

News & Views



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Welcome

...to the February 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: The Workhouse Storytellers



See page 2
for details

View from the Chair



Water, water everywhere!

I don't know whether this winter will turn out to be the wettest on record, but I'm pretty sure the last time I went out without an umbrella was last June. Gloomy days make for gloomy moods - not to mention aching joints and runny noses - and it's difficult for the most optimistic among us to keep our 'peckers' up. But I discovered another new word: "glimmer". It means tiny moments that spark joy and hope, reminding us to pause for a while, breathe and smile. Despite being a sceptical sort, I went looking for some glimmers. And I found snowdrops in the hedge, daffodils shooting and a robin red breast hopping on the path. And all of a sudden these tiny glimmers made the world less glummer. (Sorry – had to say it!)

Then I went back into my centrally-heated house and realised how much things had improved since I was a child. Do you remember chilblains and liberty bodices (what liberty?) and mornings with ice on the inside of the windows? The presentation at our next monthly meeting on February 12th will take us even further back, to the days of the workhouse. I'm very much looking forward to it, but I'll be thanking my lucky stars I live in 2025!

In less than five weeks it will be March, with longer days and (hopefully) warmer weather. It's also an important month in our u3a calendar. At the AGM on March 12th, we'll be electing new committee members and reporting back on what we've been doing over the past year. You'll have received nomination papers, so please fill one in if you'd like to join us. You'll see Char's lovely tribute on page 8. I'm sure Char will agree that she used a smidgeon of poetic licence, but we are indeed a friendly bunch and you'll be very welcome. Most importantly, we need as many people as possible to come to the AGM, to ensure that we're quorate, but also to make sure that you, our members, are involved in what happens in our u3a.

Finally, if you're still not convinced that spring is on its way... two days ago the first lambs of the year were born. They've been named Nik and Nak (after the crisps) and they were born at the Noah's Ark Zoo farm in Somerset. I hope it's not because they're expecting another flood!

All the best
Pam
chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Our Website

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

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, 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'. New members are invited to arrive at 2 pm to meet other members before the main meeting. 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 had an interesting and informative presentation by Andrew Doodson of Active Charnwood on their varied exercise programmes for all ages and abilities (including 'Steady Steps', right). Following his talk, Andrew took time to answer the many questions posed by members and provided lots of useful leaflets to take away.

If you missed this meeting, you can catch up with it for a few more days via the YouTube link sent by our Chair on 6th January.



Our Next Meeting Wednesday 12th February The Workhouse Storytellers bringing Victorian workhouses to life



The Workhouse Storytellers will bring the Victorian workhouse to life, using material from the archives and authentic costumes to 'Tell Tales that inspire, challenge and inform'.

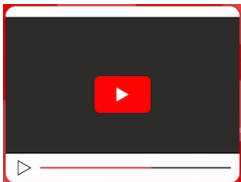
They bring the fate of the poor living under the 19th century Poor Law vividly to life with their dramatic performances, by turns funny and poignant. Some stories can induce hilarity, others can be cruel, even scandalous, but all are entertaining and informative.

They perform in costume and their costumes were made after considerable research in collaboration with Nottingham University and fashioned from styles and materials available in the 1850s.

They often challenge commonly held views of the Victorian workhouse. They cannot guarantee that all their stories end happily; some can induce hilarity, others can be cruel, scandalous – but they hope all are entertaining and informative.

To attend this meeting:

If you wish to attend the meeting in person, no prebooking is required - just turn up on the day, with your Cu3a membership card, if you have one. **If you are a new member, or attending a monthly meeting for the first time, you are invited to arrive at 2 pm.** Otherwise, please aim to arrive about 2:15 for a prompt start at 2:30 pm.



If you are unable to attend in person and would like to follow the meeting online (via YouTube), again no prebooking is required. All members who have supplied an email address will be sent a link to the live stream a few days beforehand in a reminder email from the Chair.

Looking Ahead:

Next month, on **12th March**, we have our AGM, and alongside this, some of our groups will be showcased. You will already have received advance notification of the AGM, and you are reminded that the deadline for submission of any motions and items for Any Other Business, to be sent to Debra Hardwick, our Secretary, is **10th February**. Nominations for committee must be received by **5th March**.

More information on upcoming meetings will appear in future issues of News & Views and also on the **Monthly Meetings** page under the 'Events' menu on our website <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk> (login needed to see details beyond title/speaker).

Group News

Interested in Photography ?

With the worldwide proliferation of smartphones there are more photographs being taken than ever before. If you have ever wanted to take your photography beyond the snapshot stage, have an interest in photography but feel your picture taking is stuck in a rut, or just want to meet others sharing your interest, come and join us.

We are not camera snobs or photo editing geeks but a social group with a common interest in taking good photographs and learning from each other how to improve our picture taking. Most of us will use modern digital cameras but some use their phone or even film.

The 1st Friday of the month is an indoor meeting where we might review the photos taken on our group visits, listen to a speaker or engage in some practical indoor photography. On the 3rd Friday we go somewhere to take photographs, normally within about an hour's drive, and we like to car share as much as possible. (See next page for details of a recent visit to Taylor's Bell Foundry). We often begin by meeting over coffee and end with a discussion over lunch. For 2025, visits are proposed to the historic town of Wirksworth, Kenilworth Castle, the gardens at Felly Priory and a private visit to the

Papplewick Pumping Station, amongst others. If you have not tried a particular genre of photography before, the visits are a chance to get a little out of your comfort zone or, if you're an old hand, to perhaps share tips or techniques that you have learnt from your photographic journey.

The first meeting is a free taster, then there is an annual subscription to cover the room hire costs when you join. Please contact Malcolm at photography@charnwoodu3a.org.uk if you would like to join the group.



Photographers on Higger Tor

Gardening Group

The Gardening group now has some vacancies for members. If you are interested in joining, check out the Gardening group page on our website or contact gardening@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

We meet on the third Monday of each month, in the afternoon in Loughborough. Our programme is a mix of speakers and trips (coach or local) and is very varied. This year we have the 'Potty Plotters', talks on houseplants, roses, vegetable growing, bees and in addition, trips to outstanding gardens at Arley Hall and Easton Walled Gardens (during peak Sweet Pea season) as well as a summer garden party. We also have a 'hands on' meeting — for example making a bug hotel or bulb planting.

We are a friendly group – our 'inside' meetings are held at the Brush Bowls Club. You will receive a warm welcome if you'd like to try us for size.

To the right is a photo taken on our trip to the Dorothy Clive Garden in May last year. See page 5 for photos of our trip to Doddington Hall last August.

Sharon Davison

Parish Walks

The Parish Walks group will recommence their walks on the **first Thursday of the month** (meeting at 9:45 am for a prompt 10 am start), starting **6th March**. If you are interested in joining them, please contact ParishWalking@charnwoodu3a.org.uk



Out and About

Photography Group Outing

For our final outing of 2024 we chose to go local and undercover with a guided tour of a still thriving piece of the area's industrial heritage: Taylor's Bell Foundry.

The foundry provided some excellent opportunities to test the members' skills from low light photography in the almost Dickensian casting hall, through to the architecture of the Victorian buildings and portraiture of some of the interesting characters to be found in other parts of the works.

After a welcome hot drink and a short video explaining the company's history and the processes involved in the foundry, we were taken around the site by our volunteer guide. Unfortunately we were not able to see any casting taking place. It is possible to book a tour on a casting day, although there is no guarantee that it will be a bell; they do lots of other parts too.



Since 1859 Taylor's have produced over 25,000 bells which now hang in over 100 countries around the world. Funded by a major grant from the Lottery Heritage Fund and many other supporters, the Grade II* listed building has been refurbished and now has a new museum and visitor facilities.

Malcolm Coulton



Secret Leicestershire

Think you know your county? Well, do listen to these delightful BBC Radio Leicestershire programmes about some of our county's treasures. Even if you know the sites, the presenter - Ben Jackson - always uncovers something new about them. (Series of 9, each just 6 minutes long.)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/p0j92lzw>

Char March



Gardening Group Trip to Doddington Hall

In August 2024, the Gardening Group visited Doddington Hall in Lincolnshire, the visit being timed to coincide with the sculpture exhibition there. Below are some photographs taken on the visit.



Next EDI Meeting

**Monday 10th February, 2 pm,
Gorse Covert Community Centre**

Our next EDI (Equality, Diversity & Inclusion) meeting is on 10th February when we will conclude the annual review of our EDI Policy, discussing any additions or revisions, particularly about actions, such as website accessibility.



We will also discuss any other topics members wish to raise.

If you have any comments or suggestions on EDI matters, or if you might be interested in joining the EDI team - who normally meet once every two months at Gorse Covert - please email newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Helen Reid

February 2025 Calendar

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<p>3 Feb</p> <p>09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 13.30 Canasta 2 14.00 Chess 14.00 Current Affairs</p>	<p>4 Feb</p> <p>09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 10+ Walks 10.00 Spanish 10.45 Fix I.T. Clinic 10.45 Pilates 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 12.00 Pilates 4 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Canasta1Quorn 14.00 Sing4Pleasure 15.30 Pickleball</p>	<p>5 Feb</p> <p>10.00 Drama 10.00 German 10.00 Golf 10.00 JigsawBookEx 10.00 Scottish Dance 10.30 Papercraft 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Cribbage 2 14.00 French Improve 14.00 Reading Group 14.00 Scrabble 2 14.00 Sustain Planet</p>	<p>6 Feb</p> <p>10.00 Sci & Tech 10.00 Spanish Conv 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Indoor 14.00 French Conv 14.00 Line Dance 2 19.00 Canasta 3</p>	<p>7 Feb</p> <p>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 Lunch Club 12.00 Table Tennis 6 13.30 Pilates 1</p>
<p>10 Feb</p> <p>09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 10.00 Poetry 1 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Archaeology 14.00 Digital Imaging 14.00 EDI meeting 14.00 Quiz group</p>	<p>11 Feb</p> <p>09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 Scrabble 3 10.45 Fix I.T. Clinic 10.45 Pilates 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 12.00 Pilates 4 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Eng Parish Ch 15.30 Pickleball</p>	<p>12 Feb</p> <p>10.00 Committee 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.30 Monthly Meet 19.00 Canasta2Quorn</p>	<p>13 Feb</p> <p>10.00 Thurs 6 Milers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Indoor 14.00 Line Dance 2</p>	<p>14 Feb</p> <p>09.00 Badminton 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 10.00 Needlecraft 1 10.00 Scrabble 1 10.00 Table Tennis 7 10.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Table Tennis 5 12.00 Table Tennis 6 13.30 Pilates 1</p>
<p>17 Feb</p> <p>09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 13.30 Canasta 2 14.00 Chess 14.00 Gardening 14.00 Painting</p>	<p>18 Feb</p> <p>09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 6+ Walks 10.00 Recorder 10.45 Fix I.T. Clinic 10.45 Pilates 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 12.00 Pilates 4 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Sing4Pleasure 15.30 Pickleball</p>	<p>19 Feb</p> <p>10.00 German 10.00 Golf 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</p>	<p>20 Feb</p> <p>09.45 CC Walks 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Indoor 14.00 French Conv 14.00 Line Dance 2 14.15 Scrabble 4</p>	<p>21 Feb</p> <p>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</p>
<p>24 Feb</p> <p>09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Local History</p>	<p>25 Feb</p> <p>09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 ETHEL 10.00 Scrabble 3 10.45 Fix I.T. Clinic 10.45 Pilates 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 12.00 Pilates 4 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Philosophy 1 15.30 Pickleball</p>	<p>26 Feb</p> <p>10.00 Golf 10.00 History 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Classical Music 18.30 Supper Club</p>	<p>27 Feb</p> <p>10.00 Philosophy 2 10.00 Thurs 6 Milers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Architecture 14.00 Bowls Indoor 14.00 Line Dance 2</p>	<p>28 Feb</p> <p>09.00 Badminton 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 10.00 Scrabble 1 10.00 Table Tennis 7 10.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Table Tennis 5 12.00 Table Tennis 6 13.30 Pilates 1 19.30 Wine Apprec'n</p>

PLUS at Weekends: Sunday Lunch Club (9th Feb); Days of Interest Lunch (15th Feb)

Please note: Whilst every effort has been made to show the dates/times of meetings as accurately as possible, errors and changes may occur, so you should check with group leaders for confirmation.

Please send any amendments for future issues to: newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Robert's Recommended Reads

Cu3a member **Robert Jackson's** book recommendations this month are two exceptional but very different novels written in the 1990s.

The Long Firm by Jake Arnott

published in 1999

From time to time, in the somewhat oversubscribed world of crime fiction, a book appears which transcends the norm, standing head and shoulders above other work in this genre. Jake Arnott's *The Long Firm* is an excellent example of such a book.

Meet Harry Starks: flamboyant and charismatic, a 1960s London gangster, club owner, porn king and violent racketeer. Fronting extortion and violence with rough charm, Starks is one of modern fiction's most memorable characters. *The Long Firm* is a gloriously accomplished re-creation of London in the era of the Kray twins, Jack 'The Hat' McVitie and other infamous villains. Arnott skilfully weaves invented 'faces' into the lives and capers of the London underworld.

We are treated, in Arnott's tight and smart story, to a toxic blend of corruption, ambition, violence and booze fuelled retribution. There are bent coppers, gay aristocrats and thrusting Fleet Street scribblers, desperate for a scoop.

The opening chapter captures the darkness and horror of 'gangster retribution', giving us a lucid and chilling introduction to the complexities of the principal character, Harry Starks.

Arnott's great achievement in *The Long Firm* is to create in the reader an unshakeable sense of reality. This is top drawer fiction which could easily be an account of real people and true events.

The Long Firm is the first volume in Arnott's London crime trilogy. The other two books are *He Kills Coppers* (2001) and *True Crime* (2003).



Jake Arnott pictured in *The Guardian*,
25 Feb 2017.
Photo: Rex Features

Northern Lights by Philip Pullman

published in 1995

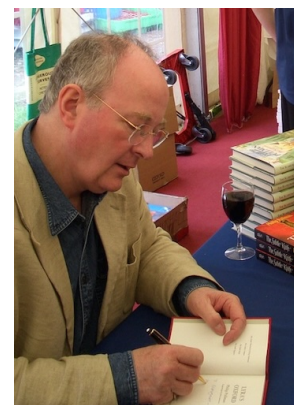
Many will know of Pullman's superb first volume in his fantasy fiction trilogy '*His Dark Materials*' from the misleadingly titled feature film '*The Golden Compass*'. The reference is to the device imagined by Pullman - an 'Alethiometer'. It isn't a compass at all; it is a 'truth telling' device, operable by very few people, ordinarily after decades of trial and error and then with only inconsistent results. Lyra Belacqua, the twelve year old protagonist, is given an alethiometer by the Master of the Oxford college where she lives. Lyra quickly masters the complexities of the device and embarks on an exhilarating and thrilling journey.

Fundamentally themed on the premise of multiple, parallel worlds, the narrative follows Lyra and her Daemon Pan on their quest to understand the mysterious 'Dust' and its influence on all the worlds which exist side by side.

The staggering depth of Pullman's imagination and his immense creative genius make *Northern Lights* one of the major works of twentieth century fantasy fiction. Should anyone tell you that this and the other books in the trilogy are only for kids, read them yourself and you'll be in a position to correct this misconception!

The other two volumes in Pullman's '*His Dark Materials*' trilogy are *The Subtle Knife* (1997) and *The Amber Spyglass* (2000).

Philip Pullman signing a copy of Lyra's Oxford at the Oxford Literary Festival, 6 Apr 2005. Photographed by Adrian Hon, <http://mssv.net/>, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Above reviews written by Robert Jackson.

Next month: Maggie Shipstead and Margaret Attwood.

The Awful Truth About Our u3a Committee

Well, here goes, a massive exposé by your own correspondent who managed to break into the inner workings of our u3a ...

In the last newsletter, Pam Upton (our Chair) invited any of us to come along – no obligation – to sit in on a u3a committee meeting. As you all know, our u3a needs all of us to Do Our Bit for it to continue working. So, despite having got fed up (way beyond my back teeth) with committee meetings when I worked for various City, Borough and County Councils, I decided to dip my toe in and see what this committee was like.

And they're great! What a lovely bunch of people – efficient, articulate, friendly, and able to have a good laugh. I can honestly say I thoroughly enjoyed the meeting. Everyone participated; everyone helped each other; the minute-taking was excellent; Pam chaired it all really well yet with a light touch; we ran to time and got everything that needed done. Fab-u-lous!



I learnt a lot about our u3a and found it all really interesting. For instance, the interconnections between membership records, our finances, and our website and how each of the people involved work together and help each other.

Even though I was supposedly just an observer, I (of

course!) chipped in at various points as an ordinary u3a member to let them know what it feels like from the outside, and the sort of things that they could, perhaps, explain a little better to members.

I was struck again and again by the supportive – yet straight-forward – way each of the committee members talked to each other, resolved problems, willingly took on tasks, and moved forward. What a great team!

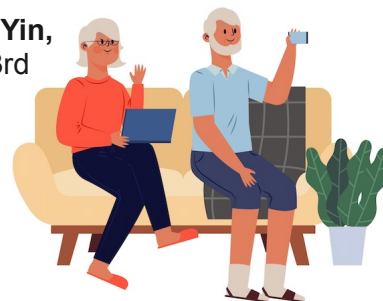
So, shock horror, I can highly recommend coming along to experience a committee meeting in action – to get an insight into what these lovely people do to keep our wonderful u3a running smoothly... and hopefully to inspire you to Do Your Bit. That could be something simple like making sure your details online are up-to-date; paying your subs on time; volunteering to help with refreshments; putting out tables and chairs; offering to do a short presentation to one of your groups; right up to joining the committee.

Our u3a committee would love to have more members actively involved. And I can genuinely say that their meetings are really enjoyable, and, (just as importantly :-)) they accomplish loads. I will be putting myself forward to join them in the upcoming elections.

Char March

Loughborough University **How do you interact with digital technology?** *University researcher would love to hear your thoughts!*

Further to calls in the May and August 2023 editions of *News & Views*, **Jikun Yin**, a PhD student in Loughborough University's Design School, now in her 3rd year, is looking to recruit participants to join her study as part of her ongoing research to **understand how older adults use and experience digital technologies in today's digital era**. Your insights will help to improve the design of digital tools to make them more friendly and accessible.



Who can participate?

Anyone aged 65+ who uses a computer, tablet or smartphone online, regardless of digital skill level.

What will you do?

- Interact with a set of screen pages
- Short questionnaire
- Interview

Approximately 70 mins in total

How to join:

Book a slot with Jikun through the following link to choose to meet online or offline - in the Loughborough University Design School or John Storer House Cafe area.

<https://calendly.com/98482-yjk/30min>

Or

You can contact Jikun directly to arrange a meeting:

Email: J.Yin@lboro.ac.uk

Phone: 07840302911

To find out more about Jikun's research, go to:

<https://www.lboro.ac.uk/schools/design-creative-arts/people/doctorsal-researchers/jikun-yin/>

Upcoming Local Events

Charnwood Arts Society

The Arts Society Charnwood meets at Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall on the second Thursday evening of each month (7:15 for 7:45 pm). They have an interesting programme of talks coming up this year, on a wide variety of topics, including the Great Exhibition of 1851 and the Establishment of the V&A (March), Charles Dickens (April), the Arts & Crafts Movement in the Midlands (June), to name a few.

Members of the Society get 10 lectures a year and the quarterly Arts Society magazine sent to their home. They are keen to attract new members. Visitors are very welcome, at £10 per visit.

For full details of the 2025 programme, see: <http://www.tascharnwood.co.uk/membership.htm>

Lunchtime Concert at Emmanuel Church

Thursday 20th February, 12:45 - 1:30 pm

Piano Recital by Haruko Seki

Schumann: Kinderszenen
Chopin: Scherzo in B flat minor
Saint-Saëns: Valse Nonchalante
Borodin/Blumenfeld: Polovtsian Dances



The concert starts at 12.45 pm but a Soup and Roll lunch will be served from 12.00.

This is a free event, but donations are most welcome to cover expenses.

<https://www.facebook.com/emmanuelconcerts>

Friends of Charnwood Museum

A Jeweller from 23 to 75

a talk by Cathy Stephens

Thursday 20th February, 7:30 - 9:30 pm

Local jeweller, Cathy Stephens, tells us about her 50+ years in the jewellery trade. This talk coincides with the museum exhibition My Jewellery, My Story.

Doors open at 7pm, with the talk starting at 7.30pm. Members £2 and Guests £4 - All welcome
Booking essential, at the museum or 01509 233754

National Theatre Live: The Importance of Being Ernest

Thursday 20th February, 7 pm - 10 pm
Loughborough University, Cope Auditorium

Ncuti Gatwa (Doctor Who) stars in this reimagining of Oscar Wilde's most celebrated comedy.

For further information and booking details, see: <https://www.lboro.ac.uk/news-events/events/ntlive-importance-of-being-ernest/>

Charnwood Orchestra

Saturday 22nd March at 7:30 pm
Emmanuel Church, Loughborough

Robert Markham will perform the Rachmaninov Rhapsody on a theme by Paganini - a wonderful piece with fiendish solo piano and tricky orchestral accompaniment. Lots of recognisable tunes from Rachmaninov's repertoire intertwined with the Paganini theme.

The orchestra is also performing the brilliant Carnival overture of Dvorak, and to round off the evening, Brahms majestic symphony No.4.

Tickets may be reserved in advance from tickets@charnwoodorchestra.org.uk or from their website at: <https://www.charnwoodorchestra.org.uk>

Prices are £16 Adult, £14 Concessions and £5 Students and U18s.

the Charnwood Orchestra
Music Director Nic Fallowfield
Patron Thomas Bowes
Est. 1973

Romantic Carnival

Saturday 22nd March 2025 7:30pm

**Emmanuel Church
Forest Road
Loughborough LE11 3NW**

**Conductor Nic Fallowfield
Piano Robert Markham**

Dvořák Carnival Overture
Rachmaninov Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini
Brahms Symphony No.4

Tickets:

- The Orchestra website
- tickets@charnwoodorchestra.org.uk
- Members of the Orchestra
- At the door, cash and card payments

£16.00 (£14.00 concessions)
£5.00 -18s and under or NUS members

[/charnwoodorchestra](https://www.facebook.com/charnwoodorchestra)
[/charnwoodorch](https://www.facebook.com/charnwoodorch)

Other upcoming local events are at Discover Charnwood: <https://www.discovercharnwood.co.uk/events>

One thing leads to another ...

The chats after meetings can often be as illuminating as the subjects themselves, and January's Architecture Appreciation session was no different.

Yvonne Casswell and Penny Bryce are Arts and Crafts enthusiasts who, in their spare time, are volunteers at the National Trust's Stoneywell Cottage in Charnwood Forest. For this meeting, they took a look at six key members of the British movement: Philip Webb, Ernest Gimson, W.R. Lethaby, C.F.A. Voysey, M.H. Baillie-Scott and Ernest Barnsley, some of their major buildings and the influences they had on architecture into the 20th century.

These talks, of course, led to mention of William Morris. In 1877, Morris, together with Philip Webb and members of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, founded the Society for Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), as they were concerned that well-meaning Victorian architects were scraping away the historic fabric of too many buildings.

After the talks, a member of the group asked if SPAB was still in existence. Indeed it is, and is still a very active society. For anyone interested in repair of old

buildings, from castles to cottages, SPAB offers technical advice, runs courses and much more, including advising local councils on planning approval for listed buildings.

In Leicestershire, SPAB owns Kibworth Harcourt Post-Windmill, which they rescued from dereliction. Regionally, they organised a working party to help with repairs at Holy Trinity Church in Ratcliffe-on-Soar and they have also advised Broxtowe Council on the Willoughby Almshouses re-development in Cossall, Nottinghamshire.

For anyone interested and for much more information go to <https://www.spab.org.uk>

Carole Marsden



Kibworth Harcourt Postmill by Ashley Dace, CC BY-SA 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons

News from the National u3a



Free On-Line Events this Month include:

- **Choosing Your Next PC or laptop** with Mike Field from u3a Let's Talk Tech, Wed 5 Feb at 1 pm
- **Sociology, Gender Inequality and Feminism** with Jack Fawbert, Fri 7 Feb at 11 am
- **Claude Monet's Garden in Giverny** with Peter Webb, Fri 14 Feb at 10 am
- **Hadrian's Wall - A Celebration** with John Wing, Fri 14 Feb at 2 pm
- **Things you didn't know you could do online, for older people** with AbilityNet, Tue 18 Feb at 2 pm
- **Penguins: Icons of Antarctica** with Dr Verena Maraldi, Wed 26 Feb at 2 pm

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

More from the National u3a:

Register to receive the National u3a 'Friends' newsletter regularly at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>. This will also give you access to the Friends Extra website, with a range of discounts, offers and services. In addition to the u3a Friends newsletter, you can access the latest u3a news by going to: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/news>

You can find more learning initiatives covering a wide range of interests from challenges and projects to competitions at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/learning-activities>

The u3a learning blog **Sources**, containing posts by u3a members covering a wide range of topics, can be found at: <https://sources.u3a.org.uk>

Obituary

Tony Payne 1946-2025

We are very sad to report the death, on 1st January, of our good friend Tony Payne, a member of Cu3a since 2006 and the leader of three groups.

Originally from London, Tony arrived in Loughborough more than 50 years ago via St John's College Cambridge and his first teaching job in Devon, to teach Classics at Loughborough Grammar School. He stayed there until his retirement, becoming Head of Department in 1978. A gifted teacher, his love for his subject, gentle guidance and sympathetic encouragement inspired many pupils to study Ancient Greek, Latin and Classical Civilisation, and to enjoy the numerous expeditions that he organised to classical sites in Britain and abroad.

On his retirement from LGS in 2006, Tony brought his encyclopaedic knowledge of the Classics and his undimmed enthusiasm for sharing it to Cu3a. He immediately started the Classical Civilisations group, later followed by the Latin group and the Greek group. For 18 years Tony led the Classical Civilisations group, our omniscient guide on fascinating journeys through hundreds of years of Greek and Roman politics, wars, philosophy, literature, drama, art, architecture, social customs and everyday life. He attended our last group meeting less than three weeks before he died; although seriously ill by that time, he was utterly determined to be there because he so loved the monthly buzz of discussion and exploration.

In 1974 Tony married Dilys, having met her through their shared lifelong passion for Scottish dancing. Tony was an expert dancer and a trained teacher of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society which has branches all over the world; he taught at the Nottingham branch for many years. With Dilys, he strongly supported the Cu3a Scottish Dancing group that began three years ago, and was a great help to inexperienced dancers, facilitating their learning and enjoyment through gentle encouragement and fine example.



Tony was an accomplished pianist and the regular organist at the Loughborough United Reformed Church where he and Dilys worshipped. His faith was expressed in practical ways, with the constant aim of doing whatever he could to help those in need. As well as working tirelessly to support Aid charities and their social projects, he was for 15 years a volunteer street pastor in Loughborough on Friday and Saturday nights, offering practical help and support wherever it was needed.

Tony was unfailingly generous, helpful, kind and courteous, always dependable and open-minded, full of compassion and good humour, constantly stimulating to be with. He touched and enriched many lives, and will be greatly missed. Our condolences go to Dilys, and to their daughters Mel and Anna, and their families.

A Service of Thanksgiving for Tony's life will take place at 11.15 a.m. on Friday 7th February at the United Reformed Church on Frederick Street, Loughborough. All are welcome at the service, and at the refreshments afterwards in the upper hall.

Sue Griffiths, Diana Harvey and Sue Ronald

Vera Cole

We are sad to report the recent passing of Vera Cole, who had been a member of our u3a since January 2012. Our condolences go to her family and friends.

Remembering Sue Cooper

The Art Appreciation group were saddened to hear of the recent death of Sue Cooper, one of our founder members.

Sue was an integral part of our group; very knowledgeable about the history and processes of art, she was interested in all the different media, as well as being a talented artist herself.

A warm, friendly and helpful person, Sue was generous with her time, always prepared to give a

talk on a variety of topics. She had a great sense of humour and the sessions she ran were always fun as well as informative.

She was a larger than life personality and she will be missed by us all.

*Sue Palmer and Penny Bryce
on behalf of the Art Appreciation group*

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 - but please ensure you have permission of anyone identifiable in the photos.

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 **March** issue of **News & Views** will be **Thursday 27th February (12 noon)**.



Please send your contributions to the Newsletter Editor at: newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk I always acknowledge all emails received, so if you don't get a reply within a few days, please contact me again as some emails do go astray!

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 <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk> under the News menu.

Thank You!

Helen Reid
Newsletter Editor
Charnwood u3a



Committee, Support Teams and Group Leaders' Details

Names, photos and email links for all the current Committee members can be found on our website under Home -> Our Committee, along with details of our Support Teams. In the case of our Membership Secretary and Web Manager, phone numbers are also given, as are those of our IT Help Desk Team.

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



Note: Where personal contact details appear in News & Views, these are included with permission.

Some other useful u3a web addresses:

National u3a: <https://www.u3a.org.uk>

The Association of East Midlands u3as: <https://www.eastmidlandsu3as.org.uk>

