



**Dec 2023 - May 2024**

## **CHAIRPERSON'S LETTER**

Dear Members

As I write this, we are on the countdown to Christmas. The Christmas ads are on the TV (well since October!) and lights are being switched on in our village this week. But where has the time gone since our last festive meet?

Christmas and coming end of the Year is when we have the opportunity to look back over the last 12 months and to think about our journey together as a **u3a**, the things we have done and enjoyed together in our Groups, our Monthly Meets and on our Holidays, Trips and Outings.



So much has filled our diaries and kept us active. This all reminds me once more that we are so fortunate as a **u3a** to have those who are willing to give of their skills and their time for the benefit of all of us. I would like to thank each one of you for what you have contributed to make our **u3a** what it is.

You will notice over the coming months familiar faces on our Committee and those heading up various activities. There will be gaps too, as some of us take a well-earned rest and look to enjoy new things in life. There have been new faces too, as we have welcomed new folk onto our Committee and also started new Groups with more on the way in 2024. New members have also added to our number.

At the heart of the **u3a** movement is the desire to offer a spirit of friendship and a sense of community belonging that lifts us all up and gives us so much. In the times we live in, the **u3a** has so much to offer and we can all be ambassadors in telling others about who we are and what we do, as well as inviting them to join us and make our **u3a** even more special.

It has been a pleasure for me to serve you as your Chairperson over the last year and thank you for all your kind support. I would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and every Blessing for the New Year.

David Hebblewhite  
Chairperson (Tel: 0116 479 0945)

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2023



98 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:	Sylvia Eales
2nd Prize:	Ken Jones
3rd Prize:	Margaret Collett

Save this date for our next Christmas Lunch: Friday, 6 December 2024

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## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

This will be in the Village Hall, Countesthorpe  
on 14 May 2024 commencing at 2 pm  
followed by a speaker or entertainment

### A G E N D A

1. Approval and Acceptance of 2023 AGM Minutes
2. Chairman's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Adoption of Accounts
5. Appointment of Independent Examiner for Accounts
6. Election of Executive Committee

# THE QUEST

*(Written by Ann Kenney, for the Creative Writing Group)*

It is well known that most fledgling knights or squires who aspire to be knighted must one day go on a quest. It is not compulsory of course but it does wonders for your reputation and puts you and your Lord on the map. However, it is fair to say that not all quests go to plan. Take the Holy Grail for instance – total disaster from start to finish. The knights never found it and it did Arthur's status no favours. All I can say is that when they returned empty handed that infamous round table was hacked up to make several small, rectangular tables so that the knights did not have to sit together. Bad atmosphere in Camelot and do not even get me started on Lancelot.

Then there was George, he might not have been on a proper quest, but he was certainly one of the more fortunate ones. George was not exactly brave, handsome, or interesting. Those who knew him would imbibe vast amounts of ale just so they did not have to listen to his boring stories – which were mostly about horses or women. George seemed destined for mediocracy until he stumbled across the dragon. Let me tell you this was not a fierce dragon, like George it was slightly overweight and happy to snooze all day. However the townspeople had decided – for one reason or another – to sacrifice a virgin to the thing. Along came George who – apparently – with a mighty blow from his sword killed the beast. To be honest it was probably asleep or too fat to run but that did not stop old George becoming not only a sir but – on his passing – a saint!

So there you have it; now I, Sir Percival of Pevensey (I know, I know it is a mouthful and I do not even live there – I live in a small hamlet two towns over but my liege lord thinks it sounds noble so I am stuck with it) I have been ordered by my lord to find a magical object that is lost somewhere in the vast forest that covers our land. What is this object you ask? Well no one knows which is not very helpful when trying to find it, but my lord found out that it will grant three wishes and therefore he decided he wanted it, badly. Frankly I do not know what he wants magic for, he has a huge castle, a beautiful wife, three strapping sons to continue the family name and more money than sense. I did try to dissuade him but to no avail and here I am, on the edge of the forest, about to start my own quest. I can only hope it goes better than the Holy Grail and if I do meet any mythical creatures, they are too old or too plump to bother with me.

\*\*\*\*

Three days in and there is no sign of anything remotely magical; the only plus to this is that it is spring, and the weather is mild, so it is not too

uncomfortable for me to ride in my amour. My horse and I sleep under the trees at night, and I light a fire to heat up my meals. I have plenty of supplies and my friend the cook gave me a whole box full of sweetmeats, so I am well fed. We travel fast but we travel far, and the forest seems endless. I leave a bright stone here and there and tie ribbons to certain trees, so I do not lose my way. It would feel like a pleasant journey if I could find the object that I seek.

After a week I find a large ruby buried beneath an oak tree; it is beautiful, deep red like blood, and it twinkles in the dim sunlight that filters through the leaves. I pause for a moment and breathe deeply thinking that 'this is it – I have found it' and I hold it up, talk to it, I even kiss it but after a fruitless five minutes I must concur that this is NOT the object I seek. However it will come in handy if I return empty handed and I am banished from the realm. It must be worth a small fortune, so I pack it up in my saddle bag and continue on my way.

A day later I am riding through another thicket of trees when I see a small cottage amongst the foliage. There is smoke pattering from the chimney, and it looks very homely. However I am no fool, I know that cottages in the forest usually only mean one thing . . . I will not say it out loud but the black cat on the doorstep sort of gives it away. Therefore I am very uneasy as I knock upon the door and say my prayers under my breath. The woman who finally answers peers out at me through filmy eyes, wrinkles so deep it is hard to even guess at her age. She looks distressed rather than frightening and explains to me in a quavering voice that her cooking pot (which looks suspiciously like a cauldron) has cracked and broken and she does not have the strength to lift it off the fire and replace it with a new one. I figure that I am too big to fit in either pot and lend her my hands. Within an hour the old pot has gone and a shiny new one sits in its place.

“Thank you, brave knight,” the woman says and sits me down to a huge meal that smells divine and tastes even better. I risk asking her if she knows of the magical object that lurks in the forest and she nods sagely. I then ask her what it is, and she shakes her head sadly. “No one knows good knight but take this gift instead.”

With that she gives me a flask that is never empty and fills up with any liquid of my choice. It is a remarkable thing to have and, along with the ruby, might be the very making of me.

\*\*\*\*

A whole month has passed, and I am growing weary; I am now tempted to take my new possessions and leave the forest forever. There are

other castles and other lords but, somehow, I keep going, feeling that now I have started this thing I must end it.

Then I see the sparkling of water through the trees, and I dismount, walking through the bushes and brambles to find myself at a small but beautiful clearing with a clear pond right in the centre of it. Burying my pack under some leaves and, tying the horse up so that he can comfortably drink from the water, I strip naked and plunge into its icy depths. It is so refreshing that I stay there, dipping my head and body beneath the surface until I feel clean and refreshed. As I dive down and float up for the last time, I realise that there is something on my head. I reach up and pull down the mangiest creature I have ever seen. Dirty brown feathers, a mottled green throat and a bright orange beak. It is not very comely, but it might be very tasty. I run my hand across it trying to work out just how much meat is on its bones when suddenly stars burst out of the sky, rainbows fill the forest and there is music floating on the air. Instead of the ugly thing that was going to be my lunch there is a beautiful maiden and she smiles at me and speaks.

“You have saved me good knight and now I will grant you or whoever you serve three wishes.”

Well, I am totally shocked and delighted with this outcome; all that searching, all those days and nights and all I had to do was to just rub a duck!!

*End*

*PS: The theme for the month was ‘Rubber Duck’! Now THAT’s creativity!*



## **MONEY MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND**

However, with banks closing all around us, paying in coins is becoming a bit of a problem. Small denominations are particularly difficult, as the Treasurer has to hoard them until such time as sufficient are available to fill the requisite banking bag.

**So, it would help greatly if ALL MEMBERS WHO PAY BY CASH – whether at Activity Groups or for membership fees – would please pay ONLY in notes, £2, £1 or 50p coins.**

## THE 'LLANDUDNO HOLIDAY' – A REPORT

On Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> September I checked Google for the 7-day forecast for Llandudno. Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – 100% rain; Tuesday – 100% rain; Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> – 100% rain. By then I'd lost interest!

It was raining in Countesthorpe and Blaby on the Monday morning when we boarded the coach but no-one seemed to mind. We were in a holiday mood!

After a brief stop for coffee we arrived in Chester to sunshine and blue skies. We had time to have lunch and look around the city before leaving the sunshine to make our way to Llandudno and our hotel.

Our hotel room was petite, cosy and compact with the bathroom and shower likewise. The shower cubicle was 2' 6" square and dropping the soap would have been a tricky recovery manoeuvre. The shower was a challenge and, as the instructions were not easy to read, it was a matter of trial and error – mainly error!

Breakfast was a bit chaotic and noisy. Being set for 8.30 am was, perhaps, rather late for a holiday hotel, especially as it was table service and the hotel was full. Consequently we were late leaving for our wet day out to Betws-y-Coed and Caernarfon. It would have been an excellent trip had the day not been so very, very, wet! A somewhat uneventful day. However, just like Chester, we arrived back at our hotel to sunshine and blue skies.

Wednesday was a free day. The weather surprised us by being warm and sunny all day. With the sun shining we were ready to sample the sights and sounds of Llandudno. The pier is always an attraction as is the Great Orme with its 1902 tramway to the headland's summit and a 4000 year old copper mine to tour. There was a Home Front Museum and a Chocolate Museum – including samples! With lots of smaller independent shops selling a variety of good, there was something for everyone.

Thursday dawned bright and sunny for our drive through the Vale of Conwy to Blaenau Ffestiniog, a town well known for its slate quarrying and recognised as part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The

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Ffestiniog  
Railway took  
over from horse  
drawn trucks to  
transport the  
slate to  
Porthmadog.  
The railway is  
narrow gauge  
and the rolling  
stock is built  
accordingly.  
The coach that  
most of us

were in was more suitable children – we couldn't sit wholly on the  
seats!

Our coach met us at the Ffestiniog Station at Porthmadog to whisk us  
away on a short journey to Portmeirion – designed by Sir Clough  
Williams-Ellis in 1925 to show how a place of natural beauty could be  
developed without being spoiled. It was built in the form of a rustic  
Italian village following the design of the town of Portofino in Italy. *(It  
was used as the setting for The Prisoner 1960s TV series, starring  
Patrick McGoochan)* As the village sits on the edge of Snowdonia,  
walking was difficult for some, with sloping paths and steep steps  
down to the gardens. I had never been before and I enjoyed the visit  
but felt that the buildings were ready for another coat of paint.

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It must be a constant battle against the elements – sitting on a cliff overlooking the sea! Guess what? It rained!

Friday proved again to be a little inclement as we set off to journey home. En route we visited Little Moreton Hall, an iconic Tudor Manor near Congleton owned by the National Trust. I was fascinated that the house had a complete water-filled moat. The timber-framed building is 500 years old. All of the rooms are wonky, with uneven sloping floors and the staircases are steep. The fireplace in the Long Gallery looks not to be vertical but the surrounding walls are so out of line that it's an optical illusion!

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No visit is complete without a Tea Room. Little Moreton Hall had two – what would we do without tea rooms!

It was raining as we left to journey home. It was raining as we started the holiday and it was raining at the end – like two wet 'bookends'. However, all in all we had a lovely holiday with friends. A big 'thank you' to Jill, Sue and our driver, Andy.

*Report and pictures from Angie Skerritt*



## 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 £10 whether paying by BACS, cheque/cash (*least preferred*).

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.

### SWEETIE QUIZ

*Guess the sweet treats from the clues here. Answers later!*

- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Wobbly Infants           | 2 Edible Fasteners       |
| 3 9, 10, 11, 12 etc        | 4 Fallen Fruits          |
| 5 A Dairy Carrier          | 6 A Cult, Perhaps        |
| 7 A Belly Dancer?          | 8 All Sorts of Girls     |
| 9 Ten Pin Bowling          | 10 Very Intelligent      |
| 11 Where Rich People Live  | 12 Talk Quietly          |
| 13 A Caveman's Weapon      | 14 A Royal Sport         |
| 15 Mother's Local          | 16 Make Waves            |
| 17 Tiny Jewels             | 18 The Emblem of England |
| 19 Content of Conversation | 20 King of the Jungle    |

## ALL ABOUT MEMBERSHIP – HOW TO JOIN OR RENEW

To join as a NEW member, please either click on the attachment and download the form from our website OR ask the Membership Secretary at a monthly meeting. All instructions are on the form. Subscriptions as below:



To RENEW your membership for 2023/24, subscriptions are:

**Full Membership: £20 (subject to change for 2024/5)** (pay by BACS, cash or cheque)

**Associate membership** (with proof of full membership of another **u3a**) costs **£10 (subject to change for 2024/5)** (pay by BACS, cash or cheque)

1. There is no need to complete another membership application form
2. **BY BANK TRANSFER:** Payee: The Countesthorpe **u3a**. Sort Code: 40-12-35 A/c no: 01402889 It is **IMPORTANT** that you use your **u3a** membership number as the reference, FOLLOWED by your name. If you do not know your number, call Barry or June who will help you.
3. **BY CHEQUE:** payable to "**COUNTESTHORPE u3a** " to our Membership Secretary, Mr B Hillyard, 35 Station Rd, Countesthorpe, Leicester LE8 5TA. You can also use the **u3a** deposit box at the Library/Parish Office.
4. **BY CASH:** (*Least preferred!*) To our Membership Secretary, Mr B Hillyard, 35 Station Rd, Countesthorpe, Leicester LE8 5TA.



**IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS LAPSED**, then please follow the instructions for new members as above. Fees are as shown. If you are unsure whether your membership lapsed, then please contact Barry on 277 4187.



**MEMBERSHIP CARDS** will not be issued, as little use is made of them. Proof of membership can be provided on request to Barry, if this is required.



**KEEPING OUR RECORDS UP-TO-DATE:** If you have changed your phone number(s), address or email, please advise Barry or June to enable us to update our system and thus keep in touch with you.

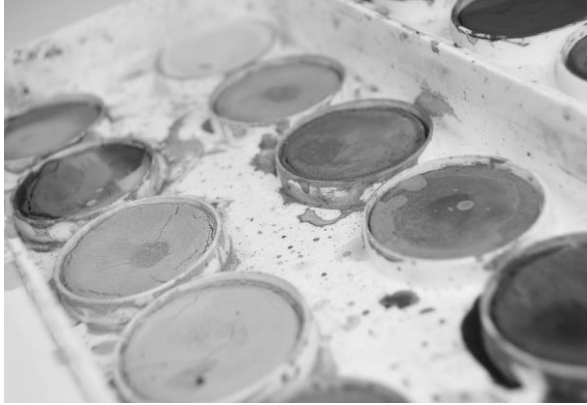
## NEWS FROM SOME OF THE GROUPS

*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*

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### **ART**

*Pam Whitehead on 277 8855 or Tricia Brown on 291 2241*



Our lively and humorous group (which is more than happy to welcome new members) works mostly in watercolours, but also produces masterpieces in pencil, ink, coloured pencils and pastels. In February, Tricia gave a workshop using texture and acrylics. In May, we had a demonstration by

landscape watercolour artist Phil Biggs, who generously gave us the painting, which we framed and raffled in aid of the Methodist Church, where we meet weekly. We ran a trip to Patchings Art Festival in July; loads of stalls and demonstrations by professional artists and a Pimms stand - what's not to like? Phil returned in October to run a workshop and guided us in each producing a landscape of Dale Head. We've now produced drawings on the theme of "The Snowman" for the church's Christmas tree festival and rewarded ourselves with a group Christmas lunch at the Vicarage in Enderby, as you do!

### **BIRDWATCHING**

*Janet Easey on 277 2544*

The Birdwatching Group still has a faithful band of 20 members who can be found venturing around the countryside, making rather too much noise, but spotting interesting birds we would never see at home. The highlight this autumn was seeing 9 curlews in a row, feeding and preening, at Rutland Water.



Next year we are planning more of the same, seeking out unusual feathered friends, and a good place for lunch!"

## SOLO SUNDAY LUNCH

*Hilary Natzel on 277 1176, or  
Carol Kenneth on 277 8999*



Solo lunches continue to be popular with a regular attendance of up to 22 diners. We continue to try out new venues, details on What's On, or on the website or in the small lounge at monthly meetings or just call Carol or Hilary.

## THEATRE

*Janine Tibbles on 07970 648979 or Gill Brown on 07757 007025*

We continue to organise trips to a variety of performances at local theatres. We have a bunch of loyal theatre goers who accompany us to most of our trips but everyone is welcome to come along for a great night out. We eagerly anticipate our upcoming trips to Evita and the Pantomime which have proved very popular. We are currently putting together ideas for the 2024 season which really begins with Come from Away at Curve in March. Come along to the small lounge or keep an eye out online or in What's On to find out about what we have planned and get signed up. We aim to offer a variety of shows at reasonable prices but we need your support to make them happen.



## HOLIDAYS

*Jill Clayton on 277 7154*

This year saw a very enjoyable visit to Llandudno in September 2023. This included a seafront hotel, with a programme of visits included. See Angie Skerritt's report and pictures earlier in this Newsletter. In June 2024, there will be a four night break called Scenic Tracks and Best of the Pennines, to include a ride on the Settle to Carlisle Railway, a cruise on the Leeds-Liverpool canal and a visit to the Victorian village of Saltaire.



## **WALKING (CARE)**

*Allen Donkin on 277 3665*

Over the past year the number of walkers has continued to decline, again for a variety of reasons. The average per walk for this year is 14 with a range of 10 to 20 compared to an average of 20 and a range of 15 to 28 in 2019. What has been fairly consistent over the past 17 years is the ratio of male to female i.e. 40% to 60%. The majority of walks this year have been to the south of the city.



Since COVID there has been a reduction in the number of pubs that are prepared to take walking groups or to open early for us to pre book our lunches. On a brighter note we have had some excellent weather, enjoyable walks and fine food in good company. The format for the walks remains the same but we would be pleased to see some new faces.

## **DISCUSSION**

*David Fagg on 07775 730378 or  
Janine Tibbles on 07970 648979*

As very new group leaders, David Fagg and I would like to say how much we are both looking forward to helping to facilitate the conversation on a wide variety of topics each month. The group has several regular members and is well supported but we would love to welcome new faces - and voices. We are happy to take discussion subjects from members or to chat about 'hot news' on current affairs that are happening as we speak. We meet on the fourth Friday of the month at Brook Court residents' lounge at 10 am. There is a 50p fee for refreshments if you wish to stay and chat after the meeting. We hope to see you in the future.



## OUTINGS

*David Hebblewhite on 0116 479 0945*

Outings have been taken to the Black Country Museum in June and Stratford-upon-Avon in August. In December we will be paying a visit



to the German Christmas Market in Birmingham – the largest outside of Germany/Austria. There will be a break over the winter months, with outings resuming in April, so watch for details.

We do still need someone to help jointly organise Outings so that we can be more flexible in the dates that we offer and offer more trips. If you are able to help, then please contact David.

## LUNCHEON CLUB

*Sue Wyllie on 284 9959*

Since the group began some five years ago, we have sampled a range of local restaurants, enjoyed good company and a pleasant lunch too. Everyone is welcome to join us on the fourth Tuesday of the month and you do not need to attend every month although it would be nice to see you regularly. Information is in the What's On and on the website. Menus are available at the monthly meeting. The only requirement is to let Sue know by the preceding Friday if you are attending.



## COUNTRY DANCING

*Patsy Paterson on 277 6259*



Country Dancing sessions on Monday afternoons are going ahead cheerily with a loyal band of dancers, but we could definitely do with a few more people so why not give us a try? We meet from 2 until 3 pm in Countesthorpe Village Hall; hopefully with an interesting range of dance styles and nothing too

complicated or energetic but lots of chat and giggles!

## LINE DANCING

*Maud Greasley on 07941 759856*

We continue to enjoy our line dancing with some new dances every few weeks, and of course, our favourites. We are going to Cosby Golf Club for our Christmas lunch this year. New members are always welcome. We will be closed on the 22nd and 29th December, then back on Friday 5th Jan 2024 - time 11.30 am - 12.30 pm.



## HISTORY

*June Norris on 277 6330*



We have enjoyed trips to Hardwick Hall – home of the redoubtable Bess of Hardwick – and to the newly-refurbished Nottingham Castle. In November, Peter Liddle returned to give the first of a series of talks updating us on the local ‘digs’ which have been taking place fairly recently. We began with Rutland Water and the

Rutland Villa, where a unique and extensive mosaic floor was uncovered. In December the Hallaton Treasure will feature, followed by the Highcross Shopping Centre and Bradgate Park in 2024

*A new leader is sought to avoid this group **closing** after the February meeting. Reasonable IT skills make this easier, but are not essential. There would be significant support for anyone willing to take this over – just contact June for a chat, without commitment.*

## BRIDGE

*Alan Rooks on 277 2484*



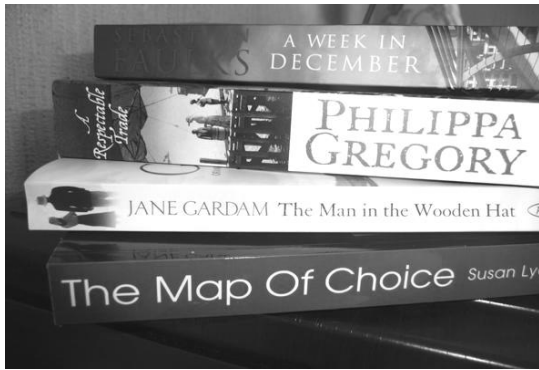
The Bridge Group is flourishing, having now recovered from an average of just 8 or 9 members last year, we are now seeing double that number!

Why not come along and join us. You don't need a partner, as this is drawn on the afternoon.

## LITERATURE

*June Norris on 277 6330*

We meet at Brook Court at 2 pm on the third Wednesday of the month to discuss a previously identified book. On occasion, we may select any book by a particular author, or even a genre. We are a



very informal group, enjoying refreshments after our deliberations. Group leadership rotates every six months. A report on the discussions on each of our book choices is displayed on the website for six months. If you enjoy reading and would like to chat informally with a

friendly group about your reading, then you would be very welcome to join us!

## CREATIVE WRITING

*Mikki Wilde on 277 5509*

With a few new writers joining us, we are still enjoying the self-imposed task of writing to a monthly theme. Our reward is listening to the amazingly wide range of responses to what is often a single word. No writing expertise is needed, just a willingness to try writing, and to share your ideas.



## SWANS

*Pauline Woodward on 07936 555048*



**Short Walks (And No Stiles)** from 10.30 am on the first and third Tuesday morning ending with a sociable time in a handy café.

We would welcome new people on our gentle walks which include parks, villages, city, canal towpaths and the like. Details are on the website or the printed What's On.



## **FIT FOR LIFE**

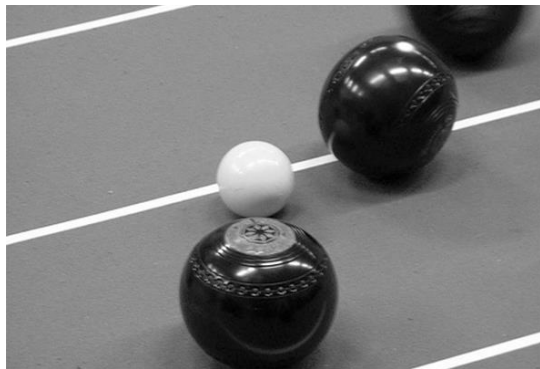
*Diana Lee on 277 9142*

Our Fit for life tutor, Penny, tells us we are looking fitter, taller and straighter, over the last few months. Wishing she had taken a video to show our improvement. We are a group of 10/12 ladies meeting for exercise, movement to music. It's a fun group to join. We would welcome U3A male members to join our group. We meet in the Village hall every Monday morning starting at 11.30 am for an hour. Need to get fitter after Christmas? Come and join us, no upper age limit. All members welcome.



## **CARPET BOWLS**

*Barry Hillyard on 277 4187*



We regularly have 8 to 10 players, meeting in the Countesthorpe Scout Hut on Peatling Road. We don't take it too seriously - usually a good laugh as well as bowling. Plenty of chatter, except when someone is actually bowling - then it is quiet followed by applause for a well-placed wood or

commiserations if the jack is knocked off the mat. Talk to Barry if you are interested or just turn up. Wednesday afternoons from 2 pm.

## **KURLING**

*Ian Paterson on 277 6259*

Hand and eye co-ordination + bending at the knee exercise + mental arithmetic + keeping up your steps + warm space + gentle aerobic exercise + team sport + mixture of ages and abilities + good company + highly accessible + gentle banter + competitive + accompanying music + like-minded people! And we play Kurling!



All this is available for you every Wednesday in the village hall at 11 am for a mere £2.50. Look forward to seeing you.

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS

*Ursula Wild on 277 5881*



The Cryptic Crossword Group meets regularly on the first and third Mondays of the month at 2-4 pm at a member's home in Shetland Way and, though it's a bit of a squash and a squeeze, we manage very well! We are now attempting one difficult crossword, and then looking at

the solution and discussing it, before tackling a simpler one.

You are invited to come to a meeting to enjoy tea or coffee and cake and see what it's all about with no offence taken if you find it's not for you. Be brave! Be strong! Be foolish!

## SIGN LANGUAGE

*Liz Stewart on 277 5044*

We are now nine regulars strong plus one irregular. Which is more than enough people when we want to give everyone an opportunity to have their say signing. Also, we meet weekly now because we have a keen group and it helps to remember and reinforce signs when they are used on a regular basis.



## CHEWS

*Ruth Westley on 277 5133*



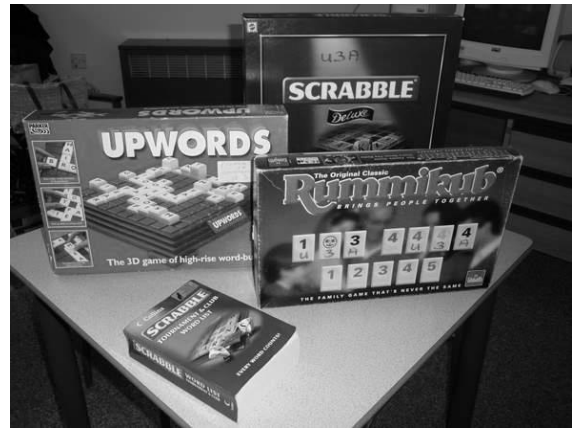
We are a small group but we soldier on, meeting twice monthly helping each other to be aware of our weight. As usually happens in many groups we often exchange thoughts, plans and opinions on anything as well as discussing weight loss.

## SCRABBLE

Carol Kenneth 277 8999

Up to a dozen members enjoy Scrabble, Upwords and Rummikub. New members are welcome. Help and guidance is available for those who would like to learn a new game.

Why not come along and give it a try some time?



## SOLUTION TO SWEETIE QUIZ

- |    |                   |    |                |
|----|-------------------|----|----------------|
| 1  | Jelly Babies      | 2  | Buttons        |
| 3  | After Eight Mints | 4  | Fruit Drops    |
| 5  | Milk Tray         | 6  | Black Magic    |
| 7  | Turkish Delight   | 8  | Dolly Mixtures |
| 9  | Skittles          | 10 | Smarties       |
| 11 | Quality Street    | 12 | Wispa          |
| 13 | Club biscuit      | 14 | Polo           |
| 15 | Mars bars         | 16 | Ripple         |
| 17 | Midget Gems       | 18 | Roses          |
| 19 | Topic             | 20 | Lion bar       |



Merry Christmas to You All!

## 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
9 Jan	Singing for Victory	Melody Flyte
13 Feb	Hospital Volunteers	TBA
12 Mar	TBA	Anna Tuinster
9 Apr	TBA	David Skillen
14 May	AGM	
11 Jun	Marilyn Monroe	Julie Kinnear

## YOUR u3a COMMITTEE 2023-24

Chairman:	David Hebblewhite	07480 852233
Deputy Chair:	Barry Hillyard	277 4187
Secretary:	Janine Tibbles	07970 648979
Treasurer:	David Hetterley	277 7703
Membership Secretary:	Barry Hillyard	277 4187
Information & Publicity:	June Norris	277 6330
Speaker Secretary:	Beryl Lishman	277 0405
Groups Co-ordinator:	June Norris	277 6330
Committee member:	Gill Brown	275 2525
Committee member:	Jill Clayton	277 7154
Committee member:	Dorothy Ivatt	07411 163396
Committee member:	David Norris	277 6330
Committee member:	Barbara Talbot	278 2821

## NEXT NEWSLETTER

Our next Newsletter will be published in June 2024, 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 1 June 2024, please.**

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