

News & Views

Newsletter

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Our Website

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

Welcome

...to the May 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: Storytelling, History and Food



See page 2 for details

View from the Chair



Over the next few months I am going to interview each of the Committee members so that you can get to know us a little better. Charnwood u3a is a large organisation with almost 1100 members.

The Committee, elected at the AGM, is there to keep the engine turning over and to maintain it in good working order. We are guided by the Third Age Trust and, as a charity, we have a legal responsibility to follow the Charity Commission rules.

Our constitution says that we have to have 4 officers: a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The maximum number on the Committee is 15 and the minimum is 5. The Committee can co-opt up to 3 people to join them.

Each member is elected for 3 years and may be re-elected for a further 3 year term. After 6 years, a break of a year must take place. A further 6 years can be done but after 12 years on the Committee the person may not stand again.

I am saying this now because I am in my 11th year on the Committee so I am already looking out for someone to replace me. Could it be you? There is an open invitation, to any member, to come along to our committee meetings, to see what we do and whether it might be something you could do. Our meetings are held at John Storer House at 10 am on the second Wednesday of the month. I would only ask that you let the Secretary know in advance so that there are enough seats.

I am guessing that most members will know my name, since I have been the Membership Secretary for the last 12 years. I took early retirement from teaching Mathematics and Computing in 2012 and joined the u3a in 2013. I am currently a group leader for 3 Table Tennis groups and 2 Scrabble groups and I also attend a Cribbage group. I still do about 7 hours of A Level Mathematics tuition each week and I can often be found in the kitchen at Emmanuel as part of the catering team.

New Member Liaison: I would like to thank Geetha Bala who has been our New Member Liaison. It is a vital role which involves making contact with new members after about 3-4 weeks to check if the members are settling in to the u3a. Now we are looking for someone else to fill this role. If this is something that you could do please contact chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk or phone me on 01509 213655.

Garry Rigby

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 at chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Last month, in a late change to our published programme, we were pleased to welcome Olivier Leger who took us on a fascinating journey exploring the ocean through art, showing us how he used underwater videos and photos to create innovative artwork with a green message.

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 April.



Our Next Meeting: Wednesday 13th May Storytelling, History and Food with Matthew O'Callaghan

Dr Matthew O'Callaghan is a British food historian, cook, writer, and teacher known for his expertise in traditional Italian and British recipes, in particular Melton Mowbray pork pies.

In 2015, as Chairman of the Melton Mowbray Pork Pie Association - which in 2009 gained Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) status for the world-famous Pie - Matthew was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. According to the official citation, this was for his "*Services to the Food Industry and Small Businesses in Leicester*".

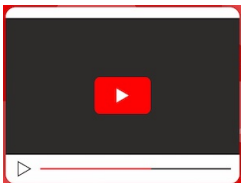
In this talk, Matthew will explore the tales we tell about food and how these intertwine with history to give us a sense of place and community, with particular reference to Melton Mowbray and other places in the East Midlands. Matthew will bring some samples of pork pies from Dickens & Morris and cheese from Long Clawson Dairy for us to try.



Dr Matthew O'Callaghan.
Image: Daily Mail

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:

In **June**, in a presentation postponed from April, we welcome musician Andy Smith who will present '**Life in the Music**'. Bringing a mixture of instruments including several different guitars, ukulele and mandolin, Andy will sing a collection of songs, some self-penned, some well-known and some comedy. Then in **July** we have a talk on **Abraham Lincoln's America** by **Andy Burton** before we take our summer break.

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

Group News



Who can be a Group Leader?

The short answer is that absolutely anybody can! There are no special requirements or talents needed, just an interest in something and a desire to make things work.

When I joined Charnwood u3a, I went along to a new members' meeting, joined a couple of groups I was interested in and then heard a message saying that the Singing for Pleasure group was about to fold as they could not find a new leader.

I thought, "I could have a go at that. What is the worst that could happen?" That was 11 years ago.

I have really enjoyed being a group leader; I have met some lovely people and heard amazing stories. It has also given me a huge amount of satisfaction and confidence. On several occasions, I have taken rehearsals for the choir I sing with when the Music Director has not been available, even taking a couple of concerts! These are things I would never have done without the experience of leading a group.

I am passing on this story for two reasons. The first is to say to anyone who is not sure whether to start or take over a group, "Just go for it. You will be amazed at what you get out of it!" The second reason is that the Singing for Pleasure group is in the same position it was 11 years ago. I no longer live near Loughborough and have commitments that I did not have many years ago so I will be giving up running the group in July. If we can't find a new leader, Singing for Pleasure will fold.

So if you can help to keep this lovely group singing, please get in touch. If you want any information, please contact me on:

singingforpleasure@charnwoodu3a.org.uk or coxesj@gmail.com or 07766 203051.

And if you are thinking of taking on another group, just go for it!

Brenda Cox



New Group for Dog Lovers

If you own a dog or simply enjoy the company of dogs, would you be interested in joining a group to share advice, experiences and support?

This could act as a forum for:-

- requests/offers for dog walking or companionship on dog walks
- advice/recommendations re. vets, kennels, dog-sitters, dog-walkers etc.

If interested, please contact Diane at:

dnhrpr@hotmail.co.uk

*Wallace and Gromit
from The Guardian
8 Oct 2012. Photo:
Associated Press*



Women's History

The first meeting of the new Women's History group (as introduced in April's News & Views, p.4) will be on **Thursday, May 28th at 2 o'clock**, when the topic will be 'Heroines from History'.

If you'd like to come along and would like more details, please get in touch with Pam Upton at:

womenshistory@charnwoodu3a.org.uk



Sustaining the Planet: Waste Disposal Guidance

The Sustaining the Planet group has recently been discussing waste recycling, prompted by the announcement that Councils will be changing the collection arrangements in the coming months.

Members of the group worked together to create a spreadsheet showing where or how different wastes could be disposed of locally in a sustainable way.



This useful guide is available from the group's page on our website at: <https://charnwoodu3a.org.uk/Groups/sustaining-the-planet>

Out and About

Gardening Group Visit to Stoneywell

Wednesday 13th May 2026. Self drive – arrive 1 pm

The Gardening Group are visiting Stoneywell on 13 May. We have capacity for a few more u3a members to join us. We will have a talk/guide of the cottage, and a separate talk about the gardens – we will split into two groups.

You can then explore the grounds at your own pace. We will be supplying refreshments (not the National Trust) so please bring your own mug. We will:

- Explore a 1950s family home with original collections and delve deeper into the stories of a family who lived and loved the Arts and Crafts.
- Look out for the tobacco shelf and climb to Olympus.
- Explore the stunning four acres of garden: look out for birds enjoying the gardens, hunt for bugs under rocks and, if you're lucky, you may spot a resident slow worm.
- Discover a hand-carved lizard in the eleven-acre woodland, part of Ulverscroft Valley SSSI.
- Enjoy breathtaking scenery and stunning views of Charnwood Forest



The cottage at Stoneywell is unsuitable for wheelchairs, as there is only one room on the ground level, and a spiral staircase to reach all other floors. There are many steep slopes around the garden, and visitors using wheelchairs are advised to explore the gardens at their own discretion. The Stables – which houses the tearoom and toilets – is fully accessible, as is the shuttle bus. For further information on accessibility go to: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/leicestershire-northamptonshire/stoneywell/stoneywell-accessibility>

In wet weather, exposed stone slabs and grass slopes can become very slippery, so please wear sensible footwear. Large bags or rucksacks should not be taken into the cottage.

We will meet at the National Trust car park on Whitcroft Lane, Ulverscroft, LE67 9QE at 1.00pm. There is a shuttle minibus to the cottage which takes just a few minutes. Cost: £15.70 for admission to the Cottage and Gardens – includes talk in cottage and garden talk. National Trust members £4.00.

If you'd like to join this visit, please contact the gardening group on gardening@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Parish Walks Group's Bluebell Wood Walk



On a lovely day in April, a group of 13 of us enjoyed a walk through Burleigh Wood where the bluebells were in full bloom, creating a beautiful blue blanket over the ground. Our walk then took us across the University Enterprise park – where we enjoyed a coffee stop by the lake and fountain – to Holywell Wood, and then back to our starting point on Nicolson Road.

Helen Reid



Days of Interest Group – Burghley House & Stamford in March, Audley End & Saffron Walden in April

Our first trip of the year, in March, was reasonably local. We started the day at Burghley House, which had only just opened for the season. After a short hiatus, caused by our group entry for some reason freezing the till, we were all let in and able to admire both the house and the lovely grounds. We benefited from it being lovely weather.

In the afternoon we moved on to Stamford, which was a little more crowded and noisier than normal as it was a fair weekend.

In April we took a trip to Audley End and Saffron Walden. Our first stop Audley End is an English Heritage property, which again had both fabulous grounds and a very interesting house. Again, we benefited from it being a lovely day to wander around the extensive gardens and parkland. Close to the house there are formal gardens, and as you move away from the house you can enjoy the less formal landscape, with lots of both wild and cultivated flowers and a winding river.



Burleigh House kitchen

Additionally, there are the walled garden and greenhouses to enjoy. The house is also very interesting with lots of enthusiastic guides to tell you both stories about the past residents and the fabric of the house. There are some beautiful wood carvings and ornate ceilings.



In Audley End grounds

In the afternoon we visited Saffron Walden – a delightful small town with lots of historic buildings and some very narrow streets – predating motor vehicles by some centuries. It was great to see so many independent shops and teashops. A few people commented on both the range of produce and the price of the fish platters on offer, but



In house at Audley End

I don't think anyone bought one. Many of us followed the town trail map to see the highlights including the Church and an almost hidden woody park accessed via a narrow lane between houses, a true hidden gem.

All our 2026 trips are now on the Charnwood u3a website. Our June to August trips are currently open only to Days of Interest Group members and the remaining trips have not yet been opened for bookings.

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.

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**



One to One Support:

Get help with using your laptop, tablet or phone for a particular task:

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

Our Website:

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

There is a useful Login guide at:
https://charnwoodu3a.org.uk/Log_Gde

and our IT Support page at:
https://charnwoodu3a.org.uk/IT_Support



MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<h2>May Calendar</h2> <p>PLUS Every Tuesday Fix IT Clinics in John Storer House café 10:30 - 12:00 PLUS at Weekends: Dol trip to Hereford (16 May), Sunday Lunch Club (10 May)</p> <p><i>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</i></p>				<p>1 May</p> <p>09.00 Badminton 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 Lunch Club 12.00 Table Tennis 6 13.30 Pilates 1</p>
<p>4 May</p> <p>09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Chess</p>	<p>5 May</p> <p>09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 10+ Walks 10.00 Spanish 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</p>	<p>6 May</p> <p>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</p>	<p>7 May</p> <p>10.00 Parish Walks 10.00 Spanish Conv 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.30 French Conv 19.00 Canasta 3</p>	<p>8 May</p> <p>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</p>
<p>11 May</p> <p>09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 10.00 Poetry 1 11.00 Table Tennis 1 11.30 Sci+Tech visit 14.00 Archaeology 14.00 Quiz group</p>	<p>12 May</p> <p>09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 Scrabble 3 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</p>	<p>13 May</p> <p>10.00 Committee 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.30 Monthly Meet 19.00 Canasta2Quorn</p>	<p>14 May</p> <p>11.00 Table Tennis 4 13.30 Line Dance 2 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.00 Contemp Music</p>	<p>15 May</p> <p>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</p>
<p>18 May</p> <p>09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 13.30 Canasta 2 14.00 Chess 14.00 Gardening 14.00 Painting</p>	<p>19 May</p> <p>09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 6+ Walks 10.00 Recorder 10.00 Spanish 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</p>	<p>20 May</p> <p>10.00 German 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 10.00 Poetry 2 10.00 Scottish Dance 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Cribbage 14.00 Family History 14.00 French Improve 14.00 Italian Conv</p>	<p>21 May</p> <p>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</p>	<p>22 May</p> <p>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</p>
<p>25 May</p> <p>09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1</p>	<p>26 May</p> <p>09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 ETHEL 10.00 Scrabble 3 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</p>	<p>27 May</p> <p>10.00 Golf 10.00 History 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Classical Music 14.00 Humanness 14.00 Reading Group 14.00 Travel Group 18.30 Supper Club</p>	<p>28 May</p> <p>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 14.00 WomensHistory</p>	<p>29 May</p> <p>09.00 Badminton 10.00 Line Dance 1 10.00 Mahjong 10.00 Table Tennis 7 10.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Table Tennis 5 12.00 Table Tennis 6 13.30 Pilates 1 19.30 Wine Apprec'n</p>

Robert's Recommended Reads

This month, Robert recommends novels written by John Fuller and Ian McEwan.

Flying to Nowhere by John Fuller

published in 1983

At just 84 pages, *Flying to Nowhere*, John Fuller's debut novel, is one of the shortest books ever to be included in a Booker Prize shortlist. As an established and respected poet, Fuller's precise language and his creation of a plot of 'shape-shifting' complexity make *Flying to Nowhere* a startling but most enjoyable fable.

The book is set in and around a monastery on a Welsh island. The Abbot is convinced that the human body is 'insufficient' and that it ought to be possible for the soul to escape the body. His endeavours to establish the 'seat of the soul' are both macabre and terrifying. Employing dissection and other gruesome activities, will he discover the secret of eternal life or is he completely insane?

Meanwhile, novices undergo bizarre ceremonial ordeals, following which their fate rests on the findings of a group of women who enter the bedchamber carrying sharp knives and bowls of hot water. On another part of the island, Vane, the Bishop's emissary who has been sent to investigate the disappearance of pilgrims, is digging up the land, looking for evidence of misdeeds.

If you choose to read this intriguing and intricate tale you will, I'm sure, be astonished by the depth and range which Fuller has managed to deliver in so few pages. *Flying to Nowhere* is genuinely a big book in a little package.



John Fuller
pictured in *The Guardian*,
7 Jan 2017 (as he
turned 80)
Photo: Tom Pilston/
The Guardian

The Innocent by Ian McEwan

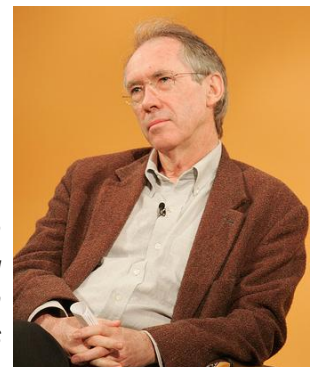
published in 1990

Ian McEwan's fourth novel is a masterclass in tension building storytelling. It is set in Berlin in 1955, a devastated post war city which has been divided into four 'Sectors' by the allied powers.

Twenty five year old Leonard Marnham is a British radio/telephone engineer seconded to assist in a joint operation with the Americans. Arriving in Berlin, Leonard has no idea of the nature of 'Operation Gold'. Gradually, he is given more details by the brash American Bob Glass. Leonard learns that a tunnel is being secretly excavated between the American and the Russian Sectors. The tunnel will terminate beneath buried communications cables where a vertical shaft will allow access to tap into these cables. The scale of this planned 'hack' is enormous. Leonard's task is to test and install dozens of large tape recorders which will record Moscow's messages to and from the German based Russians.

Invited on a night out by Glass, Leonard meets divorcee Maria Eckdorf. After several false starts, a passionate affair ensues and the couple become engaged. On the evening of their engagement party the narrative takes a darkly sinister turn. Maria's jealous ex husband, the drunken, brutal Otto breaks into Maria's flat and awaits the couple's return. Further details would ruin the thrilling climax of this superb book, so I'll stop here!

The Innocent is based on real events; the Berlin Tunnel or 'Operation Gold' was a joint MI6/CIA venture and operated for just under a year until April 1956. Two real people are featured in the book: William Harvey, the CIA's Head of Berlin Station and British traitor George Blake, who lived in the apartment block where McEwan places Marnham.



Ian McEwan
Photo (2008): *Flaming Ferrari*, Public domain, via
Wikimedia Commons

University Research Studies: Participants Wanted



Calling IT Users aged 65+

Help Us Improve Online Safety Support for Older Adults



I am **Jikun Yin**, A PhD. Student from **Loughborough University**. I am doing a study exploring **how people use different help – from a person or an AI assistant – to stay safe online.**

Your experience will help us design online safety support clearer, easier, and more useful.

● Regardless of skills!

Anyone aged 65 or above use a computer, a tablet, or smart-phone.

● To attend the research

We can meet at John Storer House, Loughborough University Design School, or other convenient places.

● One - Hour study

**Interact with Screens
A short Questionnaire
A short Interview**

● Contact me to arrange a meeting:

**Email:
J.Yin@lboro.ac.uk
Phone:
07840302911**

Or scan the QR code to book a slot



University of
Nottingham

Hearing Loss Study



Researchers at the Nottingham Biomedical Research Centre are looking for people who find it hard to hear speech in noisy places to join an online training study.

The study aims to improve two new listening and thinking games as a support tool for people with hearing loss. The researchers will be testing two new listening and thinking games in a programme called PLUS (Practice Listening and Understanding Speech). These training games were developed for people with hearing loss and are designed to support everyday listening, including listening in noise.

This study has been reviewed and approved by the University of Nottingham Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee.

If you feel this may be of interest to you, please contact Natalie Lerigo-Smith or Helen Henshaw on 0115 8232606 or email helen.henshaw@nottingham.ac.uk

You can also find more information at:

<https://nottinghambrc.nihr.ac.uk/research/hearing> and

<https://nottinghambrc.nihr.ac.uk/research/hearing/intervention-development-and-evaluation>



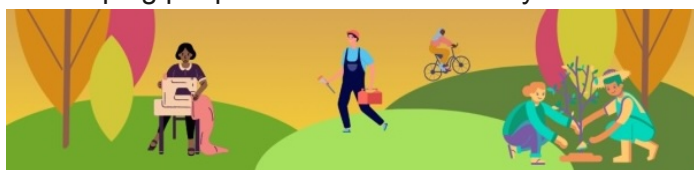
The NIHR Nottingham Biomedical Research Centre is a partnership between Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust and the University of Nottingham, supported by NHS and academic partners in Nottingham and across the East Midlands.

Upcoming Local Events

Charnwood Eco Hub Sustainability Fair

Sunday 3rd May 2026 10 am – 3 pm
Queen's Park, Loughborough

This Fair is a community celebration of practical sustainability. Hosted by the Charnwood Eco Hub, the event brings together local organisations, makers and community groups who are passionate about reducing waste, protecting the environment and helping people live more sustainably.



Visitors can enjoy a lively mix of activities including bike repairs, seed bomb making, a refill station, and a range of stalls sharing ideas for repairing, reusing and making greener choices. With food, entertainment and plenty of opportunities to connect with others, the fair offers a welcoming space for the community to learn new skills, discover local initiatives and be inspired to take small steps that make a big difference for the planet. Free entry.



Sunday 10th May, 12 pm – 6 pm
Loughborough Students' Union lawn

Spend a Sunday afternoon enjoying a jam-packed line-up of performances from talented Loughborough student societies. From classical, rock, and acapella music to drama and dance, there is something for everyone at this free community event.

LSU Community Fun Day

Sunday 17th May, 12 pm – 4 pm
Loughborough Students' Union

A vibrant afternoon packed with activities, entertainment, and excitement for all ages. From stalls and games, face painting and balloon modelling to community and student performances, food and drinks, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

This free event is on the same day as the Loughborough International Athletics (LIA). So after catching some world-class athletics action, head over to LSU for even more festivities and community spirit. No admission fee and no booking required. Rain or shine, the event will go ahead (moving inside if wet).

Queen's Park Summer Sunday Bandstand Concerts

Concerts featuring a wide variety of local concert bands, choirs, jazz bands and classical ensembles will be held throughout the summer in Queen's Park in Loughborough for residents and visitors to attend.

The popular bandstand concerts, organised by Charnwood Borough Council, begin on **Sunday, 17th May** with a performance by the **Loughborough Student Union (LSU) Classical Concert Band**.

All the bandstand concerts commence at 2 pm and are **FREE** to attend. There is limited seating around the bandstand so visitors are encouraged to bring along a picnic chair and/or blanket.

Regular Sunday concerts are scheduled between May and September, with a final performance by the LSU Classical Concert Band on 11th October.

The schedule for 2026 is shown below, but please note: these are subject to change. For the latest information, go to:

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

- 17 May - LSU Classical Concert Band
- 24 May - Bellatones Band
- 31 May - Charnwood Symphonic Wind Orchestra
- 7 June - Junkyard Cats Jazz Band
- 14 June - Ratby Crescendo Brass Band
- 21 June - Charnwood Concert Band
- 28 June - Melbourne Town Band
- 12 July - Loughborough Concert Band
- 19 July - Loughborough Male Voice Choir
- 26 July - Quorn Ukulele Orchestra
- 2 August - Melton Band
- 16 August - New Orleans Hotshots Jazz Band
- 23 August - Syston Town Band
- 6 September - Enderby Concert Band
- 13 September - Nottingham Concert Band
- 11 October - LSU Classical Concert Band



Photo: Charnwood Borough Council



Library's Read Around the World Display

Monday 4th May – Friday 8th May, Library opening hours, Pilkington Library

Have you joined the University Library yet? (See April 2025 issue of News & Views, page 11). As part of the National Year of Reading, Pilkington Library is offering users the opportunity to expand their reading horizons and reconnect with the joy of discovery. From 4th to 8th May, the Library invites you to explore their Read Around the World Display.

This curated collection features books from different countries and cultures, offering:

- Stories set across continents
- Authors from a wide range of cultural backgrounds
- Fiction and non-fiction that broaden global perspectives
- Voices you may not have encountered in your usual reading



Whether you're drawn to contemporary international fiction, translated works, memoir, or cultural histories, this display is designed to help you discover something new. It's an opportunity to step beyond familiar genres or authors and experience storytelling through a different lens. Free entry, no booking required.

University Choir Spring Concert

Wed 13th May, 7:30 pm Cope Auditorium

A musical feast on the theme of 'Songs of love and marriage' featuring:

- Eleanor Graff-Baker – Conductor
- Yuliia Soloviova – Accompanist



The first half will include music by Cole Porter, Jonathan Larsen and Ivor Novello, with familiar folk song arrangements and opportunities for audience participation. Instrumentalists from LSU Classical will accompany the Choir in the second half for a performance of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's 'Hiawatha's Wedding Feast'.

Cost: £8 or £6 Loughborough students/under 16s

The University Choir is made up of students, staff, alumni and members of the local community. They rehearse on Monday evenings during term time and welcome new members. To book, go to:

<https://www.lboro.ac.uk/news-events/events/university-choir-spring-concert.html>

Friends of Charnwood Museum

**All Saints Parish Church
Steeple Row, Loughborough**

**Guided Tour by Roger Willson
Thursday 21st May, 6:30 – 9:00 pm**

Archivist Roger Willson will give a guided tour of All Saints with Holy Trinity Church, Loughborough, looking at the history of the outside and inside of this wonderful building.

Members £3 and guests £5 - all welcome.

Booking essential: Please visit the museum and talk to a member of staff or call 01509 233754.

Payment can be taken over the phone.

More information at:

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



All Saints Church,
Picture: Bellminsterboy,
CC BY-SA 4.0



Loughborough University Inaugural Lectures:

Wednesday 20th May, 5 pm, Edward Herbert Building, 110b

Connecting living computers, cancer diagnostics and plastic pollution: The making of an interdisciplinary scientist?

**Professor Paul Roach
Department of Chemistry**

Finding Miss Weaver: James Joyce, Harriet Shaw Weaver and other lives

**Professor Clare Hutton
School of Social Sciences & Humanities**

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/>



1620s House & Garden Donington le Heath

Live Lute Music
Sunday 10th May, 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's Music
Ayres and Graces Concert
Friday 15th May, 7 pm to 9 pm

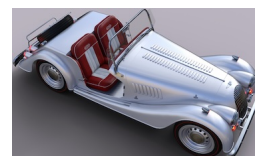
Ayres and Graces presents a delightful evening of music, songs and readings from or inspired by the works of Shakespeare. Tickets £8. Pre-booking essential. For details and booking link go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/27mx5txz>

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

Stonehurst Spring Car Night

Monday 25th May, 5 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/may>

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

National u3a News



Research on the positive impact of learning

The Trust is collaborating with a PhD researcher at Oxford Brookes University to explore the connection between learning in later life, especially around helping the planet, and improved wellbeing. You can help this research by taking a survey at https://brookeshls.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_datRt7XBqFnIzpc

u3a Festival Fringe

If you aren't able to attend u3a Festival 26, you can join an online programme of events over a two-week period in the lead up to, and following on from, the Festival in York on 1-3 July, featuring online workshops and talks from Festival speakers. Highlights include *How to watercolour*, *The role of women in ancient Egypt*, and *The role of wind energy in the UK's electricity system*. More information to follow.

Tell the story of UK's historic buildings

The Trust have just launched a new learning activity, *Missing Pieces*, where you can help uncover the stories of the historic buildings near you, by creating a short written or visual record to help build a richer picture of our shared heritage. For more details, go to:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/learning/learning-activities/missing-pieces>

Online Learning Events this month

A wide variety of free online Zoom events are on offer this month, including talks on: several historic buildings around the UK (in support of the *Missing Pieces* project mentioned above), enormous numbers and where to find them, stories from the frontiers of exploration, suffering and hope in Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*, AI news, what are drones good for?, 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, can be found at: <https://sources.u3a.org.uk>

Items for News & Views

Do you have an announcement, story, poem – or even a short comment – to share with your fellow Cu3a members? All contributions are very welcome, and we can preserve your anonymity if you prefer that your name does not appear in the newsletter.

There is a limit of around 500 words per item, and photos are very welcome – 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 **June issue of News & Views** will be **Saturday 30th May (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 Secretary on secretary@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>

