



# SHERWOOD u3a NEWSLETTER

LEARN! LAUGH! LIVE in January 2026!

LET IT SNOW! LET IT SNOW! LET IT SNOW!

But we'll be merry and warm because we have a pension rise, a heating allowance AND OUR u3a!



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and that 2026 will be a good year for us all. Thank you to everyone who made our Christmas Meeting such a success. It was wonderful to see so many people there.

Sherwood u3a has plenty planned for the coming year – monthly meeting with an excellent range of speakers, group activities, trips and visits, social events and so much more. Hopefully, there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

Remember this is your u3a so if you have any suggestions for new groups or activities please speak to the Groups Co-ordinator, Social Group or anyone on the committee. The more of us that become involved, the more we can offer our members.

The committee would welcome anyone to visit a committee meeting to see what is involved in being on the committee. There will be vacancies on the committee in June. If you are interested, please speak to me or to any member of the current committee to arrange a visit in the next few months. You would be made most welcome.

I look forward to seeing you all at our January meeting. Welcome to 2026.

## KATE KIELY- Group Coordinator 2 and Beacon

### Administrator 1



I joined Sherwood u3a just before Covid struck but, due to other commitments, never joined any groups.

Everything changed after Covid because I became a member of the Committee (how it happened is all a bit of a blur now because it happened so very quickly) and then before I could say 'Learn! Laugh! Live!' I was plunged into the role of joint Group Coordinator, working alongside Sue Davison. We were like a couple of swans looking quite serene (I think!) above water but paddling like crazy under the water line. About a year into this new role when we were

beginning to feel comfortable with it, I mentioned that in my working life I had been responsible for an administration system like Beacon and then, very quickly, I was on a new learning curve again.



I am now in my third year on the Committee and despite the intensity of the first couple of years I have to say it's all been worth it. Beacon is up and running and is a useful administration tool, as well as a valuable communication system for the whole membership. I thoroughly enjoy the Group Coordinator role because it has enabled me to get to know many of our wonderful Group Leaders, who work tirelessly to bring activities to the membership. They really are the backbone of our u3a and without them it would be difficult to Learn! Laugh! Live!

I am now in several groups – Strolling, Walking, Rambling, History, Gardening, Drama, Games Galore, Afternoon Tap Room Games, National Trust, Heritage, Ticket to Ride and I love Days Out too.

Being on the Committee has given me a new perspective of the hard work and dedication that is needed in running our u3a on behalf of the membership. Everyone on the Committee does their bit. It really is rewarding though, and I would thoroughly recommend getting involved.



## EDITOR'S THANK YOU

to all those who contributed reports, articles, poetry, photographs and production to the Newsletter in 2025 – you made my task so much easier!



## THE CHRISTMAS MEETING

We had a party and as well as being entertained by the Okey Dokey Quartet of Singers, each of the fifteen tables voted for one of their members to represent them in ----- THE CHRISTMAS JUMPER COMPETITION.



And the winners were =====



**A rose between two thorns -----**

**Lesley Perry, Colin Rolle  
and Sue Radford.**

**Thanks, Margaret, for organising it!**

**And Thanks Claire for organising the  
Singers!**

**Thanks also to the refreshment Team!** Jane got all the cups and cakes but Carolyn, Helen and Alice were there, together with Marjorie, at 8.30pm to get everything ready for the party. What a Great Team!



## MAIL FROM MEMBERS

**Eileen Wass**



I just wanted to thank Bob Bradley, or as I knew him years ago, Robert, for the VE day street party photo and his recollections of the war years. It all brought back so many memories for me. I was on the back row and 10 years old, I knew most of the other people in the photo. I could also agree about all the activities we used to get up to. One thing Bob didn't mention was the fact that when we went 'traveling' for days out, we usually only had one water bottle between us all and by the time we got back home, there was a goodly supply of breadcrumbs in the bottom contributed between us each time we shared a drink. No health and safety checks then.

I remember the Yankee camp too and got into serious trouble from my dad because I had gone with some friends to ask the soldiers if they had 'any gum chum'. Didn't understand why as we were all so naive then.

Thank you Bob it was also nice to see some of my childhood friends, causing me to wonder how some of them had fared. I am 90 yrs old now, so expect a good many have fallen by the wayside, including my two brothers Donald and Norman.

Thanks again Eileen (Clifton) Wass



# GROUP NEWS from R.R.ROGER and DEBBIE

## Afternoon Taproom Games – R.R.R.

Many thanks for turning out in great numbers, for our annual Christmas buffet. It was lovely to see so many festive jumpers on display. Carl and Carol, on her birthday, won the darts challenge. Sandra triumphed on the roulette wheel, Liz and Jeremy took the top prizes in the raffle and Gladys did the double by winning the line and the full house in the bingo. Big congrats to all of them. What a fantastic way to end another year in the Black Bull, surrounded by our Sherwood U3A friends. Merry Christmas to all you Taproom Tappers, and we will do it all again in January.



## Photography for Fun – R.R.R.

Members of the Photography for Fun Group certainly enjoyed their Christmas fuddle. We had another successful year, with lots of great monthly themes, which included sweets, pins and needles, water drops, chimneys, wildlife, leaves and shiny, something for everyone. Our latest competition in December was "shiny" and we had many pictures to choose from. Today Debbie was our winner with a lovely picture titled "A Twinkle", Pat came a good second with "What are you looking at?" and yours truly brought up the rear in third place.



If you only make one New Year Resolution this festive time, please make it to join our friendly group next year.



## Art for Pleasure – Debbie

A couple of photos from today's art for pleasure group, enjoying our Christmas fuddle whilst painting 😊 We also wished Mary (Gilbert, I think that's her surname) a very happy 80th birthday, but forgot to take a photo 😞



## Craft Group 1 - Debbie



Evening Liz, me again. Today craft group 1 went to the Hostess for Christmas lunch.

## Craft Group 2 - Debbie

Final picture for this year 😊 These were made by craft group 2. They are yo-yo Christmas trees and a little mouse, with movable limbs. Have a wonderful Christmas and a Healthy New Year.



## GROUP NEWS - THE REST

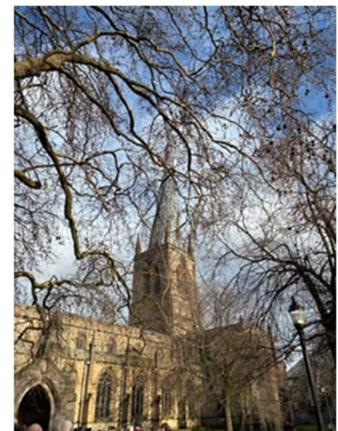
### Ticket to Ride – Kate



On a very wet, cold and damp Sunday morning a dozen of us set out on the Pronto bus to Chesterfield to see the switching on of the town's Christmas lights. The weather was dismal. Those of us who caught the bus at the bus station sat upstairs and when Gladys and Eileen joined the journey on Chesterfield Road we had to yell from upstairs to downstairs to let them know we were all present and correct and that they were on the right bus. They declined to climb up the stairs on a moving bus to come up and join us - anyone would think they're not spring chickens! That set the tone for our u3a outing and spirits

were soon jovial and cheerful.

Sue armed everyone with return bus times and information about what was happening in Chesterfield. First stop, as always, was coffee and then we headed off to see the annual display of decorated Christmas trees in St Mary's Church, yes – the one with the crooked spire. It was so popular that we had to join a queue to get into the Church and fortunately it was not raining at that time (because it pretty much did for the rest of our visit!). The display is now in its tenth year and totally exceeded our expectations.





There were around 100 trees decorated by different community groups. The idea is to help promote aims and values of local community organisations, charities and businesses. The Church provided a warm welcome and beautiful backdrop to the gorgeous festive display.

Everyone went their separate ways after this, to get some



lunch, see the Christmas festive market and do some shopping. Along the way there was street entertainment, Tipi on the

market and a



funfair for children. There was a stage show outside the Town Hall around 4.30 pm before the festive lights were switched on, but by that time most of our group had switched off and were ready to catch the return bus home. The journey was a little quieter on the way home, but everyone agreed that the trip to Chesterfield was

worth doing, and the highlight was, without doubt, the beautiful

old Church of St Mary's and the Christmas trees.

### Family History – Viv Brown

Sherwood U3A Family History Group Find out about “ Awards and Certificates”

Claire Wilkie led a most interesting and informative November meeting when “Awards” were discussed, and everyone shared wide-ranging highlights about their family and themselves.



Diane Priestley brought along a beautifully illuminated official “Certificate of Thanks” signed by Queen Elizabeth II which had been presented to households who had hosted evacuees during WW II. We were

fascinated by books written by her son Tim, including one about the War Memorial in Forest Town and to hear that her family had long been associated with the historic Guild of Freeman in Lincoln. This group is still in existence and involves both men and women today.



Ann Cox brought along the latest edition of the Woodhouse Warbler, which featured a photograph of her husband Fred, as a member of the 1952 Notts Junior Football Shield Winners. A keen sportsman all his life, Fred was hoping that other young footballers in the photo might still be around and contact him. Ann told of

awards other talented family members had been given and how her son who had studied electronics and sound systems had been successful in the British Championship Awards.

During the 1960s, the Duke of Edinburgh set up an initiative to improve quality and reliability in factories and as a foreman at the Metal Box in Sutton in Ashfield, Reg Storey was chosen to be chairman of a group. He also brought along a Royal Life-Saving Medal which he had gained when he was 14.....Such an important life-skill to be able to do.



Jo Earnshaw was especially proud that her parents had received Diamond Wedding Congratulations from Queen Elizabeth II. Her father had been mentioned in dispatches in 1945. A talented sports person at school, in later life Jo had won many bowling trophies with the Titchfield Sookholme Club and was thrilled to be made a life-member when she was forced to retire from playing recently.

After 25 years teaching service for Notts County Council, Viv Brown spent her award money on an elegant flautist figurine as her daughter loved playing the flute. She also brought along two Notts Education Medals from the 30s given to local school children to mark the Coronation of George V and one actually for Edward VIII which must have been minted before his abdication. It was a reminder for the group

to recall what they had received when Elizabeth II become Queen like a New Testament and a Coronation Mug. Do you still have an award to mark this historic day?

As a recipient of the MBE for Services to the Coal Industry, Dave Clarke recounted the background and secrecy he had to keep before the announcement was made public in the London Gazette. Presented by Queen Elizabeth II, Dave received a beautiful, signed Certificate and an Order of Service which includes the other attendees on that special day.)



It was very poignant when Bob Bradley displayed the MBE awarded to his grandfather, Eli White in 1949. Eli could not afford a suit to attend the presentation and was sent the medal by post. Everyone recalled how delighted our Sherwood U3A was when Bob was awarded a doctorate by Nottingham University for his prestigious research on local mining history and how surprised and delighted he was when on a visit to London, his family presented a set of his Comprehensive Mining History Books to the British Library .

When Marilyn Salmon and her husband Trevor went along to watch their son playing rugby at Mansfield Rugby Club, they became involved in volunteering to help the youngsters in the teams. They really enjoyed helping in this friendly community and were amazed after a couple of years, to be recognised as outstanding volunteers in a scheme run by Barclaycard.



As it was near to Remembrance Sunday, Cath Critchlow chose to highlight the military experiences of family members. One uncle serving in North Africa was mentioned in dispatches in World War II and another regrettably died aged only 19 at Gallipoli during World War I. She has his commemorative Death Penny Plaque, and it was suggested that perhaps she would find even more out by looking on the Commonwealth War Graves website and if he was mentioned on local War Memorials as he had lived in Blidworth.

All the group remembered with pleasure awards given at school, like John Critchlow for his elocution and handwriting. Joining the RAF, John enjoyed the varied lifestyle in different locations and as part of a gymnastics team as well as being chosen as a member of a Gua

rd of Honour for the Queen in 1962. His grandfather had been a joiner with the Royal Flying Corp during WWI, and his father was based in Liverpool when part of the Reserved Occupation in WWII.



Finally, it was the turn of Claire Wilkie who told how proud her father felt in 1960 when as a bus driver, his faultless driving record for 10 years was recognised by the Road Operator's Safety Council. Her famous ancestor, John Benjamin Dancer, is considered the inventor of microphotography and this technique was used to great effect during the 1870 Franco-Prussian War when pigeons secretly carried messages using micro-dots. His discoveries had been shown in the 1862 Great Exhibition and he was an optician to Queen Victoria's son, Edward VII. Claire herself was awarded a leaving scholarship prize at her school just before going to Scarborough to train as a teacher.

So, when you are next at a family gathering, why don't you ask what awards your relations and ancestors had received during their lifetime. It can be a most interesting and surprising topic to chat about.

### Drama Group and the Committee Coffee Morning



It may have been dull and dismal outside but in Turner Hall, as soon as you were in smiling faces greeted you! First, Terry and Margaret (that's Margaret's smile) to give you tokens to play the games and then Denise to call out the first Bingo game.



Then on stage, the Drama Group acted out a very different version of the Twelve Days of Christmas called the Thirteen Anniversaries which ended in divorce!!



The excitement was just starting because now was the time to spend your free tokens on the games. Games such as "Play Your Cards Right" run by Kelvin and Linda, "Spin the Wheel" run by Ann and Liz, "Roulette" run by Sue and Kate. Some were spent up in a trice while others won more and more and more. Finally, we had three winners who managed to gain the most tokens

However, in my opinion the Heros of the morning were the Kitchen team who kept the cakes coming and the cuppas flowing. All in all a great morning!



### Walking/Rambling – Christmas Special

As usual the Walkers joined with the ramblers for the Christmas festivities. For the past five years we have met in Farnsfield at Bubbly Bobs (The Plough) walked to Hexgreave, had cake and coffee the café and then walked back to Farnsfield. If the weather was good we walked back over fields and by the Southwell Trail but if it was poor weather, we walk directly back via the road. This year we were doing something different! We parked at Hexgreave, and as it was very cold some went straight to the café, others walked some of the way and then returned to the café but the majority walked to Farnsfield and then back to the café. After refreshment, we got in cars and went to The Waggon at Halam a place that we hadn't been for the last five years. They were pleased to see us back with them and we had a great 3 course meal. As you can see from the jumpers, festive spirits were high and we were joined by associate members of the Groups who didn't want to miss the feast!!



**Colin's Jumper says it all!!!**

## History – Yes, We Made History Again!



We had the very first Sherwood u3a History Group fuddle just before Christmas! Everyone brought food and Sue even made it Historical by creating a beautiful Tudor Rose, surrounded by marzipan fruits and information on the Tudor Coat of Arms. As well as eating we also got into pairs and had an historical Christmas Quiz. The winners were Anne and Linda but thanks go to Margaret and Kate for organising it



## COMMITTEE NEWS

# u3a friends

The U3A Friends Newsletter.

Did you know that there is a newsletter issued each month aiming to help you keep up to date with events, opportunities and online learning opportunities through the U3A?

Well, u3a Friends is a new initiative to bring together stories and interests from across the U3A to change lives and share exclusive member offers. Signing up to the newsletter means you are kept in touch with what's happening.

As part of this you'll receive regular and special issues of the online national u3a Friends newsletter with news and offers. It also tells of learning opportunities via

Interest Groups Online and each edition or e-mail of the newsletter includes Friends stories, Friends news, Friends learning and Friends events.

Examples of the learning topics available on Zoom are The Mind of your Microwave, Mindfulness and Meditation, How Pop Songs Work, A I News, Staying Safe Online, Getting your Voice Heard in Parliament, Laughter Yoga and up to 20 other subjects available until January.

All you need to do, is just enter 'u3a Friends' into your browser and the application form for the newsletter will appear near the bottom of the page.

Don't miss the excellent learning opportunities and information included in this newsletter!!



## 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. Jan – Something with a Handle, Feb – Awards & or Certificates.

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

Board Games – 1st Tuesday in month, 10.15am to 12.15pm. Jan –Sequence, Feb – 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. Jan – Notorious, Feb – None (Liz away).

Classic Film Club Two – 3rd Tuesday in Month, 2pm to 4pm. Jan – Kingsmen, Feb – Ruth and Alex.

Craft 1– 4th Thursday in Month, 10am to 12pm, Mansfield Woodhouse Library. Jan – TBC, Feb – TBC.

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

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

Days Out – None.

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. Jan – Quiz, Feb – Competition & U tube

Gardening Group 2 - 4th Tuesday in Month, 2pm to 4pm, Flint Avenue. Jan – Make mosaic pots, Feb – Snowdrops at Calke Abbey.

Heritage – 25<sup>th</sup> Feb – Clipsone Headstocks Museum

History – 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in the Month, 10am to 12pm, Woodhouse Library. Jan – Surnames & Elizabeth Bowes Lyons  
Feb – Richard 111 versus Henry V11

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

National Trust – None

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

Rambling – usually 3rd Thursday in month, Meet at Morrisons 10am. Jan – Chatsworth, Feb – River Maun.

Social Group – Meetings at Liz's house vary.

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

Strollers – 1st Thursday in month. Jan - (Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>) Sutton Reservoir, Feb – TBC.

Sunday Lunch – 2nd or 3rd Sunday of the Month. Jan – TBC, Feb – TBC.

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. Jan – Thoresby (Card only for Parking), Feb – Rushley Pub parking walk to Berry Hill Park and back.



Wine Group – 3rd Wednesday of the Month, David’s House. Jan – USA wines = David, 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. Jan - None, Feb – Moda (Italian)

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



## GROUP SPOTLIGHT

**Wine Appreciation –  
David Bradley**

**Photography for Fun – Pat Collins**



**SUBSCRIPTIONS still ongoing!!!!**

## EVENTS TO BOOK IN JANUARY

**February**

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



**March**



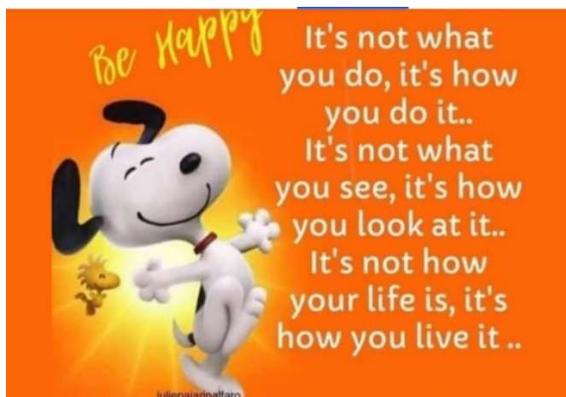
**Saturday 14th – Social – Afternoon Tea - £10 –  
Opens Jan**

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

**April**

**– Days Out -Holmfirth & Yorkshire Sculpture Park  
- £25 – Opens Jan.**

**Tuesday 28th**





## SPEAKERS CORNER - JANUARY 2026

### NOTTINGHAM BLOOD BIKES



- **These vehicles exist for one reason only - to serve the NHS**
- **Nottinghamshire Blood Bikes was formed in 2013 and is a registered Charity who provide out of hours transport service for the NHS and its partners**
  - **2024 Statistics -**
    - o **120 Volunteers**
    - o **Over 2,000 Phone calls**
    - o **5,103 Jobs completed**
    - o **90,717 items carried**
    - o **£190,012 saved for the NHS**
      - o **120 Volunteers**
      - o **8 Bikes and 6 Cars**
      - o **82,000 Miles travelled**



## POSTAL MEMBERS CONTACT – TERRY DILLON

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

### January 2026

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

Speaker – Nottinghamshire Blood Bikes (This is a Charity Talk.)

### February 2026

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

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

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> – 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 14<sup>th</sup> – Social – Afternoon Tea – Turner Hall – 2pm to 5pm.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> – National Trust – Wightwick Manor

### April 2026

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> – GENERAL MEETING at Turner Hall 9.45am – 12pm.

Speaker – Potty Plotters – Welcome to Naughty Corner!

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> – Group Leaders' Meeting – Turner Lounge – 10am.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Coffee Morning

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> – Days Out – Holmfirth and Yorkshire Sculpture Park



**DEADLINE for the February Newsletter is January 15<sup>th</sup>!**

