



ISSUE NO. 258

LUTTERWORTH

June 2024

## Notices

### U3A holiday

We had good weather for our holiday based in Chester with rain falling only as we returned to the hotel after our guided tour of Port Sunlight.

I should like to thank all those who went on this holiday for their company and good humour as we visited some lovely destinations. I know that some of you will be returning to spend more time in some of the places we visited. **Linda**

### July

We shall not be meeting in the Wycliffe Rooms on the second Tuesday in July as I have arranged a day out to Burghley. The coach is full for this visit but you can put your name down in case we have any people who cannot make it after all. The cost is £30 including the coach and entry to the house and gardens. Please see me at the June meeting to pay if you have not yet done so as I need to pay for the coach soon after the June meeting and also the entry costs. **Linda**

### August

We do not meet in the Wycliffe Rooms on the second Tuesday in August as we are very lucky to be invited by Liz and David White to have a picnic in their garden. Full details will be in the July newsletter.

We shall be having a walking treasure hunt followed by a meal on **Wednesday August 21st**. Please put this date in your diary and sign up at the June meeting. **Linda**

### Wine Group

The Wine Group is visiting Blabers Hall vineyard on Wednesday June 13th. The cost is £28 per person and I shall be in touch with full details before the date. **Linda**

### Flower arranging

I have had to re-arrange the Flower-Arranging afternoon from June 20th to September 19th in Bitteswell Village Hall from 2 pm until 5 pm.

I hope that those who previously showed an interest will be able to change their diary and some who may not have booked before may wish to join us then. The cost will be £5 per person to include refreshments and a raffle ticket with a chance to win one of 4-5 flower arrangements. Thank you. **Linda**

## **INTEREST GROUPS AND EVENT REPORTS**

Always check online for possible timing variations. Check with the group leader if you are not sure. A number of groups have room for more members. If you wish to join any of them, please contact the Group Coordinator

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### **Table Games – Co-ordinator Linda Patton**

As the Wellbeing Hub at the Leisure Centre is being changed, the Leisure Centre has kindly allowed us to use half of the Main Hall for the next few months.

I look forward to seeing you there on the third Monday of each month at 2 pm. **Linda**

### **Music for Fun – Ukulele – Co-ordinators – Barbara Wilkinson and Peter Sneath**

We meet at 10.00 in Bitteswell Village Hall on 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. **Barbara**

### **Table Tennis – Co-ordinator Carole Harrington**

We meet every Monday (except Bank Holidays) together with Wycliffe U3A from 2pm to 4pm at Walcote Village Hall. This group is not accepting new members at present. **Carole**

### **Buffet Supper Groups – Co-ordinator Gwenda Jones**

Group 2

Shaun and I welcomed ten Supper Club members to our home in May. We all enjoyed a delicious selection of mains and desserts, during and after which there was much chatter on many subjects, and needless to say, some reminiscing. To test everyone's recognition and memory I produced a picture quiz. One or two members were very pleased with themselves as they recognised some quite obscure celebrities!

June's hosts will be Pat Boot and Katie & Howard. **Linda Griffin**

### **Reading Group - Co-ordinator Joyce Cairney.**

The book we discussed at our May meeting was called "our Man In Havana" by Graham Green. This book had mixed reception. The story was based on a German "handler" during the Cold War. Some did not like the book felt it was a satire but not funny some felt it was a "punishment" to have to read it! The plus was that the punctuation was good and no bad language which was a pleasant change! Some of us found it funny and cleverly written, a black comedy based on the reign of Baptista.

At the June meeting we will be discussing books that each person has chosen to read themselves. I chose a book called "Where the Lost Wander" a totally different book to my normal choice and I am looking forward to promoting it to the rest of the group. **Joyce**

**History Group – Co-ordinator Linda Patton -** no meeting in May due to Bank Holiday.

### **Music and Memories Group 1 – Co-ordinator Gwenda Jones**

We are at the moment at full capacity but would take members names for a waiting list. On May 7th Dilys will be our host. **Gwenda**

### **Poetry Group - Coordinator Elizabeth Wilson**

We brought a selection of poems which appealed to us, though not necessarily with any particular theme. There was a wonderful selection from Pam Ayers to William Wordsworth, covering intrigue, cats (dead and alive), the Kray Sisters and chocolate cake. If you think you may like to listen to some poetry, please come and join us. The poetry is very accessible. Linda can give you the contact details. We next meet on Wednesday June 5th at 2:00pm at Brian Fowler' home. **Glenys**

### **Short Walks Group – Co-ordinators Fay Goodwin/Lyn Foxwell**

The weather was against us again as well as being half term (mind you there was plenty of room on Coventry Rd carpark!) After some deliberation Jeanne and Lynne very kindly offered to go to Fosse Meadows on the off chance anyone went straight there. However by 10.30 they decided to try to walk a little but had to turn back as the gravel and cinder path was muddy and it started to rain AGAIN! We will attempt this walk next month 25th June , weather permitting. Meet at Coventry Rd at 10.00 am **Fay**

**Jazz Group – Co-ordinator James Davey – no meeting this month.**

### **Topical Discussion Group - Co-ordinator: Richard Whittington**

1.Should you be allowed to cross the road whatever the circumstances? Or can it be racial discrimination?

This was regarding the Jewish gentleman who wanted to cross the road through a pro-Palestinian demonstration. The argument between the policeman and the man in question lasted for about 15 minutes. The man was clearly Jewish as he was wearing a yarmulke. What would have happened if he had been allowed to cross and either himself or a demonstrator had been injured or killed? This all revolves around the problem of Palestine and Israel which Hamas are using as a weapon against Israel? The almost total destruction of the Gaza strip is impossible to justify as was the Hamas attack against Israel and the taking of hostages. It is also the case that Iran is using Gaza as a proxy although the conflict between themselves and Israel has quietened. Should a policeman always be obeyed or is this now difficult after some recent police crimes?

2.Can you be impartial and how easy is it to test someone's impartiality?

This was the problem facing the judge in the Donald Trump trial. The jurors were faced with a questionnaire with 42 very long questions on all aspects of their lives. Is it possible to be completely impartial, we all have some 'unconscious bias 'and may not realise it. How much education did we have, in what subjects. What gender are we. What race are we? What religion are we? There are so many factors that will affect our impartiality that make impartial decisions very difficult to achieve without specialist training.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday June 5<sup>th</sup>. **Richard**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Walking Group– Co-ordinators Sue and Peter Creedon –29<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

This was George Robertson`s second attempt at leading this walk. We were scheduled to do it last week but it was raining "cats and dogs" and despite 11 walkers turning up it was agreed to cancel it. We still do have some sense in our old age!

So today 13 walkers turned up to give it another go. We were rewarded with a lovely dry morning, a bit of sunshine and English countryside at its best.

George led us off from The Pheasant in Withybrook up Main Street but not taking the planned route because the field was too muddy to join another field path and then onto a minor road and then the lane towards Hopsford Hall. We stopped for an early break before continuing on to go under the railway line and the Hopsford Aqueduct. We then climbed a steep staircase (the hand rail of which was missing at the top at the critical point where the steps disappeared) to join the Oxford Canal towpath. The canal was quite busy. As we entered a cutting we could see high up a bridge that crossed the canal and the railway line. It was a fair old climb up a well-maintained staircase to get onto the bridge. After getting our breath back we crossed it to join the driveway towards Mobbs Hill Farm. Leaving the driveway we got onto a footpath crossing two well maintained stiles and also encountering a small herd of extremely frisky bullocks. We then passed through Mobbs Wood to reach a lane that took us back to the pub at Withybrook.

This was a shortish walk but it was a delight to walk. Pleasant company, stunning landscape and very varied terrain. Thank you George. You found a gem of a walk that will be high on my list of walks to repeat. **Peter**

### **Wednesday 26 June 2024**

Walk Organisers:- Rawdon Bottom & Stephen Carter

Meeting Point and Time For Lifts:- Lutterworth Recreation Ground car park at 09.20am to leave at 09.25am.

Start Point and Time: Fosse Meadows Country Park (LE10 3AB), Roman Road, near Frolesworth, around the notice board. There is a Portaloo.

Directions to start:- From Lutterworth head out through Bitteswell and Ashby Parva to Frolesworth. Go through Frolesworth towards Sharnford. After 0.8miles approx. you will reach a crossroads. Turn left and then after 0.4miles approx. take the first Fosse Meadows car park on your right.

Route and Distance:- We set off to Frolesworth on a footpath across fields that are planted in rape but are passable and hopefully by the end of June should no longer be flowering. We then get onto the Leicestershire Round to Claybrooke Grange,

Claybrooke Mill and Claybrook Magna. Leaving the round we walk down the hill to the Pig in Muck. Then walking down Manor Road we pick up the footpath back towards the old Fosse Way and back to Fosse Meadows car park. Distance 5 miles approx. and no stiles

Lunch Arrangements - No pub venue has been arranged but there is the Mason`s Il Cappo Del Caffè Coffee Van based at the car park serving a selection of hot and cold drinks and snacks. **Peter**

### **Scrabble Group - Co-ordinator Glenys Peverley**

There will NOT be a session in June as very few people are available. We will meet on July 17th at Glenys'. **Glenys**

### **New Age Kurling Group – Co-ordinators, Trish and Alan Green, Maggie, Sue, Lynne and Kathy**

New Age Kurling group runs the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at Ullesthorpe village hall. New members always welcome – come along for an afternoon of fun. **Margaret**

### **Canasta Groups 1 and 2 – Co-ordinator June Hartopp**

Both Groups now meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, Canasta 1 from 10am-12noon, Canasta 2 from 2-4pm both at June's house. **June**

### **Petanque – Co-ordinators Sue Sharp and Rae Flowerday**

1st May brought 20 members to play Petanque. Our next meeting is on May 15<sup>th</sup> **Sue Sharp** Only five members came on the 15<sup>th</sup>, due to the clash with the U3a holiday, but great fun was had by all with honours even. **Pauline Elliott**

### **Art Appreciation – Co-ordinators Rae Flowerday and Sue Woodhead**

#### **Jan Van Eyck and Northern Renaissance**

Art in the Netherlands in the 15C went hand in hand with economic and political factors. With the production of trade in art, it benefited greatly from politics of the time. Jan Van Eyck (1390-1441) is one of the most famous artists of the Northern Renaissance. Van Eyck served as a diplomat and painter and his art was known and collected throughout Europe. Although he did not invent oil paint, he employed it with great skill. Van Eyck's "The Gwent Alter piece" (1432) a polyptych painting in oil. Opened it measures 12' by 17'. By using the new invention of oil paints Van Eyck was able to paint more slowly, adding details more easily, than working with tempera. The Gwent altar piece offered him greater transparency and brilliant colour. The effect of light and shade, reflection and atmosphere gave Van Eyck more possibilities to create a great illusion of realism, which he did to perfection, making The Gwent Alter piece, the most famous of all Alter Pieces.

After coffee we looked at the Serenity in the landscapes of Poussin, Claude, Watteau. All three were French artists who moved to Rome. Yet not that familiar to the group, it became apparent that Claude's most wonderful landscape became the favourite for discussion.

Meeting in June has changed, as we will be small in numbers, we meet at Penny's. Meeting in July will be hosted by Sue and Gordon **Rae**

### **Music Appreciation Group - Co-ordinators John Peverley and Tony MacDonald**

Our May meeting was hosted by Alan, whose theme was Rivers and how they had inspired different styles of writing music. The programme started with the Florida suite by Delius. We learnt that Frederick Delius lived by the river in the Orange Grove in Florida, the music created the feeling of a flowing river. This was followed by a German folk song called 'Die Loreley' which relates the legend of a beautiful girl who threw herself into the Rhine river in despair over a faithless lover. The girl then transformed into a siren who lured fishermen to destruction, it is said she sat on a rock on a bend in the river. We were then taken to Russia where we were treated to a rendition of the Volga Boat song by a choir of soldiers in the uniform of the Red Army. We then listened to Barcarolle by Offenbach, this piece had been inspired by Italian gondoliers, it was beautifully sung by two mezzo sopranos.

Our next river was the Vitava in Prague and a piece composed by Smetana 'Ma Vlast', portraying the moods of the river. We heard music by English composer George Butterworth which evoked pastoral scenes of the banks of river and gently swaying willow. This was followed by Peter Dawson singing Old Father Thames. We were then transported across the pond to music by Frederick Grofe and his Hudson River suite. We had a flavour of New York in the background, a very atmospheric piece that made you feel you were being swept along by the river. The programme ended with The Blue Danube waltz by Strauss.

We were treated to delicious refreshments in the interval provided by Linda. We all agreed that it had been a very entertaining programme and very thoughtfully constructed. Thank you Alan. Our next meeting on June 20th is being hosted by John. **Judith Combellack**

### **Quiz Group – Co-ordinator Glenys Peverley**

Susan set an interesting quiz although there were reduced numbers to enjoy it. We had to identify hats, know our capital cities, and think about science, nature and geography. Next month's quiz is on Thursday June 13th at Bitteswell village hall at 2:00pm. Please, just turn up if you think you'd like to give us a try. **Glenys**

## Music and Memories 2 - Co-ordinator Eve Jackson

Our meeting in May was again a small group., - we were very pleased to see Brian and know that he is now able to join us again on a regular basis  
Our music was a very varied selection., including single vocalists and orchestral pieces, and it is amazing where the time goes.. Although we are often a small group, like Gwenda's group, we can't accommodate any new people at the moment. When everyone on my list is able to come it is almost "standing room only" !! Happy to have a waiting list if anyone is interested in joining us ( first Thursday of every month at 2 pm at my house.) **Eve**

## Photography Group – Co-ordinator Alan Shean



We went to Stanford church for our June meeting. It is a very old, largely unrestored church with many very impressive monuments to the Cave family, residents of the nearby Stanford Hall. We took many pictures of the architectural details, medieval stained glass and interesting fittings and furnishings. The attached pictures were taken by Nick and Sue. The church is generally closed so thanks to Lynne for arranging for it to be opened for us and for providing refreshments. **Alan**

## Ten pin bowling - Co-ordinator: Richard Whittington

The next session will be on Friday June 14<sup>th</sup>. **Richard**

## Bridge – Co-ordinator Kathy Scott-Simons

The Bridge Group now meets fortnightly at June Hartopp's home as from the 19th January. If members need to know the address they contact Linda Patton via the website. **Kathy Scott-Simons**

## Birdwatching Group – (Co-ordinator Ann Fletcher)

We had a quiet day at Brandon Marsh, although we still managed to spot 28 different species. Managed to pick up many different bird songs on our Merlin App such as Willow and Garden Warblers, Blackcap and Cuckoo. The highlight was a good sighting of a female Marsh Harrier.



The next meeting will be on Friday 28th June . We meet up at the 9.30 at the Recreation car park with your pack up. New members are always very welcome to join us. **Ann**

**Garden Group – Co-ordinator Linda Patton -**

Our next visit, on Thursday June 6th is to The Old Rectory at Quinton. **Linda**

**Singles Lunchtime Dining Group – Co-ordinator Brian Fowler -** no report

**New Adventure Group – Co-ordinator Ken Patton**



Only a small group of 8 made the journey to Mallory Park on Bank Holiday Monday for their Motor Cycle Race Event.

The weather was warm and after a small delay caused by an accident on the first practice race, all went well with plenty of races for different sized engines and also some with sidecars. There are plenty of good viewpoints around the circuit and we all had a good day. Exciting to watch but not to participate in.

The next outing for the group is to Holme Pierrepont on Wednesday 19th June when 14 hardy souls will climb aboard rafts and travel through the White water. Details will follow. **Ken**

**Golf Group – Co-ordinators Ken Patton and Mike Harrison -**

The second golf day of 2024 will be at Whetstone Golf Club on Wednesday July 10th. As we feared Lutterworth Golf Club was too expensive for us. We shall meet at 11 am for bacon rolls and coffee with tee-off times starting at 12 noon. Buggies should be available this time at £15 each.

There will be a meal afterwards with a choice of main course between Lasagne, Cajun Chicken or Steak Pie followed by Fruit Crumble.

The cost of the golf is £22.50 and the meal costs £13.50, a total of £36. Of course, friends and partners are welcome to join us for the meal at 5.30 pm. **Ken**

**MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

**HOPING TO JOIN LUTTERWORTH U3A?**

If any members have friends who are interested in joining us, please give details of their address, telephone number and email address to our membership secretary, Peter Williamson.

<b>CURRENT COMMITTEE</b>	
<b>Post</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chair	Glenys Peverley
Vice-chair	June Clayton (temp)
Secretary/ Minutes Secretary	Linda Griffin
Treasurer/ Membership Secretary	Peter Williamson
Social Account Treasurer	Shirley Tegg
Newsletter Editor	Pauline Elliott
Online Coordinator	Roy Maiden (not on Committee)
Programme Secretary	Linda Patton
Groups Coordinator	Linda Patton
Committee Member	Lynne Grindlay
Committee Member	Frances Blythe
Committee Member	Caren Simpson
Co-opted member	Mick Barrows (Equipment Organiser)
Committee member	Nicky Turner-Powell

**MONTHLY MEETINGS AT WYCLIFFE ROOMS - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 09.45am**

#### **FORTHCOMING SPEAKERS –**

**June** - Bharat Patel - Behind the scenes as a TV journalist and his autobiography.

**July** – no meeting - day out to Burghley

**August** – no meeting U3A picnic

#### **NEWSLETTER BY POST; E-MAIL or ONLINE**

If you change your e-mail address, please let me know so that you do not miss out on your newsletter. Photos are welcome but please can they be sent to the Editor as a .jpeg if possible. Please contact Pauline if you need a newsletter posted or e-mailed. **Contact details: [Lutterworth.u3a@gmail.com](mailto:Lutterworth.u3a@gmail.com)**

The newsletter is available on our website: <https://lutterworthu3a.com> - click on the Newsletters tab at the top of the page. Please ensure group notices and any other news entries are submitted **before** the 29<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Always check online for possible timing variations.**

**Please remember to update your online Group page in order to keep your group members and potential new members informed.**

#### **CONTACTING GROUP LEADERS**

**Group leaders have been asked to contact their current group members to provide contact details.**

**Please use the contact page on the website - <https://lutterworthu3a.com> to send a message to the Groups Coordinator or the Membership Secretary or any Group Leader. Personal contact details are not being displayed in the newsletter in line with u3a Trust guidelines.**



