



Registered Charity No. 1137780

April 2024 Newsletter Melton Mowbray u3a

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At the meeting this month on Thursday 18th April 2024

Speaker	Mike Storr – Masters of Mirth
Display	No display
Catering	Judy Smithers, Marianne Hodson, Deb Walker, Angus Walker, Janet Tarratt
Meet/Greet	Jean Newton, Shirley Harris

Committee Notices

MM u3a COMMITTEE FOR 2024/25

At the AGM the following members were appointed to form Melton Mowbray u3a Committee for 2024/25

Chair:	Kathlyn Slack, chair@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk
Vice Chair:	Linda Newbery, vchair@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk
Treasurer:	Maureen Carruthers, treasurer@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk
Business Secretary:	Janice Palmer, secretary@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk
Membership Secretary:	Sharon Baines, membership@meltonmowbray.org.uk
IT Admin:	CJ Rupp, admin@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk
Groups Co-ordinator:	Dolores Harvey, Groups@meltonmowbray.org.uk
Speaker Secretary:	Barry Frangleton, speaker@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk
Newsletter Editor:	Christine Bluett, editor@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

The members of the committee are committed to ensuring the smooth running of our u3a and welcome input and feedback from members. Please feel free to contact any committee member if you wish to discuss any aspect of the running of MMu3a whether they be ideas, suggestions, concerns. We are all members together and our goal is to have an active u3a which serves the members positively.

MM u3a Committee 2024/25

PETE SMITH

It is with a heavy heart I take on the role of newsletter editor. Pete Smith, the editor for the past 2 years, sadly passed away recently after a short illness. Pete was a very active and well-liked member of our u3a and many other local organisations. He was always willing to lend a hand and volunteer, often when nobody else would. Our thoughts go out to his family and friends. He will be very sadly missed by so many. Pete's funeral will take place on 16th April. If you would like details please email me.

Christine Bluett, editor@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

SPEAKER'S CORNER

Please note below the speaker programme for the remainder of this Committee year. Experience tells me that as sure as eggs are eggs there will be changes made to it. For this reason, the 'Speaker Diary' will not be printed this year as it can very quickly become obsolete! The current up-to-date programme will be published every month in this newsletter, and also on our website. Hopefully this will work for all of us. If you have any questions, suggestions or comments please address them directly to me at speaker@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

Apr 18	Mike Storr	Masters of Mirth
May 16	Trevor Edwards	My Life Fighting Fire
Jun 20	Bharat Patel	Indian Takeaway
Jul 18	Mike Burton	Abraham Lincoln's America
Aug 15	Margaret Gilman	Viva Verdi- The man, the music
Sep 19	Brian Fare	156 Parachute Battalion
Oct 17	Prof. Ian Maber	Lost in Translation
Nov 21	Bob Reed	Let's talk about toilets
Dec 19	Christmas meeting	
2025		
Jan 16	Meet the groups	
Feb 20	TBA	
Mar 20	AGM	

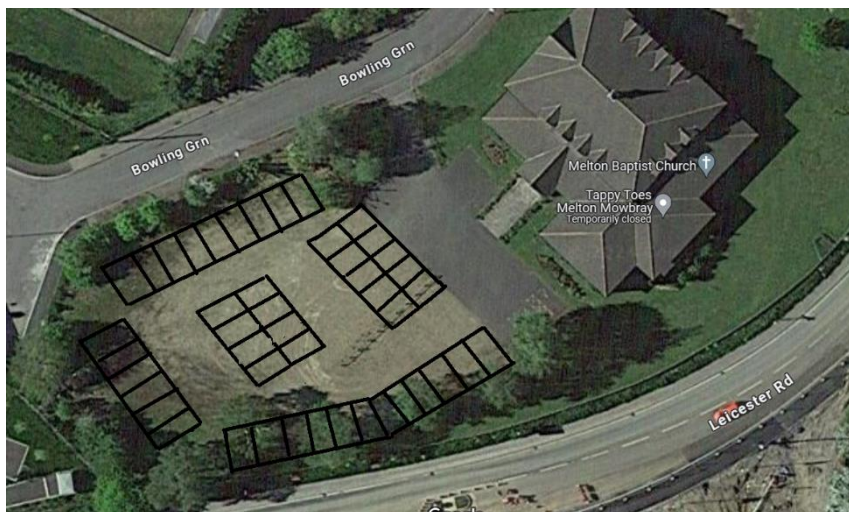
Barry Frangleton, Speaker Secretary

CAR PARKING AT BAPTIST CHURCH

Car parking at the Baptist Church has been an issue for some years now. Certainly, they have always stressed that NO CARS SHOULD BE PARKED ON THE CONCRETED AREA other than in the disabled parking spaces. This is to ensure there would be sufficient space for emergency vehicles to park in the event of an incident. Every month however, some members flout this rule, and it has caused us problems. The other issue is how cars are parked on the gravelled area. Since the removal of the fence down the middle, cars are parked in a more random fashion and consequently, fewer cars are able to be accommodated.

The Church staff are looking at a plan to help people park in a better way. The diagram below gives an **indication** of how cars could be parked. It is not to scale and is a very rough layout. Ideas are still being considered to help with the parking issue but in the meantime, members are **kindly requested to be very mindful of where and how they park at the church** and bear in mind the suggested parking plan.

We have a good working relationship with the Church. In order to maintain that we have to adhere to their parking restrictions. Your co-operation is appreciated.



MELTON MOWBRAY LIBRARY TALKS

David Milutinovic at Melton Mowbray Library has passed on his thanks for the interest in the recent talk on the East Midlands Oral History Archive. He was very pleased to see such a large turnout from our u3a. For those who couldn't make the talk, David has asked us to let you know there is currently an audio device in the library which has the full recordings from the excerpts played at the talk. The recording is on loan from the University of Leicester and will be at the library for the next month or so. Apparently, it is very easy to use.

The next talk at the library is on Wednesday 17th April at 6pm. The speaker is **Simon Curtin** and he will talk about his new book on the 8 year project to reintroduce ospreys into Belvoir. The talk is free and will commence at 6pm. Tickets can be obtained by calling the library on **0116 305 3646**. Further information can be obtained via the following link [Author talk with Simon Curtin at Melton Mowbray Library \(thebestof.co.uk\)](http://thebestof.co.uk). Please note that tickets need to be arranged directly through the Library and *not* through MMu3a

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Traditionally, the newsletter has been sent out via email, very early on in the month to which it applies. This does mean that those members who pay to receive the newsletter by post, do not receive theirs until a week or more into the month, due to the requirement for it to be printed and posted to them. To try and lessen this problem it has been decided to bring forward the deadline for submissions to the newsletter. **With immediate effect, the deadline for all submissions will be the 27th of the preceding month.** If this proves to be impractical in some months, the deadline may be extended. I will continue to clearly state the deadline for submissions to the next newsletter in each newsletter edition.

Christine Bluett, Newsletter Editor
Email: editor@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

Other Notices

JIGSAW LIBRARY

Please be advised that there will be no jigsaw library at the Monthly Meeting on 18th April as Alan and Rosemary will be away.

Alan Barton

PATCHWORK AND NEEDLECRAFT

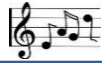
Towards the end of 2023 a u3a member who is no longer able to sew, donated 2 boxes of fabric and various pieces of quilting equipment. Over the following weeks, these boxes went to both patchwork groups and the needlecraft group and lots of members found something they would like to use. Everyone made a donation for the items they chose and last week we were able to hand over £172.00 to the Melton Parkinsons Group. The group was very grateful and asked for thanks to be passed on to all who had contributed.

Jackie McMillan

NEEDLECRAFT GROUP – LINUS CHARITY

The Needlecraft group recently decided to knit and crochet squares to make up a blanket for the Project Linus UK charity. This is a charity named after the Peanuts© character, which provides blankets to those in need, eg children in care, hospices, refuge centres etc. The ladies in the group responded enthusiastically and the squares were sewn up by Pauline Posey, Maureen Carruthers and Diane Cherryman. The photo below shows the results of the hard work. Editor: Looks like a lot of blankets there, well done to all who participated.





Group Notices



OUTINGS GROUP email@outings@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

OUTINGS 2024

It's nearly time for our first trip of 2024. Hopefully it will have stopped raining by 10th April!

Leeds

Date: 10 April 2024 --- Cost: £26 - **Extra places now available.**

Departure times: Wilton Road – 7.45 am / Tesco car park – 8.00 am / Leeds – 5.00 pm

We have upgraded to a 49 seater coach so extra places are now available. If you would like to join us on this trip, **please ring Jean** as soon as possible.

Stamford Market

Date: 7 June 2024 --- Cost: £12 – **Places are still available**

Departure times: Wilton Road – 9.00 am / Tesco car park – 9.15 am / Stamford – 3.00 pm

This outing was requested by members. We are now reducing the price to £12. Please note that if you booked earlier and paid the full £17 we will refund the £5 difference that you paid as soon as possible.

A relaxing day out with a short journey. Stamford is a beautiful old town to wander around which has often been featured in TV period dramas. As we are visiting on a Friday there will be the market to look round as well as lots of interesting, independent shops. There are also plenty of places for coffee and lunch. If you want a break from shopping before returning to the coach, there are pleasant waterside walks by the river. Although you can get the train to Stamford, the fare is more than we are charging, and you are guaranteed a seat on the coach. You may have to stand all the way on the train and even if you do get a seat, it is unlikely to be next to a friend!

David Austin Roses

Date: 17 July 2024 --- Cost: £22 – **Places are still available**

Departure times: Wilton Road – 8.45 am / Tesco car park 9.00 am / David Austen 4.00 pm

Holt and Sheringham

Date: 4 September 2024 --- Cost: £26 – **Places are still available**

Departure times: Wilton Road – 7.45 am / Tesco – 8.00 am / Sheringham 4.30pm

To book, come and see us at the Outings Desk at monthly meetings or phone Jean on 01664 562180

The full price must be paid when booking to secure a place and may be either cash or cheque. If you have to cancel after booking, we will do our best to resell your place so that we can refund your payment. However, we do have to ensure that we have sufficient money to cover the cost of the coach.

Christmas Market

We are still thinking about a Christmas market trip, bearing in mind that we do not want a very early start or a long journey in the winter months. If anyone has a suggestion for a suitable destination, please let us know.

Jean Pearson, Ruth Rigby and Jackie McMillan
Email: outings@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

LAST CHANCE - SINGIN' in the RAIN. Kilworth House Theatre, **Wednesday 10th July** at 7.30

Tickets are £45.50, plus the cost of coach travel at £18.00 per person. These prices are dependent on how many people wish to go and may change.

There are only 2 tickets left for this. New reservations will be accepted on payment of the full ticket price of £45.50. Thank you to those of you who have paid a deposit. Please pay the balance of your ticket at your earliest convenience at the Theatre Desk. Transport costs will be based on final numbers. **Closing date: the April meeting 18/04/24**

Lynda Middleton

COACH FARE TO DE MONTFORT HALL

The fare for our recent trip to the LSO concert on 3rd March is **£6.10 per person** and is now due. Please pay at the Theatre Desk at the April meeting. Please email Lynda at the above address if you will not be at the meeting.

Lynda Middleton

MY FAIR LADY at Curve, Leicester **-Wednesday 4th December 2024**

Seats have been booked for our Christmas Theatre Outing on Wednesday, 4th December 2024. It is an evening performance commencing at 7.30 pm.

A coach will be provided. Members are asked to be at Wilton Road Car Park by 5.55 pm, with passengers getting on the coach immediately, whilst drivers can get on at 6.00 pm, to prevent the cost of parking. The coach will leave promptly at 6.05 pm.

The cost will be £55.00 (for the ticket, coach, and tip for the driver) and is payable by July 2024 please, as U3A are required to pay for the tickets in advance of the performance. All seats not paid for by July will be cancelled.

Angela Fielding



Walking Groups



2nd MONDAY WALKING GROUP

Monday 8th April. Meet at Wymondham Windmill, 10:15 for 10:30 start

Geoff Harris, Group Co-ordinator

1st THURSDAY WALKING GROUP

The **Thursday 4th April, 2024**, walk will be from The New Greyhound, 2 Market Place, Billesdon, LE7 9AJ. Please park in the vicinity of the pub and be ready to walk for 10am. Toilets will be accessible, and food can be ordered prior to walking, if required. If you intend staying for lunch, please let us know by the Monday before.

The walk of about 6 miles is to Illston, Rolleston and back. The surface is mainly firm with one gentle hill. Please let us know if you intend to walk, so that guests can be included if numbers are low.

The **Thursday 2nd May, 2024**, walk will be from the Wheatsheaf PH, Brand Hill, Woodhouse Eaves, LE12 8SS. Be ready to walk for 10 am. Toilets will be accessible, food can be ordered prior to walking, if required. If you intend staying for lunch, please let us know by the Monday before.

The walk of about 6 miles is from Swithland Wood, Bradgate Park and across Lingdale Golf Course back to Woodhouse Eaves. Please let us know if you intend to walk, so that guests can be included if numbers are low.

*Stuart and Wendy Posnett, Group Leaders
Email: walkingthursday1@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk.*

3rd WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

APRIL walk – 17 April 2024 – approx 5 1/2 miles. The walk will be a mix of track, field and road. 9 stiles.

Meet at the Black Horse Pub, 3 Main Street, Grimston, LE14 3BZ

10.00 for a 10.15 start. Limited parking in front of pub but street parking available. Toilets available prior to walking. A table has been booked for lunch, which can be pre-ordered prior to walking. <https://blackhorsegrimston.com/menus/>

Terry Hopper (Group leader/Co-ordinator)



Annual Group Reports



CROQUET

Spring is here and our thoughts are turning again to Croquet. Our Group started in 2017 so we have already enjoyed 7 summers of fun. We were lucky with the weather last year and managed to play every week but did have to change our day on one occasion to accommodate a school cricket tournament. We are grateful to the Cricket Club and the Town Estate who allow us to play on the Saxby Road Sports Ground.

We had 25 regular players last season and typical weekly numbers are in the mid teens. Most of our members joined us as beginners but are now happy to welcome and teach other new members. After investing in a set of hoops at the end of last year we now have

three club croquet sets and four members have their own sets which they bring and allow us to use when needed.

Our eighth season will start on **Thursday 2nd May** and we will play every week until the end of September. Our existing members are getting excited at the prospect, and we hope that more new members will join us too. All equipment and tuition is provided and we guarantee a lot of fun so come and try it!

Joint Group Leaders: Diane Cherryman, David Ward, Ann Lloyd and Cliff Thompson

ANNUAL GROUP REPORTS

The Annual Group Reports item has been included in the newsletter for as long as I can remember. The idea is group leaders, or group members, can give a summary of the activities they've undertaken with their groups over the year. We have typically gone through the groups list in alphabetical order, but members are welcome to submit a report at any time during the year, particularly if you are a new group and/or have spaces for new members. It also has the effect sometimes of giving other members ideas of groups they could start and that is always welcome.

We do not wish to put any group leader under pressure to write an annual report but merely provide a platform for your group to showcase achievements and talk about what your members have gained from being part of the group.

If you would like to write a report but are not sure what to say please let me know, I'm happy to help.

Christine Bluett, Newsletter Editor
email: editor@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk



Final Notices

Annual Reports due for the May 2024 Newsletter:

- Cycling for Fun
- Discussion: Being Human
- Family History 1
- Family History 2
- Flower Arranging

At the meeting next month on Thursday 16th May 2024:

Speaker: Trevor Edwards – My Life Fighting Fire

Display: Patchwork and Quilting

Catering: Alison Wilford, Sue Bown, Eunice Fletcher, Patricia Harris, Sue Jenkins

Meet and Greet: Ann Garton, Jennifer Gregory

Contributions to the May 2024 newsletter to be received **no later than 27th APRIL 2024.** Items should be emailed to editor@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk