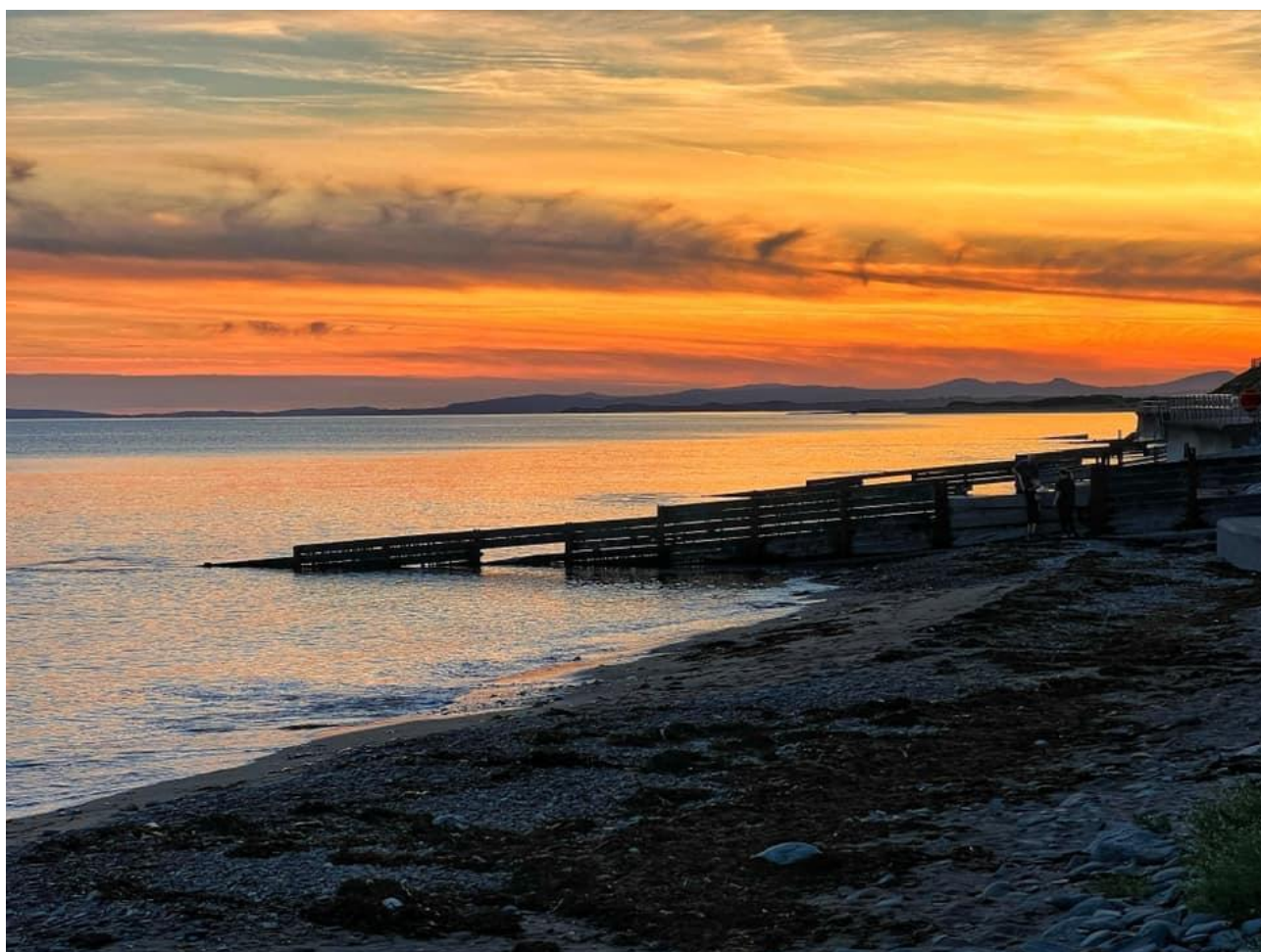

Leicester Newsletter

July 2026



Sunset North Wales *by Karen Closs*

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 stands at 345 an increase of three since last month

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR – Bob Collins

Unfortunately, our new treasurer, David Ager, had to resign recently due to health reasons. Fortunately, David Barnes agreed to step in to the breach and was co-opted onto the committee and elected treasurer at the last committee meeting on 30th June.

The 30th anniversary summer party has been booked for 18th August at the Quakers Meeting House. Tickets are £7 from Angie Barnes. The committee has also booked a trip on the steam railway from Loughborough to North Leicester and back with afternoon tea on Monday 31st August. Tickets are £40. It is hoped that lifts can be arranged, if required.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS COORDINATOR - Sue Took

I wish to thank Pam Harrison for stepping up as Convenor of the Table Tennis Group after their convenor Carol Arlett stepped down. Thank you Carol for running the group for the past 4 years.

I also wish to thank Jill Reville for temporarily covering the Poetry for Pleasure Group while Jane Michel is out of action.

If you are looking for groups to join please contact Sue Took & she will put you in touch with various groups.

We are looking for more members to join the following groups:-

- Recorder
- Ten Pin Bowling
- Family History
- Walking groups

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

June Report – Mary's Meals – Roger Neuburg

Editor's Note: We have received a thank you letter from the charity for the donations made by members after the meeting. If you would like to see this, please email me at newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk and I will forward a copy.

July 14th 2026 –John Constantine – Magic. John's excellent magic, personable manner and witty approach ensures that everybody thoroughly enjoys the experience.

THERE IS NO MEETING IN AUGUST

September 8th 2026 – Paul Read 'Dresser to the stars'

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 .

REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Welsh Improvers

by Brenda Worrall Convenor

Lingo Newydd is a magazine produced bimonthly for Welsh learners. We always do the crossword puzzle together at our meetings and we read and comment on the articles. At present we are enjoying the serial and we try to guess what will happen in the next chapter before we receive the issue!

We began as Welsh Beginners in 2016 before becoming Welsh Improvers in 2020. During lockdown we organized sessions on Zoom. We are planning to celebrate our 10th Anniversary in October.



Old Girls

A Poem *by Caroline Cook - Old Wyggestonian*

I wonder what happened to those admirable young women
who were chosen to sit on the stage in Assembly?
They had won red girdles. They were prefects, Senior Prefects.
There were only four of them.
Are they sitting comfortably now?
Are their hearing aids switched on?

I wonder what happened to Anne Morrell?
She was a virtuous soul. I hope she didn't get entangled
with a wrong 'un, take to drink and slit her wrists.
And Gloria Mawby? She of silver cups and trophies,
Victrix Ludorum (many girls had crushes). Did she run
to fat?

The starriest by far - unequalled in her brilliance
was Miss Clarissa Cairns. Pre-Raphaelite (though none of us
had heard of that) she bagged an Open Exhibition to St Hilda's
to read Classics. On the morning of her triumph she cut through
the bum-stuck "alien corn" sharp as Excalibur —
was never seen again.

I wonder what happened to Christine Bains, Head Girl
and famous for her rigour? Once she caught me running
near the pond. That cost me – several hundred lines.
Did she have babies later, soften, learn to bend, spend
time Domestossing her loos and cooking fry-ups
for a hoodlum husband?

Those old girls. They were exemplary.
They put the effort in. Each one believed
"Per Ardua ad Alta" - all that trash.
I wonder how it all turned out for them, life's chance campaign,
when they had Exeat forever?

Gardening

by Angie Barnes - Convenor

A group of us from the Gardening group had a lovely afternoon at Launde Abbey. We had tea and cake followed by a walk to the walled garden.



The Architecture and Design group visited the Welford Road Cemetery on 10th June. The plan had been to see the graves of important Leicester architects, builders and masons, guided by Derek Seaton. Derek sadly died unexpectedly in April but had taken the precaution of writing notes for the tour. So our guide was Barbara Boulter, one of the Friends of Welford Road Cemetery, making use of Derek's notes.

Unfortunately it turned out to be a wet day but around a dozen of us prepared with waterproofs and umbrellas were not discouraged. We met at the visitor centre, which opened in 2006, using support from the Heritage Lottery Fund. When the rain got too heavy we returned to shelter there and were treated to tea or coffee and biscuits provided by the Friends.



Still the weather allowed us to see a number of tombs, some of very well-known men such as Arthur Wakerley, not only an architect but also property developer and mayor of Leicester. He probably designed his own monument.

A less well-known figure was William Barfield, an architectural sculptor whose work can be found in the former bank on the corner of Granby Street and Bishop Street and on the Clock Tower. He also carved the monumental Celtic cross which stands a short way from his own tomb. A massive slab of red granite covers the grave of Joseph Hames, the architect who won the competition to design the Town Hall in the Queen Anne style while many of his contemporaries favoured Gothic. The builder Joseph Hallam has a broken column surmounting his tomb, symbolising a life cut short.

Bus Pass Tours

by Gill Thompson

On June 3, five of the group met at St Margaret's Bus Station to go to Ashby de la Zouch. The journey there was interesting but slow as it went through many villages. I enjoyed it, seeing many places I had never visited. On arrival in Market Street, a coffee and a snack were our priority. A cafe which proved excellent was just by the bus stop. Market Street has a unique range of building styles from Medieval timber frame to fine Georgian and modern styles. Ashby is known for its abundance of small independent shops. Feeling replenished, we explored Mill Lane Mews which leads to North Street and the Museum. The Mews has been restored and contains a delightful row of period shops. The Museum is well set out with excellent displays. Two of us left the others at the Museum as I wanted to visit St. Helen's Church. It is at the top of South Street which has more fine buildings. Particularly striking is Ivanhoe Terrace, a Georgian terrace built to promote Ashby as a Spa Town. We passed the entrance to the Castle but did not have time to visit. The Church was built in the 15th century by Lord Hastings on the site of an earlier 11th century Church. Designed in the Perpendicular style, it had been restored and enlarged in 1880. It is mainly full of elaborate monuments to the Hastings family. I wanted to see the rare finger pillory, believed to have been used to punish those misbehaving in church. The weather had been good until we left the Church when there was an unexpected cloud burst. Not too wet, we

went to meet the others at the bus stop. They had enjoyed visiting the Victorian-style covered market and another cafe. Sadly, we had not had time to join them for tea. After a very worthwhile visit, the journey back was uneventful.



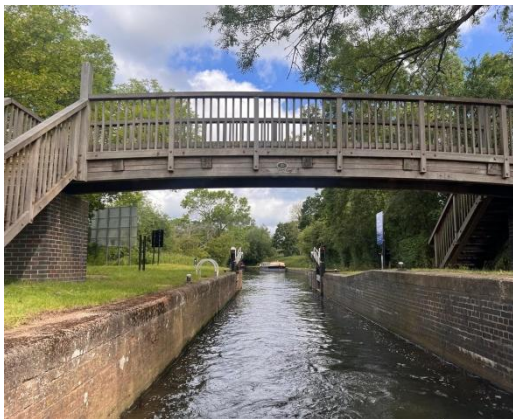


HHCiB

by Ola Horbacz



After an initial cloudy sky, the HHCiB group enjoyed a relaxing 'Well Being' Tranquil Tuesday trip along the River Soar courtesy of the Peter Le Marchant Trust. Travelling from Loughborough to Barrow on Soar it was followed by a picnic in the sunshine.



The group met on June 11th to view photos taken by members who had visited Melton Mowbray the previous month. Those of us who hadn't been able to go realised what a treat we had missed. Melton Mowbray has an ancient and illustrious history, in its time hosting luminaries from Richard the Lionheart to Thomas Cromwell - and Graham Chapman, of Monty Python fame. Judging by the number of images shown, it has more than its fair share of blue plaques and a central parkland that would be the envy of any town its size. Pictures of buildings of note included ones dating from the 14th Century to a relatively modern Art Deco cinema, and images of fine old hostelries reflected the town's importance as a centre of trade in all things agricultural. The crowning touch was a photo of the group tucking into a pork pie platter; after all, when in Melton..... *Photo by Matt Matthew*



Those of us who didn't make the visit shared some photos on the theme of 'Spring'. We had bluebells, blossom, buttercups, famous gardens and croquet on a sunny day amongst others, not forgetting the odd bit of inclement weather that is typical of every spring.



Umbrellas in Monet's Garden, Giverny

Photos by Richard Taylor



For the 9th July meeting, the group will have assemble at Cosby, home of the now famous Cosby Yarn Bomb event, to see and photograph the imaginative and creative displays on show - and whatever else takes their photographic fancy. We look forward to seeing some of the results in this newsletter in due course.

Bluebells in Rannerdale

Science and Technology group *by Anthony Matthew (Matt) -*
Convenor

On 25th June, a particularly hot day (too hot for some of the group) the Science and Technology group visited the Mountsorrel and Rothley Community Heritage Centre (<http://heritage-centre.co.uk/>). It occupies a former quarry which was served by a branch line from the Great Central Railway. After the quarry was abandoned and the railway completely overgrown, the site was restored through heroic efforts by the local community, with support after they had got going from the owners of the nearby very much larger Buddon Wood quarry, the Heritage Lottery Fund and local parish councils. It now contains a railway museum and an exhibition of the history of quarrying in the area, which goes back a long way and includes Swithland slate as well as the Mountsorrel granite from this quarry. This was used to produce kerb stones and square setts for paving, shaped with hammer and chisel, before changing to aggregate for road building. The railway museum has engines, carriages and wagons mostly with a local connection such as the last steam engine built at the Brush works in Loughborough. Some are brightly painted and some in a more natural state, and there are short train rides at popular times. There is a great deal of information on display boards and also in audio form so it might take a whole day to absorb it all. Some exhibits have come from elsewhere such as a hand-operated lifting bridge which used to be beside the canal in Leicester. As well as a pleasant garden, wild flowers are encouraged for the benefit of insects and there is a nature walk. Most welcome on such a hot day was the Granite coffee shop which is very popular, selling drinks and cakes as well as tickets for the heritage centre.

Photos by Anthony Matthew (Matt)



Victoria Park Balloon Event



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

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 (September 2026) is mid-day Friday 21st August 2026.

There is no meeting or newsletter in August or December

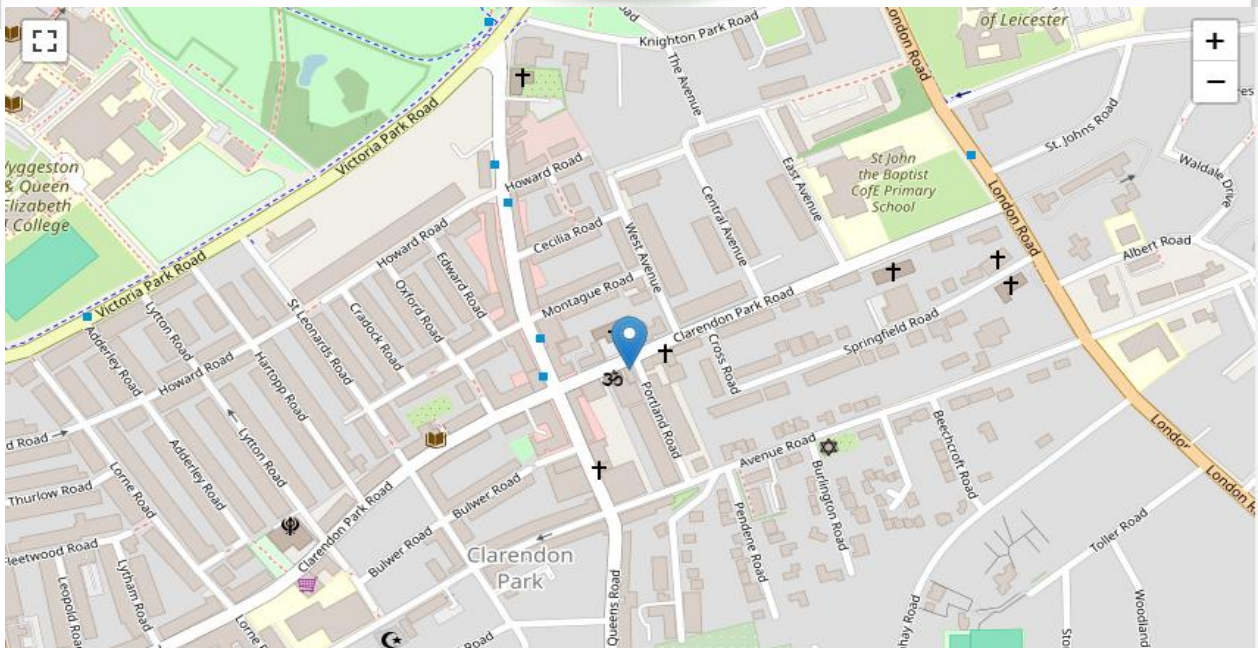
Contributions should be sent to the Editors, Margaret Potter and Barbara Beyst, at: newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk if you want to submit your entry as hard copy, please contact Margaret or the Membership Secretary, Angie Barnes, for the address.
membership@leicesteru3a.org.uk

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

September	Friday 21st August 2026
October	Friday 25th September 2026
November	Friday 23rd October 2026

PUZZLE SOLUTION:

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



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