

Syston and District

u3a

learn, laugh, live

JULY
2023

Vitality!

Official newsletter of the Syston and District u3a

CHARITY No 1180152

FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Hi Everyone

After my AGM report I don't have a lot to say. I would like to inform you that we will be having a table at the Syston Summer Fayre on Saturday 2nd September *, and I would be grateful if you could let me know if anyone could spare an hour or two to help in the marquee.

At the AGM I mentioned that we still require both a

- Vice Chair &
- Committee members with a nonspecific role

If you can assist us with any the above items, you can email me at sadu3achair@gmail.com.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer.

Clive

*HELP IS AT HAND

Last year this was a separate event on Central Park. This year it will be part of the Syston Summer Fayre but will again feature several organisations within a marquee or pavilion. More information can be found later in this newsletter.

WE WANT TO LET YOU KNOW

AGM 2023

Our AGM saw both Chairman's and Treasurers reports accepted. 4 people left the Executive Committee having served the maximum term under the constitution. 3 replacements stepped in unopposed. The new committee is listed in full on the next page.

Bouquets were presented to the outgoing committee members – Christine Ringrose, Norma Grimes, Margaret King and Sheila Driver.

There were no motions for discussion.

| COMMITTEE | Current holder | email |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Chairman | Clive Iliffe | email: sadu3achair@gmail.com |
| Vice Chair | Vacant | email: |
| Secretary | Cynthia Baker | email: sadu3asecretary@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Geoff Wilmott | email: sadu3atreasurer@gmail.com |
| Membership Secretary | Christine Gale | email: sadu3amembers@gmail.com |
| Groups Co-ordinator | Barbara Sargeant | email: sadu3agroups@gmail.com |
| Publicity Lead | Jill Kempton-Hayes | email: sadu3apublicity@gmail.com |
| Committee Member | Julie Johnson | email: sadu3acomm1@gmail.com |
| Committee Member | vacant | email: sadu3acomm2@gmail.com |
| Committee Member | vacant | email: sadu3acomm3@gmail.com |
| Committee Member | vacant | email: sadu3acomm4@gmail.com |
| Webmaster | Steve Kenney | email: sadu3awebmaster@gmail.com |

MESSAGE FROM OUR OUTGOING TREASURER

After serving eight years in total as your Treasurer it is time for me to step down and hand the role to Geoff Willmott – welcome to the Committee Geoff.

How did all begin for me.

I went with some trepidation to Syston Conservative Club way back in November 2015 to see what ‘this U3A’ is all about and was it for me.

I had recently lost my husband and needed to get back into the outside world and find something to keep me occupied (it certainly has done that!) otherwise I could see myself becoming a recluse. It was a life saver.

I initially volunteered with others to serve as treasurer on the Steering Committee and subsequently elected as Treasurer on the Executive Committee in May 2016 when Syston U3A was formalised.

There was lots for all to learn about the U3A movement but with an energetic and enthusiastic committee we established a flourishing U3A with an influx of members and new groups forming some of which are still active There was obviously a need for something like this in Syston.

Over the years I have made lots of new friends had loads of laughs and giggles along the way (especially on the bus trips!!!)

I want to thank all my fellow committee members over the years for their support and send my best wishes to the newly elected Committee.

Finally, you the members and especially Group Leaders are the heart of our U3A and grateful thanks to for your friendship and support.

Chris

TONY HILL

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Tony Hill on 13th June 2023.

Tony was the Group Leader of the Canasta Group for over six years, having been a member of the group from the very start. It is due to Tony that we have been able to have really enjoyable and fun sessions on Monday afternoons. He was a calm influence with lots of knowledge and experience of the game, so if there was any query, it was easy to ask him. He was a kind and considerate gentleman, and we will miss him.

He has had increasing health problems, but with help from his wife, Margaret, he was still able to attend the sessions, for which we are grateful.

SmARTsy Fusion Glass Workshop



There are still places available for this event.

Friday 8th September from 10 till 12
Syston Community Centre.

Cost approximately £20 each but depends on numbers. Each piece costs £6 that you ~~complete~~complete.

Please let me know if you are interested giving your name and email ~~address~~address.

Elaine
Yarwood elaineyarwood@outlook.com

See more at <https://smartsy.co.uk>

GROUP NEWS

IMAGINARIUM

Thanks to those who managed to come along to our first ever Imaginarium meeting on June 8th.

Storytelling is something many of us did with children, and whilst the skills is often still there, it's sometimes now dormant.

We tried out a few experiments in stimulating the imagination. Using words and pictures, we set off on flights of fancy, and were introduced to a Victorian parlour game called Myriorama (lots of fancy words to take in here) which helps us to tell tales and move a story along.

It was clear that, if given free reign, our imagination can take us to some wonderful places, so lots of scope for development.

Two more meeting dates have been set as July 6th and August 3rd at the Syston Community Centre with a 2pm start

Please let me know if you plan to come along so that I can have the room set out etc.

Pat Wherton email pat27wherton@gmail.com

CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

It was good to welcome another of the people who expressed an interest in the group at the Open Day. Our theme of a modern fairy tale produced several rather different interpretations. They included a hidden suitcase loaded with cash and a will; a young woman with the family nickname Princess, meeting a Mr Prince; and an Irish setting bringing 2 families together 150 years after a marriage had been thwarted, with a bit of Irish mysticism thrown in.

Our optional theme for July is to include a mystery in a story. Whether the mystery is solved or not is entirely up to the writer.

If you'd like to join us, we meet on the 4th Thursday of the month at Syston Library starting at 2.00pm, (next session 27th July) email your editor sadu3aed@gmail.com for more info, or to let me know you intend to come along.

AMBLING GROUP



FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

The use of some of the online sites (both free and subscription) that can be used for family history research was explored. It is possible to carry out research without paying for any subscription sites. Leicestershire Libraries have free access to both Find My Past and Ancestry, all you need is a library membership. If you haven't visited Syston library for a while, there are several computers available for use. You can email documents to yourself or take a memory stick to save them to. What you can't do is build a tree online using the library versions, but you can set up a free guest account on either to build your tree. Alternatively, you can use free family tree software.

If you'd like to find out how to research and build you family tree, without spending a fortune, come along and join our group. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month 10.00 – 12.00 at the Syston Community Centre. Contact sadu3afamilyhistory@gmail.com for more information.

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

We had a very interesting meeting this month. Chris gave us an introduction to Post Impressionism and Pat spoke about Pop Art.



These were two very divergent subjects but what stood out for me was the common theme of how artists are always pushing the boundaries of their art. They are never content to stay with the styles and techniques of their peers and strive for the new and original.

We also had Tracey show us some photographs of public art works that she had encountered on her canal holiday near Worcester.

Many thanks to these members for their input and we look forward to our next session when Michael will be speaking about the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood and Mel will introduce Dadaism.
Another mixed programme!

Our next meeting will be on Weds 5th July at 2pm.
If you would like to join us please contact Michael Wherton via the website.



WALKING GROUP

As our group leader Dave, was going to be away for the July walk, he asked for volunteers to lead. Two of us, with some input from Dave decided to try out a walk from Keyham.

We did this during one of the hottest days this month!

After crossing many fields with cows, horses, and stiles we entered a most beautiful wildflower meadow. The sight was so uplifting.

Then through very long grass, where a female pheasant shot up and made us both jump, followed by a magnificent deer who ran like the wind over several fields until it reached the woods, where it stopped and looked back at us to see if we were following!

After a few more fields we saw a mass of purple flowers. Using a plant id app, we found it to be "fiddleneck" neither of us had ever seen it before.

Having passed through nettles, brambles and thistles we eventually emerged back at the pub only to find it doesn't open on Mondays.

What an amazing way to spend a few hours.

We just hope we can remember the way when we lead the group in July!

Barbara Sargeant & Jill Kempton-Hayes

WHAT'S ON NEXT

GENERAL MEETINGS

In the Brookside Room at the Community Centre – talks start 10.30am

Tea/coffee and mingling from 10.00am

June 21st, 2023: Note this is the 3rd Wednesday of the Month



July 12th, 2023: Roxanne Dinsdale, belly dancer: 'The myths of Middle Eastern dance'.

Come along and hear all about the funny anecdotes which have happened over the years as a professional belly dancer and performer.

This includes a demonstration of Middle Eastern dance plus a rummage through costumes throughout the ages and how they have developed and what styles of dance they are used for.

August 9th, 2023: Philip Caine, Barrow to Baghdad & Back Again

(My career story) My talk begins with me leaving school . . . I talk about how my career began as a chef and hotel manager. My 17 years working the oil rigs in the North Sea. Followed by operating projects in Algeria & Nigeria.. My time in Kazakhstan & Russia was particularly exciting. Not to mention the most dangerous place of all . . . Baghdad. My career culminated in Dubai where I ran an oil services company. The talk is full of interest, anecdotes, humour, and inspiration. I conclude with the writing of my latest novel (currently number 10).



September 13th, 2023: Melody Flyte - The Development of the Great American Songbook

A talk about the development of the Great American Songbook - the songs of Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Dorothy Fields and others, mainly living and working in New York City. Starting with the publishing revolution in Tin Pan Alley, via the influences of jazz, blues and ragtime, the Great American Songbook changed popular song and musical theatre forever.

Featuring songs including You're the Top, Over the Rainbow and Ain't Misbehavin'.

LAST MONTH'S GM

Your editor used her own family history to dispel the idea that all Victorian families were prim and proper. Unfortunately, technology let us down when the mic decided to screech horribly and had to be abandoned in favour of me raising my voice to try and be heard at the back of the room. I was only able to cover some of the stories in the time available. I have more than one bigamist in the family, and more than one lady who had children with 2 brothers, and several lodgers and housekeepers whose relationship with the head of the household was rather more intimate than those descriptions suggest. I do only have the one lady described on census data as a mistress, but she did eventually become the man's wife. So far, I've just the once case where a much younger brother married his sister's daughter, which was illegal in Canada at the time (although I gather such a marriage wouldn't be illegal in that country now). But I do have another case where an uncle and niece lived as husband and wife and had children together. You can read the story of William Marson and Alice Jones later in this newsletter.



CHANGE OF PLAN – NOW A DAY TRIP

THE END OF THE PIER SHOW AT CROMER

Leaving Syston at 7.40 a.m. on Tuesday, 26th September 2023 for a matinee performance and arriving home at 9.30 p.m. Time for a wander around Cromer and lunch prior to the show.

Total cost of coach and the ticket for the End of the Pier Show is £50.00. I do have some spare seats on the coach.

Please contact me by email on theatre@u3ameltonmowbray.co.uk

Angela Fielding



***Fancy a little flutter?
How about “A Night at the Dog
Track”?***

Last November a coachload from Syston u3a sat down to a 3 Course meal watching their favorite dogs race home to victory (or defeat)

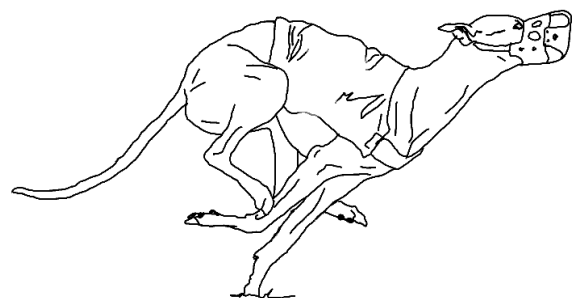
Some participants studied the form before placing a small bet, others chose to support those dogs in the prettiest racing colours.

Both systems produced winners, so no skill required

The evening was pronounced a success and it has been suggested that we again brighten up a dull November evening, probably a Monday, with another visit this year.

“Going to the Dogs”

If you are interested, then contact me at cynjohnbaker@gmail.com.
If there is enough interest, I will start making enquiries about costs this year, which will again include the 3 course meal and coach transport to and from Syston or Queniborough.



TREASURE HUNT TIME APPROACHES!!

Not an official u3a event but one that you may be interested in.

Dave & I have put together a treasure hunt for you to walk round and hopefully enjoy.

Once again, this year, it will be on a Sunday afternoon following an OPTIONAL Sunday Lunch.

For those who have not done one of our hunts before, you are given sheets of cryptic clues which you use to find answers for, as you walk round a local village.

We will need names/numbers by **Friday August 4th** please but previously we have reached our maximum capacity considerably before the final date! Max number of 40 for lunch.

Date - Sunday August 20th

Times - Lunch 12:30, T. Hunt 1:45pm onwards

Cost - £2 per head (towards prizes)

- Lunch (main course) is around £13

Please indicate when booking whether lunch is required. It will be necessary to pre order your lunch - menu details will be sent in due course.

Details of where you need to go will be supplied nearer the time!!!

Lyn & Dave Palmer

lynpalmer192@btinternet.com

07742 020672

NATIONAL U3A ITEMS

There are various talks and workshops publicised in the national u3a magazine, in an online newsletter, and on the main u3a website, You can sign up for the newsletter using the link below, and find previous editions there www.u3a.org.uk/news/newsletter

Online learning of various types can be found www.u3a.org.uk/learning

This link www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events includes all of the free talks on Eventbrite, not just the trio that I pick out and include in our newsletter. You can also sign up to be notified of the program.

You can find various other events and information via the home page www.u3a.org.uk

U3A TALKS



Richborough Roman fort and amphitheatre

Jenny Wall, White Cliffs u3a and Volunteer Guide, takes us on a virtual tour of Richborough Roman fort and amphitheatre.

Thurs 6 July at 10am

Free – Online via Zoom

Book [here](#)



Expedition Cruising: The Scattered Islands

Neil Stevenson of Up Holland & District u3a shares his experience of rarely visited, French occupied, coral atolls in the Indian Ocean

Thurs 20 July at 2pm

Free – Online via Zoom

Book [here](#)



The History of US Military Aviation in East Anglia

Don Mobley of Stowmarket u3a reviews four eras of US military aviation throughout East Anglia: WWI, WWII, Cold War and Post Cold War.

Tues 25 July at 10am

Free – Online via Zoom

Book [here](#)

Interest Groups Online Groups

Interest Groups Online offers a variety of peer led, online learning opportunities for its subscribers.

As part of the u3a movement, members generously volunteer their time and share their knowledge, skills and experience with the members in their groups. Some groups are more interactive than others, with an expectation that all members take it in turns to present their knowledge. If in doubt, give it a go. The more groups you try, the more likely you'll find the one you love.

To join a group, you must already be a paid-up member of Interest Groups Online. It costs £12 to join for the year, which runs from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

Find out more [here](#)

The u3a radio podcast, set up in 2020, showcases the amazing things happening across the movement. It's created by a team of u3a members who all have radio experience and features interviews with members, interest group leaders, Trustees, national volunteers and Subject Advisers.

The entire series is available to listen to on our [YouTube channel](#), and since January 2022, has also been available to listen to on podcasting platforms including [Spotify](#), [Google Podcasts](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#).



The team are always looking for more stories – [please get in touch](#) if you'd like to contribute.

NOT u3a BUT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED

Volunteers needed for research into a new medicine to treat obesity

Researchers at Leicester General Hospital are trialling a new medicine that may treat obesity while also improving diseases of the heart and blood vessels – and volunteers are needed. The study is being delivered by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Patient Recruitment Centre (PRC): Leicester, which is hosted by Leicester's Hospitals, and funded and sponsored by Novo Nordisk.

The study, REDEFINE 3, is looking at a combination of two medicines. REDEFINE 3 is needed to help us understand how effective these two medicines are for reducing cardiovascular events, such as heart attacks and stroke.

You may be eligible to take part in the study if:

- You have had a stroke, a heart attack (myocardial infarction), or have poor circulation (peripheral arterial disease, or PAD)
- You are 55 years of age or older
- You are living with obesity (BMI over 30)

For more information, visit the study website www.redefine3.org.uk or contact our study team: 0116 258 8969 or email: redefine3@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

For opportunities to take part and get involved in other health research in Leicester's Hospitals, sign up to Leicester's Research Registry for regular updates sent directly to your inbox. Please follow the link for more information:

<https://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/aboutus/education-and-research/research-and-innovation/research-registry/>

PICKLEBALL AND WALKING TENNIS

We have had a message from the head coach at Sileby Tennis and Pickleball club. Contact: Edd Whetton. He has invited anyone who fancies a free pickleball taster session at Mountsorrel Leisure Centre on a Monday to get in touch.

After the initial free trial, it only costs £2.50 per week for anyone wanting to carry on.

He is also the head coach at Syston Northfields Tennis club where they are looking at offering walking tennis. This may have some funding to cover a few weeks.

It all sounds very interesting, you can either let me know or get in touch directly with Edd. edward.whetton@gmail.com

You can find out more about Pickleball via this link www.pickleballengland.org/what-is-pickleball/



Sun Jul 09 2023 at 03:00 pm (other dates available)
Grace Dieu Priory, Coalville, United Kingdom,
Coalville, United Kingdom

Come and explore the fascinating history of Grace Dieu with our guided walks. Walk through the ancient Grace Dieu Woods, under the Charnwood Forest Railway and along the Charnwood Forest Canal to the picturesque ruins of Grace Dieu Priory ???

Price: £3 per adult, children FREE.

No booking required

Meet at the Bull's Head (Thringstone) car park (LE67 8LR)



Explore the Archaeology of Bradgate Park



Join Peter Liddle and Professor Richard Thomas on a guided tour which will lead you to some of the most significant archaeology sites within the park. This unique opportunity, led by two experts within the field as part of the Leicestershire and Rutland Festival of Archaeology, will give you the chance to learn about the findings of the various excavations that have taken place on the park.

Price?

£4 per person. **This walk is suitable for ages 12+.**

Please note: parking charges apply.

When?

11am-1pm, Saturday 8th July

The walk is approx. 1.5 hours long.

Meeting point

Please meet at Newtown Linford Car Park. Your walk leaders will meet you beside the iron gates.

Please aim to arrive approx. 10 minutes prior to the start of the walk.

More details [here](#)

DIRECTORY OF COMMUNITY GROUPS LAUNCHED

Syston and District Volunteer Centre announce the launch of a comprehensive Directory of groups which offer much-needed services and contribute to the well-being of our local communities. Many of them organised by volunteers, they offer social, cultural, sporting, educational, financial, health and emotional support to those in need, easing problems and enhancing the quality of life for people of all ages.



Syston and District

Volunteer
Centre

Registered Charity No: 510412

and Centre Trustee, Colin Grimes, says: “Syston and neighbouring communities are exceptionally well-served by a wide range of organisations and companies offering such support. This on-line Directory (www.syston-vc.org) offers a “one-stop” guide and clearly demonstrates that, whatever the need might be, there is a **local** solution. Many of these groups operate “under the radar” with a great deal of work being put in by small but dedicated groups of volunteers. As a result, too many local residents “suffer in silence”, experiencing great inconvenience, distress and loneliness simply through ignorance of what support is available locally. With the help of the Volunteer Centre, the Directory is intended to address these deficiencies by “signposting” those in need to appropriate sources of support.”

Printed copies of the Directory will be available from the Volunteer Centre’s stand at the “**Help is at Hand!**” pavilion at the Syston Summer Fayre, on Central Park on Saturday 2nd September. The special pavilion will feature a number of the community organisations involved. Others will be exhibiting independently at the event. At the time of writing a small number of stands are available, at a subsidised rate, offering an exceptional, low-cost opportunity to promote services, recruit more members, attract volunteer support and raise funds - all with the minimum of organisational effort.

Entry into the Directory is free of charge. Any organisation that would like to be included and/or would like to book a space in the pavilion - should contact Centre Trustee, Colin Grimes (sadv@btinternet.com) for a simple Registration Form.

FROM OUR MEMBERS

A FAMILY HISTORY STORY

I was researching Henry Marson, a two times great uncle of mine. He was born in Thurgarton, Nottinghamshire in 1871. He was the youngest of ten children born to farm labourer George and his wife Hannah. His childhood was probably no different to many born into such families. There would have been little money to spare, but enough food on the table, even if most of the main meal of the day was vegetable rather than animal. There was likely the annual pig, fattened, then killed. Followed by an intense few days, involving the making of pork pies, the curing of bacon, and so on. Every part of the animal that could be used, would have been used. An occasional chicken that had ceased to lay, rabbits, hares or game birds would have provided free meat at other times. When meat was bought from the butcher, it had to be the cheapest of cuts available, meat that had to be cooked long and slow to make it edible.

Some of his older brothers followed their father onto the land, others joined the increasing band of men going down the pits and some of his sisters married miners. When I first came across Henry of working age, he had apparently done neither, instead he'd become a platelayer on the railways. At twenty he was lodging with his sister Martha and her miner husband in Stoneyford, just over the border in Derbyshire. Stoneyford was a hamlet, in 1891 it had just 33 households of mainly mining families. It did however, have an inn, and working in that inn was 17-year-old Mary Ann Foster. She and Henry married only a few months after the 1891 census. Marrying young didn't hold any terrors for Henry, most of his siblings had married before reaching his age, including 4 sisters who were even younger than Mary Ann when they tied the knot.

By the time of the next census in 1901, Henry was back in his native Nottinghamshire where he remained for the rest of his days. But that was not before going to Hendon, Middlesex, where his first-born Herbert arrived in 1892. He had returned to the Basford area by late 1893 when a second son Christopher was born, but he died within a few months. Sadly, infant mortality was a common occurrence for working class families in the Victorian and Edwardian period, very few families remained untouched by it. However, another son, Edward, was born in Farnsfield in early 1896, even closer to his father's birthplace. Catherine came along 2 years later in Mansfield, and youngest Fanny was born in Newark, only a month before the census. The frequency with which Henry moved around suggests he was one of those men who never settled in a job. In 1901 he was in the brewing trade as a maltster.

Tragedy struck Henry again when Fanny died just short of her second birthday. Within a few weeks of that loss Mabel arrived, with the family then living in Averham. Then 1905 saw Henry's world fall apart, son Ernest arrived, but within weeks both mother and child had been laid in the earth. He was left with 4 motherless children, the youngest only 2 years old.

By the 1911 census his fortunes had it seemed turned, he was listed with a second wife Alice, and another child Olive, born in 1907 in Clipstone. Perhaps Henry was settling down as he grew older, as he was still in Clipstone on census day. There was nothing particularly unusual in the situation. Deaths related to childbirth were still far too common in the early 20th century. It was also usual for widowers to marry again, sometimes quite quickly, they needed someone to look after the house and the children, and a wife was cheaper than a housekeeper. It was only when I went to find out more about Alice, that matters took an unusual turn. When I searched for a marriage, I came up blank. I then looked for the birth registration of Olive, I couldn't find one. I was in the dark regarding just who Alice was.

Fast forward to the 1939 register, taken to aid the issue of ID and ration cards. Henry and Alice were now in Cuckney, with them was William H Marson, born in 1918. Was he a son? Could I find a birth registration for him? The answer was yes, that gave me the mother's maiden name of Jones. I now had a last name for Alice, I also knew from the 1911 census that she had been born in Hoveringham, not too far from where Henry and Mary Ann had been living in 1901. I searched for a baptism for Alice Jones and for a birth registration. I found nothing to fit with the birth year shown in both 1911 and 1939, which was 1882. But, I did find a baptism for Alice Jones in 1886 in Hoveringham, the daughter of Henry and Ann, and that led me to a birth registration with a mother's maiden name. A name that stopped me in my tracks. It sent me rechecking my research and looking for any other Alice Jones in the area. I found another young lady of that name, living in, but not born in Nottinghamshire. I followed what had happened to her, she wasn't the mother of Henry's later children. Finding inaccurate birth dates and ages on documents is not unusual in this period, people didn't commit these to memory in the way that we do these days. I have also seen many cases of ages being "adjusted" to narrow a significant age gap between a couple.

Having checked and rechecked my research, in line with the saying, when you have excluded everything else, what remains is the truth, I concluded that Alice Jones was indeed who I thought she was - the daughter of Henry's much older sister Ann, who married Henry Jones. She would have been 19 when Henry lost his wife. Reading between the lines, I think it likely that she was dispatched to look after Henry's children and household. I have no idea what others in the family thought of the situation. Whether he was shunned is unclear, but he certainly stayed in the same area until he died in 1953.

I wondered whether the relationship would have been deemed illegal and thus whether they were risking prosecution. Yes, it would have been illegal for them to have married, but the relationship itself would not have contravened any civil legislation in force at the time. In fact, it is only since the Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force that such a relationship was deemed against the law. Previous civil legislation only covered closer relatives.

OFFICIAL PHOTO ID

If you have a passport or photo driving licence you'll already have the sort of ID you need for a number of purposes these days. What if you don't have a passport and you've given up driving (whether by choice or for health reasons), or you've never had either document, what can you use instead? For some purposes you may be able to use a bus pass, e.g. the new voting requirements, but for many other purposes that won't do, because it doesn't include enough information about you. What about the new photo ID that can be issued for voting purposes? That's no good, again it doesn't have enough detail. The plain truth is that, without a passport or photo driving licence, you will find yourself locked out of applying for a variety of "official" things online, and you'll have to jump through a variety of hoops to prove you are who you say you are offline.

So, what can you do?

An adult passport will set you back almost £100 by post, which is a lot to shell out for something you may only need to use occasionally. If you can't drive, that means you can't get a driving licence – or does it? In fact, you may be able to get a photo provisional driving licence for £34.50, even if you have no intention of driving. Provided you have no medical issues that would prevent you from driving, this is a much cheaper option of getting generally accepted photo ID. The other plus is that you can get it more speedily than a passport. I received mine within a month of applying. Much better than the 10 – 13 weeks being quoted by the passport office at the moment.

I have successfully used mine to prove my identity with a bank, I was even able to photograph it and upload it securely online to do that. That enabled me to do what I needed within a couple of days of a phone call. If I'd had to book an appointment with a bank branch, (I would have had to wait several days to get that I was told), it would have taken over a week, probably nearer two.

If you are interested in going down the same route, just use the link below – www.gov.uk/apply-first-provisional-driving-licence

DECLUTTER DEN

Do you have anything sitting in a cupboard, or on a shelf, that you no longer want? Might one of our members or groups be able to make use of it?



Julie Hartshorn has this halogen cooker looking for a new home.

It will need to be collected from her.

Interested? Contact Julie email: penny8peanut@gmail.com



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

Moonlight, Summer Moonlight by Emily Bronte

'Tis moonlight, summer moonlight,
All soft and still and fair;
The solemn hour of midnight
Breathes sweet thoughts everywhere,

But most where trees are sending
Their breezy boughs on high,
Or stooping low are lending
A shelter from the sky.

And there in those wild bowers
A lovely form is laid;
Green grass and dew-steeped flowers
Wave gently round her head.

Over Hill and Over Dale by William Shakespeare

Over hill, over dale,
Thorough bush, thorough brier,
Over park, over pale,
Thorough flood, thorough fire
I do wander every where,
Swifter than the moon's sphere;
And I serve the fairy queen,
To dew her orbs upon the green:
The cowslips tall her pensioners be;
In their gold coats spots you see;
Those be rubies, fairy favours,
In those freckles live their savours:
I must go seek some dew-drops here
And hang a pearl in every cowslip's ear.
Farewell, thou lob of spirits: I'll be gone;
Our queen and all her elves come here anon.

A Boat Beneath a Summer Sky by Lewis Carroll

A boat beneath a sunny sky,
Lingering onward dreamily
In an evening of July —

Children three that nestle near,
Eager eye and willing ear,
Pleased a simple tale to hear —

Long has faded that sunny sky:
Echoes fade and memories die:
Autumn frosts have slain July.

Still she haunts me, phantomwise,
Alice moving under skies
Never seen by waking eyes.

Children yet, the tale to hear,
Eager eye and willing ear,
Lovingly shall nestle near.

In a Wonderland they lie,
Dreaming as the days go by,
Dreaming as the summers die:

Ever drifting down the stream —
Lingering in the golden gleam —
Life, what is it but a dream?

The Lake Isle of Innisfree by William Butler Yeats

I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made;
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.

And finally.....

A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawnmower is broken. *James Dent*

Some of the best memories are made in flip-flops. *Kellie Elmore*

Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time. *John Lubbock*

Keep your face to the sun and you will never see the shadows. *Hellen Keller*

Summer has a flavour like no other. Always fresh and simmered in sunshine. *Oprah Winfrey*

When the sun is shining I can do anything; no mountain is too high, no trouble too difficult to overcome. *Wilma Rudolf*

If it could only be like this always — always summer, always alone, the fruit always ripe. *Evelyn Waugh*

Everything good, everything magical, happens between the months of June and August. *Jenny Han*

