

News & Views


 Newsletter

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Interest Groups

Details of Groups can be found on the Charnwood u3a website:

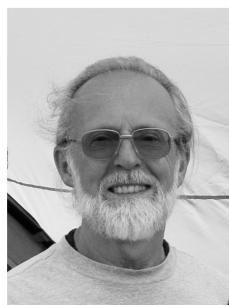
www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk under 'Our Groups' menu.

Welcome

...to the December 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



Looking back through my 2021 messages identifies clearly that I am afflicted by The English Habit – preoccupation with the weather! Well this month is no different; after a mild October, it has now turned wintry and as I write (Sunday afternoon) it is snowing heavily. The brief flurry yesterday morning didn't stay around for very long, but today it is trying a bit harder. I am very glad that veg for dinner was harvested before it started. I wonder - does this mean we might have a white Christmas?

When the days turn dark and cold it becomes increasingly hard to drag ourselves out into the elements, preferring instead to stay warm and cosy at home. But what to do with our time? If you are finding yourself at a loose end, you could do worse than taking a look at the On-Line Learning events currently available from The Third Age Trust. Offerings between now and the end of year include talks on: Ancient Civilisations of the Americas, Exploring World Faiths, Astronomy – Whats Out There and National Kindertransport Day (*see article on page 9 of this issue*). There is also a Live Cookery Demonstration – Vegetarian Christmas Special, and a series of Laughter Yoga Workshops! All, via Zoom, are free of charge, and full details can be found at: <https://u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>.

As some of you will already be aware, Hilary Knowles has, for health reasons, stood down from the Committee. I am sure you will all join me in wishing her a speedy recovery. Hilary has been a very valuable member of the team and no more so than in her capacity as Groups Coordinator. In her absence, this role has now been taken over by Bev Gillman.

If you have read or listened to any of the recent news coverage, you will be aware that Covid is raising its head again in the form of the Omicron mutation. Early signs are that, whilst this strain is highly contagious and (possibly) resistant to vaccines, resulting symptoms appear to be mild – especially in victims who are fully vaccinated. The initial government response has been to re-impose the wearing of face coverings in shops and on public transport – which I suspect most of us have continued to do anyway. But we must not be complacent! So, the monthly meeting Risk Assessment has now been modified, requesting that attendees wear face coverings when moving around Emmanuel Church. I am optimistic that you can be relied on to abide by this request.

This, of course, is my last message of the year, so may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

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

Our Monthly Meetings

All our monthly meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.15 for 2.30 in Emmanuel Church, Forest Road, Loughborough. The church has a free car park nearby and is within a short walk of many bus routes. If you come along for the first time, make yourself known to the 'greeter' when you arrive. Last month, we enjoyed a very interesting talk from Mel Gould, Chair of the Trustees of the Loughborough Carillon Tower and Memorial War Museum, the timing being very appropriate during Remembrance Week.

Our Next Meeting: Wednesday 8th December, 2:30 pm Emmanuel Church

Loughborough Male Voice Choir

It is usual to have something a little different for our pre Christmas monthly meeting, and this year we follow that precedent. We have up to twenty-five members of Loughborough Male Voice Choir (LMVC) to sing and entertain us with a selection of seasonal songs.



LMVC was established in 1967 by a small group of choristers with a passion for singing. The choir grew, becoming well renowned and established in the county, and now has over 50 members of mixed ages ranging from 25 to 85, singing in all voices. Performing concerts has always been a key activity for the choir and I am grateful to them for finding time in their schedule for Charnwood u3a.

The choir plan to invite you to sing along with them so bring your singing voices with you! To help you with the words, they have produced a song sheet (pdf, 2 pages) so you can join in with the singing. This is at: https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/pdfdocsMain/LMVC_Dec_2022_singalong_words.pdf Please print a copy for use either in the church or at home if joining by Zoom. There should also be a few printed copies available at the church on the day.

The above meeting will be a 'hybrid', combining a meeting in Emmanuel Church with one via Zoom.

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.

IMPORTANT: If attending in person, please read the **Risk Assessment** for the meeting at: https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/pdfdocsPrint/Risk_Assessment_monthly_meeting.pdf, and ensure you follow the guidance, which includes wearing a face covering whilst moving around inside the church.



Alternatively, if you wish to attend via Zoom, you will need to pre-register by **Monday 6th December** by completing the registration form available from the December Monthly meeting page on our website at: <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/MonthlyMeetingDec2021.html#Zoom> - **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:

Plans for our meetings through to April 2022 are complete and there will be more in the January Newsletter (and on the website). I always welcome ideas for future meetings and/or speakers. Do please contact me.

Happy Christmas!

Graham Cooper
Programme Secretary
programmesecc@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Group News

Spanish Group - New Members Welcome!

Members meet twice a month to learn or improve their Spanish language. Abilities vary within the group from recent beginner to intermediate and we aim to help each other.

We are now meeting again face to face at **Gorse Covert Community Centre**, Maxwell Drive, Loughborough on the **1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 10 am to 12 noon**. From January we will be starting again from the beginning with a new text book. We may return to Tesco Community Room if and when it becomes available again.



If you are thinking of learning a new language from scratch or improving your rusty Spanish from years ago, now is your chance! If you are interested in joining us, please contact Sue Pennykid by emailing Spanish@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Efl duz spelin riform

ETHEL members have been discussing whether English spelling needs reforming. George Bernard Shaw certainly thought so and left a hefty donation in his will to promote his version of the alphabet, containing 40 letters instead of 26, to represent the phonemes in English pronunciation. If he'd succeeded, he would have deprived us of many weird and wonderful examples. Thanks to Tony W for this one:

The wind was **rough** along the **lough** as the **ploughman** from **Loughborough fought through** snow and **though** he **hiccoughed** and **coughed**, he **thought** only of his work. (*A 'lough' is an Irish loch – and pronounced similarly. Geographically inaccurate, but a perfect example of the mismatch between spelling and sound.*)

Talking about “weird”... Remember that rule we were taught in school: “i before e except after c” ? Except, of course, when you **seize** your **feisty foreign neighbour's reindeer** from his **sleigh**.

Who is responsible for giving brain-ache to generations of school pupils? William Caxton can take some of the blame. If he'd started printing a century later, we might have a spelling system closer to modern pronunciation rather than how people spoke in the 15th century. Of course, the Romans and Greeks are responsible for many failed spelling tests. A retired teacher recently shared in the Guardian Letters page a note from a parent excusing her child's absence on account of his “dire rear”. The French and Italians, despairing of our culinary taste have given us *bouillabaisse* and *broccoli* respectively. Then we have *ketchup* (Malay), *dhaal* (Urdu) and *borscht* (Russian). At least the Vikings gave us cake.

But cake was too simple a confectionary for scholars in the 16th and 17th centuries. They set

out to ‘improve’ the English language by adding Greek and Latin words. The language got bigger and posher, but the orthographic headaches got worse.

Successful reforms in the 19th century included Pitman's shorthand, while in America, Noah Webster made it possible to visit a Broadway theater with your neighbor in your favorite gray sweater. Over here, the Simplified Spelling Society has been trying to change British English spelling for at least a century. Cut Spelling was one of many attempts:

Wen readrs first se Cut Spelng, as in this sentnce, they ofn hesitate slytly, but then quikly becom acustmd to th shortnd words and soon find text in Cut Spelng as esy to read as traditional orthography: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cut_Spelling

Cut spelling never caught on, but today we have a very popular form of reduced spelling: texting. You might say XLNT (excellent) or GMAB (Give me a break) or you might even be ROTFL (Rolling on the floor laughing) but in his book *Txtng: The gr8db8*, David Crystal lists text abbreviations from 12 languages, including ten pages of English examples.

Texting, like Cut Spelling, makes words shorter, but doesn't try to match their pronunciation. Ethel wondered whether using the International Phonetic Alphabet, would solve the problem:

if ðə probləm ɪz ə mismæʃ bɪtwɪn spɛlɪŋ ən prənɑːnsiəɪn fəʊəz wi ʃʊd uːz fənɛtɪk sɪmbɪlz?

At which point Ethel members clawed at their screens and, in various linguistically interesting ways told her to LIB - Leave it Be!

ETHEL's next meeting (featuring Tony's Christmas Quiz) will be on **Tuesday December 21st at 1.30**. If you would like to Zoom in, email ETHEL@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

From January 25th, ETHEL will meet at Gorse Covert on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

Pam Upton

Let's Dance!

Line Dance

The Line Dance Group is up and running as before, with just one exception: our venue has changed. We no longer meet in the Tesco Community room, but have moved to the **Brush Bowls Club** off Nanpantan Road. The members say they prefer this venue as it is larger than the Tesco room and 'social-distancing' is not a problem. There's plenty of parking space, but if you don't drive, I'm sure we can find another member willing to give you a lift, as already arranged for one dancer. (Our members are that type of people!)

We meet every **Friday morning** - arriving by 10am and finishing around noon. Age is not a barrier: you can sit and take a rest should you need to. We do have younger members in the group, but I am proud to say that our newest and oldest member is 88 years old!! She is amazing and doesn't bother taking a rest! We all wish we were as fit!

Final, but important thing, to note: you don't need any special aptitude to enjoy our group. No one cares if you go wrong: most of us do at times – including me!! We just laugh!

We can accommodate another five members, if you think you'd like to give it a try.

If you would like to join either of the above groups, please let me know asap by emailing either DanceLine@charnwoodu3a.org.uk or DanceSocial@charnwoodu3a.org.uk. Should you not have email, you may use my home phone number: 01509 264593. I have an answering machine, so leave a message and your contact number if I don't answer.

Bev Gillman

Social Dance

The Social Dance Group has not met since the original 'Lockdown' as most of the dancing requires slightly closer contact than members felt able to risk. We cover many forms of dancing, including:

- **Ballroom** - Basic steps e.g. Waltz, Quickstep; Old Time e.g. Barn Dance, Veleta; Modern Square Sequences
- **Folk** - British and European (If they are enjoyable to do!)
- **Line** - generally the easier ones
- **Western Partner Dances**

We have occasionally been known to get into party mood and do a bit of twisting and jiving! (We do **not** do difficult dances: if your aim is to be a fantastically highly-skilled dancer, then please find a dancing school!) So, as you can see, there is quite a choice of dancing and you are quite free to skip one if you wish. We welcome both couples and single members – the more the merrier!

We can continue to meet at the **Good Shepherd Church Hall** on Park Road on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays** of the month from **2 - 4 pm**. We usually stop for a drink - tea or coffee - about halfway through. I imagine most of you have had all your vaccinations for Covid and Flu, so we can restart after Christmas if you wish. There has to be a small charge of about £2 per session to cover hire of the Hall. That's £1 an hour! Pretty good value, I think! You will be asked to pay for the term if you decide to continue, but new members get their first meeting free so if you decide you don't want to dance after all, you don't lose out financially.

New Group - Scottish Dancing



Come Scottish Dancing for fitness, friendship and fun! A new group is beginning in **January** and will meet from **10:00 am to 12 noon on the first and third Wednesday** mornings of the month, conveniently located in the centre of Loughborough at Loughborough Baptist Church, Baxter Gate, in the Millennium room.

All Charnwood u3a members who are fully vaccinated are welcome, whether you already have experience of Scottish Dancing or are a complete beginner. This is couple dancing, not to be confused with Highland dancing, but you do not need to bring a partner.

There will be no focus on footwork – if you can walk, you can dance! Please wear comfortable clothes, shoes with soft soles, and bring your own water.

There will be a small weekly fee to cover venue hire, initially £2, but if the number of attendees permits this will be reduced. So, brush away the post-Christmas blues and try Scottish Dancing on **Weds, January 5th!**

Sue Ronald

ScottishDancing@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

December 2021 Meetings

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
		1 Dec 10.00 Classical Greek 10.00 German 10.00 Golf 10.00 JigsawBookEx 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Sustain Planet	2 Dec 10.00 Sci Tech 2 10.00 Spanish Conv 10.30 Amble/Strollers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Indoor 14.00 French Conv	3 Dec 09.00 Badminton 10.00 German Adv 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 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
6 Dec 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Latin 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Chess*	7 Dec 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*	8 Dec 10.00 Committee 10.00 Golf 10.00 History 3 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.30 MonthlyMeet	9 Dec 10.00 Les Sportives* 10.00 Thurs 6 Milers 10.30 Amble/Strollers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Indoor 14.00 Making Music	10 Dec 09.00 Badminton 10.00 Classical Civ 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 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
13 Dec 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Poetry 1* 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Archaeology	14 Dec 09.30 Pilates 2 11.00 Table Tennis 2 11.15 Pilates 3 13.00 Eng Parish Ch 14.00 Canasta 1	15 Dec 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 10.00 Poetry 2* 11.00 Table Tennis 3 12.30 Philosophy 1 14.00 Classical Music 14.00 Family History 14.00 Italian Conv	16 Dec 10.00 Parish Walks* 10.30 Amble/Strollers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 13.00 French Conv 14.00 Bowls Indoor* 14.15 Scrabble 4 18.30 Supper Club 2	17 Dec 09.00 Badminton 10.00 German Adv 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 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
20 Dec 09.30 Yoga 11.00 Table Tennis 1 13.00 Quiz group 14.00 Chess*	21 Dec 10.00 6+ Walks* 10.00 Spanish 11.00 Table Tennis 2 13.30 ETHEL 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Sing4Pleasure*	22 Dec 10.00 Golf	23 Dec 10.00 Les Sportives* 14.00 Bowls Indoor*	24 Dec 09.00 Badminton
27 Dec	28 Dec	29 Dec 10.00 Golf	30 Dec	31 Dec 09.00 Badminton 10.00 Mah Jong

* Meetings marked with an asterisk are possible meeting dates, awaiting confirmation by the Group Leader.

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 or changes for future months, please send details to the Editor at newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk.

Members' Stories

Film '72

During my student days I belonged to a film society in my hall of residence. We'd hire a film and charge a modest fee for others to watch. A typical audience would be about a dozen or so people. A popular film might get closer to the room capacity of 50 seats.

One film we hired was "Women in Love" starring Alan Bates, Oliver Reed, Glenda Jackson, Jennie Linden and Eleanor Bron, directed by Ken Russell. Critics praised its portrayal of D H Lawrence's controversial novel.

Was it the storytelling, the quality of the acting, the cinematography that attracted an unexpectedly large audience that night? Er, no it was the racy press coverage given to a notable nude wrestling scene between the characters of Alan Bates and Oliver Reed!

So instead of the usual 10-15 people or perhaps the 50 we'd planned for, the number kept increasing. We realised we'd need seating for over 80 people! We rushed around to gather more chairs only to realise there wasn't space for them in the room.

The projector was set up at the end of the room with space for the projectionist and projector. One end of the room was a glass wall overlooking a lawn. Ah hah, brainwave time, we'll move the projector outside and project the film through the glass wall. This would free up another two, possibly three rows for the larger audience. We had a slight problem with the sound which was nice and loud for the lawn but rather muffled inside the room. Some hurriedly gathered wires and portable speakers sorted this. We managed to squeeze in the remaining audience members and got underway. Quiet Please! We were rolling...

What I haven't mentioned so far is that this was during November, when the early dark nights made it easier to blackout the room. It was nice and dark

outside. However, it was also nice and cold. This made it fiddly threading the film through the projector, with clumsy cold fingers.

Oh bother, who said the audience were allowed to breathe? We hadn't allowed for condensation forming a mist on the glass. Being a dark chilly night, the glass fogged up very quickly. We found a hairdryer which worked best when it was waved from side to side. Four of us took turns bent over wafting the dryer next to the projector.

At last, we'd got our Heath-Robinson projection working. We settled down, watching the first reel of the film. This film was supplied on two reels, which required a short pause whilst we changed the reel

part way through. Unfortunately, the problems we had made us forget to check that the film was running smoothly.

Blast it! The film was not running properly onto the take-up spool. It was wrapping around the edge of the spool and one little touch might...it suddenly dislodged itself and disgorged over the

floor. Disaster! We had to gather up the mass of film around our feet, threading it onto a spare spool whilst trying to clear the take-up spool. With frantic efforts from the club members, we managed to keep the film going, keep the glass clear, take up the film onto a spool and change the reel at the planned time.

Afterwards we cleared everything away. This included getting the film properly on its reels, in its transit box ready for posting back to the hirers. The film did suffer a couple of breaks that would need a bit of cutting and splicing. Thankfully this small amount of damage was not penalised. And the film, what did I think of it? Well, it was less about "Women in Love" and more about "Projectionists in Panic"!

Peter Reid



Finding Your Way Round BBC Sounds

Increasingly I find there's nothing I want to watch on live telly or listen to on live radio, so I'm a big user now of the BBC Sounds website. It is seriously impressive, with a massive range of radio programmes, podcasts and music:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds>

The BBC stepped up to the challenges of lockdown by putting online absolutely stacks of their archive – much more than they've ever given us access to before. So you can binge-listen to all episodes of your favourite radio dramas, listen to back-issues of music programmes, and catch up on a vast range of podcasts:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/podcasts>

Being a tech-idiot, I'm not really sure what the difference between a programme and a podcast is, and, basically, it doesn't matter – you can stream either live or download them, and on BBC Sounds you can click the Subscribe button and then they'll automatically send you new instalments of that podcast as soon as they're ready.

If you have a smartphone, you can download the free BBC Sounds App - from the App Store for an iPhone or Google Play for an Android phone - to enable you to listen to your favourite programme/podcast wherever you are, assuming you have your phone and headphones with you (and sufficient data allowance in your account when away from wifi).

BBC Sounds podcasts are handily divided up into a few useful sections to help you find something you fancy quickly and easily:

- Our Planet Now: COP26
- True Crime
- Life Stories
- History
- Science
- Comedy
- Drama
- News & Politics
- Sport

...and then the catch-all 'All Podcasts'

Being a tech-scaredy-cat, I avoided podcasts for ages cos they sounded like Things For Young People - i.e. things I wouldn't have a clue how to access. But now I listen to masses of them and find them entertaining, informative, alarming, beautiful, poignant and enlightening. Here are some I've enjoyed recently...



The Lazarus Heist (10 episodes) – from the True Crime section – a chilling explanation of how North Korea hacked into the Sony corporation, and then went on to steal a billion dollars from the international banking system:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p09dx4p1>

From *Drama*, I recommend the excellent **dramatisation of the Nuremberg Trials** (16 episodes) which can be found at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p09sgr15>



From *Science*, there is the stunning **13 Minutes To The Moon** (12 and 7 episodes plus lots of bonus material). Even though I knew full well what happens in both seasons of this podcast, I literally sat clutching my

laptop cos it was sooooo gripping!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w13xttx2>

From *History*, especially since the world is realising the damage coal does, do listen to the heart-breaking **Aberfan** (4 episodes):

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p09z4g76>

I still remember my nursery school teacher getting us all to make cards and draw pictures to send to the children of Aberfan. I was only 5 so couldn't write but I remember trying really hard to put into my pictures all the sorrow and heartfelt love we were sending them.



Podcast Radio Hour. There's even a podcast about podcasts – presenters review their favourites (from all around the world), speak to

the people who make them, and give you a taster of their podcasts. It's a great introduction to the huge diversity of podcasts out there:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09n14fm>

Enjoy your listening!

Char March

Website Changes

Autumn Migration

During the first couple of weeks of November we successfully migrated our website to a new hosting service. For many of you the change will have happened instantaneously, but it took about 24 hours for the 'new location' of our website to be recognised by some internet providers. The address of the website remains the same, www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk



Your use of the site is only affected in one small way. We have been required to change the username and password for the restricted areas of the website. Garry Rigby, Membership Secretary, has sent you the new username and password for the part of the Members Area that has restricted access. The only information in this area is a list of the personal telephone numbers of the group leaders and committee which has restricted access for GDPR reasons.

You will need to enter these new details when you next access this restricted area of our website. You can save them on your browser and, once saved, you will not need to enter them again.

Tony Westaway

Trips Calendar

Group Leaders who organise day trips and holidays have asked if it is possible to reinstate the 'Trips Calendar'. This would have a dual purpose: to avoid clashes between different groups when group leaders are choosing dates for a trip, and to advertise vacancies. We have therefore designed a couple of web pages that will fulfil these requirements.



The first of these pages is to show members what trips have been arranged. Places on a trip are always offered to members of the group first. Then, if vacancies remain, these trips are often thrown open to Charnwood u3a members and maybe even to other local u3as. By clicking on the group name you can find more information about the trip on the Groups pages. The Trips Calendar can be found by clicking on

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

We realise that it is sparsely populated at the moment, but as we get into next Spring we expect it to fill up.

The second of these pages is a very easy to complete on-line form which will allow Group Leaders to inform Tony, the Web Manager, about their future plans for trips. The on-line form only requires very basic information, most of which is input through drop-down choices – such as "4. Group". There is a third page which allows trips to be removed from the calendar. These forms can be easily accessed via the link above or from:

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

then just click on the *New/Revise* or *Delete* button to access the relevant form. A sheet giving guidance on how to use the forms for registering trips can be found by clicking on the link below:

New/Revise		Delete		
Start Date	End Date	Group	Destination	Vacancies
Sat 27th Nov 2021	Sat 27th Nov 2021	Days of Interest	Doddington Hall	Yes - Charnwood u3a Members
Sun 24th Apr 2022	Fri 29th Apr 2022	Travel Group	Jurassic Coast, Dorset	Yes - Charnwood u3a Members
Sat 21st May 2022	Thu 26th May 2022	Travel Group	Puglia, Italy	Yes - Charnwood u3a Members

https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/MembersAreaPublic/pdfdocsPrint/trips_poster.pdf

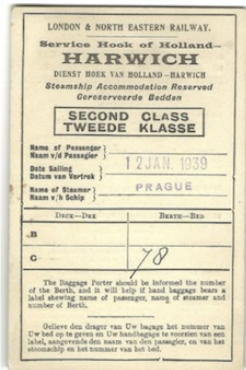
If any group leader wants to know more or would like to trial the pages then please let us know. Hopefully we will all find this facility really useful.

Tony Westaway
webmanager@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

News from the National u3a



Kindertransport: Conversations with Dame Esther Rantzen



On National Kindertransport Day (**2 December**), the National u3a will be hosting an event on how some 10,000 children came to Britain, the experiences they had and the impact they have gone on to make to the lives of so many.

Dame Esther Rantzen will be hosting the event which will feature u3a guest speakers, including Kindertransport evacuees themselves, children of 'the kinder' and those who have grown up calling these rescued children their siblings. The event is in two parts: **10:30 am - 12 noon and 1 pm - 2:30 pm on Thursday 2nd December.**

If you are interested, you'll need to hurry, as you don't have long to book at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/u3a-national-kindertransport-day-tickets-203988333597>

You can read the Third Age Matters article on the Kindertransport at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/publications#kindertransport>

Other Free On-Line Events this Month:

- **Astronomy - What's Out There** with Martin Willock, u3a Subject Advisor: Tuesday 7th December, 2 pm
- **Live Cookery Demonstration - Vegetarian Christmas Special:** Monday 13th December, 10.30 am
- **Staying Safe Online** with Barry Linton, Thorpe Bay u3a: Wednesday 15th December, 2 pm

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>

Technology Help - Hybrid Meetings

A dedicated website full of helpful guidance and user experiences for u3a Hybrid (or Alternative) meetings has just been launched. As experience builds, the website will grow with more tips and techniques. You can find this at <https://u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=1144>

You can also join the Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1002726203847774>, where you can find details of weekly Zoom drop-in sessions for more help and support.

Third Age Matters Magazine Delay

The National u3a Office tell us that - due to external circumstances beyond their control - there may be a delay in the delivery of Third Age Matters Magazine to members. They are working hard to help rectify this and get the magazine to us as soon as possible, and thank us for our understanding and patience.

We are told that the magazine will be worth waiting for: it has an interview with comedian and mental health campaigner **Ruby Wax**, a feature on our **u3a wood**, an article on our **favourite comics** and much more. There is also a competition to take part in, and other TAM features can be found on the u3a website now at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/publications>

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...).

The u3a National programmes page at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes> has more learning initiatives you can get involved with, including **Garden Birdwatch**, the **Cuisines of the World Cookery Challenge**, the monthly **Radio Podcast**, and many more.

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.

Children's Book Appeal

YOUR LIBRARY
KNOWLEDGE • DISCOVERY • ENTERTAINMENT

Leicestershire
County Council

Give the gift of a book this Christmas

Would you like
to donate your
good quality
books to families
in need?

Simply bring them into
a Leicestershire library
between now and
Saturday 4th December.

We will wrap and distribute
them across the county
through our Children and
Family Wellbeing Service,
to make sure as many
children as possible get the
gift of a book this Christmas.

Facebook.com/yourlibrary
Twitter.com/Leiclibraries

leicestershire.gov.uk/libraries

If you have any children's books around the house - or in your loft - that you no longer want, there are still a few days left to respond to Leicestershire Libraries' Christmas 'Gift a Book' appeal. Just take any unwanted, good quality books along to a Leicestershire library by **Saturday 4th December** to donate to this appeal.

Donated books will be wrapped and distributed across the county through the County Council's Children and Family Wellbeing Service, to make sure as many children as possible receive the gift of a book this Christmas.



Last Chance to See:

Market 800 exhibition at Charnwood Museum

As reported in September's *News & Views*, an exhibition charting the **800-year history of Loughborough's market** has been on display at **Charnwood Museum** for the past few months. 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 is due to finish on **19th December**, so if you haven't yet seen it, now is your chance.

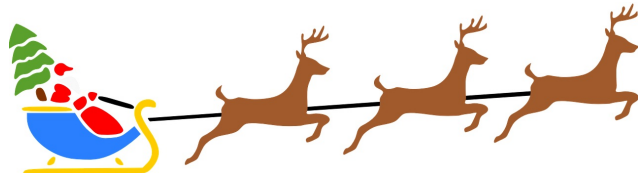


The colourful panels in the display chart the history of the town's market from the first Royal Market Charter of 1221, which also permitted an annual fair in the town, through to the developments and expansions in the 20th and 21st centuries, along with memories and expressions of what Loughborough's markets mean to people today. For more information, go to:

<https://www.charnwoodmuseum.co.uk/events/2021/07/market-800-exhibition>

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

- 1) When is the Feast of St. Nicholas?
- 2) The carol *Adeste Fidelis* is better known as what?
- 3) In June 1647 which three Christian festivals were abolished?
- 4) Which national holiday is celebrated by Americans on the fourth Thursday in November?
- 5) What does 'Epiphany' mean?
- 6) Where in France did santons originate?
- 7) In Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, who was the father of Tiny Tim?
- 8) Which king of England was crowned on Christmas Day?
- 9) What are 'Bangs of Expectation' better known as?
- 10) What is wassailing?
- 11) What is the title of the poem which begins 'Twas the night before Christmas'?
- 12) Who released the record *Grandad* in 1970, which was number 1 in the charts the following January?
- 13) In 1985, an altered version of which Christmas song was recorded for use in a TV advertising campaign for Toys "R" Us?
- 14) Which almond filled pastry is part of the Epiphany celebrations in France?
- 15) When is 'Stir up' Sunday?
- 16) Who was the author of *The Snowman*?
- 17) Where in Britain is Bethlehem?
- 18) In which book does the line 'Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents' appear?
- 19) During the Second World War a lot of Christmas entertainment was provided by ENSA. What did ENSA stand for?
- 20) Who wrote *The Christmas Oratorio*?



Poetry Corner

THE OXEN

CHRISTMAS EVE, and twelve of the clock.
 "Now they are all on their knees,"
 An elder said as we sat in a flock
 By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where
 They dwelt in their strawy pen,
 Nor did it occur to one of us there
 To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave
 In these years! Yet, I feel,
 If someone said on Christmas Eve,
 "Come; see the oxen kneel,

"In the lonely barton by yonder comb
 Our childhood used to know,"
 I should go with him in the gloom,
 Hoping it might be so.

Thomas Hardy
 1915

*This poem was suggested
 by Louie Carr*



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 **January** issue of **News & Views** will be **Thursday 30th December (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>

