

News & Views


 Newsletter

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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.

Other web addresses

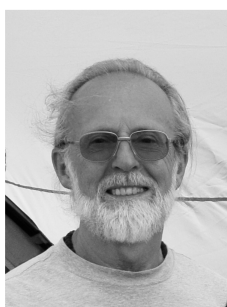
Association of E Mids u3as:
www.eastmidlandsu3as.org.uk
 Leics & Rutland Network:
www.landru3a.org.uk
 Beacon system:
<https://beacon.u3a.org.uk>

Welcome

...to the September 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



I took on the mantle of 'Chair' at the 2020 AGM, meaning I am now approaching the mid-point of my term of office. But just 5 days in, Lockdown restrictions were introduced so, as yet, neither Committee nor Monthly Meetings have occurred face-to-face. Now, at last, this is set to change.

The September Committee Meeting will meet at John Storer House and, although some members have opted to take part via Zoom, this will be the first time that some of us have met.

Then in October (fingers, toes, etc. crossed) Monthly Meetings will reconvene at Emmanuel Church. No doubt some of you will harbour reservations, but I am working with the Emmanuel team to ensure maximum safety for all of our members. Arrangement details will be outlined in the October edition of *News & Views* – so watch this space!

Of course, for a wide range of reasons (not all relating to Covid) some of you will not be able to join us in person. Provided we can get the technology working, the first few meetings (at least) will also be available by Zoom. So no excuse for not attending!

To coincide with this return to 'normal' operations, the Recruitment and Retention (R&R) Sub-committee are putting together plans to attract the New Members that are so important to ensuring our on-going viability.

At the end of September/early October (exact date to be agreed), we will have a presence at the Loughborough Saturday market. This will be an opportunity to let the uninitiated know who and what we are and, hopefully, encourage some of them to join us. Volunteers will be needed to help out on the day so, unless you have an 'unmissable' other engagement, I hope you will feel able to offer a few hours of your time. You never know – you may actually enjoy it.

As part of our 'awareness' campaign, we now have a supply of A5 leaflets, giving a brief outline of our u3a, plus contact details for anyone wanting to know more about us – and hopefully then joining.

As well as handing these out during the market day event, we will also be asking that they be displayed in community centres, local independent stores, etc. The R & R Sub-committee are looking for other possible outlets for the leaflets – please let me know if you have any suggestions.

As always, keep well and keep safe.

Mike Hood, Chair, Charnwood u3a, chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Our Monthly Meetings

Our Next Meeting: Wednesday 8th September at 2:30 pm 'Time Through The Ages' with John Hope

For what we hope will be our last monthly meeting wholly by Zoom, I am pleased to welcome John Hope of Newark as our speaker this month. John (*pictured right*) has had a colourful career, serving in the RAF and has, latterly, held senior positions in commerce. He tells me he has even drunk with a UK Prime Minister without saying which one! John will be talking about the history of time and time pieces over some three thousand years.



Graham Cooper, Programme Secretary



IMPORTANT: Places in Zoom sessions are limited, so to ensure your place, **pre-registration is required by Monday 6th September.** To book your place, please go to the **September Monthly meeting page on our website at:**

<https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/MonthlyMeetingSep2021.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 before the meeting to all those who have pre-registered. Late registrations will be accepted only if there are places still available.

Looking Ahead: Meeting on 13th October, 2:30 pm

Whilst we can never be certain of anything to do with Covid, we do plan to **return to Emmanuel Church, Forest Road, Loughborough for the October monthly meeting.**

However it is hoped this will be a hybrid meeting where members can watch and be involved with questions via Zoom, as we have become familiar with over the past months. However, we do urge you to attend the face to face meeting, if you can. You can interact with other members in interest groups you are not a member of, in a very suitable meeting place with a large foyer, and enjoy a free cup of tea after the speaker. The church has adequate parking and is close to the town's bus services.

Graham Cooper, Programme Secretary

Looking Further Ahead:

Details of forthcoming meetings will be published in future newsletters and will be announced on our website as soon as the information is available. Check the relevant web page in advance of the next *News & Views* at <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/MonthlyMeetingOcton2021.html> for the latest updates.

Membership Renewals

Your membership renewal is due on **1st October 2021**. The usual fee of £15 has again been reduced to **£7.50 per person**. Members will be receiving an email or a letter by 10 September to tell you how to do this. Like many, I am looking forward to a more active, face to face year.

Garry Rigby, Membership Secretary

Group News

Are you interested in a new Charnwood u3a Pilates group?



Charnwood u3a currently has two very popular Pilates Groups. They are taught by Jo Greene who is an excellent teacher and also a physiotherapist.

As both groups are full and vacancies are uncommon, we are now hoping to start a new group (also to be taught by Jo) which will meet at 2.30 pm on Friday afternoons at Gorse Covert Community Centre.

Please contact either Ros Fleming (Pilates1@charnwoodu3a.org.uk) or Lynne Peebles (Pilates2@charnwoodu3a.org.uk) if you are interested in joining this group or would like further details.

ETHEL

Ethel regrets that after an erudite and well-attended class on English spelling, Jimmy McKay and Johnny Evans are in detention for the rest of the week. This despite the former's attempt to implicate his classmate and the latter's blatant attempt to ingratiate himself. Next week Ethel will be tackling spelling reform – and these two will be at the front of the class!

Thia ga! Thai ga! burnin brite
In the fawrist of the nite,
Wot hymortal and or i
Cud frame yore fearful simitry

Wen the stars frew downan ther speers
An wartherd heaven wi ther tiers
Did e smile is werk to c
Did e oo maid the lam mek the.
Bye Billy Blake age for and fre qartus

We hav lots of discushuns on hough our langwij is, or shood be, spelt and spoke. Seems ther is a fine lyne tween wot is considered by sum to be crect prununsiashun, reejonal dilects and 'sloppy' Inglish. Seems there are things like phonemes and shwas that git in the whey! The history of our langwij is also intresting in that the Romans, Greeks, French, Vikings and uther foreners are to blame for most of the seeminly supafloous leters and anacronisums up with wich we ave to put. We are grately indetted to the luvly laydi hoo is very nolejible in thees things and let's us no wot is rite and wot is rong.



Pam Upton

Science & Technology 2

The autumn/winter programme of the Sci Tech 2 group includes the following meetings, all via Zoom, all on Thursdays at 10:00 am:

- Sep 9: Human Genome Projects: Hope, Hype and Reality - Sarabjit Mastana
- Oct 7: Drugs and Sport - Clyde Williams
- Nov 11: Carbon Capture and Storage - Daniel Faulkner
- Dec 2: Bricks - Martyn Speight
- Jan 6: Seeing the Atom - Roy Faulkner

Anyone interested in attending any of these Zoom talks should contact Roy Faulkner by emailing SciTech2@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Gardening Group Lunch



Enjoying lunch at Longcliffe Golf Club, 16th August

More Group News

Days of Interest Group Update

After our long enforced “furlough” we began our Days of Interest trips again in July. Our first trip was to Derbyshire. A fairly local destination, so a shorter time on the coach, to start us off. We first went to Buxton where we strolled around the town and looked at the sights. Many of us also indulged in a bit of shopping and enjoyed a drink and a cake at one of the many tea shops. In the afternoon we went on to Bakewell and again enjoyed the sights and gardens and, for most of us, the cafes and a bit of people watching. The weather was good and there were even some ice creams eaten (*see right!*). It was very enjoyable to be able to meet up again – and made it worth wearing our masks.



Places are still available for our October trip

On **October 16th** we have a trip to **Tattershall Castle** and the **Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre**. In the morning we visit Tattershall Castle (*pictured right*), a National Trust property with huge gothic fireplaces and fine medieval brickwork. In the afternoon we move onto the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre, which is the only Airfield Museum in the country recreated to its original design and sited on an original WW2 airfield. Pickup time at Tesco Extra, Park Road, Loughborough is at 8:30 am and we leave the Aviation Centre at 5:00 pm. The cost of the trip is £24.50 to National Trust members and £29.50 to non NT members.

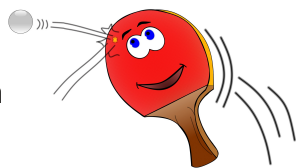


If you are interested in joining us on this trip, please contact Pauline May at ppc.wat@ntlworld.com or 01509 552834 for details.

Please be aware that, for the foreseeable future, all trips will pick up, and drop down at Tesco Extra car park on Park Road, Loughborough.

Calling all Budding Table Tennis Players

We have spaces in our Table Tennis groups on Tuesday - Friday. If you are interested in playing, please contact Garry Rigby via:
email: TableTennis@charnwoodu3a.org.uk
or phone: 01509 213655



Mini Tennis

The Mini Tennis group is now meeting every Wednesday at the Leisure Centre at 10am to 11am. If anyone is interested in joining us, please give me a ring at 01509 230485 for a chat, or email TennisMini@charnwoodu3a.org.uk.

Anne Wilson

Sustaining the Planet

The Sustaining the Planet Group will meet at 2 pm on Wednesday 1st September. Topics include the latest from the IPCC on climate and an initial look into sewage prior to a visit next month.
email: SustainPlanet@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Family History

The Family History Discussion Group will meet at 2 pm on Wednesday 15th September. The topic will be about using maps for family history research, including some that are free to access.
email: FamilyHistory@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Meetings of the above two groups will take place in The Studio at Gorse Covert Community Centre. Anyone who would like to join either meeting please get in touch at the email address shown.

Brian Waters

Groups of the Month

No, please don't get over-excited. I'm not about to start handing out medals or Blue Peter badges for the group with the best programme, best attendance, or even best biscuits (although appointing myself Chief Biscuit Assessor does sound tempting).

Did anyone ever win a Blue Peter badge? If so, please do show it off at a monthly meeting. Ah, those carefree days, when Valerie Singleton created plant pots from vinyl 45s and John Noakes, untrammelled by concerns for health and safety, shimmied nimbly up Nelson's Column. If only I'd had the foresight to invest in sticky-backed plastic!

However, I digress, so back to Groups of the Month. With my usual acumen, I've noticed that there is a distinct imbalance between the number of suggestions for new Cu3a groups and members volunteering to help run those groups. Possibly due to a fear that showing interest will lead to Group Leadership by default? If so, it's a pity, as running a group can prove very enjoyable, especially when shared between several members.

So this month I'm highlighting four potential new groups. If you are interested in any of these, please let me know by emailing groupscoordinator@charnwoodu3a.org.uk (you won't be committing yourself to anything.) If several people show interest, I'll put you in touch with each other, so you can discuss possibilities. Groups don't have to be large – many of our most successful meet in members' homes, with no need to collect fees or hire rooms (although decent biscuits are usually a pre-requisite.)



With echoes of Blue Peter, my first suggestion is for a **Crafts Group**, which could cover anything from weaving to beadwork, papercraft, jewellery and model-making.

Next, slightly more energetically, comes **Walking Football**.

We regularly have enquiries about **Jazz Appreciation**, so that's my third proposal.



Ella Fitzgerald

Lastly, to exercise those little grey cells, **Cryptic Crosswords**.

While it's great to think about new groups, it's a pity to see others close for lack of leadership. This is currently the case with long-established History 1, along with relative newbie, Singing Pop.

Despite the best efforts of the outgoing Group Leader to find a replacement, once a couple of outstanding trips have taken place, History 1 will sadly disappear. Perhaps smaller, more specialist history groups may take its place? If you have any thoughts about this, please let me know.

Singing Pop was barely off the ground when Covid struck. Despite plenty of interest in joining, it's also currently without a Leader and if no-one volunteers to help run it, will simply close.

Lastly, if your group could do with a few new members, why not advertise in *News & Views*? I'm in the Chess group and know that one or two new faces would be welcome – contact Dave Watson at Chess@charnwoodu3a.org.uk. Don't worry if you aren't a brilliant player, as the adrenaline rush for the occasional win is all the greater. (I speak from experience - and I can guarantee that our biscuits are always first class!)



Editor's note:

A guide to Starting a New Cu3a Group is available from <https://tinyurl.com/yxj47tk> and for details of our existing groups go to <https://charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/GroupsAlpha.html>

Hilary Knowles
Cu3a Groups Co-ordinator

September 2021 Meetings

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
		1 Sep 10.00 Classical Greek 10.00 German 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 10.00 Poetry 2 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Meditation 14.00 Sustain Planet	2 Sep 10.00 Spanish Conv 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.00 French Conv	3 Sep 10.00 German Adv 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 2 10.00 Table Tennis 7 10.30 Tai Chi 12.00 Lunch Club 1 12.00 Table Tennis 6 13.30 Pilates 1 14.00 Book Group 2
6 Sep 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Latin 11.00 Table Tennis 1	7 Sep 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 10+ Walks 10.00 Spanish 11.00 Table Tennis 2 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Sing4Pleasure	8 Sep 10.00 Committee 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 10.00 Poetry 2 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.30 MonthlyMeet	9 Sep 10.00 Les Sportives 10.00 Sci Tech 2 10.00 Thurs 6 Milers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 11.00 Travel Group 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.00 Making Music	10 Sep 10.00 Classical Civ 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 2 10.00 Table Tennis 7 10.30 Tai Chi 12.00 Table Tennis 6 13.30 Pilates 1
13 Sep 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Poetry 1 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Chess 14.00 Quiz group	14 Sep 09.30 Pilates 2 11.00 Parlate Italiano 11.00 Table Tennis 2 14.00 Canasta 1 14.30 Calligraphy	15 Sep 10.00 German 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Family History 14.00 Italian Conv 14.00 Meditation	16 Sep 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 French Conv 14.00 Scrabble 4 18.30 Supper Club 2	17 Sep 10.00 German Adv 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 2 10.00 Table Tennis 7 10.30 Tai Chi 12.00 Table Tennis 6 13.30 Pilates 1 14.00 Art Apprec'n 15.00 Mac Users
20 Sep 09.30 Yoga 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Gardening	21 Sep 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 6+ Walks 10.00 Spanish 11.00 Table Tennis 2 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Sing4Pleasure	22 Sep 10.00 Golf 10.00 History 3 10.00 Mini Tennis 10.00 Poetry 2 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Classical Music	23 Sep 10.00 Les Sportives 10.00 Thurs 6 Milers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Architecture 14.00 Bowls Indoor 14.00 Making Music	24 Sep 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 2 10.00 Table Tennis 7 10.30 Tai Chi 12.00 Table Tennis 6 13.30 Pilates 1 19.30 Wine Apprec'n
27 Sep 09.30 Yoga 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Chess 14.00 Local History	28 Sep 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 ETHEL 11.00 Parlate Italiano 11.00 Table Tennis 2 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Needlecraft 2 14.00 Philosophy1	29 Sep 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3	30 Sep 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Indoor	

PLUS on Saturdays: 4th and 18th September - Saturday Walks, meeting at 10 am.
 18th September - Days of Interest trip to Stratford-upon-Avon

Please Note: Some of these meetings *may* be open to non-members of the group. Please check with the Group Leader if interested. For more information, visit our **website** (<https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk>) for the interactive calendar which is regularly updated, with direct links to the group pages for more details. If there are any errors in the above calendar, or any additions for future months, please send details to the Editor at newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk.

Members' Stories

I'll Show You Mine if You'll Show Me Yours

On a flight back to Glasgow from London, I found myself sitting next to a sailor. It was pretty obvious he was in the Navy given his dark blue uniform and his navy cap! We got talking and I told him about the research into AI (Artificial Intelligence) and HCI (Human Computer Interaction) my research group were doing. He was very interested in these, so I wasn't surprised when he suggested a swap-event between my research group and the local Round Table, where he was an active member.

The surprise was what he offered - a pair of events, where I would host a visit to my research group and he would host a visit to Faslane submarine base! Wow, what an offer. It was one that no fully-paid-up member of the boys-with-their-toys club could refuse! Of course, each visit would include a selection of sandwiches, drinks etc.

During our visit to Faslane there were several memorable moments.

Firstly, we had a go in their submarine simulator and experienced an emergency dive in a room that was a moving mockup of the inside of a sub. It is surprising how little tilt the human body can handle before the panic sets in. Some of us were a little less sure of ourselves and our footings as we left the training sub.

Secondly, we visited the Polaris missile launch school, complete with a practice launch with a copy of the real launch key. After the fun of the sub simulator, this part of the tour was rather sobering, given the potential use of such weapons.

Thirdly, we went on board HMS Conqueror, the submarine that sank the Belgrano at the start of the Falklands War, and we saw the tiny sonar station that controlled the torpedo that sank the ship. My professional interest was triggered by the very

cramped nature of the sonar station and the difficulty interpreting the screens. Naturally we paused for thought about what this vessel had done and the number of lives lost as a consequence. You don't have to think for very long to understand the sadness of the loss of so many lives, not just by this one action, but in the conflict as a whole.

One thing we learnt during the visit to HMS Conqueror was that submarines at that time were the only naval vessels that put out to sea with their weapons loaded. In particular, subs had to have at least one torpedo loaded and ready to fire when leaving base. This was because any naval vessel must be able to defend itself immediately, and it would take too long to load and fire from scratch.



Incidentally, the foreign students in our research group were not allowed to enter the Polaris school, but were allowed elsewhere on the tour. Ironically, one of the students had done his National Service on board a Norwegian submarine. This explained why he grinned when the training sub started to throw us about. He was the only one who stood by, easily holding onto the sub furniture whilst we lost our dignity desperately trying to grab something and trying to keep our recent sandwiches on board too!

Peter Reid

Structured Listening

I've been introduced to a good way of doing Zoom "discussions", called **Structured Listening**. Divide everyone into breakout rooms with 3 people in each room. Each person has 3 opportunities to consider the issues, themes, ideas, questions, while the other two listen without comment, question or challenge.

- First round, 6 minutes each
- Second round, 5 minutes each
- Third round, 4 minutes each

While a person talks, one of the others is timekeeper. If the person talking finishes early, let the time continue in silence. At the end, take a few minutes to check what, if anything, you would share in plenary. You can vary the total time by rounds of 5, 4, 3 minutes instead of 6, 5, 4. If needed, you can have a group of 4.

I am happy to respond to any questions: give me a ring on 01509 265277.

Anthony Gimpel

Weeding Broadens the Mind – Grateful to Bindweed!

I love listening to the radio while I'm busy in the garden. And, because of being nose-down in a waterbutt cleaning out glup, or behind prickly bushes when a programme changes... I often end up listening to things I definitely wouldn't by choice. Amazingly, these programmes are often the most memorable and interesting.

A few weeks ago, I was deep in the broad beans unwinding bindweed, when the World Service announced a programme on Emojis. I immediately thought – in my completely unjudgemental way – 'What?! A whole programme about those irritating little things that make no sense! Haven't they got anything better to talk about?' But I was too far into the jungle to reach the radio. So I 'had' to listen to the history of emojis and how difficult it is to get a new one 'passed' by the Californian clique, and how entirely unrepresentative they are of most of the world's cultures, food, and ways of life. Gradually my Grumpy Old Woman arrow swung out of *Irritated*, climbed into *Enjoyment*, and ended in *Fascination!*

Yesterday I was weeding with my radio in easy reach, when it announced the documentary on Emojis. 'Oh well, I've heard it before but I'll listen with a much less dismissive attitude this time,' I thought.

It turned out to be Episode 6 of the Emoji series! And was even more powerful and interesting than Episode 1. I ended up in tears of recognition when Tafadzwa – a Zimbabwean animator – described how African characters in any sort of TV show were so *incredibly* unusual that he would call his brother to

come see: "Look! Look! There's an African character!!"

I was exactly the same on the very, very rare occasions when there was a lesbian character represented in anything I read, listened to or watched. But lesbians are pretty rare (about 1% of women identify as lesbian). Africans make up 17% of the world's population. So it is 34* times worse that Tafadzwa had virtually no representations of anyone who looked like him, on screen while growing up.



Unless you have been in an unrepresented minority like us, it is pretty impossible to comprehend how this lack of representation affects you. Try to imagine if, throughout your childhood, your young adulthood, your middle age, you were *that* astonished to see a European on any sort of show. Can you imagine that?

The entire population of Europe is less than 10% of the world's population, and yet we – and the North Americans (less than 5% of the world's population) – dominate the representation on TV etc, and, to get back to the original subject, the range of emojis available.

So, let radio broaden your outlook – here's a link to the episode with Tafadzwa – he's a brilliant listen: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p09rl0pt>

And here's Episode 1 which, because of bindweed I didn't turn off: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p09ndpbv>



*1% of women identify as lesbian, but Africans (at 17%) are men and women, so $17 \times 2 = 34$ times.

Char March

Market 800 exhibition at Charnwood Museum

A new exhibition charting the **800-year history of Loughborough's market** is now on display at **Charnwood Museum**. The Market 800 exhibition has been created by Leicestershire County Council's Communities and Wellbeing Team, working with Loughborough Library Local Studies Volunteer Group, Charnwood Borough Council and market traders. The exhibition runs until mid-December.

The colourful panels in the display chart the history of the town's market from the first Royal Market Charter of 1221, which also permitted an annual fair in the town, through to the developments and expansions in the 20th and 21st centuries, along with memories and expressions of what Loughborough's markets mean to people today. For more information, go to: <https://www.charnwoodmuseum.co.uk/events/2021/07/market-800-exhibition>



News from the National u3a



New Chair Announced

At the Third Age Trust 's first ever hybrid AGM, which took place both as an in-person meeting and a simultaneous broadcast to members across the UK, the newly elected members of the Board were announced. These include Dr Liz Thackray as Chair of the Third Age Trust, Vice Chair Michaela Moody and Treasurer Derek Harwood. More details can be found at:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/latest-news/1171-the-u3a-movement-announce-its-new-chair>

On-Line Events this Month:

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

- **'Mathematical Surprises: A Curious Maths Quiz'** with mathematician and puzzle expert Rob Eastaway, (Thur 9th Sept, 2 pm)
- **'Pottery in Ancient Egypt'** with Neil Stevenson, u3a Subject Advisor for Egyptology (Fri 10th Sept, 2 pm)
- **'Elizabeth & Mary: Royal Cousins, Rival Queens'** with The British Library (Wed 29th Sept, 10:30 am)



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>

Exploring World Faiths

The u3a Subject Adviser for Exploring World Faiths, Peter Rookes, is running three Zoom sessions on World Faiths this autumn. Find out more and the Zoom links at <https://tinyurl.com/vc66z5h5>

National u3a Newsletter and More:

To register to receive the National u3a newsletter, go to: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter> where you will find a link to previous issues.

Also check out the u3a journal **Sources** at <https://sources.u3a.org.uk/>, the u3a learning blog which runs year-round with stories from members about their u3a groups and updates about national projects. Also see the u3a National programmes page at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes> for more news and ideas.

Scheduled Maintenance of Beacon

I understand that the Third Age Trust board will be carrying out a Digital Strategy Review encompassing all aspects of their I.T. systems, including Beacon. This may eventually result in far-reaching changes to Beacon but this will depend on the outcome of the review and any fundamental changes are likely to be years away. In the meantime, more resources have been provided to the Beacon Team for bug fixes and small enhancements. If all goes well, this will mean a steady stream of relatively minor changes to Beacon over the coming months and the maintenance team have decided to release these on a monthly basis. Beacon will be unavailable for a short time during these periods of scheduled maintenance.



Maintenance work will be carried out at 10:30 am on the first Tuesday of the month from September 2021.

Beacon System users - including members updating their information on the Members Portal - are advised to avoid using Beacon at these times to ensure that no data is lost. We have not been told how long these interruptions will last but I would expect 30 minutes would be enough.

Phil Bass, Beacon Administrator

Answers to Last Month's Quiz:

- 1) Matthew Hancock is M.P. for which constituency? **West Suffolk**
- 2) With which sporting event were a lion named 'Willie' and a dog named 'Pickles' linked?
1966 World Cup (Willie was the Mascot and Pickles the dog which found the stolen cup)
- 3) Orchestra is an anagram of which creature? **Carthorse**
- 4) What is the traditional title of a British Monarch's second son? **Duke of York**
- 5) Which cricketer made his 150th ODI appearance for England in June this year? **Joe Root**
- 6) Which religion was founded by Guru Nanak? **Sikhism**
- 7) Which Mediterranean island was awarded a George Cross? **Malta**
- 8) Which is the least populated state of the USA? **Alaska**
- 9) Who scored the only goal in the 2021 Cup Final? **Youri Tielemans**
- 10) Who was the lead singer of The Who? **Roger Daltrey**
- 11) Where is the *Dad's Army* Museum? **Thetford**
- 12) Which is the longest bone in the human body? **Femur/thigh bone**
- 13) When was Sputnik 1 launched? **4 October 1957**
- 14) Who succeeded Stephen Dorrell as MP for Loughborough? **Andrew Reed**
- 15) Who was the only child of Mary, Queen of Scots? **James I**
- 16) The term 'antediluvian' refers to which event in the Old Testament? **Noah's Flood**
- 17) *Poulet* is the French word for which domestic bird? **Chicken**
- 18) Born in Ulm in 1879, who won a Nobel prize in 1921 for his services to Theoretical Physics?
Albert Einstein
- 19) The Trojan princess Polyxena was sacrificed on the tomb of which mythical Greek warrior? **Achilles**
- 20) Which chemical element has the symbol Pb? **Lead**



Poetry Corner

THE MACE BEARER

My fall from grace was quite spectacular.
His Worship cursed in the vernacular
In the Parish Church that Civic Sunday,
Which became my hit and run day!
Before I led them out by the door
Somehow I dropped the mace on the floor.
It made a muffled, mournful sound
When it hit the hallowed ground.
I took to my heels, as though in a race!
I couldn't look the Mayor in the face.
I sent in my robes and retired then,
Dreading the day of reckoning when
The post would arrive bringing the bill.
The suspense began to make me ill.
I stayed indoors and shunned the town,
Faint at the thought of a big showdown.
But I reckoned without my old pal, the Mayor,
Who strolled in one day and pulled up a chair,



And laughed about the whole affair.
"Why, Tom" he said "don't be cast down.
Come on! We'll take a walk through town.
Your story will stand you a pint or two.
If I can laugh it off, so can you.
You've made my term local history,
Preserved in the public library!"

.....

Yes thanks, a half of the local brew.
You know, I'm finding it out to be true,
That saying about distance improving the view.

Copyright Louie Carr, 1998.
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Obituary

Sylvia Betts 20/01/1933-01/08/2021



It is with great sadness that we learn of the passing of Sylvia Betts.

Sylvia was a very talented lady. She spent a lifetime teaching Art and Design, mainly in Leicester and lastly at Humphrey Perkins High School, where she was a very popular and fondly remembered member of staff. She was a painter, a potter and a poet. She was also a dressmaker with a fine sense of fashion.

Sylvia, and her husband Colin, were active members of Charnwood u3a from the very early days. Sylvia successfully set up and ran the Travel Group and organised many happy holidays for numerous members over the years. Colin, who died ten years ago, was one of the editors of the magazine "Charnwood Chat", and together they started the Sunday Lunch Club, after realising that so many single members were alone on Sundays.

She and Colin loved boating, and when they retired, spent many of their summers on their boat with their family. Sylvia was a very good cook and enjoyed many parties, catering for family and friends. She had a great sense of humour and a very infectious laugh! They were also members of a local supper club, where four couples took it in turns to cook for each other.

Sylvia will be dearly missed by all her family including her sister, three sons, daughters-in-law, 8 grand children and 5 great grand children, and also by many, many friends. Following the packed crematorium at her funeral, her ashes will be scattered over Colin's resting place at the family home, enabling them to be reunited again.

The Travel Group intend to dedicate their next meeting to memories of Sylvia, and to Ruth Muldoon who died last year, with a meal at Longcliffe on Sept. 9th.

Gladys Skinner

A Happier Farewell from Dee Patterson...

Dear fellow CU3A members

This is a fond farewell to all the friends I have made during my many years with CU3A. As of 25th August I will be moving to Enfield to be near my youngest daughter and her family. Unfortunately because of COVID restrictions I have not been able to attend my usual groups and see everyone in person.

I am going to miss all the friends I have made in Loughborough and CU3A but I am excited to be moving nearer to my family and my first job once I am unpacked will be to contact the Enfield U3A!

With best wishes to everyone, take care,

Dee

Editor's note: Dee was the Groups Co-ordinator when I first joined Charnwood u3a. I remember she gave me a warm welcome and was very helpful at the 'new members' meeting I attended at the start of my Cu3a journey. I'm sure you'll all join me in wishing Dee all the best in her new life.

Shared Reading

Leicestershire Shared Reading* now have a range of groups meeting across the county - via Zoom and in libraries - throughout the week. For details, see: <https://www.leicestershiresharedreading.org/our-groups>

What happens in a Shared Reading group?

Each week, the volunteer Reader Leader will bring a story and poem to share with everyone; these are read aloud either by the leader or by willing members of the group. We never ask anyone to read unless they'd like to. Everyone has a copy of the text so that they can follow it as it is read aloud.

Throughout the session, the group will pause to reflect on the story or poem, working out what's going on together, sharing their thoughts about it, perhaps making personal connections to the literature. The Reader Leader encourages discussion, creating a safe space where members feel valued, encouraged and listened to.

Char March

* as described in the September 2020 issue of News & Views, page 7.

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 **October** issue of **News & Views** will be **Wednesday 29th September (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) 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.

Note: Where personal contact details appear in News & Views, these are included with permission.