



Anyone for tennis?

*Rusty Racket Group needs more members
see page 20 for further details*

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Notices

June 3rd u3a Day

Congratulations to the Team which united the two u3as; that is, Lutterworth and Wycliffe Lutterworth in an impressive display. This highlighted the many varied activities, hobbies and interests on offer in Lutterworth.

A huge amount of planning prior to the “Day”, involved applying for a grant, collating photographs, collecting brief resumes of interest groups, designing leaflets, printing application forms, working out rotas and frequent Zoom liaison, over a relatively short period.

Having practised erecting the display tent in a kindly offered garden, the setting up of the stall went smoothly on June 3rd. Potential new members were encouraged to chat and browse the information before taking away application forms for both u3as - social distancing and safety being carefully respected.. Despite warm sunny weather, there were few entries for the Town Trail. Was this due to mobility issues or time pressure? At least, meeting and greeting was a really positive and sociable experience, but on a busy market day, greater footfall would have been more rewarding for the effort this venture entailed.

Proactive for Wycliffe were Colin Beadle, Andrea Nichol and Sue Hangar. Andy Hetherington worked on design and Mike Chapman produced an impressive video link, which was run throughout the day in the window of Max Electrical Store. Their efforts and those of many more are much appreciated. Sincere thanks go to all who contributed from inception, and planning to its conclusion and the dismantling of the display.

Chris Brady (Chair)

ADVANCE NOTICE OF LONG WALK - WEDNESDAY 25th AUGUST 2021

This is our annual long walk where we take a picnic lunch and venture a bit further to the start point.

We start the walk from the village of Burton Lazars which is on the A606 Melton to Oakham road. The distance to the start is 35 miles and takes about 50 minutes from Lutterworth. We walk through the hamlet of Little Dalby and on to Burrough Hill Iron Age Fort via a fairly steep hill. We will have lunch here. We will return via the village of Gt Dalby. The total distance is approx. 10 miles. I hope to persuade the landlord of The Royal Oak in Gt Dalby to open in the afternoon that day to provide refreshments. **To that end I need an idea of numbers so if you think you will be joining us please let George know on 01455 559725 as soon as possible.**

More detailed information will be provided in the August bulletin/newsletter.

George Robertson

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Used Stamps

Liz White of Lutterworth U3A is still collecting used stamps on behalf of **Medical Detection Dogs**. They can be any used stamps but please could you ensure they have approximately a 1cm (roughly a finger's width) surround.

Please hang onto your stamps until we are able to meet again and give them to Sue Creeden, or you can pop them through her letterbox (25 Holly Drive, Lutterworth) and she will pass them on.

Sue Creeden



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GENTLE CYCLING GROUP

Co-ordinator: Sue Creeden

How things change in three weeks! In May it rained on us but it was a beautiful day for our ride at the **beginning of June**.

Eight of us set off from Ullesthorpe Garden Centre in warm sunshine and headed through Ullesthorpe and Claybrooke Parva and up to the A5. We crossed over, taking the very quiet lane down to Coalpit Lane where we turned right towards Wolvey. After a couple of miles, we took another right turn to Cropston Magna where we stopped for a short break by the church to admire this delightful hamlet. We then cycled down and up another very quiet lane back up to the A5 at High Cross. Coming back over, we pedalled down into Claybrooke Magna. The road back to Claybrooke Parva was officially closed as they were putting in speed humps but, thankfully, we managed to sneak through. (It would have added a few unexpected extra miles if we had had to come back through Frolesworth!) We came back into Ullesthorpe (most of us on foot up the steep hill!) and cycled the gentler way back to the Garden Centre via Ashby Parva. A very pleasant 12.5-mile outing followed by coffee in the Garden Centre garden.

We managed to fit in another ride at the **end of the June**. It was certainly not June weather this time as nine members set off, this time from Gilmorton. We headed towards Ashby Magna and then took the quiet Holt Lane round to Willoughby Waterleys. The next part of our ride was a hilly section up and down to Peatling Magna where the views from the top were stunning. It seemed to warm up a bit as we cycled on to Bruntingthorpe and round to Walton. We took another extra loop round the quiet Gurney Lane to Kimcote and back to Gilmorton. A delightful scenic 13-mile ride through rural Leicestershire.

Our thanks go to Paula and Colin for coffee and home-made cake and biscuits relaxing in their lovely garden.

The next ride will be on Wednesday 21st July, details to be announced. If you fancy joining us you will be very welcome. Just give me a call on the above number or email me - sueandpeter.creedon@taltalk.net.

GARDEN GROUP

Co-ordinator: Sue Creeden

What a superb garden to visit as our first outing since August 2019. 30 members (split into 3 groups) enjoyed an excellent guided tour of Westbrooke House, Little Bowden led by the very welcoming owners Joanne and Bryan Drew and their part-time gardener Juliette. We were led up a very imposing drive flanked by alternating wellingtonia and lime trees, through a little woodland walk with a lily pond and stream and into a walled kitchen garden. Here there was a beautiful Victorian greenhouse and cages of young peas and beans, beetroot and lots of other vegetables and herbs. Adjacent to this was a walled flower garden packed with colourful perennials.



Our tour then took us past Sid the Stag hiding under the trees into the newly created fernery with a pond and water feature. Also in this part of the garden was another

extensive greenhouse and one or two fruit trees. The next section was designated a wild flower area but unfortunately most of the wild flowers had been choked out by the grasses. It transpires the soil was too rich. Moving on again we reached meadow field with the pleached hornbeam avenue which was featured on Alan Titchmarsh's 'Love your Garden' programme in 2019.

Round the side of the house was a more formal garden area with a water feature and summer house. At the end of our tour, we enjoyed delicious tea and cake in the courtyard.





A very pleasant afternoon – and thankfully it didn't rain!

* * * * *

Our next visit is to **Dairy Cottage in Sapcote on Tuesday 27th July**. This is another NGS garden that has a walled garden with colourful mixed borders and a potager approached along a woodland path. It is a mature cottage garden that combines extensive perennial planting with many unusual shrubs and specimen trees. More than 90 clematis and climbing roses are trained up pergolas, arches and into trees 50ft high – so don't forget to look up!

As this is so close to home, we will travel independently. The address is **15 Sharnford Road, Sapcote, LE9 4JN**. Parking is in Sharnford Road. The garden is open at 2.00 p.m. and the cost is modest £5.50 (£3.50 for NGS and £2.00 for refreshments).

If you would like to come, **please let me know by email:**
sueandpeter.creeden@talktalk.net or by telephone 01455 557888

FRENCH CONVERSATION

Co-ordinator: Sue Hicks

24 June 2021

Zoom meeting - we hope our last for now. We heard recommendations for books, films or poems, which made us want to sample them all.

The next meeting will be on 22 July, and we hope to be in the Methodist Church again. Please bring your own refreshments this time to save using the kitchen.

Sue

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1st WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

Joint Co-ordinators:- Peter and Irene Moore.

email.- peter79moore@gmail.com

Date of Walk :- Wednesday 4th August 2021

Driving distance:- 8 miles each way

Walk leaders :- Peter & Irene Moore. email: peter79moore@gmail.com

Meeting Point and Time : Lutterworth Recreation Ground car park at 9.15am to leave at 9.25am.

Start Point : Queens Head, Bretford, Warwickshire. CV23 0JY. Leave 10.00am.

Toilets available.

Directions to Start :- At Magna Park A5 island, take 2nd left to Pailton and at T junction in Brinklow turn left then sharp right into Bretford. Queens Head at end of 1 mile straight.

Order lunch from very good Seniors *Lunch Time Menu*, before starting walk.

Varied Choice of food.

Excellent 3 course Lunch for * less than £9.00p * Great value quality lunch.

Route and Distance :- Exit the car park onto the main road, turn left and continue over the River Bridge, Turn right after approx. ½ mile and right again onto river side footpath. Continue on footpath, under Railway Bridge into Wolston, cross road and follow path past Church to exit at River Bridge, continue under Rail Bridge and straight into large car park in Brandon for very cosy and guaranteed dry coffee break. Continue on A428 main road, at sharp right bend go straight on at footpath onto Brinklow Heath and return to the Queens Head.

No stiles. 5 Miles. Gentle walk through farmland and Heathland, with the River Avon for company.

Good choice of Food , extensive Lunch time Seniors menu. Gluten Free Food available.

Summary: Varied Walk , mostly field paths and some quiet road walking , Fairly flat walk. Lovely spot for the coffee break.

Next Walk. . Wednesday 1st September 2021.Shilton,Nr Coventry. 5 miles 1 stile.

Report. 16th June 2021. Pig in Muck, Claybrooke Magna. A walk that puts into context when artists say *big skies* as the very large fields of Cereal Crops with no Large trees to interrupt the view. 22 walkers braved the *hottest day of the year* and we all enjoyed the views. I must say both Pauline and myself and maybe hobbling Trevor were about done in at the finish. But the company was good.

Peter and Irene Moore

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2nd WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

Co-ordinators: Lesley & Mike Chapman

19th May Walk Report.

17 walkers met at The Friendly Inn, Frankton on a bright spring morning, and after ordering lunch (a first for some months) set off on a fairly easygoing 4.1 mile walk, following village pavements, field paths and disused railway line. Early on we were granted a magnificent view of Draycote Water from the top of an incline, although many, catching up with gossip, failed to spot. Further on, we were treated to a forest glade of bluebells, where we paused to take in the scene. The walk finished with 12 enjoying a well earned lunch and drink.

Thanks to Peter Moore for organising the walk.

9th June Walk Report

16 walkers met at the Brampton Valley Way car park at Maidwell on a beautiful summer morning. Heading south for a few hundred yards, we left the disused railway line to head back into Maidwell village and crossed the A508. Walking between two recently built houses we took a narrow, well hidden alleyway, to emerge at the start of a field path. From here, we followed a country lane for about a mile, where amazingly, no traffic was encountered. We then turned east across fields to pick up the disused railway line for the flat walk back to the start.

Future 2nd Wednesday Walks

As one of our walk coordinators is temporarily incapacitated, we have decided to cease the 2nd Wednesday walks for the rest of this year, and jointly continue to run the 4th Wednesday walks.

The next walk will be on 28th July. See the bulletin for further details.

4th WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

Co-ordinators: Sue & Peter Creeden

Wednesday 28 July 2021

Walk Organisers:- Gill and Roger Watmore Tel:201455 552431

Meeting Point and Time:- Lutterworth Recreation Ground car park at 9.40 a.m.

Start Point and Time:- Black Horse, Main Street, Foxton LE16 7RD. Parking in pub car park or there is limited parking by the church. Depart at 10:00 a.m.

Directions to the Starting Point:- Take Market Harborough Road and turn off at signs for Foxton

Route and Distance:- Leave pub car park and turn left following Leicestershire Round until we reach the foot of Smeeton Hill. The route then takes you to Gumley and back again to Foxton. Distance: 5 miles

Lunch Arrangements:- Lunch can be pre-ordered from 9.45 a.m.

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George Robertson

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Co-ordinator: Michael Bates

Colin Beadle, fresh from his success in organising our U3A Day event, managed to find time to prepare and host our June meeting. The meeting reviewed our themed pictures of 'Sunsets'.

We had many interesting pictures, taken locally, which proves that stunning natural phenomenon are not just the preserve of exotic locations. Technically, photographing sunsets is not as easy as you think, for you must balance the brightness of the sun with the lower light levels in the surrounding areas. This resulted in several pictures having a silhouette type appearance and it is worth appreciating the pictures and photographers that balance the exposure across the whole of the image.

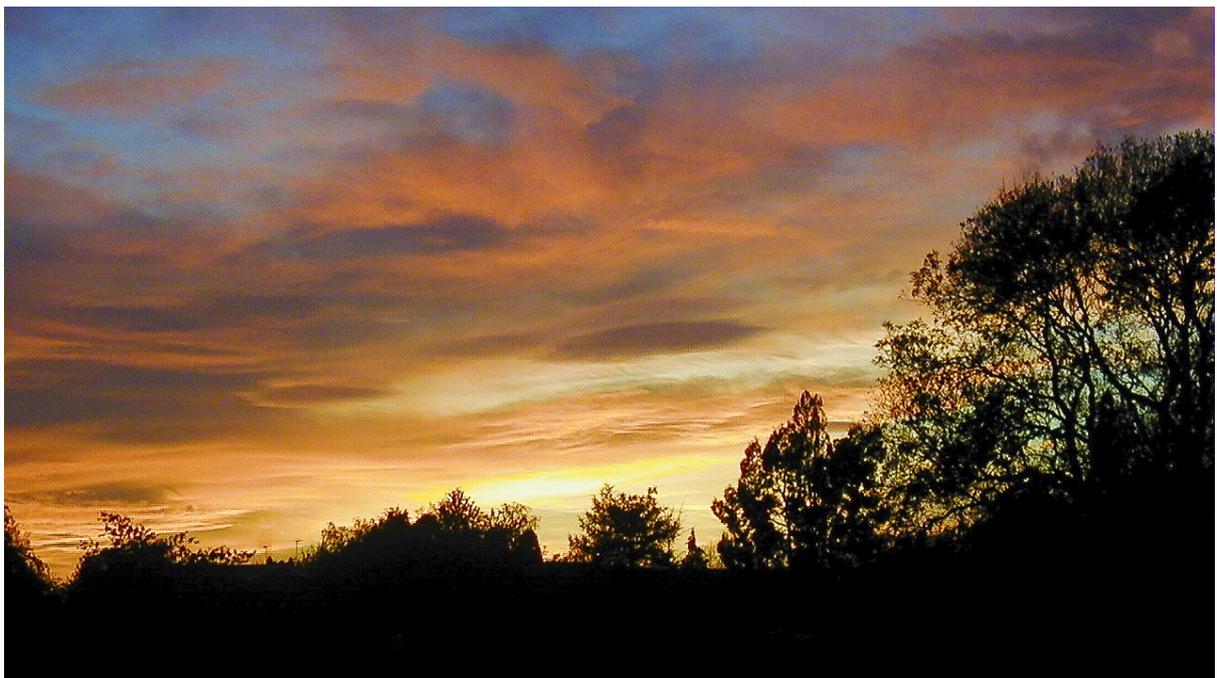
We include a few pictures in this bulletin and you can view a wider selection of our June pictures on the Wycliffe Lutterworth U3A Gallery Website.



by Peter Osborn



by Peter Sands



by Mike Chapman

Our next meeting, to be hosted by **Peter Ross**, will be via Zoom on Friday 30th July, starting at 10.00 am. We will send out meeting invitations nearer the date.

Our July picture topic is 'A Film Title', a picture that suggests the title of a film. Like a previous monthly topic when we had 'Song Titles' we will be asking members attending the meeting to guess the title. Consequently, we hope the title will be

'guessable' and not too obscure. Our previous 'Song Titles' meeting was great fun, so we have high hopes for our July meeting.

Our meetings are open to all U3A members. Many of us may still feel a little isolated and to that end we encourage any member to get in touch (e-mail address below) and we will be delighted to send you an invitation to our monthly Zoom meeting. All you need to join us is an iPad or Android tablet, a PC or smart phone with the Zoom program loaded and that's it. If you are a 'film buff' you will be doubly welcome at our July meeting.

Thanks again to **Colin** for hosting the June meeting and to **Peter** for his offer to host our July meeting.

wlu3acamera@outlook.com.

Michael Bates

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POETRY GROUP

Co-ordinator: Sylvia Hitchen

We were able to hold our June meeting indoors as we didn't exceed the 6 people allowed. Just as well as the weather had ceased to co-operate with the time of year! Our topic this time was Fitness, Sport and Exercise. At first glance this seemed something of a challenge. However Roger McGough has a whole section of poems entitled 'Sporting Relations' in his 'The Collected Poems' which proved to be the most used source for group members. For example:

Accrington Stan

A more talented footballer
Never ran on a pitch
Than Accrington Stan
Who might have been rich.

He could pass a ball
He could score a goal
(But he couldn't pass a betting-shop
So now he's on the dole).

Nevertheless we found many poets had turned to this subject and group favourites including 'The Chariot Race' from 'Electra' by Sophocles BC 496-406, which still painted dramatic pictures despite its great age. Wendy Cope's 'Football' was an amusing take on the opinionated listeners ringing into rant on Radio Five Live, 'I Saw A Jolly Hunter' by Charles Causely also made the favourites collection as did 'Uncle Bram' by Roger McGough. Other poems included those by Simon Armitage,

Pam Ayres, Robert Frost, Gillian Clarke, Vachel Lindsay, John Betjeman, Ken Wright and A. E. Housman.

Next month's topic is The Pandemic World. Poems depicting any aspect of life during a pandemic can be chosen. You may remember that last year I mentioned that Carol Ann Duffy, together with other poets, has set up a website 'Write Where We Are Now' at Manchester Metropolitan University. Poets, professional and amateur have been asked to submit poems about the current situation. It might be useful for next month.

Dot Barnard

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RUSTY RACKETS

Co-ordinator: Sue Hill

The name says it all really ... we are a group of seniors who enjoy a gentle game of tennis. We started back in 2013 and are comprised of people from both Lutterworth and Wycliffe U3As. When we play the atmosphere on court is lighthearted, sociable and there are no tournaments or league tables to worry about, we are strictly non-competitive! Rather than playing formal matches, we organise ourselves into doubles, play a few games and then reconfigure and play a few more. Occasionally, if the numbers are right, we may actually play a set or two! In this relaxed set up newcomers quickly gain confidence and skill.

It would be great if we could persuade some more U3A members to join us! As our name implies, none of us are very skilled, but we love to play and enjoy the thrill of a successful rally. Sometimes people who are contemplating joining the group are worried that they won't be good enough. Don't worry, the standard isn't too high! And it is surprisingly easy to hit the ball and control its return with a modern, light racket.

We play on Tuesdays at 2:15pm why not come along for a **free** taster session and have a go? The courts are just across the road from the Grey Goose in Gilmorton.

Spare rackets are available

Call 01455 553369 or 077908436 (Sue Hill) for more info.

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