

News & Views



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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 April 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: Life in The Music



See page 3 for details

Meet the New Committee 2026-27



Garry Rigby
*Chair and
Membership Secretary*



Debra Hardwick
Secretary



Pam Towers
Treasurer



Sam Hardwick
Vice Chair



Julie Chapman
Committee Member



Bev Gillman
Committee Member

For role descriptions and contact details of all the Committee members, together with details of those in various support roles, please see our web page at: https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/Our_Committee

Additionally, details of other support available to members can be found at: <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/Help-Support>



Caroline Nash
Committee Member

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

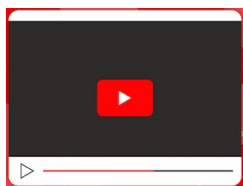
Our Next Meeting: Wednesday 8th April 'Life in the Music' with Andy Smith



Andy is a song-writing multi instrumentalist (guitar, mandolin, ukulele, banjo, tenor guitar, sitar, piano) and singer and will come with a car full of instruments. This session, with lots of amusing chat and nostalgic anecdotes, will take a journey through life featuring self-penned comedy songs and ballads played on a multitude of instruments...plus a few well known numbers... Andy will explain a bit about the instruments he has brought along and may demonstrate how a song is written and recorded.

To attend this meeting:

If you wish to attend the meeting, 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 pm for a prompt start at 2:30 pm.



If you are unable to attend in person, you can follow the meeting online (via YouTube), either live or via the recording. 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:

Monthly Meetings May - December 2026

- **13 May: Hidden Foods – Matthew O'Callaghan**
- **10 Jun: Exploring the Ocean through Art – Olivier Leger**
- **08 Jul: Abraham Lincoln's America – Andy Burton**
- **12 Aug: NO MEETING**
- **09 Sep: Role of Herbs – Ruth Austin**
- **14 Oct: 'Love and War': How we created our garden birds – Kevin Reynolds**
- **11 Nov: Travels with a Tiger - Riding the Western Front – Phil Drabble**
- **09 Dec: Christmas Music – John Bentham**

More information about each meeting will appear on the **Monthly Meetings** page under the 'Events' menu on our website, as well as in future issues of *News & Views*.

Group News

New Group: Women's History



Have you ever wondered why, when women make up half of the world's population, the history we were taught was mainly about politics, wars and great men?

Would you like to discover more about the not-so-famous (and sometimes infamous!) women who have been hidden from history?

Some topics we might discuss:

- women's work (paid and unpaid)
- women in the arts
- women in politics
- travelling women
- women at war

Interested? Contact Pam Upton
pam.upton@btinternet.com
 07974946007

Bowls Group Moves Outdoors

As announced in last month's *News & Views*, from **16th April**, the Outdoor Bowls Group will start again and run through the Summer, meeting on a Thursday at 2 pm for a two hour session at the Brush Bowls Club on Watermead Lane (off Nanpantan Rd).

New members will be very welcome to come along and join us for a fun afternoon of gentle exercise, with tuition and guidance provided. No previous experience is necessary. All equipment can be made available; just bring a pair of flat soled shoes.

Please contact Dave Saunders on 07767 672341 or email BowlsOutdoor@charnwoodu3a.org.uk for further information.

English Parish Churches Coach Outing to Tewkesbury and Malvern

Tuesday 12th May
Open to all u3a members



Our coach outing this year is to two superb churches situated in a beautiful part of England; both have long histories and splendid fittings.

- **Tewkesbury Abbey:** a Benedictine abbey until the Dissolution in the 1530s when the town managed to buy and save the abbey church for £453.
- **Malvern Priory:** also a Benedictine priory which became the parish church at the Reformation.

There are spare places on the coach (leaving Tesco car park at 8:15 am, returning about 6:15 - 6:30 pm) if anyone in Cu3a (or other u3a) would like to join us. If you want to come on both guided tours, the cost pp is £34. If you would rather come to both places and have free time, the cost is £21pp.

Full details and a booking form are available from:
<https://charnwoodu3a.org.uk/Events/coach-outing-to-tewkesbury-and-malvern>

Gardening Group Visit to Hardwick Hall and Gardens

Monday 15th June
Open to all Charnwood u3a members

Places are still available for this visit to Hardwick Hall and Gardens on Monday 15th June 2026, with a planned stop-off at Matlock on the way back. Departure by Winson's coach is at 9.00 am from Tesco's car park, returning around 5:30 pm. The cost to non National Trust members is £42.15 for coach and entry. To Trust members the cost is £20.20.

Please see the March 2026 issue of *News & Views* for further details of this visit.

If you would like to go on the day trip, please email gardening@charnwoodu3a.org.uk and you will be sent a form to complete and return with payment. Closing date for booking is 25th May.



*Herb Garden at
Hardwick Hall
by Jeff Buck,
CC BY-SA 2.0*

Charnwood u3a



Line Dance Group 2

SPRING / SUMMER 2026

Brush Bowls Club,
Nanpantan Road, Loughborough

THURSDAY AFTERNOONS
1.30pm - 3.30pm

April 9th	May 21st
April 16th	May 28th
April 23rd	June 4th
April 30th	June 11th
May 7th	June 18th
May 14th	June 25th

12 Sessions. Payment £24.00 in advance

Contact Jane at northstar2@tiscali.co.uk



Groups Support

If you have a general query about our groups – perhaps you are thinking of setting up a new group, need advice on running a group, or maybe you are having difficulty contacting a group leader – our new Groups Support team of **Ann Maddocks** and **Mike Hood** (pictured below) are here to help.



Ann and Mike can be contacted by email on groups-support@charnwoodu3a.org.uk and should be able to point you in the right direction.

As already notified to group leaders, the next Group Leaders' meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th April from 10:45 am at Emmanuel Church, so let your group leader know if there is anything you wish them to raise.

ETHEL Does Food

The March meeting of ETHEL (Exploring the English Language) looked at the **Language of Food**. Members discussed the origin, associated sayings, stories, quotations etc. related to food, and **Mike Hood** came up with the following brilliant, topical illustration of the use of food-related idioms:



Pam can be a **hard nut to crack** but when she agreed to take on the chair of Cu3a, many thought her to be as **nutty as a fruitcake!** But she is no **couch potato**, and being **full of beans** soon proved that she could **cut the mustard**, leaving those naysayers **eating humble pie**.



Despite having **a lot on her plate**, she remained **cool as a cucumber** and so did not **get in a pickle**, or get sidetracked by any **half-baked** notions. Of course, she was not working alone and **chewing the fat** with committee members brought much **food for thought**. Tackling some issues was **a piece of cake**; others were quickly identified as **pie in the sky** and so **dropped like a hot potato**.



Getting things done involved the occasional **buttering up**. This was not always successful but **that's the way the cookie crumbles**, and there is no point **crying over spilt milk**. Taking the rough with the smooth and recognising that **variety is the spice of life**, she stayed cool and did not **go bananas**.



Now that is all behind her and she can concentrate fully on ETHEL, her **bread and butter** u3a activity. There might be the temptation to **pepper the conversation** with tales of her committee days, but I am confident she will not **spill the beans**.



Travel Group Winter Holiday to Bavaria, 23 February – 1 March 2026

Day One: We set off from the Amber Rooms at the unearthly hour of 6 am! The holiday was with Leger Holidays, all the way to Bavaria, by coach! Our feeder coach took us to Folkestone to meet the coach and 2 wonderful tour guides, Matt and Dan, who would take us to Bavaria. After a calm crossing to France, we went on to Reims for our overnight stop, seeing the champagne vineyards on the way.

Day Two: After breakfast, we set off on the last part of our journey to Feldkirch in Austria. On the way, Matt, our driver, decided to divert from the motorway for our lunch break at a beautiful town called Riquewihir in Alsace (*pictured right*) rather than a service station. Some of us saw a stork nesting on a chimney!



We left this lovely place to travel on to Feldkirch, our base for the next four nights. Each evening, we had entertainment during the meal. The first evening was a dance group with dancers in traditional dress (lederhosen for the men!) Part of the dance entailed them sawing and chopping a log of wood and encouraging others to have a go...!

Day Three was the day we went to the village of Hohenschwangau, the home of Hohenschwangau Castle and the famous Neuschwanstein Castle (*pictured left*), built by 'Mad' King Ludwig. It was the inspiration behind Walt Disney's Sleeping Beauty's castle. We had a choice to make...go up to the castle by pony and cart and then up lots of steps or join the visit to the nearby town of Füssen. There was free time to explore the town before returning to Hohenschwangau to collect those brave people who opted to visit the castle.



Day Four: After breakfast, we set off to Chur, in Switzerland, via Liechtenstein, for our railway journey which ran through the Rhine Gorge, often called the Swiss Grand Canyon, up to the ski resort of Andermatt. The scenery was amazing (*as shown on the right*).

Day Five: Our last day's excursion was to two well-known ski resorts; firstly, to Lech, which has hosted many well-known visitors and prides itself in its culture of discretion and privacy. Then on to St Anton, surrounded by beautiful scenery. Some of us went on a cable car to the top of the mountain where we had lunch in the skiers' restaurant. The picture on the left below shows a view from the cable car.



Days Six and Seven: We left Feldkirch after a very enjoyable time in Bavaria, arriving back in Reims for our overnight stay and then back to Loughborough on Sunday evening.

Many thanks to Sue for organising the trip and our wonderful tour guides, Matt and Dan.

Judith Sismey



MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
		1 Apr 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 Sustain Planet	2 Apr 10.00 Sci+Tech 10.00 Spanish Conv 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Indoor 19.00 Canasta 3	3 Apr 10.00 Line Dance 1 10.00 Mahjong 10.00 Table Tennis 7 10.30 Tai Chi
6 Apr 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help	7 Apr 10.00 10+ Walks 11.00 Table Tennis 2 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Canasta1Quorn 14.00 Sing4Pleasure 15.30 Pickleball	8 Apr 10.00 Committee 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.30 Monthly Meet 19.00 Canasta2Quorn	9 Apr 10.00 Parish Walks 11.00 Table Tennis 4 13.30 Line Dance 2 14.00 Bowls Indoor 14.00 Contem'y Music	10 Apr 09.00 Badminton 10.00 Line Dance 1 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 Lunch Club 12.00 Table Tennis 6 13.30 Pilates 1
13 Apr 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 10.00 Poetry 1 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Archaeology 14.00 Quiz group	14 Apr 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 14.00 Eng Parish Ch 15.30 Pickleball	15 Apr 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	16 Apr 09.45 CC Walks 11.00 Table Tennis 4 13.30 Line Dance 2 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.15 Scrabble 4 14.30 French Conv	17 Apr 09.00 Badminton 10.00 German RTC 10.00 Line Dance 1 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 Pilates 1 14.00 Art Apprec'n
20 Apr 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 13.30 Canasta 2 14.00 Chess 14.00 Current Affairs 14.00 Gardening 14.00 Painting	21 Apr 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 11.30 Active Seated 2 12.00 Pilates 4 13.30 Active Seated 1 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Sing4Pleasure 15.30 Pickleball	22 Apr 10.00 Golf 10.00 History 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Classical Music 14.00 Reading Group 18.30 Supper Club	23 Apr 10.00 Philosophy 2 10.00 Thurs 6 Milers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 13.30 Line Dance 2 14.00 Architecture 14.00 Bowls Outdoor	24 Apr 09.00 Badminton 10.00 Line Dance 1 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 19.30 Wine Apprec'n
27 Apr 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Local History	28 Apr 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 11.30 Active Seated 2 12.00 Pilates 4 13.30 Active Seated 1 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Philosophy 1 15.30 Pickleball	29 Apr 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 10.45 Group Leaders 11.00 Table Tennis 3	30 Apr 11.00 Table Tennis 4 13.30 Line Dance 2 14.00 Bowls Outdoor	PLUS at Weekends: Days of Interest trip to Audley End & Saffron Walden (18th April), Sunday Lunch Club (12th April)

Robert's Recommended Reads

For April, Robert recommends a Patricia Highsmith thriller from the 1950s and a non fiction text by Bettany Hughes.

Strangers on a Train by Patricia Highsmith

published in 1950

Best known for her five 'Ripley' novels beginning with the superb *The Talented Mr Ripley*, Patricia Highsmith's first novel, *Strangers on a Train*, made her an instant bestselling author.

A dark, psychological thriller, *Strangers on a Train* begins with aspiring young architect Guy Haines travelling by train across the United States. In the restaurant car, Guy meets flamboyant socialite Charles Bruno. Guy reluctantly accepts Charles' invitation to dine with him in the privacy of the latter's suite. As the drinks flow, Guy finds himself being drawn into a dark and macabre conversation.

Although he quickly realises that Charles is a disturbed fantasist, Guy becomes more and more fascinated by Charles' obsession to be rid of his wealthy but domineering and penny-pinching father. As the hours pass, Charles tells of his plan to engage with a co-conspirator who will murder Charles' father, a murder so perfectly planned and executed as to be unsolvable. In return, Charles will plan and commit a reciprocal and equally 'perfect' murder on behalf of his partner in crime. An awful and chilling darkness washes over Guy as he realises that Charles has decided that he, Guy, is the ideal partner for his scheme.

On leaving the train, Guy tries to forget the events of the journey and focus on his two main concerns: ending his troubled marriage and winning the bid to design a large leisure complex in Florida. Gradually, however, Guy becomes aware that Charles has not only taken their 'plot' seriously but is actively planning his part of the 'agreement'.

Employing a compelling, slow burn development of both characters and plot lines, Highsmith crafts a brilliant and shocking portrayal of coercion, blackmail and the descent into unimaginable horror of her two main protagonists.



Patricia Highsmith
at home in 1977,
from *The Guardian*,
9 Jan 2021.
Photo: Liselotte Erben/
Sygma/Getty Images

The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World by Bettany Hughes

published in 2024

How many of us can name the 'Seven Wonders' of the ancient world? I could only manage three prior to reading Bettany Hughes' recent, excellent book.

Hughes begins our journey with the oldest and only remaining 'Wonder' - the Great Pyramid of Khufu at Giza, Egypt and moves, in date order of their construction, through the other six. These are: The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, The Hanging Gardens of Babylon, The Statue of Zeus at Olympia, The Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, The Colossus of Rhodes and The Lighthouse of Alexandria.

As Hughes states in her introduction, "This book attempts not just to catalogue the seven wonders but to comprehend them, to appreciate them as they were first experienced and remembered."

Rigidly adhering to the core disciplines of academic authorship, Hughes provides a learned introduction, an illuminating preface, comprehensive annotated explanatory reference notes and a full, very detailed index.

Although this is a polished, exhaustively researched academic text, Hughes makes it readily accessible to the general reader, rendering a stimulating, informative and thoroughly enjoyable experience.



Bettany Hughes
in *The Guardian*,
25 Feb 2023.
Photo:
Sandstone Global
Productions

Notices for Members



John Storer House are seeking volunteers to help with running the Snack Bar, alongside paid staff.

- Making food from pre-prepared ingredients, and teas & coffees with coffee machine and water urn
- Serving customers
- Taking card and cash payments
- Helping to maintain a hygienic, safe environment
- Volunteering slots 9 am – 12.30, 12.30 – 2 pm

For more information, contact louise@jscharnwood.org.uk

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 café
Tuesdays, 10.30 – 12.00

Please note: there is no Fix IT Clinic on 7th April (as John Storer House is closed for Easter). The first one this month will be on 14th April.



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, by emailing webmanager@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Upcoming Local Events

National Theatre Live: All My Sons

Friday 17th April, 7 pm, Cope Auditorium

Brian Cranston and Marianne Jean-Baptiste feature in the triumphantly acclaimed new production of Arthur Miller's classic.

- Directed by Ivo Van Hove
- Filmed live from Wyndham's Theatre, West End
- Certificate 15A
- Running time 2hrs 45mins

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

Parking: 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://tinyurl.com/3nw4f2rj>

Lunchtime Concert at Emmanuel Church

Thursday 16th April, 12:45 – 1:30 pm

A concert by local group **Capriccio Ensemble** with augmentation.

Clare Pitchford | violin, John Bean | cello, Richard Roper | viola, Jeremy Kimber | piano.
Capriccio will be joined by Sarah Wain | viola and Cathy Lear | Double Bass.

Gershwin: Rhapsody in Blue
Turina: Rapsodia Sinfónica

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>

More Upcoming Local Events



Loughborough University Inaugural Lectures:

Wednesday 22nd April, 5 pm, Edward Herbert Building, 110b

We were promised killer robots. We got ChatGPT. What does that mean for digital trust?

Professor Oli Buckley
Department of Computer Science

Preserving our intellectual heritage: Does open access go far enough?

Professor Jenny Fry
School of Design & Creative Arts

These lectures are free events, open to all members of the local community, but note that booking is required. For details and a booking form, see: <https://www.lboro.ac.uk/inaugural-lectures/>



Public Lecture

Grandma Flew Spitfires

a talk by Capt. Richard Poad MBE
Tuesday 14th April, 7:30 – 8:30 pm
Brockington building, room U005



The almost unbelievable story of the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) from its very beginnings as a piece of British improvisation to a well-oiled machine. Its male and female amateur pilots

ferried over 300,000 aircraft, enabling the Royal Air Force (RAF) and the Fleet Air Arm to fight the war in the air. The talk is illustrated with many photos from the ATA Museum collection and punctuated with personal anecdotes from many of the ATA veterans whom Richard met and interviewed.

This public lecture is free; booking is not required.

Friends of Charnwood Museum

From Medieval Priory to Elizabethan Mansion

a talk by Colin Stewart
Wednesday 15th April, 7:30 – 9:30 pm

Join National Trust volunteer Colin Stewart to discover the early history of Calke Abbey from its beginnings as the site of a Priory to a Tudor house, and what can still be seen today.



Doors open from 7 pm for light refreshments with the talk at 7.30 pm. Please use the 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>



Loughborough Archaeological & Historical Society

TALKS AT FEARON HALL- FREE TO MEMBERS

Non-members pay on door. No booking required.

APRIL 21	JUNE 11	OCT 8	DEC 3
TUE: 7:00PM -£10	THUR: 7:00PM -£5	THUR: 7:00PM -£5	THUR: 7:00PM -£5
Ian Keil Lecture, Professor David Woodman, Cambridge University: <i>Æthelstan- The First Kind of England.</i>	Jean Townsend, <i>London's Lost Jewels: The Story of The Cheapside Hoard.</i>	Dr Deborah Tyler-Bennett, <i>Lost Empires: Music Hall in The East Midlands.</i>	Brian Williams Lecture, Loughborough's Lynne Dyer, author and tour guide, gives insight into her career.

Plus Creative Writing Workshops "Using Historic Details in Poetry and Prose" on Fridays in July – £12 per session, booking required. Contact debspoet1@gmail.com for details.



1620s House & Garden Donington le Heath

Live Lute Music
Saturday 25th April, 1 pm to 4 pm

Resident lutenist Nick Gravestock will be bringing the melodic tunes of a replica 1583 lute and a renaissance guitar to the 1620s House. Included with normal house admission.



Shakespeare and Kingship
Talk by Darren Freebury-Jones
Sunday 12th April, 6 pm to 7 pm

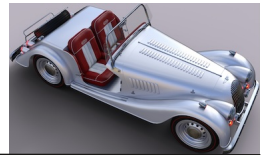
Darren Freebury-Jones reveals why audiences flocked to see plays such as Richard III and Henry V, and grapples with the big questions Shakespeare raises in his history plays. Tickets £8. For details and a booking link, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/4ykxcb3t>

For more 1620s House & Garden events, see: <https://1620shouse.org.uk/whats-on/>

Stonehurst Spring Car Afternoon

Sunday 26th April, 1 pm
Stonehurst Farm, Loughborough Rd,
Mountsorrel

Classic & vintage cars from all eras, bar & hog roast, music and a great atmosphere. No booking required – entry is donation on the gate to Rainbows Hospice. All welcome, whether bringing a car or just coming for a look.



For other local events, see:

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

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

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

National u3a News



u3a Festival 26, University of York, 1 – 3 July:

Tickets are selling rapidly and in fact 3-day tickets, and day tickets for the Wednesday and Thursday have now sold out. Tickets for Friday 3 July are still available.

Go to <https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/events/festival-2026> for more information and booking links.

Online Learning Events this month:

A wide variety of free online Zoom events are on offer this month, including talks on British Airmen in WW1, staying safe online, science adventures, Richard Nixon, magic squares, Anglo Saxon England, plus AI and geopolitics. Our own Pam Upton, u3a National Subject Advisor, will be joining two other group convenors to explore the English language, there's a 6-part course on cryptic crosswords for beginners, and lots more.

For details of all these, 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>

Obituary

Brenda Needham



We were sad to learn that longstanding Cu3a member Brenda Needham passed away on 28th February, aged 75 years. Her funeral was held on 17th March.

Brenda was an active member of the Local History and Days of Interest groups and is remembered with fondness by her u3a friends, as she was always smiling, friendly and helpful. As well as her u3a activities, Brenda also volunteered 3 days a week at Charnwood Men and Women in Sheds.

She will be deeply missed by all those who knew her, and our condolences go out to all her family and friends.

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 **May** issue of **News & Views** will be **Wednesday 29th April (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 More 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 under 'Help and Support'. Our Membership Secretary's phone number is shown, as are those of our IT Support team when you log in.

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>

