

From the Chair

Welcome to our November Newsletter

I had a great response to my request for help in decorating our tree for this year's Tree Festival at All Saints Church. The festival runs from 21st to 23rd November. It's well worth a visit.

I am pleased to say that we will be co-opting a new committee member, Margaret Barraclough, at the November committee meeting. We will be circulating her contact details soon, but in the meantime, messages can be sent via other committee members.

While this is good news, we (that means all of the members!) are in need of at least 2 more committee members, including someone to come forward who is prepared to take the role of Chair from the AGM next April. These can be new members as well as a longer standing ones. Any member who might be interested is very welcome to sit in on committee meetings to get a feel for what we do – just let me know.

Without a Chair, our u3a cannot continue and will be wound up!

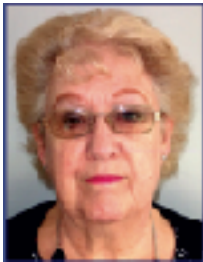
On that note, and in anticipation, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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		
Paul	Newsletter		

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

Main Monthly Meeting. August 2025

"Park Lives"

A Life in Landscapes by Paul Rabbitts

Our August meeting saw the welcome return of our local speaker, Paul Rabbitts. Originally from County Durham, after graduating from Edinburgh with a degree in landscape architecture and two years at Wentworth Woodhouse Polytechnic near Rotherham (now once again one of the grandest stately houses in the country), Paul has spent 36 years in Local Government.

Paul's first job was in Jersey, to design a play area in a run-down part of St Helier. After 2½ years he returned to the north, working for Carlisle Council as a landscape architect for 7 years. With no budget allocated he transformed a disused bowling green into a country garden using the longtime unemployed, raiding the council depot of redundant materials. Victoria Park in Carlisle was transformed with a lottery grant.

Moving to Middlesbrough in 1999 he obtained £4.5 million to spend on Albert park. A beautiful Victorian fountain was restored; the bandstand was restored by a Glasgow foundry; the Victorian clock reinstated and a new boat house built, with the boats restored by young offenders at Barnard Castle. Finally, a visitors' centre built with a Cafe. The sundial reads

"First The Hour Then The Day Steals Away"

At the request of youngsters his next project was a skatepark on the site of disused tennis courts. Paul

travelled to Arizona for ideas and designed a state of the art park which looked far too dangerous to me.

Paul briefly worked for a private company in Luton as a consultant, but returned to public parks at Watford, where he was head of parks for 11 years till 2022, renovating Cassiobury Park & Oxhey Activity Park. The next year saw him in Southend, but now he is involved with Environmental Services in Norwich.

Paul's talk was liberally sprinkled with slides of all his work over the years. A man with lots of ideas, go and methods of getting the money and manpower to get the job done.

Vivien Hopkirk

December 10th (second Wednesday).

Due to an unexpected commitment the speaker booked for December has had to cancel.

I have been lucky enough to be able to book a local speaker who knows of our U3A and who presented a popular and well received talk many years ago when I was Programme Planner. Richard has been involved with Leighton Buzzard Philatelic and Postcard Society for a very long time.

Richard Page will present the first part of his talk 'Pictures Of Linslade Past'.

Lorna

Main Monthly Meeting September 2025

The Art of Punch & Judy

Peter Barratt

Peter told us that Pulcinella originated in 16C Italy as part of the Commedia del'arte tradition arriving in England with Pietro Goronde in 1662 performed in Covent Garden as recorded in Samuel Pepys diary. "Punch" became our abbreviation. The puppets were on strings, marionettes, but glove puppets soon took over. Charles II granted a royal performance.



It was adult entertainment performed on street corners. The "Eastenders" of the day. The "Bottler" corralled the crowds & made a collection in his glass bottle. There is a plaque near St Pauls & a pub named "Punch & Judy" in Covent Garden.

With the arrival of the railways families travelled to the coast for a day out or an annual summer holiday. Punch & Judy began to appear on the beaches. Peter asked the members where they had first seen the shows: Llandudno, Blackpool, Broadstairs, Skegness & even Aylesbury.

Peter's interest began when he saw a show in Guernsey in 2011 Then he heard the PM radio programme when Robert Peston was talking about Punch & Judy & thought "I want to do that" (He wrote to him & received a delighted reply). There is a Punch & Judy Fellowship with 70 performing members. The traditional red & white stripped tent is made by an octogenarian of 60 years experience whose wife makes the puppets costumes.



Peter performed a 15 minute show with audience participation after which members inspected the set & puppets & attempted to activate them. An enjoyable afternoon.

While writing this article I accessed the V&A website "Punch & Judy origins". Lots more history of Pulcinella.

Vivien Hopkirk

Main Monthly Meeting October 2025

Country's Natural Beauty and Architectural Heritage. Recording Britain.

Graham Twemlow

This interesting talk was about the work done by artists before, during and after World War 2. They sought to visually record scenes and buildings that were of interest and that it was thought might not survive the ravages of war. In reality, most did and if renovation took place it was to update them or use them for different purposes.

The scheme was a Government initiative named 'Recording Britain' and the historian Sir Kenneth Clark was asked to organise it.

It had many aspects involving artists, crafts people and musicians. The main theme of this talk was to explain the varied work of over sixty artists involved. Many continued and broadened their careers after the war especially in theatrical, costume and commercial art.

The speaker gave a similar talk during covid via zoom and that presentation was easier to read and hear than the one given in this meeting. It was, however, pleasing to learn that the work of those artists is sometimes displayed in touring exhibitions and that it continues to be valued in the history of British art.

Lorna Richardson

Member Code of Conduct

As most of you will soon be renewing your membership, I am taking this opportunity to circulate the latest Member Code of Conduct advised by the Third Age Trust. It applies when you are taking part in any activity connected with the u3a.

Member Code of Conduct

- Members are expected to know, follow and promote the Principles of the u3a Movement at every opportunity.
- Members must always act in the best interests of Leighton-Linslade u3a and the u3a Movement, strive to uphold its reputation and never do anything which could bring their own, another u3a or the u3a Movement into disrepute or expose it to undue risk.
- Members are expected to use Leighton-Linslade u3a's resources responsibly and only to further its stated charitable objects/purposes.
- Members are expected to reflect the current organisational policy of Leighton-Linslade u3a, regardless of whether it conflicts with their personal views.
- Members are expected to abide by Leighton-Linslade u3a's procedures and practices.
- Members are expected to treat each other with dignity and respect at all times.

GROUP	VENUE	DAY/TIME	FREQUENCY	COORDINATOR	TELEPHONE
ARCHAEOLOGY	THE LIBRARY. LEARNING ROOM 2	THURSDAY PM	1ST OF MONTH	DAVE & ANNIE ROBERTS	Details only available to Llu3a members
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	
EXERCISE GROUP 2	ST BARNABAS HALL	TUESDAY PM	WEEKLY	CELIA GIBBONS	
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	
GENEALOGY 07	LINSLADE	TUESDAY PM	MONTHLY	KEVIN WARD	

GROUP	VENUE	DAY/TIME	FREQUENCY	COORDINATOR	TELEPHONE
GENEALOGY 08	STANBRIDGE	FRIDAY PM	MONTHLY	ANNE STOKES	Details only available to LLu3a members
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	
PETANQUE	AXE & COMPASS HEATH & REACH	FRIDAY AM	WEEKLY	CELIA GIBBONS	
PETANQUE 2	AXE & COMPASS HEATH & REACH	WEDNESDAY PM	WEEKLY	PHIL BLUNDEN	
PLAY READING	THE PICTURE HOUSE	TUESDAY PM	FORTNIGHTLY	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	
GROUP	VENUE	DAY/TIME	FREQUENCY	COORDINATOR	
SCIENCE	ST GEORGES COURT	THURSDAY PM	4TH OF MONTH	JOHN KEMPLEN	

GROUP	VENUE	DAY/TIME	FREQUENCY	COORDINATOR	TELEPHONE
SCRABBLE	HEATH AND REACH	FRIDAY PM	FORTNIGHTLY	JUNE CRAWLEY	Details only available to LLu3a members
SPANISH BEGINNERS	VARIOUS	WEDNESDAY PM	WEEKLY	PAT MANLOW	
SPANISH BEGINNERS 2	THE PICTURE HOUSE	THURSDAY PM	WEEKLY	ALAN CONNELL	
STITCH AND CRAFT	ST. GEORGES COURT	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	
WINE AND CHEESE TASTING	VARIOUS	VARIOUS EVENINGS	MONTHLY	GRAHAM MOORE	

CURRENT COPY. OCTOBER 2025

THE GROUPS CHANGE QUITE A LOT AND SO ALWAYS CONTACT THE GROUP CO-ORDINATOR IF YOU WISH TO JOIN ONE.

SOME GROUPS MIGHT BE FULL BUT IT IS USUALLY QUITE EASY TO START UP A NEW GROUP.

We are looking for a GROUP LIASION OFFICER.
If you are interested, please speak to any committee member.

Programme Planner

Many thanks to Pamela Richardson for her work as Programme Planner.

During her time in the role she has found a wide variety of interesting speakers for the Main Monthly Meeting.

Pamela has had to stand down from the role.

As I did the job years ago I have taken over on an unofficial basis and speakers have been booked for 2026.

This is an enjoyable role and although regular contact with the committee is very important it is not always necessary to attend committee meetings.

We urgently need someone to volunteer to take over the role. It could be done by two people working closely together. If the role is filled now then I can give support and back up.

Please contact either me or Beryl Kemplen our chairman if you would like more information and think you might be able to help.

Lorna Richardson. 

A gentle reminder

For a group to be in the listings the group has to have a coordinator who is willing to have the name of the group, the coordinator's name and phone number included in the lists.

If the coordinator and group are not able to do this then the group will not be covered by U3A insurance and the group will be considered to be meeting outside of the U3A.

Gardening notes – October 2025

Autumn is well and truly here now so some tidying up can be done. Any leaves on flower beds can be left but those on the lawn can be made into very useful leaf



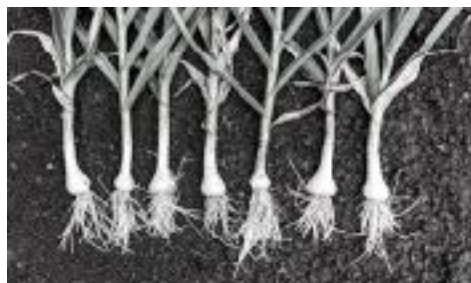
mould. Most of us won't have room for the wire cage that is often recommended, but a plastic compost sack that is packed with leaves – either already wet or watered – punctured with a few fork holes and then left for a year or two does a very good job

too. The final product can then be used to mulch round tender plants that are being left in the ground or pots, once they have been cut down or any bare soil to help to improve soil texture.

Its been a bumper year for most fruit, but any apples with brown rot should be put in the garden waste bin rather than in your compost bin. If you can leave windfalls, they are much appreciated by wildlife.

It's a good time to sow most garlic but do check on the variety first. Don't be tempted to use supermarket bulbs that may have sprouted as they are not intended to be grown and the results will probably be disappointing. Elephant garlic is actually a leek and has a much milder taste but the whole cloves roast well. They should be planted about 2/3cm deep, at least 15cm apart in either the ground or pots. If you had elephant garlic this year and it didn't split into cloves as usual, it could be due to the very dry weather. Just plant the largest single bulbs again and hopefully they will do better next year. Any of the minuscule little bulbs can also be planted to grow on and be planted next year.

In a recent talk about garlic, we were told that cutting it up at least 10 minutes before cooking increases the nutrients! Broccoli should be cut/left for up to 90



minutes as well. Eating an apple after garlic is meant to stop you breathing it all over everyone but I haven't tested this. I always thought you should chew parsley.

It's also time to plant indoor bulbs for winter but check that they have been treated to do so, rather than be planted outside. They are always more expensive! Its never too late for outdoor bulbs and tulips need to be planted later to avoid potential disease. All bulbs

should be planted at a depth of 2-3 times their size and always look good when different bulbs are layered in a pot. If you suffer from squirrels, try putting some fairly fine netting over pots now, to stop them being dug up before they get a chance to start growing, and remove it later.

If you can still find bare root perennials like sweet William and wallflowers, planting them now gives them time to develop a good root system and they should be stronger next year.



Many people prefer to plant sweet peas in autumn rather than in the spring. They should go into deep pots or root trainers and then kept in a cool light place. They are very tasty for mice, so you might need to have some cover to protect them.

We've always been led to believe that lots of berries on bushes/trees are signs of a hard winter to come and everywhere round here is smothered and looks wonderful. Don't leave any pots sitting in water as this is more damaging than cold.

Schoolreaders

Do you have spare time to help children read? Although we don't usually advertise on behalf of other organisations, we felt this could be of interest to some of our members:

Schoolreaders is a national literacy charity. We find and match volunteers with local primary schools to support children in improving their reading and



comprehension skills, as well as developing their confidence and social skills.

1 in 4 children left primary school last year unable to read well. This means they are unable to fully access their secondary education and this can have a lifelong impact. Schoolreaders wants to help change this. We now operate in every county in England, supporting

over 34,000 children each week. More schools across the county are joining us every day and we have schools in Bedfordshire who are registered with us and waiting for volunteers.

Our volunteers must be able to commit to a minimum of an hour each week for a full year during term time (although holidays can of course be taken) and will undergo an Enhanced DBS check, which is organised and paid for by the school. Volunteers must have a good standard of written and spoken English, but we do not require any specific qualifications and we do not have any age restrictions on our volunteers as long as they are over 18.



Please visit <https://www.schoolreaders.org/> for more information about Schoolreaders and the work we do. Volunteers can apply directly via the website or can contact me for any further assistance.

Quick Quiz

Try this quiz - no Googling!

Answers on page 23

1. How many brains does an Octopus have?
2. What is the most sold flavour of Walkers crisps?
3. Which Looney Tunes character has the middle name Ethelbert?
4. What's longer, a nautical mile or a mile?
5. Which country in the world is believed to have the most miles of motorway?
6. The late Queen Elizabeth II is the longest reigning monarch of the UK, followed by Queen Victoria – but who is third?
7. Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived – who was Henry VIII's last wife?
8. Who took the official photographs of the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana in 1981?

For LLu3a membership application form
(for new members)
and renewal form
(for existing members)
please refer to the membership section
of the LLu3a website.

HELP!

Can anyone help with the planning of outings for 2026 we have ideas and possible dates and you do not have to come on the trips but we do have a good day out.

It is not a requirement that you are a committee member just a willing volunteer.

If interested please call Sheila Foster:-

Tuesday Afternoon Exercise Group

This group meets every Tuesday, from 2 to 3pm in Linslade Community Hall, St Barnabas Church. The exercises are a mixture of general movement, stretches, modern dance, line dancing etc, all to music.

The exercises are primarily led by Celia Gibbons, with contributions from other group members. New members would be very welcome. The current price is £2 per session, but would reduce if attendance increases.

Quiz Answers



1. 9.
2. Cheese and onion
3. Wile E Coyote
4. Nautical mile (it's 1.15 miles)
5. China
6. George III
7. Catherine Parr
8. Patrick Lichfield

**The Deadline for the
items for the February
issue of the newsletter is
21st of January 2025**

OLD GLORY SPEAKERS

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

13th November 2025 Colin Oakes

“Nazi Secret Projects of 1945”

11th December 2025 Colin Richards

“Totalisators – the World’s First
Large-scale, Multi-user Real-time
Computing Systems”

8th January 2026 Duncan Bickley

“Adventures in Helicopters”

12th February 2026 Jan Wyglendacz

“RNLI - The Inside Story”

12th March 2026 John Thompson

“Life on a station,
plus a catastrophe”

Leighton-Linslade u3a Main Monthly Meetings 2025

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

November 19th Andrew Baker
Amidst Doom & Gloom ought we to celebrate?

December 10th, (2nd Wednesday) Richard Page
Pictures of Linslade Past Pt. 1

Main Monthly Meetings 2026

January 21st Jean Yeats
English Idioms, Idiotic and Engaging. Things We Say.

February 18th Simon Keable-Elliot
'Utterly Immoral'. Robert Keable and His Scandalous
Novel

March 18th Martin Orkin
The Beatles Story. Part 1. 1962-1965