



Registered Charity No. 1137780

January 2022

Newsletter

Melton Mowbray U3A

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At the meeting this month on Thursday 20th January 2022

Speaker	Graham Cherryman- Clara Consuela Sheridan
Display	None
Catering	Volunteers needed
Meet/Greet	Vaughan and Jennifer Gregory, Marion Brundell, Pauline Posey

Committee Notices

***We Wish All Our Readers
Good Health, Happiness and Good Fortune
In the Year Ahead***

COMMITTEE UPDATE

Thanks

Our thanks go to group leaders and members of the Silver Tones, our Recorder Group, and the Guitar Group as well as the tea/coffee volunteers for their support, hard work and enthusiasm all done in preparation for our Christmas Meeting. In the circumstances cancellation of the meeting was unavoidable, but we very much look forward to seeing and hearing our groups perform next December.

Our appreciation also goes to Paul Taylor and the members of the Wood Carving Group, for their brilliant and original Christmas Tree on display at the Christmas Tree Festival.

January Meeting

Thanks to COVID we have taken the decision to postpone our 'Meet the Groups' meeting, until early spring. Instead we will meet (unless guidance changes) on Thursday 20th January at the usual time, in the Baptist Church, for a regular u3a meeting (see below). The membership desk and committee members will be available at the Church from 09:30

before, during and after the meeting for membership renewals, payments and other queries.

Group Meetings

Group leaders and members are reminded that (at the time of publication) both indoor and outdoor group meetings can still go ahead. It will be up to individual group leaders, members, (and householders) to decide what they are comfortable doing.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

It is a requirement of the Charity Commission we hold our AGM before the end of the financial year. Our AGM will be on 17th March, by preference in the Baptist Church, but, if that is not possible, on-line. In order, to cope with the uncertainty, and the necessity for the meeting to be quorate, we will again be asking for your proxy votes.

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

We are a caring community and the pandemic has brought out the best in us. We have all had to change the way live and how we interact. How we stay together and support each other. In my view, a highlight of our u3a has been the work of our editor, Diane Cherryman, and the many other contributors to our monthly newsletter & e-supplement. Diane, alongside Eric Faulconbridge and CJ Rupp has also worked hard to simplify the production and mailing of the Newsletter. This month, as you have seen, we are testing the new Beacon mailing system, which should enable us to work from one central database, rather than trying to correct and align different databases.

Diane will stand down from the role of editor at the March AGM, having completed her three year term. Despite several appeals in the newsletter no-one has come forward to replace her. To lose our newsletter, while we will be reopening our u3a throughout 2022, will be a huge setback to us all. As Chairman I cannot and will not ask other members of your committee to *'just pick up this task'*. **No editor will mean no newsletter.** A hammer blow to all of us, and everything we try to do together. I ask all of you to reconsider what you can do for your committee and u3a. We have many talented members, and I am asking one of you to come forward and join us as editor. Contact Diane or myself for further information. **Graham Cherryman**

JANUARY MEETING

Although our Meet the Groups for January has been postponed, it is hoped that the Covid situation will allow a January Monthly meeting instead. Graham Cherryman is on standby to talk about Clare Consuelo Sheridan (1885-1970) - a renowned sculptress, novelist, newspaper correspondent, and traveller. Adventurous and tempestuous, she was described as imperious (if often penniless), restless, reckless, infuriating, rude, lovable, brave and vulnerable.

Clare was a cousin to Winston Churchill. During WW2 she supported him in 10 Downing Street, and sculpted him "while sitting up in bed". Her godmother and namesake was Consuelo Vanderbilt, Duchess of Marlborough. Among her circle of friends were Princess Margaret of Sweden, Lord and Lady Mountbatten, Lady Diana Cooper, Vita Sackville-West and Vivien Leigh. Her *amours* reputedly included Leon Trotsky and Charlie Chaplin.

MELTON MOWBRAY U3A NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The meeting

The Twenty Sixth Annual General Meeting will take place at The Baptist Church Melton Mowbray (or on-line via Zoom) at 10.00 am on Thursday 17th March 2022.

In addition to the election of officers and committee members the business will include:

- The approval of the Minutes of the 2021 AGM
- The presentation and approval of the Statement of Accounts for 2021.
- The appointment of an Examiner for the 2022 Accounts
- Any other business notified in writing to the Secretary before Friday 18 February 2022

Further information

The elections of the officers and other members of the Committee will be for one year. Officers and members are eligible to stand for re-election, provided they do not serve for more than three consecutive years.

The elections will be for Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and five members. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and four Members are eligible to stand for re-election. There is a vacancy on the Committee for a Newsletter Editor.

Nomination forms are available from the Secretary. Completed forms submitted by email or post must be with the Secretary before Friday 18 February 2022. Nominations can only be made and seconded by a paid-up 2022 member.

Members are reminded that the present Committee has offered the opportunity for any member thinking of seeking election to shadow the existing member in her/his role in the time available before the close of nominations. This is to enable a reasonable level of understanding of what is being done, how and why, before a commitment is entered into.

*In accordance with our constitution (Article 5.1) 20% of the paid-up membership constitutes a quorum. Members will be invited to register a proxy vote beforehand. Full details will be provided along with the Agenda & Documentation. Your vote is essential to the continuation of our U3A. For further information contact Christine Bluett, Business Secretary, secretary@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

At this time we are approaching 400 membership renewals for 2022.

I would remind members that the 2022 membership year starts on 1st January.

The latest date for renewing your subscription, before your membership is lapsed and all benefits withdrawn, is 31st January, 2022.

If you want to renew your membership, but are unable to attend the Monthly Meeting on Thursday, 20th January, please post, or hand deliver, your renewal forms, and Gift Aid Declaration forms if appropriate, to me directly at 4 Cotswold Close, Melton Mowbray, LE13 0JT.

Best wishes to you all for the New Year.

Eric Faulconbridge, Membership Secretary

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

This is the last newsletter you will receive through our old distribution arrangement. To date, the newsletter has been emailed from a contact list held and maintained on the

editor's email account. In future, the email will be sent out using the new Beacon database maintained by the Membership Secretary.

For this month only, we will use both methods so you should receive 2 copies, one from each system. Apologies in advance for this and hopefully you will not find this too inconvenient, but we need to confirm all members are identified in the new system. If your second newsletter, sent from Beacon, does not arrive, please check that you have remembered to renew your membership for 2022 and that on the renewal form you gave your current email address and indicated that you would like to receive a digital newsletter. If you feel that you have completed the criteria correctly and would be expecting the second newsletter from our new system, please let the Membership Secretary know so that he can investigate any reason for the omission.

Members who have paid to have a posted newsletter are still entitled to have a digital copy as well.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

We are still looking for a replacement editor to take over in March when my three year term comes to an end. This is a very satisfying role and only requires basic IT skills – cutting and pasting in Word and using emails. I am happy to discuss with anyone interested. **Diane Cherryman**, editor@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you become aware of a member becoming seriously ill or experiencing other life changing events please do let a member of the Committee know, even if you think someone else may have notified us. We would rather be notified more than once than not at all. Email chairman@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk or tel.



Group Notices



GROUP LEADERS – MEET THE GROUPS

It is with regret that I have to tell you that our proposed Meet the Groups event has been postponed due to the situation with COVID at present. The committee has decided this would be the best option to keep everyone safe as the situation is changing rapidly. We hope to have this event, possibly in early spring and I will be in touch again nearer the time to confirm that as Group Leaders you are still happy to attend and promote your group. Thanks to everyone who responded saying they would have a table and please bear with us as we get through the next few weeks and see what happens.

Groups are still able to meet both indoors and out at the moment, depending on how members feel. I think we must all feel comfortable within our groups and that is a personal choice. We will be following Government Guidelines and if the situation changes, we will be in touch.

Please get in touch if you have any questions.

Linda Faulks, Groups Coordinator, groups@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

AMERICAN STUDIES

We are planning to restart the group on a face to face basis at a location in the centre of Melton, but this will be subject to recruiting more members at the Meet the Groups

If more contributors do not come forward the group will be dissolved

Chris Lawman

COMPOSER OF THE MONTH

Wednesday 5th January Honegger

Wednesday 26th January Martines

These are planned dates and there is a strong possibility that Covid restrictions may necessitate postponements. Please contact me for confirmation that the meetings are to go ahead.

Contact John Playfer

INDOOR BOWLS

Our sessions will begin again on Monday 10th January at the usual time of 2.00pm

This is of course subject to any restrictions that may be imposed by the government before that date

For those who had to cancel their pre Christmas lunch I have managed to arrange a small refund for you all

Chris Lawman.

THEATRE GROUP, theatre@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

Best of Broadway - Wednesday March 2nd 2022, Royal Albert Hall, 7.30pm

There are still tickets left for this show but I will be releasing these shortly when I pay for those sold. I will be checking to see what proof of vaccination we require for the Albert Hall and will advise those of you booked.

Anne Dyster



Walking Groups



2ND MONDAY WALKING GROUP- 10th January.

Meet in Hambleton village for a walk round the peninsula. 10-15 for 10-30 start

Group Co-ordinator **Geoff Harris.**

4th TUESDAY WALKING GROUP

The next walk will be on Tuesday 25th January

Start from the Blue Bell at Hoby; please arrive by 10am – lunch orders will be taken before we start

Urgently need volunteers to lead for the other months of 2022

Chris Lawman.

3rd WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP – approx. 5 miles

JANUARY walk -19 January 2022. A walk around the Hambleton Peninsular, approx.5 miles. Meet in Hambleton Village (parking on Oakham Road, near The Finch's Arms, LE15 8TL), 10.00 for 10.15 start.

A table has been booked for lunch at the Old Buttercross Pub, Panniers Way, Oakham, LE15 7US for 1.00pm but I do need to know who are intending to stay for lunch by **16th January at the latest** so that I can confirm the booking.
Many thanks, Terry Hopper (Group leader/Co-ordinator)

1ST THURSDAY WALKING GROUP

The **January 6th, 2022**, walk will be our usual Hambleton Peninsular.

Please park in Hambleton village and meet near the Finches Arms, LE15 8TL, ready to walk for 10am.

The walk is approximately 6 miles.

We intend to have lunch after the walk at The Old Buttercross, Panniers Way, Oakham, LE15 7US

The **February 3rd 2022**, walk will be from the Gregory Arms PH, Harlaxton, Grantham, NG32 1AD.

The walk takes in the Grantham canal tow path, Denton Reservoir and village, with views of Harlaxton Manor. It is approximately 6 miles.

Please meet at pub car park ready to walk for 10am. Unfortunately the toilets will not be available for us to use at that time.

A table has been reserved at the pub for anyone wishing to stay on for lunch. If you wish to join us for lunch please let us know.

Stuart and Wendy Posnett, group leaders

Email walkingthursday1@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk.



Final Notices

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE FOR THE FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER:

Classical Music

Composer of the Month

Cribbage

Croquet

Cycling

At the meeting next month on Thursday 17th February 2022

Speaker	Martin Lloyd- Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies
Display	None
Catering	Awaiting volunteers
Meet/Greet	Shirley Harris

Contributions to the February 2022 newsletter to be received **no later than**

31st January 2022. Items should be emailed to editor@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk or posted to 20 Gartree Drive, Melton Mowbray LE13 0AE

And Now, Dr Pan d'Mick – Chairman and Chief Dotty of the Molten Mewbray U1D [University of the First Dotage] writes:

After another cheese and wine 'work' meeting in the garden of notennuthouse*, and in order to discourage confusion, your chairman and I would like to clearly state that neither of us is the other.

*Where the train of thought often leaves the station without me.

Travelling through the Dale by bus the other day a mobile phone started ringing. It seemed to be coming from the bag of one our Dotties, who was ignoring it. I tapped her on the shoulder and pointed this out to her. "*Oh no my dear*", she said, "*It can't be my phone. Nobody knows I am on the bus*".

I cut my finger chopping cheese, but I think that I may have grater problems.

One of our lady Dotties tells me she can't wait to walk down the aisle one day and hear those magical words: "*This is your pilot speaking*."

I took my first flight since the lockdown. I didn't like having to board through the rear entrance, so I complained to the stewardess, "*I feel like a suppository*", I said. "*Imagine how you feel when you disembark*", she replied.

One of our male Dottie's, well in his 90's went for a check-up. His doctor asked him "*Do you still have sex*"? "*Almost everyday*", he replied. The doctor was amazed and ask him to be more specific. "*OK*", he replied, "*Almost on Monday. Almost on Tuesday. Almost on Wednesday.....*".

A notice in our local pub. "*Try our Sangria*," the sign declares, "*You will never get better*."

One of our rugby enthusiast Dotties was phoned by his son in Dubai. He said a group of expats were coming round to watch the Calcutta Cup match with him. "*Well don't tell me the score*", his Dotty Dad said, "*I want to watch it live and you are seven hours ahead of us*".

Another Dotty explaining to her grandchildren how to find her house was overheard to say "*Turn left at the pub that used to be The Alma, and then left again where the Co-op used to be*".

A further Dotty, warned of an impending power cut, said "*That's a shame. I don't like watching TV in the dark*".

Two of our older Dotties were sitting in the pub when the one said, "*I'm thinking of divorcing my wife, she hasn't said a word to me for the last two months*". The other slowly and thoughtfully sipped his beer, then said, "*Think it over, women like that are hard to find*".

One of our Dotties, a retired accountant, was deservedly given a long prison sentence at the Old Bailey. "*But your Honour*," he protested, "*That will mean I'll die in prison*". The judge looked at him and said, "*Well, try and do as many years as you can*."

"*Siri, why am I so bad at relationships with women?*"

"This is Alexa."

Crime reporter, Miss D Meaner, writes :

She entered a kleptomania competition and got a gold, a silver and a bronze.

Knowing how to pick locks has really opened a lot of doors for her.

When you are young everyone thinks it cute and funny when you tear off your nappy and run around naked. Anyway, now she needs bail money.

A fellow lady dotty was in court charged with shoplifting. She explained she had stolen a tin of peaches because she was hungry. The judge then sentenced her to six days in prison, one day for each of the peaches in the can. He asked if she had anything more to say. Her husband raised his hand. *"Don't forget to tell him you took a can of peas as well"*.

Late one evening a policeman sees three cars parked up on the hillside. He approaches the first car which is rocking back and forwards. The windows are all steamed up, so he knocks on the window, *"Hullo, Hullo, What's going on here then?"*

The window opens slightly to show two youngsters, *"Sorry officer, we were just practising the Cha Cha"*. *"No you are not. Now get on home"*.

He approaches the second car which is also rocking with steamed up windows - he knocks on window. This time the youngsters plead, *"Sorry officer, we were just practising the Rhumba"*. *"No you are not. Now get on home"*.

The third car also rocking back and forth, with steamed up windows. He knocks, *"I suppose you are doing the Bossa Nova?"* he asks. The window opens a fraction and a woman replies, *"No, I'm doing the boss a favour"*.

Had a girlfriend.
Then I lobster,
But then I flounder.

When you are down by the sea and an eel bites your knee - that's a Moray.

If you have better fish puns then let minnow.

It could be worse - no wait.

My corner-shop proprietor, Bill Yonyr, tells me he is deeply in debt. In fact, he decided the only way left to him was to win the lottery. So he started to pray that he would win. And as the time of the draw drew close, his praying became more and more fervent. He ended up standing in the street shouting, *"Please, please, I have to win. I have to win. Do this for me and I will never ask for anything again"*.

At this there was a loud clap of thunder and a voice from above, *"Meet me halfway. Buy a ticket"*.

One minute you are young and fun. And the next, your turning down the stereo in your car to see better.

So that's all Dotties. Well for a time at least. My memory is not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory is not as sharp as it used to be.

Dr Pan d'Mick