

Leicester Newsletter

May 2026



"A visit from the tapioca monster" from Alan Cann
Member of the Digital Photography Group on their theme – 'From a
low angle'

Find our website at <https://leicester.u3asite.uk>
If this link does not open, just copy, and paste it into your browser.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR – Bob Collins

Spring is now well upon us with warmer, drier and longer days.

The new committee is getting to know its new arrivals, David Ager and Cherilyn Norris, and we will begin planning our 30th anniversary celebrations. If anyone has any ideas, please let a committee member know of them. It is always nice to try something different.

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

APRIL Report – A Policeman's Lot: Alan Rodgers MBE is a retired police officer and talked about his life and work within Warwickshire Police over his long career.

May 12th 2026 – Kenya: Britain's Golden Colony: Mike Burton *N.B* – *This is a change to the talk previously advertised.*

June 9th 2026 – Marys Meals: Roger Neuburg. This organisation feeds one million children around the world every school day.

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 .

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS COORDINATOR - Sue Took

This month I don't have too much to report. I thought I would let you know about the groups.

We are still looking for some members to run some groups e.g.

Keep Fit. If you know anyone please let me know. We have had to close some groups due to lack of members or convenors retiring.

Any member can contact me on groups@leicesteru3a.org.uk, come & see me at the monthly meeting & coffee morning to find out how they can help.

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

Digital Photography

Richard Taylor - Convenor

The Digital Photography Group met on 9th April to share photos based on the theme of 'From a Low Angle'. Interpretations ranged far and wide, but all, in some way or other, featured a subject that was higher than the camera at the point of being taken. For many of us, that meant looking up at something taller, or positioned higher than ourselves. Local landmarks such as the old Lewis's Tower or the more recent multi-coloured marvel/monstrosity (depending on your taste in modern architecture) figured alongside tree canopies, pub signs, stairs and steps, roofs and ceilings, sculptures and monuments. Some intrepid members got down to ground level to capture images of flowers from unusual angles: one was heard to comment that it only took five seconds to get down, but five minutes to get back up again!

The next meeting of the Digital Photography Group, on May 14th, will take the form of a photoshoot in Melton Mowbray. When we share the results in the June meeting, we can expect to see bits of that familiar old market town that have never caught the eye of the casual passer-by before.

The Digital Photography Group meets on the second Thursday of the month, 2.00 to 4.00 pm, usually at Christchurch, unless we arrange to go to a photoshoot or exhibition elsewhere.



Let's go fly a kite

and



Red, red, red *by Richard Taylor*



At a fun fair in Abbey Park there were rides taking passengers high in the air and then swooping down. This was a relatively tranquil option.

By Anthony Matthew



Bergenia flowers from Irene Ault

Pictures from Smeeton Westerby Church

by *Keith Vaughan*





A sculpture from the Botanic Garden in 2023 and the top of a children's climbing frame near Belgrave - *by Cliff Ault*



HHCiB (How hard can it be)

by Gabi Garland

A recent litter pick by the HHCiB group was carried out on the canal tow path running from Kilby Bridge towards South Wigston. It was a lovely sunny day and we worked accompanied by friendly conversations from passing narrow boats, dog walkers, ramblers and joggers. Halfway we had a rest at a lock for coffee and biscuits – 'ideal litter picking session'





Sponsored Run – by *Henry Paulinski*



A big “thank you” to all the generous u3a members who sponsored me for the Leicester 10k run on March 10. Running with my elder son, Joe Paulinski, pictured left, we raised nearly £1100 for Médecins sans Frontières.

Editor’s note: Well done Henry

Bus Pass Tours

Sue Took Convenor

In March we visited Market Bosworth for the day. After our bus trip we had refreshments in a lovely cafe. The group walked around Market Bosworth calling in lots of shops before it was time to catch the bus back to Leicester.



Then in April we went to Loughborough. After exploring the town we stopped at John Storey House for a light lunch which was enjoyed by all.





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

Tickets are sold out. Join the [waiting list](#) for returns. Ticket holders have been notified by email about how to book Festival events.

[Tickets waiting list](#)

[Join the University of York accommodation waiting list](#)

We can't wait to welcome you.

If you'd like to be involved in volunteering at the Festival by leading a workshop or being a steward, please get in touch by emailing festival@u3a.org.uk

PUZZLE CORNER

by Cliff Ault

Solution page 14

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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 (June 2026) is mid-day Friday 22nd May 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:

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

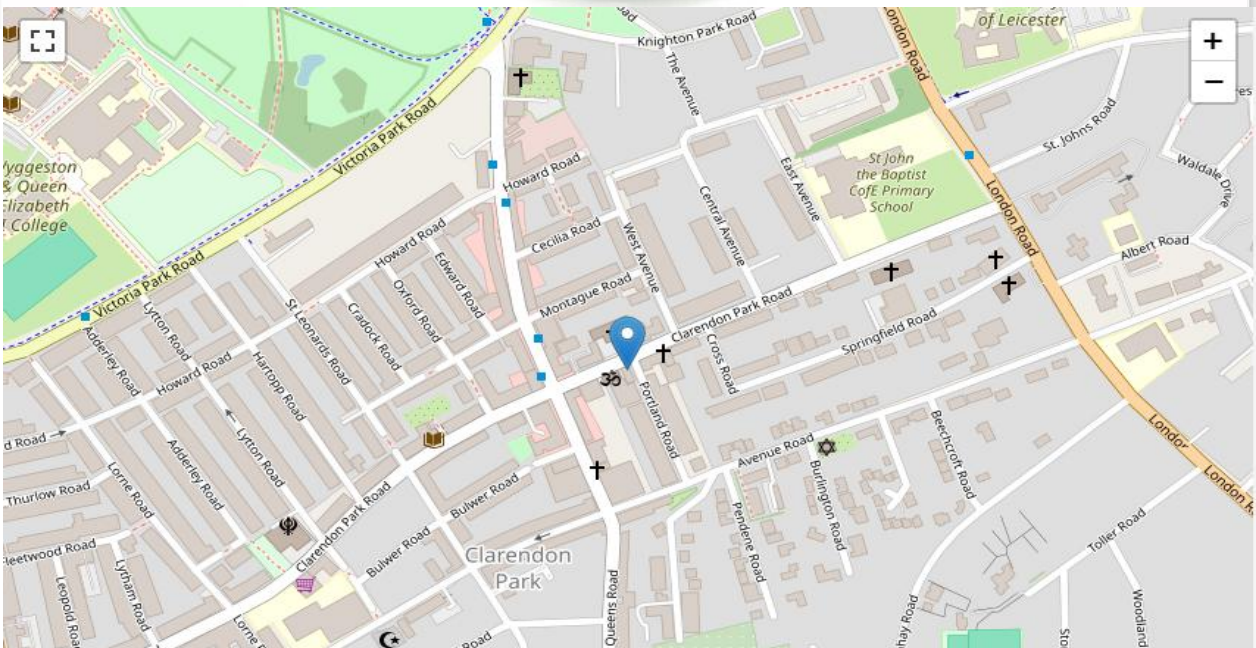
PUZZLE SOLUTION:

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8	1	4	7	9	2	5	6	3

Could you or your group have used this space? We have a few trusty contributors but I know more is going on out there. It need not be a large article. A few words and maybe a picture to back it up?

Over to you all.

Send your entries to
newsletter@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