

News & Views



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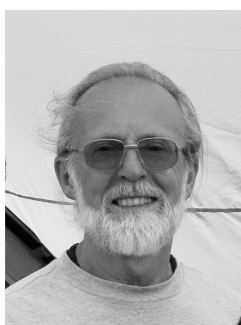
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Welcome

Welcome to the October edition of News & Views, the newsletter of Charnwood U3A. We hope you'll 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 Message from the Chair



We are now past the autumn equinox and, by this time next month, we will be saying goodbye to British Summer-time for another year. On cue, the weather has turned decidedly nippy, so I expect many of you will have turned on your central heating, or at least thought about doing so.

The university and college students are now returning and, from media coverage of what is going on elsewhere in the country, this is an increasingly worrying time for all of us.

But, amidst all of this, your U3A is still alive and well!

At the last count, 17 Interest Groups are now meeting via Zoom – please see the list on the website. With Zoom able to accommodate up to 100 participants, some of these groups will have the spare capacity to welcome you to their meetings. If you see something that looks interesting, contact the respective Group Leader to find out more, including how you can join in.

In addition, now that Community Centres and their like are starting to open, some of our groups have resumed activities, albeit with the requisite reduced numbers and social distancing.

Last, but not least, we have continued (again via Zoom!) to offer a monthly meeting open to all members. These have been well attended and well received. The October talk concerning the RNIB sounds fascinating. You will find more details, including how to join in, on page 2 of this newsletter.

Whilst the past seven months have been trying for many of us, there have been some positive consequences. Having no desire to use public transport, Eleanor and I now regularly walk both into town and back home, so we are probably a bit fitter than we might otherwise have been. And when you do get to the shops, they are usually much quieter than before lockdown – shopping has become almost enjoyable!

We are still getting out for our early morning walks (at a time when most students are still in bed!). When you do meet someone else, usually jogging or walking the dog, it is noticeable how much more friendly most of them are. Unfortunately the largely car-free roads of mid summer are now behind us but, with many people still home working, traffic levels (and the associated pollution) are still relatively low.

Life, currently, may not be quite as we might like it, so we need to make the most of any positives. **will**

Hang on in there – we ~~can~~ get through this!

Keep well and keep safe.

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

In September we enjoyed a fascinating talk by Sue Easton about the coronation of Queen Victoria from the point of view of her great great grandmother Anna Baines. Anna was lucky enough to be in Westminster Abbey that day in 1838 and kept a detailed journal of her experiences, not just of the ceremony itself but of surrounding events. It was particularly interesting to hear how the family made their way down to London from Leeds (where Anna's father was the local MP) - making the journey by sea! - and also how they had to arrive at the Abbey very early in the morning and stay in their seats for 12 hours!

Next Zoom Meeting: Wednesday 14th October, 2:30 pm

A talk by James Hassall, RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People)

James will talk about the history and work of the RNIB, the five common eye conditions that may affect your eyesight and discuss ways to assist those who are visually impaired.

Details are available on our website at:

<https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/MonthlyMeetingOct2020.html>



IMPORTANT: Zoom sessions are limited to 100 participants and therefore **pre-registration is required. To book your place, please go to the October Monthly meeting page on our website at**

<https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/MonthlyMeetingOct2020.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 11th November, 2:30 pm

'As Mad as a Hatter': the origins of sayings with Sandy Leong

Details of this talk can be found on our website and in next month's News & Views.



Looking Further Ahead:

Monthly Meetings via Zoom will continue for the foreseeable future, and details will appear on our website and in this newsletter in due course. For our December meeting, we will be entertained by **Andy Smith** who promises a fun talk with songs and anecdotes. Please note that this will be on the **third Wednesday of the month, i.e. 16th December**, rather than our usual 2nd Wednesday. Make a note in your diary now!

Meetings from January onwards will be announced in future editions of the newsletter, and described on our website once details have been finalised. Please keep an eye on the website for details.

Notice Boards:

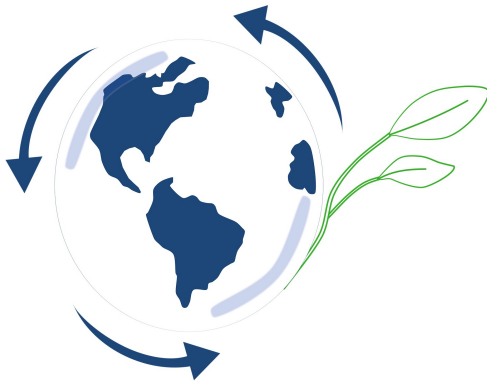
A reminder that we still need a volunteer to look after the notice boards for when we resume meetings at Emmanuel Church. Please see <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/VolunteersWanted.html> for details.

Helen Reid

Group News

Building a Sustainable Future? A Potential U3A Group

We are now in a “decade of action” to achieve global sustainability. Did you know that? Want to find out more?

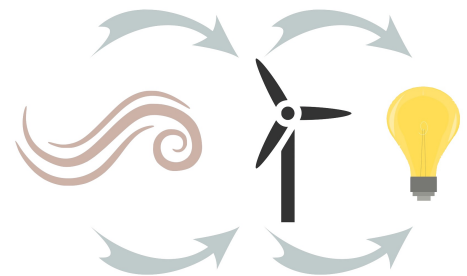


The term “sustainable” crops up more and more nowadays: the Chancellor says that the financial support package for COVID 19 is unsustainable; paper, timber and palm oil are advertised as from sustainable sources. These are recent examples and they clearly mean different things to different people. However, the concept has a long history and sustainability in a wider sense became established, some would say fashionable, about 50 years ago. These were attempts to find a balance among the conflicts that arise from three competing factors: economic development, protecting the environment and promoting social progress.

The early emphasis was on how unrestrained economic growth was damaging the environment and this was often at the expense of the welfare of the population - particularly given the way that these factors were unevenly distributed across the globe. It became a common comparison that if the whole world population had a standard of living equivalent to the USA (which is not the highest) we would need four earth planets to support them. One current estimate is that, if emissions of carbon dioxide are taken into account, our presently uneven distribution of wealth is already consuming 1.5 earths. These are frightening statistics and many think that these issues are at the heart of some of the current political unrest and military conflicts.

More recently, the three conflicting factors have been further refined into 17 Sustainable Development Goals which pick apart the environmental and social issues into more easily understandable messages. The details can be found at <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>.

The UN goals have been agreed by all the UN member governments but the latter cannot achieve them on their own. They can formulate policies, pass legislation and set targets but it will be down to businesses and individuals to make many of the changes required. The 17 Goals were adopted in 2015 with the target of achieving them by 2030. Charnwood U3A members cannot achieve the international Goals on their own but if everyone takes the view that their own small contribution will make no difference and 7.8 billion people come to the same conclusion then the project is doomed to failure!



So, do you want to find out more: what are the issues behind the goals, what are the targets, how do my actions or behaviours need to change if we want to help to achieve them, what might they mean for longer term decisions that affect me or my family? If so then do you want to join a group to understand and debate them?



If you are interested please get in contact. There is a potential initial talk via Zoom planned in 2021 to expand on the idea and see if there is sufficient support but if you want to find out more then don't wait to get in touch.

More Group News

YES, A LIVE U3A VISIT!! [Tuesday September 15th]

We have been starved of U3A visits and outings for so many months now, so it was wonderful to be able to organise a visit to an actual church for a few of the members of the two English Parish Churches Groups. Eleven of us visited St Remegius [a French saint, St Remy] Church at Long Clawson. We put all the right Covid precautions in place, but with the change in regulations/law the day before the visit, I decided to split participants into two groups of five.

Blessed with a beautiful, blue sky late summer morning, the Vale of Belvoir looked at its very best. St Remegius is one of the huge number of ironstone churches to the east of us with their beautiful ginger-coloured stone, and it is one of the many churches in that area where it is worth exploring the churchyard to find examples of the so-called Belvoir Angels, a distinctively local style of stylised angels carved on 18th century Swithland slate gravestones.



But it was two very recent stained-glass windows designed by Pippa Blackall which took us there. One, dating from 2016, shows the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist and is positioned, very suitably, above the font (*see picture, left*). It is the sort of window which the more you look the more you see because it is full of Biblical references and of long-established Christian symbolism.

The other (*pictured below*) has Creation as its theme and is another superb composition, commissioned in 2018, so one of the most recent stained glass windows in the Leicester Diocese. Both groups loved this one in particular: a stunning composition in every sense, full of colour and beauty, and a winner I guess for people of all ages.

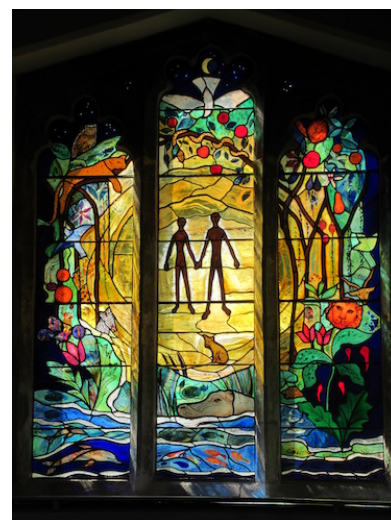
My own verdict is that these are two outstanding windows, well worth driving out to the Vale of Belvoir to see. If you want to do that, the church is usually open every day – yes, still!

Here are two comments in emails I received afterwards which made this so worthwhile:

What a wonderful outing! Thank you so very much for organising it. I can only encourage you to offer more of these wonderful experiences. It really is a life saver/life enhancer in these grim times.

Thanks for a wonderful morning. It was so good on many levels. Just to have some semblance of normality in the mini group and of course the stained glass. Magnificent. Definitely somewhere to take a visitor.

Roger Willson



More Group News

The Travel Group is Zooming!

The Travel Group has been ‘zooming along’ with its first virtual session on 10th Sept with 38 participants attending, and it was the first time many of us had “seen” each other since March. Led by Ann Maddocks, the Working Party had felt it was time the group’s members knew if we would be travelling anywhere anytime soon!

And it wasn’t all bad news...

The Puglia holiday planned for May this year has been moved to May 2021 and many of those 36 who had originally booked are eagerly looking forward to it, although there are now a few vacancies for newcomers.

The North Wales itinerary planned for July this year has now been moved to July 2021 and flyers with details and booking forms will be available before the end of the year.



Puglia, Italy

There will also be a long-discussed Southern Ireland visit in October next year, with four nights’ accommodation in Killarney and two just outside Dublin. The trip includes touring around the Ring of Kerry, Blarney Castle and the Blarney Stone, Tralee, Limerick and with time to explore Dublin.

We should have been leaving this September for an East Yorkshire ‘special’ organised by Roger Willson, but as that was not possible in the current situation, he has agreed to carry it over to 2022!

As members now understandably have asked for shorter holidays or city breaks or trips nearer home in the future, the Working Party is looking into possible destinations ranging from Dorset to Vienna. Any suggestions are always welcome.

Another piece of good news is that it was decided that there will be no fee to join the Travel Group next year!

Our Zoom meeting finished with a delightful presentation by Malcolm showing us many beautiful photos taken on his numerous trips to Venice. It certainly made those zooming eager to start travelling again once we get back to “normal” let’s hope that won’t be long.

Kate Watson



Venice, Italy.
Photo copyright Malcolm Coulson

... And Yet More Group News

Local History

The first Autumn Zoom meeting of the Local History Group provided a fascinating insight into the changes in the local area through the eyes of members, illustrated by some fabulous 'then and now' photographs.

The next two meetings - keeping to their usual 4th Monday of the month and starting at 2 pm - are:

26th Oct - 'The Quilt made in connection with Loughborough Carillon' - a talk by Deborah Moxom

23rd Nov - 'Public Heath and Archdeacon Fearon'- a talk by Dr Pamela Fisher from Leicestershire Victoria County History

As there are no room size restrictions - other than the 100 person limit imposed by Zoom - any Charnwood U3A member is welcome to join. If you wish to do so and haven't previously contacted Anne, please email her on annep.speight@outlook.com. She will send the Zoom link shortly before each session.

News from the National U3A



The Third Age Trust (TAT) produces a **monthly newsletter**: 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>.

The latest issue (September) is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/y2eaxgn7>

Previous issues can be accessed from the archive section at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/about/newsletter>

There is also a bitesize edition in PDF format which is easily printable; the latest one (September) can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/y42nnu9d>

TAT also publishes an on-line journal called '**Sources**'. You can access this at <http://sources.u3a.org.uk/>

IMPORTANT: **Third Age Trust Revised Advice for Restarting Group Activities**

The Third Age Trust has updated its **advice for restarting face-to-face group activities**. The guidelines, issued on 21st September, advise that the government's "Rule of 6" applies across the board and that all members should carry out a personal risk assessment before deciding to join in any activity.

The full guidance can be accessed under *Our Groups - Introduction* on the CU3A website (www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk).

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Introduction

U3A/IAM Webinar: Driving Safely After Lockdown



A webinar was held on 26th August by the Institute of Advanced Motorists, to support U3A members in the East Midlands who have not done much driving over the last few months. Notice of this reached me too late to publicise in News & Views, but for anyone who was unable to join the seminar, it was recorded and is now available on YouTube as a private listing for viewing by U3A members only, using this link:

<https://youtu.be/lqSQzOQn0gg>

(Note: you don't need to prove you are a U3A member to view the video, simply click on the above link to play it).

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

- 1) Much of the action in a BBC sitcom takes place in which French cafe?
- 2) Which supermarket chain introduced the Nutmeg clothing brand in 2013?
- 3) On what date did the first live BBC Promenade concert take place in 2020?
- 4) Which two countries will co-host the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup?
- 5) Which revolutionary party was founded in Oakland, California by Bobby Seale and Huey Newton?
- 6) What is the regulation diameter of a standard basketball hoop in inches?
- 7) By land area, which is the largest country in Africa?
- 8) "The Best Is Yet To Come" is on the tombstone of which American crooner?
- 9) Who was Abraham Lincoln's main opponent in the 1864 presidential election?
- 10) Geographically, what makes Belize unique amongst Central American nations?
- 11) Jodie Foster played a speakeasy chanteuse in which 1976 Alan Parker film musical ?
- 12) Which means of surface transport do East Sussex, Herefordshire, Dorset and Suffolk not have?
- 13) In 1987 Princess Anne became the seventh holder of what title?
- 14) What is the main gas in firedamp?
- 15) In which South American country were the "disappeared children"?
- 16) What is the oldest object in the Crown Jewels?
- 17) In statistics, what is a moving average?
- 18) What is the nationality of the president of The Royal Society?
- 19) Which composer wrote the opera "Gloriana" and for what celebration?
- 20) What "double" can only be made in one UK county but the "single" can be made anywhere?



IT Help Available



If you have visited our website recently (www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk), you will notice there is a new 'Help with IT' heading on the main menu bar.

The Help Desk option gives you details of who to contact if you need help with any IT problems you may have.

You can also access written guidance on various aspects of the use of IT via the IT Guides option.

Home Welcome Our Groups News Our Meetings On-line Ents On-line Info For Members

Help with IT Contact Us ;

No need to rely on your friends and family...

Don't be embarrassed to ask for our help, which is at your own pace, and as much or as little as you want. No tests, no prizes, just friendly help.

IT Help Desk

IT Guides

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 November issue of **News & Views** will be **Friday 30th October (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, for those without email, 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...

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>

