
Leicester Newsletter

September 2026



Sunset in the heatwave in Knighton *by Martine Benitez*

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 347 an increase of four since July.

We have sadly lost two members David Agar who was our Treasurer briefly, and Jane Michel was the convenor of the poetry for pleasure group and will be sadly missed. We offer our condolences to their family and friends.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR – Bob Collins

The long very hot summer spell finally broke in mid-August, which was a relief for most people but particularly for our gardens.

The summer garden party took place on Tuesday 18th August, which was attended and enjoyed by some 50 members. Our thanks to everyone who helped to organise it and made it a great success.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The committee is still looking for members who can buddy with the chair, treasurer & secretary so they can see what is done & hopefully take over in March at the next AGM. If you know anyone who might want to see what the roles involve please contact me & we can have a talk about the roles. Sue Took Secretary
secretary@leicesteru3a.org.uk

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS COORDINATOR - Sue Took

Is anyone interested in running a group? If you know anyone who would, please let me know or give me a call or email.me on groups@leicesteru3a.org.uk. Cherylin Norris has kindly stepped up to offer me her help as backup Groups Coordinator starting in October. This is hopefully with a view to taking over eventually. Meanwhile if you send anything to groups@leicesteru3a.org.uk it should eventually reach both me and Cherylin.

AND, from Nick Arlott - *convenor of Bookworms...*

If you are looking for somewhere for your group to meet, The Globe in Leicester has upstairs rooms that are free to hire. The pub opens at 11.00 a.m. Bookworms now meets there on the first Wednesday of each month.

Nick Arlett, Convenor, Bookworms

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

July REPORT –Stewart Bint – Novelist and magazine columnist - explained the trials and tribulations as well as the joys of being an author.

30th Birthday Party August 18th 2026

Members enjoyed a sunny get together at the Friends Meeting House on Queens Road. Some photos of the event can be seen under report from the groups. Sue Took adds "I wish to thank everyone who attended the 30th Birthday of Leicester u3a on Tuesday 18th August; it was a fun way to celebrate this event. It was attended by 53 members & Bob Collins (Chair) said a few words & cut the cake.

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

October 13th 2026 – Derek Holloway 'Clarice Cliff'

Clarice Cliff is, today, regarded as one of the most influential ceramics artists of the 20th century.

Christmas lunch Tuesday December 8th at Devonshire House (Masonic Lodge) on London Road. Booking forms will be available at this and the October monthly meetings. If you cannot come to one of those, please email Kay Relf for a booking form via christmaslunch@leicesteru3a.org.uk The cost is £29.50, full payment required please. It will be a three course choice menu with coffee and mints.

NB: there will be no Christmas Party this year.

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

Some Birthday Party Photos. *by Phil Proud*



And from Irene Ault -



Bus Pass Tour to Wistow Park *by Ros Devine*

Wistow Hall and estates were visited by King Charles 1st in 1645. It is listed in the 'DiCamillo Database of British & Irish Country Houses' which documents historic properties, and that outlines its actual history and ownership by the Halford family. In 1958 Lord Cotteslos left the estate to his daughter and her husband, Timothy Brookes. They brought estates up to date.



Wistow Park now has a brilliant plant centre, a farm shop and furniture craft outlets. The park is famous for the Maze which opens on July 21st every year. There is a Bistro where the group had a delicious lunch. As we were walking round the

grounds we found a Beautiful Model Village



Thank you Sue for arranging a lovely day.

Discovering Architecture

Richard Allsop - Convenor

14 members of the Leicester u3a Discovering Architecture group were treated to a talk and a tour of the Unitarian Great Meeting Chapel on Bond St. Leicester.

This fine building is one of the oldest surviving brick buildings in the City, and dates from 1708.

A major feature of this building is the unsupported domed roof which is one of the largest of its kind in the UK, being supported only on oak beams which in turn are supported by brick structures at the four corners of the building.

This roof has recently undergone a major restoration, led by Unitarian Michael Drucquer.

Michael gave us a very comprehensive talk, illustrated by slides, and his own hand made models, on the complexities of the roof structure, and the problems the restorers had to overcome.

This was followed by a tour of the building and the roof space.

The group were treated to tea and refreshments by the Unitarians.

A really good visit... our thanks go to Michael Drucquer and his colleagues at the Unitarian Great Meeting Chapel.

End.



Michael Drucquer explaining the complexities of the Chapels' roof structure using one of his own models

Digital Photography *by Richard Taylor – Convenor*

The Group met in July at the Cosby Yarn Bomb event, and in August to share photos from that visit. The theme of the event, 'Around the World in 80 Days', provided knitters with a wide range of inspirations, which were colourfully reflected in the shared photos. National costumes, foods from around the world, a picnicking family, film and story characters, a London bus, even astronauts looking down at it all from above, and of course, Mother Earth herself, were portrayed in works large and small. A creative photographic treatment of a field of tulips reminded us of the Earth's constant spinning, while woodland and jungle scenes, a kingfisher, sunflowers, a breaching whale and other sea creatures and many other pieces reminded visitors of both the wealth and fragility of nature's richness, recording a season that itself has set records. The next meeting, on Thursday 10th September, 2.00pm at Christchurch, will be on the theme of 'Textiles'.

Some photos of the creations from

Anthony Matthew

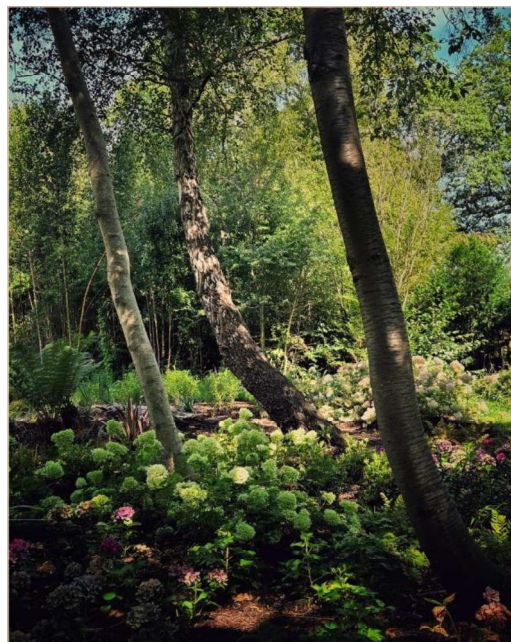


from Cliff Ault



Members who had not been able to visit the Cosby event showed images of summer -

From Richard Taylor, Ripe Barley near Great Glen, and Seeking shade



From Julie Fish a selection of her activities during this summer





*And from Keith Vaughan
the sun burning off the mist
over the fields.*



Twentieth Century Popular Culture Group: a few milestones

By Henry Paulinski - Convenor

The Group has met quarterly for nearly 4 years and has discussed well over a hundred topics. Here are a few notable subjects we enjoyed mulling over:

My First Car

George Simenon

Rosemary Sutcliffe

TV Quizzes

The World of Ian Fleming

Edgar Wallace

Lord Peter Wimsey

Paul Temple

A big thank you to the Group for all your contributions!

u3a Festival 2026 *by Sue Took - Secretary*

Sandra Barker & I went to York on 1st -3rd July to attend the National u3a 2026 Festival.

It was attended by u3a members from all over the UK, Members also organised the groups you could attend, e.g. wine tasting, discussion groups, open mic, steel drum group etc.

Some groups you had to book in advance but there were still spaces on some, so you could join if you wanted to.

Around the university there were stands for agencies like Alfa Travel, Magari Tours, Riviera Travel etc. and Johnny Ball was there selling his books & signing them.

We did spend some time in York, and saw the statue of Queen Elizabeth 2 on the outside of the cathedral.

The campus was a beautiful spacious place with lots of things to do.

You can see a video and more details at
<https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/events/festival-2026>



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6				7				
					9		2	4
		5					6	9
7								3
9	1					7		
1	3		2					
				9				8
2		6		1		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 25th September 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

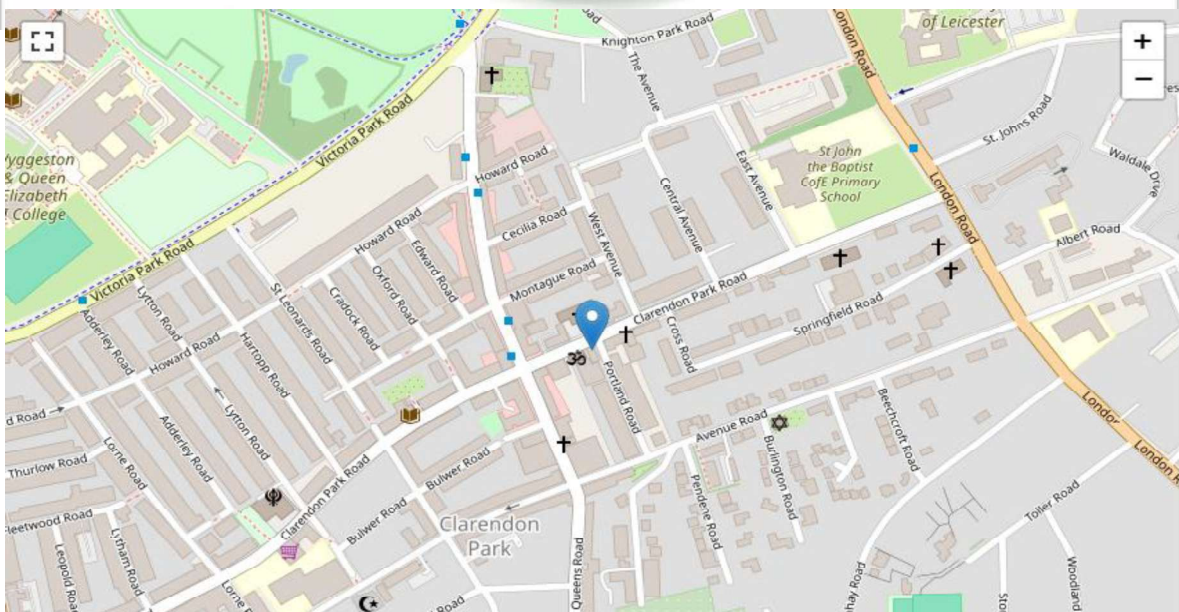
Please note the deadline for submission for 2026 are all MID-DAY on the Friday dated:

October Friday 25th September 2026

November Friday 23rd October 2026

PUZZLE SOLUTION:

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



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

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