CHARNWOOD U3A UPDATE EXTRA JANUARY 2018





Welcome to the New Year edition of Charnwood U3A Update Extra, a bumper issue of news, views and information which we hope you will find interesting and entertaining. The content of Update Extra is written by the members, and details for sending contributions can be found at the end of this newsletter.

A very 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** the user name and password can be found bottom left and bottom right on the back of your membership card.

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Guiding Principles.



U3As are guided by the following principles:

1. Programmes

a) U3As offer learning activities which reflect members' wishes and which aim to satisfy the widest possible range of interests: educational, cultural, recreational, physical and social (Laslett Principles 6,9,14 & 15).
b) U3As seek resources appropriate to their learning; from their own memberships; from the Trust's national support systems; and from outside organisations, both local and national (Laslett Principle 12).
c) U3As make use of new technologies as they become available.

2. Funding

Members undertake themselves, without payment, the many and varied tasks necessary to run their U3A. Usually, paid tutors are engaged only when special expertise is necessary to ensure the health and safety of members taking part in certain activities, when U3As do not have an appropriately qualified member available (Laslett Principles 4 & 5).

I have included extracts above from the Guiding Principles of the U3A Movement and it is with gratitude and some relief that, following our urgent call for help, I can tell you that we have had a small number of members who have volunteered to help with the running of our U3A. The Trustees (Committee) will be meeting with them early in January to hear what skills and time they are willing to offer.

As I look back on 2017 I am amazed by the variety of our interest groups, our monthly speakers and the enthusiasm of our members, Group Leaders and Committee who keep everything going (over 1000 of us) and combine to make Charnwood U3A the friendly and sociable group it is.

There are 23 U3As in Leicestershire & Rutland and together they try to put on one or two events each year where members of different U3As can meet each other. You will see (details elsewhere in this edition of Update) that Syston & District U3A are inviting U3As to take part in a Quiz evening in March. Do consider getting a team of 4 together to take part. It is sure to be a fun evening.

It remains for me to wish you all a Very Happy and Active New Year and continuing participation in U3A.

Helen Davison, Chairman

Your Monthly Meetings

The December monthly meeting was at the Indoor Bowls Club on Browns Lane and featured Andy Smith who took us on a musical tour of the last 100 years. This venue seemed very popular with those who attended.

For our first meeting of the new year we are back at Charnwood College on Wednesday 10th January with doors open at 2.30 for the start at 3.15 pm. We all know that Stanford Hall is soon to be something quite special – the Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre. To tell us all about it we will have someone quite special – a veteran of the Afghan conflict who knows through experience what it is like to be injured massively. Luke Wigman recovered from his physical injuries and developed into an Invictus double gold medallist. We expect a very informative talk and hope to see you there.

Looking forward – our February meeting on Wednesday 14th at 3.15 is not as romantic as one might have imagined. David Bell comes highly recommended as a lively and humorous speaker and he will take us "Down the Garden Path".

Looking back - we would appreciate your comments on the monthly meetings of 2017 just as we asked for your comments on those of 2016. All we ask you to do is to decide which, in your opinion, were the 5 **best** monthly meetings this last year – say B,H,A,D,C – in your order of preference. If you don't think there were 5 good ones then simply stop at 3 or 4 – B,H,A.

You may either vote by email or on paper.

Using email – go to your U3A website www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk Go down the menu on the left to "Contact Details" and click on it Now underneath Programme Secretary click here to email the programme secretary

Paper voting will be available at the January monthly meeting.

Simply vote 5 letters. You don't need to add any message – it is just a vote and we don't want to put you to any more trouble but this is your chance to influence the future programme. Voting closes online at Midnight on Saturday 27th January 2018.

The meetings in 2017 were:

A – January – Human Rights and counter-terrorism – Sital Dhillon
B – February – Garden Designing – Bel Grierson
C – March – Malawi Revisited – Richard Davies
D – April – The Story of the King James Bible – Professor Gordon Campbell
E – May – Leicestershire as seen from an Air Ambulance – John Nowell
F – July – The funny side of the funeral business – Anne Halsey
G – August – The myths of Belly Dancing – Roxanne Dinsdale
H – September – A year in the life of a Lord Lieutenant – Jennifer, Lady Gretton
I – October – Big Cats – Barbara Meyer
J – November – Arrivals at BHX – Gary Root
K – December – Sing a Century – Andy Smith

We are always seeking speakers so any suggestions would be seriously considered. Please email the Programme Secretary as indicated in the box above at any time during the year. We plan ahead so the 2019 programme will be arranged in the next few weeks.

Neil Rowbotham

All Members/Group Leaders Meeting

The next Members/Group Leaders meeting is due to take place on 27 March at the Indoor Bowls Club, Loughborough. The Committee has decided to extend the invitation to all our members so if you are wondering about joining a group for the first time, you will be most welcome to come along, meet the group leaders and find out more about what is involved. And, of course, our warm welcome will be extended to all our new members who have recently joined Charnwood U3A to enable you to meet the Committee and Group Leaders as well as being able to get answers to any questions you might have. Remember, all members can attend a group free of charge for a 'taster' session before making a commitment to join.

Activity List

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

Tesco Coffee Morning



The next Tesco Coffee Morning will take place at 10am on Tuesday 16th January in the Tesco Coffee Lounge, Park Road, Loughborough. This is open to all members, whether you have just joined or have been a Charnwood U3A member for years, all are welcome.

GROUP NEWS

Classical Music Enjoyment Group: meets this month on Wednesday 24th January 2pm to 4pm at Loughborough Lawn Tennis Club, Ingle Pingle, off Forest Road, Loughborough, when the programme will be given by Roger Willson and is entitled *"Morning and Evening". All enquiries about the Group to Martin Jones, Group Leader [redacted].

History 2

Wednesday January 24th. Talk by Ernie Miller "Robert Bakewell and Dishley Grange" at 10 am in the Lecture Theatre at Charnwood College. New members welcome.

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CALLING ALL QUIZZERS!!

Notice is hereby given of the Syston & District U3A Executive Committee's intention to hold - for your entertainment and amusement - A ***Grand Network U3A Quiz*** to be held on the evening of Tuesday, March 13th 2018 commencing at 7.00 pm sharp, at the Syston Bowling Club, Syston.

In a spirit of generosity, friendship and fellowship the Committee extends a cordial and hearty invitation to you to submit one or more teams for entry to the aforementioned, on payment of the sum of £5 per team.



The winners will be awarded a **"*Grand Network U3A Quiz Trophy*"** - or bottle of lemonade from Lidl if the Committee is unable to find a suitable trophy for 50p.

A selection of non-alcoholic beverages will be available during the interval, and the Bowls Club will be persuaded, cajoled, and brow-beaten into opening their bar to enable the purchase and consumption of assorted alcoholic beverages.

The closing date for team entries is ***Wednesday 14th February 2018***, but please enter your team as soon as possible before this date.

Further information regarding this Magnificent Event will be provided upon receipt of expressions of interest. Details from [redacted]

RULES OF THE QUIZ :

Rule 1: The Quizmaster General's decision on all matters will be final.

Rule 2: A team will consist of no more than 4 members; any team found smuggling in additional members under their table will be expelled from Syston for a period of 2 years.

Rule 3: Television show winners (Pointless, Mastermind, or Eggheads etc) are excluded unless The Committee is offered a truly impressive bribe.

Rule 4: The use of electronic devices to obtain answers to Quiz questions is expressly forbidden – any team breaking this rule will be scorned, ridiculed, Tarred & Feathered, and made to stand in the corner facing the wall.

Rule 5: Anyone questioning the Quizmaster General's decisions will be sternly spoken to by the Quizmaster General's Wife, whose wrath is terrible and to be avoided at all costs.

Rule 6: The above rules may be amended, added to, or deleted according to the frame of mind of the Quizmaster General or Members of the Committee, providing they are sober at the time.

Rule 7: When the Quizmaster General's decision is clearly and obviously wrong refer to Rule 1.

Rule 8: Any rowdy, abusive, disorderly or common behaviour not befitting the Event will result in the offender's name being published in the Syston Town News "Hall of Shame".

Please note:

Syston Bowling Club is located within Central Park, Syston, between Melton Road (Post Code: LE7 2HB) and St Peter's Street (Post Code: LE7 1HL). Be forewarned: there is limited parking at the Club unless you are coming by tandem or hot-air balloon.

WALKING GROUPS

Walking Groups Co-ordinator Elizabeth Steel [redacted]
telephone [redacted]. Please contact Elizabeth in the first instance.



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

Tuesday 6 Plus Walking Group
16th January 2018 - Groby Pool Car Park, Post code LE6 0FF, Ref SK525079. A Parish walk. Leader Mike.
Enquiries to Mike Pearson [redacted]

Saturday 5+ miles
6th January – Loughborough, Moat Road car park. Leader Rob.
Enquiries to Sue Griffiths [redacted]

Les Sportives
Enquiries to Janet Butlin [redacted]

Ten+ Miles Walking Group
6th February. Leader: Mike Pearson. The walk will start at 10.00 am from the lay-by on the right side of the road between Thulston and Elvaston Castle Country Park. Parking at the Country Park for the whole day is now far too expensive, but there is plenty of room to park off the road at SK411322. Lunch will be at "The New Inn", Shardlow.
Enquiries to Peter Mill [redacted] Any new members must make contact prior to joining e wa .

Little Xtras
These are the Little Extras Walks for January - 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, starting promptly at 10.00am as usual.

Thursday 11th January – “First Footing”.

Meet at the free car park close to the Measham Medical Unit, Postcode DE12 7HR (SK333120). Directions: Take the A42 towards Birmingham and leave it at the A444 junction. Take Tamworth Road (1st exit) cross a set of traffic lights and at a mini-roundabout turn left and into the car park on the left. Leader – Rob Harding.

Thursday 25th January – “Ploughing on”

Meet at The Plough Inn, Hickling (near Old Dalby), Postcode LE14 3AH (SK691294). Leader - Maggie Johnson.

For more information call: Malcolm Otter, [redacted]

ROVING REPORTERS

Days of Interest

In October we visited Croome Court, a National Trust property in Worcestershire. We started off the day with tea and biscuits in the 1940's style restaurant, part of the RAF Defford museum, also located on the site – and yes the biscuits were definitely rationed.



Some of our members enjoying the glorious views at Croome.

The House is situated in beautiful parkland, landscaped by Capability Brown. There is a completely artificial lake with a beautiful Chinese bridge. The house itself is largely empty, as its contents were sold prior to its acquisition by the National Trust. The absence of furniture allowed us to fully appreciate the magnificence of the architecture of the house and its many Adam designed fireplaces and ceilings. The small number of objects which had been purchased by the NT were innovatively displayed, especially the chairs and the china.

The RAF Defford museum was a complete contrast being packed with both artefacts and stories about the people who were stationed at the base during the war. Much of the war time testing of Radar was undertaken from RAF Defford. It is also the first place that a fully automatic landing took place.

Our last trip of the year was to Harrogate. We had time to both explore the stunning town itself and join the throng at the Christmas market. There were many places to visit in the town including the local parish church, the famous Montpellier Quarter with its many art and antique shops, sweet shops and of course lots of tea shops. Many of us decided that it was worth our while queuing to go into the famous Betty's Teashop and were rewarded by delicious treats of various sorts. At the Christmas market there were lots of stalls selling food and drink along with many craft stalls.

If you are interested in joining the Days of Interest Group please contact Pauline May by email on [redacted] r by telephone on [redacted]

Yorkshire Yarns (aka Travel Group's September holiday)

Prologue: There's nothing quite like Tesco's at eight o'clock on a Monday morning in early September. Everyone was on time, some bright and breezy, others with match sticks still in place. Many had seen the weather forecast for the day. Oh dear, never mind 'cos Yorkshire here we come!

Travelling: When we saw that Mick was our 'Coach' driver we knew that he would keep us amused on our many journeys. He did not fail as he told us about the intricacies of crane assembly and his references to Ripon Cathedral as that 'big Churchy thing on the left.'

Base Camp: Otherwise known as the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Harrogate, a huge structure with eleven floors. The views from the top were said to be magnificent. On the first night there were frantic negotiations so that full advantage of the two-for-one drinks offer could be taken.

The Curious Incident of the Wednesday Morning: An overzealous toast maker triggered the fire alarms just after seven and the hotel had to be evacuated, and so you saw one's travelling companions as you had never seen them before! Linda and Mike had the right idea and appeared still clutching their morning cuppa.

Inside: Most of the places we visited began with a B. The simplest was the Bronte Parsonage Museum at Howarth, which houses the largest collection of Bronte memorabilia. Everything was so tiny. Even their writings were miniscule with every inch of paper utilised.



Howarth Parsonage

Moving up the scale was Beningborough Hall, a redbrick Georgian Mansion built in the early 1700s. The Baroque-inspired interior was stunning, as were the array of portraits on show. However, the highlight for me was the gardens where there were over fifty varieties of fruit-laden apple and pear trees. The next and by far the grandest was the Bowes Museum, built solely to house the collections of paintings, furniture, ceramics and textiles amassed by John and Joséphine Bowes. The main attraction was the beautiful Silver Swan, a very rare musical automaton, which comes to life every afternoon at 2pm. By 1.45 it was standing room only and everyone waited with bated breath as the man with the key wound it up. Within forty seconds it was over - until the next day. Betty's Tearoom was another story! The non–B venues were the Hepworth Wakefield Gallery that is home to over 5,000 works of modern art, the most impressive being Barbara Hepworth's Winged Figure, and the very imposing Nostell Priory with its Robert Adam interiors, Chippendale furniture and a rare John Harrison timepiece.



RHS Harlow Carr – Bug Hotel

And Out: Our visit to the RHS Gardens at Harlow Carr was damp to say the least! Luckily there was a very well-stocked gift shop and an efficiently managed Betty's Tearoom that, at some

time or other, catered for all in our group. Eventually the rain stopped so we were able to explore these wonderful gardens full of 'just around the corner' surprises including Hedgehog Street and the sight of Sylvia riding her motability scooter swathed in wet weather gear! The visit to Fountains Abbey and Studely Royal was a complete contrast. The sun was out! Rounding a corner here revealed a breath-taking view of a huge expanse of green with the Abbey ruins taking centre stage. The walk through the ruins and along the path that skirted the Royal Water gardens was exhilarating.



Fountains Abbey

Epilogue: All good things must come to an end. Hopefully, however, the memories of this Yorkshire holiday can be woven into something warm and comforting for when the nights are drawing in and the weather's getting colder. A big THANKYOU to Ann for organising this wonderful holiday. Looking forward to the next! *Marilyn Mather*

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BITS AND BOBS

Are you a Grandparent?

Do you have three or more grandchildren aged over 18? Do you wish you saw them more often? Would you like to help them out? If so, a new Documentary made by Shiver (part of ITV Studios) would like to hear from you. This new TV programme is looking for Grandparents who want to spend more quality time with their Grandchildren.
If you are interested, please email [redacted] or call on [redacted], as soon as possible!

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

Committee contact details:



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Items for Update

The deadline for publishing is normally the last day of the previous month. The deadline for the February issue of Update will be **Wednesday 31st January**. Please send your contributions to: **newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk** or to Update Editor Linda Lawson, [redacted]. 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 **Saturday 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!

