



Registered Charity No. 1137780

## March 2019 Newsletter Melton Mowbray U3A

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### At the meeting this month on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019

<b>Speaker</b>	"Teapot, Treaty and Terror – The Origin of the FBI" by <b>Graham Cherryman</b> . Now what could happen if your neighbours became rich, very rich?
<b>Display</b>	Recorder Group, Jenny Poulson
<b>Catering</b>	Sue and Peter Morris, Cecil Robinson, Shirley Tomlinson, Ann Scillitoe

## Committee Notices

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As previously notified, the AGM takes place at the beginning of the March general meeting. The formal AGM notice is included with this newsletter along with the minutes of last year's AGM.

Trevor Wright, the Newsletter Editor is stepping down, having completed his 3 years. The Committee would like to thank Trevor for all his hard work.

### RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP FOR 2019

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2019 please do so as soon as possible. A renewal form is being sent out via email with the newsletter and can also be downloaded from the Melton U3A website ([www.u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](http://www.u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk)). Copies will also be available at the general monthly meeting. Please complete the form and send it to Bill Shaw together with a cheque for the correct amount. Alternatively, you can hand the form in at the Membership desk at the monthly meeting. Thank you.

### KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you become aware of a member becoming seriously ill or experiencing other life changing events please do let Winifred Maine know, even if you think someone else may have notified her. We would rather be notified more than once than not at all. Winifred organises the sending of one of the lovely cards produced by the Parchment Craft group to let them know we are thinking of them. Winifred can be contacted by email [mainline@ntlworld.com](mailto:mainline@ntlworld.com).

## General Notices

### NEXT OF KIN CARDS

Next of Kin cards will be available at the March meeting. These are useful credit-card sized cards designed for you to enter next of kin details on and place in your purse or wallet. The Committee have purchased a further supply of these cards and they are free to Melton Mowbray U3A members. If you are a group leader, please encourage your group members to make use of these cards. Group leaders can take a supply for their members if required, just let me know.

**Christine Bluett (Groups Co-ordinator)**  
email: [groups@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:groups@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk)

### CROCHET HOOKS AND KNITTING NEEDLES AVAILABLE

If any craft group or person would be interested in my spare crochet hooks and knitting needles would they please contact me. I can bring them to a monthly meeting if required.

**Val Coombes, email: [coombval@gmail.com](mailto:coombval@gmail.com)**

### MELTON FIELDWORKERS GROUP

We have been asked to let members know about a talk by the above group "Industrial Archaeology in a Rural Community" by Prof Marilyn Palmer. The talk is being held at Melton Carnegie Museum on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019, doors open 7.00pm and talk begins at 7.30pm. All are welcome but places are limited. Admission £5



## Group Activities



### AMERICAN STUDIES

**There will be no meeting in March.** The next meeting will be at 2.30pm on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April at Tesco's. Subject: The legal/judicial system of the USA

**Contact: Chris Lawman [americanstudies@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:americanstudies@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk)**

### COMPOSER OF THE MONTH

#### Meetings of the group:

6<sup>th</sup> March - David

27<sup>th</sup> March - Weinberg

3<sup>rd</sup> April - Boccherini

**Contact John Playfer**  
Email: [composer@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:composer@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk)

### LUNCHEON GROUP GK

Our next lunch will be at the Berkeley Arms Wymondham, on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March. Please be sure to arrive by 12:15 to be seated at 12:30. Please let me know if there are any concerns.

**Gillian Kilpatrick, Group Leader**  
Email: [luncheongk@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:luncheongk@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk)

## HISTORY GROUP

The next meeting of the History Group will be on 15<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm at Sage Cross Church. The speaker will be Cynthia Brown and her subject will be 'The Palace on the Hill', Leicester General Hospital from it's beginnings as a Poor Law Infirmary in 1905.

All are welcome. You do not have to belong to the History Group, as long as you are a paid up member of the U3A

**Anne Purvis, Committee member**

## OUTINGS FOR 2019

### LICHFIELD - Wednesday 8th May

Depart Melton: 9.00am Depart Lichfield: 4.00pm  
£20 per person (payment deadline 18th April\*)

### SHERINGHAM & SHERINGHAM FLOWER FESTIVAL - Friday 5th July

Depart Melton: 8.00am. Depart Sheringham: 5.00pm  
£24 per person (payment deadline 20th June\*)

### IRONBRIDGE and BLISTS HILL VICTORIAN VILLAGE - Wednesday 9th October

Depart Melton: 8.00am Depart Blists Hill: 4.00pm  
£23 per person (payment deadline 19th September\*)

**\*PLEASE NOTE: demand is high for all three outings so in order to avoid disappointment we would recommend that you pay as early as possible and not leave it until the deadline.**

The Outing Leaders will be available in the foyer at each monthly meeting to process your payments which can be in cash or by cheque made payable to Melton Mowbray U3A.

**Outing leaders: Frances Waite, Debbie Adams, Jean Pearson  
Email: [outings@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:outings@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk)**

## SUMMER INDOOR BOWLS

The winter indoor bowls will have its last session on 8th April and, because of when Easter falls and the early spring bank holiday, the summer indoor bowls will not start until Monday 13th May at the usual time of 4:10pm

**Contact: Chris Lawman  
Email: [summerindoorbowls@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:summerindoorbowls@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk)**

**THEATRE GROUP** please use the Theatre Group email: [theatre@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:theatre@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk)

## SATURDAY MATINEES AT THE LITTLE THEATRE, LEICESTER

25<sup>th</sup> May 'Death of a Salesman' (Drama) – last day to apply 21<sup>st</sup> March  
22<sup>nd</sup> June 'Ladies' Day' (Comedy) – last day to apply 18<sup>th</sup> April

Contact: [theatre@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:theatre@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk)

**THE COMEDY ABOUT A BANK ROBBERY**

**The Curve, Leicester. 14:15 on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March.**

Please collect your tickets from the Theatre Desk at the next U3A general meeting. If you are unable to collect, Lynda will be standing at the entrance to the Box Office at Curve Theatre from 13:45 with your ticket

**JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT**

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June, Kilworth House.**

Tickets are £47.00 per person (to include coach travel). There are **3** tickets still available. Please collect your tickets from the Theatre desk at the next U3A general meeting. The coach will depart from the Baptist Church car park at 18:30 so **please arrive by 18:15**. The performance starts at 19:45 so there will not be time to picnic on this occasion.

**CABARET Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019,**

**Theatre Royal, Nottingham** at 2.00 pm. Tickets £48.80 (Stalls) including transport. Coach departing 11.00 am allowing time for lunch/ shopping. Full payment no later than 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Contact Anne Dyster, telephone 01664 560512, email: [r-a-dyster@supanet.com](mailto:r-a-dyster@supanet.com)

**MUSIC OF THE NIGHT, ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**

**Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019, Royal Albert Hall** at 7.30 p.m. Tickets £38.25 (Choir) including transport. Coach departing 12.45 pm, allowing time for shopping at Brent Cross. Deposit £10.00 with booking, balance to be paid by 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019. Contact: Anne Dyster, email: [r-a-dyster@supanet.com](mailto:r-a-dyster@supanet.com)

**MATTHEW BOURNE BALLET 'ROMEO AND JULIET', Theatre Royal, Nottingham.** Music by Prokofiev. **Matinee performance Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.** Tickets are £30.80. Please collect your tickets from the Theatre desk at the next U3A general meeting. Any tickets which have not been paid for will be sold to members whose names are on the waiting list.



## Walking Groups



**2ND MONDAY WALKING GROUP. 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

Meet at the Old Wharf, Hickling, LE14 3AH, 10:15 for 10:30 start.

**Group Co-ordinator: Geoff Harris**

**Email: [walkingmonday2@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:walkingmonday2@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk)**

**1st THURSDAY WALKING GROUP Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**Billesdon and Rolleston, approx. 6 miles.**

Please meet at the Queens Head PH, Billesdon, LE7 9AE ready to walk for 10:00am. A provisional booking for lunch has been made, orders can be placed before the walk.

**Walk Leaders: Wendy and Stuart Posnett**

**Group Co-ordinators: Wendy & Stuart Posnett**  
**[walkingthursday1@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:walkingthursday1@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk)**

#### 4TH MONDAY WALKING GROUP 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Please meet at the Horse and Jockey, Manton (LE15 8SU) at 10:00am for a 10:15am start.

**Walk Leader: Jan McCarthy, Group Co-ordinator: Jennifer Gregory**  
[walkingmonday4@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:walkingmonday4@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk)

#### 3RD WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP 17<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019 - 5 miles

The April walk will be from Burton on the Wolds. Meet at the Greyhound PH, Burton (LE12 5AG) at 10 - 10:15am for a 10:30am start. Lunch will be at the Greyhound

**Group Co-ordinator Rob Issitt**  
[walkingwednesday3@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:walkingwednesday3@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk)



## Annual Group Reports



#### DISCUSSION GROUP – BEING HUMAN

This is a small, friendly group who meet to discuss any and all matters relating to humanity, both in the sense of mankind and what makes us human. The intention is to keep the group fairly small (maximum 8 members) as this permits all members the opportunity of making their points and prevents the meetings from degenerating into several smaller groups speaking across each other.

Our intention is always to listen respectfully to others' opinions and, whether we agree or disagree, to accept that a different view is not necessarily a wrong view.

One of the strengths of the group is that although we may start from a single topic, we quite often find that a tangent provides a more fertile ground for discussion. Topics we have approached in the last 12 months include *Justice, Sexual equality, Censorship and free speech* and *Is there such a thing as a just war?*

We miss greatly the contributions made by our friend Gordon Young. Right up until the end he continued to add thoughtful, and sometimes mischievous, comments which we always found thought-provoking.

We are grateful to Kim and Dave Etherington for hosting our meetings and to Dave Farrow who started this group a couple of years ago but has since passed the baton on.

For further information please contact the group leader.

**Simon Wright, Group Leader**

### **DISCUSSION GROUP – KUMAR**

There are still four of the original members of our group which has been meeting monthly for fifteen years. We have been pleased to absorb new members as they have helped us extend our interests.

The group maintains an attitude of mutual respect which allows us to listen to alternative views, even on the supposedly forbidden subjects of religion and politics. What is intriguing is the wide variety of experiences on which our generation can reflect.

Our subjects range across three broad areas – soil, soul and society. These were identified by Satish Kumar, an ex Jain monk in a magazine called Resurgence.

A recent discussion on vegetarianism showed how these headings overlap – food, from the soil obviously, but also a moral dimension in concern for animals and the impact of agribusiness on the world community.

Next up: Druid beliefs and practices

**Don Moss, Group Leader**



## **Final Notices**

### **ANNUAL REPORTS DUE FOR THE APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER:**

Drama Workshop & Performance – Sue Wright

Encaustic Wax Painting – Sue Gowans

Family History – Geraldine Page

Flower Arranging 1 – Sue Marshall

Flower Arranging 2 – Rosie Gildove

**Contributions to the April 2019 newsletter to be received no later than  
31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. Items should be emailed to [editor@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:editor@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk)**

**CATERING GROUP FOR NEXT MONTH'S MEETING ON 18th April 2019 at the Baptist Church** Barbara Guntrip, Joan Jaggard, Betty Giddens, Josie Rudkin, Vera Mowbray



The following is a contribution from a member of our talented Writing for Pleasure group, for your enjoyment.

### **Green Eyes by William Pead**

Robert was eleven. He lived with his mother in a terraced house in Highgate, North London. Robert hadn't seen his father for two years because Britain was at war with Germany and dad was in the Royal Artillery. They sometimes got letters from him but they were usually short and didn't say much; - "Because of the censors", Mum said although Robert suspected that mum didn't read everything out to him. "Prob'ly grown up stuff", he thought.

Mum always told Robert what to do if she wasn't around and something happened in the house or if he felt ill. He was to go next door to Mrs Rogers who was a very sensible woman and who could be relied upon.

On this particular day, Robert's mum was at the butcher's shop queuing for the miniscule meat ration. With nothing much to occupy him, Robert decided to explore the attic. It had a ladder which pulled down from the ceiling with a piece of rope with a metal knob on the end. Once he had climbed the ladder, he found the attic was lit by the orangey/yellow light of a small electric bulb. At one end the wall stood out into the attic space where the chimney flu came up from the lower floors. In front of this stood a large wooden trunk. It was not locked but it was pushed back against the wall so that the lid could be opened only an inch or so. What could be hidden in there? Robert tugged and heaved at the trunk until he has moved it away from the wall enough for the lid to be opened fully. Inside it was dark and black and completely empty.

Suddenly, the Air Raid Warning Siren started; a rising cadence to a steady level then dropping and rising to warn people to take cover. Mum had said, "Where ever you are, if the air raid siren starts, get under cover." But he was under cover. What should he do now? A few seconds later he heard the sound of the bombs falling. They whistled through the air and the shock of the explosion shook the house. Closer and closer they came, now interspersed with the reports from the anti-aircraft batteries on Hampstead Heath.

A hole appeared in the roof as a piece of shrapnel from an AA shell pierced the slate roof and clattered around in the attic space. Seconds later, three or four more slates disintegrated. The thought flashed through Robert's mind that he would be more, 'under cover' in the trunk so he threw himself into it, pulling the lid shut after him. Inside it was totally dark. It was almost quiet and comfortably warm. He tucked his knees up under his chin, rested his head on his hands and resolved to stay there until the raid had finished.

When he awoke it was light. The sky was blue with hardly a cloud in sight. The faintest of warm breezes fanned his face and he could hear the faint sounds of small animals and insects nearby. In the distance, a church bell chimed. "Where am I?" he thought. All the constraints of the trunk seemed to have disappeared. He sat up and then stood up on the soft sweet grass which had miraculously appeared beneath his feet. He stooped at first lest he should hit his head on the lid of the trunk despite the fact that the trunk seemed no longer to exist.

"Am I dead? Is this what heaven is like? Am I still asleep and this is all a dream?" He pondered for a minute or two and then said, "I seem to be stuck here for a while so I might as well explore"

He wandered up over a slight rise and down the other side to a clear, swiftly running stream. Instantly thirsty, he knelt and scooped up some water which, when he drank it, tasted better than any he had ever tasted in his life. Nearby he spied some fruit bushes and an apple tree. He ate some fruit and berries and then an apple. He had just bitten into a second apple when he felt, rather than saw, someone watching him. He turned slowly, guiltily and saw a girl of about his age, watching him curiously with a gentle half smile on her face. Robert thought she was the most beautiful girl he had ever seen. Her hair was auburn and fell down to her waist. Her skin was golden with just a hint of freckles on her nose. Her teeth were perfect and as her eyelids blinked lazily across her jade green eyes, Robert knew instantly that he now understood the meaning of love.

He held the apple towards her blushing and stammered, "Oh, I say. Are these your apples and berries? I'm not a thief. I thought they were just....."

The girl's face blossomed into a full smile; her voice was like music.

"No. You can take all you want to eat. They belong to all of us. My name is Esme. Who are you? Where did you come from?"

"I'm Robert. I came from outside." He answered.

"Is it nice out there Robert?"

"No, not really. Actually it's pretty horrible. It's cold and raining and most of the time I don't get enough to eat and I'm hungry and cold and there's a war on and people are getting bombed and killed and I'm frightened a lot of the time."

"It sounds awful Robert. I wouldn't want to go to a place like that. Why don't you stay here with me and all my friends? We are always warm and never hungry or thirsty. Everyone gets on and there is never any fighting or nastiness."

"I would really like to stay Esme but my mum is out there and she will be worried when she comes back if she can't find me."

"Do you really and truly love your mother Robert?" Esme asked.

"Oh yes, I couldn't leave her. My dad is away in the war. He might even be dead. If I went away, she would have no one."

"Then you must go back," Esme said, "and bring your mother back here with you."

"Could I do that Esme? Could I really bring Mum back and all of us live together forever?"

"Of course you can Robert. In my world, you can do whatever you wish as long as you don't hurt anyone else." Esme replied.

Slowly the smile faded from Robert's face. "Trouble is I don't think mum would believe me. She would think that I was making it up, even the bit about you. I don't suppose you would come back with me and help me to convince her Esme."

For the first time, Esme's brow wrinkled in a frown and her smile faded.

"I don't know she said uncertainly. From what you have told me, I don't think I would like your place and I'm sure I would be frightened just like you."

"Oh please Esme" Robert pleaded. "Mum will love you, - just as I do." he added shyly. "I'm sure she won't let me come back unless you are there to show her that I'm telling the truth."

Esme thought for a while considering the possibilities. Finally her brow cleared and she smiled once more. "All right Robert. I will go back with you but only because I really want you to come and live with us."

Her lips gently touched his cheek, they both stood up and they were standing in the wooden trunk. Robert stepped over the edge and offered his hand to help Esme out of the trunk but she shook her head.

"No Robert. Go and fetch your mother while I stay here and keep the way open. When you bring her, I will talk to her and persuade her to come with us. Besides, I can hear the noise of the bombs and the guns and it frightens me"

Robert hurried down the step ladder and found Mum. He didn't say what it was but he had some difficulty persuading Mum to come and see what he had found in the Attic.

"I haven't got time to play games Robert." she said.

"But Mum. It's a big surprise and I promise that you will like it ever so much."

"Oh, very well then." she said fondly ruffling his hair.

She climbed the steps to the attic while Robert waited at the foot.

The 100 Kg high explosive bomb released from a Dornier 17, 8000ft above the house, pierced the attic space and exploded on impact with the wooden trunk killing Robert's mum instantly.

Robert survived. He was deaf for some time but seemed to make a full recovery over the next few weeks. He grew up in foster homes until his father returned from active service. Although he was bright, doing well at school and eventually getting a good job, he always remained a bit shy, something of a recluse, never having close friends. He has never married. Now, in middle age, he is still looking for the girl with the long auburn hair and jade green eyes.

