CHARNWOOD U3A UPDATE - MAY 2018

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.

Monthly Meetings at Charnwood College

The April monthly meeting was quite fascinating, holding the audience gripped throughout without flashy videos or such like. We all felt that Chief Constable Peter Goodman simply knew what he was talking about and we were privileged to have someone who normally advises the government give up his valuable time to talk to us about Cybersecurity.

Our May monthly meeting will feature Peter Tyldesley. Peter has been with us before and was scored first in your popularity vote so we are looking forward to welcoming him back. Director of the Bradgate Park Trust - the charity responsible for the management of the most popular visitor attraction in Leicestershire receiving 500,000 visits per year - Peter is going to explain all about "The colourful characters of Bradgate Park". This is a light-hearted review of Bradgate's colourful past through the medium of some of the larger than life characters who have made their home there, from some of the first modern humans to visit these lands at the end of the Ice Age to Bradgate becoming a public park in 1928, via the widow who enchanted a king and founded a dynasty, the Nine-Day Queen and the Playboy Earl who spent the family fortune.

There will not be a monthly meeting in June but we are back in July with a challenging talk on "Exercise and bone shape" by Katherine Brooke-Wavell, senior lecturer in Human Biology in the School of Sport and Exercise Sciences, Loughborough University, based in the National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine East Midlands Hub.

I hope to see you then. *Neil Rowbotham*

Monthly meetings are free and open to all Charnwood U3A members on presentation of your membership card. ***Please remember to wear your Charnwood U3A membership badge, this is a requirement at Charnwood College***.

Activity List

Change of Group Leader for Needlework Group 1. Please amend your list to show the new leader as Ann Maccabee, telephone [redacted] email [redacted].

There is an up-to-date Group Activities sheet on the Members' Area of the Charnwood U3A website www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk.

Correspondence from Members

Last month we published an article from one of our founder members, Nigel Leicester, and asked for your comments. We received the following replies from two of our members and would encourage other members to write in with any comments they might have before the next issue of Update in July.

Comments from Eileen Garner

Nigel Leicester's letter has stirred me on to write as I had been meaning to for some time. I was at that first meeting in 1997 when it was decided to form Charnwood U3A. We could not elect a committee as we did not know each other then, so a request was made for volunteers to form a steering committee. Thirteen willing people volunteered and with their chosen chairman, Nigel Leicester, they got us off to an excellent start, laying a solid foundation from which we have flourished.

I would like to know how many at that first meeting are still members.

We celebrated our 10th Anniversary and I thought we would celebrate our 20th. Then I read that it had been suggested we wait and celebrate 21years. (To me 21 has no significance since the 'coming-of-age' is now 18.) I am not able to attend the monthly meetings now but I was looking forward to hearing news of the forthcoming Celebration and was determined to get there somehow. The 21st Anniversary came and went with no hint of Celebration and I was disappointed. Perhaps we will celebrate 25 years but by then I will be 92 and wonder if I will still be here to enjoy it.

Like Nigel, I remember the exhibits of various groups at our monthly meetings, not only at the AGM. Due to limited space, 2 or 3 groups each time would have a table on which to display what their groups had been doing. I particularly remember the exquisite work of the Parchment Craft, the Decoupage, the Calligraphy, the Needlework and the Photography Groups. The Travel Group and Walking Groups displayed photos. The Jig-saw Puzzle group also participated, as well as many more.

Thank you to all who are keeping Charnwood U3A going. I appreciate it very much.
Eileen Garner

Comments from Jim Miller

I read Nigel Leicester's message in Update with some astonishment, because he seemed to be describing an organisation that I don't really recognise! As a former Committee member and Secretary it has been a pleasure to me to see our continuing growth over the years. This expansion may have reached a bit of a plateau now, but to have over 1000 members from a town of the size of Loughborough, when there are several other neighbouring U3As and more coming on stream regularly, is a remarkable achievement, which surely indicates on-going satisfaction and enthusiasm both for the principles of the U3A movement and the ways in which we implement them. We now have a new Committee to take us forward, and I am sure that they will do their best to maintain these principles without the need for any ad hoc group of old-timers like me to "help" them!

However Nigel does pinpoint one aspect of our activities which has concerned me for some time, and that is the relatively poor attendance at the monthly meetings. Since I joined CU3A the numbers turning up seem to have fallen significantly, and as a proportion of our total membership they must have fallen dramatically. This cannot be due to the quality of the speakers, who are usually good and often excellent. It is true that the topics they cover vary enormously and without any pattern, so some will seem more attractive than others to individual members - but that has always been true. Evidently most of our newer members have joined us because of a specific enthusiasm for one or more of the Groups, whose numbers are also growing commendably. But I cannot help thinking that the staging of the monthly meetings might need refreshing somehow.

Charnwood College have messed us about on occasion by forcing changes of venue and arrangements, and their security precautions are becoming ever more ludicrous, as was evident at the AGM: I have gained access to government buildings in London as easily as I got into that meeting! (In passing, is it not sad that our schools and colleges are now, rightly or wrongly, thought to need such security precautions?). Car-parking seems ok now that the site development work is done, but the seats in the lecture theatre are not very spacious or comfortable, and the projection facilities are not brilliant. I miss the regular appearance of the notice boards with lots of interesting material on them, and one cannot help noticing that members seem to drift away afterwards rather more quickly than they used to, rather than staying for a chat - is the timing of the meetings ideal?

Perhaps all this does not matter hugely: if most of our members are enthusiasts for their group participation, as they so obviously are, maybe we should not worry too much. But I do suggest that the Committee thinks a bit about the monthly meeting format: it must be a little embarrassing for them to tell potential speakers that we have over 1000 members, and then present them with an audience of 150 or fewer people….. *Jim Miller*

GROUP NEWS

Classical Music Enjoyment Group: meets this month on Wednesday 23rd May, 2pm to 4pm at Loughborough Tennis Club, Ingle Pingle off Forest Road, Loughborough, when the programme will be a "Bring Your Own" session.
Any enquiries concerning the Group to Group Leader, Martin Jones [redacted]

Dance Group

IT'S PARTY TIME!!

Come and have two hours of fun and laughter, along with tea and biscuits, for just **£1**. Oh, and you can learn some dance steps and dances whilst you're having a good time! Where else would you get such a bargain?
Everyone welcome: single people and couples of any age group. (Remember, you can bring a friend for one session, even if they are not a member of the U3A.)
When? Tuesdays 8th & 22nd May; 12th & 26th June.
Time? 2-4pm.
Where? The Church of the Good Shepherd Hall, Park Road, Loughborough. *(Parking available: overspill to Tesco car-park if necessary. Bus stop close by.)*
Dance Group 2 takes place in Tesco Community Room (again on Park Road) from 9.30am to 12.30pm on Friday mornings.
Line Dance until 11.30am with a break for free drinks half way through. (Bring your own cup/mug.) Complete beginners are very welcome – no-one minds if you go wrong!
Tap Dance 11.30am to 12.30pm. Again, complete beginners welcome as we are presently re-visiting the basic steps for our newer members. It is much easier than you think! Some do both Tap & Line: if you can manage one you can easily manage the other!
We have room for a few new members in this group, but numbers are limited. So, don't miss your chance! *Bev Gillman*

Film Group

The Film Group meets at Leicester Phoenix on the second Wednesday of each month at 10.30 am. It is open to all U3A members and anybody else. You just pay on the door — £6 which includes a tea or coffee. The planned films for the next two months are:

April "Dunkirk" (1958 version)
May "The Graduate"

If you would like further information, please contact Malcolm Gray, [redacted] email [redacted]

History 2

Wednesday May 23rd. Afternoon visit to Hough Mill, Swannington, LE67 8QU. Meet at the Mill at 2 pm. Cost £5 to include donation and refreshments, payable on the day. Book with Brenda by Monday May 21st. Offers of car share appreciated.
No meeting in June.

Needlecraft Groups 1 and 2

Suzanne Parkinson is stepping down as Group Leader of Needlecraft 1 but remaining as Group Leader of Needlecraft 2.
Ann Maccabee will be the new Group Leader of Needlecraft 1. You can contact Ann on [redacted] and her email address is [redacted]

Writing for Pleasure

Sadly, the 'Writing for Pleasure' group has closed. Many thanks go to George Ince who has led this group for over five years, hosting many of the meetings in his own home.

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
15th May - Rancliffe Arms, Bunny. Post code NG11 6QT. Ref SK583295. Leader Graham.
19th June - Royal Oak, Cossington. LE7 4UW. Ref SK 605135. Leader Cliff.
Enquiries to Mike Pearson [redacted]

'Les Sportives'
Enquiries to Janet Butlin [redacted]

Parish Walk Group
A new walking group has been formed, 'The Parish Walks'. The walks will be at a leisurely pace and cover about 3 miles. The group will meet every third Thursday. If interested contact Elizabeth Steel on [redacted]
Thursday 17th May. The walk will start at 10.00 rom the car park by Charnwood Water (at the end of Tucker's Rd, Loughborough).

Little Xtras
Any questions, please contact Malcolm Otter on [redacted]

Saturday 5+ Miles
5 May - 10 am, Swithland Woods North Car Park, Swithland Road. Leader Sue.
2 June - 10 am, Groby Pool Car Park. Leader Sheila.
7 July - 10 am, Swithland Reservoir Car Park. Leader Jenny.
Enquiries to Sue Griffiths [redacted]

10+-Mile Walk
5 June - Leader: Marie Kennedy. Walk will start at 10.30 am from outside the "Monsal Head Hotel" SK185715. It is possible to park on the road down towards Little Longstone to save the car park charge of up to £5.50. Lunch will be at "The Bull's Head", Foolow. The pub does sandwiches, but also a senior citizens' 2/3 course from £8.25. For menu see link: http://www.thebullatfoolow.co.uk/bar-menu-c33.html. Note the later start time for this walk.

3 July - Leader: Bob Baker. Walk will start at 10.00 am from Ticknall Village Hall car park. Approx Grid Reference SK352241 (nearest SATNAV DE73 7JW). The walk will be via Hartshorne and Foremark Reservoir with lunch at "The Smisby Arms".
Enquiries to Peter Mill [redacted] Any new members must make contact prior to joining a walk.

BITS AND BOBS

Newtown Linford Open Gardens

Several gardens in Newtown Linford will be opening for the national gardens scheme on Bank Holiday Monday, May 7th. As well as the gardens there will be several stalls selling plants and other appropriate things. Your members will be very welcome to come and visit us.
David Couling

Volunteer Opportunities

Abbeyfield Loughborough Society is looking for volunteers that are able to offer 1-2 hours a week/month to be befrienders or volunteer drivers for the residents in their homes. It is a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity with three homes in Loughborough.

Westfield House is a care home specialising in 24-hour person-centred care.

Ingleside and May Mills Houses are Supported Living homes which offer a balance of privacy, support and security. Residents have the peace of mind of no cooking, bills or repairs and can come and go as they please.

An one interested in hel in lease contact Mandy Allen on [redacted].

Spreading the Word

My name is Sharon Bosworth and I am Family History Group coordinator for the Stapleford & District U3A. Last year we took on the task of recording the gravestone memorials at our local cemetery. The first part is now complete and as well as having books printed for our Local Studies Libraries I have created a website. With this in mind I am here to 'spread the word' so to speak. We started this because we wanted to 'put something back' and if we can help someone go one step further in their genealogical research then we would consider our job well done.

Would it be possible for you to help us in this quest by passing this information on and sharing the link with your members and anyone else you think may be interested.

https://staplefordcemeterymemorials.wordpress.com/

Thank you in advance.

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Items for Update

The deadline for sending items for publishing is the last day of the previous month. *Please note, there is no Update in June, and no monthly meeting*. The next **Update Extra** will be published in July and the deadline for items is **Saturday 30th June**. Please send your contributions to: **newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk** or to Update Editor Linda Lawson, [redacted]

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!