

News & Views


 Newsletter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

View from the Chair	1
Monthly Meetings	2
Call to Group Leaders	3
Membership renewals	3
Group News	4-7
Local History trip	4
Line Dance 2	5
Days of Interest	5
EDI meeting	5
Travel Group	6
Eng Parish Churches	7
Library Notice Board	7
Meetings Calendar	8
Robert's Reads	9
Local Events	10-11
LU Lectures	10
Charnw'd Museum	10
Raising the Roof	10
Choral Concert	10
Bandstand Concert	11
Art Exhibition	11
Halloween cinema	11
National u3a News	11
Obituary: Tony Winfield	11
Items for Newsletter	12
Contact Info	12

Click on the item in the index above to take you straight to that page.

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.

Welcome

...to the October 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; details for sending contributions can be found on the last page.



Our Next Monthly Meeting: The Work of a Magistrate



See page 2
for details

View from the Chair



Did you know that gardening is the new rock n roll? Apparently, many celebrities have discovered the joys of growing their own vegetables. Kate Moss, Idris Elba and Dame Judy Dench have all been enthusing about the nourishing powers of getting down and dirty with nature, while David Beckham has been photographed brandishing his onions.

John Keats famously described autumn as the 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'. Not too many misty mornings yet, but our ancient apple tree has never been so fruitful, nor our freezer quite so stuffed with crumbles. But it is a reminder, if we needed one, that as we get older, we still have plenty of good things to offer. Lots of our members give their time and skills to keep the u3a going and it was great to chat with some of them at our recent group leaders meetings. Our committee does important work, but group leaders are the bedrock of our u3a – we couldn't exist without them. We have over eighty groups and some are so popular that we have to keep waiting lists. This can mean that members are disappointed when they can't join a particular group and new members especially might think twice about renewing their subscription. Are you on a waiting list? Could you think about starting a new group, perhaps sharing the admin with one or two other members? Or perhaps there's a new activity that you'd like to see on our groups list – a hobby or interest that you could share with others, or something completely new that you'd like to try? Drop me a line or call me and we'll see what we can do.

It would be mean to suggest that David Beckham employs a team of gardeners to help nurture his onions, but faced with the autumn task of tidying up the garden – or 'outdoor housework' as someone called it – I wouldn't say no to one. However, I am comforted by a recent directive that we shouldn't rake up every bit of dead vegetation, as it protects over-wintering wildlife. So, I'll give my green credentials a polish and administer no more than what my mother used to call a 'cat lick' to the borders, before putting my feet up with another dish of apple crumble. That's my rock n roll!

Pam

chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

07974 946007

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

Last month, we were treated to a talk and performance of handbell ringing by the All Saints Church Ringers led by Sally Brown, who also gave us a talk about bells and bellringing in general. To conclude this very informative and entertaining session, some of our members joined in with the group (see picture) and did very well, commenting on how much fun it was.



If you missed this meeting, you can catch up with it for a few more days via the YouTube link sent by our Chair on 8th September.

Our Next Meeting: Wednesday 8th October

The Work of a Magistrate with Suzanne Felstead

Our speaker, a Magistrate with over 25 years experience of sitting on the bench in Leicestershire, will describe, with a colleague:

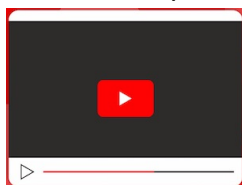
- what it means to be a magistrate
- what happens in courts
- how to apply

*Inside a Magistrates' Court:
from The Guardian, 19 June 2023
Photograph: Simon Turner/Alamy*



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 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:

Next month, on **12th November**, one of our own members, Jim Miller, will talk to us about **Forgery and Fraud**. Then for our **December** meeting we can look forward to being entertained by our own Drama Group, led by Graham North.

More information on upcoming meetings will appear in future issues of *News & Views* and also on the **Monthly Meetings** page under the 'Events' menu on our website <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk> (login needed to see details beyond title/speaker).

Attention Group Leaders: Let's keep our web system up to date!

Our web system – in use for over 2 years now – supports much of what we do. It produced the recent subscription renewal emails and is the home of this newsletter.

Many group leaders use our system to record their group members and update information about their group. But we have group web pages that are out of date and/or have no group membership listing. Hence this reminder that both should be done regularly as this affirms to members which groups they belong to (as shown in their My Profile Groups listing), highlights groups with vacancies, and tells group leaders of those who leave our u3a. Keeping group pages up to date is vital for both new and existing members, to share what each group does, where they meet etc.

Groups		
Group	Leader?	Waiting List?
Art Appreciation	✗	✓
Supper Club 2	✗	✗
Spanish	✗	✗
Pickleball	✗	✗
Archaeology	✗	✗
6+ mile Walking	✗	✗

Nearly a quarter of our members are not registered as belonging to any of our groups. This may be their choice, but it needs checking, along with reviewing group page content, by those who know their groups best. Group members can also check the group page themselves and suggest corrections.

To help group leaders make changes, informal system update sessions are being run. These have been well received and cover the basics of our system and/or more specific features, such as emailing, tracking finances, on-line payments or inserting pictures. Should you have a web related question or wish to attend one of these sessions, just email Martyn on webmanager@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Martyn Speight (Web Manager)

Membership Renewals

A big thank you. At time of writing (26 September), about 520 out of 768 whose renewal date is 01 October 2025 have already renewed and I am expecting many more on 01 October 2025. A gentle reminder email is sent out automatically by the system on that date. Apologies to those of you who have set up your payment for that date; please ignore the email.

My aim is to renew members within 3 days of receiving payment and your membership card is sent automatically by email or posted if you have no email. There is, however, one member who has tried to send me their payment, by post, with a first class stamp, but the envelope was empty and I have no means of tracing you. So if you were expecting your membership card and have not received it yet, it could be you!

Some members have seemingly not received their membership card. The system is automatic but I have had a few cases where members have changed their email address and have not updated the system themselves by logging in and going to the **Me** menu and choosing **My Profile**, nor informed me of the change. If the email is lost I can always create your card manually and send it to you.

Please note: If you joined on or after 01 Jan 2024 you will renew on the anniversary of your joining date and you will receive a reminder 30 days before that date.

Garry Rigby, Membership Secretary

IT for Everyone

*IT support for u3a members
from u3a members*

Fix IT Clinics

Drop in sessions where you can get help using your laptop, tablet or phone. Bring them along to:

John Storer House cafe

Tuesdays

10.30 - 12.00

One to One Support

Get help with using your laptop, tablet or phone for tasks such as filling in forms, banking or shopping online and keeping in touch with friends and family. Just contact us:

email helpdesk@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

phone Phil/Mary 07855 702302

Garry 01509 213655

If you have a problem with logging into, or using, the u3a website contact Martyn, our Web Manager, on webmanager@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

IT Titbit

If you're trying to read *News & Views* on your phone, you can turn it sideways (landscape) for a better view (and if you've locked it into portrait view and can't change it - contact the Help Desk!)

Mary Opie

Group News

Local History Boat Trip

At the end of July, 21 of us took to the waters for a canal trip between Loughborough and Mountsorrel. What may, superficially, appear to be just an excuse for a 'jolly' was actually a journey through time, covering nearly 800 years! The canal was built in 1794, as Leicester Navigation, to bring coal from Derbyshire to Leicester. Canals were called navigations to highlight the fact that they were deep enough to carry boats. The men who dug the canals were called Navvy Men (i.e. navvies), specialist labourers who travelled around the country to wherever canals were being built.

We began our cruise at the home base of The Peter Le Marchant Trust, an organisation set up in 1977 to provide day trips and holidays on the waterways for people of all ages with any kind of disability or serious illness. After passing Pilling Lock Marina, we made our first stop at Pillings Flood Lock, at which point we left the Navigation to join the River Soar. Looking back, after leaving the lock, we could see the weir linking these two waterways.

We went onwards to Barrow Bridge (*pictured right*), at which point we rejoined a section of the Navigation. A bridge at this location was first recorded in 1247; however the current bridge was built, using Mountsorrel granite, in 1845. In the 1990s, to facilitate pedestrian crossings, the bridge was made single lane with traffic lights control. The suggestion of adding a separate footbridge was rejected on the grounds that this would affect the facade and would thus be unacceptable to Historic England.



Just beyond the bridge we stopped at Barrow Deep Lock (*left*), so named because, with a drop of 2.9m, it is the deepest on the Leicester Navigation. Close to the lock is the entrance into Proctor's Pleasure Park. This title harks back to a time when this destination offered train rides, sand pits and side shows. It was so popular that people came from Leicester, Loughborough and Nottingham on British Rail day trip specials. It is now just a caravan park!

Passing the Navigation Inn, built in 1798 as a warehouse to service the canal, we could view the fields which, each year, are home to the Mountsorrel Horse Fair. Originally established to facilitate the trading of horses, it has evolved over the years but remains true to its roots. Nearly as old as Loughborough Market, the Fair was first granted a charter by King Henry III in 1252.

Shortly before reaching the Waterside Inn (*pictured below*), where we stopped for a very enjoyable lunch, we passed under The 1860 Bridge (*shown on the right*). Built in that year to carry gravel over the river, it has a span of 90ft and thus has one of the largest brick arches in the country. Mountsorrel Quarry was the first UK industrial operation to have its own railway branch line



and sidings and, by 1863, the line was carrying 200 tons of granite per day. Closed as a railway line in the early 1960s, the bridge now carries a conveyor transporting crushed stone to Barrow and the sidings.

The afternoon gave us the opportunity to experience all of these features in reverse order on our return to Loughborough.

If you would like to join the Local History Group, or just find out more about us, please email

LocalHistory@charnwoodu3a.org.uk



More Group News

Line Dance 2



As from Thursday 2 October the Line Dance 2 group will be meeting every Thursday afternoon, 2 - 4 pm at the Brush Bowls Club, Nanpantan Road, Loughborough.

We meet every Thursday afternoon from October to mid April, when we change back to mornings.

New members are welcome. If interested, please contact Jane on northstar2@tiscali.co.uk

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

Our next EDI team meeting will be held at **Gorse Covert Community Centre on Monday 13th October, 2 - 4 pm**, when we'll be looking at feedback from the recent Group Leaders' meetings.

Any Charnwood u3a member is very welcome to come along to any of our meetings and join in the discussion. We normally meet once every two months at Gorse Covert. Or if you can't come to the meetings but have any comments or ideas relating to EDI issues that you'd like us to discuss, we'd love to hear your views.

Helen Reid
newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk



Days of Interest Group - Trip to Ludlow

In September we visited the lovely and thriving medieval market town of Ludlow, which was hosting its annual Food and Drink Festival in the town's medieval castle grounds. There were lots of stalls selling artisan products including cured meats, cheeses, various beers, wines and spirits, cakes, jams and chutney and much much more. Many of us came back to the coach a bit more loaded than when we left. There were also talks on nutrition, vegetable gardening and various cookery demonstrations. The talks seemed to be better attended during the occasional downpour, when some of us decided it was a good time to sit down in a tent.

Although the food festival was held in the castle grounds, there was still lots of opportunity to take a look around the castle ruins themselves. They retain their magnificence even if the ravages of time and bombardments have left their mark. It did make you wonder what the builders and former occupants of the castle would have made of the food festival.

There was also lots to see in Ludlow itself, including the magnificent St Lawrence church, the town museum, its quirky shops and cafés and of course the beautiful historic buildings themselves. The photograph on the right shows a couple of our members enjoying a break in an excellent teashop, which the owner told us was about as old as the castle. The stairs would certainly not be in line with current building regulations.



At the end of our trip we had to say goodbye to our excellent driver of many years, Paul (*pictured left*) – who has retired. He has, with continued good humour, general kindness and helpfulness, significantly added to the pleasure of our trips. We all wish him and his wife a long and very happy retirement, and we will miss him. Thanks to the generosity of our members we were able to send Paul off with some small gifts, for which he thanked us at the time and has subsequently thanked us again. We did try to get him to join u3a and come along on the Days of Interest trips, but for some reason he wasn't keen.

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.

Travel Group trip to Devon and Cornwall (weather report)

At our pre-visit meeting, I was accused of being 'negative', 'pessimistic', 'cynical'.....but would they listen??? They were warned!!

With the coach's windscreen wipers at lightning speed, we aquaplaned down the M5 to Gloucester services, where we were able to check whether our water-proof jackets actually were. On to **Exeter**, where mercifully the Cathedral provided sanctuary and shelter for several drowned rats. By the time we approached our hotel in **Plymouth**, the only remnants of what we'd already experienced during our journey were puddles.

Surprisingly, the next day, the gods must have been shining down on us, as our time spent around the beautiful gardens at sunny **Saltram House** was only interrupted by a feeble shower....Ha! we were prepared! But it was decidedly balmy wandering around the **Barbican** back in Plymouth and almost sun-bathing weather on the harbour cruise....no need for our brollies.



Sunny Plymouth Harbour

But had we been tricked into a false feeling of bravado? Our next visit was to the **Eden project**, and if we'd bothered to notice the cumulonimbus clouds above the Tamar bridge, maybe we would have been better prepared for joining hundreds of other unsuspecting visitors sloshing around the aptly named **Rain Forest biome** and then being somewhat overdressed in the optimistically named **Mediterranean biome**.



However, if we'd checked the barometer, we perhaps could have predicted what was waiting for us in **Dartmouth**. We, and another coachload of ageing hopefuls, were squashed, literally cheek to cheek, into the only covered deck on the ferry transporting us to Greenway. Luckily, they were a friendly bunch! Heavy breathing and condensation prohibited any views of the many scenic sites along the River Dart, and once we were released, the treacherous uphill trek to Agatha Christie's home could have easily provided the plot of yet another case of unsuspecting travellers mysteriously going missing in perilous circumstances. Surprisingly we all survived!!



Our return home included a short dry stop at the impressive **SS Great Britain**, glistening in the warm sunshine.....At last, our galoshes and thermals were deliberately discarded, thank goodness.

Despite the unseasonal downpours, the holiday was a great success, as usual, and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. We cannot control the weather, but we always make sure we have fun!



Above photos showing Dartmouth in the rain - but at least we saw a beautiful rainbow there (right).



SS Great Britain

Ann Maddocks (with poetic licence)

English Parish Churches

On a beautiful September day we visited three churches on the border of Leicestershire and Derbyshire.

Our first stop was St Nicholas, Lockington (Grade 1). This lovely 13th century church shows how churches were added to during the Middle Ages and changed internally over the centuries. The outside of St Nicholas Church is pictured on the right (top) with the Queen Anne Royal Arms (1704) inside the church shown just below this.



Our next church was St Edward, King and Martyr, Castle Donnington, where we admired the Victorian and modern stained glass windows. The photograph below on the left shows a late 20th century window by P. Pollen, whilst that on the right shows the East window by C. E. Kempe (1902) - with some of our members admiring it.



The Queen Anne Royal Arms in St Nicholas Church, Lockington

Our final destination, after a lunch break, was St Bartholomew's, Elvaston. We were given a conducted tour by the church wardens and admired an array of monuments, including Lord Harrington's monument (1829) (pictured below, left) and St Bartholomew's Victorian reredos (pictured below, right).

L. Jackson



New Notice Board in Library

Thanks to Char March for alerting us to this big new notice board - full of information on local events - which you can find just inside Loughborough Library.

As Char says, it's so much better than the folder they used to have.



MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
October 2025 Calendar <i>Please note: Whilst every effort has been made to show the dates/times of meetings as accurately as possible, errors and changes may occur, so you should check with group leaders for confirmation. Please send any amendments for future issues to: newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk</i>		1 Oct 10.00 Drama 10.00 German 10.00 Golf 10.00 JigsawBookEx 10.00 Mini Tennis 10.00 Scottish Dance 10.30 Papercraft 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Cribbage 14.00 French Improve 14.00 Reading Group 14.00 Sustain Planet	2 Oct 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 14.30 French Conv 19.00 Canasta 3	3 Oct 09.00 Badminton 10.00 German RTC 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mahjong 1 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
6 Oct 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 13.30 Canasta 2 14.00 Current Affairs	7 Oct 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 10+ Walks 10.00 Spanish 10.30 Fix I.T. Clinic 10.45 Pilates 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 12.00 Pilates 4 13.30 Active Seated 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Canasta1Quorn 14.00 Sing4Pleasure 15.30 Pickleball	8 Oct 10.00 Committee 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.30 Monthly Meet 19.00 Canasta2Quorn	9 Oct 10.00 Thurs 6 Milers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Indoor 14.00 Line Dance 2	10 Oct 09.00 Badminton 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mahjong 1 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
13 Oct 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	14 Oct 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 13.30 Active Seated 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Eng Parish Ch 15.30 Pickleball	15 Oct 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 Cribbage 14.00 Family History 14.00 French Improve 14.00 Italian Conv	16 Oct 09.45 CC Walks 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Indoor 14.00 Line Dance 2 14.15 Scrabble 4 14.30 French Conv	17 Oct 09.00 Badminton 10.00 German RTC 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mahjong 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 14.00 Art Apprec'n
20 Oct 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 13.30 Canasta 2 14.00 Gardening 14.00 Painting	21 Oct 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 13.30 Active Seated 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Sing4Pleasure 15.30 Pickleball	22 Oct 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 10.45 History 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Classical Music 18.30 Supper Club	23 Oct 10.00 Philosophy 2 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Architecture 14.00 Bowls Indoor 14.00 Line Dance 2	24 Oct 09.00 Badminton 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mahjong 1 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
27 Oct 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Chess 14.00 Local History	28 Oct 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 ETHEL 10.00 Scrabble 3 10.30 Fix I.T. Clinic 10.45 Pilates 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 12.00 Pilates 4 13.30 Active Seated 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Philosophy 1 15.30 Pickleball	29 Oct 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3	30 Oct 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Indoor 14.00 Line Dance 2	31 Oct 09.00 Badminton 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mahjong 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

Robert's Recommended Reads

Robert's October recommendations are two novels linked by the themes of expedition and exploration. These are, however, very different examples of the genre!

The Ascent of Rum Doodle by W. E. Bowman

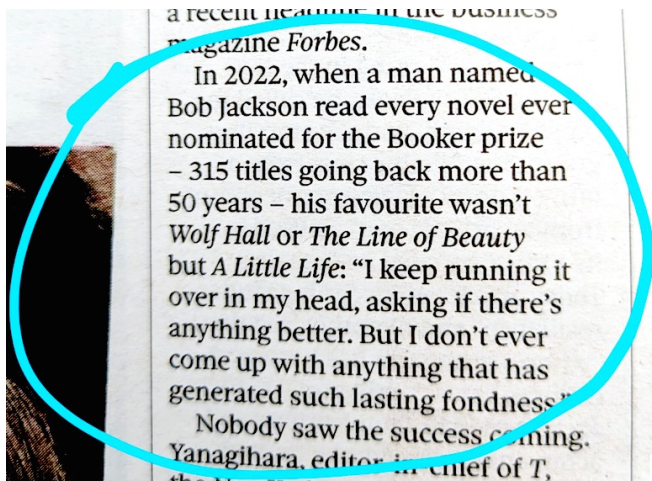
published in 1956

Bowman (1912 -1985) was a civil engineer who spent his spare time painting, hill walking and writing. *The Ascent of Rum Doodle* is a cult masterpiece of comic fiction, a cracking, knockabout parody of the egos and shortcomings of the mountaineering fraternity. The book received a rather lukewarm reception when first published and for much of the 1960s, '70s and '80s was largely overlooked. However, a few keen hill-walkers and mountaineers, having discovered this little gem, helped to bring it back into publication. It is now firmly and justifiably established in the pantheon of classic British comic novels.

Led by the 'reliably under-insightful' Binder, a team of seven British men set out to conquer Rum Doodle, the '40,000 and a half foot' highest peak in the Himalayas. The group includes Dr. Prone (constantly ill), Jungle, the route finder (constantly lost), Constant the diplomat (constantly arguing) and 3,000 Yogistani porters.

As the expedition progresses, Binder attempts to get to know more about his team members. Binder's conversation with Constant in chapter eight, during which Constant describes competing for the affections of his sweetheart with a love-struck performing seal called Travers, is pure comic gold.

Reminiscent of *Three Men in a Boat*, *The Ascent of Rum Doodle* is a near perfect comic delight and a joy to read. A brilliant antidote to the often rather stuffy text book style of mountaineering accounts of the mid 20th century.



To the Last City by Colin Thubron

published in 2002

Colin Thubron, author of several classics of travel writing, is also an accomplished novelist. In *To the Last City*, long-listed for the Booker Prize in 2002, Thubron, for the first time, combines his travel writing skills with his flair for producing gripping and entertaining fiction.

Set deep in the Peruvian Andes, the story revolves around five somewhat ill-prepared travellers. They are undertaking a guided trek through an energy sapping wilderness in search of Vilcabamba, the last refuge of the Inca nation against the Spaniards. The group is led by a local guide and aided by a team of muleteers, responsible for carrying provisions and erecting tents at each campsite in advance of the arrival of the trekkers. A cook completes the entourage.

As conditions begin to test both the resolve and health of the group, the five individuals start to understand the reasons and motivation behind their fellow travellers' decisions to undertake the journey. Thubron's development of all five main characters is crisp and entertaining. However, his portrayal of Francisco, a Spanish trainee priest, is for me the highlight of the book. Born near Trujillo in Spain, from where the conquistadors, under Francisco Pizarro, departed for South America in the early 1500s, Francisco is haunted by the shocking slaughter of the Inca people by Pizarro's forces. His journey to Peru is both homage to the lost people and a kind of vicarious redemption of the sins of his namesake. The conclusion of this superbly written tale is an emotionally stirring triumph.

We are pleased to report that Robert's reading feats were mentioned in *The Observer's New Review* on August 3rd, when his interview with *The Booker Prize Foundation* was quoted by the reviewer of Hanya Yanagihara's novel 'A Little Life'. See extract on the left.



Colin Thubron in *The Guardian*, 24 Jul 2016
Photo: Murdo Macleod

Above reviews written by Robert Jackson.

Next month: Percival Everett and Angela Carter

Upcoming Local Events



Loughborough University Inaugural Lectures: Wednesday 8th October, 5 pm, Edward Herbert Building, 110b

How do we improve the effectiveness of assistive technology with a human factors approach?

Professor Mike Frey
School of Design & Creative Arts

How environmental flows are shaping a sustainable energy transition

Professor Robert Dorrell
School of Architecture, Building and Civil Engineering

These lectures are free events, open to all members of the local community, but note that booking is required. For details and a booking form, see: <https://www.lboro.ac.uk/inaugural-lectures/>

Friends of Charnwood Museum: Life and Burial of Richard III

with Dave Andrews, BBC Radio Leicester
Thursday 23rd October, 7:30 pm - 9 pm

In this talk, Dave Andrews will look at what Richard III was really like, the image of him created by Shakespeare's play and then the story of the finding of bones under the car park and the eventual reburial in Leicester Cathedral.



Doors open from 7 pm for light refreshments with the talk at 7.30 pm. Please use the evening entrance on Granby Street opposite the library.

Members £3 and guests £5 - all welcome. Booking essential: Please visit the museum or call 01509 233754. More information at: <https://www.charnwoodmuseum.co.uk/events>

In Nomine: A concert of choral music by Taverner and Taverner

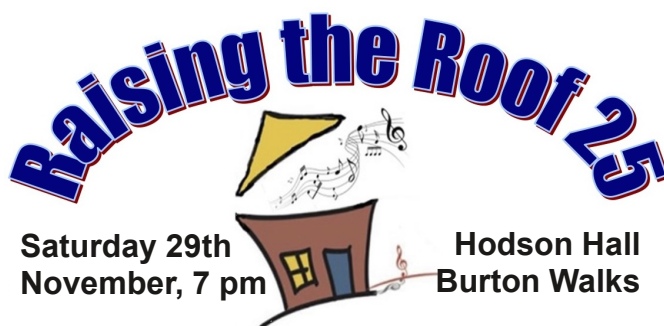
Saturday 11th October, 7:30 pm
All Saints Parish Church, Loughborough



A concert of choral music by two composers with similar names, one from the 20th/21st century and one from the 16th century. Works performed by the Loughborough-based chamber choir **Viva la Musica**, including Song for Athene (sung at Princess Diana's funeral), The Lamb, Magnificat in 5 parts, Love bade me welcome.



Tickets £15, students £13, under 16s free
Tickets available from www.vivalamusica.org.uk



**Saturday 29th
November, 7 pm**

**Hodson Hall
Burton Walks**

Popular Radio Leicester presenter Sara Palmer will once again serve as compere for the annual "Raising the Roof" musical event this November. The programme will feature performances by the Charnwood Community Choir, directed by Caroline Sharpe, and the Loughborough Concert Band, under the baton of Dave Coble. You may recognise fellow u3a members amongst the performers.

Organised by Loughborough Beacon Rotary, the concert is designed to appeal to audiences of all ages. While the primary beneficiary of this fundraiser will be LOROS, several other charities will also receive support.

Martin Weedon, President of Beacon Rotary, commented, "This event has consistently offered an enjoyable evening with a diverse musical repertoire, and it is particularly impressive when both ensembles perform together."

The concert will take place on **Saturday, 29th November at 7:00 pm in Hodson Hall, Burton Walks, Loughborough**, made available courtesy of Loughborough Grammar School. Tickets are priced at £10 and £5 and may be reserved through www.beaconrotary.org.

Neil Rowbotham

Queen's Park Bandstand Concert - LSU Classical Concert Band

Sunday 12th October, 2 pm - 3:30 pm
Queen's Park, Loughborough

The 2025 series of free bandstand concerts concludes (as it started) with a performance by the Loughborough University Students' Classical Concert Band. There is limited seating around the bandstand so please feel free to bring along a picnic chair and blanket.

Woodhouse Eaves Art Group 2025 Exhibition

Saturday 18th - Sunday 19th October
10:30 am - 4:30 pm
Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall

A reminder of this annual event taking place on 18th and 19th October, as advertised in last month's *News & Views*. Admission is free, and there is a free car park next to the Hall. Coffee, tea, biscuits and cakes will be on sale.

Halloween Outdoor Cinema

Sunday 26th October, 12 pm - 8 pm,
Market Place, Loughborough

A full day of film, food and live entertainment, as the town centre is transformed into a hauntingly fun cinema under the sky.

Organised by Charnwood Borough Council, this is completely free to attend, suitable for families, friends, and Halloween lovers of all ages, with roaming performers, themed games and activities for all the family, Halloween stalls with crafts, autumnal gifts, hot food, toffee apples, pumpkin-spiced everything, and maybe a creepy cupcake or two.

For more information, go to:

<https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/halloween>



For other local events, see:

<https://www.discovercharnwood.co.uk/events>

<https://allevents.in/loughborough/october>

<https://www.lboro.ac.uk/news-events/events/>

National u3a News



On-Line Learning Events this month include:

- **Laughter Yoga with Judith: October** – with Judith Anne Walker of Edinburgh u3a, Wed 8 Oct at 10 am
- **Preparing for an AI World** – 4 week course starting Fri 10 Oct at 2 pm
- **Wearable Technology and Healthy Ageing** – with Ekgari Kasawala, Tue 14 Oct at 2 pm

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

More from the National u3a:

Register to receive the National u3a **Friends** newsletter regularly at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>. You can also access the latest u3a news at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/news> and find more learning initiatives at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/learning-activities>. The u3a learning blog **Sources**, with posts by u3a members covering a wide range of topics, is at: <https://sources.u3a.org.uk>

Obituary

Anthony Winfield

We were sad to learn that Tony Winfield passed away in late June. Our condolences go to his wife Dorothy, also a Cu3a member, and all his family and friends.

Tony joined Loughborough u3a in 2004 and was part of the hosting team and helped his wife, Dorothy, lead 4 groups. In 2022 he transferred to Charnwood u3a when Loughborough u3a closed. He was a keen walker, photographer and bird watcher and enjoyed holidays and days out. He made many wonderful friends in the u3a and it helped him to enjoy life to the full and has given Dorothy many wonderful memories to cherish.

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 **November** issue of **News & Views** will be **Thursday 30th October (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>

