

News & Views



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

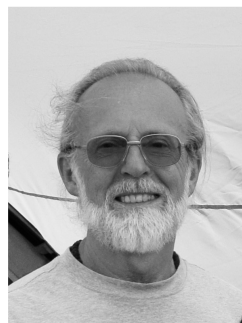
Chair's Message	1
Monthly Meetings	2
Group News	3-4
Zoom & Outdoors	3
ETHEL	3
Travel Group	4
Musical videos	4
Generic emails	5
Notice boards	5
National U3A News	6
Book offer	6
Trust U3A	6
Quiz	6
Beacon Update	7
Items for Newsletter	8
Contact Info	8

Good News

In view of the current disruption to normal U3A activities, you'll be pleased to hear that your membership subscription is being **reduced for the coming year**. This applies to both existing and new members, for one year only.



A Message from the Chair



This spring and summer has brought us heat waves followed by days so cold that many of us have turned the heating back on, and droughts followed by localised flooding. We have recently 'enjoyed' heavy rain and strong winds, closely followed by temperatures soaring into the 30's. What a very strange year this is turning out to be – and that's even before we get to Covid-19!

Lockdown for four months (and counting) has impacted significantly on the U3A generation. Firstly, face-to-face meetings have, where possible, been replaced by Zoom, and many of us are now becoming quite proficient in its use. I wonder how many of us had even heard of it before March of this year? Recent government relaxations have permitted (small) outdoor gatherings, and I am pleased to learn that many of you have been taking advantage of this. (*See Group News for more details*).

Secondly, holidays - especially those overseas - have just about ground to a halt. This, I know, will be a great loss to many of you. So let us look at a few of the positives: no hanging around for hours at the airport; no (or very few) language barriers to contend with; just think of all the money you may be saving! We have a lot to be grateful for right under our feet but, when it is always there, we often take things for granted. A walk, or short car journey, from home can take us to some wonderful countryside, and have you noticed the increase in birdsong now that there are fewer cars on the road? We do not always need to jet off around the world to experience nature's bounty.

Now that lockdown rules are starting to be relaxed, some of our regular venues are starting to make plans for when they can reopen to the public. It is good to think that some of 'normal' may be on the horizon. However, when we reach the point that your group decides it is time to recommence face-to-face meetings, there are a few things that you need to take into account:

- *Many group members will, for a variety of very personal reasons, be nervous of indoor meetings – even if the rules say that they are permissible. I suspect 'zooming' will need to continue for many months to come.*
- *Most of the government lockdown rules are advisory i.e. not a legal requirement. The Third Age Trust (TAT) advice is strictly in accord with these rules – should you decide to ignore them, any meetings held outside of these rules WILL NOT be covered by TAT insurance policies.*
- *Regardless of whether your meetings abide by the rules, do please remember to carry out thorough risk assessments – both for the group as a whole and with respect to individual group members.*

Right, now Eleanor and I are off to Queens Park to meet up with some friends – separated into groups of no more than six of course!

Keep well and keep safe.

Mike Hood

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 under 'Our Groups' menu

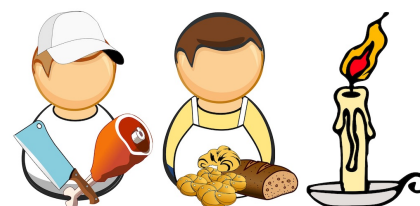
Our Monthly Meetings

Those of you who attended Kevin Reynolds' talk on dragonflies last month will agree with me, I'm sure, that his talk was both very enjoyable and highly informative. His engaging delivery was laced with humour and fun bits of trivia, and was superbly illustrated with his own beautiful photographs. We all learned a lot about the life cycle of these fascinating insects. Certainly a very hard act to follow (but somehow I'll have to try)...

Next Zoom Meeting: Wednesday 12th August, 2:30 pm

Butcher, Baker, Candlestick Maker A Journey Through Family History with Helen Reid

I have been researching the family histories of myself and my husband for the past 14 years and made some fascinating discoveries along the way about how our ancestors lived and died. Initial curiosity was sparked by the marriage certificate of grandparents I never knew, leading to countless hours searching for information in such places as records offices, on-line databases and graveyards. Over the years, interesting and unexpected stories have emerged, the odd family skeleton has been uncovered, and contacts with many distant cousins all over the world have been established with the aid of on-line family trees and more recently via DNA. This illustrated talk will present some of the highlights of this journey back through time.



IMPORTANT: Zoom sessions are limited to 100 participants and therefore **pre-registration is required. To book your place, please go to the August Monthly meeting page on our website at <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/MonthlyMeetingAug2020.html>** and complete the registration form. For couples planning to attend the presentation using a single computer, tablet or smartphone, only one of you should submit the form. You will see an instant 'pop-up' acknowledgement. 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 9th September, 2:30 pm

For our September talk, another Charnwood U3A member, **Sue Easton**, will transport us back to 1838 and **Queen Victoria's coronation**, when she will treat us to an account by an eye witness to this historic event. More details will be available on our website at <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/MonthlyMeetingSep2020.html>

Looking Further Ahead:

Zoom Meetings will continue for the foreseeable future on the second Wednesday of each month - except December which will be the third Wednesday. Presenters and topics for the rest of the year are:

14th October: James Hassell - Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)

11th November: Sandy Leong - 'As Mad as a Hatter', the origins of sayings

16th December: Andy Smith - 'Under the Influence', a fun talk with songs and anecdotes

More details of these meetings are available on our website under 'Our Meetings'.

Helen Reid

Group News

Zooming and Meeting Outdoors

As mentioned in the Chair's message, and also reported in previous issues of this newsletter, some groups have been meeting via Zoom and/or in small groups outdoors. A brief update is given below.

Among those who have been holding regular Zoom meetings recently are the French Conversation group, the Family History Group and Spanish Conversation. Their Group Leaders (Brian Hinners, Brian Waters and Rosemary Hives respectively) have all reported that their meetings have been going well. It has proved a useful way of keeping in touch and keeping the momentum going.

History 3 held their first Zoom meeting in July and more are planned for the coming months. Whilst Philosophy 2 have ceased Zoom meetings due to IT issues, Philosophy 1's fortnightly Zoom meetings are still going strong, led by Pauline May.



Lorraine Ellison reports that the Textile Art group is continuing to meet, firstly on Zoom, and secondly in gardens doing "Master Classes" in techniques. The first was Dorset Buttons, the second on free motion drawing with the sewing machine, and the third on Sashiko, which is a Japanese style of embroidery.

Stuart Robey reports that a limited number of Badminton members have been meeting to play Badminton and Petanque on Queen's Park and also Table Tennis at home.



Last month it was reported that one or two walking groups were meeting up in small numbers. However, this was misleading: at the moment no U3A walking groups are in action. However a few people who are friends who happen to belong to U3A are meeting to go walking together (keeping at a 2 m distance of course) but not as part of a walking group.

It is heartening to hear of more groups finding their feet with on-line and outdoor meetings, as it seems it will be some time before we can return to normal face-to-face meetings indoors.

To see which groups are holding regular meetings - how and when - please refer to the 'What's Zooming or meeting outdoors' page under the 'Our Meetings' menu on our website at <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/WhatsZooming.html>

Zoom Terminology (or Zoominology?)

ETHEL's group (Exploring the English Language) continues to meet via Zoom on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m.. In preparation for the July meeting, members were asked to make up new English words using any number of prefixes and suffixes. Other groups meeting online may recognise these new coinages:

- **prezooming or prezoomable** = waiting to be allowed into a meeting
- **dezooming** = signing out of a meeting
- **rezooming** = signing back into the meeting after time-out

Alternatively, this one seems to cover it all:

- **diszoombobulation** = the confusion or discomfort in trying to use a Zoom programme.



More Group News

Travel Group Update

Question: how does a travel group cope when there's been nowhere to go?

Answer: believe in the “new normal” and keep planning.



Puglia, Italy

Obviously, our Puglia trip planned for May this year, did not go ahead due to Covid-19 restrictions, but happily, it has been rearranged for May next year.

Although several members pulled out of the trip, the majority of the original group have agreed to the new itinerary, with modified flights.

Our next trip planned for this year was to be to East Yorkshire in September. After much anguish and negotiations by Success Tours on our behalf, the hotel has agreed to transfer our booking, and so the holiday has been moved to September 2022! Even though we are all currently desperate for a break away from home, we have to ensure that all aspects of any holiday are Covid-secure and safe for all involved.

We can now concentrate our efforts on planning trips starting with next year. At a recent Zoom Working Party meeting, trips to Wales, Dublin and Bavaria were among destinations discussed for future travel, although a lot could depend on a reliable vaccine being found.

Meanwhile, members of the Working Party are putting their tech. heads together to see if they can offer a Zoom meeting for members in September.

Watch this space....



*Whitby Abbey, photo by
Kate Watson*

Kate Watson

Earths Angels... and Romantic Whitby

We have some very talented members in our U3A and it's great to recognise such talent.



Many of you will have seen and heard the video of **Earths Angels**, composed and performed by Charnwood U3A member **Ian Maber**. If you remember, I sent out a link to this on 5 July, the anniversary of the founding of the NHS. The piece was specially written in memory of all those who lost their lives saving others during the recent Covid pandemic, and beautifully illustrated with photos taken around the UK. In case you missed it, you can find it on Youtube at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEC_XKOgRkK

There is also a link to this via the Notice Board page of our website.

And there is more... Ian tells me that over two years ago, he wrote a piece of music for his then girlfriend (now his wife) following her first visit to Whitby, where she fell in love with the place. He performed the piece and put it on YouTube with an accompanying film. Called **Romantic Whitby**, you can find it at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5AyTiNiNWvA>

(Also see the photo of Whitby Abbey in the previous article!)

Another beautiful piece. Thank you, Ian. We look forward to your next composition...

Helen Reid

More Charnwood U3A News

genericemailaddresses@charnwoodu3a.org.uk



To click or not to click? That is, unfortunately, all too often the question nowadays. As the cursor hovers above a seemingly innocent email, alarm bells begin to ring. The address looks correct, but the message seems odd. Perhaps it's not from a friend after all. Whether to open or whether to delete – I'm sure we've all faced that dilemma.

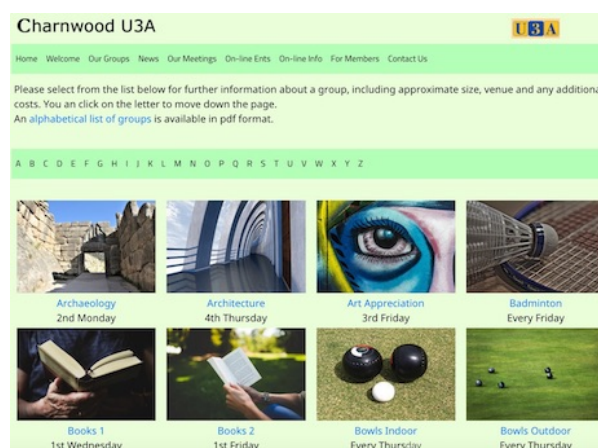
Scamming and phishing are big business for fraudsters, who send out fake email messages in an attempt to gain money or access to personal information. As individuals, we need to be constantly on our guard. As an organisation, CU3A is legally obliged to protect members' contact details and to ensure that data such as email addresses doesn't fall into the wrong hands.

However, while security is of paramount importance, CU3A is always seeking to attract new members and thrives on active participation. Easy access to information about our activities and groups is crucial. The new CU3A website, launched in June, has a key role to play. The Groups pages are not only much brighter and more attractive than previously, but also make it far easier to contact group leaders.

In the past, anyone wishing to get in touch with a group leader had to visit the password-controlled Members' area to obtain contact details. Not any more! While phone numbers are still only available in the Members' area, most leaders (or a nominated group member) can now be emailed directly from the Groups pages. As these are open access, no additional login is required.

How is this compatible with maintaining security? Simply by providing all groups with a generic email address, as already used by Committee members (e.g. mine is groupscoordinator@charnwoodu3a.org.uk). These link to personal email addresses, protecting them from spammers, phishers and their ilk. In addition to being available on the website, the generic addresses can also be used in printed materials, avoiding the need to include personal contact details in any CU3A publicity. When it comes to foiling fraudsters, every little helps, and generic email addresses are definitely a step in the right direction!

Hilary Knowles



Our Notice Boards - a reminder

Further to the appeal in last month's News & Views, we still need a volunteer to take over our notice boards from Graham Cooper, certainly by January and very possibly earlier.

The requirements are listed to the right.

If you can help, please contact Graham on 01509 213675 or gccooper@tiscali.co.uk

(contact details given with permission)



- 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.

News from the National U3A



The Third Age Trust produces a **monthly newsletter**: the latest one (July) can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/yxl8985t> There is also a bitesize edition in PDF format which is easily printable; the latest one (July) can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/y6m2tr3n> if you haven't already done so, you are encouraged to sign up to receive the newsletter directly by email by going to: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>

This month's newsletter features an offer which might interest readers:

We are very pleased to offer U3A members a site wide discount on Bloomsbury books of 30%. U3A members should use code U3A30 at the checkout to obtain this discount at <https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk>

Trust U3A

Trust U3A is an online U3A community launched by the Third Age Trust in April 2020 to meet the continued demand to become a member of the U3A movement while face to face contact is limited. Membership numbers increase daily and there are now 27 interest groups and four additional activities for Trust U3A members to choose from. You can see them at <https://u3asites.org.uk/trustu3a/groups>

Members of an existing U3A can join Trust U3A for a membership fee of just £4 .You can join at: <https://u3asites.org.uk/trustu3a/page/105494>

Quiz Time: *(answers in next month's News & Views)*

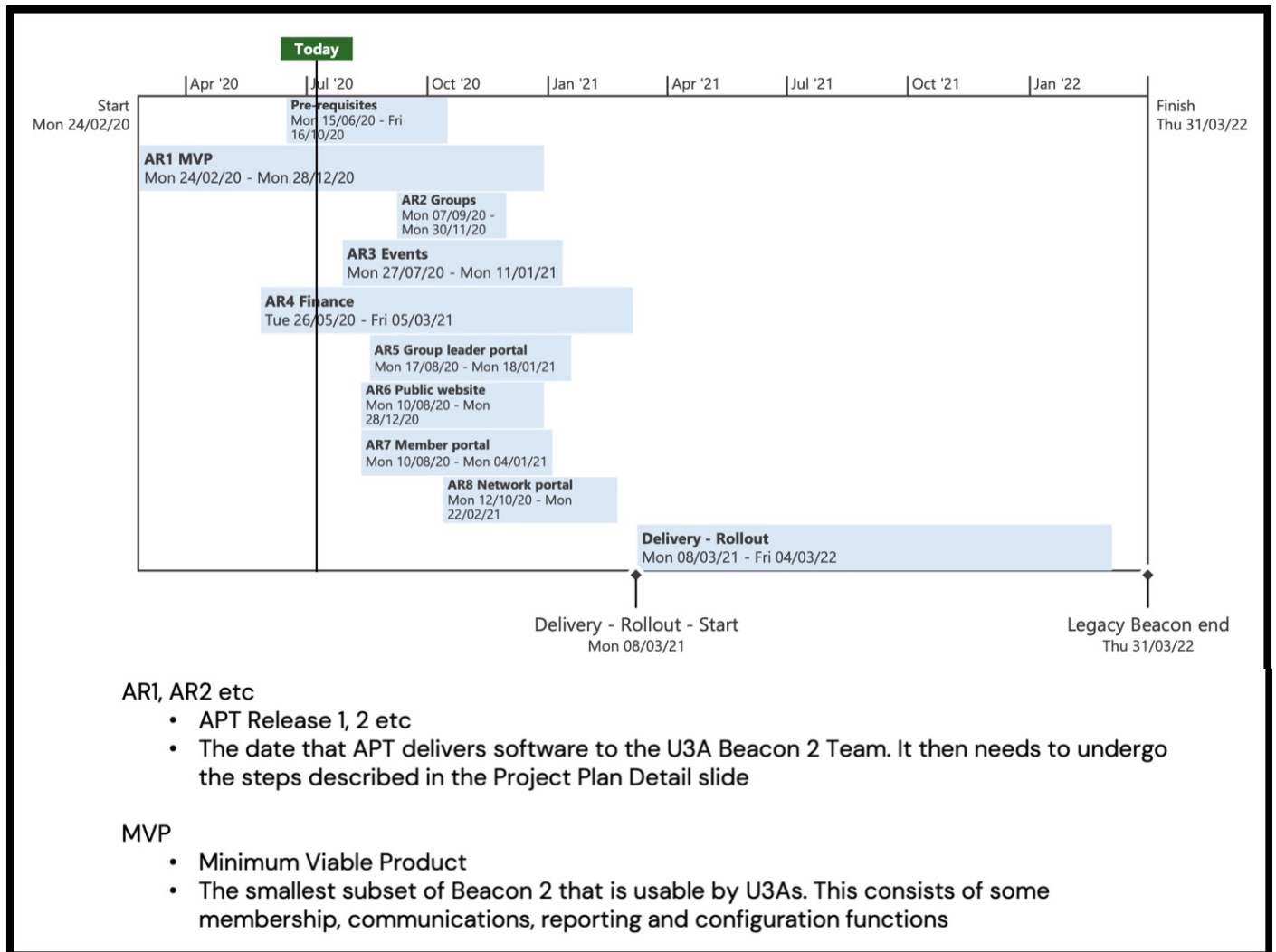
- 1) What is the connection between Handel's Messiah and the tune to Rejoice the Lord is King?
- 2) Ernest Gimson built Stonywell Cottage. What was his profession?
- 3) Which is the last element (number 103) in the Periodic Table?
- 4) Which record was Number 1 on the first Top of the Pops in January 1964?
- 5) Blondie and Atomic Kitten both had No.1s covering which 1967 song by the Paragons?
- 6) Whose statue was recently toppled in Bristol?
- 7) Which Anglo-Saxon King is thought to have been buried at Sutton Hoo?
- 8) Which animal guarded the corpse of St Edmund?
- 9) In which county is Jodrell Bank telescope?
- 10) Who wrote the poem The Lake Isle of Innisfree?
- 11) Which two rivers flow through Lyons?
- 12) Who composed Siegfried Idyll as a gift to his wife on the birth of their child?
- 13) Which is the largest British mammal?
- 14) Who discovered that cholera originated in contaminated water?
- 15) Who identified the force of gravity?
- 16) Which is the only non-English football team to have won the F.A. Cup?
- 17) What sport do Loughborough Lightning play?
- 18) Which French cathedral suffered a major fire in July 2020?
- 19) How much in cents is one dime worth in the U.S.A.?
- 20) Who was the Chinese doctor who first discovered the Coronavirus?



Beacon Upgrade - Status Report

Schedule

The latest Status Report (<https://beacon.u3a.org.uk/2020/07/13/>) from the Beacon Upgrade team was published on 13th July. It announced a slippage in the schedule with rollout not now expected until March 2021. This is partly due to the effect of the Covid-19 restrictions, which has slowed progress somewhat, and partly the result of a need to address some misunderstandings between the Third Age Trust and APT.



Specifications

Shortly after the Status Report was published the Software Specifications (<https://tinyurl.com/y6z6m3qv>) were also made available on the Beacon website. Most of the requirements simply describe the functions that are already provided by Beacon 1. New features include support for a wider range of communication methods (e.g. text messages) and the provision of facilities for building a website within Beacon 2. (<https://beacon.u3a.org.uk/>)

Phil Bass
Beacon Administrator

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 September issue of **News & Views** will be **Sunday 30 August (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 and generic email addresses of Group Leaders for each group can be found on that group's dedicated website page, accessed via Our Groups - Groups Listed...

Telephone numbers and personal emails of Group Leaders and Committee Members 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>

