Charity No. 1083274

Leicester Newsletter

November 2026



Here is my photo of an exhibit at the Material Worlds Exhibition at the David Attenborough Centre in January. I showed this at this month's digital photography meeting. It was a response to the September meeting theme of Textiles – Rachel Mason

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 has stayed the same since last month. The email for renewing your membership is being deferred for the time being. Angie Barnes' recent email explains the reason for the deferment (see also Chair's Report). When you receive the email, renewals can be paid by Bank Transfer or by posted Cheque. Cheques and cash can also be paid at the monthly meeting or the coffee mornings.

It is with great sadness to tell you of the passing of Steve Shenton on Sunday 18th October. He had only been a member for 3 years and was recognised by the Bandana he always wore. He was a bit

eccentric and had a wonderful sense of humour and was friendly and will be sadly missed by those who met him.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR – Bob Collins

Hi everybody.
Thank you all of you who have booked places at our Christmas Lunch at the Devonshire House (Masonic Lodge) in London Road at noon on Tuesday 8th December 2026. Places are still available (bookings close on 12th November). Parking is also available. I remember eating here over a dozen years ago and the food and service were excellent.

Unfortunately, the committee has not yet heard from anyone interested in buddying existing officers and other committee members with a view to standing for election at the AGM due in March 2027. The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are all retiring and unless people come forward, Leicester u3a cannot carry on and it will have to be wound up and/or effectively merge with another willing u3a. This would mean disposing of assets and transferring everything to the Third Age Trust or another u3a. I consider that this would be extremely sad after we have just celebrated our 30th anniversary. So please seriously consider standing.

There is no Secretary or Group Coordinator report this month as Sue has been on a well-earned break.

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

October Report – Due to unforeseen circumstances, the speaker was changed to 'The story of John Eaves.'

November 10th 2026 – Dave Pinion – Antarctica.

Join us for a thrilling photographic insight and story of the wonders of Antarctica.

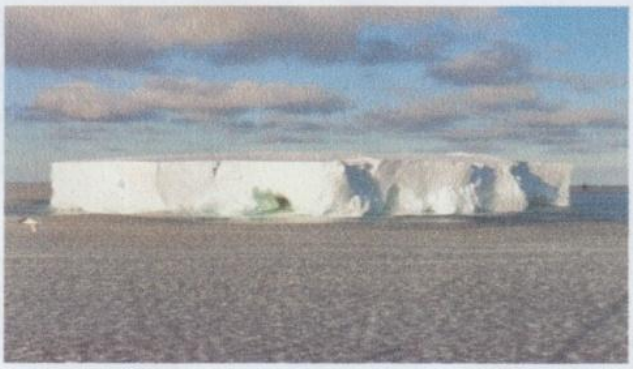
My AMAZING journey to Antarctica
Dave Pinion

Join us for a thrilling photographic insight and story of the wonders of Antarctica, presented with Dave's obvious enthusiasm for this vast and unique continent.



Dave first went to Antarctica in 2023 and visited the living quarters left by Robert Falcon Scott and Ernest Shackleton on their South Pole Expeditions in the early 20th century. During his 33 day journey through the incredible scenery and wildlife of Antarctica, sharing the history with 80 fellow travellers and a group of experts all with same desire to "stand on the shoulders of giants", he caught "the polar bug".





Christmas lunch Tuesday December 8th at Devonshire House (Masonic Lodge) on London Road.
NB: there will be no Christmas Party this year.

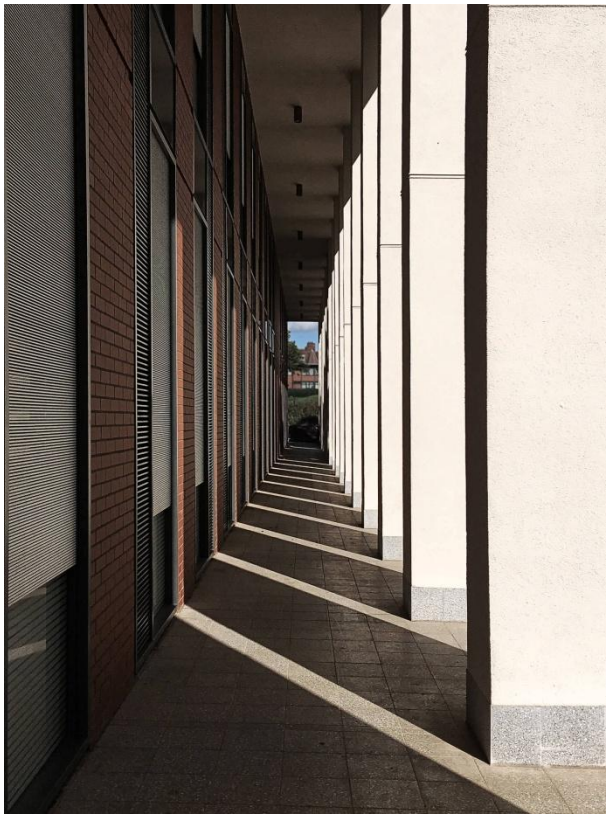
January 12th 2027 – There will be no speaker in January as this will be renewal day. There will be tea, coffee and biscuits available, and a quiz with prizes for the winning table.

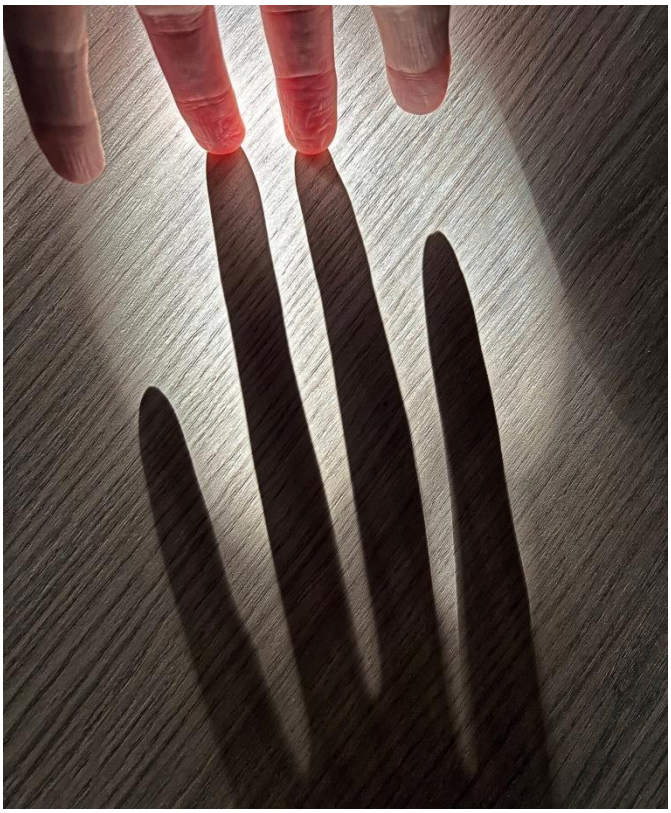
All MEMBERS COFFEE MORNINGS: *Sandra Barker – Hospitality and Wellbeing* Coffee mornings continue to be well attended and enjoyable. They are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 10.00 am onwards at the Quaker Meeting House, Queen's Road. Why not join us for refreshments, friendship and chat?

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

Digital Photography. *By Jean Burbridge*
In October the digital photography group explored Shadows. Photography depends on light and shadows are cast when an opaque or translucent object obstructs the light rays. But an image is perceived as flat when it lacks attached (or form) shadows. We looked at many examples; here is a sample, including an image of mine, 'Waning moon'. (see page 7)
.







Centre for Medicine, Fingers and Launde by Alan Cann

… and from Anthony (Matt) Matthew







How Hard Can it Be

The group have supported The Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Magdalen Church, Brinsmead Road, Knighton, Leicester (LE2 3WD) over the last three years and are pleased to do so again. This year it will be on Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 November. Last year there were 70 Christmas trees lighting up the church and welcoming visitors. It raised about £7500 for local charities.



Bus Pass Tours Trip to Coventry *By Geeta Chauhan*

All photos were taken by Geeta except the exterior of the new Cathedral which was taken from their website.

It was a lovely day when four of us left St. Margaret's bus station for Coventry.

Once we arrived, we went straight towards the cathedral. I was so excited to take photos of the old Cathedral and learn the story of the air raid by the German Luftwaffe known as the Coventry Blitz that destroyed it in1940



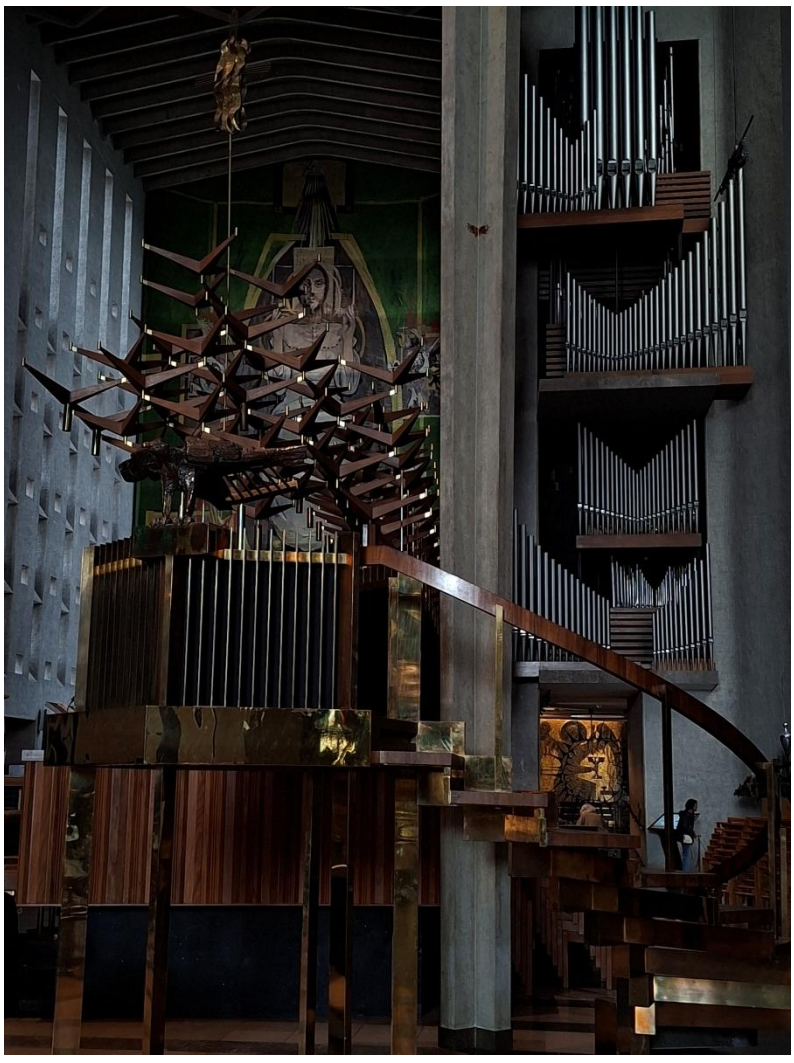
It is about 576-726 years old. Susan and Annette met a man in the grounds of the old church who was born during the war, and he told them many other stories including how it has been preserved, and the building of the new Cathedral next to it.

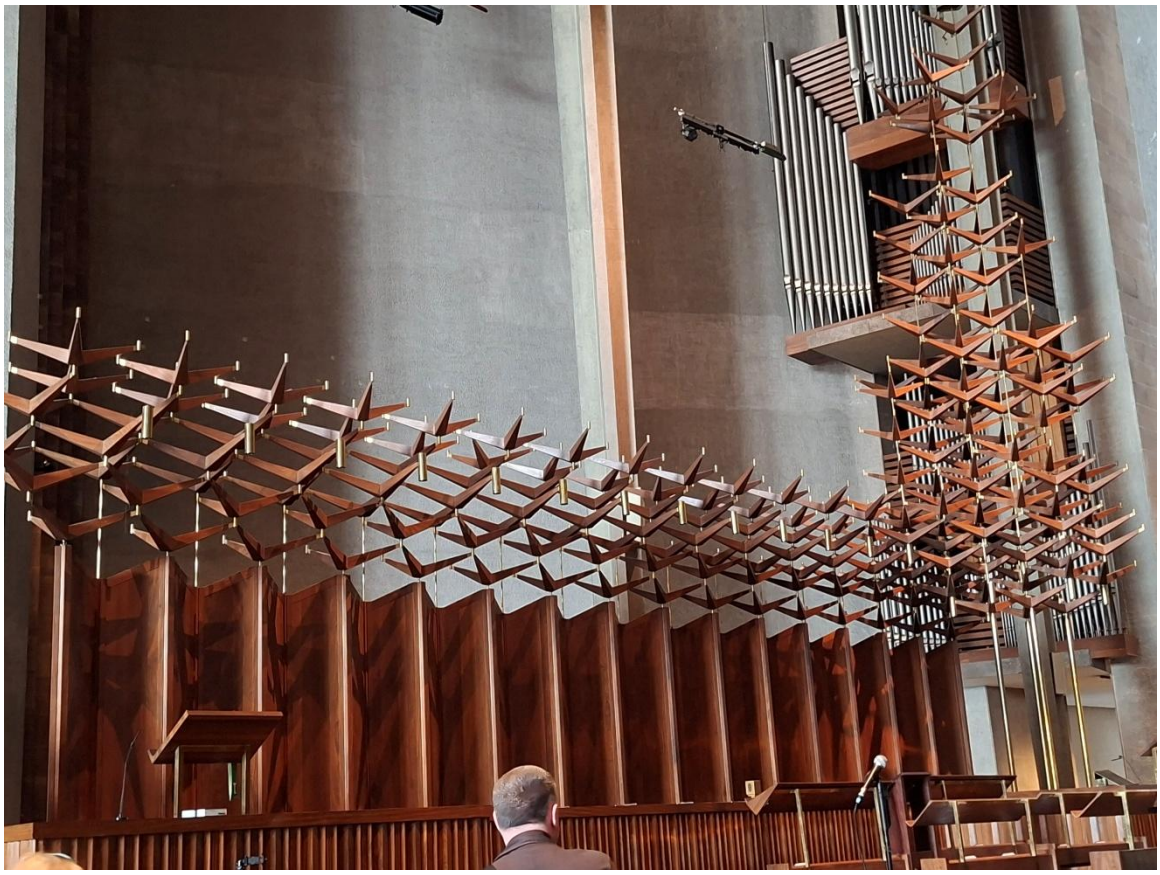


The interior is notable for its huge tapestry (Once thought to be the world's largest) of Christ, designed by Graham Sutherland; the emotive sculpture of the Mater Dolorosa by John Bridgeman in the East End; and the baptistery window designed by John Piper and executed by Patrick Reyntiens. It is of abstract design and occupies the full height of the boned baptistery which comprises 195 panes, ranging from white to deep colours. The stained-glass windows in the knave are by Lawrence Lee, Keith New and Geoffry Clarke, and face away from the congregation. Spence's concept for the knave window was that the opposite pairs would represent a pattern of growth from birth to old age, culminating in heavenly glory, nearest the altar. One side represents the human, the other side, the Divine.



The New Cathedral was itself an inspiration to many fine artists of the post war era. The architect, Sir Basil Spence, commissioned work from Graham John Hutton, Jacob Epstein, Elizabeth Frink and others.
My favourite pictures are of the New Cathedral.





I was inspired by the story of Sadako, a Japanese girl who survived Hiroshima and sparked the use of paper cranes as a symbol of peace. There are paper cranes are all over the church creating special memories over the main organ on both sides of the church.



We sat quietly as the organ was played and it made us feel we could just sit there and never tire.

I wish we had more time to enjoy the music and surroundings. My photos do not capture what my mind's eye saw, and we returned home wishing we had more time to explore. I'm sure we will go back to see Coventry and the Cathedral again.

CARTOON CORNER

Bonfire Night *by Tony Locke*





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

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 newsletters are shown below.

There is no meeting or newsletter in August or December

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

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

January 2027	**Friday 25th December 2026**
February 2027	**Friday 22nd January 2027**
March 2027	**Friday 19th February 2027** ***and, assuming we still exist***
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**

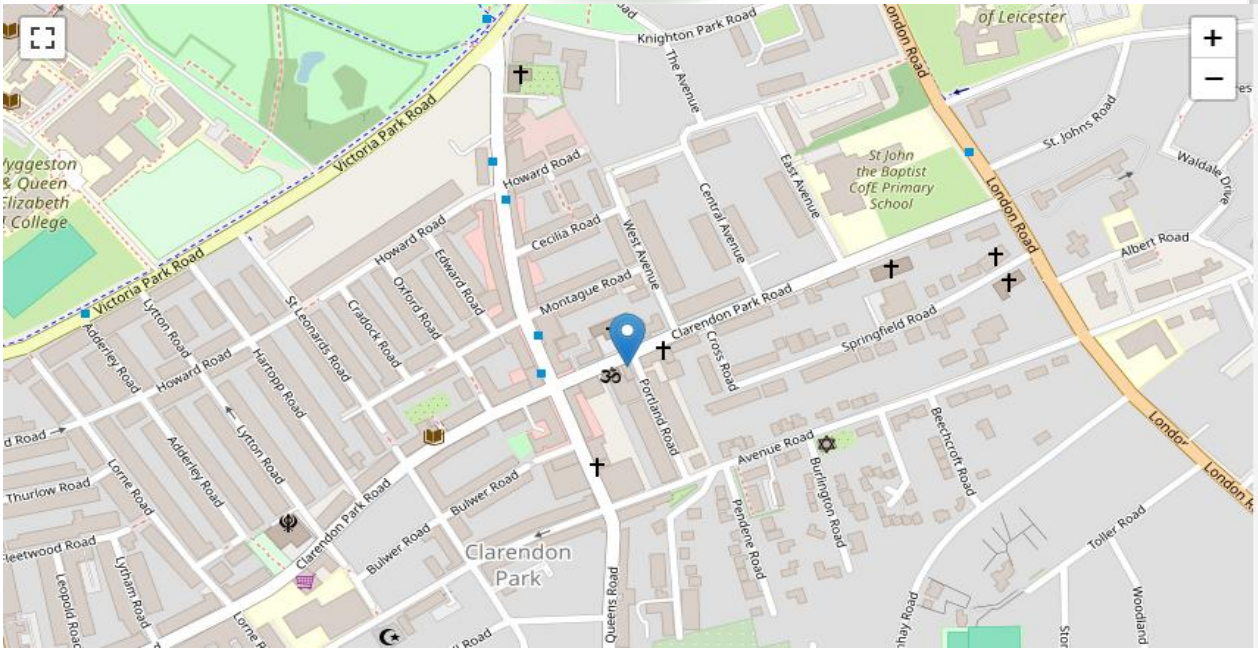
Editor's Note: NB – This will be my last edition as Editor as Barbara Beyst is taking over next year. I would like to thank all contributors for their support over the years. I hope you will all continue to support her as you have done me and wish her every success. I will still be here as backup if required. Contributions should still be addressed to newsletter@leicesteru3a.org.uk

Margaret Potter

PUZZLE SOLUTION:

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