

News & Views


 Newsletter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

View from the Chair	1
Monthly Meetings	2
Group News	3-4
Line Dance 1	3
English Parish Ch	3
Singing for Pleasure	3
Painting Group	4
Meetings Calendar	5
Robert's Reads	6
Hi-de-Hi Story Part 2	7
Fraud Awareness	7
Host Internat'l students	8
IT Support	8
Quorn Carol Concert	8
Local Events	9-10
Library Exhibition	9
Art Exhibitions	9
Hathern Band	9
Coffee Morning	9
Photo Exhibition	9
Christmas Tree Fest	10
Lunchtime Concert	10
Carols at Carillon	10
Coffee & Carols	10
National u3a News	11
David & 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 December edition of *News & Views*, the newsletter of Charnwood u3a. We hope you'll find it both entertaining and informative. The content is largely written by members; details for sending contributions can be found on the last page.



Our Next Monthly Meeting: Drama Group: A Christmas Carol



See page 2
for details

View from the Chair



It's December 1st and Christmas is definitely coming: Slade in the supermarket, sparkly jumpers in the clothes shops, snow in Scotland and rain practically everywhere else! Not that it dampened our spirits on the latest Days of Interest trip to Bakewell (of which more in next month's *News & Views*), where we sampled the delights of the Christmas market and learned not to confuse the tart with the pudding. The recipe for said pudding is allegedly a closely guarded secret, known only to certain bakers in the town.

Unlike the pudding, the 'recipe' for Secret Santa, is pretty well known. I've never taken part myself, but apparently, everyone draws a name out of a hat and buys a gift for the named person. It sounds really sensible, especially for big families and among work colleagues, but I'm sure it has its drawbacks. The shops could be deluged in January with returned presents: the fluffy pink hat and mitten set that you thought would look lovely on your daughter-in-law; the full Liverpool football kit for the nephew who's an Everton supporter; a set of notelets and envelopes ('Granny – we have social media!'); an ironing board cover; bath salts...

However we do it, Christmas is the season for giving. And time for my annual SOS. Our Committee has already started planning for the March AGM and we will need nominations for Committee members. I'll have completed my tenure as Chair, but I'm not the only Trustee stepping down and we are already perilously close to the minimum number necessary to operate as a charity. If you would like to help keep our wonderful organisation going, please get in touch. Our next committee meeting is on Wednesday December 10th at 10 o'clock, so give me a call or message me if you'd like to come along, or if you'd simply like to know more about what's involved.

There's lots of exciting Christmassy things to do in this month's newsletter, including our upcoming monthly meeting, when our very own Drama group will be presenting a radio version of 'A Christmas Carol' – with mince pies to follow!

I hope to see you on the 10th, but if you're not able to come, on behalf of the Cu3a Committee I wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

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 treated to a fascinating talk by one of our members, Jim Miller, on the subject of forgery of all types, giving us a detailed insight into how to spot a forged coin or banknote and telling the stories of some famous forgers from history.

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 10th November.



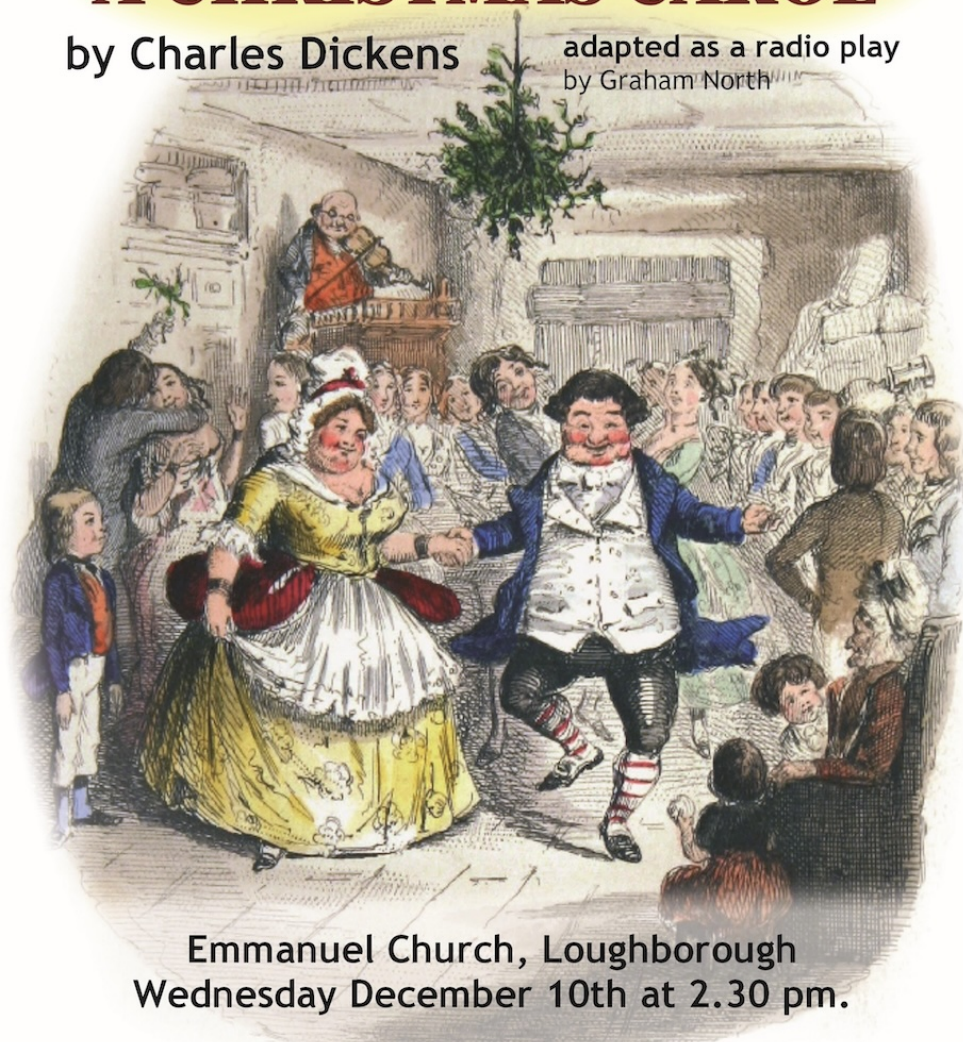
Our Next Meeting: Wednesday 10th December

Charnwood U3a Drama Group presents

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

by Charles Dickens

adapted as a radio play
by Graham North



Emmanuel Church, Loughborough
Wednesday December 10th at 2.30 pm.

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: At our **January** meeting, Professor Ian Maber will take us through the meaning behind everyday advertising messages in his talk entitled 'Lost in Translation', and in **February** we have a talk by Dr Jack Matthews on Charnwood Forest Geopark.

Group News

Line Dance 1

Line Dance 1 meet at Brush Bowls Club, Loughborough on Friday mornings, 10-12.

There is a misconception that Line Dancing only uses Country & Western Music, cowboy boots and cowboy hats. This is DEFINITELY not the case nowadays - we use all genres of music. Dancing is a great form of exercise, good for the mind as well as keeping physically active. This is a group of all ages and abilities. Quotes from current members:

"Great group, all friendly and supportive...."

"Lovely group, good exercise to music. Great for beginners as members are very helpful..."

"Since joining I have made new friends, and realised I can learn new things...."

"I joined this group a year ago, and it is now my favourite hobby. The group is friendly and we have a lot of fun dancing, and drinking tea!!!"

We currently have availability and would love you to come and give it a try. **No Experience Needed.** Why not come and join in the fun and laughter....

First session is free, then should you wish to continue it is just £2 per week - a lot cheaper than the gym, or a cup of coffee these days...

We look forward to welcoming you soon..... Email Cath Way on DanceLine@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Singing for Pleasure

The Singing for Pleasure group is looking for a new leader. After running the group – with great enjoyment! – for over 11 years, various events are forcing me to step away.



The group has a wonderful pianist, a treasurer, someone who sends out emails and an amazingly enthusiastic bunch of singers.

We have loads of music. All the leader has to do is decide what music to sing, then stand at the front encouraging the singers.

If anybody is interested in taking over, or knows somebody we could approach, please contact Brenda on 0116 431 7731, 07766 203051 or coxes2008@coxnet.co.uk. If you want to come along to one of our sessions and see what we get up to, you would be most welcome.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Brenda Cox

English Parish Churches event open to all

Our next meeting will take place at **All Saints Parish Church, Loughborough on Tuesday, December 16th starting at 2 pm** and is open to all. It is a part of the annual Christmas Tree Festival and I will be leading a programme on 'Christmas through the Centuries' with readings from the medieval period to the 20th century interspersed with carols, some sung by the group 'Concorde' and some from CDs.

Tickets are £10 [which will include light refreshments, will give you a chance to visit the festival and will help with funds for essential maintenance of part of the church roof]. They can be obtained from the church office [details on the flyer below] or I have a supply if you contact me on 01509 217779. It should be an enjoyable and instructive occasion.

Roger Willson [tel 01509 217779]

Christmas Through the Ages

A history of Christmas celebrations, with readings selected by All Saints Church archivist

Roger Willson

Carols from past centuries performed by members of **Concorde Choral Ensemble**

**Tuesday 16 December
2-4pm**

Tickets £10 including light refreshments

Tickets available on the door or at www.allsaintsloughborough.org.uk



**All Saints
with Holy Trinity**
Loughborough's Historic Parish Church

All money raised goes to our
South Roof Appeal

**LOUGHBOROUGH COMMUNITY
CHRISTMAS TREE
FESTIVAL 2025**



Seasons Greetings from the Painting Group

The painting group are a group of leisure artists with some experience in painting.

Every month we have a painting challenge where we choose a theme to paint or draw. Here are our recent 'Christmas Card challenge' creations.

Any cu3a member wishing to join our group, but who for various reasons cannot participate in our monthly meetings, can join our WhatsApp group where you can view and take part in our monthly challenge and also share and view information and local events.

Anyone who is interested please contact painting@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Angela Cantrill



December 2025 Calendar

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1 Dec 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 13.30 Canasta 2 14.00 Current Affairs	2 Dec 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 11.30 Active Seated 2 12.00 Pilates 4 13.30 Active Seated 1 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Canasta1Quorn 14.00 Sing4Pleasure 15.30 Pickleball	3 Dec 10.00 Drama 10.00 German 10.00 Golf 10.00 JigsawBookEx 10.00 Mini Tennis 10.00 Scottish Dance 10.30 Papercraft 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Cribbage 14.00 French Improve 14.00 Reading Group 14.00 Sustain Planet	4 Dec 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	5 Dec 09.00 Badminton 10.00 German RTC 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mahjong 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
8 Dec 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 10.00 Poetry 1 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Chess 14.00 Quiz group	9 Dec 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 Scrabble 3 10.30 Fix I.T. Clinic 10.45 Pilates 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 11.30 Active Seated 2 12.00 Pilates 4 13.30 Active Seated 1 14.00 Canasta 1 15.30 Pickleball	10 Dec 10.00 Committee 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.30 Monthly Meet 19.00 Canasta2Quorn	11 Dec 10.00 Thurs 6 Milers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Indoor 14.00 Line Dance 2	12 Dec 09.00 Badminton 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mahjong 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
15 Dec 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 13.30 Canasta 2	16 Dec 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 6+ Walks 10.00 Recorder 10.30 Fix I.T. Clinic 10.45 Pilates 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 11.30 Active Seated 2 12.00 Pilates 4 13.30 Active Seated 1 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Eng Parish Ch 14.00 Sing4Pleasure 15.30 Pickleball	17 Dec 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 10.00 Poetry 2 10.00 Scottish Dance 10.30 History 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Classical Music 14.00 Cribbage 14.00 French Improve 14.00 Italian Conv	18 Dec 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	19 Dec 09.00 Badminton 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mahjong 10.00 Table Tennis 7 10.30 Photography 10.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Table Tennis 5 12.00 Table Tennis 6 13.30 Art Apprec'n 13.30 Pilates 1 19.30 Wine Apprec'n
22 Dec 09.30 Yoga 14.00 Chess	23 Dec	24 Dec	25 Dec	26 Dec
29 Dec 09.30 Yoga	30 Dec	31 Dec		

PLUS at Weekends: Sunday Lunch Club (14th December)

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

For December, Robert has selected two recent novels from Samantha Harvey and Nick Harkaway.

Orbital **by Samantha Harvey** published in 2023

One of the shortest, if not the shortest novel ever to win the Booker Prize (in 2024), *Orbital* is a fascinating and absorbing depiction of life aboard a spacecraft orbiting the earth.

Six astronauts of diverse cultural and academic backgrounds are 'entombed' in the hurtling spacecraft which makes sixteen orbits of the earth every twenty four hours. The astronauts comprise four men: two from Russia, one from the USA and one from Italy, together with two women, Chie from Japan and Nell from Great Britain. In choosing to cover just one twenty four hour period in the life of the astronauts, Harvey has delivered a masterstroke. Extensive and very thorough technical research is evident from the very start of this excellent fictional account of 'space life'.

The diagram at the beginning entitled '24 Hours of Earth Orbit with Daylight in the Northern Hemisphere' is essential to the enjoyment of the book. Repeated reference to this schematic is almost mandatory as one puzzles over and then grasps the progressive changes in the geo-positioning of the spacecraft through each orbit.

By skilfully grafting sharply observed 'human elements' onto this technically assured work, Harvey has produced a rare amalgam of poignant storytelling and factual detail.



Samantha Harvey
in 2019.

Photo: Luminish,
CC BY-SA 4.0 via
Wikimedia
Commons

Karla's Choice **by Nick Harkaway** published in 2024

I first learned of George Smiley and the secret intelligence organisation known as 'The Circus' in the original 1970s television series based on le Carré's books and starring the incomparable Alec Guinness* as Smiley. I have read all le Carré's 'Smiley' novels and have become a great fan of le Carré's brilliant portrayal of the cold war activities of the British, Soviet and American intelligence services.

In *Karla's Choice*, le Carré's son, Nick Harkaway re-boots the principal characters in a bold attempt to explore and further examine his father's creations, focusing on Smiley and the first appearance of Karla, the Russian spymaster. For devotees of the original books, Harkaway's early reference to Toby Esterhase, Bill Haydon, Peter Guillam, Jim Prideaux and others, immediately brings back recollections of le Carré's epic series.

Karla's Choice is set in 1963 in the period immediately following the death in Berlin of British agent Alec Leamas. Leamas is the main protagonist of le Carré's 1963 novel *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*, which was subsequently made into an excellent movie starring Richard Burton. Leamas' death results in Smiley's resignation from 'The Circus' and it is at this point in Smiley's history that Harkaway escorts us back into the dark and perplexing world of espionage *a la* le Carré.

I won't say anything further about the plot of *Karla's Choice*; for me and for any like minded Smiley fans, it isn't the plot of Harkaway's book (good as it is) that is important, but rather his intriguing and skilful reincarnation of some of the great characters of twentieth century spy fiction.

*For fans of anagrams, this is one of my favourites:
Genuine Class = Alec Guinness.



Nick Harkaway pictured in
The Guardian, 16 Jun 2017.
Photo: Martin Godwin

Member's Story

Hi-de-Hi v. Lo-de-Lo – It's Off to Uni We Go! – Part 2

To continue my tale of last month, about my holiday as a teenager with three friends to the camp which would feature in *Hi-de-Hi!*, we had a surprise at breakfast the day after our arrival...

One of the staff came up to us and said "Hi lads". We turned to face him and realised we knew him. It was an ex-school friend! In fact he was rather more "ex-school" than the rest of us. He had been expelled from school for various mis-behaviours that had culminated in him being found at home during school time, engaged in physical activities not normally part of the curriculum! Rumour had it that he had invited one of the younger school staff and a handful of fellow pupils to these activities!! It just so happened that he had a vacation job at the camp and he offered to show us around with another member of the camp staff. We declined his offer.

Having discovered the lack of suitable entertainment in Clacton, we thought we may as well try the camp's all inclusive facilities. We knew that we were likely to be disappointed, but it was paid for and worth a try. We should have seen sense – the camp was designated a "family camp", which really should have been sub-titled "there's nothing for teenagers here"! Nevertheless, on we pressed. The camp disco ran most evenings from 7-9 pm, and, desperate for something to do, we decided to try it. However, after a failed attempt by the four of us to mix with a group of girls, we agreed to abandon the group campaign and try our luck separately.

Given the paper-thin construction of the chalets, there was no point going to someone's chalet for a more intimate evening. Instead I wandered around

the plentiful trees in the camp, chatting with a girl. Unfortunately my friends hadn't been so lucky. They chatted up some girls and it seemed a good evening for all was in prospect. Unfortunately our ex-schoolfriend and another member of the camp staff swooped in to talk to the girls, who'd been enjoying my friends' drinks, only to disappear with the ex-schoolfriend! My friends then set about trying to track me down, shouting my name. So that evening finished even more miserably than we'd expected.

Purely by chance, the week of our holiday was the week when A Level results were published. This meant we had to get our results by phone. Remember that this was during the pre-mobile era, so we had to find a public phone and have plenty of coins to feed the machine whilst each of us got their

Mum or Dad to carefully read out the A Level results. We found a phone-box in the middle of a tiny traffic island, with lorries, cars and buses all around. Thankfully, all four of us got the grades we needed, or near enough, and we all became the first in our families to go to university.

That brings this tale very near to a close. We

were desperate to get away from the *Hi-de-Hi* style announcements about the camp's facilities such as the "Olympic-sized Swimming Pool", etc! If only we'd taken the advice of our coach driver a week earlier.

Gaining places at university was clearly the "Hi-" spot of what was otherwise a very "Lo-" week. We wondered what the future held for us at the "big schools" and how well we'd cope with life as university students.

Peter Reid



Fraud Awareness

Char March sent us these tips received from her bank during the recent Fraud Awareness Week:

- Keep your details private – never share your username, password or memorable information with anyone

- Check your accounts often – if something looks off, tell your bank straight away
- Update your contact details – so the bank can get in touch quickly if needed
- Be alert to scams – if an email or text feels wrong, it probably is. Trust your gut and double-check before you click

Could you lay an extra place at your table this Christmas?

UK charity seeks hosts to share Christmas with an international university student far from home

Festive Stays 2025:

Each year the charity EIL UK receives hundreds of applications from international students studying at British universities hoping to experience Christmas or New Year in a British home.

Christine and Gervin have been hosting international students for 28 years for festive and weekend visits. Christine says: "We have enjoyed meeting people from all over the world, giving us a greater understanding of the students' countries and cultures and even tasting food cooked by some of the students. They in turn have much appreciated meeting a British family and learning about our traditions and food, especially at Christmas."

Would you like to welcome an overseas student into your home this year? If you could offer friendship and host an overseas university student for a 3-night stay between 24th and 27th December 2025 or a weekend stay at any time of the year, email host@eiluk.org to find out more about this rich and rewarding experience and how you can be part of the HOST UK programme.



Host International Students

- ✓ Enjoy learning about other cultures and sharing your way of life?
- ✓ Have a spare bedroom and a welcoming home?

Join us in creating lasting memories and friendships by offering a home away from home.



Find out more at:

-  www.eiluk.org
-  host@eiluk.org
-  01684 562577

EIL UK is a Registered Charity no. 1070440

IT for Everyone 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

Note: There will be NO Fix IT Clinics on 23rd Dec or 30th Dec; restart 6th Jan.



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

women's aid
leicestershire
providing strength, security and freedom from domestic abuse
(Charity Registration No 1136419)

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT with Quorn Singers

Friday 5th December 2025

7.00pm - 8.45pm

Quorn Baptist Church

Meeting Street, Quorn, LE12 8AQ

(Street parking)

All Welcome

Free entry and seasonal refreshments

Donations accepted on the evening in support of those experiencing domestic violence



Upcoming Local Events

Herbert Schofield and Loughborough College

An Exhibition by
Loughborough Library Local Studies Volunteer Group
at Loughborough Library
11th November 2025 to 30th January 2026
Free entry during library staffed hours



Loughborough College Greenclose Lane

Schofield Portrait, © The Birley Estate, courtesy of Loughborough University Archive

Three Art Exhibitions Now On Sock Gallery, Loughborough Town Hall:

Mary Austin

A retrospective exhibition by local artist Mary Austin who died last year, with pictures mostly on literary themes: Dickens, Under Milk Wood...
Mon - Sat, 10 am - 4 pm (3 pm Sat) until 10 Jan
See <https://www.loughboroughtownhall.co.uk/event/mary-austin/> for more details.

at Modern Painters, New Decorators, Aumberry Gap, Loughborough:

Issie Martin: Futile Acts

A solo exhibition exploring our relationship to water, our bodies, and the limits of control in the face of climate crisis.

Thu - Sat, 10 am - 3 pm, closed 21 Dec - 14 Jan until 24 January. See <https://modernpaintersnewdecorators.co.uk/Futile-Acts>

Janhavi Sharma: My Molten Sky

Using black-and-white photography and sculptural installation, Sharma explores how stories - of place, memory, and loss - are formed, broken apart, and remade.

Times as above, until 14 February. See <https://modernpaintersnewdecorators.co.uk/My-Molten-Sky> for more details.

Hathern Band Christmas Concert

Saturday 13th December, 6 pm - 9 pm
Hodson Hall, Loughborough Grammar School
Burton Walks, Loughborough

Hathern Band's annual Christmas Concert. All the bands in the Hathern Band family take part - Senior Band, Youth & Concert Brass and the Training Band which will feature 50 youngsters who are learning to play with the band.

Tickets are £7, concessions £6, children £3. Available from Lesley Bentley 01509 672029, email lesley.bentley@btinternet.com or by sending SAE to 21 Gables Lea, Sutton Bonington LE12 5NW

Friends of Charnwood Museum Coffee Morning

Saturday 6th December 10:30 - 12:00

Join the Friends of Charnwood Museum for a festive coffee morning. All sorts of festive treats will be available, with a chance to find out what the Friends have been up to during 2025 and what they have planned for 2026!

All are welcome and there is no need to book, just turn up!

<https://www.charnwoodmuseum.co.uk/friends-of-charnwood-museum>

Getting into the Zone - 'Fascinating Monochrome'

Photographic Exhibition by East Midlands Monochrome Group
at Charnwood Gallery, Queen's Park, Granby St, Loughborough, until 3rd January.
Wednesdays to Saturdays 10 am – 3 pm. Free entry
<https://www.charnwoodmuseum.co.uk/temporary-exhibitions>
<https://eastmidlandsmonochrome.group>



Christmas Tree Festival

All Saints with Holy Trinity Church
Steeple Row, Loughborough

General Opening:

Saturdays & Thursdays, 10 am to 4 pm, from now until 20th December. Free entry.

Lunchtime Concert:

Tuesday 2nd December, 1:30 pm. Free entry.
Loughborough Schools Foundation Wind & Brass.

Christmas Tree Festival Concert:

Thursday 11th December, 7:30 pm.
All Saints Handbell Ringers, Magic Voices Choir,
Loughborough Male Voice Choir.
Tickets £10*, light refreshments included.

Michael Harry & Friends:

Monday 15th December, 6.30 pm.

Christmas Through the Ages:

Tuesday 16th December, 2 pm. See page 3.

Beer & Carols:

Saturday 20th December, 7 pm. Tickets £5*

Music for Midwinter: Strings & Classical Guitar

Monday 22nd December, 7 pm. Tickets £12*

*Tickets available on the door or in advance at:
<https://www.allsaintsloughborough.org.uk>

Lunchtime Concert at Emmanuel Church

Christmas Celebration Concert with The8
Thursday 18th December, 12:45 - 1:30 pm

They're back! After a year off, The8 return with their inimitable mix of thoughtful, entertaining, reflective and humorous Christmas music.

The concert starts at 12.45 pm but a Soup and Roll lunch will be served from 11:30 for this concert.

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

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

Carols at the Carillon

Wednesday 24th Dec 13:00 - 13:45
Bandstand, Queen's Park, Loughborough

Caroline Sharpe the borough's carillonneur will be playing a selection of carols to get you ready for the big day. A choir will be located in the bandstand and everyone is welcome to come and join in with the carols.



All Saints
with Holy Trinity
Loughborough's Historic Parish Church

LOUGHBOROUGH COMMUNITY
CHRISTMAS TREE
FESTIVAL 2025



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL EVENTS

*Tickets available on the door or in advance at www.allsaintsloughborough.org.uk

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL GENERAL OPENING
Thursdays & Saturdays 29th November to 20th December
10am to 4pm. Free entry.
Refreshments, raffle, tombola, gifts, with children's crafts on Saturdays.
(children's crafts pay as you feel)

LUNCHTIME CONCERT
Tuesday 2nd December. Free entry.
1.30pm Loughborough Schools Foundation Wind & Brass Ensembles

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL CONCERT
Thursday 11th December, 7.30pm. Tickets £10*
All Saints Handbell Ringers, Magic Voices Choir and Loughborough Male Voice Choir. Light refreshments included in ticket price.

MICHAEL HARRY & FRIENDS
Monday 15th December at 6.30pm. Pay as you feel
Contemporary Soulful Christmas Concert

CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE AGES
Tuesday 16th December at 2pm Tickets £10*
History of Christmas celebrations in music and readings
Light refreshments included in ticket price.

BEER & CAROLS
Saturday 20th December, 7pm. Tickets £5*
Any Order band and Quorn Ukelele orchestra.

MUSIC FOR MIDWINTER: WITH STRINGS & CLASSICAL GUITAR
Monday 22nd December, 7pm. Tickets £12*, Under 18s £4
Music by Dowland, Elgar and Danish folk. Light refreshments included.




COFFEE & CAROLS

Saturday 20th December, 10am to 12.15pm



Enjoy Christmas carols and music from a variety of singers and musicians.

Seasonal refreshments
Cakes, Crafts and Christmas Gifts

Free entry. Donations for refreshments in aid of LOROS



Loughborough Baptist Church
Baxter Gate, Loughborough

National u3a News



Website Update:

Following feedback from members, the log in to the Members Area of the National u3a website (u3a.org.uk) has been removed. No login is now needed and all content in this area is now accessible to all.

On-Line Learning Events this month:

A wide variety of free on-line Zoom events are on offer this month, including talks on tunnels, bridge, fungi, smartphones, how to be happier, landline changes, Qigong and AI. For details of all these and more, 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>

David and Margot Gabe, R.I.P.

Margot and David joined the English Parish Churches Group when I set it up in 2004 and for 20 years have been stalwart members: they hardly missed a talk, a church visit or a coach outing over all that time. What has now turned out to be the last time we saw them together was on a beautiful spring day back in May when we visited Lincoln Cathedral and then Aslockton Church where a superb church tea was provided for us. Like many u3a members over the years, they also became good friends, yet another reminder that membership of u3a offers the chance to form many new friendships in retirement as well as opportunities for learning and recreation.



Photo by Colin Baxter, 2011,
CC BY-SA 2.0 via Flickr

have put together for the Travel Group and see so many u3a friends who are no longer with us.

In recent years we will all have seen Margot trying so hard to keep David going on visits as his mobility and awareness began to deteriorate and sometimes getting a bit frustrated in the process. I

hadn't realised that Woodthorpe Lodge Care Home, where both David and Margot died after just a short time there, hosted a very special celebration for them on October 2nd this year when they celebrated the remarkable milestone of 60 years of marriage and were delighted to receive a congratulatory card from His Majesty the King and the Queen. This anniversary celebration was an opportunity to bring together family, friends and colleagues and to recognise a lifetime of love, commitment, and community spirit. When asked their secret to a long and happy marriage, Margot said: *"We've always shared many interests, especially our love of music and the church, which also meant we shared many friends. We've truly grown together through all of life's seasons."* Their lives have been filled with achievement and service. Professor David Gabe, as he became, built an esteemed career as a metallurgy scientist at Port Talbot Steel in Wales and later became Head of Department and lecturer in Materials Engineering at Loughborough University. Margot dedicated much of her life to voluntary and charity work, all the while raising their two sons, Martin and Andrew. Together, they also played an active role in the Baptist church and choir, strengthening their ties to the local community.

Margot and David also came on some of the holidays I organised over the years for the Travel Group [for which David himself masterminded the itineraries for holidays based on Cardiff and Swansea where he was keen to introduce us to places dear to him and Margot. Both were originally from Cardiff and were proud of their South Welsh heritage]. Two particular memories of them stand out for me: the first was when Margot suggested out of the blue that we diverted the coach in order to go and see the remembrance poppies at the Tower of London in our 'Inner and Outer London' tour in 2016, a very memorable visit; the second was David being particularly grateful to me for including a walk on our visit to the Somme battlefields in France through what is now idyllic countryside, where we followed a division of the London Welsh Regiment to their fighting with German troops well dug-into Mametz Wood in 1916. This site saw some of the most brutal fighting anywhere in World War One, and is still etched into the memory of so many Welsh people. Once again, I look through all the power-points I

Margot and David, Rest in Peace now: you will be so greatly missed by so many of us.

Roger Willson

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 **January** issue of **News & Views** will be **Tuesday 30th December (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>

