

u3a NEWSLETTER

Glenfield

Registered Charity No. 1166154

VOLUME 15 – ISSUE 2 – OCTOBER 2025

Jan Parris

Many of you will know Jan Parris from the various events she has organised for us all – theatre, cinema, gardening, coach trips, bowling, games evenings etc....

Ever present at monthly meetings, Jan would efficiently meet requests and suggestions for outings, sort out those interested and relieve you of your money.

Behind the scenes she organised Garden group holidays, booking accommodation, garden entrances and restaurants. For meetings such as the annual Co-ordinators' get together she sorted out the facilities and arranged the catering.

All these activities were done with thoroughness and benefitted from the goodwill Jan developed with caterers, pub landlords and coach companies and has more than once saved us money by charming them to accept cancellations or changes.

Recently Jan has decided to return to her family roots in South Wales and has retired from her role.

Our u3a will be poorer for her absence but we wish her well in her new surroundings. A big thank you Jan.

Sue Bicknell



November 2024 – People at work



December – One subject, 2 views



January 2025 – Something beginning with B



January 2025 – Something beginning with B



February – Spots or stripes



March – Pets



Jan at Winterbourne House and Gardens, Birmingham (with a gardener) on one of her many successful coach trips.

June – Something beginning with S



April – Fences



May – Reflections (a)



May – Reflections (b)



July – Movement



Events & Meetings

Membership Renewals

– **IMPORTANT** the renewals event previously planned for the 16 October has been rescheduled to **30 October 2.00pm to 4.00pm St Peter's Church Hall.**

OCTOBER 23

Michael Barton – History of Rockingham Castle

NOVEMBER 27

Kirsty Ottley (RNID) – Hearing Issues

DECEMBER 18

Michael Barton – Our Christmas Story

JANUARY 22 – 2026

Sandy Leong – A nice cup of tea

FEBRUARY 26

David Pinion – The Antarctic

MARCH 26 – AGM

APRIL 23

Ann Featherstone – A Victorian Fair

MAY 28 – Bill Haley – The Royal Yacht

Photography

Photography is a great way to express your creativity and capture beautiful memories! You don't need expensive equipment or professional skills to enjoy photography, just a camera or smartphone camera and a sense of curiosity.

The u3a Photography group has been running since 2013 and is continuing to grow and attract new members. It's a friendly, relaxed group whose members enjoy photography as a hobby and are happy to share knowledge which is really important as cameras and smartphone cameras are becoming ever more complex.

We meet at Thornton Community Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 2.00pm to 4.00pm and have a monthly photo challenge to encourage us to get out and use our cameras. We are definitely not a competitive camera club and would welcome new members of all abilities to join us. Photography for fun can help you relax, learn new things, meet new people, and explore new places. It's a wonderful hobby that can enrich your life!

If you are interested please contact Michael Barbour, the Group Coordinator for information via the u3a website email link.

Michael Barbour

August – Repetition



Friday boules



We meet every Friday at the Plough, Ratby for an hour (11-12am) of boules in a friendly low key game. As the pub does not charge us, participants are encouraged to stop for a drink after in the pub.

New players are most welcome. If anyone has any questions, please contact David Thompson on david_s_thompson@hotmail.com. Otherwise just turn up at 10.50 as we draw cards for teams to ensure mixing.

D.S. Thompson

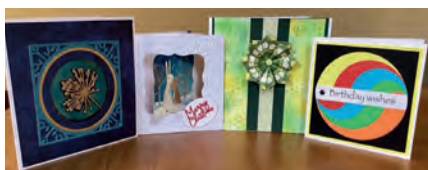


Card making

The Card Making group has had a busy year so far in 2025. We meet at St Peter's Centre on the 4th Friday of the month 2-4pm and generally have 7-10 people at our meetings.



Those members who wish to do so take turns to run a session showing us a new technique or design.



We started the year by saving our Christmas cards to recycle them to make new cards. Among other things we have had sessions on using background dies, knitted embellishments, handbag cards and using tea bags as decoration. New members are welcome with or without previous experience of card making.

Jenny Marriott



Cycling

The Cycling group has had many pleasant rides over the summer. Some rides have been rained off and on very hot days we've made an early start to avoid the midday sun. We can't be too careful at our age.

We've visited The Cutting Garden at Appleby Magna, Thurlaston Garden Centre, Moira Furnace, Millies Tea Room Barrow on Soar, Barkby Church View Tea Garden, cafes in Market Bosworth, Sparkenhoe Cheese Farm Café at Upton, Twycross and many more.



The one thing all our rides have in common is the coffee and cake destination where we enjoy each others company, share cycle travellers tales and usually stay too long.

June Randall

Ukulele

The Ukulele group give concerts in various locations throughout the year. All we ask in return is that the organiser makes a donation to the charity of their choice if the event is not in itself a charity event.

We recently gave a concert to the Orchard Manor View Care Home in Leicester and received the attached letter of thanks along with £30 which we have donated to Loros.

Stuart Galloway

A "Thank You" anonymous donation.
On behalf of all the residents of the Orchard Manor View Care Home, please find the enclosed donation for your recent visit to their Home.
Everyone at the Home always enjoys your music, it brings back happy memories of times gone by, special occasions, families and friends alike.
The residents, whatever their abilities or physical conditions all praise the group for making them feel happy, relaxed and nostalgic, and frequently ask when your next visit will be.
I can say honestly that you make their day, and bring a lot of pleasure into their lives.
We thank you all so much for all the time and trouble that goes into entertaining the residents, it is appreciated far more than we can say.
M.



Have you ever tried blindfolded archery . . . you don't know what you're missing!

Walking through time



The photo is of a walk around Abbey Park learning about the history and looking at the information boards. We finished up with a refreshment stop at Peppercorns.

Most of our walks include a coffee stop! We learn about the places we walk around, usually led by one of the members but occasionally we have guides.

This year our walks have included a tour of Newtown Linford, a walk looking at the architecture of Stoneygate, a walk looking at the displays around Leicester in the Festival of Light and a walk discovering relics of war in Mountsorrel!

We don't walk great distances and enjoy learning together and the social aspect of walking together.

For more information email Sue Hodkinson on susan.hodkinson50@gmail.com

Susan Hodkinson

Flower arranging

What a proud group co-ordinator I am with such talented members in the group. They continue to come up with beautiful flower arrangements.

In particular Debra Davis recently won the Harry Bent Rose Bowl at the Glenfield Gardeners show for the Best Flower Arranging exhibit at the show. We are all so proud. Well done Debra. Here is a picture of her stunning arrangement "Roses in a Glass Container".



At our recent August meeting everyone thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of coming up with their own version of a different celebration. They didn't even get to pick their own, as they were chosen at random out of a hat (well mug!) The themes included New Babies, Birthday and Wedding Anniversary's, Holidays, Moving House etc. (you can see pictures of these on the notice board at the monthly meeting).

We look forward to more challenges in the future.

Angela Barbour

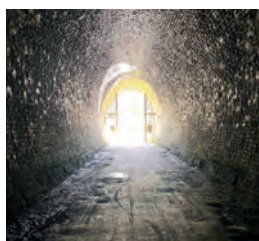


I'm just downloading the Titanic track . . . it's just syncing now!

Challenging walks

On Friday 19 September, four intrepid Challenging Walkers and one dog ventured into Northamptonshire for an eight mile walk led by Steve Mee and Sue Smith.

It was a very interesting and varied walk, predominantly in the visually pleasing, rolling landscape of the Leicestershire and Northamptonshire border with long distance views across open, rural countryside. By contrast, part of the walk followed the Brampton Valley Way, a 14 mile trail along a disused railway line which runs from Market Harborough to Northampton. Although we walked a relatively short section of the trail which has gradually evolved into a wildlife corridor, there was the added attraction of walking through two long, dark tunnels which was quite an experience. Overall, it was a thoroughly enjoyable day out.



Leigh Clewlow



I've bought myself a pet woodworm . . . I've called him Clint Eatswood!

History

We began the year with a session sharing our knowledge of some famous people of history. Most of our meetings feature a guest speaker and many of these have also enlightened us about historical figures as diverse as Queen Eleanor, Agatha Christie, and some important Leicestershire industrialists.

During the summer group members organised very interesting visits to Taylor's Bell Foundry in Loughborough and New Walk in Leicester. Members who wish to do so are encouraged to help run meetings and organise activities. New members are welcome.



The History group meets on the first Friday of the month 10.15. to 12 noon at Park House, Glenfield.

Jenny Marriott



Gardening

On 21 May, members of the Gardening group were invited to an open garden at Membership Secretary Gill Speechley's house. The weather was kind and it was a fabulous late spring day, ideal for a leisurely wander around a garden, full of colour with various shrubs and perennials in full bloom, including lupins, alliums and peonys. Of particular interest were the Iris, of which there were several different colours. Gill offered a few rhizomes of these to anyone interested, to be collected once the flowers had finished.

We also came away with a few unusual bedding plants which have done well in our garden this summer.



If you like gardening it can be very interesting strolling around someone else's where you can often pick up some new ideas, large or small. Thanks Gill.

Colin Sage



What did the drummer call his twin girls? . . . Anna One, Anna Two.

Reading 1

Our group meets on the first Tuesday of every month. We currently have 6 members with space for 2 more.

We take turns to choose the book each month and have covered a wide variety of novels. Whether we like the book or not there is always something to say and everyone's opinion is valued. We choose books old and new that are widely available. We also limit ourselves to a maximum of approximately 500 pages.

Here is a list of the books we have read this year, please contact us through the website if you would like to join us.

Christy Lefteri	<i>The Book of Fire</i>
Matthew Knealde	<i>English Passengers</i>
Ronan Hession	<i>Leonard and Hungry Paul</i>
Salley Vickers	<i>The Gardener</i>
Victoria Hislop	<i>The Figurine</i>
Barbara Pym	<i>Quartet in Autumn</i>
Joseph O'Connor	<i>My Father's House</i>
Kirsten Miller	<i>Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books</i>
Heather Massey	



How do you get two whales in a mini . . . the same way as you do any other car!

Knit and stitch



Members have been meeting for a year now and we have all been very busy.

We have cross stitched Peter Rabbit pictures for grandchildren, crocheted blankets for charity, knitted hats for premature babies, knitted dolls clothes, crocheted a shawl for a wedding and knitted and stitched bags, gloves, hairbands and scrunchies for Christmas shoeboxes.

Whilst being busy doing all this, we have enjoyed tea and homemade cake but most of all, we have enjoyed the friendship of our fellow members.

Sarah Page

Contact with any member of the Committee can be made through our website, which also carries lots of current news and information:

www.u3asites.org.uk/glenfield

It's updated continuously, so please check it regularly.

You may prefer to send an email. If you have anything to say, or any items of interest or events you wish to publicise, please let us know:

glenfieldu3a@gmail.com

From the Chair

Following this year's AGM, the composition of your committee changed. Six members retired from the committee – Stuart Galloway, Alan Hodgkinson, Sue Hodgkinson, Bill Jones, Sue Bicknell and Jan Parris. Five new members joined the committee – Alistair Exon, Linda Thompson, Paul Marriott, Sue Lamprell and Michael Barbour, and I have taken over the role of Chair from Stuart. Luckily Judith Harriman, Gill Speechley, Kim Thorogood, Andrew Thomas and Joan Thomas remained on the committee to give us some continuity. More recently Joan Thomas left the committee and Helen Exon joined us.

The retirees put in a lot of hard work, ensuring the smooth running of Glenfield u3a, especially Stuart, who was Chair for four years and before that Treasurer for three years. He has been a hard act to follow.

After one or two teething problems, the new committee is settling in and carrying on the good work of the previous committee. We have a good team of committee members and I am sure you appreciate all the work that goes on, mostly in the background, to ensure that Glenfield u3a continues to be a thriving and successful organisation. We currently have 385 members, with 54 groups that members regularly attend. Hopefully members will renew their membership in the next month. Gill, our membership secretary, has already emailed you about this, and I will look forward to seeing some of you at the Renewals Meeting on 30 October.

Paul Linnett – Chair



Ninety nine percent of bald men still own a comb . . . they just can't part with it!



In addition to his role as Chair, Stuart did a number of other jobs, including setting up the audio equipment for the monthly meeting. As he was unable to attend the August meeting, this photo shows how much we missed him. Thanks to Gill for the photo. She gave it the title – "How many people does it take to set up the audio equipment?"