



LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE

# Leicester Newsletter

May 2020

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**Crocheted throw, made by Heather Williams in the  
Needlework & Knitting Group. *Photo by Heather Williams***

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## **All meetings of Leicester U3A are currently suspended due to the Coronavirus situation**

The membership now stands at 425

*Margaret Potter (Membership Secretary)*

### ***Message from the Chair***

I am pleased to speak to you all, in this the second of Leicester U3A's Newsletters, especially adapted for these times of Coronavirus. I hope you will like the adapted Newsletter, find it easy to read online, and concise; and also, that you can find things of interest to you easily. Please do keep on contributing any thoughts, ideas, photos, illustrations and writing, and Steph Smith will endeavour to put them all in. If your contributions are a little too long, they can be divided to go in the next issue.



Our meetings are ‘kept in safekeeping’ for the time being, but we can still continue our interests, even in this small way. Lockdown, that awful word, looks set to continue for the time being, but we will update everyone the moment we have instructions on any next steps.

Finally, please note the Creative Writing Group’s Creative Writing Competition for Leicester U3A, described elsewhere in this month’s Newsletter.

Keep calm and keep on contributing!

*Tony Davison*  
(Chair, Leicester U3A)

### **Meet the Convenor**

This month’s randomly-selected Convenor is Graham Williams, Convenor of the Chess for Pleasure group. Q: Are you originally from Leicester?

No, I’m originally from Coventry. I lived in Cheylesmore until I was 20, when I left to go to University. I went to Reading Uni, where I met Heather. We moved temporarily to Leicester, and we’ve been here more than 40 years now!

Q: What work did you used to do before you retired?

I was a Data Base Administrator in IT. I started with Cobol programming at British Gas, got into Data Bases, and that was my career from then on.

Q: What made you join Leicester U3A?

Heather retired before me, and she’d joined the Theatre Group. I joined so I could go on the theatre trips with her.

Q: How long have you been a member of Leicester U3A?  
About 5 years.

Q: What groups did you join to start with?

I joined the Theatre Group, then Digital Photography which I did for a few years. Then they started a Chess Group. I'd played chess since I was about 11 or 12, I played it at lunchtime in secondary school. I was in a chess club, and our children played. But it's hard work to play to a good standard, having to keep up with all the new plays. So when our daughter moved on from chess, I gave it up too. When the Chess Group started, it was a good opportunity to start again but in a much more relaxed way. I got involved with the Chess Group, and eventually became Convenor. Unfortunately the Theatre Group has now folded, and I gave up the Digital Photography as I didn't feel I was able to devote enough time to it to do it properly.

Q: What groups are you Convenor of?

Only the Chess Group, though it doesn't take much convening, we just

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turn up and play chess. It's nice to help others play the game, though of course, we're not doing that now. We're playing on-line chess at the moment. There are just three of us playing, it would be great if others wanted to join in. Chess is such a great game, as long as you're playing someone of a similar standard to yourself, it's great fun.

Q: What do you like about being a Convenor?

Being able to help others play.

Q: What's your favourite colour? Blue

Q: What's your favourite food or meal?

A nice hot curry.

Q: What's your TV guilty pleasure?

I love a Scandi-drama, and at the moment, *Killing Eve*.

Q: What was the last book you read?

'What If?' by Randel Munroe. It's not fiction, it's a book about random hypothetical questions, such as: What would happen if everyone in the world all jumped up at the same moment? I'm not one for spending a long time reading, so it's a book you can just dip into now and then.

Q: Sunrise or sunset?

Sunset. I'm more of a night-time person myself, and I've spent a long time photographing sunsets.

My grateful thanks to Graham for his answers.

*Steph Smith*  
(Editor)

# Reports from the Groups and from Individual Contributors

## Philosophy 1

The pandemic and the consequent lockdown have disrupted the activities of U3A groups but in some cases have encouraged them to find new ways in which to carry on which may still be useful when normal life returns. For the Philosophy 1 group (which had been progressing slowly through the history of philosophy) the pandemic has also provided a new subject on which to work. Philosophy is not divorced from real life! Our inspiration was a discussion on Radio 4 hosted by Michael Sandel with contributors from around the world, of several ethical issues presented by the crisis. Three that he picked out were first, whether there was anything wrong with stockpiling, then whether monitoring movements of the population was an unacceptable invasion of privacy, and finally whether scarce medical resources should be allocated by prospects of survival rather than according to ‘first come, first served’.

There are no easy answers to any of these questions and members of our group first continued the discussion by exchanging emails. On the last question, one issue that must have arisen many times in hospitals is whether a ventilator could be taken away from a patient with major underlying complaints and given to another who was basically healthier and more likely to survive. That would probably result in the death of the first patient, but is that murder, and would it be justified even if it is? A written exchange of views served as a preparation for a live virtual discussion using Zoom, which has been invaluable in keeping a variety of social groups in contact while we are physically separated. The first attempt left room for improvement in our mastery of the software, but it seems all too likely that we will have many occasions to practise it further.

*Matt Matthew (Philosophy 1 Convenor)*

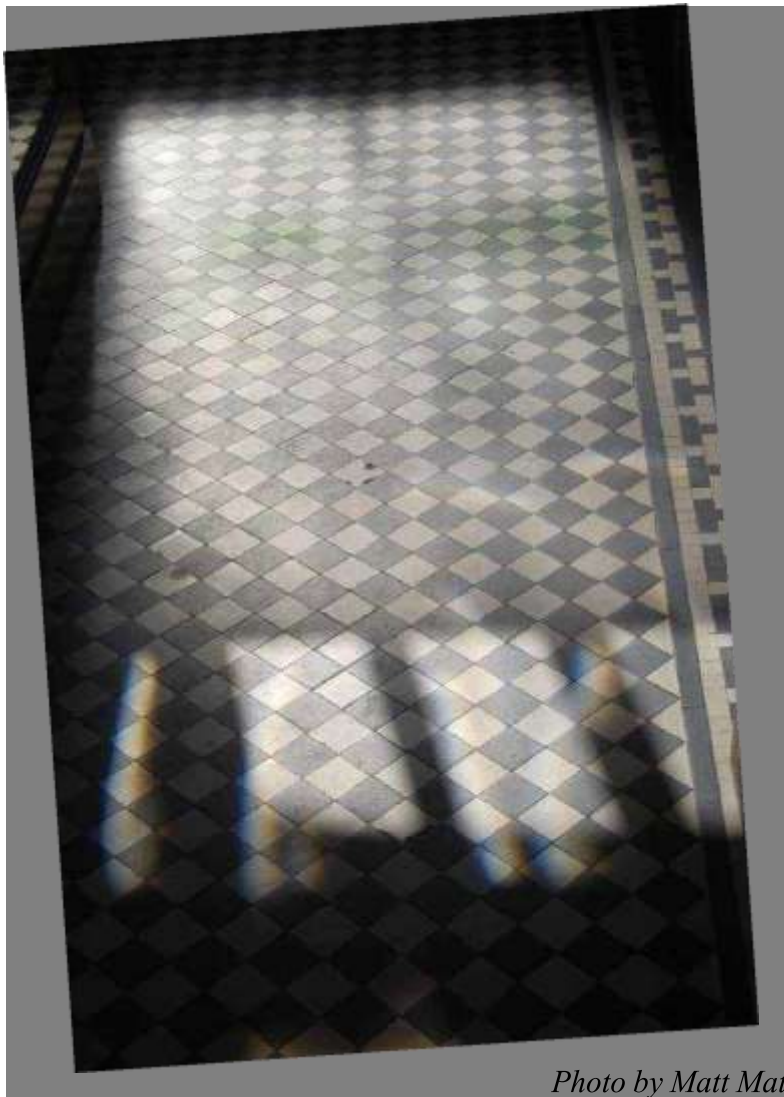
## Digital Photography

The topic for the next meeting of the Digital Photography Group was



‘light’. Of course we are not meeting now and are largely confined indoors but the brilliant sunshine of the last few days still penetrates the house and provides a subject. We can even show our work to each other by posting it to a Flickr group (though that is visible only to its members). The plan was to go out together in May somewhere that would inspire our imagination. However, so far we are still allowed out separately for exercise and that will have to do for any outdoor photography.

*Matt Matthew (Digital Photography Group member)*



*Photo by Matt Matthew*





*Photos by Rachel Mason*

## **Creative Writing Group**

### *2 Haikus*

#### The Shed

All tidy and clean  
A symbol of death still hangs  
I padlock the door

#### Lockdown

Peaceful and sunny  
No buzz from the motorway  
Blossom blooms, birds sing *Covid 19*  
It crept in slowly, starting in Wuhan we were  
due a pandemic they said caused by capitalism,

poverty, misusing animals. Gradually it reached  
Europe we knew it was real.

Now we're in lockdown, most shops  
shut can't meet family and friends one  
outing a day if you're lucky and keep  
two metres apart

Can't see my daughters, all the things I  
planned sorrow and hardship across the land.  
Italy and America worst affected, some dead  
go unnoticed, coffins pile up.

But Spring bursts forth, the sun shines,  
birds nest, flowers and trees bud,  
pollution is down, Nature is King.

*Stella Memory (Creative Writing Convenor)*

## **French Intermediate Conversation Group**

Although I am the Convenor of the French Intermediate Conversation Group, my French is certainly not the best in the group. In normal circumstances our group meets fortnightly in each other's homes where we speak on a previously prepared topic eg recent holiday, favourite music etc. etc.

I would like to say that the group has 'gelled' right from the beginning, we are very friendly, help each other, congratulating any member who has excelled that week. The social side of the group is also very important to us.

At the beginning of the lockdown, we decided to continue by emailing our topic in French to all members via my email address so that all members get a copy. I stick roughly to the day when we would be meeting (alternate Fridays) which does mean that my inbox gets rather full. I post a copy of the topics to the member who is not on email. In between meetings we exchange interesting news items in French. This

has worked extremely well and some of the group have rediscovered writing in French with amazing results.

No-one is obliged to take part and if any member has a problem (two have got/had Covid-19 and two members are isolated) I suggest that they take a break from French and I keep in touch by phone or other means if this is appropriate.

*Ivy Carr (French Intermediate Conversation Convenor)*

## **Cryptic Crossword 2**

We have been keeping in touch by email and members have been making suggestions for clues to words in a 'Times style' crossword - the second one we have composed so far. The crossword usually contains some words that reference (Leicester) U3A groups. For example, in the first crossword published in the Newsletter, there were 'Art Appreciation', 'Creative Writing' and 'Gardening'. Having seen the different ideas, we then choose the one we prefer.

As an example, in the present one, for 'Pirate' we have three suggestions:

1. Quiet and cross buccaneer ('p' for quiet as in musical notation, 'cross' for 'irate')
2. Trap that is briefly set for a bad man in the main (anagram of 'trap' and 'ie', and in cryptic crosswords, 'the main' in cryptic crosswords often refers to the sea)
3. Constant speed to copy illegally ('pi' is a constant and 'rate' is a speed) The first two define 'pirate' in the seafaring sense and the third defines it in the sense of a pirate copy. There is obviously a difference in the degree of difficulty of these suggestions - which to choose?

We thank Cliff Ault for being the mastermind behind this exercise and I think we have perhaps had more fun from thinking up the clues,

than doing the crossword. If anyone reading this feels inspired to want to join us, we have room for two or three more members.

*Barbara Russell (Cryptic Crosswords 2 Convenor)*

## **Hindenburg**

*May 20th 1936*

I am four years old. Bedtime as far as I can recollect is about 7.30 pm and I am still wide awake when Mum comes rushing upstairs into the bedroom and tells me to come over to the window because there is something she very much wants me to see.

It's a late spring evening and still full daylight and up there overhead is the most extraordinary and gigantic Thing almost filling the sky; it is making a very deep, gentle, throbbing noise and as I watch I become aware that it is very slightly moving. After a minute or two the throbbing perceptibly quickens and the movement increases. In a couple of minutes, it is a mile or two away over Sugarwell Hill, getting smaller as it goes.

Many years later my sister and I recall the event. She being four years older than me had been playing out in the street and saw the whole situation from a different perspective. The Great Thing came into our street unannounced, hung around for a few minutes, and then went away. Our parents died when we were in our twenties and we never got to ask about it and there is now no-one else to question about the event.

As I grow up I learn about these things called airships and make the connection. Reading up on the subject I find that the British airship industry was an enterprise which came to an abrupt end in the year of my birth with a disaster involving a sizeable specimen named the R101 which caught fire over Northern France and killed most of its occupants

So what we saw then would almost certainly have been a German airship: the Germans were world leaders in the business, and were carrying fare-paying passengers successfully right up to the outbreak of WW2; there was a famous specimen called the Graf Zeppelin which did a regular run across to North and South America. There was an even more colossal airship, the biggest of them all, called the Hindenburg, which came to a terrible Titanic-like end a year after its launch when it caught fire as it came in to land in New York, an event seen in all its horror in cinema newsreels. The world of the airship as a mass people carrier never recovered from that one. According to my authoritative reference book, though, it couldn't have been the Hindenburg which Jean and I saw, because the Hindenburg never came over the UK. Except that it was: seventy years later I looked it up in the files of the Yorkshire Post, and there it was on microfilm. "Hindenburg over Leeds" it said, not front-page headlines, no photograph, just an item tucked away in an inside page. No one had expected it and it was no big media event. They didn't have air traffic controllers in those days. It was returning to Friedrichshaven with 40 passengers from its second trip to New York. Much later in another book I came across the intelligence photographs it was taking of potential bombing targets, railway junctions, engineering factories and so on. Those were precisely the things which got hit in the air raids on Leeds five years later.

*Mike Westmorland (Creative Writing Group member)*

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## Surviving Lockdown

Every time I take a walk through Knighton Park I visit this weeping willow and spend a few peaceful moments watching the curtain of fronds swaying on the breeze. Spirits lifted to face another lockdown day! As a member of the Digital Photography Group, I'm always looking for subjects and these days a mobile phone is all it takes to capture them on the go.

*Richard Taylor (Digital Photography Group member)*





***Pandemic Poem***

*This poem was written in 1869 by Kathleen O'Mara*

And people stayed at home  
And read books  
And listened  
And they rested  
And did exercises  
And made art and played  
And learned new ways of being  
And stopped and listened  
More deeply  
Someone meditated, someone prayed  
Someone met their shadow  
And people began to think differently  
And people healed  
And in the absence of people who  
Lived in ignorant ways  
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,  
The earth also began to heal  
And when the danger ended and  
People found themselves  
They grieved for the dead  
And made new choices  
And dreamed of new visions  
And created new ways of living  
And completely healed the earth  
Just as they were healed.

*Reprinted during Spanish flu Pandemic 1919*

*Poem submitted by Anne Archer*



## **Carpe Diem**

I came across an article recently highlighting the opportunities available to older people to close the technology gap between themselves and “younger people” Those who know me are aware of my frustration at some of our U3A members, as well as tens of thousands of other, older people, at not grasping the opportunities afforded by digital technology.

We now face an uncertain future, with most of us locked away in what are basically, luxury hotels i.e. our lovely homes. I have heard many people, for reasons of their own, refusing to buy a smartphone. Until recently I was one of them, not interested in apps and the like. I can be self-sufficient and happy without the need for modern methods of information-sharing. All well and good, but wouldn't it be nice to bring old friends together in a video conference call?

I have been using the Zoom app for a week now, albeit with initial, minor teething problems, and have contacted friends whom I met 50 to 60 years ago: joy! Some of us even dressed up for the occasion, with fascinators, Blues Brothers and Austin Powers suits in evidence (see pic!). Come on Leicester U3A, if a dyspraxic person like me can do this, so can you!

*Henry Paulinski*



## **Computer Poem**

The computer swallowed Grandad  
Yes, honestly, it's true

He pressed “control and enter”

And disappeared from view

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It’s devoured him completely

The thought just makes me squirm

Maybe he’s caught a virus

Or been eaten by a worm

I’ve searched through the recycle bin

And files of every kind

I’ve even used the Internet

But nothing can I find

In desperation I asked Google

My searches to refute

The reply from them was negative

Not a thing was found on line

So, if inside your box

My Grandad you should see

Please scan, copy and paste him

In an email back to me

**STOP PRESS**

I’ve just found the old boy

And wonder why and how

In deleted items he’d got lost

But is back amongst us now

*Poem submitted by Margot Comer (Leicester U3A member)*

**Together We Stand ....**

Capitalism

Toryism

Communism

Socialism

Nationalism

Federalism

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Globalisation  
United by Co-vid 19

We stay home; walk far apart  
The virus may strike we fear  
Birds sing; flowers grow.

In this time of lock down and restrictions thoughts turn inevitably to WW2 for comparison. I was too young to remember. My memories are of the immediate post-war period when money was tight and rationing was still in place but restrictions on travel had eased. I remember local family walks round Ruislip Common and Woods and adjacent Haste Hill. There had been an American base there during the war and nearby Northwood had been a centre of operations. Now we were free to walk where we wanted. I was still quite small and I remember vividly the giant ant hills on Haste Hill almost as big as me. As we walked through the nearby woods there were wriggly caterpillars hanging from gossamer threads. Underfoot large wood ants scurried across our path in a long stream. They were like busy commuters, all in black, heads down and rushing towards their offices.

One evening looking for things to do I Googled [or rather Jeanette did] where I had walked and lived, my route to school etc. It was absorbing. Haste Hill is now a posh golf course and, yes, there are ant hills. Alongside the woods and round the lido there is a miniature railway, a change from army tanks. I just had wriggly caterpillars and wood ants for amusement. I have never seen any locally. So my next lockdown project will be wood ants and their habitats and then wriggly caterpillars. I must have a grasshopper mind. Another thought was to contact the U3A local to Haste Hill and see if their walking groups go there and if they have a favourite tea room.

*Margaret Young (Leicester U3A member)*

## Keeping Busy

I set myself a target of a sketch a day for the lockdown. I've even risked drawings of my grandchildren. They may never speak to me again for distorted misrepresentation of their identities. I knew portraits were difficult, but they are nigh on impossible for me.

This sketch began as an exercise in perspectives, but it is probably an essay in keeping busy while confined in the house. So, the view from the window is nostalgia for an even wider outdoors.



I don't know whether members are continuing groups via Skype or other media, but I've found the transfer from face-to-face flute lessons to online has worked reasonably well.

*Anthony Locke (Leicester U3A member)*



Pic 1



Pic 2



Pic 3



Pic 4

## Urban Botany

*The photos and list of plants are what we have seen growing along the pavements on our daily walks.*

Urban Botany

Plant List (*Photos above*)

Alkanet (*Pic 4*)

Aubrietia

Balm-Leaved

Archangel

Blackthorn

Bittercress

Bramble

Celandine

Chickweed

Cleavers

Comfrey

Corydalis

Crane's-bill

Creeping Jenny

Cyclamen

Daisy

Dandelion

Dog Violet

Feverfew

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Forget Me Not	Grape Hyacinth	Great Willow Herb
Glory of the Snow	Groundsel ( <i>Pic 1</i> )	Heather
Hedge Garlic	Herb Robert	Honesty
King Cup	Land Cress	Lesser Periwinkle
Lungwort	Nipplewort	Periwinkle
Pink Dead Nettle	Plantain	Primrose ( <i>Pic 3</i> )
Procumbent Yellow- sorrel	Purple Toadflax	Pussy Willow
Red Dead Nettle	Shining Crane's-bill	Sow Thistle
Petty Spurge ( <i>Pic 2</i> )	Speedwell	Stinging Nettle
Stinking Hellebore	Thistle	Three Cornered Garlic
Valerian	White Dead Nettle	Wood Anemone
Wood Avens	Woodruff	Yellow
Yellow Corydalis		Archangel

*List and photos submitted by Jeanette and Margaret Young  
(members of Botany group)*

## **Creative Writing Competition**

Got a short story inside you, or fancy a go at a poem or prose? The Creative Writing Group is holding a competition for all Leicester U3A members.

Work to be no longer than 500 words.

There will be three categories, as mentioned above, to be judged by John Kitchen, Leicester poet and playwright, whose work has been featured on Radio 3, and who runs Tangent Poets in Leicester. There will be prizes for the winners.

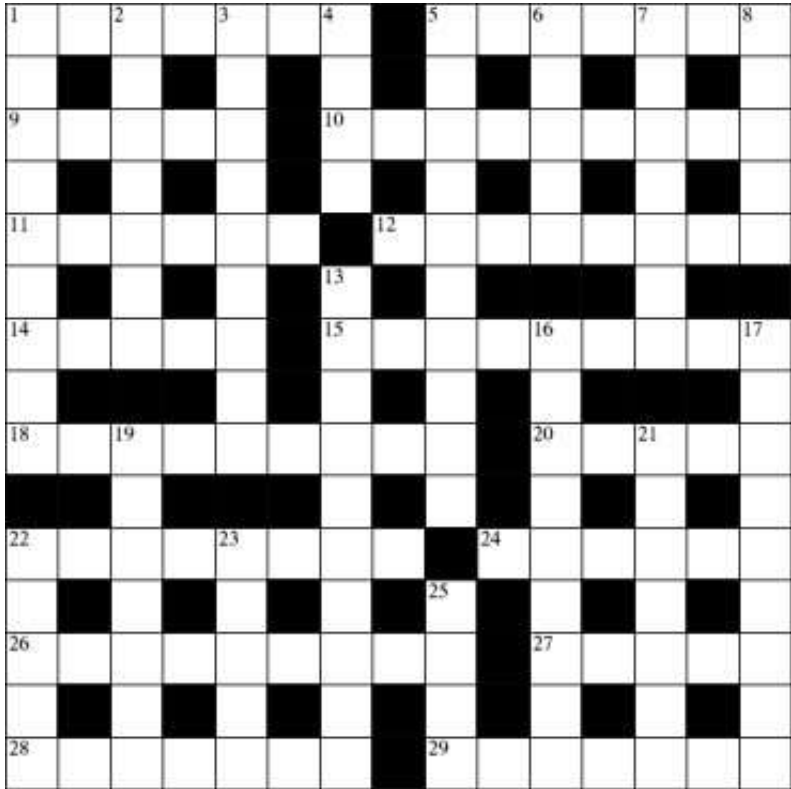


If you would like to enter, please request entry details via the ‘Click to send a message’ button on the Leicester U3A Creative Writing Group web page.

The closing date is 24th June, 2020.

Good luck!

### Puzzle Corner



#### Cryptic Crossword

##### *CLUES ACROSS*

1 Freak bipedal horse (7)

5 Places teacher back in sets for pedants (7)

9 WW2 craft for alien constricting snake (1-4)

10 Rotates hat to be passage controller (9)

- 11 Rose is twisted fibres for basket making (6)
- 12 At home position for example (8)
- 14 Muse in opera to inspire poetry (5)
- 15 Hair style in regard to unchanging (9)
- 18 Find silver in a country (9)
- 20 Perhaps Rosie cried uncontrollably for this (5)
- 22 Reg and Maria assemble to form a loving union (8)
- 24 Constant speed to copy illegally (6)
- 26 Celebrate about sail-boat for an equivalent to 21down(9)
- 27 Eject the victor without a god for protection (5)
- 28 Literary group with time arranges to recite (7)
- 29 One or two for example in Bury (7)

### *CLUES DOWN*

- 1 Happenings mean phone is distorted (9)
- 2 Pornography with right to kiss making outlandish material (7)
- 3 Later time more suitable for tea? (9)
- 4 Tax responsibility (4)
- 5 Supernatural soldier regular (10)
- 6 Squat again to have second chance at exam (5)
- 7 A hundred nieces come together for discipline (7)
- 8 For example east is going north for an act of war (5)
- 13 Leap year? No just a season (10)
- 16 Cheat with a short trick confused designer (9)
- 17 Bully the troops between hills (9)
- 19 Paper over intended we hear to make something to wear (7)
- 21 Doctor flying and tying (7)
- 22 Hundred and one add up to tuneful numbers (5)
- 23 Suffer where the dog's dinner is? (5)
- 25 Fruit, not a pretty sight? (4)

### *Sweets Puzzle*

Here are alternative descriptions of the names of 30 popular sweets or confectionary. Solve the puzzles to find out which they are. Answers in next month's Newsletter.

1 WOBBLY INFANTS

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- 2 WHERE REFINED PEOPLE LIVE
- 3 100% PRECIOUS
- 4 9, 10 ,11...
- 5 FALLEN FRUITS
- 6 CARRIER FOR DAIRY PRODUCE
- 7 MOTHER'S LOCAL
- 8 ALL SORTS OF GIRLS
- 9 ROYAL HERB
- 10 BELLY DANCERS, PERHAPS?
- 11 SPORT OF THE PRINCES
- 12 HOME FOR ALCOHOLIC TEETH
- 13 SPEAK QUIETLY
- 14 EDIBLE FASTENERS
- 15 AROMATIC SPHERES
- 16 INHABITANTS OF A MEDITERRANEAN ISLAND
- 17 FELINE GEAR
- 18 OCCULT PERHAPS
- 19 CORKS FOR MOUTHS
- 20 A GALAXY
- 21 PUNISHMENT FOR NUTS
- 22 AMERICA'S HALF TIME
- 23 LONDON HAS BIG RED ONES
- 24 LITTLE RICHARD'S FAVOURITE
- 25 10 PIN BOWLING
- 26 FOUND IN AN ELECTRIC PLUG
- 27 PIRATE'S LOOT
- 28 TARTAN GRANITE
- 29 CLEVER CHOCOLATE
- 30 PETALS AND PRICKLES

*Puzzle created by Annie Prouse, submitted by Leo Bychowiec  
(Leicester U3A Member)*

And a second puzzle, we know how much you like them:

***30 Birds' Names are Hidden in The Following Letter***  
*(some run from word to another e.g. took it easy = kite)*

Dear Members

Starting from Dover, we took it easy at the Bell in Eton where we picked up Jack Dawlings and Ernest. One chatted on and on, so the time passed swiftly, but rain on the motorway was a grave nuisance. I managed to steal an hour's sleep though awkwardly curled up on the back seat of the car before reaching Ullswater at midnight in a gale force wind. Our pub in Scotland is in as fine a glen I have ever seen, with rushing streams at the bottom of a steep lover's lane. All that is left is old mill, but is now a renovated and very smart inside, no other one for miles around.

We hire a boat and Eric rows, leaving Anne to doze in the stern. Excellent food and drink which is no good for taking off inches from the waist or keeping sober!

Nothing is wanting except perhaps regular kilts and pipers.  
Love to you all,

Pat Marsden

*Puzzle submitted by Pat Marsden*

***Birds Puzzle Solution from April Newsletter***

- 1 Pheasant
- 2 Curlew
- 3 Corn Bunting
- 4 Nightingale
- 5 Spoonbill 6 Kittiwake
- 7 Toucan
- 8 Kingfisher
- 9 Nightjar
- 10 Waxwing 11 Nuthatch
- 12 Magpie

## ***Pub Quiz Answers from last edition***

Quiz answers: 1. Jimmy Jones with Good Timin'. 2. Steeleye Span Gaudete. 3. Marcelo Minerbi. 4. Malcom McLaren. 5. Kathy Kirby. 6. All performers have the same initials in their first and second names.

## **Leicester University Heritage Project 'So that they may have life'**

A chance to become a remote volunteer

What the project is about -

The project was initiated by Leicester University Library's Archives and Special Collections Team to trace the foundation story and early history of Leicester University.

The project takes its title: 'So that they may have life' – 'ut vitam habeant' from the motto adopted by the College when it first opened in 1921. The aim is to engage students, staff and the wider community in:

\*Making the university archives better described and more accessible through cataloguing work and digitisation

\*Researching the stories behind the people, places, and events associated with the early history of Leicester University

\*Sharing this work through a series of outputs, events, and other dissemination activities (e.g. blog posts, website articles, exhibitions, and an end-of-project event)

\*Supporting volunteers and others by offering them the opportunity to gain new heritage skills through free-to-attend training.

Members of U3As in and around Leicester are invited to participate as volunteers in this community project.

### **The current situation**

The project is operational.

The facilities have been set up to accept volunteers who would work remotely with the project. Arrangements are also made to provide training online.

Research volunteers will work with digitised or photographed material from the archives to capture information about a number of different research themes. The first research themes will be: \*Women as pioneers in the history of the University

\*Women in science

\*Heraldry & art history

\*Describing and interpreting historic photographs

*Further themes will be added as the project develops.*

## **How to participate**

For further information and to express interest please contact Charlotte Stokes, Engagement and Outreach Adviser at [specialcollections@le.ac.uk](mailto:specialcollections@le.ac.uk)

To help with project planning, please indicate which theme(s) or subjects you are interested in exploring. Please feel free to outline other themes that you are keen to investigate to help with planning future phases of research.

Please also indicate which technology you have available for volunteering and joining online training (e.g. laptop, desktop PC, iPad etc).

*Elisabeth Somogyi (U3A Research Ambassador)*

## **Coach Trip to the Avoncroft Open Air Museum of Historic Buildings**

A reminder that we have moved the date of this trip from June 10th to Wednesday September 9th. Both Avoncroft and the coach company, Ausden Clark, have been very understanding. If we find that the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 make a September trip impossible we will move it to October 14th. If that date too becomes impossible we will arrange it in 2021. We will review the situation at the beginning of July.

Avoncroft has over 30 different buildings and structures that have been dismantled and then rebuilt in a beautiful rural location near Bromsgrove in Worcestershire. Lots of U3A members will remember pre-fabs, this is your chance to go back to your youth and see what they were like inside. Other buildings include a windmill and Worcester Cathedral's fourteenth century Guesten Hall roof. The timetable for the day will be:

8.45am

Assemble in Glebe Road, Oadby at the entrance to the Botanic Gardens  
LE2 2LD

9.00am

Coach departs

10.30/10.45am

Arrive at Avoncroft for coffee

11.30am

Guided Tour

12.45pm

Lunch

1.30pm

Free time/tea

4.00pm

Coach departs

5.30/5.45pm

Arrive back in Leicester

The cost is £30 which includes the cost of the coach, entry fee, coffee on arrival, the guided tour and a light lunch. It does not include tea. There is nowhere to eat sandwiches under cover so we thought it wise to include a light lunch.

We would really appreciate it if you can pay by cheque. The cheques will not be banked until the situation with Covid-19 is clearer and we definitely know that we will be going in September (or October). If we have to defer the trip to 2021 we will have a completely new

application process next year and we will destroy your cheque. Payment with cash or a bank transfer makes it much more complicated to refund your money if the trip is cancelled.

For insurance reasons the trip is only open to U3A members. If a nonU3A friend wants to come to Avoncroft with us they must join U3A first!

The Leicester U3A Secretary has sent out an application form and these details to all the membership who are on e-mail. The application form can also be completed on the web-site via the link on the Events page. Future Leicester U3A newsletters will update you on the plans for the trip in view of the current pandemic. The closing date for applications is 24 July if the trip goes ahead in September. The £30 will be refunded in full if the trip is cancelled before 1 July, the amount of refund after that date is not known at present. It would really help if members can apply well before the 1 July so we can assess the level of interest.

Veronica Matthew  
(Architecture & Design Group Convenor)



## Crossword Solution



### About the Newsletter

#### **Delivery**

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

#### **Contributions**

The deadline for items to be included in the June 2020 Newsletter is Sunday 24th May. Contributions (from members) should be sent to the editor: [newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk](mailto: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. Please keep them coming. The occasional picture would be welcome as well. Please keep all articles to a maximum of 500 words. If you have a story or a report that is considerably longer than that, we can edit it into 2 (or more if it's very long!) shorter articles to be published in subsequent Newsletters.

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.