

News & Views


 Newsletter

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Interest Groups

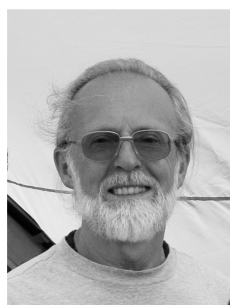
Details of Groups can be found on the Charnwood u3a website:
www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk
 under 'Our Groups' menu.

Welcome

...to the March edition of News & Views, the newsletter of Charnwood u3a. We hope you'll find it both entertaining and informative. The content is written by members, and details for sending contributions can be found at the end of this newsletter.



A View from the Chair



Starting on a serious note: Following a recent conversation with one of our members, I would like to remind everyone how interest group monies should be managed. It is a Third Age Trust (TAT) requirement that the Committee Treasurer should have overall management of financial transactions. Where group subscriptions amount to more than a nominal charge (e.g. for refreshments) they should be paid into a Charnwood u3a (Cu3a) bank account on a regular basis. These funds will be 'ring fenced' for the sole use of that group. It is permissible for a group to retain

a cash float to cover incidental expenses. Also TAT have no objection to the temporary use of private bank accounts to collect monies – prior to either the monies being deposited into a Cu3a account, or the payment of a consolidated invoice for say, a theatre visit or coach hire. The important word here is *'temporary'*. It is not appropriate for a personal bank account to be used as a proxy group account. Should this situation occur (and I have reason to believe that it does) such monies are outside of Cu3a control and therefore the Trustees (the Committee) can bear no responsibility for its safe keeping. So, ask yourselves this – are you happy and comfortable with how group funds are being managed? It is YOUR money!

And now for something a little lighter. Like many of you, I very much enjoyed the talk on hearing loss given by Sarah Bardill at our last monthly meeting. She mentioned how some of us refuse to accept that our own faculties might be starting to deteriorate. I am certainly guilty of this, so promptly booked a (free) hearing test at Boots. It turns out that, yes, Eleanor is right – my hearing is not quite what it was in my younger years but, thankfully, not yet bad enough to need hearing aids. Phew! I guess most (all?) of us u3a-ers can identify parts of our body that are looking entropy in the face and, when the niggles join forces, it is easy to fall into the trap of thinking 'that's it, the best part of my life is now behind me'. This does not need to be the case. A quick trawl through the world of entertainment identifies a great many worthy performers well into later life, yet still at the top of their game. Here are a few examples: **Popular music:** Rod Stewart (77), Mick Jagger (78) and Cliff Richard (82) – all still performing and/or producing records. Meanwhile Sting (a youngster at 70) is about to start an 84 date world tour, and Paul McCartney (79) will be at Glastonbury 2022 – not in the 'oldies' spot, but as the headline act! **Art:** Maggie Hambling (76) and David Hockney (84) are still producing the goods – the latter's exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts is selling out fast. **Film and TV:** There is little sign of slowing down from Anthony Hopkins (84), Ian McKellen (82), Maggie Smith (87) or Judi Dench (87) – the latter being nominated as best supporting actress in this year's Oscars. So, despite my failing hearing and creaky hips, it looks like there might still be some life left in the old dog!

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

Our Monthly Meetings

The monthly meetings of Charnwood u3a are on the **second Wednesday afternoon, 2.15 for 2.30 pm in Emmanuel Church**, Forest Road in Loughborough. The main car park for the church is spacious and to the west of the church. There is a very small parking facility adjacent to the church but please only use that if the main car park is too far away. Our monthly meetings are free to all, and we welcome prospective new members attending a meeting as a 'taster'.

Last month, we had a very interesting talk by audiologist Sarah Bardill who gave us lots of information about hearing loss and its remedies and answered the many questions posed by our members.

Our Next Meeting Wednesday 9th March

Our March meeting includes our Annual General Meeting. Please arrive around 2:15 so we can make a prompt start at 2:30.

Members have already been provided with relevant documentation in advance of the AGM, and these can also be accessed from <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/AGM2022.html>. All members are strongly encouraged to attend, but those unable to do so can vote in advance using the form that has already been sent out. Such votes must be received by the Cu3a Secretary by **2nd March**.

Following the AGM, we have a talk by one of our own u3a members:

'The Write Stuff' with Char March

Char March is a multi-award-winning poet, short story writer, and playwright for radio and stage. Char will take us on a fun journey through the life of a freelance writer, and all the different things she's had to turn her hand to. We'll hear about how to make sound effects in a radio studio, and she's very happy to answer any questions you have about the World of the Writer. Come prepared to be moved to laughter, shock, and tears!

Char has worked as Writer-in-Residence for the NHS, international business schools, landscape projects, mansions, writing centres and arts festivals. She has lectured for Universities across Britain and in Australia, as well as working as a competition judge and editor for publishers, and a tutor and mentor for writers and writing groups.



Char's most recent publication is *Full Stops In Winter Branches*. Perhaps surprisingly, her educational background is in science: she has a degree in the environmental sciences.

To attend this 'hybrid' meeting:

If you wish to attend the meeting in person, no pre-booking is required - just turn up on the day, with your Cu3a membership card. **Please note:** do not arrive before 2 pm.

Please follow the guidance in the **Risk Assessment** for the meeting at:

https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/pdfdocsPrint/Risk_Assessment_monthly_meeting.pdf, which includes wearing a face covering whilst moving around inside the church.



Alternatively, if you wish to attend via Zoom (enabling you to vote via Zoom poll during meeting), you will need to pre-register by **Monday 7th March** by completing the registration form available on our website at:

<https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/MonthlyMeetingRegistration.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.

Refreshments at Monthly Meetings

Patricia Drake and her small team of volunteers are doing a great job providing us with refreshments at our monthly meetings, but they could do with some help. Would you be willing to help out occasionally - on a rota basis - with making the teas and coffees and setting out the biscuits?

If you would be prepared to lend a hand with this from time to time, please contact Patricia on refreshments@charnwoodu3a.org.uk



EDI Afternoon Tea

Thanks to all those who responded to the article in last month's *News & Views* about our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) policy, and who expressed interest in attending a meeting to discuss what practical steps we can all take to ensure our policy works for everyone.



We have now arranged to meet over afternoon tea (coffee also available!) to exchange views and raise any relevant issues. The meeting will be held at **2:30 pm on Tuesday 29th March**, the fifth week of the month being chosen to minimise clashes with other group meetings.

It will be a face-to-face meeting, but will be 'blended' to enable those who cannot attend in person to join in via Zoom.

If you haven't already responded, but would like to attend this meeting, please contact Pam Upton at secretary@charnwoodu3a.org.uk or 07974 946 007 **by 15th March**. She will then send you details, including a Zoom link if you request this. Whether or not you can attend the afternoon tea, if you would like to make a suggestion, ask a question or raise an issue in advance of the meeting, please email the details to Pam. Such communications will be treated as confidential and your anonymity will be preserved.

Our policy is at: https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/pdfdocsMain/Equality_Diversity_Inclusion_Policy.pdf

Please do take a look, whether or not you are interested in attending the meeting, as it is up to all members to make sure it works.



Hilary Knowles
Helen Reid
Pam Upton

News from the National u3a



Free On-Line Events this Month include:

- **International Women's Day Event - Eleanor Rathbone** with Susan Cohen, u3a in London: Tuesday 8th March, 10 am.
- **The Human Microbiome - Part 1** with Lee Edwards, Subject Advisor for Science: Wednesday 9th March, 2 pm.
- **The Climate Crisis - Some Solutions** with Brenda Ainsley, Cotgrave & District u3a: Wednesday 23rd March, 10:30 am.

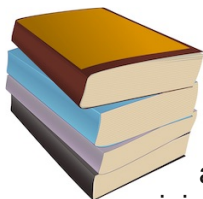
For details of these and other upcoming free on-line events offered by the National u3a, including how to book, go to: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

National u3a Newsletter and More:

To register to receive the National u3a newsletter regularly, go to: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter> where you will find a link to recent issues (also see our Cu3a website under 'News' - National u3a Newsletters...). The u3a National programmes page has more learning initiatives to get involved with at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes>, and the u3a learning blog **Sources** has more articles you may find of interest at <https://sources.u3a.org.uk>.

Group News

Jigsaw & Book Exchange



The Jigsaw Puzzle & Book Exchange group is doing well with 12 members so far. The group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at my house and it is free! For details of my address please phone 01509 266877 and leave a message. I will get back to you. I now have about 70 jigsaws and about the same number of books. Do come and join us. NOTE: There will be no meeting in July or August but we'll resume in September.



Ann Hawley

Scottish Dancing

A reminder that this new group will meet for the first time on **Wednesday, 2nd March, at Loughborough Baptist Church, Baxtergate**, as advertised in previous editions of *News & Views*. More information is available on the group web page at: <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/ScottishDancing.html>

Sue Ronald

ETHEL to the Rescue

Ethel dropped a clanger the other day when she found her old washing machine dead as a doornail. Her knickers were in a twist (literally) and since she was keen as mustard to find a new machine that didn't cost a bomb, she was chuffed to find one on cheapaschips.com. Of course it's all gone pear-shaped. The curtain twitcher next door - who pretends to know her onions - reckoned it fell off the back of a lorry and told Ethel in no uncertain terms she was a sandwich short of a picnic and couldn't organise a **** up in a brewery.

If you didn't understand any of that - good news! - it means you're probably younger than the average u3a member. According to a recent survey by consumer research agency Perspectus Global, such traditional sayings are falling out of use among 18-50 year-olds, who are no longer using them or not sure what they mean.



In the interest of linguistic preservation, Ethel wanted to know if members of her group still used some of the sayings under threat of extinction. Most agreed with the survey group that "knowing your onions" was on the way out, along with "having a chinwag" and "curtain twitcher". They definitely wouldn't call anybody "a few sandwiches short of a picnic" and few would "cast their pearls before swine". Less than a quarter would call Ethel "a good egg", but that might be nothing to do with linguistic change.



On the other hand, most would still maintain that a stitch in time saves nine, even if there was a fly in the ointment and they were flogging a dead horse while not having enough room to swing a cat. In defiance of decimalisation, Ethel members would certainly not get their knickers in a twist over "spending a penny".



Our small and totally unscientific survey probably says less about the language habits of u3a members in general than about the questionable lifestyle choices of ETHEL members. However, if you would like to do your bit to preserve some favourite sayings, then do send some to *Readers' Comments* (email newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk).



What do you say when you can't remember the name of something? On a cloudy day is it still black over Bill's mother's? Do your eyes bulge like chapel hat pegs at the versatile vernacular of the English language or do you think we should put a sock in it?

In fact this could all be a storm in a teacup, since the survey found that most people feel it's a shame when phrases die out. So it might not be a load of old codswallop after all!

Pam Upton

More Group News



The Resurrection of the Painting Group

An Invitation...

Some former members of this group would like it to restart, and one has kindly offered to act as Leader. Time and venue will be discussed if more of you would like to join. If you enjoy painting please contact

painting@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Outdoor Bowls

After the winter break, the Outdoor Bowls Group will start again on **14th April** and run through the summer.

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

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

Please contact Dave Saunders on 01509 261268 or email BowlsOutdoor@charnwoodu3a.org.uk for further information.

If any u3a member has or knows of bowls that they no longer need and would like to lend or donate them to the Group, please let Dave know using the same contact details.



Do you have anything to report on the activities of your Group, or ideas for a potential new Group? Whether it's an appeal for new members, a report of previous meetings/trips or notifying the wider Cu3a membership of spare places on upcoming trips/meetings, or anything else you think might interest our readers, please send the details to the Editor at: newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

March 2022 Meetings

Below is a provisional timetable for March. Members should check with the relevant Group Leaders for details of times/dates/places of their meetings. Email addresses for Group Leaders can be found on the relevant group page of our website, via: <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/GroupsAlpha.html>

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	1 Mar 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	2 Mar 10.00 Classical Greek 10.00 German 10.00 Golf 10.00 JigsawBookEx 10.00 Mini Tennis 10.00 Scottish Dance 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Sustain Planet	3 Mar 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	4 Mar 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
7 Mar 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Latin 11.00 Table Tennis 1	8 Mar 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 EngParCh Zoom 11.00 Table Tennis 2 11.15 Pilates 3 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 EngParCh F2F	9 Mar 10.00 Committee 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.30 Monthly+AGM	10 Mar 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	11 Mar 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
14 Mar 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Poetry 1 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Archaeology 14.00 Chess	15 Mar 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 Philosophy 2 14.00 Sing4Pleasure	16 Mar 10.00 German 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 10.00 Poetry 2 10.00 Scottish Dance 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Family History 14.00 Italian Conv	17 Mar 10.00 Parish Walks 11.00 Table Tennis 4 13.00 French Conv 14.00 Bowls Indoor 14.15 Scrabble 4 18.30 Supper Club 2	18 Mar 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
21 Mar 09.30 Yoga 11.00 Table Tennis 1 13.00 Quiz group 14.00 Gardening	22 Mar 09.30 Pilates 2 11.00 Table Tennis 2 11.15 Pilates 3 13.30 ETHEL 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Philosophy 1	23 Mar 10.00 Golf 10.00 History 3 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Classical Music 14.00 Travel Group	24 Mar 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	25 Mar 09.00 Badminton 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 19.30 Wine Apprec'n
28 Mar 09.30 Yoga 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Chess 14.00 Local History	29 Mar 09.30 Pilates 2 11.00 Table Tennis 2 11.15 Pilates 3 14.00 Canasta 1	30 Mar 10.00 Golf	31 Mar	

PLUS on Saturdays: Saturday Walks; Days of Interest trip to Shrewsbury (19th March)

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. Please send details of any amendments to the Editor at newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk for inclusion in future months' calendars.

Water On Tap – a luxury not yet shared by all

As **World Water Day** approaches - annually it is on 22 March - it is timely to reflect on what life must have been like for those living in Loughborough just 150 years ago. Yes, it was only in 1870 that Loughborough got a piped supply, and more recently that local villages got connected to the mains network.

Whilst we take water on tap for granted, this is not shared by the 2 billion people the United Nations say are currently living without access to safe water. With the UN pledged Sustainable Development Goal target of “water and sanitation for all by 2030” nearing, it is surely opportune to think about closing the gap between the water services we take for granted and what many global communities experience.



Pumps outside WEDC, LU

Just imagine how different our lives would be if we still, without supplies into our homes, had to go some way each day to find a communal water point. This is not always the safest of walks, particularly for women and girls. Assuming it is working, we would then have to wait to get water before carrying it in containers back to our homes. This would take up much of the day, so restricting work and leisure opportunities. Sadly this remains a reality for many of our worldwide neighbours, but various organisations are working to change this situation. One, the small charity Pump Aid (see <https://pumpaid.org>), focus their work in Malawi.

Pump Aid keep their marketing costs low so are not a widely known water charity. As a retired water engineer I am, however, impressed by their approach and have volunteered my time, in various ways, to support them. Two years ago, with other family members, we got to see something of their work and the impact it has on rural villages in Malawi. There are many different types of pump available, as the picture (above) of the range outside the WEDC unit on the University campus shows, and Pump Aid deliberately offer simple, easy to maintain installations. Their approach is not to gift villages pumps as they expect resident groups to work together and do much of the construction themselves. To back this up, Pump Aid give advice and train area-based experts in well digging, installing and maintaining the pump mechanics. *Pictured right are George and Joseph showing their somewhat basic well building tools.*



Chipulumba, Malawi

Whilst the villagers we spoke to did not always view Pump Aid’s Elephant Pumps as the ‘most desirable’ they recognised the benefits of these pumps, with washers on a circulating rope to bring water up a tube to the surface. *That’s me trying one out on the left, with a picture of safe water being enjoyed from such a pump on the right.* This means that they are easy for them to maintain and avoid the loss of supply whilst waiting for spare parts on more elaborate pumps.

Although the World Water Day focus is on those who do not yet have piped supplies, we should not take our own water supply for granted. This is because there is growing UK wide discussion about availability of water resources, particularly in the South and East of England, and how, to be sustainable, we need to personally use less water.



Hopefully this brief article will prompt some, around World Water Day, into thinking about what life is like for those many, many people, who have no choice but to daily collect their own water. Please get in touch should you wish to know more about how water supplies in and around Loughborough have developed (this being a fascinating tale with some ‘interesting’ conflicts) or more about the work of Pump Aid. My u3a email is Thurs6milers@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Members' Stories

Earliest Memory

My parents told me to go to bed early the night before. A child of my age would resent and rebel but this time I was excited. It still took a time before I lapsed into unconsciousness. I woke up more than once, it was windy outside and wet, and this was June, but I was excited.

My Dad shook me into some form of consciousness at four in the morning. Once I was fully awake the excitement returned but the weather had not changed. I got dressed, we had a little breakfast and left home at five thirty...a walk to the station in the rain. After all, it is not very often that a nine year old goes to experience this spectacle!

We were one of the very few households in our road with that new fangled thing called a television; there was some resentment that ours would be unused all day. Arrangements had been made for the people in the road to assemble around one of the very few other televisions to see it all in grainy black and white. It was the biggest thing the BBC had ever mounted and it was only the BBC then. We were seeing it from a few feet away and in colour!

We arrived in the centre of London. The rain had eased but it was still dull for June. The pavements were increasingly covered in what can only be called papier-mache. Thousands and thousands had slept on the pavements overnight, hoping yesterday's newspapers might offer some protection from the rain. Not even *The Times* protected them!

We slid and walked to St. James's Street. According to my Dad, it was the best place, but the procession would only pass once not twice as in the case of some other places. However, the crowds would be smaller.

Going into London for a nine year old was exciting enough, seeing Big Ben, Nelson on his pedestal, and Buckingham Palace, where it would all start. I'd seen them all, but today was very different for me.

That is because I was to see the coronation of Her Majesty the Queen almost face to face. No friends at school could say that...what bragging rights! We saw it as the rain returned and we were balancing on papier-mache - slipping on it might be more accurate. We had been taught about it and the Empire in general at school. In my class I was the only child going up to London. Some children would not even see it on television.

We waited and ate our rations, not wanting to lose our "pitch" as crowds built up. It was still raining and the paper on the ground resembled an ice skating rink. Conversations were started..."Where are

you from?", "When did you get here?" etc. I found out through observation that I was the only child apart from one other of about my age in our vicinity..... there was a very good chance I would be ushered to the front when the time came. I was!

Eventually, in the afternoon, having waited for what seemed like an eternity, things started to happen. A distant cacophony of sound could be heard, mainly bands in incoherent "unison". I asked my mother repeatedly if it would happen soon.....

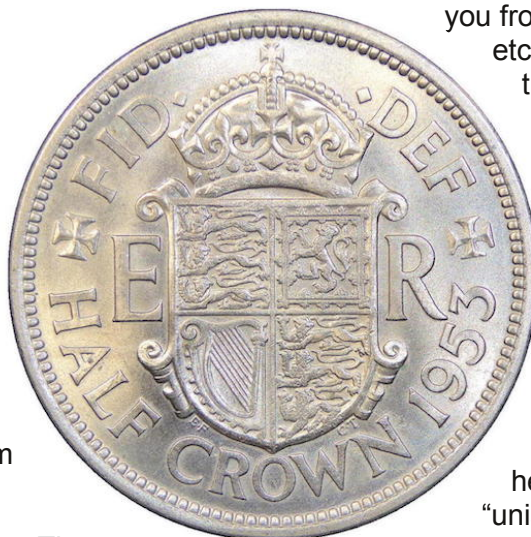
the sort of questions that drive parents close to madness. I got friendly with a girl of about my age: Where did she live?, Had she been doing the "coronation" at school? No she hadn't, so I bored her by giving a potted history of the Empire etc.

Eventually the sounds got louder, a lot louder and more coherent...

[to be continued next month]

Graham Cooper

Could you write about one of your earliest memories? If so, our Editor would love to hear from you, at: newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk



Siblings, Who'd Have Them? Part 2

[continuing last month's story about my teenage trip to Germany with my brother Martin...]

We travelled from Munich to Heidelberg without incident where we got checked into the YHA. Having wandered around for a while, taking in the many sights, we found a restaurant in the city centre. We had a tasty, pleasant lunch, then set off to continue viewing the city. After a little while, I noticed I couldn't see the camera Martin usually had around his neck. He realised he'd left it "somewhere". We suspected it may have been at the restaurant. Whilst the camera was not hugely expensive, it did have one notable characteristic: it was our Dad's camera, which he was very fond of! We raced back to the restaurant. Thankfully, one of the waiters had found the camera when clearing the table.

Next it was time for Worms, where Luther is said to have pinned his treatise to the church door. As we were very tired and hungry, we headed straight to the YHA, only to discover it was closed until late afternoon. We spoke to the hostel manager who took pity on us and let us have 2-3 hours sleep even though officially it was closed. When we woke we were starving, having not eaten anything for about 12 hours.

No problem we thought, we'll pop into town and get a meal. Except we hadn't realised it was a public holiday; hardly anything was open and the banks were all closed. We had expected to use a local bank to change our travellers' cheques, since paying for the hostel and the train tickets from Heidelberg had all but used up our cash supply!

We discovered that there was an open Bureau de Change at Mannheim train station. However, we only had enough cash for one of us to get the train to Mannheim and back again. We bought one return train ticket and used the little cash left over to buy 2 substantial bars of chocolate as we still hadn't eaten for many hours! I left Martin sitting at Worms station, tucking into his chocolate bar, whilst I went to cash our travellers' cheques in Mannheim.

With cash in our pockets we were able to get a meal, get some sleep and catch a train from Worms to Frankfurt the following day. In Frankfurt things finally

boiled over between us. What I haven't mentioned so far is how Martin behaved during the trip. He almost always got his way over what we'd see or do. He had a very effective tactic: either we both did what he wanted, or he would go it alone and I would have to explain to our parents why I'd "abandoned" my younger brother somewhere in Germany!

On our last-but-one day in Frankfurt, we had a blazing row on one of the major bridges. As usual, Martin wanted to do something I didn't. It ended up with Martin crossing the bridge and going in the opposite direction to me! We met up again at breakfast on our last day. True to form, somehow Martin had spent/lost the remaining Deutschmarks that he'd taken with him. Between us we managed to scrape enough money to get the bus to the airport, where we caught a flight back to Heathrow.

Back home our parents wanted a detailed account of what we'd seen and done. They were relatively happy with things until they heard about the nearly-lost camera, all the money troubles, and why hadn't I kept a better eye on Martin, etc. They started to tell me off but stopped when I said this was exactly why I didn't want to be responsible for Martin, on holiday or anywhere else! We all calmed down.

To sum up the experience, we met a number of people who were generally helpful and friendly. We saw some very interesting things and we now had proof that Martin and I should not try to do things together until one or both of us had grown up a bit!

Relations between me and Martin improved dramatically when I went away to university. Being 150 miles apart for 30 weeks in the year made it a lot easier for us to get on! "What's your relationship with Martin like now?", you might ask. Actually, other family events brought us closer together again and we get on well now. OK, perhaps distance is still a factor, given that I live in the East Midlands, UK and Martin? Well he's "not far away" in Texas, USA!

[Martin approved this article; we're still each other's favourite brother (there's only 2 of us) and still talking to each other via Zoom etc.]

Peter Reid



Answers to Last Month's Quiz:

- 1) Which Australian won the Wimbledon men's singles title in 1967, 1970 and 1971? **John Newcombe**
- 2) Which French historian said "England is an empire; Germany is a nation... a race. France is a person"? **Jules Michelet**
- 3) Which phrase, which could be used ahead of a rocket launch, is GLOSSY METALS an anagram of? **All systems go**
- 4) Which United States pop "legend" launched her own fragrance *Truth Or Dare* in 2012? **Madonna**
- 5) A word can be placed between the words below which has the same meaning as the words either side. What is it? VIOLIN.....SWINDLE. **FIDDLE**
- 6) Butterscotch is made from what two ingredients? **Sugar and butter**
- 7) What word can be placed in front of the five words below to make five other unhyphenated words? BREAD FALL HAND AGE LIST **Short**
- 8) In what industry does a skiver work?
Boot and shoe industry. Skivers sit down to work, their colleagues stand up.
- 9) Which 1381 rebellion is also known as The Great Uprising? **Peasants' Revolt**
- 10) Which Italian rock band won the 2021 Eurovision Song Contest with their *Zitti e buoni*? **Måneskin**
- 11) Which Prime Minister is played by Jeremy Irons in the 2021 film *Munich: The Edge of War*?
Neville Chamberlain
- 12) What is unusual, possibly unique, about the Symphony No.37 by Mozart? **It does not exist. Mozart composed 40 numbered symphonies and the last is numbered 41.**
- 13) In *The Skye Boat Song* who is born to be king? **Bonnie Prince Charlie**
- 14) Who was the late Labour MP and leader who was MP for North Lanarkshire and Monklands East?
John Smith
- 15) Which old structure stretches for 73 miles in England? **Hadrian's Wall**
- 16) As at February 2022, who is the newest Liberal Democrat MP? **Helen Morgan, MP for N Shropshire**
- 17) What Palladian house started in 1736 is about five miles south of Wakefield? **Nostell Priory**
- 18) By changing one letter in each word below, which familiar saying can be created?
AN SHE ODE LAND **On the one hand**
- 19) What, in the context of USA law, does DEA stand for? **Drug Enforcement Administration**
- 20) Which imminent Royal events are linked with the number 78? **Platinum Jubilee. The atomic number of platinum is 78**



Poetry Corner

Smile: A Poem by Jez Alborough

Smiling is infectious,
you catch it like the flu.
When someone smiled at me today,
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner
and someone saw my grin.
When he smiled I realised
I'd passed it on to him.



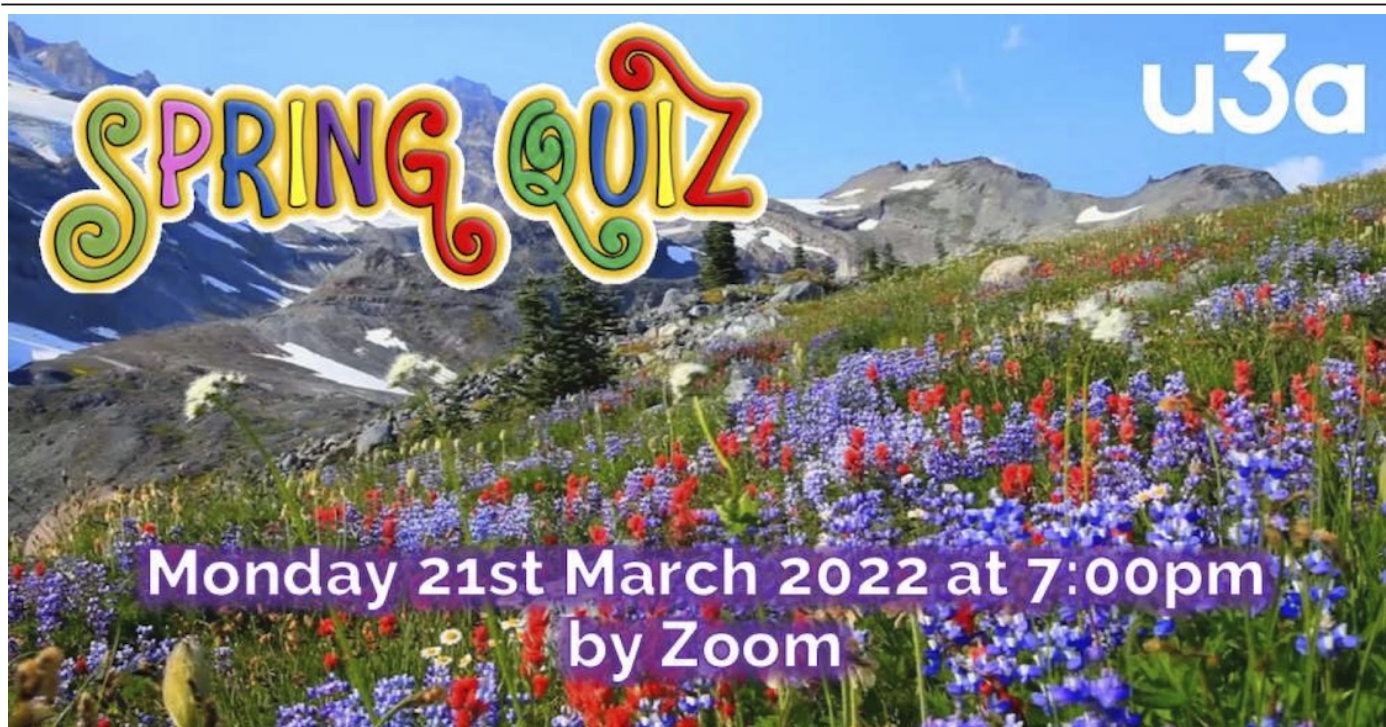
I thought about that smile,
then I realised its worth.
A single smile, just like mine
could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin,
don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick,
and get the world infected!



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Submitted by Mike Hood



WHO CAN JOIN?

Open to:

- * all u3a members in Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland
- * Teams of up to 4 members
- * Couples
- * Singles
- * No limit on the number of entries from each u3a

A Handicap system will make it fairer for all

HOW DO I JOIN?

To Register send:

- * Your name
- * Name of your u3a
- * Team name/leader (if a team)

To: coordinator@landru3a.org.uk

Confirmation:

- * By email normally within 24 hours
- * Zoom details will be sent a couple of days before the quiz

The quiz will start promptly at 7:00pm – login from 6:45pm
 We aim to finish around 8:45–9.00pm
 There will be a 10-minute comfort/drinks top-up break after Round 4
 Answers will be given after Rounds 4 and 8

Charnwood Orchestra

Charnwood Orchestra's next concert is on **Saturday March 26th 2022** at Emmanuel Church, Forest Road, Loughborough.

The programme includes:

Schumann - Overture Genoveva

Dvorak - Violin Concerto - Soloist George Ewart

Brahms - Symphony No.2

They are once again encouraging the audience to book in advance, via the website:

www.charnwoodorchestra.org.uk

Tickets can also be obtained at the door, cash payments only (£14, £12 concessions, £5 children)

The orchestra is grateful for your continued support, and look forward to welcoming their audience once again, for what should be a great evening's music.



the Charnwood Orchestra
Music Director
Nic Fallowfield

**Saturday
26th March 2022
7:30pm**

**Emmanuel Church
Forest Road
Loughborough LE11 3NW**

Conductor Nic Fallowfield
Violin George Ewart

Schumann Genoveva Overture
Dvořák Violin Concerto
Brahms Symphony No.2

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)



Next Concert: 25th June 2022 - please see website for details

www.charnwoodorchestra.org.uk

Obituary: Mike Batten

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of longstanding Cu3a member Mike Batten on 7th February. He was a member of a number of our Groups over many years, including Les Sportives walking group, Science and Technology 1 and the Classical Music Enjoyment group.

Janet Butlin has provided the following tribute:

I first met Mike over 30 years ago when we both worked at Loughborough University and he came to book a hall for a Saturday dance. He was enthusiastic about his music equipment and wanted to ensure everyone had a good time. He was also a well known face around campus when minor repairs were needed in student Halls after damage: door handles, wardrobe door hinges, etc.

After retirement in 2008, I joined the u3a where I met up again with both Dorothy and Mike in Les Sportives and Science & Technology 1 groups. Mike was a longstanding member who was always keen to offer ideas for Sci1 speakers and possible visits, and who always enjoyed the annual lunch with group members. He once spoke to the group about his time as a dental technician for false teeth. He also had a passion for the subject of electronics in World War II, including their use at Bletchley Park and Beaumanor Hall.

Most of you may know he was a Viscount Montgomery 'lookalike' for local wartime events. When he came on a November walk, he asked the group to observe a two minute silence in respect for lost servicemen and women.

He was a gentleman and my thoughts go out to Dorothy and his family at this sad time.

I am sure we would all like to join Janet in offering our condolences to Mike's family on their sad loss.

Items for News & Views

Do you have an announcement, story, poem - or even a short comment - to share with your fellow Cu3a members? All contributions are very welcome, and we can preserve your anonymity if you prefer that your name does not appear in the newsletter.

There is a limit of around 500 words per item, and photos are very welcome.

To enable the newsletter to be compiled in time for delivery to members at the start of each month, the deadline for receiving items will normally be the last day but one of the previous month. The deadline for the **April issue of News & Views** will be **Wednesday 30th March (12 noon)**.



Please send your contributions to the Newsletter Editor at: newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Please make sure you include your contact details with your item, and try not to leave it until the last minute if at all possible.

The Editor reserves full editorial rights as to length and suitability and the Editor's decision is final.

News & Views is sent to all Charnwood u3a members by email link (or, for those without email, by post) 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 email addresses 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>

