
Leicester Newsletter

October 2024



Two of Natures beauties

by Tony Locke

AND

A picture of a Two-tailed Pasha (Charaxes jasio) butterfly, which landed on the banana I was eating on a beach in Sardinia in the spring

By Speranza Downs



Find our new website at <https://leicester.u3asite.uk>

If this link does not open, just copy, and paste it into your browser.

CONTENTS

Page

Membership Information	3
Message from the Chair – Neil Taylor	3
Programme – Monthly meetings	
August Garden Party Report	3
September Report	4
October	4
November	4
All members Coffee Morning	4
Wellbeing & Hospitality	4
News from the Groups Coordinator – Sue Took	5
Reports from Groups and from Individuals	5
Puzzle Corner	8
About the newsletter	9
Puzzle Solution	10

For news from the Third Age Trust, you can sign up for your own Trust newsletter at:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/newsletter#signup>

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: - Angie Barnes, Membership Secretary

Membership has stayed the same this month at 367.

I am sad to report that three members have passed away since the last newsletter. Eileen Breathwick, Christine Box, who resigned last year due to ill health, and Ute Foggensteiner.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR – Neil Taylor

Hi everybody. Thank you first of all to all of you who have booked places at our Christmas Lunch 2024, at Taste Leicester College, on Friday 29th November at noon. The welcome and service is always first class at Taste, and is sure to be once more this year.

Can I also announce a change to the date of our Christmas Party from the one I put in last month's message. Our get together this year will now take place on Friday 13th December, at Christchurch, Clarendon Park. Expect Christmas fare in abundance... and one or two surprises! More details to follow – but now back to the autumn! Best wishes, Neil

PROGRAMME

General meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month and start at 2:30 p.m. The doors open to members at 2:00 p.m.

August Garden Party

by Glyn Bray

On Tuesday August 20th, Leicester U3A held its annual summer garden party at the Quakers Meeting House in Queens Road. There were a few worried faces during the morning as the weather was a bit dull and wet but the afternoon turned out to be a lot warmer and quite pleasant.

There was an excellent turnout and members were treated to a wonderful selection of buffet food with some inventive (non-alcoholic) cocktails to wash it down.

With some background music, it was good to see everyone relaxing and enjoying themselves chatting to friends. I think people left being very happy with the whole day. Many thanks to the committee for making it happen and roll on the Christmas lunch.

September Meeting Report

In September Keith Brown gave a very interesting talk on the workings of the Air Ambulance Service. The service does great work in the Midlands, and has an excellent record of critical care and saving lives. It has 4 fully equipped helicopters which are staffed by a pilot, doctor and a fully trained paramedic and they are called out to major incidents when necessary. It has averaged 80 incidents a month with each incident averaging £2000 and yet it gets no government funding at all and relies on public and charitable donations. On average it only takes about 15 minutes from the receiving of a call to arriving at the incident which is astonishing. There are 57 Air Ambulance charity shops in the Midlands (with more planned) so if you pass one and support it in any way, you can be assured it is going to a very deserving cause.

October 8th 2024 Rebecca Hale Leicester Cathedral Highlights

November 12th 2024 Mr J Goddard – Treating Service Personnel during WW1

ALL MEMBERS COFFEE MORNINGS: *Sandra Barker – Hospitality and Wellbeing* Coffee mornings continue to be well attended and enjoyable. They are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 10.00 am onwards at the Quaker Meeting House, Queen's Road. Why not join us for refreshments, friendship, and chat?

Wellbeing and Hospitality - Enabling everyone to take part
Is there anything that prevents you from fully participating?
Christchurch is fully accessible with disabled facilities.
Members of the Wellbeing & Hospitality team (easily recognised wearing blue/ yellow sashes) are there if you need to have an end of row/front seat. If there is anything else we can do that enables you to take part, please tell us. If you would prefer to talk to someone before you attend, then please give Angie Barnes a call and, if you have any suggestions, we'd be very happy to hear them.
membership@leicesteru3a.org.uk

Also, if you know of any member who is unwell or has suffered a loss, then please tell Elizabeth Hassall, a member of the Wellbeing team, and she will send a card. cards@leicesteru3a.org.uk

NEWS FROM Margaret Potter on behalf of THE GROUPS COORDINATOR Sue Took

The Convenors meeting is planned for Wednesday 23rd October at the Craddock Arms at 12 noon. If you did not receive your invitation, or, have not yet replied, please let Sue know if you can attend ASAP. groups@leicesteru3a.org.uk

New Groups – There have been no new groups formed this month.

Updates to Groups Irish Language group has a new convenor, Carmel Davison. She can be contacted on the usual email irish@leicesteru3a.org.uk The contact list will be updated with her telephone number in due course.

The proposed Italian group has not yet taken off. If you are interested please email italian@leicesteru3a.org.uk and this will go to Sue and I for the interim.

REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Bus pass tour is going to Nottingham on Tuesday 22nd October, if anyone is interested please can you get in touch with Sue Took on groups@leicesteru3a.org.uk for details.

Medieval People

by Barbara Russell

In July a number of us from u3a Medieval People group arranged to meet at Longthorpe Tower near Peterborough for a one hour guided tour. This is a medieval solar tower built in the C13. What makes it so remarkable is the amount of medieval wall painting still surviving. The tower, although built in the style of an earlier defensive tower, was purely domestic, for the enjoyment of the family and to show off their wealth and status in the community.

The middle room of the tower was the most important, reached now by an outside wooden staircase. All four walls and ceiling were originally covered by rich colourful paintings and designs like a wall tapestry showing aspects of medieval life, from the relationship the wealthy family had with the king, and religious texts, to pictures of everyday life in the countryside. These were all hidden when the walls were lime washed centuries ago, and only recovered when the



walls were deep cleaned after the last war. As soon as the first hint of painting was revealed the experts were called in and they were able to reveal the true richness of what is remaining for us to see. A lot has been lost and much of what is left is fading on exposure to the light so we are lucky to see it as it is now. The Tower is unique and attracts historians from around the world.

We finished the day by visiting the nearby St. Botolph's Church which is also a building of historic interest. Thanks to Gerri Unsworth for initiating this visit.

Picture from advertising material

Science & Technology

by Anthony Matthew

Several members of the Science and Technology group visited the Lapworth Museum of Geology (<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/facilities/lapworth-museum>) at the University of Birmingham on 29th August. It was a simple journey since there is a railway station at the edge of the campus, with just a change at New Street. The museum is named after Charles



Lapworth the first professor of geology at Mason College, a forerunner of the university. It is now housed in a section of the imposing Aston Webb building, erected in 1880 in a Byzantine style.

As well as a comprehensive collection of rocks, the museum has many fossils on display, in some cases replicas such as the dinosaur which attracts attention as soon as you enter. Many of the exhibits were found in the Midlands, Wenlock Edge being an important source as well as coalfields. A series of displays shows the geological history of the earth in terms of the species that inhabited it, not only as fossils but with a number of computer-generated videos showing the behaviour of ichthyosaurs or mammoths.

We came away with our knowledge of geology increased a little, but fortunately there is no test to determine how many of the names of epochs we had learned with their order, dates and the species that were prevalent in them.

Digital Photography



At the recent meeting of the Digital Photography Group the theme was "Work". *Photo by Cliff Ault*



And one from Irene Ault (with Cliffs permission!)

COLD! Are you one of those who will be affected by the loss of the winter fuel payment? If so the following press release was issued recently. Contact Age UK for more details. **"AGE UK LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND RAISES MORE THAN £16,500 FOR LOCAL OLDER PEOPLE AFTER WINTER FUEL PAYMENT QUASH"**

PUZZLE CORNER A Sudoku (created by Cliff Ault – Member Cryptic Crossword Group) **Solution on page 10**

			3			2		
	8			2				5
				6		1		
8			7	3				
		7	1				4	
	6	3			8			
	3		5		2	4	9	
		6		7	3			
4							5	

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

Delivery

The newsletter is normally printed for those who prefer a hard copy; it is available on a first come first served basis at the monthly meeting and coffee morning. If you would like a hard copy but cannot make these events the Membership Secretary is happy to send a copy by post to anyone who sends her a supply of stamps and their full address. It will, also, continue to be delivered to members by email as a pdf file before each monthly meeting.

Photos

Please remember to get permission from any people in your photos for us to publish them. This permission will be assumed if you send them to the editor.

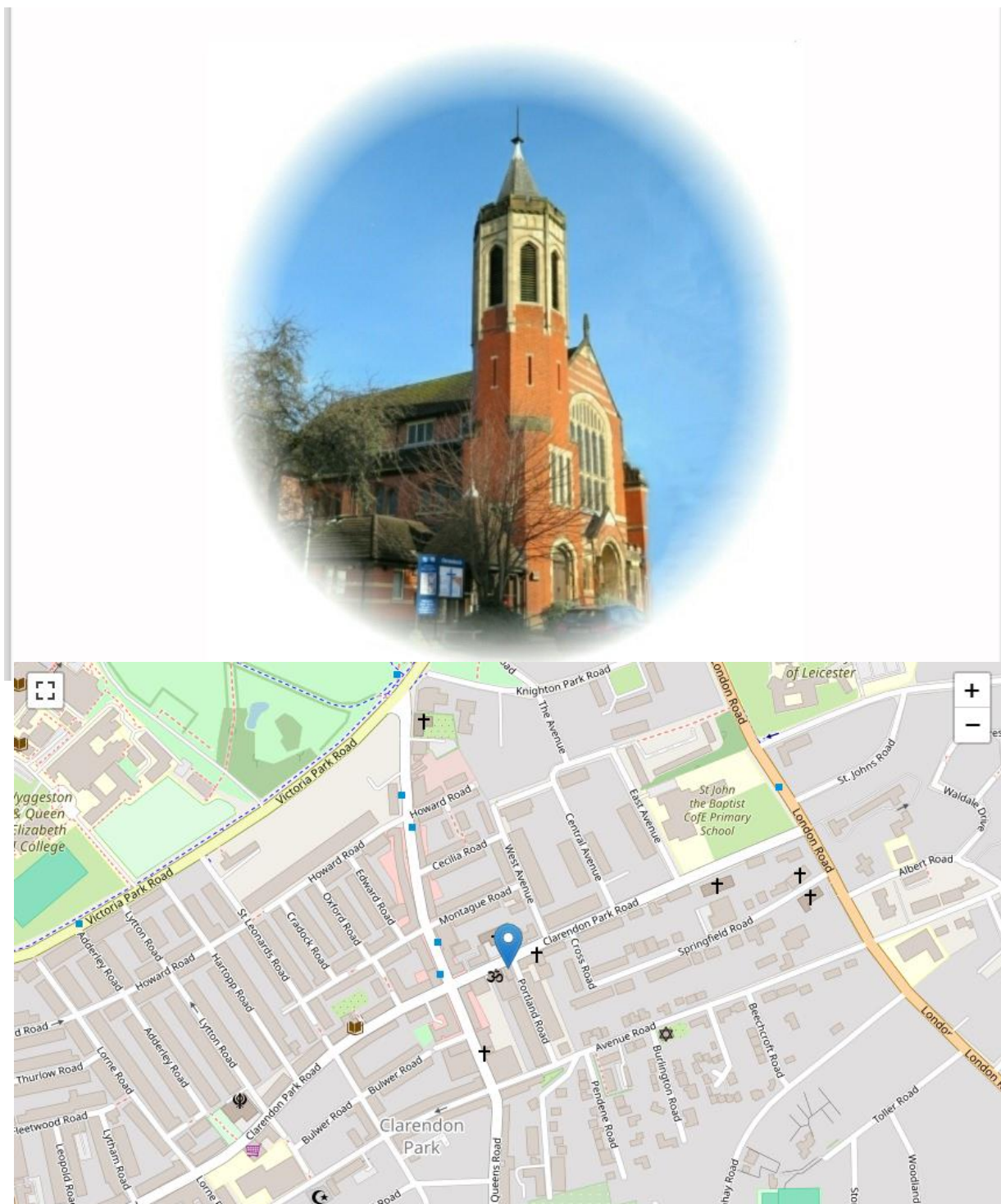
The deadline for items to be included in the next newsletter which will be in November is mid-day Friday 25th October 2024.

Thank you to all who have contributed over the months and years. As this month's edition is smaller than usual (possible because of holiday season) let's have a bumper bundle for November. What about some from the August garden party?

Contributions should be sent to the Editor Margaret Potter at: newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk if you want to submit your entry as hard copy, please contact Margaret or the Membership Secretary, Angie Barnes, for the postal address. membership@leicesteru3a.org.uk

SUDOKU SOLUTION

6	7	9	3	5	1	2	8	4
1	8	4	9	2	7	6	3	5
3	2	5	8	6	4	1	7	9
8	4	1	7	3	5	9	6	2
2	5	7	1	9	6	3	4	8
9	6	3	2	4	8	5	1	7
7	3	8	5	1	2	4	9	6
5	9	6	4	7	3	8	2	1
4	1	2	6	8	9	7	5	3



Leicester u3a meets at 2:30pm on the second Tuesday of each month (except August and December) at Christchurch, Clarendon Park Road, LE2 3AH, and there are special interest groups that meet regularly in members' homes and elsewhere. For more information, or to join, contact the membership secretary at membership@leicesteru3a.org.uk or telephone 0116 2152751

Edited by Margaret Potter, and printed by Lionheart Print at Beauchamp College, Oadby