



Registered Charity No. 1137780

## Melton Mowbray u3a September 2026 Newsletter



Welcome to the September 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.

Following a discussion with the PR and Marketing Group, it has been suggested that the newsletter now concentrates on publicising mainly future (or more newsworthy) events as opposed to past events. As you read through this edition, you will see that many articles (Annual Reports, reports on various outings and visits) are now being published on the Melton Mowbray U3A website, as opposed to being included fully in the newsletter. This is intended to make the newsletter a more succinct read but the full detail, should you wish to read it, is still readily available. If you have difficulty accessing the website, contact Digital Friends who will be happy to help (Email: [digitalfriends@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:digitalfriends@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk) or telephone: 0300 102 4512).

### MONTHLY SPEAKER MEETING

**At the next meeting on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2026**

**Speaker: Stephen Parker: "Operation Atlantic"**

Stephen is a retired Scotland Yard Detective Superintendent, and his talk is about an operation he ran -

**"Operation Atlantic"** - An international drug trafficking conspiracy involving the Detroit Mafia, a Bolivian drug cartel and UK organised crime group which included a record cocaine seizure, betrayal, kidnap, torture and murder. The talk is delivered through the narrative of a prolonged Scotland Yard operation when he was the leader of over 50

elite detectives assisted by the DEA in the US and Bolivia. The talk will be supported by a comprehensive slideshow with some crime scene photographs.

|                   |                                                                        |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Catering</b>   | Lynda Middleton, Eunice Fletcher, Hilda Cox, Lynn Benton, Robin Benton |
| <b>Meet/Greet</b> | Maureen Carruthers, Lesley Dyason                                      |

| <b>Forthcoming 2026 Program</b> |                         |                                            |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>October 15</b>               | Roger Prescott          | Juke Box Jury                              |
| <b>November 19</b>              | Bob Johnson             | "How two oldish people built an eco-house" |
| <b>December 17</b>              | Christmas Entertainment |                                            |

*Coral and Vicki*  
*speakersecretary@u3amemiltonmowbray.org.uk*

## COMMITTEE NOTICES

### Garden Party

### Melton Mowbray u3a 30th Anniversary Celebrations — A Spectacular Finale!

Well, where do I begin?



After months of meetings, planning, preparation and, of course, permanently watching the weather forecast change, the much anticipated 30th Anniversary Garden Party finally arrived on Thursday 21st August.

Although the unpredictable British weather meant that we had to move the celebrations indoors, nothing could dampen the spirits of the 120 members who joined us for a truly memorable afternoon of celebration, entertainment, friendship and fun. We know that some members were disappointed not to be able to book a place, but we hope you will enjoy sharing in the memories through our photographs and future coverage.

For this very special occasion, we quite literally put out the bunting and showcased the incredible talents and activities that make Melton Mowbray u3a so special. From The Generation Gap to flower arranging, crafting, photography and so much more, the afternoon was a wonderful celebration of 30 years of learning, friendship and enjoyment.



We were delighted to welcome Iain Cassidy, CEO of the Third Age Trust, together with The Mayor of Melton Mowbray, Councillor Jim Adcock, and Lady Mayoress Kate Adcock, who joined us in marking this important milestone.

The celebrations began with a wonderful traditional afternoon tea, giving everyone plenty of opportunity to catch up with friends and enjoy the atmosphere.

This was followed by a fantastic programme of entertainment. Members were treated to performances from Mr Music Man, Thomas

Corden, accompanied by one of our newest members, Russ Hamer.

The afternoon concluded in lively style with a performance from our very own The Generation Gap, proving once again that our members have plenty of talent!

### **Celebrating Those Who Came Before Us**

The anniversary was also an opportunity to recognise some of the many people who have helped shape Melton Mowbray u3a over the past 30 years.

Current Chairman David Ramsden warmly welcomed members and was particularly pleased to welcome four past Chairs:

- Mrs Winnifred Maine
- Mr Alan Barton
- Mr Graham Cherryman
- Mrs Kathy Slack

A special memory display also paid tribute to Chairs from previous years who have made a significant contribution to the development of our organisation.

And there was another very special moment during the afternoon. We even managed to surprise one of our long-standing members, Barbara Todd (Membership No. 270), who was celebrating her 90th birthday!

Barbara was treated to a special birthday rendition from everyone, along with a birthday card and, of course, a wonderful birthday cake. It was a lovely and very fitting way to celebrate such a special milestone alongside our own 30th Anniversary celebrations. Happy 90th Birthday, Barbara — from everyone at Melton Mowbray u3a!

### **Words from Our Members**

Perhaps the best way to describe the afternoon is through the words of some of those who were there.

“The 30th Anniversary of the beginning of our u3a will be long remembered by those lucky enough to be present. The Committee members and many volunteer members must have worked SO tirelessly to produce such a superb afternoon tea with an amazing celebration for all of us to enjoy. I am sure the happy faces and exuberant

chatter was a worthwhile return for all your hard work over many months. A sincere thank you to all.” Peter Maine

“Please congratulate all the committee on providing a very enjoyable afternoon celebrating 30 years of MM u3a. The small details in the planning did not go unnoticed and were much appreciated. For me personally, it was lovely to see photographs of people I have loved and lost and who thoroughly enjoyed being a member of MM u3a.” Elizabeth Cobley

These lovely comments capture exactly what we hoped the afternoon would be about — celebrating our past, enjoying the present and looking forward to the future together.

### **A Huge Thank You to Our Volunteers**

An event of this scale simply could not happen without an amazing team of volunteers. Alongside the Committee, I would personally like to say a huge thank you to everyone who gave their time, energy and enthusiasm to make the afternoon such a success: Chris Baines, Peter Thompson — husbands of Committee members who didn't really have a choice but were absolutely brilliant! — David Slack (sound system), Maureen Carruthers, Jo Cowling, Mandy Radford Collumbell, Yvonne Whitehead, Russ Hamer, Brian Ellis, Ken Palmer, Margaret Shufflebottom, Mary Needham, Angela Fielding and Alison Wilford.

Our members continually demonstrate such incredible commitment, hard work, fun and friendship, and this celebration was a wonderful example of what we can achieve when we all work together.

### **The Memories Continue**

We now have so many wonderful memories captured in photographs taken by members of our photography groups, and we will be sharing these with you soon in a variety of ways.

If you were lucky enough to attend and took your own photographs or videos, we would love you to share them with us. Please email them to:

[social\\_media@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:social_media@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk). If you are unable to send them by email, simply pop along and see me at the Membership Desk during one of our monthly meetings.

### **30 Years — And Looking Forward**

Our 30th Anniversary celebrations have given us a wonderful opportunity to look back at everything Melton Mowbray u3a has achieved over three decades.

But while we celebrate our history, this is also a time to look forward — to the friendships yet to be made, the new groups and activities yet to be created, the skills yet to be shared and the many adventures still to come.

Thirty years of learning, friendship, enjoyment and memories — and the story of Melton Mowbray u3a continues.

Here's to the next chapter!

## A Lasting Legacy from Founding Member Josie Toon

Many of our long-standing members will remember Josie Toon, one of the founding members of u3a Melton Mowbray, member number 32.



Josie was an active and valued member of our u3a community, taking part in many groups over the years. She ran The Parchment Group, where she was well known for creating thoughtful handmade get-well cards for fellow members. She also enjoyed the Quilting Group, Watercolour Group, Local History Group, and Walking Group, as well as attending our monthly meetings and outings.

One of Josie's most treasured contributions was a beautiful quilt, created together with fellow members of the Quilting Group. The quilt depicts a selection of the u3a groups that were active at the time and serves as a wonderful reminder of the friendships, creativity, and shared experiences that have always been at the heart of our organisation. The quilt was on display during the garden party and will be displayed at other events.



Josie had been looking after the quilt on behalf of the group, and following her passing, her daughters, Debbie Howitt and Trisha Hack, have very kindly donated it back to u3a Melton Mowbray.



The photograph shows the quilt with Josie's daughter, Debbie Howitt. We are extremely grateful to Debbie and Trisha for ensuring that this special piece of u3a history can be preserved and appreciated by both current and future members.

The quilt is a fitting tribute to Josie, whose enthusiasm, kindness, and dedication made such a positive impact on so many people. Her legacy will continue to be remembered through this remarkable piece of craftsmanship and the many happy memories she helped create within our u3a community.

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## Announcements!



**PR and Marketing Update: we have been busy!**  
**Melton Mowbray u3a website - If you haven't visited recently, take a peek – you might be surprised by what's new!**

As part of our PR and marketing activities, one of our key actions has been to improve the Melton Mowbray u3a website and make it more engaging, informative and easier to use. Improving the website is an important part of our PR and marketing plan.

Our aim is for the website to become much more than an online noticeboard. It should be a front door to Melton Mowbray u3a. Our website is often the first impression someone has of Melton Mowbray u3a. For someone considering joining, it provides an opportunity to discover who we are, what we offer and how they can become involved. An engaging website can help us reach people who are looking for new interests, friendships, learning opportunities and activities.

By making it more engaging, accessible and informative, we can help more people discover everything Melton Mowbray u3a has to offer – and encourage them to become part of our growing community.

The website isn't just for potential new members. It is an important resource for you our existing membership too. Keeping information up to date means members can easily find:

- Interest group activities and schedules
- Meeting dates, times and venues
- Changes or important notices
- Details of outings and social events
- News and updates
- Newsletters and other useful resources

Having reliable information in one easily accessible place helps members stay connected and involved.

## Digital Friends

Another PR and Marketing action is to support existing members with digital inclusion. Therefore, we recently introduced: **Digital Friends** - Helping Members Stay Connected in a Digital World.

Technology is now an important part of everyday life, from keeping in touch with family and friends to accessing information, booking activities and making the most of online services.

The aim isn't to turn anyone into a technology expert. It's about helping members gain the confidence to use digital technology for the things that matter to them. Whether you want to learn more about your smartphone or tablet, explore useful apps, get online, join an online group or simply understand something that has been puzzling you, Digital Friends is here to help.

Most importantly, this is members helping members – sharing knowledge, learning together and building confidence along the way.



Some of you will remember that we held two face to face sessions last year supported by the charity Ability Net; we are hoping to run some similar sessions before the end of the year.

We have recently joined Good Things Foundation, The Digital Inclusion Network. They are the UK's leading digital inclusion charity. Through working with them we are hoping to bring you some free online learning tools 'Learn My Way' helping members with low or no digital skills to gain confidence and learn how to use a range of tools.



But we need to obtain more details from those of you who need further help, so an email will be sent out shortly asking for information!

Remember: You can connect with the Digital Friends Team by:

- Visiting the website to find out more: Digital Friends - Melton Mowbray;
- Emailing the team: [digitalfriends@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:digitalfriends@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk);
- Speaking to one of us at the monthly meetings.



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### **Market Day: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

Once again, I am calling for help! During u3a week we will be publicising everything u3a Melton Mowbray has to offer at a stand in the market place on **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September from 10.00am – 2.30/3.00pm.**

These events always prove to be really useful in sharing all the great things we have to offer. As usual we would love some of you to volunteer to help on the day. Therefore, if you can spare

anytime on the day 1 hour, 2 hours or more please let me know by emailing: Sharon Baines – [membership@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:membership@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk) **by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

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### **Important forthcoming renewals and going online – We are nearly there!**

We will be ready to accept online applications and eventual renewals soon!  
There are many benefits for members renewing online:

**Convenience:** In the past, many of you have questioned the need for sending in forms once you have paid via BACs. This is due to the fact that these are one of the requirements to us accepting applications and renewals via a manual system. Once we go online there will be no need to send forms in!

It will be speedier, once you have renewed your membership card will be sent immediately. This will remove the need for the Membership Secretary to manually check if payment has been made and membership cards sent separately. So the system should be seamless for you!

**Cost- effective:** You will save on postage and handling time and costs associated with posting renewals. Moving to this online system will not only make life easier for members. It will also help us reduce paperwork, printing, postage, and administration time, allowing more of our time and resources to be used for the benefit of members.

This will become the best and easiest way to apply or renew. Members will be able to complete the process online in just a few simple steps, at a time that suits them, with secure payment by debit card, credit card, or PayPal.

We will be strongly encouraging all members to use the new system wherever possible. It is being introduced to make the process simpler, faster, and more efficient, and for most members, it will be by far the most convenient way to manage membership.

To help members get started, we are hoping to provide support at the end of Monthly Members' Meetings. Where assistance will be available to help anyone create an account and use the new system with confidence.

**There will be two parts to moving to online renewals:**

The first step will be to create an account. Instructions will be provided soon via email!

For the time being, alternative manual methods will still be available for those who need them, including BACS, cheque, or cash at Monthly Members' Meetings. However, we hope that as many members as possible will take advantage of the new online process and the benefits it offers.

This is a positive and important step forward for us, and I am confident it will be a real improvement for members and the Committee alike.

*Sharon Baines, Membership Secretary*



**Support Melton Mowbray u3a at No Extra Cost When You Travel**

Did you know that every time you book a holiday or cruise directly with Riviera Travel, you can help raise funds for Melton Mowbray u3a at absolutely no extra cost to yourself?

Melton Mowbray u3a is proud to be part of Riviera Travel's Affinity Partnership Scheme. When booking

any Riviera Travel holiday or river cruise directly with Riviera Travel, **simply mention Melton Mowbray u3a at the time of booking.**

Riviera Travel will then donate 10% of the basic holiday cost to our u3a, helping to support activities, events and opportunities for all members.

**Why Your Support Matters**

- Last year, the scheme generated over £1,500 for Melton Mowbray u3a.
- So far this year, more than £450 has already been donated.

Every booking helps strengthen our organisation and benefits all members.

**Important Information**

- ✓ Your holiday costs exactly the same whether you nominate an Affinity Partner or not.
- ✓ The donation comes directly from Riviera Travel – not from you.
- ✓ **To qualify, bookings must be made directly with Riviera Travel and you must mention Melton Mowbray u3a when booking.**
- ✗ **Donations are not available on bookings made through travel agents or third-party booking websites.**

If you are planning a holiday or river cruise with Riviera Travel, please remember to mention Melton Mowbray u3a when booking. It's a simple way to support our u3a while enjoying a wonderful holiday.  
Thank you for helping us make the most of this valuable partnership.



## GROUP NEWS



### NEW GROUPS NEWS!

#### Groups Started in August

**CANASTA** An interesting rummy style card game.

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays - 2-4pm - Springfield Street Community Centre

**LONG ALLEY SKITTLES** Old style with hardwood "cheeses".

2<sup>nd</sup> +/- 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays - 2-4pm - The Blue Bell Hobby.

#### Groups Starting in September

**PADEL** An indoor doubles tennis/squash style game.

Thursdays 3pm. Frequency TBC. Padel Mews, nr Scalford

#### Coming Soon

**BOARD GAMES** Everyone brings a game(s) and just play and enjoy!

Dates and times TBC. Venue TBC.

For any of these please email: [groups@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:groups@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk).

THERE WILL BE OTHER GROUPS! If you are interested in a group that is full, I can try to start another one and do email me with any suggestions for new groups. Thank you very much to all group leaders and helpers.

*Dolores Harvey, Groups Co-ordinator*  
email: [groups@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:groups@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk)



## GROUP NOTICES



### AI EXCHANGE

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You don't need to be "techy" to use AI.

If you can type a question, you can use it.

*That's where everyone starts.*

AI Exchange

## INDOOR BOWLS

First session of the 2026/27 season will be at **2pm on Monday 5 October 2026**.

Anyone already playing is welcome to join the group but please contact me through the U3A group link beforehand. Anyone who has not played before should first join the Melton Bowls club and take advantage of their free coaching sessions.

*Chris Lawman*

## LOCAL HISTORY

After the rather hot and dry summer we've just had (how does it compare with the summer of '76?!), we start the autumn season with a talk by well-known local man **MATHEW MORRIS** on the theme:

### **"FROM HUNTERS TO FARMERS – THE STORY OF PRE-HISTORIC LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND"**

- *an epic story of 500,000 years of human habitation*  
on

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 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](mailto: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. We look forward to seeing you then.

Leaders: Debbie Adams, Geraldine Deverson, Brian Ellis  
[localhistory@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:localhistory@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk)

## LUNCH GROUP NEWS

The Friday Lunch group took a trip out to Plumtree in August and enjoyed a thoroughly convivial time at **Perkins Restaurant**. To read the full article, please visit the Groups section on our website – [u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](http://u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk).

## OUTINGS

Thank you to all members who came forward to go to York which meant we did not have to cancel the trip; this would have been a disappointment to members. The trip to York is now **full**.

The trip to **Worcester Christmas Market** is on **Thursday 3rd December**

Pick up Wilton Road: 08.00 am

Pick up Tesco: 08.15 am

Cost £30.00 cash (£30.40 cheque)

If members have ideas for trips for 2027 please come and see us at our table at the monthly meeting so we know we are providing trips that members are interested in. Contact Jean if you wish to book a trip. Jean will take details and explain how to pay if you are unable to attend the monthly meetings.

*Jean Pearson and Ruth Rigby, [outings@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:outings@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk)*

## PATCHWORK & QUILTING 1

The Patchwork & Quilting group members have been very busy again. Please have a look at the wonderful quilt and more details on their section of the u3a website under Groups.

## SILVER TONES SINGING GROUP

PIANIST REQUIRED to be available to step in to cover the occasional absence of our usual pianist. If you are interested, please call me for more information.

*Jenny Poulson, Group Leader*

## THEATRE

### Forthcoming Program

**Lily Savage.** Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2027. 2 pm. The Curve Theatre, Leicester. £33.50 per ticket.

**Just For One Day.** Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2027. 2:00 pm. The Curve Theatre, Leicester. £86 per ticket. Includes coach from Melton.

**Starlight Express.** Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2027. 2:30 pm. The Curve Theatre, Leicester. £87 per ticket. Includes coach from Melton.

To reserve your place(s), contact Mandy by emailing [theatre@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:theatre@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk).



## WALKING GROUPS



### 2nd MONDAY WALKING GROUP

**14th September**

**10:15 am for 10:30 am start**

Meet at Wymondham Windmill. LE14 2BU

Details of their August walk is available to read on the [U3Ameltonmowbray.org.uk](http://U3Ameltonmowbray.org.uk) website under Groups.

*Group Co-Ordinator Geoff Harris*

### 3<sup>rd</sup> WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

**16 September 2026**

**10:00 am for 10:15 am start**

Meet at The Wheatsheaf Pub, 1 Stretton Rd, Greetham, Oakham LE15 7NP

The walk will be approx. 6 miles on mainly field and track with a small amount of road walking.

Toilets available and lunch (booked for 1:00pm) can be pre-booked prior to walking.

NB: Please let me know by Monday 14 September if you intend to walk and if you will be staying for lunch. Menu - <https://www.thewheatsheafgreetham.com/menus>

*Terry Hopper (Group leader/Co-ordinator)..*

## 1<sup>st</sup> THURSDAY WALKING GROUP

The **Thursday 3rd September 2023**, walk will be from the Ashby Arms, Main Street, Hungarton, LE7 9JR.

Please park in the pub car park and be ready to walk for 10 am. Toilets will be accessible. The circular walk of about 6 miles is to Cold Newton, Quenby Hall grounds and back to Hungarton.

We intend staying for lunch at the Ashby Arms, if you wish to join us, please let us know by the Monday before.

The **Thursday 1st October 2026**, walk will be from the Bradgate Arms, Station Road, Cropston, LE7 7 HG.

Please park in the pub Car Park but **only if staying for lunch**. Reg number needs to be given in at the pub at 10 am to allow 4 hours parking. Lunch, if required, can be ordered at 10 am prior to walking at 10:15am. Toilets will be accessible. Be ready to walk for 10:15am. The easy walk of about 6 miles is to Bradgate Park and back to Cropston via Swithland Wood.

If you intend to walk or stay for lunch, please let us know by the Monday before, so that guests can be invited if numbers are low.

*Stuart and Wendy Posnett, Group Leaders*  
*Email: [walkingthursday1@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:walkingthursday1@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk).*



### ANNUAL GROUP REPORTS



The following annual group reports can be found on the Groups section of the u3a website – [u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](http://u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk) -

- My Life Story Group
- Needlecraft
- Nordic Walking
- Outings

If you are having difficulty in using our website, then please speak to one of the Digital Friends who attend each of the monthly Speaker meetings or by emailing [digitalfriends@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:digitalfriends@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk).

## LOCAL EVENTS

### LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church**  
with

**Melton Mowbray Choral Society**

*An evening of fine music including Rule Britannia, Land of Hope and Glory, Jerusalem and lots more!*

Tickets are £15 in advance.

Available from members or online at [www.meltonmowbraychoralsociety.co.uk](http://www.meltonmowbraychoralsociety.co.uk)

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**St James' Church, Burton Lazars**

**Invites you to an evening with**

**The u3a**

**GENERATION GAP**

**and**

**SILVER TONES**

**on**

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2026 at 7:00 p.m**

**Free tea and coffee served at interval**

**FREE ADMISSION** (a collection will be taken during the interval)

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### **RIDE + STRIDE FOR CHURCHES SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2026**

Churches participating in Melton Mowbray and Melton Team Parish

- Melton Mowbray Methodist Church. 10am to 6 pm. Light refreshments.
- Welby Lane Mission Church. 20am to 6pm.
- St John's. 12 noon to 4pm. Tours at 1 pm and 3pm. Light refreshments.
- St Mary's. 10 am to 4 pm.
- St James, Burton Lazars. 10 am to 4 pm
- St Bartholomew's, Welby. 10 am to 1 pm

Sponsored participants walk or ride between participating churches raising funds for Leicestershire Historical Churches Trust, which is then distributed to historic churches, chapels, etc. for repairs and improvements.

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## GET PUZZLING!

### **Pride Quiz**

1. According to the proverb, pride comes before what?
2. Where do Derby County Football Club play their home matches?

3. What is the collective name for a group of lions?
4. Pride is one of the seven deadly sins – what are the others?
5. Which company that sells flour and cooking sauces uses Fred the Flour Grader in their advertisements?
6. What is the flagship beer produced by Fullers at their Griffin Brewery at Chiswick?
7. On the Pride, or Rainbow flag, what is used to represent diversity?
8. Voiced by Tom Hanks, Woody Pride is a character in which series of animated films for children?
9. Who wrote Pride and Prejudice?
10. Which bread brand name has been used for sliced loaves produced by British Bakeries since 1938? (Also the name of a 2026 comedy-drama film.)

Answers on page 16

*Kindly provided by Judy Smithers*

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## September Maths Puzzle

**For how many three-digit positive numbers does the product of the digits equal 20?** [U3A Maths Challenges, week 316, #2]

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*

## VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY

### The Royal British Legion (RBL) Annual Poppy Appeal

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2026** sees the launch of this year's Poppy Appeal, the RBL's flagship campaign held every year to raise funds to help support Armed Forces serving personnel, veterans, and their families throughout their lives with whatever the need, whenever it's needed.

Melton Mowbray's small band of volunteers (only half of us have actually served in the Armed Forces) under the leadership of Kevin Wilson (a RBL member), last year raised over £34,000 for the Poppy Appeal. This year we hope to raise over £50,000 but to do that we need more volunteers.

Do you have a few hours to spare to help us between Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November (this year's Remembrance Sunday)? This could be distributing collection tins to local shops, schools, pubs or businesses; helping on stalls in our local supermarkets for an hour or so; or collecting the tins after the campaign has ended. If you can help and/or have any questions, please email Debbie Adams on [sputniksparrowhawk@gmail.com](mailto:sputniksparrowhawk@gmail.com). She will also need your mobile telephone number to pass on to Kevin Wilson so that he can contact you to discuss when and how you would like to help with this year's Appeal. Thank you.

## FINAL NOTICES

### Annual Reports due for the October 2026 Newsletter:

- Croquette
- Outdoor Bowls
- Patchwork and Quilting
- Patchwork and Sewing
- Pétanque
- Philosophy Discussion

### 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. Going forward these will not be published in the newsletter (due to space issues) but will be added to the website.

### At the meeting next month on Thursday 15th October 2026

#### Speaker: Roger Prescott - Juke Box Jury

Be taken back to Saturday evenings in the 1960s when those lucky enough to have a black and white TV eagerly awaited the iconic JBJ theme tune and for David Jacob's to utter those familiar words "Good evening and welcome once again to another session of Juke Box Jury" Come along and join in this live presentation of Juke Box Jury.

**Catering:** Sandra Wright, Gillian Tinsley, Barbara Pinchin, Linda Needham

**Meet and Greet:** Alison Asquith, Eric Faulconbridge

### SOCIAL MEDIA

**Publicity** – use this email to spread the word about u3aMM activities - [social\\_media@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk](mailto:social_media@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk).

#### 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](mailto:membership@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk). It's a fantastic way of connecting members and building a connected community. If you join but subsequently decide it's not for you, you can always leave the group but please give it a go.

## GENERAL ENQUIRIES

General telephone number 0300 102 4512

Website: [www.melton-mowbray.u3asite.uk](http://www.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. Their contact details are available on the Contact page of the u3a website.

## GET PUZZLING! ANSWERS

### Answers to the Pride Quiz

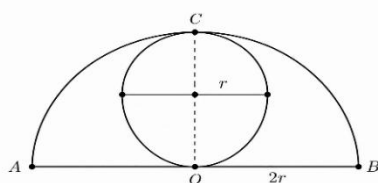
1. A fall
2. Pride Park Stadium
3. A pride
4. Greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath and sloth
5. Homepride
6. London Pride
7. Many different colours
8. Toy Story
9. Jane Austen
10. Mother's Pride

### Solution to August's Maths Puzzle.



In the diagram, the circle fits snugly inside the centre of the semicircle. What fraction of the area of the semicircle is occupied by the circle?

We can add a few lines to make the measurement clear. I used ChatGPT to generate a variant of the diagram.



It should be clear that the diameter of the smaller circle forms the radius of the larger one. So, we start with a 1: 2 ratio on the length of the radius, but the area of the whole circle would be based on the square of the radius:  $A = \pi r^2$ . That would give a 1: 4 ratio. However we are only looking at a semi-circle, so we are back with 1: 2 as the ratio and the small circle as  $\frac{1}{2}$  the area of the semi-circle.

*C. J. Rupp, Maths for Fun Group Leader (among other responsibilities)  
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**Thank you** to everyone who contributed to this month's newsletter.

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