

# News & Views



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## Our Website

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

## Welcome

...to the July edition of *News & Views*, the newsletter of Charnwood u3a. We hope you'll find it both entertaining and informative. The content is written by members, and details for sending contributions can be found on the last page.



## Our Next Monthly Meeting: History of the Ambulance Service



See page 2  
for details

## View from the Chair



July heralds the start of the summer holidays, recalling some of the happiest memories of our school years. There are others less delightful of course. Cross country in the middle of November; the skin on the top of school custard; the dreaded cane.

Some of you will be gearing up for grandparent duties. As an ex-teacher I could never resist that annoying question: 'What have you been doing in school?' But what if the answer came back, 'Grammar, Granny.'? Even if you had grammar lessons at school, can you still tell your nouns from your pronouns, your participles from your prepositions? A ten year-old can. Last month members of the ETHEL group (Exploring the English Language) had fun - well Ethel thought it was fun! - tackling the Key Stage 2 grammar test. One bemused member asked, 'What is it for - apart from passing the exam?'

Thank goodness we don't have exams in the u3a. Browsing on the national u3a website (Do take a look- it's really interesting), I came across the original statement of the u3a ethos. The idea was that members would learn from each other, that 'there would be no distinction between learners and teachers - everyone could take a turn at being both if they wished.' We're very lucky in Charnwood u3a to have group leaders with brilliant knowledge and skills that they share with their members. But we also have groups where nobody is the 'expert' and members take turns to introduce topics, as well as sharing the organisational tasks which keep the group going. Our group leaders do a wonderful job, but the u3a depends on everyone 'doing their bit'. You might have a skill or interest you could share, an idea for a new group, or simply a suggestion that could make our u3a even better. Just let me know.

I vowed not to mention the weather this month, but my goodness it is HOT! Excessive heat puts me in a state of mallifuff, an old Scots dialect word for 'being utterly devoid of any energy needed to do anything'. Happily, my mallifuff coincides with the beginning of Wimbledon, so whenever I get the chance, I'll be happily mallifuffing on the sofa.

Finally, here's an antidote for those who are still shuddering at the thought of grammar lessons. The joke that won this year's Beano prize for Britain's Funniest Class: What's the fanciest punctuation? Answer: an a-posh-trophe.

Stay cool  
Pam  
[chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto: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 on [chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk)

Last month, Adrian and Graham, volunteers at the Glenfield Secret Garden, treated us to a fascinating talk on the history and development of the garden, brilliantly illustrated with many 'before' and 'after' photos.



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 9th June. And there is an Open Day at the garden on **Saturday, 19th July** (10:30 - 15:00), with free guided tours and free parking; admission £3.50, children free.

## Our Next Meeting: Wednesday 9th July A Brief History of the Ambulance Service with Mick Gregory

This talk will take us through Ambulance Service changes and the huge development of their vehicles, equipment and training from pre NHS up to the present day.



### To attend this meeting:

If you wish to attend the meeting in person, no prebooking is required - just turn up on the day, with your Cu3a membership card, if you have one. **If you are a new member, or attending a monthly meeting for the first time, you are invited to arrive at 2 pm.** Otherwise, please aim to arrive about 2:15 for a prompt start at 2:30 pm.



If you are unable to attend in person and would like to follow the meeting online (via YouTube), again no prebooking is required. All members who have supplied an email address will be sent a link to the live stream a few days beforehand in a reminder email from the Chair.

### Looking Ahead:

#### Monthly Meetings to End of 2025

- **13 Aug:** NO MEETING
- **10 Sep:** Handbell Ringing - Sally Brown
- **08 Oct:** The Work of a Magistrate - Suzanne Felstead
- **12 Nov:** Fraud and Forgery - James Miller
- **10 Dec:** Christmas Entertainment with the Cu3a Drama Group

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

## Group News

### Charnwood u3a



## Line Dance Group 2

Summer & Autumn 2025

Brush Bowls Club,  
Nanpantan Road, Loughborough

#### THURSDAYS

Mornings are 10am. to 12 noon  
Afternoons are 2pm. to 4pm.

July 10th, 17th and 24th - no session

July 31st, morning

August 7th, morning

August 14th, morning

August 21st, morning

August 28th, morning

Sept 4th, morning

Sept 11th, morning

Sept 18th, morning

Sept 25th, morning

Oct 2nd, afternoon

Oct 9th, afternoon

Oct 16th, afternoon

12 sessions. Payment £24.00 in advance.

Contact Jane at northstar2@tiscali.co.uk



### Parish Walks

Due to torrential rain on our normal walk day, our June walk was postponed till the following week, when the weather was perfect. We enjoyed a walk from Gorse Covert through Garendon Park (away from the building works!), taking in the Obelisk, Temple of Venus, Bavarian Gate, Stonebow Bridge and the Stonebow Washlands, before returning along Black Brook Way. The group is pictured in front of an interesting old tree which we came across on the walk.

Please contact Mike Hill if you are interested in joining this group. Email

[ParishWalking@charnwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto:ParishWalking@charnwoodu3a.org.uk)

Helen Reid



### Opera Visits

The Opera Visits Group concluded its second season with three of us going to The Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham (free rides in my electric car), where we saw The Halle Orchestra in their end-of-season finale.

To begin the programme, the Orchestra played Wagner's Overture to Tannhauser. The Pilgrims' Chorus, not sung, had a gentle theme leading to salvation, appropriate for what was to follow. It was very soft music, which was a contrast to the much louder music that followed, which was Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. It is undoubtedly a work of genius, and totally uplifting for us!

It included the song "Ode to Joy" by Schiller which is the EU anthem. You will recognise "Freude.... Tochter aus Elysium.... Alle Menschen werden Bruder", which means "Joy, Daughter of Elysium, All men become brothers."



There was a full orchestra, with five double bass, five cellos, fifteen first violins, three trombones, three trumpets, five French horns, three percussionists, and numerous wood instruments (wonderful) and many second violin players. The chorus consisted of 36 females and 18 males. There were soloists: soprano, alto, tenor, bass. Personally, I particularly enjoyed the soprano and the woodwind. (We didn't have to stand up as we do for The Alleluia Chorus in Handel's Messiah.)

The autumn programme will begin on 1st October with "Tosca" transmitted from The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London, to Loughborough Odeon cinema for which you will buy your own tickets and to which you will make your own way.

Please phone Diana Harvey on 01509 232227 if you want dvd showings.

## Gardening Group: June Garden Party and July Coach Trip

The Gardening Group's June meeting was a garden party held in a garden on Nanpantan Road. The plot was originally a quarry, then became a tip and is undulating, so quite challenging in terms of garden management. Lots of flower beds, large lawn, mature trees, planters and pots were explored and admired by our members (*see photo, right*). Some very unusual plants are located near the pond which was lively with newts. Dave, the garden owner for the past 33 years, gave us a brief background and history of the garden before we were let loose.....



We held a competition for a bake made from produce (*see photo, left*) – our judge had a really difficult task to determine a winner. The judge said she was very impressed with the standard of baking and the enthusiasm, effort and beautiful presentation people had made. We all got the chance to sample the delicious offerings with a cup of tea or coffee. Then there was a 'people's choice' where members in attendance voted on their favourite flower arrangement in a jam jar. Here there was a clear winner – again imagination and creativity were to the fore with some gorgeous examples of how superb arrangements can be made from our own garden flowers. Well done and thank you to everyone who took part.



### Visit to Easton Walled Gardens, Grantham, 23rd July

The Gardening Group has a few places left on their coach trip to Easton Walled Gardens in Grantham on **Wednesday 23rd July**. This visit is open to **all Cu3a members** at a cost of £30 per person. The garden has a sweet pea collection and gardens to walk around. If interested, please contact [gardening@charnwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto:gardening@charnwoodu3a.org.uk) before **10th July** for an application form.

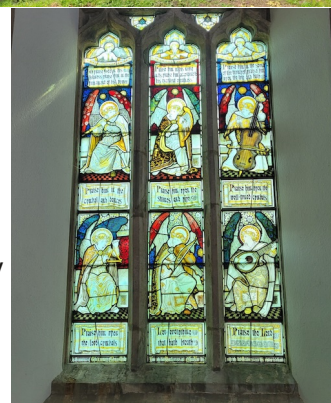
The Gardening Group has some vacancies for members. If you are interested in joining, check out the Gardening Group page on the website or contact [gardening@charnwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto:gardening@charnwoodu3a.org.uk)

## English Parish Churches

Thank you to Roger Willson (EPC Leader) for another excellent day out. In June we visited deepest East Leicestershire. The day began with a visit to Withcote Chapel, a remote estate church built in 1530 and very reminiscent of a tiny King's College Chapel, being in the perpendicular style. As well as appreciating the simplicity of this former 16th century private chapel, we admired the beautiful, mostly intact, early 16th century stained glass windows created by King Henry V111's own glass maker, Galyon Hone. This Flemish glazier was also responsible for the stained glass at Eton College, Windsor Castle and King's College Chapel. This lovely site is now under the care of the Churches Conservation Trust.



After lunch (during which some of the group visited the Cafe at Launde Abbey) we travelled to Hallaton Parish Church. We were introduced to the history of the village and development of the church, including its connection with St Morrell. St Michael and All Angels is a Grade 1 listed church of Norman origin with 13th and 14th century additions. Again the beautiful stained glass, much of it from the famous Victorian stained glass maker C.E. Kempe, was a highlight.



During the summer (19th July - 3rd August) St Michael's 'Cafe in the Church' will be open over the weekends, offering lunches, cakes and cream teas from 12 noon to 4pm.

## *Days of Interest Trip to Stratford-upon-Avon*

Our June trip took us to Stratford-upon-Avon, birthplace of the famous bard.

There is lots to do in Stratford but I think that most of us started the day with our usual search for a good place to have a cup of coffee and perhaps a cake. In Stratford there are luckily lots of options to choose from, including the 1940s café, where you can eat scones and jam whilst listening to Vera Lynn and drinking Prosecco (which I am not sure was quite so popular in the 1940s).

Our main activity for the day was a boat trip, which lasted slightly over its scheduled one and a half hours, as besides the normal river traffic there was a regatta taking place. Lots of rowers with numbers on their backs. Our time on the boat was both relaxing and very interesting.

There is plenty to see along the river banks, from swans with cygnets and various varieties of ducks, to huge clumps of river reeds, swaying gently in the wind. Besides enjoying scenes from the natural world, we were also able to admire the buildings along the river bank. There were lots of very large houses with river access and very difficult to mow sloping lawns, as well as wooden cabins with wonderful views for the visitors. It was also great to see so many families enjoying the summer weather, both in the river itself and along the banks, where lots of picnicking and playing of games seemed to be taking place. There were a couple of very short bursts of rain, but nothing to disturb the day.



After the boat trip we all made our way to examine the town. There were lots of options to choose from including Shakespeare's Baptismal church, the theatres, Shakespeare's New Place - with an exhibition of some of his major female characters - and Anne Hathaway's Cottage. There was also lots of opportunity for a bit more retail therapy and places for a leisurely drink and a cake.

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

## *Travel Group: Yorkshire Visit*

When I visited the impressive industrial heritage of Saltaire near Bradford five years ago, I was blown away by the sheer scale of the former Salts Mill and the solid quality of the workers' village. Then, seeing the vast Piece Hall in Halifax, where hundreds of woollen workers hung up their cloth for sale, left a deep impression on me.

Now, the Charnwood u3a Travel Group is giving all members a chance to share that experience and a lot more in a holiday to West Yorkshire in Spring 2026.

Highlights include guided tours of Leeds and Bradford, with time to explore more on your own. The Bradford National Science and Media Museum is a must for anyone interested in photography, sound or vision history. Bradford is the 2025 City of Culture, which will add a permanent legacy.

In Leeds there is the Royal Armouries Museum or, for the more gruesome, wander down the grimy streets of Victorian Leeds and see a gory 19th century operating theatre in the Thackray Museum

of Medicine. Or perhaps you may want to wander through the elegant shopping arcades.

Just outside Halifax is Shibden Hall, put in the spotlight in the BBC's tale of Gentleman Jack who lived there in the early 19th century - diarist Anne Lister, landowner, businesswoman, intrepid traveller, mountaineer and openly in a relationship with another woman.



*Saltaire*

We return home via Wentworth Woodhouse near Rotherham, once one of the grandest stately homes in the country which is now in the middle of an ambitious regeneration project.

There are some places left on our May 14-17 trip. The cost is £499pp sharing a twin/double room or £599 sole occupancy, with three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at Thorpe Park Hotel and Spa. A deposit of £60 is asked before July 31.

Kate Watson

To book, contact Ann Maddocks:  
[ann.maddocks2@gmail.com](mailto:ann.maddocks2@gmail.com) Tel: 07711 480472

## July 2025 Calendar

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	<b>1 Jul</b> 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 10+ Walks 10.00 Spanish 10.30 Fix I.T. Clinic 10.45 Pilates 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 12.00 Pilates 4 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Canasta1Quorn 14.00 Sing4Pleasure 15.30 Pickleball	<b>2 Jul</b> 10.00 Drama 10.00 Golf 10.00 JigsawBookEx 10.00 Scottish Dance 10.30 Papercraft 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Cribbage 2 14.00 French Improve 14.00 Reading Group 14.00 Scrabble 2 14.00 Sustain Planet	<b>3 Jul</b> 10.00 Line Dance 2 10.00 Parish Walks 10.00 Spanish Conv 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 19.00 Canasta 3	<b>4 Jul</b> 09.00 Badminton 10.00 German: RTC 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mahjong 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
<b>7 Jul</b> 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 13.30 Canasta 2 14.00 Chess 14.00 Current Affairs	<b>8 Jul</b> 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 Scrabble 3 10.30 Fix I.T. Clinic 10.45 Pilates 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 12.00 Pilates 4 14.00 Canasta 1 15.30 Pickleball	<b>9 Jul</b> 10.00 Committee 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.30 Monthly Meet 19.00 Canasta2Quorn	<b>10 Jul</b> 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Outdoor	<b>11 Jul</b> 09.00 Badminton 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mahjong 1 10.00 Needlecraft 1 10.00 Scrabble 1 10.00 Table Tennis 7 10.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Table Tennis 5 12.00 Table Tennis 6 13.30 Pilates 1
<b>14 Jul</b> 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 10.00 Poetry 1 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Digital Imaging 14.00 Mahjong 2 14.00 Quiz group	<b>15 Jul</b> 10.00 6+ Walks 10.00 Recorder 10.00 Spanish 10.30 Fix I.T. Clinic 11.00 Table Tennis 2 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Sing4Pleasure 15.30 Pickleball	<b>16 Jul</b> 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 2 14.00 Family History 14.00 French Improve 14.00 Italian Conv 14.00 Scrabble 2	<b>17 Jul</b> 09.45 CC Walks 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.00 French Conv 14.15 Scrabble 4	<b>18 Jul</b> 09.00 Badminton 10.00 German: RTC 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mahjong 1 10.00 Table Tennis 7 10.30 Photography 10.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Table Tennis 5 12.00 Table Tennis 6 13.30 Pilates 1 14.00 Art Apprec'n
<b>21 Jul</b> 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 13.30 Canasta 2 14.00 Chess 14.00 Painting	<b>22 Jul</b> 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 ETHEL 10.00 Scrabble 3 10.30 Fix I.T. Clinic 10.45 Pilates 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 12.00 Pilates 4 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Philosophy 1 15.30 Pickleball	<b>23 Jul</b> 10.00 Gardening 10.00 Golf 10.00 History 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Classical Music 18.30 Supper Club	<b>24 Jul</b> 10.00 Philosophy 2 10.00 Thurs 6 Milers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Architecture 14.00 Bowls Outdoor	<b>25 Jul</b> 09.00 Badminton 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mahjong 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
<b>28 Jul</b> 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 10.00 Local History 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Mahjong 2	<b>29 Jul</b> 09.30 Pilates 2 10.30 Fix I.T. Clinic 10.45 Pilates 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 12.00 Pilates 4 14.00 Canasta 1 15.30 Pickleball	<b>30 Jul</b> 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3	<b>31 Jul</b> 10.00 Line Dance 2 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Outdoor	<b>PLUS at Weekends</b> Sunday Lunch Club (13th June)

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](mailto:newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk)

## Robert's Recommended Reads

Robert's recommendations for July are books written over 60 years apart, by two female American authors.

### *Wise Blood* by Flannery O'Connor

published in 1952

I hadn't heard of the female American author Flannery O'Connor until I became interested in Robert McCrum's 2003 list, 'The 100 Greatest Novels'.\* McCrum places *Wise Blood* at number 62 on this list, a point which I reached at the end of May 2025 in my attempt to read all the 100 books.

*Wise Blood*, O'Connor's first novel, is simply breathtaking. The plot follows World War II veteran Hazel (Haze) Motes, as he returns to the southern United States at the end of the war. Often dark and at times disturbing, *Wise Blood* examines the religious fervour of the evangelical Deep South and the adverse reaction to this 'religiosity' which Haze experiences on his return.

A devious and dissembling blind preacher, his degenerate teenage daughter and a somewhat simple young man become involved with Haze as his grip on reality and his denouncement of conventional Christian beliefs spiral out of control.

Partly comic, partly tragic but wholly engrossing, *Wise Blood* is a gripping and compelling short novel. The subject matter and the author's unflinching, somewhat brutal dissection of entrenched religious beliefs and Catholic dogma will not be to everyone's taste. Nevertheless, should you choose to read this book, I am confident that you will thoroughly enjoy it.

\*For those interested in looking at Robert McCrum's list, search online for "Guardian 2003 The 100 Greatest Novels".



Flannery O'Connor in 1947  
Photo: Cmacauley  
CC BY-SA 3.0  
via Wikimedia Commons

### *A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara

published in 2015

Of the 333 books shortlisted for the Booker Prize over its 55 year history, *A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara became, and has remained, my favourite.

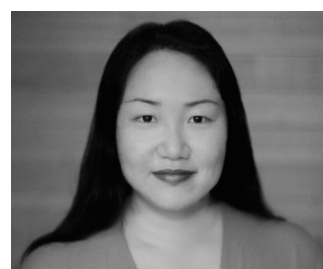
*A Little Life* tells the story of Jude St. Francis and his three closest friends, all graduates of a prestigious New England university. The friendship between the four main characters forms the heart of the story which encompasses a period of several decades. The book opens with flatmates Jude and Willem moving into a New York apartment.

The book has perfect pace and is written in beautiful prose and although very long (720 pages) it is both captivating and compelling. Add to this the outstanding quality and depth of characterisation and you have the adhesive which binds this complex and difficult, sometimes shocking and brutal, but profoundly moving and rewarding novel.

Skilfully employing flashbacks to former times, Yanagihara tells of Jude's early life, from a foundling, raised by monks, and his abduction and horrific experiences at the hands of the self serving Brother Luke and later, the sadistic Dr. Traylor.

Willem and Jude's relationship is the most significant in the book. From their early friendship, through a brief sexual involvement, to the bitter sweet, tender and loving reaction which the identification of Jude's self harm invokes in Willem, the interplay between their characters is elegantly scripted and adeptly worked into the wider story.

I find that I have acquired an enduring fondness for Jude; he is a truly memorable creation from this talented young writer. *A Little Life* has had a profound effect on me and I frequently find myself thinking of Jude and the other characters in the novel.



Hanya Yanagihara in 2012  
Photo: Sam Levy  
CC BY-SA 4.0  
via Wikimedia Commons

## Volunteers Needed: Can You Help?



### *The Baldwin Trust*

The Baldwin Trust is a local charity, based in Barrow upon Soar, whose principal service is providing boat trips for community groups. They are not short of general volunteers, but they do struggle for individuals, maybe those early retirees who have specific skills but do not have regular time to use that skill.

They are looking for people who might be able to share their talents with the Trust on an irregular basis. In particular, they are looking for people with skills such as:

- Graphic Design – making up the designs for literature pieces or advertising roll-up banners
- Photoshop – cropping and cleaning photos for inclusion in articles, social media etc
- Photography – taking pictures on their trips of interest to would-be clients or potential funders
- Event Organisers – people who get what it means to be the public face of an organisation and can take the lead on attendance at local events
- Marketing/Advertising - helping a local charity better present its offering to the market.

Do you have any of the above skills and could you offer some of your time to help on an occasional basis? If so, Andrew Reed at the Trust would love to hear from you on [volunteers@baldwintrust.co.uk](mailto:volunteers@baldwintrust.co.uk) or tel: 07763 736906.

For more information about the Baldwin Trust and what they do, go to: <https://www.baldwintrust.co.uk/>

### *Leicestershire Shared Reading*

Are you interested in **helping to connect individuals, rebuild social bonds and make people feel better?** Leicestershire Shared Reading are on a mission to recruit people to their Steering Group with skills in one or more of these areas:

- marketing
- website and social media management
- fundraising and partnership working

If you like working with others to get things done, and if you'd love to get involved with a community project, maybe you can help?

**Leicestershire Shared Reading** is a voluntary organisation, needing new Steering Group members who act as their support team, carrying out a host of behind-the-scenes tasks that enable their team of Reader Leaders to run their groups, both in county libraries and on Zoom. Currently they are delivering the joys of shared reading to 50 - 60 people every week – and would like to reach more people.

If you think that you, or anyone you know, would be a good fit for any of these roles, take a look at <https://www.leicestershiresharedreading.org> and follow the links to find the full story - or send an email to [leicssharedreading@gmail.com](mailto:leicssharedreading@gmail.com) for details. Also feel free to get in touch for an informal chat.

Their groups also welcome new members if you're interested in finding out what shared reading is like.



## *Have Your Say on the Future of Local Councils*

### **Online Survey: Closing date 20th July**

As changes to local government in Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland are being considered, it is important that you have a say in how local services should be delivered in the future. If you live or work anywhere in Leicestershire, Leicester or Rutland, proposals to change the number and size of councils will affect the services you receive and the council tax you pay.

A public engagement exercise is underway to gather views on proposals to reduce the number of councils in the area and replace them with larger unitary authorities. Residents, businesses and organisations are encouraged to get involved and have a say. It is being conducted by an independent and specialist social research company, Opinion Research Services (ORS), which has produced an engagement document for people to read before taking an online survey.

See <https://www.northcitysouth.co.uk/get-involved> for further information (including the engagement document) and a link to the online survey, which is open until 20th July.

## Upcoming Local Events

### Unveiling of the Hope Bell

**Friday 4th July, 10:30 am**  
**Queen's Park, Loughborough**

The official unveiling of the Hope Bell in Loughborough, which will mark the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on local communities, will take place in Queen's Park on the morning of 4th July.

The Hope Bell will be a tribute to the NHS and key workers, and will serve as a reminder of how communities came together to support each other in challenging times. It will also be a place for reflection to remember those lost in the pandemic.

A ceremony, which is open to the public to attend, will take place on Friday, 4 July at 10.30 am. This will include the first ringing of the Hope Bell, which was made by local bellfoundry, John Taylor & Co, on behalf of Charnwood Borough Council.



Image: Charnwood BC

The Hope Bell is a clock chime installation, 7.5 m high, comprising four quarter chime bells and the main Hope Bell. The bells are supported by four steel pillars which symbolise people coming together to embrace in a hug, something people said was much missed in the early days of the pandemic.

Further details can be found at:

[https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/news/2025/06/24/official\\_unveiling\\_of\\_the\\_hope\\_bell\\_in\\_loughborough](https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/news/2025/06/24/official_unveiling_of_the_hope_bell_in_loughborough)

### University Choir Come and Sing Day 2025

**Sunday 13th July, 9:30 am - 4 pm**  
**Peckleton Church, Loughborough**

Loughborough University Choir and Peckleton Church invite you to join them in learning to sing music by Handel, Bruckner and Sullivan, with a concert at the end of the day. Spend a day with Loughborough University Choir to learn and perform a varied programme loosely based on the theme of 'Justice'. All singers are welcome, whatever your level of experience. The concert at the end of the day at 4 pm is part of the summer series of concerts at the church, with tea and cake beforehand. There are no tickets for the concert but audience members are invited to make donations towards the upkeep of the church.

### The Loughborough Fortnight (Exodus to the Seaside)

Memories of when the Loughborough factories closed for the summer holidays and we all went off to the seaside.



An exhibition by the  
**Loughborough Library Local Studies Volunteer Group**

**10<sup>th</sup> July to 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**Loughborough Library**  
**Granby Street**



**Free admission during Library opening hours**

### Friends of Charnwood Museum Secrets of the Soil

**A talk by Mathew Morris**  
**Thursday 24th July, 7:30 pm - 9 pm**

The story of Leicestershire and Rutland is filled with rare and unprecedented archaeological discoveries from Iron Age hunters to rare Iron Age shields, evidence of the Trojan Wars and a lost King of England. Join Mathew Morris from the University of Leicester Archaeological Services to find out more, and through the most spectacular discoveries, hear a story half a million years in the making.

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>

## More Upcoming Local Events

### Charnwood's Outdoor Summer Cinema

**Sunday 13th July, 12 pm - 8 pm**  
**Queen's Park, Loughborough**

Free outdoor cinema screenings, live entertainment and food and drink stalls will be coming to Queen's Park in Loughborough this summer. Summer Cinema, organised by Charnwood Borough Council, takes place on Sunday, 13 July, from 12 pm to 8 pm, and offers a full day of big screen entertainment, live performances, and classic family fun.

As well as three film showings across the day - with something for film fans of all ages - there will be giant games, live entertainers, community stalls and rides.

Whether you're looking for a relaxed Sunday with friends or a lively day out with the family, Summer Cinema offers something for everyone.

For further details, see:

<https://www.chnwood.gov.uk/pages/summercinema>



KNIGHTTHORPE  
 METHODIST CHURCH  
*Connects with Community*

### SUMMER PARTY & FLOWER FESTIVAL

**5 JULY (SAT)**  
**2 PM - 4 PM**

@ Knightthorpe Methodist Church  
 (106 Knightthorpe Road, Loughborough LE11 5JU)

Repair  
 Cafe

Refreshments | Chat & fun

Live  
 Music



kt-community.engagement@  
 loughboroughmethodist.co.uk



The above event at Knightthorpe Methodist Church features: a Flower Festival; a Repair Cafe - with a skilled volunteer repairer who'll try and fix your small electrical or mechanical household items; Community Garden visits - in collaboration with Incredible Edible Loughborough; live guitar music; scones, tea & coffee. Free entry. All Welcome.



### The 1620s House & Garden at Donnington le Heath Live Lute Music

**Sunday 20th July, 1:30 pm to 4 pm**

The resident Lutenist will be bringing melodic tunes to the 1620s House.

### Plant Hunter's Fair

**Sunday 27th July, 10 am to 4 pm**

£1 per person, Fair & Gardens only. See <https://1620shouse.org.uk/events/plant-hunters-fair-july-2025/> for details.

### Fantastic Fossils Hunt

**5th - 31st July, Thursday - Sunday only**

Can you find ten fossils hidden around the site?  
 £2 per sheet - pick one up from the Hut.

### The Wind in the Willows – Open Air Theatre

**Friday 1st August, 6 pm to 8 pm**

Multiple award-winning Illyria celebrates Kenneth Grahame's timeless tale of friendship, laughter, the longing for home and the lure of adventure.

Adults (16-60): £20

Seniors/students/disabled: £16

Children (3-15 yrs): £12

Book tickets online or by calling 01455 290429.

Pre-booking advised. Go to:

<https://1620shouse.org.uk/events/the-wind-in-the-willows-open-air-theatre/>  
 for details and a booking link.

### ...And for the Grandchildren at the 1620s House & Garden:



2 days of themed drop-in activities, games & crafts. Monday 14 July: Creativity, Crafts and Games Tuesday 15 July: Exploration, Discovery and Environmental Encounters. £3 per day per child, or £5 for both days. Adults free when accompanied by a child. For details, see: <https://1620shouse.org.uk/events/awesome-activities-2/>



Activities, crafts and 'best bear' competition. £5 per child. Accompanying adults free. For details, see: <https://1620shouse.org.uk/events/teddy-bears-picnic-4/>

#### For other local events, see:

<https://www.discovercharnwood.co.uk/events> and <https://allevents.in/loughborough/july>

## National u3a News



### Read u3a matters online

In response to member feedback, the Trust have published a digital teaser of *u3a matters*, our members' magazine, on the u3a website. Covering about a third of the content, the digital version features the biggest stories from the Summer edition. You can read it at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/u3a-matters#taster>

### On-Line Talks this month include:

- **Ice to Athelstan – The Emergence of England – 'A 10,000 year journey from the Last ice Age to England's first crowned king'** with Charles Boundy, Thu 3 Jul at 10 am
- **An Introduction to the Arts and Crafts Movement** with Margaret Mills, Mon 7 Jul at 2 pm
- **Time to get out the barbeque!** with Chef Alex from 'Vegetarian for Life', Thu 10 Jul at 10.30 am
- **Exploring World Faiths: Friendship** with subject advisor Dr Peter Rookes, Mon 14 Jul at 10 am
- **Plants, Medicine and Magic** with Dr Susan Burge, Tue 15 Jul at 11 am
- **Technology in Sport** with John Butler from u3a Let's Talk Tech, Wed 16 Jul at 1 pm
- **Turner's Timeless Treasures** with Catherine Stevenson of Newcastle u3a, Thu 17 Jul at 10 am
- **Planning Ahead: Age-proofing Your Home** with Margaret Edwards, Thu 17 Ju at 3 pm
- **Secrets of the Human Brain: Talk Six - Taste & Smell** with Dr Bob Pullen, Thu 31 Jul at 2 pm

For details of these and other upcoming free on-line events offered by the National u3a, including how to book, go to: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

### More from the National u3a:

Register to receive the National u3a **Friends** newsletter regularly at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter> This will also give you access to the **Friends Extra** website, with a range of discounts, offers and services. As well as the u3a *Friends* newsletter, you can access the latest u3a news at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/news>

You can find more learning initiatives covering a wide range of interests from challenges and projects to competitions at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/learning-activities> The u3a learning blog **Sources**, containing posts by u3a members covering a wide range of topics is 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 **August** issue of **News & Views** will be **Wednesday 30th July (12 noon)**.



Please send your contributions to the Newsletter Editor at: [newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk)  
I always acknowledge all emails received, so if you don't get a reply within a few days, please contact me again as some emails do go astray!

Please make sure you include your contact details with your item, and try not to leave it until the last minute if at all possible.

The Editor reserves full editorial rights as to length and suitability and the Editor's decision is final.

*News & Views* is sent to all Charnwood u3a members by email link (or, for those without email, by post) before the monthly meeting. It is also available to read on the Charnwood u3a website each month at <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk> under the News menu.

Thank You!

Helen Reid  
Newsletter Editor  
Charnwood u3a



## Committee, Support Teams and Group Leaders' Details

Names, photos and email links for all the current Committee members can be found on our website under Home -> Our Committee, along with details of our Support Teams. In the case of our Membership Secretary and Web Manager, phone numbers are also given, as are those of our IT Help Desk Team.

The names and generic email addresses of Group Leaders for each group can be found on that group's dedicated website page, accessed via the Groups Lists.

*Note: Where personal contact details appear in News & Views, these are included with permission.*



## Committee Meetings

Don't forget that members are always welcome to attend any of our Committee meetings on the **second Wednesday of the month** (10 am - noon) in John Storer House, by prior arrangement, as observers. If you would like to attend one of these meetings and see what we do, please contact our Chair on [chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto: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>

