

News & Views


 Newsletter

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Interest Groups

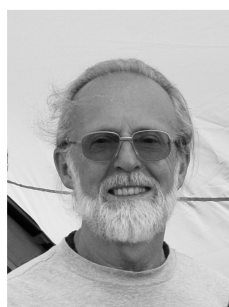
Details of Groups can be found on the Charnwood u3a website:
www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk
 under 'Our Groups' menu.

Welcome

...to the November 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



This is not usually a time of the year that I look forward to; the nights will have drawn in, and the temperature will have started its downward spiral into winter. Well, so far, only one of these happened – we are still enjoying unseasonably mild weather! If this is a sign of global warming then this is not good news for the planet. It has however been a boon for me personally. Right at the beginning of October, Eleanor and I went to visit our daughter and grandson, who we haven't seen (in the flesh) since February 2020. This is a bit easier now that they have moved from Amsterdam to East Sussex. Woody, now 4 years old, loves being outdoors and the warm autumn sunshine was an unexpected pleasure. I do hope that you are all now able to see/visit your distant loved ones.

The weather stayed good for our Relaunch Event. Loughborough Market Place is a very effective wind tunnel, but on the day, air movement was little more than a light breeze. In all, 32 members volunteered and duties were split between staffing our stall and handing out leaflets around the town centre (see *photo, page 12*). We engaged with lots of people, many expressing an interest in joining Charnwood u3a. Hopefully this will be reflected in the numbers.

Come the 13th and the weather was STILL 'summery' and we had a good turnout for our return to Emmanuel Church. With around 80 members in the church and another 20 Zooming, attendance was very much in line with pre-lockdown numbers. Let's hope we can keep it up. As far as we could tell, the 'blended meeting' worked well. No doubt, there will be things we can improve upon. so if you were one of the 'Zoomers' please send me your feedback.

Like it or loathe it, Zoom has been a u3a 'life saver' during lockdown. And, with the initial teething problems now largely ironed out, some of us are now wondering how we even got by without it! Many of our groups are now back to meeting in person but, I think it reasonable to say, Zoom is here to stay. In this vein, a u3a in Nottinghamshire is setting up a process to enable 'Zooming' groups to share their meetings with other u3as (see *Shared Zoom Groups on page 5*). If you would like to know more – or perhaps think your group could share meetings – please let me know, and I will put you in touch with them.

In 2022 the u3a movement will be 40 years old! An important part of the celebrations will be the setting up of the 'u3a 40th Anniversary Woodland'. Located on the England/Welsh border in the Brecon Beacons National Park, the target is to plant 5000 trees, and all u3as are invited to contribute. Further details will be published in a future edition of News and Views, but do please contact me if you would like details of how to get involved.

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

Our Monthly Meetings

On our return to Emmanuel Church for our October monthly meeting, speaker Bob McClumpha introduced us to two of his parrot friends - a green-winged macaw named Max and an umbrella Cockatoo named Rupert.

Max and Rupert were very well behaved, and I think we all learned something about keeping parrots as pets - not least the cost of buying them!



Our Next Meeting: Wednesday 10th November, 2:30 pm Emmanuel Church

Change of Speaker and Subject

I had arranged to have a speaker from the Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust talking to us on November 10th. Sadly he is ill and quite seriously I believe. We send him our best wishes for a speedy and full recovery. Unfortunately, an alternative I had in mind is not available. Luckily, I have secured a speaker at short notice to give a talk on a building even closer to us:

Loughborough's Unique Monument: Loughborough Carillon Tower with Mel Gould

A talk on our own Carillon, its history and design. The tower we are all very familiar with is the only free standing carillon in the country; others are within the structure of other buildings, typically churches.

I know the carillonneur, Caroline Sharpe, and she has played it as I stood by her side...it is loud - very loud!

Mel Gould is a member of the trust that manages the building; he will explain its uniqueness, its provenance and its history.



Graham Cooper, Programme Secretary

The above meeting will be a hybrid (or blended) meeting, combining a meeting in Emmanuel Church (on Forest Rd, Loughborough), with a Zoom Meeting.

If you wish to attend this meeting in person, no pre-booking is required - just turn up on the day, with your Cu3a membership card. **Note:** do not arrive before 2 pm, but aim to arrive around 2:15 for a 2:30 pm start.



Alternatively, if you wish to attend via Zoom, you will need to pre-register by **Monday 8th November** by completing the registration form available from the November Monthly meeting page on our website at:

<https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/MonthlyMeetingNov2021.html>

- please do not do this if you intend joining in person.

An invitation to join the Zoom meeting will then be emailed before the meeting to all those who have pre-registered for this.

Looking Ahead:

Our December meeting on **8th December** will feature the Loughborough Male Voice Choir singing a selection of seasonal songs.



Group News

Days of Interest Update

Our October trip was to Tattershall Castle and the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre.

Our first stop was at Tattershall Castle – a National Trust property, where the coach driver got a well-earned round of applause after some very skilful reversing up a narrow drive, whilst avoiding a coffee vendor. We got off the coach to see the magnificent castle great tower rising up through the landscape. It was a perfect day to see the medieval red brick castle in all its glory. The castle itself was saved from ruin by Lord Curzon in 1911. He even rescued some of the fireplaces which had been stripped out and were on their way to the USA.



Some of us made our way up to the battlements (*right*), from which the views were fabulous. Going up the staircase I think we all noticed the graffiti. It turns out that this isn't a new problem, there were many "I was here" carvings from the early 1800s.



As the National Trust has no catering facilities, the local Church, which is next door to the castle, had opened to serve us drinks and cake. We were made to feel very welcome.

In the afternoon we went onto the Aviation Heritage Centre. One of the major exhibits is a Lancaster bomber named "Just Jane", bought in memory of a young man who lost his life on a bombing raid over Germany in WW2. Other exhibits include land vehicles, aircraft parts, aircrew equipment and a vast amount of reference material. There is film of a pre-flight briefing, complete with an aircrew officer with a dog in tow, an exhibition on the home front, a chapel and of course the NAAFI.

A small number of places are still available for our November Christmas trip:

In the morning we are off to **Doddington Hall** to see the Elizabethan house decorated for Christmas. The theme this year is Secret Gardens. In the afternoon we will make the short journey to **Lincoln** itself where we can investigate the medieval city, do some Christmas shopping or just enjoy the cafés.

The trip departs from Tesco Extra car park on **Saturday 27th November at 9:00 am**. We leave Lincoln at 4:00 pm. The cost of the trip is £28 per person.

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

Calligraphy

The Calligraphy group will meet on November 9th but this will be the final meeting of the group.

Alan Mercer



More Group News

Travel Group Trip to Ireland

In early October, the Travel Group went on a coach tour of Southern Ireland. Our first stop was Cardiff, but due to atrocious weather, this was cut short, before making our way to Swansea where we spent the night.

The next morning, we made our way to Fishguard where we were booked on the ferry to Rosslare. Expecting a thorough check of our travel documents (proof of double vaccinations, Passenger Locator Form, and photographic ID) we were very surprised that none of these were inspected! However, six unfortunate members were asked to open their cases and were frisked before boarding!!

We eventually arrived at Gleneagle Hotel in Killarney, an impressive 4* hotel. Whilst there, the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, was addressing a joint armed forces conference being held in our hotel.



Our local guide, Mary, joined us on our coach for a whole day tour of the Ring of Kerry. This 111 mile circular route includes stunning scenery encompassing sandy beaches, jaw dropping cliffs, derelict castles, waterfalls, tranquil lakes, and spectacular views along the coast. A stop was made at the Red Fox Inn at Glenbeigh, where we were invited to have a beautiful Irish coffee. There was a reconstructed Kerry Bog village which had two Irish Wolfhounds on show. We also stopped at Waterville where there is a statue of “The Tramp” Charlie Chaplin who had holidayed there for 10 years and would

you believe, there was a “gentleman of the road” sitting beside him.

The next day we saw more of Killarney National Park, firstly having a boat ride on Lough Leane (*pictured above*).....this was quite calm and enjoyable. Afterwards we enjoyed a Jaunting Car ride back to Killarney (*pictured right*), made more memorable by our jarvey continuously entertaining us with jokes.



After a short trip to the Blennerville Windmill in Tralee Bay, where the town of Tralee meets the Dingle Peninsula, we walked through the Rose Garden in Tralee’s town park, which has The Rose Wall containing the names of every Rose who has contested The Rose of Tralee Festival since 1959. We also visited Muckross House, an elegant 19th century mansion standing on the shores of Muckross Lake, set within extensive gardens.



Finally we made our way to Dublin via Blarney Castle.

Several of us made it up the 129 steps to the top of the castle but only 2 were brave enough to lie down to kiss the Blarney Stone. Once in Dublin we met up with our local guide Celina who took us on a walking tour of the city highlighting various landmarks. Whilst on our walk we were introduced to the new Lord Mayor, Alison Gilliland, who took a great interest in our u3a holiday. After a break for lunch we all met at Trinity College to view the Book of Kells exhibition. Some hardy souls stayed on in Dublin to experience the night life in Temple Bar, whilst the others returned to the hotel.

For our final stop we spent several hours learning all about Ireland’s greatest export.....Guinness! Whilst enjoying a free half pint in the 7th floor Gravity Bar, we enjoyed splendid 360° views of the city. From here we made our way to the port for our return ferry to Holyhead and home.

Further Group News

Family History Discussion Group

At the October meeting, we were introduced to several members' great grandfathers, learning not just about their personal and family details but also their lives and the social history of the times in which they lived.

We have been joined by three new members recently who are keen to learn more about how to uncover their own family histories. To this end we are proposing to run a series of three sessions at the start of 2022 on making a start. Everyone has interesting stories in their families waiting to be uncovered.

So if you:

- enjoy "Who Do You Think You Are",
- want to find out if it was true that granny was born in the workhouse,
- can't understand how come you have distant relations in Australia,
- want to prove or otherwise that your family is descended from Henry VIII,
- are keen to track down that rumoured family wealth or black sheep,
- wonder what all the fuss is about DNA testing,
- or just want to create your own family tree...



...why not join us?

To find out more or register your interest, contact me at FamilyHistory@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Brian Waters

Shared Zoom Groups

Carlton & Gedling u3a in Nottinghamshire have launched an initiative to share on-line interest groups across the East Midlands u3as. To kickstart the process, Carlton & Gedling u3a member Paul Martinez is offering to share three of his interest groups, namely:

- **Film Study** (meets once a month)
- **Opera Study** (meets twice a month)
- **Irish History** (meets once a month)

All of these groups will continue to meet online (via Zoom), whatever happens to social distancing etc. To remove barriers to participation, there will be no affiliation fee to pay. Details of all three groups are available on their website at:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/carlton-gedling/groups>

If any Cu3a member is interested in joining any of the above groups, or if any group leaders might be willing to share their online meetings with members of other u3as in the East Midlands, please contact our Chair at chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk and he will pass your details on to the relevant contact person.



What3words



If you're lost or injured and need help but don't know where you are, a simple free app on your phone can pinpoint your location and could save your life.

The creators of **what3words** have divided the world into 3m squares and given each square a unique combination of three words. Emergency services use what3words to find and help people in need, so you just need to share the 3 words when calling for help. See <https://what3words.com/about/> for details.

Helen Reid

November 2021 Meetings

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1 Nov 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Latin 11.00 Table Tennis 1	2 Nov 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 10+ Walks 10.00 Spanish 11.00 Table Tennis 2 11.15 Pilates 3 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Sing4Pleasure	3 Nov 10.00 Classical Greek 10.00 German 10.00 Golf 10.00 JigsawBookEx 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Meditation 14.00 Sustain Planet	4 Nov 10.00 Spanish Conv 10.30 Amble/Strollers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Indoor 14.00 French Conv	5 Nov 10.00 German Adv 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 2 10.00 Table Tennis 7 10.30 Photography 10.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Table Tennis 5 12.00 Lunch Club 1 12.00 Table Tennis 6 13.30 Pilates 1 14.00 Book Group 2
8 Nov 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Poetry 1 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Archaeology 14.00 Chess 14.00 Quiz group	9 Nov 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 EngParC Zoom 11.00 Table Tennis 2 11.15 Pilates 3 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 EngParC F2F 14.30 Calligraphy	10 Nov 10.00 Committee 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.30 MonthlyMeet	11 Nov 10.00 Les Sportives 10.00 Sci Tech 2 10.00 Thurs 6 Milers 10.30 Amble/Strollers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Indoor 14.00 Making Music	12 Nov 10.00 Classical Civ 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 2 10.00 Needlecraft 1 10.00 Table Tennis 7 10.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Table Tennis 5 12.00 Table Tennis 6 13.30 Pilates 1
15 Nov 09.30 Yoga 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Gardening	16 Nov 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 6+ Walks 10.00 Spanish 11.00 Table Tennis 2 11.15 Pilates 3 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Sing4Pleasure	17 Nov 10.00 German 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 10.00 Poetry 2 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Family History 14.00 Italian Conv 14.00 Meditation	18 Nov 10.00 Parish Walks 10.30 Amble/Strollers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Indoor 14.00 French Conv 14.00 Scrabble 4 18.30 Supper Club 2	19 Nov 10.00 German Adv 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 2 10.00 Table Tennis 7 10.30 Photography 10.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Table Tennis 5 12.00 Table Tennis 6 13.30 Pilates 1 14.00 Art Apprec'n 15.00 Mac Users
22 Nov 09.30 Yoga 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Chess 14.00 Local History	23 Nov 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 ETHEL 11.00 Table Tennis 2 11.15 Pilates 3 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Needlecraft 2 14.00 Philosophy1	24 Nov 10.00 Golf 10.00 History 3 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Classical Music 14.00 Travel Group	25 Nov 10.00 Les Sportives 10.00 Thurs 6 Milers 10.30 Amble/Strollers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Architecture 14.00 Bowls Indoor 14.00 Making Music	26 Nov 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 2 10.00 Needlecraft 1 10.00 Table Tennis 7 10.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Table Tennis 5 12.00 Table Tennis 6 13.30 Pilates 1 19.30 Wine Apprec'n
29 Nov 09.30 Yoga 11.00 Table Tennis 1	30 Nov 09.30 Pilates 2 11.00 Table Tennis 2 11.15 Pilates 3 14.00 Canasta 1			

PLUS on Saturdays: 6th and 20th November - Saturday Walks, meeting at 10 am.
27th November - Days of Interest trip to Doddington Hall & Lincoln

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.

u3a Leicestershire &
Rutland
Network of u3as

u3a Northamptonshire
Network of u3as

THE NETWORK ZOOM AUTUMN QUIZ 2021

All u3a members in Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland are invited to take part

Thursday 18th November 2021 starting at 7:00pm
(aiming to finish around 8.45-9.00pm, including a break)

REGISTRATION

Opens: Monday 4th October 9:00am
Allocation: 1st come, 1st served basis

To Register send:

- ❖ Your name
- ❖ Name of your u3a
- ❖ Team name/leader (if appropriate)

to: coordinator@landru3a.org.uk

Confirmation:

By email normally within 24 hours
Zoom details emailed Monday 15th Nov.

WHO CAN JOIN?

Open To:

- ❖ Teams of up to 4 members
- ❖ Couples
- ❖ Singles

How it works:

- ❖ A handicap system will be used to make it fair for all
- ❖ No limit on the number of entries from each u3a

It's Quiz time again - don't miss out!

GOOD LUCK

Charnwood Orchestra

Charnwood Orchestra is finally back to performing again, with their concert on **27 November 2021**.

The programme consists of:

- Weber: Overture to the opera 'Oberon'
- Elgar: Cello Concerto - Soloist, Danushka Edirisinghe (a former Loughborough student now making a career as a soloist)
- Dvorak: Symphony No.8

The venue is Emmanuel Church, Forest Road Loughborough starting at 19:30. Tickets cost £14.00 (£12.00 concessions) and £5 for children under 16.

For tickets, please email tickets@charnwoodorchestra.org.uk

For details of Charnwood Orchestra's next concert (15th Jan 2022), see their website at www.charnwoodorchestra.org.uk

In order to ensure everyone feels safe and comfortable, audience numbers will be limited for social distancing purposes.



The poster features a teal and yellow background with a silhouette of a castle. The text reads: 'The Charnwood Orchestra Music Director Nic Fallowfield', 'Saturday 27th November 2021 7:30pm', 'Emmanuel Church Forest Road Loughborough LE11 3NW', 'Conductor Nic Fallowfield Cello Danushka Edirisinghe', and a list of pieces: 'Weber Oberon Overture', 'Elgar Cello Concerto', and 'Dvořák Symphony No.8'. It also includes ticket information and social media links.

Conductor Nic Fallowfield
Cello Danushka Edirisinghe

Weber	Oberon Overture
Elgar	Cello Concerto
Dvořák	Symphony No.8

Tickets:

- The Orchestra website
- tickets@charnwoodorchestra.org.uk
- Members of the Orchestra
- At the door (cash payments only)

£14.00 (£12.00 concessions)
£5.00 for children under 16

[/charnwoodorchestra](https://www.facebook.com/charnwoodorchestra)
[/charnwoodorch](https://www.twitter.com/charnwoodorch)

News from the National u3a



Maths Week 8 - 13 November:

To celebrate **Maths Week England 2021**, the National u3a is offering two fun Zoom sessions:

- **The Numbers You Eat** with Dr Ron Knott - Tuesday 9th November, 2 pm
- **Maths Activities and Games** with David Martin - Thursday 11th November, 2pm

There is also a prize draw. Break the code to enter the prize draw and win a Rob Eastaway maths book of your choice. See the puzzle and submit your answers on the online form at <https://u3auk.wufoo.com/forms/m7c3me80kbqbu3/> before **Wednesday 10th November**.

Other Free On-Line Events this Month:

- **Ancient Civilisations of the Americas** with Maria Chester: Mondays 8th - 29th November, 4 pm
- **The Tomb of the Unknown Warrior**: a talk by the National Army Museum, Wed 10th Nov, 10:30 am.

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

National u3a Newsletter and More:

To register to receive the latest National u3a newsletter, go to: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter> where you will find a link to previous issues (also see our Cu3a website under 'News' - National U3A Newsletters...).

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.

Keep Taking the Tablets?

It is very noticeable how popular tablet devices have become during the Covid period, particularly amongst older users. Before Covid, tablets were being bought and used by older people at a modestly increasing rate, but not with anything like the enthusiasm seen by children who adopt new technology with ease.

With many people Zooming to keep in touch with friends and family, it's not unusual for families to give a new tablet to older members so they can join in virtual family get togethers. However they've little confidence in using the device. For example, the last time they tried to use it they thought they'd pressed something by mistake and they're worried it'll break if they try again!

There are enough ways to get things wrong when trying to get Zooming!

Using a desktop or laptop there are plenty of ways for things to fail. However, using a tablet makes things even more difficult, usually due to poor design of the user interface. For example, when the user gets stuck trying to mute/unmute their microphone, the meeting organiser might suggest they swipe their finger across the bottom of the screen. Except the controls appear at the top of a tablet screen, not the bottom, and can appear with different names and in a different order! So the tablet user ends up hunting around the screen tapping all sorts of icons in the forlorn hope that one might work.

Even where the use of icons and their screen locations are consistent between computer and tablet, the tablet user almost always hits the problem of trying to tap (or tap-and-hold or tap-and-swipe or ...) accurately enough. Why is it a struggle to use tablets? Whilst everyone knows that young users have small nimble fingers, older users like me have slow dumpy fingers! Guess who the screens seem to have been designed and tested for?

People with limited mobility need larger tap targets and more time to help them interact with their devices. Controls that are too small can be frustratingly difficult for all users to hit. Even more so if they hide many of the controls, making the user search all over the screen only to find that pop-ups disappear just that little bit too quickly!

Despite the above, tablets are popular for good reasons. They are

- relatively affordable
- light and compact, bag-friendly!
- good for all-day use on battery
- relatively secure
- able to share photos etc.



However, tablets, like all other 'smart' devices, are only secure if they are properly updated with regular security patches, when they are probably the most secure means of using the Internet.

Unfortunately many tablets are not kept up-to-date. Why? Well firstly it could be because the users, especially older

ones, are unaware of the need and the means to do this. Secondly, the manufacturer stops supporting their tablets with new updates. This last point is significant; tablet and smart-phone makers provide updates for a limited period from the release date of a model. The best supported are the iPad/iPhone where Apple provides support for 5-7 years. Typically, Samsung and Google provide 3-4 years support, probably the best of the Android-based devices, as some offer no more than 2 years support. Remember, the support period is from when your tablet model was released, not from when you bought it!

So if you want a relatively safe way of using the internet and devices that aren't too unfriendly to use, you should keep taking the tablets!!

Peter Reid

Bosworth Battlefield Centre & 1620s House

Both the **Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre** and the **Donington Le Heath Manor House, Coalville (the 1620s House & Garden)** have some interesting activities coming up in November and December. For details of these events, go to their websites at <https://www.bosworthbattlefield.org.uk/whats-on/> and <https://www.doningtonleheath.org.uk/whats-on/> where you'll find dates, prices and booking information. Also see <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/NoticeBoard.html> for links to these and other local events.

Answers to Last Month's Quiz:

- 1) Which fortnightly magazine's 'Dumb Britain' column compiles stupid quiz show answers? **Private Eye**
- 2) The last words of the Confederate General 'Stonewall' Jackson inspired which Ernest Hemingway novel? **"Across The river And Into The Trees"** from the quote **"Let us cross the river and rest under the shade of the trees."**
- 3) What is the smallest planet in the solar system (as the system is currently known)? **Mercury**
- 4) In 1977 who replaced which original Sex Pistols guitarist? **Glen Matlock**
- 5) If one divides the number of medals won by Great Britain at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics by the number of symphonies for full orchestra by Mendelssohn, what is the answer? **13: 65 medals, 5 symphonies**
- 6) Harold Wilson, Edward Heath, Barbara Castle and Roy Jenkins all graduated from Oxford University with a degree in what discipline? **Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)**
- 7) Which European country's intelligence agency is (in translation) "General Directorate of External Security" ? **France**
- 8) Shepherd Neame is considered to be Britain's oldest what? **Brewer (and a fine pint it is!)**
- 9) The River Sherbourne flows through which British city? **Coventry**
- 10) What is the only organ of the human body that can float on water? **The lung**
- 11) In Canada it is called "Expropriation", in the USA it is "Eminent Domain". What is it called in the UK? **Compulsory Purchase**
- 12) Which sport is the Japanese Gateball similar to? **Croquet**
- 13) New Columbia is a proposed state in which country? **USA**
- 14) What dramatically occurred just over the River Humber in 1921? **The R38, at the time the world's largest airship, came apart.**
- 15) Name England's smallest city by population. **Wells, in Somerset (pop. 12,000 in 2018)**
- 16) Atoms are most tightly "packed" in which state of matter? **Solids**
- 17) Which motor company was founded by Martin Eberhard and Marc Tarpenning? **Tesla**
- 18) Which novelist is best known for her fantasy series "The Dark Is Rising"? **Susan Cooper**
- 19) Who is the main antagonist of Othello in Shakespeare's play? **Iago**
- 20) How many chukkas are there in a polo match? **Six**



Poetry Corner

CASTLE BEAUTIFUL

I own a castle, fortified but fair,
A citadel of beauty and of might,
And grace and favour offer comfort there,
And sweet contentment rules by day and night.

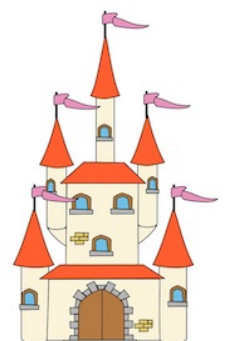
My family lives there in peace and love.
Three children mine, a babe, a girl, a boy,
As pets they keep a horse, a dog, a dove,
A kitten, and some birds which sing for joy.

The old folks live there too, with us of course,
With ample space for peace and quiet times.
To them each child and pet becomes a source
Of sunlit memories, remembered chimes.

A welcome greets each one who comes to call,
And beds and food are found for one and all.
But you must fly to reach my castle fair
Because my lovely castle's in the air.

Louie Carr
2002

Published in *Badger Court
Poetry Appreciation 2, 2013*



Obituary

Larry Shore



Larry Shore MBE, a member of Charnwood u3a since June 2005, died on October 9th. He had a fall in February, leaving him paralysed from the neck down, and had been in hospitals and Nightingale Homes since then.

Larry was an active member of several walking groups, but began to suffer from falls in 2018. He was nominated for the MBE by his work colleagues at British Rail, a source of great pride to him and his family. He is survived by his wife, Pam, three sons, and four grand-daughters.

The two following pieces - reminiscences by two of his fellow walkers - give an impression of his contribution to the u3a walking groups.

Ann Maccabee

From Peter Mill:

Larry was already an established walk leader for both the Tuesday 6+ and 10+ mile groups when I joined u3a almost 14 years ago, and he offered to drive me to my first 10+ walk outside of the Charnwood area. The walk was from High Peak Junction and started with a steep ascent. His excellent planning would often lead to the pub being the highest point on the walk, which made it easier to return downhill after a good lunch and pint.

His excellent knowledge of the Peak District was gained when he moved to the area, working for British Rail in Derby. When I took over as the 10+ mile coordinator in October 2012, I could always rely on Larry to arrange a Peak District Walk each spring, often with dramatic bluebell views. A walk from Tissington included a lunch stop in Parwich, where the pub featured at a later date in Countryfile as a pub which had also diversified to become the village store when so many hostelrys had closed. I suppose including this as our lunch stop was Larry's way to help preservation of the Peak District as we have come to love it.

During another walk from Baslow, over lunch Larry informed us that, if we were interested, the BBC were repeating a documentary on snow that evening, which would include his presenting an explanation of how the wrong type of snow had caused locomotive failure. I remember watching this, thinking of such expertise we have amongst our u3a members.

I feel fortunate and privileged to have known Larry and will continue to think fondly of him when repeating his walk routes.

From Richard Wall:

I enjoyed many conversations with him on walks and in the pub afterwards. In addition to memories mentioned by Peter of his Peak District walks, such as the pub in Parwich, he also introduced us to the Bear Inn at Alderwasley. On a fine weather day, Larry would often arrive at the walk start in his vintage rear engine car (can't remember the marque).

He regularly enjoyed holidaying in the West Indies, and each year gathered his family together on holiday in Cornwall at a hotel in Port Gaverne. He told me about his exploits walking tough sections of the Cornwall coast with a group of friends. This was some time before Mike Pearson and I walked them and yes, they were tough.

A favourite saying of Larry's was in connection with any large expenditure, such as a new car or an overseas holiday. He said that for such big ticket items he always had a 40% discount, owing to the IT saving. I frequently quote him, and always try to remember it on any large outgoing !

Larry was clearly a special person. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his family.

Obituary

Melitta Leicester – a Short Appreciation



Many members will be sad to learn that Melitta Leicester passed away recently, aged 92. She led the German Advanced Group for over 20 years, right from the inception of Charnwood U3a until she stepped back in early 2019. Her 'retirement' came shortly after she celebrated her 90th Birthday.

She led a full life right up to the end, supported by her husband Nigel, another stalwart of this u3a. It was a great delight to the Group that, before she retired, Melitta and Nigel were persuaded to share the amazing story of how they met and eventually married. They were living at that time on different continents, but the relationship blossomed; they finished up in Loughborough – generations of German learners are very grateful for that!

On her retirement, Group members (past and present) paid tribute to her, explaining how much she had enriched their lives over the years. Melitta was a very caring person and many people commented that she had supported them through difficult times, offering both emotional and practical help. The

photo shows her, looking so alive, surrounded by gifts and tributes from the Group.

Melitta will be much missed, not least by the swans at Stonebow Washlands. Melitta and Nigel fed the swans there for years. Her German Group members and Nigel are hoping that a memorial for her can be established at Stonebow.

From her childhood days as part of an aristocratic family in Brandenburg (near Berlin), surviving the horrors of the Russian advance at the end of WWII, to her years working in medical and social care in Germany and England, the former Melitta von Kohler had a remarkable life. A private cremation in Loughborough, was followed by the internment of her ashes in a family grave near Bonn.

I am sure that many members of this u3a will join me in passing on condolences to Nigel.

Grahame Boocock

Cu3a Relaunch Event, Loughborough Market

The picture on the right shows members of Charnwood u3a helping out with the stall and leaflet distribution at our Relaunch Event at Loughborough Market on Saturday, 9th October.



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 **December** issue of **News & Views** will be **Monday 29th November (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.

Committee Meetings

Don't forget that members are always welcome to attend any of our Committee meetings on the **second Wednesday of the month** (10 am - noon), by prior arrangement, as observers. If you would like to attend one of these meetings and see what we do, please contact our Chair on chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

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>

