

News & Views



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chair's Message	1
Monthly Meetings	2
Group News	3
Italian	3
Meeting Outdoors	3
Website developments	4
Urgent from Treasurer	4
Further to June	5
Arthritis research	5
Website feedback	5
On-line resources	5
Quiz answers	6
Items for Newsletter	7

National U3A

The Third Age Trust, to which we are affiliated, has a wealth of information and guidance, constantly being updated, on their website: www.u3a.org.uk You are strongly encouraged to pay a visit!

Interest Groups

Details of Groups can be found on the Charnwood U3A website: www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk Contact details of group leaders can be found in the Members' area.

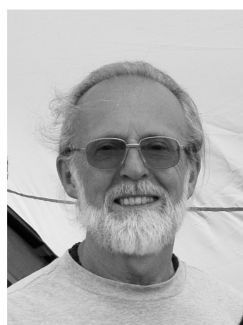
Welcome

Welcome to the July edition of News & Views, the newsletter of Charnwood U3A. We hope you will find it both entertaining and informative. The content is written by members, and details for sending contributions can be found at the end of this newsletter.

A very warm welcome to our new members. Hopefully you will soon be involved in U3A activities and making new friends. To access the members' area of our website www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk you need the user name and password which have been supplied to you.



A Message from the Chair



I really am looking forward to giving out some good news regarding the resumption of regular U3A activities - unfortunately, that time has not yet been reached.

With the likes of pubs, restaurants and cinemas being allowed to reopen on July 4th, it seemed reasonable to assume that there would also be some further relaxation regarding numbers that could meet outdoors. Bafflingly, this has not happened.

We will be allowed to sit in a beer garden with, perhaps, several dozen other people - most of whom will be unknown to us - yet gatherings with friends (and U3A activity groups) will still be limited to a maximum of six people!

I have contacted our local MP about this. So far her office has simply reiterated the advice from HQ, and failed to give any sensible rationale behind this apparent inconsistency. I will keep on badgering!

Fortunately for us, the Charnwood area appears to have been only lightly affected by the pandemic; indeed, I am not aware of any of our members having contracted the virus. But, as you may have seen, in local and national media, Leicester City has recently become a Covid 19 hot spot. So please do not drop your guard, the 'enemy' is not that far away!

One hears a lot of criticism about our National Health Service, so here is a good news story:

Recently, one of our members, Peter Mill, was sent to hospital (QMC) by his GP, where major surgery was carried out the next day. Within less than a week, Peter was well enough to return home, where he is now convalescing. This is testimony to Peter's fitness, but also to the skill and efficiency of our, often underrated, medical practitioners.

I am sure we all wish Peter a speedy and full recovery.

Mike Hood
Chair, Charnwood U3A

Our Monthly Meetings

In these strange times we did not meet together to hear Baroness Morgan or Kate Tiler in April and May - though our members Martyn Speight and Tony Westaway stepped in to ably entertain us via Zoom in May and June. Looking ahead, our August and September speakers, Mark Walsh and Jane Fitcher, both feel that they would not be at their best on Zoom and so we have had to delay hearing from them until we are able to meet together again in person. Mark is an entertainer who feeds off the reactions of his audience and Jane is a specialist in lip reading so it is easy to see why Zoom is not the best medium for either.

Next Zoom Meeting: Wednesday 8th July, 2:30 pm

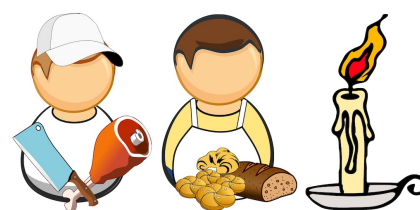
We are pleased, therefore, to report that **Kevin Reynolds** is available to talk on Zoom on Wednesday 8th July at 2.30 pm on "**The Devil's Darning Needle**". Dragonflies are the essence of summer and a source of beauty and inspiration. They are some of the largest insects alive today and are masters of the air and supreme predators. The talk will be a light introduction to the life cycle of these fascinating insects and will be illustrated by some of Kevin's own photographs.



IMPORTANT: Zoom sessions are limited to 100 participants and therefore **pre-registration is required. To book your place, please go to the July Monthly meeting page on our website at <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/MonthlyMeetingJuly2020.html>** and complete the registration form. For couples planning to attend the presentation using a single computer, tablet or smartphone, only one of you needs to submit the form. An invitation to join the meeting will then be emailed the day before the meeting to all those who have pre-registered.

Looking Ahead: Zoom Meeting on 12th August, 2:30 pm

For our August talk, your Newsletter Editor will take us on a journey through her family history which includes "Butcher, Baker and Candlestick Maker" ancestors amongst many other characters, with lots of stories of how they lived and died, which I hope you'll find interesting. More details are available on our website at <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/MonthlyMeetingAug2020.html>.



Looking Further Ahead:

Zoom Meetings will continue for the foreseeable future on the second Wednesday of each month, and details will appear on our website and in this newsletter in due course. In September we can look forward to an account of Queen Victoria's coronation, and plans for further meetings from October to the end of the year are being finalised. Please keep an eye on the website for details.

Neil Rowbottom and Helen Reid

Group News

Parlate italiano?

Or do you want to speak Italian? Would you like to be in a beginners group, having a conversation in Italian?

We are seeking interest in such a group for beginners/level 1 speakers to meet and practise easy conversations. Would you be interested in joining or even leading such a group – perhaps once a month, in a friendly environment that doesn't threaten your abilities? It wouldn't be like approaching an Italian on holiday when you are met with a reply in rapid dialect!



Please let me know in the first instance of your interest. Email me at newmembers@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

David Fell

We'll Meet Again - Outdoors

With the gradual relaxation of lockdown measures, and with the summer now upon us, groups are starting to think of ways in which they can start to cautiously meet again outdoors. U3A Head Office have advised that, provided the government guidelines are fully adhered to, then the full insurance cover remains active.

The yoga group have held a socially distanced session for 6 people in a member's garden. This went well, and, weather permitting, further meetings are planned. Elizabeth Steel also reports that one or two of the walking groups have been meeting up in small numbers. Outdoor Bowls and Golf have taken the first steps to resuming their activities, as explained by their leaders, below.

Golf

The golfing group restarted playing as soon as the government advice and legal requirements allowed us to do so. We have met and played four times now and will continue to do so subject to any changes in the Covid19 situation. We are a friendly, welcoming bunch and are very pleased to meet new players - don't feel you have to be a scratch golfer to join in!

Golf is possibly one of the safest games to play. Social distancing is usually exceeded by a factor of ten or twenty on the fairways. On the tee and greens we maintain a much greater separation than the two metre distancing at all times. Flags are never touched, there are stoppers in the holes to avoid contamination and the traditional end-of-game handshake is not given.

If you like the idea of having a round then please feel free to contact me - my details are on the U3A website.

Jon Ivins



Outdoor Bowls

It has not been possible to convene the outdoor Bowls Group for obvious reasons.

However, the Brush Bowls Club has opened its green on a restricted basis in accordance with guidelines agreed between Bowls England and the Government (DCMS).

U3A members from last year's group have been invited to use the green on the same basis as Club members, and a number have availed themselves of the opportunity.

Dave Saunders



Website Developments

Following my talk on weird and wonderful wildlife, a member got me thinking about how it might be possible to allow members to view a waterhole in Africa (day and night) without having to travel on a long journey to get there. I soon discovered that there are a huge number of wildlife and zoo webcams.

I therefore switched hats to the other WWW and created some links from the On-line Ents section of our website to live webcams located at wildlife areas and zoos not only across the UK but also the world. These make for fascinating viewing, from the osprey chicks on the nest at Rutland Water to a waterhole in Zambia!

You may have also noticed that the committee papers have been moved into the password-controlled Members area of our website. HMRC and the Charities Commission require us to keep a wide range of documents for at least 7 years and, in some cases, much longer.

Mike Hood, Chair, has therefore been busy scanning documents so that they can be archived on our website for easy access and storage! As part of this process, we have scanned some documents from 1997, the first year of Charnwood U3A's existence. They make very interesting reading! See these in the Members' area under "Archived Documents".



Tony Westaway

webmanager@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

URGENT from Charnwood U3A Treasurer

A request to all Interest Group leaders who wish to claim Subsidies against room rentals for their Group:



Despite the current lockdown & curtailment of many Interest Group activities, we still have to pay bills and manage our finances. To allow the Committee to have a complete picture of any outstanding claims to subsidy please notify them to me (with supporting invoices/receipts) in the usual way by **31st July 2020**.

Please note we will not be able to accept outstanding claims after this date.

Thank you; I hope you are all keeping well & looking forward to resuming normal activities.

Bob Pyatt, CU3A Treasurer

treasurer@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Charnwood U3A Noticeboards

Many of you who regularly come to our monthly meetings would have seen and read notices on our board. It is one of two we have, both the same size.

Because I am taking over the booking of our speakers from the first meeting in 2021 and receiving and hosting the speaker at each meeting, I am having to pass over the notice boards to another member. For personal reasons I may need to hand over well before the end of the year.

The requirements are:

- Someone capable of handling bulky, heavy boards: two boards each about 3 ft X 4 ft, together a foot thick. Our insurance covers the boards.

- Reliable attendance at every monthly meeting on the second Wednesday from 14:00 at Emmanuel Church, Forest Road, Loughborough
- The occasional updating of notices, removal of time-served notices etc.
- Ability to transport and store - in the dry - both notice boards, total space 3 ft x 4 ft x 1 ft.

If you can help, please contact me on 01509 213675 or gccooper@tiscali.co.uk or "grab" me at one of my interest groups when normality returns.

Thank you
Graham Cooper

Further to the June Newsletter...

University osteoarthritis research

Dr Katherine Brooke-Wavell tells me that she had a good response to her request in last month's newsletter for people to participate in an on-line survey to assess how changes in physical activity are related to changes in joint symptoms. Thanks to all those who got in touch with her and her PhD student Ben Boxer about this arthritis-related research.

Our new website - your reaction

Further positive feedback has been received about the new-look website. You seem to find it both attractive and informative, and favour the new layout, colour scheme and easier navigation. There has been further content added since last month (see article on page 4) and more features, e.g. you can now register on the website for monthly Zoom meetings and receive an automatic acknowledgement of your booking.

If you haven't recently checked out the website, give it a look at <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/> and do send us your ideas for further content and improvements.

A reminder (and update) of on-line resources from the National U3A

The National U3A produce a **monthly newsletter**: the latest one (June) can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/yauz65bg>



if you haven't already done so, you are encouraged to sign up to receive this directly by email by going to: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>

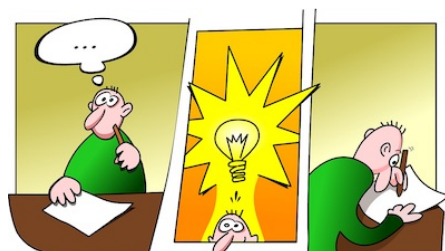
They also produce a bitesize edition in PDF format which is easily printable; the latest one (June) can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/y9xwxupx>

The Facebook group **U3A: Keeping in Touch** at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/U3AKeepingInTouch/> - was created by the National U3A for members to stay in contact with each other and share ideas.

The National U3A's weekly Learning Updates (<https://tinyurl.com/yc3p49jo>) is another great source of good ideas. See last month's newsletter for some highlights.

UPDATE: New Covid Guidance for U3As was issued by the National U3A on 29 June, to reflect the loosening of restrictions taking effect from 4 July (except for Leicester). This updated guidance can be read in full at <https://tinyurl.com/yboxmqwd>

Any more ideas?



If you have any good ideas and initiatives to report, do let us know and we can include them on our website and in the newsletter.

In addition, the Leicestershire and Rutland U3A Network are trying to gather tried and tested initiatives that members have found effective during the 'Lockdown' period and would be pleased to hear about these at landr.networkassist@gmail.com.

Answers to last month's Quiz:

- 1) The four great inventions of ancient China are paper making, the compass, printing and which other?
Gunpowder
- 2) Methaemoglobinemia is caused by the blood's reduced ability to carry which gas around the body?
Oxygen
- 3) Of the traditional English counties with no coast-line, which is the largest by area?
Shropshire
- 4) L A Woman was the final Doors album to feature which soloist?
Jim Morrison
- 5) Which Blackadder actor played Lord Percy Percy and Captain Kevin Darling?
Tim McInnerny played both
- 6) Beethoven dedicated his third symphony to whom and then withdrew the dedication?
Napoleon Bonaparte. The dedication was withdrawn when Napoleon declared himself Emperor
- 7) The speed skater A J Hackett popularised which extreme "sport" ?
Bungee Jumping
- 8) Which clear spirit made from sour cherries is traditionally added to Black Forest Gateau ?
Kirsch
- 9) In which novel did Humpty Dumpty celebrate his unbirthday?
Through the Looking Glass by Lewis Carroll
- 10) After whom is named the law that states "Anything that can go wrong will go wrong" ?
Murphy
- 11) How many cities are there in Northern Ireland (Ulster)?
Five: Armagh, Belfast, Derry, Lisburn, Newry
- 12) Which Swedish player won his second Wimbledon singles title in 1990 ?
Stefan Edberg
- 13) The Italian company Gaggia manufactures machines that make which drink?
Coffee machines
- 14) In which English county is England's oldest brewery in continuous production?
Kent, Shephard Neame in Faversham
- 15) "Fatherland" is a novel predicated on what occurrence?
Germany winning the Second World War
- 16) With which twentieth century creative genius is Aldeburgh closely associated?
Benjamin Britten (Lord Britten)
- 17) What is the alternative name of the Millenium Stadium in South Wales?
Principality Stadium
- 18) Which animal name describes a pessimistic investor who believes the market will decline?
Bear
- 19) Which scientist stated that no "alleged" scientific discovery has merit unless it can be explained to a whom?
No one knows for sure. Sir Cyril Hinshelwood, Rutherford and Einstein have all been associated with it. To a whom? A barmaid, that is certain!
- 20) Tullus Aufidius leads the Volscian army against Rome in which Shakespeare play ?
Coriolanus



Items for News & Views

Do you have an announcement, story - or even a short comment - to share with your fellow U3A members? All contributions are very welcome, and we can preserve your anonymity if you prefer that your name does not appear in the newsletter.

There is a limit of around 500 words per item, and photos are very welcome.

To enable the newsletter to be compiled in time for delivery to members at the start of each month, the deadline for receiving items will normally be the last day but one of the previous month. The deadline for the August issue of **News & Views** will be **Thursday 30 July (12 noon)**.



Please send your contributions to the Newsletter Editor at: newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Please make sure you include your contact details with your item, and try not to leave it until the last minute if at all possible.

The Editor reserves full editorial rights as to length and suitability and the Editor's decision is final.

News & Views is sent to all Charnwood U3A members by e-mail link (or by post in normal circumstances) before the monthly meeting. It is also available to read on the Charnwood U3A website each month at www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk under the News menu.

Thank You!

Helen Reid
Newsletter Editor
Charnwood U3A

Contact Details for Committee and Group Leaders



Names and photographs of the Committee and their generic emails ending @charnwoodu3a.org.uk are available on our website under Contact Us - Committee Contacts.

The names of Group Leaders for each group can be found on that group's dedicated website page, accessed via Our Groups - Groups Listed...

Personal emails and telephone numbers of Committee members and Group Leaders can be accessed from the Members area of the website, using login details previously supplied.

Some other useful U3A web addresses:

National U3A Newsletter: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>

The Association of East Midlands U3As: www.eastmidlandsu3as.org.uk

Leicestershire and Rutland Network: www.landru3a.org.uk

Beacon system: <https://beacon.u3a.org.uk>

