



SHERWOOD u3a NEWSLETTER

LEARN! LAUGH! LIVE in August 2026!

FESTIVAL IN THE FOREST

Many of our members may have been away at Potters or on the very popular walking holiday but those of us that were left came to the Forest Festival. The Major Oak may have died but the Sherwood u3a spirit hasn't and lots of us were there to support our newly appointed Chair's Welly Wanging Event!



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A very warm greeting to all Sherwood u3a members, as I take over as your new Chair. What a responsibility!!

I little thought when I joined Sherwood on that first day in March 2008, that I'd ever hold such a position. It just shows that sometimes life really can provide the unexpected.

I'm very aware that I am following a special group of people who have been Chair before me, most of whom are still members. Just one or two former Chairs are, sadly, no longer able to be with us.

I have quoted many times the fact that, as I sat next to Liz Wilson on that first day, she stated that she was joining to enjoy the u3a and not be involved in organising it.

Well, we know what happened there! She soon ended up as Chair for the first of three times, and a very productive East Midlands Trustee, starting over twenty other u3as, including Retford and Arnold!

How do I follow that?

Jeremy, who followed Liz, had been involved in setting up the webpage and IT facilities from the start. He represented Sherwood at many Network and other meetings in his time. He, too, went on to be Chair again.

Both Chris Robb and Rita Foulkes became Chair and made very valuable contributions to our progress. They are very much missed.

Linda Brotherhood, Jenny Weaver and Ann have brought us up to date and have been instrumental in making sure that as a u3a we continue to progress.

I am aware, in particular, of following Ann, for she has worked so hard to move us forward as a u3a, and her knowledge, awareness and efficiency, I can only envy.

Life is not always plain sailing in such a responsible post, but the wonderful attitude of so many of you, will I hope, help us all to succeed, and I will certainly try my best to live up to Sherwood's expectations!



THE COMMITTEE

Chairman – Claire Wilkie

Vice Chairman - Kathryn Prentice

Business Secretary – Ann Madden

Treasurer – Diane Storey

Members' Secretary – Terry Dillon

Group Coordinators – Sue Davison and Kate Kiely

Governance Officer – Linda Shutt

Committee Members – Margaret Savage, Malcolm Storey and Liz Wilson



I had an appointment and arrived late. I wandered down to the Music Marquees (see above) and there was a smattering of Dukeries and Forest Town members gathered to one side where they had been listening to Winston and Irene (Forest Town) singing and the Guitar and Ukelele Groups (Dukeries) playing.

Recognising none of Sherwood. I looked across the field. There, like an oasis in the dessert, was a large group sitting in a circle around some benches, among all the games! It was Sherwood! They were among all the games

because Claire was organising them and her trusty helpers and supporters were on hand to help with Sherwood's game – Welly Wanging. Lots of people had a go both from our u3a and other u3as. None of our members won the WW but some, such as Kathryn won games arranged by other u3as. Some of our lot also walked with the warden to see the Major Oak which had died and was surrounded by TV cameras and journalists. (It was all over the news that night.)

In true Sherwood style what all of them had got was food! Picnics with food of every variety abounded and was shared! So, a great day was had by all and even the weather stayed fine, and the sun shone on us occasionally.

Thanks go to Claire for representing Sherwood on the North Notts Neighbourhood Group and organising the games from us and various other u3as. Also thanks to her immediate helpers, Kate, Jane and John. BUT most of all, to all those from Sherwood who took a chance on the weather, went along to support and made sure all the organisers efforts were not in vain!!

GROUP NEWS

Chatty Café Club – Felley Priory – Denise Whitsed



What a wonderful, relaxed and uplifting day we had. It was only supposed to be coffee/tea and cake and some stuck to that BUT – the menu and food was too tempting for the others. Most at least had lunch and some, as you can see, not only had a substantial lunch but couldn't resist the trifle dessert as well!! Beautiful weather, superb setting, delicious food AND MOST OF ALL excellent, chatty company. Thanks Denise for the booking!!

History – The Bayeux Tapestry – Sue Davison

It was a gloriously warm but stuffy morning upstairs at Woodhouse library as we embarked on our Bayeux Tapestry session. It has always been of great interest to me and seemed an appropriate subject this year as we have the original Bayeux Tapestry in this country at the British Museum from September to July 2027.



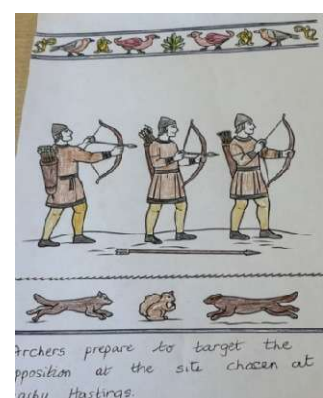
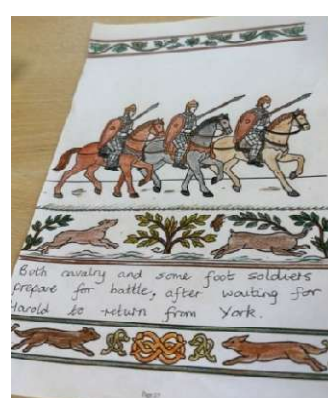
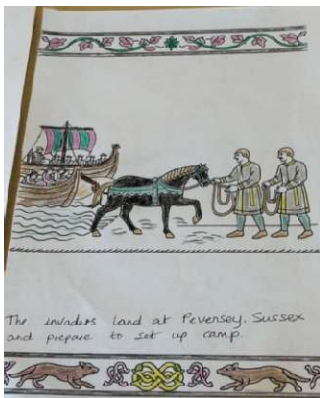
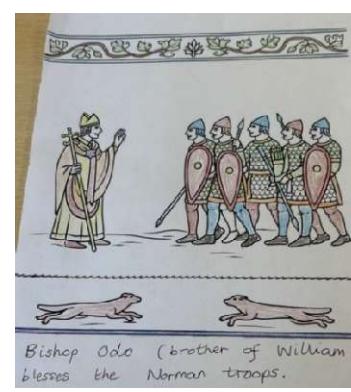
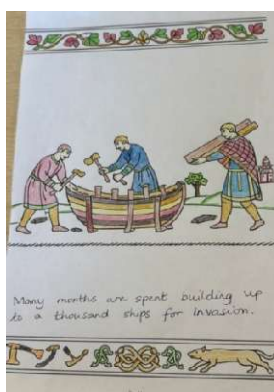


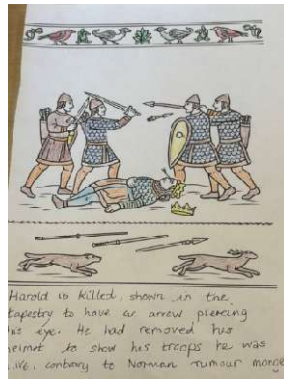
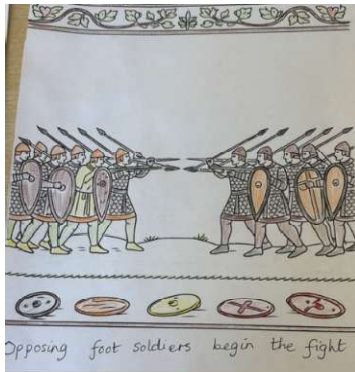
We began by looking at a map of how England was divided into those under mainly Saxon control and those mainly under Viking control. King Edward (The Confessor) was actually king of England at the time and had had many Viking predecessors such as Cnut. There was an uneasy peace between these two factions. Harold Godwinson was the favoured successor as Edward had no offspring. We looked at three other contenders all having a claim. Harald Hardrada, king of Norway had been persuaded by Tostig, Harold Godwinson's jealous brother to fight the Viking cause. William of Normandy claimed he had sworn a sacred oath with Edward and Harold that he would succeed owing to help he had given and a distant blood tie. Lastly Edgar Aetheling was the nearest Saxon blood successor but he was only 13 and too weak to stand up to others.

We talked through the story of the Tapestry but it was noted that this story focused on the French claim and the Vikings were not given a mention. The Battle of Hastings comes about two thirds of the way through the 224 foot long Tapestry. A little anagram quiz followed and memories put to the test with names of Characters and Places to decipher.

We followed up with a few facts about the making and history of the actual tapestry. After being crowned in Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day, William left matters of state to his half brother Bishop Odo, Bishop of Bayeux Abbey and it was he who ordered this made by Needleworkers of Canterbury for his Abbey in France. The tapestry is really an embroidery on eight lengths of linen fabric, 224 feet long in all. A great deal of the beginning goes on the helpful intercession by William to both Edward and Harold and shows lots of castle grabbing by William in Normandy. Two interesting mentions are that Halley's Comet appeared after Harold's succession earlier in 1066, which was a sign of impending doom for the superstitious in those days. The other is that Harold's death at Hastings was due to an arrow in his eye.

After a very welcome cold drink, we coloured in some scenes from the tapestry from a colouring book using colours that were as authentic as we could find to the original. We will hopefully put the individual pieces together to make a mini tapestry. A guest today, Rebecca brought in a mini postcard-sized Bayeux reproduction which helped enormously.





Hope I got them in the right order!

Thanks, Sue, for filling in the background and bringing it alive for us!

Writing for Fun

“For Mum – Just a Touch Away” by Sylvia Pearson

Just a touch away

And out of sight,

I feel your gentle presence all around.

Somewhere beyond the veil

That separates the living from the dead,

You wander hand in hand

With the man who fathered me –

The man you loved,

And one faithful, four- legged friend

Who gave both you and I some comfort

In the darker days.

Now I am certain you are there,

Watching over my life and those I love.

There is a newfound peace,

A newfound joy,

And I can go forward into life,

Happy that you are never far away:

Knowing that there is nothing left to fear;

Living until it is my turn

To cross that strange divide

And join you in your world.



Craft Group



The subject for June is Decoupage.

We started with decoupage coasters we then applied the same method to decorate our plant pots. The weather was so hot, but we managed to keep cool and enjoy ourselves.

Marilyn Dillon

Garden Interest Group Fifteen Years.

The group celebrated fifteen years with a garden party at Rufford Park. The weather was beautiful, not too hot, the setting lovely and the company as good as it always is.

Together over the years we have visited some wonderful and inspiring gardens. Listened to various speakers. Planted many bulbs, seeds and plants with differing success.

Our day at Rufford started with elevenses, a member had made a batch of cheese scones, delicious. Lunch was a variety of sandwiches and savouries followed by cakes and pavlovas, made by another member, again delicious.

There was a walk to the garden centre and plants bought, well, we are a garden group!

We finished the day with a celebration

cake and toast. We know there will not be another fifteen years, so a realistic toast was for another garden group year.

Marilyn Dillon and Marilyn Hughes

Garden Group 2 - Youlgrave Well Dressings – Ann Madden

On Tuesday 23rd June Garden Group 2 used the Ravenshead Community Bus to travel to Youlgrave in Derbyshire to see the well dressings. We arrived at about 11am and admired the first two well dressing at



Coldwell End (this depicted the waterworks system and featured every house in the village) and then moved on to Bank Top (this depicted the Youlgrave Harriers). A lady who spoke to us at the first well dressing explained that the entire village, including children, were involved in well dressing.

Having admired these two, we came across a gentleman putting up teapot signs indicating a garden serving tea/coffee and homemade cakes. A local lady noticing our interest suggested we should pay them a visit as the cakes were amazing. We needed no

second bidding! By 11.20ish we were installed in a beautiful, terraced garden with amazing views enjoying refreshments. The gentleman of the house explained that they only opened for bank holidays and well



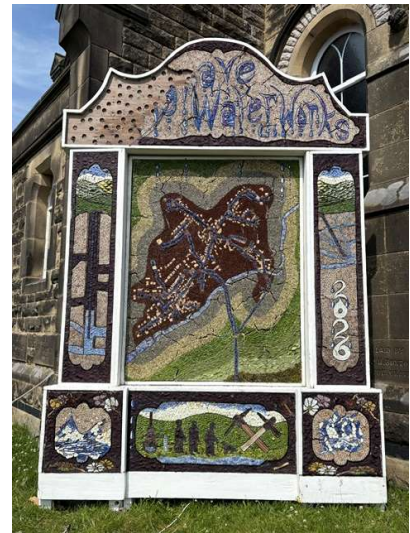
dressing week and that there was no fixed price for the refreshments just a donation on departure. All the money donated was then sent to Water Aid.

Well refreshed, we continued our stroll through the village and visited five more well dressings: Holywell (depicting the late Queen playing

Pooh Sticks), Fountain Well (showing Joseph and his amazing Technicoloured Dreamcoat), Reading Room Well (a collection of small well dressing images), Guide Well (depicting the natural world) and finally School Well (this featured Mr Men and Little Miss Characters). Each well dressing was unique and really beautiful.



After admiring all the well dressings, we were a little peckish so called at the George Hotel for a bite to eat before boarding the minibus for our return journey. The minibus driver was excellent and very courteous.



How are well dressings made?

It takes the well dressing teams 5 consecutive days to make them:

- The boards have to be soaked for 10 days to ensure they are totally wet.
- Clay has to be thrown onto the board and smoothed out
- Full-size drawn-out designs are then placed onto the clay, and the design is pricked out. The paper is then removed, and the outlines of the design are put on with wool or beans
- Materials to use on the designs are gathered and dried throughout the year. Fresh materials such as moss lichen leaves are gathered during the 5 days of making. The colourful fresh petals are added last. All these materials need to be carefully pushed into the clay.
- Finally, early on the Saturday morning the well dressing are erected in situ. Each screen can weigh anything between 500kg and 750kg.
- On the Saturday afternoon the well dressings are blessed in a procession from one to the next accompanied by the village silver band. The event finishes with a service of Thanksgiving at Holy Well.

Brief History of Youlgrave Well dressings. The village of Youlgrave has good reason to give thanks for water through well dressing as they have their own water supply. The custom may have begun as a pagan ritual when people put flowers beside springs and wells to placate the spirits believed to live in them. It is not known how long the custom has been practiced in Youlgrave. In 1829 water was first piped to Fountain Water Tank which still stands in the village. From then on well dressings have been erected by the villagers. In 1869 taps were set up on the village streets and the current well dressings are set up near to the sites of those taps.



Photography for Fun

With our two leaders on holiday and hospital leave today, the inmates ran the show, and what a good job we made of it. First Sharon told us about the origins of the mirror. Did you know Anatolia people were crafting and polishing volcanic glass about 6000 BC?

Afterwards Ken and I told the class about the history of the box brownie, from humble beginnings when they manufactured it as a toy, to the rebranding in 1900, when it became a global sensation.

Our theme today was insects, and big congrats to Ian, with his winning entry "owl butterfly"! 2nd we had "Amazonian moth" by Dave and Sue was in 3rd place with "ladybirds on a post". Well done to Ian and Mandy, (the super cake lady), for our elevenses. If you are interested to join this group, please have a word with, Pat, Dave or Roger. Have a good August off guys and I will see you all in September. **R R Roger**



Family History's Fascinating Visit to a Mining Heritage Centre based in Berry Hill.



Some of the large collection of British Coal photos stored digitally were shown on a screen with maps and data about past colliery sites and it was fascinating to see evocative local photos like of the girl wheeling her bike in Clipstone village in the 1950s. Perhaps that was you?

Many of us were reminded of our childhood and could share stories of going past the surface workings of Sherwood Colliery to learn to swim at the Baths and having a slice of bread and dripping for 1d in the pit canteen afterwards. Anyone can book the

computers in the foyer to further their studies, access abandonment plans for both opencast and deep mining operations as well as look through the mining photos.

We then moved to the amazing

Maps and Plans room, kept at a cool optimum temperature with its own fire retardant system, not water, to preserve records going back 300 years. The sheer size of some plans as big as carpets was staggering. We were very lucky to have with us two





Inside large steel filing cabinets were surveyors books, so beautifully and intricately drawn, detailed recording instruments and we all gained a clearer picture of an industry upon which our country's power had depended, but now a distant memory to most.

mining experts, Dave Clarke and Dr Bob Bradley as well as Des Collins whose work as an electrical engineer all supplemented the fascinating information Jackie was sharing. Details of the treatment of pit ponies, working in thin coal seams and the horrific Aberfan disaster which we all remembered so vividly were discussed and some recalled mining accidents their own family members had endured.



The questions came thick and fast as we enjoyed refreshments back in a lecture room and admired some coal carvings and safety lamps which many people locally still treasure in their homes. Perhaps you have a memento belonging to an ancestor who spent their working life deep underground. The centre is always most keen to preserve mining knowledge, books and objects and the morning passed far too quickly. Jo summed up all our feelings :

“A well-organised visit to a stunning mining records office with a clear interesting introduction to a building housing thousands of mining maps and details not only of Nottinghamshire - all kept safely in tall, framed shelves and cabinets.”



Vivienne Brown

International Dining - 6:30pm for 7:00pm

On Tuesday 1 September we are going to White Lady, Ravenshead. (Names and deposits to be taken at the August members' meeting).

On Tuesday 6 October we shall be at Il Rosso, Mansfield. (Names and deposits to be taken at the September members' meeting).

Christmas Lunch – Message from Terry Dillon

All places are filled but I will take names for a waiting list in case anyone drops out.

I will collect the balance from September onwards.



GROUP ACTIVITIES

Afternoon Taproom Games – 1st Wednesday in Month, The Black Bull, Woodhouse, 2pm to 4pm.
August & September – No Meeting

Antiques and Collectibles – 3rd Thursday in month, 2 to 4pm, Turner Hall. Aug – No Meeting, Sept – Something with a number.

Archery for Beginners – Meets on ad hoc basis at Bothamsall.

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. Aug – Bananagrams/Traitors, Sept – Trivial Pursuits.

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.

Chatty Café Club – 4th Wednesday in Month, times vary. Aug – Glapwell Garden Centre, Lunch, Sept – Carr Bank, 1.30, Coffee/Tea Cake.

Classic Film Club One – 2nd Tuesday in Month, 2pm to 4pm. Aug – No Meeting, Sept – The Post

Classic Film Club Two – 3rd Tuesday in Month, 2pm to 4pm. Aug – No Meeting, Sept – The Magnificent Seven.

Craft 1– 4th Thursday in Month, 10am to 12pm, Mansfield Woodhouse Library. Aug – Knitting/Crochet, Sept -Mosaic Coasters

Craft 2 – 3rd Monday in Month, 10am to 12pm, Mansfield Woodhouse Library. Aug – Visit Out, Sept - Knit and crochet poppies.

Days Out – Cambridge - August

Drama/Play Reading – 2nd Thursday in Month. 2pm to 4pm, Flint Avenue. Aug – Develop Action, Sept – Action and Character development.

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. Aug – No Meeting, Sept – Speaker.

Gardening Group 2 - 4th Tuesday in Month, 2pm to 4pm, Flint Avenue. Aug – BBQ, Sept – Sheffield Botanical Gardens.

Heritage – November – Sherwood Observatory.

History – 3rd Friday in the Month, 10am to 12pm, Woodhouse Library. Aug – Hardwick Hall Visit, Sept – Talk by Dennis Hill.

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

National Trust – Sept. Upton and Norfolk Holiday.

Photography for Fun- 2nd Wednesday in the month, 10am to 12pm. Aug – TBC, Sept – TBC.

Rambling – usually 3rd Thursday in month, Meet at Morrisons 10am. Aug – Longshaw, Sept – Attenborough.

Social Group – Meetings at Liz's house, dates vary.

Soft Tennis – The Soft Tennis group will now meet on the 3rd Tuesday at 2pm at Oak Tree Leisure Centre - instead of the 3rd Friday at 3pm.

Strollers – 1st Thursday in month. Aug – Thoresby, Sept – Ransom Woods

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

That's Entertainment – TBC.

Ticket to Ride – Monday, 3rd August, to Bakewell. Meet at Mansfield Bus Station 10.15am.

Walking – 1st Tuesday in month. Meet at Morrisons 10am. Aug – Farndon, Sept - Hardwick

Wine Group – 3rd Wednesday of the Month, David's House. Aug - Margaret – Off the Beaten Track, Sept – Supermarket Favourites

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

International Dining – 1st Tuesday in month - 6.30pm for 7pm. Aug – No Meeting, Sept – White Lady.

Oriental Dining – 4th Friday of the Month – 6.30pm for 7pm. Aug – Katmandu, Sept – Guerka Village.

TO BOOK IN AUGUST

Tuesday 15th September – National Trust – Upton - £20

Nestled within the Warwickshire / Oxfordshire border, Upton houses a treasured art gallery showcasing the fine collections of Old Master and British pictures including Bosch, El Greco and Canaletto.

Lord Bearsted purposefully redesigned and extended the original honey coloured house to best display his cherished art and rare French and English Chelsea porcelain.

Lady Bearsted turned her attention to the gardens and commissioned one of the first professional female garden designers Kitty Lloyd-Jones to improve them for leisure and pleasure. The topography is distinctive with steep terraces parallel to the house tumbling down into the ice age valley.

Take a wander and admire the soft planting, strong colours and fashionable styles. Highlights include the Wild Garden and Herbaceous Borders, Mirror Pool and South Lawn beneath the magnificent Cedars.

Remodelled for recreation and relaxation, the house, collections and gardens are largely as they were in their heyday from the 1930s.

Saturday 3rd October – Social Group – Quiz - £12



And don't forget, it includes the fish and chip supper that keeps the little grey cells working!!

Saturday 7th November – Social Group – Afternoon Tea - £10



In the first Half - The Drama Group will present a mud raking Murder Mystery which will drive you potty guessing – who did it???????

Detective Inspector Chris Anthemum of the Widdleshire Police will help you decide who deadheaded Del Fyniam, Chair of the SADGITS.

In the second Half – After all has been revealed, sing and dance with Oliver!

Monday 23rd November – Heritage – Sherwood Observatory – £8



A fantastic outing for all ages! Learn about the wonders of the cosmos, experience the scale of the universe in our immersive wrap-around planetarium shows, browse our NEW exhibition and experience hands-on use of high-quality telescopes at one of our open events. Let us take you on a journey of discovery to find out how we watch and listen to space, what we know about the galaxies beyond, and what is yet to be discovered!

SPEAKERS CORNER - AUGUST 2026

MARCUS ALTON – ‘OLD BIG EAD’ – THE LOST TAPES



This year marks 50 years since Brian Clough joined Nottingham Forest

- **Marcus is an award-winning former radio journalist who hosts an award winning podcast, Green Jumper, with listeners in over 90 countries**
- **The Lost Tapes include behind-the-scenes stories about the charismatic Clough**
- **He interviewed Clough many times and became the driving force behind his statue in Nottingham**
- **Includes making a trip to 10 Downing Street in tribute to Clough**
- **Marcus will be selling his books after the talk, all money raised going to support good causes, which he will sign –**

The Lost Tapes (£13.50), The Day I met Brian Clough (£9.00)

Fifty Defining Fixtures (£11.50), Champagne Memories (£11.50)

Young Man, You've Made My Day (£7.00)

Also a few souvenirs – key-rings, coasters, fridge magnets

POSTAL MEMBERS CONTACT – TERRY DILLON

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

August

Thursday 13th - GENERAL MEETING at Turner Hall 9.45am – 12pm.

Speaker - Marcus Alton – “Brian Clough Changed My Life”

Tuesday 18th – Days Out - Cambridge

September

Thursday 10th – GENERAL MEETING at Turner Hall 9.45am – 12pm.

Speaker – David Price – “Kicks and Frills” – the story of the French Can- Can

Tuesday 15th – National Trust – Upton - £20

24th to 28th – Norfolk Holiday

October

Saturday 3rd – Social Group – Quiz - £12

Monday 5th – Group Leaders’ Meeting

Thursday 8th - GENERAL MEETING at Turner Hall 9.45am – 12pm.

Speaker – Stephen Brown – “It’s Hell on Wheels” being a Driving Instructor!

November

Thursday 5th – Committee Coffee Morning, 10am to 12pm.

Saturday 7th – Social Group – Afternoon Tea - £10

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

Speaker – Phil Drabble – “Travels with a Tiger” , Riding the Western Front.

16th to 20th - Potters Holiday

Monday 23rd – Heritage – Sherwood Observatory - £8

Deadline for September

Thanks Brenda for this!

Newsletter – 21st August.

