | Crafts | Bones for Life | Bus Pass Tours | Gardening | Orienteering | Parks & Tearoom Strolls | Pétanque | Rambling | Summer Croquet | Sunday Lunch
Table Tennis | Ten Pin Bowling | Bridge | Literature | Discussions History | Current Affairs + More

u3aday TO FIND OUT MORE CALL 0116 291 1814 VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.U3ASITES.ORG.UK/LEICESTER
OR EMAIL MEMBERSHIP@LEICESTERU3A.ORG.UK
Founded in 1982, nationally there are 1057 u3as with over 450,000 members aged 50-90+

Photo of advertisement from Leicester Mercury for u3a Day

**Don't forget to visit our website to see all the
u3a Day presentations.**

www.u3asites.org.uk/leicester

In a few weeks' time the Government is expected announce whether the remaining restrictions on our lives will be lifted. At least that is what we all hope it will do. There are still concerns about variants of the virus but it sounds as if the vaccines will be able to deal with them. However, as I write this we are in the middle of the Government's dithering about the secret lockdown, which it did not tell anyone about and which it now seems to have lifted after everyone discovered it and complained about it. So, with fingers well and truly crossed we can finally start to look forward to everything getting back to normal. Groups that have not been able to have meetings on Zoom are now starting to make plans for face-to-face meetings over the summer. It is heartening that this is complicated by the fact that so many of us are desperate to get away on holiday during the summer. Of course we cannot predict for certain what the Government will say on 21 June. It could well be that restrictions may not be relaxed immediately so, to be on the safe side, the Committee has decided that the General meeting on 1 July will still be on Zoom. It is great to be able to feel optimistic again.



HELP NEEDED - Publicity Coordinator

The committee need someone to take over the role of Publicity Coordinator. Below is the role description. Please can you help. It might be a shared position and does not require you to sit on the committee. Please contact Henry Paulinski if you would like to know more. Email him at vicechair@leicesteru3a.org.uk .

1. Maintain a circulation list for advertising u3a events, i.e. local papers, local radio, etc. Circulate information about these events to these organisations.
2. Advertise u3a events through the webpages of the Press Association.
3. Represent the Leicester u3a in making presentations or supplying information to outside bodies to promote membership.

4. Organise contributions to outside events, such as street fairs, as agreed by the Committee.
5. Disseminate such other information through various channels as agreed with the committee from time to time.
6. Prepare monthly reports for the committee on publicity matters.

JUNE MEETING – Tuesday 8th June

Richard Adams – A Pictorial Journey. Richard says, "I was born in Norwich in 1943 and went to school there before completing my studies in Town Planning and Landscape Design in Nottingham. I then worked in local government with several authorities in the East Midlands area and worked as a chief officer for Rutland for 23 years before retiring, after which I took on the job of Town Clerk to Oakham for seven years. Photography has been a lifelong passion and for many years I have spoken to a variety of groups using it to illustrate my interest in subjects ranging from astronomy to gardening and from travel to life in Rutland! I have always been intrigued by the way in which music and images can trigger off memories. The last 15 months have been a time when we have been restricted in so many ways and we have had a lot of time to think of times past and to appreciate in hindsight some of the things we have been able to do and the places visited. I would like to use this opportunity to share with your members some of my own memories and hope that it will give them an entertaining and relaxing break from some of the stresses of the past year.

JULY MEETING – Tuesday 13th July

Jim Matthews will talk on **Music and Dementia**, covering the latest development in this very interesting area. Further details will be available shortly.

NEWS FROM THE THIRD AGE TRUST

Updated advice in line with the Covid Guidance is now available on the u3a website. **Check it out now.**

Merchandise



Round neck T-shirts are now available on the brand centre 😊 Other merchandise including caps, mugs and lanyards can also be found on u3abrand.org.uk . Merchandising Committee Chair, Neil Stevenson (Member of Upholland & District u3a) said, "We are very excited about this. We expect to have polo shirts on the brand centre next week so keep checking in. We are working on the next tranche of items coming soon subject to availability".

u3a 40th Anniversary quilt competition

To celebrate the u3a 40th anniversary in 2022, we are launching a u3a-wide Anniversary Quilt competition on the theme of Positive Ageing through our strapline Learn Laugh Live.

Any u3a member, or group of members or interest groups can enter. Forty squares will be chosen from your entries to complete the final quilt.

See more information about the u3a 40th Anniversary Quilt competition and the competition rules on the [competition entry form](#). If you would like to find out more, please [get in touch](#).

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS COORDINATOR FOR u3a DAY

In 1994 on an uncertain date the first stirrings of Leicester u3a first took place, when ten intrepid people of a certain age met to set Leicester u3a in train. They came up with the idea that the Evington area of Leicester could do with a u3a. The editor of the Evington Echo included a short article, with an excellent response, and in 1995 meetings took place. In January 1996, the first AGM was held, and the Leicester u3a was affiliated to the Third Age Trust. The Third Age Trust suggested we form a u3a for the whole of Leicester, and we officially exist from 1996.



Membership was 60. We are now 360, and going strong.

The first groups were Rambling, Garden Design, Calligraphy, Art, Philosophy, and Travel.

Cut to 2019 and the Third Age Trust initiated the u3a day. The u3a started nationally in 1982, and wanted to celebrate this annually. Now there are over 1000 u3as, and over 450,000 members UK-wide, with many more across the world.

We are proud to present Leicester u3a Day 2021, through a series of YouTube video presentations on the Welcome page of our excellent Website. We have described it in the Monthly Newsletter and the Weekly Newssheet, the Website, and in advertisements in Leicester Mercury, on 31st May and on the Day itself, 2nd June. We have Press Releases sent to all the local papers too, and members will have listened to our recent interview on BBC Radio Leicester. We have contributions from all our 75 interest groups and all the huge variety of social activities we provide. Everyone has contributed, not only new items but also material from across the years. We have, to coin a phrase, *Learned* from these, *Laughed*, and realised how much we all *Live*, retaining our curiosity and willingness to find things out.

The u3a Day is on 2nd June 2021 – but any day is a good day to join Leicester u3a! Enjoy! *Neil Taylor Groups Coordinator*

MEET THE CONVENOR – Brenda Worrall (Welsh Improvers Group)

Q: Are you originally from Leicester?

A: No, I am very proud to be Welsh and come from Barmouth on the west coast.

Q: What brought you to Leicester?

A: We came here in 1980 via Derbyshire where we had lived for seven years. Then my husband was appointed principal of Moat Community College.

Q: What did you do before you retired?

A: I trained as a special needs teacher and I worked in Derbyshire before coming to Leicester where I became a class teacher at Spinney Hill Primary School.

Q: What made you join Leicester u3a, & what do you like best about it?

A: I was persuaded by Veronica Matthew and Liz Brandow to join when I was looking for a Welsh class and they suggested that I join and start one which I did in September 2015. The best thing about it is the friends I have made and the interesting people I have met. Everyone has been very friendly and helpful especially the then groups convenor Steph.

Q: What groups did you join to start with?

A: None other than Welsh because I have so many other commitments outside u3a.

Q: What's your TV guilty pleasure?

A: I don't really feel guilty but love the Scandinavian 'crime noir'

Q: What is your favourite album or piece of music – your desert island must keep perhaps?

A: My tastes are very wide. I love jazz and opera as well as folk but if I had to choose one it would be Song to the Moon from Anton Dvorak's opera Rusalka.

Q: What was the last book you read?

A: The Salt Path by Raynor Winn, a true story of a couple made homeless who walk the south west coast path round Devon and Cornwall

My grateful thanks to Brenda for her time.

REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

History 2 Group *(Mike Bates, Convenor History2 Group)*

Norman Leicester onwards - Part 3

Robert de Beaumont fought at the Battle of Hasting and was cousin to William the Conqueror— well placed! In his own right from the Battle of Hastings, it earned him more than 91 manors taken from the conquered English. Also, as we saw in part 2, he now has all Robert Ivo's lands around Leicestershire and elsewhere and is Governor of Leicester. So, Robert has estates all over the country.

Robert's mother died in 1081. Robert inherited the title of [Count of Meulan](#) in [Normandy](#), and the title Viscount Ivry and Lord of Norton. He paid [homage](#) to King [Philip I of France](#) for these Estates and sat as a French Peer in the French Parliament held at [Poissy](#), which is in north central France, north of Paris.

King [William II Rufus](#) (1087–1100) was shot dead accidentally by an arrow on 2nd August 1100 when out in a Royal Hunting Party in the New Forest – Robert and his brother Henry were in that party. Robert aligned with the late King's brother, now [King Henry I](#) (1100–1135). There is a commemorative stone there still in the New Forest – I have been there, and is, in modern times, a quiet place within the woodland.

The King created Robert [Earl of Leicester](#) in 1107. However, Robert still thought of himself as the Earl of Meulan. Still the Normans and the conquered English!

How will things turn out for Leicester? We will see – the story continues next time.

The last Part (4) will appear in the July edition. (Editor)

Leicester University Botanical Gardens *(Anthony Locke)*

Most members will have visited the Leicester University Botanical Gardens. I visited a few days after the opening from the long period of lockdown.

There were few plants in flower; the camellias were exceptional in



their luscious colour, but I became interested in the glistening freshness of other buds, the brightness of the reeds and the reflections and shadows on and in the water.

The Gardens were so tranquil; new life quietly emerging, some with what seemed a bold statement of “We’re back, take notice!” The stroll and the all-prevalent green were morale boosting. The therapeutic effect of green seemed to work. Perhaps a visit to the University Botanical Gardens should be on every GP’s social prescribing list.

There were surprises: the insect that had either prised open a bud leaf or chanced upon it to settle in the sun, the translucency of the reed shadows and the fish blowing bubbles - possibly to send me a message. I wonder what it meant.

Photos by Anthony Locke



Aunty Alice

(Mike Westmoreland)

On the first day of September 1939, seven-year-old me and my twelve-year old sister Jean were evacuated together with some of our schoolfellows from our home in Leeds; we were lucky because our new base was only fifteen miles away in the picturesque town of Ilkley, a mere one hour's bus ride away. We were also lucky to experience congenial hosts and a stimulating semi-rural environment for townies like us to explore

Two weeks later, my parents told us in a letter that they could come to see us on the Saturday afternoon. Jean and I spent at least a couple of hours at the bus stop waiting and several buses came and went before at last they arrived at teatime. The visit was all too short before they had to catch the last bus back. Later Jean told me what had delayed them - a funeral. Our Aunty Alice had died suddenly. I cried a lot because she was my favourite aunt.

It was another ten years before I learned from my parents the manner of her death. Aunty Alice, having seen her own 12-year-old son off to evacuation, had drawn a chair up to the gas cooker, disconnected the rubber hose, put it in her mouth, and ended it all. I've often wondered since how many other Aunty Alices there were in those last months of 1939.

Architecture and Design Group

In the summer months the Group is hoping to have outdoor tours and visits in Leicester and roundabout. When the autumn comes, fingers crossed, we will all meet up indoors again. We decided to postpone our coach trip to Avoncroft, the open-air museum of historical buildings in Worcestershire, until 2022. This trip, like all our previous coach trips, is open to all u3a members.

One of the advantages of Zoom is that groups can invite speakers from far afield who wouldn't normally make the trip to Leicester. Since the beginning of 2021 the Architecture and Design Group has continued its monthly meetings on Zoom. Two have been reports from members who have taken part in the national u3a High Streets Survey and at the others we have listened to three excellent speakers. At our May meeting Annette Carruthers, who is a lecturer in the School of Art History at St Andrews University in Scotland, gave us a talk on the Arts and Crafts Movement in Scotland. Many years ago Annette worked at New Walk Museum so was aware of the connections Leicester has with William Morris and Ernest Gimson.

Annette thought the view of Scotland promoted to tourists – mountains in the highlands – was misleading. Even when the Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society was founded in 1887 most of the population was urban. They mainly lived in the lowlands and along the north-east coast and were concentrated in the four large cities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen. Despite most of her talk concentrating on these cities she thought the most beautiful Arts and Crafts house in Britain was on the remote island of Hoy in the Orkneys.

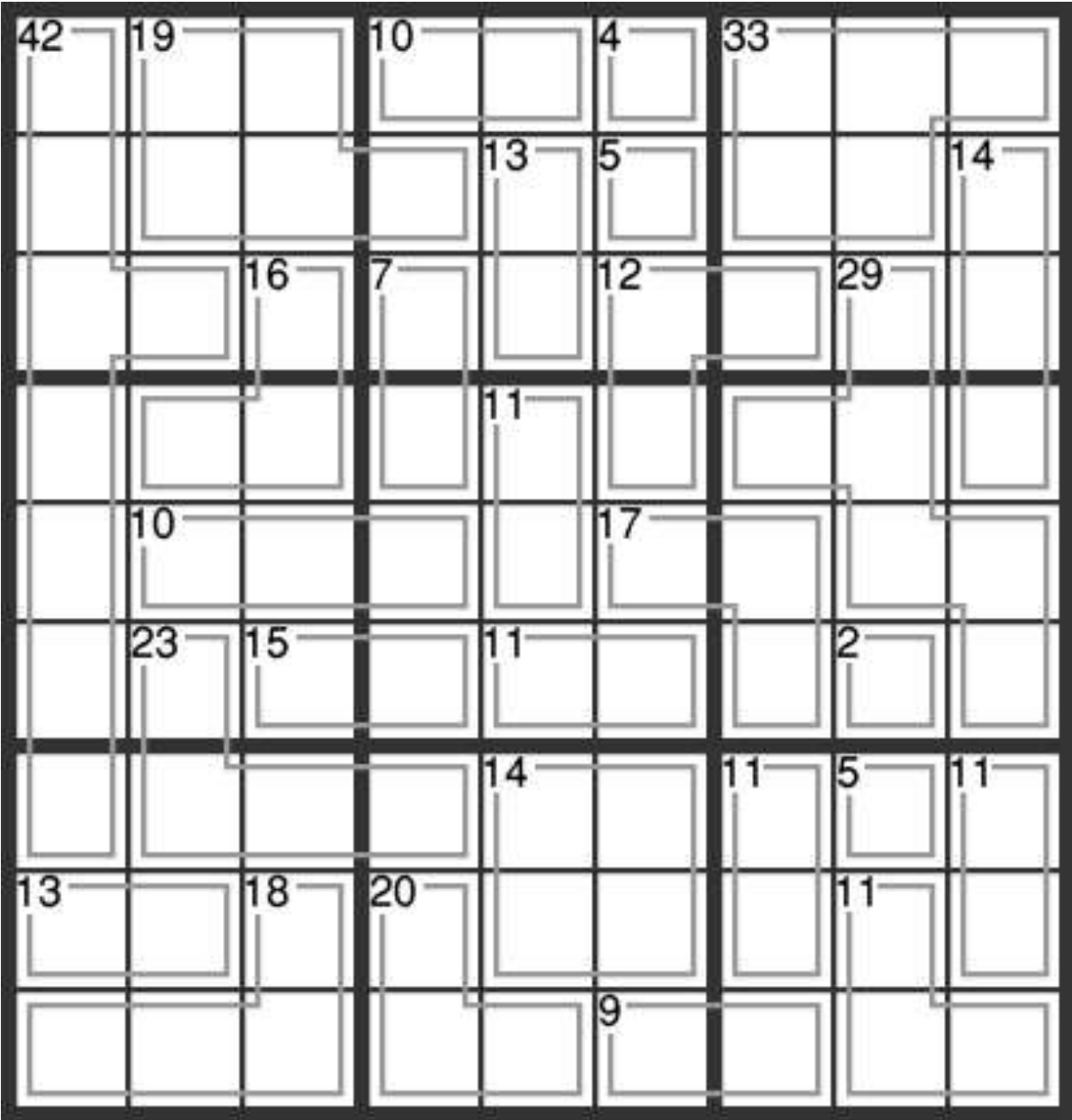
PUZZLE CORNER

Sudoku *(Created by Cliff Ault)*

(created by Cliff Ault – member of Cryptic Crossword 2 Group)

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

A Killer Sudoku



Sudoku Solutions

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

42 1	19 6	3	10 2	8	4 4	33 5	9	7
9	2	7	1	13 6	5 5	4	8	14 3
4	8	16 5	7 3	7	12 9	2	29 1	6
2	3	8	4	11 9	1	6	7	5
6	10 4	1	5	2	17 7	9	3	8
5	23 7	15 9	6	11 3	8	1	2 2	4
7	1	6	9	14 4	3	11 8	5 5	11 2
13 8	5	18 2	20 7	1	6	3	11 4	9
3	9	4	8	5	9 2	7	6	1

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

Delivery

The newsletter is currently not being printed, and is only being delivered to members by email as a pdf file.

Contributions

Firstly, a big thank you to all those who responded to my previous plea for articles. A bumper bundle resulting in a very interesting and diverse selection but I need more please. Keep them coming!

The deadline for items to be included in the July newsletter is Tuesday 29th June 2021. Contributions (from convenors and members) 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 the 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.

When the current restrictions are lifted Leicester u3a will resume its meetings on the second Tuesday of each month (except August and December) at Christchurch, Clarendon Park Road, LE2 3AH, and many special interest groups will then continue to meet regularly in members' homes and elsewhere.