
Leicester Newsletter

October 2025



Dracula's castle, Transylvania *by Margaret Potter*

A topical subject as we approach Halloween?

Find our 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

The membership remains the same at 359. However we shall soon be approaching renewal time so watch out for the relevant paperwork

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR – Bob Collins

Hi everybody. The coach trip, organised by Sue Took, was a very enjoyable day at Charlecote Park, a National Trust property in the Cotswolds, with lovely weather.

Thank you all to you who have booked places at our Christmas Lunch at Taste Leicester College on Friday 28th November at noon. The welcome and service has always first class at Taste and is sure to be once more this year.

May I also remind you of our Christmas Party on Tuesday 9th 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, Bob

PROGRAMME

September Report -

By Glyn Bray

The U3A Speaker season recommenced in September with a visit from a local man called Andy Davies, who told of his life and career which led him from Kent to Leicester and resulted in him having a 25 year career with Radio Leicester! After choosing to come to Leicester University to study medieval history (after picking Leicester out of a hat) and gaining a degree he settled in the area and became a teacher. His main passion had always been radio and, after getting an introduction from a neighbour, he managed to get some unpaid work at Radio Leicester at the weekend and evenings, and made himself more and more useful. Eventually he was offered some paid duties and, from then on, progressed to getting his own show. He carried on until 2022 when he retired.

Andy told of the great changes in technology he had witnessed over the years as well as the memorable news stories that had occurred. These included the death of Princess Diana, the discovery of Richard III and his burial in Leicester Cathedral, and Leicester City winning the Premier League! A fascinating look at an interesting career.

October 14th 2025 – Tim Coltman - 'Bravery under Fire'

November 11th 2025 - Graham Williams - The World and Life of Bees

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 let us know and we will send a card. Send your notices to - cards@leicesteru3a.org.uk .

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS COORDINATOR - Sue Took
groups@leicesteru3a.org.uk

We are still looking for a member to help at various walking groups which at the moment are not running. If anyone might be interested, please let me know. I would also like to hear from anyone who is interested in joining any of the other groups we run. Many would like more members, so if anyone is interested in any of the following, let me know and I will send you details:-

Family History

Swans - a walking group

Cryptic Crossword - both groups

Recorder

Subject: Cryptic Crossword 2 group. This group is no longer active due to loss of members – however, the convenor Barbara Russell, the Convenor, hopes to reactivate the group in the autumn.

Cryptic Crossword 1 is also not active due to lack of members.

Recorder Group is now up & running. They are meeting in the convenor's home every 4th Friday of the month. If you're interested please let me know, or contact the convenor direct at recorder@leicesteru3a.org.uk

Editor's note: Please remember to let the newsletter as well as the groups coordinator know of any changes to your group organisation as this is how the membership find out about them .i.e. date, time, venue etc. NB. On our website (link on the front page) under 'CALENDAR' you will find all the groups and their meeting dates and times for the following weeks.

REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY The topic for September's meeting of the Digital Photography Group meeting in September was "Uniforms". This was deemed to be a difficult project to fulfil, but the six members who managed to attend (six others were unavoidably detained on other commitments) came up with a varied range of subjects from kilted highlanders to policemen on the beat.



Piper and
Station Master
*By Cliff Ault –
member*



A contingent of New York police ready to deal with any disorder.
From Anthony Matthew

Soldier with companion, Fort George near Inverness *from Irene Ault*



HHCiB

from Margaret Pearson

Last weekend (13th/14th September) some of our group took advantage of one of the Heritage Open Days events. We had a tour around Anstey Wallpaper Factory.

After being treated to free tea and coffee with biscuits and the obligatory health and safety talk, we began our tour wearing very fetching Hi Vis jackets.

We were all amazed at the varying techniques of ongoing production from original William Morris block printing, taking days to complete a roll, through to the new digital printing taking minutes.

We had two very informative guides answering so many questions, that our hour and a half ended up being nearly two hours long.

Here is a picture from of a machine from the late 1800s that is still in everyday use. We can thoroughly recommend a visit when the opportunity arises. It's a free event although booking is essential to reserve a place.





We met at the Outdoor Pursuits Centre on Loughborough Road for our September meeting of Bush Crafting. Our foraging walk through the Centre was really interesting and we got to taste

various things along the way, our favourite were the cherry plums. We learnt how to build a fire using Ferro rods, twigs and a handy cotton wool ball. Our attempts weren't very successful, however the instructor made a wonderful fire and boiled a kettle of nettle tea from our foraging walk and we even tried nettle crisps!

Bus Pass Tours – a catch up APRIL 2025 *by Judith Paulinska*

On a promising rainy/sunny day the Bus Pass Tour group set off for Oakham. We departed from the Haymarket Bus Station, destination: Uppingham, where we changed buses, cutting it really fine for a second bus to Oakham. All credit to Sue Took for calculating timings for the return journey options at different times of the afternoon, returning via Melton.

On arrival at Oakham refreshments were very much on everyone's mind, so our first stop was the George, a quaintly beautiful old hotel. A much-needed coffee quickly turned into a very tasty leisurely lunch, after which we came out to blue skies and sunshine.

Oakham, as many of you know, is the county town of Rutland, and its roots go back to Anglo-Saxon times and it even gets a mention in the Domesday Book of 1086. It has been a market town for centuries. A long-standing tradition relating to Oakham is the presentation of horseshoes to the lord of the manor, now the Duke of Rutland, by peers of the realm visiting the town. You can see some of these horseshoes on display in Oakham Castle, which some of our intrepid travellers visited. The delightful local shops were another attraction. By now it was time for CAKE!



I have to confess, I took the train back to Leicester to avoid the bus changes. Oakham station is not one of British Rail's finest: both the toilets and the station waiting room were locked and there was nowhere to purchase a relatively expensive single ticket back to Leicester. Nevertheless, another enjoyable day trip for the Bus Pass Tour group!
Photo by Ros Devine

In September the group had a lovely long bus trip to Derby, enjoying the lovely Leicestershire countryside. After lunch we walked around the shopping centre & town, meeting the Derby Ram.

Photo & report from Sue Took -Convenor



RECIPE CORNER

As stir up Sunday approaches in November, and for those of you who don't like the traditional Christmas pudding, Pam Harrison offers the following alternative

Iced Christmas Pudding

1/4 pint milk
4 oz. marshmallows
1 tea sp. Each of coffee and cocoa
2 oz. each of sultanas and raisins
2 oz. cherries
2 oz. chopped nuts
1/2 pint double cream

Method:

Soak dried fruit in sherry for 30 minutes

Put milk, marshmallows, coffee and cocoa in a saucepan

Heats gently until the marshmallows have melted. Then allow to cool.

Add fruit, cherries and nuts

Put in the freezer until SLIGHTLY thick

Remove and fold in cream

Put in basin and freeze. Take out of freezer shortly before serving and serve like icecream.

PUZZLE CORNER A Sudoku (supplied by Cliff Ault – Member)

Solution on page 15

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

Trip to Charlecote Park September 2025

by Ros Devine

Charlecote Park has a history going back to the 12th century, where the Lucy family have lived continuously, to this day. The surrounding grounds and parkland were designed by Capability Brown and the house was transformed into its current style, in the 1800's.

The remarkable collections in the house include beautiful carved furniture, amazing ornaments and many portraits of the Lucy family throughout the centuries. The ceilings are particularly stunning.

Looking at the collection of equipment in the large kitchen, made you realise how difficult life must have been for the cooks and domestic staff. Food was cooked on enormous ranges. Washing laundry was carried out in large tubs, and ironed using heavy irons of cast metal, which made up many of the saucepans. It was a wonderful day, strolling through the well maintained gardens, and seeing the resident deer. Many thanks to Sue Took for arranging this really enjoyable trip.





The park. *Photos by Carmel Davison*

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.

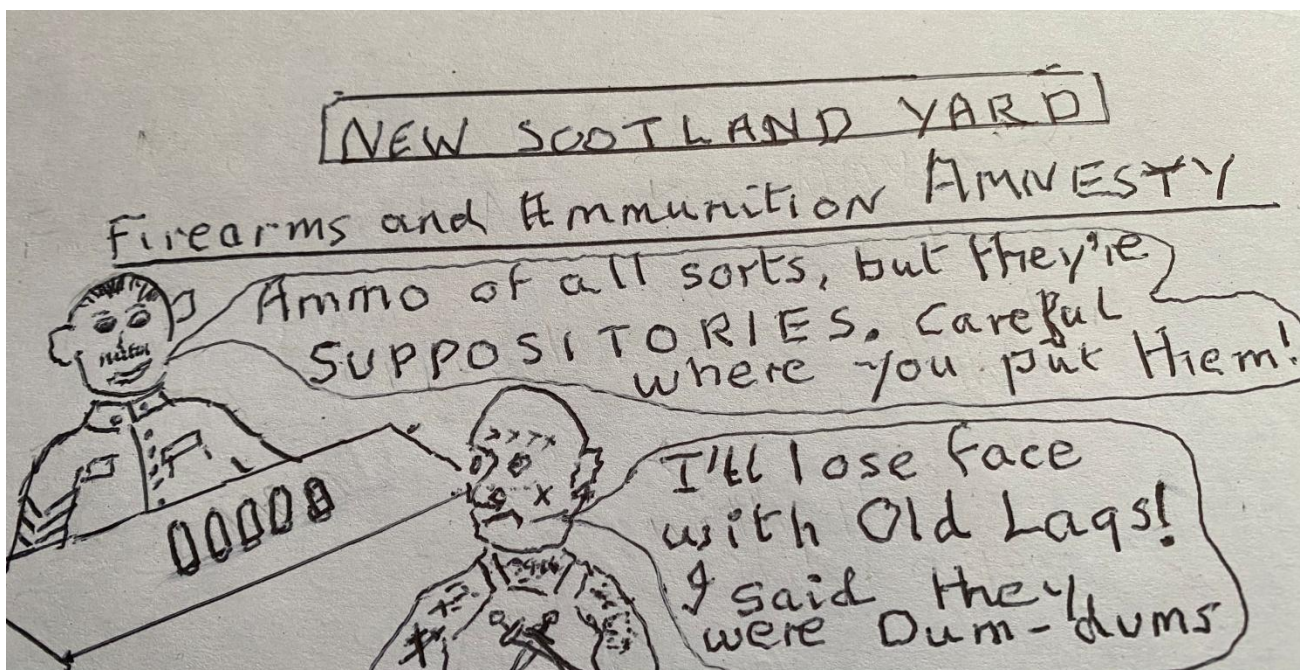
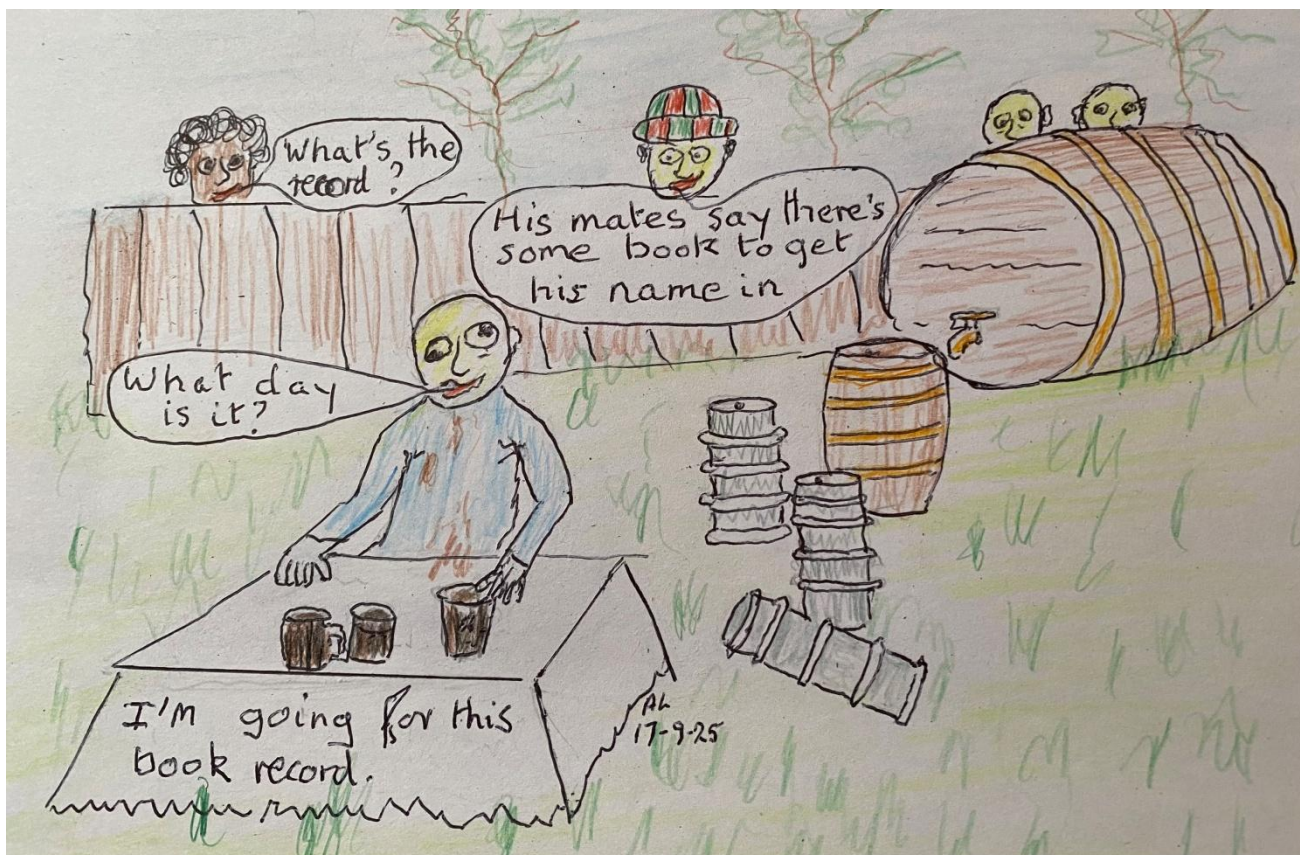
The deadline for items to be included in the next newsletter (November) is mid-day Friday 24th October 2025.

There is no meeting or newsletter in August or December

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 deadlines for submission for the rest of the year are:

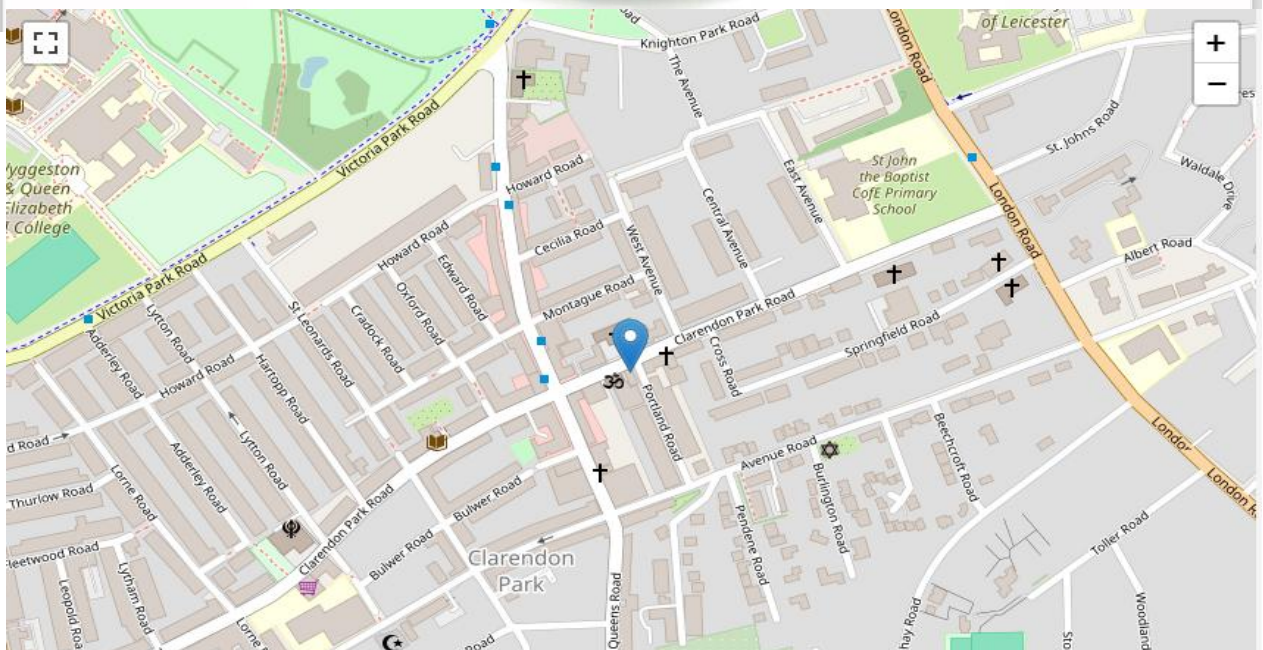
November Friday 24th October



SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

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 member's 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