

Your Monthly meetings for the next U3A year

On the second Wednesday of every month about 120 Charnwood U3A members meet together to hear an invited speaker, have a drink and chat with friends. All members are welcome. Please read update or look at the website for details of the venue.



Our talks for this coming U3A year begin on 10th October 2018 with “**Alice Hawkins - Suffragette**” and **Peter Barratt**. In the centenary year of women first gaining the vote, Peter Barratt gives a stirring and passionate account of his suffragette great-grandmother's campaign for the right to vote. A shoe machinist by trade and mother of six, Alice knew the Pankhurst family well and went to prison five times in all. The talk is illustrated with suffragette memorabilia still with the family to this day. You will remember that Alice is now commemorated by a statue in Leicester market place.

On 14th November 2018 we are delighted to welcome **Liz Robson** from **Rothley Wine Estate**. The Estate is situated next to Rothley Court Hotel and covers 2 acres. It was first planted some years ago and has built up to 1200 vines, producing mainly white and rose with a little red. Liz will talk us through the history of the vineyard and the processes as well as their plans for the future. After her talk you will be offered a tasting sample of one of their wines.

December 12th 2018 offers a warm welcome for “**Christmas Folk**” with **Fool's Gold Acoustic**. Fool's Gold is a husband and wife acoustic duo presenting live music shows all around the UK with shows that have a difference that makes them highly engaging and unique. They are a mixture of live music, spoken word stories and projected video and still images which tell audiences the hidden histories, mysteries and tragedies that lie behind some well-known songs and famous events and characters. The songs are a mixture drawn from the very well-known to some original material. The content is often light-hearted, and always absorbing and informative. All the music is performed and played live.

Please note the change to the 2019 programme – the new revised version of the programme is given below. As you can see, we will welcome Chris Dingley on 9th January with Vince Eager moving to 10th April. Please amend your membership cards to reflect these changes.

Our 2019 programme begins on 9th January when we have “**Tax, Care and Toy Boys**” with **Chris Dingley**. Chris is an expert in the field of Asset Protection and Estate Planning and the talk he delivers is reputedly a thought-provoking look into very real issues that can affect individuals and their families in regard to later life situations. Chris assures us that the talk will not be at all commercial, he will not even mention his company name (although it is the Co-op), provide business cards or hand out leaflets. The sole purpose of Chris's delivery is to engage and entertain us and offer valuable experience and advice – for free.

On 13th February 2019 we have **Steve Lovell** on “**Our Friends Outside**”. Steve is a self-employed garden designer/soft landscaper of 25 years with a passion for making our gardens and our urban environment more wildlife friendly. He is a former chairman of the Lincolnshire Group of the Hardy Plant Society. Over the years he has taught Adult Education classes

alongside giving lectures on Horticulture and Natural History. He is a guest speaker for the British Wildlife Watching Club in Scotland and has recently set up Greenspaces, which offers a nature guiding service for Lincolnshire, as well as organising Wildlife Watching Holidays around the UK.

March 13th 2019 sees our Charnwood U3A AGM followed by an opportunity to hear our very own **Ernie Miller** who will put us in the picture about a part of our local history that many may not know – “**Robert Bakewell and Dishley Grange**”. Ernie is a local historian and one-time amateur archaeologist, having excavated sites in the 1960's and 70's at Garendon Abbey and Grace Dieu Priory. After that he has run classes at Loughborough University and a host of community groups.

For the meeting on 10th April 2019 **Vince Eager** will try to convince us that “**You're never too old to rock and roll**”. Vince became a household name in our youth with over 100 TV appearances on shows such as Oh Boy and 6-5 Special and touring with Gene Vincent, Eddie Cochran and Billy Fury. He was prolific on the cabaret circuit before he moved to star in the West End hit “Elvis” and then re-inventing himself as a cruise ship Cruise Director. Recently he has formed the Memphis Tones and built another career on the nostalgia circuit. We are not expecting a sedate history lecture!



"Unlikely positions in unlikely places; a yoga journey around the UK" on 8th May 2019 will have **Elizabeth Gowing** telling the stories from her explorations of yoga. She tells us that “I am not a likely yogini; I am too fond of chocolate and To-do lists, and sometimes fall over on my mat. So this is not a 'how to' talk - it's given by an explorer rather than an expert.” Sometimes funny, sometimes touching, it evokes the characters and communities met along a fascinating journey, from her dripping day of 'hot yoga' to yoga in prisons.

We do not hold a monthly meeting in June.

"The Last Laugh" examines the lighter side of grave stone inscriptions. **Jean Townsend** is a social historian with a particular interest in the late medieval early Tudor period, a semi-retired adult education tutor, a tour organiser and private researcher. She comes highly recommended and will be with us on 10th July 2019.

On 14th August 2019 we have an old sea dog in the shape of **Neville Maggs** who will enlighten us about **"Adventures in the Round the World Yacht race"**. The BT Global Challenge was set up by Sir Chay Blythe to give adventurous types a chance to experience circumnavigation of the world the wrong way round - travelling around the world against the prevailing winds and currents. Each yacht would have a professional skipper but the rest of the crew would be amateurs with sailing experience who paid for the 'pleasure'.

Neville, with no sailing experience, applied and was not selected but, shortly before the race started, was given a day's sailing on a yacht in the Solent, two books to read on sailing and a piece of rope to learn how to tie knots. Then he got a phone message to be in Boston, USA in 5 days' time as someone had pulled out of the Aviva yacht and they needed a replacement. Two days out of Boston they sailed through a hurricane!!

On 11th September 2019 we welcome **Charles Hanson**, of TV fame and another member recommendation. He is well known from The Antiques Road Show, Flog It and Bargain Hunt but has a real job as the founder of Hanson Auctioneers in Derbyshire. He will talk on "**My Life as an Auctioneer**".

Looking further ahead we have "A VC for a stretcher bearer?" by William Coltman in October and The Rt. Hon. Nicky Morgan MP in November but you have a year to wait for details of those!

Membership of Charnwood U3A entitles you to attend these meetings free of charge and there is ample car parking as well as convenient nearby bus routes to all venues.

Neil Rowbotham, Programme Secretary
July 2018