



Registered Charity No.

November 2024 Newsletter Melton Mowbray u3a

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At the meeting this month on Thursday 21st November 2024

Speaker	Bob Reed – Lets Talk About Toilets
Display	No display
Catering	Sue Bown, Josie Rudkin, Janet Tarratt, Marie Cunningham, Marianne Hodson
Meet/Greet	Jean Newton, Anne Garton

Committee Notices

SPEAKER'S CORNER

Our November speaker, Bob Reed, is a civil engineer who has spent many years working around the world in many impoverished areas. For 30 years he lectured and consulted at Loughborough University. An entertaining and educational speaker.

21st November	Bob Reed	Let's talk about toilets
19th December	Christmas meeting	
2025		
16th January	Meet the groups	
20th February	Becky Spillane	Fraud Awareness
20th March	AGM / Christine Slomkowska	103 The Eye

As you can see from the programme above, the next phase of the speaker schedule needs to be cobbled together. As I set forth on this task it would be a perfect opportunity for my successor to come along for the ride. The problem is that I don't have a volunteer to replace me on the committee, just saying.....

Barry Frangleton, Speaker Secretary

RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS

Members are the lifeblood of any u3a. This means publicity in some form is necessary to inform prospective members of the activities and opportunities we provide within our u3a. It is important that we recruit new members to continue to strengthen our u3a and make it more and more attractive to you, our existing members.

New members bring new ideas, energy and enthusiasm. They can benefit from joining our u3a in many ways. They might become helpers, group leaders or committee members. They will enrich our u3a and potentially spread the word to other prospective members.

Sharon Baines (Membership Secretary) is leading a small group to carry out the pivotal role of Publicity & Advertising. Ideally, we would like a few more members to join this important small group to help and support where necessary. If you are interested and can support this activity or wish to discuss what this would mean for you, contact Sharon directly, membership@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

Over the coming years a large number of people will be retiring from work and will be looking for new opportunities. Our u3a needs to equip itself for a world where many of the 55+ age group will be looking to the internet for inspiration and new opportunities. With this in mind, we are improving how we use Facebook and WhatsApp as a starting point.

We also have a u3a Lets Go....Together, WhatsApp group where members can keep in touch, arrange to meet up with other members or share activities. Just simply request to join within WhatsApp group or contact the Membership Secretary and once membership is confirmed, you will be admitted.

It is important that we improve and increase the engagement and followers on our Facebook group and page. We currently have a Melton Mowbray Facebook Group set up for members only, along with a Facebook page to advertise what we are offering. If you use Facebook and haven't already joined, we are asking you to join our u3a Facebook Group and follow our u3a Facebook page and share with your contacts to increase our engagement. In addition, where possible we would like Group Leaders to take an active role by posting information and photographs about activities of your group on the Facebook group for members. In addition to a description, photographs are really important as they boost engagement. However **it is important that the people in your photographs are aware they are going on social media and be in agreement.**

Only the administrators can post adverts on the Facebook page, therefore the Publicity & Advertising group will be posting activities on a regular basis. We currently have approximately 70 different groups and activities that take place across the week. An easy way to set up a regular advert is to feature a different u3a interest group each week, this will demonstrate the breadth of what we offer and hopefully encourage others to join our u3a.

Social media isn't the only way to increase the profile of our u3a, we are planning to run stands at local community events and contact local employers to share information about u3a with those who work part time or will be retiring. We are also in the process of developing new promotional materials to be displayed across Melton Mowbray and the local area. Let's celebrate and share what we offer.

Sharon Baines, Membership Secretary
Membership@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH

I promised that the new version of the website would be launched in the course of this month. In order to comply with that schedule, I have redirected the website path in our domain: from <https://www.u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk> to <https://melton-mowbray.u3asite.uk>. The latter is the home of the new website. This is still a semi-official launch. There are some things I need to tie up with the u3a's central organization for porting website to the **SiteWorks** environment, but for practical purposes you have access to the new website at the two addresses above.

The new website uses SiteWorks, which provides some u3a tools within WordPress. You may recognise the new site as a WordPress site. This is effectively acknowledging an industry standard, as a vast number of websites make use of WordPress. The actual conversion to a SiteWorks site has attempted to keep things simple, while preserving most of the site's information and resources. I hope we have been successful in that.

Navigation should also be simpler. Some unnecessary partitioning of the information has been removed. One big change is that the meeting venues are objects, in their own right. The information we hold about venues is limited. In most cases, we refer people to the venue's own website. We would appreciate Group Leaders, as users of the venues, providing more details, so that we can update the venue descriptions.

For all the good points of the new website, one obvious problem is that the conversion was based on a snapshot of our site, taken in September. There have been quite a few developments in the meantime. We will bring the group information up to date in the next few weeks. This impinges, a bit, on the decommissioning of the old website. We need some time to scavenge the information needed to make these updates. However, it is all going forward. We will continue to develop the new website. We are confident that this will not limit your access to the site.

I hope that you will enjoy using the new version of the website. If you have any comments or suggestions for the site or the information it presents, please let me know,

CJ Rupp, IT Advisor admin@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Those of you who regularly contribute items for the newsletter, will be aware the deadline for submissions has been creeping forward over the last few months. The reason for this is to ensure those members who receive a printed copy via Royal Mail, receive it in a more timely manner. Because of the need to send the newsletter to the printers once completed it has sometimes been posted out to members a week or two into the month which is not satisfactory. Our printers are managing to turn them around quite quickly at the moment and we therefore aim to post them out much earlier than previously. Deadlines will continue to be around 5/6 days before the last day of the month. Thanks to our contributors for adhering to the earlier deadlines.

Christine Bluett, Editor

COMMITTEE POSTS

As many of you know, we have our AGM next March where Committee members are elected for the forthcoming year. Some of our Committee members will be standing down at that time having completed their term of office and therefore we need people to come forward to join us on the Committee at the AGM.

There are only nine of us in total on the Committee and we like to think we are friendly and welcoming. MM u3a cannot be run without a full Committee. If any of you would like to know more about being on Committee, come and speak to any of the Committee members at the monthly speaker meeting. Alternatively, do get in touch with any of us by phone or email. Our details are on the MMu3a website.

Whilst technically all posts become vacant at each AGM, typically postholders continue for a 3-year period and are re-elected each year during that 3-year term. Four post holders are stepping down at the next AGM having come to the end of their term in the role and we are urgently seeking members to fill the following posts:

- **Treasurer**
- **Vice Chairman**
- **Speaker Secretary**
- **Newsletter Editor**

I am raising this matter well in advance of the AGM as, if you would like, we can arrange for you to sit in on a Committee meeting and/or shadow one of us to learn more about any of the roles and give you time to think about it. We have currently almost 700 members and over 70 interest groups and I am sure there must be some of you willing to come forward. We on Committee look forward to hearing from you!

Kathlyn Slack, Chairman

WHEN “DO NOT REPLY” DOESN’T REALLY MEAN IT!

Our membership database (Beacon) enables us to send emails to members and this has proved very useful as it incorporates the Data Protection requirements automatically. However, sometimes the emails will say “**Do Not Reply**” in the heading and this has caused members a few problems. It is an issue which has been discussed at the national level and may be changed in future. Whilst the Do Not Reply heading may appear you will usually also see a “**Reply To**” which clearly shows who you should reply to. As a last resort, you will need to ascertain the email address by looking at the committee contact details on the website. For information, the committee email addresses are shown below:

Kathy Slack (Chairman)	chairman@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk
Linda Newberry (Vice-Chairman)	vchair@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk
Janice Palmer (Business Secretary)	secretary@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk
Maureen Carruthers (Treasurer)	treasurer@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk
Sharon Baines (Membership Secretary)	membership@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk
Barry Frangleton (Speaker Secretary)	speaker@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk
CJ Rupp (IT Advisor)	admin@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk
Dolores Harvey (Group Co-ordinator)	groups@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk
Christine Bluett (Newsletter Editor)	editor@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you become aware of a member becoming seriously ill or experiencing other life changing events, please do let a member of the committee know, even if you think someone else may have notified us. We would rather be notified more than once than not at all.

Email chairman@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

Announcements

CLIFFORD THOMPSON

It is with great sadness we report the death of Clifford Thompson, after a long illness. Cliff was an active member of our u3a for many years and so many people have expressed what a lovely man he was. Our thoughts and condolences go out to Cliff's family and friends at this very sad time.

Other Notices

SUGGESTION BOX

Following our plea in the last newsletter for members to make use of the suggestion box at the monthly speaker meeting, the following suggestion has been received:

I am sure I speak on behalf of many other group leaders. When we send an email to our members notifying them of forthcoming events etc it would be much appreciated to have a response from them so that we know they have read, understood and digested the information we have passed onto them. We are aware that a number of people do not look at their emails from one month to the next, but it is certainly the easiest way of communicating amongst a group in today's world.

Firstly thank you to the member who took the time to highlight his or her concern and make use of the suggestions box. As a group leader I find it very frustrating having to chase up members who have not responded to an email particularly if they have been asked to. However, as a member of a group I must hold my hands up and admit that I am guilty of this myself, often receiving an email which I fully intend to reply to "later" and totally forget. I promise to do better in the future. As we often say, group leaders are the life blood of the u3a and need our respect and support.

What do you think? Have you an issue that's been nagging at you? The suggestion box is a good way to bring things to the attention of others and I am happy to include such items in the newsletter.

Christine Bluett, Editor

u3a CHRISTMAS TREE - CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Many thanks to all the groups who have submitted a decoration for our Melton Mowbray u3a tree at the Christmas Tree Festival, it is much appreciated. I am looking forward to putting the tree together and seeing all the lovely items that have been produced. If you would like to see the tree, the festival is running from 6th to 10th December 2024, Christmas Tree

Linda Newberry, Vice-Chairman



Group News



Excellent News!

We have 2 members who will take over running the Theatre Group., so this popular group can continue.

What's beginning in November?

- Strolling Group 4 (Tuesday afternoons)
- Drama
- Art

What's next?

We're hoping to start the following new groups:

- **Lunch**
- **Local History**
- **Cinema**

If you have an idea for another new group, please do get in touch with me. **Thank you very much** to everyone who already leads/helps with a group & especially to those who are taking this on for the first time.

Dolores Harvey, Groups Co-ordinator

The **DRAMA GROUP** will be holding their first meeting on Tuesday, 12th November, 2pm-4pm, at Mary's Place, Room 4. Anyone who wishes to join the group and attend this meeting is very welcome, but please would they you contact me before the meeting to confirm your interest. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sue Wright

STROLLING GROUPS

Dolores must be congratulated for the great work she is doing on getting new groups up and running. In particular, the Strolling Groups. There has been a long waiting list for the strolling groups for a while now and Dolores organised a meeting of interested parties. As a result, we now have FIVE strolling groups up and running.

The initial strolling group was setup to fill a gap. Many members become less mobile as life goes on, have injuries, illnesses, waiting for operations etc or are having to make use of walking aids to get about. The original group addressed that need and is still going strong and has members with quite a mix of abilities. The strolls are typically less than a mile over easy terrain and members do what they can before returning to base for coffee where we all eventually meet up. It works well.

The group grew very large, and it was acknowledged that there was a "next level" of stroller, those who could walk over slightly rougher terrain and for a little longer. Group 2 was setup and continues to be very successful, hence the long waiting list. We now have groups 3, 4 and 5 which are "next level" strollers. So, whatever your requirements and ability, there is plenty of opportunity to get out in the fresh air, move a little more than usual and enjoy the company of like-minded people, a good chat and refreshments at the end! Check out the groups list for more information.

Christine Bluett, Editor



Group Notices



THEATRE GROUP email: theatre@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

MY FAIR LADY

The performance is on Wednesday, 4th December 2024 and the coach will leave from Wilton Road Car Park, promptly at 6.05 pm. and I expect all non-drivers to be on the coach by 6.00 pm. please. Any query, please telephone 01664 564768. Thank you to all members who collected their ticket on 17th October 2024. If you did not collect your ticket this week at the meeting, it will be available either at the November meeting or on the coach

Angela Fielding

STARLIGHT EXPRESS

I only have 15 names for this show, half of what I need to book tickets. As you know I, along with Lynda and Angela, am giving up the theatre group. There does seem a possibility that others may be willing to take it on and if this happens, with the permission of those listed for this show, I will pass your details on to our successors. Can any of you help? Anyway, don't give up on this show just yet. Thanks so much for your past support.

Anne Dyster.

MELTON MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY

Jekyll and Hyde 13th to 16th November at Melton Theatre. Tickets from the theatre Box Office. *Please support our local theatre*

MELTON MOWBRAY CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

A Christmas Celebration on Saturday 21st December at 7.30 pm in St Mary's Church. Featuring Karl Jenkins' Stella Natalis' plus your favourite Christmas Carols. Advance tickets are £13.50 from Stagestubs.com or see Lynda at the Theatre Desk

SATURDAY MATINEES AT THE LITTLE THEATRE, LEICESTER

Now booking the last play of the Autumn /Winter Season

25th January 2025 - It Could Be Any One of Us (Alan Ayckbourn)

Travel with the group (usually by public transport) or make your own way to Leicester. Lunch at a nearby Italian restaurant is optional. Concessionary tickets are £16.00 and must be paid for at the time of booking. Please email the Theatre Group as above if you can't attend Thursday meetings

LEICESTER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 103RD CONCERT SEASON

Half price tickets for these concerts will be available for groups of 6 or more. Further details have yet to be received but, after the last U3A meeting, the concert on the afternoon of Sunday 23rd February 2025 has been chosen. Braimah Kanneh–Mason will play Mendelssohn Violin Concerto accompanied by LSO. Included in the programme are pieces by Mozart and Schumann. As usual, we have to make bookings early so please visit the Theatre Desk where some leaflets will be available or email me on theatre@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk if you cannot attend monthly meetings.

Lynda Middleton

OUTINGS GROUP – email: outings@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

OUTINGS 2025

Solitaire, a World Heritage Site, and situated by the River Aire and the Leeds and Liverpool canal on the outskirts of Bradford, will be our first outing in 2025. We are grateful to the member who suggested this destination.

Sir Titus Salt was an industrialist engaged in the Yorkshire wool industry, and also a philanthropist. When he built Saltaire Mill, which opened in 1853, he also built a model village in order to house his employees in better living conditions away from the slums and pollution of Bradford. In the years following the building of the mill and village, a church, hospital, school, an institute for both social and educational activities and other amenities were added. Although some, including the village wash house, have since been demolished many still remain and can be viewed from outside while it is possible to go into some, such as the Institute (now called the Victoria Hall). All are fine examples of Victorian architecture.

Salt's Mill, which is 545 feet long and 6 storeys high, used to produce 18 miles of worsted cloth per day on 1200 looms. The mill closed in 1986 and is now a well-known art centre, home to the World's largest permanent collection of David Hockney's work. You will also find an exhibition of the history of Saltaire as well as other temporary exhibits and commercial outlets so there should be something of interest to everyone along with opportunities for refreshments.

You can walk around the village streets to see the different types of houses – eleven of the streets are named after the founder's eleven children – and visit Roberts Park or enjoy a narrow boat trip on the Leeds and Liverpool canal. To find out more google Saltaire, World Heritage site or Bradford Visitor Information and follow the links. Interested? **Come to Saltaire with us on 9 April 2025.**

RHS Bridgewater Garden

We are currently trying to make arrangements for a visit to RHS Bridgewater Garden. It is the newest RHS garden and situated on the outskirts of Manchester. If you are an RHS member who is entitled to free admission and intend to join us on this trip, can you please let us know as soon as possible to enable us to work out how many group entry tickets we will need to reserve. You can do this by emailing us or coming to see us at the outings desk at the next U3A Thursday meeting. We will not be taking any payments until the new year.

We will start selling places at Meet the Groups in January. We will be posting details of other outings as soon as arrangements have been finalised.

Jean Pearson, Ruth Rigby and Jackie McMillan
Email: outings@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk



Walking Groups



2nd MONDAY WALKING GROUP

Monday 11th November

Meet at the "Bradgate Arms Inn" Cropston, LE7 7HG, 10:15am for 10:30am start, for a walk in Bradgate Park..

REMINDER...Choice of menu and payment is due on this walk from all members who are attending the Christmas Lunch at the Bowls Club on Monday 16th December.

Group Co-ordinator, Geoff Harris

1st THURSDAY WALKING GROUP

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE FROM OCTOBER NEWSLETTER.

The **Thursday 7th November 2024** walk will be from The Noel PH, Whitwell, Oakham, LE15 8BW.

Please park in the car park and be ready to walk for 10am, toilets will be accessible. The route of about 6 miles is along the shore of Rutland Water to Empingham, around that village and return. We intend to have lunch at The Noel, food can be ordered prior to walking. If you intend to join us, please let us know by the Monday before.

The **Thursday 5th December 2024** walk will be from the Stilton Cheese PH, Main Street, Somerby, LE14 2PZ.

Please park in the car park and be ready to walk for 10am, toilets will be accessible. Please note there is limited space in the car park. The walk of about 6 miles is to Burrough, then towards Little Dalby and back to Somerby. It will be muddy in places. We intend to have lunch at the pub, food can be ordered prior to walking. If you intend to join us, please let us know by the Monday before

*Stuart and Wendy Posnett, Group Leaders
Email: walkingthursday1@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk*

3rd WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

NOVEMBER walk – Wednesday 20 November 2024

Meet at the White Lion Inn, 38 Main Street, Whissendine, LE15 7ET

10.00 for a 10.15 start. The walk will be approx. 5½ miles, mainly on track paths but with some road walking and will be led by Jenny Watmough.

Toilets available prior to walking. Food to be pre ordered ordered on the day prior to walking. Link to the pub lunch menu: <https://whitelioninn.com/>

NB/ Please let me know by Sunday 18 November if you are intending to walk and if you will be staying for lunch. Please park in the car park at the rear of the pub.

NB: There will be no 3rd Wednesday walk in December.

*Terry Hopper (Group leader/Co-ordinator)
Email: tjhopper5@gmail.com*

LOCAL and OTHER EVENTS



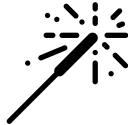




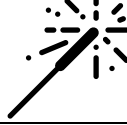








THE LONGEST YARN – PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL

D-Day 80th anniversary commemorated as **The Longest Yarn** moves to **Peterborough Cathedral from 1st March to 3rd April 2025**. This is the last venue it will be displayed at before it moves over to the USA. The Longest Yarn is an 80 metre, 3D depiction of that fateful day, 6th June 1944, in wool art. With 80 displays, each measuring one metre, the Longest Yarn is something quite unique and not to be missed. thelongestyarn.com





THE MATHS PUZZLE

. A Pyrotechnic Puzzle for November

REMEMBER, REMEMBER THE FIFTH OF NOVEMBER IS ELECTION DAY IN THE USA.

				= 26
				= 23
				= 20
				= 24

This is probably easier than the last puzzle. Can you assign a number between 1 and 7 to each symbol, so that the totals in the right column are correct?

SOLUTION WILL APPEAR IN DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

ANSWERS FOR THE OCTOBER MATHS PUZZLE

The *Champions League* cryptarithm has only one solution:

+	M O N A C O	A	C	G	I	L	M	N	O	R
=	A C M I L A N	1	7	8	6	5	9	4	3	2

The sum then becomes $934173 + 862341 = 1796514$. Zero is not assigned to a letter. There are over 3.5 million permutations of 10 digits. You were given, $A = 1$, but the first 2 digits in the sum cannot be higher than 18, anyway. Equally, the leading digits, A, M, G, cannot be zero. A reappears in columns 5, 6 & 7. Taken together $O + A = N$, $C + N = A$, $A + O = L$ give $N = O + 1$, $L = O + 2$, $C + N = 11$ and, hence, O, N, L is a sequence. N occurs again in column 4, O in 3 and I in 3 & 4. We could combine 2 columns to give $2O + 1 + R = M$ (or $10 + M$). Beyond that, you would mainly have to resort to trial and error.

I started from the other end, in trying to create the puzzle. I may have been lucky, because my initial assumption was that $M + G = 17$, which turns out to be true in the only solution. I also started by defining the calculation as a subtraction, and then switched it round. It would have taken considerable perseverance to find the solution. This puzzle may have been a bit too hard!

Maths for Fun group

THE QUIZ – many thanks to Judy Smithers for setting these quizzes for us

Wool Quiz

1. In the nursery rhyme, 'Baa, baa, black sheep', for whom were the three sacks of wool?
2. By what other name is the substance sometimes called wool fat known?
3. Mohair wool comes from which animal?
4. What does the Speaker of the House of Lords sit on?
5. Which locally developed breed of sheep with a heavy fleece is now one of Britain's rarest breeds?
6. In which south western county of England is the village of Wool?
7. What is the name of the pub in Emmerdale?
8. Wendolene Ramsbottom owns a wool shop in 'A Close Shave'; which two animated figures are the main characters?
9. Which British city was known as 'The Wool Capital of the World' in the 1850s?
10. What phrase is used to describe an attempt to deceive a person by concealing the truth from them?

ANSWERS APPEAR ON PAGE 12



Annual Group Reports



There were no annual reports submitted this month

Final Notices

Annual Reports due for the December 2024 Newsletter:

- Spanish Beginners
- Spanish Conversation
- Strolling 1
- Strolling 2
- Strolling 3

At the meeting next month on Thursday 19th December 2024:

Speaker: Christmas in-house entertainment (no speaker)

Catering: Angela Fielding, Mary Needham, Deb Walker, Angus Walker, Eunice Fletcher

Meet and Greet: Linda Roberts, Marion Brundell (tbc)

Contributions to the November 2024 newsletter to be received no later than **25th November 2024**. Items should be emailed to editor@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

Wool Quiz Answers

1. The master, the dame, the little boy who lived down the lane.
2. Lanoline
3. Angora goat.
4. The woolsack.
5. Leicester Longwool.
6. Dorset.
7. The Woolpack.
8. Wallace and Gromit.
9. Bradford.
10. To pull the wool over someone's eyes.