

Leicester Newsletter

October 2026



Photo by Anthony Matthew (see Digital Photography article)

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 352 an increase of five since September

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR – Bob Collins

Hi everybody. Thank you all to you who have booked places at our Christmas Lunch at the Freemasons' Hall, 78-80 London Road on Tuesday 8th December at noon (parking available). We used to go there some years ago and I remember the food and service was very good. The timing reverts back to the usual date of the 2nd Tuesday in December. Please pay and book at the October monthly meeting or online in response to the email being sent out.

We do need volunteers to stand for the committee, including officers, if Leicester u3a is to continue. You can buddy up with existing officers and committee members to see what is involved. See Secretary's Report. Best wishes, Bob

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The committee is still looking for members to help. We will be needing a new Chair, Treasure & Secretary in March. So if anyone is interested in any of these roles or know of anyone who might, please let Sue Took know via secretary@leicesteru3a.org.uk.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS COORDINATOR - Sue Took

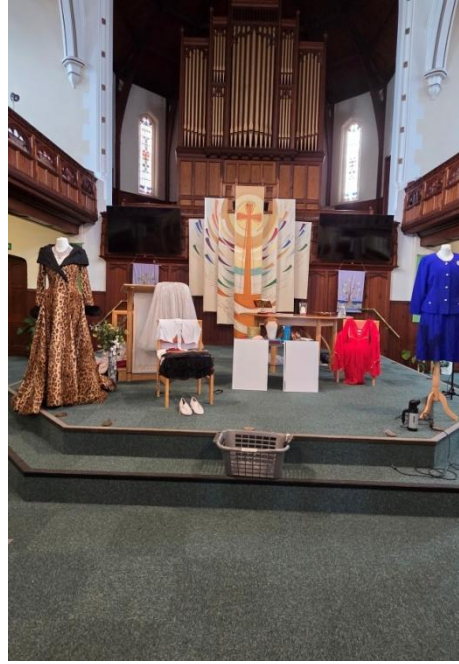
As some of our groups are now closing for the winter, I wish to thank all conveners for their hard work in running their groups. I wish to organise a meeting with you all to discuss your groups. I propose meeting after November's monthly meeting at Christchurch on Tuesday 10th November. I'm looking forward to seeing all conveners. Please can you let Sue Took groups@leicesteru3a.org.uk know if you can attend?

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

September Report – Paul Read, Dresser to the stars



In September the u3a audience was treated to a wonderful talk by Paul Read on his career as 'Dresser to the Stars'. Paul had spent the last 30 years as a dresser in London's West End theatres working with many well-known actors and, complete with his props of costumes and shoes, proceeded to explain exactly what a dresser does. It is not just helping the star change his/her costume in double quick time between scenes (sometimes in just 10 seconds) but the dresser becomes a virtual PA to the star catering for his/her every need and providing invaluable support. Working in the wings the dresser is under-appreciated by the theatre audience but is essential to the smooth running of any show. An extremely entertaining talk which was very much enjoyed by everyone.



October 13th 2026 – Derek Holloway 'Clarice Cliff'
Clarice Cliff is, today, regarded as one of the most influential ceramics artists of the 20th century.

November 10th 2026 – Dave Pinion – Antarctica. Join us for a thrilling photographic insight and story of the wonders of Antarctica.

Christmas lunch Tuesday December 8th at Devonshire House (Masonic Lodge) on London Road. Booking forms will be available at this monthly meeting. If you cannot come to this, 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. The deadline for letting the venue have final numbers is 12th November. (Cost varies with menu choice)

NB: there will be no Christmas Party this year.

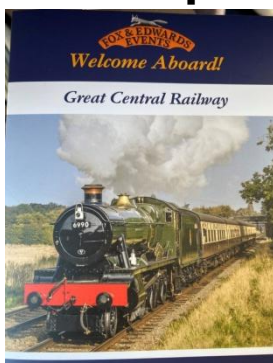
ALL MEMBERS COFFEE MORNINGS: *Sandra Barker – Hospitality and Wellbeing* Coffee mornings continue to be well attended and enjoyable. They are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 10.00 am onwards at the Quaker Meeting House, Queen's Road. Why not join us for refreshments, friendship and chat?

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

Train Trip – 31st August 2026

by Phil Proud



On the August bank holiday, in celebration of the 30th anniversary

of our u3a, a group of us enjoyed a glorious trip on the Great Central Railway! Sadly, the steam engine was replaced by a diesel version, as a result of safety concerns, regarding the recent hot weather. But it didn't spoil our enjoyment of a leisurely trip from

Loughborough Central, through Quorn and Rothley, to Leicester North, and back.

The very attentive train staff served us a lovely afternoon tea, and we all enjoyed lovely company, and some good chats!

Many thanks to Sue Took, u3a Secretary, and Groups Coordinator, for all the work it took to organise such a lovely afternoon!



... and more pictures from Irene Ault



Digital Photography

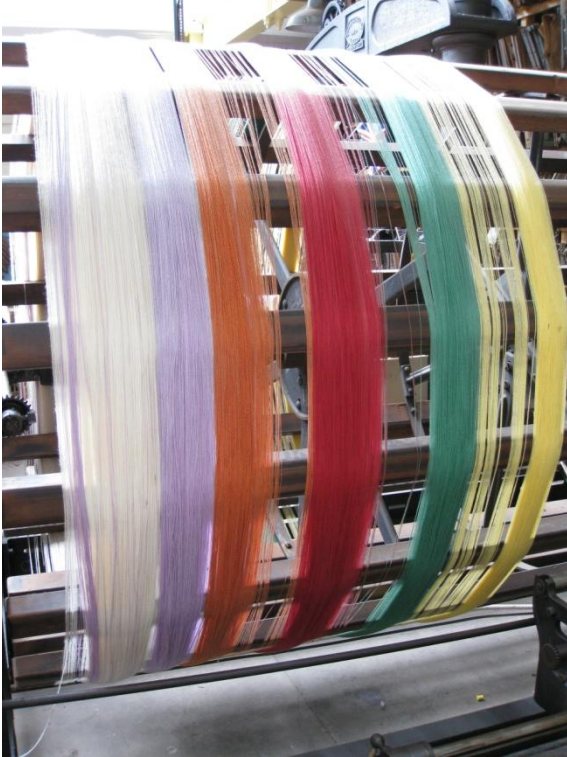
by Anthony Matthew

The September topic for the group was textiles. That included close-ups, works of art, spinning machinery and stacks of fabric for sale.



These two examples are of a stall selling yarn in Ahmedabad, India, (see front cover), and three young women in kimonos visiting a garden in Kanazawa, Japan

... and more from Cliff Ault



Coloured cotton threads at Masson Mills in Cromford, Derbyshire and an Ercol seat cushion

Gardening

by Angie Barnes – Convenor

In September seven of us had a lovely afternoon out to Tresillian House, a NGS garden in Melton. The weather was kind to us and we had afternoon tea in the summer house (*photos by Angie.*)







... from Orla Horbacz



Visit to Serendipity and Canopy - *Veronica Matthew - Convenor*

At its last meeting the Architecture and Design Group visited Serendipity in Bowling Green Street and Canopy in King Street. Amy from Serendipity gave us an excellent account of the building's history and the work of Serendipity. It was originally built for Leicester's Water Company in 1865 and continued as the Water Board offices for over a century. More recently it has had a number occupiers including the Juvenile Court and a restaurant. Serendipity run the annual black dance festival in Leicester and is an organisation promoting black British culture.

We then walked up King Street to Canopy where Gabe told us it was formerly Pilot House and several industrial buildings. It has been taken over by the City Council who refurbished it and let it to a number of tenants from the creative industries, similar to the LCB Depot in Rutland Street. It has a large café, run by the public, in the new atrium on the ground floor where we stopped for some refreshment after our visit.



Serendipity



Serendipity

Canopy



*Photos by
Anthony
(Matt)
Matthew*

'Season of Fruitfulness'



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

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 deadlines for items to be included in the next newsletters are shown below.

There is no meeting or newsletter in August or December

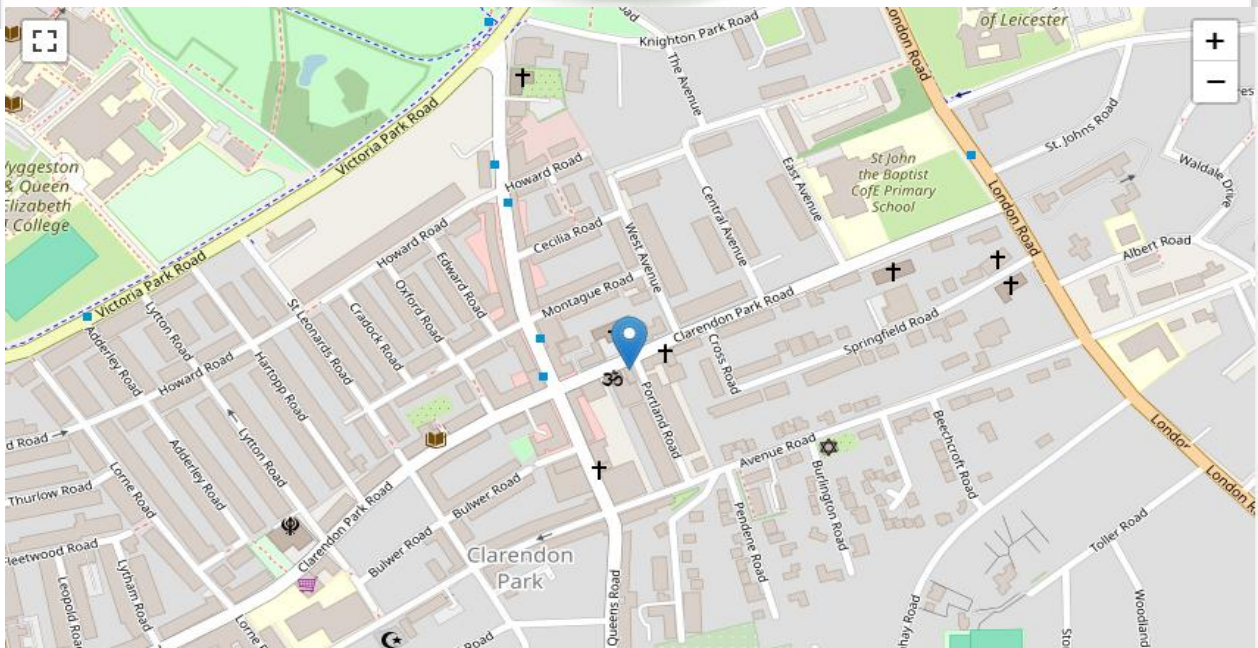
Contributions should be sent to the Editors, Margaret Potter and Barbara Beyst, at: newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk if you want to submit your entry as hard copy, please contact Margaret or the Membership Secretary, Angie Barnes, for the address.
membership@leicesteru3a.org.uk

Please note the deadline for submission is MID-DAY on the Friday dated:

November 2026	Friday 23rd October 2026
January 2027	Friday 25th December 2026
February 2027	Friday 22nd January 2027
March 2027	Friday 19th February 2027
April 2027	Friday 26th March 2027
May 2027	Friday 23rd April 2027
June 2027	Friday 21st May 2027
July 2027	Friday 25th June 2027
September 2027	Friday 27th August 2027
October 2027	Friday 24th September 2027
November 2027	Friday 22nd October 2027

PUZZLE SOLUTION:

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



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