



Members Bulletin

Jan 2024

Monthly Meetings

Welcome to the Wycliffe Lutterworth U3A.

Our first meeting in 2024 will be on Thursday, January 11th.

Our Speaker will be our own Alan Coltman, travel expert. Here is a taster of the journey he will take us on:-

ARGENTINA.

From Buenos Aires, hop over the border to see the Rio Carnival then to the marvellous Iguassu waterfalls, then south for a ride on the old Patagonia Express and finally to the Railway at the End of the World at Ushuaia.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Methodist Church, Lutterworth (opposite Morrisons) Refreshments served from 10am, speaker 10.30- 11.30.

Andrea



Wycliffe Lutterworth u3a Committee

Membership Records Secretary Required



Dear All,

Our current Membership Records Secretary will be standing down at our AGM in **March 2024**. This is now only **TWO** months away and we are asking for members, who are interested in taking on this vital role, to contact us now.

The Membership Records Secretary plays an essential role in ensuring the continuity of our u3a by maintaining an accurate membership database. This role primarily involves the recording of annual subscription payments along with changes to contact details of our members.

In addition to managing the membership database, the Membership Records Secretary will occasionally be responsible for disseminating information and newsletters from the Third Age Trust. Consequently, this is an important request that directly impacts the continued existence of the Wycliffe Lutterworth u3a

We understand that taking on a role within the u3a requires time and commitment but the rewards are immense. The role is interesting, enjoyable and a focal point for both our existing and new members.

Our membership database is maintained on “Beacon” - a computer-based system / program developed for the Third Age Trust and used by numerous u3a groups. Training and support for using this system will be provided for as long as is necessary.

If you are interested in becoming the Membership Records Secretary or would like to learn more about the role, please contact me or one of the Committee members. Your willingness to consider this position is vital to the continued existence of the Wycliffe Lutterworth u3a.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

[Colin Beadle - Chairperson](#)

Table of Contents

<u>Membership Records Secretary Required</u>	2
<u>Lively Discussion 11th December 2023</u>	5
<u>History Group Report – Meeting held December 2023</u>	7
<u>Art Appreciation Group – Report for Dec 2023</u>	8
<u>GENTLE CYCLING GROUP</u>	10
<u>Singing for Fun - December Report</u>	12
<u>Result of the Photograph Caption Competition</u>	13
<u>U3A Snail’s Walking Group</u>	14
<u>FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP</u>	17
<u>FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP</u>	18
<u>Committee Members</u>	19

Please bring along your used stamps to the next meeting

As you know, Liz White of Lutterworth U3A is collecting used stamps on behalf of Medical Detection Dogs. They can be any used stamps (even just 1st or 2nd Class) but please could you ensure they have approximately a 1cm (roughly a finger's width) surround.

Please bring them along and give them to Sue Creeden at the monthly meeting. Alternatively, you can pop them through her door – 25 Holly Drive, Lutterworth. Sue will then pass them on to Liz.



Many thanks.

Sue

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Lively Discussion 11th December 2023

Call My Bluff

We repeated our Christmas tradition by playing Call My Bluff. You may remember it was a TV programme chaired by Robert Robinson and featured contestants including Dennis Norden, Frank Muir and Marghanita Lasky. Teams of three contestants were given 3 possible definitions of the same word and had to find the correct one. For our meeting there were 2 teams and the team conferring in the lounge won.

Here are a few of our chosen words - see if you can spot the true definitions. Answers below.

Zufoli:

1. A small flute.
2. A specialist drug originally discovered in Italy for treating skin complaints.
3. A creamy dessert from Northern Italy

Xanthous:

1. Relating to or designating races with yellowish hair and a light complexion.
2. A plant species from South America.
3. Description for artefacts once owned by Alexander The Great.

Qatmaqam:

1. A tool used for making catamarans.
2. A Turkish officer or official.
3. A child born in Qatar.

Heaume:

1. A handsome man.
2. A vessel for carrying water.
3. A large helmet reaching the shoulders.

Sironize:

1. Chemical treatment of woollen fabric to prevent it wrinkling after being washed.
2. A portmanteau word meaning the size of an iron – used by iron manufacturers
3. Archaic word once used by horse breeders when referring to the sire of a colt
e.g. he was sironized by Red Rum

Stenohaline:

1. Used to describe certain aquatic animals able to exist only within a narrow range of salinity.

2. Word previously used to describe a stenographer's work i.e. was the typing good and clear enough to read
3. A word used to describe stentorian tones which could be heard by all

Verecund:

1. The opposite of rotund – slim and slight of stature
2. A vehicle or person which/who veers off course
3. Shy, modest or diffident

Komondor:

1. A large ancient Hungarian breed of dog used for sheep herding. It has a long white coat.
2. An early computer, the first one to introduce gaming.
3. A type of lizard similar to but smaller than a Komodo Dragon – found in S. America.

The correct definitions are shown below:

Zufoli – 1 Xanthous – 1 Qatmaqam – 2 Heaume – 3 Sironize – 1
Stenohaline – 1 Verecund – 3 Komondor - 1

We rounded off the meeting with social time and seasonal goodies.

Visitors welcome, please contact Dot Barnard dot.barnard@uwclub.net

01455 208190

We meet on the second Monday morning of each month.

Topics for 2024

January - Should we send the Elgin Marbles back?

February – Aggression and assertion are often confused.

March - What is the point of formal education?

[Return to Contents](#)

History Group Report – Meeting held December 2023

The group had an enjoyable and relaxing afternoon looking back at some of our History Group outings from the last few years. Mike gave us an excellent presentation with lots of photos from a wide variety of places. We've certainly been around, from local attractions like the Framework Knitters' Museum in Wigston to beautiful stately homes like this year's visit to Broughton Castle in Oxfordshire in July. Looking back, we've been very lucky with the weather and enjoyed some glorious sunny and warm days out, apart from a memorable drenching at Cromford Mill several years ago. It was interesting to look back and see us as we were a few years ago. We haven't aged a bit, of course!

We enjoyed some Christmas treats at teatime and Viv rounded off the afternoon with a little Christmas quiz.

Our next meeting will be on FEBRUARY 6th at Ashby Parva from 2 'til 4 as usual.

The topic in February will be 'Some of our Favourite Things'

We shall be talking about our most memorable historical artefact or historical place we have seen or visited. Viv explained this by showing some pics of some of her favourites, such as the glorious Anglo- Saxon 'Alfred's Jewel' and the impressive Greek temples at Paestum in Southern Italy.

Please bring with you a pic or photo so we can make a display and share our experiences.

VW

[Return to Contents](#)

Art Appreciation Group – Report for Dec 2023

The December meeting tested our brains with an Art quiz with rounds set by Ursula, Viv and Mike. Ursula set the festive scene by asking us to bring candles so it was quite atmospheric in our new venue at Gilmorton Village Hall. We had a very wide range of topics, from trying to spot famous paintings with only a tiny fragment exposed, identifying artworks and artists across the centuries, and working out the different artistic movements which arose from political and social turmoil in the 20thC. It was both interesting and challenging and we all enjoyed it. Everyone contributed some festive food for teatime so we had quite a party! VW



GENTLE CYCLING GROUP

Co-ordinator: Sue Creeden
01455 557888.



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

As you can see from the photo, there were arctic conditions on the morning planned for our December ride!! (Only one brave - or mad! - member ventured out on his bike). A unanimous decision was made to cancel the outing and enjoy a convivial coffee instead.

However, we managed to squeeze in a second attempt on the last Wednesday before Christmas. It was great to see 10 members eager to grab some fresh air and exercise before their festivities began. We split into two groups, a minute or so

apart, and headed off down to Ashby Parva and left Ullesthorpe. We pedalled through the village and enjoyed freewheeling down the hill to the Claybrookes. The intention was then to turn right just before the Pig in Muck and cycle up to Frolesworth. However, the front party missed the turning and rode on up to High Cross. Oops! The back group got it right and when they arrived in Frolesworth they realised the front team were missing. After a quick call, it was agreed that the front group would go their own way and the others would continue as planned. We would all meet up back at the Garden Centre for coffee.

From High Cross, Group A headed down Bumble Bee Lane, through Sharnford and turned right back up to Frolesworth. They then cycled back to the Garden Centre via Ullesthorpe.

Meanwhile, Group B continued on their way down towards Broughton Astley but turned right at the bottom of the hill up to Leire. After a quick breather (and a vote to shorten the route slightly), they battled the wind up to Ashby Parva en route to the Garden Centre.

Miraculously both groups made it back within ten minutes of each other. Coffee – and a bit of light-hearted banter from both groups – was enjoyed by all.

Is your New Year's resolution to take more exercise? Why not give one of our rides a go? We are a friendly group and, as our name states, the rides – of between 10 and 12 miles - are leisurely. All you need is a roadworthy bike and a helmet. Electric bikes welcome. Just email me: sueandpeter.creeden@talktalk.net

The next outing will be on **Wednesday 10th January 2024**.

Sue

[Return to Contents](#)

Singing for Fun - December Report

Meeting held on Tuesday 5th December 2023

We held our end of year session in the Methodist Church with over 20 people turning up. It lived up to our group title: it was great fun.

In a convivial atmosphere we sang a variety of well known Christmas songs and traditional carols.

Our next meeting will be held at 10.00 am on **Friday 12th January 2024**. It's not our usual first Tuesday of the month because that falls on the New Year break.

Newcomers are welcome to join us and as usual we are particularly short of men!



Happy New Year to everyone.

Hamish

Result of the Photograph Caption Competition



If that's the 3 Wise Men then she must be an angel or a virgin!

Winner: Jo Carter who will receive a bottle of wine!

U3A Snail's Walking Group

First Walk of 2024: Friday 19th January



We will meet at Manor Farm Shop and Cafe, Main Street, Catthorpe LE17 6DB. Please meet here at 10.45 am to order lunch. The walk will start at 11.00 am.

The walk takes us through the village, past the Latvian Centre to Lilbourne Church and village. (See the adjacent photo from my visit there on December 23rd.)

Whilst most of this circular rural walk is along lanes and quiet roads the last section will be along a footpath and across one field (no stiles). The walk is 2.9 miles.

Directions from Lutterworth to Catthorpe Manor Farm Shop and Café, LE17 6DB

1. From Lutterworth, take the Rugby Road down to the A5 Gibbet Cross roundabout.
2. Take the second left at the roundabout to the A5 south.
3. Just under 2 miles later, the road/signs to Catthorpe will be on the left-hand side. It is called Rugby Road.
4. The farm shop is on your left once you reach the village. There is quite a large car park and plenty of room to park on the side of the road if necessary.

Lunch

We will have lunch at the Manor Farm Café. Phone: 01788 869002. You can see the menus by clicking on the following link:

<https://manorfarmcatthorpe.co.uk/the-kitchen/daily-menu/>

Meet by 10.45 am if you need to order lunch.

Contact

Please let me know by **Tuesday 16th January** if you want to come along and whether you are having lunch.

Email: mandycutler@sky.com

Mobile: 07724 124094

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Snail's Pace Walking Group

New Walkers Welcome

We are a very friendly group of people who enjoy a bit of exercise, the opportunity to socialise and a pub lunch afterwards - optional, of course!

Our walks take place on the third Friday of the month, starting at 11.00am.

The walks are 3 miles or under, as a guide, and we try to avoid stiles that require a climb!

If you want to come along, you will be most welcome. Just get in touch with me on 07724 124094.

Best wishes, Mandy Cutler

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Snail's Walks 2024

Hello Everyone,

Hope you are well and enjoying the festive events in the build up to Christmas.

Please see attached a write up on our November walk. We do not usually walk in December.

I am happy to continue arranging/coordinating walks if there is sufficient support. I appreciate that some months will be better attended than others.

The important thing is that our walks are an opportunity to get some exercise and socialise; sometimes members choose to do part of the walk or join us for lunch. Personally, I know that I would miss seeing you all.



If you do want to organize a walk, maybe you could let me know which month in 2024 would be convenient for you by 15th December? (See dates below.)

I appreciate that there needs to be flexibility on dates – you may be booking a holiday, a family meet up etc. It is easy enough for me to arrange some swaps!

I will get back to you after Christmas with an update and the details of the **Friday January 19th walk.**

Thank you and warm wishes, Mandy.

Dates for Snail's Pace Walks 2024 – Third Friday	
Friday 19 th January	Mandy
Friday 16 th February	
Friday 15 th March	
Friday 19 th April	Denise and Geoff
Friday 17 th May	Valerie and Jenny
Friday 21 st June	Valerie and Jenny
Friday 19 th July	Daryl
Friday 16 th August	Daryl
Friday 20 th September	Sheila Eggleton
Friday 18 th October	Fran Nott and Sheila Morgan
Friday 15 th November	Sheila Eggleton

[Return to Contents](#)

FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

December 2023 Walk Report

The walk took place on the second Wednesday in December to avoid the busy Christmas period. There were 11 walkers that started from the Newton Lindford car park in Bradgate Park. There would have been 12 but one walker got stuck in a traffic jam near Whetstone and failed to arrive. Although we managed to almost complete the walk without it raining (there was actually a couple of minutes) it was grey and overcast and the recent wet weather made the first part particularly sloshy". It was uphill and there was a strong keen wind blowing in our faces. Full credit to the walkers they didn't complain (well not to me) and they gallantly soldiered on. We followed the park perimeter wall passing the Hunts Hill Gate and eventually reaching Hallgates to join the tarmacadam path. As we walked along the path we watched students from Loughborough University training. Running, sometimes sprinting, back and forth from the Visitors Centre to Hallgates. On reaching the Deer Barn Café we stopped for a break. Sue and I produced some mince pies out of our rucksacks which went down well. A couple went into the café, such luxury! We then continued on along the path to the Bradgate House ruins where we turned off to ascend towards Old John. We passed a herd of deer grazing and as we rounded Bowling Green Spinney the weather started to look threatening. The plan was to go up to the War Memorial but the executive decision was to bolt back to the car park as quickly as possible. Everybody appeared to enjoy the fresh air and the delightful scenery that Bradgate offers.

Peter Creeden

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FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

Co-ordinators:- Sue and Peter Creeden (Please use your U3A website if you need to contact us)

Wednesday 24 January 2024

Walk Organisers:- Sue and Peter Creeden

Meeting Point For Lifts:- Lutterworth Recreation Ground car park at **09.15am** to leave at **09.20am**.

Start Point and Time:- Wharf Inn, Welford (NN6 6JQ) at 10:00am. Toilets will be available.

Directions to start:- Leave Lutterworth southbound towards the Whittle roundabout. Join the A4303 crossing the motorway to pass through Walcote and North Kilworth. After leaving North Kilworth and passing the marina, take the first right onto Station Road towards Welford. At the next T-junction, turn right. After about 1 mile, the Wharf Inn is on your right. The entrance is before the pub, with ample parking behind

Route and Distance:- The route is essentially the Mary Gilbert Walk, a mix of canal towpaths, field paths, tracks and hard surfaces, which a lot of us have done many times before. There will be a couple of small variations. There is, unfortunately, a lot of canal walking but with the very wet weather we have had recently, with not much sign of it improving, we were struggling to find a walk without too much mud (we got red carded last year for that). Saying that, unless it is frozen underfoot there "will" still be "some" mud. The distance is approximately 5 miles with 3 stiles.

Lunch Arrangements:- We will pre-order before we set off on the walk. Lite Bites start from £7:50. Sandwiches or a fuller menu are also available. Alas, no crumble but there is sticky toffee pudding.

Committee Members

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>
Chairperson	Colin Beadle
Membership Secretary.....	Andy Hetherington
Secretary	Hamish Paterson
Treasurer.....	Nigel Bones
Groups Co-ordinator.....	Colin Beadle
Speaker Finder.....	Andrea Nichol
Minutes Secretary.....	Anne Dean
Beacon Administrator.....	Andy Hetherington
Committee Member.....	Ruth Bones
Committee Member.....	Sue Poulter
Committee Member.....	Michael Bates
Committee Member	Sally Wood

Note: Any committee member can be contacted via our email address:
thewycliffelutterworthu3a@gmail.com

[Return to Contents](#)