



LEARN! LAUGH! LIVE in April 2026!



From being a child, I gazed in awe and wonder at Clipstone Headstocks, in the car, when we drove past on the way to Edwinstowe, Clumber Park or the A1. My Mum told me that they were the highest Headstocks this side of the Ural Mountains – not that, at that time, I had any idea where the Ural Mountains were!!! BUT I realised that they were something special because she told me every time that we passed them. Hence when the pits closed and they were left to go to rack and ruin, I was upset because I thought that they would be demolished. Then came rumours that they were going to become part of a very large entertainment attraction, and they became a source of renewed interest and anticipation. Unfortunately, that didn't happen and they continued to look derelict. Then suddenly there were gates and a statue, and they were the scene of another sort of attraction – a Museum!

VISIT TO THE CLIPSTONE HEADSTOCKS MUSEUM – Claire Wilkie

On 25th February, 43 Sherwood members visited the Museum housed beneath the tallest pair of headstocks in the World, at Clipstone!

Our guide was Stuart Mills, who, together with other enthusiasts, had collected all the artefacts to be found in the Museum, which they then began to promote.

The first area we encountered was full of Nottingham- produced Raleigh bicycles and other transport, varying from a Penny Farthing to a moped, motorcycles and even cars, including a pickup from 1932.

A former Raleigh worker had moved to Tamworth, where he started making Reliant cars. We also saw a Brook Superior bike, and these bikes could actually reach 100 mph!

Next, we visited the WWI section of the Museum. Stuart said that there are still trenches in the area dating back to the First World War, notably at Sherwood Pines. The headstocks site was then an army camp for 30000 troops. Artefacts on view included a Model T Ford with bullet holes in the door, an Austin truck, later used to carry coal, air raid and Anderson shelters and an SE 5 fighter aircraft.

The troops were stationed in hundreds of sheds, one of which was in the display. There was also a siege pump.

In the corridor on the way to the WWII exhibits, were pictures relating to local inventions. The video recorder, ibuprofen, the vertical take-off jet, John Player cigarettes, Tarmac and the circular saw all saw the light of day in the area. So too did traffic lights, shin pads, the Spinning Jenny and HP Sauce!

Stuart told us that during the Second World War, Nottinghamshire provided 600000 tons of oil for the war effort. There were several local RAF bases, and the munitions factory at Chilwell produced tanks and trucks. Wollaton Hall was a POW camp for Germans. The articles we looked at in this section included a paratrooper's folding bike, a motor bike and a car which had survived the war. These exhibits were housed in one of the mine areas, where we saw the railway tracks which led into the shafts. The shaft cap was very wet. **Continued Page 7**



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Firstly, I would like to thank all the members of the Social Group and all those who volunteered help on the day at the Afternoon Tea. These events don't just happen! The Social Group plan these events over a period of months and each take on a role or responsibility for each event: booking the hall, booking the artist, ordering the food, writing quizzes, organising games, sorting the music etc so thank you all very much. We also have a tireless group of volunteers who set up, provide tea and coffee and help with the clearing away so thank you very much to you too. My final thanks go to all those members who come along to support these events. March's Afternoon was a resounding success judging by the comments I have since received and the atmosphere in the hall on the afternoon itself. That makes all the effort truly worthwhile. I hope to see many of you again at the Treasure Hunt in May!



Secondly, now you have renewed your membership, I hope that some of you will put your names forward to join the committee. There will be three or four vacancies post AGM. Being on the committee can be very rewarding and helps ensure that your Sherwood u3a can continue growing from strength to strength. We only meet once a month so please give this some consideration as without a committee no u3a can function. If you want any further information, please contact me or any other committee member for a chat.

I look forward to seeing you at the April Meeting.

Ann Madden

SUE DAVISON - Group Coordinator



I moved up to Mansfield Woodhouse from Norfolk a few years after my retirement. I had spent a few years doing a variety of voluntary jobs so kept busy.

I eventually heard about Sherwood U3A just after Covid hit so decided to give it a try. I felt a little apprehensive as I knew no members and very little about the locality. I remember filling in a volunteer slip at a monthly meeting and lo and behold it was suggested I might take on the role of Group Coordinator alongside another volunteer, Kate Kiely. It was tough at first as I knew few Group Leaders and little protocol, but Kate and I found our way gradually and the committee were very patient with us. I have always liked working with and meeting people and our role involved meeting leaders and talking to members about the groups to encourage them to join in and give them a go.

We have encouraged and supported group leaders, found venues, organised group leader meetings and have provided necessary paperwork including group lists and leader handbooks. We both attend committee as well. I have found members of the U3A to be caring and friendly and have enjoyed talking to people during the monthly meetings at the breaktime. We have become familiar with places around the area and outside organisations and even the local council. I am a member of the Social Group, and I attend Craft Group, History Group, Games Galore and Afternoon Taproom Games. I am joint leader of the Ticket to Ride group with Kate Kiely. I also go on trips with Days Out, Heritage and National Trust.

It is always a pleasure to see new groups take shape and being successful and well attended. A lot of communication and publicity is vital for the job. I have even persuaded my husband to join, and we enjoy some of the group activities and the super outings that are so well organised. If you are reading this, maybe you could dip your toe in the water and lead a group or become a volunteer or have a look/see at a Committee Meeting sometime.

HELEN BLYTHE



MY HELEN by Marilyn Stubbs

What can I say about Helen Blythe? We met in the Spring of 2008 at the first Sherwood U3A meeting and at the front of the bus going to the outlet Crystal Peaks organised by Rita Foulkes and we started chatting and hit it off right from the start. She was easy to talk to, she was interesting, and more importantly fun! From that day on we saw each other regularly, went on holidays

together and got to know each other's families. We then started to organise things together, we started the evening meals and the quiz. Helen went on to organise theatre tickets.

These situations below are just a few that made us laugh. We went to Nidd Hall (Warner's) and one morning went walking in the grounds, where we found gymnasium gear obviously placed in the grass so you could get on the bikes, rowing gear and other apparatus, but obviously couldn't move them. I got on the bike and out of the corner of my eye saw Helen fall

to the ground and very gracefully start to roll down the hill. Well, I couldn't get to the bike quickly enough, so Dave took flight down the hill, Carl and I were too busy laughing! Luckily, Dave got to her before she fell into the lake. We brought that moment up a lot and laughed a lot about it , but she took it all in good fun and from that day on she's loved my husband!



Holidays together were always full of laughter, even when she was diagnosed with dementia. I took her to Clumber Park where there was a sponsored run taking place where I told her I was going to run for people like her. She said to me, " Don't be daft you don't want to be running at your age, besides this dementias thingy will soon clear up." I didn't know whether she was joking or not, so I didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

She turned up on the doorstep when I broke my arm, she was going to help me with some Christmas decorations. Needless to say, after chatter, coffee, then wine she left 4 hours later with decorations still on the table. She asked to see my arm, which was badly bruised from the shoulder to the wrist. She pointed out that it reminded her of a lovely blue handbag she had that was the same colour as my arm, cheeky mare! But on that day, she was just what I needed and she knew it.

Anyway, she often told me she loved me, she was a sweet natured lady, kind and considerate even when she was struggling with dementia. She would often start crying for no reason, so I would join in. Why not?

She was a monkey for leaving the door open when she went to the toilet. It didn't matter where we were, many people witnessed Helen on the throne! You would hear me shout "Helen close the door!" but she never did. I think she did it deliberately, she knew it drove me mad.

Anyway, this was my Helen, she's been part of our life for 20 years I can't imagine going places without her, she was a sweetheart, a one off. She could be naughty, she could be awkward, she could be unpredictable, especially lately, but goodness me, I feel so privileged to have had her in my life. I hope you're with Dad, helping him with the beehives. Sleep tight kid!



GROUP NEWS- from R. R. Roger and Debbie

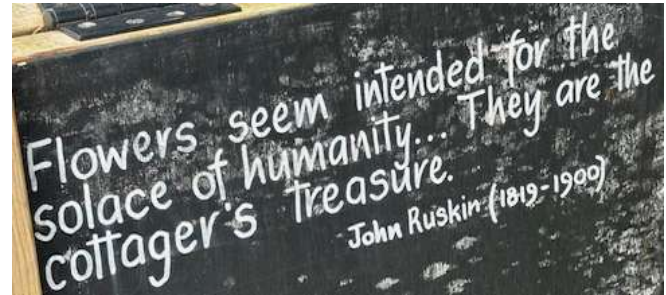
Garden Group 2 - Roger

Hi Liz, enjoyed your company on Tuesday. What a lovely time we had at Calke Abbey with the Gardening Group 2 members. The weather was warm and you could smell that spring was in the air. All borders were nicely dug and ready for new bulbs and seeds to be planted. We ambled through their large garden full of snowdrops, glowing in the sunshine. All around



were deer roaming the fields and waterfalls flowing into the huge lake. This gave us a chance to sing our rendition of "Doe a Deer", which went down well with the Calke Abbey faithful. Reluctantly we

dragged ourselves to the coffee shop, where we had rhubarb scones with custard. I also tried a Cornish pasty washed down with a large Latte. Our first minibus trip of the season was a big success, and we are looking forward to all our other outings this year.



Craft Group 1 - Debbie

Today we made ribbon broaches. We all followed the same pattern but as you can see, we all made something totally different!!!

Afternoon Taproom Games – R.R.Roger



What do you get when you fill a small taproom with 30 U3A members ? A really good time! Once again I must thank



everyone for supporting me today and for the last three years.

We played "Pointless" a new card game in which Joan and Jeremy had a really low score of 6 so they each received a tube of Rolos. Our lovely cookies and cake at 3 lady, Carol, had a great afternoon, winning the darts with a huge score of 316 with 15 darts. She also won top prize in the raffle. We had eight raffle winners today which included David , Vera, Ray, Helen. Jean won the line and Martin won the house in Bingo - congrats to them. I am always trying to improve this group, so if you have any new ideas, we would like to give it a go. See you next time.



Photography For Fun – R.R.Roger

A great full house greeted us at our March Photography for Fun group meeting. We spoke about our upcoming Cromford canal trip in May. Yours truly gave a talk on early pioneers of monochrome film from 1840, finishing with The Wizard of Oz, which was the first film in technicolour in 1939. I even gave a quick demonstration how the colour film was created ,using red, green and blue filters and three black and white cameras. I used a Sellotape tube, cling film, felt tip pens and a mobile phone. This morning's theme was "ODDS", and we had to pick the best out of 12 fantastic photographs. In the end we had a joint 1st place, Ivor's cooling towers, titled "5 Sisters" and Ian's lovely picture of Chatsworth bridge, titled "Underneath the arches", were our winners.



Sharon's "3 of the Kind" and Debbie's "Star of the Apple" came 2nd and third. I brought the tea and coffee and some birthday goodies. We will do it all again in April, when our competition will be "rainbows".



SYLVIA'S SECTION

Writing For Fun

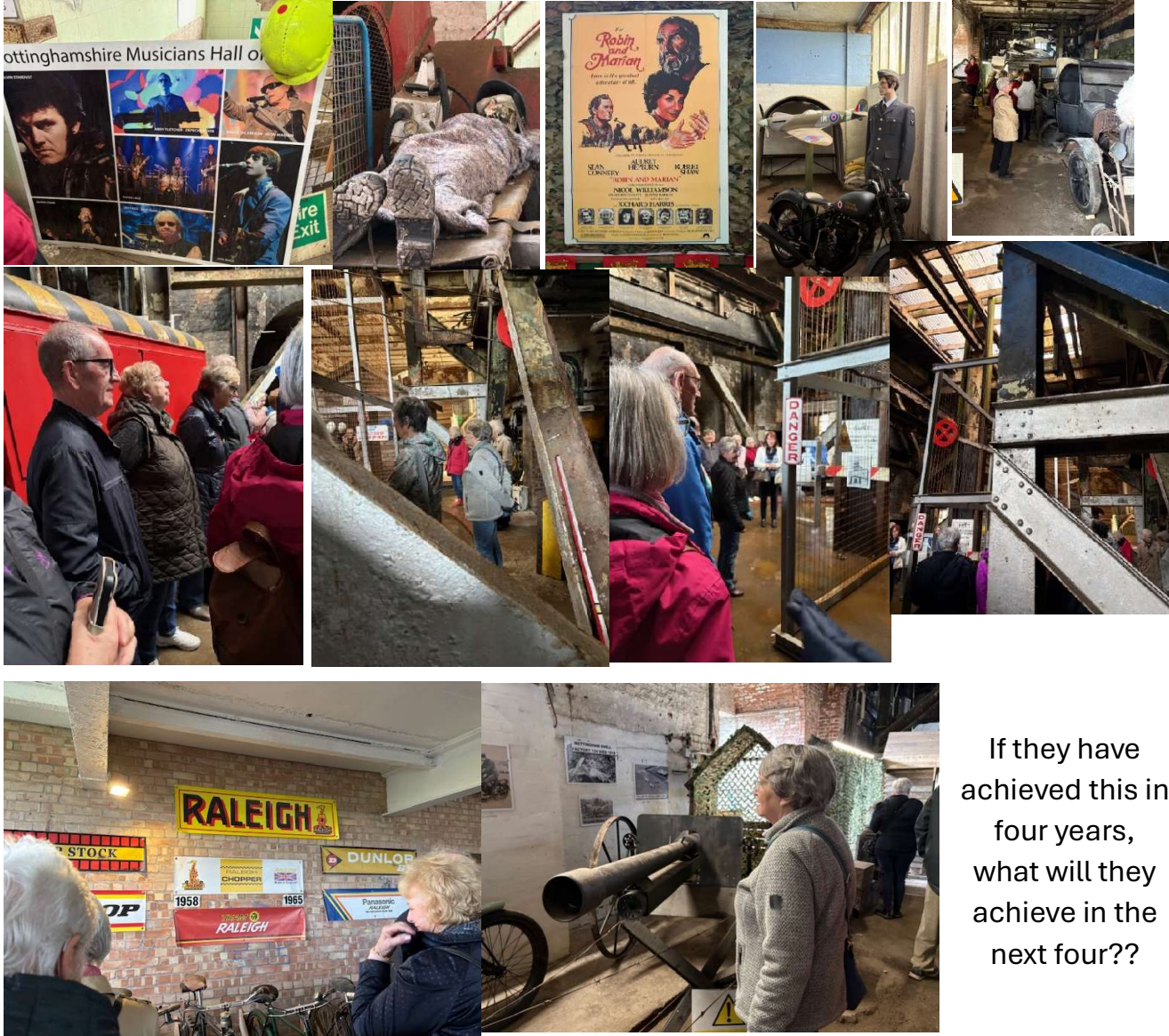
The Journey

Life is like a journey we are making.
We're born, we live and then we pass away.
Birth is like a new awaking.
Death is just a sleep at the end of the day.
Death need not be a time of sorrow,
For after winter snow comes springtime sun.
That sun will light you on your way tomorrow
The wheel of life is turning on and on.
Birth is like the new dawn breaking,
Death the setting sun at close of day.
Do not fear the journey that you are making
Death is just a step along the way.



GROUP NEWS – THE REST

Heritage – Clipstone Headstocks Museum Dave got in touch with the volunteers and booked the visit and Claire collected the money and arranged the visit. I found it fascinating and will go again in a couple of years' time to see what progress they have made with the restoration. **THANKS DAVE AND CLAIRE** for making a little girl's curiosity a reality.



If they have achieved this in four years, what will they achieve in the next four??

Continued from Page One – By Claire Wilkie

The mine lift cage was a double decker, and 35 men would have squashed into each cage to go up or down. The shaft was 3000ft, or 920 metres underground. The lift travelled at 30mph.

The headstocks are 200ft tall. There were originally 15 of them, built to a smaller size, in 1922. The mine was at that time steam powered. Later, electricity was used. A few people ventured below ground to see the Training Gallery at this point!

There was a small area dedicated to Robin Hood on the way outside, with models dressed in medieval clothes. Outside, we could see Cold War vehicles-the Alvis Stalwart amphibious vehicle ,the Willis jeep and several mines. There was also a Green Goddess, an American Daimler, Austin K9, V8 truck and Russian Schiller tank which could fire 4000 rounds per minute.

We then went into the other shaft area, Heapstead 2, where we heard that the coal came to the surface in skips, with up to 16 tons of coal in each skip. A Hopper would sort the small from the large pieces of coal.

In that building, it would have been very noisy, with a lot of vibration and heat. The shaft was 3000ft deep and 20 ft in diameter. One skip would go down as another came to the surface. The wheels operating the cages had 1900hp motors.

1300 men worked at the pit at a time, and over the years, 57 died, including the first fatality- a 15-year-old boy, on his first day!

The headstocks became a listed building in 2001, and 5 years ago Stuart bought it. There are still 30 million tons of coal underground!

The Winding Room is a large space, once banned for ordinary miners, but now has comfortable seating. It can be used for concerts and TV programmes.

Walking Group – Vicars Water

If you look on the Website the March walk was not supposed to be three and a half miles around Vicars Water!!!

In fact, it was changed from the original to something else, then changed again and finally Ann decided the only place that was walkable was Vicars Water! All the others that were considered were waterlogged! We could have walked around King’s Mill Reservoir but the walkers like something a little more challenging



and there is a hill to climb at Vicars! And climb it they did to discover the new summit marker (see photograph). The other great thing about Vicars is the café that does “real chips” and really crispy bacon butties!!

The Strollers’ Group



They were supposed to be going to Newark but the leader of the stroll couldn’t make it so Marilyn quickly changed it to somewhere nearer. Places were limited because of the mud



problem, so they strolled around Sutton Lawns and Sutton Reservoir.

Social Group – The “B” Afternoon Tea

Mail from Members

Many thanks, Liz, to you, Ann and the whole Social Committee, for an excellent afternoon's entertainment on Saturday 14th March. The activities, food and singer were all top class, and everything was really enjoyable.

Thank you again Claire.xx

Yesterday was a great success it was so nice to see everybody enjoying themselves and joining in. The singer was very good and one for future events if not too expensive.

Regards Colin and Anne

Thanks, Dave. The singer was great. I think everyone enjoyed the afternoon. I would just like to reiterate Dave's thanks to all the social committee and their better halves for helping to make this afternoon such a success.

Ann

Wow what a great afternoon!

Chloe, our guest singer, asked me to pass on her grateful thanks to everyone as she thoroughly enjoyed herself. She could not believe how welcoming everyone was, how quickly and enthusiastically they joined in with everything and for being so helpful. She had heard of the U3A but was not aware that they put on events such as ours today.

Dave

I think you can count this as a success – it was really entertaining!

Diane



A sedate start with Denise and Bingo but Eileen got very excited when she won the first line. She might not have been if she'd known what the prizes were!! Next, we had Marjorie who led a crowded dance floor in the Macarena. Followed swiftly by Carolyn who led us in “The Music Mann”, we played the bagpipes and flew!



After the difficult ones we did the simple “Hokey, Kokey” and lots put their right leg in and shook it all about!! And joined hands for the chorus!



After the dancing, it was time for the BALLOON games. Dave, Colin and David led their teams in all the challenges, over the head, under the legs, over and under and finally long balloons between the legs! Each team won one of the heats – Colin’s as always was the first!

Another game of Bingo so we could sit down and get our breathe back before we got our reward and ate and drank! As well as having a guess at the BEATLES QUIZ.



FINALLY, our show singer – Marina Mae. She sang to David, got nearly all of us on the dance floor even Colin and Dave (who did a great job finding her for us!)



NOTICES

ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORT FORM

I would like to remind members to complete our Incident Report Forms, regardless of how minor the accident /incident may seem.

The form itself is very straightforward, even though there are 4 pages.

Page 1 requires your details, Incident details

Page 2 requires the particulars of the person(s) involved in the incident.

There is room for more than 1 individual. Continue on a blank page if necessary.

Page 3 asks for details of the injury, the immediate action taken at the scene, and any follow-up action, e.g., being taken to the hospital.

If property is involved, details of any damage to the property, with the name and address of the owner and contact details.

Page 4 requires the name and contact details of any witnesses to the incident.

This is then followed up by a Declaration.

Remember, give as much information as possible, as this may be required at a later date should you need to make a claim against the u3a. Another member might experience the same incident, leading to a serious outcome that requires investigation.

The u3a National Office may ask for a copy of the incident report to support your claim against any third party when legal action is taken.

As Health & Safety Officer, I could make myself available to offer support in the completion of the Incident form should you require it. If you require a form, please contact your group leader or Kelvin Foster, the Health / Safety officer.

You can contact Kelvin on his Mobile telephone number.

Walking Group Ann Madden

The walk on Tuesday 7th April is Poulter Park - Bonbusk, 4 miles (This is a change to the website) and is being led by Margaret. The start of the walk is Robin Hood Line Station, Whaley Thorns/Langwith (NG20 9HS). We will meet at Morrisons at 10am as usual.

GROUP ACTIVITIES

Afternoon Taproom Games – 1st Wednesday in Month, The Black Bull, Woodhouse, 2pm to 4pm.

Antiques and Collectibles – 3rd Thursday in month, 2 to 4pm, Turner Hall. April – Miniature, May – 1950's.

Art Group – Painting for Pleasure – 1st Thursday in Month, 2pm to 4pm, Flint Avenue.

Art For Beginners – 2nd Friday in the Month – 1pm to 3pm, Flint Avenue, Forest Town.

Board Games – 1st Tuesday in month, 10.15am to 12.15pm. April – Great Game of Britain, May – Echelon.

Book Group – 4th Friday in Month, 10.30am to 12.30pm, Woodhouse Library.

Card Games – 3rd Wednesday in Month, 10am to 12pm, The Stables Upstairs.

Classic Film Club One – 2nd Tuesday in Month, 2pm to 4pm. April – Ladies in Lavender, May – Oliver.

Classic Film Club Two – 3rd Tuesday in Month, 2pm to 4pm. April – To Walk Invisible, May – Manchurian Candidate.

Craft 1– 4th Thursday in Month, 10am to 12pm, Mansfield Woodhouse Library. April – Bracelets, May – Calligraphy.

Craft 2 – 3rd Monday in Month, 10am to 12pm, Mansfield Woodhouse Library. April – Patchwork, May – Tunisian Crochet.

Days Out – April 28th- Holmfirth and Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

Drama/Play Reading – 2nd Thursday in Month. 2pm to 4pm, Flint Avenue. April – Sketch with additional rehearsals, May – Play Reading

Family History – 1st Thursday in the Month, 10am to 12pm, Park Road Resource Centre.

Games Galore at the Greyhound, Woodhouse, 3rd Wednesday in Month, 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

Gardening Interests – 1st Friday in month, 10am to 12pm. Rufford Arms. April – Thornbridge Daffodils, May – Plant swap.

Gardening Group 2 - 4th Tuesday in Month, 2pm to 4pm, Flint Avenue. April – Renishaw, May - Bolham Manor for Bluebells.

Heritage – None.

History – 3rd Friday in the Month, 10am to 12pm, Woodhouse Library. April – Suffragettes/ History of Electrical Distribution Network, May – Guided Tour of Edwinstowe Church.

Mah Jong – 1st Monday and 2nd Wednesday in Month, Member's Home.

National Trust – May – Croft Castle

Photography for Fun- 2nd Wednesday in the month, 10am to 12pm. April – Composition/Rainbows, May – Cromford Canal.

Rambling – usually 3rd Thursday in month, Meet at Morrisons 10am. April – Matlock Baths, May – Cromford Canal.

Social Group – Meetings at Liz's house vary. May – Woodhouse Treasure Hunt.

Soft Tennis – 3rd Friday, 3pm to 4pm, Oak Tree Lane Leisure Centre.

Strollers – 1st Thursday in month. April – TBC, May = Strawberry Hill.

Ten Pin Bowling -4th Monday in Month, 10.30am, Mansfield Superbowl.

That's Entertainment – TBC.

Ticket to Ride –

Walking – 1st Tuesday in month. Meet at Morrisons 10am. April – Poulter Park, May – Ravenshead.

Wine Group – 3rd Wednesday of the Month, David's House. April -Angela – Favourites from 2025, May – Margaret – Off the Beaten Track.

Writing for Fun – 2nd Monday in Month, 10am to 12pm, Woodhouse Library.

International Dining – 1st Tuesday in month - 6.30pm for 7pm. April – The Spread Eagle, Hockerton, May – Ania.

Oriental Dining – 4th Friday of the Month – 6.30pm for 7pm. April – Chung's of Mapperley/ Chinese, May – Porterhouse.



GROUP SPOTLIGHT

Walking/Rambling – Ann Madden

Gardening Interests - Marilyn Dillon

That's Entertainment/ Silver Cinema – Jenny Weaver

FROM THE COMMITTEE

SHERWOOD u3a ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Business Secretary of Sherwood u3a is giving notice that the Annual General Meeting will be taking place on Thursday 11th June 2026 at Turner Hall, Mansfield Woodhouse at 9.45 am.

There are several vacancies on the Committee this year and if you wish to volunteer, please inform the Business Secretary before Thursday 28th May 2026 and a nomination form will be given/sent to you to complete.

Please note that if there are more applicants than vacancies a vote will take place at the AGM.

If you wish to change or amend the Sherwood u3a Constitution or have Any Other Business that you wish to bring up at the AGM, please put in writing to be received by the Business Secretary before Thursday 21st May 2026. Please note that any items submitted after this date will not be considered at the AGM.

An Agenda, Annual Accounts from 01.04.25. to 31.03.26. and “draft” Minutes dated 08.05.25. will be published in the June newsletter but if you wish to look at these documents prior to the AGM please contact Margaret Taylor, Business Secretary.

POSTAL MEMBERS' COFFEE MORNING

You are invited to the Postal and new full members' coffee morning on Thursday the 21st May from 10.00 to 12.00.

This is an opportunity to meet and chat to Committee Members and Group Leaders in a more relaxed environment.

You can also bring along a friend who may be interested in finding out more about Sherwood u3a.



Terry Dillon - Member's Secretary



**Reminder to all members, relatives and friends
that you are invited to:-**

St George's Day

Coffee Morning

Thursday 23rd April

Turner Hall 10am- 12 noon.

**Prizes to 3 members with the "best" outfit
for our National Day.**

The Committee look forward to seeing you on the 23rd.

And it's Gladys's Birthday!!!!!!

BOOKINGS AVAILABLE IN APRIL

Tuesday 28th April – Days Out – Holmfirth and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park - £25 – Leaving Morrisons am – Full but Reserve list available.

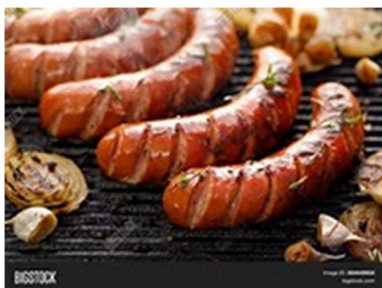
Thursday 7th May – National Trust – Croft Castle - £20 – Leaving Morrisons at 7.30am.

Wednesday 20th May – Social Group – Woodhouse Treasure Hunt - £7 includes food.

Starts between 3.45pm (after Games Galore) and 4.15pm and ends at the Greyhound but takes a different route to last time so a whole lot of new questions and puzzles to get the little grey cells working overtime.

Food, at approx. 5.45pm, will be as last time – a tray of chips, sausage and fishcake. Condiments will be provided but if you want anything fancy such as tartar sauce – bring your own.

The games of Games Galore will still be at the pub so if you get back early you will be able to chat or game play.



SPEAKERS CORNER - APRIL 2026

THE POTTY PLOTTERS



Elaine (Big Potty)



Julia (Little Potty)



We Live Here!



We Grow!

We Cook!



We Talk!



We Repurpose!



**BUT MOST
OF ALL
WE HAVE
FUN!!!**



POSTAL MEMBERS CONTACT – TERRY DILLON

NATIONAL TRUST /HERITAGE /SOCIAL CONTACTS - Contact Liz Wilson via the website or Denise Whitsed

April 2026

Thursday 9th – GENERAL MEETING at Turner Hall 9.45am – 12pm.

Speaker – Potty Plotters – Welcome to Naughty Corner!

Tuesday 21st – Group Leaders’ Meeting – Turner Lounge – 10am.

Thursday 23rd – Coffee Morning

Tuesday 28th – Days Out – Holmfirth and Yorkshire Sculpture Park

May 2026

Thursday 7th – National Trust – Croft Castle

Thursday 14th - GENERAL MEETING at Turner Hall 9.45am – 12pm.

Speaker – Mike Storr – The Masters of Mirth

Wednesday 20th - Social – Woodhouse Treasure Hunt

Thursday 21st – Postal and New Members’ Coffee Morning

June 2026

Monday 1st - Heritage – Scarborough

Thursday 11th - - GENERAL MEETING at Turner Hall 9.45am – 12pm.

Speaker – Mike Newbold – My Extra Life

July 2026

Tuesday 7th – Heritage – Brodsworth Hall

Thursday 9th - - GENERAL MEETING at Turner Hall 9.45am – 12pm.

Speaker – Jane Barnes – Tales from a Dairy Farmer’s Wife.

Deadline for May Newsletter = Friday 17th

April



