CHARNWOOD U3A UPDATE - FEBRUARY

A warm welcome to our **new members.** We hope you will soon be involved in U3A activities and making new friends. To access the members' area of **our website www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk** you will need the user name and password which are bottom left and bottom right on the back of your membership card.

Annual General Meeting of Charnwood U3A - Wednesday 8th March 2017

Included with this issue of Update are the following documents:

1. The Charnwood U3A Notice of AGM.
2. The Nomination Form.

A number of vacancies on the Committee need to be filled and so we encourage you to consider whether you could contribute to the running of Charnwood U3A. Committee members are also Trustees and the role of a Committee member can be both interesting and fulfilling. Nominations need to be made by **Friday 17th February**.

The Committee are obliged to ensure that every member receives a copy of these documents, and it is important that you read them before the meeting on Wednesday 8th March.

Monthly Meetings at Charnwood College

Meetings start at 3.15pm. All members and prospective members are welcome.

We were delighted to listen to Sital Dhillon at our monthly meeting in January where he outlined the dangers of not extending the principles of Human Rights to terrorist suspects. I am sure he gave the unusually large attendance a lot to think about on the way home.

On **Wednesday 8th February** at 3.15 pm we are pleased to have Bel Grierson. Bel is an experienced plantswoman, having honed her horticultural knowledge and skills as a nurserywoman and market gardener over the last 17 years. Bel's expertise enables her to design, create and rejuvenate gardens for clients across the East Midlands. You may recognise Bel from her gardening column in the local Community Eye Magazines and when not busy gardening, designing or writing Bel lectures in all things horticultural for Nottingham Trent University and local gardening groups. Bel is also the co-founder of Botanica Garden School.

In March we have the AGM – details elsewhere. It is a pleasure that one of our CU3A members – Richard Davies – will speak after the business meeting. Richard worked in Malawi before coming to Loughborough and will talk about "Malawi revisited" based on his experiences of returning to Africa. Richard has kindly agreed to vary the length of his talk to take into account the time spent on the business meeting.

All CU3A members were given the opportunity to vote on the 2016 monthly meetings so that we could take such opinions into account for 2018. It was rather disappointing that so few took up the offer. Nine voted electronically and 17 by the paper vote at the January meeting. The results were:

1st =: Peter Tyldesley "Managing a Country Park" and Kate Moore "Andes to Amazon"
3rd: Jane Barnes "Bred for it"
4th: Andy Smith "My Life in Music"
5th: Lord Willy Bach "The Police and Crime Commissioner"

We will be beginning to plan for next year very soon so this seems an appropriate to time to offer thanks. The final programme is, of course, approved by your committee and I would like

to record my thanks for their support throughout. The ideas for speakers come from members and a team of "advisors" – I am greatly indebted to CU3A members John Graham, Lesley Rowbotham, Elizabeth Steel and Helen Wilson for coming up with suggestions, advice and critical comment in the planning stage. If you enjoy a speaker this year then these are the people to thank. If you didn't think a speaker was very good then I am totally to blame.
Neil Rowbotham

There is plenty of parking available at the college including overflow parking sign-posted at the rear of the Sports Hall. ***However, Charnwood College remind members not to arrive for monthly meetings before 2.30 pm.***

New Members'/Group Leaders' meeting
A reminder that the next New Members'/Group Leaders' meeting will take place at Charnwood College on 14 February.

Activity List
Please change the Group Leader for the Beading Group to the following:
Anne Hebblethwaite, [redacted] email [redacted]
A copy of the current Activities List is available in the Members' Area of our website: www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk.

GROUP NEWS

Classical Music Enjoyment Group: meets this month on Wednesday 22nd February 2pm to 4pm at Loughborough Lawn Tennis Club, Ingle Pingle, off Forest Road, Loughborough, when the programme will be a "Bring Your Own" session. Any enquiries about the Group to Group Leader, Martin Jones [redacted]

History 2
Wednesday February 22nd, a talk by Ernie Miller "The Thorpes and Gates of Loughborough" at 10am in the Lecture Theatre at Charnwood College. New members welcome.

Local History Group
This group meets monthly at Loughborough Library, but during the summer various outings are arranged. The group was set up about 6 years ago by Beatrice Anderson. More recently Anne Speight has been Chair and Mike Buckley, Treasurer.

Always lively, our speakers often invite questions and we sometimes have a good discussion. Our annual AGM and local photo quiz (where is this chimney, door or sign....?) is extremely popular. Members of the group sometimes take a session and share a particular interest or we invite outside speakers. During the last year topics have included Early Railways, the Enigma machine and Beaumanor Hall, Belvoir Witches and the anniversaries of both the Luddite attack and Zeppelin raid on Loughborough. Dr Julie Attard from Victoria County Histories had a good attendance when she talked about the 4-year project, 'Charnwood Roots'. Our summer outings were to the Century Theatre at Snibston, Kegworth Walking Trail & Museum and Grace Dieu Priory.

We often get requests for people to join the group. The room at the library is quite small but we enjoy sitting in a circle and this helps the group dynamics as well as time chatting over refreshments. We have considered moving to a bigger venue but if we did that so much would be lost. We regularly have attendance in the upper 20's and cap membership at 40.
Maybe someone fancies starting a second Charnwood U3A local history group! *Anne Speight*

Outdoor Bowls Group

After the winter break, the Outdoor Bowls Group will start again in mid-April and run through the summer.

Existing members will be contacted nearer that date to confirm exact details but the group will again meet once a week at the Brush Bowls Club green on Watermead Lane (off Nanpantan Road) on a Thursday at 2 o'clock for a two-hour session.

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.

Please contact Dave Saunders on [redacted] or email [redacted] for further information.

If any U3A member has 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.

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You don't have to buy MS Office

Over the years Microsoft has gradually promoted its Office Suite. Also when you buy a new PC/Laptop it might well come with a trial copy of Office 365. But you don't have to buy it. You can get equivalent programmes for FREE. Open Office from Sun Software.

The table below shows the equivalent Open Office programmes.

Job	MS Office	Open Office
Word Processing	MS Word	Text Document
Spreadsheet	MS Excel	Spreadsheet
Slide Show	MS PowerPoint	Presentation
Database	MS Access	Database
Equations	Available via MS Word	Formula
Drawing	-	Drawing
Publishing	MS Publisher	-

You will notice that there is not the equivalent of Publisher; however, not many people use this very good booklet-producing Microsoft Programme.

From experience the Database programme is not as powerful as the Access equivalent but this only becomes obvious if you want to do a Database Application and not many want to do that, do they?

Of interest to some is that in 2014 the UK Government decided to change the official file formats to .odt, .ods and .odp – good news is that these are the default file types of Open Office. Of course you can open these in MS Office. Open Office can open all the MS Office default formats.

So you can see that there is no need to be 'conned' into buying the MS offerings. Just type Open Office into Google and go to the Sun site and download and install. You won't regret it.

Martyn Davison

Useful website addresses

National U3A Organisation (Third Age Trust): www.u3a.org.uk
The Association of East Midlands U3As: www.eastmidlandsu3as.org.uk
Leicestershire and Rutland Network: www.landru3a.org.uk
Charnwood U3A: www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk

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Items for Update

The deadline for publishing is the last day of the previous month. Please send your contributions for the March issue of Update to: **newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk** or to Update Editor Linda Lawson, [redacted] by **Tuesday 28th February**. 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 next issue of **Update Extra** will be published in April and the deadline for items is **Friday 31st March**. There is a limit of around 500 words per item, and photos are welcome. The Editor reserves full editorial rights as to length and suitability and the Editor's decision is final. Update Extra is published quarterly.

Update is sent to all Charnwood U3A members by e-mail or by post before the monthly meeting. It is also available to read on the Charnwood U3A website each month at **www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk** (you will need the new user name and password which are bottom left and bottom right on the back of your membership card. Thank you!

DETAILS OF WALKING GROUPS ARE GIVEN OVERLEAF

WALKING GROUPS

In the first instance, please contact the Walking Groups Co-ordinator Elizabeth Steel [redacted] telephone [redacted].

Strollers and Amble Groups
Details of next walks will be sent out on e-mail. Chris Brown, [redacted]

Tuesday 6 Plus Walking Group
21st February - Wilne Lane free car park, Shardlow. Postcode DE72 2HH. Ref SK 445304. Leader Mike.
Enquiries to Mike Pearson [redacted]

'Les Sportives'
Thurs 9th February. Meet: The Falcon Inn, 64 Main Street, Long Whatton, Leics, LE12 5DG. Janet to lead.
Thurs 23rd February. Meet: The Three Crowns, 2-6 Cotes Road, Barrow On Soar, Leics, LE12 8JS. Walter to lead.
Enquiries to Janet Butlin [redacted]

Little Xtras
As usual - 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month starting at 10.00am.
February 9th - By the Wreake – Quick march. Meet at the Blue Bell Inn, Hoby. Grid Ref SK670174 (LE14 3DT for SatNavs). Via Thrussington Mill, Rearsby, Brooksby and Rotherby. Leader – Elizabeth Steel.
February 23rd - Rollin', rollin', rollin'… Meet at the Dog & Gun Inn, Keyham. Postcode LE7 9JQ, Grid Ref SK 669065. A walk over the rolling hills of northeast Leicestershire (some mud expected). Leader – Malcolm Otter.
Any questions, please contact Malcolm Otter on [redacted]

Saturday 5+ Miles
4th February - The Bradgate car park (far end), Newtown Linford. Leader Rob.
4th March - The Griffin Inn car park, Swithland. Leader Steve.
Enquiries to Sue Griffiths [redacted]

10+-Mile Walk
7th March: Leader: Elizabeth Steel. Walk will start at 10.00 am from Church Wilne lake side car park. Grid ref SK448317.
Directions: From M1 Junction 24 take the A50 towards Derby/Stoke. Leave at Junction 1 signposted Long Eaton B6450 and take the 5th exit towards Long Eaton on the B6450. Follow under the M1 and across Sawley Bridge. Shortly after the bridge, the road turns right at church. Turn left at "The Nags Head" on to Wilne road towards Draycott. Shortly after the motorway bridge and before reaching the reservoir, take a left turn to Church Wilne. Follow road down to T-junction (Chemring Factory) and turn right towards the church. The car park is on the left immediately after the church next to the pond. Lunch will be at "The Chequers" in Stanton by Dale.
Enquiries to Peter Mill [redacted] Would all new members please make contact before joining a 10+ mile walk.