



June-Dec 2024

CHAIRPERSON'S LETTER

Well, what a summer it promises to be! Hopefully some much needed sun, after all the rain we have had over the last few months and to cap it all a general election in the offing! Whatever we are planning on doing and whatever lies ahead of us, I am sure that we are all hoping to enjoy the summer months.



As a **u3a**, we will be continuing our monthly meet on the second Tuesday of the month. We have booked some very interesting speakers to inform and entertain us! Some of our activity groups will take a break but some will continue to meet together. There will also be theatre trips, the group holidays and outings to join in with.

Meanwhile, our Committee is looking for ideas to celebrate our Silver Anniversary in November and your suggestions would be most welcome. Listening to the stories from those who were around at our Group's inception, it is clear that we have come a long way since that small group of committed people took on the vision of having a **u3a** and decided to do something about it. So many people have benefited from what has developed over these 25 years.

Our future as a **u3a** rests on all of us contributing to what we are doing now and to building our future for others. Summer is a natural time to take a break, but it also gives us the opportunity to think about what each one of us can do to help us to continue to do what we do best – 'learn together, laugh a lot and grow together.'

Have a good summer and get ready for the autumn and whatever lies beyond!

David Hebblewhite
Chairperson (Tel: 0116 479 0945)

A G M – 14 May 2024

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Another year has passed by and we have the opportunity at the AGM both to look back at what we have done over this last year and also to look ahead to what we will be doing and becoming as an organisation over the coming year. No organisation is without its changes as its membership changes over the years and as needs change too. Change can and should for us be seen as a time of growth and adaptability.

As a **u3a** we have lost some members for various reasons but also gained new members. The personnel on our Committee and our post-holders has changed, as some of us have taken on new responsibilities and we will continue to see changes as we go along. Some of our groups have come to a natural ending and we have also seen new groups form, offering new activities.

One thing remains unchanging though, and that is the Guiding Principles of the **u3a** in who we are and what we do together. It is no bad thing to remind ourselves of that ethos – to come together to learn from each other in sharing the wisdom, skills and knowledge we have built up over years, to have fun in doing so and to enjoy new friendships. Ultimately to see the 'Third Age' as a time of Growth, New Possibilities and Fulfilment. This rests not so much on being 'done to' as members but in what each one of us can offer to each other. We all have talents, sometimes obvious and sometimes unrealised, that we can offer to each other as a **u3a** and to see us grow.

Now is a good time for each one of us to personally thank those who have offered their time and gifts in leading us as a **u3a** and especially the Group Leaders - but maybe also time to ask what can 'I' or 'We' offer to us as a **u3a** to grow and flourish as an organisation. It is never too late, and who knows what it will lead to!

It has been my privilege to serve you as Chairperson for the last two years, and I would especially like to personally thank those Committee Officers who make my job as Chairperson so much easier: David Hetterley as our Treasurer, Janine Tibbles as our Secretary, June Norris as Groups Co-ordinator, Information Officer and Website Manager and Barry Hillyard as Membership Secretary and Beacon Administrator. Also fellow Committee Members, Jill Clayton, Beryl Lishman, Dorothy Ivatt, Gill Brown, David Norris and Barbara Talbot. Do take the opportunity to thank them yourselves when you have the opportunity.

Many thanks, too, to those who serve on the Welcoming Team at our monthly meet and to the hardworking team in the kitchen who provide us with tea, coffee and biscuits. Also, last but not least Dave, Tibbles who works so hard to set up the Village Hall for our Monthly Meet and who puts everything away afterwards.

We have much to look forward to in the coming year and please do continue to support all that we do together.

David Hebblewhite
Chairperson

Christmas is Coming *(though not just yet)!*

Christmas lunch forms will be available from the small lounge at monthly meetings or on the website from late summer, depending on when Leicester College produces the menu. The date is Friday, 6 December 2024 and as ever the price includes your meal, entry into the prize draw and gratuities.

You can take one of the 49 coach seats on offer with the usual convenient pick-up places or make your own way. Cost will be announced when the menu has been received and new prices calculated.



Only fully completed forms, with your cheque payable to Countesthorpe u3a (*or cash if you really must*) can be accepted, and the closing date is 3 November.

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 'SCENIC PENNINES' HOLIDAY – A REPORT

Under leaden skies, a coach-load of 46 people headed off to sunny (hopefully!) Bolton for the u3a holiday in the scenic Pennines. After a coffee stop at Sandbach we continued north on the M6 to Dunham Massey – a National Trust Georgian property set in a 300 acre deer park. We had the opportunity to explore vast acres of gardens containing beautiful trees and shrubs, though sadly the rhododendrons were just past their best. There were also excellent rose and kitchen gardens to enjoy. The house was interesting, with outhouses clearly displaying the hard life of those below stairs in the kitchens and laundry. Whilst above stairs there were fascinating collections of silver, gemstone seals, and diaries of the Grand Tours of Europe, together with numerous paintings.

Then it was on to The Last Drop village where we were met efficiently by staff with room keys and information. Our luggage was promptly delivered to our rooms, leaving time to settle in before enjoying a pre-dinner drink and a good three-course meal before retiring to a comfortable bed.

Tuesday dawned damp and miserable, but after a good breakfast we set off in the coach at 9 am for Settle. On arrival we dealt with the priorities - namely walking into the small town to purchase lunch, and fill a little spare time at one of the local coffee shops before returning to the station for the acclaimed train journey to Carlisle. Whilst waiting for the train, we were amused by two benches. On one platform, the bench was named "Settle Up" and on the opposite platform, "Settle Down"! Once on the train, we enjoyed the moorland scenery as it rolled past our windows and we were very grateful to be inside in the dry! It was fascinating to see the clouds reaching down to touch the hilltops, then lifting to give very occasional glimpses of a watery sun.



The views as we traversed the mighty viaducts were impressive, and we wondered at the feats of early engineering that made such edifices possible. There were several tiny stations which seemed miles from anywhere, but obviously served outlying communities, and were attractively maintained. On arrival at Carlisle we re-joined the coach for the journey down to Kendal where we spent some free time before returning to The Last Drop village for our evening meal.

Wednesday began in the rain with blustery winds as we wound our way through Lancashire towns to Skipton. Thankfully it was dry when we arrived as we had a walk through the High Street to the canal basin, before boarding the canal boat for our hour's cruise on the Leeds and Liverpool canal. The commentary was both informative and amusing, and was accompanied by welcome hot drinks and biscuits.



All too soon we turned back, but not before having time to enjoy the canalside homes and the wildlife. Then it was free time in Skipton, with plenty to explore in the bustling market, the High Street and small shops and courts. The church and Castle offered other options for some, before returning once again to our hotel.

On Thursday, we set off in a shower of rain which dissolved into blustery, cloudy but dry weather on our way to Shipley, just north of Bradford, to visit the unique village of Saltaire. Built in the mid 1800s by Sir Titus Salt to house his enormous mill's workforce, it is billed as the work of a far-sighted, philanthropic business man. After the business closed in 1892, it went through a varied and unsettled period before being bought by Jonathan Silver in 1986, whose vision and energy transformed the enormous derelict mill into a unique visitor attraction, and along the way formed a



partnership with the celebrated artist, David Hockney. The mill now has continuous Hockney exhibitions, and is currently showing his 90+ metre masterpiece depicting a year in his Normandy garden.

Saltaire is now a busy, vibrant and economically viable village, indicating that Sir Titus' original idea was ultimately a sustainable one.



All too soon it was our final evening meal together, before packing our suitcases for the return journey. The cool, blustery weather continued as we made our way south to Tatton Park where we spent an interesting few hours exploring the gardens and the mansion. As the mansion did not open until 12.30 pm, a number of people opted for lunch rather than touring the house (we were leaving at 1.45 pm), and consequently spent more time in the very attractive grounds.



There were acres of woodland and deer park to explore.

My personal favourite was the wonderful Japanese garden. The essential elements were explained and had been carefully put together and maintained.

Overall, we had a varied and interesting week, all set in the wonderful Scenic Pennines – a well-chosen title for an excellent holiday. As usual, thanks must go to Jill Clayton for organising all of this, giving so many people the chance of a holiday that they might not have otherwise had. Thanks also to her supporters, Anne Strang and Sue Wyllie. Sue was much in evidence, counting heads to ensure that nobody was left behind, and helping in all the myriad ways necessary to ensure the smooth running. Well done, ladies, and thank you to all.

Report by June Norris

ALL ABOUT MEMBERSHIP – HOW TO JOIN OR RENEW SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE, PLEASE!

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 2024/25, subscriptions are:

Full Membership: £20 (pay by BACS, cash or cheque)

Associate membership (with proof of full membership of another u3a) costs £10 (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 "COUNTSTHORPE 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.

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 0116 277 6330 or by email at *june.norris45@talktalk.net*

KURLING 2023/24

For those of you not familiar with New Age Kurling, it was while watching the 2000 Ice Curling World Championships that John Bennett was asked by his son to think of a sport that disabled people could all enjoy that John came up with the idea of New Age Kurling.

Pushing stones comprising of bearings along the ground towards a target with the idea being to get as many of your stones closer to the centre of the target than your opponent's stones plays the game.



Kurling has quickly become a popular sport and for the first time disabled people can play with or against able-bodied people on an equal level.

The sport is now played all over the world, with regional, national and international competitions taking place on a regular basis.

So goes the 'official' blurb!

Meanwhile back in **u3a** -land Kurling was picked up in the very early days of Countesthorpe **u3a** and has been played weekly ever since. We play on Wednesdays at 11 am in the village hall; you need only a sense of humour as everything else is provided. We play in teams or pairs or individuals depending how many people turn up. Costs are minimal.

Please come and join us for a bit of exercise, banter, gossip, company and just plain fun!

Enderby **u3a** Kurling recently joined us where we managed to not entirely embarrass ourselves, but let's say we came second!

Ian Paterson

A WORD ABOUT u3a MATTERS

As most of you know, each individual local u3a is a charity in its own right, operating according to the model constitution and under the auspices of the Third Age Trust. To further this sense of belonging to a national organisation, the magazine u3a Matters is available to every full member.

The system set up by the Third Age Trust assumes that every member who is registered with their local u3a, and therefore for whom we pay a capitation fee, will receive the magazine.

On occasion, some members have chosen not to receive this and accordingly, our membership secretary informs Third Age Trust of this, and in due course (systems are slow!), they are removed from the mailing list.

This does NOT affect the individual's membership, or the capitation fee we pay to Third Age Trust per member. Also, we do not pass on any mailing list to any other organisation.

So, it is your choice. You will automatically receive the magazine unless you choose to opt out by informing Barry Hillyard of this, by calling on 0116 277 4187 or by email: barry@bhillyard.plus.com

NOTES ON ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP AND GIFT AID FOR ALL MEMBERSHIPS

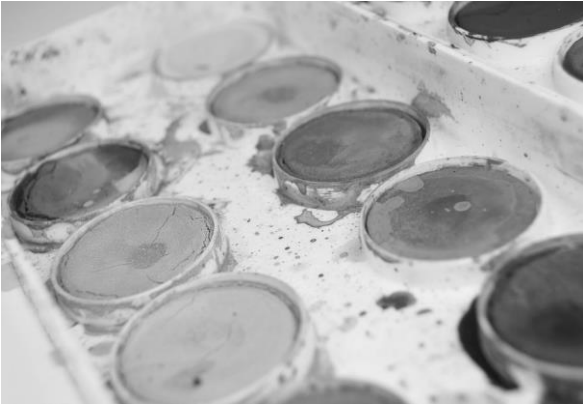
Associate Membership is ONLY available to individuals who have proof of FULL membership of another **u3a**. The current Associate subscription is £10 whether paying by BACS, cheque or cash (*least preferred*).

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.

NEWS FROM SOME OF THE GROUPS

Full details can be found on our website (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

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



We had an artist perform a water colour demonstration depicting a Lake District scene. We thought that the picture was worthy of a frame and mount, which was raffled to give the proceeds to the Methodist Chapel where we meet for the art group.

We all went to the Vicarage for our Xmas lunch, which we paid for out of our own funds. On Polling Day, we had a coffee, cake and curios at one of our member's home. A lovely afternoon in the sunshine, everyone enjoyed it.

The group has increased to 14 on most sessions. We have just painted a few canvases for the Art Bomb for Active Arts, setting up at Greenfield School.

BIRDWATCHING

Janet Easey on 277 2544

The Birdwatching Group has continued with a stable coterie of about twenty. We have been very lucky with the weather again this year and have included visits to Rutland Water, Brandon Marsh and, a new venue for us this year - Stanwick Lakes. There we had a rare treat; we all heard the cuckoo and one of our members saw an otter - so a very memorable outing! We have similar trips planned for the rest of the year, usually the first Thursday in the month, and hope for more interesting, educative, and enjoyable days out.



SOLO SUNDAY LUNCH

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



Solo lunches continue to be popular and we now have regular attendances of about 20+ diners. We continue to try out new venues and would like to see a few new members. So don't eat alone on a Sunday – this is a really good way to make new friends. Sign up and select your meal in the small lounge at monthly meetings, or call Hilary or Carol.

THEATRE

Janine Tibbles on 07970 648979 or Gill Brown on 07757 007025

Would you like an evening or an afternoon out with friends? Do you enjoy live theatre? Is it easier for you not to have to drive to see a show?

If the answer to these questions is 'yes' then come and join us for a Theatre Group outing. We try to book a variety of musicals, plays and pantomime and all prices include coach travel.

Janine and Gill would love to see you on one or more of our visits. Interested? Come and book in the small lounge at any of the monthly meetings or ring us to book your place.

HOLIDAYS

Jill Clayton on 277 7154

The autumn saw a holiday to Llandudno – a report on this was featured in the previous Newsletter.

Then this year, we have just returned from a “Scenic Pennines” holiday – with a wide variety of visits, a canal boat trip, a steam train ride and lots more.



We hope you enjoy the report earlier in this Newsletter, and that you may be encouraged to join future holidays with such a friendly group – and all so well planned that there is no hassle – just lots of enjoyment.

WALKING (CARE)

Allen Donkin on 277 3665

January had a reasonable turnout of 19 for our first walk of the year which was from the White Horse at Broughton Astley. The planned route had to be changed because heavy rain had made a couple of tracks impassable. Other walks have been from Lutterworth, Aylestone, Foxton and Gumley.



So far this year numbers have again fallen to the mid to low teens for a variety of reasons. Our walks of about 4-5 miles are on the last Thursday of the month with no walk in December. The walk concludes with an optional pub lunch. New walkers are always welcome and are encouraged to plan and lead a walk.

OUTINGS

David Hebblewhite on 0116 479 0945

Outings have been taken to Stratford-upon-Avon and Bakewell. Other trips are planned for July (Cambridge), September (National Memorial Arboretum and Lichfield) and in December we will be



visiting Belvoir Castle for the Christmas Experience, with a short stop in Melton Mowbray on the way home. 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.

BRIDGE

Alan Rooks on 277 2484

The Bridge Group is flourishing, having now recovered from an average of just 8 or 9 members after the pandemic, 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.



FLOWER ARRANGING *Rosemarie Nash-Smith on 07787 916738
or Linda Warner on 07951 717779*

Our group continues to flourish; a well-established social group of twelve who have welcomed two new ladies in the past year. As group leaders we plan an annual programme of designs for the members and are here in a support role. We demonstrate arrangements each month to inspire and



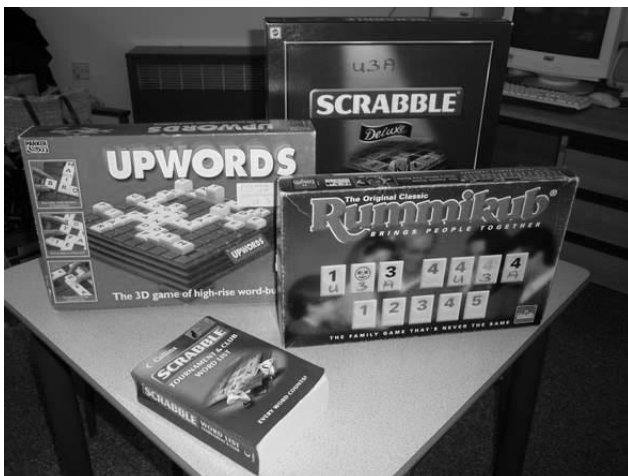
encourage the group to put their own interpretation on the brief which they complete the following month, so plenty of time to plan and prepare. This works well and our aim is for everyone to take home an arrangement that they have produced and can feel proud to say “I did that”.

Flower arranging takes space and so this does restrict our numbers. Currently we are at full capacity but happy to start a waiting list if any other u3a members are interested. All levels welcome from absolute beginners to the more experienced.

SCRABBLE

Carol Kenneth on 277 8999

The group meets monthly from 2 – 4.30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month. We gather in the newly refurbished residents’ lounge at Brook Court to enjoy not just Scrabble, but a variety of other games as well, including Rummikub and Upwords.



We are a very friendly group and would love to welcome new members. Help and support is available if any of the games are new to you, so why not come along and see if this could be for you?

We have a break for refreshments (50p), and pay just 50p for the room as well.

DISCUSSION

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

The Discussion group meets on the fourth Friday of each month at Brook Court in the residents' lounge.

Subjects discussed range through an eclectic mix of topics eg: Compulsory Military Service, Sport in Society, or the Meaning of Christmas.



At the end of each meeting, we agree a subject to discuss at the next meeting. We aim to correct the world, but on most occasions, we never reach a definitive conclusion. The beauty is everyone is encouraged to express their feelings, knowledge and life-based experiences. We keep the group size to a level which enables everyone to contribute.

To some, the best part is the informal chat over tea, coffee, water and biscuits at the end of the discussion.

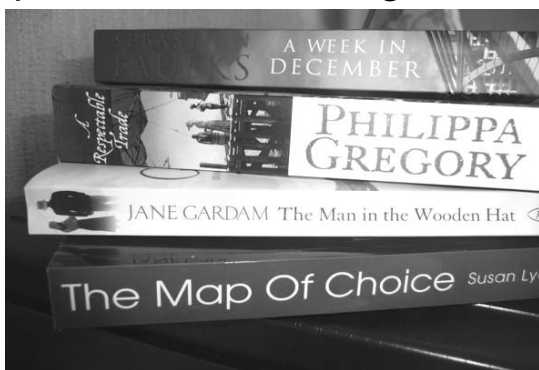
Follow the next subject matter on the website, or the printed 'What's On' distributed at the monthly meeting. Contact Janine or David if you wish to have more information.

Monthly costs are just 50p room hire and 50p refreshments.

LITERATURE

Dorothy Ivatt on 277 6330

We meet at Brook Court at 2 pm on the third Wednesday of the month to discuss a previously identified book. Sometimes, it is not a specific book, but might be anything by a certain author, or even from



a specific genre. Summer Reading allows a totally free choice and gives fellow members a lot of different ideas for their personal future reading. We are a very informal group, enjoying refreshments after our deliberations. Group leadership rotates every six months. A report on our discussions 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!

UKULELE

David Wild on 277 5881

The group appears to be going from strength to strength. We played at the AGM, then at Mulberry Court for the homeowners. We have also been invited back, so we can't be too bad! We have also been invited to give a performance to help with the D Day commemorations.



CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS

Ursula Wild on 277 5881

The Group meets regularly on the first and third Mondays of the month at 2-4 pm at one member's home in Shetland Way. There's a wide range of expertise in the Group and, though half of us started with no ability whatsoever, the other half have been wrestling with cryptic crosswords most of their lives! It certainly keeps the brain more alert!



You are warmly invited to come to a meeting to see what it's all about with no offence taken if you find it's not for you. Be brave! Be strong! Be foolish! Give it a try! (Reward = coffee and cake!)

PICKLEBALL

Sheila Pennington on 07703 290886

Meeting in the sports hall at Countesthorpe Academy (or outside when exams are taking part), a good number of members are enjoying this new sport. It is part badminton, part table tennis and part tennis and especially suited for seniors! We normally meet 11 – 12 noon on Saturdays or 2-3 pm on Sundays. But, please check What's On as things can change. Equipment is provided, just come suitably clothed and shod, with a drink. Let Sheila know if attending.



COUNTRY DANCING

Patsy Paterson on 277 6259



About a dozen dancers currently attend in the Village Hall from 2-3 pm on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. The session costs just £1.50. However, we are keen to see some more dancers, so why not come along – just bring comfy shoes and a sense of humour and give it a try! We enjoy a variety of dances; there is always help in getting the steps right!

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 more people on our gentle strolls which include parks, villages, city, canal towpaths, footpaths and the like.



We admit to being somewhat ‘fair weather walkers’ as we never walk in snowy/icy conditions, and if it pours with rain we have been known to abandon the walk and go straight for coffee! Not just ‘no stiles’ but no mud either! But we do have fun and some gentle exercise as well. Why not give us a try? Details of each walk are on the website or the printed What’s On, so just turn up and enjoy!

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE

Liz Stewart on 277 5044



We now run the group weekly as it helps us remember! We pay £1 week to cover the cost of drinks and resources. We have eight regular members which is a good size group for what we do, but could cope with a couple more if someone is desperate to join us!

FIT FOR LIFE

Diana Lee on 277 9142



Join our class for General Top to Toe feel good! A friendly group and the exercises are adapted for the more mature ladies. U3A men are very welcome (don't be put off).

Some exercises include the use of soft balls and weights. The class ends with a good final cool down.

Come on Monday mornings (excluding Bank Holidays) to the Village Hall between 11.30 am and 12.30 pm to see if the class would be suitable for you.

CHEWS

Ruth Westley on 277 1533

The small CHEWS group continues to meet on the first and third Thursdays of most months. We weigh and record our status, congratulate or commiserate and exchange ideas - including the state of our lives and the world in general. All genially put to rights in half an hour in a member's kitchen! Why not join us?



FRENCH CONVERSATION

Dorothy Ivatt on 07411 163396



We now have 10 members in this group. Ability ranges from rather rusty 'O' Level French, to much better fluent speakers. New members are always welcome. We meet on the first and third Mondays of the month from 10.00-11.00 am in the small lounge at the Village Hall. Small charge applies.

HANDBELLS

Pat Hillyard on 277 4187

We have about 12 people in the group who meet every Wednesday from 2 to 4 pm at the Methodist Chapel in Wigston Street. We are an enthusiastic fun-loving group who would welcome new members.

Being musical is not a requirement but would mean you would find it easy to learn quite quickly. We are very competent at teaching new members. Do think about joining us – we did show off our skills at the AGM in May. It would be lovely to think there could be different members taking part next year. An ability to laugh with us at our mistakes and the jokes of some of the members would be an asset!



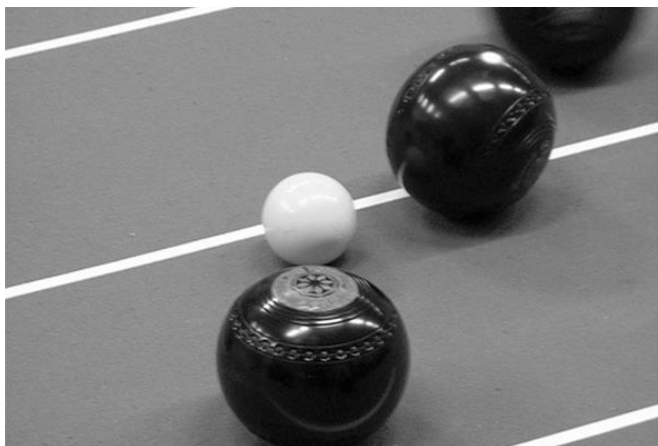
If you want to know more, please contact Pat.

CARPET BOWLS

Barry Hillyard on 277 4187

We meet on Wednesday afternoons from 2 pm at the scout hut in Peatling Road, Countesthorpe (next to Dine India).

Currently there are about 10 of us but there is room for more. You don't have to have played either indoor or outdoor bowls before, nor do you need any equipment – just a sense of fun.



We usually play for about an hour then take a refreshment and gossip break, then another 45 minutes. We do not take ourselves at all seriously though a good bowl is the occasion for congratulatory applause.

Anyone interested and wanting more information please contact Barry as above or email barry@bhillyard.plus.com.

LUNCHEON CLUB

Sue Wyllie on 284 9959



Over the last 16 months we have visited 13 different local venues, some of which we will probably revisit - others not! We average about 14 participants but everyone goes home happy and well fed! Please note that everyone is welcome. See What's On or website for details and sign up in the small lounge

at monthly meetings. We now meet on the fourth Thursday of the month (a change from our original day) as more are able to attend.

ITALIAN CONVERSATION

David Hebblewhite on 479 0945

From its beginnings as a mixed-ability group, this has now settled into more of a complete beginners' group, thereby losing a few early members who were really quite fluent. The 6-8 members now use television programmes to help with learning the language.



This is likely to go on until the autumn, then with a break until the New Year, and restarting with more of an intermediate level. For more information call David.

CREATIVE WRITING

Mikki Wilde on 277 5509

Established for many years the Creative Writing Group continues to thrive. There are eleven members who attend regularly on the third Monday of the month from 2-4pm in the meeting room of Brook



Court. The variety of work produced for each session, based on a chosen theme, provides entertainment, stimulus and is always thought provoking. We intend to have more workshops, starting with a discussion of style. We are a very friendly, welcoming supportive group. So if you are interested, come and join us one of these months.

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 July	Mary's Meals	Jane Wright
13 Aug	Singing For My Supper	Katy Dent
10 Sept	From Here to Eternity	David Hebblewhite
8 Oct	Talk and Show on Magic	John Constatine
12 Nov	25th Anniversary Celebration	
10 Dec	Home-grown Entertainment	u3a Groups

YOUR u3a COMMITTEE 2024-25

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 December 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 28 November 2024, please.

Contact: june.norris45@talktalk.net or 0116 277 6330