



From the Chair

Welcome to our May Newsletter

I am pleased to say that one of our members, Paul Stokes, has offered to take on the production of our quarterly Newsletters and E-news.

Another very successful Murder Mystery Evening was held in April. My thanks to all those who helped to organise it and run it on the night. I am looking forward to the next social event.

The days out by coach are proving extremely popular. Book early for the June and August trips to avoid disappointment.

Our AGM was held at the April main meeting. A good number of members voted online beforehand and the meeting was well attended. We said goodbye to Lorna Richardson and Brian Lowes, who have stepped down from the committee. Very many thanks go to both of them for their years of service to the u3a.

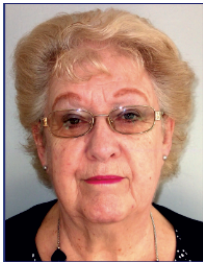
I am very concerned that there were no nominations for new committee members. Please read my article about running the u3a, which you will find in this newsletter.

Beryl

2025/26 Governing Members



Beryl Kemplen
Chair



Sheila Foster
Vice Chair



Peter Taylor
Secretary



Sue Putman
Treasurer



Jeanie Harman
Membership



John Kemplen
Deputy Admin



Pamela Richardson
Programme Planner

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2025/26 LLu3a Governing Members

Beryl	Chair	_____	
Sheila	Vice-Chair	_____	
Peter	Secretary	_____	
Sue	Treasurer	_____	
Jeanie	Membership	_____	
John	Deputy Admin	_____	
Beryl	Meetings	_____	
Pamela	Programme	_____	
	Newsletter	_____	

Website Address: <https://leighton-linslade.u3asite.uk/>

Running Our u3a

I would like to thank all those members who help with the running of the u3a on a regular or on-going basis. This includes all the group leaders, the outings and social events organisers and those who help at the monthly main meetings. Without you all, nothing would happen!

I am, however, disappointed that no members came forward to take a place on the committee, although I appreciate that many of you are busy in other organisations as well.

My concern is this:

- At the next AGM, in compliance with our Constitution, I will have to stand down from the committee as the Chair may only serve one 3-year term without a break.
- Three other committee members, the Secretary, the Treasurer and Deputy Admin officer (who will be taking over the computer administration from Brian Lowes) all come to the end of their 3-year term. Although they could choose to stand again for election, they are not obliged to.
- This could leave just three remaining committee members; our minimum number is five and ideally, we like to have ten.

- To remain active and in compliance with the national u3a Trust and the Charities Commission, we must have a Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer.
- Unless people come forward to help on the committee, Leighton-Linslade u3a may not continue beyond the next AGM.

I realise that it is difficult for anyone to come onto the committee for the first time and take on a major role with no previous experience of how we operate. When there is a need, it is possible for the committee to co-opt members for the remainder of the year until the next AGM, when they could stand for election to continue to serve. This gives an opportunity to get to know the workings of the committee before taking on a named post.

If you want your u3a to continue beyond next April, please, please help on the committee.

Contact any committee member; our contact details are on page 3.

Beryl Kemplen

Java, Bali and Komodo Dragons

Following the AGM, Alice Horne, our very own u3a member, gave us an interesting talk on Java, Bali and



Komodo Dragons, with many excellent photographs. She has visited many temples, rice fields and beautiful



areas of Indonesia. There are 1800 islands, between Java Sea and the Indian Ocean. Jakarta has 50 museums, but the city is slowly sinking..

Alice travelled from Bali to Flores where the Komodo Dragons can be found. They grow to 10 feet and can



lay 30 eggs. Adult Komodo Dragons can eat 80% of their weight in one meal. Although Komodo dragons



are excellent swimmers, they are primarily land dwellers.

Thank you to Alice for giving us such an interesting talk.

Pamela Richardson

Main monthly meeting 19 February 2025

Great Railway Journeys with Roger Mason

"The Flying Scotsman route; London to Edinburgh"



THE FLYING SCOTSMAN

LEAVES KINGS CROSS AT 10AM EVERY WEEKDAY

Roger began by explaining how Kings Cross got its name from a cross previously on the site & the Prince Regent, later George IV. The route heads two miles north to pass the "The Emirates" stadium, home to Arsenal FC. Roger gave us some football history. We travelled on to Hatfield House & heard about Lord Salisbury.



We swiftly arrived at the "Angel of the North", sculpted by Anthony Gormley, which can be seen from the train. Cramlington station, 9 miles south of Newcastle on Tyne, was the scene of the derailment of the Flying Scotsman during the General Strike of 1926.

The thirteen mile stretch of track south of Grantham is the ideal place to set speed records. The Flying Scotsman engine reached 100 mph in 1936, a world record. The "Mallard" reached 124.5 mph in July 1938. The trip finished at Berwick upon Tweed, now 3 miles from the Scottish border highlighting the Victoria viaduct (actually the Royal Border Bridge (Ed.)) designed by Robert Stephenson.

Vivien Hopkirk

GROUP	VENUE	DAY/TIME	FREQUENCY	COORDINATOR	TELEPHONE
ARCHAEOLOGY	THE LIBRARY. LEARNING ROOM 2	THURSDAY PM	1ST OF MONTH	DAVE & ANNIE ROBERTS	
ARCHITECTURE/ DESIGN	ST GEORGES COURT	MONDAY PM	1ST OF MONTH	JOHN KEMPLEN	
ART APPRECIATION	WING HALL	WEDNESDAY PM	1ST OF MONTH	BOBBIE WARD	
BADMINTON	HOUGHTON REGIS	WEDNESDAY AM	WEEKLY	LESLIE NAUTH-MISIR	
BOOK GROUP 3	VARIOUS	WEDNESDAY PM	1ST OF MONTH	GILL ROSS	
BOWLS SUMMER OUTDOOR 1	LINSLADE BOWLS CLUB	FRIDAY PM	WEEKLY	JOHN BEAVERIDGE	
BOWLS SUMMER OUTDOOR 2	LINSLADE BOWLS CLUB	MONDAY PM	WEEKLY	JAMES FIELD	
BOWLS WINTER SHORT MAT 3	LINSLADE BOWLS CLUB	THURSDAY PM	WEEKLY	BILL IRONSIDE	
BRIDGE IMPROVERS	THE BARN HEATH & REACH	THURSDAY AM	WEEKLY	BERYL KEMPLEN	
CANASTA	TILSWORTH CHURCH HOUSE	FRIDAY AM	WEEKLY	CHRISTINE BRADBURY	
COMPUTER ASSISTANCE	BY ARRANGEMENT	BY ARRANGEMENT		BRIAN LOWES	
DIGITAL IMAGING				BRIAN LOWES	
EUROPEAN HISTORY	THE DUKES HEATH & REACH	TUESDAY PM	3RD OF MONTH	TONY DENNIS	
EXERCISE GROUP 1	ST BARNABAS HALL	WEDNESDAY AM	WEEKLY	CELIA GIBBONS PATRICIA MAYNE	
EXERCISE GROUP 2	ST BARNABAS HALL	TUESDAY PM	WEEKLY	CELIA GIBBONS PATRICIA MAYNE	
FRENCH BEGINNERS	VARIOUS	VARIOUS	VARIOUS	LORNA RICHARDSON	
FRENCH CONVERSATION 1	VARIOUS	MONDAY PM	WEEKLY	ALAN TIPPER	
FRENCH CONVERSATION 2	UNDER REVIEW	WEDNESDAY PM	VARIOUS	MARILYN JEEVES	
GARDENING 3	VARIOUS	MONDAY AM	MONTHLY	BARBARA BARBER	
GENEALOGY 03	VARIOUS	THURSDAY AM	MONTHLY	REX WATSON	
GENEALOGY 04	VARIOUS	WEDNESDAY PM	MONTHLY	BILL BARNARD	
GENEALOGY 06	VARIOUS	FRIDAY AM	2ND OF MONTH	STEVE POWELL	

GROUP	VENUE	DAY/TIME	FREQUENCY	COORDINATOR	TELEPHONE
GENEALOGY 07	LINSLADE	TUESDAY PM	MONTHLY	KEVIN WARD	
GENEALOGY 08	STANBRIDGE	FRIDAY PM	MONTHLY	ANNE STOKES	
GERMAN CONVERSATION	VARIOUS	VARIOUS	VARIOUS	BRIAN BAINBRIDGE	
HAND BELL RINGING	VARIOUS	THURSDAY PM	1ST AND 3RD OF MONTH	SUE AYLING	
HEALTHY AGEING	LINSLADE	MONDAY PM	3RD OF MONTH	ANNIE ROBERTS	
KNITTING FOR CHARITY	VARIOUS	MONDAY PM	1ST OF MONTH	JANICE AUTY	
LATIN	VARIOUS	MONDAY AM	WEEKLY	JENNY BENNETT	
LATIN CONTINUATION	FAULKNER'S WAY	FRIDAY AM	FORTNIGHTLY	BARRY WERNER	
LOCAL HISTORY	THE PICTURE HOUSE	MONDAY PM	VARIOUS	LES GRAY	
LUNCH GROUP	AXE AND COMPASS HEATH AND REACH	WEDNESDAY NOON	4TH OF MONTH	ROSEMARY WEBB	
MAH JONG	VARIOUS	TUESDAY AM	FORTNIGHTLY	MO BROOM	
MILITARY HISTORY	LIBRARY	FRIDAY PM	1ST OF MONTH	JOSEPH CRESSWELL	
NEEDLES AND PINS	THE PADDOCKS LINSLADE	TUESDAY PM	2ND OF MONTH	MAUREEN LEGGET	
OLD GLORY	BILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL	THURSDAY AM	2ND OF MONTH	STUART FRENCH	
PENTANQUE	AXE & COMPASS HEATH & REACH	FRIDAY AM	WEEKLY	CELIA GIBBONS	
PLAY READING	VARIOUS	VARIOUS	VARIOUS	JOAN MOORE	
POETRY 2	VARIOUS	TUESDAY AM	FORTNIGHTLY	BERYL MILTON	
PSYCHOLOGY	THE PICTURE HOUSE	THURSDAY AM	4TH OF MONTH	CHRIS SHRIMPTON	
POPULAR PSYCHOLOGY	VARIOUS	TUESDAY AM	LAST OF MONTH	GILL ROSS	
RUMMIKUB	TILSWORTH CHURCH HOUSE	THURSDAY AM	WEEKLY	DAPHNE GAUGHAN	
SCIENCE	ST GEORGES COURT	THURSDAY PM	4TH OF MONTH	JOHN KEMPLEN	
SCRABBLE	HEATH AND REACH	FRIDAY PM	FORTNIGHTLY	JUNE CRAWLEY	
SPANISH BEGINNERS	VARIOUS	WEDNESDAY PM	WEEKLY	PAT MANLOW	

GROUP	VENUE	DAY/TIME	FREQUENCY	COORDINATOR	TELEPHONE
SPANISH BEGINNERS 2	THE PICTURE HOUSE	MONDAY PM	FORTNIGHTLY	ALAN CONNELL	
STITCH AND CRAFT	WOOLLEY KNIT SHOP. PEACOCK MEWS	WEDNESDAY PM	2ND OF MONTH	BERYL KEMPLEN JEANIE HARMAN	
TABLE TENNIS	FORSTER INSTITUTE	MONDAY PM	WEEKLY	BID SCOTT	
WALKING 1	VARIOUS	MONDAY AM	WEEKLY	DIANA ROBINSON	
WALKING 2	VARIOUS	WEDNESDAY PM	2ND AND 4TH OF MONTH	SANDRA CHALK	
WALKING 3	VARIOUS	TUESDAY AM	FORTNIGHTLY	NIGEL NAUTH-MISIR	
WALKING 4. SHORTER WALKS	VARIOUS	FRIDAY PM	3RD OF MONTH	UNDER REVIEW	
WINE AND CHEESE TASTING	VARIOUS	VARIOUS EVENINGS	MONTHLY	GRAHAM MOORE	

CURRENT COPY. APRIL 2025

**THE GROUPS CHANGE QUITE A LOT AND SO ALWAYS CONTACT THE GROUP CO-ORDINATOR OR THE GROUPS LIAISON OFFICER IF YOU WISH TO JOIN ONE.
SOME GROUPS MIGHT BE FULL BUT IT IS USUALLY QUITE EASY TO START UP A NEW GROUP.**

Gardening



Are you going No Mow May? Unless your garden is being opened, why not? Not only will you have more time to sit and enjoy your garden, you will be helping all sorts of wildlife. Most of us have become more realistic about the challenges of a 'perfect' lawn and maybe the odd 'plant in the wrong place/weed' isn't so bad – is it? We all probably made daisy chains when we were younger and the odd dandelion is a great banquet for all sorts of insects but just pick and dispose of the flower head before it seeds everywhere. I'm sure some of the moss in our lawn is now lining all sorts of bird nests, and using precious water for domestic lawns is surely not the best use of it. Although our water butts got a bit of a very much

needed top up recently, cooled washing up water is going on the flower beds very soon here.

When you are looking for plants to buy, try and support local plant sales and open gardens. Leighton Buzzard will have open gardens on Saturday 29 June and Linslade Sunday 6 July. The plants they sell



should also be better suited to the soil in your own gardens. Many plants in nurseries/garden centres are labelled pollinator friendly. Look for perennial plants that will return each year rather than annuals, although often the latter will self seed to do the same. If you don't want them to do that, remove seed heads before they get the chance.

Try and keep on top of weeds before they become too established, particularly the tough ones like bindweed, couch grass and ground elder. If it is something you don't recognise, it might be worth letting it grow a little in case it's something that has just turned up from another garden. Much to my surprise, a pyramid orchid appeared in one of my pots last year! I certainly didn't buy/plant it and it has just reappeared this year. Although mulching is a good way to keep weeds down, it's preferable to do it once the soil is damp and that hasn't happened this year so far.

Some people are having problems with deer eating their plants and unless you fence in the whole garden, there's not much you can do. However, some plants they may not like so much are berberis, hypericum, prickly leaved mahonia, herbaceous peonies, euphorbia and agapanthus. Also monkshood but as this is very poisonous I wouldn't recommend it in your garden.

Now is Chelsea chop time on herbaceous perennials like phlox, penstemons, salvias, golden rod, asters, heleniums and sedums. This will encourage more compact growth and extend the flowering time if you just do a third/half of the plant. Quite often the bits you have chopped off can be encouraged to root either in water or compost to give you extra plants. It's always worth trying.



Check climbers like clematis regularly to tie in growth before it gets too long and then can't be trained where you want it.

After spring flowering shrubs have finished flowering, prune them back to the shape you want so they have time to regrow and form next year's flower buds. Leave bulb foliage to die down naturally and feed the bulbs for next year. If clumps have not flowered, try splitting them. Snowdrops should be split up when foliage is still green so will need to be done quickly before they die down completely.

Days Out

Chatham Historic Dockyard



What a lovely day. The weather was fine and the journey uneventful.

Some members of the group went on Tours – The Ropery tour showed us how rope was made and the Call the Midwife tour was so popular that we had 2 tours of the different sites used for filming. There were also 3 ships to explore and a submarine. The country's largest collection of RNLI boats was in a historic building with lots to see.

Our next trip is to Chartwell, home of Sir Winston Churchill.

Main Monthly Meeting March 2025

Simon and Garfunkel's Music Martin Orkin

This was a very interesting, well presented and enjoyable talk.

The speaker used pictures and music to present the history of Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel from their first meeting to the ups and downs of their successful partnership and then, their final parting.

Martin explained how songwriters and performers are affected, influenced and often controlled by the music companies they work for.

We also learned that songs written at an early stage in a writer's career can become surprisingly popular years later, if given a slightly different musical backing and interpretation.

The talk clearly illustrated the effort, patience and hard work needed to have a constantly, successful career in the music industry.

Lorna Richardson

OLD GLORY SPEAKERS

Second Thursday of the month at 10am
Billington Village Hall, LU7 9BW

8th May

Giles Oakley & Mark Lawson

“Two Spoons of Tea” - everything about tea, and rare types for tasting

12th June

Ann Ledger

“The story of Whitbread the Brewer to Whitbread plc”

10th July

Martin Sirot-Smith

(in costume as usual)

“Sheep that eat Men”

- the Washingtons and the Wool Trade

14th August

Jan Wyglendacz

“Operation Telic 2003 and me”

- British Forces in Iraq

11th September

Kevin Varty

“Sex, Drugs and... Tapeworms”



**The Deadline for the items for the
August issue of the newsletter is
25th of July 2025**

Leighton Linslade u3a Main Monthly Meetings

Brooklands Residents Association Hall, Garden Leys,
Leighton Buzzard, LU7 3PQ
3rd Wednesday of the month
(second Wednesday in December)

Meetings start at 2:15pm

Doors open 1:45pm

You will need to show your **Membership Card** on arrival

May 21st

Mike Barbakoff

The first Enigma codebreakers

this talk provides
a view of the
material
contribution made
by the women of
Bletchley Park in
codebreaking

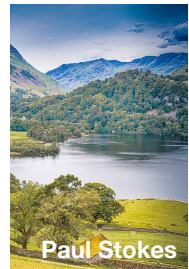


June 18th

Hernaut Jarwala

The Lake District

An award winning
photographer
with details and
photographs of the
Lake District



July 16th

Michael Kerrywhite

Tales of the Accidental Actor

Entertaining talk on the trials,
tribulations and adventures of an
innocent in the world of cinema