
Leicester Newsletter

April 2026

SIGNS OF SPRING

Charnwood Lodge

Daffodils



Magnolia



Three by Anthony (Matt) Matthew



Beneath The Trees
Jean Burbridge

Rose *Jo Poon*

Marsh Marigold *Alan Carr*

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.*

We have 340 Members, an increase of four since last month. Two new members and two late renewals.

Contact: membership@leicesteru3a.org.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR – Bob Collins

On the day of the AGM, David Agar, who was not a member before, came forward willing to become treasurer. He joined as a member on the day of the AGM and was co-opted onto the committee and elected treasurer at the committee meeting held on 24th March.

Also, Cherilyn Norris was elected at the AGM, which means that we now have four officers and five other committee members. A larger committee would still be better and anyone interested can be invited to come along as an observer to a committee meeting to see what we do and, if still interested, can be co-opted.

This is excellent news and please support the new committee and, in particular the new members, David and Cherilyn.

MARCH AGM REPORT

The AGM was well attended; reports from treasurer, secretary and membership secretary were heard. The committee officer posts and the non-officer posts were elected. ***See page 12 for details.*** Unfortunately, Dave Barnes, the treasurer, had decided to step down as treasurer, leaving a vacant post. He was thanked for all his hard work keeping the accounts in order (and in credit). John Lewis, East Midlands regional u3a representative spoke briefly to the meeting about how impressed they were at our performance, especially in light of our potential closure due to insufficient members willing to take a position on the committee. It was a great relief to hear that someone was willing to take on the treasurer's role at the eleventh hour, without which we would have had to close or else merge with another group. However, we are still teetering on the brink, as some of our current committee members are kindly carrying multiple roles in order for you to have the benefit of a local U3A. If you would be kind enough to take a place on the committee, your assistance will be greatly appreciated, please contact our chair Bob Collins: chair@leicesteru3a.org.uk

Your U3A



needs you

PROGRAMME – Monthly meetings at Christchurch – doors open at 2:00pm and start at 2:30pm.

APRIL 14th 2026 – A Policeman's Lot: Alan Rodgers MBE is a retired police officer and will talk about his life and work within Warwickshire Police over his long career. His talk will include a broad spectrum of humorous anecdotes from that time and guarantees a laugh.

May 12th 2026 - Cycling to India: Geoffrey Pollard will talk on the trials and wonders of cycling from Anstey to India.

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 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 .

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Sue Took - Secretary

I wish to thank everyone who attended the AGM & approved my appointment as secretary on the committee; I will do my best to warrant your support. I am going to organise events for this year's Leicester u3a`s 30th Birthday. If anyone has any ideas they will be gratefully received.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS COORDINATOR - Sue Took

I have started visiting groups, and am hoping to visit all groups. Ramblers have now got a deputy to help Sue Reid (convener), thank you Barbara Beyst.

If anyone wants to start a group, please contact Sue Took Group Coordinator to discuss your ideas: groups@leicesteru3a.org.uk

REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Bus Pass Tours - Sue Took

In March the group took a trip to Market Bosworth and have the following trips planned:

April Thursday 9th to Loughborough

May Monday 18th to Coventry

June Wednesday 24th to Ashby de la Zouch

July Friday 10th to Wistow garden centre

Interested in joining us? Please contact the group convenor Sue Took: buspass@leicesteru3a.org.uk

Architecture and Design - Matt (Anthony) Matthew

The Architecture and Design group meets on the second Wednesday of the month at the Progressive Synagogue in Avenue Road (unless the group is going on an outing). Most often the topic is architectural, but in March Pat Kirkham gave a talk on Ten Women Designers of the Twentieth Century, though in the event there was

not time for so many. Being women several were pioneers in opening the field to others. Anna Keichline was the first woman in Pennsylvania to be registered to practise architecture in 1920 though she had graduated at Cornell University in 1911. Her great-niece Nancy Perkins held 27 patents, was a consultant for Sears Roebuck and designed a mass transit commuter train for San Juan in Puerto Rico. Anna Russell Jones was the first black woman to graduate from Philadelphia School of Design for Women and worked freelance designing carpets and wallpaper. During WWII, she did graphic design for the US military and later trained in medical illustration at Harvard Medical School. A much better known name is Ray Eames who worked with her husband Charles. Their famous chair of moulded plywood and leather is still available (or as a replica at a much lower price). Eva Zeisel (1906 – 2011) was born in Budapest to a Jewish family and worked as a ceramic designer in Germany for several years before moving to the Soviet Union in 1932. In 1936 she was accused of participating in a plot to assassinate Stalin and spent 16 months in prison, after which she was fortunate to be deported to Vienna. After the Anschluss, she got the last train out of the city, met her fiancé, a professor in Chicago, in England where they were married and sailed to America. She was commissioned by the Museum of Modern Art to design a set of undecorated porcelain dishes to be exhibited and also for sale. She was still designing glassware, ceramics, furniture and lamps up to her death at the age of 105.

Zeisel's Museum dinnerware series



Photo by Aglclark1

Singing for pleasure

by Barbara Penrose



The singing group meets once a month at 10.00 on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Friends meeting house Queen's Rd, Clarendon Park, Leicester. No singing skills or previous singing experience necessary. We have compiled a song book including sea shanties, songs from

shows, popular music and folk songs etc. We meet to sing a variety of songs which members chose from our book, and they can suggest new additions to our repertoire. Our pianist Vicky will provide a small amount of technical support as and when required. A good time is had by all. Next meeting Wednesday 22nd April. New members welcome, please contact the group's convenor Margaret Potter: singing@leicesteru3a.org.uk

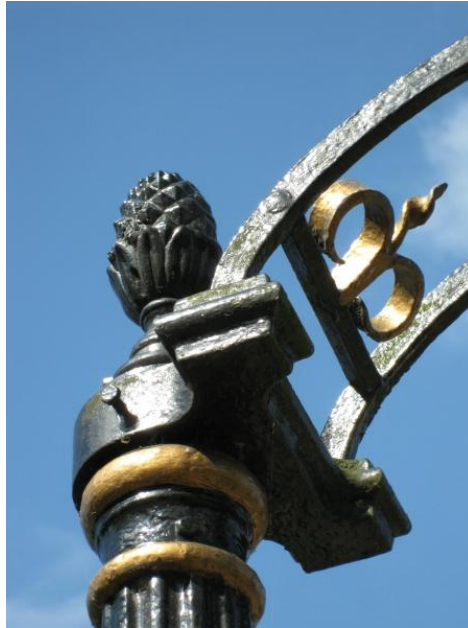
Digital Photography - *Cliff Ault*

The topic for the March meeting of the Digital Photography group was "Guess What It Is". Members interpreted this in many and various ways from everyday household objects photographed from unusual angles to outside public objects - familiar or unfamiliar. Some were very difficult to guess, and others were fairly easy. A few new members joined the meeting and provided some interesting images. We hope they will continue to attend. The next topic for April is to be "From a Low Angle". (Whatever that means!). Perhaps you can guess what the following pictures are:

Pic 01



Pic 02



Answers page 13

CARTOON CORNER

by Tony Locke





U3A FESTIVAL 1st to 3rd JULY 2026



The festival takes place at the University of York for a celebration of fun, learning and the community that makes u3a so special. Explore an existing interest or take the leap and try something completely new in member-led

workshops and sessions. Tickets £18 a day, or £50 for a three-day ticket. The festival starts at 11am on Wednesday 1 July and ends at 3pm on Friday 3 July. For full details and how to book visit: www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/events/festival-2026

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

Solution page 13

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 **stamped addressed envelopes (C5)**. 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 (April 2026) is mid-day Friday 20th March 2026.

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 deadline for submission for 2026 are all MID-DAY on the Friday dated:

May	Friday 24th April 2026
June	Friday 22nd May 2026
July	Friday 19th June 2026
September	Friday 21st August 2026
October	Friday 25th September 2026
November	Friday 23rd October 2026

Your Committee 2026/27

Bob Collins	Chair	chair@leicesteru3a.org.uk
Sue Took	Secretary Groups co-ordinator Trips co-ordinator	secretary@leicesteru3a.org.uk groups @leicesteru3a.org.uk trips@leicesteru3a.org.uk
David Agar	Treasurer(co-opted)	treasurer@ leicesteru3a.org.uk
Angie Barnes	Vice-Chair Membership Secretary & cards	vicechair@leicesteru3a.org.uk membership@leicesteru3a.org.uk cards@leicesteru3a.org.uk
Glyn Bray	Committee member Publicity Co-ordinator	gb.committee@leicesteru3a.org.uk publicity@leicesteru3a.org.uk
Phil Proud	Committee Member, Audio Visual & Asset Holder	pp.committee@leicesteru3a.org.uk
Pam Harrison	Committee member	ph.committee@leicesteru3a.org.uk
Cherilyn Norris	Committee member	cn.committee@leicesteru3a.org.uk
Barbara Beyst	Committee member Deputy Newsletter editor	bb.committee@leicesteru3a.org.uk newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk

PUZZLE SOLUTION:

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

GUESS THE PHOTO ANSWERS:

Pic 01 is a lawn roller

Pic 02 is a detail from an archway in New Walk near the museum

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LEICESTER u3a

As Trips Organiser I'm thinking of where to go in September. I was wondering if anyone had any references.

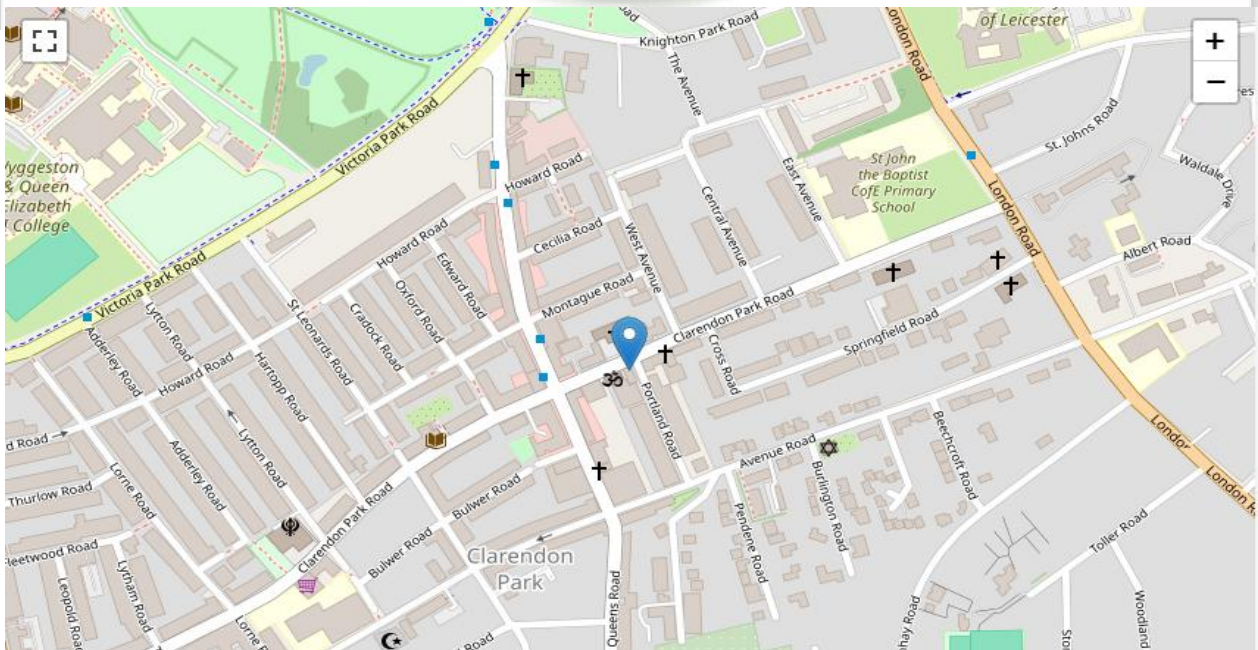
It is 30 years of Leicester u3a this year and I was wondering what activities members would like to do, if anyone has any ideas please let me know your ideas. Send them to Sue Took at:

secretary@leicesteru3a.org.uk

or

tripscoordinator@leicesteru3a.org.uk





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 & Barbara Beyst, and printed by Lionheart Print at Beauchamp College, Oadby