

News & Views


 Newsletter

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Our Website

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

Welcome

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



Our Next Monthly Meeting: 'Magic'



See page 2
for details.

View from the Chair



Hello Everybody,

May 1st – and Spring has definitely sprung. Everything in my garden is madly sprouting and blossoming, but I'm still huddled indoors in my fleece and furry slippers, sticking firmly to the old adage: "Ne'er cast a clout 'til May be out". The seedlings in the greenhouse are begging me to get out the trowel and start planting, but I'm assuring myself that it's much too early. I'm even managing to withstand the lure of those lovely plant stalls on Loughborough market. Is it an age thing, feeling the cold, or is it that I was just born nesh? (If you're not from around here, you may need to look that one up!)

As you know, May Day is International Workers Day. We're all retired or semi-retired in the u3a, but at the recent group leaders meeting, I was reminded just how much work our group leaders do to keep Cu3a going. It was an opportunity to say thank you to two of our most long-standing group leaders, Vic and Margaret Lorriman, who are stepping down after 15 years. Thanks to them and to all the group leaders who make Charnwood u3a the brilliant organisation it is.

We already have new group leaders to take over from Margaret and Vic, but other groups have had to fold because there is no-one to step in when a GL needs to pass on the baton. I know I keep saying it, but the u3a is all about sharing – skills, experience and also the organisation of group meetings. It doesn't have to be the responsibility of one 'expert' person. And it means that even if we lose a group leader, we don't lose the group.

I'm loving my retirement, but the end of full time work can leave many people feeling lonely. This is something we've been discussing in our EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) meetings – how we can reach out to people who, perhaps because of retirement, ill health or bereavement, find themselves socially isolated. We're inviting all members to come along to an open EDI meeting on May 23rd, 2pm, at Gorse Covert to share ideas (see page 7). Do come along if you can, meet the EDI team and be involved in making our u3a welcoming and accessible to everybody.

Drop me an email if you'd like to come on the 23rd, or if you want to send me any ideas and suggestions.

Have a lovely May – but keep those 'clouts' handy!

Pam, 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 in 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'. If you think you'll need any assistance at the meeting, please contact our Chair in advance on chair@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

Last month we were treated to an excellent talk by Ian Retson of the Woodland Trust (*pictured right*) who explained how important trees are to us all, and described the Trust's work to protect and restore ancient woodland, plant native trees and provide free public access to the woodland in their care. If you missed the talk, you can catch up with it for another week or so (via the YouTube link sent by our Chair on 8 April).



Our Next Meeting Wednesday 8th May

'Magic' with John Constantine

John Constantine, a professional magician from Leicester, will give an entertaining talk on magic, which will include one or two routines for additional entertainment value.

For more information about John, including videos of some of his tricks, see <https://www.johnconstantine.co.uk/>



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. **Please do not arrive before 2 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 before the meeting in a reminder email from the Chair.

Looking Ahead:

Monthly Meetings Jun - Nov 2024

- **12 Jun:** *Tea and Empathy - Zam Zam Yusuf (Somalian refugee)*
- **10 Jul:** *My 25 Years at BBC Radio Leicester - Dave Andrews*
- **14 Aug:** **NO MEETING**
- **11 Sep:** *Wearing Tights for the Queen - Andrew Brown (former High Sherriff of Rutland)*
- **09 Oct:** *A Tasting Journey Through Chocolate - Butterflies Chocolates*
- **13 Nov:** *How to Read a House - Janet Spavold*

More information about each meeting can be found on the **Monthly Meetings** page under the 'Events' menu on our website, as well as in future issues of *News & Views*.

Group News

Opera Visits

We are delighted to report that the new Opera Visits group got off to a flying start. With everyone dressed up very smartly, we travelled by electric car.

Past Events: In March, there were two live opera performances in Nottingham's Theatre Royal. We attended *Così fan tutte*, by Mozart, sung in Italian with English subtitles, Italian costumes and scenery. In April, six of us attended two live performances at Leicester's De Montfort Hall. We saw *Carmen* by Bizet, sung in French with English subtitles. There were stunning costumes and scenery of Seville, Spain, and very many memorable tunes. We saw *Madama Butterfly*, by Puccini, sung in Italian with English subtitles, with stunning Japanese scenery and costumes. There was the outstanding solo 'Un bel di/One Fine Day', the Flower Duet between the heroine and her servant, the humming chorus, the love duet, and the death scene. At The Curve, we saw *Manon Lescaut* by Puccini, written in Italian and sung in English. Splendid French costumes and scenery, with many memorable songs. The heroines died, except in *Così fan tutte*.

There are no more live opera performances in either Nottingham or Leicester until the Autumn.

Next, we will attend live streaming from **The Royal Opera House, London, at Loughborough Odeon Cinema**, as detailed below. The cost is £16.50. We can meet in the foyer. Fifteen minutes before the performance, we perhaps should buy our tickets. The foyer has tables, chairs, alcohol, soft drinks and hot or cold snacks so we can meet beforehand and in the intervals.

'Carmen' by Bizet - ROYAL OPERA

Wednesday May 1st at 6:45 pm. Meet at 6:30 pm or before to buy tickets.

Sung in French with English subtitles. Spanish scenery and costumes. Carmen has more popular numbers than any other opera:- *the Seguidilla; the Chanson bohème; the flower song; the card aria; the Habanera; and the Toreador song.* (Right: 1875 première poster)



'Andrea Chenier' by Giordano - ROYAL OPERA

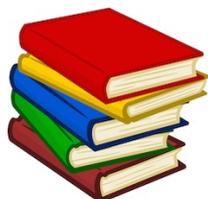
Tuesday June 11th at 7:15 pm. Meet at 7 pm or before to buy tickets.

Sung in Italian with English subtitles. French costumes and French scenery. Songs include: *Un di all'azzurro spazio/ a day of blue sky; Come un bel di di maggio/ like a beautiful May day; un di mera di gioia/ a day of joy; the Carmagnola; the Marseillaise/ French anthem.*

The Royal Concert Hall is set to make history with its first participation in the annual BBC Proms, on **Sunday 8th September at 4 pm.** Please let us know **as soon as possible** if you want to go with us.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact operavisits@charnwoodu3a.org.uk or as a last resort telephone Diana Harvey on 01509 232227.

Reading Group



It's strange that a few years ago Charnwood u3a had three parallel reading groups and now there is only one. Don't people read anymore? It's really good to read a book and then share one's thoughts about it

with others. The most interesting discussions are when there is disagreement.

Our group is very young; it started last July and we have already read a variety of books, chosen by members. However, we have room for two more members who would be very welcome.

Please contact me at anne.carter8@btinternet.com

Anne Carter

Canasta 3

This group meets once a month on the first Thursday in the month at John Storer House at 7 till 9 pm. We are looking for new members and would welcome beginners and experienced players.

If you are interested, please phone me on 01509 266877 which has an answer machine.

Ann Hawley

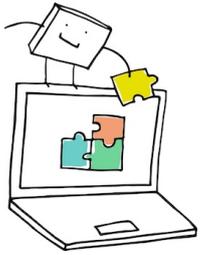


More Group News

The Mac Users Forum is Dead, Long Live the Mac Users Forum!

A few years ago a small number of Mac/iPad enthusiasts got together to form a group. We started with about half a dozen members which grew to 25. At the beginning, the background of the membership ranged from highly experienced to complete beginners. Through a mixture of short tutorials, Q & A sessions, problem solving discussions and general presentations, the group became more evenly skilled.

As a result there has been a lot of "levelling up" (where have we heard this expression before?) but also some fragmentation with the less experienced gaining skills and confidence and the more experienced looking for material with more depth.



However, we have become victims of our successes, with the general feeling that we've done a lot of the main things for which we came to the group originally. Also, we have become aware that PC users (yes we know they exist) have similar interests and there is a lot of mixing and matching with Mac and PC users working together.

So, whilst we're not quite "Dead" (as claimed in the title of this piece), there's a strong feeling that we need to change quite radically. Instead of meeting monthly, it is suggested that small self-contained packages of interest to Mac, iPad and PC users are developed; the packages to be made available as often as needed.

What is a package in this context? It could be any of the following:

- A short presentation with details of a new technique, e.g. manipulation of PDF files
- A cheat sheet with tips about doing common things e.g. creating LibreOffice or PowerPoint presentations
- A discussion about some topical issue e.g. Is AI something to worry us?
- A basic introduction to using a computer, Mac or PC
- The basics of using the Internet in order to take advantage of products and services only available online
- Specific help with solving an IT-related problem, Mac or PC based
- Taking the tablets, e.g. how to use an iPad or Android tablet to interact with the Cu3a web site

What's Needed?

We need two types of people for this to work: Package developers and Package consumers (audiences!). Obviously you can be both - the developer of some packages, and the consumer of others.

Interested? If you'd like to get involved with the above, contact Anthony Gimpel, agimpel@btinternet.com

Table Tennis - Tuesday Group

Table Tennis is one of the most popular activities among seniors in the UK, extolled by top medics for its health benefits. So when Margaret Lorriman decided - off her own bat - to form a table tennis group back in 2009, on Tuesday mornings, it proved to be a huge success. A few of the original members are still playing, not as agile as we were but still loving it. It became so popular that new groups were formed and there are now seven groups covering one-hour slots Monday to Friday, at Loughborough Leisure Centre.

Now, after 15 years as Tuesday group leader, Margaret is handing over the baton, or should I say bat, to Cliff Knowles. I am sure that everyone at the Tuesday group would like to join me in thanking Margaret for all the fun, laughter and friendship we have shared over the years. Long may it continue and we wish Cliff well.

June Jenkins



Whether we'll just be discussing plays, reading them or performing them will be down to the membership, so if you'd like to get involved at ground level please email me on Northstar2@tiscali.co.uk

Graham North

Out and About

Days of Interest Trip to Haddon Hall and Bakewell

Our April trip was a fairly local one, firstly to Haddon Hall and then on to Bakewell. Although many of us had been to Haddon Hall in the past, I think we were all entranced by the building, its history and the surrounding gardens and beautiful countryside. As many of you will know the relatively small house has benefited from being largely disregarded for long periods of time, which means that much of its original architecture remains essentially unchanged.

This includes a beautiful sloped courtyard, from which you can see both grotesques and gargoyles designed with lavatorial jokes in mind. The house has a really interesting kitchen area together with the more public areas



including the entrance hall, complete with a blazing open fire, a dining room with a fabulously decorated ceiling and wood carvings and an upper long hall with beautiful views. The long hall has undergone significant recent repairs and the fact that it's very difficult to "see the joins" is a tribute to the many talented craftspeople who have worked on the project. The gardens themselves are terraced and the boar head emblem seen in the house is echoed in the outdoor topiary. There is also a beautiful small chapel in which many 15th century Biblical wall paintings can be seen.



In the afternoon we moved onto Bakewell, many of us in search of the best Bakewell tart or pudding on offer. Other attractions which some of the group visited included the churches, parks, the small craft fair and local museum. Many of us spent the afternoon meandering the streets and enjoying a short walk along the river bank and even indulging in an ice-cream.

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 on 01509 552834 or 07455 167929 for details.

Gardening Group Trip: Places Still Available

The Gardening Group still have places available on the trip to **Dorothy Clive Gardens** and **Bridgemere Garden Centre** on **Monday 20th May**. An application form can be obtained from Hazel Richardson. Cost is £37.50 or if you are a RHS member £31.50. There is a 30p cheque charge to be added to these amounts if paying by cheque. All participants have to be u3a members.

Please email Hazel Richardson on allotden@icloud.com
The closing date for applications has to be Friday 3rd May. Final numbers will be given to both venues after this date.

Dorothy Clive Garden
Photo: TomWG00,
CC BY-SA 4.0 via
Wikimedia Commons



Further GL Training

Last September, the SM Team ran a series of workshops to introduce group leaders to the Simple Membership system and its integrated website.

If there is enough demand, we will be running one or two more of these workshops in the coming weeks.

If you are a group leader and haven't had the training, or if you would like a refresher, would you, please, contact me as soon as possible with details of when you are normally available (day of week; morning or afternoon).

Thanks,

Phil Bass
system@charnwoodu3a.org.uk

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<p>May 2024 Calendar</p> <p>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 Group Leaders: Please check your group's web page is up to date.</p>		<p>1 May</p> <p>10.00 Classical Greek 10.00 German 10.00 Golf 10.00 JigsawBookEx 10.00 Mini Tennis 10.00 Scottish Dance 10.30 Papercraft 11.00 Laughter Club 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</p>	<p>2 May</p> <p>08.45 Sci & Tech 10.00 Parish Walks 10.00 Spanish Conv 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.00 French Conv 19.00 Canasta 3</p>	<p>3 May</p> <p>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 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>6 May</p> <p>09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 10.00 Latin 11.00 Table Tennis 1</p>	<p>7 May</p> <p>09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 10+ Walks 10.00 Spanish 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</p>	<p>8 May</p> <p>10.00 Committee 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.30 Monthly Meet 19.00 Canasta2Quorn</p>	<p>9 May</p> <p>10.00 Thurs 6 Milers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Outdoor</p>	<p>10 May</p> <p>09.00 Badminton 10.00 Classical Civ 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 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>13 May</p> <p>09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 10.00 Poetry 1 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Archaeology 14.00 Chess 14.00 Current Affairs 14.00 Digital Imaging 14.00 Quiz group</p>	<p>14 May</p> <p>09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 Scrabble 3 10.45 Pilates 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 12.00 Pilates 4 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Cribbage 1 14.00 Eng Parish Ch 15.30 Pickleball</p>	<p>15 May</p> <p>10.00 German 10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 10.00 Poetry 2 10.00 Scottish Dance 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Cribbage 2 14.00 Family History 14.00 French Improve 14.00 Italian Conv 14.00 Scrabble 2</p>	<p>16 May</p> <p>09.45 CC Walks 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.00 French Conv 14.15 Scrabble 4 18.30 Supper Club 2</p>	<p>17 May</p> <p>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</p>
<p>20 May</p> <p>09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 13.30 Canasta 2 14.00 Gardening 14.00 Painting</p>	<p>21 May</p> <p>09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 6+ Walks 10.00 Recorder Group 10.00 Spanish 10.45 Pilates 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 12.00 Pilates 4 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Sing4Pleasure 15.30 Pickleball</p>	<p>22 May</p> <p>10.00 Golf 10.00 History 10.00 Mini Tennis 10.00 Scottish Dance 10.00 Stitch & Sew 11.00 Table Tennis 3 14.00 Classical Music 14.00 Travel Group 18.30 Supper Club 1</p>	<p>23 May</p> <p>10.00 Philosophy 2 10.00 Thurs 6 Milers 11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Architecture 14.00 Bowls Outdoor 14.00 EDI meeting</p>	<p>24 May</p> <p>09.00 Badminton 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 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>27 May</p> <p>09.30 Yoga 10.00 Craft+Self Help 11.00 Table Tennis 1 14.00 Chess</p>	<p>28 May</p> <p>09.30 Pilates 2 10.00 ETHEL 10.00 Needlecraft 2 10.00 Scrabble 3 10.45 Pilates 3 11.00 Table Tennis 2 12.00 Pilates 4 14.00 Canasta 1 14.00 Cribbage 1 14.00 Philosophy 1 15.30 Pickleball</p>	<p>29 May</p> <p>10.00 Golf 10.00 Mini Tennis 11.00 Table Tennis 3</p>	<p>30 May</p> <p>11.00 Table Tennis 4 14.00 Bowls Outdoor</p>	<p>31 May</p> <p>09.00 Badminton 10.00 Line Dance 10.00 Mah Jong 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>PLUS at Weekends: Days of Interest trip to Biddulph (18th May) Sunday Lunch Club (12th May)</p>		

RSVP: Cuppa and Cake with EDI

Thursday May 23rd, 2 - 4 pm, Gorse Covert lounge

Who or what is EDI you may ask?

- Empty Dustbin Instructions?
- Every Daft Invention?
- Ethel's big sister?

None of the above, of course..



EDI stands for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. The u3a is open to everyone no longer working full time and the EDI team works on practical ways to make sure that it means what it says on the tin. We do our best in Cu3a to be welcoming to everybody, as our EDI Policy says, 'regardless of physical or mental health, class, ethnicity, religion, marital status or sexual orientation', but we know there is more to do. and we want members to bring ideas. For example, loneliness is an issue that affects so many people and the we've started to discuss how best to reach out to those who feel lonely and isolated.

There's plenty to talk about, so do come along on May 23rd, have some cake, meet the team, and help us to make EDI work for everybody in our u3a. Please let me know by May 10th - then EDI will know how much cake to bring!

Pam Upton, pam.upton@btinternet.com, 07974 946007

Rockin' for Rainbows

Cu3a member Monica Hurd has alerted us to a concert at **De Montfort Hall on 29th June**, featuring the Leicestershire Rock Choir and the Enderby Band.

Three of our u3a members sing in this choir and it would be good to support them, at the same time helping Rainbows Hospice.

The combined choirs of Leicester, Loughborough and Broughton Astley Rock Choir, conducted by Sarah Stephens, will perform uplifting chart topping songs, compered by former BBC presenters Dave Andrews and Monica Winfield.

More details and booking information at:

<https://www.demontforhall.co.uk/event/rockin-for-rainbows/>



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Resesearch Projects - Participants Wanted

Effect of ageing on short-term memory and reflexive attention

To be eligible, you must be:

- over 65 years old,
- have no neurological condition and
- have normal or corrected-to-normal vision (i.e., glasses)

Researchers in the Department of Psychology and Vision Sciences at the University of Leicester are looking for older adults to investigate changes in short-term memory and attention across the lifespan.

Taking part in this research would involve you attending a 2.5 - 3 hour session at the George Davies Centre in Leicester, where you will conduct a computer-based 'game', whilst researchers record your eye movements and electroencephalogram activity. To compensate for your time and travel, all participants will receive an honorarium of £11.44 per hour in the form of Amazon Vouchers. If you are interested in getting more detailed information about this research, please contact the postgraduate researcher Milena Rota via email on mvr2@leicester.ac.uk who will be happy to provide you with more information, or sign up through the research team's lab page at: https://dougiebarrett.github.io/Lab/pages/search_ageing_v2.html

Investigating age differences in the brain during silent reading



As advertised in the December issue of News & Views, participants are still being sought for this project in the Neuroscience, Psychology and Behaviour Department at the University of Leicester. Your eye movements and brain activity will be recorded simultaneously whilst you read approx. 200 to 300 sentences on a computer screen and answer some questions, over a 2 hour session.

Those eligible to take part are adults 60+ years old with normal or corrected-to-normal vision, who are English native speakers, right-handed, have no known reading disability (e.g. dyslexia) or neurological disorders (e.g. epilepsy), and are educated to secondary education level or above. To take part or ask any questions, contact Rupali Limachya, by email at: rm133@leicester.ac.uk

Upcoming Local Events

Charnwood Borough Council - 50th Anniversary Exhibition

9th May - 22nd July every day except
Wed & Sun, at Loughborough Library,
Local and Family History Centre

An exhibition by the Loughborough Library Local Studies Volunteer Group to mark 50 years of Charnwood Borough Council, which came into existence in April 1974. There will be artifacts and historic documents to mark notable events through the 50-year history.

The exhibition is open on Monday mornings, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10am to 4pm and Saturday mornings. It's closed on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Free admission.

Friends of Charnwood Museum

Thursday 16th May, 7:30 pm:
**Revoluting Robert: The Rise and Fall of the
3rd Earl of Leicester by Jim Butler**

In 1173, Robert 'Blanchemains', the 3rd Earl of Leicester, became a principal supporter of the revolt against Henry II by three of his sons. Robert's actions not only threatened to up-end the fledgling Plantagenet dynasty, they were to have severe and lasting repercussions for Leicester and its inhabitants too.

Cost: Members £2. Non-members £4.

Doors will be open from 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start, please use the evening entrance on Granby Street.

Booking essential. Please telephone the museum on 01509 233754 or visit in person to book. See: <https://www.charnwoodmuseum.co.uk/events>

Charnwood Orchestra

The Charnwood Orchestra is rounding off this special celebratory season in style with a fantastic programme of Mozart and Bruckner "Classical & Romantic Austria."

Saturday 29th June at 7:30 pm at the Church of James the Greater, London Road, Leicester

A really great programme includes:

- Mozart: "Prague" Symphony No.38
- Bruckner: Symphony No.7

Tickets may be reserved in advance from tickets@charnwoodorchestra.org.uk

Tickets may also be purchased on line at <https://www.charnwoodorchestra.org.uk> where you can find more information about the orchestra and some special 50th Anniversary memories and photos.

Prices are £14 Adult, £12 Concessions and £5 Students and U18s.

50th Anniversary Concert Season



the Charnwood Orchestra
Music Director Nic Fallowfield
Patron Thomas Bowes

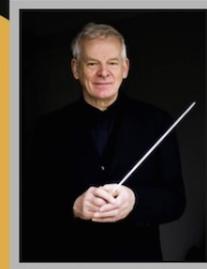
Classical and Romantic Austria

**Saturday
29th June 2024
7:30pm**

**Church of
St. James the Greater,
London Road,
Leicester LE2 1NE**

Conductor Nic Fallowfield

Mozart Symphony No.38 'Prague'
Bruckner Symphony No.7



Nic Fallowfield

Tickets:

- The Orchestra website
- tickets@charnwoodorchestra.org.uk
- Members of the Orchestra
- At the door, cash payments only

£14.00 (£12.00 concessions)
£5.00 -18s and under or NUS members

[f /charnwoodorchestra](https://www.facebook.com/charnwoodorchestra)
[t /charnwoodorch](https://www.twitter.com/charnwoodorch)



www.charnwoodorchestra.org.uk

Discover Charnwood has other local events at: <https://www.discovercharnwood.co.uk/events>

Upcoming Loughborough University events are at: <https://www.lboro.ac.uk/news-events/events/>

More Upcoming Local Events

Pint of Science Festival

This festival brings scientists to cafes, pubs, restaurants and event spaces all across town from **13th to 15th May**, to showcase the newest breakthroughs from Loughborough's researchers, and giving you the chance to get involved with interactive activities to win Pint of Science prizes.

Each venue has an event on each of the 3 evenings (6:30 - 8:20 pm) on different aspects of a particular theme:

- 'Beautiful Mind' (at Albert House)
- 'Planet Earth' (at the Swan in the Rushes)
- 'Our Society' (at Peter Pizzeria)
- 'Our Body' (at Esquires Coffee)
- 'Atoms to Galaxies' (at Public and Plants)
- 'Creative Reactions' (at Revolution)
- 'Tech Me Out' (at Champs)

Tickets are available now (£5 per Ticket).

For more details, and to get tickets, visit:

<https://pintofscience.co.uk/events/loughborough>



Sustainable Living Fair

Sunday 5th May, 10 am - 3 pm
at Woodhouse Eaves Village Halls
Free Entry

Try an electric bike with Choose How You Move, try paper crafts with Charnwood Arts, get your face painted, book your broken item into the repair café. Talk to Climate Action Leics about their latest campaigns, and to Greenpeace about their Vote Climate project. Barrow Greener Living will be sharing results of their energy projects and you can meet the Rangers from our local parks. For lots more information about other stalls, see <https://www.wheplasticfree.co.uk/fair>

A poster for the Sustainable Living Fair. It features a large recycling symbol in the center with the text 'WOODHOUSE EAVES SUSTAINABLE LIVING FAIR'. Above the symbol, it says '...10am - 3pm'. To the left, 'Sunday 5th May' and to the right, 'Woodhouse Eaves'. At the top right, a logo says 'PLASTIC FREE WOODHOUSE EAVES SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE'. Below the symbol, it says 'Village Halls'. At the bottom, it lists 'REPAIR CAFE', 'MARKETPLACE · REFRESHMENTS', 'RETHINK & REPURPOSE IDEAS', and 'ART & CRAFT ACTIVITIES'. A large banner at the bottom reads 'ReUSE ReFILL RePAIR ReDUCE ReCYCLE'. There are icons for a bicycle, trees, a wind turbine, and a heart. A small text box says 'For more information visit wheplasticfree.co.uk/fair' with social media icons.

St Mary in Charnwood Eco Fair

Saturday 18th May, 12 pm - 4 pm
at Church of St Mary in Charnwood
Free Entry

This event promises 'fun-filled activities for all the family' including :-

- Eco Stalls
- Woodland Trail
- Indoor Crafts
- Rainbow decorated church
- Refreshments

For more information, visit:

<https://www.stmaryincharnwood.org.uk>

Tour of a Fascinating World-class Factory on our Doorstep

I love having a good look round factories. And clearly this is something a lot of people enjoy – hence the TV series 'Inside The Factory' on its 8th series ... sadly with those two incredibly irritating presenters! So when Charnwood Arts Society recently offered a tour of the Anstey Wallpaper Company's factory (in Ladybird House), I was there.

I'd never heard of the company, but it turns out to be world-renowned and deals with every type of printing you can think of – from using original William Morris hand-carved woodblocks, right through to cutting-edge digital printing machines that are the best in Europe.

Our guide was a young woman who had a degree in textile design from Nottingham University, and had worked for several years in AWC's design studio before moving into sales. She was extremely knowledgeable, great at answering questions and at explaining the huge number of processes that they deal with in their factory. AWC employ a lot of graduates from both Nottingham and Loughborough Universities' textile design departments and have proper training schemes for them to skill up and learn all the techniques around the factory.



Loads of the massive rolls of wallpapers had blank wrappers round them to prevent industrial espionage because they have clients from all over the world visit the factory to discuss design ideas and the appropriate print processes with them, so they have to ensure confidentiality.

We learnt that in the American market, wallpaper widths are HUGE compared to British ones. These very wide wallpapers must be a nightmare to actually paste up onto your walls – I make a mess of wallpapering with our narrow British rolls!

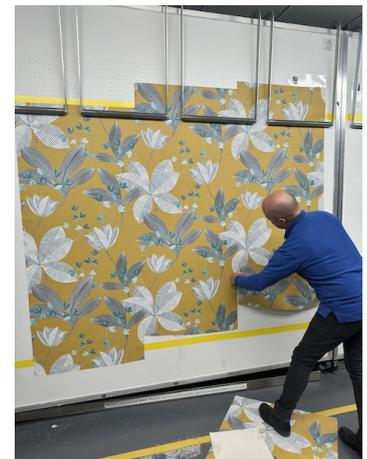
And we found that lighting around the world is not a standard colour – some are 'warmer' (ie more yellow) than UK lighting, some are 'colder' (ie more blue). So, when the staff are colour matching the design for a particular country, they always use that country's lightbulbs so they can ensure an accurate match. The staff who do the colour matching, and who check for faults as the wallpaper zips past on the conveyor belts as it's printed, have decades of experience. All colour matching is done by eye!



AWC are constantly experimenting with different inks, printing techniques and types of paper, fabric and laminates to print on. We even got to feel a new wallpaper printed on grasscloth!

Prices for a roll of wallpaper can be from £15 right through to £1000s a roll for hand- printed, hand-rolled exclusive designs, e.g. for one-off commissions from, say, the National Trust to recreate a vintage wallpaper from scratch.

I highly recommend a tour, but do bear in mind that you have to wear ear defenders (provided by them) because the factory floor is very noisy, and there are 4 floors of steps to tackle (no lift).



Photos courtesy of Anstey Wallpaper Company

Char March

British Geological Survey Open Day

Char has also alerted us to the forthcoming **Open Day at BGS, Keyworth on Saturday 8th June**, when they invite visitors to "explore volcanoes and earthquakes, soils and aquifers, the sea, the sky and everything in between". This is a free event but booking is required. For more information and to book tickets, go to: <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/news/bgs-open-day-2024/> Also, look out for Char's geology-themed article in next month's *News & Views*.

News from the National u3a



u3a Festival 24: 18-20 July at York University

For the programme and a booking link for this, the first ever u3a festival, go to:
<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/festival-2024>

Free On-Line Events this Month include:

- **Osteoporosis and Bone Health:** with Susan Doyle of the Royal Osteoporosis Society, Fri 3 May, 2 pm
- **The Harlem Renaissance** with Irene Kiffin, London u3a, Thu 9 May, 2 pm
- **Exploring World Faiths: Religious Mysticism** with Dr Peter Rookes, Mon 13 May, 10 am
- **Turner's Timeless Treasures** with Catherine Stevenson, Newcastle u3a, Tue 14 May, 10 am
- **Story of the Workhouse: Welfare in England pre 1948** with Peter Higginbotham, Fri 17 May, 10 am
- **Understanding Online Safety: Expert Tips** from tech charity AbilityNet, Tue 21 May, 2 pm
- **Science Network Event: talk on AI** by Ian Hawker, Suffolk u3a, Wed 22 May, 9:30 am
- **Deafness and beyond: the tribulation and triumph of Ludwig van Beethoven** with Christopher Dowrick, Orral Park & District u3a, Thu 23 May, 2 pm
- **Secrets of the Human Brain: pain & anaesthetics** with Dr Bob Pullen, Prudhoe u3a, Wed 29 May, 2pm
- **Much Ado about Numbers** - the connections between Shakespeare and Maths with author Rob Eastaway, Fri 31 May, 2pm
- **Driving on Country Roads** with Richard Gladman from IAM Roadsmart, Fri 31 May, 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>

National u3a Friends Newsletter and More:

To register to receive the National u3a newsletter - now called u3a Friends - 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> **Our impact** (<https://www.u3a.org.uk/our-impact>) is about using our voice to make a difference and influence change, locally and nationally, beyond what we do in our u3as.

Obituary

Richard Holdsworth

Sadly I have to report the recent passing of Richard Holdsworth, who, along with his wife Joan, had been a member of Charnwood u3a for several years. Our thoughts and condolences go out to Joan and all his family and friends.

Roger Harris of the Wine Appreciation Group has sent the following tribute:

We are distressed to learn of the passing of Richard Holdsworth, a regular attendee at meetings of the Charnwood u3a Wine Appreciation Group. Richard was an enthusiastic and well informed member of the group, providing us with considered views of the wines we tasted based on extensive travelling to a variety of different regions.

He was a popular member, having an easy manner and relating well to others. He organised interesting tasting meetings at his home which were a highlight for us all. He will be sadly missed.

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 **June** issue of **News & Views** will be **Thursday, 30th May (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, Support Teams and Group Leaders' Details

Names, photos and email links for all the current Committee members can be found on our website under 'Contact', along with details of our Support Teams. In the case of our Membership Secretary and Site Administrator, 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

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/>

