



# SHERWOOD u3a NEWSLETTER

**LEARN! LAUGH! LIVE in March 2026!**

## MAIL FROM MEMBERS

### SAD NEWS



Dear Liz,

It was with great sadness that we learned recently of Helen Blythe's passing.

A u3a member from day one of Sherwood's existence, Helen was an early Committee member and was active in persuading other people to join the Committee too. She organised dining groups and arranged theatre visits in the earlier years and was also behind the u3a Quiz nights.

Her more recent group activities included joining the Strollers and Ten Pin Bowling Groups (Helen was a keen Bowls player away from the u3a), and she was a member of the Sunday Lunch Group. She didn't let more recent health issues affect her participation in these groups.

Helen will be much missed by many members, and thoughts go out to Carl and the family, plus her many friends, at this time.

Claire Wilkie – Anyone who has memories or pictures of Helen, please send them to Liz for next month.

### GLAD NEWS

Hi Liz,

What an inspiring, lively and positive speaker Charlotte Henshaw was today. I felt privileged to hear her.

Best wishes, Viv Brown

Hi Liz,

Charlotte Henshaw OBE put on a great talk this morning, chatting about learning to swim at Sherwood Baths. We were all very interested about the Paralympic Games she attended and how successful she was to change sport, from swimming to canoeing, winning a lot of medals along the way. Charlotte went down very well, and we all had a good look at her medals afterwards. R R Roger

Dear Liz,

Anne and I would like to say what a good U3A Speaker Seeker Dave Clarke is doing. Charlotte Henshaw was so interesting, her positivity and determination in life to achieve her aims was an inspiration to us all.

The subject at the January meeting was also very interesting. The volunteers from the Nottingham Blood Bikes gave us an insight in to all their work they do - how fortunate are we that people like them give up their free time day or night to do such an important and valuable job.

What a fantastic amount of money was raised at the meeting - this just shows how generous our U3A member are. Colin & Anne



## CHAIRMANS REPORT

Despite the somewhat wet and dreary weather, there is plenty to lift our spirits at Sherwood u3a.

Thank you very much to Claire and everyone who helped to make the February meeting so successful whilst I was away in South Africa enjoying the sights and the sunshine. The feedback on Charlotte Henshaw's presentation was very positive with many members saying they found it inspirational. I'm sorry to have missed it. Thank you, Dave, for organising yet another great speaker.

I would also like to thank all those members who volunteered to be on rotas to support u3a meetings and events. If you would be interested in offering your services it is never too late, just speak to any member of the committee who will be able to point you in the right direction. Remember this is our u3a and everyone has something to offer to help it flourish.

Hopefully, the weather will start to improve, and we will all be able to enjoy getting out and about on Heritage, National Trust and Days Out Trips but in the meantime, we have a full range of group activities to enjoy along with the Social Group Afternoon Tea and the Committee Coffee Morning.

I look forward to seeing you all at the March meeting.

**Ann Madden**

## TERRY DILLON – Member's Secretary



I joined Sherwood u3a in September 2010 when I retired from work after a recommendation from a colleague. I enjoyed the meetings and became a member of three groups, Line Dancing, Singing for Fun and the Craft Group. I also went on trips and came to coffee mornings and social events. I was also asked if I would like to join the committee but declined as I was a very new member and wanted to know more about the u3a. Eventually after a couple of years I did decide to join the committee in a very junior role as Visitors Secretary, assistant to the Membership Secretary, Rita. I took on more responsibility when we introduced Postal Membership and worked alongside Rita. I introduced the Welcome Pack which I send out to all new Postal Members. The introduction of Postal Membership

means that we don't have a waiting list.

During this time, I also worked with Jenny Weaver when we shared the role of Group Coordinator with me doing the administrative part of the role.

When Rita retired, I took on the responsibility for membership, changing the name to Member's Secretary as it felt more personal to members and I believe that, although there is the administrative side to it, my first responsibility is to our members.

I am also Chair of the Finance Sub Committee and a member of the Governance Sub Committee.

I still have the time to do line dancing and singing although, sadly, these are no longer u3a groups and spend a lot of time with my grandchildren.

I enjoy every part of being Member's Secretary, but I feel that it is time for someone else to take over this role. So, I am looking for someone to join the committee with an interest in learning more about what I do and hopefully become the next Member's Secretary



# **URGENT – URGENT – URGENT!**

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 2026 - 2027**

Membership of Sherwood u3a runs annually from April to March, this means that membership for the year, or part of year, 2025– 2026 runs out at the end of March.

**I still have a number of forms that haven't been collected and some collected but not returned.** Please let me know if you would like to have your form sent to you by email.

If you are renewing your membership, your form and subscription should be sent to me at 4 St Wilfrids Drive Kirkby in Ashfield NG17 8NJ or brought to the meeting on the 12th March. You can also email the form back and pay by BACS. This means that payments can be processed by the end of March.

Any forms and payments not received in time will result in your membership being recorded as lapsed to avoid paying your membership cost to Beacon.

If you have any problems completing the form please let me know and I will arrange for you to get a paper copy.

TERRY DILLON - MEMBER'S SECRETARY

## **ASK NOT WHAT YOUR U3A CAN DO FOR YOU, ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR U3A!**

### **Sherwood u3a is YOUR u3a. What can YOU volunteer to help with?**

**Below, you will see many of the ways in which you can contribute to the running of Sherwood.**

**So, do YOU have an idea for a new group?**

**Are YOU happy to help in the kitchen?**

**Are YOU used to working with finance?**

**Are YOU good at greeting people and making them feel comfortable?**

**If you are already a Group Leader, could you contribute to the Committee?**

**These are just some of the ways you can help!**

**If you can answer 'Yes' to any of these questions, don't hold back!**

**Don't hide your talent-COME FORWARD!!**

**CONTACT either: Claire Wilkie, Vice Chair**

**or Margaret Taylor, Business Secretary**



**St George's Day  
Coffee Morning  
Thursday 23rd April  
Turner Hall 10am- 12 noon.**

***The Committee invite all members, relatives and friends to the coffee morning to celebrate St. George, the Patron Saint of England.***

***A short play will be performed by the Drama Group with refreshments being served afterwards.***

***The Committee will be informing members what a Committee Member and other roles do on behalf of Sherwood u3a.***

***You may wish to help in the future!***

***You are welcome to wear red and white to celebrate. Prizes to 3 members with the "best" outfit.***

***We all look forward to seeing you on the 23rd.***

## **GROUP NEWS From R.R.Roger**

### **Photography for Fun**

Another good gathering from the Photography for Fun group, for our February meeting. This month our theme was "Fireplaces", and Dave and Debbie took the meeting, Pat was on her way to Egypt, hope Desmond does not sell her for a few camels !. Our prestigious honour, this time, goes to Dave, with a score of 17 points, with a picture of a wood burner titled "cozy toes". Our AWOL Pat came 2nd, and Molly picked up 3rd place. Well done to them, and all our other members, new and old, for putting on a great show!

Looking forward to our next competition, "Odds in Nature", sounds really interesting.





## Gardening Group 2

How much fun can you have with a plant pot and a box of mosaic pieces ? Well, it kept the Gardening Group 2 members entertained for a few hours. Afterwards we all thought they were much better than anything you could buy in a garden centre or swanky shop. Looking forward to our Day Trips which start in February, when we visit Calke Abbey - should be a good day out.

**THANKS, JENNY, FOR THE INSPIRATION AND INSTRUCTION!**

R R Roger.



## Afternoon Taproom Games



A good time was had by all at our February Afternoon Taproom meeting in the Black Bull, fun and laughter were the order of the day. We crowned our first pool champions this afternoon - congrats go to John "the Hurricane" Davison and Colin "the Whirlwind" Rolle! You have the bragging rights this month! We even have our very own Luke Littler, for Carol threw a brilliant 304 in the darts challenge, and she even found time to give out the cookies at 3. Our rookie, Mandy, won on the roulette wheel and picked up a box of Maltesers in the raffle. Helen took the top prize, followed by Colin, Joan,

Carol and Janet. The Bingo line went to Janet again and Martin was the house winner. At the next Taproom in March, I shall bring some cake to celebrate yet another birthday!. R R Roger





## AND FROM DEBBIE

### Craft Group 1



Today in Craft Group 1 we decorated wooden heart plaques. There was a table full of mixed media for everyone to choose from. You can see from the results, what an imaginative group we have.

We also learnt how to make paper roses. A good time was had by all.



## Walking Group – Carolyn Bestwick



On a cold but dry day, thirteen members of the walking met at

the Rushley Pub. We walked along paths and climbed steps up to Berry Hill Park. We walked along the perimeter through the woods and then along well laid paths. Halfway round we crossed over to the George V Park. We circumnavigated the edge walking back onto Berry Hill



Park to continue the walk back to the Rushley Pub. Once there we had a well-earned drink and a meal!

**Thanks, Carolyn, for not only helping to lead the walk but also for the article and the picture!**

## Games Galore



It was a dismal day outside BUT, in the Greyhound, there was a warm atmosphere of chatter and friendly rivalry. Dave called the Card Bingo and Helen, Carolyn and Gladys were the lucky winners. Many packs of Maltesers were given out as members won their games.



Trionimos, Qwirkle and Mexican Trains being the favourite games! Of the 36 members, only 28 attended because many were on holiday.

**Still, see you next month for more fun and games, winners and losers, and of course more MALTESERS!!!**

# H HISTORY

The jousting match for best King of England, between Richard 111 supported by Claire and Henry the 7<sup>th</sup> supported by Liz was an informative, thought provoking and lively affair.

To begin and put the War of the Roses in perspective, Claire explained how it began, going right back to John of Gaunt.



From this she went on to tell us about Richard's early life and how he became King. She obviously pointed out all his best qualities and claimed that he had been much maligned by Shakespeare and the Tudors.

Liz then pointed out all that was villainous about Richard and why, as a King, he failed. She then went on to list all the great aspects of Henry and why England was so much better off with his reign and became a world power.

At the end everyone had a opportunity to give their opinion about who was the better king. Several remained on the fence, pointing out that Richard was only King for two years and might have done better if he had longer. They also realised that he was portrayed as a villain by Shakespeare because the latter was writing for the Tudors. However, most admitted that Henry was the better King and brought peace and prosperity to England after the terrible War of the Roses period.



## 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. March – Something with a head, April – Miniature.**

**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. March – Watercolour.**

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

**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. March – Keeping Mum, April – Ladies in Lavender.**

**Classic Film Club Two – 3rd Tuesday in Month, 2pm to 4pm. March – Enemy at the Gates, April – To Walk Invisible.**

**Craft 1– 4th Thursday in Month, 10am to 12pm, Mansfield Woodhouse Library. March – Bead Coasters, April – Bracelets.**

**Craft 2 – 3rd Monday in Month, 10am to 12pm, Mansfield Woodhouse Library. March - Twiddlemitts, April – Patchwork.**

**Days Out – April 28<sup>th</sup>- Holmfirth and Yorkshire Sculpture Park.**

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

**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. March – Speaker, April – Thornbridge Daffodils.

Gardening Group 2 - 4th Tuesday in Month, 2pm to 4pm, Flint Avenue. March - Dunston Hall Garden Centre, April – Renishaw.

Heritage – None.

History – 3rd Friday in the Month, 10am to 12pm, Woodhouse Library. March - Bess of Hardwick, April – Suffragettes/ History of Electrical Distribution Network.

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. March – Colour/Odds, April – Composition/Rainbows.

Rambling – usually 3rd Thursday in month, Meet at Morrisons 10am. March – Welbeck, April – Matlock Baths

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. March – Newark, April – TBC.

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

That’s Entertainment – TBC.

Ticket to Ride – March 26<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> Lakeside Arts Centre, Nottingham – Andy Warhol Exhibition.

Walking – 1st Tuesday in month. Meet at Morrisons 10am. March – Thoresby Vale, April – Bolsover.

Wine Group – 3rd Wednesday of the Month, David’s House. March – South African wines = Liz, April - Angela – Favourites from 2025.

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

International Dining – 1st Tuesday in month - 6.30pm for 7pm. March – The Griffin’s Head, April – The Spread Eagle, Hockerton.

Oriental Dining – 4th Friday of the Month – 6.30pm for 7pm. March – Blue Chilli/ Thai, April – Chung’s of Mapperley/ Chinese.



**GROUP SPOTLIGHT**

**BOARD GAMES – Claire Wilkie**

(See last month’s write up!)

**Play Reading/Drama – Liz Wilson**

In between creating and practising Dramatic performances we do some play reading from scripts. We have done several performances, a Murder Mystery, a Pantomime, a Rhyme and we are currently working on a sketch called “Telling Tales”. We hope to do another Murder Mystery for the November Afternoon Tea.

**Classic Film Club – Liz Wilson**

The first Classic Film Club was so popular we created a second. Both are full now.

## **Gardening 2 – Jenny Weaver**

## **Oriental/International Dining – Jenny Weaver**

### **NOTICES**

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

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).

On Tuesday 5 May we shall be at Ania, 558 Mansfield Road, Sherwood, Nottingham NG5 2FS. (Names and deposits to be taken at the April members' meeting).

Jane Lowe

#### **February 2026 Defibrillator Familiarisation**

First of all, both Linda and I were overwhelmed by the number of members who attended the above-named event this morning at Turner Hall Lounge. 15 members attended our event and supported it.

The members attending showed great interest, both in having a go and in asking questions.

David Stanford gave the members an insight into what our mobile phones can do to help in an emergency, a fabulous insight, with very useful information on accessing the relevant site on our mobile phones.

Many thanks to all who attended.

Linda and Kelvin

#### **POSTAL MEMBERS' COFFEE MORNING**

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

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

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

Terry Dillon - Member's Secretary

### **COMING SOON**

#### **March**

**Saturday 14th – Social – The “B” Afternoon Tea - £10 **NOTE**  
**CHANGED TIME! 12pm to 3pm.****

**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**

**May**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> – National Trust – Croft Castle - £20 – Opens in March**



**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Social Group – Woodhouse Treasure Hunt – Plus Food - £7 – Opens March**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> - Postal and New Members' Coffee Morning – Turner Hall 10am to 12pm.**

**Come along and learn all about what is on offer!**



## **USEFUL NUMBERS**

### **Welfare Officer**

**Please contact Sandra Rogers if you know anyone with health issues.**

### **First Aider, Health and Safety**

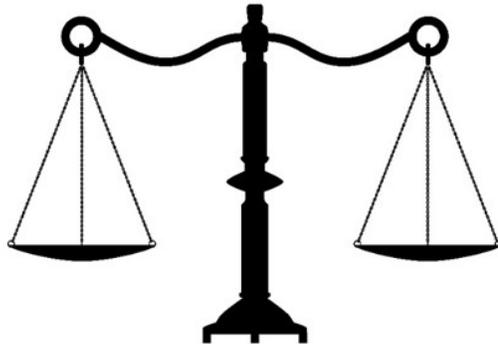
**Please contact Kelvin Foster if you have any issues.**



## SPEAKERS CORNER - MARCH 2026

### MARTIN ROWLEY – THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

#### IS IT FIT FOR PURPOSE....???



- Who makes our laws?
- What happens if you are charged with a criminal offence?
  - What happens in court ?
  - Which prison will you go to?
  - What are the punishments ?
  - A comparison of two offenders
    - What does Probation do ?
  - How do other countries compare?
- **SOME OF THE FACTS WILL SURPRISE YOU !!!**

**POSTAL MEMBERS CONTACT – TERRY DILLON**

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

**March 2026**

**Thursday 12th – 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 7th – National Trust – Croft Castle**

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

**Speaker – Mike Storr – The Masters of Mirth**

**Wednesday 20th - Social – Woodhouse Treasure Hunt**

**Thursday 21st – Postal and New Members’ Coffee Morning**

**June**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> - Heritage – Scarborough**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> - - GENERAL MEETING at Turner Hall 9.45am – 12pm.**

**Speaker – Mike Newbold – My Extra Life**

**Closing Date for April Articles = Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March**