

News & Views



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Welcome

...to the April 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:
The YMCA

See page 3
for details

Meet the New Committee 2025-26



Pam Upton
Chair



Debra Hardwick
Secretary



Pam Towers
Treasurer



Garry Rigby
*Vice Chair and
Membership Secretary*



Geetha Bala
Committee Member



Beverly Gillman
*Groups
Co-ordinator*



Sam Hardwick
Committee Member



Jennie Lock
Committee Member



Char March
Committee Member



Sue Ronald
Committee Member

Our Website

Check out our website at:
www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk
for lots of information
about Charnwood u3a:
our meetings, trips, all our
Groups and much more.

Annual General Meeting

First, a big THANK YOU to everybody who came to the AGM. And an extra big thank you to those who couldn't come but took their time to nominate a proxy. Because a proxy counts in the attendance figures, it ensured that we were quorate. Much as we all love AGMs, I'm sure we wouldn't have wanted to do it again!

You'll already have seen our newly replenished Committee on the first page: Sam Hardwick and Jennie Lock, co-opted members who were formally elected, along with a brand-new Trustee, Char March. A warm welcome to them all. We still have two vacancies on the Committee, and we can co-opt three more, so do get in touch if you'd like to be involved in running our u3a, or if you'd just like to come and see what we get up to.



Two of our Trustees came to the end of their tenure this year: Margaret Kelvey and Helen Reid. It's always sad to say goodbye to valued committee members, but I'm really pleased that both Margaret and Helen will continue in their roles, Margaret as part of our Speaker Programme team and Helen as our Newsletter Editor.

We had one motion this year. Members agreed to increase the annual subscription for postal members to £25. I'm sure you'll be aware how much printing and postage costs have risen, so the Committee felt it was only fair to the rest of our members to pass on some of the cost. Three years ago, we asked those who didn't have email to pay an extra £5 on top of their subscription. Then the cost to our u3a was around £11; now it costs about £17.50, so the additional £5 that postal members will be paying from August will still mean a subsidy of over 40%.



In case you missed my Chair's Report, or if you want to read it again, (you never know!), you can find it, along with the rest of the AGM papers, on the Cu3a website. Among lots of other interesting content, you'll find our newly revised Members Handbook. So do log in, have a look around and, if you haven't already, please check that your personal details are up to date. Let me know if you need any help and I'll pass you on to our IT Support.

Once AGM business was over, and after last year's success, we were treated to presentations from some of our brilliant activity groups. Thanks to Mike Hood and Heather Bailey (Wine Appreciation), Brian Waters (Sustaining the Planet) and Phil Bass (IT for Everyone), not forgetting everyone who contributed to the display of photos, posters and artwork in the Emmanuel foyer (as pictured on this page).

Finally, thanks to everyone for your support this year and for making Charnwood u3a the happy and thriving organisation it is.

Pam Upton
Chair,
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, 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'. New members are invited to arrive at 2 pm to meet other members before the main meeting. If you think you'll need any assistance at the meeting, please contact our Chair in advance on chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Our Next Meeting: Wednesday 9th April

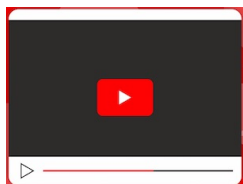
The YMCA with Peter Posner

As past World President of the YMCA, Peter's talk will be about this worldwide youth organisation, covering its 180-year history and global spread.



To attend this meeting:

If you wish to attend the meeting in person, no prebooking is required - just turn up on the day, with your Cu3a membership card, if you have one. **If you are a new member, or attending a monthly meeting for the first time, you are invited to arrive at 2 pm.** Otherwise, please aim to arrive about 2:15 pm for a prompt start at 2:30 pm.



If you are unable to attend in person and would like to follow the meeting online (via YouTube), again no prebooking is required. All members who have supplied an email address will be sent a link to the live stream a few days beforehand in a reminder email from the Chair.

Looking Ahead:

Monthly Meetings May - Oct 2025

- **14 May: Made in Leicester - Brian Johnson, local historian**
The stories of those businesses which began locally from humble origins and have since become household names.
- **11 Jun: Glenfield Secret Garden - Adrian Allsop**
The story of this 19th C walled garden which was abandoned but has now been restored by volunteers for the benefit of patients and staff at the hospital.
- **09 Jul: A Brief History of the Ambulance Service - Mick Gregory**
This talk will demonstrate the huge development of the vehicles, equipment and training from pre-NHS up to the present day.
- **13 Aug: NO MEETING**
- **10 Sep: Handbell Ringing - Sally Brown**
Both a talk about handbell ringing and a performance by a small local group.
- **08 Oct: The Work of a Magistrate - Suzanne Felstead**
What it means to be a magistrate, how to apply and what happens in courts.

More information about each meeting will appear on the **Monthly Meetings** page under the 'Events' menu on our website, as well as in future issues of *News & Views*.

Group News

Charnwood u3a



Line Dance Group 2

JEG Dancers

Brush Bowls Club, Nanpantan Road, Loughborough

THURSDAYS

Mornings are 10am. to 12 noon

Afternoons are 2pm. to 4pm.

April 3rd, afternoon	May 22nd, morning
April 10th, afternoon	May 29th, morning
April 17th, no session	June 5th, afternoon
April 24th, morning	June 12th, morning
May 1st, no session	June 19th, morning
May 8th, morning	June 26th, morning
May 15th, morning	July 3rd, morning

12 sessions. Payment £24.00 in advance.

Contact Jane at northstar2@tiscali.co.uk



New members welcome: free first taster session.

Outdoor Bowls

The Outdoor Bowls Group will start again on **Thursday 17th April** - a week after Indoor Bowls finishes for the season - and will run through the Summer months.

The Group will meet on a Thursday at 2 pm 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 07767 672341 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.

Pilates - Tuesday Groups



The Pilates groups that take place on Tuesdays at 10:45 and 12:00 are able to offer occasional classes to cover member absences. If you would like to give either session a try, do get in touch.

All classes cover the different levels of Pilates so even if you have never done it before give it a go! It really does help to keep you moving!

If you are interested in taking up this opportunity, please contact Lynne Peebles at lpeebles@ntlworld.com or Pilates3@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Gardening Group Trip to Arley Hall Gardens

Date: Monday 19 May 2025

**Cost: £46.50 including garden entry and guided tour
£37.50 garden entry only — self guided**

The award winning and extensive gardens at Arley can be considered the finest in Europe. Created over the last 250 years by successive generations of the same family, they offer a variety of planting, design and topiary for gardeners and non-gardeners alike to enjoy. Note the Hall itself is closed on Mondays, so this trip is gardens only, though the Family Chapel of St Mary is open daily to visitors.

Arley may look familiar as it's also a popular film and television location. Hosting popular programmes from The Antiques Roadshow, Coronation Street and Hollyoaks, to Disney's Evermoor and more recently Peaky Blinders and the Netflix blockbuster, Fool Me Once.

This visit is now open to all Cu3a members. The Gardener's Kitchen Café uses locally sourced ingredients and produce grown in the Arley Kitchen Garden and welcomes groups for coffees, lunches or afternoon teas. The Gift Shop offers a browse round a delightful selection of gifts.



Photo: David Tranter / Arley Hall herbaceous border / CC BY-SA 2.0

You can opt in to the guided tour of the gardens (by Head Gardener) as part of the trip, or 'do your own thing'. You can bring your own picnic - or purchase lunch, snacks and refreshments from the café.

We will meet at Tesco Park Road store, (please park at the far end of the car park) at 09:00 for a prompt departure at 09:15 by Paul Winson Coach. The anticipated return time is around 18:00/18:15.

For a booking form, please contact Sharon Davison: gardening@charnwoodu3a.org.uk



Current Affairs, anyone?

Our article about the House of Lords in last month's *News & Views* has generated some interest in the Current Affairs group and we now have more members on our waiting list. If we have a couple more people we will start a second group – the time and day of the month to be agreed by the new attendees.

If you would like to be added to the waiting list, please send an email to CurrentAffairs@charnwoodu3a.org.uk



Sue and Chris Ronald

Parish Walks

Many thanks Elizabeth for leading the first Parish walk of the year. Really nice to see a good turnout.

Our circular walk from Thurcaston took us through the village and then over the valley, past the mounds which are the remains of the original village. We crossed the Mill Race bridge to Cropston where we passed the line of Alms Houses (*pictured below*) which we believe may be being refurbished / knocked down.

Then we walked back across the valley over Sandham bridge (*pictured left*), an old pack horse bridge over Rothley Brook. Our final destination was the Wheatsheaf Inn for a well deserved lunch.

Dates for your diary:

3 April. Leader Jenny, start from Swithland woods.
1 May. Leader Mike, start from Groby pool.

For more details contact Mike:

ParishWalking@charnwoodu3a.org.uk



Days of Interest Group Visit to Lincoln

For the first coach trip of the year, which was to Lincoln, our larger than usual coach was very nearly full. We had two drop off points in Lincoln, firstly in the Castle and Cathedral area, at the top of the hill, and secondly at the bottom of the hill in the shopping area.

About half of the group had booked to visit the castle, so our first adventure was to find the castle and then pick up the tickets – more tricky than you might think. Once in the castle we each explored the site at our own pace. The views from the outer wall were fabulous, particularly those towards the cathedral and the countryside. Lincolnshire is generally really quite flat, and I now understand that this was one of the reasons why so many WWII bombers were flown from this area. The castle is also home to copies of the Magna Carta and the two following Charters of the Forest. You can also visit the Victorian prison and sit in the chapel pews, designed to keep prisoners apart during worship. Finally there are roaring dragons, Lucy and Norman, bursting through the castle walls.

Other members of the group went to explore the majestic cathedral, currently displaying a 13 metre long table made from ancient fossilized wood. This is in addition to the stunning stone work and windows, and very imposing exterior. At least one of our group also took an interesting trip around the Guildhall.



Having said that Lincolnshire is largely flat, those of us that had left the coach in the Castle and Cathedral area now had to make our way to the shopping area and pickup point via the aptly named Steep Hill. We were pleased to be walking down the hill rather than up. Along the route to the main shopping area there are lots of interesting small shops and some unusual (experimental sonic) busking.

The city centre itself was also pleasantly full of a variety of shops, from big chains to small independents. It was good to see so few boarded up shops. We were also blessed with fairly cool but dry and bright weather.

Our next two trips are to Bletchley Park, home of the code breakers and York. Both trips are now full.

If you are interested in joining the Days of Interest Group, please contact Pauline May by email at DaysofInterest@charnwoodu3a.org.uk or by telephone on 07455 167929 for details.

Good As New?

If you read *The Times* you will have seen this letter that appeared in the Saturday, 22nd March issue:

Reel improvement

Sir, Your article (Mar 19, letters, Mar 20 & 21) about the difficulties of alleviating back pain struck a chord with me. I returned on Tuesday from Spain with a very sore back. Last night I indulged in two hours of Scottish dancing, ending with an energetic Aberdonian *Reel of the 51st*.

This morning I am a new man.

Francis Peel
Wollerton, Shropshire

Want to give Scottish Dancing a try? We offer Friendship, Fitness and Fun. Contact Sue at ScottishDancing@charnwoodu3a.org.uk or text 07380 270955.

Opera Visits Group in April

De Montfort Hall welcomes the Ukraine opera singers back, that we so enjoyed last year.

- Tuesday 22nd April: *La Traviata*
- Wednesday 23rd April: *Madama Butterfly*

Both operas are a tale of loss, sung in Italian with English subtitles. Both operas commence at 7.30 and I can offer three free lifts in my electric car.

Concessions £30.50 and SPECIAL OFFER of 20 per cent off when booking BOTH OPERAS at the same time.

If interested, please get in touch with me on 01509 232227, as soon as possible. Thank you.

Diana Harvey



April 2025 Calendar

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	1 Apr 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 10+ Walks 10.45 Fix I.T. Clinic 10.45 Pilates 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 12.00 Pilates 4 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Canasta1Quorn 14.00 Sing4Pleasure 15.30 Pickleball	2 Apr 10.00 German 10.00 Golf 10.00 JigsawBookEx 10.00 Scottish Dance 10.30 Papercraft 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Cribbage 2 14.00 Reading Group 14.00 Scrabble 2 14.00 Sustain Planet	3 Apr 10.00 Parish Walks 10.00 Sci & Tech 10.00 Spanish Conv 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Indoor 14.00 Line Dance 2 19.00 Canasta 3	4 Apr 09.00 Badminton 10.00 German: RTC 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 12.00 Table Tennis 6 13.30 Pilates 1
7 Apr 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 13.30 Canasta 2 14.00 Current Affairs	8 Apr 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 Scrabble 3 10.30 Fix I.T. Clinic 10.45 Pilates 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 12.00 Pilates 4 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Eng Parish Ch 15.30 Pickleball	9 Apr 10.00 Committee 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.30 Monthly Meet 19.00 Canasta2Quorn	10 Apr 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Indoor 14.00 Line Dance 2	11 Apr 09.00 Badminton 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 10.00 Needlecraft 1 10.00 Scrabble 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 Apr 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 10.00 Poetry 1 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Archaeology 14.00 Chess 14.00 Digital Imaging 14.00 EDI meeting 14.00 Quiz group	15 Apr 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 6+ Walks 10.00 Recorder 10.00 Spanish 10.30 Fix I.T. Clinic 10.45 Pilates 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 12.00 Pilates 4 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Sing4Pleasure 15.30 Pickleball	16 Apr 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 Art Apprec'n 14.00 Cribbage 2 14.00 Family History 14.00 French Improve 14.00 Italian Conv 14.00 Scrabble 2	17 Apr 09.45 CC Walks 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.00 French Conv 14.15 Scrabble 4	18 Apr 09.00 Badminton 10.00 German: RTC 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 10.00 Table Tennis 7 10.30 Tai Chi
21 Apr 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 14.00 Painting	22 Apr 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 ETHEL 10.00 Scrabble 3 10.45 Pilates 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 12.00 Pilates 4 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Philosophy 1 15.30 Pickleball	23 Apr 10.00 Golf 10.00 History 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Classical Music 18.30 Supper Club	24 Apr 10.00 Line Dance 2 10.00 Philosophy 2 10.00 Thurs 6 Milers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Architecture 14.00 Bowls Outdoor	25 Apr 09.00 Badminton 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 10.00 Scrabble 1 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 19.30 Wine Apprec'n
28 Apr 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Chess 14.00 Local History	29 Apr 09.30 Pilates 2 10.45 Pilates 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 12.00 Pilates 4 14.00 Canasta 1 15.30 Pickleball	30 Apr 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 12.00 Group Leaders	<i>Please note: Whilst every effort has been made to show the dates/times of meetings as accurately as possible, do check with group leaders for confirmation. Please send future amendments to: newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk</i>	

PLUS at Weekends: Sunday Lunch Club (13th Apr); Days of Interest trip to Bletchley Park (26th Apr)

Robert's Recommended Reads

Cu3a member **Robert Jackson's** recommendations for April are books from David Lodge and Colm Tóibín.

The “Campus Trilogy” by David Lodge

published 1975 to 1988.

David Lodge wrote many critically acclaimed books, both fiction and non-fiction. Many of his books draw on his experiences as a senior academic, both in the UK and in the US, particularly his "Campus" trilogy. The three books are best read in order of publication:-

1. **Changing Places** (1975) introduces the irrepressible Morris Zapp, US university Professor and serial philanderer. Zapp swaps academic locations with mild mannered, University of Rummidge lecturer Phillip Swallow, when they temporarily exchange 'Schools'. Pitched into the flashy, aggressive and self confident world of the US West Coast, Swallow has to adapt quickly to his new, somewhat scary circumstances. Zapp, meanwhile, soon gets to grips with and exploits the opportunities presented by his arrival at Rummidge. In this clever, intricate book, Lodge creates a wonderful blend of humour and drama and delivers a laugh out loud experience.

2. **Small World** (1984) follows Zapp and Swallow as they crisscross the globe to attend a sequence of conferences. Once again, Lodge's great skill is to take the normally mundane world of university life and craft a captivating collection of bitter sweet events.

3. **Nice Work** (1988). Vic Wilcox is an entrepreneur and successful businessman who is persuaded, reluctantly, to become involved with the University of Rummidge's Industry Liaison Programme. Perhaps the funniest book of the Campus Trilogy, *Nice Work* once again pitches us into the unpredictable world of Swallow, Zapp and colleagues. In 1989 *Nice Work* was made into a mini-series for TV, starring the excellent Warren Clarke, perfectly cast as Vic Wilcox.



David Lodge died in January 2025, aged 89.

David Lodge pictured in *The Guardian* 12 Jan 2018, Photo: Sophia Evans/*The Observer*

The Testament of Mary by Colm Tóibín

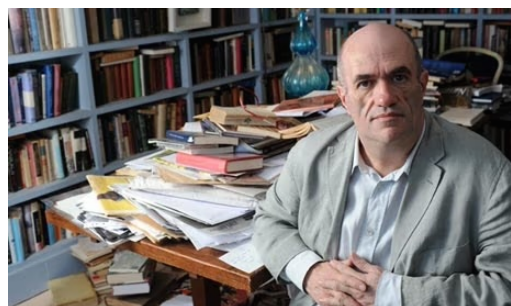
published in 2013

Born in County Wexford in 1955, Colm Tóibín is one of the most prolific and respected Irish writers of modern times.

The Testament of Mary is a bold and perhaps controversial account of Christ and the crucifixion, told from the perspective of his aging mother, Mary, the narrator. Mary clings to the truth of her son's difficult life and terrible death, as the myths surrounding him grow and expand among Christ's followers.

Mary, a mother whose son was taken from her and lost, now lives in a kind of self imposed exile, watched by those who seek to preserve and write about the special sanctity of her son's memory. Mary tells the reader her own story in which we learn of the ambivalence she feels for her son's followers, describing them as misfits and malcontents. Mary feels estranged when her son sheds his boyhood identity and becomes someone else, "his voice all false and his tone all stilted".

In just over a hundred pages, Tóibín creates an enigmatic, thought provoking work. I loved it, but I recommended it to a practising Catholic friend of mine who considered it utter tosh! Read it for yourself and you'll immediately see why such polar reactions are engendered by this book.



Colm Tóibín pictured in *The Guardian*, 19 Feb 2013, Photo: Kim Haughton

Above reviews written by Robert Jackson.

Next month:

Dashiell Hammett and Joseph Heller

Upcoming Local Events

Oh my joy!

Charnwood
VOICES Music Director
Eleanor Graff-Baker

A cornucopia
of music to
welcome
Spring

**Saturday 5th April
7.30pm
Holy Trinity Church
Barrow upon Soar
LE12 8HP**

Charnwood Voices under the direction of Eleanor Graff-Baker promise a concert with something for everyone. Something old, something new...

Tickets £15 - includes an interval glass of wine/ juice. Accompanied U16s are free.

More information and booking at:
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/charnwoodvoices>

The Wolds Choir presents 'Songs from the Musicals'

**Sunday 13th Apr 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Wymeswold Methodist Chapel, Brook St**

The Wolds Choir is pleased to invite you to their Spring Concert, which this year is a selection of medleys from well-known musicals.

This concert, lasting about an hour, includes numbers from *The Sound of Music*, *West Side Story*, *Lion King* and *Phantom* among others.

Admission is by donation at the door, and refreshments are available.

Lunchtime Concert at Emmanuel Church

Thursday 17th April, 12:45 - 1:30 pm

**A lunchtime concert given by the
Capriccio Ensemble**

Clare Pitchford | violin **John Bean** | cello
Richard Roper | viola and **Jeremy Kimber** | piano

This local ensemble return to conclude the concert series. The programme will include the dramatic C minor piano quartet by Brahms.

The concert starts at 12.45 pm but a Soup and Roll lunch will be served from 12.00.

This is a free event, but donations are most welcome to cover expenses.

More information is at:
<https://www.facebook.com/emmanuelconcerts>

Friends of Charnwood Museum Visit to the Mayor's Parlour

**with Dr Julie Bradshaw
at Loughborough Town Hall,
Thursday 17th April, 7:30 - 9:30 pm**

Join the Friends of Charnwood Museum on a guided tour to the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall and a talk by the Mayor Dr Julie Bradshaw on her international swimming career. Meet at the town hall. Entry by the main doors.

Booking essential - phone the museum on 01509-233754 or call in to book.

Members £3 - Guests £5. All welcome.

Lost Shops and Businesses of Loughborough

This exhibition in **Loughborough Library**, as advertised in last month's *News & Views*, continues until **29th April**. Free admission during Library Opening Hours.

Details of other local events can be found at Discover Charnwood:
<https://www.discovercharnwood.co.uk/events>



Loughborough University Events

Inaugural Lectures:

**Wednesday, 9th April, 5 pm
Edward Herbert Building, 110b**

What use are magnetic materials when trying to reach Net Zero?

**Professor Kelly Morrison,
Department of Physics**

Whether you realise it or not, magnetic materials are ubiquitous in modern day technologies.

Professor Morrison will discuss the unique properties of different classes of magnetic materials and how they could be used to reduce energy consumption. She will explore whether – by designing more efficient refrigeration technologies or alternative approaches to harvesting waste energy – these unique properties offer opportunities we can exploit. She will talk about the techniques that she and other physicists use to probe these materials to understand what makes them work and how we can better engineer them for energy-related applications.

What can (ultra)sound waves tell us about mayonnaise and aircraft wings?

**Professor Valerie Pinfield,
Department of Chemical Engineering**

Those of us with good hearing are familiar with using sound to interpret the environment around us – whether that is sensing the size of the space we are in, identifying the location of a source of sound or recognising the plink of a tap dripping into water.

However, working at frequencies higher than the human ear can hear, we can also use sound – or ultrasound – to learn about the properties of materials that sound waves travel through or bounce off. By doing so, we can create better products, protect against material failure by checking for defects, and design novel materials.

Professor Pinfield will show how waves are scattered by small objects in their path and how building models can help us use these scattering phenomena to provide information from ultrasonic measurements. She will explore what mayonnaise, fibre composite components for aircraft and stealth coatings for submarines all have in common.

For more details & booking form, see:
<https://www.lboro.ac.uk/inaugural-lectures>

Fruit Routes: Barefoot Blossom & Spring Picnic

**Friday, 4th April, 2 - 3:30 pm
Barefoot Orchard**

Join artist Mita Solanky for a walk around Fruit Routes - the edible route of hundreds of fruit and nut trees and bushes on the LU campus - to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of walking in the blossoming Fruit Routes orchards, guessing what fruit will come from each tree, and enjoy a special picnic.

The walk will start and end at the Barefoot Orchard, almost opposite Pilkington library. This event is free and all are welcome. Booking in advance is recommended. Please wear suitable footwear and dress for the weather! Bring your own picnic blanket or cushion if you have one.

For further details, including accessibility information and a booking link, go to:
<https://fruitroutesloughborough.com/event/barefoot-blossom-walk-spring-picnic/>

Then Again Exhibition

**11th April, 12 - 2 pm weekdays
Martin Hall Exhibition Space**

'Then Again' is a collaborative exhibition from Loughborough University's Graduate Artists, Coral Shaw Jackson, Lily Rees, and Aimee Mitchell. Following their 2024 graduation, this exhibition showcases the progression of their practices.

'Then Again' alludes to this exploration into alternative ways of thinking and making and captures a moment in the development of their emerging art practices, exploring process, chance and new beginnings.

Free entry, booking not required.

More Loughborough University events are at:
<https://www.lboro.ac.uk/news-events/events/>

The 1620s House & Garden at Donnington le Heath



reopens on **Thursday 3rd April**.
Open Thu-Sun 10:30am - 4:30pm
(last entry 3:30 pm). Ticket: £5.60
for age 60+, giving free unlimited
re-admission to the house, garden
and tea room for 12 months from day of purchase.
For more details, including special events, go to:
<https://1620shouse.org.uk/>

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

The next EDI team meeting will be held at Gorse Covert on **Monday 14th April at 2 pm**, when we plan to discuss an EDI contribution to the **Group Leaders' meeting on 30th April** (*to be held at Emmanuel 10 am - 3 pm; as already notified to group leaders*).

If you have any comments or suggestions on EDI matters, or if you might be interested in joining the EDI team - who normally meet once every two months at Gorse Covert - please email newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk



Helen Reid

University Library: How to Join

Further to the announcement in last month's *News & Views*, if you want to join Loughborough University library, just go to the application form which you can access directly via <https://tinyurl.com/46tjdav3>

Having filled in the online form, go to the Uni library with a form of ID - e.g. driving licence or passport, and something that includes your home address. The staff at the reception desk will sort you out a library card and are happy to take you round the library to show you the facilities available and how to use them.



The reception desk is staffed Mon-Fri 8.30 am till 5.30 pm, and 9-5 on Sat & Sun. The library has much longer opening hours, but on your first visit you'll have to talk to a member of staff.

Thanks to Char March for providing the above details.

News from the National u3a



First National u3a Essay Competition

Submissions for the inaugural national u3a essay competition are now open to all u3a members. The essay must "make the case for a person, policy, invention, or idea having a positive impact on society." Your interest may be Science, History, English Literature or something completely different.

There is a word count limit of 1,000 words and the deadline is **Friday 9 May**.

See <https://www.u3a.org.uk/?view=article&id=2164&catid=201> for more information and submission details.

Free On-Line Events this Month include:

- **A Sustainable Wardrobe** with Helen Howard, Canterbury & District u3a, Fri 4 Apr at 2 pm
- **From Turmoil to Joy: The Sculpture of Auguste Rodin** with Chris Dowrick, Thu 10 Apr at 2 pm
- **Using the web to learn something new** with Hannah Davies of AbilityNet, Tue 15 Apr at 2 pm
- **A Relaxed Introduction to Artificial Intelligence** with u3a Let's Talk Tech, Wed 16 Apr at 1 pm
- **The Assassination of President Kennedy** with Pete Mellor, Oldham & District u3a, Fri 25 Apr at 2 pm

For details of these and lots of 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>

More from the National u3a:

Register to receive the National u3a 'Friends' newsletter regularly at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>. This will also give you access to the Friends Extra website, with a range of discounts, offers and services. In addition to the u3a Friends newsletter, you can access the latest u3a news by going to: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/news>

You can find more learning initiatives covering a wide range of interests from challenges and projects to competitions at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/learning-activities>

The u3a learning blog **Sources**, containing posts by u3a members covering a wide range of topics, can be found 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 - but please ensure you have permission of anyone identifiable in the photos.

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 **May** issue of **News & Views** will be **Tuesday 29th April (12 noon)**.



Please send your contributions to the Newsletter Editor at: newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk
I always acknowledge all emails received, so if you don't get a reply within a few days, please contact me again as some emails do go astray!

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



Committee, Support Teams and Group Leaders' Details

Names, photos and email links for all the current Committee members can be found on our website under Home -> Our Committee, along with details of our Support Teams. In the case of our Membership Secretary and Web Manager, phone numbers are also given, as are those of our IT Help Desk Team.

The names and generic email addresses of Group Leaders for each group can be found on that group's dedicated website page, accessed via the Groups Lists.

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) in John Storer House, 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: <https://www.eastmidlandsu3as.org.uk>

