

News & Views



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Welcome

...to the June 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 2 for details

View from the Chair



In each issue of *News & Views*, starting this month, I plan to write short profiles of my fellow Committee members, so you get to know them a little better.

This month, I would like to introduce Sam Hardwick, the Vice Chair.

Sam has been a Charnwood u3a member for seven years. Sam belongs to the History group and the Get Active - Stay Seated group.

After leaving school, Sam worked in the carpet industry within the production, work study and sales teams. When he moved to Leicester, he joined the Human Resource team at Redland Aggregates where he ultimately became an Organisational and People Development specialist. His role involved a wide range of responsibilities including working for the corporate university which involved international travel.

Sam loves sports and in his younger days he played county hockey for Worcestershire and Leicestershire and became the county coach for the Leicestershire men's squad, a role he held for 10 years. He also played cricket to a decent standard. After he stopped playing hockey he became a Midlands Premier Division hockey umpire.

These days, Sam enjoys working out in the gym, playing and coaching bowls and watching a wide range of sports. Sam has always really enjoyed music and attending gigs. He also enjoys reading and literature.

Sam loves to travel with his wife Debra and they have visited many different countries - he thinks it's over 60 and counting.



Sam Hardwick

Our Website at www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk has lots of information about Charnwood u3a: our groups, trips and more.

Garry Rigby
chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

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, we enjoyed a very interesting and well illustrated presentation by Matt Hall, founder of Hidden Food Tours, entitled "Storytelling, History and Food". Matt described how myths and legends can bring food to life, and brought plentiful samples of Melton Mowbray pork pies and Stilton and Red Leicester cheese for us to taste.

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 11th May.



Our Next Meeting: Wednesday 10th June

'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 also explain a bit about the instruments he has brought along.

For more information, photos and video/audio, see Andy's website at: <https://www.andysmithmusician.com/>

Note: this session had to be postponed from its original planned date of 8th April this year.



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 July - December 2026

- **08 Jul:** *Abraham Lincoln's America – Michael 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 on upcoming meetings will appear in future issues of *News & Views* and on our website on the **Monthly Meetings** page under the 'Our Events' menu.

Group News

Local History Boat Trip

**Monday 27th July
Canal/River trip with
Peter le Marchant Trust**

There are some places available on this trip which is now open to all Cu3a members.

This 'all-day' boat trip (10 am – 3 pm) will take us along the Canal and River Soar from Loughborough to Normanton on Soar and back, including a stop for a pub lunch (or you can take a picnic if you prefer).

Cost – excluding lunch which is paid for individually on the day – is £20 per person.

Further info at <https://www.plmt.org.uk/day-trips>

If you are interested in joining this trip, please email LocalHistory@charnwoodu3a.org.uk



French Improvers

Bonjour. We are a friendly group who meet twice a month to translate and discuss the French language.

We currently have three vacancies if you are interested in joining us. Meetings are held in the Community Room in Tesco with easy parking and potential for ride sharing.

A basic level of French would be desirable.

To express an interest in this group, please email FrenchImprovers@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Susan Wills
Co-leader, French Improvers



Contemporary Music Appreciation

This is a recently formed group and for our first two meetings we were asked to bring along recordings where the artist and/or piece of music was probably unknown to other group members. This resulted in a huge variety of content including a very atypical tune by Vangelis, an early song by Steely Dan and a little known band called Back Door!

Despite the diversity of music on offer, we all went away having thoroughly enjoyed most of it.

For our June meeting the theme will be 'Jazz or Jazz influenced'; then in July we will explore 'Artists – then and now'.

We have room for one or two more members so, if you enjoy good music and would like to share it with others, please contact me at contemporarymusic@charnwoodu3a.org.uk



Mike Hood

Thursday Six Milers

The photo below shows our Thursday six-milers at their halfway break on May 28th. The Tuesday walk had been called off because of the extreme heat, but the temperatures had dropped just enough to get this one done. Pictured at Calke Abbey, half the group have disappeared to use the facilities – or buy an ice cream!

Kate Watson



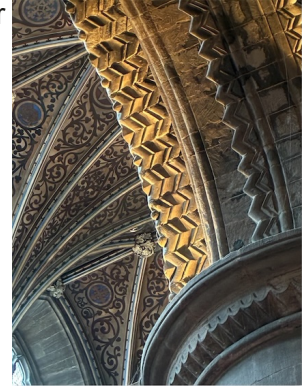
Out and About

Days of Interest Group Trip to Hereford

We weren't quite so lucky, as we had been in April and May, with the weather for our Hereford trip – where we had intermittent drizzle. However, we all made the best of it and just spent perhaps a little more time in the cathedral and various teashops than we would normally have done. Most of us didn't make the walk along the riverside. All that said, it was an enjoyable and interesting trip.



The Cathedral City is compact, with some quirky, shambles like, cut throughs between the main streets. One of the highlights was the cathedral. It is an extremely impressive space, with some beautiful stained-glass windows – both old and quite modern – and beautiful stonework (see picture on right). The cathedral also houses the Mappa Mundi, a thirteenth century map of the world. One of the first surprises is that the map is orientated with the East at the top and centres on biblical events. Britain is on the Southwest edge of the map. The illustrations are fabulous. No sign of Australia.



Also housed in the cathedral is the chained library. As books were so valuable, chained libraries were in place from the Middle Ages to the 18th century. Hereford's is the largest chained library to survive, and its most important book is the 8th Century Hereford Gospels.

Another highlight of the city is the Black and White House museum – which has luckily survived various developments, despite being in the middle of the city. It's an interesting place to visit, with barely a flat floor anywhere and some quite precipitous staircases.

Once a butchers shop, it also tells the story of a particularly spirited butcher's wife. Not far from the Black and White house is a statue of a Hereford Bull (see above picture of a group of us posing with this) and in at least one of the tea shops there are pictures of a bull being led through a china shop.

We do have some vacancies for our July trip to Cambridge and our August trip to Newby Hall. A full description is available on the website but in brief (in both cases departing Tesco car park, 8:30 am):-

Saturday 18th July – Cambridge - one of England's foremost University towns, with famous colleges, art galleries and punting. Price: £19.00 per person.

Saturday 15th August – Newby Hall – one of Britain's finest Adam Houses with RHS winning gardens, and the possibility of spotting a kingfisher. Price: £44.00 per person – including admission.

All our 2026 trips are now on the Cu3a website. Our June trip is full, and our July and August trips are now open to all u3a members. The remaining trips have not yet been opened for bookings.

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

Burton-on-the-Wolds Gardening Club

an invitation to all Cu3a members to join us on a Coach Trip to

National Trust Wightwick Manor and David Austin Roses

Tuesday 30th June
9:15am – 6:45pm

Depart from Greyhound Pub
Burton on the Wolds at 9.15 am
£44.10 per person
£27 National Trust member

Contact Rosemary Adams
07544 868988

June Calendar

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<p>1 Jun</p> <p>09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Chess 14.00 Current Affairs</p>	<p>2 Jun</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>3 Jun</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>4 Jun</p> <p>10.00 Parish Walks 10.00 Sci+Tech 10.00 Spanish Conv 11.00 Table Tennis 4 13.30 Line Dance 2 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.30 French Conv 19.00 Canasta 3</p>	<p>5 Jun</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>8 Jun</p> <p>09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 10.00 Poetry 1 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Archaeology 14.00 Quiz group</p>	<p>9 Jun</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>10 Jun</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>11 Jun</p> <p>11.00 Table Tennis 4 13.30 Line Dance 2 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.00 Contemp Music</p>	<p>12 Jun</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>15 Jun</p> <p>09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 13.30 Canasta 2 14.00 Chess 14.00 Painting</p>	<p>16 Jun</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>17 Jun</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>18 Jun</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>19 Jun</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>22 Jun</p> <p>09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Local History</p>	<p>23 Jun</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>24 Jun</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 18.30 Supper Club</p>	<p>25 Jun</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>26 Jun</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 19.30 Wine Apprec'n</p>
<p>29 Jun</p> <p>09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Chess</p>	<p>30 Jun</p> <p>09.30 Pilates 2 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</p>	<p>PLUS Every Tuesday Fix IT Clinics in John Storer House café 10:30 - 12:00 and at Weekends: Dol trip to Helmsley (20 June), Sunday Lunch Club (14 June)</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>		

Robert's Recommended Reads

For June, Robert recommends novels written by Bram Stoker and Barry Unsworth.

Dracula by Bram Stoker

published in 1897

In *Dracula*, Bram Stoker created one of the most famous and enduring fictional characters. Versions of his terrifying interpretation of vampire mythology, both in books and on film continue to emerge on a regular basis, even today. However, I wonder how many people have read Bram Stoker's original text?

Perhaps the most telling and prophetic review of the original novel came from the author's mother, just after the book was published in June 1897. From her son's native Ireland Charlotte Stoker wrote to him in London: "No book since Mrs. Shelley's *Frankenstein* or indeed any other book at all has come near yours in originality or terror. In its terrible excitement it should make a widespread reputation and much money for you".

The eponymous *Dracula* is an aristocratic Transylvanian vampire. The book tells of his plans to travel to England and of the mission launched to destroy him by a small group of friends and associates, led by the enigmatic Van Helsing. Stoker's narrative is in the form of journal fragments and letters exchanged between the principal characters. It begins with extracts from the diary of Jonathan Harker, a young solicitor sent to Transylvania to finalise the purchase of a London property by Count Dracula.

The tension and gripping terror of Stoker's masterpiece builds to a shocking conclusion of this hugely enjoyable tale. Stoker's book probes deeply into the questions of human sanity, personal identity and sexual desire versus sexual power. Over the years since it first appeared, *Dracula* has been exhaustively analysed and interpreted. The book has been variously described as a psychological thriller, a dark fairy tale, an allegorical myth and a perverse sexual horror story.

Having recently read the book for the first time, I would simply summarise it as an exceptional, thought provoking and thrilling adventure story featuring one of the most brilliantly conceived, monstrous villains to be found anywhere in literature.

Bram Stoker (1847-1912)
Photo circa 1906



After Hannibal by Barry Unsworth

published in 1996

Barry Unsworth was the joint winner of the Booker Prize in 1992* with his seafaring saga *Sacred Hunger*. He has been Booker shortlisted on two other occasions with *Pascali's Island* (1980) and *Morality Play* (1995). Unsworth's books are reliably entertaining, few more so than *After Hannibal*.

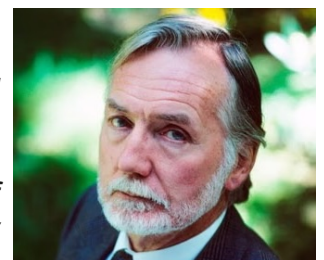
This sharply observed satire about the clash of cultures between English and Italians is also a very funny, beautifully written study of character, society and landscape.

Set in a valley in contemporary Umbria, we find Professor Monti immersing himself in the area's history in an attempt to quell the pain of his wife's desertion. Meanwhile, the rather pompous Englishman Harold Chapman and his wife constantly feud with their Italian neighbours whilst the innocent Greens from America fall prey to crooked property developer Stan Blemish. The local set is completed by Ritter, son of a Nazi officer, seeking release from the guilt of his past.

After Hannibal is an absorbing and captivating work, subtly combining the skills of an accomplished story teller with a fine sense of history.

*The Booker Prize judges, for only the second time in the Prize's history, jointly awarded the 1992 prize to *Sacred Hunger* and *The English Patient* by Michael Ondaatje.

Barry Unsworth
in 1994, pictured
in *The Guardian*
8 June 2012.
Photo: Ulf
Andersen/Getty



University Research Studies: Participants Wanted



The BRANCH Study: 6 weeks of Walking for Wellbeing

Loughborough University researchers are looking for participants for **The BRANCH Study**, a 6-week walking programme exploring how different walking environments may influence enjoyment, motivation, physical activity habits and mental wellbeing.

You can take part if you are:

- aged 18 – 70
- have a BMI below 40 kg/m²
- currently do less than 5 hours of moderate physical activity a week.

The study is designed to be flexible and achievable. Participants will gradually build up their walking over 6 weeks, starting with **one 50-minute walk in week 1**, increasing to **two walks in week 2**, and then aiming for **three 50-minute walks per week from weeks 3–6**. Walks are completed independently, at a comfortable pace, and can be fitted around each participant's weekly routine.

Participants will use the **Strava app** to track their walks and complete short wellbeing questionnaires at the start and end of the study. An investigator will also support participants before the programme begins to make sure they feel confident with the walking route and how to record their walks. As a thank you, participants will receive a **£10 Amazon voucher**.

To find out more or register your interest, please contact: m.putland@lboro.ac.uk or scan the QR code on the right.



Concern about Falling in Older Adults: Online Survey

How seeing or hearing about others falling affects older adults' worries about falling

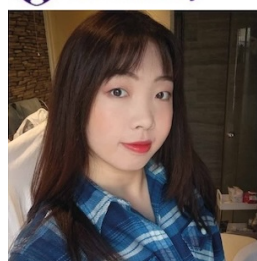
Researchers at Leicester University, led by Psychology Lecturer Dr Matt Hill, are currently conducting a study to explore whether seeing or hearing about other people falling (e.g. friends, family members or others) influences an individual's own worries or concerns about falling. It is hoped the findings will help improve understanding of fear of falling and contribute to future falls prevention approaches.

To take part, you need to be **aged 60 or over, living independently in the community, able to walk at least 10 metres on your own (with or without a walking aid) and not suffering from a progressive neurological condition**. If you agree to take part, you will be asked to complete an online survey that will take about 15–20 minutes and asks about your experiences with falls, any concerns you may have about falling, and your everyday activities. You will also be asked whether you would like to take part in a 6-month and 12-month follow-up survey to track changes over time.

Participation is entirely voluntary, anonymous, and confidential. The survey can be completed online at a time convenient to participants and there are no right or wrong answers; the researchers are simply interested in people's experiences and perspectives. For more information and survey link, go to: <https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/leicester/how-seeing-or-hearing-others-falling-affects-older-adults-worri>



Improving Online Safety Support for Older Adults



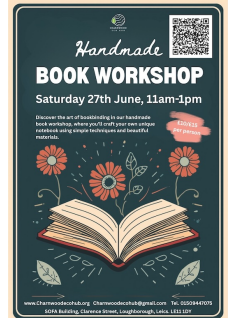
As featured in last month's *News & Views* (p.8), Jikun Yin, a Loughborough University PhD student, is looking at older adults' opinions on the different supports (real person or AI assistant) to stay safe online. She still needs some more participants to complete her study, so if you are aged 65+, an IT/smartphone user and can spare 45 minutes to meet her at John Storer House or other location at a time to suit you, please contact her by email: J.Yin@lboro.ac.uk, phone **07840 302911** or you can book a slot at <https://calendly.com/98482-yjk/help-us-improve-online-safety-support-for-older-adults>

Upcoming Local Events



Two Workshops at Charnwood Eco Hub SOFA Building, Clarence Street, Loughborough

Charnwood Eco Hub is a not-for-profit, shared community hub based in Loughborough, whose aim is to provide a space to meet, make, fix, create and share sustainable ideas and resources. This month, they are offering two workshops, as detailed below. Cost of each workshop: £10 for low income participants, students and members, £15 full price



Upcycled Innertube Jewellery Workshop

Saturday 13th June, 11 am – 1 pm

In this workshop, you are invited to get creative and give new life to old materials. In this relaxed, hands-on session you'll learn how to transform reclaimed bicycle inner tubes into bold, stylish jewellery and accessories to take home. Perfect for beginners and crafty creatives alike, with all materials supplied by Two Wheel Campus.

For more information and a booking link, go to:
<https://www.eventbookings.com/b/event/inner-tube-jewellery-workshop>

Handmade Book Workshop

Saturday 27th June, 11 am – 1 pm

In this workshop, you are invited to discover the art of bookbinding and craft your own unique notebook using simple techniques and beautiful materials, finishing with a lovely hand stitched book. Don't worry if you're new to book making as this workshop caters to all skill levels, providing a supportive environment where you can explore your creativity and discover the satisfaction of handmade and hand-decorated books that you can cherish.

For more information and a booking link, go to:
<https://www.eventbookings.com/b/event/book-making-workshop>

Burton Symposia – Professor Andrew Thompson (1986)

**Loughborough Grammar School
Tuesday 16th June, 5 pm**

'Humanitarianism on Trial': The Future Role of the United Nations

Professor Thompson is a leading academic and adviser on international humanitarian policy. He has worked at the highest levels of government, including advising on combating modern slavery and human trafficking, and contributing extensively to the Windrush Review. This talk will explore the future role of the UN at a time when humanitarian intervention, global governance, and international cooperation are under increasing pressure. Drawing on new research for his forthcoming book, he will examine whether the UN remains fit for purpose – and what must change if it is to meet the challenges of the coming decades. This is a timely and thought-provoking event for anyone interested in global politics, ethics, human rights and the realities of international decision-making.

Tickets are free but booking is required. Go to:
<https://www.ticketsource.com/loughborough-grammar-school/t-vxvlnnx> or phone 01509 233233

National Theatre Live: The Playboy of the Western World

**Thursday 11th June, 7 pm – 10 pm
Cope Auditorium**

John Millington Synge's riveting play of youth and self-discovery, directed by Caitríona McLaughlin.

Pegeen Flaherty's life is turned upside down when a young man walks into her pub claiming that he's killed his father. Instead of being shunned, the killer becomes a local hero and begins to win hearts, that is until a second man unexpectedly arrives on the scene... Certificate: 12A. Running time: 157mins.

Tickets: £10, or £5 for LU students. Book in advance online or pay by card on the door. More details at:
<https://www.lboro.ac.uk/news-events/events/national-theatre-live-the-playboy-of-the-western-world.html>

Love Loughborough Car Show

**Sunday 21st June, 10 am – 4 pm
Loughborough Market Place**

This popular free event attracts car enthusiasts from across the Midlands. Come along and view all kinds of vehicles from vintage, American, Land Rovers, sports and many others.

More Upcoming Local Events



Loughborough
University

LU School of Design and Creative Arts Degree Show

Saturday 6th June – Wednesday 10th June, School of Design and Creative Arts

With over 500 students across Design, Industrial Design, Product Design and Technology, Graphic Design, Fine Art, Fashion Design and Technology, Textile Design, and Art and Design Foundation programmes, the exhibition provides a platform for the graduating students to display their creativity. The work featured will include an array of design and art pieces from sculpture and paintings to textile and fashion through to illustration, digital design and physical prototypes.

The show will be open to the public 10 am – 5 pm each day from Saturday 6th to Tuesday 9th, and 10 am – 1 pm on Wednesday 10th. All are welcome, entrance is free and no booking is required. There is a pedestrian route to all buildings and directions will show you how to get to each, as will University staff and students. For more information see <https://sdcashow2026.lboro.ac.uk/>



Loughborough
University

Loughborough University Inaugural Lectures:

Wednesday 10th June, 5 pm, Edward Herbert Building, 110b

Ready Student One: Will immersive learning transform Higher Education?

**Professor Gary Burnett
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/>

Why more wireless? From mobile phones to healthcare, sensors to driverless cars, space communications – and beyond

**Professor William Whittow
School of Mechanical, Electrical and Manufacturing Engineering**

Friends of Charnwood Museum The Base Hospital

Talk by Robin Jenkins

Thursday 25th June, 7:30 – 9:30 pm

Join Robin Jenkins to hear the story of the 5th Northern Hospital and its satellites, one of the UK's largest military hospitals, which operated a network of smaller hospitals and nursing homes throughout the East Midlands, as well as the experience of its staff and patients from before mobilization in 1914 to closure in November 1919.

Members £3 and guests £5 - all welcome.
Booking essential on 01509 233754 or by calling into the museum.

Doors open at 7pm for light refreshments and the talk commences at 7.30pm. Please use the evening entrance opposite the library. More information at: <https://www.charnwoodmuseum.co.uk/events>

Also now on at Charnwood Museum: New free exhibition 'Keeping the lights on' - the history of BRUSH: on until 27 September, open Wed-Sat 10am – 4pm; Sun 1 – 4pm.

Armed Forces Day Celebration

Saturday 27th June

Queen's Park, Loughborough

A family-friendly, community-focused celebration in the heart of Queen's Park in Loughborough, Armed Forces Day is a moment to honour the men and women of the Armed Forces – from current serving troops, service families and veterans, to cadets representing the future. Come along and say thank you while enjoying a packed programme of displays, entertainment and activities.

FREE entry for everyone – family, friends, neighbours, even your dog (on a lead, please).
More details at: <https://www.discovercharnwood.co.uk/events/2026/06/armed-forces-day>

For other local events, see:

<https://www.discovercharnwood.co.uk/events>
<https://allevents.in/loughborough/june>
<https://www.lboro.ac.uk/news-events/events/>
<https://1620shouse.org.uk/whats-on/>

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**



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

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

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



National u3a News



Explore walks with another u3a this summer

This national walking month, explore a route you may not have tried before, with the help of the u3a Walking Exchange. This initiative links walking groups, giving members the chance to enjoy walks hosted by a different u3a while discovering unfamiliar areas. Find out more on the u3a Walking Exchange website at <https://subjectadvisers.u3asite.uk/walking-exchange-home/>

Online Learning Events this month

A wide variety of free online Zoom events are on offer this month, including talks on: **food technology, how to play bridge, Victorian painting, experience and the ageing brain, history of Britain's roads, Pascal's Triangle, Wessex v the Vikings, wind energy, Venetian islands**, and lots more. For details of all these, including how to book, go to: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events> where Fringe Festival events – online events to complement activities at the in-person Festival – are highlighted in lilac.

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>

Obituary

David Rennie



Photo: Loughborough Echo

We are sad to report that David Rennie passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on 17th April, aged 67.

Martyn Speight and Ginette Hsu have supplied the following tribute on behalf of the Pickleball and Walking groups of which he was a member:

It is with much sadness that the Pickleball Group recently learnt of the unexpected death of David Rennie. He had played Pickleball with the group since the start of 2025, quickly picking up the game and was always positive and encouraging. As a group we try to mix the group so that play is with different partners and opponents. David helped to achieve this and it was always good to have him as a partner.

David was a fairly new member of the Thursday Walking Group and is remembered for, from time to time, striding along at the front and getting ahead of the walk leader!

It was a joy to be in David's company and he will very much be missed as a Cu3a group member. Our condolences go out to all his family and friends.

Obituary

R.I.P. Ann Foord

Ann died peacefully at home in her flat at Quorn at the beginning of May following several months of hospitalisation, being house-bound and becoming increasingly frail. She will be very greatly missed by the many friends she made through her membership of Charnwood u3a. In fact she said to me on more than one occasion that it was this friendship which had kept her going after the sudden death of her husband, Tony.

Ann was a faithful member of several groups and a regular attender at meetings: Chris Brown's History group, Poetry Appreciation and Music Appreciation – in both of which she made a significant contribution – Architecture, Elizabeth Steel's concert-going group and my own English Parish Churches group where she was a founder member in 2004 and for which she acted as group treasurer for some time. For all of these, she hardly ever missed a meeting. She also took every advantage of outings and visits right up to last October at Woodhouse Eaves which would be the last time we would see her out and about.

Her determination to make the most of u3a activities was shown when she began to get less mobile and had to rely on wheelers, taxis and offers of lifts. Ann also participated in holidays led by Chris Brown [I remember one particularly, a tour to Normandy based in Rouen] and by the Travel Group: looking through my pictures, I can see her on holidays in Norfolk, Kent, London, Sussex, Liverpool and Wessex to name just a few. Membership of the u3a also led to our becoming very good friends, something I could never have imagined would happen when I first met her as a parent of a pupil at Loughborough Grammar School in the 1970s; but we discovered a mutual love of art, poetry and music, particularly a love of the operas of Wagner and Britten with many visits to concerts and opera performances. I for one will greatly miss her: I am sure that for all of us, one of the sadnesses of older life is to have to say goodbye to those who have become genuine friends through our membership of Charnwood u3a.

Roger Willson

Further tributes to Ann from other group leaders:

Poetry group leader Sue Drott writes:
Ann Foord was an enthusiastic member of the Poetry Group for many, many years. She was a great reader of poetry and appreciated the opportunity for discussions of poetry in the u3a group. The members of the Wednesday and Friday poetry groups have expressed their sense of loss of a lady who was warm, friendly, always with a positive outlook, and a love of poetry.

Roy Faulkner adds:
Ann Foord was a dedicated supporter of the Science and Technology group. She acted as treasurer to the Science and Technology group II during the period 2016 – 2021. Ann always took an active part in discussions and visits. She will be greatly missed.



Ann on a mid-morning break at Henley on Thames, 2018: Travel Group holiday to Sussex and Hampshire

Mary Otter

We were sad to learn of the death of Mary Otter – widow of Cu3a member Malcolm Otter who died last July – who passed away in mid-May after a short illness. She was a member of the Thursday Walking, Photography and Travel groups.

The following words have been supplied by Kate Watson:

Mary was a good friend of mine. She had recently joined the travel group but unfortunately had to pull out of the recent Yorkshire trip at the last minute due to ill health.

During her life she was a worldwide traveller, from filming jaguars in South America to visiting the aftermath of Chernobyl in a suitable protective suit.

She first met her husband, Malcolm, when they both worked for Fisons in Loughborough, but did not get together until a chance meeting in New Zealand.

Our condolences go out to Mary's family and friends. Mary's funeral is on 30 June at Loughborough Crematorium at 1:15, afterwards at Longcliffe Golf Club.

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 **July** issue of **News & Views** will be **Monday 29th June (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> with a link from the Home page.

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>

