



Registered Charity No. 1137780

April 2018 Newsletter Melton Mowbray U3A

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At the meeting this month on Thursday 19th April 2018

Speaker	"Dancing on the Table" by Michael Dix - 37 years of funny tales from an ex-Leicestershire headteacher!
Display	Patchwork Groups 1, 2 & 2A
Catering	Marsha Young, Joan Jaggard, Betty Giddens, Josie Rudkin & Vera Mowbray

General Notices

MONTHLY MEETING: CAR PARKING AT THE BOWLS CLUB

Your Chairman was invited to the Bowls Club to discuss the issue of car parking in their car park during our monthly meetings. The Bowls Club Chairman has no desire to stop us parking there completely but he does want to see an end to the situation where, on some occasions, his members have been unable to park in their car park because our U3A members have taken up all the parking spaces. He does recognise that this situation has partly come about due to us losing some 20-odd spaces on the road between the Church and Bowls Club because the building site personnel are using them, and, in the fullness of time, this will cease to be an issue, but, in the meantime, we do need to address the problem. Their Chairman is well aware that many U3A members are also members of the Bowls Club, and he suggests that there would be no objection to "our" Bowls Club members parking up in the car park, as they can be seen to have an entitlement to do so, and this would result in fewer, if any, objections from Bowls Club members.

I would therefore ask all U3A members, who are also Bowls Club members, to consider parking up in the Bowls Club car park, when attending the Monthly Meeting, thereby freeing-up parking spaces at the Baptist Church for non-Bowls Club members. This would be regarded as a satisfactory option by the Chairman of the Bowls Club and should go a long way towards reducing any friction.

Alan Barton Chairman

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS AT MONTHLY MEETINGS

Thank you to the five members who contacted me to volunteer their services to welcome new members at monthly meetings, but we really need more people to make this work, so please take some time to read the article below.

The U3A Committee are aware that many new members can find attending the Thursday Monthly Meeting for the first few times, overwhelming; particularly, if they are unaccompanied and do not know any other members.

In the past we have used the 'blue spot system', whereby, volunteers wear a blue spot on their badge, indicating that they are willing to support new members. However, it can be difficult to locate the wearers of the blue spots!

Therefore, we have decided to formalise a 'meet and greet' system by asking established members to volunteer to be available for at least one monthly meeting a year to welcome new members. We envisage that three or four people would be needed for each meeting, which will include some committee members who are free to help. If anyone is willing to take on this role could they please email me at: vchair@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk. If you could indicate which months you could be available then I can produce a timetable.

I am hopeful that if we have enough volunteers then no-one will be asked to be on 'meet and greet' duty more than once a year.

Thanks for your help and support.

Sue Wright
Vice-chair

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Following a suggestion from U3A members, the Committee discussed a proposal that Gordon Young and Len Pearce be offered honorary life membership of the Melton Mowbray U3A, having regard to their work in helping to set up the U3A in Melton Mowbray, their extensive years serving on the committee and various "behind-the-scenes" tasks that they both carried out for many years on behalf of the membership. The committee unanimously agreed that they were fully deserving of being granted life membership and we are pleased to announce that they have accepted the offer and they are now, therefore, appointed as honorary life members of Melton Mowbray U3A and, on behalf of all members over the last 22 years, we thank Gordon and Len for their service to our U3A.



Group Activities



PLAY READING GROUP 2

Play Reading Groups 2 and 4 will be combined and, for convenience, will be known as **PLAY READING GROUP 2**.

We will meet on the **SECOND** Tuesday of each month at Tesco on Thorpe Road at 2:00 pm.

We have a few vacancies so if you want to give it a try please email williampead@sky.com or just come along and join us.

I look forward to seeing you all on **Tuesday 9th April**.

Kind regards,
Bill Pead

(P.S. We usually meet in the Reception Area at around 1:55)

CROQUET PLAYERS - OLD AND NEW

It is time to oil your mallets and sharpen your wits. We plan to resume our weekly sessions on the first Thursday in May at 2:30pm at the All England cricket ground on Saxby Road. Both the Town Estate and the cricket club are happy for us to play on the same basis as last season. We have invested in an extra croquet set as our mailing list has grown to 44, after interest following Meet the Groups. We have plenty of space at this location and can easily accommodate additional members.

Diane Cherryman dmcherryman@gmail.com

CPR & DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

In the near future it is hoped to run a one-off Workshop on hands on CPR, defibrillator and recovery position training. This would be carried out by qualified trainers through the Heartwise Rotary Resuscitation Programme and would last approximately one hour.

Could any U3A members interested please contact Jennifer Gregory by e-mail:
jennifer.gregory29@yahoo.co.uk

FLOWER ARRANGING GROUP

Anyone interested in joining the 3rd (!) self-help flower arranging group? Tuesday am 10-12. This third session is already filling up!

Week to be confirmed - contact Rachel Purse

2018 OUTINGS

Stratford on Avon

Departure 8.30 from the Baptist Church

Parking at the Bowls Club on the right-hand side near the railway line.

Hampton Court

All monies need to be paid at the April meeting to secure your seat and entrance fee. All entrance fees have to be paid well in advance

Payment is required from those members going to York to secure their seats.

We are looking to put a team together in order to ensure continuity of outings for the Melton U3A. If you are interested in becoming a member of this team, please contact

Pauline Black

COMPOSER OF THE MONTH

Meetings of the group:

4th April Shostakovich

25th April Bennett

2nd May D'Indy

Contact John Playfer email john@playfer.org.uk

AMERICAN STUDIES

April's meeting will be at 2:30pm on 19th April at Tesco's

There is no set topic – if you are attending you are free to bring a contribution about anything American.

Chris Lawman chris.lawman@btinternet.com

HISTORY GROUP

The next meeting of the History Group will be on April 20th at 2pm at Sage Cross Church.

The Speaker will be David Bell and his subject will be "Down the Garden Path - the Privies of Leicestershire"

At that meeting we will also be taking names for our guided walk to Wymondham on Friday July 20th.

We still have a few seats on the coach to Claydon House on June 13th. Contact Margaret Spencer

Anne Purvis Committee Member

SUMMER INDOOR BOWLS

The summer indoor bowls group will be starting again after Easter on Monday afternoons at 4:10pm. So, the first session will be on Monday 9 April

Please arrive just before 4pm so that we can arrange the rinks according to the number attending

Contact : Chris Lawman

THEATRE GROUP

BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA The coach has now been booked and the cost is £17.50, which should be paid by 19th April 2018 please. It will leave Melton Mowbray at 10:15 a.m. and I anticipate being back in Melton 7:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. **There are 8 spare seats on the coach, so if other U3A members would like to go to Birmingham (for shopping / meet up with friends/ explore the City) on Wednesday, 2nd May, we plan to arrive at the Symphony Hall by 12 noon and leave approximately 6.00 p.m. The cost would be £17.50. Please speak with Angela Fielding.**

THE LITTLE MERMAID. Thursday 3rd May at 2:30pm at Curve, Leicester. Please collect your tickets from the Theatre Desk. As I have not sold all 20 tickets, I hope you will understand when I ask you all for another £1.00 as we only qualify for the 10+ group discount – not the 20+ discount.

GUYS AND DOLLS at Kilworth House Theatre on the evening of **Wednesday 20th June**. The cost of a ticket, plus transport, is **£46.50 due now**. The coach will leave the Baptist Church at 5:00 to allow time to picnic before the show starts at 7:30. The coach

company has given us permission to eat on the coach if the evening is less than pleasant!
Lynda Middleton

GILBERT AND SULLIVAN'S RUDDIGORE 40 tickets have been reserved for the matinee performance of the G & S comedy Ruddigore at Buxton Opera House on Wednesday, 1st August 2018. The cost of the ticket and transport will be £38.00. Payments are now being taken. There are still seats available. Please contact Colette Marshall at the Theatre Desk.

Matthew Bourne's SWAN LAKE 2:30 at Curve on **Thursday 4th October**. Tickets are £32.50, due by the July meeting at the latest. This is the 'all male' production of Swan Lake. Retaining many elements of the original, it has been given a fresh look for the 21st century but retains the dramatic Tchaikovsky score. ***I have 1 ticket left***

Lynda Middleton

LES MISERABLES at Curve on Monday, 19th November 2018 at 7:30 p.m. There will be a coach leaving the Baptist Church at 6:00 p.m. prompt (please be there by 5:45 p.m.). The total cost of the ticket and travel costs is £56.00. Contact Angela Fielding.

WHITE CHRISTMAS – Wednesday, 12th December 2018 – 2:15 performance. Tickets are £26.50 and must be paid by 19th April please. There is a waiting list, so it is essential that payment is received or your ticket will be offered to a member on the reserve list. Contact Colette Marshall.

ATTENTION BOWLERS

Outdoor bowls sessions will start on Monday May 14th at Holwell Sports Bowls Club at the usual time of 2pm Cost is as last year £3.00 or 50p if Holwell Sports Club members

Cliff Thompson

BIRD WATCHING GROUP

The next meeting of the Birdwatching Group will be at 10:30 am on 27 April at Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre, Rutland Water Nature Reserve, Egleton, Oakham LE15 8BT. A charge is made for access to the Nature Reserve with its 31 bird-watching hides. The price includes your car parking. Permits are purchased from the Visitor Centre and must be displayed in your car at all times. The cost of the permits is Adults: £6
Concession (senior, disabled/carer, student): £5 with 10% off for Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust members.

Contact Jennifer Widdowson jenniferwiddowson@yahoo.co.uk



Luncheon Groups



LUNCHEON GROUP 'GK'

Our next meeting for lunch will be on Thursday April 19th at The Gregory, Harlaxton. Usual arrangements, please arrive at the venue by 12:15 ready to be seated at 12:30.

Any queries contact me on gilliankilpatrick@googlemail.com

LUNCHEON GROUP 'S'

The Luncheon Club 'S' this month will be dining at The Bluebell in Hoby, lunch is booked for 12:30. If for any reason you can't attend, please call or e-mail me as they need 24 hrs notice or you could be charged, as all meals are booked in advance.

Marjorie Shaw

marjorie.shaw@sky.com



Walking Groups



2ND MONDAY WALKING GROUP 14th May.

Meet at the "Grey Hound Inn" Burton on the Wolds. 10:15 for 10:30 start.

Walk Leader: Anne Mazur

Group Co-ordinator Geoff Harris

1st THURSDAY WALKING GROUP Thursday 3rd May 2018 - Billesdon - 6 miles approx.

Please meet at the **The Queens Head**, 20 Church St, Billesdon, Leicester LE7 9AE . Ready to walk for 10am. Lunch can be ordered prior to walking.

Walk Leaders: Wendy and Stuart Posnett
Group Coordinators: Wendy & Stuart Posnett

4TH MONDAY WALKING GROUP - 23rd April 2018

Please meet at the Blue Bell, Hoby at 10am for a 10:15am start.

Walk Leaders: Chris & Thea Lawman
Group co-ordinator: Jennifer Gregory

3RD WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP – MAY WALK (5 miles)

The May walk will be from Harby walking on May16th 2018. Meet at the Nags Head, Harby (LE14 4BN) 10:15 for a 10:30 start.
Lunch will be at the Nags Head.

Walk Leaders Ken & Jen Widdowson
Group Co-ordinator Rob Issitt



Annual Group Reports



NATURE GROUP

The Nature Group has just had its first anniversary and it has been an interesting year. We had to cancel two sessions due to inclement weather, one in the middle of summer and the second, unsurprisingly, at the beginning of February.

The venues attended during the last year have been wide-ranging from locally at the Melton Country Park and a walk from Kirby Bellars to Asfordby, to further afield including Bradgate Park and Rushcliffe Country Park. Each place has offered something different and there have been many highlights as well as questions to be researched.

The highlight of the visit to Cossington Meadows was the site of a Glossy Ibis. When we visited Holwell Reserves we were fortunate to be led around by the Reserves Manager, Peter Dawson. Brown's Hill Quarry and North Quarry are Regionally Important Geological Sites and the old mine tunnels provide ideal conditions for bats where Natterer's Daubenton's, Brown long-eared and Pipistrelle bats have been recorded.

Our visit to Hall Farm, Brentingby provided a different experience. We enjoyed a tour of the farm led by Julia Hawley. Julia has a vast amount of knowledge and the two-hour walk around the farm was fascinating. The group had many questions and discussions ranged from the effect of the three badger setts and TB, the use of glyphosate and natural and/or AI!

We visited Bradgate Park at the beginning of December and were lucky to have a dry day. The sky was dramatic with patches of blue and some very colourful clouds which showed the landscape and the winter trees at their best. Some of the trees were very old indeed and many were extremely rotten which added to the drama of the landscape. Throughout the walk we could see many deer roaming free and when we reached the River Lin there were a few ducks. The surprise of the chilly December day, spotted by a very keen-eyed member of the group, was a Red Admiral butterfly. We watched it for some time as it stretched its wings in the sunshine.

At the "Meet the Groups" in January we enrolled an additional thirteen members and it was good to see that several of the new members were able to join in the February visit to Rushcliffe Country Park. Some of us spent a long time looking at catkins which were mainly Hazel, Alder and Silver Birch. The Hazel were interesting as we could see the male and the female catkins, the female being tiny with red tips.

On the Ladybird Trail we saw two types of fungi, the Fungi Yellow Flowers of Tan and the Many Zoned Polypore. The Visitors' Centre provided a variety of free leaflets about the flora and fauna in the Country Park which helped to identify the fungi.

Our group is now full but if anyone is interested in setting up a second group, perhaps on a different day of the week, we would be very happy to share our experiences.

Group Co-ordinator: Valerie Malloy – valerie.malloy@btinternet.com

MATHS FOR FUN

We held our Initial Meeting in September 2017, with 6 interested members and since then we have had several more inquiries. Altogether 8 different people have attended subsequent meetings but only as a small group at any one time. We are having difficulty finding a time slot that suits everybody. Hopefully we will develop a routine as time goes by. We also have some Email only members who are happy to receive problems by email.

Our meetings last for about an hour and a half where, after an introductory activity, we try 2 or 3 problems a month from a variety of sources and at different levels including some of the "Farmers problems" from past copies of Third Age Matters, internet puzzle sites, a pool of questions sent from U3A Maths Adviser and some that just turn up.

We have dipped into several mathematical topics including Probability, Golden Ratios, Moebius Bands, the maths of Bell Ringing, New Year maths, Pancake Day problems, factors and multiples, area and trigonometry, developing an idea of what it is that makes for us a good problem: i.e. one that is interesting, challenging, intriguing, but also feels solvable.

Just a start! Room for just a few more new members.

Sue Brown Group Leader



Final Notices

ROCK AND ROLL BACK THE YEARS WITH THE GENERATION GAP GUITAR GROUP

Following on from their hugely successful "Melton Care Homes" tour, The Generation Gap (a Melton U3A-based group of guitar strummers and singers) now present their:

FRISBY CHURCH GIG IN AID OF FRISBY CHURCH

So if you like listening and singing along to music from the 50's, 60's and 70's then this is the place to be. It will be a fun evening and a splendid time is guaranteed for all.

Saturday 28th April 7:30pm

Frisby Church, Frisby on the Wreake

Tickets £10 to include wine and nibbles

Tickets available from friends of Frisby Church

For further information contact Pru Smith 01664 434468 or Simon Blake 01664 434580

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE FOR THE APRIL 2018 NEWSLETTER:

Needlecraft, New Age Kurling 1 & 2, Outings and Parchment Craft.

Contributions to the May 2018 newsletter to be received no later than

30th April 2018. Items should be emailed to editor@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk or posted to 28 Grantwood Road, Melton Mowbray, LE13 1SB

CATERING GROUP FOR NEXT MONTH'S MEETING ON 17th May 2018 at the Baptist Church: Janet & Derek Larder, Edwina Brewis, Jean Ladkin and Ann Scillitoe