

Leicester Newsletter

November 2024



Sea Breeze Cocktail to complement the colour of the Atlantic prior to hurricane Milton!
Photo by Pam Harrison

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

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

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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>

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Recently we have been experiencing a high number of emails sent out to members being missed as their service providers have tightened up on multiple addressee messages. PLEASE check your spam or junk folder regularly so that we can keep in touch.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: - Angie Barnes, Membership Secretary Membership stands at 368. By now you should have received your renewal form. If you haven't received your form please let me know by sending an Email to:
membership@leicesteru3a.org.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR – Neil Taylor

First of all, a big thank you to all the 100 members who have booked for the Christmas Lunch. A wonderful turn out for what promises to be lovely occasion, with fine food and great service.

A reminder also for the Christmas Party!
Arrangements are underway for our Christmas get together, on Friday 13th December at Christchurch. I will be in touch with you all soon about timings.

Tickets are £5.00, just to cover the costs of our catering - suitably Christmassy! Entertainment will be provided by the Great Glen U3A Ukulele group, and our very own Leicester U3A Guitar Players.

Looking forward to seeing you there, and at all our events!

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.

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 Meeting Report

by Glyn Bray

In October U3A were treated to a very entertaining talk on the history of Leicester Cathedral by the cathedral's Chief Guide Rebecca Hale. Rebecca was extremely knowledgeable and recounted how the original church was built in Roman times and is dedicated to St

Martin of Tours. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book and was extensively rebuilt in both medieval and Victorian times. The church was dedicated as a cathedral in 1927 when the diocese was recreated and, of course, is now the final resting place on Richard III. Rebecca also gave a quick resume of the significance and meaning of some of the stained glass windows. A fascinating talk by a well-informed speaker and one that was well received by the U3A audience

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

January 14th 2025 – This meeting is our renewal meeting where those who have not already done so can bring cash or cheque and renew their membership. As ever refreshments will be provided and it is a great opportunity to catch up with friends for a chat.

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 THE GROUPS COORDINATOR Sue Took

There are various groups that have been put on hold due to the lack of convenors or lack of members. If anyone is interested in joining a group or being a convenor please get in touch with Sue Took on groups@leicesteru3a.org.uk or come & talk to her at the monthly meeting or coffee morning.

Group Coordinator Meeting

Sue Took wishes to thank the 19 convenors who joined her at The Cradock Arms.

She introduced herself to the group & discussed any issues they might have. A New Convenors Pack will be updated & reissued in the New Year.

REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Architecture & Design – As promised in September's newsletter, some photos from the trip to Spalding organised by Veronica Matthew.



Ayscoughfee Hall
Tony Mitchell



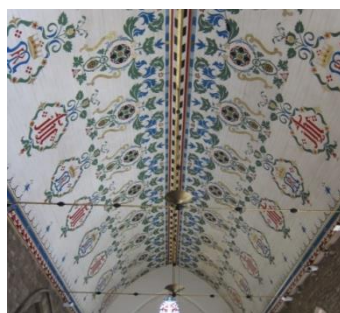
The Session House
prev. Magistrates Ct.
Tony Mitchell



Corbel in St Mary
& St Nicholas Church
Speranza Downs



Medieval stairs in
The hall



Roof of the Church
All by Tony Mitchell



Stained Glass in
the hall



LEFT TO RIGHT

The Hall gardens with Lutyan's War Memorial *Rachel Mason*

Small group guided by members of Spalding Civic Society in
the town centre *Tony Mitchell*

Another small group outside the Gentlemen's Society building, it
has the second oldest museum in the country and is the oldest
provincial learned society in Britain founded in 1710.

Anthony (Matt) Matthew

Italian Group

Graham Giblin is now thinking of re-activating this group. If you are
interested please contact him at italian@leicesteru3a.org.uk

Discussion Group – by a member

The topic for discussion in September was "Marriage – is it an
outdated institution?"

Henry Paulinski gave us lots of statistics as food for thought, before
putting forward a strong argument that it is as relevant today as it
has always been. Points raised included practical and financial -
inheritance, pensions and taxation, parental rights, security, and
trust. Religion and sanctity of marriage is inevitably part of any
debate on this topic. For all faiths sex before marriage is taboo and
an excellent observation that, with a growing number of people
belonging to non-Christian religions in the UK, one could argue that
the number of younger people getting married may start to rise
again in the future. Finally, the romantic among us expressed that
we truly valued the bond, the vows, the commitment, and the
sharing of everything, including a surname. I personally was jubilant
when my LGBT friends were finally granted the same right to choose
to marry their partners that had always been available to me.

Unfortunately, our advocate for the fact that marriage is an outdated institution couldn't make the meeting, but Michael Griffiths bravely stepped into the breach and argued that traditional roles in a still somewhat patriarchal society can lead to a waste of education and talent of some very bright young women, that it is nothing more than a contract, and an excuse for an expensive dress and party. Some reasons cited as grounds for divorce were also quoted. At the end of the session our usual vote led to just 2 people believing it to be a tradition that is outdated and will continue to decline. The overwhelming majority was still in favour of marriage and there was one abstention. We were, however, all agreed that it is simply an individual personal choice and must always remain so. Next month Glyn Bray and Alan Baker will be debating whether drugs for personal use should be legalised. I am sure that will be a lively hotly contested topic.

Future topics may include:

- Should vaccination be compulsory?
- Should animal testing be banned?
- Is it time to allow assisted dying?
- Should prostitution be legal?
- Is there life after death?
- Can war ever be justified?
- Has feminism done women any favours?
- Is Western civilization at an end?
- Should human cloning be legal? - And many more.



Suggestions from members are always encouraged.

Bus Pass Tours – trip to Market Harborough

On Thursday 12th September 2024 a small group from the bus pass group went to Market Harborough for the day. After a lovely stop for coffee when we got there, we had a walk around the town centre.

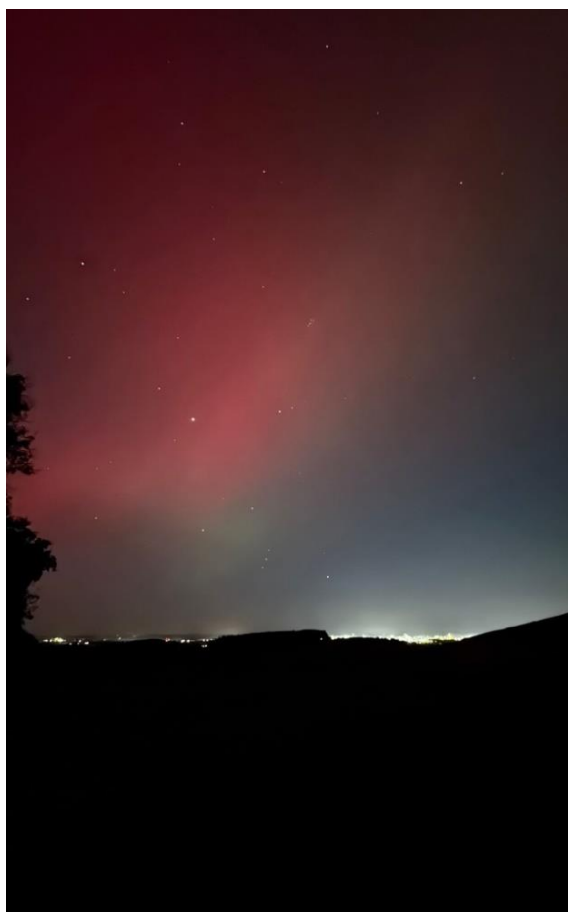
Then on Tuesday 22nd October 2024

We caught the bus from St Margarets Bus Station to Nottingham (changing at Loughborough).



We had coffee at 'Froffy Coffee' in the shopping centre. Afterwards the group split up, some went off to do some shopping and the others had a walk around the area of Nottingham where Lace would have been made

The group will be having a meeting after the monthly talk on Tuesday 12th November 2024 while having refreshments



NORTHERN LIGHTS?

For those of us who missed the display last month, Phil Proud offers these images from Bradgate Park.



Pop Up Beginners Ukulele - 4 sessions only

Would you like to learn the ukulele? It's a great little instrument that's very easy to learn because even with just a few chords there are lots of songs you can play. In just 4 sessions you'll find you can strum to several such as Amazing Grace, Sloop John B and Whiskey in the Jar.

You don't need any musical knowledge or a musical 'ear' and learning an instrument is often cited as something to keep our brains healthy as well as giving enormous pleasure. It's also lovely to play and spend time with others.

We'll start as soon as we've 2 people interested. Julia, who's just learnt said: 'I can't believe that from being a complete beginner I can now, after 4 sessions, play some tunes on my ukulele!'

You can contact me via the Groups page of the Leicester u3a website by sending me a message via popupukulele@leicesteru3a.org.uk Or email the Groups Coordinator groups@leicesteru3a.org.uk and she will forward it. I look forward to hearing from you!

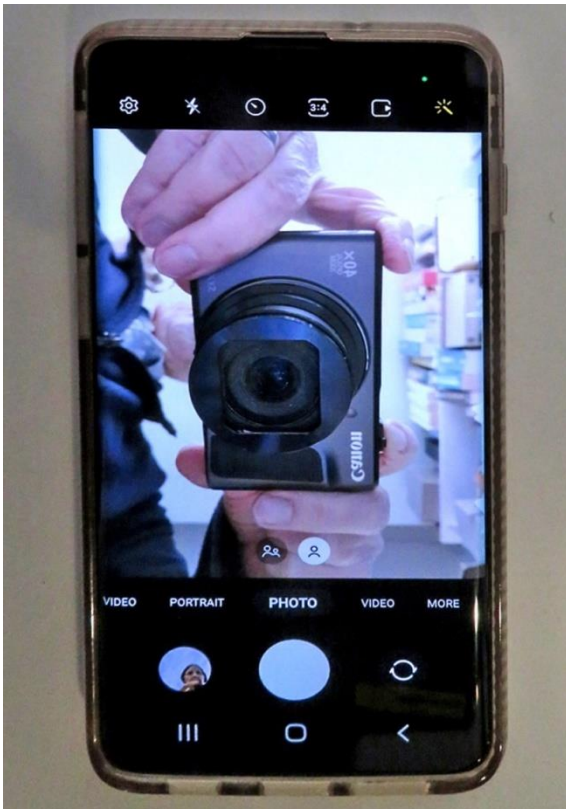


Sue Howard

Digital Photography

At the October meeting of the Digital Photography group the theme was "Technology".

Irene Ault offers her "Camera Selfie", -



and this one from Cliff Ault



HHCIB 2

Having a go at Archery was the October Hhcib2 meeting at the Outdoor Pursuits Centre. However it became indoor archery after the rain flooded the fields! This didn't deter us from having a good time and Angie proved a great archer having achieved four bullseyes in a row!

By Susan Miller



And the champion was

Classic Film Club

In September members of the classic film club met to watch Billy Liar.

Originally a novel by Keith Waterhouse which was adapted into a film, play, musical, and TV series.



The story is about William Fisher, a working-class 19-year-old living with his parents in the fictional town of Stradhoughton in Yorkshire. Bored by his job as a clerk for an undertaker, Billy spends his time indulging in fantasies and dreams of life in the big city as a comedy writer.

The film for October will be Rebecca. We are always open to new members & suggestions for films. If you are interested please email film@leicesteru3a.org.uk

CARTOON CORNER

Tony Locke





PUZZLE CORNER A Sudoku (created by Cliff Ault – Member Cryptic Crossword Group) **Solution on page 15**

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

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 January is mid-day Friday 27th December 2024.

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 address. membership@leicesteru3a.org.uk

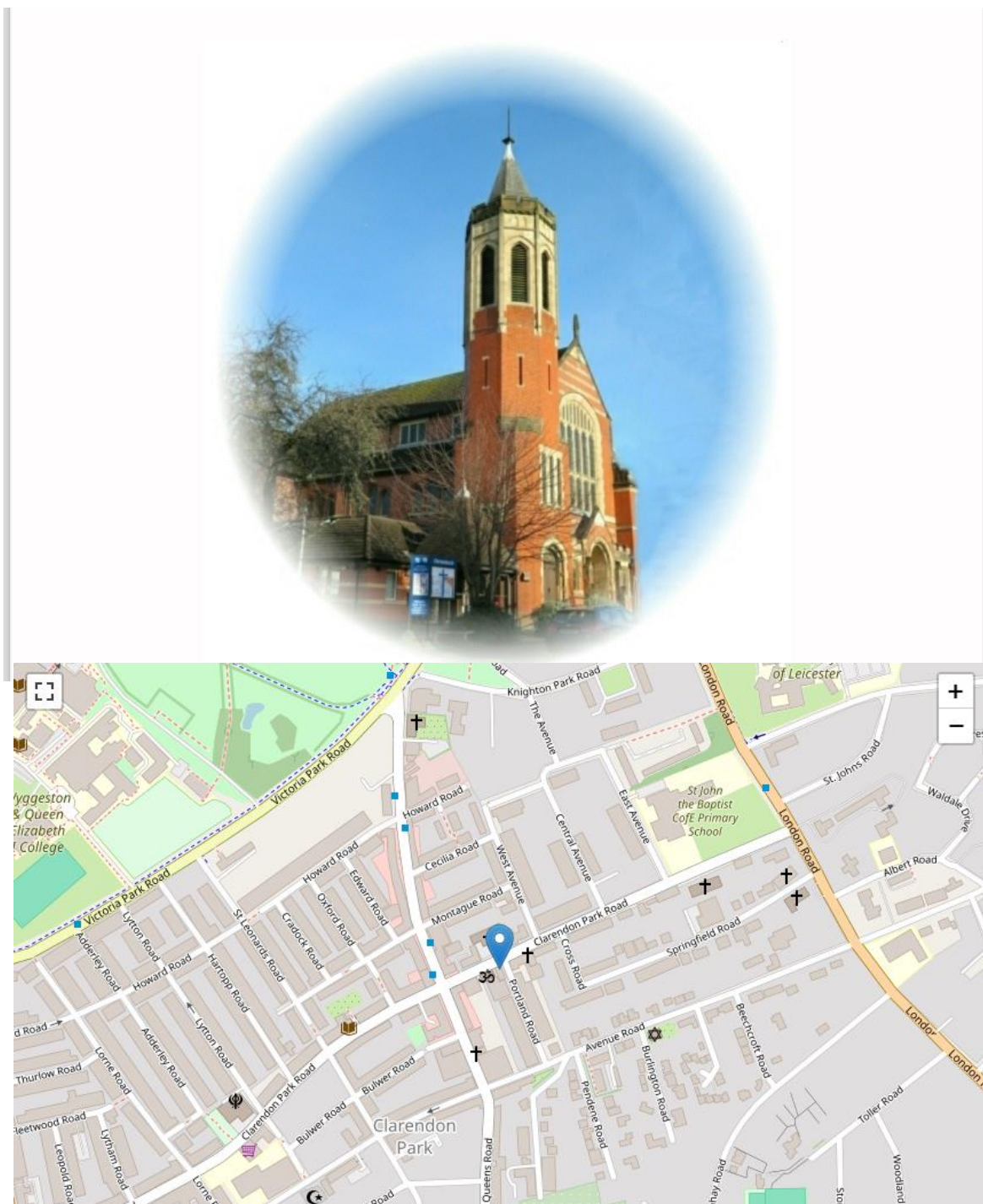
THIRD AGE TRUST

Are you aware of the learning opportunities offered on line by the Third Age Trust (TAT)? Check out

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events#Events>

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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



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