CHARNWOOD U3A UPDATE - NOVEMBER 2017

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.

Very Important Notice

During November, Group Leaders will be handing out a very important Notice about the future of Charnwood U3A. Every member should make sure that they are given one at their group meeting/s.
Please read it carefully and think about your response. You might like to compare the number of hours in a month you enjoy the benefits of U3A with the number of hours you give in helping to ensure it has a future.

Monthly Meetings at Charnwood College

I wasn't at Barbara Meyer's presentation on photographing big cats but I gather it was good and I know that she was very pleased that people felt able to support her Educational Trail Camera Project by donating over £60 in her collecting box. The project will have children exploring a natural habitat area in their neighbourhood to learn about wildlife and seasonal changes through observing via trail cameras and in person. At the end of the project the children will put together a short educational film about a wildlife species, about their experience in conducting a wildlife survey or about an issue they have observed for wildlife and/or the habitat. The contributions via the collection box will be of help procuring the equipment and resourcing for this project. If you wish to see a little of this then please refer to
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw2jq3KF1-ScpGxMPPFU8mA

Our monthly meeting on Wednesday 8th November sees us welcoming the return of Gary Root who was with us back in 2015 when he had the Sixth Form Centre in waves of laughter about what goes on as we leave for our holidays. Gary is in his 28th year at Birmingham Airport and is currently the duty Airport Manager responsible for the whole airport operation. The job is a shift role, and the airport never closes, so he can be found working on Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, Bank Holidays and weekends. After 28 years, Gary's passion and motivation for helping passengers remains as strong as it was on day one. No day is ever the same, and no passengers are ever the same, except for wedding hen parties (Gary's most challenging group of passengers!!!). So here's hoping you all have your passports with you as we prepare for landing, and to hear all about "behind the scenes of the arriving passenger journey".

All members of Charnwood U3A are welcome to attend the monthly meetings free of charge. There is ample car parking at the college, entry via Gate 4, as long as you arrive after 2.30pm. There are bus routes nearby.

Further ahead, our Christmas monthly meeting on 13th December will be at a new venue. We usually have to leave the college at this time of year due to their heavy activity load and details will be in the December Update, as will a little about Andy Smith's "Sing a Century".
Neil Rowbotham

Please remember to wear your Charnwood U3A membership badge, as this is a requirement at the College.

New Members/Group Leaders Meeting 30th October - Report

New members and enquirers were welcomed to our new venue at the Indoor Bowls Club where Group Leaders were on hand to promote their groups and share their enthusiasm for the U3A Movement.

The Committee were introduced to the new members and then Helen Davison, Chairman of Charnwood U3A, explained the Principles of the U3A Movement:

- that U3A is open to all in their third age, defined not by age but by a period in life when full time employment has ceased;
- that members themselves form interest groups in as wide a range of topics as they desire, no qualifications are sought of offered, enjoyment being the prime motive and no distinction is made between learners and teachers - they are all U3A members who share their skills and knowledge;
- that each U3A is a mutual aid organisation, and relies on its members to participate both in the groups and in the organising generally. No payments are made to members for services rendered to any U3A and each U3A is self-funded with membership subscriptions and costs kept as low as possible.

The New Members' meeting was followed by a meeting for the Group Leaders who were heartily thanked for their continuing commitment. They were asked to distribute a leaflet to every member attending their group which stressed that more help was needed from the members in order to keep Charnwood U3A going. The current Committee comprises only the very minimum number of Trustees required by our Constitution and in the event of one Trustee being unable to continue, there would be a danger of Charnwood U3A having to cease operating.

Membership Renewals

Reminder letters will be posted out to members who have not yet renewed. I would ask anyone who still needs to renew to do so before 1 December. (Anyone not doing so will become an ex-member.)

I have also noticed that some members have paid twice. (This is usually because members have used Internet banking and have made changes to their payment without cancelling previous ones.) I will do my utmost to spot and reimburse members that do so but please check your statement and email me if you are in this position.

Membership cards – once you have sent in your form and payment I normally issue your new membership card within about 5 working days. If you have not received it please contact me.

Garry Rigby, Membership Secretary.

Telephone: [redacted] Email: memsec@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Loughborough Community Christmas Tree Festival

The Loughborough Community Christmas Tree Festival is taking place once again at Holy Trinity Parish Church from Wednesday 29th November to Sunday 3rd December. Charnwood U3A will be contributing a tree, and our thanks go to Wendy Hoult and Christine Allen for agreeing to organise this on our behalf. The cost of entry is £2.50 for adults and no charge for accompanied children, with funds going towards maintaining the Church in the Community. The Church is looking forward to welcoming visitors to the Festival and there will be refreshments and gift stalls.

Opening Times:

Wednesday 29 November to Friday 1st December - 10am to 5pm

Saturday 2 December – 10am to 7pm

Sunday 3 December, 12 noon to 5pm

At All Saints with Holy Trinity Parish Church, Steeple Row (top of Churchgate), Loughborough.

Coffee Morning
The November Tesco Coffee Morning will take place at Tesco's, Park Road, from 10 am to 12 noon, on 21st November. All members are welcome to drop in for a chat.

Activity List
There is an up-to-date Group Activities sheet on the Members' Area of the CU3A website www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk.

---ooooOOOOOoooo---

GROUP NEWS

There are places available on ***Lunch Club 4*** - anyone interested in finding out more details please contact Wendy Hoult on [redacted] Bon appetit!

Gordon Murray is setting up a new ***French Conversation*** group - interested members can find out more by contacting him on [redacted] or email him on [redacted] Bon chance!
Dee Patterson

Classical Music Enjoyment Group: meets this month on Wednesday 22nd November 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]

Digital Imaging Group
The Digital Imaging Group meets on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month in the Community Room at Tesco (Park Road) from 2pm to 4pm. In order to participate, members will need to have their own computer (Laptop) with Adobe Photoshop Elements software installed - any version from V.11 to the present incarnation, Elements 2018, will be suitable.

Members of Charnwood U3A are invited to join the Group, both those who are new to Digital Imaging techniques and the more experienced users.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13th November; you are welcome to 'drop in' and introduce yourself to the group. For further information please contact the Group Leader, Vic Lorriman, on telephone, [redacted] or by e-mail at [redacted].

History 2
Wednesday November 22nd – a talk by Brian Johnson entitled "Made in Leicester" at 10am in the Lecture Theatre at Charnwood College.

Musicians Wanted
Do you have a musical instrument gathering dust in your attic or under the stairs and would love to play it again? Then why not join the music makers who meet at Gorse Covert Community Centre (next to Morrison's Supermarket) on 2nd and 4th Thursday each month from 2 - 4pm. String, percussion, wind and brass players will all be made very welcome, no matter what your level of expertise. For more information ring Maggie Chaplin on [redacted]

Pilates Group 2
A few places are available in Pilates Group 2, and new members are very welcome. The group meets every Monday from 1.00 to 2.00 pm throughout the year at Nanpantan Bowls Club led by a professional tutor, Annette Holliday. For more details please contact me by telephone [redacted] r e-mail [redacted] *Ros Fleming, U3A Pilates Group Leader*

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
Enquiries to Mike Pearson [redacted]

'Les Sportives'
Thursday 9th November 2017 - The Bradgate, 37 Main Street, Newtown Linford LE6 0AE. Nigel and Sheila to lead.
Thursday 23rd November 2017 - The Robin Hood, 22 Spring Lane, Swannington, LE67 8QQ. Helen to lead.
Thursday 14th December 2017 - The Greyhound, 25 Melton Road, Burton on the Wolds, LE12 5AG. Michael and Jill to lead.
Enquiries to Janet Butlin [redacted]

Little Xtras
Here are our scheduled Little Extras walks for November - starting promptly at 10.00 as usual.
9th November, "Shackerlacker". Meet at The Rising Sun, Shackerstone. Postcode CV13 6NN. Grid Ref SK375067. Leader - Mike Pearson.
23rd November, "Six Sheets to the Wind". Meet at The Bradgate, Newtown Linford. A 6-mile walk via Sheet Hedges Wood, Groby Pool, Newtown Lynford and Bradgate Park. A few "slopes" but no "hills" (or mountains). Could be muddy in a couple of places - well it is nearly Christmas. Postcode LE6 0AE. Grid Ref SK519098. Leader – Malcolm Otter.
Any questions, please contact Malcolm Otter on [redacted]

Saturday 5+ Miles
4 November - Brush Sports Club, Nanpantan. Leader Sandra.
2 December - Woodhouse Eaves car park. Leader Sue.
Enquiries to Sue Griffiths [redacted]

10+-Mile Walk
5 December - Leader: Malcolm Otter. The walk will start at 10.00am from Redmile, Grid ref SK796355, Satnav NG13 0GA. Park in Main Street opposite the Windmill Pub or in nearby side street. Lunch will be at The Plough Inn, Stathern. Some great views of the Vale of Belvoir, Belvoir Castle and the walk includes a section of the Grantham Canal.
Enquiries to Peter Mill [redacted] New members must make contact before joining a walk.

Items for Update

The deadline for sending items for publishing is the last day of the previous month. The deadline for the December issue will be **Thursday 30th November.** Please send your contributions to: **newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk** or to Update Editor Linda Lawson, [redacted]. Please try not to leave it until the last minute if at all possible!!

The next issue of **Update Extra** will be published in January and the deadline for items is **Sunday 31st December** (New Year's Eve). 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 user name and password which are bottom left and bottom right on the back of your membership card). Thank you!