

# Leighton-Linslade u3a News

February 2025 Issue 132

Reg. Charity No. 1075910

## From the Chair

### Welcome to our February Newsletter

With the help of one of our members, we have managed to put together the February newsletter. However, we are still in need of a member, or members, to take the role on going forward. Please let me know if you are interested.

This newsletter contains all the reports for the AGM which is at the beginning of the main meeting on 16th April. Also included is the nomination form for new committee members. There will be at least 3 vacancies as 2 existing committee members are standing down, and one moved away last summer. If you want to know more about what it entails, please contact me or any committee member. Voting will be electronic and at the meeting. You must be a current member to vote.

If you have not already renewed, you have until the end of February to do so. The membership renewal form is once again in this newsletter and is on our website. Please follow the instructions carefully.

Inside, you will also find a list of dates for the days out being planned for 2025 and an advert for the first of the evening entertainments for this year. These are always popular, so don't hesitate if you want tickets.

It seems early to be mentioning the May Day Fayre, but this will take place before the next newsletter is issued. We will be again be taking a stall. Any ideas or offers for updating our display would be welcome. A reminder and requests for help on the day will be sent nearer the event.

### Beryl

# 2024/25 Governing Members



**Beryl Kemplen**  
Chair



**Sheila Foster**  
Vice-Chair



**Peter Taylor**  
Secretary



**Sue Putman**  
Treasurer



**Jeanie Harman**  
Membership



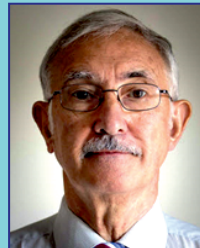
**Lorna Richardson**  
Groups Liaison Officer



**Pamela Richardson**  
Programme Planner



**John Kemplen**  
Deputy Admin



**Brian Lowes**  
Webmaster

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2024/25 LLu3a Governing Members			
Beryl	Chair		
Sheila	Vice-Chair		
Peter	Secretary		
Sue	Treasurer		
Jeanie	Membership		
Jo hn	Deputy Admin		
Lorna	Groups		
Beryl	Meetings		
Pamela	Programme		
Brian	Webmaster		
	Newsletter	newseditor.llu3a@gmail.com	
Website Address <a href="https://leighton-linslade.u3asite.uk/">https://leighton-linslade.u3asite.uk/</a>			

**NOMINATION FORM FOR MEMBER OF THE LLU3A COMMITTEE**

**Name of Nominee:** .....

**Proposer:** .....

**Secunder:** .....

**This completed form must reach the Secretary no later than  
29th March 2025**

**In Memory**

Sadly, Jenny Vieyra lost her fight with cancer and passed away in December.

Jenny did an excellent job as our newsletter editor for the past 7 years. This was a job that she greatly enjoyed; she even insisted on producing the August and November issues despite being in very poor health. Her illustrations greatly enhanced the newsletters and were always appreciated.

She will be much missed.

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**AGENDA**  
**Leighton Linslade u3a**  
**33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting**  
**16<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

1. Apologies
2. Appointment of Tellers
3. Approval of the minutes of the AGM held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024
4. Matters arising from the minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda
5. Receipt and approval of the Chair's Annual Report
6. Receipt and approval of the Examined Accounts
7. Subscription for 2026
8. Appointment of Independent Examiner
9. Election of Committee members
10. Any other business

**Notes**

Only fully paid up members are eligible to vote.

Any motions for discussion at the AGM must be given to the Secretary at least 14 days before the meeting (email is acceptable).

Nominations for Committee Members must be proposed and seconded by eligible members and given to the Secretary by 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

If the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025 is not quorate, this will be posted on the LLu3a website at <https://u3asites.org.uk/leighton-linslade> and the meeting reconvened on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025.

# 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of Leighton Linlade u3a

## Minutes of the meeting held on 17th April 2024 at 2pm at Brooklands Residents Association Hall

The meeting held was quorate. Voting on all items on the agenda took place prior to the meeting using Google forms and postal votes. There were 110 valid votes cast electronically plus the votes on the day cast by hand.

### 1. Apologies

Brian Lowes, Peter Taylor, Lorna Richardson

### 2. Approval of the minutes of the 31<sup>st</sup> AGM held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023

The minutes were published in the February 2024 Newsletter issue, pages 9-10

114 For                  No votes                  Against 5 Abstentions

### 3. Matters Arising from the minutes of the 31<sup>st</sup> AGM

There were no matters arising

### 4. To Receive and Approve the Chairman's Annual Report

As published in the February 2024 Newsletter issue 128 pages 5-6

122 For                  No votes Against                  2 Abstentions

### 5. To Receive and Approve the Examined Accounts

As published in the February 2024 Newsletter Issue 128 page 6-7 and 8

124 For                  10 votes Against                  3 Abstentions

### 6. Appointment of Independent Examiner – PKW Accountancy

125 For                  No votes Against                  4 Abstentions

### 7. Election of Committee Members

#### Voting for Committee Member – Paul Allen

124 For                  No votes Against                  5 Abstentions

#### Voting for Committee Member – Sheila Foster

124 For                  No votes Against                  5 Abstentions

## Voting for Committee Member – Jeanie Harman

124 For                  No votes Against                  5 Abstentions

## Voting for Committee Member – Pamela Richardson

123 For                  No votes Against                  5 Abstentions

## 8. The proposal by the Committee to increase the Annual Subscription for 2025 to £16, required to cover projected cost increases

As approved at the 2023 AGM, the Chair reported that the subscription fee for 2025 would increase to £16.

This was unanimously accepted.

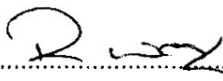
## 9. Any Other Business

There were no items of Any Other Business.

The Chairman declared the AGM closed.

# Financial reporting

Below is the certificate of examination for our 2023/24 accounts produced by our accountant which we are obliged to reproduce. For our Treasurer's 2023/24 Report and Statement of Accounts see pages 9 and 10.

<p><b><u>THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE</u></b></p> <p><b>LEIGHTON-LINSLADE U3A</b> Registered Charity Number 1075910</p> <p><b>INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT</b> For Year ended 31 October 2024</p> <p>In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; Or:</li><li>2. To which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</li></ol> <p>Signed .....  ..... Paul K West FCA (Independent Examiner) PKW Accountancy Limited</p>
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## CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Leighton-Linslade u3a has had a positive year. Our membership numbers remain fairly stable; there were 577 members at the time of writing compared with 559 last year. The Main Meeting attendance figures have continued to show a slow increase over the year.

There were 3 day trips organised during the year, to The Black Country Living Museum, a Day Trip to Brighton and to Coventry and Transport Museum. The first two were successful but unfortunately the Coventry trip had to be cancelled because the Transport Museum closed unexpectedly on our planned date. An Events group organised a the Murder Mystery Evening in March 2024 and a Quiz and Supper evening in October. Both events were very enjoyable and sold out. Both groups will be continuing to organise outings and events for all Members.

Through the year we have continued to raise awareness of what Leighton-Linslade u3a has to offer older residents. We took a stall at the May for the second time, and took part in the annual Christmas Tree Festival in St Barnabas' church at the end of November. I also spoke the 55UP Lunch Club at the Town Councils invitation.

At last year's AGM, members approved a rise in the membership fee from £14pa to £16pa. The fee was, however, held at £14 for 2024 but will be raised to £16 for 2025 on the basis of last year's mandate.

This year our Groups Liaison Officer, Lorna Richardson, must stand down from the committee having served two consecutive terms of office. Our Webmaster, Brian Lowes, is also standing down. Brian has served Leighton-Linslade u3a in a number of roles over many years. We lost a further committee member, Paul Allen, when he moved out of the area last summer. I would like to thank them for there hard work for the u3a over many years. This means there will be at least three vacancies on the committee.

The interest groups are the main stay of the u3a, so I would also like to thank the group co-ordinators and other helpers for all their hard work and commitment over the last year and trust our u3a will continue to thrive.

Beryl Kemplen  
LLu3a Chair

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**LEIGHTON-LINSLADE U3A**  
Registered Charity No. 1075910  
**TREASURER'S REPORT**

1st November 2023 to 31st October 2024

The independently examined accounts for this period are set out on the following page.

This year the funds carried forward to 2024-25 are £9,418.24 compared to £8,441.72 last year, so there is a small increase. At the end of the financial year we had a membership of 566 but at the time of writing we have not yet reached the deadline for membership renewal. So the figure for 2024-25 is not yet known.

The increase in membership fee from £14 to £16 p.a. which was previously agreed, takes effect from the renewals for 2025.

Our total expenditure last year was £16,746.40, with income of £17,459.32, so there was a surplus of £712.92.

Membership income increased slightly from the previous year, as did Gift Aid receipts. Hall hire is charged in arrears, so there are some more costs to come which will appear in the 2024/25 figures. We have been notified of an increase in hire cost for Brooklands, where the monthly meetings are held, from £55 to £75 a session.

Outings show a deficit for the year but this is because some of the costs fell into 2023/24 whereas income was received in the previous year. For 2024/25, we are expecting income and expenditure to fall into the same financial year.

Newsletter posting costs were lower than the previous financial year, perhaps as more members are receiving them by email rather than post.

Sue Putman  
Treasurer

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# Leighton-Linsladed U3A

## Statement of Accounts

	Income & Expenditure 1.11.23 to 31.10.24			Income & Expenditure 1.11.22 to 31.10.23		
	In	Out	Net	In	Out	Net
Book Sales	£ 116.20		£ 116.20	£ 103.00		£ 103.00
Donations	£ 72.00		£ 72.00	£ 59.00		£ 59.00
Gift Aid	£ 1,701.73		£ 1,701.73	£ 1,409.51		£ 1,409.51
Hall Hire		£ 682.00	-£ 682.00	£ 1,001.00	-£ 1,001.00	
Hire of Storage Unit		£ 962.00	-£ 962.00	£ 444.00	-£ 444.00	
IT & Sound Systems		£ 162.00	-£ 162.00	£ 280.44	-£ 280.44	
Membership	£ 8,064.00	£ 135.99	£ 7,928.01	£ 7,706.00	£ 40.99	£ 7,665.01
Misc	£ 28.36	£ 265.00	-£ 236.64	£ 131.68	£ 441.11	-£ 309.43
Newsletter		£ 2,032.65	-£ 2,032.65	£ 3,140.00	-£ 3,140.00	
OG Hall Hire		£ 432.00	-£ 432.00	£ 108.00	£ 630.00	-£ 522.00
OG Membership	£ 1,008.00		£ 1,008.00	£ 1,104.00	£ 4.50	£ 1,099.50
OG Miscellaneous		£ 60.61	-£ 60.61	£ 35.88	-£ 35.88	
OG Speakers		£ 788.00	-£ 788.00	£ 60.00	£ 756.20	-£ 696.20
Outings	£ 2,799.00	£ 4,024.50	-£ 1,225.50	£ 3,136.70	£ 1,615.00	£ 1,521.70
Postage and Stationery		£ 57.42	-£ 57.42	£ 31.00	£ 253.96	-£ 222.96
Refreshments	£ 238.03	£ 60.99	£ 177.04	£ 195.16	£ 296.37	-£ 101.21
Social Events	£ 3,318.00	£ 2,462.92	£ 855.08	£ 361.00	-£ 361.00	
Speakers	£ 114.00	£ 1,173.00	-£ 1,059.00	£ 1,150.00	-£ 1,150.00	
Third Age Trust		£ 3,447.32	-£ 3,447.32	£ 3,551.66	-£ 3,551.66	
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>£ 17,459.32</b>	<b>£ 16,746.40</b>	<b>£ 712.92</b>	<b>£ 14,044.05</b>	<b>£ 14,002.11</b>	<b>£ 41.94</b>
Brought forward			£ 9,459.19			£ 9,417.25
<b>Carried forward</b>			<b>£ 10,172.11</b>			<b>£ 9,459.19</b>
<b>Balance Sheet</b>						
Current			£ 9,418.24			£ 8,441.72
OG Current			£ 658.33			£ 930.94
OG Petty Cash			£ 0.00			-£ 1.36
Petty Cash			£ 95.54			£ 87.89
<b>Total</b>			<b>£ 10,172.11</b>			<b>£ 9,459.19</b>

Prepared by: Susan Putman Date: 20 November 2024  
S. Putman (Hon Treasurer)

Ratified by: [Signature] Date: 20/11/24  
B. Kemplen (Chair - on behalf of the LLU3a Committee)

Examined by: [Signature] Date: 3/11/25  
Paul K. West (Independent Examiner) PKW Accountancy Ltd



# Leighton-Linslade u3a

## 2025 Membership Renewal £16 per person

Please do not pass this to anyone to use for new membership application

### PAYMENT BY BACS (No form required) Not before 01.11.24

Pay: Leighton-Linslade u3a, Sort Code: 20-03-18, Account number: 43713083

Payment Reference: Membership Number/SurnameInitial eg 1234/SMITHK

<sup>\*\*</sup>This reference is very important as without it we shall not know who has made the payment<sup>\*\*</sup>

When paying for joint membership just one membership number is needed. The second will be automatically found by the system.

### PAYMENT BY CHEQUE OR CASH

Cheque Either post the cheque payable to LLU3a together with the completed form below to the address:

LLU3a Membership Secretary, 5 Milliground Field, Winslow, Bucks. MK18 3GE

or present them at the Membership desk at the monthly meeting.

Cash Present the completed form below with the money at the Membership desk at the monthly meeting.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - from 01.01.25 to 31.12.25		
Membership No.	Full Name	Amount
1st		
2nd		
		<b>Total Paid</b>

Office use only

Date Rec'd	Cash	Cheque No.
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Group	Venue	Day	Time	Frequency	Co-Ordinator	Phone
Archaeology	Under Review	Thurs	pm	1st of Month	Dave and Annie Roberts	
Architecture and Design	Under Review	Mon	pm	1st of Month	John Kemplen	
Art Appreciation	Wing Hall	Wed	pm	1st of Month	Bobbie Ward	
Badminton	Houghton Regis	Wed	am	Weekly	Leslie Nauth-Misir	
Book Group 3	Various	Wed	pm	1st of Month	Gill Ross	
Booklover's Circle	Various	Thurs	pm	2nd of Month	Janice Auty	
Booklovers	Under Review	Mon	pm	Fortnightly	Under Review	Contact Groups Liaison Officer
Bowls - Summer Outdoor 1	Linslade Bowls Club	Fri	pm	Weekly	John Beaveridge	
Bowls - Summer Outdoor 2	Linslade Bowls Club	Mon	pm	Weekly	James Field	
Bowls - Winter Short Mat 3	Linslade Bowls Club	Thurs	pm	Weekly	Bill Ironside	
Bridge	Conservative Club	Tues	pm	Weekly	John Biggs	
Bridge Improvers	The Barn H&R	Thurs	am	Weekly	Beryl Kemplen	
Canasta	Tilsworth Church House	Fri	am	Weekly	Christine Bradbury	
Classical Music	Various	Wed	pm	2nd of Month	Robert (Bob) Bungay	
Computer Assistance	By Arrangement				Brian Lowes	

Group	Venue	Day	Time	Frequency	Co-Ordinator	Phone
Digital Imaging					Brian Lowes	
European History	The Dukes H&R	Tue	pm	3rd of Month	Tony Dennis	
Exercise Group 1	St Barnabas Hall	Wed	am	Weekly	Celia Gibbons Patricia Mayne	
Exercise Group 2	St Barnabas Hall	Tue	pm	Weekly	Patricia Mayne Celia Gibbons	
French Beginners	Various				Lorna Richardson	
French Conversation 1	Leighton Rose Care Home	Mon	pm	Weekly	Alan Tipper	
French Conversation 2	Leighton Rose Care	Wed	pm	Various	Marilyn Jeeves	
Gardening 3	Various	Mon	am	Monthly	Barbara Barber	
Genealogy 3	Various	Thu	am	Monthly	Rex Watson	
Genealogy 4	Various	Wed	pm	Monthly	Bill Barnard	
Genealogy 6	Various	Fri	am	2nd of Month	Steve Powell	
Genealogy 7	Linslade	Tue	pm	Monthly	Kevin Ward	
Genealogy 8	Stanbridge	Fri	pm	Monthly	Ann Stokes	
German Conversation	Various	Wed	am	2nd & 4th of Month	Brian Bainbridge	

Group	Venue	Day	Time	Frequency	Co-Ordinator	Phone
Hand Bell Ringing	Various	Thu	pm	1st & 3rd of Month	Sue Ayling	
Healthy Ageing	Linslade	Mon	pm	3rd of Month	Annie Roberts	
Knitting for Charity	Various	Mon	pm	1st of Month	Janice Auty	
Latin	Various	Mon	am	Weekly	Jenny Bennett	
Latin Continuation	Faulkner's Way	Fri	am	Fortnightly	Barry Werner	
Local History	The Picture House	Mon	pm	Various	Les Gray	
Lunch Group	Axe and Compass	Wed	Noon	4th of Month	Rosemary Webb	
Mah Jong	Various	Tue	am	Fortnightly	Mo Broom	
Military History	Under Review	Fri	pm	1st of Month	Joseph Cresswell	
Needles and Pins	The Paddocks Linslade	Tue	pm	2nd of Month	Maureen Legget	
Old Glory	Billington Village Hall	Thu	am	2nd of Month	Stuart French	
Petanque	Axe and Compass	Fri	am	Weekly	Celia Gibbons	
Play Reading	Various				Joan Moore	
Poetry 2	Various	Tue	am	Fortnightly	Beryl Milton	
Psychology	The Picture House	Thu	am	4th of Month	Chris Shrimpton	
Popular Psychology	Various	Tue	am	Last of Month	Gill Ross	

<b>Group</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Rummikub	Leighton Rose Care Home	Wed	am	Weekly	Daphne Gaughan	
Science	St Georges Court	Thu	pm	4th of Month	John Kemplen	
Scrabble	Heath & Reach	Fri	pm	Fortnightly	June Crawley	
Spanish Beginners	Various	Wed	pm	Weekly	Pat Manlow	
Spanish Beginners 2	The Picture House	Mon	pm	Fortnightly	Alan Connell	
Stitch and Craft	Leighton Rose Care Home	Wed	pm	2nd of Month	Beryl Kemplen Jeanie Harman	
Table Tennis	Forster Institute	Mon	pm	Weekly	Bid Scott	
Walking 1	Various	Mon	am	Weekly	Diana Robinson	
Walking 2	Various	Wed	pm	2nd and 4th of Month	Sandra Chalk	
Walking 3	Various	Tue	am	Fortnightly	Nigel Nauth-Misir	
Walking 4 Shorter walks	Various	Fri	pm	3rd of Month	Sandra Flanagan	
Wine and Cheese Tasting	Various	Various Evenings		Monthly	Graham Moore	

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

# Richard Stark

## A Christmas musical programme

*Our presenter brought Christmas early to our December monthly meeting*

Richard's singing and occasional dancing, was a lovely start to our Christmas activities. His melodious voice and singing style soon got us in the mood. 'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas' and 'Sleigh Bells ring, are you Listening' started his programme.

This was soon followed by 'Walking in a Winter Wonderland' and 'Let it snow, let it snow', accompanied by a dance routine. Richard told us Christmas songs began and were very popular in the 1940s and 50s. Most of these songs are still sung every Christmas.

Richard sang two verses of 'Silent Night' in German. This was written in the 19th century. He sang it all very beautifully. He followed this with 'Oh Holy Night'.

Donning his Christmas hat, Richard continued with 'Santa Claus is coming to Town' and 'Frosty the Snowman'. Some of the audience joined in with the singing. We continued with 'Rudolph the Red nosed Reindeer' and 'Rocking around the Christmas tree'.

We distributed Carole sheets and we sang 'God Rest you Merry Gentlemen' and 'Hark the Herald Angels sing'. With much merriment, we continued with the 'Twelve days of Christmas', which concluded the Christmas musical afternoon.

Richard wished us all a Merry Christmas and members chatted to him afterwards over a cup of tea and a mince pie.

I think we all went home still singing some of the songs, certainly in the mood for our Christmas festivities to come.



*Pamela Richardson*

# Dates for Your Diary – 2025 Day Trips

The pickup points for all trips will be as follows:

**8.30am** Stoke Road

**8.40am** Tesco Bus stop

**9.00am** Morrisons Bus stop

## **Monday 31st March:** Chatham Historic Dockyard

Return to the 'Age of Sail' when the Dockyard built ships that won reign over the world's oceans. Test your sea legs on three historic warships and discover how steam and steel evolved from wooden hulls and iron frames. Imagine the crash of waves as you explore the UK's largest collection of historic lifeboats.

**Cost £35.00** Ropery Tour (30 minutes) FREE 11.30am

Call the Midwife Tour (60 minutes) £3.00 extra booked for 2.30pm

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## **Monday 19th May:** Chartwell House and Gardens

This house was truly the inspiration for Winston Churchill and is still the same as when the family lived there, with pictures, books & personal mementoes. The studio contains many of Churchills paintings, and the gardens offer trails and woodland walks.

**Cost £40.00** National Trust Members £21.00

House Tours booked 12.30pm & 12.40pm inc.

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## **Monday 30th June:** Eastbourne

Enjoy a free day at the South Coast and take in the sea air, visit the Winter Gardens, the Pier, the Minature Steam Railway or take a Sightseeing Tour Bus. The choice is yours.

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**Tuesday 19th August:** SAVE THE DATE, destination TBA

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## Gardening notes – February 2025



When writing this at the beginning of January, I was very surprised that some of the usually early daffodils at Cheddington were already out, as are some early snowdrops, hellebores and mahonias. Pansies, primulas and cyclamen are still making good displays but need to be deadheaded regularly to continue. It's a good time for peering in gardens to see what you might want to grow next year and visiting early open gardens. Ascott re-opens on Tuesday 18 March and tickets will be on sale in February. They want pre booking in order to manage the car park.

If your lawn isn't frozen and therefore alright to walk on, repair/reshape edges. Clear any remaining leaves by either putting them on beds for the worms to drag down into the soil or put into plastic sacks for leaf mould. Dampen them, make some holes in the sack and put somewhere out of sight for a year or so. Pull out any weeds you see. Check any low growing plants aren't covered by leaves as this will encourage mould.

When it isn't too cold/frosty/wet prune apple and pear trees, roses and also any fruit bushes if you haven't done so already. Autumn raspberry canes should either be cut down to ground level or about half way so that they fruit earlier. If your summer raspberries fruited again last year (when they really should have waited till this year!), cut them down half way. After pruning, feed and mulch. Now is also a good time to plant bare rooted trees/bushes.

Container grown plants will benefit from taking out a layer of compost and replacing it with some slow release fertilizer and fresh compost. A topping of grit will help keep moisture in later and may deter slugs. If you haven't been able to raise the containers to stop them getting waterlogged, standing them on gravel will help drainage.



If there are still frosts when there is early fruit blossom, it will need protecting with fleece or something similar. Rhubarb should be coming through now but if you want to force it, cover with a large pot that excludes the light.

Clean/replace bird boxes and encourage birds into the garden by hanging fat balls amongst fruit trees

and bushes, as once they have broods they will need to eat lots of aphids. Ensure they have a good supply of clean water for drinking and bathing. Once all the seedheads have gone, cut down stems and tidy ornamental grasses by cutting them back to ground level.

Check sowing dates on seed packets, but anything that needs a long growing season and/or repeated sowings can be started off inside on a windowsill (lettuce, spring onions, tomatoes, beetroot and spinach), or outside under cover once the grass starts growing again. Hardy annuals can be started off under cover or on a cool windowsill, but be wary of buying well grown bedding plants too early as they may not survive if the weather deteriorates.

Reduce watering of indoor plants unless they are growing vigorously or flowering. If you let amaryllis die down gradually after they have flowered and then put outside in the summer, they may be encouraged to flower again but check you aren't bringing in any vine weevils by changing the soil.



There will be a coach trip to RHS Hyde Hall as unfortunately Wisley is still to be avoided until the roads there are finished. Details will be announced later.

## Main Monthly Meeting November 2024

### Why We Don't have Westerns Any More David Lusted

David's talk was illustrated by a variety of pictures and he began by saying that Westerns are no longer a popular subject. He explained that the reputation of Westerns in this country had always been poor and sometimes had derogatory names. They are a very strong part of American culture in the same way that the American Civil War is. In the UK we tend to prefer costume dramas about history or books.

In America Westerns are popular. 'The Hateful Eight' is probably the most successful but it is not known outside of America. The western Mississippi is the usual area where the films are made but nowadays they are sometimes made in other countries.

David explained that Westerns are about pioneers. Paintings of wagon trains and later, the transcontinental railway, inspired people living in eastern America to travel west in the hope of settlement and family life. Such paintings also signified what was happening to native Americans. Photography became very important and often showed native Americans as well as pioneers. Native Americans moved with the seasons whereas pioneers stayed where they were and wanted to be secluded although some were keen to constantly move on.

David explained that books about pioneers and cowboys were developed and fiction, written in the east, showed the west and fed ideas about the west which led to Western fiction. Such fiction became popular and showed gunfights and drunken behaviour. These evolved into Wild West Shows like those developed by William Cody (Buffalo Bill). There is no evidence that he did some of the daring things that later became part of legend.

Films became vital to extending this folklore and silent movie westerns used stuntmen and genuine indians. They were cheap to make and one set could be used for a lot of films. Often the same actors and directors were used.

it is thought that 'The Searchers' starring John Wayne is probably the greatest Western although 'High Noon' and 'Shane' were very popular too. TV Westerns became popular especially in the 1950s and 1960s.

In the modern age Westerns became too costly to make and started to lack audience interest. In addition some became more violent, dirtier and more shocking than earlier films.

This was an interesting talk which included much historical background into a specific film genre.

*Lorna Richardson*



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# Christmas tree festival

This year Leighton-Linslade entered a tree in the Christmas Tree Festival at St Barnabas Church, Linslade. The theme for the event was Friendship.

The festival ran from 22nd to 24th November and there were 66 trees in all, each supplied and decorated by various organisations in the town.

The decorations for our tree were made by the Stitch and Craft Group, using photos supplied by several other groups.



## The LLU3a Social team invite you to our second **Murder Mystery Evening**

performed by the Leighton Buzzard Drama Group  
on Friday 11th April 2025 at Billington Village Hall  
Doors open 6pm  
2 course hot supper served at 6.30pm

Tickets will be on sale at the February & March  
monthly meetings and afterwards from Vivien

**£22 per person**      **Excellent Raffle Prizes**

Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements  
Also please bring your own drinks, glasses and cash for the raffle

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# OLD GLORY SPEAKERS

Second Thursday of the Month – 10am  
Billington Village Hall, LU7 9BW



**9th January** Colin Richards  
Evolution and Convergence –  
Timelines of some Kitchen Gadgets

**13th February** Ann Ledger  
The Story of Whitbread the Brewer to Whitbread Plc

**13th March** Trevor Wilkins  
Some (new) Very Secret “Secrets” of  
Leighton Buzzard in WW2



**10th April** Kevin Varty  
Best Foot Forwards – The story of Prosthetic Development in WW1

**8th May** Giles Oakley & Mark Lawson  
Two Spoons of Tea – Everything about the National Drink

**12th June** Undecided at Present

## Newsletter copy deadline

Please note the copy deadline for the next newsletter is 25th April

# LLu3a 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

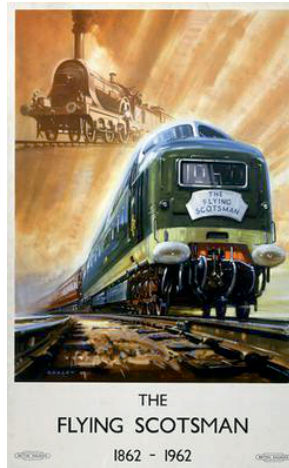
Doors open 1:45pm

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

## Speakers 2025

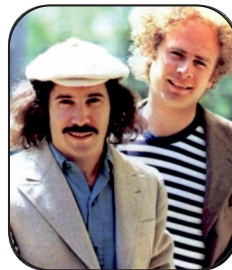
**13th February** Roger Mason  
Great Railway Journeys

The Flying Scotsman  
route to Edinburgh



**19th March** Martin Orkin  
Simon & Garfunkel's music

The intriguing story of this  
popular duo and their classic hits



**16th April** Alice Horner  
Java, Bali, Komodo Dragons

Taking us to a different  
part of the world

