

System and District

u3a

learn, laugh, live

MAR
2025

Vitality!

Official newsletter of the System and District u3a

CHARITY No 1180152

FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Hi Everyone,

At last, we are beginning to see the first signs of Spring. I have snowdrops and primroses in bloom and the trees are starting to show their new leaves.

We now have our events package working so please keep looking at our website and Facebook page for upcoming events.

You should have recently received an email or letter informing you about our EGM. Please choose whether you wish to support the proposals and let us know.

Clive

WE WANT TO LET YOU KNOW

To expand on Clive's message above –

If you haven't seen the email, please check your spam/bulk/junk mail, it may have been diverted there by your email provider.

In essence we are looking to change the length of time people can serve on our Executive Committee. The aim is to mitigate the difficulty of finding volunteers, yet potentially having existing volunteers forced to stand down, when they would actually be willing to carry on. That said, we don't have completely free rein on this, as changes must also be approved centrally by the Third Age Trust, the National u3a body.

I have reproduced the details relating to these changes, just in case you can find no trace of the email message containing them. Unfortunately, we have limited control over what happens to messages we send out, whether by email or snail mail. We are seeking these changes through an EGM, so that they can be applied at the forthcoming AGM. Otherwise, the existing rules on length of service would have to be applied for another year.

Present Constitution

7.4 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS & PERIODS OF SERVICE

7.4.1 Once appointed, the officers, with the exception of the Treasurer, may serve for up to three (3) years without re-election, be eligible for re-election for any other officer or non-officer role for a further three years making a total of six (6), and a further maximum of one (1) year, if no replacement comes forward and it is agreed by members at the Annual General Meeting. Officers would then not be eligible for re-election for a period of at least one (1) year.

7.4.2 The Treasurer may serve six (6) years without re-election and a further one (1) year if no replacement comes forward and it is agreed by members at the Annual General Meeting. The Treasurer would then not be eligible for re-election for a period of at least one year (1).

7.5 APPOINTMENT OF NON- OFFICER MEMBERS & PERIODS OF SERVICE

7.5.1 Once appointed, a non-officer member may serve for up to three (3) years without re-election, be eligible for election to any other officer or non-officer role for a further three years, making a total of six (6) and a further one (1) year if no replacement comes forward and it is agreed by members at the Annual General Meeting. Non-Officers would then not be eligible for re-election for a period of at least one (1) year.

7.5.2 An individual may not serve more than seven consecutive years in various different Officer/non officer committee member roles.

7.5.3 A previous committee member may be nominated to become a committee member after a one year break of service, but their period of service must not exceed ten years maximum.

Proposed Change to the Constitution

7.4 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS & PERIODS OF SERVICE

7.4.1 Once appointed, the officers, with the exception of the Treasurer, may serve for up to three (3) years without re-election, be eligible for re-election for any for any officer role for a further three (3) years at the Annual General Meeting up to a maximum of nine (9) years. Officers would then not be eligible for re-election for a period of at least one (1) year.

7.4.2 The Treasurer may serve six (6) years without re-election and would be available for re-election for a further three (3) years at the Annual General Meeting. The Treasurer would then not be eligible for re-election for a period of at least one year (1).

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7.5. A previous committee member may be nominated to become a committee member after a one year break of service

If you wish to see the full current constitution, it can be found on our website in the members area.

GROUP NEWS

NEW GROUP IDEAS

If you have any ideas for a new group, please contact Barbara Sargeant our groups co-ordinator sadu3agroups@gmail.com or speak to her at one of our monthly general meetings. Alternatively contact her assistant Angie Baker email sadu3agroupsasst@gmail.com Acting as a group organiser doesn't have to be onerous, it doesn't have to be down to just one person, and it doesn't mean you have to organise everything the group does.

Is the group you want to join currently full? How about starting a second group? Barbara and Angie are happy to provide support and guidance on how to get going. On that note

POTENTIAL 2ND KURLING GROUP

Our KURLING group has been so successful we now need to start a second group.

If you fancy taking this on, Dave Palmer is happy to show you the way and support you. It's a shame we have to have a waiting list as it is such a fun activity, but with the size of the group sometimes players have to wait for a go.

If you already belong to Dave's group, you can still join the second group. It is proposed to be on a Friday once a month in Rearsby.

All we need is a minimum of 8 members and someone willing to lead. If you think this is for you, please let either myself or Dave know. Looking forward to hearing from you. My email is. sadu3agroups@gmail.com

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

This month we explored how newspapers can help with family history research.

When we find documents that relate to our ancestors, they often provide us with quite limited information. Yes, we need those details, but if we want to know more about them, to put some flesh on the bones that birth, marriage, death entries and census data can give us, we need to look further afield. Newspaper articles can give us clues about family members we may not have previously identified. For example, a funeral report may throw up married names of daughters, and tell us that other offspring have already died or are living abroad.

Very few actual inquest documents have survived, but older newspapers often reported on them – not always entirely accurately in terms of names and relationships it's true, but they can tell us more about how someone lived, and how they died. A death certificate is likely to indicate cases where there has been coroner involvement, but not provide full details of the circumstances. Newer inquests might have caught the interest of a local newspaper, but their growing number mean many will not have been reported on.

Divorce records are not available publicly beyond the early 20th century, but again older newspapers may have reported on them, because divorce did not become common until after World War 2. You may be lucky post war, if the case had enough scandal to be of interest.

You may find out that your ancestor was a keen cricketer or football player, that they won prizes at local shows for their vegetables or flowers. You might also come across reports of brushes with the law, or involvement as a witness in a court case. There are so many and varied possibilities for what you might find. Such information can bring your ancestors to life, make them more than just names and dates on a page.

If you would like to find out more about those in your family that came before you, but don't know where to start, consider joining the group; contact me juliedjohnson@yahoo.com to find out more.

WALKING GROUP

Our February Walk



19 of the U3A walking group set off from Wysall, just inside the Nottinghamshire border, this morning. We headed towards Willoughby and then back via Thorpe in the Glebe. One field of frisky, nosy cows caused some trepidation, but one field of cute, fluffy Alpacas provided a popular photo shoot. (my arms were too busy to get a photo of the cows - sorry !!)

Unfortunately, the mist didn't lift all morning, spoiling the distant views. I had planned to include the site of the Medieval village of Thorpe in the Glebe, but decided with the weather being as it was, we would leave this till another time.

However, a nice pub lunch for 13 of us afterwards at the Plough Inn completed an enjoyable outing.

Dave Palmer



SUNDAYS FOR SOLOS GROUP

The Sundays for Solos group enjoyed a lovely visit to Launde Abbey. - to see the snowdrops and enjoy afternoon tea.

A photo of some of the group, well wrapped up.



CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

Unfortunately, due to the personal circumstances of some members, our depleted numbers mean that we are not currently meeting. However, if you would like to join us, please do contact me and the group will quickly be revived. We only need a couple of people to make the group viable again.

Most people have some experience of writing, even if that dates back many years. We can give you ideas to help get you started, and we won't tear your efforts to shreds. We will give you as much or as little constructive feedback as you want. You can try all sorts of things, poetry, or stories covering different genres, or even playwriting. You may not know where your talents lie unless you give a variety of options a try.

We aim to share our work and talk about different ways of approaching writing. No one size fits all, but you may find someone else's methods worth exploring.

If our current schedule of 4th Thursday afternoon each month doesn't fit with your existing diary, please feel free to contact me, we may be able to accommodate a change in order to get the group going again. Email me at juliedjohnson@yahoo.com

YOGA GROUP

The next meeting is due on -
Wednesday 26th March. 10.00am start

EVENTS – PAST, PRESENT & PLANNED

There is nothing to report this month, but please do remember to let me know if there is anything you are planning, and to let me have news of it once it has happened.

WHAT'S ON NEXT

GENERAL MEETINGS

In the Brookside Room at the Community Centre – talks usually start 10.30am
Tea/coffee and mingling from 10.00am

March 12, 2025



Derek Holloway returns with a talk/presentation on Ratcliffe Airport.

Very few people seem to be aware that a major and important airport existed at Ratcliffe on the Wreake between 1930 and 1950. It saw many famous visitors and the first flight of the first Auster plane. It was an important base in the war with over 50,000 war planes delivered.

Today many of the buildings survive as the Rosmini Prayer centre and it has been my privilege to rediscover its amazing history and share with you.

April 9th, 2025

Life in Music

Musician Andy Smith: A journey through life featuring self-penned comedy songs and ballads ...plus a few well-known numbers for members to join in. I explain a bit about the instruments I have brought with me - which includes several guitars, ukulele and mandolin.

With lots of amusing chat and nostalgic anecdotes, this has become a very popular talk.



May 14th, 2025

All About Playing Cards

Mike Lister gives a talk/presentation: "All About Playing Cards", covering history, mystery, facts and myths.



NATIONAL U3A ITEMS

u3a TALKS



How To Best Use Facebook

Part of the u3a *Let's Talk Tech* series, guest speaker Sheila Crawley from the u3a Derbyshire network will share how u3as and their members can benefit from embracing social media.

Wednesday 5 March at 1pm

Free – online via Zoom

Book [here](#)



Dorothy Levitt: The Fast Lady

The story of an Edwardian lady driver who conquered the male world of car racing, breaking the world speed record in the process.

Tuesday 11 March at 2pm

Free – online via Zoom

Book [here](#)



A Glimpse of Anglo-India

Former BBC Radio broadcaster Clare Jenkins offers a glimpse into the lives & histories of India's Anglo-Indian community, descendants of British men & Indian women.

Wednesday 26 March at 10am

Free – online via Zoom

Book [here](#)

If none of the trio of talks on the previous page appeals, you can find other options [here](#)

NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS



Welcome to our newly elected u3a Board

The election process for the u3a Board and new u3a Council is completed and we are delighted to announce your newly elected Trustees and Council representatives.

We are delighted to announce the newly elected Trustees of the Board.

Following an election process, Barnet u3a member John Bent, Stansted Mountfitchet u3a member Pauline Green, Worcester u3a member Alan Russell and Worcester u3a member Laurence Wale have been elected onto the Board. They join Chair Allan Walmsley and Treasurer Derek Harwood. Together, they will oversee governance of the Third Age Trust while working with the new u3a Council.

This announcement takes us one step closer to the vision, known within the movement as 'Fit for the Future', of a smaller u3a Board and a u3a Council made up of regional representatives. Allan Walmsley, who was a strong advocate of this governance change, spoke of his excitement. He says, "The Fit For The Future concept is finally becoming real as we now know the composition of the new Board and Council. The four new elected

Board Trustees include one member with previous experience of the previous Board but also three new Trustees who will bring a fresh approach, and also a wealth of previous governance experience."

He continues, "The next few weeks will see induction training and familiarisation for new Board Trustees and Council representatives ready to start their roles in April. I'm really looking forward to working with both bodies and finally bring the Fit for the Future ideas to life."

The full list of Council Representatives has also been announced. In regions where there were more candidates than spaces, elections were held. Edinburgh u3a member George Cleland will be joining Liz Ervine as the representatives for Scotland, Chepstow u3a member Nicky Lee will be joining Colin Luker as representatives for Wales and Sheffield u3a member Brian Cave and Cottingham u3a member Pat Collard are the new representatives for Yorkshire and the Humber. They join the already announced Council Representatives in the East of England, East Midlands, London, North East, North West, Northern Ireland, South East, South West and West Midlands.

These elections follow on from the AGM in October 2024 where u3as voted on a resolution to bring in a smaller u3a Board and a new u3a Council made up of two representatives for each region, whose role would be to voice the ideas and concerns of u3as.

See the full list of Board Trustees and Council Representatives on [the elections page](#).

NOT u3a BUT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED

COMING SOON

Thursday 3rd Friday 4th & Saturday 5th April 2025

Frisby Players present
The Park Bench – a comedy
by Ashley Burgoyne



Frisby Village Hall
Water Lane, Frisby on the Wreake LE14 2NP

Tickets: £10 Adults. School Children Free.
Available from Tony Bird on
07971472762

Payment can be made by Bank transfer


Doors open 7.15 pm
Curtain Up 8 pm
Bar and Raffle

Megastrikers Walking Football

• DBS & Safeguarding checked
• Fully qualified Staff

Elizabeth Park sports Centre,
Checkland RD, Thurmaston
LE4 8FN

Time: 11am - 12pm Day: Wednesday
Price: £3.00 Age: 50 +



why walking Football ?

- ✓ Improves Strength, Mobility and Fitness
- ✓ Meet new people
- ✓ Great way to keep active whilst having Fun
- ✓ Suitable for all ages & Abilities

Contact Details:
Email: Ben@Megastrikers.co.uk
Phone :07761006909



Oh my joy!

Music Director
Eleanor Graff-Baker

A cornucopia
of music to
welcome
Spring

Saturday 5th April
7.30pm
Holy Trinity Church
Barrow upon Soar
LE12 8HP

Tickets from ticketsource.co.uk/charnwoodvoices -
scan QR code
Early bird £12 until March 22nd, £15 thereafter
U16s (accompanied) free
Includes an interval drink



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THE MELTON PROMS 2025

St. Mary's Church, 8 Burton St,
Melton Mowbray LE13 1AE

Monday the 10th of March, 7:00pm - 8:40pm

An evening of superlative strings from Orchestra Pro Anima, with a choral performance by children from local schools.

Melton Proms 2025 March 10 @ 7:00 pm - 8:40 pm | £11.55

There's more on events in Melton if you click on the link

[Events from March 1 – April 8 – Discover Melton](#)

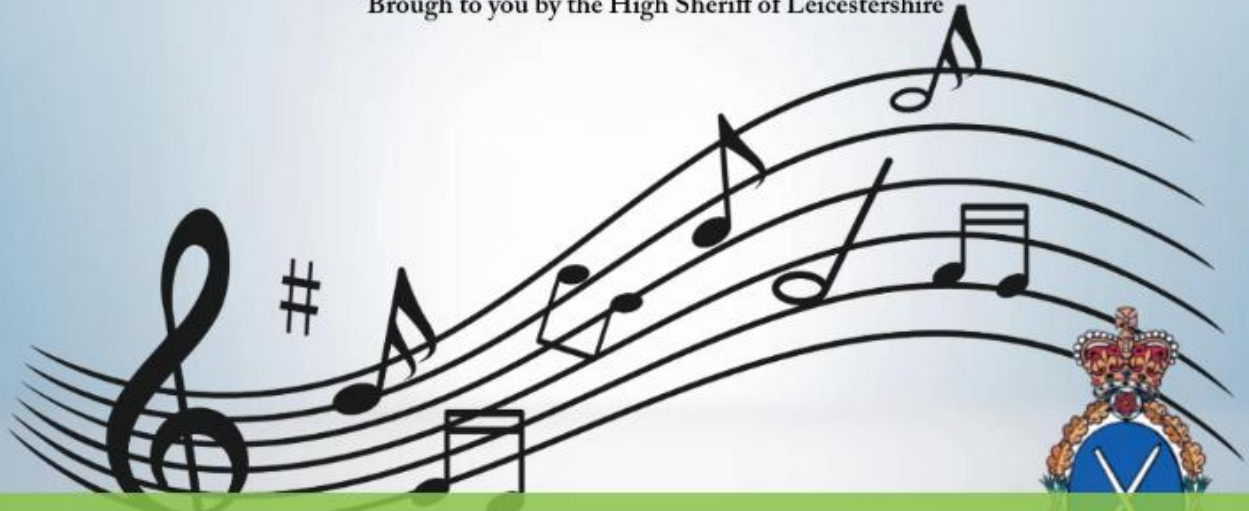
The Sheriff's Shindig

Market Place, Melton Mowbray, LE13 1XD

Sunday the 9th of March, 11am - 4pm

A day of live music in Melton Mowbray Town Centre

Brought to you by the High Sheriff of Leicestershire



The Sheriff's Shindig March 9 @ 11:00 am - 4:00 pm | FREE

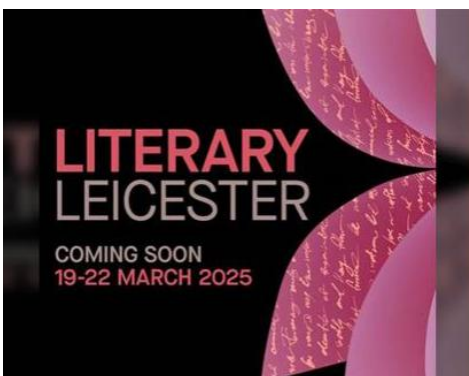


Light Up Leicester

Free Light Festival in Leicester - 4 Days of Light-up Artworks and Events. See Leicester's streets come alive with an awe-inspiring trail of illuminated artworks, captivating performances, and interactive events designed to celebrate our incredible...

12 Mar 2025 to 15 Mar 2025

Where: Gallowtree Gate, Leicester, Leicestershire, LE1 5AD



Literary Leicester

Leicester's annual 100% free literature festival, Literary Leicester, is back! The festival runs from 19th 22 March 2025 in venues across the University of Leicester campus, at Attenborough Arts and around the city. Big name authors and public...

19 Mar 2025 Open 12:00 - 21:00

20 Mar 2025 Open 12:00 - 21:00

21 Mar 2025 Open 12:00 - 21:00

22 Mar 2025 Open 12:00 - 21:00

Where: University Of Leicester, University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH

Contact details: 0116 233 3111



Vikings of Middle England at Leicester Guildhall

A re-enactment day of Living History.

Vikings of Middle England at Leicester Guildhall

A re-enactment day of Living History, including stalls in the halls, craft demonstrations as well as exciting combat pieces in the courtyard.

Free, drop-in...

8 Mar 2025 Open 11:00 - 15:00

Where: The Guildhall, Guildhall Lane, Leicester, LE1 5FQ

Contact details: 0116 253 2569



The Scoliotic Knight: Reconstructing the real Richard III

The discovery of the grave of King Richard III in 2012 raised new and interesting questions. How could such a diminutive person, suffering from a significant spinal condition, have excelled in armoured combat? How could he have even worn armour?...

20 Mar 2025 Open 19:00 - 21:00

Where: Leicester Cathedral, 7 Peacock Lane, Leicester, LE1 5DE

Contact details: 0116 248 7400

FROM OUR MEMBERS

THE GENTLEMAN AND THE LADY'S MAID

Last month I recounted the story of my ancestor Haydon Lounds, a butler who secretly married his employer's daughter. I mentioned that an earlier member of the Lounds family had also "married up".

The title for the story may have you jumping to conclusions that are quite wrong. This is not a tale of a young lady's maid being compromised by or setting her cap at a gentleman.

Sarah Lounds was born in 1823. She was one of ten children born to Thomas Lounds and Sarah Haydon in Dowsby, Lincolnshire between 1816 and 1833. Thomas started out as a farm labourer but became a farmer. Although the amount of land he cultivated was modest at only 40 acres. She was still at home with her parents in 1841, but the census 10 years later records her as lady's maid in the Vernon household in Clapham, Surrey. The 3 Vernon ladies in the household are all recorded as landholders. One of the three Louisa, married Montagu Burgoyne in 1855. The marriage register shows both of them as single at the time, despite Montagu being 47 and Louisa 44. The newspaper reports of the wedding indicate that Montagu was formerly of the Coldstream Guards, but unlike his older brother and his father, (also involved with the same regiment), he did not use a military rank in later life. Montagu was the second son of a Baronet and appears to have had land and property in several counties. The newspapers of the period include details of land and property sales and purchases he was involved in. The baronetcy of Sutton Park, Bedfordshire, dates back to 1641. Montagu's father was the 8th Baronet.

At 44 Louisa would have been firmly regarded as being “on the shelf” at that time. Ladies of noble/gentry birth were expected to marry by their early to mid-twenties at the latest. It was considered a lady’s destiny to marry and have children, failure to do so was not looked on favourably. Gentlemen on the other hand were under little pressure to marry, unless they were the first-born son and heir, where securing the male line was all important. Even then, some didn’t marry until their 30’s, often to young ladies in their late teens or early twenties. Why Montagu and Louisa married at such a late age is a mystery.

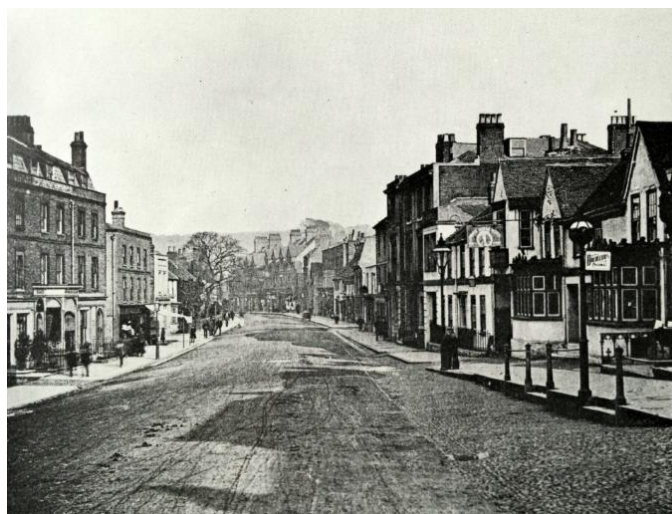
Louisa died in 1870, and in 1876 Sarah, now 53, is recorded as marrying Montagu, now 67. At the time of the 1871 census Sarah was visiting a sister in Lincolnshire. I cannot track either her, Louisa or Montagu down on the 1861 census, but they could have all been abroad. The only scenario that makes sense, is that Sarah went with Louisa as her lady’s maid when she married Montagu, so was part of the Burgoyne household for several years. It was common for a lady’s maid to remain with her mistress when the latter married. What she was doing between 1870, when Louisa died, and 1876 when she married Montagu, is unclear.



The London home of Montagu was Cross Deep Lodge in Twickenham (pictured left). Records show he owned it from 1880 – 1886. That final year was where and when Sarah, although some years Montagu’s junior, died. The owner that immediately followed was R H Hutton editor of the Spectator, and for couple of years in the late 1920’s it was the home of the Monte Carlo Club. The house was built in 1707 and was demolished in 1965, having spent the last 35 years of its existence as a nursing home.

Interestingly, on the 1891 census, two of her widowed sisters were part of the Montagu household. At that time, they were at his country home, Lonsdale House, Dorking, Surrey. I didn’t manage to track down any images of the property, or information about it. However, I have contacted Dorking Museum, and they are going to check their archives. The picture right is the High Street in 1895, the very year of he died.

Society would not have looked kindly on a gentleman marrying a lady’s maid, but perhaps at his age he didn’t care.



I very much doubt that I will ever know the full story of how and why my distant cousin, of quite lowly origins, came to marry a gentleman. Finding such stories when researching a family history is a joy, not knowing the full details is the frustration.

MICROSOFT 365 SUBSCRIPTIONS

I realise this will only directly affect some members, but there is also a more general point about auto renewals, price increases and the fact that, what I feel are sneaky practices, are being used by some companies –

- Don't just allow auto renewal to happen.
- If you don't want to renew, make sure you cancel auto renew well before the renewal date – (many sites say up to 2 days before, but I prefer to play it safe and allow longer).
- Check whether there is a price increase and find out why, (an online search may well provide some clues).
- Don't assume you have no choice but to either cancel or accept the renewal price.
- Don't assume that all your options will be clearly visible on a company website.

A recent Martin Lewis Money Show TV program mentioned the 365 issue; but didn't go into much detail. I had received an email a couple of days before. It told me that my 365 Personal sub was due to auto renew in March. When I saw the price, my immediate reaction was, I'm sure that's quite a bit more than I paid last year. When I checked it was a whopping increase of just over 40%! The email gave no explanation for the increase. I hadn't explored this further before I saw the Money Show. Martin Lewis flagged up that you could in effect opt out of the increase, and if you have already had an auto renewal at the higher price (which was introduced this year), you can claim a refund. The sneaky thing is that Microsoft themselves have not been transparent about this. I went onto my account (using the link on the email), found my 365 subscription and clicked on "manage" – there was only an option to "cancel subscription".

Following the Money Show I went to the same page and launched a "chat" session (with a human not a chat BOT). Here's what I discovered - the 365 Personal sub I have for 2024/5 has in effect been upgraded to include "Copilot", an AI addition that can be used with the Microsoft office programs. As an example, in Word it will write/rewrite letters, articles and the like for you on request. You may already have seen Copilot on the Edge browser – on 365 it is basically an expanded version of same application, but for use with 365 products.

The price increase is directly connected to Copilot, my chat agent copied and pasted an airy-fairy statement along the lines of the increase allowing for other future developments, and later in the chat, a more detailed one extolling the use of Copilot for a variety of commercial/work/teams type things. "I'm retired" I explained, "Much of that is irrelevant for me". That's when it was revealed that, if you don't want the benefit of using Copilot with the Office programs, there is a cheaper sub that in effect gives you the same facilities as the original 365 sub, for the same price as 2024/5. It's called Classic 365 Personal. To find this option you have to click on "cancel subscription", only then does it give you the option to "switch to a subscription that's better for you". You then have the option of Microsoft 365 Classic. You select either the personal or family option and follow the instructions. When your current subscription ends, you will transfer over to Classic. The only facility you will lose is Copilot, and if you have a Windows 11 machine, you will still have the basic Copilot, on the Edge browser for example.

Which leads me on to another article

REPLACING YOUR COMPUTER

Are you in the same position as I was – your existing computer can't be upgraded to Windows 11? Support for Windows 10 disappears in the Autumn, no more updates, security patches and the like. Yes, you could just carry on as you are, but that might leave you vulnerable to future security issues, only you can decide whether that risk is acceptable to you.

I had some additional issues. My hard drive was getting full, and I knew it wouldn't cope with saving all the photos I've recently inherited following my father's death, that I want to scan. Yes, I could in theory use an external drive in combination with my 365-cloud storage, but that wouldn't work with my family history software. It needs the media files, like the family photos, to be on my internal hard drive. Added to that, an updated version of that software is due to be released, and it needs a computer with more memory and storage (more oomph in effect) than the one I had.

I've had refurbished computers in the past, both desktop and laptop. You can be taking a bit of a gamble over how thoroughly they have been refurbished, but I haven't had any real issues before. I did get a laptop that wasn't working properly, but I was refunded with no hassle. Just make sure you use a payment method that will protect you, e.g. PayPal, credit card, or buy from a site that gives protection e.g. eBay, Amazon. They can be significantly cheaper than a brand spanking new machine. I did consider splashing out on a brand-new laptop using some of the money I inherited from my dad. However, for me there was another consideration, a refurbished machine is more environmentally friendly.

In the end I opted for a bit of a compromise. Some manufacturers refurbish their own machines. My old machine was an HP laptop and has given me good service, but for the issues that meant I needed a replacement, it would probably have been okay for a while longer. In the case of HP, they don't sell the refurbs directly to the public, but instead have a network of 3rd party sellers. You get a machine that is an official refurb, with a guarantee, at a much cheaper price than new. In my case, the saving was over 40%. I purchased through eBay and paid using PayPal. I ordered the laptop mid-afternoon; it was delivered to my door by courier 25 hours later.

Setting up a new laptop can feel a bit daunting, and I appreciate that it's not something everyone would be happy doing. One of the main issues is that, even if you've done it before, that's likely to have been several years ago. As a result, you can't remember what to do and how to do it, and some aspects may have changed in the intervening years. If you don't feel confident in undertaking some googling and doing it yourself, you may have a tech savvy relative who would be willing and able to help you.

One thought occurred to me as I was writing this, not everyone will have a relative living close by to help them, but do we have some tech savvy u3a members who would be willing to help other members out with this task? I would be quite happy to act as a go between in putting members with the necessary IT skills in touch with members who need some help. If you would be willing to help in this way, send me a message – you can reply to the email that announced the availability of this newsletter. If I get some offers, I will then let members know that if they need help setting up a new laptop or desktop, it is available.

DECLUTTER DEN

Are you determined to declutter and get rid of things that you haven't used in an age this year? Look no further than Declutter Den.

This month we have a trio of members with items on offer -

Two very different items. Maybe of no use to anyone, but rather than dispose of, I thought it a good idea to try the "Den" first.

A large box of mixed clean plastic plant pots.

Two plain good quality mirrors. The measurements are a little different to the norm. 80 inches by 18 inches.

Will need to be collected by anyone that is interested.

Carol Withers email caswithers@talktalk.net

Norma Grimes has 2 chairs available. They will need to be collected and are quite heavy. She is happy from them to go to 2 different new owners. There is a recliner armchair with motorized control, and an office chair. The latter does have a little damage to the "leather" at the back but could easily be repaired. She can be contacted on 07582 413517 or by email norma.grimes@btinternet.com



Last but not least -

Two single beds, one fully electric, the other with the fittings.

Tel Angela Fielding on 01664 564768 if you are interested.



If you have something that you are prepared to give away – **strictly no items for sale!** Let me know and I'll put it in declutter den and hopefully we can help each other free up some space, whilst giving others something they have a use for, even if we don't.

Email: sadu3aed@gmail.com

POETRY CORNER

Dear March – Come In by Emily Dickinson

Dear March—Come in—
How glad I am—
I hoped for you before—
Put down your Hat—
You must have walked—
How out of Breath you are—
Dear March, how are you, and the Rest—
Did you leave Nature well—
Oh March, Come right upstairs with me—
I have so much to tell—

I got your Letter, and the Birds—
The Maples never knew that you were
coming—
I declare - how Red their Faces grew—
But March, forgive me—
And all those Hills you left for me to Hue—
There was no Purple suitable—
You took it all with you—

Who knocks? That April—
Lock the Door—
I will not be pursued—
He stayed away a Year to call
When I am occupied—
But trifles look so trivial
As soon as you have come

That blame is just as dear as Praise
And Praise as mere as Blame—

MARCH by A A Housman

The Sun at noon to higher air,
Unharnessing the silver Pair
That late before his chariot swam,
Rides on the gold wool of the Ram.

So braver notes the storm-cock sings
To start the rusted wheel of things,
And brutes in field and brutes in pen
Leap that the world goes round again.

The boys are up the woods with day
To fetch the daffodils away,
And home at noonday from the hills
They bring no dearth of daffodils.

Afield for palms the girls repair,
And sure enough the palms are there,
And each will find by hedge or pond
Her waving silver-tufted want.

In farm and field through all the shire
They eye beholds the heart's desire;
Ah, let not only mine be vain,
For lovers should be loved again.

March

by William Cullen Bryant

The stormy March is come at last,
With wind, and cloud, and changing
skies;
I hear the rushing of the blast,
That through the snowy valley flies.

Ah, passing few are they who speak,
Wild stormy month! in praise of thee;
Yet, though thy winds are loud and
bleak,
Thou art a welcome month to me.

For thou, to northern lands again,
The glad and glorious sun dost bring,
And thou hast joined the gentle train
And wear'st the gentle name of Spring.

And, in thy reign of blast and storm,
Smiles many a long, bright, sunny day,
When the changed winds are soft and
warm,
And heaven puts on the blue of May.

Then sing aloud the gushing rills
And the full springs, from frost set free,
That, brightly leaping down the hills,
Are just set out to meet the sea.

The year's departing beauty hides
Of wintry storms the sullen threat;
But, in thy sternest frown abides
A look of kindly promise yet.

Thou bring'st the hope of those calm
skies,
And that soft time of sunny showers,
When the wide bloom, on earth that lies,
Seems of a brighter world than ours.

Written in March by William Wordsworth

The cock is crowing,
The stream is flowing,
The small birds twitter,
The lake doth glitter
The green field sleeps in the sun;
The oldest and youngest
Are at work with the strongest;
The cattle are grazing,
Their heads never raising;
There are forty feeding like one!
Like an army defeated
The snow hath retreated,
And now doth fare ill
On the top of the bare hill;
The plowboy is whooping- anon-anon:
There's joy in the mountains;
There's life in the fountains;
Small clouds are sailing,
Blue sky prevailing;
The rain is over and gone!

March Morning by Edna Mead

A pale sun glints across the swirling drifts,
Bent trees are crackling with a silver load,
A wild gale shrieks in mischief as it lifts
A stinging screen of flakes across the road.
It seems midwinter still, and still the world
Lies wrapped in sleep upon the year's high
shelf,
But March is such a rogue, his challenge
hurled
In fury cannot hide his other self.
A softer azure tints the sky's cold blue,
Sometimes, for moments, all the wind is quiet,
Ice jewels melt to tears the rendezvous
Of ruffled sparrows teems with April riot.
Still roars the lion, but the lamb is bolder,
The madness has a subtle touch of play,
The night was Winter, but the Spring grown
older,
Knows what a sham of Winter is today.

And finally.....

DID YOU KNOW THESE THINGS HAD NAMES?

1. The space between your eyebrows is called a glabella
 2. The way it smells after the rain is called petrichor.
 3. The plastic or metallic coating at the end of your shoe laces is called an aglet.
 4. The rumbling of stomach is actually called a wamble.
 5. The cry of a new born baby is called a vagitus.
 6. The prongs on a fork are called tines.
 7. The sheen or light that you see when you close your eyes and press your hands on them is called phosphenes.
 8. The tiny plastic table placed in the middle of a pizza box is called a box tent.
 9. The day after tomorrow is called overmorrow.
 10. Your tiny toe or finger is called minimus.
 11. The wired cage that holds the cork in a bottle of champagne is called an agraffe.
 12. The 'na na na' and 'la la la', which don't really have any meaning in the lyrics of any song, are called vocables.
 13. When you combine an exclamation mark with a question mark (like this ?!), it is referred to as an interrobang.
 14. The space between your nostrils is called columella nasi.
 15. The armhole in clothes, where the sleeves are sewn, is called armhole.
 16. The condition of finding it difficult to get out of the bed in the morning is called dysania.
 17. Illegible hand-writing is called griffonage
 18. The dot over an "i" or a "" is called tittle
 19. That utterly sick feeling you get after eating or drinking too much is called crapulence.
 20. The metallic device used to measure your feet at the shoe store is called Bannock device.
- HOW MANY OF THE ABOVE DID YOU ALREADY KNOW?

