

Newsletter u3a

aka The LestFest

SEP 23

Reluctant Editor: Colin Lester 🙄

Replacement solicited

Contact

colin@clester.plus.com

*and for the time being use that email address to submit
pictures, quizzes, funnies, reports
and any other materials for inclusion
in future issues (if any) of this publication*



Where is this venerable figure, and what stood to the right of it
from 27th to 29th August?

Answers on final page

Chairman's Page

❖ **Welcome to our September newsletter.**

Thank you once again to Colin Lester for producing this.

- ❖ At our monthly meeting on the **20th September** the title is '**Love & War – How we created our garden birds**' – our speaker **Kevin Reynolds** will take us on a look back at how and why our relationship with the birds in our garden has changed over the last 150 years – including discovering when we started to feed the birds and put up bird boxes, and how we decided that some species were "garden birds".



At our **October meeting on the 18th** as well as our AGM (see below) which will be followed by '**Gorillas and Climbing Lions**' when we will be joined once again by **Wendy Martin**. Wendy will be telling us about her trek she made to fulfil an ambition to see Ugandan lions, one of only two species that climb trees, and mountain gorillas.

Please join us for what we expect to be an interesting and enjoyable time together.

- ❖ We need volunteers in two areas to help the monthly meetings go well:

Assistance in setting up the hall before the meetings;
Thank you for the three people who signed up for the next meeting. **We need more going forward!**

**Volunteers
Needed!**



Tea and Coffee at the monthly meetings; we would like to start to have refreshments at our monthly meetings, to do this we need volunteers to help with the Tea and Coffee – *Thank you* to the seven people who have already signed up – to make this feasible we need some more.

Sign-up sheets for both will be at the next monthly meeting.

- ❖ Please note that **our 9th Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday 18th October at 2pm at NV Parish Church Hall;**

Thank you to the people who have already volunteered to join the committee including someone to be Chair.



Notes on our August Meeting

The Meeting of over 50 WLu3a Members, in our new venue of Newbold Verdon Parish Hall, was kicked off by Lou Grice, whom your Editor is assured is 'only sort of' a Committee Member but will likely be *(spoiler warning)* a candidate to replace Andy Elton as Chairman at the October AGM.



The Hall was originally built as the village school

Lou introduced Ruth Lowe who gave a talk on 'Swinging Sixties' icon Dame Mary Quant, who died this April. A collector of her products for the past 23 years, Ruth illustrated the talk with the many items she had brought along, modelling some of them and showing how they were used. She also referenced the 2019-20 Quant exhibition at the V&A, revealing that it had included some items from her own collection.

Ruth's talk added colour to the details of Quant's life and work to be seen on Wikipedia, pointing out for instance that she and her husband Alexander were opposite in character – he was outgoing while she was more retiring – yet stayed together til his death in 1990: he was the originator of many of the quirky names for the cosmetics, accessories and other items that drew attention to her products as did the unconventional displays in her Kings Road, Chelsea, boutique.



*Ruth was a flamboyant speaker
Many thanks to Liz Prescott for this picture*



Ruth's display included many of the items she demonstrated...



Accessories shown included this shoulder bag in a style ideal for the black & white dress she wore



Ruth also showed some of the footwear from the Quant design stable



...such as iconic ladies' wear...



Mary Quant brought in the black plastic mac



...some of which she modelled



*A few of our Members
attended the Meeting in
appropriate period costume,
notably Andy and Sue Mirams*

—
*and very fetching they both
looked, in your Editor's
humble opinion*

QUIZ 1

Sports – Answers on final page

1. What's the connection between Bradford City in 2012 and Rotherham United in 1961?
2. The Claret Cup is which sport's annual trophy?
3. What did Geoff Allot achieve in the New Zealand cricket side against South Africa, 1999?
4. Who was the youngest winner of their first golf Major – Ballesteros, Woods, or McIlroy?
5. Who were the 3 managers of Notts Forest during their relegation season 1996-7?
6. Who apologised for saying Australia would beat England in the 2003 Rugby World Cup final?
7. Why did 26 African countries boycott the 1976 Olympics?
8. Which sport might you see a Jireugi ap in response to a Naeryo?
9. Peterborough Panthers and Poole Pirates take part in which sport?
10. Which tennis Grand Slam title eluded Pete Sampras?

TOPICAL MATTERS 1 – Scams

Parking apps: It's handy to be able to book a parking space before travelling to a venue, and several organisations provide apps which let you do so, whether at a dedicated parking site or in the driveway of somebody who hires it out when not in use. Some enterprising crooks, however, have recently been diverting requests for one of these apps to a company called Alltainment.

These rotters get at the top of a Google list on searches for an app such as JustPark (*others are available*) with an entry named uk.apkpac[dot]com, but their hyperlink takes you to a website which has fake links in the name of a genuine parking app but which take you to the Alltainment site. There, you can be fooled into signing up for apparent parking access when actually you're giving £39.99 a month to the scammers.

Automated Programs Solutions Ltd is a similar company that entices even more expensive subscriptions to a site called Flirtymeetings, using a response in the name of Fine10 to the same Google parking-app search. JustParking recommends only signing up for any such app on the provider's own website. If you come across scams like the ones above which hi-jack the name of a genuine apps, do report it to the real company and/or to the Advertising Standards Authority at <https://www.asa.org.uk/make-a-complaint/report-an-online-scam-ad.html> or using the 'Which?' scam-sharer tool <https://www.which.co.uk/tool/scam-sharer>.

Source: 'Which?' scam alert service email 17.8.23

QUIZ 2

(with thanks to Jean Johnson)

General (Answers on final page)

1. What things are offered for customers to buy in a 'white sale'?
2. Which drink did Joan Collins and Leonard Rossiter advertise?
3. De Lorean set up a sporty car factory in which UK city in which year?
4. The Rye House Plot, 1683, wanted to assassinate which king?
5. A paravane is used in what dangerous procedure?
6. Who wrote the tune for 'Here Comes the Bride' as part of an opera?
7. Is a poniard a sailing ship, a dagger, or an old coin?
8. What was the name of the shrew-tamer in Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*?
9. 'Knifeboards' meant boards to clean knives on, but had another meaning too: what ?
10. Lennie and George are characters in which short novel by John Steinbeck?

Do you think we need a Commissioner for Older People?

National u3a is taking part of the campaign calling for a Commissioner for Older People & Ageing in England and Scotland. This would be an independent champion of older people, raising awareness and working to resolve issues that people face in their later life. The campaign organisers want the perspectives of u3a members to be a part of it. You can contribute your thoughts by clicking this link : **Take the survey** .

If you're interested in learning more about the impact this role can have, National u3a are hosting a 'Future Lives' session with Heléna Herklots, the current Commissioner for Older Peoples in Wales. This is taking place in u3a week, 16-24 September - [book now](#).

West Leicestershire u3a Wine Appreciation Group

by Joyce Crooks, to whom thanks

This month we have a very short report as John was not able to attend the group, so unfortunately it is down to me to give a rundown of our evening.

The subject this month was Greek Wines. And on the whole that is what we tasted. Out of the nine wines on offer 5 wines were actually of Greek origin. 2 x Mavrodaphne red from different estates which were quite sweet with fruity notes and scored a 6.5 and 7 respectively (out of 10). The only white wine from Greece was from Filos estate, a Chardonay (purchased from Aldi) which scored an impressive 8 (although yours truly thought it tasted metallic). We also tasted another red from Greece called Biferno Rosso which we will not describe, except to say it scored only 0.5. The final red wine was Agio Gitiko from M&S and was a lovely fruity wine and this also score an 8.

As to the other 4 wines on offer, Margaret thought we had stated Creek wine instead of Greek and brought along a Jacobs Creek Frizzante (her excuse). It was a very acceptable addition to the evening and scored an 8. Roger spotted a wine called Velka Nicosia (Bianco) in the Coop and thought 'brilliant, I have not had to search too far for Greek Wine', except it was actually from Sicily! It scored 10 out of 10.

The final two wines (not of Greek origin) were both red: The Black Stump, an Australian Shiraz (8 out of 10) and a Passamora courtesy of Virgin wines which scored a 9.

From where I was sitting, I heard various conversations which ranged from 'BRIMAX' and how India had sent out a 'Moon Scope'. We did have the compulsory joke from Margaret, we all look forward to her jokes each month. All in all, it was a great evening, but we did miss the company of John and Dee.

The theme for the October meeting is French wines, (not too hard to find).

TOPICAL MATTERS 2 – Cat Chips

No, not a new kind of food, rather the microchips that many people have their cats fitted with so they can be reunited with them if they go missing (the cats that is). Documentation is provided when the chip is inserted under the skin (of the cat – keep up!) and should be stored carefully to be readily available if and when ‘missing mog syndrome’ is experienced. The microchipping is no more painful than injections (to the cat – though owners have to suffer payment pains).

Microchipping can be done when the creatures are still small kittens, but from 10 June 2024 will become compulsory from the age of 20 weeks (of the cat: the effect of this gag, weak enough to start with, has declined almost unto death and it will now be interred). If it isn't done after that date and a grace period of 21 days after that age then the owner can be fined up to £500. Chipping usually costs £20-30 (or might be less done at some charities).

There seem to be increasing numbers of postings in neighbourhood & local area social media about cats missing or found around here, so it might make sense to get microchipping done by or before next June.

Source: Nextdoor em 13.8.23 and Cats Protection website <https://www.cats.org.uk/help-and-advice/neutering-and-vaccinations/microchipping-your-cat>.

Arts & Crafts Group



*Pin cases
made by
members of
the Arts &
Crafts Group
at their
meeting in
the first week
of August
with thanks to
Jean Johnson for
the photo*

TOPICAL MATTERS 3 – Community Safety

Blaby and Hinckley & Bosworth Community Safety Partnership (CSP) put out a quarterly newsletter, the 12-page Summer issue including these items that might be of interest: Bystander Training, Neighbourhood Policing, how to avoid or respond to scams, road safety measures, a new Community Kitchen in Barlestone, ‘Keep Safe’ places to go to if feeling vulnerable when out & about and/or the ‘Ask for Angela’ system if in a bar or pub, anti-social behaviour awareness and countervailing action, Rural Policing Team expansion, neighbourhood mental health, alcohol awareness week, and the Domestic Abuse Outreach Service.

It can be seen at

<https://members.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk/AlertMessage/Attachment/FFAA99D0344DF9C9FB16E383EFC5B3CB>.

Fancy a Bike Ride like Paul's?

Once again, I will be taking part in the 'Pedal to Paris' which raises funds for the Royal British Legion, which I think is a very worthy cause. I have completed this ride twice before, 2019 and 2021, and really enjoyed the challenge and the camaraderie of my fellow riders.

The official ride is from London to Paris finishing at the Arc de Triomphe, and the participants return to London with their cycles on a coach. However, I will be cycling from my home in Earl Shilton to London and then to Paris, where we will have a Gala Dinner and, because I have to travel light, at the Dinner in 2021 I wore a 'Dickie Bow', shorts, and sandals!

On my return from Paris, I will cycle to



Rouen and the house of the friends I met in

1980 when they toured with a football team – my team, Burbage Old Boys played them twice and lost twice, something they never let me forget!

After an overnight stay in Rouen, I will cycle to Dieppe to take the 5.45pm ferry to Newhaven, then cycle home. The ride is over 7 days, starting on Tues 29th August. If there is any interest in donating to the fund, the link is '<https://justgiving.com/fundraising/pedaltoparis2023-paulwheatcroft>' .

Thanks to All, Paul Wheatcroft

Fundraising at the Co-op

Paul is a member of the Table Tennis Group: his spin serves are best avoided – Ed.



Paul powering away on his 2021 ride



The Bridge Group now meets, weekly throughout the year, in the upper room of The Gate Hangs Well pub in Carlton. Readers might recall a photo of the Christmas lunch that members enjoyed there, and its organiser Joan (front left) who lives in the village and knows the Gate's owners and managers well, felt that once a year wasn't enough so has instituted a Summer one as well. This picture shows what serious card-sharpers - players are like when relaxing (apart from the two at the far end, no doubt still discussing bidding, by-play, and blame).

The empty chair is where your Editor would be were he able to be in two places at once, but he sadly confesses to being too old now for such tricks.

STOP PRESS: Our National organisation reminds us that 'u3a Week' will be on 16-24 September. If anyone feels impelled to organise something to contribute to it, please contact our Chairman and not your Editor. Likewise if interested in a potential group visit to the Horse of the Year Show 4-8 October at the NEC (National Exhibition Centre) off the A452 on the Coventry edge of Birmingham, more details at www.https://hoys.co.uk/ .

Your WLU3A Committee

Andy Elton Chairman chairman@wlu3a.org.uk	Jane Smith Treasurer treasurer@wlu3a.org.uk	Kathy Elton Secretary secretary@wlu3a.org.uk
Kathy Elton Membership Secretary membership@wlu3a.org.uk	Paul Bannister Committee Member	John Dexter Committee Member
Sue Meadows Committee Member	Pam Grice Committee Member	Margaret Proctor Committee Member

TBC – Vice Chair

New Committee Members Needed, see p.2

Quiz 2 answers:

1. Household goods
2. Cinzano
3. Belfast, 1978
4. Charles II
5. Mine-sweeping
6. Wagner
7. A dagger
8. Petruchio
9. Seats on trams etc
10. *Of Mice and Men*

Quiz 1 answers:

1. Both got to League Cup Final from the lowest league division
2. The British Open Golf Championship
3. Slowest duck in test match history, after 77 balls
4. Tiger Woods at 21 and a quarter (the others were just 22)
5. Frank Clark, Stuart Pearce, and Dave Bassett
6. David Campese paraded an 'I was wrong' sandwich board
7. Protesting New Zealand's rugby tour of apartheid S Africa
8. Taekwondo (a front punch after an axe-like kick)
9. Speedway
10. The French Open



The sage/wizard/priest/whatever shown on p.1 is in the front garden of 12 Kirkby Rd, Desford. To the right of it, during the August Bank Holiday weekend, was one of the exhibits (shown here) in the Desford Scarecrow Festival. The Festival theme was Animations, and this one represents The Nightmare Before Christmas. Next door had Snow White, and opposite was The Pink Panther.

There was a wide array of exhibits vying for first place in the competition voted for by hoards of visitors. A funfair was held in Pickford Rec., music in an outdoor seating area at The Bluebell Inn, stalls in the Parish Church garden, and several hot and cold food stalls were situated round the village. Owls were shown (and held in a gloved hand by several delighted children – and not a few adults) at the Church Centre where a play area and other facilities were available.

Your Editor and his elder son did not manage to see all 84 scarecrow displays, which they were told would have entailed a walk of 8 or more miles, but did manage about 5 miles of them before sinking into welcome seats for lunch at the tea shop.

This was an extensive, well-organised and outstanding event. The Editor would be glad to hear from any

WLU3a Members who took part, with notes on the scarecrow-making or organising, to go in the next issue.

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