

News & Views


 Newsletter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

View from the Chair	1
Monthly Meetings	2
Group News	3-5
10+ Walks	3
Pilates	3
Travel Group	4
Painting	4
Scottish Dancing	4
Days of Interest	5
Walking Coordinator	6
Meetings Calendar	7
Members' Articles	8-9
It's In Our Blood	8
Big Brother	9
Readers' Comments	9
Quiz	10
Poetry Corner	10
Gardening Group trip	10
LU Arts Degree Show	11
Charnwood Museum	11
Charnwood Orchestra	11
1620s House	11
July Events	11
National u3a News	12
Items for Newsletter	12
Contact Information	12

Interest Groups

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

Welcome

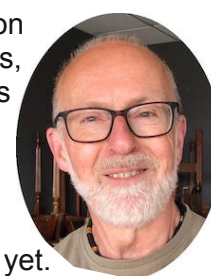
...to the June edition of News & Views, the newsletter of Charnwood u3a. We hope you'll find it both entertaining and informative. The content is written by members, and details for sending contributions can be found at the end of this newsletter.



A View from the Chair

70

I was born in November 1952, meaning our Queen has been on the throne for all of my life so far. We are used to artists (actors, musicians, painters, etc.) carrying on until they drop, but QE2's attitude of 'service for life' is exceptional. So this month many of us will be joining in the national celebrations in recognition of her 70 year reign. Whatever our attitudes re the Monarchy, I am sure most of you, like me, will wish her well; her mother topped 100, so I expect she will remain with us for a few years yet.



50

Counting down from 70 brings me to the u3a movement, which (worldwide) is 50 this year. Actually, it may only be 49 – online records indicate 1972 or 1973 – but for the purposes of this article, I am happy to go with the earlier date! What I am more certain of is that the original Université du Troisième Âge was founded in Toulouse, France, by Pierre Vellas.

40

Then in 1982, three Cambridge academics, Peter Laslett, Eric Midwinter and Michael Young sowed the seeds of the u3a in the UK. In that first year there were just 3 u3as – Cambridge, London and Huddersfield. There are now over 1000! The original French model was very academic, with their u3as being guided by the local university. When Peter Laslett drafted the objects and principles of the UK u3a, this was rejected – he wanted groups of people to get together to learn what interested them, and they would have, not a teacher, but a group leader or convenor, who would co-ordinate and help guide their efforts: i.e. pretty much as we are today, 40 years on.

P.S. The name 'University of the Third Age' is thought by some to be divisive, and likely to alienate many prospective members. The USA organisation use the name 'Lifelong Learning Institutes'. I am not convinced this is any better!

30

Coming down to 30 brings me to Loughborough u3a, which reaches this milestone in 2022. Sadly, as you already know, this will also be their last year. However, they plan to go out with a bang when they celebrate this achievement later on this year. I look forward to welcoming many of their members to Charnwood u3a in early 2023.

25

Last but not least, this is our own Silver Jubilee year, and plans are afoot to celebrate the occasion. This is likely to take place in Queens Park on the afternoon of Sunday 7th August. Further details, including how you can all get involved, will be sent out in June. In the meantime, please pencil this date into your diaries.

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'. If you will need any assistance at the meeting, please contact our Chair in advance on chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk.

At our last meeting, memories of 1960s music - the good, the bad and the ugly - were revived in an enjoyable session of 'Juke Box Jury' hosted by Leics & Rutland u3a Network Coordinator Roger Prescott (*pictured right 'on stage' at the meeting on 11th May*).



Our Next Meeting Wednesday 8th June What Is Islam? with Farooq Murad

I am pleased to welcome Dr. Farooq Murad, the Chief Executive of The Islamic Foundation in Markfield to our Monthly Meeting on Wednesday 8th June at 2.15 for 2.30. As always, the meeting will be in Emmanuel Church, Forest Rd, Loughborough, and will be followed by socialising over a cup of tea afterwards when I hope Farooq will join us.

Farooq's talk will cover the broad canvas of the Islamic faith, its interaction with other faiths in the UK, its current position and controversies that may surround it. I have told him of the typical demographic mix of our audiences. He will take questions at the conclusion.

Graham Cooper, Programme Secretary

[Editor's Note: This is a real opportunity for our members to hear a leading representative of the Muslim community, who has been both Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain and Chairman of Muslim Aid. See <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/MonthlyMeetingJune2022.html> for more information].

To attend this 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 do not arrive before 2 pm.** Risk Assessment guidance is at: https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/siteb/pdfdocsPrint/Risk_Assessment_monthly_meeting.pdf



If you are unable to attend in person and would like to follow the meeting online, please go to the meeting page on our website at:

<https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/MonthlyMeetingJune2022.html>

where full details of how to join will be given.

Looking Ahead:

We have no monthly meeting at Emmanuel in July. We will recommence these meetings in August. For details of planned speakers and topics, please see our website (<https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/>) under the 'Our meetings' menu - Monthly Meeting...

Notice Board: For information about other upcoming events in the local area, and other matters that might be of interest to you, do keep an eye on the Noticeboard page on our website at: <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/NoticeBoard.html>

Group News

10+ Walking Group - Poppy Wood Ramble, 3rd May 2022

A clean spring day heralded this week's walk; the last few drops of rain from an earlier short shower fell on the way to the start, giving the air a clean washed feel after a long dry April. The ground was still hard and dry underfoot with the shower being soaked up like a sponge. The walk mustered at Poppy Wood just outside Melbourne with lunch in Ticknall taking in Foremark and Milton.



The woods were glorious, bathed in spring's yellow-green light of bud burst. Under this canopy in the beech wood, where the undergrowth had been cleared away, was a display of a solid carpet of bluebells of the most intense dark blue. Absolutely glorious. After a short climb, we approached a lake within the wood, itself unusual being partway up an incline, but more unusually it had burst its banks, with rivulets running across the footpath. It was full, even after the dry April we have had, right up to the top with no bank down to the water level. My guess would be that the outflow had become blocked with debris from the winter but we did not investigate.

Foremark Hall School was obviously making good use of the full sized silver money tree they were cultivating in one of the quads, in order to support all the new buildings that had recently been erected. If I were to grow a money tree I think I would have one of this variety, all bright and shiny even on a dull day like today, but on a sunny day it must be dazzling. Adjacent to the school was Foremark Church (*pictured below*), built in the seventeenth century in the style of the time, with a flattish roof and castellation to its edges and around the tower. The rood screen was glazed with large sheets of glass, not the super-flat float glass we have nowadays, but with a slight green tinge and slight undulation, making it hazy to look through. There was a curious set of steps up onto the graveyard wall that looked like a stile but was not, because it only took you as far at the top of the wall. To continue would mean jumping off, perfectly doable for a ten year old but not us. Then there would be the problem of how to recover the ten year old. So what was it for? The best we could come up with was a mounting block to get on a horse but then if you climbed the steps who would lead the horse? All a bit of a mystery. But wait: the steps were in line with the west door of the church. If you stood on the steps your view would be down the nave of the church through to the altar when the doors were open. No, still no clue, it's still a mystery.



P L Chadwick / St. Saviour's Church / CC BY-SA 2.0

Just outside Ticknall we took a short detour to visit the Hangman's Stone, a four foot high dressed stone monolith looking for all the world like a gate post. It appears there are at least twenty-five such named stones in the country, all with the same or very similar myths attached to them. A sheep stealer was carrying his booty home with the legs of the sheep tied together, when he stopped to rest by the stone and the sheep in its struggle to free itself caused the tethering rope to twist around the man's neck, thereby strangling him. Well that's the story, believe it or not as you will.

The return route gave sweeping views over the Trent valley, across to the first ranks of the Derbyshire hills.

A fine ramble.

Phil Denniff

Pilates



The Pilates groups would like again to offer the opportunity of short term tryout classes when spaces are available as members of the groups have holidays.

We have classes for both beginners and those with more experience.

You could try just one week or more if you wish depending on what is available.

If you are interested or want more information send a message to 07954 411363 or email Pilates2@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Lynne Peebles

More Group News

Travel Group Trip to Dorset, April 24-29

It was great to be out on the road again with 32 of us eager to savour the delights of Dorset.

There were many memories to be made - starting with a working silk museum and ending with a bonus glimpse of Stonehenge.

Our first full day was busy with Corfe Castle (see picture, right), the heritage railway to Swanage and a boat trip to Poole.

Other highlights included a day with a brilliant guide, who walked us through the history of Dorchester - also known as Thomas Hardy's Casterbridge.



She then took us to Weymouth and the Isle of Portland, which is actually a peninsula joined to the mainland by Chesil Beach. Over the centuries, Portland has provided stone for buildings such as St Paul's Cathedral and the United Nations building in New York. Portland hosted the sailing competitions for the 2012 London Olympics and its harbour, instrumental in both world wars, is still one of the largest man-made harbours in the world (pictured left).



We then called in at West Bay (pictured right), where the dangerous crumbling cliffs regularly expose exciting finds for fossil hunters and have been used as a setting for TV dramas such as Broadchurch.



One morning we took in the outstanding gardens of Compton Acres, another we fed the swans at Abbotsbury Swannery, the only managed mute swannery in the world (see picture, left). We saw them with their eggs, but were just too early to meet any chicks.



Our driver had dealt superbly with various traffic problems during our six days and on the way home, he had to change the route due to a major motorway closure. And that's when we saw Stonehenge.

Kate Watson

Painting



The first meeting of the painting group was a huge success and we are looking forward to the next meeting on **Monday 20th June 2022**.

There are still a few places left if you would like to come along for a taster session. Please email painting@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

The u3a National Painting Theme challenge for May is '**Royal**'. The closing date for the competition is **8th June 2022**. If your painting is chosen it will be displayed on the national u3a website. If you require any further information please check out the website below or email the painting group. <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/paint-or-draw>

Angela Cantrill

The **Scottish Dancing group** (first and third Wednesday mornings of the month) still have places available. We are progressing slowly and any new member will be welcomed and the dances walked several times if necessary. See <https://my.strathspey.org/dd/list/33450/> for the dances we have worked on. If interested, please contact Sue Ronald - ScottishDancing@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Further Group News

Days of Interest



Members enjoying the trip to Haworth 1940s weekend

In May we went to Haworth to experience its 1940s weekend. Firstly some of the scenery we enjoyed on the trip was fabulous and we managed a whole day without rain.

The village itself – which is very hilly – was packed with visitors, many of whom were dressed in 1940s clothes. This ranged from just an old hair style to a full 1940s look, with some very impressive hats and seamed stockings for the women and military uniforms for both the men and the women. There was also a fair sprinkling of flashily dressed “spivs” selling watches and stockings.



We were serenaded by the choir, watched the band parade (pictured right) and mingled with wedding guests.

Some of the shops carried on the theme, including one that looked like a very old fashioned pharmacist and sold potions and a sweet shop that sold aniseed balls.



We have some spare places on our June, July & August trips, which are now open to all u3a members.

Our **June** trip to **Llandudno** is on **Saturday 18th June**. Please see [April's News & Views](#) (p.4) for details.

In **July** we are starting the day at **Snowhill Manor**, a National Trust house, followed by some time at **Broadway**. Snowhill was the home of the eccentric Charles Wade, who delighted in creating a stage for his passions, from toys to Samurai swords and musical instruments to bicycles. In the afternoon we travel just 3 miles to Broadway, a large Cotswold village with beautiful buildings and a large number of independent shops and eateries.

The trip departs from Tesco Extra car park on Saturday 16th July at 9:15 am. We leave Broadway at 4:45 pm. The cost of the trip for National Trust Members is £16.00 and for non-National Trust Members £27.50 per person.



Snowhill Manor



Kenneth Allen / Althorp House, Northamptonshire / CC BY-SA 2.0

In **August** we are off to **Althorp House** and the **Heart of the Shires Shopping Village**. Our first stop is the shopping village, which boasts a range of independent shops and the all-important tea shop. We then make the short journey to Althorp House, a Grade I listed stately home. It has been held by the prominent aristocratic Spencer family for >500 years and was the childhood home of Lady Diana Spencer.

The trip departs from Tesco Extra car park on Saturday 20th August at 9:30 am. We leave Althorp at 4:00 pm. The cost of the trip is £31.00.

If you are interested in joining us on any of the trips, please contact Pauline May at ppc.wat@ntlworld.com, 01509 552834 or 07455 167929 for details.

Gardening Group: For details of the next Gardening Group trip, please see bottom of p.10.

Retiring Walking Groups Coordinator

A massive thank you to Elizabeth Steel for taking on this role at the end of January 2014.



At the time, Elizabeth thanked Tony Collins for carrying out the role for 10 years and said she wouldn't be doing that long because she would be "a bit ancient"! I think at the time she felt pressurised into taking on the role. That was, in fact, true. Elizabeth had previously been Cu3a Groups Coordinator, so a few of us put it to her that her previous role, together with her walking experience, made her the ideal candidate!

Well, after over 8 years in the role you are still very sprightly but you deserve your retirement. Of course we know you will still be leading walks for all your groups for many years to come!

Elizabeth, a seasoned walker of many of the well known long distance trails, has been a stalwart of the 10+ and 6+ walks for many years and has always been a cheerful and positive walking companion, ready to help and support leaders on their pre walks.

The picture below right was taken on a pre walk just before Covid struck. Having scrambled up on to The Roaches we found a spot to shelter from the high winds.

The small group of 10+ walkers pictured above left became known as the 'super six', formed during Covid and continuing today (*only five of the six are shown in the photo, as the sixth, Mike Hill, was behind the camera*).

In April 2017, Elizabeth was instrumental in the formation of the Moat Road Strollers which recognised the need for a 6 mile walk at a more gentle pace.

Many will remember her logistics expertise organising the positioning of cars to take on The Leicestershire Round in sections. Many of her friends have enduring memories of longer distance walks on the Isle of Wight circular and in Portugal. Apparently on the second visit to Portugal Elizabeth developed blisters and was forced to spend a couple of days drinking the local wine beside the pool!



We all look forward to your company, Elizabeth, on many more walks and also a big thank you and good luck to Mike Hill for taking over the role from 1st July (and for taking the 'super six' photo).

Peter Mill

Pictured left: Group of walkers (Elizabeth third from left) on the beach at Alvor on the Algarve when doing the Algarviana walk.

June 2022 Meetings

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
		1 Jun 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 Scrabble 2 14.00 Sustain Planet	2 Jun 10.30 Amble/Strollers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Outdoor	3 Jun 09.00 Badminton 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 10.00 Table Tennis 7 11.00 Table Tennis 5 12.00 Lunch Club 1 12.00 Table Tennis 6
6 Jun 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Latin 11.00 Table Tennis 1 15.00 Current Affairs	7 Jun 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 Jun 10.00 Committee 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.30 Monthly Meet	9 Jun 10.00 Les Sportives 10.00 Sci & Tech 10.00 Thurs 6 Milers 10.30 Amble/Strollers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.00 Making Music	10 Jun 09.00 Badminton 10.00 Classical Civ 10.00 German: RTC 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 Jun 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Poetry 1 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Archaeology 14.00 Chess 14.00 Digital Imaging	14 Jun 09.30 Pilates 2 11.00 Table Tennis 2 11.15 Pilates 3 14.00 Canasta 1	15 Jun 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 14.00 Scrabble 2	16 Jun 10.00 Parish Walks 11.00 Table Tennis 4 13.00 French Conv 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.15 Scrabble 4 18.30 Supper Club 2	17 Jun 09.00 Badminton 10.00 German: RTC 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 Jun 09.30 Yoga 11.00 Table Tennis 1 13.00 Quiz group 13.30 Canasta 2 14.00 Gardening 14.00 Painting	21 Jun 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	22 Jun 10.00 Golf 10.00 History 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Classical Music	23 Jun 10.00 Les Sportives 10.00 Thurs 6 Milers 10.30 Amble/Strollers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Architecture 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.00 Making Music	24 Jun 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
27 Jun 09.30 Yoga 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Chess 14.00 Digital Imaging 14.00 Local History	28 Jun 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 ETHEL 10.00 Needlecraft 2 11.00 Table Tennis 2 11.15 Pilates 3 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Philosophy 1	29 Jun 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3	30 Jun 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Outdoor	

PLUS on Saturdays: Saturday Walks; Days of Interest trip to Llandudno (18th June)

For more information, visit our **website** (<https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk>) for the interactive calendar. Please send any amendments for future calendars to the Editor at newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Members' Articles

It's in Our Blood.....the sea, that is

Us Brits are famous for telling the world that we're a bunch of islanders. We use this as an explanation (or excuse?) for our stoicism, our quiet determination not to be beaten, to get things done whatever the cost. Given this collective history it won't surprise you to learn that my father was in the Navy. However, before we get too excited, it was only for his National Service.

Dad did his time on board the aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious. When called up, his initial thought was to volunteer to do his Service on submarines. Fortunately this didn't happen as he would have needed to sign up for an extended period as submariners needed much more training. As this was around the time my parents were getting together, an extra 6 months in the Navy wasn't an option. So it was the surface fleet who had the pleasure of my father's service. *(There he is on the right in his Navy uniform, ca. 1949)*

My Dad's time in the navy was pretty unremarkable, but there were a couple of things that were quite interesting. First, when he joined Illustrious (or affectionately just 'Lusty') he discovered that technically speaking the Royal Navy didn't fully own the ship yet, she was on a kind of sale-or-return. HMS Illustrious was rushed into service during wartime. Officially Illustrious was accepted into the Navy on 24 April 1940. All naval vessels have to go through proving trials before being fully accepted into the fleet. A very unfortunate incident during

trials led to the death of 3 sailors from the tugboat Poolgarth. This prevented Illustrious from completing her speed trials. As a result my Dad found himself, after the war, participating in sea trials off the coast of Scotland. In particular, he was there when HMS Illustrious sailed at max speed through a standard mile not far from Glasgow. She achieved the required speed of 30 knots.



Dad always had time to tell anyone who asked about his time in the Royal Navy. In fact we knew to change the subject rather quickly if something reminded him of his Navy days. He would start with "Did I ever tell you that I was in the Navy...". Despite the risk of having to listen to some long stories, Dad did have one or two interesting experiences.

One of the regular training exercises on board Illustrious was gunnery practice. This must have been quite a sight as she had as much or even more firepower than battleships of that era. Moreover, the bigger guns could shoot both sides of the ship because of the low profile afforded by the flat flight deck. Thus a 'broadside' from an aircraft carrier like Illustrious could pack quite a punch, since it included sixteen 4.5-inch guns. However, the gun crews on the smaller calibre guns would ensure that gunnery practice didn't last too long by 'accidentally' cutting the wire between a towed target and the towing vessel by shooting through the tow wire. Even though this would annoy the officers, it did show that the gunners were pretty accurate as they could shoot the thin wire, reliably!

Finally, we were surprised to learn that Dad's best mate when he was in the Navy was someone called *Bill Shakespeare* - yes this was his real name. So you could say that during his time on Illustrious, he was "on board with a bard"!



HMS Illustrious

Peter Reid

Not an article, but a piece of local news which might interest readers:

Graham Cooper reports that a pair of **peregrine falcons** are nesting at the top of the Carillon Tower in Queens Park. See <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-61256428> for details.

Big Brother Is Watching You

One of my more intriguing assignments during a career in the pharmaceutical industry was to represent an R&D Division in a Team set up to investigate how the various parts of the organisation could be persuaded - sorry, managed - to work together better. The time was the mid-1960s, at the dawn of what was to become known in management circles as '**Project Management**', a new organisational concept which sought to break down barriers between powerful departmental hierarchies - 'Baronies'. This development had its roots in problems encountered in the management of building highly complex nuclear submarines in the US in the 1950s.



Led by an external consultant 'behaviourist' (presumably a psychologist, though I never asked), we developed what were referred to as '*tools*', to intrude into the workings of the organisation, crossing with impunity the borders of the powerful Barons of Production, Marketing, Sales, R&D, Finance etc, operating on multiple sites performing the company business, to determine how it could be improved to face the



dynamic climate of the 1960s(!). Backed by a remit from the top Baron (the MD), we sat in on meetings at all levels from the Board to minor maintenance matters, busily observing events and behaviour, using our '*tools*' to collect data. Did you know that if you stop listening in a meeting, and just watch how the people behave, you can sometimes find it is not being 'chaired' by the person you thought? Try assigning descriptive names to the members – **Comic** (everything is a joke), **Alien** (no idea what's happening), **Diplomat** (agrees with everything),

Contrarian (disagrees with everything) etc. for entry into the hidden world of the Socio-Technical Balance. We interviewed previously obscure individuals, from warehousemen to the Chairman himself in pursuit of our final goal, the introduction of multidisciplinary Project Teams led by fearless Project Managers, across the organisation. One member resigned from the Team from the stress of intrusion on colleagues' 'personal' business. Breaking down organisational barriers proved painful. The Barons were discomfited.



But this activity was as nothing compared to the problem facing organisations today. Precipitated by Covid, '**working at home**' has become a contentious matter. How do you manage the workforce at a distance? Of course, bosses have always had to keep tabs on the workers - earn their keep, no shirking, no pilfering. CCTV was there, sure, but since Covid the scale of corporate surveillance has ballooned. Global demand has more than doubled for means to approach the task. Start-ups abound. '**Time Doctor**' provides software that records videos of users' screens, or snaps photos to ensure they are at their computers. '**Desktime**' tracks time spent on tasks. '**Awareness Technologies**'

sells software that gives workers a risk score. Employers can follow every key stroke or mouse movement. '**Remote Desk**' alerts managers if workers eat or drink on the job. **Fujitsu** recently unveiled artificial intelligence software which promises to gauge employees' concentration based on their facial expression.

Aren't you pleased to be enjoying retirement?

John Bell

Readers' Comments

Peter Reid's rag week reminiscences in May's *News & Views* prompted **Cliff Knowles** to report that his elder sister was in her third year studying geology at Sheffield when Peter started there. Cliff can remember her mentioning the brilliant Magic Roundabout float, so he told her about Peter's article and in reply she sent one of her memories of the rag parade:

The rag in 1968 featured a Geological Society dinosaur – it took all night to make. We had been promised a lorry – but had to improvise when it didn't turn up. {The dinosaur was carried along in the parade by a line of students lifting the 'beast' above their heads!}

Editor: If you have any comments on anything in the newsletter - or indeed any general comments to share with our members - please send them to newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk.

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

- 1) Name the only two sovereign states in the world to have square national flags.
- 2) Which large mammal's name comes from the Greek for 'nose horn'?
- 3) The name of the constellation *Caelum* is Latin for which cutting tool?
- 4) York is the home to the national museum for which form of transport?
- 5) The Weber test is a screening test for hearing performed with what device?
- 6) "Who will buy?" is a song from which 1968 musical?
- 7) The Golden Gate Bridge connects San Francisco to where?
- 8) Where in the world was singer Rhianna born?
- 9) To date, Queen Elizabeth the Second has been served by how many Prime Ministers?
- 10) What is "The Best a Man Can Get" according to advertisements?
- 11) Who or what is responsible for maintaining the Periodic Table?
- 12) Which animals have 3 hearts, 9 brains, and blue blood?
- 13) Which Spice Girl was the first to release a solo track?
- 14) As at early June 2022, who is the UK Secretary of State for Justice?
- 15) The nursery rhyme *Little Miss Piggy* mentions which meat?
- 16) Which shipping forecast area comes first alphabetically?
- 17) What is Loughborough's oldest church?
- 18) Proverbially one should have a long spoon to sup with whom or what?
- 19) Which is the world's only country (as recognised by the United Nations) to have three capital cities?
- 20) What long walking trail in England was the first to be recognised and named?



Poetry Corner

TALK TESCO

I talk to the trolley.
I talk to myself.
I talk to the goods
High on the top shelf.
Who put you up there?
A young man, quite tall,
With no time to care,
Nor even to think
How you will come down,
As come down you must.
For here I shall stay,
Wait, pray, and trust
That some lofty one
Will come by this way
And notice my plight,
And with a long reach
Will soon put me right.
Then I shall smile
And graciously say
**"Oh! Thank you so much.
You have made my day."**



Copyright Louie Carr.
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Also in *Badger Court Poets*, 2012

Gardening Group Coach Trip to Trentham Gardens

Following the success of their trip to Malvern in May, the Gardening Group are planning an outing to **Trentham Gardens**, Stoke-on-Trent (ST4 8JB) on **Monday 18th July**.

At Trentham, you will enjoy 80,000 perennials in the Italian Garden punctuated by fountains and topiary. See Capability Brown's mile long lake and enjoy the meadow planting by Professor Nigel Dunnnett. Visit the shopping village, garden centre, monkey forest and try out the many food outlets or bring your own picnic to enjoy at a table by the lakeside.

The trip costs £30 per person and includes entrance to the gardens, a guided tour and return coach travel. We will set off from Tesco Car Park, Park Rd, Loughborough at 9:30 am and expect to arrive back at 5 pm.

If you would like to join the trip, please email Marilyn Dinsdale at marilyndinsdale@btinternet.com for further information and payment details.

Loughborough University School of Design and Creative Arts Degree Show 2022



10th - 19th June, 10 am - 5 pm
The Design School and Creative Arts Building

Showcasing and celebrating creative talent, the annual Degree Show is an important platform for Loughborough University's Design and Creative Arts finalists to raise their profile prior to starting their careers.

Throughout the week members of the public, along with friends and family, industry, and potential employers are welcomed onto campus for the opportunity to view inspiring creative work, innovative projects, and products produced by graduands of 2022.

Attendance is free, but booking is essential. For enquiries and booking information, go to:
<https://www.lboro.ac.uk/news-events/events/arts-design-degree-show/>

Friends of Charnwood Museum

On **Thursday 16th June**, **Dr Marcus Collins** will speak on **'Is the BBC History?'** Dr Collins, a 20th-21st C historian from Loughborough University, has a special interest in social and cultural change since 1945.

At a time when the future of the BBC is in doubt, this talk looks at the intertwined histories of the BBC and British culture and society over the past 100 years. It considers how new ways of accessing the BBC's vast archive of materials – audio, video, web, printed, typed and handwritten – might transform how we think about the BBC and 20th-century Britain.



The Granby Street doors will be open from **7 pm** for coffee and tea etc, with the talk beginning at **7.30 pm**. Tickets are £3 and can be booked via <https://tinyurl.com/2p8d2eyh> or telephone the museum on 01509 233754 during opening hours (Wed - Sat, 10 am - 3 pm).

Charnwood Orchestra

Charnwood Orchestra is concluding its season with a **'Night at the Opera'** on **Saturday 25th June** at the Church of St James the Elder, London Rd, Leicester.

The programme includes a number of well known arias and orchestral excerpts. This will be a popular evening's entertainment packed with lots of well known tunes.

For further information, including how to buy tickets, see the Orchestra's website at:
<https://www.charnwoodorchestra.org.uk/concerts.php/>

The
**Charnwood
Orchestra**
Music Director
Nic Fallowfield

**Saturday
25th June 2022
7:30pm**

**Church of St. James the Greater
London Road Leicester LE2 1NE**

Conductor Nic Fallowfield
Soprano Elizabeth Ryder
Bass Samuel Oram

Passion, Poison and Politics



On **Saturday 18th June** at 5:30 pm, the **1620s House & Garden at Donington le Heath** have a talk on Shakespeare's relationship to botany and a tour around their gardens to discover the plants mentioned. For more details and booking information, see:
<https://1620shouse.org.uk/events/passion-poison-politics-talk-tour-afternoon-tea-2/>

Coming up in July:

Leicestershire and Rutland's Festival of Archaeology, 2nd - 31st July:
<https://leicsfieldworkers.org/festival-of-archaeology/>

Global Bird Fair at Rutland Water, 15th - 17th July: <https://globalbirdfair.org/>

News from the National u3a



Creative Writing Competition:

Closing date 16th June. See <https://u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/creative-writing-2022>

Free On-Line Events this Month include:

- **How to Get Published: Some Practical Advice** with Alysoun Owen, Editor of Writers' and Artists' Yearbook, Mon 6 June, 2 pm.
- **What will it really take to deal with climate change?** with Mike Berners-Lee, Fri 24 June, 10 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>.

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 **July issue of News & Views** will be **Wednesday 29th June (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 <https://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.

