

# News & Views


 Newsletter

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## 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](http://www.u3a.org.uk) You are strongly encouraged to pay a visit!

## Interest Groups

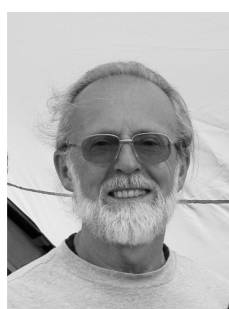
Details of Groups can be found on the Charnwood u3a website: [www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk](http://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk) under 'Our Groups' menu.

## Welcome

Welcome to the New Year 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



At last, 2020 is behind us. I suspect, like me, many of you are glad to see the back of it.

To think that at this time last year none of us had heard of Covid 19. Plans (holidays, visits to friends and family, u3a meetings) were being made and, by and large, life was good. I took over the Chair in March and, although *some* disruption was expected, I certainly had not anticipated my first official duty would, sadly, be to inform you all meetings were cancelled!

But we are a resilient lot and, as the government advice/rules allowed, we found ways to keep our groups active. Some outdoor meetings recommenced in accord with the 'rule of six' (another new term to most of us).

Meanwhile, others embraced the joys (!) of Zooming. Yes, there were a few teething problems first off, but most users seem now to be comfortable with it. I, like many of you, have also been using this medium to keep in touch with friends and family – a Godsend indeed!

It was expected, due to the inability of many of our groups to meet in any form, that we would lose many of our members when it came time to renew. However, I am very pleased to report that over 90% of you have stayed with us! This is way beyond my expectation, and testament to your loyalty. Thank you.

What can we look forward to in 2021?

As long as we remain in tier 4, physical meetings, in any form, are off the table, so we will have to make do with Zoom for a little while yet.

On the positive side, now that two vaccines have been approved, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Most of us will be amongst the earlier groups invited to have the vaccine (*see important information about this on page 9*), so I am hopeful we will be in the clear by the middle of the year and, with any luck, maybe earlier.

So hang on in there – we will get through this.

Happy New Year to you all.  
As ever, keep well and keep safe,

Mike Hood

## Our Programme of Monthly Meetings



*A message from our new Programme Secretary, Graham Cooper.*

Effective from this month, I take over as your Programme Secretary. That is, I book the monthly speakers for Charnwood u3a and seek your Committee's approval.

I succeed Neil Rowbotham and I would like to record my own thanks for the work he did and the sound advice he gave me. I am sure all who know him would concur.

Our monthly meetings are the only formal opportunity when our large membership of about one thousand is able to get together. I view these meetings as an opportunity for social interaction as well as listening to a personable speaker on a good subject. The inevitable u3a cup of tea is provided plus the bonus of a biscuit. Where would u3a be without the ubiquitous cup of tea?

However we live in unique times and, like most of our monthly meetings last year, we are continuing with online (Zoom) meetings for the foreseeable future in 2021. So making your own cup of tea is the order of the day!

We have our first four speakers booked for this year and some future speakers are pending. Below is the speaker/subject information with more detail of our first this month on the next page. I propose giving information on the current month's speaker in each edition of "New and Views".

I am not short of possible speakers, many in what I would call the "professional" category. However it does not follow that such speakers and their subjects are better than any other. Do, please, let me know of speakers; my contact details are below. Bear in mind the following criteria....

- **Subject**
- **Availability on the afternoon of the second Wednesday of each month**
- **Speaking for about forty-five minutes**
- **Willingness to accept questions**
- **Visuals are always an asset. Powerpoint, yes**
- **Good humour retains attention**

*Also, if you can, indicate a likely fee and travelling expenses and please let me have their contact details. Bear in mind u3a is non partisan in politics and religion but that does not exclude politicians or faith leaders from joining us. After all they tend to be good speakers!*



Do feed any comments to me please.

Thank you

Graham Cooper, Programme Secretary  
tel: 01509 213675, email: [programmsec@charnwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto:programmsec@charnwoodu3a.org.uk)

### Monthly Meeting Speakers January - April 2021

*(always the afternoon of the second Wednesday, starting at 2:30 pm)*

- **January 13th: "A Day in the Life of a Bishop" - Rt. Reverend Martyn Snow, Bishop of Leicester**
- **February 10th: "Sustaining the Planet" - Brian Waters**
- **March 10th: "Around the Round" - Malcolm Otter**
- **April 14th: "The Many Behind the Few" - David Skillen**

## More on Our Monthly Meetings

### Our Previous Speaker

In December, musician Andy Smith entertained us by singing songs whilst playing a variety of stringed instruments - guitars, banjo, mandolin and ukelele - interspersed with amusing anecdotes, many with a seasonal flavour. The songs were mainly well-known favourites we could sing along to, but a highlight was his own composition, the very moving 'When all is said and done' written for his late wife. This accomplished musician and interesting storyteller made for an enjoyable pre-Christmas meeting.

### Our Next Speaker, The Bishop of Leicester

We are fortunate to have the Rt. Reverend Martyn Snow with us for the first monthly meeting of 2021, **on Wednesday 13th January, at 2:30 pm.**

Amongst fellow diocesan bishops, Martyn Snow has a rather unusual background...he was born in Indonesia and studied chemistry at university. He studied for ordination at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. Periods as Bishop of Tewkesbury and as acting Bishop of Gloucester followed.

Bishop Martyn was installed as Bishop of Leicester in 2016, succeeding Bishop Tim Stevens, and was the Church of England's youngest bishop at the time. For the last four years he has sat on the Church of England's national safeguarding steering group. He is married with three children.



During his time with us I know he would prefer to "talk less", answer questions more, so please, fellow members, go into Zoom armed with a question.



**IMPORTANT:** Zoom sessions are limited to 100 participants and therefore **pre-registration is required.**  
**To book your place, please go to the January Monthly meeting page on our website at**  
<https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/MonthlyMeetingJan2021.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 Further Ahead:

Further information about our meetings for February to April 2021 is available on our website under 'Our Meetings' for the relevant month. Registration forms will appear on these pages shortly after the previous month's meeting has passed.

## Group News

### Travel Group

The Travel Group has been having our meetings (once every 2 months) via Zoom; our last one, in November, saw 52 members joining in. Our meetings always start with members taking full advantage of the opportunity to catch up on any 'gossip' with friends who haven't been seen for months! We then pass on the usual 'business' news (now very brief as we're not going anywhere!) but we always have a presentation of a destination that's been visited and may be of interest. (I managed to fit in a trip to India just before the first lockdown, so I shared my holiday snapshots!!.....amazingly, nobody had logged off when I returned to Gallery View!)



Our next Zoom meeting is on **Thursday 14th January**, when I will be showing photos from our last Travel Group holiday to Morocco in January of this year!! We do have plans for holidays in 2021 (they are this year's postponed trips to Puglia, N.Wales and S.Ireland) and are very hopeful that these will go ahead....bring on those vaccines!!!

Ann Maddocks (Group Leader)

### Science & Technology Groups

Science & Technology 2 will be holding their next meeting via Zoom on Thursday 7th January at 10 am, when Mike Gillingham will be talking about 'Pipelines under the Ocean'. All are welcome.

Enquiries to: Roy Faulkner, [SciTech2@charnwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto:SciTech2@charnwoodu3a.org.uk)



Also on **7th January**, at **2 pm**, **Science & Technology 1** are holding a Zoom meeting when John Bell will offer '**An introduction to Vaccinology, a Cinderella science to save the world**'.

Penicillin miraculously saved uncountable lives in WW2. Faced with SARS Cov-2 it is powerless. In 2020 the world has turned to the Cinderella science of vaccinology for salvation.

This presentation will trace the emergence of the science of vaccines from a 19th century physician's courageous development of a defence against smallpox, through the discovery of the structure of DNA in Cambridge by Watson & Crick, the subsequent disentanglement of the mechanism of inheritance, and understanding of the code of life.

The science underpins President Trump's (and a million others) warp speed programmes, resulting in new 21st century mRNA vaccines. The journey involves visiting the immune system, virus and bacteria, how vaccines are made, and what is DNA and mRNA. The current major players, the Oxford AstraZeneca, the BioNTec-Pfizer and Moderna vaccines will be discussed, and what the future might hold.

Enquiries to: Janet Butlin, [SciTech1@charnwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto:SciTech1@charnwoodu3a.org.uk)

Janet Butlin, Roy Faulkner, John Bell

### Family History

The Family History Group last met on Zoom in December to introduce our ancestors in the East Midlands. Despite roots from all over the country, many members had at least one relatively local relative to talk about.

Our next meeting is on Zoom on **Wednesday January 20th at 2 pm**. The topic is "**Migration of our ancestors within the UK**". Why and when did they move; where from and to? Were they looking for work, following the railways or escaping from a difficult family environment?

If you would like to join us, please let me know.



Brian Waters

[FamilyHistory@charnwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto:FamilyHistory@charnwoodu3a.org.uk)



## More Group News

### Ethel's Christmas Quiz

ETHEL members donned their festive headgear to take part in an entertaining, stimulating and, at times, downright daft Christmas Zoom quiz. The meeting terminated (fell apart?) in a flurry of cracker jokes, the more cerebral of which included:

Q: What do you call Santa's little helpers?  
A: Subordinate clauses



Q: Who led the Pedants' Revolt?  
A: Which Tyler

ETHEL is looking forward to meeting everybody properly (sometime) in 2021 when, as a member said, it will be nice to see our bottom halves. In Ethel's case there will probably be a lot more of it!

In the meantime, ETHEL's next Zoom meeting is on **26th January at 10.00**.

Pam Upton

## Local History

In 2021 the U3A Local History group will continue on Zoom in much the same way as it did in 2020. We meet on the **4th Monday of the month**. Both long standing members and new friends are most welcome. If you have not attended a local history Zoom meeting before, but would like to do so, please contact me by email.

Our dates in 2021 are Mondays at 2pm - 25th January, 22 February, 22 March, 26th April and 24th May.

In **January** we will have a mini and very informal AGM, taking no more than 10 minutes! Basically, we'll recap the year and outline the plan for 2021. If you have any suggestions for local history topics or of possible speakers, please send to me by email. In January 2021 by far the biggest part of the meeting will be about the **'History of Loughborough Cemetery'** and in particular about 5 famous local people who are buried there. If you wish to research a mini-biography, I can give you a name, a photo of their gravestone, possibly a bit from a census or newspaper obituary - all to get you going. If you could talk for about 10 minutes, that would be great. I'll do some visuals, so that whilst you are talking, there will be some pictures on the screen. Please don't be shy to come forward. We have used this format on Zoom before and it has proved very successful.



Anne Speight  
Leader of Local History Group  
[annep.speight@outlook.com](mailto:annep.speight@outlook.com)

## Art Appreciation



The Art Appreciation Group have celebrated the month of December with a "Virtual Advent Calendar". Members have selected paintings relevant to the Christmas season (religious or secular) which they particularly like. These have been emailed out each day to the group. A daily dose of Art can certainly lift your spirits during the long dark days of winter.

Sue Palmer

## English Parish Churches

The two EPC groups both have Zoom meetings on the second Tuesday of the month, EPC1 starting at 10 am, and EPC2 starting at 2 pm. In both cases, other members of u3a would be welcome. Enquiries to [EngParishChurches2@charnwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto:EngParishChurches2@charnwoodu3a.org.uk). This month's meetings on **12th January** are as follows:

10 am: Church history: Becket 1170/1220-2020, his assassination and the pilgrimage which followed

2 pm: Church history: the conversion of Southern England, 597 onwards

Roger Willson

## January 2021 Meetings via Zoom

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5 Philosophy 2 pm	6 German Conversation, 10 am	7 SciTech2,10am SciTech1, 2pm	8	9
10	11	12 English Parish Churches 1&2, 10 am & 2 pm	13 Monthly General Meet- ing, 2.30 pm	14 Travel Group, 10.30 am	15	16
17	18	19 Philosophy 2 pm	20 German Cony ersation,10 am Family History, 2 pm	21	22	23
24	25 Local History 2 pm	26 ETHEL, 10 am	27 History 3, 10 am	28 Group Leaders meeting, 2pm	29	30
31						

Some of the above meetings may be open to non-members of the group. Please check with the group leader if interested. For more information about these meetings, please see the Group News and Monthly Meetings sections of this newsletter and the Our Groups-What's Zooming? page on our website at <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/WhatsZooming.html>

If Group Leaders would like to send dates/times of their planned meetings in February to the Editor at [newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk), these will be included in next month's calendar. We hope you find this new feature useful, both now and in the future when we return to normal meetings.

## Group Leaders Meeting

It is proposed to hold a Group Leaders Meeting via Zoom on **Thursday 28th January at 2 pm.**

This will be an opportunity for Group Leaders to share ideas until we can once again meet face to face. The hope is that we will be able to support each other and plan for when normality returns.

It is hoped that the Agenda will consist largely of items suggested by Group Leaders, who have already been asked by the Groups Co-ordinator, Hilary Knowles, to send in topics for discussion. If you have an issue which you'd like discussed and haven't yet contacted Hilary about it, you are invited to email her at [groupscoordinator@charnwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupscoordinator@charnwoodu3a.org.uk)



The Agenda, along with further details of the meeting, will be circulated to Group Leaders in early January.

## Network News



### **Engaging With Non-Internet Users - Thursday 14th January 2021, 10 am**

The aim of this meeting is to get together u3a members - group leaders, committee members and individual members - to build a toolkit of practical ways to support individual u3as, interest groups and u3a members who are concerned about using “technical” methods of communication.

To make this work, the Network organisers are looking for those who would like some help, as well as those who can provide help, to take part. Though the meeting will be on the Zoom platform, anyone with a phone can dial in to add their concerns and views, or pass them to committee members to pass on for them. Registration for this event is not necessary to encourage those nervous of technology to contribute.

#### **Here are the contact details:**

Topic: Engaging with non-IT members

Time: Thursday January 14th, 2021 – 10:00am start – login from 09:45am

Join Zoom Meeting – click on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87659860083?pwd=N0ZPU2QxWnF4bzVtaXc2aWdjNGZwQT09>

Or join using the Zoom App by entering:

Meeting ID: 876 5986 0083 and your name. Passcode: 325438

To join from your phone (audio only) call 0203 481 5237 or 0203 481 5240

Meeting ID: 876 5986 0083. Passcode: 325438

Note: These are not freephone numbers; you will be charged your normal provider rate.



## News from the National u3a



**PR Advisers wanted: Do you want to help raise the profile of u3as in your part of the world, and support the national campaign to celebrate and promote awareness of the u3a movement?**

The Third Age Trust are looking for volunteers with knowledge and experience of working in a PR, media or marketing capacity to join their Regional Team and be linked to the national Communications Team.

The role is home based but could include travel around the region or country, as necessary. Most meetings will be conducted online but occasional team meetings in London (when permitted) will be required, but no more than twice a year. Expenses will be paid under the Expense Policy of the Trust.

For an informal discussion – *even if you feel you could only do part of this role* - contact Sue Stokes, Chair of Communications and External Affairs: email [sue.stokes@u3a.org.uk](mailto:sue.stokes@u3a.org.uk) or call 07931 865903

#### **National u3a Newsletter:**

To register to receive the National u3a newsletter, go to: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>

The latest issue (December) is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/y9p3rdbw>

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 (December) can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/yajyar3z>

#### **Radio Podcasts:**

Recently the u3a have started broadcasting radio podcasts at monthly intervals, each about 30 minutes in length, presented very professionally by Nick Bailey and containing some interesting items. Episodes 1-3 of these podcasts are now available to listen to at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrqc8qYDZ4U24lq0J4qx0fQ>

## Answers to Last Month's Quiz

- 1) In the carol *The Holly and the Ivy* how many times is the ivy mentioned? **Once**
- 2) Which Roman festival was held round about 25th December? **Saturnalia**
- 3) Which of the Synoptic Gospels does not mention the Birth of Jesus? **St Mark's**
- 4) Which Saint is remembered on 26th December? **St Stephen**
- 5) Which actress played Meg Mortimer (Richardson/Ryder) in *Crossroads*? **Noele Gordon**
- 6) When is Christmas day in Russia? **7th January**
- 7) When was Christmas banned in England? **1647**
- 8) Which was the first song transmitted from space? **Jingle Bells**
- 9) Which plant's name derives from an Anglo-Saxon phrase meaning "dung on a stick"? **Mistletoe**
- 10) Who traditionally created the first Nativity scene? **St Francis of Assisi**
- 11) Who played Scrooge in the 1951 film of that name? **Alastair Sim**
- 12) Who played Scrooge in the *Muppet's Christmas Carol* (1992)? **Michael Caine**
- 13) Which Hunt met in Loughborough on Boxing Day? **Quorn**
- 14) "Coaches plied from Westminster to the Temple, and from several other staires to and fro, as in the streetes, sliding with skeetes, a bull-baiting, horse and coach races, puppet plays and interludes, cookes, tipling and other lewd places, so that it seemed a bacchanalian triumph or carnival on the water, whilst it was a severe judgement on the land, the trees not onely splitting as if lightning-struck, but men and cattle perishing in divers[e] places, and the very seas so lock'd up with ice, that no vessels could stir out or come in" is a description of which London event in 1683/4?  
**The Frost (Blanket) Fair**
- 15) Where in Australia does a Test Match traditionally start on Boxing Day? **Melbourne**
- 16) Before which festival in U.S.A. does the President pardon a turkey? **Thanksgiving**
- 17) The tune of *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* was adapted from a tune by which composer?  
**Mendelssohn**
- 18) Which King of England was crowned on Christmas Day? **William I**
- 19) What was traditionally partly burnt on the Twelve Days of Christmas and then placed beneath the bed for luck? **Yule Log**
- 20) 'Adeste Fideles' are the first words in Latin of which carol? **O Come All Ye Faithful**



## SOULMATES

Where are you?  
Gone without trace!

Even your face  
Dims in my mind.  
How can I find  
The peace that came  
When I spoke your name  
In my last greeting,  
At our last meeting?  
Four times we met, in company,  
I and you, you and me.

Nearer we drew,  
Until we knew  
Our rendez-vous  
Was *deja-vu*.

Sweetheart? Lover?  
Sister? Brother?  
Lost and found,  
Eternally bound,  
Yet parted again.  
Biding till when  
Our time is due.

But where are you?

Copyright Louie Carr, 2001.  
Published in *Yorkshire 2001 Poetry Now*, 2001.  
HB ISBN 0 75432 509 1  
SB ISBN 0 75432 510 5





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## Covid Vaccinations - Important Information

We have been advised of the following plea from NHS staff:

***‘Please, please, please, make sure you or your family find your NHS number and that you have a copy of it immediately to hand for when you are called for the Covid jab. From the staff on the front line this is far and away the biggest bottleneck when it comes to administering the vaccine to as many people as quickly as possible.’***

According to the government website, when it is the right time for you, you will receive an invitation to come forward and told where to go and what to do. For most people this will be a letter, either from their GP or the national NHS.

This letter will include all the information you will need to book appointments, including your NHS number. When you book, you will need:

- **your name and date of birth**
- **your NHS number**

If you want to look up your NHS number see

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/about-the-nhs/what-is-an-nhs-number/>

Alternatively, If you are unable to access this site, your number will be included on any recent prescription, hospital letter, etc.

An NHS number is a 10-digit number, like 485 777 3456.

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## Warning: Covid Vaccination Scam

We are aware that some people are receiving fraudulent calls and text messages offering the COVID-19 vaccination. In some cases, people are asked to press a number on their keypad or to send a text message to confirm they wish to receive the vaccine. Doing so is likely to result in a charge being applied to their phone bill. In other cases, callers are offering the vaccine for a fee or asking for bank details.

**People are warned to be alert to these scams.**

The vaccine is only available from the NHS and the NHS will contact you when it is your turn. At present, appointments are only being offered to the public over 80 years old.

The NHS will NEVER ask you to press a button on your keypad or send a text to confirm you want the vaccine, and NEVER ask for payment or for your bank details.

If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you believe you have been the victim of fraud or identity theft you should report this directly to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

*(text reproduced from Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust website, news item dated 17 Dec 2020)*

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## Items for News & Views

Do you have an announcement, story, poem - or even a short comment - to share with your fellow Cu3a 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 February issue of **News & Views** will be **Saturday 30th January (12 noon)**.



Please send your contributions to the Newsletter Editor at: [newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto: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 email link - or, for those without email, by post - before the monthly meeting. It is also available to read on the Charnwood u3a website each month at [www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk](http://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 of 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](http://www.eastmidlandsu3as.org.uk)

Leicestershire and Rutland Network: [www.landru3a.org.uk](http://www.landru3a.org.uk)

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

