

News & Views


 Newsletter

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Our Website

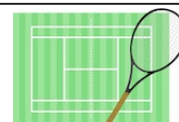
Check out our website at: www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk for lots of information about Charnwood u3a, including details of our meetings, trips, all our Groups and much more.

Welcome

...to the June 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, and details for sending contributions can be found on the last page.



Our Next Monthly Meeting: You Can't be Serious...



See page 2
for details.

View from the Chair



Hooray! After a few false starts, Summer has finally arrived, bringing sunshine, colour and, in my garden at least, a bountiful supply of weeds. Now, do I embrace the concept of wild gardening, refuse to label anything as a 'weed' and let loose a horticultural free-for-all, or take pity on the anxious antirrhinums and yank out the bindweed?

I ducked out of the dilemma last week by going to my first line dancing session. My two left feet were not always going in the same direction as each other – or everyone else's, but it was great fun. Line dancing is one of our most popular and long-running groups, but perhaps there are other groups that you'd like to try out? Remember, you can attend up to three separate groups as a 'taster' before deciding whether you want to join. Just check out the details on our website <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk>.

On the subject of new shoots, are there any activity groups you'd like us to run? Perhaps, like me, you're looking to shift some winter excess (or at least move it around!). What about a walking sport – cricket, football, netball? Or, for some mental stimulation, you might be interested in joining a new World Cultures group, one of the suggestions that came out of our EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) session in last month's Group Leaders meeting. Starting a new group needn't be a burden: as u3a members we can all 'muck in' and share the responsibility. Please send ideas to me or Bev Gillman at groupscoordinator@charnwoodu3a.org.uk and we'll see what we can do.

In the first week of June, the u3a movement is celebrating Volunteers Week. And guess what - your own Committee are asking for a volunteer. Our Treasurer, Bob Pyatt, will be standing down in a few months time and we'll need someone to replace him. Obviously, you'll need to be comfortable with numbers, perhaps with a background in book-keeping, but you don't need to be a qualified accountant. If you think you can help, please contact Bob for more information at treasurer@charnwoodu3a.org.uk.

Now back to those weeds. Have you noticed, that unlike their more decorative cousins, most weeds don't mind drought conditions? Maybe someone should start a Rain Dance group!

Pam Upton
chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

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 in 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'. 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 fascinating talk by Kevin Reynolds (*pictured right*), who dispelled the myths about bats in a very lively and engaging manner, including some brilliant illustrations of these much misunderstood mammals.



Our Next Meeting Wednesday 14th June

'You Can't Be Serious: Tales of a Wimbledon Umpire, 1988 - 2012' with Alan Gray, MBE



Born and educated in Scotland, Alan's obsession with tennis started in 1955 when he watched Hoad, Rosewell, Gonzales and Sedgeman play at Dundee ice rink. He umpired and line judged at Wimbledon from 1988 for 25 years. During that time, he officiated at six finals including Becker v Sampras and Agassi v Ivanisovic. Alan will give an irreverent and personal talk.

To attend this meeting:

If you wish to attend the meeting in person, no pre-booking is required - just turn up on the day, with your Cu3a membership card, if you have one. **Please do not arrive before 2 pm.**



If you are unable to attend in person and would like to follow the meeting online (via YouTube), please go to the meeting page on our website at:

<https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/MonthlyMeetingJune2023.html>

where full details of how to join are given, including a link to the registration form with deadline for pre-registration.

Looking Ahead:

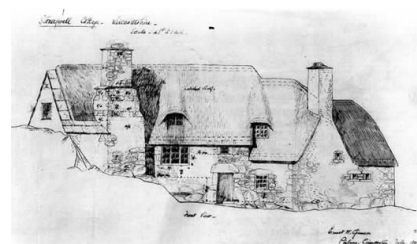
Please note there is NO monthly meeting in July (*but there will be a July News & Views*).

The following monthly meeting is on **Wednesday 9th August** when Mark Temple will be talking to us about the National Trust property **Stoneywell**, designed by the English furniture designer and architect Ernest Gimson.

Then in **September**, we are invited to discover **South American music** with 3-piece band *Los Amigos*.

Details of all our forthcoming monthly meetings, up to and including January 2024, can be found at:

<https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/MonthlyMeetingsFuture.html>



*Drawing of Stoneywell by
Ernest Gimson, July 1898*

Notice from the Treasurer

Please note that our Treasurer Bob Pyatt will be away for 2 weeks this summer and therefore will be **unable to make any payments between 30th July and 14th August 2023**.

Group News

Painting Group

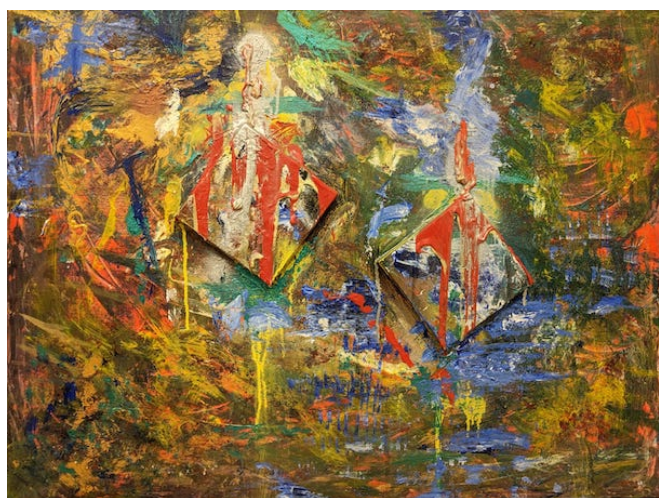
The new painting group are celebrating our first anniversary. We still have a few places left if anyone is interested in joining the group. We meet **every 3rd Monday of the month at 2 pm at Tesco Community Room** Park Road. If you love to paint please email painting@charnwoodu3a.org.uk for further details. Our theme for May was to create the work of a famous painter. Below are a few of our members' Masterpieces.



*Monet style painting by Jeremy Ford.
Painted by Annie Zakharov*



*Paul Klee's Cat and Bird painting.
Painted by Susan Tranter*



'New Eyes' Monet inspired painting by John



*Left: Gustav Klimt
By Susan Tranter*



*Left: Claude Monet
Moulins près de
Zaandam
By Wendy Saley*

*Right: Edgar Degas
Ballet Dancers
Painted by
Angela Cantrill*



More Group News

History Group Visit to the National Justice Museum



The History Group is arranging a visit to the National Justice Museum in Nottingham on **Wednesday 28th June**. The theme of the museum, which is based in the Grade II listed Shire Hall (*pictured left*), is that of crime, punishment and social justice through time. We have booked a tour, which will take around one hour, after which we are invited to enjoy the museum at our leisure.

We are meeting at 10:30 at the museum on High Pavement, Nottingham NG1 1HN and our tour starts at 11:00. The cost is £13.00 per person.

Participants - who must be u3a members - need to make their own way to Nottingham, but we may be able to arrange lifts.

If you are interested in joining the trip, please contact Pauline May **before June 19th** at ppc.wat@ntlworld.com or on 01509 552834 or 07455 167929.

Jigsaw Puzzle & Book Exchange Group

This group is working well with about 10 members coming to my house on the first Wednesday in the month to have a coffee and a chat - oh and to take jigsaws and books home with them if they wish! The next meeting is 7th June, 10 till 12. We are then going to have a break July and August and resume on Wednesday 6th September.

Ann Hawley



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)



The EDI team met on 15th May and had a lively discussion, including feedback from the recent Group Leaders' meeting.

Amongst the suggestions put forward was that individual groups could be asked to say what they are doing, either routinely or as a one-off event, to further EDI initiatives. They should be encouraged to try something new to embrace diversity. We should also seek opportunities to include more diverse topics in the monthly meeting programme, such as the Indian dance group arranged for the October meeting. The programme could also include more participatory sessions where members could 'have their say'.

It was noted that some members were struggling with using computers, including email and the internet, and thus missing out on communication channels routinely used by Cu3a. One member offered to write a piece about her experience of the IT Help Desk, a valuable but underused facility. Her article appears on page 9 of this issue of *News & Views*. It was also agreed that accessibility would not be overlooked when designing the new website as part of the move to Simple Membership (*see article on page 10*). It was suggested that a monthly meeting might be given over to sharing with the membership how Cu3a functions and how information can be accessed, guiding them through what help and assistance is available, and how they can get the most out of the Simple Membership system and the Cu3a webpages.

As ever, your thoughts on the above would be very welcome, to newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk.

Helen Reid

Roving Reporters

Days of Interest Group – a May trip to Derbyshire

For our May trip we headed off to Derbyshire, again fairly local. Our first stop was at Cromford Mill, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the birthplace of the modern factory system and the world's first water-powered cotton spinning mill.

Some of us chose to take a guided tour of the factory complex, which was led by a most knowledgeable guide. He talked about the humble origins of Richard Arkwright and his incredible drive and perseverance which led him to establish this the first ever factory and then many others. He also talked about the working and living conditions of the workers – predominantly women and children.



Members of the Days of Interest group at Cromford Mill

The village of Cromford was built to accommodate the workers, and by the standards of the day the housing was good. Today the village boasts disused pig sties with listed monument status! For those who did not take the group tour there were shops and cafés to enjoy and some very interesting walks. Luckily the weather was excellent.

In the afternoon we took a trip on the Ecclesbourne Heritage Railway. The stock was old and reminiscent of many an old train journey, for some of us. Those were the days before air conditioning and Wi-Fi. We were able to enjoy looking out on the very sunny and pleasant countryside whilst enjoying a cream scone and cake, along with copious amounts of tea and coffee. It was nothing like the old British Rail sandwiches of the past. All helped along by a very jovial red-hatted guard (*pictured left with some of our party*).

Pauline May

If you are interested in joining the Days of Interest Group, please contact Pauline May by email at ppc.wat@ntlworld.com or by telephone at 01509 552834 or 07455 167929 for details.



6+ Mile Walking Group

Led by Cliff Knowles, the Charnwood u3a Tuesday walking group enjoyed a walk from Tilton-on-the-Hill on 16 May 2023. Along the way we met an inquisitive bunch of horses, pictured below left. (Is there a collective noun for horses?)

The horses seemed keen to make our acquaintance - or was it the contents of our backpacks that interested them? In the far right picture, one of them is checking the contents of Brenda's backpack.

(Note: the picture is not photoshopped - the horses really were that close!)

Chris Ronald



More Roving Reporters

Gardening Group

It was definitely not a bridge too far for Charnwood u3a Gardening Group, pictured (*right*) at Whatton House Gardens, just north of Hathern.

Local garden consultant William Stanger from Four Winds advises on the regeneration of the grounds and he showed members around, expertly answering a host of questions.

One was about this magnificently pink-blossomed Judas tree (*pictured below*). Apparently, there is no biblical connection, but a reference to its country of origin, Judea.

Kate Watson



Poetry Corner

EMPIRE DAY CEREMONY IN THE QUEEN'S PARK

Years ago, on Empire Day
Loughborough children made their way
To The Queen's Park. In each young hand
A small flag, ready to wave.
In ranks they stood, bright and brave
Around the arc of the bandstand.
Music was played, speeches were made.
At last it was their turn to sing.
Well rehearsed, they made the air ring!
That was the last glorious day,
Before the Empire wasted away.

Copyright Louie Carr.



Photo of bandstand in Queen's Park, Loughborough:
Emisweet, [CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

June 2023 Meetings

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> Plus at weekends: Days of Interest trip to Southwold (10th June) Sunday Lunch Club (11th June) </div>				
			1 Jun 10.00 Sci & Tech 10.00 Spanish Conv 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.30 French Conv 19.00 Canasta 3	2 Jun 09.00 Badminton 10.00 German: RTC 10.00 Knit & Natter 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 10.00 Table Tennis 7 10.30 Photography 10.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Table Tennis 5 12.00 Lunch Club 1 12.00 Table Tennis 6 13.30 Pilates 1
5 Jun 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 10.00 Latin 11.00 Table Tennis 1 13.30 Canasta 2 14.00 Chess 15.00 Current Affairs	6 Jun 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 10+ Walks 10.00 Spanish 11.00 Table Tennis 2 11.15 Pilates 3 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Canasta1Quorn 14.00 Sing4Pleasure	7 Jun 09.30 Golf 10.00 Classical Greek 10.00 German 10.00 JigsawBookEx 10.00 Mini Tennis 10.00 Scottish Dance 10.30 Papercraft 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Cribbage 2 14.00 French Improve 14.00 Scrabble 2 14.00 Sustain Planet	8 Jun 10.00 Beading 2 10.00 Les Sportives 10.00 Thurs 6 Milers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.00 Making Music	9 Jun 09.00 Badminton 10.00 Classical Civ 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 10.00 Needlecraft 1 10.00 Table Tennis 7 10.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Table Tennis 5 12.00 Table Tennis 6
12 Jun 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 10.00 Poetry 1 11.00 Table Tennis 1 13.00 Quiz group 14.00 Archaeology 14.00 Digital Imaging	13 Jun 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 EPC Zoom 10.00 Scrabble 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 11.15 Pilates 3 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Eng Parish Ch 14.00 Social Dance	14 Jun 09.30 Golf 10.00 Committee 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.30 Monthly Meet 19.00 Canasta2Quorn	15 Jun 10.00 CC Walks 10.00 Parish Walks 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.15 Scrabble 4 14.30 French Conv 18.30 Supper Club 2	16 Jun 09.00 Badminton 10.00 German: RTC 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 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 15.00 Mac Users
19 Jun 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 13.30 Canasta 2 14.00 Chess 14.00 EDI meeting 14.00 Gardening 14.00 Painting	20 Jun 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 6+ Walks 10.00 Spanish 11.00 Table Tennis 2 11.15 Pilates 3 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Philosophy 2 14.00 Sing4Pleasure	21 Jun 09.30 Golf 10.00 German 10.00 Mini Tennis 10.00 Poetry 2 10.00 Scottish Dance 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Cribbage 2 14.00 Family History 14.00 French Improve 14.00 Italian Conv 14.00 Scrabble 2	22 Jun 10.00 Beading 10.00 Les Sportives 10.00 Thurs 6 Milers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Architecture 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.00 Making Music	23 Jun 09.00 Badminton 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Needlecraft 1 10.00 Table Tennis 7 10.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Table Tennis 5 12.00 Table Tennis 6 13.30 Pilates 1
26 Jun 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Digital Imaging 14.00 Local History	27 Jun 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 ETHEL 10.00 Needlecraft 2 10.00 Scrabble 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 11.15 Pilates 3 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Philosophy 1 14.00 Social Dance	28 Jun 09.30 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 10.00 Stitch & Sew 10.30 History 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Classical Music	29 Jun 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Outdoor	30 Jun 09.00 Badminton 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Table Tennis 7 10.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Table Tennis 5 12.00 Table Tennis 6 13.30 Pilates 1

Glenfield Hospital Secret Garden

Calling all gardening enthusiasts. Did you know that a veritable gem of a garden lies tucked away within the grounds of Glenfield Hospital? Once the walled kitchen garden of the mansion house that still stands to one side of the modern hospital building, the garden was for many years used for therapeutic purposes. Sadly, it fell into neglect several decades ago, until a far-sighted member of staff recognised its potential and set the restoration ball rolling.

The first eighteen months of the project largely involved clearing the debris and rampant growth that smothered the one acre site. Then came a major breakthrough when the garden was picked to host the semi-final of Channel 5's Great Garden Challenge, resulting in the creation of four small garden rooms that are now central to the overall design.

Since then, with input from commercial organisations and private donations, including financial support from University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust and the Leicester Hospitals Charity, the Secret Garden, as it is now known, has literally blossomed into life. Community Payback teams have tackled much of the heavy work, while enthusiastic volunteers, myself included, are responsible for most of the actual gardening. Apart from staff seconded during the pandemic and three heady months



The Pagoda Garden

when we enjoyed the luxury of a full-time gardener, it's all been down to us.



View over Rose Garden

During the pandemic, many hospital staff found the garden an invaluable haven. Today, it's increasingly appreciated as a place not only to enjoy free time, but also as a space for outdoor meetings. Patients are, of course, also regular visitors. Future plans involve using the garden for therapeutic and community activities. Although the Secret Garden is entering a new phase in its life, original features still remain, including a row of gnarled espaliered apple trees that have lovingly been pruned back into something vaguely resembling their original shape (or so we fondly hope!)

If you would like to share my enjoyment of the Secret Garden, it's open under the National Garden Scheme on **Saturday 24th June / 22nd July (10.30 am – 3.30 pm)**. Admission £3.50, no charge for children. Parking will probably be free within designated areas, but this has yet to be confirmed.

<https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/44274/the-secret-garden-glenfield-hospital>

Hilary Knowles

Pickleball Taster Session

We have been contacted by the Head Coach at Sileby Tennis and Pickleball Club, Edward Whetton, who is wondering if any of our members would like to come over for a **Pickleball taster session**? They currently run a coach led session on **Mondays at Mountsorrel Leisure Centre** and it seems that a couple of our Cu3a members attend currently.

If you are wondering what Pickleball is, there is a very interesting article about this fast-growing sport in the recent Spring Edition of *Third Age Matters* (pages 4-5), where it is described as 'a cross between tennis, ping-pong and badminton' becoming popular in u3as.

If you're interested, please contact the Editor at newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk who will pass on your message to Edward. He will then discuss what date(s) would work for you.



Photo: OvertAnalyzer CC BY-SA 4.0

In Praise of the IT Help Desk

I understand that the Help Desk is not used very much, so I thought I'd write this wee piece in its praise. In case there are any readers who don't know what "Help Desk" means in the digital world (as I didn't once upon a time), it is not a physical desk staffed by human beings (though it could be). It is a term used to cover people offering advice about any problem we may have when using our computers.

I used computers when in work and as the manager was the go-to person for simple queries, but that was when there was far less complexity. I think I'm reasonably intelligent, but.....

I hate computers and hate them even more when they do something I haven't asked them to do! I was delighted to find that I could contact one of the Charnwood u3a volunteers on the Help Desk to sort me out. Their names and contact details are listed below. They have stopped my blood pressure reaching boiling point several times.



The person I spoke to was very patient, seemed to understand what I was trying to say (I don't necessarily use the correct terminology) and was skilful at explaining things in ways I could understand. One example was that my computer was showing that, though plugged in, it was not charging and was in danger of running out of charge altogether. I had some important work to complete so was not a happy bunny. He patiently told me how to find the battery (I had no idea there was one) and led me through a number of things to check. It turned out that it was actually a loose connection to the power adapter: so easily fixed! I now know to check that connection. My problem has been resolved each time I've made contact.

Many people have a resident technical expert living with them, or round the corner (i.e. partner, relative or friend). My technical experts are several hundred miles away and friends locally cannot necessarily help. I can't be the only one in that situation!

So...don't worry about revealing your difficulties. Be assured that you will meet with patience and understanding.

Sue Meredith Velado

The IT Help Desk members are shown below. They can be contacted by telephone or by email:

Phil Bass

tel: 01509 889338

email: phil.bass@icloud.com

Mary Opie

tel: 01509 889338

email: mary.opie@icloud.com

Garry Rigby

tel: 01509 213655

email: grigby56@gmail.com

Readers' Comments

In February last year, a new 'Readers' Comments' feature was launched, whereby members were invited to send in their comments on anything appearing in the previous issue of *News & Views*. However, since then, very few such comments have been received. I would like to widen this feature to include any comments on any aspect of your membership of Charnwood u3a, or indeed any more general comments you'd like to share with your fellow Cu3a members. This could form a '**Letters to the Editor**' section, as featured in many publications.

So, please get your thinking caps on and send me your 'letters' (they needn't be too long - I suggest no more than 100-200 words) to newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk - or if you don't have email and are receiving this newsletter in printed form, my postal address is on the back page.

I look forward to receiving your contributions!

Helen Reid

News & Views Editor



Research Project:



Participants aged over 70 wanted for research into liquid food supplements

Researchers at Loughborough University, Aston University and University of Leeds are looking for adults aged 70 years and over to take part in a research study.

They are looking to explore older adults' interactions with oral nutritional supplements. These are low-volume, high-calorie liquid food supplements often used to improve people's nutrition and health.



In the study, you will be asked to consume some oral nutritional supplements over a four-week period. You will take part in the study from your residence (there is no need to travel).

You can receive up to £40 of One4All gift vouchers for taking part in this study.

If you are over 70 years old and live in the community (i.e. not in residential care), please contact Chris McLeod via telephone (07730 762340) or email (c.mcleod@lboro.ac.uk) to express your interest in taking part.

Ethics number: 2022-13002-12049



Website + Beacon = Simple Membership

For the last four years, Charnwood u3a has been using the Beacon membership management system to help with the administration of our organisation. Beacon has been of great benefit to the committee and the leaders of our larger groups but, as noted in the [December 2022 issue of News & Views](#), it does have some shortcomings. The Third Age Trust has been slowly tackling these issues but there are still no plans to address Beacon's biggest weaknesses and the Charnwood u3a Committee believes that the only way to fix those is to move to another, better system.

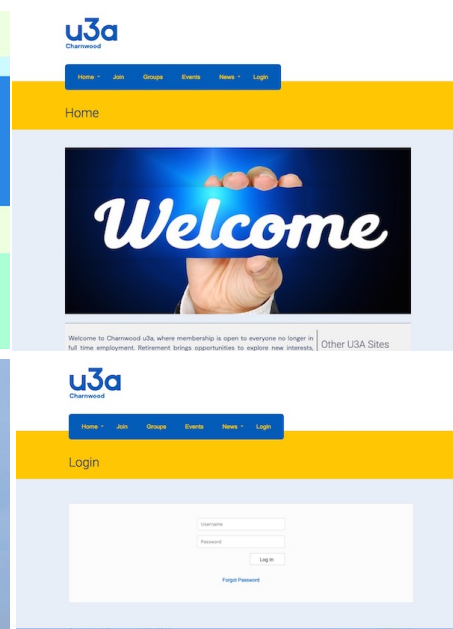
The system we have chosen is called **Simple Membership (SM)** and we formally applied for a live Simple Membership site on 11th May. The new system provides both membership management functions and a website; it will eventually replace both our existing website and Beacon. The switchover will start around the end of June. The Committee will start using SM as soon as it goes live, but group leaders will have until March next year to become familiar with it and start using it for their group(s).

The first thing you will notice is that we will have a brand new website. It will be visually very different and the structure will change significantly too. We hope you will find the new look more appealing and easier to navigate. For example, above are the Home and Login pages of the current website/Beacon (on the left) and the SM trial site we have been using for testing (on the right).

We will be running a series of training sessions for group leaders over the next few months, just as we did for Beacon. Please let Bev, our Groups Coordinator, know if you would like to attend one of these sessions.

We will be running a series of training sessions for group leaders over the next few months, just as we did for Beacon. Please let Bev, our Groups Coordinator, know if you would like to attend one of these sessions.

Phil Bass, Site Administrator



Upcoming Local Events

Friends of Charnwood Museum

The next talk for the Friends of Charnwood Museum is on **Thursday 15th June at 7.30 pm**:

Loughborough Carillon and War Memorial an illustrated talk by Mel Gould

Discover why the choice of a carillon tower as a war memorial to the men of the town who died in the Great War was not a popular decision. Supporters of the project won the day using a simple but crafty method.

Why did Queen Alexandra and Winston Churchill both donate towards a war memorial in a market town in the midlands? What was the connection? And why did Dame Nellie Melba attend the opening ceremony?

Doors will be open from 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start.
Please use the evening entrance on Granby Street.

Cost: Members £2. Non-members £4.

Booking Essential (<https://www.charnwoodmuseum.co.uk/events>)



Photo: Thomas Nugent,
CC BY-SA 2.0 via
Wikimedia Commons

1620s House & Garden

The 1620s House at Donington le Heath is hosting several events in June, including:



Lute Recital: Sunday 4th June, 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Nick Gravestock will be playing a combination of a replica 1583 lute and a renaissance guitar dressed in authentic reproduction costume of the late Elizabethan period, in the Great Chamber at the 1620s House & Garden.

This is included in the normal admission price to the site.



Jacobean Craft Group: Saturday 10th June, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Come and meet the wonderful Friends of the 1620s House & Garden Craft Group and discover domestic needle and wool craft styles of the 17th Century. **Included within admission price. These will be held every second Saturday of the month, April to September.**



The Bard as a Botanist: Sunday 11th June, 5:30 pm - 7 pm

Talk & Tour: £6 per person. Pre-booking Advised.

This year marks the 400th anniversary of the publication of Shakespeare's first Folio in 1623. You are invited to the idyllic setting of the gardens for an intriguing talk on Shakespeare's relationship to Botany and a tour around the Gardens to discover the plants mentioned.

For more details of these and other events, go to: <https://1620shouse.org.uk/whats-on/>

Other Local Events

Leicestershire & Rutland Festival of Archaeology will run throughout July. For details of the 100+ heritage events taking place in the festival, see: <https://leicsfieldworkers.org/festival-of-archaeology/>

Loughborough University events can be found at: <https://www.lboro.ac.uk/news-events/events/>

For details of lots of other local events see 'Discover Charnwood':

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

Events listed here include Charnwood Orchestra's concert featured in [last month's News & Views](#) (page 9).

Member's Story

Coffee Please

Recent short stories, recounting my experiences over 70+ years, have revealed much of my character to my readers. Happily it seems these stories have proved entertaining and worth the effort. However I realised there is one highly significant area that I haven't touched on so far - how my wife Helen and I got together.

How did I meet Helen? It was 1972, and we were studying at Sheffield University. Helen was living in typical private student digs. I was in a Hall of Residence.

It was the start of the 2nd year and people were generally getting into some serious socialising. In particular, Helen and others had just descended on my friend Steve who had the room opposite me. There was a general call for someone to rustle up some tea and coffee. Steve suggested that they called on me as he knew that I was a good bet for having the necessary supplies. So they banged on my door calling for tea and coffee.

What was unusual was me being in bed trying to recover from glandular fever. This didn't stop friends from cramming into my room. One of this crowd was an attractive, tall, slim lady wearing a large floppy hat who spoke with a Northern accent. She had made herself comfortable sitting on the edge of my bed as I was encouraged (OK pushed!) to get on with sorting out the drinks. So there I was, walking down the corridor, wearing some jeans and not much else, carrying a collection of mugs for coffee. (I was 'the mug carrying the mugs'!)

At this time I was seeing a girl from home in Hertfordshire and this was well known amongst our friends. This was Helen's and my first meeting, but not when we got together; that happened some months later.

My relationship with the girl from home broke down later in the year and my parents took me away for a long weekend in Gibraltar to help me to get over the failure. Helen and others of our friends concluded

that I came from a wealthy family who had the time and money to whisk me off to Gibraltar to get over a heartbreak. This might have made me more interesting, especially as I had a car as well. Yes, I had a car and yes it was pretty rare for a student in those days. Luckily I bought a used car from a modest inheritance. This seemed to give me 'wheel appeal' with Helen later telling her mother in a letter home, "... and he has a car!" (but still no great wealth).

The truth soon got out: my father worked for an airline and he could get virtually free flights anywhere in Europe. Moreover, the trip had been arranged some time before my upset. My parents simply got hold of another flight ticket for next to nothing. I didn't have a current passport but I was able to get a travel permit for Gibraltar cheaply. So no sign of significant wealth!



I still hadn't got together with Helen. So when did it happen? On the first evening back at the start of the summer term of 1973, I decided to pop into a local pub, where I hadn't been previously, in the hope of meeting some friends. When I arrived I noticed that Helen was there. So was this our first thing? Nope, almost, but not quite!

When I got back to my room I called on Steve and during our chat he confirmed that Helen was not seeing anyone at that time.

The following evening I drove round to the digs shared by Helen and Joyce, Steve's girlfriend. Helen answered the door and said "Have you come to pick up Joyce?". "No, I've come to see you actually" I replied. "Oh, OK would you like a coffee?" said Helen.

So there we have it; coffee featured again. It was the start of my 50-year relationship with an attractive, tall, slim, clever lass from Lancashire. Yes I learnt that Helen was from Salford - a district in Manchester, I thought! It didn't take long for Helen to correct my ignorance! *[Ed: and still correcting him even now!]*

Peter Reid

News from the National u3a



Share your family memories of WW2

You are invited to take part in 'Their Finest Hour', a Heritage Lottery-funded nationwide campaign organised by the University of Oxford to collect and preserve the everyday stories and objects of the Second World War. As these personal stories are fast fading from living memory, it is vital to preserve them and the wartime objects that often accompany them. As well as artefacts from the front, there are the experiences of those at home, including women and children.

You can subscribe to a national email group where u3a members can share views, air your Q&As with 'Their Finest Hour', and generally keep in the loop at

<https://forms.office.com/e/ctt2eu6v2c>

More information can be found at <https://theirfinesthour.english.ox.ac.uk/>



Family Photos and Family Histories

Most of us have collections of photos that show our families' lives in the past. Photos are often the most common and sometimes the only record we have.



On 14th June there is a pilot Zoom session of a potential new Shared Learning Project between u3a members and the Universities of Leeds and Royal Holloway University of London. This pilot session will explore how to make the most of family photograph collections. The session is led by social historians Laura King (University of Leeds) and Jane Hamlett (Royal Holloway, University of London). Both specialise in the history of the family in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

You can enrol for this session by going to: <https://forms.gle/ink1DMdjLCRXEReb6> or emailing Maggy Simms at slp@u3a.org.uk. You may like to bring along a family photo to share online for discussion.

More Free On-Line Events this Month:

- **Driving Tips to Save Money and the Planet** with Rebecca Ashton, IAM Roadsmart, Mon 5 Jun at 2 pm.
- **Leo - The World's First Business Computer** with Neville Lyons, Fri 16 Jun at 2 pm.
- **Into the mind of an Artist: Van Gogh** with Catherine Stevenson, Newcastle u3a, Thu 22 Jun at 10 am.

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

National u3a Newsletter and More:

To register to receive the National u3a newsletter regularly, go to: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter> where you will also find a link to recent issues. The latest (May) issue features a short piece by the new Trustee for the East Midlands, John Lewis.

The u3a National programmes page at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes> has more learning initiatives, including new programmes, as well as ongoing themes like mathematical challenges, sharing photos and artwork - and the monthly radio podcast. On the subject of the radio podcast, this has been running for over 2 years now and you are invited to take a survey about what you want from it in the future at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CJ6SSMP>

Also, the u3a learning blog **Sources** includes a large collection of articles, posted by u3a members, covering a wide range of topics. This can be found at: <https://sources.u3a.org.uk>.

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.

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 **July** issue of **News & Views** will be **Thursday, 29th June (12 noon)**.



Please send your contributions to the Newsletter Editor at: newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

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 www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk under the News menu.

Thank You!

Helen Reid
Newsletter Editor
Charnwood u3a



Committee and Group Leaders' Details

Names, photos and generic email addresses ending @charnwoodu3a.org.uk of all the current Committee members - along with links to their role descriptions - can be found on our website at: <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/CommitteeContactsNew.html> and those of other members of our Support Team are at: <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/SupportTeamContacts.html>



The names and generic email addresses of Group Leaders for each group can be found on that group's dedicated website page, accessed via Our Groups - Groups Listed...

Telephone numbers of Group Leaders can be accessed from the Members area of the website, using login details previously supplied.

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), 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>

Leicestershire and Rutland Network: <https://u3asites.org.uk/landr/>

Beacon: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/beacon>

