



# SHERWOOD u3a NEWSLETTER

**LEARN! LAUGH! LIVE in February 2026!**



**Do You Love Being Part of Sherwood u3a? Don't Forget to Complete Your Subscription by March!**



## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

The Sherwood u3a Committee are confirming that for another year we will not be increasing your membership subscription for 2026/2027 which will remain at £21 for both full members and postal members.

The newsletter is now being printed in-house. If you wish to have a copy of the newsletter each month starting in April, you can pay an extra £10 with your membership fee when you renew. Please note, we will not be able to accept requests for newsletters after you have paid your membership renewal.

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

**RENEWAL FORMS** can be obtained from the Members' Secretary Terry Dillon.

If you are unable to pick up your form you may ask another member to do this on your behalf. However please note this will apply up to the February 2026 meeting only.

**PAYMENTS** - You can pay as follows:-

- a) By cheque ensuring that the cheque is made out to Sherwood u3a.
- b) Through your bank via the BACS system - details are sort code 30.98.97. Account No. 39742862. Please put your name in the reference section.
- c) By Credit or Debit card at a meeting when returning your form.

## **FORMS -**

- a) all renewal forms should be returned to Terry Dilllon, Members' Secretary by post or at the General Meeting by Thursday 12th March 2026 (March meeting) at the latest.
- b) Please ensure that the form is completed correctly and signed. If a joint membership, please ensure that both members sign the form before returning.
- c) If your form is not returned and your subscription not paid and you have not contacted Terry it will be assumed that you no longer wish to continue to be a member of Sherwood u3a.



## **GIFT AID – Please Tick the Box**

If you are paying Income Tax, please complete the information where a request for Gift Aid is asked for as Sherwood u3a get 20% back for Gift Aid. Every £1 received 20p is returned to Sherwood u3a as Gift Aid which goes towards keeping our annual expenditure down.

Any queries should be directed to:-

**Terry Dillon (Mrs.), Members' Secretary**

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

January's Meeting certainly got us off to a great start. It was lovely to see so many members at the meeting despite the cold weather. There was a real buzz in the hall.

The Nottinghamshire Blood Bikes and Cars were certainly an inspiring Speaker slot to start 2026. I definite

ly learnt a lot and judging by the range of questions asked so did many of you. I am sure you will all be delighted to know that Dave Clarke, our speaker seeker received an email from them including the following when enquiring about our collection:

Evening Dave,

Yes, we have and its fantastic - £625.63p including the speaker's fee. This goes a long way to fuel the bikes and cars for large part of the month; it's a great feeling knowing that your u3a group supported us in this way. Can I pass on our thanks to you and your group for welcoming us, and the money that your group have raised. You might be interested to note that I was on shift the night after the talk, and you will recall the snow dropped overnight. I had a call from the duty controller for a job in Mansfield and delivered to Kings Milla around 2.30am Friday morning, the snow in full flurry, some photos attached. It was reassuring that, as a NBB volunteer member the money the Nottinghamshire Blood Bikes raise is invested in providing a great service free to the NHS but with safety in mind using modern cars, insurance and support. Your members generous donations have also contributed toward this.

With kind regards,

Chris

Thank you very much to all those who contributed. I'm sure we are all looking forward to the range of speakers Dave has organised for us in 2026. Thank you so much for all your hard work planning the programme for us.



## CAN YOU SUPPORT OUR U3A?



**SHERWOOD u3a ARE LOOKING FOR MEMBERS TO JOIN YOUR COMMITTEE IN 2026.**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME ALONG TO ONE OF OUR COMMITTEE MEETINGS TO SEE WHAT WE DO ON BEHALF OF OUR 250 MEMBERS PLEASE CONTACT THE BUSINESS SECRETARY OR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND/OR TO ARRANGE A "TASTER" SESSION.**

Thank you, Margaret Taylor, Business Secretary.

## MAIL FROM MEMBERS

Hi Liz

Thanks very much for how you've organised the Family History article in the January Newsletter. It looks so good when you can get the photo next to the relevant writing and I wouldn't have a clue!!

A great Newsletter.

Thank you also, for thanking me for the Oakey Doakey Quartet. I'm very pleased people enjoyed them.

Claire x

Hi Liz,

What a great talk today at the January Meeting. I had no idea about blood bikes or cars or the network of volunteers who run it in Nottinghamshire or all over the country. The speakers were really interesting and gave good insights into all aspects of the work from the all-important controller to the necessary fundraisers. The idea of relays working from one county to another e.g. Newcastle to London was amazing. Loved that they brought one of their bikes into the hall so that we could get a close up and, in some cases, a try out!

Ann and Jane.



Delivering Essential Medical Items for NHS.

We deliver a vital out-of-hours transport service to our NHS partners, operating from 18:00 to 06:00 on weekdays, and providing 24-hour coverage on weekends and bank holidays. In the absence of our support, NHS facilities often rely on taxis to meet urgent transport needs—either due to limited in-house capacity or high service demand outside standard operating hours.

Our presence helps mitigate substantial financial costs and reduces the risk of operational delays caused by stopgap measures. When we are contacted by the NHS we can immediately dispatch a vehicle ensuring a swift and reliable response.

We are more than a blood delivery service, we also transport human tissue samples, medical supplies, heel prick samples for newborns, plasma, platelets, microbiology samples, regular GP pickups, specialist blood samples to NHS Blood and Transplant centres.

Our volunteers are extensively trained, equipped with specialist gear, and possess in-depth knowledge of hospital layouts and departmental access points, enabling them to navigate each task with confidence and efficiency.

Whilst our work is delivered by volunteers this in no way reflects the quality or professionalism of our service. Our contribution to the NHS consistently meets and often exceeds the standards of comparable providers and, we do all of this for free!

## Later that night!

Yes, after coming to our meeting to tell us all about their work, that night, despite the dreadful weather conditions, they were out at work. One of the men sent Dave these pictures along with informing him how much had been raised at our meeting and how pleased they were with the amazing amount (see Chairman's Report).



**Thanks Dave, for arranging such a brilliant talk to start 2026!**

## GROUP NEWS from Roving Reporter Roger

### Taproom Games Afternoon



How brilliant it was to see so many members at our January Afternoon Taproom meeting. It takes a lot of dedication to leave a warm house in the middle of winter. Once again, we played a variety of games and friendships were made. Our bingo champs today were Jean and Marilyn, and our famous raffle top prizes went to Carol and Janet followed by Katherine, Kate and Marilyn again. A bottle of Bucks Fizz went to our roulette winner Ann ( thanks to Sue for spinning the roulette wheel so well). But if excitement is what you are after, Martin and Carl



both scored 308 on our darts challenge and had a throw off for nearest the bull's eye. Martin just pipped Carl to win a tube of Rolos! Carl's better half Helen won the ladies final. Well done to all our winners today! We now have great talent playing on the Pool table, so next time we will pick our new Pool champion. See you next time folks and thank you Ivor for taking all the pictures.



**Photography for Fun**



And the winner is.....we asked our great Sherwood U3A members at our monthly general meeting in January to pick their favourite photo from last year, and you voted in your droves. Big congratulations to Ian

Lovett with your picture titled "Misty Morning" - our clear winner !!



What a good way to start another year, a full house and plenty of smiles, not to mention Sharon's half time snacks. The Photography for Fun group welcomed two new members today, Ken and Mandy, and we wish them a happy year's clicking with us. Our competition theme was "bells" and our lucky winners were Ken and Dave, while Sue came third. Well done to them and to our leader Pat, who brings with her lots of enthusiasm to every meeting.

# GROUP NEWS from the Rest!

## Writing for Fun

### Dancing in the Garden by Sylvia Pearson

When I was a child, I danced in the garden  
To the music in my head.  
Oh, how I swayed and pirouetted  
Unconcerned what people thought or said.



In my mind I was a ballerina  
Dancing on a stage, all bathed in gold.  
My parents must have thought me such an odd child  
But maybe you don't hear the music when you are old.

Did it matter that I'd never be a dancer?  
I was so skinny, shy and plain.  
But when I was sad, I only had to listen  
To hear the music once again!



Now that I'm old and grown too stiff for dancing,  
I don't let it bother me,  
For I believe that when I'm gone among the silver stars and  
moonbeams  
I'll be dancing through eternity!

## Walking Group



Our first Walk of 2026 and, as you can see from the picture on the left, it was rather chilly and bracing!! However, just like last year we arrived in the snow-covered car park at Thoresby and carried out the tradition that Mick Hughes had first started about ten years ago. He made his own mulled wine and brought it to the first walk or Ramble of the New Year. Sadly Mick is no longer with us but we still drink our hot mulled wine (this year provided by Kathryn) and eat our mince pies left over from Christmas to keep up our energy for the cold walk ahead.

The walk that we usually do had to be rerouted because lots of the forest areas are now fenced off. After the walk we all pile into the café and eat to recharge our batteries. Gladys adds to this by bringing and giving out Cherry Liqueurs for dessert!



## Rambling Group

We abandoned the Chatsworth Ramble that we normally do at this time of year because of the uncertain weather and the certainty of mud, mud and more mud!! Instead, we had a 5 mile walk in Clumber Park, around the lake. Normally we would have pictures of us tucking into a steaming hot meal in the café BUT though the café seating area is open the kitchen is closed for reconstruction, so it was at most a buttie and hot drink! We can recommend the new Discovery section with displays and two films. One about Churchill's visit to see Nellie during the war and another about the History of the park.



## GROUP NOTICES

### Family History

Just a reminder of our topics for Feb-

1. A photo with a paragraph or two of your own choice to send to the excellent website of local interest which we looked at in Dec-

[www.ourmansfieldandarea.org.uk](http://www.ourmansfieldandarea.org.uk)

2. Bring in any type of old postcard.

3. Comparing maps to see how places have changed over time like the ones brought in of Mansfield. We can look on the Internet if you don't have any paper copies yourself.

4. Using electoral rolls to find a missing ancestor.

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

On Tuesday 3 March we shall be at The Griffin's Head, Moor Road, Papplewick NG15 8EN. (Names and deposits to be taken at the February members' meeting).

On Tuesday 7 April we are going to The Spread Eagle, Caunton Road, Southwell NG25 0PL. (Names and deposits to be taken at the March members' meeting).

## 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. Feb – Awards & or Certificates, March – Something with a head.**

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

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

**Board Games – 1st Tuesday in month, 10.15am to 12.15pm. Feb – Cluedo, March – Qwirkle.**

**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. Feb – None (Liz away), March – Keeping Mum.**

**Classic Film Club Two – 3rd Tuesday in Month, 2pm to 4pm. Feb – Ruth and Alex, March – Enemy at the Gates.**

**Craft 1– 4th Thursday in Month, 10am to 12pm, Mansfield Woodhouse Library. Feb – Marjorie, March – Painted Eggs.**

**Craft 2 – 3rd Monday in Month, 10am to 12pm, Mansfield Woodhouse Library. Jan – TBC, Feb – TBC.**

**Days Out – None.**

**Drama/Play Reading – 2nd Thursday in Month. 2pm to 4pm, Flint Avenue. Feb – None, March – Sketch.**

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

**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. Feb – Competition & U tube, March – Speaker.**

**Gardening Group 2 - 4th Tuesday in Month, 2pm to 4pm, Flint Avenue. Feb – Snowdrops at Calke Abbey, March - Dunston Hall Garden Centre.**

**Heritage – 25th Feb – Clipsone Headstocks Museum**

**History – 3rd Friday in the Month, 10am to 12pm, Woodhouse Library. Feb – Richard 111 versus Henry V11, March - Bess of Hardwick.**

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

**National Trust – March – Wightwick Manor**

**Photography for Fun- 2nd Wednesday in the month, 10am to 12pm. Feb – Design/Bells, March – Odds in Nature/Fireplaces.**

**Rambling – usually 3rd Thursday in month, Meet at Morrisons 10am. Feb – River Maun, March – Welbeck.**

**Social Group – Meetings at Liz's house vary. March – Afternoon Tea.**

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

**Strollers – 1st Thursday in month. Feb – Rufford, March – Newark.**

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

**That's Entertainment – TBC**

**Ticket to Ride – TBC**

**Walking – 1st Tuesday in month. Meet at Morrisons 10am. Feb – Rushley Pub parking walk to Berry Hill Park and back, March – Thoresby Vale**

**Wine Group – 3rd Wednesday of the Month, David’s House. Feb – South African wines = Liz,**

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

**International Dining – 1st Tuesday in month - 6.30pm for 7pm. Feb – Moda (Italian), March – The Griffin’s Head**

**Oriental Dining – 4th Friday of the Month – 6.30pm for 7pm. Jan -TBC , Feb – TBC.**



**GROUP SPOTLIGHT**

**Craft – Gina Smith**

**Oriental and Continental Dining – Jenny Weaver**

4th Friday in every month apart from December Dining from 6.00pm

This group takes place in various venues in Notts and Derbys with local places predominantly during the winter months and further afield during the summer period

We go to well recommended local Italian, Chinese and Indian restaurants, and we are always keen to go to recommended restaurants mentioned by the group or other people. We always like to try new restaurants and don’t always stick to the categories mentioned in the above. Quality of food and service and to some extent price is the main driving factor.

We are a very sociable group and always welcome new members but have found it easier to manage and communicate if we keep the numbers from 12/16. This enables us to have a chat with most of the group and makes it easier for the group leader to manage particularly when we have to give deposits and menu choices

**AND FOR MARCH the Spotlight will be on**

**BOARD GAMES – Claire Wilkie**

**BOARD GAMES GROUP: HOW SOME GAMES STARTED.**

Board Games originated in Egypt some 5000 years ago, and some of the oldest games, e.g. Chess(7th Century) obviously remain popular.



The games the Sherwood Group plays are, of course, relatively modern, and our earliest game is Cluedo, which was invented by an Englishman, Anthony Pratt, who, with his wife Elva, designed the board during WWII in Birmingham, as a wartime diversion.

Originally called ‘Murder’, Pratt patented it in 1947 and sold it to Waddingtons, who launched it as Cluedo in 1949

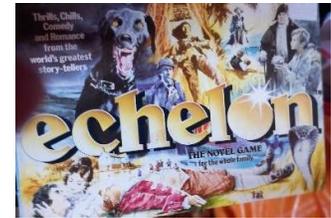




'Reminiscing, our first game of 2026, has been in existence since 1989. A general knowledge game, it was originally called, 'The Board Game for People Over 30'!

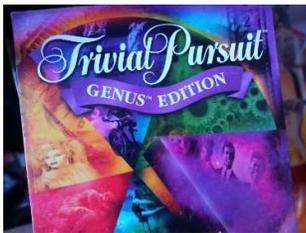
The railway based 'Great Game of Britain' is slightly earlier, dating from 1973. The aim is to visit six places in the country in the quickest time, using the original railway networks to get you to them.

'Echelon', the 'Novel' Board game, with 286 extracts from works of fiction, was first



released in 1989. It is a memory test game.

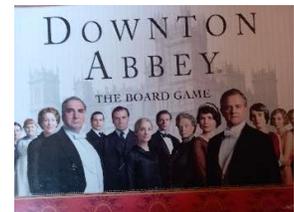
'Mexican Train' dominoes evolved from older domino games, possibly Chinese, and was popularised in Cuba and SW America. Interestingly, in Mexico it is called 'Domino Cubano'.



'Trivial Pursuit' dates from 1981, and over the years there have been all sorts of editions, but each features the categories of Geography, Entertainment, History, Art and Literature, Science and Nature and Sport and Leisure.

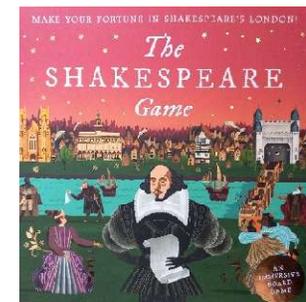
'Articulate' first surfaced over 30 years ago, based on the idea of describing as many words as possible to team mates in a very short time, without using forbidden clues. It can be played by numerous people in teams.

Of three more recent games, 'Downton Abbey' is obviously based on the house in the TV programme. It is a race game, where players move around the building collecting bells as they complete a task.



'Qwirkle' was recently introduced as a new game. It is an award-winning strategy game based on 6 shapes and 6 colours. It is easy to learn and easy to play. Its creator, Susan McKinley Ross conceived the idea in 2006 after a dream!

Finally, our new game for this year is 'The Shakespeare Game', 'which was given to me as a gift. It was only marketed in 2022. The aim of the game is to gain as much money as possible by travelling round the board staging Shakespeare plays. The 'staging' only involves reading quotes from the play being performed.



These are just some of this year's games, but no doubt before 2026 is over, many other new games will appear for us to choose from!!

## THE RETURN OF THE INFAMOUS ---- Cracker Joke!

What do you call a line of men queuing up for a haircut? **A Barberqueue!** What do you call a boomerang that doesn't come back? **A stick!** What do snowmen wear on their heads? **Ice Caps!** What did Adam say the day before Christmas? **It's Christmas Eve!** When is a boat just like snow? **When it's adrift!** What did the sea say to Santa? **Nothing it just waved!** How does Christmas Day end? **With a "Y"!** What type of key do you need for a Nativity play? **A don key!** What is a dog's favourite carol? **Bark the Herald Angels sing!** Why did the pony have to gargle? **Because it was a little horse!** What did the pirate say when he was 80? **Aye Matey!** Why do cows wear bells? **Because their horns don't work!** Who is Rudolph's favourite pop star? **Beyon-Sleigh!** What did the hat say to the scarf? **You hang around while I go ahead!** What happened when the weatherman tried to catch fog? **He mist!** What did the man say during his interview at the mirror factory? **On reflection I can see myself doing this job!**

## Useful Information!

**WELFARE OFFICER.**

**Please contact if you know of anyone with health problems.**

**Sandra Rogers.**

**FIRST AIDER, HEALTH AND SAFETY.**

**Kelvin Foster.**

## COMING SOON

**February**

**Wednesday 25th – Heritage – Clipstone Headstocks - £8**

**March**

**Saturday 14th – Social – The “B” Afternoon Tea - £10**

**Butties – Buns – Buffoonery – Balloonery – Bingo – Beatles – Boogying!**

**Tuesday 24th March – National Trust – Wightwick Manor - £17**

**April**



**Tuesday 28th – Days Out -Holmfirth & Yorkshire Sculpture Park - £25**



**UKULELE**



**Dukeries u3a Ukulele Event**

**19th March 2026 Time: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Group: Jubilee Ukulele Group**

**Venue: John Fretwell Complex Organiser: Linda Bond Cost: £10**

**Booking: Note that booking is required. --**

# **SPEAKERS CORNER - FEBRUARY 2026**

## **CHARLOTTE HENSHAW MBE**

### **FROM MANSFIELD TO THE TOP OF THE WORLD**



#### **Medal History - Swimming**

**Paralympic Games - Silver (2012), Bronze (2016)**

**World Championships - Silver (2010, 2015), Bronze (2013)**

**European Championships - Gold (2009, 2016), Silver (2011), Bronze (2009)**

#### **Medal History - Paracanoeing**

**Paralympic Games**

**Gold (2020, 2024 (KL2), 2024 (VL3))**

**World Championships**

**Gold – KL2 – 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025**

**Gold – VL3 – 2019, 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025**

**Bronze – VL3 - 2018**

**European Championships**

**Gold – KL2 - 2019, 2025**

**Gold – VL3 – 2022**

**Silver – KL2 – 2017, 2018, 2022**

**Silver – VL3 – 2025**

**Awarded the MBE in the 2022 New Years Honours List**

**Granted the Freedom of Mansfield in 2016**

## POSTAL MEMBERS CONTACT – TERRY DILLON

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

### February 2026

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

Speaker – Carlotte Henshaw – From Mansfield to the Top of the World.

Wednesday 25th – Heritage – Clipsone Headstocks

### March 2026

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

Speaker – Martin Rowley – The Criminal System – Is It Fit for Purpose?

Saturday 14th – Social – “B” Afternoon Tea – Turner Hall – 2pm to 5pm.



Tuesday 24th – National Trust – Wightwick Manor

### 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 7<sup>th</sup> – National Trust – Croft Castle

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> - GENERAL MEETING at Turner Hall 9.45am – 12pm.

Speaker – Mike Storr – The Masters of Mirth

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> - Social – Woodhouse Treasure Hunt

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> – New Members’ Coffee Morning

**Deadline for March Newsletter = 20<sup>th</sup> February**



