

# Countesthorpe U3A Newsletter

December 2019 – May 2020

## CHAIRPERSON'S LETTER

Hello Everyone

Welcome, everyone, to my December Newsletter.

Recently I attended a regional U3A meeting held in Glenfield. Representatives were advised that the number of activity groups, ideally, should be at least 10% of the total membership. Our membership numbers have grown rapidly over the last couple of years to approximately 500 – but the number of groups has not kept pace with this increase being, at present, steady at 38. At the last general meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November I asked for ideas (ie: any ideas) for new activity groups. Members of your committee are keen to hear your suggestions. If you do not usually attend the general meetings you can drop your ideas into the U3A mailbox which is kept in the library. Please note that you will NOT be expected to become the Group Leader just because you've made a suggestion! The purpose of this exercise is to find out how we can increase the variety of groups and the likely numbers of members who might like to participate.



At the time of writing the defeat of England's rugby team in the world cup final is still fresh in the mind. Many of you will be aware of, or witnessed, the All-Blacks' 'Haka' at the start of every match. This is an ancient Maori war dance designed to strike fear into the enemy. In my last Newsletter I mentioned our Morris Dancers and I think it a great idea if England were to engage a Morris group to perform in response to the Haka. The jingling of bells, the waving of hankies and the clicking of sticks would surely promote total bewilderment, which will then give our national team a distinct early advantage.

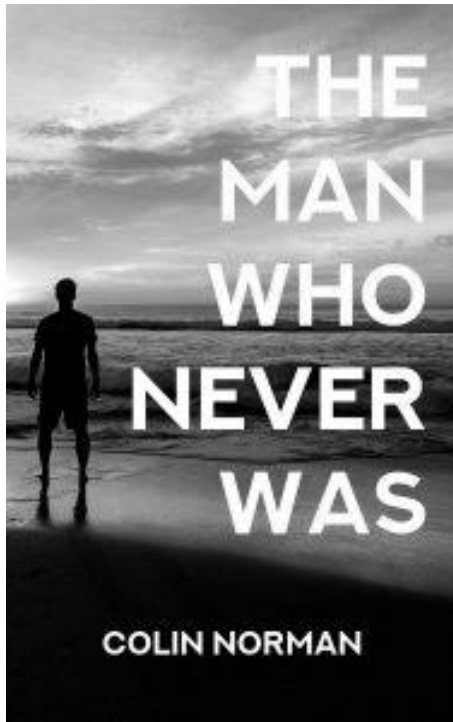
Which leaves open the question ... who is up for starting a Morris Dancing group?!

Best wishes to all in the coming Festive Season and the New Year

*Peter Bradbury*  
Chairperson

(TEL 01455 273604)

## AN AUTHOR IN OUR MIDST



Colin Norman, one of our members, is busily writing novels now that his considerable involvement in a local housing scheme has concluded. His debut novel, “The Man Who Never Was”, is part spy novel, part thriller and part love story. It’s the kind of story where we learn that sometimes in life, things don’t always go the way we want them to. Things are never as straightforward as they could be. It features Ray Marriott as he takes the first holiday he has had for many years after a failed marriage and divorce. Whilst in Norfolk, he meets an attractive young blonde who quickly captures his heart. But is all as it seems?

This is followed by “A Near Miss From the Past” also involving Ray Marriot, who lost his true love in traumatic circumstances. Unable to settle down, he joins his best friend Mike Sharp, who works in investigation. They become involved in investigating an unknown organisation called ASNO that has connections with neo-Nazi organisations in the USA, and now has a very strong support in the UK. The story goes from the UK to abroad, to the island of Lanzarote in the search for the head man. It soon becomes a cat and mouse game of hide and seek, and the action moves to a log cabin in France, building to a dramatic climax - but what is the twist in the tale?

Both are available in Kindle or paperback formats through Amazon.

Colin is a supporter of LAMP – a charity supporting those with mental illness, and when customers shop through the URL:

[smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk), Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of eligible purchases to the charitable organisations selected by customers. Select LAMP as your choice of charity and type in to the available box ‘L A M P’ (including the spaces and capitalisation of all letters).

*If you are interested in writing, why not join our Creative Writing group which meets monthly on the third Monday between 2 and 4 pm at Brook Court. You don’t have to be an established writer, and we are basically a fun group, writing to a theme for our own pleasure.*

## GUERNSEY VISIT

*(This arrived just too late for our last newsletter, so bring back the memories with this report on a lovely holiday, submitted by Tricia Brown.)*

Our holiday began with lovely weather and a visit to Winchester with time for sightseeing and lunch. Then on to Bournemouth with plenty of time for a pre-dinner stroll along the nearby cliff tops, missing the threatening rain.

An early start on Tuesday began with an unexpected short tour of Poole harbour as Mick, our regular Robinson's Coach driver, was misled by contradicting road signs, road works and road closures which his satnav didn't know about, though we were in plenty of time for our catamaran. Three hours later we arrived in St Peter Port to be greeted by our new driver, Andy, who turned out to be a mine of information on all aspects of Guernsey history and modern island life and tried not to take the same route twice. Time was available before dinner to explore nearby, the local Petit Pot Bay a popular destination for some, with the added attraction of a tea shop break before the uphill walk back, whilst others took advantage of the sunshine to relax with afternoon tea outdoors at the hotel.

Wednesday saw us off to La Valette Underground Military museum, crammed with memorabilia from the German Occupation, offering a fascinating glimpse of island life at the time. Next, Fort Grey, a Martello Tower housing a small shipwreck museum and then a quick dash through heavy rain showers to Guernsey Pearl. (I'm not sure what their jewellery was like but the tea rooms were most welcome!) The warm rain continued, but luckily we enjoyed a dry, guided tour of Sausmarez Manor, a family home for over 800 years, and another tea room, very welcome as the manor ground's RHS Artpark with sculptures and bamboo forest was a trifle damp due to the descending fog! That evening my birthday was celebrated in the time honoured manner with an appropriate song, candles and a card from my fellow travellers (*the cheque still appears to be missing*) and I graciously reciprocated by taking everyone to dinner in the hotel!

The warm fog cleared on Thursday to reveal bright sunshine as we entered St Peter Port and Castle Cornet, dating from the early thirteenth century and the largest monument on the island. I only managed two of the four museums and one of the four period gardens before all our party congregated to witness the daily firing of the Noon-day gun. There had been some discussion as to whether it could be directed at the two huge cruise ships that had docked and whose passengers had commandeered all ferry seats to Sark, a trip now not available to our U3A for tomorrow, but we decided to be charitable. After lunch and free time in the town, most of us joined Andy again for the trip to the Folk Museum with displays

from daily life back to the mid-nineteenth century, a costume collection and a fascinating history of the Guernsey tomato industry, now defunct, thanks to Dr Beeching and then Dutch competition. Being National Trust there was also a tea room on site!

Friday meant a free day. Glorious weather! Many of us took local buses from outside the hotel for £1 a trip, or £5 all round the island. St Peter Port was a popular venue. Retail therapy for some with lots of independent shops and, whilst every fourth one at home is a charity shop, here it's a jeweller's, many with sales on AND there's no VAT on the island. Guernsey Tapestry, an exhibition of embroidered panels telling Guernsey's history was considered well worth the visit by those who went, as was the NT's eighteenth century shop selling old fashioned sweets. I was stunned by Hauteville House, Victor Hugo's home. Meanwhile, with Sark off the menu, many went on an alternative trip to the nearby island of Herm, with plenty of sun cream! I was chatting to Guernsey locals, (in a tea shop, naturally) and the consensus of opinion was that Herm would be their first choice, described as magical by one lady and later confirmed by those of our party who made the visit. Perhaps the cruise ships did them a favour, after all.

Saturday was another superb sunny day, with a free morning to relax outside the hotel, walk to the beach or even visit the nearby Occupation Museum. Our final afternoon included a visit to the beautiful Little Chapel, one of the smallest in the world and covered with mosaics of broken pottery, glass and shells, inside and out, is the creation of, and mostly built by, one man, Brother Deodat Antoine. Nearby was a lovely silversmith's; we couldn't all get in the chapel, so some of us ladies were forced to buy some pieces of unusual jewellery. Andy then gave us a tour of parts of the island we hadn't seen with the obligatory tearoom stop. After a delayed but smooth crossing back to Poole, my phone surprised me with a welcome back to France! Another short mystery tour by Mick of the docks, different road signs and closed bridges this time, and a midnight plus arrival at our third hotel. As Jill said, we could count this as our backpacking holiday, if we'd missed out as teenagers!

After another excellent breakfast on Sunday we headed off for Lacock Abbey. On offer was the thirteenth century village, (with tearooms) the Fox Talbot photographic museum and the Abbey (with tearooms) itself, where we learnt about its first post monastic owner, Sir William Sharington, a court favourite, huge landowner, wool trader, then master and embezzler of the Bristol Mint and a Member of Parliament. (Nothing changes!) After a late afternoon tea stop, (what else!), we arrived home, five minutes before schedule, in the early evening, after a truly memorable break. Many, many thanks to Jill and to the good company that everyone was.

## A NOTE ON TRAVEL INSURANCE

When participating in a U3A group holiday you are responsible for taking out your own holiday/travel insurance. Your Organiser may ask you for details of your policy number, and perhaps a 'next of kin' contact and/or medical details for use in the unlikely event of an emergency.

## MAKE A WISH!

We have just started a new initiative whereby we are asking all our members to put on their thinking caps and MAKE A WISH. Try and think of a group which you, or others, might like to see in our U3A.

We are putting sheets of paper in the small lounge at the next few monthly meetings. Write your idea at the top of one of the empty boxes (*eg Chess, Italian*). Or, browse the ideas already suggested and if you might be interested in that suggestion – just add your name in the box underneath.

**WE MUST STRESS THAT SUGGESTING AN IDEA, OR EXPRESSING INTEREST IN ANY SUGGESTIONS DOES NOT COMMIT YOU TO ATTENDING ANY GROUP THAT MAY EMERGE, NOR TO BECOMING ITS LEADER!**

Where there seems to be sufficient interest in any idea, we will then organise an informal get-together to see how the suggestion might be progressed, and take things from there.

Come on – there are lots of exciting ideas to be explored! Just let your imagination run, and jot down your ideas, or consider trying out something new for the coming months.



This way, we hope to keep our U3A prospering and vibrant with new things for us to do!

Also, research shows that trying new things helps to keep us young – that can't be bad!

# NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**This will be in the Village Hall, Countesthorpe  
on 12 May 2020  
commencing at 2 pm  
followed by the speaker/entertainment**

## A G E N D A

1. Approval and Acceptance of 2019 AGM Minutes
2. Chairman's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Adoption of Accounts
5. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2021
6. Election of Executive Committee



### **CLARIFICATION OF OUR 'MEMBERSHIP YEAR'**

Our membership year runs from 1 April until 31 March the following year. If any new member joins after our two 'renewal opportunity' meetings in April and May, they still pay the full amount, but their full or associate membership runs only until following 31 March. So, even if somebody joins, say, in November or January, they will still pay the full annual fee (it's currently only £13, after all!) and will be required to renew after 1 April alongside existing members.

This may seem a little hard on anyone joining late in 'our year' but we still have to pay the annual expenses, eg: capitation to the Third Age Trust.

We hope that this helps to explain and clarify the situation.

If anyone has any ideas to improve our Newsletter, or any contributions for the next issue, then I would be very pleased to hear from you – just contact me by phone on 277 6330 or by email at *[jhawkins45@talktalk.net](mailto:jhawkins45@talktalk.net)*

## **BOURNEMOUTH HOLIDAY**

### **14-18 October 2019**

This was a lovely 5-day break, with full use being made of the journeys to and from Bournemouth. On the way down our lunch stop at Wallingford was somewhat 'drowned out' but thereafter the weather was kinder to us, with more sunshine than expected.

A warm welcome with refreshments in the lounge awaited us at our excellent hotel, the Riviera, which was situated close to Alum Chine enabling seafront walks either to Poole or Bournemouth. The well-appointed rooms (many with a lovely sea view) were complemented by a range of leisure facilities including a heated swimming pool and excellent food with plenty of choice. What more could we want!

Our first day out to Stourhead was a real scenic treat, with the lake surrounded with mature, exotic trees which were just exploring their autumn colours, and the interesting follies to explore. The house, which opened in the 1740s, was once described as a 'living work of art' and this was certainly borne out during our visit. Collections of Chippendale furniture and paintings as well as a unique Regency library were all there for us to enjoy. The vivid blue sky set everything off to perfection.



Day two gave us an opportunity to explore a little of the New Forest, with a stop in Burley. The afternoon was available to explore more of Bournemouth itself. Lots to see, with shops, beach, pier or just a walk along the promenade taking in the sea air!

Our third day was given over to a visit to Montacute House a "masterpiece of Elizabethan Renaissance architecture and design" (to quote the National Trust). Completed in 1601, the house was designed to make a bold statement of wealth and ambition. Its Long Gallery is actually the longest in England, and there are wonderful portrait collections to enjoy, as well as magnificent gardens.

*Report by Jenny Mills*

## **SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT IS MISSING!**

**Can YOU help?  
Or do you know somebody who might help?**

Currently we still have nobody to take over as Treasurer from Sue Wyllie who plans to be leaving the role next May. It is really important that we get somebody onto the committee to shadow Sue during this year so that there is a smooth and efficient hand-over of this vital role.

### **Without a Treasurer, there is NO U3A**

We have said this before, and **make no apologies for repeating it!** The role is absolutely essential to our survival as an organisation. Please come and talk to Sue or Peter, or indeed any committee member, if you feel you may have the skills to undertake this role. There is a lot of support available, and we will be implementing computerised systems to link in with membership data in the future; all of which will simplify the job.

**Any member willing to shadow the Treasurer, with the intention of taking over the role from June 2020 could be co-opted onto the committee immediately.**

The committee meets once a month, on the Friday before the general meeting (which is always on the second Tuesday). The meeting is usually 10 am – 11.30 am. Attendance at the monthly general meetings is quite important, though we recognise that no-one is likely to be able to attend ALL of these meetings due to holidays and other commitments!

### **OUR VERY OWN “ALMONER”**

Did you know that when any member is known to be seriously ill, or to have passed away, Sheila Holmes sends an appropriate card from their friends in the U3A? Over the years she has sent words of empathy and comfort to members and their families which have been very much appreciated at these most difficult times.

But, she needs to be made aware of such situations, and would very much appreciate a call on 277 2131, or tell her at any meeting, and she will be very happy to send a card as appropriate for any U3A member.

**Thank you so much, Sheila, for all your kindness!**



# NEWS FROM SOME OF THE GROUPS

*Full details can be found on our website  
([www.countesthorpeu3a.co.uk](http://www.countesthorpeu3a.co.uk)), or on the coloured Activity Groups  
List, the monthly 'What's On', or in the leaflets in the display racks at  
monthly meetings in the Village Hall foyer*

## **KURLING**

*Ian Paterson on 277 6259*

Ian's report is succinct: "TERRIFIC!" Every Wednesday at 11 o'clock in the village hall - rain, hail or ice sheets! Just turn up. For those not as supple as they once were, there are 'pushers' to save any bending. Everyone is very welcome. Kurling takes two minutes to learn and a lifetime to master! Recently our star (demon!) player celebrated her 90th birthday! Congratulations to Sheila Knight who 'out-kurls' just about everyone!

## **COUNTRY DANCING**

*Patsy Paterson on 277 6259*

These bi-monthly gatherings on a Monday afternoon regularly involve nearly 20 of us dancing a range of traditional and modern English Country Dances, Maypole Dancing, occasional Morris dances, International Dance, and even Sword Dances on occasion! There's lots of fun and exercise for the body and the brain. Everyone is welcome - please wear comfortable shoes and clothes.

## **ART**

*Pamela Whitehead on 277 8855*

This self-help group goes from strength to strength with a few new members recently joining. We have enjoyed a great outing to Patchings in June, and will be undertaking a private workshop there in December. We also have a small exhibition planned at my dental practice in Wigston, which was looking for something to fill its bare walls! The new subscription is £3 per week, which includes tea/coffee and biscuits. New members are always welcomed.

## **BIRDWATCHING**

*Janet Easey on 277 2544*

The Birdwatching Group has had an enjoyable six months with a stable membership of 20-24. We've decided that trips out are preferable to indoor talks – though this of course depends to some extent on the weather which caused the cancellation of the October outing. Recent floods restricted us to the hides at Rutland Water, but we were rewarded by the sight of a barn owl.

## **WALKING (CARE)**

*Allen Donkin on 277 3665*

From the 40 names on our list, we regularly attract between 15 and 28 walkers each month. We have volunteers to lead 9 of the 11 walks in 2020. We brave the mud, snow and rain and enjoy a wide variety of walks around the county. Our walks are always on the last Thursday of the month, and we depart from the Village Hall at either 9.15 or 9.30 am – depending on the actual walk – and travel to the start in shared cars. We take turns to lead walks, and each one ends up at a local hostelry, where an optional pub lunch is enjoyed. Reports and pictures of our latest 6 walks appear on the website – Activity Groups section.

## **BRIDGE**

*Alan Rooks on 277 2484*

We need 12 players to set up 3 tables, and we are normally meeting that number, or often even exceeding it. This means that our income is very healthy in relation to expenditure on hiring the room, so we may enjoy a 'free week' in the New Year! Partners are not needed, as we draw cards on arrival. Just come along any Monday (2 – 4.30 pm) to the Methodist church if you are an established player – you will be very welcome to join us.

## **HANDBELL RINGING**

*Pat Hillyard on 277 4187*

As more of our members are developing sight or hearing problems, we are finding that we need more new members. There is no need to be able to read music – just so long as you can count up to 4, all will be well, so why not come along and give it a try? We are able to integrate beginners into our ringing teams and help them to get established.

We currently have 4 engagements to play at outside events/venues, one of which will be at the Foston Church Christmas Tree Festival at 2.30 pm on the Sunday. It's a lovely event – so come along and share in the atmosphere – along with mulled wine and a mince pie, of course!

## **LINE DANCING**

*Maud Greasley on 277 1946*

We go from strength to strength with up to 40 dancers attending! This is a great fun occasion and our caller, Doug, is excellent and very patient with newcomers. It also means that our funds are very healthy and so we have been able to reduce the fee to just £2, and we may even have a few free weeks in the near future! We meet each Friday between 11 am and 12 noon in the Village Hall, and enjoy a great social get-together and some excellent fun exercise as well.

## **HOLIDAYS**

*Jill Clayton on 277 7154*

This year has seen two outings – to Guernsey and Bournemouth. A report on each of these is included earlier in the Newsletter. July 2020 sees us off to Durham area for a visit, where the Kynren spectacular is the highlight of the holiday. Full details are available on the website, and at the time of writing, a few spaces remain. Don't miss out!

## **GARDEN APPRECIATION**

*Ruth Westley on 277 1533*

The group has enjoyed a mix of local trips and others further afield, the most recent being to Westonbirt – combined with the Outings Group. This turned out to be spectacular, in spite of the unpromising weather on the way. But all was fine for the actual visit itself! We also enjoyed a combined visit with the History Group to Dudmaston Hall. Next year's programme will be the subject of the November meeting, after looking at a slide presentation of Gardens from Abroad.

## **FIT FOR LIFE**

*Diana Lee on 277 9142*

Our group of between 15 and 28 attendees are definitely benefitting and feeling fitter! Why not come along for age-appropriate exercise each Monday for an hour from 11.30 am in the Village Hall. £4 per session – just turn up in comfy clothes and trainers.

## **DISCUSSION**

*Liz Lockwood-Jones on 240 2296*

The group has continued to go from strength to strength during the year, resulting in 26 members currently registered with several more expressing interest. A very large group does not result in a very satisfactory discussion and we are now too large to meet in members' homes. Sincere thanks go to all who have welcomed us into their homes over many years and entertained us royally.

The result of this is that changes have had to be made and therefore as from September 2019 we have been meeting at Brook Court in Countesthorpe where we have the space to divide into two groups if required on the day. It was a group decision to do this in preference to dividing this very established group into two with each group meeting on different days. At the end of 2019 this group will close to new members and hopefully, a new "Discussion 2" group will emerge.

## **OUTINGS**

Unfortunately Isobel and Teresa have had to give up organizing this group, but we are getting to grips with ensuring that this it will be resurrected – most likely in the New Year. Watch this space! We would like to thank Isobel and Teresa for some great outings this year.

## **SCRABBLE**

*Shirley Frost on 01455 285217*

The group continues to meet successfully with about 12 people each month who are regular attenders out of the 17 on the list. Numbers did drop over the summer but hopefully will pick up again. We continue to enjoy the Scrabble, Rummikub and Upwords games.

## **SWANS**

*Pauline Woodward on 07936 555048*

Each of our (**S**hort **W**alks **A**nd **N**o **S**tiles) attracts between 12 and 20 people. We wander the many attractive bye-ways and canal towpaths, lanes and parks around our locality, covering about 2 miles, finishing with coffee. (*As the Group Leader for the CARE Walks rather cheekily said – SWANS is where their retired walkers go!*) In poorer weather we often do a city or town based walk, though on occasions we have been known to 'chicken out' and just opt for the coffee instead! This happened in November due to pouring rain, which was a pity as we had planned to try out a new route at Everard's Meadows. Our walks are on the first and third Tuesdays and start from various points at 10.30 am. Details always appear in What's On and on the website. New walkers are always welcomed.

## **SOLO SUNDAY LUNCH**

*Sheila Holmes on 277 2131*

We are still in a state of flux as far as our venue is concerned, but muddling along nicely. The numbers have dwindled slightly since last year, though this does make finding a venue simpler! We have tried the Greyhound in Lutterworth, and will be there again in January, as the food and service were good and it is quite convenient. Our regular venue is Ullesthorpe Court.

It would be really good if a few people could get together and suggest places for us to try, perhaps on personal recommendation. The usual criteria apply, as noted in relation to the Greyhound, so come on all you Solo Sunday Lunchers – get your thinking caps on and come up with some new ideas so that we can continue to enjoy our Sunday lunches together! You know what we like, and obviously we can't please everybody every time, but there are places out there just waiting to receive our merry band!

## **GUITAR**

*David Wild on 277 5881*

Our six players enjoy the music-making, although summer holidays have caused a gap in our meetings. But now we are looking forward to resuming on a more regular basis.

## **HISTORY**

*June Hawkins on 277 6330*

Our programme this year since June has seen us visiting the Black Country Museum, Dudmaston Hall, Doddington Hall and lastly Charlecote Manor. We are now starting our winter schedule of fascinating talks from Peter Liddle. This will take us through the darker months, and in February we have an extra special outing. This is to London, to see the Tutankhamun exhibition (**Treasures of the Golden Pharoah**) at the Saatchi Gallery. This is the last time that these fantastic objects will be on display outside Egypt, so we are looking forward to this 'golden' opportunity! We held our planning meeting in October and we look forward to our plans for 2020 coming to fruition. Thanks to all those who have organised and led outings, and helped out at talks and with bookings, this year. It is truly a group effort which keeps us all interested, entertained and informed!

## **THEATRE**

*June Hawkins on 277 6330*

A visit to Market Harborough for "Losing the Plot" – a situation in which many of us find ourselves from time to time – proved very entertaining! This was followed by the fantastic 'War Horse' at Curve, and 'Evita' at the Concordia Theatre. Both were stunning performances – one professional and one amateur. West Side Story is next up before Christmas! Then, it's more Matthew Bourne to start the New Year later in January 2020 with 'Red Shoes', followed by 'Billy' (based on Billy Liar) back at the Concordia, and 'Phantom of the Opera' at Curve and then 'Dial M for Murder' at Milton Keynes. Why not join us and enjoy a great theatre performance, with almost door to door transport, good seats, good company and support for many of the truly excellent local theatre productions! Book early, as seats sell out fast!

## **UKULELE**

*Isobel McDonald on 367 8314*

We continue to progress with our music-making! We are expanding our repertoire of songs as we learn more complex chords (though then there is a tendency to forget the earlier ones!) Progress has been a bit held back by other commitments over the summer period, but we hope to resume apace in the coming months. Who knows - we may even give a performance to our fellow members at some point in the future!

## **CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS**

*Ursula Wild on 277 5881*

We meet in a private home, so at present there are no vacancies for additional members. However, our small group continues to develop its expertise in solving the clues – admirably sustained by some excellent cakes produced by our host!

## **CREATIVE WRITING**

*Mikki Wilde on 277 5509*

Our regular group of about a dozen members have continued their inspired scribblings. This is a most enjoyable and supportive group, and it proceeds with much hilarity and some fascinating tangential discussions once we have done the serious business of reading out our month's offerings! One member is currently unable to attend, but participates in commenting on our work, which is lovely, and we look forward to her return. We hope to produce another miscellany in the not-too-distant future.

## **LITERATURE**

*Ruth Westley on 277 1533*

Once again, our reading horizons have widened! We tried the Leicestershire Libraries Group Reading Scheme, but as it involved carrying large numbers of books to and from Wigston several times a year, we have decided to abandon it and procure our books from our usual variety of sources – libraries, friends, charity shops and good old Amazon! Our six most recent choices and a brief summary of our discussions are all to be found in the Activity Groups section of the website. We would happily welcome new members, who would bring an even greater breadth of ideas for our future reading.

## **ALLOTMENT GARDENING**

*Val and Andy Grant on 277 8848*

Our success continues to grow! We have had a fine crop of fruit and vegetables including squash, beans and raspberries. There have been recent changes to the Allotment Management Committee, and issues concerning over-zealous monitoring of water usage have now been resolved and all is well once more! We entertained the Garden Appreciation group for a visit earlier this year, which was most enjoyable. If one or two people are interested in joining, they would be very welcome. Just call Andy or Val for a chat.

## **CLASSICAL MUSIC**

*Barry Hillyard on 2777 4187*

Our small group continues working enjoyably through the history of classical music, using a set of CDs. We have now reached Haydn, and our progress through the centuries will slow a little as there are far more composers to study from the eighteenth century onwards.

## **CARPET BOWLS**

*Barry Hillyard on 2777 4187*

Our regular group of about 15 players enjoy a good old gossip, only spoiled by having to bowl! We have a great time, so why not join us at the Scout Hut each Wednesday afternoon from 2 pm?

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2019

114 of us enjoyed a great start to our Festive Season with our usual excellent lunch, courtesy of Taste Restaurant at Leicester College. The students really do an excellent job of looking after us, decorating the tables, and producing and serving a really good choice of meals.

Congratulations to the Prize Draw Winners this year:

1st Prize:	Pat Hillyard
2nd Prize:	Sylvia Barradale
3rd Prize:	Beryl Lishman

Save this date for our next Christmas Lunch: Friday, 27 November 2020

## NOTES ON ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP AND GIFT AID FOR ALL MEMBERSHIPS

Associate Membership is ONLY available to individuals who have proof of FULL membership of another U3A. The current Associate subscription is £7.

Please remember that when an individual has kindly 'gift aided' their subscription, they MUST be paying income tax to HRMC. Tax rules and especially thresholds change, and if anyone finds that they are no longer paying income tax it is THEIR RESPONSIBILITY to inform Barry Hillyard (Membership Secretary) on 0116 277 4187 so that their name can be removed from our Gift Aid claims. This is really important and we ask for your help in ensuring that we remain 'legal'! Please do continue to 'gift aid', though, as long as you are eligible. Thank you for your co-operation.

## KEEPING EVERYBODY INFORMED!

Our next Newsletter will be published in June 2020, and news from the Groups will be much appreciated, or short articles about holidays or outings or any new or proposed groups, etc.

### **Copy deadline is 29 May 2020, please.**

In the meantime, our monthly printed "What's On" and the **website** will keep you all up-to-date with what is happening. Group Leaders can assist by letting me know of any events, visits, or changes to routine meeting patterns no later than the FIRST Tuesday of the month, to ensure inclusion in the next issue. Many thanks to all contributors this year!

*Contact me by email at: [jhawkins45@talktalk.net](mailto:jhawkins45@talktalk.net) or  
call me on 277 6330*

## MONTHLY MEETING DETAILS

Always held on the **SECOND Tuesday** of the month  
at Countesthorpe Village Hall

Doors open 1.30 pm; speaker at 2.00 pm followed by refreshments

Date	Title of Talk	Speaker
14 Jan	30 Years Quit Gamblers Anonymous	Paul Isherwood
11 Feb	Family History Research	Stephen Dyer
10 Mar	History of the 78 rpm Record	Peter Varden
14 Apr	Loros Home Visiting	Brenda Wilford
12 May	AGM (+ Countesthorpe U3A Showcase?)	
9 Jun	Leicester's Space Rocket	Roger G Cooper

### YOUR U3A COMMITTEE 2019-2020

Chairman:	Peter Bradbury	01455 273604
Deputy Chair:	Teresa Morgan	07882 604263
Secretary:	Janine Tibbles	01455 888289
Treasurer:	Sue Wyllie	284 9959
Membership Secretary:	Barry Hillyard	277 4187
Information & Publicity:	June Hawkins	277 6330
Speaker Secretary:	Paula Wollaston	277 9385
Groups Co-ordinator:	Jenny Mills	277 2041
Technical Officer:	Teresa Morgan	07882 604263
Committee member:	Beryl Lishman	277 0405
Committee member:	Isobel McDonald	367 8314
Committee member: (co-opted)	David Hebblewhite	07480 852233
Co-opted member:	Jill Clayton	277 7154

Full details of all our groups, events, trips and holidays can be found on the monthly **'What's On'** bulletin, provided at the monthly meetings with copies in the Rainbow Shop and Library. Or, why not visit our website for listings of all that is happening, and full details of our various groups. And don't forget the important **STOP PRESS** section of the **HOME PAGE!**

**[www.countesthorpeu3a.co.uk](http://www.countesthorpeu3a.co.uk)**