

News & Views



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

View from the Chair	1
Monthly Meetings	2
Note from Treasurer	2
Group News	3
Reading Group	3
Architecture Appn.	3
Classics Groups	3
Roving Reporters	4-5
Days of Interest	4
10+ Mile Walking	4
Travel Group	5
Meetings Calendar	6
Retirement in NZ	7
Independent Age	8
National u3a News	8
Local Events	9-11
Carillon Centenary	9
Plant Hunters Fair	9
Church Monuments	9
Archaeology Fest.	10
Hallaton Museum	11
Chris Brown Plaque	12
Poetry Corner	12
Items for Newsletter	13
Contact Info	13

Our Website

Check out our website at: www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk for lots of information about Charnwood u3a, including details of 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.



Please Note: There is no Monthly Meeting in July... but see page 2 for a list of all our monthly meetings for the following 6 months.

View from the Chair



There's nothing like a trip to the seaside to convince you that summer is here and last month I joined a happy coachload of u3a members on a Days of Interest trip to Southwold. Leicestershire folk have always had to travel a long way to the sea, but we were rewarded with four hours of traditional seaside fun – pier, beach, fish and chips - all in glorious sunshine. (*That's me on the left enjoying the Southwold sun; see page 4 for other photos from the day*). Of course there were also plenty of

enticing little shops for those of us who simply have to find a souvenir to take home. One thing definitely not on my shopping list was one of the beautiful beach huts that line the Southwold prom. Last year one was advertised for sale for £250,000. You can't even stay overnight, so I'll not be moving just yet! One famous resident of Southwold was the writer and socialist George Orwell, who didn't much like the place. The feeling was mutual among the townsfolk: apparently he was once chased through the town by a man on a motorbike for unwelcome attention to his fiancée.

The Southwold visit revived some happy memories of my childhood holidays. In the latest World Happiness Report the UK only just made it into the top 20 – down two places on last year. Now for the good news: researchers have also found that older adults are generally more contented than younger people. U3a members won't be surprised to know that among the factors that make for a healthy old age are social participation, volunteering and life-long learning.

The 28th July is International Day of Friendship and I'm so grateful for all the friends I've made in the u3a. But I know how friendship groups can sometimes be off-putting for those who would like to join in. The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) team have been looking into how we can make the u3a and its groups more welcoming. Do you have any ideas? Please send them to me, or better still, come along to the next EDI meeting on Monday July 10th, 2 - 4 pm at Gorse Covert. Of course you can also send suggestions and comments on this and any other matter to our Newsletter Editor, Helen at newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk, and she will be happy to include these in the next edition.

Finally, a reminder that our monthly meeting will also be having a holiday in July, so hope to see you all in August. Enjoy the sunshine – and stay happy!

Pam Upton, chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Our Monthly Meetings

Following last month's enjoyable meeting at Emmanuel featuring a very entertaining talk by the former Wimbledon umpire Alan Gray, we are taking our customary summer break which means there is

NO MONTHLY MEETING OF CHARNWOOD U3A IN JULY.

We will recommence these meetings in **Emmanuel Church**, Forest Road, Loughborough on **Wednesday 9th August**, when we have a talk about the National Trust property **Stoneywell**, designed by the English furniture designer and architect Ernest Gimson. Thereafter there will be a meeting every **second Wednesday afternoon of each month, all at 2.15 for 2.30 pm.**

The upcoming programme for the next 6 months is shown below, and more details of each meeting can be found on our website at: <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/MonthlyMeetingsFuture.html>

Monthly Meetings to January 2024

- **12 Jul: NO MEETING**
- **09 Aug: Stoneywell and the Gimson Family - Mark Temple**
Learn about the National Trust property Stoneywell, one of five cottages designed by Ernest Gimson in Ulverscroft.
- **13 Sep: Discover South American Music - Los Amigos**
A journey through the music of South America, including tango, rumba, mambo and samba with players of guitar, clarinet and percussion.
- **11 Oct: Indian Dance - Anand Mangal**
A group of local women perform traditional dances of Navaratri, a Hindu festival held 15 - 24 Oct this year, and will demonstrate Garba, a folk dance famous in Gujarat.
- **08 Nov: Healthy Ageing - Dr David Maidment**
Hear how researchers in the National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine at Loughborough University are encouraging older adults to be more active.
- **13 Dec: Christmas Concert - The Ratcliffe Chorale**
Enjoy listening to a variety of music including songs from popular musicals, gospel tunes, sacred music, pop songs and Christmas carols.
- **10 Jan: All at Sea - Annette Taylor**
A wealth of stories from 30 years' experience as a cruise director and travel manager of both ocean and river cruises.

Notice from the Treasurer

A reminder that our Treasurer Bob Pyatt will be away for 2 weeks this summer and therefore will be **unable to make any payments between 30th July and 14th August 2023.**

Group News

Reading Group

It took a while, but eventually I gathered the names of 8 members who were interested in reviving a reading group. We met on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month and discussed what we were looking for. It was decided that each member in turn would choose a book once a month and introduce it to the others, leading to a discussion on its merits. We would start with a drink and a biscuit (no competitive cake-making!) and relax with a chat, before getting down to assessing the chosen book. We are hoping for variety.

The small number in the group means that we do not need to hire a hall and also there will be no need to feel inhibited about speaking to the company. It all looks promising!

Anne Carter



Architecture Appreciation:

Looking at buildings around the world from the comfort of Gorse Covert



Photo: Bryan Ledgard, [CC BY 2.0](#), via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

The May meeting of the Architecture Appreciation group saw members travelling virtually around the world – and staying close to home – while we talked about the buildings we'd most like to visit.

From the original Crystal Palace to a stunning bookshop in Buenos Aires, and from the Art Deco masterpiece Midland Hotel in Morecambe (*pictured left*) to a Viking stave church in Norway, members shared their dream destinations, if money, opportunity - and in one case time travel - were no object.

In June, we looked at medieval buildings in the UK and further afield. Members researched a building of special interest to them and shared their findings with the rest of the group.

These included Canterbury Cathedral, Rothley Court and Great Zimbabwe – quite a variety for sure!

Looking ahead, at our next meeting we will be discussing seven wonders of the modern world. Members will each nominate one 20th C building or structure for everyone to vote on, with a view to finding our top seven. This meeting will be held on **Thursday 27 July** at Gorse Covert Community Centre, Maxwell Drive, Loughborough, starting at 2.00 pm. It should be a lively discussion, so if you are interested in coming along, please contact us on ArchitectureAppreciation@charnwoodu3a.org.uk.

Penny Bryce,
Joint leader,
Architecture Appreciation

Classics Groups

The Classics groups are taking a break for the summer and there will be no meetings of these groups in July and August. The restart dates/times and meeting places for the 3 groups are given below:

Latin: Monday September 4th, 10.00-12.00, Emmanuel Church

Classical Greek: Wednesday September 6th, 10.00-12.00, United Reformed Church, Frederick Street

Classical Civilization: Friday September 8th, 10.00-12.00, Gorse Covert Centre

Tony Payne

Roving Reporters

Days of Interest Group – a June trip to the Suffolk Coast

The Days of Interest trip in June was to Southwold, a north Suffolk seaside town on the Suffolk Heritage Coast.

It was a long way to go for a day, but the weather was scorching, there was plenty to see and the fish and chips were excellent.

Thanks to Graham North for supplying these photographs.



St Edmund's Church, Southwold, built in the 15th century

Colourful beach huts at Southwold George Orwell once lived in Southwold

If you are interested in joining the Days of Interest Group, please contact Pauline May by email at ppc.wat@ntlworld.com or by telephone at 01509 552834 or 07455 167929 for details.

10+ Mile Walking Group

Nine of our group enjoyed the June walk led by Mike Hill. We started from Thorpe car park in Derbyshire going towards Tissington, but unfortunately the well dressing wasn't on.

We then walked towards Parwich before heading off to Bradbourne church for a picnic lunch, returning via Tissington trail to our cars.



Travel Group Trip to the Lake District June 2023

“The Lake District in early June?..... you’d better take your brolly.” How wrong was that! Glorious weather accompanied us throughout our travels.....well?.... almost!!!

Our first stop was the NT property of Sizeugh, just south of Kendal. Home to the Strickland family for over 700 years, the impressive building contains rare Jacobite relics, huge Flemish tapestries, fine carved oak panelling and the Elizabethan inlaid chamber. The vast gardens range from a formal fruit wall to a magnificent limestone rock garden.

In brilliant sunshine, we eagerly looked forward to pretty Hawkshead, and to a short ride on a Mountain Goat (a minibus!) which took us to Hill Top (*pictured right*), the 17th century stone farmhouse where Beatrix Potter wrote many of her famous children’s stories, as well as drawing the characters she observed within her cottage garden.

Our trip to Brantwood, once home of John Ruskin, included a leisurely cruise around Coniston Water on board the Steam Yacht Gondola. Once at Brantwood, up a steep climb, the house itself



(*pictured left*) was revealed cocooned within wild hillside gardens, which afforded breath-taking views back across the lake (*pictured below, right*). The only interruption of our glorious weather was the torrential cloudburst which descended on us just as we were leaving the launch taking us back to the jetty at Coniston. How I wished I’d brought my brolly that day!

Our next trip was to the bustling town of Keswick. At the Pencil Museum we learnt the history of graphite discovery and the spy secrets of WW2, but only by completing the compulsory quiz.

On to Dalemain House, described as one of the most beautiful stately homes in the region. The old hall dates back to the 12th C with wings added in the 16th C. For over 400 years, the house has been in the Hasell family, who have accumulated a variety of interesting pieces, including Chippendale furniture, Chinese wallpaper, a priest’s hole, and many family portraits. The gardens are very impressive, ranging from an Elizabethan knot garden and a beautiful herbaceous terrace, to imaginary dragons and giants hiding in the shrubbery.



The next day saw us at Dove Cottage, the home of William and Dorothy Wordsworth. A lovely short video transported us into another century with the sights and sounds of life at Dove Cottage using words from Wordsworth’s poems, journals and letters. The house itself epitomises “plain living and high thinking - the everyday mixed with the extraordinary”, where Wordsworth wrote many of his greatest poems and his sister kept her fascinating



Grasmere journal. The adjacent museum and woodland, like his poetry, centre on the ideals of love of Nature, the power of imagination and the importance of empathy. A short distance away is the quaint and delightful village of Grasmere, where the peace was constantly interrupted by low flying jets! We finished our stay in the Lake District with a short visit to Bowness where many took the opportunity to take a cruise on Lake Windermere (*left*).

Our journey homeward had an unscheduled stop due to the steep climbs over the Yorkshire Dales. Our coach suffered a little with the heat but thanks to a very helpful local firm, another coach transported us the few miles to our final visit, to Tennants Auction House in Leyburn. Even though a little late for our tour, we were warmly welcomed and after a quick introduction and delicious meal, we had time to wander around the miscellaneous items on show awaiting their auction date. Well worth a visit! Luckily, our Winson’s coach had been repaired and safely took us home.

July 2023 Meetings

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
3 Jul 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 13.30 Canasta 2 14.00 Chess 15.00 Current Affairs	4 Jul 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 10+ Walks 10.00 Spanish 11.00 Table Tennis 2 11.15 Pilates 3 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Canasta1Quorn 14.00 Sing4Pleasure	5 Jul 09.30 Golf 10.00 German 10.00 Mini Tennis 10.00 Scottish Dance 10.30 Papercraft 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Cribbage 2 14.00 French Improve 14.00 Reading 14.00 Scrabble 2 14.00 Sustain Planet	6 Jul 10.00 Spanish Conv 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.30 French Conv 19.00 Canasta 3	7 Jul 09.00 Badminton 10.00 German: RTC 10.00 Knit & Natter 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 10.00 Table Tennis 7 10.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Table Tennis 5 12.00 Lunch Club 1 12.00 Table Tennis 6 13.30 Pilates 1
10 Jul 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 EDI meeting 14.00 Quiz group	11 Jul visit - Eng Parish Ch 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 Scrabble 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 11.15 Pilates 3 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Social Dance	12 Jul 09.30 Golf 10.00 Committee 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 19.00 Canasta2Quorn	13 Jul 10.00 Beading 2 10.00 Thurs 6 Milers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.00 Making Music	14 Jul 09.00 Badminton 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 10.00 Needlecraft 1 10.00 Table Tennis 7 10.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Table Tennis 5 12.00 Table Tennis 6 13.30 Pilates 1
17 Jul 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	18 Jul 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 6+ Walks 10.00 Spanish 11.00 Table Tennis 2 11.15 Pilates 3 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Philosophy 2 14.00 Sing4Pleasure	19 Jul 09.30 Golf 10.00 German 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	20 Jul 10.00 CC Walks 10.00 Parish Walks 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.15 Scrabble 4 14.30 French Conv 18.30 Supper Club 2	21 Jul 09.00 Badminton 10.00 German: RTC 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 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 15.00 Mac Users
24 Jul 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Local History	25 Jul 09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 ETHEL 10.00 Needlecraft 2 10.00 Scrabble 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 11.15 Pilates 3 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Philosophy 1 14.00 Social Dance	26 Jul 09.30 Golf 10.00 History 10.00 Mini Tennis 10.00 Stitch & Sew 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Classical Music 14.00 Travel Group	27 Jul 10.00 Beading 1 10.00 Thurs 6 Milers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Architecture 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.00 Making Music	28 Jul 09.00 Badminton 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 10.00 Needlecraft 1 10.00 Table Tennis 7 10.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Table Tennis 5 12.00 Table Tennis 6 13.30 Pilates 1
31 Jul 09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 13.30 Canasta 2 14.00 Chess				

PLUS at Weekends: Days of Interest trip to Tewkesbury Medieval Festival (8th July);
 Sunday Lunch Club (9th July)

For more information, visit our **website** (<https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk>) for the interactive calendar, with direct links to the group pages for more details, including names and contact emails of group leaders.. Please send any amendments or additions to the Editor at newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk for inclusion in future months' calendars.

A Retirement Home with a Difference

There I was, becoming used to the idea I was now looking after myself... and wondering how to cope with the future... when, from New Zealand, my eldest son and his family invited me to live near them. Just like that. But it was a sensible solution - I had once lived in New Zealand and knew the country. But that was forty years ago.

Once there, and waiting for some belongings to arrive by sea, we whittled down the prospects (buy a house, rent a flat, and so on) until my final choice of a serviced flat in what is known as a retirement village.

From the first moment I was sold. To reach the apartment on offer we had to pass through an enormous lounge area full of activity: there were small groups of two or three in every direction. And do you know? They were smiling as they chatted amongst themselves.

The 'village' complex is very large: a central five-level block contains some serviced and independent apartments on the ground floor with the floors above containing a hospital, rest home and a special area for dementia patients. Grouped around the central block are a further three high rise blocks (all with lifts and stairs) containing five levels of apartments.



The selection of facilities is remarkable: anything from a swimming pool, gymnasium and exercise machines to a snooker table, library (pictured left) and small theatre (pictured above). There is an 'in-house' hairdresser and a small shop with items one might have forgotten during one's shopping expedition to a supermarket in the nearby town - courtesy of a frequent mini-bus service from the home.

A dining room provides a cooked lunch - one 'does' one's own breakfast and evening meal - and there is a laundry. For socialising I noticed tucked away in a corner a small area with a bar. Mentioning the dining room: to begin with

one is placed at a table not of one's choice. Why? The staff do a 'behind the scenes' assessment for dementia possibilities - and place you accordingly - perhaps sneaky but practical!

Outside, and within the outer perimeter of the accommodation blocks, there is a bowling green and a croquet lawn sharing the space with flowers, shrubs and small bushes.

Costs? Not cheap, but given the relatively high cost of living in New Zealand, equivalent to, say, an average Loughborough suburban house at the upper end of the market. There is also a weekly fee of around £200 to cover lunches, normal running overheads and flat servicing. But one must also take into account that on demise of the occupant roughly 80% of the purchase price is automatically refunded to the inheritors.



Outdoor scene at the retirement village

Nigel Leicester

Editor's Note: Nigel is a founder member of Charnwood u3a and served on its very first Committee as both Chairman and Membership Secretary. As an Honorary Member, he is now able to follow our news from afar via this newsletter. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing him every happiness in his new home in New Zealand.

Independent Age - Telephone Groups

The charity **Independent Age** (<https://www.independentage.org/about>) offer friendly contact plus free and impartial advice to older people and their families. They have recently asked us to spread the word about their **free telephone information groups** that are open to people aged 65+ in England, Scotland and Wales.



Their 'Good to Know' telephone groups invite a different guest speaker each week to discuss issues that matter to older people. Topics include scams, the cost-of-living crisis, social care, benefits and finding new social connections - things that are simply 'Good To Know' about.

Since their Good to Know Groups launched, they've had guest speakers from organisations including StepChange, Mind, Parkinson's UK, and Cruse as well as specialist advisors from Independent Age's benefits and social care teams. Think of these groups like a cup of tea and a chat at a community centre, but over the phone in the comfort of your living room. The groups are particularly great for older people unable to get out and about or to online activities – but anyone over the age of 65 is welcome.

You can view their website to read more and to see what events they have coming up at: <https://www.independentage.org/get-support/telephone-groups/good-to-know-groups> or you can ring their free helpline on **0800 319 6789** or email telephone.services@independentage.org.

News from the National u3a



Found in Nature: Toad Rescue

If you go to <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/found-in-nature>, just over halfway down the page you'll see a photo and description of Charnwood u3a member Janina Holubecki rescuing toads!

Write a Letter to Your Younger Self

You are invited to write a letter to send back through time, to a past version of yourself - what do you want to say to this person? What experiences and hindsight will you share? What advice do you give them? Your letter can be as short as you like or up to 1500 words, and you are advised to focus on one or two areas that you think your younger self will benefit from, rather than a full biography. A selection of members' letters, or extracts from them, will be shared on the u3a website for all members to read. Your letter can be anonymous or credited, whatever you prefer.

Go to <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/write-a-letter-to-your-younger-self> for more details and guidance, including how to submit your letter.

Free On-Line Events this Month:

- **Introduction to Cryptic Crosswords** with Subject Adviser Henry Howarth, Wed 12 Jul at 10 am.
- **Exploring World Faiths: Faith and the Environment** with Peter Rookes, Mon 17 Jul at 10 am.
- **Philosophy and Travel** with Subject Adviser Shri Sharma, Thu 20 Jul at 2 pm.

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

National u3a Newsletter and More:

To register to receive the National u3a newsletter regularly, go to: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter> where you will also find a link to recent issues.

The u3a National programmes page at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes> has more learning initiatives, including new programmes, as well as ongoing themes like mathematical challenges, sharing photos and artwork - and the monthly radio podcast. Also, the u3a learning blog **Sources** includes a large collection of articles, posted by u3a members, covering a wide range of topics. This can be found at: <https://sources.u3a.org.uk>.

Upcoming Local Events

Centenary of the Carillon Tower: Weekend of Events 22-23 July

Charnwood Borough Council will be marking the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Carillon Tower with a weekend full of events and activities in **Queen's Park on Saturday July 22 and Sunday July 23.**

The tower in Queen's Park in Loughborough is one of the best-known landmarks in the town and pays tribute to Loughborough Armed Forces personnel who lost their lives in the First World War and subsequent conflicts. It also reminds us of local industrial activity, with the Carillon bells being cast just down the road at Taylor's Bell Foundry. The musical instrument which is the Carillon plays the 47 bells at the top of the tower and is the only free-standing Carillon in the UK.

An open-air civic service of celebration and commemoration will take place on Saturday, July 22 at 2 pm, marking exactly 100 years since the tower was completed. Members of the public are invited to attend the service and then take part in a family picnic, when there will be live music plus free sports and craft activities for children. A special recital will be played before the civic service at 1 pm by the borough's carillonneur, Caroline Sharpe, who will also give demonstrations of the carillon and explain how it works.

Also on Saturday 22nd, several organisations within the Loughborough Heritage Forum will be hosting information stalls where visitors can learn about the Carillon Tower and its history. The Loughborough Library Local Studies Volunteers will have a roll of honour open for visitors to find out more about the names that appear on the side of the Carillon Tower and their stories.

The Carillon Tower will be open to visitors throughout the weekend to explore the War Memorial Museum and to take in the views of Loughborough from the top of the tower. **On Sunday 23rd**, a recital will be performed as usual at 1 pm, and a concert will take place in Queen's Park at 2 pm with the **Charnwood Concert Band** entertaining the crowd at the bandstand.

Find out more about the Carillon Tower and its centenary year on the Council's dedicated webpage at: <https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/carillon100>



Photo: Thomas Nugent,
CC BY-SA 2.0 via
Wikimedia Commons

Plant Hunters Fair at 1620s House & Garden

The 1620s House & Garden at Donington le Heath will be holding a **Plant Hunters Fair** on **Sunday 30th July, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm**

featuring a line-up of top plant nurseries. Entrance to the fair is only £1; booking recommended. For further details, see <https://1620shouse.org.uk/events/plant-hunters-fair-17/>

For details of other events at the 1620s House and Garden, go to: <https://1620shouse.org.uk/whats-on/>



Best Laid Plans of Plotters & Madmen: The Monuments of a Group of Rural Churches with Rebel Leanings

This study day, organised by the Church Monuments Society, is on **Saturday 12th August** starting at Holy Trinity Church, Ratcliffe on Soar (*featuring the monument to Henry Sacheverell 3rd, pictured right*). This will be a day exploring the monuments in five local churches. Lunch included. £30 non-members.

For more information see: <https://tinyurl.com/ymb85rb6>

(or click on the event at <https://churchmonumentsociety.org/event/>)

or contact Moira Ackers at moira.ackers@ntlworld.com



Photo © J.Hannan-Briggs (cc-by-sa/2.0)

Festival of Leicestershire and Rutland Archaeology



The popular Festival of Leicestershire and Rutland Archaeology returns in July 2023 with over 100 heritage events across our two counties! This year, the Festival will be held between Saturday 1st and Sunday 30th July, running alongside the Council For British Archaeology’s national

Festival of Archaeology, which runs from 15th-30th July.

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival.html>

Celebrate the rich and diverse heritage of Leicestershire and Rutland. Go to new places and revisit old ones. Explore the history and archaeology that is all around us.

For more information **CLICK HERE**

<https://leicsfieldworkers.org/festival-of-archaeology/>



Events



Guided Walks & Tours



Talks & Performances



Displays & Exhibitions



Hands On & Excavations



Self-Guided Walks



Digital Talk Archive



← Download a Festival Event Planner **CLICK HERE**

<https://leicsfieldworkers.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/LRFA-Event-Planner-2023-v3.pdf>

Hallaton Museum

Hallaton Festival of Archaeology July 15th to 30th

During the last two weeks of July, Hallaton Museum and Hallaton Church Restoration Trust will be running displays, walks and talks, as well as Café in the Church serving lunches and teas. Visitors to the Festival will find out about two thousand years of history in Hallaton and learn about plans for the future.

The festival includes:

- **Exhibition in the Church: “Pilgrims’ Progress: A tale of rituals, relics and restoration”**
This exhibition will share new information about the discovery of St Morrell’s Chapel, the skeletons of pilgrims buried there and the proposed reinstatement of the crypt of St Michael & All Angels; also some ideas about a new multimedia exhibition which will form part of the planned permanent exhibition.
- **Talk by Peter Liddle: “The rise and decline of the Leicestershire Village”**
- **Hallaton Castle Guided Walk**
- **Talk by ULAS’ Vicki Score: “The Hallaton Treasure”**
- **Guided Walk around Hallaton Heritage Trail**
- **Talk by John Morris: “Where there’s a Will, there’s a Way.”**
- **Exhibition in the Museum “Where there’s a Will there’s a Way”**
Exhibition about a journey made in 1533 by Hallatonian Edmond Oliver to Walsingham, alongside the Hallaton Treasure and the Bottle Kicking displays - see below for more information.*



For details of times and tickets for the above events please visit:

<https://www.hallaton-museum.co.uk/festivalofarchaeology>

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hallaton-festival-of-archaeology-2023-44359648023>

Tel: Denis Kenyon - 07834 324352 or email deniskenyon36@gmail.com

*Hallaton Museum is opening its doors this year to their exhibition **‘Where there’s a Will, there’s a Way’**, an insight to a story which has never been told before. Previously, through excavation on Hare Pie Bank - famously known for its Easter Monday Bottle Kicking and the discovery of St Morrell’s Chapel - we know from isotope analysis the pilgrims buried on the hillside in this south east Leicestershire village had travelled a long way to get here. We know where they came from, but where were they going?

The Will of Frances Butler, Rector of Hallaton, written in 1532, was discovered in the Leicester Archives in 1998. This instructed a man named Edmund Oliver to take a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham along with 3 other named shrines along the way. In this exhibition we follow this route to discover the importance of these religious centres and the impact upon our towns we know today and journey through many familiar places through the eyes of the medieval travellers.

The exhibition explores the adventures these pilgrims took, including recovered and reconstructed stone from the chapel of St Morrell, and even a pilgrim’s outfit. The exhibition is open on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank holidays 2.30 - 5 pm, or group visits can be arranged at a convenient time.

See: <https://www.hallaton-museum.co.uk>

More Local Events

Loughborough University events can be found at: <https://www.lboro.ac.uk/news-events/events/>

For details of other local events see 'Discover Charnwood':

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

CHRIS BROWN - Remembered

The late Chris Brown organised and led walking groups in Charnwood u3a for more than 25 years. In more recent years the groups have amalgamated and reduced in number, mainly through advancing age and reduced mobility. All of us not just Chris! His last group of walkers meet each week on a Thursday for coffee, a walk and a lunch.

One of Chris' favourite walks was around the Mountsorrel Heritage Centre with coffee and lunch in their delightful cafe and a walk in their ancient woodlands full of history and wildlife. It was here, on the 15th December 2022, in sunny pre-Christmas weather, and in the Heritage Centre Peace Garden, we all enjoyed our traditional mulled wine, stollen and mince pies. It was Chris' last walk.

In the Heritage Peace Garden they have old railway sleepers bearing granite plaques dedicated to remembered loved ones and it was our group's wish, with his family's permission, that we have remembered Chris in this way.



Chris Brown's Walking Group in front of the plaque dedicated to him (shown enlarged above) in the Heritage Peace Garden at Mountsorrel Heritage Centre.

For those who are not aware, the Mountsorrel and Rothley Community Heritage Centre is based in the Nunckley Quarry on the Mountsorrel branch of the Great Central Railway. It has a railway museum, the cafe, and the woodlands around. There is a small admission charge but a visit is well worthwhile.

See: <http://heritage-centre.co.uk/>

Poetry Corner:

Dying Light Sonnet 1

Cu3a member Martin Litherland has written a series of sonnets in which he has imagined what the subject might have experienced at his or her moment of death, when one's life is meant to 'flash before one's eyes' - what Dylan Thomas called 'the dying of the light'.

This month, Queen Elizabeth I...

Dying Light Sonnet – Queen Elizabeth I (1533 – 1603)

I feel free, free, now how should I behave?
 Long locked alone in clamps of chastity,
 With flattering fool and simpering knave:
 No kiss or warm embrace to set me free.....
 Born to be Queen: such words, such trash I hear
 From lips whose joys and passions count me out.
 To man-me, to unwoman-me I fear
 Is what my life is really all about.....
 I see a little girl with golden hair;
 She's motherless: and who will speak her name?
 I see the glories of the throne and stare
 At my bygone body and wizened frame.....
 Come now my love and lie with me once more,
 And keep the boat from drifting near the shore.



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.

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 **Sunday, 30th July (12 noon)**.



Please send your contributions to the Newsletter Editor at: newsletter@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

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 and Group Leaders' Details

Names, photos and generic email addresses ending @charnwoodu3a.org.uk of all the current Committee members - along with links to their role descriptions - can be found on our website at: <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/CommitteeContactsNew.html> and those of other members of our Support Team are at: <https://www.charnwoodu3a.org.uk/SupportTeamContacts.html>



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

Telephone numbers of Group Leaders can be accessed from the Members area of the website, using login details previously supplied.

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), by prior arrangement, as observers. If you would like to attend one of these meetings and see what we do, please contact our Chair on chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Some other useful u3a web addresses:

National u3a: <https://www.u3a.org.uk>

The Association of East Midlands u3as: <https://www.eastmidlandsu3as.org.uk>

Leicestershire and Rutland Network: <https://u3asites.org.uk/landr/>

Beacon: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/beacon>

