

News & Views


 Newsletter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

View from the Chair	1
Monthly Meetings	2
Group News	3-5
Rock Music	3
Active Seated 2	3
IT Support	3
Wine Appreciation	4
Days of Interest	5
Meetings Calendar	6
Robert's Reads	7
Hi-de-Hi Story	8
Local Events	9-10
Pirates of Penzance	9
NT Live	9
Incredible Edible	9
Remembrance Sun	9
Christmas Lights	9
Christmas Tree Fest	10
Lunchtime Concert	10
Raising the Roof	10
Charnw'd Museum	10
Charnw'd Orchestra	10
Beautiful Butterflies	11
National u3a News	11
Obituary: Tom Burns	11
Margot Gabe	11
Items for Newsletter	12
Contact Info	12

Click on the item in the index above to take you straight to that page.

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.

Welcome

...to the November 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; details for sending contributions can be found on the last page.



Our Next Monthly Meeting: Forgery (and Fraud)



*See page 2
for details*

View from the Chair



Have you ever been told that you've been doing something the wrong way? According to the manufacturers, the right way to eat chocolate digestive biscuits is the chocolate side down. Apparently that way the chocolate hits your tongue first, so you get the flavour straightaway. Not convinced, myself.

I discovered a historical 'Whoops, got it wrong!' moment on last month's excellent Days of Interest trip to Coughton Court (page 5). The gunpowder plot conspirators, having failed to blow up Parliament, fled in the pouring rain to what they hoped was a safe house near the family home of Coughton. Here they tried to dry the soggy gunpowder in front of the fire and guess what happened? Their pursuers spotted the explosion and the singed conspirators were off to the block.

Did you manage to change all your clocks at the end of October? Thankfully we now have a lot of smart devices that manage the change for us, but my oven timer is definitely not smart and I'm afraid the clock in my car may have to wait till BST next year. Even our smart devices can sometimes feel a bit too smart and we're anxious about getting it wrong. If that happens, don't worry – our IT HELP volunteers are on hand (page 3). An easy way to contact them is via the Home page on our website: www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk. And while you're there, you could check out your personal details. You just need to sign in, click on My Profile, you'll see all the current information we have and you'll be sure to receive all the benefits of being a u3a member. One thing in particular you could check: you don't have to give us your ICE (In Case of Emergency) contact details, but it is really useful if anything should happen while you're taking part in u3a activities.

Finally, last month we were still in that 'season of mist and mellow fruitfulness'. This month feels more like the 'season of sniffs and runny noses'. Two coughs don't make a virus, of course, but (even though we're all for sharing in the u3a) if you think you might be contagious, best stay at home and have a couple of chocolate digestives - whichever way up you like.

Pam

chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

07974 946007

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 were transported to court, in the company of two experienced Leicestershire magistrates Suzy and Martin (*pictured right*) who explained what being a magistrate entails, answering numerous questions and including some great anecdotes from their own experiences. We gained a valuable insight into the court system in a very entertaining and informative interactive session.

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 October.



Our Next Meeting: Wednesday 12th November

Forgery (and Fraud) with Jim Miller

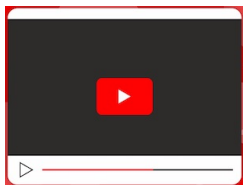
Our speaker this month is one of our own members, who is a former Professor of Analytical Chemistry, Head of Chemistry department, Dean of Science, and Pro-Vice Chancellor at Loughborough University.

Jim tells us that the "fraud" bit is really a subtitle, which arises because if (for example) you paint a picture in the style of Vermeer and sell it as a Vermeer to make money illegally, you have technically committed a fraud (via a forged object, of course). So the talk is all about forgery itself: What can be forged (almost anything)? Why do people forge things (not only for money by any means)? How are forgeries detected and if possible prevented? What has happened historically to forgers and their forgeries? And to what extent is forgery in action at present? All illustrated by some interesting examples from history and right up to the present day.



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:

For our **December** meeting, we like to do something different and this year we can look forward to being entertained by our own Drama Group, led by Graham North.

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

Do you like rock music?



After reading an article about Ian Gillan and his life in rock band Deep Purple in the Autumn 2025 issue of u3a Matters magazine (p.26), member Mark Pimperton wondered how much interest there would be in a new **Rock Music Appreciation** group. (As well as the interview with Ian Gillan, the article features two examples of such u3a groups.)

The details of how the group would run would be up to the initial members, but the basic idea is simple: a group member shares rock music they like and discussion follows. Other members get to broaden their musical horizons (or discover what they don't like!).

"I envisage meetings of this group as very relaxed occasions anchored in an interest in rock music," said Mark. "As well as listening to the music, it would be a place for stories of buying records, attending concerts or why certain tracks mean a lot."

"My own favourite artists include Status Quo, Pink Floyd and Muse, but I'm aware that rock music is a very broad genre. I imagine the question of what is and isn't rock music will be a recurring topic of conversation!"

If you would be interested in a group like this, please email Mark on code250it@gmail.com

NEW: Get Active - Stay Seated 2

The interest in this new group has been really strong and just 3 days after the September newsletter was released, all 12 places had been taken for a free introductory class.

It didn't stop there! Through September we had more people contact us to say they were interested in joining.

So we are going to offer a second group!

This group will start with a free try out class on **Tuesday 25th November 11.30- 12.30** at Gorse Covert Community Centre and anyone that has already expressed interest has been invited to give it a try.

If anyone else is interested but hasn't yet contacted us, we do still have a couple of spaces and will be taking names for the waitlist as well.

The group is led by a qualified physiotherapist and the activities and exercises will help improve your balance, core strength, flexibility and mobility without any floor mat work.

We promise no sweat or getting out of breath! But guided structured exercise and activities that you will really benefit from. Why not get your name on the list and give it a try?

Send a message to 07954 411363 and we will get back to you.

Lynne Peebles



IT Support for u3a members from u3a members

Fix IT Clinics

Drop in sessions where you can get help using your laptop, tablet or phone. Bring them along to:

John Storer House cafe
Tuesdays, 10.30 - 12.00



One to One Support

Get help with using your laptop, tablet or phone for a particular task. Just contact us:

email helpdesk@charnwoodu3a.org.uk
phone Phil/Mary 07855 702302
Garry 01509 213655

If you have a problem with logging into, or using, the u3a website contact Martyn, our Web Manager, on webmanager@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

IT Titbit - Broader Horizons

A new website has just been launched and members of all u3as across the UK are invited to join to connect with other third-agers who share their interests, in a safe, friendly, ad-free online community. Note this is not part of (or endorsed by) the national u3a. For information about this, please send an email to helpdesk@charnwoodu3a.org.uk and put 'u3a social' in the subject line.

More Group News

Wine Appreciation Group

It was 7.30pm, it was the last Friday of the month, and ten of us gathered at Heather Bailey's house looking forward to an evening of fine wine, good food and stimulating conversation.

In all, the group has 15 members, a number that most of us would find difficult to accommodate. Happily, on this occasion, the missing five were unable to join us so there was no disappointment.

Usually it is left to the host/hostess to decide on a theme and select the wines that we would taste. On this occasion things were a little different. Long term member (and former group leader) Roger Harris had very generously gifted a selection of bottles from his personal collection, so these were what we would be presented with. They were not randomly chosen, the idea behind them being to show how storage (good or bad) can influence a wine.

First up was a champagne – always a good way to start an evening – and this proved to be a very fine example.

We then moved on to the first of a pair of what might be called curios. Ask most people where they think wine is stored and the usual responses will be cellar, wine fridge, fridge, kitchen cupboard, etc. It is unlikely that many would offer 'under water' which was the case for these two wines.

Produced by a company named Crusoe Treasure, these wines are stored, in bottle, for between 6 and 18 months in the sea just north of Bilbao. They come in a very attractive 'designer' presentation box but, as you will see from the photograph on the right, the bottles themselves are heavily encrusted. The wax cap covering the cork is to prevent contamination from the sea water (cork being slightly porous). This is all very well but the wax on our bottles had set like concrete, making opening a very risky operation!



As for the contents, well, both wines were enjoyed, but are they worth their elevated price point? We didn't think so.

Roger currently stores his wine in his downstairs W.C. Not the most obvious location, however the temperature in this room is very constant – one of the more important factors when long term storage is being contemplated.

The Beaujolais and Pinot Noir drawn from this store both drank very well. The same, however, could not be said for the 2014 Red Cotes du Rhone, which clearly had seen better days! 11 years is not old for a 'cru' class wine of this type; however this was a simple 'village' wine that should have been drunk a long time ago. An important reminder – not all wines get better with age!

It was an interesting, enjoyable and educational evening.

As there was no charge for the wine, it was agreed that we would all support a local Charity. A donation of £100 was made to Loros Hospice.

Mike Hood

Out and About

Days of Interest Group – Coughton Court and Alcester

We stayed fairly close to home for our October trip, visiting firstly Coughton Court, a National Trust property, followed up by the nearby small market town of Alcester, both in Warwickshire.

Coughton Court (*pictured below, left*) is a delightful place to visit. The house is, for a stately home, comparatively small and a place where it is just about imaginable that it could be a family home. The house is Tudor and has been home to the Throckmorton family for 600 years. When the National Trust took ownership of the property in 1946, the family were granted a 300 year lease, so they are still in residence.



The Throckmortons are a Roman Catholic family and the two priest holes are evidence of the difficulties the family had to maintain their faith. For many years Roman Catholic services were conducted in secret and at great risk. After the Catholic Emancipation Act in 1829 the family were able to openly practice their faith, and all the Roman Catholic relics, which has been hidden for many years were able to be displayed. They also built a Roman Catholic church, to go with the Church of England church also on the site. The view from the roof was well worth the ascent and inevitable descent via the narrow stone spiral staircase. The gardens were also delightful (*see photos on left, taken by members*).



Two of our members exploring the house, Coughton Court

Our second stop was at Alcester, where again there was lots to see. Firstly there were interesting buildings including some half-timbered ones (*like that shown on the right*) that might be difficult to get a mortgage on. There were also lots of intriguing winding narrow lanes which looked inviting, and at the top of the High Street was St Nicholas Church with its unusually-placed clock (*shown below*).



Three of our members admiring the old houses in Alcester



Many of us made it to the Roman Museum, which houses many locally found Roman relics. These included one beautiful pot, which had been dug up and then used as a bird bath. The guides explained that in some parts of the town, gardeners almost couldn't avoid digging up Roman treasures. There were also lots of cafés, an excellent hardware shop, where more than one brush was purchased, and two model shops.

If you are interested in joining the Days of Interest Group, please contact Pauline May by email at DaysofInterest@charnwoodu3a.org.uk or by telephone on 07455 167929 for details.

November 2025 Calendar

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

PLUS at Weekends: Days of Interest trip to Bakewell (15th November); Sunday Lunch Club (9th November)

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

Robert's recommendations for November are a very recent novel from the American author Percival Everett and a 1990s classic from Angela Carter.

James **by Percival Everett** published in 2024

The reworking and retelling of a great novel is, to say the least, a risky venture. With *James*, the American author Percival Everett has pulled it off. *James* is a poignant alternative 'version' of Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

The story begins in Missouri, just before the outbreak of the American Civil War. James, the narrator of the story, is a slave, married with one daughter. Learning that he is to be sold and sent down the Mississippi to New Orleans (sold down the river) James flees his bondage and crosses the mighty Mississippi to hide out on Jackson Island. He is shortly discovered by young Huckleberry Finn who has faked his own death to escape from his brutal father.

Using these and other plot lines from Twain's original, Everett creates a thrilling and memorable adventure story. However, the book's undertones are very different from those in Twain's original. The tyranny of slavery is paramount in Everett's narrative, a subject which the author unflinchingly and passionately places at the heart of this beautifully crafted book.

Everett's master stroke is to portray James (Jim) and his fellow slaves as articulate, literate and philosophical people, not as uneducated sub-humans, which they were considered to be by many whites in mid nineteenth century America. However, Jim and his peers feign ignorance of any language skills other than the patois and slang which whites expect slaves to use. Jim repeatedly employs his 'slave language filter' so as not to reveal his secret.

The conclusion of *James* is both unsettling and thought provoking; a fitting end to a powerful and, paradoxically, original novel.



Percival Everett, in *The Guardian*, 23 Feb 2025.
Photo: Dylan Coulter

Wise Children **by Angela Carter** published in 1991

"It is a wise father that knows his own child"
(Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*, act two, scene two).

With deft flicks of scalpel and pen, Angela Carter crafted, from the Bard's famous line, the perfect title for her 1991 novel. This bawdy, very funny romp features four sets of twins within one extended family. Mystery and secrecy surround the parentage of all four sets of twins.

In the late nineteenth century, travelling thespians, Ranulph and Estella Hazard are blessed with twin boys, Melchior and Peregrine. Melchior, knighted in later life for services to the theatre, subsequently fathers identical twin daughters, Dora and Nora. Dora Chance is the narrator of the story which begins in the sisters' (both spinsters) Brixton home on the day of their 75th birthdays. It is April 23rd which is also their father's 100th birthday and coincidentally, the day on which William Shakespeare was born.

As this glorious and sumptuous tale unfolds, the Hazard acting dynasty is explained and eviscerated in Dora's inimitable, wise-cracking style. We follow, sometimes non chronologically, the journey of the various Hazards from early pantomime and music hall, through repertory theatre to the West End stage, on to Hollywood and then contemporary television acting and advertising.

Carter's parody of the ubiquitous TV game-show is superb. Her characters, often outrageous and unsettling, are magical creations; 'Gorgeous George', 'Our Tiff', 'Ross "Irish" O'Flaherty', 'Wheelchair' and the evil Saskia Hazard, twin sister to Imogen, are among many unforgettable stars in this wonderful novel.



Wise Children was Angela Carter's final novel. She died in 1992, aged just fifty one.

Angela Carter, pictured in *The Guardian* 24 Jun 2006. Photo © Mike Laye/CORBIS

Above reviews written by Robert Jackson.

Next month: Nick Harkaway and Samantha Harvey

Member's Story

Hi-de-Hi v. Lo-de-Lo – It's Off to Uni We Go!

Half-a-Century ago (was it really that long ago?) I was one of four 18-year-old schoolfriends seeing the last of the school “summer hols” and the start of “university vacs” through a stay at the Dovercourt holiday camp, where *Hi-de-Hi!* was later filmed.

So how did this holiday evolve from an interesting prospect into a classic example of a holiday from hell?

The first thing to go wrong was our choice of holiday camp. We looked at the glossy brochures, with descriptions of typical customers just like us – teenage lads, about to head off to university. The entertainment was targeted at us as well, and you can imagine what teenage lads would be looking for!

There was just the matter of selecting the particular camp. They had camps for families and separate camps for teenagers*. We didn't notice the little asterisk and didn't read the small print which said in effect:

where the chosen camp is full, customers may be reallocated to another camp.*

...which then went on to the magical double-asterisk:

***In the rare event that a customer wishes to cancel their holiday and claim a refund, they have 20 minutes from arrival to make this decision. The coach will wait for the specified time and then depart.”*

OK, we've seen and ignored the small print, let's get in there! Come the start of the holiday, the brochure with its single- and double-asterisks was long lost.

So the day dawned and we're OFF. We were bundled into an old coach and headed off to our “Holiday of a Lifetime”. Once we had left the great sprawling mass called “London”, we found ourselves pretty well surrounded by bushes and trees. It seemed like we had dropped out of reality and found ourselves teleported onto a “New World”.

There was green everywhere, mostly of the painted type! Anyway, the coach pulled up by a faded

“Welcome” sign. The driver blew the dust out of his microphone and made what was clearly a commonly used speech “(blow) (blow)... Right we're here. You've got 20 minutes from now to decide whether you want to stay here or be taken back to London to collect a refund voucher”. We had a quick chat and decided that since we were already there, why not press on regardless.

How bad could it be anyway? If only we'd read the asterisks, we'd have realised that, although we'd booked a ‘teenage’ camp, we'd been allocated to a family camp instead.

We collected our chalet keys from reception and were introduced to the staff. They consisted of a mix of old pros looking for ways to earn a few quid extra

from clubs and cruises, etc. Joining the pros were a small number of newbies desperate to get their break in the “big time”.

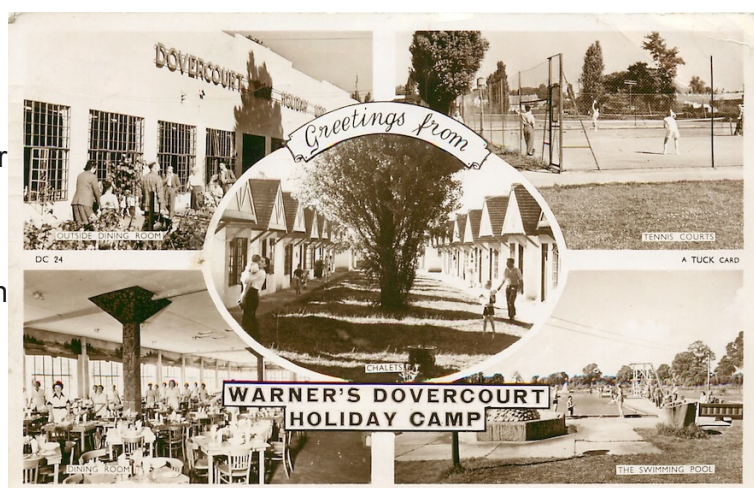
The chalets were rather on the small side. You could lie on the bed and touch both walls, and if we were hoping that some romantic interludes may happen, it soon became

apparent that the walls were paper-thin and it was very unlikely you'd feel romantically inclined when everyone in the camp would be able to hear you.

One of the saving graces of this particular camp was the proximity of Clacton. On arrival, we dumped our stuff in our chalets and headed off by bus to Clacton. However, we didn't realise that the last scheduled bus back to the camp left at 10 pm! This hardly encouraged a “night life”, it barely qualified as “mid-evening life”! So we thought we'd try the local cinema. This proved to be very disappointing: flea-pit atmosphere with uncomfortable seats to watch an old Tarzan film, featuring the hero fighting a man in a rubber crocodile suit. An experience never to be repeated!

At breakfast the following day, we had quite a surprise... To be continued next month...

Peter Reid



Upcoming Local Events

Pirates of Penzance

Sunday 9th November 7:30 pm
Trinity Methodist Church

Maria Nute, a Cu3a member and also a member of Stanley Opera, a Hinckley-based charity, has alerted us to this “ridiculously tuneful and wonderfully daft nautical adventure on the final night of its autumn tour as, for the very first time, Stanley Opera bring one of their Gilbert and Sullivan treats to Loughborough”.

Tickets (£13) are available from ticketsource.co.uk/stanleyopera or via the QR code (right).

For help with booking, contact Maria on 07527 896836.



Stanley Opera present
THEIR POPULAR TOURING PRODUCTION
OF GILBERT AND SULLIVAN'S
MUCH-LOVED COMIC OPERETTA

*The Pirates
of
Penzance*

**TRINITY
METHODIST CHURCH
LOUGHBOROUGH
LE11 2EH**

**Sunday
9th November
(7.30pm)**

National Theatre Live: The Fifth Step

Thursday 27th November, 7 pm,
Loughboro' University Cope Auditorium

Olivier Award-winner Jack Lowden (Slow Horses, Dunkirk) is joined by Emmy and BAFTA-winner Martin Freeman (The Hobbit, The Responder) in the critically acclaimed and subversively funny new play by David Ireland, directed by Finn den Hertog.

After years in the 12-step programme of Alcoholics Anonymous, James becomes a sponsor to newcomer Luka. The pair bond over coffee and trade stories of their shared experiences. But as Luka approaches step five – the moment of confession – dangerous truths emerge, threatening the trust on which both of their recoveries depend.

Tickets are £10 for staff and members of the public and £5 for students. Book in advance online or pay by card on the door (subject to availability).

Parking: Please note visitors must register their vehicle and pay the flat evening rate of £1 after 6pm.

For more details and a booking link, go to: <https://www.lboro.ac.uk/arts/whats-on/nt-live-the-fifth-step/>



**Climate and
Nature Talks**



Climate change in our gardens: Threats and opportunities

by Rob Wilby



Expert on climate change and impacts

- Wetter winters, drier summers and higher temperatures are affecting our gardens.
- Come along and learn how we can be better prepared for wild weather.

Booking essential to non-members.

To reserve a place email ediblelboro@gmail.com

Fearon Hall

Rectory Road,
LE11 1PL

Thursday November 6th
7:00 pm-9:00 pm

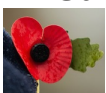
For more info:

Incredible Edible Loughborough
 [incredible.edible.loughborough](https://twitter.com/incredible.edible.loughborough)



Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 9th November 10 am - 12 pm
Queen's Park, Loughborough



Parade and service. For details see:

<https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/remembrance>

Christmas Lights Switch-On

Friday 28th November 4 pm - 8 pm
Market Place, Loughborough

Festive fun, live entertainment, and lights. See:
<https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/lborolights>



All Saints with Holy Trinity
Loughborough's Historic Parish Church

Community Christmas Tree Festival

SATURDAYS & THURSDAYS
from 29th November to 20th December

10AM-4PM

ALL SAINTS PARISH CHURCH, LOUGHBOROUGH
Steeple Row (top of Churchgate), LE11 1UX

FREE ENTRY

SPARKLING TREES

GIFTS, TOMBOLA & RAFFLE

CHILDRENS CRAFTS
(Saturdays 11am-3pm)
Pay as you feel.
No booking required

FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS

LOUGHBOROUGH COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2025
All money raised will go towards our South Roof appeal

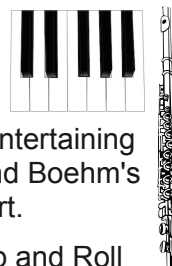
Entry FREE

The **Christmas Tree Festival** (see left) is open on **Thursdays and Saturdays from 29th November at All Saints Parish Church, Loughborough**. Details of events 2 - 22 Dec: <https://allsaintsloughborough.org.uk/christmas-tree-festival-2025> and in next month's N&V.

Lunchtime Concert at Emmanuel Church

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

Joseph Geary • flute
Issa Diallo • piano



Two students from the Royal Academy of Music, London, perform a sparkling and entertaining programme of music by Poulenc, Bach and Boehm's virtuosic Fantasia on a Theme by Schubert.

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>

For other local events, see:

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

<https://allevents.in/loughborough/november>

<https://www.lboro.ac.uk/news-events/events/>

Raising The Roof 25

Tickets are selling fast for the "Raising the Roof 25" Charity Concert on **Saturday, 29th November at 7 pm in the Hodson Hall at Loughborough Grammar School**. Tickets cost £10 or £5 and can be purchased at www.beaconrotary.org. The concert features Charnwood Community Choir led by Caroline Sharpe and Loughborough Concert Band conducted by Dave Coble and will offer a wide programme suitable for all. Organised by Loughborough Beacon Rotary, proceeds support charities including LOROS.

Neil Rowbotham



Friends of Charnwood Museum: Christmas 1914-1918

A talk by Robin Jenkins

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

An illustrated presentation on Christmas during the Great War, told in the words of the local men and women who celebrated or suffered from 1914 to 1918.

Doors open from 7 pm for light refreshments with the talk at 7.30 pm. Evening entrance on Granby Street. Members £3 and guests £5 - all welcome. Booking essential: Please visit the museum or call 01509 233754. More information at:

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

Charnwood Orchestra

Saturday 29th November at 7:30 pm
Emmanuel Church, Forest Rd, Loughborough

Charnwood Orchestra is back at Emmanuel Church with a programme entitled "Pictures" including:

Shostakovich: Festive Overture; **Liadov:** Kikimora;

Debussy: Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune;

Bizet: L'Arlésienne Suite No.1;

Mussorgsky/Ravel: Pictures at an Exhibition.

Tickets may be reserved in advance by emailing tickets@charnwoodorchestra.org.uk or from their website at: <https://www.charnwoodorchestra.org.uk>. Prices: £16 Adult, £14 Concessions, £5 Students and U18s.



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

Pictures

**Saturday
29th November 2025
7:30pm**

**Emmanuel Church
Forest Road
Loughborough LE11 3NW**
Conductor Nic Fallowfield



Butterflies are beautiful!



Peacock. Photo: John Murray, Butterfly Conservation

I think all of us would agree with that statement. And there are so many things we can do to help them in our own garden – whether that's a window-box, an allotment, or even the tiniest of garden plots.

One of the things that the Butterfly Conservation charity is currently campaigning on is stopping the use of toxic weed killers and pesticides. It always shocks me whenever I go to a garden centre – a place that is all about growing and life – and I see shelf after shelf of toxic sprays and poisonous powders.

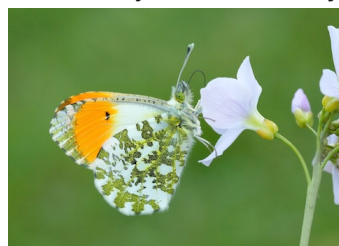
Butterfly Conservation are inviting everyone to sign this open letter to get retailers to stop selling all these poisons. Do, please, sign it at:

<https://butterflyemergency.good.do/rescue-mission/stop-the-sale-pesticides/>

And also see what you can do to help in your little plot to help all insects. Leaving some long grass; leaving a leaf pile; not using pesticides; putting in a pond; not cutting everything back in the autumn... these all really help over-wintering butterflies and their chrysalises. And next Spring and Summer, you'll have the joy of watching more beautiful butterflies.



Photo: Butterfly Conservation, <https://butterfly-conservation.org/>



We are just ONE species on this absolutely amazing planet of ours. We must all do more – in whatever ways we can – to repair the damage we humans have torn in the complex natural web of life. Virtually all of our food needs pollinators to create it. No pollinators means we ALL starve.

Orange-tip. Photo: Iain H Leach, Butterfly Conservation

Char March

National u3a News



The Third Age Trust AGM

This took place on 15 October. It included speeches from CEO Iain Cassidy, Chair Allan Walmsley, Chair of the Council Sue Russell and a presentation on the work being done to help the movement reach its goal of 500,000 members by the end of 2028. Details and videos at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/agm-2025>

On-Line Learning Events this month include:

- **Exploring World Faiths Week - More in Common** – Mon 10 Nov at 10 am
- **What Next? From Retired to Redefined** – with Jane Moffett, Thu 13 Nov at 2 pm
- **The Geology of Britain in the Mesozoic, the Era of Middle Life** – Thu 27 Nov at 2:30 pm

For details of these and many 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 National u3a: Register to receive the National u3a **Friends** newsletter regularly at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>. Also access the latest u3a news at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/news> and find more learning initiatives at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/learning-activities>. The u3a learning blog **Sources**, with posts by u3a members covering a wide range of topics, is at: <https://sources.u3a.org.uk>

Tom Burns

We were very sad to learn of the recent unexpected death of Tom Burns, who had been an active member of Charnwood u3a for the past 5 years. He was a keen player in our Table Tennis and Pickleball groups. He also enjoyed walking and fairly recently joined the Days of Interest group. He will be greatly missed by his friends in the u3a and our condolences go to his family and friends.

Margot Gabe

Roger Willson has just passed on the sad news that Margot Gabe died on Tuesday 28th October. She and David had been faithful members of the EPC Group since its start in 2004, coming to almost every meeting and visit, including a coach outing to Lincoln only a few months ago. She and David were also keen members of the Travel Group. More to follow from Roger next month.

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 **December** issue of **News & Views** will be **Saturday 29th November (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.



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) in John Storer House, 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>

