

Leicester Newsletter

April 2025



Come the spring, come the crocuses – theme Shadows by Jo Poon

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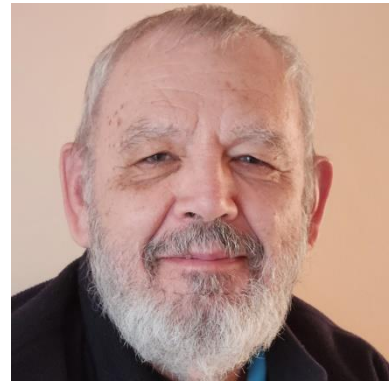
For news from the Third Age Trust, you can sign up for your own Trust newsletter at:

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION *from Angie Barnes, Membership Secretary.* membership@leicesteru3a.org.uk

Membership stands at 352 this includes 3 new members.

We are sad to announce the death of members Hazel Glendening (founder member), Yolande Courtney and Jane Kerwen. Also, of Dorli Meek, who was also a founder member before moving south about eight years ago to be near her family. We offer our deepest sympathy to all their families.



Neil Karen, Dave

Angie

Sue

**YOUR NEW
COMMITTEE
2025/26**

Sandra

Phil

Bob Glyn Pam



Key to the names and positions are on page 15

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR – NEIL TAYLOR

As I write it is the first day of spring: it has been, as Charles Dickens said, "One of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold; when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade." The sun has blessed us with its presence these last two weeks, the days are getting longer, and daffodils are out in the park. One of the best times of the year is upon us.

Truly a time to be out and about, and do keep an eye open for our upcoming trips and events. Please also suggest things to do in the coming months. The Committee would all be very interested to hear your ideas.

Readers of the Mercury will have noticed the recent article advertising our speakers at Christchurch each month - thanks to Glyn Bray for this and other publicity initiatives.

Have you read any good books lately? Or have favourite books you think other people might like to read? We are starting a book share at May's monthly meeting, alongside our regular speaker and refreshments. Bring along your books for others to try, and take away your choice from the available books on display.

So, as William Wordsworth nearly said:

"Now, when the primrose
Makes a splendid show
Put on, to welcome spring, our best attire."

Have a lovely month.

PROGRAMME

March Report -

By Glyn Bray

On 11th March the Leicester u3a held its AGM and it was good to see a healthy turnout from the Members.

The accounts were agreed, and ten volunteers were proposed and unanimously elected on to the committee for 2025/26. The meeting was followed by some excellent cakes and refreshments which everyone seemed to enjoy.

This is all good news, but it is worrying as regards the future. Committee members are only allowed to remain in post for maximum of 3 years at a time and several members will now be doing their third year in 2025/26 including the Chair. It can be seen then that unless some volunteers can be found during 2025 the Leicester u3a will find itself in danger in 2026 of not having enough Committee members to perform its duties. Nobody wants this to happen so everyone is encouraged to consider joining the committee and doing what they can to keep the Leicester u3a the friendly positive place it surely is. It's your u3a.

April 8th 2025 - Brian Johnson - Arthur Wakerley Architect, Politician, and Visionary Born 1862 in Melton Mowbray became one of Leicester's finest architects.

May 13th 2025 – Mike Burton – Shakespeare country, walking his Avon

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, Queens 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 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 Sandra Barker a call and, if you have any suggestions, we'd be very happy to hear them. wellbeing@leicesteru3a.org.uk

Also, if you know of any member who is unwell or has suffered a loss, then please tell Angie Barnes and she will send a card. Send your notices to - cards@leicesteru3a.org.uk .

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR - Sue Took

We are in the process of starting some new groups:-

Modern Movie Club will hold an introduction meeting at the end of April's monthly meeting.

Recorder Group will be holding an introduction meeting at April's coffee morning at The Friends Meeting House.

Keep Fit

French Conversation 2

Some groups are looking for new members & convenors:-

Ten Pin Bowling, SWANNS (Short walks and nearly no styles)

PATS (Parks & tea room strolls)

Please feel free to come along to these meetings or contact Sue Took on groups@leicesteru3a.org.uk

There are also changes to some groups:-

Spanish Conversation has changed their meeting date from Friday to the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

NB. You can go to our website (link on the front page) and under 'CALENDAR' you will find all the groups and their meeting dates and times for the following weeks.

Social Prescribing and Other Surprises *Tony Locke - Member*

In 2023, I wrote a piece about Social Prescribing, which I had seen in my GP Surgery. I joined an advertised watercolour painting course. I still attend the weekly classes, but also join the occasional Saturday one-day sessions run by Leicester Adult Education.

I learn different techniques. So, I've attached a composition I did at The Bishopdale Centre on 1st March, of sunflowers using Brusho. You may know it, but I didn't even know the name. It involves sprinkling minute crystals on wet paper. Patterns emerge very quickly and some, like the black, have multiple colours in them. Some patterns lent themselves to transforming into sunflowers with scratching movements to enhance the petal shapes and oil pastels to create the seed circles.

The other picture may show my "progress" as of 7th March in my weekly class. There is discussion about the work we have done, but most of the time there is silent dedication to painting.

March 8th was International Women's Day. I didn't know this until I arrived at another Bishopdale course - Life Drawing! We used the techniques of Tracey Emin and Jenny Saville. As you will have noticed, I have not included any of my efforts. I concluded they could be construed as desecrating the celebration.



*Editor's note -
Leicester u3a
has recently
joined 'Joy' -
social
prescribing
platform as well
as 'In Your Area'
- thanks to our
publicity
coordinator Glyn
Bray*

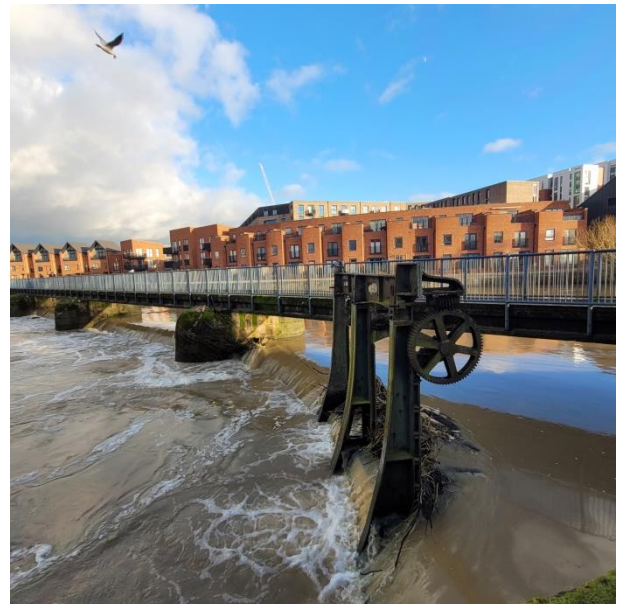


Digital Photography

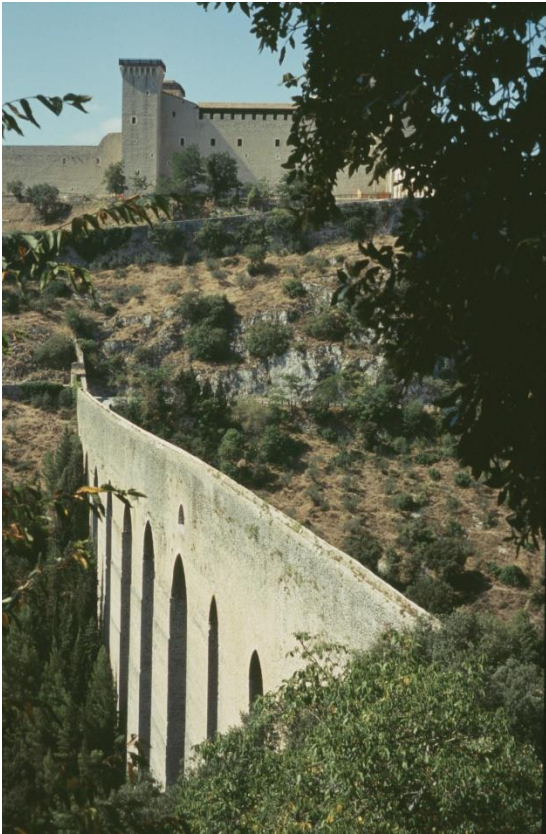
Last month's topic was 'bridges'. Here are two from Jo Poon.



Footbridge over disused basin
and former mill race, Frog Island



Footbridge over the River Soar
at Leicester Evans Weir



Roman aqueduct near
Spoleto in Italy



A chain link in the Union Bridge over
the Tweed. This was the first chain
link bridge to be opened in the world
in 1820 connecting Scotland and
England

Both from Cliff Ault

And from Irene Ault.... That same bridge over the Tweed from the
north bank.



Orienteering

Dave Barnes – Convenor

Orienteering is an exciting outdoor adventure sport which involves walking whilst navigating around a course using a detailed map and sometimes a compass. The aim is to navigate in sequence between a set of control points and decide the best route to complete the course in the quickest time.

We meet on the third Friday of each month at 2:00pm. Location varies. New members are welcome, so if interested email Dave at orienteer@leicesteru3a.org.uk .

SWANNS

Dave Barnes - Convenor

This is a group for people who love to walk, especially in beautiful surroundings, but would prefer a shorter, more manageable excursion. Our walks are usually around 2-3 miles, with as few stiles as possible. Members take it in turns to lead a walk, so there is currently no set day.

The walks usually start in the morning during the summer months only. If interested please email Dave at swanns@leicesteru3a.org.uk

MODERN MOVIES – NEW GROUP

There will be a planning meeting for anyone interested in modern movies after the next monthly meeting on Tuesday 8th April during coffee time. We already have co-convenors, Barbara Penrose & Karen Closs.

The aim of this group is to complement Classic Film Club, we will be careful not to overlap on either era or individual films. Our aim is to not show anything released prior to 1980 and if Classic Film Club goes beyond that we will be careful not to duplicate films. We will also show more recent films that you may have wanted to see but missed at the cinema.

If we have sufficient members to justify the cost, we will meet in the library at the Quakers Meeting House. We already have some ideas but would be interested to hear yours. Sound interesting? Please join Barbara next week to find out more.

PUZZLE CORNER A Sudoku (created by Cliff Ault – Member
Cryptic Crossword Group) **Solution on page 14.**

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

Note from the Editor - Registered blind? We can provide an A3 version for you. Please let me know so that I can arrange to get one printed for you each month.

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 May is mid-day Friday 25th April 2025.

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

Please note the deadline for submissions for the rest of the year is mid-day on:

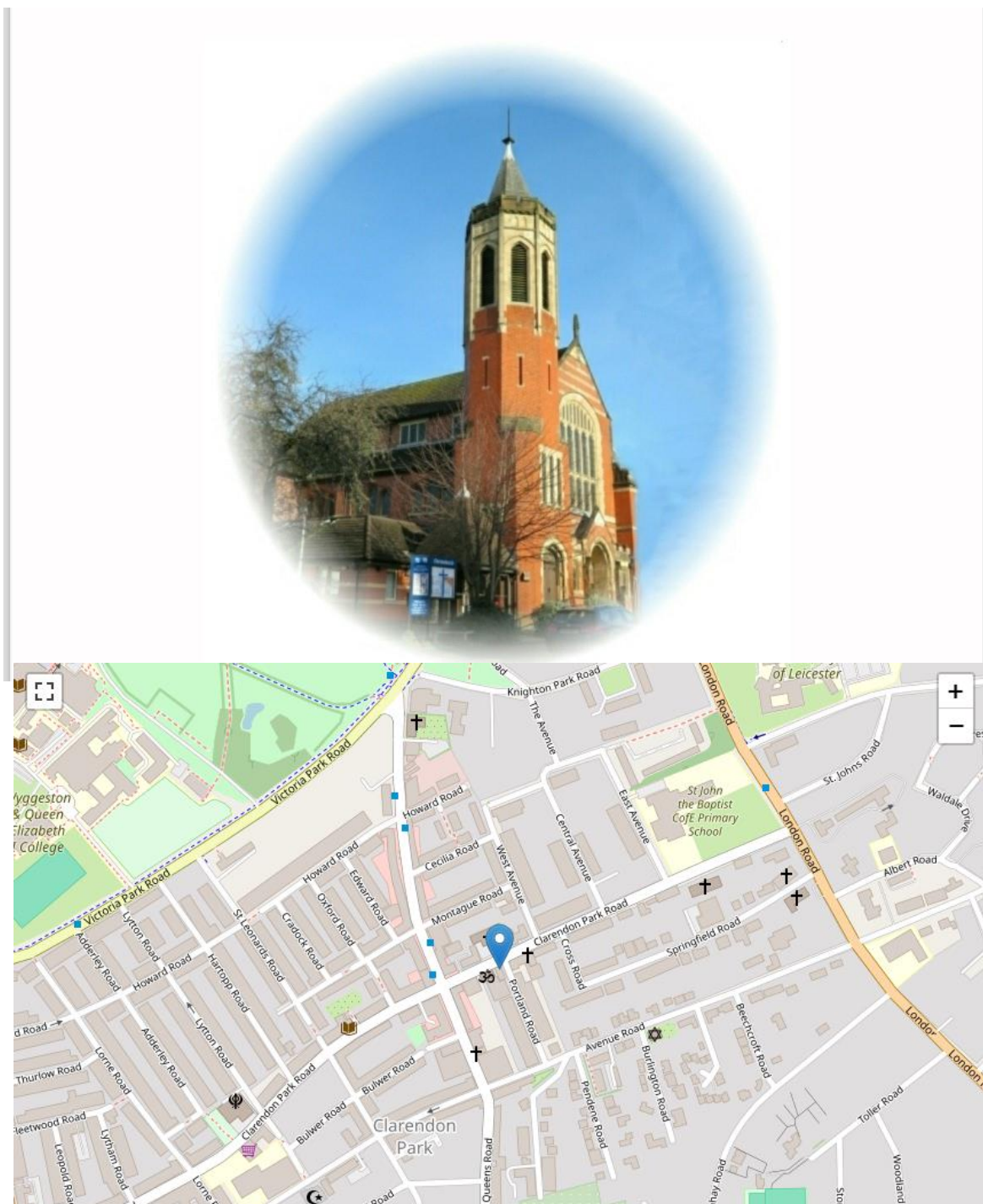
June	Friday 23 rd May
July	Friday 20 th June
September	Friday 22 nd August
October	Friday 26 th September
November	Friday 24 th October

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

Your 2025/26 Committee

Neil Taylor Chair chair@	Karen Closs Secretary secretary@	Dave Barnes Treasurer treasurer@ & Systems administrator systems@
Angie Barnes Vice-Chair vicechair@ & Membership Secretary membership@	Key to photographs on page 3 Emails are all @leicesteru3a.org.uk	Sue Took Groups Co-ordinator groups@ and Trips Co- ordinator trips@
Sandra Barker Wellbeing & Hospitality wellbeing@ & Meeting refreshments kitchen@		Phil Proud Committee Member, Audio Visual & Asset Holder pp.committee@
Bob Collins Member of Committee bc.committee@	Glyn Bray Member of Committee gb.committee@ & Publicity Coordinator publicity@	Pam Harrison Member of Committee ph.committee@



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