

## News & Views



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## Welcome

...to the May 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 on the last page.



### Our Next Monthly Meeting: All About Bats...



See page 2 for details.

## View from the Chair



Hello Everybody,  
This is my first 'View from the Chair'. It's still feeling a bit wobbly, so I'm glad I'm typing rather than handwriting!

I'm a comparative 'newbie' to Charnwood u3a, having joined in 2019, a few months before lockdown. It was really good to see so many of our groups continuing through that difficult time. Since then our numbers have grown to over 1000, including the new members and groups we welcomed from Loughborough u3a.

Of course, I'm not going to get to know 1,000 members, but I'm hoping to meet as many of you as possible over the next three years. I joined a lovely bunch last month on a day trip to Newstead Abbey and the D.H. Lawrence Museum (see page 5). At Newstead, we learnt about the scandalous goings-on of Lord Byron, great Romantic, brilliant poet and general bad boy. The D.H. Lawrence Museum at Eastwood was a short drive from Newstead, but miles away in terms of social distance. I wasn't the only one who felt more at home in the terraced house, with its dolly tub, rag rugs and the front room 'kept for best'. More than once a voice exclaimed, 'My granny had one of those!'

There was an excellent turn-out at the Group Leaders meeting last week, where part of the agenda was a discussion on 'Inclusivity'. There were lots of positive and practical ideas on how we can make our u3a more open and accessible to everybody. Our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) team meets every two months and we are keen to have more members. The next meeting is on Monday May 15th, 2 - 4 pm at Gorse Covert, so please get in touch if you'd like to come, or if you have any questions or comments about EDI, by emailing [editeam@charnwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto:editeam@charnwoodu3a.org.uk).

We welcomed two new members to the Committee last month: Our new Secretary, Debra Hardwick and Peter Reid, who is already a member of our EDI team. It's great to have new people coming forward to help run our u3a. Honestly, we're a friendly bunch and even share the occasional (usually bad) joke! Any Cu3a member can come along to see what we get up to, so do get in touch with me if you'd like to sit in on a Committee meeting. Or just come and say hello at our monthly meeting – I'll be the one with the wobbly legs!

Pam Upton  
[chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk)

### Our Website

Check out our website at: [www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk](http://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk) for lots of information about Charnwood u3a, including details of our meetings, trips, all our Groups and much more.

## 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 accessed via Ingle Pingle, to the west of the church. Our monthly meetings are free to all, and we welcome prospective new members attending a meeting as a 'taster'. If you think you'll need any assistance at the meeting, please contact our Chair in advance on [chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk).

Last month, we were treated to an interesting insight into the important role of sleep in our lives, in a talk given by Cu3a member and renowned sleep researcher Professor Jim Horne.



### Our Next Meeting Wednesday 10th May

### 'Dispelling the Myths: An Introduction to Bats' with Kevin Reynolds

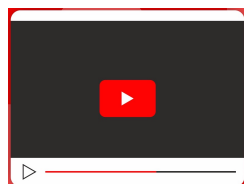


Kevin Reynolds is a passionate naturalist who volunteers with his local wildlife trust. Some of you may remember Kevin's Zoom talk on Dragonflies and Damselflies in 2020, which was very well received, and following requests from several members, we have invited him back. He is pleased to be able to speak to us face to face about another of his wildlife interests, namely bats.

There are 13 species of bat in the UK, and they make up one third of British mammals. Kevin will accompany his talk with some stunning photographs of bats from both the UK and around the world. The most common bat in the UK is the Pipistrelle, which despite its small size, eats between 2,000 and 3,000 midges per night. If Kevin's previous talk is anything to go by, this promises to be an entertaining and fascinating insight into the lives of these nocturnal flying mammals.

### 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, if you have one. **Please do not arrive before 2 pm.**



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

<https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/MonthlyMeetingMay2023.html>

where full details of how to join are given, including a link to the registration form with deadline for pre-registration.

### Looking Ahead:

#### Monthly Meetings Jun - Nov 2023

- **14 Jun:** *You Can't be Serious: Tales of a Wimbledon Umpire - Alan Gray*
- **12 Jul:** **NO MEETING**
- **9 Aug:** *Stoneywell and the Gimson Family - Mark Temple*
- **13 Sep:** *Discover South American Music - Los Amigos*
- **11 Oct:** *Indian Dance - Anand Mangal*
- **8 Nov:** *Healthy Ageing - Dr David Maidment*

Details of our monthly meetings are at: <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/MonthlyMeetingsFuture.html>

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## Group News

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### **Places available on the Travel Group holiday to The Lake District 11th - 15th June 2023**

**5 days/4 nights £749pp. (Single supplement £160)**

We have several spare places on our trip to The Lake District next month.

We will travel from Loughborough by coach for 4 nights' half-board accommodation at the Damson Dene hotel in the tranquil Lyth Valley, close to Bowness and Windermere.

Over the 5 days we will visit:-

- **Sizergh (NT)**. A striking medieval manor, still home to the Strickland family for the past 750 years.
- **Dove Cottage**. William Wordsworth's home & the Wordsworth Museum.
- **Coniston Water**. Cruise on the Victorian steam powered yacht *Gondola* (right).
- **Brantwood**. John Ruskin's home.
- **Hawkshead**. Beatrix Potter's home, Hill Top house.
- **Dalemain House**. Dating back to the 12th Century, now housing a nationally important collection of furniture, art, ceramics and everyday objects of the past.
- **Tennants Auction House**. A lunch and tour of upcoming auctions in the UK's largest family-run fine-art auctioneers.



For more information contact [TravelGroup@charnwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto:TravelGroup@charnwoodu3a.org.uk) as soon as possible.

Ann Maddocks

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### **Gardening Group Visit to RHS Garden Bridgewater Monday 19th June 2023: Depart Tesco Car Park at 9:15 am**

Places are available for this trip to RHS Bridgewater, the 'new' garden in the grounds of Worsley Hall, Salford. Set in 154 acres of historic grounds, the gardens include a Kitchen Garden, Chinese Water Garden and Paradise Gardens. It has cafes, a shop and a plant centre.

For more information on the garden see:  
<https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/bridgewater>.

The cost of the visit is **£35.35** including coach, admission to the gardens, bank fee and a driver's tip. **RHS members** have free admission, so pay only **£25.00**, but will need to show their membership cards to gain admission on the day.

The Winsons coach will be parked in Tesco, Park Road (towards the rear of the car park), **leaving Tesco at 9.15 am**. Time of departure from Bridgewater will depend on arrival time (Normally Winsons give 5 hours for the visit).

An application form giving full information can be obtained from Hazel Richardson by emailing [Gardening@charnwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto:Gardening@charnwoodu3a.org.uk). The form will then be sent to you as an email attachment for you to complete and return to reserve your place.

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*The Weston walled garden, RHS Bridgewater. Photo by Amanda Slater, Coventry, UK, CC BY-SA 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons.*

## More Group News

*There can be NO doubt...*  
**DANCING IS GOOD FOR YOU!**

At our **LINE DANCE** Group we have just celebrated the birthday of our oldest dancer.

**Jean** is **90** years old !

(and an excellent dancer!)

Our Line dance group meets at the Brush Bowls Club, off Nanpantan Rd, Loughborough, almost every Friday morning from 10 am to midday. We have room for just one or two more dancers.

If Line dancing isn't for you, then join our **SOCIAL DANCE** Group where you can dance with someone. We provide partners, but feel free to bring your own if you have one! Here you can do **Ballroom Dancing** – both Old Time and Modern Sequence and a varied selection of **Folk Dances**. This group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, 2 - 4 pm, at the Hall of the Good Shepherd Church, Park Road, Loughborough. This is a large hall, and we have room for quite a few more.

NO previous skill is required for either group, just a love of moving to music – even if it is only nodding your head when you hear a tune!

For further information on either group, go to our u3a website:

<https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/DanceLine.html> or <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/DanceSocial.html> or contact the Group Leader on 01509 264 593.



## A New Book Group? More Readers Wanted!



Thanks to those who responded to the notice in last month's *News & Views*, and expressed an interest in joining a new Book Group, to replace the Charnwood and Loughborough u3a groups that fell by the wayside during the pandemic.

A few more people are still needed to make the new group worthwhile. So if you missed the initial notice, or meant to respond but forgot, now's your chance.

If you are interested, please contact Anne Carter by phone, 01509 263263 or email at [anne.carter8@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.carter8@btinternet.com).

## More Group News Welcome

Do you have news of your group to share - or ideas for a new group?

If so, we'd love to hear from you. Please send any items to the *News & Views* Editor at: [newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk). Text in the body of an email is fine, but if you prefer to send a word-processed document, please ensure any photographs or other illustrations are sent in separate files.

Many thanks for your contributions.

Helen Reid, Newsletter Editor



## Roving Reporters

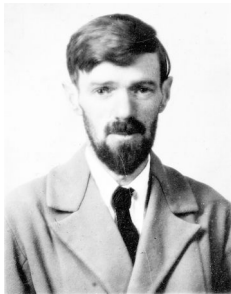
### *Days of Interest Group – an April trip to Nottinghamshire*

We did not venture very far afield in April and spent our day in Nottinghamshire visiting the homes of two literary giants.



Our first stop was at Newstead Abbey which was, for a short time, home to the talented but notorious 19th century poet Lord Byron (*left, as painted in 1813 by Thomas Phillips*). He was once described by his lover Lady Caroline Lamb as “mad, bad and dangerous to know”.

Byron inherited the estate and his title when he was ten, but instead of it being the luxurious dwelling that he and his mother expected, it was in a very run down state. It was for some years rented out and eventually sold. The house itself incorporates part of a pre-reformation priory, including the Prior’s lodgings and the cloisters. We had a very informative guide-led tour of the house.



In the afternoon we moved on to Eastwood, birthplace of another notorious author, D.H. Lawrence (*pictured on the left in his passport photograph*). You have all probably heard of Lady Chatterley’s Lover, even if you haven’t read it.

The D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum is located in the house where Lawrence was born in 1885. It was built in the 19th century to house working class miners and is in sharp contrast to the grandeur of Newstead Abbey. We again had a guided tour and found out about the importance of Lawrence’s mother in his success and that of his siblings.

Pauline May

Lists of previous and future trips organised by the Days of Interest group can be found on our website at: <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/DaysofInterest.html>

**If you are interested in joining the Days of Interest Group, please contact Pauline May by email at [ppc.wat@ntlworld.com](mailto:ppc.wat@ntlworld.com) or by telephone at 01509 552834 or 07455 167929 for details.**



*Members of the Days of Interest group enjoying their visits to Newstead Abbey (above) and the D H Lawrence Museum (below)*



## Travel Group Trip to Vienna, April 2023

Members of the Travel Group have recently returned from a most enjoyable trip to the stunning city of Vienna.

Our guide, Giuseppina, introduced us to many examples which demonstrate the imperial grandeur of the powerful Habsburg dynasty. The vast Schönbrunn Palace (pictured right) was the birthplace of Emperor Franz Joseph, the summer residence of



Empress Sisi, and is one of Europe's most impressive Baroque complexes, surrounded by splendid gardens and built to rival the Palace of Versailles. Many of the group enjoyed visits to the concerts performed usually in The Orangery, celebrating works of Mozart and Strauss. Mozart himself performed here in 1786. Within the palace grounds is also the home of the world's oldest working zoo!



Within the city centre, we were spoilt for choice for places to visit. We were impressed with the external architecture of the Baroque Karlskirche (pictured left), with its great dome and two giant columns. Inside it is adorned with marble stonework and wall paintings with regular splashes of gold. Vienna's important landmark, the Romanesque and Gothic St. Stephen's Cathedral (pictured below), with its patterned

roof tiles, was equally impressive. The Museum Quarter, originally the former imperial court stables, now encompasses 60 cultural institutions, celebrating all types of art, literature, music, fashion, dance, and much, much more. The Hofburg Palace was the power-house of the Habsburg Empire. It was once the imperial winter residence and now stands as the official seat of the Austrian President. Not surprisingly, a visit to the Spanish Riding School was a must for some of the group, for a tour of the stables or to watch a training session of the graceful white stallions set to classical Viennese music.



Outside of the city, the famous Prater is one of the oldest amusement parks in the world, and with its 200 foot high Ferris Wheel (pictured left), is one of Vienna's most iconic symbols, well remembered in the 1949 film *The Third Man*. Another popular place to visit was The Belvedere complex which consists of two baroque palaces (the Upper and Lower Belvedere), the Orangery and the palace stables, and is home to the largest collection of Gustav Klimt paintings.

No visit to Vienna is complete without a cruise on the Danube. Following a tour of the magnificent Benedictine Melk Abbey, with its domed roof, numerous treasures and a huge library housing medieval manuscripts, we took a leisurely cruise, in the rain, through the Wachau Valley to the pretty little town of Krems, for a well-deserved melange and slice (or two) of sacher torte and apfel studel.....When in Vienna.....it would be rude not to!



Ann Maddocks

Spanish Riding School,  
Vienna

**Places are available on the Travel Group's trip to the Lake District in June: details are on page 3.**

## May 2023 Meetings

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1 May 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 10.00 Latin 11.00 Table Tennis 1	2 May 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 Canasta1Quorn 14.00 Sing4Pleasure	3 May 09.30 Golf 10.00 Classical Greek 10.00 German 10.00 JigsawBookEx 10.00 Mini Tennis 10.00 Scottish Dance 10.30 Papercraft 11.00 Table Tennis 3 13.30 Cribbage 2 14.00 French Improve 14.00 Scrabble 2 14.00 Sustain Planet	4 May 10.00 Sci & Tech 10.00 Spanish Conv 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.30 French Conv 19.00 Canasta 3	5 May 09.00 Badminton 10.00 German: RTC 10.00 Knit & Natter 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
8 May 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 13.00 Quiz group 14.00 Chess	9 May 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 EPC Zoom 10.00 Scrabble 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 11.15 Pilates 3 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Eng Parish Ch 14.00 Social Dance	10 May 09.30 Golf 10.00 Committee 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.30 Monthly Meet 19.00 Canasta2Quorn	11 May 10.00 Beading 2 10.00 Les Sportives 10.00 Thurs 6 Milers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.00 Making Music	12 May 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
15 May 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 13.30 Canasta 2 14.00 EDI meeting 14.00 Gardening 14.00 Painting	16 May 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	17 May 09.30 Golf 10.00 German 10.00 Mini Tennis 10.00 Poetry 2 10.00 Scottish Dance 11.00 Table Tennis 3 13.30 Cribbage 2 14.00 Family History 14.00 French Improve 14.00 Italian Conv 14.00 Scrabble 2	18 May 10.00 CC Walks 10.00 Parish Walks 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.15 Scrabble 4 14.30 French Conv 18.30 Supper Club 2	19 May 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
22 May 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Chess 14.00 Digital Imaging 14.00 Local History	23 May 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 ETHEL 10.00 Needlecraft 2 10.00 Scrabble 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 11.15 Pilates 3 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Philosophy 1 14.00 Social Dance	24 May 09.30 Golf 10.00 History 10.00 Mini Tennis 10.00 Stitch & Sew 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Classical Music 14.00 Travel Group	25 May 10.00 Beading 10.00 Les Sportives 10.00 Thurs 6 Milers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Architecture 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.00 Making Music	26 May 09.00 Badminton 10.00 Line Dance 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
29 May 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1	30 May 09.30 Pilates 2 11.00 Table Tennis 2 11.15 Pilates 3 14.00 Canasta 1	31 May 09.30 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3		

**PLUS at Weekends:** Sunday Lunch Club (14th May); Days of Interest trip to Cromford Mill & Ecclesbourne Valley Railway (20th May).

For more information, visit our **website** (<https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk>) for the interactive calendar, with direct links to the group pages for more details, including names and contact emails of group leaders.. Please send any amendments or additions to the Editor at [newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk) for inclusion in future months' calendars.

## Loughborough University Research Project: *Digital Challenges Among Older Adults*

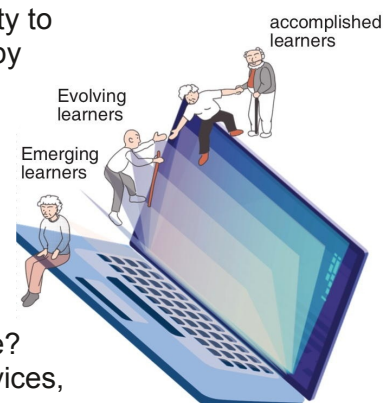


**Jikun Yin, a researcher in Loughborough University's Design School, is exploring how inclusive design can help older adults gain digital competence.**

Research has shown that older adults in the UK who lack life essential digital skills (EDS) are unable to take full advantage of online services provided by government and society, and become confused when using an application or web interface. Compared to young people, many older adults lack confidence and motivation to develop digital competence, and tend to underestimate their ability to learn to interact with mobile and computer devices. Jikun cites a 2021 survey by Lloyd's Bank which found that 59% of people aged 65 or over do not have life EDS, compared with 24% of the total UK population. Thus, since the UK government adopted a 'Digital by Default' strategy in 2012, older people have suffered digital exclusion disproportionately compared to younger adults.

Jikun's study focuses on the elderly who do not have basic digital skills, with the aim of discovering how inclusive design can be used to improve their digital competence. Questions she hopes to answer include:

- How do older people learn digital technologies to develop digital competence?
- What are the current dilemmas faced by older people when using digital services, and in which specific categories?
- What are the skills they are lacking? Can they improve their digital competence by training?



**Jikun would really like to get in touch with older people, to discuss the problems they face when using websites and social media and to help them with online software such as communication software (WhatsApp, Snapchat, Telegram) information software (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) and online services (Gov.uk and some social welfare official websites). This could really help those struggling with 'digital age' technology!**

If you are interested in possibly getting involved in this research or want further information, please contact Jikun Yin on [J.Yin@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:J.Yin@lboro.ac.uk), or by telephone on 07840 302911.

## Retirement

Have you ever watched a TED Talk? These are a series of presentations you can find on the internet where individuals talk for 15 minutes or so on a variety of fascinating topics (see: <https://www.ted.com/talks>). I came across one on retirement that I thought might interest *News & Views* readers, given by a Dr. Riley Moynes ([https://www.ted.com/talks/riley\\_moynes\\_how\\_to\\_squeeze\\_all\\_the\\_juice\\_out\\_of\\_retirement](https://www.ted.com/talks/riley_moynes_how_to_squeeze_all_the_juice_out_of_retirement)).

He identified four Phases of retirement:-

**Phase 1:** The "Vacation Phase". Recently retired, you wake up overjoyed, no routine, relax, fun in the sun, off on a cruise.... It lasts about a year.

**Phase 2:** The "Lost Phase". You start to miss routine, you have lost identity, relationships, power, purpose. This stage can include divorce, depression, decline, even fear and anxiety.

**Phase 3:** The "Trial & Error Phase". How to make life meaningful? Disappointment. What can I do? Train for a new career? Get started on my memoirs? Keep trying to find a reason to get up in the morning.

**Phase 4:** The "Reinvent & Rewire Phase". What's the purpose? How do I squeeze the juice out of retirement? Helping others? Teach others how to use iPhones and iPads. How to paint, how to mend bicycles. English as a second language. Learn a language....

Do you recognise a thinly disguised u3a in Phase 4? Are we not fortunate?

John Bell





## Upcoming Local Events

### *Bandstand concerts return to Queen's Park this summer*

Queen's Park in Loughborough will host a variety of concerts for residents and visitors this summer. Residents of all ages are invited to come down to Queen's Park and enjoy an afternoon of music on the following dates:

Sunday May 14 - LSU Classical Concert Band  
 Sunday June 11 - Loughborough Salvation Army Band  
 Sunday June 25 - Loughborough Concert Band  
 Sunday July 2 - Melbourne Town Band  
 Sunday July 16 - Loughborough Male Voice Choir  
 Sunday July 23 - Charnwood Concert Band  
 Sunday August 6 - The New Orleans Hotshots Jazz Band



*Photo: Charnwood Borough Council, showing concert in Queen's Park in 2022*

All concerts commence at 2 pm and are free to attend.

Queen's Park Café, situated next to Charnwood Museum, will be open from 9.30 am until 2.30 pm so visitors can get some refreshments before each performance.

For more information, see <https://tinyurl.com/28fmfbd8>

### *Charnwood Orchestra*

The Charnwood Orchestra end of season concert is on **Saturday 24th June 2023 at 19:30** at the Church of St. James the Greater, London Road, Leicester LE2 1NE

The orchestra will be playing the following pieces:

- Tchaikovsky: Capriccio Italien
- Glazunov: Violin Concerto - Soloist Seb Wyss\*
- Shostakovich: Symphony No.6

\* [https://www.charnwoodorchestra.org.uk/\\_images/Sebastian\\_Wyss.pdf](https://www.charnwoodorchestra.org.uk/_images/Sebastian_Wyss.pdf)

Tickets (£14 adults, £12 concessions, £5 18s and under or NUS members) are also available via the Orchestra website:

<https://www.charnwoodorchestra.org.uk>

and / or may be reserved via email:

[tickets@charnwoodorchestra.org.uk](mailto:tickets@charnwoodorchestra.org.uk)



**The Charnwood Orchestra**  
 Music Director  
 Nic Fallowfield

**Saturday  
 24th June 2023  
 7:30pm**

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

**Conductor Nic Fallowfield**  
**Violin Sebastian Wyss**

**Tchaikovsky Capriccio Italien**  
**Glazunov Violin Concerto**  
**Shostakovich Symphony No.6**



Sebastian Wyss

**Tickets:**

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

£14.00 (£12.00 concessions)  
 £5.00 - 18s and under or NUS members

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



[www.charnwoodorchestra.org.uk](http://www.charnwoodorchestra.org.uk)

## Loughborough University Events

### Splash! by University Choir

Wednesday 17th May, 7:30 - 9:30 pm  
in the Cope Auditorium

A programme of music on a watery theme by the University Choir.

Conductor: Eleanor Graff-Baker  
Accompanist: Eleonora Babitsky

Free car parking is available on-site.

Booking required. £7 or £5 LU students & children

Tickets will be available on the door (subject to availability) but cash payments only.

See <https://www.lboro.ac.uk/news-events/events/splash-by-university-choir/> for further details and booking information.



### International Athletics

Sunday 21st May, Paula Radcliffe Stadium  
Doors open 10 am, event starts 11 am.

Loughborough University is proud to be hosting the 65th anniversary of the Loughborough International Athletics (LIA) competition.

The event will offer a great day out where friends, families and athletics fans alike can enjoy an event full of action-packed fun and excitement.

Booking required. Adults £8,  
Concessions £5, Students £3

See <https://www.lboro.ac.uk/news-events/events/loughborough-international-athletics/> for further details and booking information.



Other upcoming University events can be found at: <https://www.lboro.ac.uk/news-events/events/>

## Friends of Charnwood Museum

The next talk for the Friends of Charnwood Museum is on **Wednesday 24th May at 7.30 pm:**

**Jo Mungovin** will be speaking about **'Peppermint Billy'**

*Peppermint Billy was the last man publicly hanged in Leicester in 1856. William 'Peppermint Billy' Brown had previously been transported to Van Diemen's Land for theft, spent seven years in an asylum, and then after spending thirteen years on the other side of the world, he made his way back to England and back to Leicestershire. Eight weeks later, he was executed - why did he come back? Was he truly guilty of murder?*

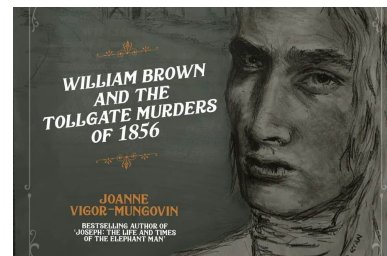


Image: Melton Times 15/03/22

**Note: This is a change of speaker and date from that previously advertised.** At time of writing, the website (<https://www.charnwoodmuseum.co.uk/events>) is still showing the previous talk so it is not possible to book at present. This should be updated soon.

As usual the talk begins at 7.30 pm with refreshments available from around 7 pm. Members £2, non-members £4. Please use the evening entrance on Granby Street.

## Lunchtime Concert at Emmanuel

Thursday 18th May, 12:45 pm - 1:30 pm

Clare Pitchford | violin  
John Bean | cello  
Jeremy Kimber | piano



Brahms' magnificent Piano Trio in B Op 8 forms the major part of the programme. Composed when he was still a youth, he revised the work 35 years later. It's a masterpiece. The concert starts at 12.45 pm but a Soup and Roll lunch will be served from 12.00.

**A free event, but donations are most welcome.**  
<https://www.facebook.com/emmanuelconcerts>

## Coronation Weekend

Saturday 6th May - Monday 8th May

There will be a number of events taking place throughout Charnwood over the weekend of His Majesty King Charles III's coronation.

Loughborough Market will be holding a special, themed market to celebrate the coronation on Saturday 6th May from 8 am until 4 pm.

Visit <https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/coronation> for the full information and events listings.

For other local events, see 'Discover Charnwood':  
<https://www.discovercharnwood.co.uk/events>

## News from the National u3a

### National Short Story Competition

The u3a national short story competition is back for its fourth year, and the judges are looking forward to seeing what creative writing talents members have to offer. The theme for this year's competition is '**Decision(s)**' and the deadline to enter is **Monday 26 June 2023**. For details, see: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/short-story-competition-2023>

### Free On-Line Events this Month:

- '**Off the Wall**' on-line programme: series of talks about Hadrian's Wall, Tue 2 May - Wed 10 May.
- **Philosophy and Sport** with Shri Sharma, Subject Adviser for Philosophy, Thu 11 May at 2 pm.
- **Energy management & savings in the domestic situation** with Tony Book, Thu 18 May at 2 pm.

For details of these and other upcoming free on-line events offered by the National u3a, 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 also find a link to recent issues.

The u3a National programmes page at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes> has more learning initiatives, including new programmes, as well as ongoing themes like mathematical challenges, sharing photos and artwork - and the monthly radio podcast. Also, the u3a learning blog **Sources** includes a large collection of articles, posted by u3a members, covering a wide range of topics. This can be found at: <https://sources.u3a.org.uk>.

## Poetry Corner

### THE GIRL NEXT DOOR

Sophie running is delight,  
Heels flying, face alight.

Sophie playing is gladness,  
Unacquainted with sadness.

Sophie laughing is rapture,  
Impossible to capture.

Sophie weeping is despair.  
Hold her close. Smooth her soft hair.

Sophie away is sorrow.  
Will she be back tomorrow?

Sophie fidgeting is droll,  
Little limbs out of control.

Sophie loving is sweetness,  
Nature's sunny completeness.

Sophie smiling is quite rare.  
Catch a glimpse of Heaven there!

Sophie thinking is the best.  
A single sunbeam at rest.



Copyright Louie Carr, 1990.  
Published in *Poetry Now Yorkshire Poetry Now*, 1995.  
HB ISBN 1 85731 470 0

## Obituary

### Derrick Hewitt

I am sorry to report that Derrick Hewitt died peacefully in his sleep in early April, aged 91 years. He had recently moved into 'The Willows' Care Home in Shepshed, where he was being carefully looked after, due to health issues.

Derrick was Chairman of Loughborough U3A in the early days and organised many holidays abroad and several day trips, which members still recall with many happy memories. He was a great organiser and worked hard for U3A. He also did a lot of research and wrote several books which kept him busy, even in recent months.

Derrick will be sadly missed and we send our kind thoughts and condolences to his family at this sad time.

The 'Thanksgiving Service for his life' is to be held on **Thursday 18th May, at 10:45 am at Emmanuel Church**. This will be followed by a short service at the Loughborough Crematorium .

Sylvia Wade

## 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 **June** issue of **News & Views** will be **Tuesday, 30th May (12 noon)**.



Please send your contributions to the Newsletter Editor at: [newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk) under the News menu.

Thank You!

Helen Reid  
Newsletter Editor  
Charnwood u3a



## Committee and Group Leaders' Details

Names, photos and generic email addresses ending [@charnwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto:@charnwoodu3a.org.uk) of all the current Committee members - along with links to their role descriptions - can be found on our website at: <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/CommitteeContactsNew.html> and those of other members of our Support Team are at: <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/SupportTeamContacts.html>



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](mailto:chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk)

## Some other useful u3a web addresses:

National u3a: <https://www.u3a.org.uk>

The Association of East Midlands u3as: <https://www.eastmidlandsu3as.org.uk>

Leicestershire and Rutland Network: <https://u3asites.org.uk/landr/>

Beacon: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/beacon>

