

News & Views


 Newsletter

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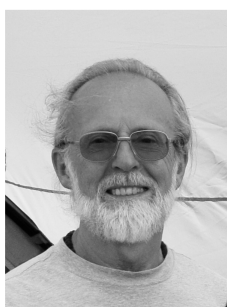
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Interest Groups

Details of Groups can be found on the Charnwood u3a website:
www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk
 under 'Our Groups' menu.

Welcome

Welcome to the March 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

As you will see elsewhere in this issue, we will be holding our AGM in April.

This will be an opportunity for members to join the Committee. But I am sure many of you will be thinking: what is the Committee for, and what does it do? Here are a few answers.

The Third Age Trust (TAT) identify the following key responsibilities:-

- Ensure your charity is carrying out its purpose for the public benefit
- Comply with your charity's governing document and the law
- Act in your charity's best interests
- Manage your charity's resources responsibly
- Act with reasonable care and skill
- Ensure your charity is accountable

Phew! Sounds daunting doesn't it? So, let's have a look at what that actually means.

Like it or not, all u3as are charities and as such must comply with the requirements of The Charity Commission. This means that all Committee members are Trustees, and thus responsible for the governance of the u3a including directing how it is managed and run.

To continue in existence we must have a Chair, a Treasurer and a Business Secretary, plus as many Committee members as required by the Constitution – in the case of Charnwood u3a (Cu3a) that is another four.

But, in the best interest of our members, there are many roles that need filling, so we allow up to 14 Committee members in total. Some of these roles do not HAVE to be filled by Committee members but, as regular reporting is needed, this is usually the case.

Here are those roles, and an outline of what they involve:

Groups Coordinator

This role is the linchpin between the Committee and your groups. They will keep Group Leaders informed on relevant information relating to group activities; in normal times this will have originated from the Committee or from TAT. Over the past year this has also included advice relating to lockdown restrictions.

In a nutshell, the Groups Coordinator assists, whenever possible, in the smooth running of your group.

/continued...

Message from the Chair continued...

Membership Secretary

The main tasks are to enrol new members, renew the membership of existing members and keep membership records up to date. These functions have now been somewhat simplified by the use of Beacon which is, in essence, a secure membership database.

Beacon Administrator

In addition to Committee members, Beacon is now used by most of our Group Leaders. Problems using Beacon occasionally arise – e.g. the system has crashed (!) or log-on passwords have been forgotten. This is the person who can help you.

The post holder also has the very important duty of ensuring that the data being held is secure. This, in part, involves setting privileges, as needed, to system users.



Newsletter Editor and Website Manager

Two very different roles but both fundamental in ensuring that we are all informed of what is going on in Cu3a. Newsletter Editor is, arguably, the simpler of these roles – just collect contributions from the members and arrange them to look pretty. There is of course a lot more to it than that, as any of you with experience of desktop publishing will be aware.

Whereas editing the newsletter can be seen as a once a month activity, maintaining the website is much more iterative, requiring regular and frequent updates. Rarely is it more than a day or two out of date!

Programme Secretary

Enjoying a good speaker at our monthly meetings is a highlight for many of our members, so this is an important role. Engaging each speaker is just the start. In addition, fees/expenses are agreed; equipment requirements are determined; prior contact is made – to make sure they are coming!; a follow-up thank you is sent.

Committee Member

They may not have a specific role, but Committee Members play an important part in decision making. All will bring their own viewpoint to any discussion and, of course, they are entitled to vote as and when such is required.

That then leaves the officers.



Treasurer

This role carries day to day responsibility for our finances, and so involves regular contact with many Group Leaders. It is also important that we remain financially solvent, so keeping accurate accounts and preparing annual budget forecasts – including recommended subscriptions – are essential duties.

Business Secretary

This is our organiser, and an ideal candidate will be systematic, diplomatic, approachable, clear thinking and calm under pressure. This person will usually be the point of contact for TAT and The Charity Commission, so they will ensure that any important or interesting information is passed on to the Committee and/or membership as appropriate.

Chair

This role can be briefly summed up as keeping order at meetings, and taking responsibility when things go wrong!

So there you have it – a very brief overview of the Committee, detailing just some of the things it gets up to. Being on the Committee can be rewarding and enjoyable, but this is not the main motivation. We all want Cu3a to continue as a thriving educational (and social) organisation, and for you, the members, to get full benefit from the wonderful experiences it can offer.



Perhaps you would like to join us. If so, I can assure you of a warm welcome.

Mike Hood
Chair, Charnwood u3a

Our Monthly Meetings

Sustaining the Planet

On 10th February, we enjoyed a very interesting and informative talk on Sustainability, given by Charnwood u3a member Brian Waters. This attracted the biggest audience so far for our monthly Zoom meetings, perhaps not surprisingly, given the importance of the topic. The talk prompted a large number of posts in the 'chat', with the Q & A session lasting longer than the talk itself!

Following on from this talk, a new group is being formed to address this vital topic. If you want to register your interest in joining a group on sustainability please contact Brian, SustainPlanet@charnwoodu3a.org.uk



Next Zoom Meeting: Wednesday 10th March, 2:30 pm 'Around the Round' with Malcolm Otter

This month our speaker is again one of our own members, Malcolm Otter, who will present an illustrated talk on walking the 100+ miles of our closest long distance walk.

Malcolm retired early at 60 in 2012 and has been a member of Cu3a since 2013, and coordinator of Little Extras walking group for 7 years. He has been a keen walker, mountaineer and traveller for many years, with walking trips throughout the UK - notably completing the 284 Munros (mountains over 3000 feet in Scotland) in 2015. He has walked and climbed in the Himalaya many times - Pakistan, Indian and Nepal - and completed a memorable World Tour in 1986, visiting many countries and mountain ranges of the world and has continued travelling since he married Mary in 1988.



IMPORTANT: Places in Zoom sessions are limited, so to ensure your place, **pre-registration is required by Monday 8th March.** To book your place, please go to the **March Monthly meeting page on our website at**

<https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/MonthlyMeetingMar2021.html> and complete the registration form before the deadline.

For couples planning to attend the presentation using a single computer, tablet or smartphone, only one of you should submit the form. You will receive an email confirming your booking.

An invitation to join the meeting will then be emailed the day before the meeting to all those who have pre-registered. Late registrations will be accepted only if there are places still available.

Advance Notice: AGM, 14th April 2021, 2:30 pm

Our April meeting will include our **Annual General Meeting**, as well as a talk by **David Skillen** entitled '**The Many behind the Few**' about those backroom men and women without whom the Battle of Britain would have been a failure.

This meeting will be held via Zoom and all members are encouraged to attend. Pre-registration will **not** be required. Members will be provided with all relevant documentation electronically in advance of the meeting, including the Zoom joining link. Those members who do not have email will be sent the documentation by post, including details of how to join the Zoom meeting by telephone.

IMPORTANT: Official notice of the AGM will be sent out in due course, but in the meantime if you would like to raise a topic for discussion, in particular if you wish to propose a motion which will require a vote, please let us know by contacting our Secretary Pam Upton at secretary@charnwoodu3a.org.uk **by 8th March at the latest.** This is to enable details to be distributed to all members in good time to allow voting in advance for those unable to attend the meeting.

Group News

Mah-Jong 2

The group has sorely missed our weekly “get togethers” to play Mah-jong. As we could be over eight households and sit closely round a table, the Covid restrictions have curtailed play. Realistically this may continue for some time to come!!

But there has been a light for us and we are now holding some Zoom meetings to play Mah-jong again. We are very rusty!!!!

We had a visitor last year who wished to learn to play and just before Christmas she sent information regarding a book on how to play together remotely:

“How to Play Mah-Jong Remotely”

by Peter Gregory
ISBN 9798668922994

We have now had two successful sessions, after a few practice runs to iron out the vagaries of Zooming. The game is played with some minor changes and each player has a set laid out in their own home in view of the camera (as pictured on the right).

Should anyone want any further information, please contact Linda Reidie, Mahjong2@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Linda Reidie
Group Leader



Science & Technology 1 & 2



The next Science and Technology meeting will be a joint Zoom meeting of the two groups, as follows:

Thursday 4th March at 10 am:

'Carrara marble - the world's finest decorative stone' - Mark Barron

The speaker is an Honorary Research Associate from BGS and has provided the following information about his talk:

Marble is an exceptional material, and I talk about its formation, distribution, abundance and varieties including British marble, its extraordinary properties and its diverse usage. Carrara marble is pre-eminent, and its story has enduring fascination - commencing in a now-vanished ocean destroyed by continental collision and mountain building, moving on through the creation of a magnificent landscape, to over 2000 years of history including extraordinary human endeavour, fascinating engineering, megalomaniac popes, heaps of money, and culminating in nudity, in the form of some of the world's greatest art made from its finest natural material.

Anyone interested in attending this talk should contact Janet Butlin, SciTech1@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Archaeology

The next meeting of the Archaeology group will be on **Monday 8th March at 2 pm**, when **Peter Liddle** will be presenting his talk **'The Vikings in Leicestershire and Beyond'**. Anyone interested in attending should contact Marilyn Palmer at Archaeology@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

More Group News

Family History

The Family History Discussion group continues to meet monthly on the **third Wednesday in the month at 2pm via Zoom.**

The January meeting shared stories of the “Migration of our ancestors in the UK”. Several members talked about people travelling the length and breadth of the country in search of work or for other reasons at times when they were individually in difficult circumstances and when travel was very difficult compared to now (lockdown excepted).

Our last meeting on February 17th was all about “How we document and present our family history to a wider audience.” Members presented examples of how they had successfully tackled this issue, using a variety of formats - both printed and web-based - providing inspiration to be creative in presenting the results of our research.

Our next meeting on **March 17th** is entitled “**Dating photographs of people**” and promises to be an enlightening meeting with some expert input. If you would like to join in a meeting please contact Brian Waters on FamilyHistory@charnwoodu3a.org.uk



Local History

The Local History group are continuing with Zoom meetings on the **4th Monday of the month at 2 pm.** Forthcoming meetings are as follows:



Monday 22nd March - Tucker's Brickworks - speaker Martyn Speight

The story of this old Loughborough brick-making company and the family behind it.

Monday 26th April - The Green Man pub - speaker Melinda Ingram

The story of this old pub, now under Tyler's in the town centre.

If you are interested in attending a Local History meeting for the first time, please contact Anne Speight, LocalHistory@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Parlate Italiano

We are a small friendly group currently meeting on Zoom fortnightly on Tuesday at 11 am. The level is broadly intermediate. We would welcome new members who are keen to improve their Italian in a relaxed and easy atmosphere.

Interested in joining us? Please contact Parlatelitaliano@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Ros Barney, Group Leader



English Parish Churches



A reminder that 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 Roger Willson at EngParishChurches2@charnwoodu3a.org.uk.

This month's meetings on **9th March** are as follows:

10 am: The arts in our churches: The empty centuries 1600-1800?

2 pm: Church history: the conversion of our area, Mercia

Further Group News

Exploring the English Language (ETHEL)

Ethel's erudite and effervescent coterie of linguistic cognoscenti foregathered on their virtual conferencing platform to cogitate conjointly on the convoluted circumlocutions of gibberish, hogwash, bunkum and baloney.

In other words: we discussed gobbledegook on Zoom. The term was coined by Texan lawyer Maury Maverick and was apparently inspired by the sight of a turkey 'always gobbledy gobbling and strutting with ludicrous pomposity'.

I'm sure Ethel has not been the only one gobbledy gobbling during lockdown, but she can't resist a bit more ludicrous pomposity, so next time the group will be sharing some more examples, before considering what constitutes 'plain English'. Then Ethel can stop talking like Leonard Sachs of the Good Old Days – and put the Thesaurus back on the shelf!



Pam Upton

Mac Users Forum



This group is for anyone who uses an iMac, MacBook or iPad. Friendly advice and sharing of tips, especially on how to stay safe and keep up to date.

We meet via Zoom at **2 pm** on the **3rd Friday** of each month.

If you are interested in joining us, email MacUsers@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Anthony Gimpel

New Groups ?

If you remember, the Chair's February mid-monthly message mentioned two potential new groups:

Video Conferencing Users - to share knowledge and experience of Zoom, Skype, Teams etc.

Social Care - to offer practical help to socially isolated members, through the rest of lockdown and beyond.

If you are interested in either of these groups – especially if you would be willing to help set up and run them – please email Mike at chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk.

Mike Hood

Poetry Corner... and Other Creative Writing

If any of you budding poets would like to send in samples of your work, we'd love to receive them! In the last couple of months, *News & Views* has included a member's poem and it would be great to have a regular poetry feature.

Likewise, anecdotal stories such as that featured on page 9 of this newsletter would be more than welcome. If it's topical, so much the better, but any subject that you think would entertain, amuse or inform our readership would fit the bill.

So do get your creative juices flowing and think about submitting a piece of your work for our members to enjoy.



March 2021 Meetings via Zoom

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1 Latin, 10 am	2 Spanish, 10 am Pilates 2, 9:30 am Philosophy, 2 pm Singing for Pleasure, 2 pm	3 Classical Greek, 10 am German, 10 am	4 SciTech 1 & 2, 10 am Spanish Convers- ation, 10 am French Convers- ation, 2pm	5 German Advanced 10 am Photography, 11 am
8 Archaeology, 2 pm	9 English Parish Churches 1 & 2, 10 am & 2 pm Pilates 2, 9:30 am Parlate Italiano, 11 am	10 Monthly General Meeting, 2.30pm	11 Committee Meeting, 10 am	12 Classical Civilisation, 10 am Travel Group, 10:30 am
15 Gardening, 2 pm	16 Pilates 2, 9:30 am Spanish, 10 am Philosophy, 2 pm	17 German, 10 am Family History, 2 pm	18 French Conversation, 2 pm	19 German Advanced 10 am Mac Users Forum, 2 pm
22 Local History, 2 pm	23 Pilates 2, 9:30 am ETHEL, 10 am Parlate Italiano, 11 am	24 History 3, 10 am Classical Music, 2 pm	25	26
29	30 Pilates 2, 9:30 am	31		

Note: Saturday and Sunday have been omitted from the above calendar for reasons of space; there are currently no groups meeting at weekends.

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 Our Monthly Meetings sections of this newsletter and also visit our website.

See the new interactive calendar on our website:

The calendar on our website (<https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/>) also shows our meetings. On our home page you can see what's Zooming during the current week and there is also a calendar for all of March. **This information is updated on a daily basis, with live links to the relevant group pages**, where you'll find more information about the upcoming Zoom talks and speakers. Each group page also contains general information about the group, including the email address of the Group Leader to enable you to contact them if you are not a member of the group but would like to attend the meeting. It is really encouraging to see growing numbers of members attending these meetings recently.

If Group Leaders would like to send dates/times of their planned meetings in April to the Editor at newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk, these will be included in next month's calendar both in News & Views and on the website. We hope you find this feature useful, both now and in the future when we return to normal meetings.

Ready, Steady, Census

The decennial census is almost upon us.

Households across Charnwood will soon be asked to take part in the nationwide survey of housing and the population. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

Information from the digital-first census will help decide how services are planned and funded in your local area. This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, housing or new bus routes.

Households will receive a letter with a unique access code in the post, allowing them to complete their questionnaire online. Paper questionnaires will be available on request. Census day is **March 21**.

For more information, visit [census.gov.uk](https://www.census.gov.uk).

census
2021

Be a part of Census 2021

Census day is 21 March 2021.

By taking part and encouraging others to do the same, you'll help make sure your community gets the services it needs.



Find out more at www.census.gov.uk

   Follow @Census2021

Red Nose Money - Not To Be Sniffed At?



Here's something that happened to me back in 1988 whilst I was a lecturer at Strathclyde University in Glasgow...

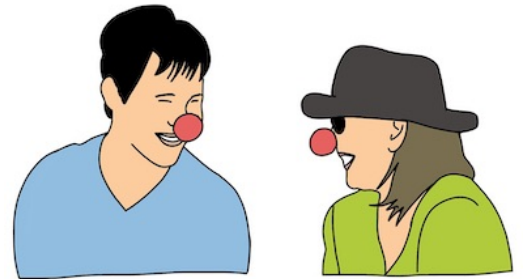
Three or four times a year I'd fly down to London for committee meetings for one of the professional bodies I belong to. After a while the travel and early hours for these trips became quite boring. The flights were quite short, too short to do anything useful, but this was about to change!

One day I was on the aircraft and sat in the aisle seat of a group of three seats; the middle one was empty and there was someone in the window seat.

Just as I was adjusting my seatbelt, an attractive lady in the row of seats in front of my row leant over and asked about our middle seat. She asked whether the seat was free and if she could use it. I told her it was free and that she was welcome to it.

The young lady moved into our row and made herself comfortable. Then she leant towards me and told me that the chap in the seat next to her original seat was being a pest and she needed to move away from him! In light of this, I thought I would avoid any conversation for fear of upsetting her. However, she was clearly looking for a friendly chat despite her recent unpleasant experience.

It turned out that she ran a pub just outside Glasgow with her boyfriend. More interestingly, they had planned a special Red Nose evening at their pub. She asked me whether I would be doing anything for this very first Red Nose event. I explained that the Red Noses had sold out, but this didn't bother her. She said that they had a couple of spare noses which she would post to me if I promised to do something to raise money for charity.



Well, what could I do? Given her offer, I accepted her challenge. I gave a lecture wearing a Red Nose whilst passing a collecting bucket around the students. This was harder than it sounds given the amount of chalk dust in the air which made breathing through your mouth very difficult. In addition, I had persuaded a fellow lecturer to do something similar using the second Red Nose I had received from the pub lady.

Other colleagues, hearing of our plans, joined in and carried out events. My bucket raised about £50 and overall we raised about £350 for Red Nose Day, a pretty good result of a casual conversation caused by a pest!

Peter Reid

Friends of Charnwood Museum

Friends of Charnwood Museum present monthly talks via Zoom on a variety of different subjects.

All talks start at 7:30 pm and are FREE at the present time.

Places are limited, so you will need to book, and once you have booked on to the talk, you will receive a secure link to the event by email a few days prior to the event.

Their next talk is **on Thursday March 18, 2021 at 7.30pm**. Entitled '**Mosses and Liverworts**', the speaker **Steve Woodward** will be talking about these fascinating natural wonders, explaining what they are, how they live and giving local examples.

For more information including how to book, visit the Friends of Charnwood Museum talks page at https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/friends_of_the_museum_talks

If you would like to find out more about the Friends of Charnwood Museum, please call the Museum on 01509 233754 or email museum@charnwood.gov.uk.





A message from Leicestershire Police...

Is your vehicle attracting thieves?

Don't let thieves get an easy ride. Follow these nine simple rules to protect your car.

1. Lock your vehicle

Locking your vehicle, even when filling up or parked on your drive, greatly reduces the possibility of it being targeted by an opportunist thief. Even if you have locked your vehicle, check you haven't left any windows or the sunroof open. It is actually illegal to leave your vehicle running unattended while you de-ice it or warm it up in cold weather. If someone takes it while it's left like this, your insurer won't pay out because you won't be covered.

2. Keep the keys safe

Vehicles today are by and large more difficult to steal than ever, unless the thief can access your key or fob to clone them. Keep your keys safe, out of view when at home, and away from your front door. It's not uncommon for car keys to be stolen from inside your home by thieves fishing for them with a stick and hook through the letterbox. When not in use, keep your electronic car key in a security pouch to prevent it being scanned by thieves to open and steal your car nearby.

3. Be aware of carjackers

The fact that you're in the car isn't always a deterrent to someone trying to steal it. In traffic, drive with the doors locked and when queuing leave enough space in front of your vehicle to enable you to get out of a tight spot. If your vehicle is bumped from behind, wait to pull over – somewhere safe and preferably where there are people. After all, you don't know the person who has collided with you; they could be hijackers. If you're at all suspicious, consider calling the police. If someone threatens you, it's better to hand over the keys to the vehicle than become a victim of assault. Then call 999 as soon as possible, and ask for the police.

4. Park responsibly

It's always advisable to avoid parking in dark and secluded areas. It's worth an extra five or ten-minute walk if it means your vehicle is left in a well-lit and busier street. And if possible, always try to park in illuminated and staffed car parks or those with a Park Mark safer parking award.

5. Watch for illegal tow trucks

Thieves often attempt to lift vehicles from the street, literally. So, if you see a towaway crew acting suspiciously – especially if their vehicle isn't branded or if they're not in uniform – report it immediately.

As with every report of suspicious behaviour made in good faith, we'll never blame anyone for calling us if it proves unfounded. Car parks with height-restricted entrances help prevent illegal tow trucks and removal vehicles. And fitting a Thatcham rated category 1 or 2 alarm system with tracking, immobilisation, anti-grab and movement sensors can help protect and trace your vehicle.

6. Fit good in-car security locks

Bear in mind that built-in steering locks aren't necessarily thief-proof. Many can be forced and broken. Fitting a Sold Secure (www.soldsecure.com) steering wheel, gear lever or clutch pedal security device can give your vehicle added protection.

7. Double-check electronic locking

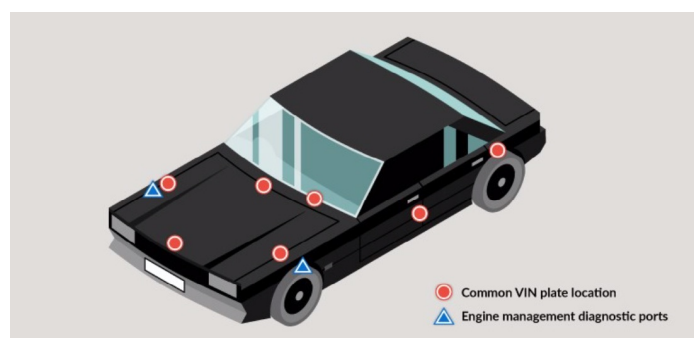
Electronic devices can be used to jam the electronic signal from your key fob to lock your vehicle. Always manually check your vehicle has locked before walking away. If unsure, lock it manually, then scan the immediate area for anyone hanging around. If a potential thief who's watching feels they've been spotted, they'll probably move off.

8. Before owning, check for cloning

Changing the identity of a vehicle, known as vehicle cloning, can be as simple as adding stolen number plates. When buying a vehicle, always check the DVLA V5 document and make sure the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on the vehicle is the same as on the document. Make sure you check more than one of the VINs as well as the engine numbers on the vehicle (*see diagram below*).

9. Secure your port

Many modern vehicles are fitted with engine management diagnostic ports, which can unlock and start your vehicle. If your vehicle has this type of port, consider fitting a lockable cover.



Study into Everyday Memory Strategy

The Leicestershire and Rutland Network of u3as have sent us this request for help with a research study:

Brigita Brazauskiene is a mature PhD student in the Department of Psychology at the University of Hertfordshire who we have helped before on a major study she was undertaking. She has asked that we pass on her thanks to the many hundreds in the u3a community who have provided an input. The response was so successful that a secondary study now requires your support.

This is a study into the fascinating topic of the weird and wonderful strategies we all use to aid memory in a wide range of everyday activities. It's a quick survey that only takes 10-15 minutes. Details are below.

How often do you use different strategies to support your memory?

Invitation to take part in a survey about everyday memory strategy use across the life span

- Have you ever thought about how often, if ever, you use different strategies to help you to remember information from the past or to ensure you remember things in the future?
- Can you tell us how often you use such strategies to support your memory in everyday life?
- How often would you expect people of different ages to use same strategies to support their memory?

A research team at the University of Hertfordshire needs your help in answering these questions. You are invited to take part in a new online survey that aims to explore how frequently the different types of memory strategies are used in the general population of young, middle-aged and older adults.



This study has been reviewed by The University of Hertfordshire Health, Science, Engineering and Technology Ethics Committee with Delegated Authority. UH protocol number is aLMS/PGT/UH//04180(1).

The study can be completed from a laptop/tablet or a mobile phone and takes about 10 - 15 minutes to complete.

The link to the Survey can be accessed at: https://herts.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_81hWm44nFOFJiJv

Scam Update...

Your parcel is being held at our depot due to an unpaid £2.70 shipping fee.

Please pay the fees before Sunday, 07 February 2021 otherwise the parcel will be returned to sender.

<https://royalmail.co/schedule-delivery/?GV644356065GB>

If you get a text message like the one shown on the left, DO NOT RESPOND as it's a scam.

This one seems to be cropping up quite regularly just now.

Of course, the £2.70 is not what the thieves are after, it's your credit card details and identity, both of which will end up as the proceeds of crime!

Warning for Dog-Owning Members

Be aware that there is a new ploy being undertaken by dog thieves. They have a white van with RSPCA stickers and remove dogs from dog-walking owners under the pretext that the dog matches the description of a stolen dog.

NEVER let your dog be taken by anyone. Insist they follow you to the vets to have the dog scanned to prove ownership by the chip. If they're not for real, they won't go with you! The RSPCA will NEVER take a dog that way.



Remember, stay alert and stay ahead of the scammers!

Phone the Police at the first opportunity with as much detail as possible and if possible, take photos of the offenders and vehicle registration. But don't compromise your own safety! There are also reports of thieves door knocking in residential areas.

News from the National u3a



Member Link:

The Third Age Trust has recently launched 'Member Link', a new initiative to support u3as and their members to keep talking and learning together. It collates in one place all the advice, tips and resources to help us stay connected. For more details, see <https://u3a.org.uk/member-link>

On-Line Events:

Various free on-line events are on offer in March. These include:

- **'Where did our favourite plants come from?'** - presentation and discussion (Wed 31st March, 2pm)
 - **'Springtime Treats'** - live demonstration of vegan cookery (Mon 22nd March, 10:30 am)
 - **'Women in Ancient Egypt'** - talk by u3a Egyptology subject advisor (Mon 8th March, 2 pm),
- ...and many more. Booking is essential for all these u3a events.

For details of these and other upcoming on-line events offered by the National u3a, including how to book, go to: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

Virtual Science Network Meetings:

The Science Network Team is planning to hold three short virtual meetings in 2021 on **Tuesday 20 April, Wednesday 11 August and Thursday 14 October**. At the April meeting there will be 3 presentations of 45 minutes on topics as broad as chocolate, vaccines and Darwin. To find out more about the u3a Science Network go to: <https://u3asites.org.uk/u3asciencenetwork/welcome>

National u3a Newsletter:

Over 30,000 u3a members from all over the UK have now subscribed to the free monthly newsletter.

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

The latest issue (February) is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/3k622bva>

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 (February) can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/w2a6ynmn>

National Programmes:

Check out the page on the National u3a website to find ideas to keep learning - a mixture of suggestions from members and quizzes, challenges and projects from subject advisers, members and other Trust Volunteers at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes>

Radio Podcasts:

The latest episode of u3a radio, entitled 'philosophy, swimming and tea' is now available on the u3a YouTube channel. Interviews include the u3a Philosophy subject advisor, a member who has written a book entitled 'How can I stop worrying?', and a member who enjoys wild swimming in Cornwall. The tea crops up in another member's report of a visit to Japan. Listen to and previous podcasts at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrqc8qYDZ4U24Iq0J4qx0fQ>

Learn
u3a members are busy learning new things and staying active. There is so much to do – your choice is endless.
[Find out more about what we do](#)

Laugh
So here's the thing: u3a is really good fun. You have opportunities to follow your interests and make some great friends along the way.
[Read what our members say about us](#)

Live
Our members are experiencing new things and finding ways to make the most of life.
[Find out what's happening in a u3a near you](#)

Answers to last month's Quiz:

- 1) The House of Norodom is the ruling dynasty in which country? **Cambodia**
- 2) Which Welshman played the part of Tony Blair in the films *The Deal* and *The Queen*? **Michael Sheen**
- 3) Wood Ranch is an anagram of what? **Charnwood**
- 4) Which composer's name completes the title of Italian singer Gazebo's 1983 single "I like....." ?
Frederic Chopin
- 5) The Jacobite rebellion of 1745 failed to depose which monarch? **George II**
- 6) What is the far more familiar name of *Temujin* or *Temuchin*? **Genghis Khan**
- 7) Which pop singer returned his MBE in protest at British foreign affairs in 1969? **John Lennon**
- 8) Who is the only British composer to be elevated to the peerage? **Benjamin Britten**
- 9) Carnivorous is an anagram of which two word topical phrase? **Corona Virus**
- 10) Which chess piece is typically lost in the "Greek gift sacrifice"? **Bishop**
- 11) What is the formula to achieve the sum of the angles in a regular polygon?
 $(n-2) \times 180^\circ$ where n equals the number of sides
- 12) What is the inn, owned by Maurice Allington, after which the 1969 novel by Kingsley Amis is named?
The Green Man
- 13) Bill and Hilary Clinton Airport serves which US state capital? **Little Rock**
- 14) Which company and brewer registered the first British trade mark? **Bass**
- 15) In the church calendar, what is 1st November known as? **All Saints Day**
- 16) Which Fawlty Towers character named his pet Siberian hamster "Basil"?
Manuel (A Siberian Hamster is a rat!)
- 17) A vain person may be likened to which animal? **A peacock**
- 18) Lucy Powell, Jeff Smith and Afzal Khan are MPs for constituencies in which city?
Manchester
- 19) With whom is Desdemona romantically linked? **Othello**
- 20) Who was the first Prime Minister of unified Italy?
Camillo Benso in 1861 (he died after only three months in office)



Let's Plant Trees

Following her article in last September's *News & Views*, Diana Harvey has sent this reminder in time for the next tree-planting season (March):

The Woodland Trust (<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk>) only charges £15.

Online, you choose the type of tree and you choose the dedication. You receive a certificate of planting with your dedication.

Why not dedicate a tree to a deceased loved one? You can do it all online easily.



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 April issue of **News & Views** will be **Tuesday 30th March (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 email 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...

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: <https://www.u3a.org.uk>

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>

