



SHERWOOD u3a NEWSLETTER

LEARN! LAUGH! LIVE in June 2026!

The N.N.N.G. invites you to ----



PICNIC IN THE FOREST



Wednesday 17th June
Games, Music, Fun,
Singing, Dancing,
Chatting, Laughter and
Eating. So come and
join us!

stands for North Notts Neighbourhood Group and is unique in the u3a movement in Britain.

Eleven local u3as are in this Group – Ashfield, Bolsover, Dukeries (Ollerton), Forest Town, Mansfield, Rainworth, Retford, Sherwood (Woodhouse), Sutton, Worksop and Warsop. If they want to put on a big event, they join together to organize and support it. In the past we have had several Picnics in the Park at Rufford, Afternoon Teas at the Hostess and Prom Nights and Jubilee Celebrations at the John Fretwell Centre – this year again – U3A Festival in the Forest!!!!



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is hard for me to believe that this is my final report after two years as chair of our wonderful u3a. Two years of amazing meetings, events and activities.

I would like to thank everyone who has encouraged and supported me over the past two years. I am not going to name names as I know from experience how easy it is to miss people out and inadvertently hurt their feelings and I would not wish to do that.

There are many groups and individuals whose hard work, support and dedication both at meetings and behind the scenes at events is invaluable.

I would like to thank all those who have served on the committee, the finance subcommittee and the governance subcommittee. Without these committees our u3a would not exist. I would also like to thank the Social Group for all the amazing and varied events that have put on over the past two years for the entertainment and enjoyment of so many of our

members. A huge thank you to the Group Co-ordinators and Group Leaders for organising such an incredible range of interest groups for our membership. Another big thank you to those who organise Days Out, Heritage and National Trust trips and Holidays. All of these take a considerable amount of organisation but are always well received and enjoyed by our members.

Thank you so much to all those who volunteer to do the jobs that make our monthly meetings so vibrant and successful. This includes our Speaker Seeker, the Buddies, Greeters and Refreshment Teams, the signing in volunteers, those distributing news bytes, the equipment team, the Welfare Officer, Health and Safety Officer and Inclusion and Diversity Officer and those who co-ordinate these groups so that, on the whole our monthly meetings run like a well-oiled machine!

Thank you also to all those of you who quietly volunteer to do the small jobs at events and meetings and those who see something that needs doing and just get on with it. All of this is very much appreciated.

Finally, thank you to all the members of Sherwood u3a who engage in the above activities with enthusiasm and also for the support many of you have shown me over the past two years. Without all of you none of this would be worthwhile!

We have all played a part in making Sherwood u3a a vibrant, welcoming



place to be. It has been a privilege to be Chair and I am sure you will give Claire just as much support and encouragement when she takes over the role after the AGM.

SHERWOOD U3A is made up of the BEST OF ALL OF US and is a FANTASTIC ORGANISATION of which to be a part.

Ann Madden

DAVE CLARKE – Speaker Seeker



It was late 2018 that Marjorie and I joined Sherwood U3A. Immediately, we felt at home not only making new friends but also having lived in Mansfield Woodhouse for so long, being reunited with so many people we already knew.

I actually showed interest in joining the Committee in August 2020 with the actual proposal form being submitted in September 2020 and I well remember the first introduction to the committee actually being at Liz Wilson's house due to the then Covid restrictions. On joining the Committee, as a Co-Opted Member, I was immediately teamed up with the only other male, Jeremy Lloyd, as joint Speaker Seeker a role I still hold today.

I can well remember that the first booking I took on by myself was in January 2022 and it was Barbara Meyer who was a wildlife photographer. As I have never booked the December slot, it is strange to think that **June's Speaker will be my 50th booking!!**

Bookings in that time have changed considerably and I have always been fully supported by the Committee. I am always looking out for talks that are different in some way, but I am realistic that I cannot please everyone and having never heard the Speakers before they are booked, then all talks are a gamble as to how they will go down with the members. Looking back I would not change a thing and have some great memories from Speakers such as Paula Cornwell, dressing up in character, Paul Lillie, the painter singer, Roger Prescott, Mr Juke Box Jury, the lovely singing of Jayne Darling, of course the recent Potty Plotters and my biggest gamble of all Charlotte Henshaw – great, great entertainment.

The hardest part, of course, is finding the Speakers. But with 2 websites that advertise Speakers up and down the Country and dialogues with Speaker Seekers at other Nottinghamshire U3A's you are not short of choice. Then it is just about getting their agreement to come and speak. Obviously, we work to a budget and to help Diane I attempt to book Speakers approximately a year in advance. So, at present 2026 is fully booked and 2027's possibilities are pencilled in ready to approach. Once booked, I don't get back in contact until a month before when we finalise all the details as to location, requirements, timings etc. Then I finally get back in touch at the start of that particular week to arrange payment details for Diane. The final part is to be an ambassador for the U3A on the day itself. I arrange a car parking spot and also am in the car park to greet them. And, of course, to ensure they enjoy their visit.

I am a member of the Family History Group, the Walking Group, Games Galore, Heritage, National Trust, Classic Film Club and of course the forthcoming Chatty Café Club and always use these opportunities to talk to people and seek their views on the Speakers. Finally, I am also a member of the Social Group, take part in all the events that they organise, and I also seek Speakers for their events to suit the required theme.

This role, as on the actual Committee, requires back-ups to cover for illness, absence etc. If you want to help the U3A run and grow but don't want to be on the actual Committee then why not give it go. It isn't hard and is so enjoyable! So, if you are up for it why not come and see me and give it a go? If I can do it then it cannot be hard!!

SHERWOOD U3A AGM AGENDA

For the meetings to be held on Thursday 11th June 2026 at 9.45am
at Turner Hall, Mansfield Woodhouse.

- 1 WELCOME BY THE CHAIR
- 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
- 3 APPROVE THE “DRAFT” MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM DATED 8th MAY 2025
- 4 CHAIR’S REPORT & TRUSTEES’ ANNUAL REPORT
- 5 TREASURER’S REPORT
- 6 MEMBERS’ SECRETARY REPORT
- 7 GROUP COORDINATORS’ REPORT
- 8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS
- 9 PROPOSED NOMINATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE
- 10 MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE 2026 TO 2027
- 11 DATE OF THE NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE CONFIRMED

SHERWOOD U3A MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8th MAY 2025 AT TURNER HALL, MANSFIELD WOODHOUSE

PRESENT: 126 members and 3 visitors. No postal members attended.

- 1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the AGM & accepted apologies from Irene Berridge, Viv Brown, Pat Collins, Peter Mitchell, Lorraine Tooth, Ray White & Zena Inger.
- 2 MINUTES AGM dated 9th May 2024 were approved. Proposed: Sue Davison Seconded: Colin Rolle.
- 3 CHAIR’S REPORT – Ann Madden

As my first year as Chair of Sherwood u3a comes to an end, I have been reflecting on the past year and thinking about all the meetings, groups and events that have taken place in that time. Sherwood u3a has certainly had a wealth of opportunities to LEARN, LAUGH and LIVE! One of our greatest achievements has been the introduction of the Beacon System to enable easier record keeping and communication with all members. A huge thank you to the committee members involved and we now are operating this new system. I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the success of the past year - committee, group leaders, greeters & buddies, refreshment volunteers, the speaker/seeker, those who maintain our website, organise Holidays, Days Out, National Trust & Heritage Visits, organising social & fund raising events and all volunteers who do all the little unseen jobs at meetings etc. It is the hard work of all these people & the support of our enthusiastic membership that make Sherwood u3a such a vibrant organisation of which I am proud to be Chair. I look forward to working with the committee to see what the next twelve months brings with the continued support of our amazing members. **THANK YOU ALL.**

4 TREASURER'S REPORT - Margaret Taylor

This financial year has seen a steady growth in funds due to the hard work of the Committee and members involved in fund-raising and various group donations which has meant that we have not been reliant on grants. Some of the fundraising money raised has been allocated to our new Beacon system including the training of the Committee and Group Leaders which will benefit all of our members. Money has been "ring-fenced" to cover the next few years' payments of £1 per member per year without adding it to the current membership fee of £21. Part of your annual subscription - £4 out of the £21 - goes to the National Office annually to pay for such items as insurance cover, workshops and on-line help etc. The AGM Accounts have been completed and Gill Mallinder of Mansfield u3a has "examined" them. A vote of support was agreed that Sherwood use Gill's services this year and in the future if she is willing. Copies of the AGM accounts are available from the new Treasurer. THANK YOU.

5 MEMBERS' SECRETARY'S REPORT - Terry Dillon, Members' Secretary

2024/25 has been a good year with membership enquiries resulting in 28 new postal members. It was decided to continue opening the Christmas Fayre to visitors which resulted in 4 new postal members on the day and this will be continued. Renewal forms sent out early with most of our members renewing or deciding to become postal members. This meant 19 full membership places were offered to people on the waiting list which has now been reduced to 2, the lowest it has been for a long time. Also we get members joining throughout the year who are all postal members but still be an active part of our u3a. We now have 220 full members and 26 postal members with all of them happy to continue as postal. Sherwood is a very popular u3a with enquiries to join every week.

6 GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT - Sue Davison and Kate Kiely

This year seven new groups started - Games Galore, Ticket to Ride, That's Entertainment, Mah Jong, Community Allotment, Craft Group 2 and Classic Cinema Club 2. Two groups have closed, Lunch Group 1 and 2. Groups are now listed on a computer app called Beacon which allows easier monitoring and communication. We also Showcase individual groups at monthly meetings to promote interest. Meetings in October and March were well attended by Group Leaders which allowed them to discuss issues which had arisen. Refreshments were provided to thank Group Leaders for their hard work in keeping their groups successful.

7 SOCIAL GROUP REPORT - Liz Wilson

Thanks to members of the Social Group for their hard work throughout the year and helping to ensure that the events run smoothly and successfully. Events included - Woodhouse Treasure Hunt, Fish & Chip Quiz, Barn Dance and the Rhubarb Festival. The Social Group have more events organised for this year. Most events raised a small amount of money for our u3a as a bonus. THANK YOU ALL.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS – None

9 PROPOSED NOMINATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE: Sue Davison, Terry Dillon, Cath Humphrey, Kate Kiely, Kathryn Prentice & Claire Wilkie. All approved by membership.

10 MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE 2025/2026: Sue Davison, Terry Dillon, Kate Kiely, Jane Lowe, Ann Madden, Linda Shutt, Diane Storey, Margaret Taylor & Claire Wilkie.

11 DATE OF THE NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Thursday 14th May 2026. Now Thursday 11th June 2026

SYLVIA'S SECTION

I Call Them Poems

I call them poems –

But they're only words. Straight from my heart
Onto the paper.
Telling all my thoughts,
My hopes, my fears,
Filling paper with my smiles and tears,
Sharing myself with anyone who cares to read.

WORDS

I call them poems –

But they are only words There's nothing clever here,
I wasn't trained
No one told me how
Or took me aside one day
Or showed me the proper way
To write my feelings down.

WORDS

I call them poems –

But they're only words. At special times in life,
In pain or joy,
Seeing scenes that moved me,
Hearing words that made me think
Feeling on top or on the brink,
Writing how things seem to me.

WORDS

I call them poems –

But they're only words. Poems that don't always rhyme
Don't often scan
Does it matter anyway?
My poems are a part of me
What you get is what you see
I only write the way I feel.

I call them poems –

They're only words!



GROUP NEWS – From R.R.ROGER

Garden Group 2 – Dunston Hall Garden Centre

Dunston Hall Garden Centre was the venue for our April Gardening Group 2 visit and we were all really impressed. Firstly, we sampled the tea and coffees on offer in the lovely coffee shop followed by a brisk walk along their woodland trail towards Dunston Hall Lake. We were surrounded by colourful varieties of border plants, water lilies and not forgetting the lovely bluebells along the way. After another look in their delightful shopping area we decided to have lunch. I can highly recommend the bacon and the sausage baps - they are huge !



Some of us didn't go down to the lake because we had come for specific plants so after coffee/tea we explored the



Walled garden area and plant sales. Having decided what to buy (always more than we intended) we had lunch and then went and made our purchases. Shame on Diane, who wouldn't let Malcolm buy the £120 fir tree that he fell in love with!!! Essentials in the sun first! Boys and their toys!



This was a fantastic trip on a great sunny day, thanks to Jenny and Diane for arranging this outing.

Afternoon Taproom Games



We enjoyed more fun and games in the Black Bull for our May meeting. A good time was had by all, playing games old and new. Our first champion this afternoon was Janet on the roulette wheel, followed by Diane and Jan winning the line on bingo. Lucky Jan also won the house! Well done Sue for hitting a great 349 on the dart board and our raffle goodies went to Sue, Vera, Katherine, Jeremy and Diane, while Ray and Ivor fought it out for the coveted tube of Rolos on the pool table.



Next time will be our end of term meeting, please try to attend or you might be sitting on the naughty stool. We have arranged a buffet, with the new Landlady, for this event. Total cost on the day will be £4. We have availability, starting in October, for our members to

join the fun, so if you would like to bring a friend with you, please let me or one of my team know. See you ALL next time.



Photography for Fun



What a great damp trip we had on the Cromford Canal, for our May meeting. Photography for Fun members, plus a few U3A friends and partners made up the passengers on a 80-year-old narrow boat, Birdswood, for a cruise up the canal towards the Aqueduct Cottage, which has family links with Florence Nightingale. We were well looked after by a fine crew on our 2-hour voyage. After collecting our duty free, we made our way to the Wheatcroft Wharf cafe, for a deserved drink and nibbles. The weather could not spoil a really good outing.



Many thanks to Pat and Dave for arranging everything for us, on a very memorable adventure.

GROUP NEWS - THE REST!

Drama Group – George! Don't Do That!

THANKS FOR THE PHOTOS IVOR!

For the St. George's Day Coffee Morning we created our own sketch from Telling Tales. Our sketch was set in Woodhouse Primary School, on a supply teacher's first day. Her name is Miss Batty and, at the beginning of her day, she is introduced to her Class by the Headteacher, Miss Sortell-Mason. To help her and the audience get to know the character of each pupil they all introduce themselves. Some of the names were new and trendy – Thimble, Apple, Princess, Petunia, River (who identified as Trent) but there were still the lovable rogues such as George and Sydney.

After their introduction we jump to the end of the day when the children gather in the story corner and when poor Miss Batty is nearly batty.



Committee – St. Georges Day Coffee Morning.



**A Great
Time
was
had by
all!**

Days Out – Holmfirth and Yorkshire Sculpture Park



Our first stop was Holmfirth, a typical Yorkshire town made famous by the characters in "Last of the Summer Wine". Some explored the area, but others just found the nearest café.



Then onto the Sculpture Park which was extraordinary and amazing both in its art and the beautiful landscape which was its backdrop. But it was lunchtime so

many went straight for the --- yes, you guessed it ---- THE CAFÉ!



It must be admitted that after dining everyone went to explore either the



immediate surroundings near the café or, like the walking and rambling lot set off to discover far and wide areas. Some pretended to be the latest

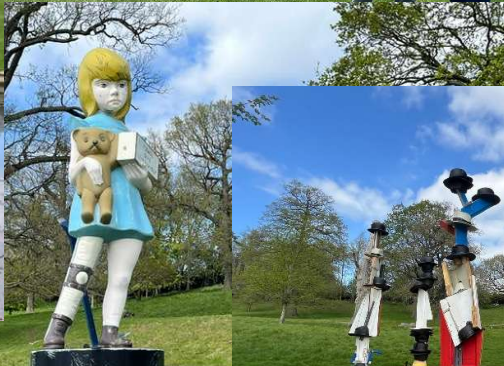


sculptures, didn't they Claire?





Some stood around looking decorative while others took off into the wide yonder to discover the larger sculptures.



Okay! We know it's you David!

THANKS TO JEAN AND RAY FOR A FABULOUS DAY OUT – SUNNY TOO!

International Dining

This Dining Group certainly widens our horizons, for last month we went to the Spread Eagle in Hockerton and this month, something totally different, Anias, the Polish restaurant in Sherwood. Very different food BUT a great time at both!



Chatty Café Club



Another “Eating Group”!! This time in cafes at different times for different meals. We had our first meeting for breakfast in “Sarah’s Kitchen” because, not only is the food good, but she let us have a room to ourselves

so that we could plan our visits for the rest of the year. Again, we were widening our horizons because some of our group had never been there before. We made a list of the places we want to visit this year AND have enough different ideas for 2027 as well (many where i haven’t been)! At our next meeting we are having Afternoon Tea at “The Baker’s Shop”.



ABOUT OUR U3A – Please read and give yourselves a pat on the back!!!!!!

Dear Dave

Very many thanks for your invitation - and a brilliant morning.

Lovely welcome (especially in the car park) and a super bunch of folk. I enjoyed myself thoroughly and a happy time seemed to be had by all.

The retiring collection was an incredibly generous £205.67 which will shortly be on the way to Medical Detection Dogs – as will my £100 fee. I’ll email the receipt to you as soon as I have it.

Also, thanks for the microphone which made a massive difference. I would have struggled in such a large and well filled room.

Finally, please pass my thanks and appreciation to all when you next meet – as well as the thanks you will receive from Medical Detection Dogs. You did us both proud.

Many thanks again

All good wishes,

Peter Savage

GROUP ACTIVITIES

Afternoon Taproom Games – 1st Wednesday in Month, The Black Bull, Woodhouse, 2pm to 4pm. June last one before the summer break - £2 entry and £2 raffle so we can have a buffet!

Antiques and Collectibles – 3rd Thursday in month, 2 to 4pm, Turner Hall. June – Communication, July – Wings.

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. June – Mexican Train, July – The Shakespeare Game.

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. June – Felley Priory C&C, July – Sutton Res. Breakfast.

Classic Film Club One – 2nd Tuesday in Month, 2pm to 4pm. June – The Thomas Crown Affair, July – No Meeting.

Classic Film Club Two – 3rd Tuesday in Month, 2pm to 4pm. June – Ladies in Lavender, July – No Meeting.

Craft 1– 4th Thursday in Month, 10am to 12pm, Mansfield Woodhouse Library. June – Decoupage, July – Quilling.

Craft 2 – 3rd Monday in Month, 10am to 12pm, Mansfield Woodhouse Library. June – Knit or Crochet Squares, July – Tatting.

Days Out – Cambridge - August

Drama/Play Reading – 2nd Thursday in Month. 2pm to 4pm, Flint Avenue. June – Murder Mystery, July – MM read through.

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

EXCITING NEWS for our June Meeting on Thursday 4th — We will be visiting the Coal Authority Building on Berry Hill to look at plans and maps about the mining industry, organised by Dave Clarke.

We will leave Park Rd Resource Centre at 9.50 am by shared cars and return there by 12 noon. There will be very little walking, but plenty to fascinate us.

As numbers for our visit to the Coal Authority are limited, only members of the Family History Group will be able to attend on this day.

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. June – Bardels Garden Centre Visit, July – Garden Party/Well Dressing Visit.

Gardening Group 2 - 4th Tuesday in Month, 2pm to 4pm, Flint Avenue June – Well Dressing Visit, July – Visit Members' Gardens and have Afternoon Tea.

Heritage – Scarborough, 1st June, July – Brodsworth.

History – 3rd Friday in the Month, 10am to 12pm, Woodhouse Library. June – 1066 and the Bayeux Tapestry, July – Mansfield Heritage Trail.

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. June – Macro photography/ What is it? July – Mirrors/Insects.

Rambling – usually 3rd Thursday in month, Meet at Morrisons 10am. June – The Lock Keeper, July – Longshaw Eatate.

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. June – Blidworth Bottoms, July – Sherwood Heath.

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. June – Gedling Country Park, July – No walk as Heritage Trip.

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

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

International Dining – 1st Tuesday in month - 6.30pm for 7pm. June – Full Moon at Morton, July – Hardwick Inn.

Oriental Dining – 4th Friday of the Month – 6.30pm for 7pm. June – TBC, July – Bella Vista.



This notice is from Terry Dillon, the Members' Secretary, who sits at the back of the Hall at Monthly Meetings!

BOB'S 90th BIRTHDAY!



Bob will have a section in the next Newsletters!

EVENTS TO BOOK IN JUNE

Wednesday 17th June – Picnic in the Forest, 10.30 to 3pm NO NEED TO BOOK JUST COME ALONG READY TO PARTY!

Tuesday 7th July – Heritage – Brodsworth Hall - £25

Leaves Morrisons 9am. Leaves Brodsworth 4pm. (Earlier than advertised last month because it is International Dining that evening).

Tuesday 18th August – Days Out – Cambridge - £16

(This is fully booked BUT a reserve list is always useful!)

Tuesday 1st December – Christmas meal at the Hostess!

Balance for Norfolk Holiday in September is due in June!

£509 Cheques payable to Skills!

POSTAL MEMBERS CONTACT – TERRY DILLON

NATIONAL TRUST /HERITAGE /SOCIAL CONTACTS - Liz Wilson or Denise Whitsed

SPEAKERS CORNER - JUNE 2026

MIKE NEWBOLD – MY EXTRA LIFE



- What's it like bring a Film Extra for over 20 years
- How did it all begin?
- What are the Rules and Regulations
- What are the Highs and the Lows
- Who have I worked with?

Current Film Extra Jobs



Scottish Highlands



SPACT - London



Glasgow

June 2026

Monday 1st - Heritage – Scarborough

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

Speaker – Mike Newbold – My Extra Life

Wednesday 17th – Picnic in the Forest – Sherwood Forest - 10.30am to 3pm.

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.

August 2026

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

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

Tuesday 18th – Days Out - Cambridge

Deadline for July Newsletter = Monday 18th June