



Melton Mowbray u3a May 2026 Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 1137780



Welcome to the May edition of your newsletter. We hope you'll find it both entertaining and informative. Details for sending contributions for future editions can be found on the last page.

MONTHLY SPEAKER MEETING

At last signs of spring! At our **Thursday 21st May 2026** meeting, we welcome **John Chatfeild-Robert**. Some of you may remember he was the High Sheriff of Leicestershire for the year 2024-2025. He is going to tell us more about the job and his year.

For your diary: At our 18th June 2026 meeting, we have the Shanty Folk coming back, because so many of you asked for them again and a number told us they had missed their last visit. So, make sure you bring your best voice to join in! Hope you are enjoying the sun (well it's out as we write this!).

Catering	Linda Needham, Hilda Cox, David Cooper, Barbara Cresswell, Janet Tarratt
Meet/Greet	Eric Faulconbridge, Maureen Carruthers

Please note that due to the absence of Sylvia and Brian Donovan, there will be **no** library at the May meeting.

Forthcoming 2026 Program		
June 18	Shanty Folk	
July 16	Stephen Evens,	Great Railway Reunification
August 21	30 th Anniversary Garden Party at the Baptist Church 2:00pm to 4:00 pm	

Coral and Vicki
speakersecretary@u3amemltonmowbray.org.uk

COMMITTEE NOTICES

30th Anniversary Garden Party – Invitation



Hopefully, you are aware that as part of our special 30th Anniversary year, we are delighted to announce a charming Garden Party to be held on **Friday 21st August, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Baptist Church.** Join us for an uplifting afternoon in a warm and welcoming atmosphere, featuring delicious celebratory refreshments, light entertainment, and an official welcome from Iain Cassidy (CEO of u3a). We are also hoping to welcome other distinguished guests to make the occasion even more memorable. (TBC)

Booking your place:

To reserve your place, please get in touch with Sharon Baines via email: membership@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk from 6th May or book at one of the monthly meetings. Places are limited, so early booking is advised to avoid disappointment.

Closing date for bookings is: Friday 7th August.

If you have any **dietary requirements**, please let us know at the time of booking!

Cost: The Committee is kindly subsidising this event so that you can enjoy the afternoon.

The cost per person is: £10.00

Payment options:

- BACS: Please use your **surname, membership number, and “Garden Party”** as the reference.
- Debit card: Available at the monthly meetings.
- Cheque or cash: A £0.40 transaction charge will apply.

We very much look forward to celebrating this special milestone with you.



GROUP NEWS



NEW GROUPS NEWS!

Groups started in April

BUS PASS – Please email buspass@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk.

OUTDOOR BOWLS - Mondays 2-4pm April – September Holwell Bowls Club
Please email outdoorbowls@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk.

WATERCOLOURS 2 – 2nd Thursday afternoon at Springfield Street Centre
Please email watercolours@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk.

Groups starting in May

ART APPRECIATION - Time and place TBC

Please email groups@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk.

CROSS STITCH - Time and place TBC

Please email groups@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk.

MUSIC FOR FUN - For anyone who wants to play any instrument. Time and place TBC

Please email groups@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk.

THERE WILL BE OTHER GROUPS! Email me with any suggestions.

Thank you very much to all group leaders and helpers.

*Dolores Harvey, Groups Co-ordinator
email: groups@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk*



GROUP NOTICES



ADD TO PLAYLIST - PODCAST RECOMMENDATIONS

Podcast recommendations are arriving thick and fast in my inbox which is great! I cannot ever say I'm going to be bored!

So, a few group suggestions to begin - **the U3A podcast** - 63 episodes to date - all available on the u3a YouTube channel.

Gaby Roslin's Reasons to be joyful 70 + podcasts

Gaby wants to spread joy and THAT is what this podcast is all about. Each week, she welcomes a famous face to the studio to find out what makes them smile, chuckle and belly laugh. You can find out what brings them joy in their lives and, in the bonus Show and Tell episode, get a glimpse into their lives as they talk about an object they love - check out the episode with Nancy Birtwhistle -

www.youtube.com/@GabyRoslinReasonsToBeJoyful.

Available on Spotify and Apple and other platforms too.

Grow, cook, eat, arrange, the weekly podcast from gardener, writer, teacher, and cook, Sarah Raven.

Since the publication of her first book, *The Cutting Garden*, two decades ago, Sarah has led the way by encouraging productive gardening which places emphasis on intense colour, sophistication, and achievability. With special guests from across garden design, floristry, food, ecology, conservation, and more, this podcast is brimming with top tips and helpful hints to help you create your most productive garden ever. <https://www.sarahraven.com/podcast>.

BBC Sounds Profile - 859 episodes 15 minutes

An insight into the character of an influential figure making news headlines - an interesting collection but not all politicians you'll be pleased to know - recent profiles include actors Wunmi Mosaku and Mackenzie Crook.

BBC Sounds offers a very diverse offering of podcasts and programmes, and I think because we are used to listening to the radio, then this seems an easy way into podcasts. But you can always type into a search engine like Google, Chrome, Duck Duck Go etc etc - the best podcasts about...history, antiques, astronomy, cooking from scratch or whatever you are interested in. Or if you subscribe to Amazon Prime or Spotify or Apple music there are treasure troves there too!

And a finally a brand-new podcast - **Bridging Divides** - a new podcast from the British Red Cross hosted by Sonali Shah. The first podcast is a conversation between Sonali and Jake Puddle, the Research Director of a company called British Future.

Happy listening... or watching... and if you come across any pods you like then let me know. Or if you absolutely love something and want more like this, ask away and I'll do a bit of research.

Penny Tomie, podcasts@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

CROQUET GROUP

We are all feeling the joys of spring and ready for our new season. The fun starts on **7th May at the Saxby Road Cricket Ground** and thereafter every Thursday afternoon, weather permitting, until the end of September.

Thanks to the Jacques sale and the skills of David Slack, we now have four group croquet sets and are grateful to members who let us use their personal sets as necessary. We are also grateful to the All-England Cricket Club and the Town Estate for the use of the ground.

Our existing members should have received a pre-season email two weeks ago. Anyone who did not get the email should check their spam and failing that, email me so that they can be added to the contact list.

We look forward to welcoming back our regulars but are also pleased to accommodate new members. We offer teaching sessions to beginners and newcomers are invariably made very welcome so if you are ready for some fun, we will see you in May.

*Diane Cherryman, Ann Lloyd, Mark Simmons, David Ward, joint group leaders
croquet@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk*

FLOWER ARRANGING 2

Below are details of two forthcoming workshops that may be of interest. To book your place(s), please contact Mandy direct as per the details below!

Melton Mowbray u3a
Flower Arranging II Group
Open Invitation
Presents
Spring into Summer
Delivered by *Chris Fowkes* Professional Florist

Introduction to Flower Arranging & Floristry
= Foundation Workshop =

Saturday 6th June 2026
1pm – 5.30pm

Baptist Church School Room, Ibstock LE67 6HF
Ample Free Parking to the Rear – Disabled Access

Four demonstrations and a practical hands-on to create a Posie design to take-home plus a 40 page info manual

£55 per person including refreshments & all materials

Contact Mandy
07702 103281
Email
flowerarranging2@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

Create a Posie design to take-home!

A fun creative & informative afternoon suitable for anyone with a love for flowers

Melton Mowbray u3a
Flower Arranging II Group
Open Invitation
Presents
Spring into Summer
What this workshop covers

The introduction to floristry and flower arranging is a 4 ½ hour workshop that includes:

- A background to the industry
- Buying flowers
- Stems of flowers
- Meaning of flowers
- The meaning of specific colours of flowers
- Conditioning of flowers & foliage
- Design & Shapes
- Semi wooden stems
- Hollow stems
- Rehydration of flowers
- Colour Wheel
- Mindful Colour use of Flowers
- Appropriate use of foliage and flowers

Four demonstrations –

- 1 Vertical design – step by step demonstration
- 2 Circular design – 6–9 point arrangement
- 3 Church pedestal arrangement – 17 point step by step
- 4 Supermarket flowers – grid reference arrangement

Practical hands-on session to create a 7 point Posie design to take home

Refreshments included

Saturday 6th June 2026
1pm – 5.30pm

Baptist Church School Room, Ibstock LE67 6HF
Ample Free Parking to the Rear – Disabled Access

Contact Mandy
07702 103281
Email
flowerarranging2@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

Create a Posie design to take-home!

MELTON MOWBRAY u3a
Flower Arranging II Group
Presents
TRIANGULAR BLOOMS WORKSHOP
Create a Large Foam-Free Arrangement with Long-Stemmed Blooms and Foliage

Presented by
SUE HODGSON
Floral Designer
NAFAS National Demonstrator

Thursday 27th August 2026
Time: 2pm – 4pm
Venue: The Springfield Street Community Centre, Melton Mowbray

£45 per person | all materials included

SECURE YOUR PLACE

Contact Mandy: 07702 103281
Email: flowerarranging2@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Clare O'Donnell's talk at our April meeting on the "Meltonian Dandies" with its mix of serious history, humour, and anecdotes was thoroughly enjoyed by those present, and the many questions kept her talking for a further 20 minutes.

This month, well-known local man **JED JAGGARD** presents:

"PAINTING THE TOWN RED"

on

Friday 8th May at 2.00 p.m.

at

Mary's Place, (top of Burton Street next to The Crown Pub)

Entry is £3 per person (cash only please), and we strongly recommend that you pre-book your place(s) for the meeting as soon as possible by contacting us on localhistory@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk giving your name and membership number. This enables us to contact you in the event of a last-minute alteration/cancellation of the meeting and gives us a guide as to the number attending so we can set up the room accordingly.

Additional help is sought to help set up and clear away the chairs at each meeting. If you are willing and able to help, then do please let us know via email below. Thanking you in advance.

Leaders: Claire Abbott, Debbie Adams, Geraldine Deverson, Brian Ellis
localhistory@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

LUNCH GROUP NEWS



Lords and Ladies at Tom Browns, Gunthorpe

Our April outing took us to Tom Browns in Gunthorpe, a venue so stylish that several of us briefly wondered whether we'd wandered onto a film set. With its modern décor, cocktail-bar ambience and toilets that achieved near-mythical status (honestly, they were reviewed more enthusiastically than some West End shows), the scene was set for a rather splendid afternoon.



The welcome was warm, the staff attentive, and the food for most a triumph. From exquisite tortellini to stone bass that earned high praise, and a rhubarb pudding described as "to die for", the kitchen certainly delivered. Sticky toffee pudding also made a star appearance, as did the lively banter at the table. Chris and Bruce, though outnumbered, held their own with comedic flair, and Richard's now-infamous suggestion that someone might be a

"lady... of the night" will no doubt go down in u3a folklore.

There were, of course, a few gentle niggles. Some dishes could have arrived a touch hotter, a little more veg wouldn't have gone amiss (one lonely broccoli spear does not a portion make), and the salt fairy was perhaps a little over-enthusiastic with the potatoes or sauce. A couple of members also experienced some confusion over deposits and billing, nothing dramatic, but certainly something for the venue to tighten up before our next visit. Despite these small quibbles, the overall verdict was clear: a lovely venue, fabulous food, excellent company, and absolutely worth a return trip. After all, any restaurant that inspires comparisons to Tom Cruise flair-bartending and earns a collective standing ovation for its loos must be doing something right. Here's to the next adventure and perhaps an extra broccoli floret or two.

Next lunch date Friday 8th May - The Old Pheasant, Glaston, Rutland

Contact Mandy at lunchfri@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk.

OUTINGS



This time a coach outing was organised not to a stately home or Christmas market but to **Bletchley Park** in Buckinghamshire; home of the World War II codebreakers. Both men and women working tirelessly day and night to find out what the enemy was planning. After 1945 it became a GPO training centre and in the 1990's it was turned into a museum honouring up to 9000 staff working there in total secrecy. Certainly, a fascinating place to visit with lots of walking around the various huts each specialising in certain military aspects of the fight. So much to take in for one day. At least our tickets are valid for 12 months. We can always come back! I think everyone got something out of the trip. The journey was very easy especially knowing what the M1 can do to travel! Thank you to all who organised the trip as well as those who participated to make it a complete success.

Philip Walters

Trip to Woodhouse Wentworth and Gardens on Tuesday 14th July

- we have a few seats available.

£40.00 cash £40.40 cheque

Depart Wilton Road: 09.00 am*

Depart Tesco: 09.15 am*

Please note change to departure times for this trip as unfortunately we are now unable to arrive until 11:00 am (at the request of the venue).

Trip to York on Wednesday 23rd September

£30.00 cash. £30.40 cheque

Depart Wilton Road: 08.00 am

Depart Tesco: 08.15 am

Looking further ahead and already proving popular our trip to Worcester Christmas Market on Thursday 3rd December

£30.00 cash. £30.40 cheque

Depart Wilton Road: 08.00 am

Depart Tesco: 08.15 am

If you are interested in any of our trips and are unable to get to the U3A meetings, please contact Jean Pearson.

*Jean Pearson and Ruth Rigby
outings@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk*

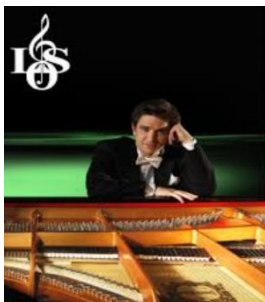
POETRY 3

The very talented members of the Poetry 3 group have provided a section of poems to be published in the newsletter over the coming months and below is the first penned by member, Peter Karan.

A poem in the style of Emily (Dickinson)

Wordsworth was a lyrical poet
Walking the Lakes carefree
Just an old romantic at heart
Laud'num bunches – so what
Tying myself up in Blues
Using Forget-me-knot

THEATRE NEWS



An Afternoon of Musical Excellence at De Montfort Hall.

A group of theatre members recently enjoyed a wonderful visit to De Montfort Hall to hear the Leicester Symphony Orchestra perform Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 2, featuring pianist Dominic Piers Smith.

Dominic Piers Smith is a remarkable musician, having spent over twenty years balancing a unique dual career as both a Formula One aerodynamicist and a concert pianist. His performance, alongside the full orchestra, made for an unforgettable musical experience.

The trip was not only culturally enriching but also excellent value. By organising volunteer drivers instead of coach travel, and securing discounted tickets, the group created a cost effective and well-run outing. Car sharing proved to be a practical and popular choice, with many praising how smoothly it worked.

Attendees were highly complementary about the organisation of the event. The seating arrangements, in particular, received excellent feedback, with members appreciating the thoughtful selection that ensured comfort and clear views of the stage. The venue itself was also widely admired. Members described De Montfort Hall as a characterful setting with consistently good sightlines and an enjoyable atmosphere. For many, the opportunity to hear a full professional orchestra is rare without travelling to a major city, making this experience all the more special.

The performance was described as “superb,” “fantastic,” and “a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.” Overall, the trip was a great success, and there is strong enthusiasm for arranging similar visits in the future.

Contact Mandy on theatre@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk.



WALKING GROUPS



2nd MONDAY WALKING GROUP

Monday 11th May

10:15 am for 10:30 am start

Meet in Rotherby. LE14 2LP {parking near the Church}

Refreshments will be at the "Flying Childers"

Group Co-ordinator Geoff Harris.

3rd WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

20 May 2026

10:00 am for a 10:15 am start

Meet at the The Ashby Arms, Main St, Hungarton, Leicester LE7 9JR.

Toilets available and lunch can be pre-booked prior to walking.

The walk will be approx. 5 miles. Lunch is booked for 1.00pm

NB: Please let me know by Monday 18 May if you intend to walk and if you will be staying for lunch. Menu can be viewed on <https://www.theashbyarms.com/>

Terry Hopper (Group leader/Co-ordinator).

1st THURSDAY WALKING GROUP

The **Thursday 7th May 2026**, walk will be from the Stilton Cheese PH, High Street, Somerby, LE14 2QB. Be ready to walk for 10:00 am.

As the car park is small you may need to use alternative parking. Toilets will be accessible and if food is required it can be ordered prior to walking. If you intend walking/staying for lunch, please let us know by the Monday before. The walk of about 6 miles is from Somerby to Burrough then towards Little Dalby and back to Somerby. It is quite hilly and very muddy in places.

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



ANNUAL GROUP REPORTS



Family History 1

We meet in the library as Ancestry and Find My past can be accessed for up to seven hours per week (you need to be a member of the library to have access to this software). We are limited by the number of available computers – 12 max – but members can bring in and use their own laptop.

The group may range from beginners to expert, with everyone helping each other. Computers need to be pre-booked, which we do online, by phone or in person and this can be done up to two weeks in advance.

When there are five Wednesdays in the month, we enjoy a joint coffee morning with plenty of lively discussion, held currently at The Cutting Room, and for the past few years we have also had a Christmas/Annual Lunch.

Jenny, Group Leader, familyhistory1@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

Flower Arranging

We are a friendly, sociable group who enjoy arranging flowers, with a different theme each month.

The meetings are varied, a garden visit in the summer and a demonstration/workshop are arranged each year and enjoyed by all the members.

There are costs for room hire, flowers and the events but we try to keep costs to a minimum. Free tea and coffee is provided at our meeting.

We currently have a waiting list but are happy to add anyone who is interested.

Rosie and Sue, Group Leaders, flowerarranging@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

French Improvers

This group meets at the group leader's home on the first and third Monday mornings of the month. With six members it is about the right size to ensure that everyone has ample opportunity to speak.

Having progressed from beginner's level, speaking the language is now the priority because, although we have a course book for background, the group meeting is now really for practicing spoken French.

The group is still open but with space for only one or two new members.

French Conversation

The French Conversation Group meets on the second and fourth Monday mornings of the month at a member's home. However, it is presently full, with a waiting list.

It meets informally to practice speaking French in a relaxed setting on a wide range of topics and personal experiences that interest members.

Modern trends in the language (e.g. new words and slang) are introduced wherever members have encountered them to keep us up to date. Google Translate and such internet aids prove very useful to us these days.

Group Leader: Paul Woolston, french@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

Research Opportunity

Do you find it hard to follow speech in noisy settings or take part in conversations? If you can access the Internet, you are invited to take part in an on-line study. The study aims to improve two new listening and thinking games for people with hearing loss. To take part – <https://tinyurl.com/PLUS-Optimal1> or email Natalie.Lerigo-Smith1@Nottingham.ac.uk.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

“**Grow the Museum!**” – are you a keen gardener or want to learn more about outdoor spaces? Melton Museum are seeking gardening volunteers. For more information, please either email meltonmuseum@leics.gov.uk or ring 0116 305 3860. Or pop into the museum (opening hours Tuesday to Saturday 10 am to 4:30 pm).

Could you help brighten someone's day?

Re-engage is a charity dedicated to reducing loneliness for people aged 75 and over—and we're looking for kind, friendly volunteers in the **Melton Mowbray** area.

Our services are **completely free and volunteer-led**, and include:

- **Tea Parties** – bringing older people together for laughter, conversation and connection
- **Social Activity Groups** – regular meet-ups to enjoy shared interests and make new friends
- **Call Companion** – a simple weekly phone call that can make a huge difference

If you have some spare time, you could help someone feel less alone and more connected.

If you'd like to get involved or find out more, we'd love to hear from you.

Visit our website- reengage.org.uk

Or email stacey.pointon@reengage.org.uk

Join us and be part of something truly meaningful.

School Readers Improving literacy = Increasing life chances

One in four children leave primary school unable to read to the expected standard – a challenge that can affect their secondary education and future life chances. Schoolreaders, the largest in-school literacy charity in England is working to change this. Consequently, they are currently recruiting volunteers to listen to children read in primary schools. By giving just one hour a week, you could help transform a child's reading skills and their future opportunity. To find out more, please visit www.schoolreaders.org.

LOCAL INTEREST

The Melton Mowbray & District Historical Society have organised two summer trips for this year: -

**Sandringham Estate on Saturday 13 June; and
Hanbury Hall (National Trust) on Wednesday 22 July**

Non-members of the Historical Society are most welcome to join them.

Please contact Vaughan Gregory for a booking form

Melton Mowbray Choral Society Summer Concert

GLORIA!

Saturday 30th May 2026

7:30 pm

St Mary's Church, Melton Mowbray

Tickets: £15.00 in advance or £18.00 on the door

Featuring Vivaldi's Gloria alongside a selection of music by Stanford, Lauridsen, Gjeilo, Whitacre and even a choral version of a famous song by The Turtles!
www.meltonmowbraychoralsociety.co.uk

GET PUZZLING!

EAST QUIZ

1. Which British TV soap began in 1985 and is set in the fictional London borough of Walford?
2. Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and parts of Essex form what region of England?
3. What is the largest settlement in the East Riding of Yorkshire?
4. Which modern village, situated just north of Syston, is said to be the first new village created in Leicestershire since Domesday?

5. Which book by John Steinbeck was made into a film starring James Dean?
6. The easternmost point of the UK is near which town?
7. Which boy band took their name from the postcode of their home town of Walthamstow?
8. East Sussex is bordered by which three counties?
9. Which Fry's confectionary product was said to be 'Full of Eastern promise'?
10. If the Occident refers to western countries, what term is used for eastern ones?

Answers on page 15

Kindly provided by Judy Smithers

MAY MATHS PUZZLE



Image generated by ChatGPT

The puzzle for May can be stated quite simply: suppose you have an analogue clock showing 3:15. What would the angle between the minute hand and the hour hand be?

Solution will be published in the next edition of the newsletter.

*Kindly provided by CJ Rupp
Maths for Fun Group Leader (among other responsibilities)
maths@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk*

FINAL NOTICES

Annual Reports due for the June 2026 Newsletter:

- French Conversation – Voyages en Fauteuil
- Gardening
- German
- Guitar for Beginners
- Guitar Classical
- Guitar (practice and performance)

Annual Group Reports

The Annual Group Reports item is included to allow group leaders, or group members to provide an overview of the activities they've undertaken with their groups over the year. We have typically gone through the groups list in alphabetical order, but members are welcome to submit a report at any time during the year, particularly if you are a new group and/or have spaces for new members. It also has the effect sometimes of giving other members ideas for groups they could start and that is always welcome.

We do not wish to put any group leader under pressure to write an annual report but merely provide a platform for your group to showcase achievements and talk about what your members have gained from being part of the group.

At the meeting next month on Thursday 18th June 2026

Entertainment: The Shanty Folk are ten guys that have got together for fun as a spin off from the Loughborough Male Voice Choir, singing well known sea shanties for everyone to enjoy.

Catering: Eunice Fletcher, Barbara Cresswell, Julie McCaw, Janet Tomaszewski, Linda Middleton

Meet and Greet: Geraldine Green, Linda Roberts

COMMITTEE		
Chairman	David Ramsden	chairman@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk
Vice-Chairman	Sue Gowans	vchair@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk
Business Secretary	Carol Thompson	secretary@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk
Groups Co-ordinator	Dolores Harvey	groups@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk
Treasurer	Linda Newbery	treasurer@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Sharon Baines	membership@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk
Speaker Secretary	Victoria Reynolds/ Coral Batchelor	speaker@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk
IT Advisor	CJ Rupp	admin@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk
Newsletter Editor	Claire Abbott	editor@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk
SOCIAL MEDIA		
<p>Publicity – use this email to spread the word about u3aMM activities - social_media@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk.</p> <p>Let's Go ... Together This is a group of WhatsApp users who share with other members their upcoming activities, inviting others to come along. You either post your desired activity or answer someone else's post to fill your days or evenings. If you would like to be included on this WhatsApp group, please contact membership@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk</p>		
GENERAL ENQUIRIES		
General telephone number 0300 102 4512 Website: melton-mowbray.u3asite.uk		

Your committee is here to help keep Melton Mowbray u3a running smoothly and efficiently. Committee members are always keen to receive feedback on our u3a and encourage members to contact us with any issues, thoughts, suggestions on how we can keep it thriving.

GET PUZZLING! ANSWERS

Answers to “East” quiz

1. Eastenders
2. East Anglia
3. Kingston upon Hull
4. East Goscote
5. East of Eden
6. Lowestoft
7. E17
8. West Sussex, Surrey, Kent
9. Fry’s Turkish Delight
10. The Orient

Solution to April’s Maths Puzzle

(a) In any calendar year, what is the maximum number of times the 13th of a month can fall on a Friday?

(b) Is it possible for a year to have no Friday the 13ths?

First let’s move the goalposts. If the 13th of the month is a Friday, then the 1st must be a Sunday. So, we could consider a year that starts on a Sunday, knowing that January 13th would be a Friday. If all months had 28 days, then the 13th of the month would always be a Friday. You would get this effect with a purely lunar calendar, but in our Gregorian Calendar only February, in a non-leap year, has 28 days. So, every other month has a remainder: 28+3, 28+2 or 28+1. As far as the days of the week are concerned, this is a remainder from division by 7.

If we accumulate the remainder, in the year starting with a Sunday, we will get the next Sunday 1st when the remainder is divisible by 7: +3, +0, +3, +2, +3, +2, +3, +3, +2, +3, +2, +3. By the 10th month a remainder of 21 would accumulate, make October 1st a Sunday and October 13th a Friday. For most years you start with a running remainder, to which January will add 3, giving a different distribution of coincidences of the of the first day of the week and the month.

The pattern is slightly different in a leap year, when February also adds to the cumulative remainder.

Month	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Remainder	3	0	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	3	2	3
Cumulative	3	3	6	8	11	13	16	19	21	24	26	29
Remainder ^{LY}	3	1	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	3	2	3
Cumulative ^{LY}	3	4	7	9	12	14	17	20	22	25	27	30

On this basis, a leap year starting on a Sunday would have a Friday 13th in April and July, because the remainder of the previous month is divisible by 7. We can easily add the patterns for years starting on other days of the week, as an offset over the year, or you could think of this as an ongoing remainder at the start of the year.

January 1st	offset	Non-Leap Year	Leap Year
Sunday	0	Jan, Oct	Jan, April, July
Monday	1	April, June	Sept
Tuesday	2	Sept, Dec	June
Wednesday	3	June	March, Nov
Thursday	4	Feb, March, Nov	Feb, Aug
Friday	5	Aug	May
Saturday	6	May	Oct

The upshot of these patterns is that:

- The maximum number of times that the 13th of the month falls on a Friday is 3, part a,
- There will not be a year with no Friday 13th in it, part b,
- Conversely, there are no months that cannot contain a Friday 13th.

In Mathematics, calculating with remainders is usually referred to as: *modulo arithmetic*. The cumulative remainder sequences modulo 7 are: 3, 3, 6, 1, 4, 6, 2, 5, 0, 3, 5, 1 and 3, 4, 0, 2, 5, 0, 3, 6, 1, 4, 6, 2. Whenever the offset for the first day of the year plus the modulo remainder equals 0 or 7, there will be a Friday 13th in the next month.

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Thank you to everyone who contributed to this month's newsletter.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS: Please send by **25th** of each month to Claire Abbott, editor@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk. It would be much appreciated if you did **not** leave it until the last minute.