

News & Views


 Newsletter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chair's Message	1
Monthly Meetings	2
Group News	3-5
Travel Group	3
Outdoor Bowls	4
Science & Technol.	4
Archaeology	4
Local History	4
EPC	4
Architecture	5
Sustaining the Planet	5
Family History	5
Meetings Calendar	6
Cu3a The Relaunch	7
Trust u3a	7
Norwegian(s) Blew	8
I Remember When...	8
What's in a Name?	9
Charnwood Museum	9
School Readers	10
Website Update	10
National u3a News	11
Exploring World Faiths	12
Quiz Time	13
Poetry Corner	13
Obituary	14
Items for Newsletter	15
Contact Information	15

Interest Groups

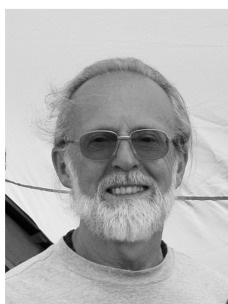
Details of Groups can be found on the Charnwood u3a website:
www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk
 under 'Our Groups' menu.

Welcome

Welcome to the April 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 have now passed the equinox and returned to British Summer Time, which must mean that spring is here – even though the weather is still largely cool and overcast! But despite this, there are signs of better times ahead. All being well, step 2 of the 'Roadmap out of Lockdown' will commence on 12th April allowing, much to the relief of many of our members, the reopening of barbers and hairdressers. Step 3, scheduled for 17th May, will allow up to 30 people to meet outdoors (good news for our walking groups) and 6 people indoors. Social distancing rules will probably still apply, but we can usually work around that. Then – **THE BIG NEWS** – 21st June should see the lifting of all legal limits on mixing both outdoors and in!

We would like, once all of the above has happened, to hold some sort of **RELAUNCH** event (see p.7). This may take many forms but, as I see it, would be: an occasion for our members to get together; an opportunity for groups to show/demonstrate what they are about and to attract new members. Numbers wise, we do not really need to bolster our membership. We do, however, need to attract 'fresh blood', i.e. (slightly) younger members who are prepared to muck in and make things happen. With support from the Committee, I would really like organisation of this event to be carried out by **YOU** the members. If you would like to help, or even just offer some ideas, please email me.

Not being able to meet in person has led many of our groups to meeting via Zoom, which in turn has encouraged many of our members to make more use of modern technology. But, for those of you who still shy away from the computer, I direct you to a recent article published in The Guardian, entitled **'Computers are marvellous!': older people embrace internet in lockdown**. The full story can be read in this article (<https://tinyurl.com/9ry2a23c>) but, as a taster, here are a couple of extracts (courtesy of Guardian News & Media Ltd):

"Before the pandemic struck, 79-year-old Jim Whelan barely used his computer. The online world was a mystery and an irrelevance to him. A year on, however, Whelan can give computer geeks half his age a run for their money."

"Rita, 84, didn't own a computer before the pandemic. 'My daughters bought it for me so that I could do online shopping instead of going to the shop myself,' she said. 'It took a bit of getting used to, but I'm a practical person and not scared of new things, so after I'd got the hang of it I thought it was all rather wonderful.'"

Do read it if you can. So much for 'you can't teach an old dog new tricks'!

Mike Hood
chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Our Monthly Meetings

Last month, we were treated to a walk around Leicestershire's beautiful countryside in the company of Malcolm Otter, coordinator of our Little Extras walking group. It was a fascinating talk covering his walk around the Leicestershire Round, and illustrated with lots of great photographs and interesting stories along the way - and even video footage of Malcolm at the start and end point, Old John in Bradgate Park. We had our biggest audience yet for this meeting, and hopefully some of our members will have been inspired to get their walking boots on, especially now that summer is approaching.

Monthly Meeting Speakers April - July 2021

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

- **April 14th:** *"The Many Behind the Few" - David Skillen*
- **May 12th:** *"Don't Get Hacked off!" - Sam Hancock, Leics Police*
- **June 9th:** *"A Schoolgirl's War" - Mary Smith*
- **July 14th:** *"Living the African Dream" - Alison Mee*

Meetings beyond July are not yet agreed.

Our Next Meeting: Wednesday 14th April at 2:30 pm

Our April meeting will include our **Annual General Meeting**. Members will be provided with all relevant documentation in advance of the meeting - electronically to those with email, by post to those without. All members are strongly encouraged to attend, but those unable to do so have the opportunity to vote in advance of the meeting using the form that has already been sent out. Such votes must be received by the Cu3a Chair by **April 7th**.

In addition to the AGM, we can look forward to a fully illustrated talk entitled:

'The Many Behind the Few' with speaker David Skillen

David Skillen lives in Belper but that hardly matters since this monthly talk will again be via Zoom.

Churchill's famous quote about "The Few" seems to sum up the Battle of Britain. Yet without thousands of almost unknown people the system that defeated the Luftwaffe in the Summer of 1940 would not have existed.



This talk will take you through some of their remarkable achievements, from the "Tizzy Angle" to Miss Shilling's Orifice - achievements that helped "The Few" prevail against enormous odds.



To make it easier for members to attend the AGM and the above talk, **pre-registration will NOT be required for this meeting**. The Zoom joining link will be sent to all members who have an email address in our Beacon system. If you haven't received the joining link by **5 pm on Tuesday 13th April**, please email newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk. For those members who do not have email, details of how to join the Zoom meeting by telephone will be sent to them by post along with their other AGM documents.

Group News

Travel Group

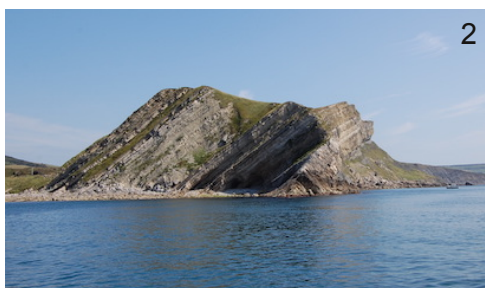


No sea-sickness pills were necessary at the Travel Group's latest 95-mile maritime adventure - thanks to the wonders of Zoom.

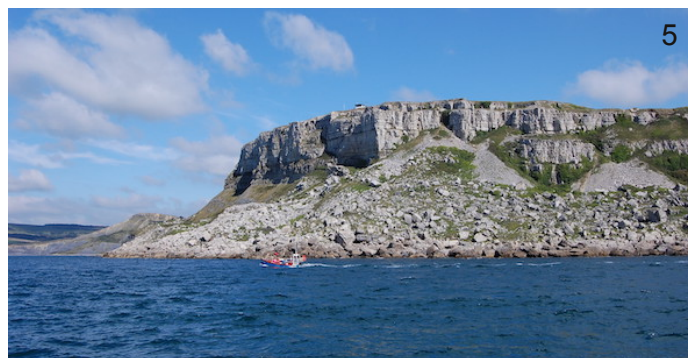
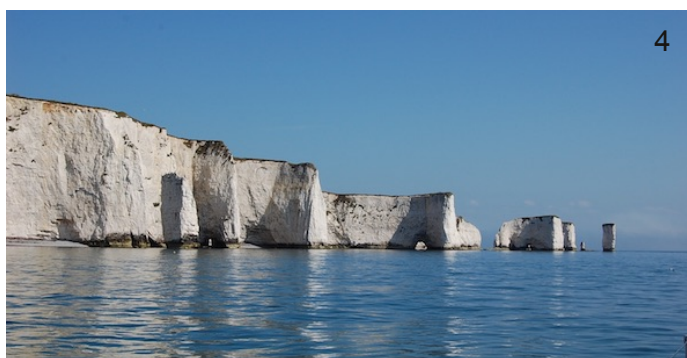
Speaker Mike Gillingham took us pictorially along the Jurassic Coast in his sailing cruiser, Dawn Run (*pictured left, in Ashlett Creek*) from Studland Bay in Dorset to Exmouth in East Devon.

It was a brilliant way to explore the geological features of this dramatic coastline - England's first natural UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Evocative descriptions drew us into layers formed over a period of 185 million years. Old Harry Rocks, The Pinnacles, Tilly Whim Caves, Dancing Ledge, Fossil Forest and the Lulworth Crumple to name just a few... (*photographs courtesy of Mike Gillingham*)



1. Lulworth Crumple; 2. Worbarrow Tout;
3. Fossilised tree, Isle of Portland;
4. Old Harry Pinnacles, Studland Bay;
5. St Alban's (St Aldhelm's) Head.



The weather was invariably good as Mike's nautical expertise took us only where the sea was calm and the tides amenable.

Which was a good advert for the group's upcoming travel plans - which happen to include a trip to Dorset, albeit on terra firma, in April 2022.

For the rest of this year, we have North Wales in July, Southern Ireland in October, and Durham Lumiere in November. Other plans for 2022 include Lanzarote in January, Puglia in May, Orkney in July, and East Yorkshire in September.

This is more than the group usually manages in any one year, but the working party realises that many members are looking forward to catching up on holidays as soon as Covid restrictions allow.

For details of these holidays and queries about membership, please contact Ann Maddocks on:

TravelGroup@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

More Group News

Outdoor Bowls

It is proposed that the Outdoor Bowls Group will start again on **15th April** and run through the summer. Sessions will be conducted fully in accordance with government regulations applicable at the time and also with guidelines issued by Bowls England. Full details of these will be made available ahead of the start date.

The Group will meet once a week on a **Thursday at 2 o'clock** for a two hour session at the **Brush Bowls Club green on Watermead Lane** (off Nanpantan Rd).

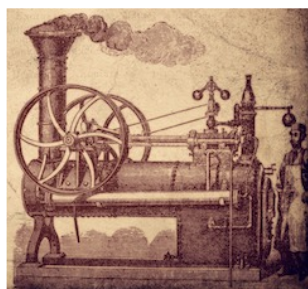
New members will be very welcome to come along and join us for a fun afternoon of gentle exercise with tuition and guidance provided. No previous experience is necessary.

Please contact Dave Saunders on BowlsOutdoor@charnwoodu3a.org.uk for further information.

If any U3A member has bowls that they no longer need and would like to lend or donate them to the Group, please let Dave know.



Science & Technology 1 & 2



The Science and Technology groups have the following joint Zoom meetings coming up before the summer:

Thursday 8th April at 10 am (*organised by Sci Tech 2*):
'Forgotten Engineers of the 19th Century' - speaker **Richard Harries**

Thursday 6th May at 10 am (*organised by Sci Tech 1*):
'What is Money? An Introduction to Bitcoin Technology' - speaker **John Bell**

Any Cu3a member who is not a member of the Sci Tech groups but is interested in attending either of the above talks should contact the relevant group leader:

Janet Butlin, SciTech1@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Roy Faulkner, SciTech2@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Archaeology

The next meeting of the Archaeology group will be on **Monday 12th April at 2 pm**. In a meeting postponed from 8th March, **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

Local History

The next meeting of the Local History group will be on **Monday 26th April** when **Melinda Ingram** will be speaking about her research into **The Green Man pub** in Loughborough. All are welcome. Enquiries to Anne Speight, LocalHistory@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

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 **13th April** are as follows:

10 am: Arts and Crafts furnishings in our churches

2 pm: The Arrival of Christianity in Northumbria

Further Group News

Architecture

In February, the Architecture group invited the Local History group to join their first Zoom meeting.

Host Andy Jarvis, Chairman of Chesterton House Group, told us of the enchanting story of how he came to purchase Chesterton House to re-locate his financial business, even changing his business name to reflect the name of one of Loughborough's most iconic Grade 2 listed buildings.



He took us on a virtual tour of the building, showing us fittings that dated the building to around 1725. Particularly interesting was the roof space of original roof trusses, exposed and reused whilst the building was being reroofed during a very cold, windy January. He entertained us with anecdotes of previous occupants and its uses: for example as a Girls High School during the 1800's; a basement party venue in the 1920's; a hostel in 1980's; even a basement jazz club.

It whetted the appetite of Family History members who went on to research and provide Andy with additional information of Chesterton House occupants. You can see the recorded presentation here: <https://www.chestertonhouse.co.uk/post/chestertonhousehistory-1>

Karen Dale

Sustaining the Planet



Our first meeting is at **2 pm on Wednesday 7th April**. There we will introduce ourselves and share our interests and expectations for the Group. This should enable us to agree the topics for the next few meetings and get stuck in!

If you want to know more please contact Brian Waters at SustainPlanet@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Brian Waters

Family History

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

Our last meeting on March 17th was all about "Dating photographs of people" when we welcomed Ann Wise, a social historian from Amersham u3a, who gave us a fascinating and well illustrated talk on the changing fashions, hairstyles, studio props and photo mounts used between the 1860s and 1920s. She then provided further insight by dating photographs shared by members in the meeting, with further 'tips and tricks' to narrow down the date of a photo (who knew that decorative buttons on an otherwise plain ladies' skirt indicates the few years just before WW1?)

Our next meeting on **April 21st** is entitled "**Migration of our ancestors overseas**" which seems to have been quite a common occurrence if the number of DNA matches I have with people across the Atlantic is anything to go by!

If you would like to join in a meeting please contact Brian Waters on FamilyHistory@charnwoodu3a.org.uk



Helen Reid

April 2021 Meetings via Zoom

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
			1	2
			Spanish Conversation, 10 am French Conversation, 2pm	German Advanced 10 am Photography, 11 am
5	6	7	8	9
Latin, 10 am	Spanish, 10 am Pilates 2, 9:30 am Philosophy, 2 pm Singing for Pleasure, 2 pm	Classical Greek, 10 am German, 10 am	SciTech 1 & 2, 10 am	Classical Civilisation, 10 am
12	13	14	15	16
Archaeology, 2 pm	English Parish Churches 1 & 2, 10 am & 2 pm Pilates 2, 9:30 am Parlate Italiano, 11 am	Annual General Meeting, with External Speaker, 2.30pm	Committee Meeting, 10 am French Conversation, 2 pm	German Advanced 10 am Mac Users Forum, 2 pm
19	20	21	22	23
Gardening, 2 pm	Pilates 2, 9:30 am Spanish, 10 am Philosophy, 2 pm	German, 10 am Family History, 2 pm		
26	27	28	29	30
Local History, 2 pm	Pilates 2, 9:30 am ETHEL, 10 am Parlate Italiano, 11 am	History 3, 10 am Classical Music, 2 pm		

Note: Saturday and Sunday have been omitted from the above calendar for reasons of space; no weekend group meetings have been notified to the Editor.

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** (<https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk>) where late changes to meetings will be posted. Note: you can access the latest calendar of meetings directly from the Home page without needing to log in (*also see: Website Update on p.10 of this issue*).

If Group Leaders would like to send dates/times of their planned meetings in May 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. As groups start to open up to face-to-face meetings, the calendar will include these meetings, so please let us know your plans through the summer and beyond.

And a Vote of Thanks for our Group Leaders...

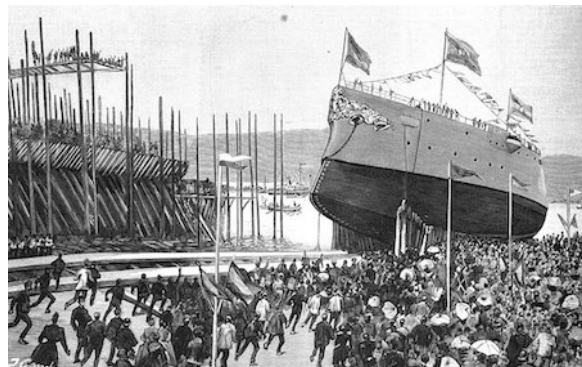
I am sure other members of Charnwood u3a would like to express our appreciation of the group leaders who have set up Zoom sessions. It has been invaluable during lockdown and kept us in touch. We have also learned a bit more technology and have become competent using Zoom.

Brenda Feeney

Cu3a the Relaunch

Spring is here. The birds are singing, the buds are budding and Charnwood u3a is planning its big **RELAUNCH**.

The idea is to have a stall in Loughborough market in July, with a space in the Town Hall to show off all the great things we do, to attract new members and re-connect with current ones. Our membership numbers have held up well despite Covid, but we've missed the social connections, the space to catch up and to check out more groups to join. Believe it or not, there are people who haven't heard of us, so we want to put the word out – Charnwood u3a is back!



But we need as many members as possible to get involved, to be there on the day and to help plan the event.

If you would like to be part of the Relaunch organising team, please drop a line to chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk by the end of April.

Trust u3a



Like so many members, being in Cu3a for the past year has been a lifeline for me. Ethel has kept me both busy and entertained and Committee has kept me busy and busy. Who would have thought that Zooming could come to mean sitting still and talking happily to people's heads? That and the joy of not having to think about what to wear. No, in case you're wondering, Ethel hasn't yet lowered herself to wearing pyjama bottoms!

Then, because you can't get enough of a good thing, this time last year I joined Trust u3a. It was started at the beginning of Lockdown for members and non-members across the country whose local groups were unable to meet. Since then it has grown to over 1000 members, with around 100 groups from *Armchair Travellers* to *British Cemeteries* to *Law for Fun*. There are four Reading groups and even four Latin groups – all busy no doubt changing the *annus horribilis* into *annus mirabilis*.

I joined the Poetry Patch discussion group, along with Spanish to supplement the excellent Cu3a group I attend. I also signed up for Dance Exercise before realising that I didn't have enough time in the week. I consoled myself as I sat back on the sofa that at least I was giving my brain cells a workout.

Trust u3a costs just £5 to join if you're a u3a member and, like any u3a, you can join as many groups as you like. It's been so popular that I'm sure it will continue, alongside all our excellent Cu3a groups, long after Covid is kicked into the history books. Whilst it can never replace meetings with our fellow Cu3a members locally, it offers an option to engage with the wider u3a community across the UK through shared interests.

So take a look at the website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/trustu3a/home> to find out more.

They also need people to head up additional groups or to start new ones. And if you see a group on the Trust u3a list (<https://u3asites.org.uk/trustu3a/groups>) that you'd like to start in Cu3a, do let us know!



The Norwegian(s) Blew...

It was like a breath of fresh air blowing through the conventions of technology students to see a reasonable number of female faces in my Computer Science class at Strathclyde University.



During the 1980s, four Scottish universities had an agreement with Norway to take in a certain number of Norwegian students to study for degrees in technical subjects. This agreement came about to fill a shortage of places at Norwegian universities, particularly in science and engineering subjects.

One condition stipulated that equal numbers of places must be available for male and female students. This made a big difference to the gender balance because without the Norwegians there would have been very few females. I'm sorry to say that Computer Science has always struggled to attract female students.

Apart from the gender balance, there was another significant difference between UK and Norwegian students - where to sit in a lecture theatre. The Norwegians filed into the front rows, whilst the UK students headed straight to the back row!

Lecture after lecture, the students filed into their "zones". Then one day I couldn't believe what I saw, the students had sat down in the usual places, except there was one of the UK students sitting amongst the Norwegians!

What's going on? Who is this chap? I recognise him, he is one of the usual crowd of UK students, but sat in the "wrong" row? Why is he sitting there? What should I do?

With a serious look on my face, I stopped my lecture and told the interloper to go back to his usual place at the back!

However, I couldn't keep a straight face and started to laugh, I didn't mean it, I let him rejoin his Norwegian friends and I got on with my lecture. Subsequently I heard that the student in question was taking international relations to a more personal extent, he was going out with one of the female Norwegian students!

The Norwegians were an enthusiastic group of students. Far from pining for the fjords, they threw themselves into Scottish student life. Because their spoken English was of a very high standard, they were less likely to regurgitate answers parrot-fashion!

Peter Reid

I Remember When...

Do you have an abiding memory of an incident in your past - amusing, unusual, happy or sad? It may not be a specific incident, it could just be a memory of life in a different era and a reflection on how times have changed. I remember every Friday from the age of 5, coming out of school, crossing a main road (via a zebra crossing of course - carefully looking right, then left, then right again!) and getting on a bus to my auntie's house on my own - something that would probably be unthinkable for such a young child today.

Or do you associate a particular date in your life with a famous event that happened on the same day? For example, I will always remember my older son moving to Australia on the day of the Opening Ceremony of the London Olympics. It seemed ironic that he was flying out of the UK as the world was flying in.

If you have a memory that you'd like to share with your fellow u3a members, I'd love to hear from you and publish your story in News & Views. Just email me at the address below.

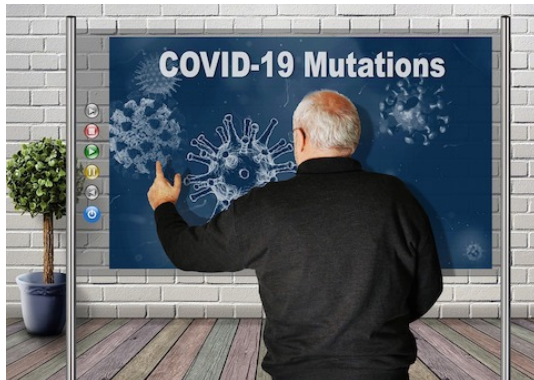
Helen Reid

newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

What's in a Name?

Confused by the increasing number of variants in Covid? Don't know your B.1.1.7 from your 501Y.V2?

You are not alone, so are the scientists. The World Health Organization has recently convened a meeting at which experts (phylogenetics geeks) discussed guidelines for naming variants of the coronavirus. The absence of an agreed system not only confuses us but prevents consistency in naming, which is a hindrance for researchers who study the transmission of virus variants.



When a fast-spreading SARS-CoV-2 variant was identified in the United Kingdom in late 2020, Public Health England initially named it Variant Under Investigation 202012/01 (VUI 202012/01 for short); then, after a risk assessment, it was dubbed Variant of Concern 202012/01 (or VOC 202012/01). One naming system that researchers developed to indicate the evolutionary relationships between SARS-CoV-2 lineages calls the same variant B.1.1.7, whereas another with the same goal dubs it 20I/501Y.V1. 'The UK variant' is popular in the media — although some British newspapers have described it as 'the Kent variant', after the county in southeast England that first saw a spike in transmissions associated with the lineage.

Variants identified in South Africa and Brazil have received similar monikers. Terms such as 'variant', 'lineage' and 'strain' add to the confusion, because they have no unambiguous definitions and are sometimes used interchangeably. Agreed-on nomenclature does exist for the different varieties of other viruses, such as influenza, but not yet for SARS-CoV-2.

The void is being filled by naming coronavirus variants according to the places where the first cases were identified. But connecting viruses to identifiable places also carries dangers, one of which is the risk of stigmatizing people. Since the outbreak was first reported, people of Asian descent around the world have been subjected to racist attacks, including many of the more than 700,000 Chinese undergraduate, master's and PhD students studying at universities outside China. The majority are in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

So let's take care to be especially kind to our Asian friends in Loughborough.

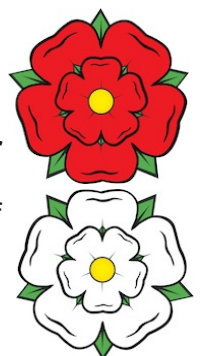
John Bell

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 Wednesday April 21, 2021 at 7.30pm**. Entitled '**The Role of the Barber Surgeon in the Wars of the Roses**', when battlefield guide **Eddie Smallwood** brings his entertaining talk about the Barber Surgeon through some of the key battles within the Wars of the Roses.

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.

School Readers

Schoolreaders
improving literacy • increasing life chances

Many members may know about the School Readers charity, and, like me, already volunteer at their local school. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, volunteering since March 2020, has had to stop. But in the coming months, hopefully, the situation will change.

I have been a volunteer at my local school, Holywell, for about 3 years, and work with Keystage 1 children, who range from 5-7 years old. Before I had to stop, I worked all day on a Tuesday, with 4 classes. It was my choice to do this, as I knew the very young ones needed help to enable them to progress.

The amount of time you can give is up to the volunteer, and the school will be grateful for any help. As little as an hour is appreciated! Although the amount of time spent listening to a child read is small, the child gets a lot from it. Sometimes, just listening and having a conversation is what a child needs. It is the most rewarding thing I have done, and it was through the u3a that I found out about this charity.

Leicester, Loughborough and Coalville area are particularly short of volunteers. Information and training is given by the school, and safeguarding is especially important.



The poster at <https://tinyurl.com/5e7d4ddu> (on the Notice Board page of our website) gives details of how to apply. Of course, the usual DBS checks have to be conducted and the cost is picked up by the school. In addition to that, Covid testing will probably be done by the school whilst we are in the pandemic.

Something I didn't know, until I read their poster, is that you can nominate the charity (and hundreds of others) when using SmileAmazon. No doubt Amazon has featured largely in the past year, and so by using the outlet, we can make a small difference to a chosen charity - mine is School Readers.

Please think about giving up a little bit of time to help children read. Without being able to read and understand, our life choices are limited.

Hazel Richardson

Website Update:

Recent improvements to our website (<https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/>) now include:

- an **'Open Access' Members Area** containing information for members and group leaders, which is accessible without needing to enter a username or password. This can be accessed by simply selecting **'For Members - All Members'** in the main menu bar, then clicking the Members Open Access link. *Note:* to access personal contact details, you'll still need to log in to the Password Controlled Members Area.
- direct links to the group pages of all groups listed on the **'What's Zooming & Meeting Outdoors'** page (accessed from the **'Our Groups'** menu). Just click on the group name to go to the relevant page.

Welcome	AGM 2021	Our Groups	News	Our Meetings	On-line Ents	On-line Info	For Members	Help with IT	Contact Us
							All Members		
							For Committee		

News from the National u3a



Slow Ways Talk:

Tuesday 20 April 10am or Monday 17 May 2pm

The Slow Ways Project (<https://slowways.uk/>) aims to create a network of walking routes that connects across Great Britain once lockdown is lifted.

Dan Raven-Ellison and Rob Bushby from Slow Ways are hosting **two webinars for u3a members** interested in hearing more about this project, followed by a Q&A session.



Book your place on either date at: <https://tinyurl.com/yud2j6rr>

Other On-Line Events:

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

- 'Staying Safe Online' - talk by Barry Linton of Thorpe Bay u3a (Thu 8th April, 2 pm)
- 'Discovering Japan' - talk by Hilary Jones including live link to Japan (Thu 22nd April, 10:30 am)
- 'Maths on the Back of an Envelope' - talk by a best-selling maths author (Wed 21st April, 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 Meeting:

The Science Network Team is holding a virtual meeting on **Tuesday 20 April**, with 3 presentations - on Darwin, Covid vaccines and chocolate - each followed by questions, with a break for refreshments and for lunch.

Book at: <https://tinyurl.com/34ra3nnt> where you'll find further information, and if you have any queries, please send them to michaela.moody@u3a.org.uk.

National u3a Newsletter:

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

The latest issue (March) is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/3n7c4vun>

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 (March) can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/34exkxw8>

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>

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](#)

Special Subject Week – Open to all u3a members in the UK

Exploring World Faiths - 12th-16th April

To register click on <https://u3asites.org.uk/west-midlands/events>

Britain is already a multi-faith society, 70% of the population professed to have a religious faith (2011 census), higher in metropolitan parts of the West Midlands.

Although Christianity still predominates, in theory, a sizeable number practise and live other religions

Come and find out more from ordinary people of faith with plenty of opportunity to discuss and ask questions.

All sessions are from 10-11.30

Monday April 12th

Introduction: Have you wondered what is a faith, when did they start, and how did they develop?

Dr Peter Rookes, u3a National Adviser on Exploring World Faiths has an extensive background in faith and health, will give an overview of the course including how world religions are ordered in time and place.

Christianity, why is the story of Jesus' birth and life told differently in Matthew and Luke's gospel? Why did Jesus talk in parables: Bernie Morton, Catholic church member.

Tuesday April 13th

Islam: How does Islam influence family life: Mahmooda Quereshi, West Midlands Regional Coordinator, Faiths and Beliefs Forum

Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, its founder and its beliefs: Gill Hartley and Robin Harragin-Hussey, Midland and London Christian Science Publication Offices

Wednesday April 14th

Hinduism and its contribution to science: Anjana Shelat, Midland Regional Coordinator of Hindu Mandir Network UK

Buddhism: 'Buddhism and Value Creation' - an overview of the history of Buddhism and the development of the Soka Gakkai (value creation society) - Vicki Squire, Buddhist Faith Advisor at University of Warwick Chaplaincy

Thursday April 15th

Baha'I Faith: "We spend our lives trying to unlock the mystery of the universe, but there was a Turkish Prisoner, Baha'u'llah, in 'Akka, Palestine, who had the key". Dr. Stephen Vickers

Sikh Faith, a virtual tour of the Gurdwara and Nishkam Centre including the kitchens in Handsworth: Gopinder Kaur Sagoo, Faith Guide, Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha, Birmingham

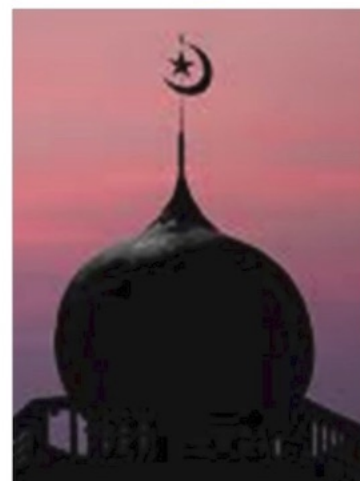
Friday April 16th

Scientology: What do Scientologists believe and what do they do – Graeme Wilson, National Publicity Officer, Scientology UK

Judaism: What do people of the Jewish faith belief and how do they practice their faith: Yvonne Stollard, Vice-President of Birmingham Progressive Synagogue, the Jewish representative on the Worcestershire SACRE, and Chair of Worcestershire Interfaith Forum.



**Book your
place on
Exploring
World Faiths
12-18 April**



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

- 1) Which football club gave Arsenal their biggest defeat?
- 2) Who was the first Mayor of Loughborough?
- 3) Who wrote the music for the Finnish National Anthem?
- 4) Founded in March 1831, the *Légion Étrangère* is known by which English name?
- 5) Who wrote *The Thursday Murder Club*?
- 6) *Galanthus nivalis* is the Latin name for which flower?
- 7) Which town is the county town of Suffolk?
- 8) Which saint's body was moved from Lindisfarne to Durham by monks?
- 9) What was the Beatles' first Christmas number one?
- 10) Which was the first European town to 'twin' with Loughborough?
- 11) Which Prime Minister lived at Drayton Manor?
- 12) Laika, a stray mongrel from Moscow, was the first dog to do what in 1957?
- 13) Who sang about crossing the Mersey?
- 14) Which soap opera was set in Kings Oak?
- 15) Which is the largest lake in the Lake District?
- 16) Who made his debut in *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*?
- 17) Who is the patron saint of horticulture, brewers, brides, florists, and gardeners?
- 18) In which children's television programme was one of the principal characters a weed?
- 19) Who was the first actor to play Doctor Who?
- 20) Who is the Prime Minister of France?



Poetry Corner

A BOUNCING DAFFODIL

I saw a bouncing daffodil
Coming sprightly down the hill.
The sky was overcast and grey,
It was a dreary sort of day
Until that burst of golden light
Came leaping gaily into sight.



Through mist and rain, as it drew nearer,
The shape and form became much clearer.
Inside a golden anorak, a boy,
A happy child, jumped for joy!
On he bounded down the hill,
Receding, diminishing until
The splash of gold became again
A daffodil, revelling in the rain.

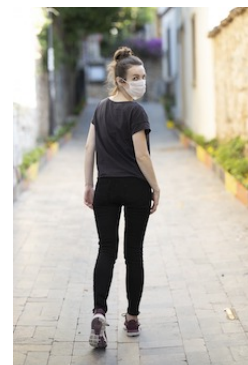


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HB ISBN 978 1 84418 466 8

QUARANTINE – by Linnet (17)

I didn't know I'd miss waiting
at traffic lights, waiting for a burst
of colour, a static of sound.
I didn't know I'd miss noise,
crowds, the breath of rain
as it hits parched pavement, being
near enough to hear people's
breath. I didn't realise I was only
exactly alone when I was
walking home from school, or
to the shops. I didn't
realise it was the in-
between times
that held
me together.

submitted by Char March



Obituary

In Memory of Penny Rowe



On February 24th Penny, who joined Charnwood u3a in 2017, sadly passed away. She was diagnosed with cancer in June 2019 but was determined that she would overcome it. She remained positive despite being very unwell at times. In the end she developed other problems and her fighting spirit was not enough and she died in Glenfield Hospital.

Penny lived in Leicestershire all her life. She was married to Sam for over 50 years and her family meant everything to her, always supporting her two boys and being a loving granny to four grandchildren. All the family enjoyed sport, both participating in and watching. Cricket was a great love for all of them and they were very involved with Rothley Cricket Club.

Flower arranging was another great interest for Penny after reluctantly being persuaded by a friend to go to a meeting of the Frisby Flower and Garden Club. She went on to become treasurer of the group, a position she held for twenty-five years.

When she retired from Loughborough University at the end of 2016 after twenty-six years of service, she was eager to take part in more activities. She took up outdoor and carpet bowls and joined the u3a. Soon she was enjoying outings with Days of Interest, theatre trips, games of Scrabble and meetings with the Gardening Group. She was always an enthusiastic supporter of the Gardening Group and in 2018 she became the Group Coordinator. Not only was she good at planning and coordinating, she took an interest in all the members. If she knew a member was ill she wanted to know how they were, even when she was so ill herself.

There was one thing that Penny did not have, however, and that was a good sense of direction. One visit with the Gardening Group was to the Bluebell Arboretum near Ashby. It was a visit where members made their own way there. Unfortunately Penny arrived late as she found herself heading down the M42 after a wrong exit at a roundabout. After that Penny usually travelled with someone else but even then things could go wrong. On a trip to Brooksby College, a place she knew well, she said she would direct. However it didn't quite go to plan. Fortunately there was a Satnav in the car.

Penny was always ready to take on new challenges. She was energetic, caring and had a great sense of humour, a lovely person to spend time with.

She will be greatly missed.

Chris Lever

In Memory of Richard Taylor

I was shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Richard. He was an important and enthusiastic member of my Play reading and Drama Group for many years and I liked him very much.

He was also a volunteer with LOROS where he sat in a little back room mending anything that came in broken - an invaluable member of their staff I am sure.

He will be very much missed and our hearts go out to his family.

Peggy Kinley
Leader of the Play Reading Group

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 **May** issue of **News & Views** will be **Thursday 29th April (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>

