



SHERWOOD u3a NEWSLETTER

LEARN! LAUGH! LIVE in May 2026!

DID YOU HEAR WHAT I HEARD?

Sunday, on Radio Nottingham, they interviewed the Potty Plotters – you know the ones that were our speakers last month. Here's what they said about their visit to **our u3a** ---

Elaine (Big Potty), “On Thursday we had a big adventure, we nipped over to Mansfield Woodhouse and worked with the Sherwood University of the Third Age. What a group! It was so well organised and honestly, if you live in Mansfield Woodhouse, we are green with envy. There's no need to be lonely, there's everything for everybody. No matter what you want to do, there was a group for it. Everybody was chatty and welcoming. Obviously, it was just wonderful to be there – and I mean that! They made us so welcome, and everyone was just so lovely. Weren't they?”

Julia (Little Potty), “They were! Absolutely!”

u3a Festival in Sherwood Forest



Wednesday June 17, 2026

Visitors Centre,

Edwinstowe, NG21 9RN

10.30am-3.00pm

A free event open to all.



Join us for games, musical performances and guided walks.

Cafe on site or bring your own picnic. For a fun filled day of entertainment, great company and plenty of spaces to unwind and enjoy the beauty of nature together.

Please visit the Arts and Crafts Centre and RSPB Gift Shop

North Notts Neighbourhood Group

Ashfield - Bolsover – Dukeries - Forest Town - Mansfield – Rainworth - Retford – Sherwood – Sutton - Warsop -Worksop

All Day Car Parking £7. Free to RSPB Members

REMEMBER!

Two years ago, when they held this celebration, **our u3a showed them how to celebrate! We outnumbered other u3as by ten to one! We provided games! We played the games! We sang along! We danced! We had picnics! We got there first and got best spec! We laughed loads and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves!!!!!!**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Ann Madden

What a fantastic pair of speakers the Potty Plotters were! They summed up our u3a perfectly in their podcast emphasising how busy and lively the meeting was and how there was a group for everyone.

These activities only happen because of the hard work and dedication of those who organise them. The ethos of the u3a is that it is an organisation run by the members for the members. Everyone who does anything for the benefit of our u3a is a volunteer.

We have come to that time of year when the AGM is fast approaching, and we are looking for members to join the main committee or the sub committees (finance and governance). If you feel that you are interested in this, please come and chat with me or any committee member. We would love to have fresh faces with fresh ideas on the committee.

Some members are expressing concern that the interest group they wish to join has no spaces. The best solution to this is to start another group. I think new members joining us see an established u3a with many interest groups. It is perhaps important to explain that all the existing groups were started by one or two members getting together and establishing the group, with the help of the Group Co-ordinators. Kate and Sue are always happy to support members with the setting up of any interest group. The more groups we have, the more we have to offer our members.

Our u3a belongs to all of us and I believe that we all have something to contribute to keep it thriving and vibrant.



JANE LOWE – Buddies, Greeters and Refreshment Coordinator



I retired in 2001 and moved from Hertfordshire to Mansfield in 2006. Having learned about u3a whilst holidaying in Spain I joined Sherwood u3a in early 2015 and became a committee member in that May. During my stint I have been Business Secretary, Groups Coordinator and my current post of Buddies, Greeters and Refreshments Co-ordinator twice.

My role is to ensure that we have greeters at every members' meeting to welcome all members and visitors.

Any visitors or new members are then directed to Terry (Members' secretary) who in turn sends them to me and then the buddies; their task is to show the newbies the ropes, explaining how our u3a works. Although this has been a relatively recent innovation, it has been very successful in demystifying what can be a daunting experience, setting

foot in Turner Hall.

As for refreshments, what would we do without our mid-morning cuppa? 3 volunteers are rostered (2 or 3 time a year) to man the kitchen every month. Behind the scenes preparations start before the meetings, setting up the kettles, tea and coffee pots, milk, sugar, biscuits etc. After the announcements, they return to the kitchen to pour around 130 cups of tea or coffee. Afterwards there's the task of washing up and clearing it all away.

In addition, I am group leader for International Dining and Soft Tennis as well as a member of two Forest Town and Mansfield groups.

FROM COMMITTEE

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?

In the sentences below, you will see many of the ways in which you can contribute to the u3a.

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: Terry Dillon, Membership Secretary.

OR Claire Wilkie, Vice Chair.

SHERWOOD u3a ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Business Secretary of Sherwood u3a is giving notice that the Annual General Meeting will be taking place on Thursday 11th June 2026 at Turner Hall, Mansfield Woodhouse at 9.45 am.

There are several vacancies on the Committee this year and if you wish to volunteer please inform the Business Secretary before Thursday 28th May 2026 and a nomination form will be given/sent to you to complete.

Please note that if there are more applicants than vacancies a vote will take place at the AGM.

If you wish to change or amend the Sherwood u3a Constitution or have Any Other Business that you wish to bring up at the AGM please put in writing to be received by the Business Secretary before Thursday 21st May 2026. Please note that any items submitted after this date will not be considered at the AGM.

An Agenda and "draft" Annual General Meeting Minutes dated 08.05.25. will be published in the June newsletter. Annual Accounts from 01.04.25. to 31.03.26. will be available at the Annual General Meeting.

Anyone wishing to see the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2026, must please contact Diane Storey directly.

Margaret Taylor, Business Secretary.

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**

GROUP NEWS from R.R.Roger and Debbie

History Group



Anne and Kate were brilliant as they told us about their chosen Historical subject, Bess of Hardwick!

Anne started with an interactive “Let’s Discover Bess’s Life Through



Her Timeline!” in which we all had a part. Once that was established and displayed, she then gave us a detailed account of her life and her FOUR marriages, each marriage leaving her richer and more elevated in society when her husbands died. (Roger thought poison might have been involved!) Her children were born during her second very happy marriage to courtier, Sir William Cavendish. She had eight during the ten years that they were married. Through her last husband, George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, she became a Countess and one of the richest and most influential women in England, second only to the Queen, Elizabeth the First.

Of course, being u3a, between our two tutorials we had a break, tea, coffee, chocolate rolls and fancies. At least that is what most of us had BUT Linda chose a Very Large Strawberry!



Kate told us about Bess building Hardwick – more glass than brick and about the effect that being responsible for looking after Mary Queen of Scots had on Bess’s fourth marriage.



“Mary’s presence in their home, as well as the financial costs and political tensions, may have contributed to a rift between Shrewsbury and Bess.”

Roger may have been right, because it was rumoured that Shrewsbury was poisoned – not by Bess but by his brother who thought he would inherit – but he didn't for it was all left to Bess despite the rift.

Kate also detailed the sad life story of Arbella, favoured granddaughter of Bess. Arbella started life well because Bess ensured that she had a good education and tried hard to get her well married. However, as well as being Bess's granddaughter, Arbella was also the great, great granddaughter of Henry V11 and Elizabeth of York so she became the pawn in many attempted plots to seize the crown , first from Elizabeth and then from James. She ended up in the tower where she refused to eat and died of starvation in 1615. **R.R.Roger & Liz.**

THANKS ANNE AND KATE for an informative and entertaining BESS experience.

Craft Group - From Debbie

Today in Craft group 1, Mary bought in diamond art for us all to try. These are all the beautiful coasters we made

AMAZING!!!!



Taproom Games - R.R.Roger

The Easter holiday brought a smaller crowd to the Taproom Games at the Black Bull. Our 25 members who did attend played their favourite games old and new. Kate picked up the first prize on the roulette wheel. Colin "the whirlwind" beat Ray to win the battle for the Rolo on the pool table. Diane had a good afternoon winning the line in the bingo, and shooting a huge 340 on the darts challenge, Martin won the house in Bingo, to win a lovely bag of Munchies. Kathryn, Carl, Kate, John, Liz and Malcolm picked up the many raffle prizes. A good afternoon was had by all. Only two more Taproom Games to go before our summer break, so let us make them the best ever.



Photography for Fun - R.R.Roger

Our Sherwood U3A Photography for Fun group April meeting went very well, with another bumper attendance. We spoke about our next meeting, which will be a trip to Cromford canal, to ride on a narrow boat. Dave afterwards gave us a talk on Composition using leading and grid lines in our photographs. The theme this month was "Rainbows" and again the standard of the pictures was very good. We had to find a winner and this time Dave took the honours with a lovely photo entitled "Safe Haven", 2nd



was Mandy with a great picture entitled "Christmas Morn", and yours truly came a good 3rd, with "I would rather be under the rainbow". Thanks to Debbie for the coffee and nibbles. We will see you all at Cromford.

Family History – Viv Brown

On Thursday May 7th the Family History Group will be sharing any new personal research and new discoveries about your great-grandparents or even great-great-grandparents and the use of a fan- style tree to record the information.

We will be looking at birth and marriage certificates and census returns etc, so bring in your mobile phones, I-pads and computers for a buddy session afterwards so we can help each other find out more.

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 back there by 12 noon. There will be very little walking, but plenty to fascinate us so save the date as numbers are limited.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

WELFARE OFFICER.

Please contact if you know of anyone with health problems.

Sandra Rogers

FIRST AIDER, HEALTH AND SAFETY.

Kelvin Foster

SYLVIA'S SECTION **SYLVIA** by Terry Williams

Sylvia, it seems that you,
I can see it has been a struggle,
From very early in your life.
Thank God you overcame that,
And became a mother and loving wife.
Have had a somewhat living hell.
But, your strength of character means,
That you have come out of it well.
You have an amazing stamina,
You are a remarkable woman.
Somehow you found reserves that,



You were able to control and summon.
Your life has been far from easy,
But your personality still shines through.
I'm in awe of your magnificence,
I'm sure that God will be too.
Unfortunately, parents and spouses,
Are not always a "turtle dove".
Thank goodness for our pets
Who give unconditional love.



Your poetry is absolutely wonderful.
They aren't miniscule, they're a mass,
And in my humble opinion,
I think they are all first class.
Sylvia it is my pleasure to know you,
You are very humble and kind.
You are truly an inspiration to others,
With your superlative and creative mind.
I hope your mind and heart are content now,
Through life, you may have often been stumped

**But against all the confrontational adversity,
I think you have definitely triumphed!**

GROUP NEWS – THE REST

National Trust – Wightwick Manor

The 'House Beautiful'

Wightwick was the home of the Mander family, built for local manufacturer Theodore Mander in 1887. Inspired by Oscar Wilde's lecture on the 'House Beautiful', Theodore and his wife Flora filled their home with colour, texture and patterns. Their son Geoffrey, a local MP, and his wife Rosalie later added a significant art collection. Come inside to see William Morris wallpaper and textiles and Pre-Raphaelite art.



We were lucky to catch an exhibition that opened at Wightwick Manor from 7 March 2026, *The Rossettis: Siblings and Spouses* is a major new exhibition exploring the remarkable artistic and literary legacy of the Rossetti family. Taking place throughout the Manor, the exhibition examines the upbringing, relationships and creative output of siblings Christina, Dante Gabriel, Maria and William Rossetti, alongside the work and influence of Elizabeth Siddal and Lucy Madox Brown.



We also explored the beautiful Spring grounds!



Ticket to Ride – Nottingham – The Andy Warhol Exhibition



I don't know about Brillo but these two ladies, Sue and Kate are certainly BRILLIANT! They organise so much for our u3a and participate in so many GROUP activities – we are so lucky to have the



They not only thought of this Ticket to Ride but organized the payments, went and reekied the bus, the tram, the walk from one to the other and the venue. Then drew up an Information

John at the beginning and John after putting up with all of us women!!



Anything Andy Warhol can do so can the computer BUT not as well - BUT he did have Marilyn Monroe!

TRIP TO LAKESIDE CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM FOR THE ANDY WARHOL ART EXHIBITION. MARCH 27th by Sue Davison

Despite a number of members being unable to make the trip, our small, select band set off on the Pronto to connect with the tram to the University. The weather looked threatening and it was certainly on the cool side. Fortunately, we dodged any rain.

The campus was a two-minute walk from the tram stop and we headed, not surprisingly, for the warmth of the café for coffee and scones. With a brief look at the gift shop, it was time for our session in the gallery. There were 3 rooms, the first with some of his early work and why he chose commercial art and screen printing. The wall labelling and descriptions were very detailed and well done. We saw how he started off his Campbells soup labels as he chose a box of soup first of all, but the company were quite thrilled with the free advertising and encouraged and sponsored the vast range which appeared in the early 60s.

The second room was a very large one with some of his most iconic works, principally the Marilyn Monroe colour prints where he stitched together four or five colour palettes. Everyone did an eyelash fluttering pose to have their photo taken with it as a backdrop.

There were a number of other celebrities displayed such as Elizabeth Taylor, but my personal favourites were the ones where he actual drew large images in black and white of Mick Jagger and a young-looking David Hockney. Everyone perused the information very thoroughly. The third room gave you an inkling into his views and personality. A big shock was to find out how he had been brutally attacked by a woman and was left with life changing injuries which severely curtailed his activities but made him more contemplative. He portrayed the U.S. madness of gun culture, the Cold War with Russia and the Disneyfying of souvenirs representing America. He took lots of small self-portraits, aware of his ageing and mortality. All in all, it showed the change from a brash pop personality with an eye for money making to a more reflective older self who left his millions to art foundations.

After a light lunch, some explored outside and some looked at the Archaeological Museum with finds from all over Notts and Derby from ages past. We jumped on the tram crammed with uni students and arrived back in town where there was a small food and games fair. Some stayed and some went in other directions but all in all a very varied and sociable outing!!

Garden Interests Group visit to Thornbridge Hall by Marilyn Hughes



Our first garden visit of the year was to Thornbridge Hall in Derbyshire. We visited last summer, but as we walked round the garden again, I admit I had forgotten how amazingly set out and well-kept the garden is. As we set off from home it was a bit of a cold damp morning and while stuck in a traffic hold up, I denied knowledge of suggesting the visit. Fortunately for us the traffic got moving and the sun came out. While at the garden last summer we read about the spring daffodils, hence the visit. William Wordsworth wrote "A host, a host of golden daffodils. Fluttering and dancing in the breeze." Hundreds if not thousands of daffodils had been planted. A wonderful sight.



An added bonus this time was a tour of the house. We had a very friendly and knowledgeable guide. What a house it is, with so much history. A stately home which is really lived in. Derelict when the present owners bought it. More than 20 million pounds later, it all needs to be seen to be believed.

We finished our visit with a very generous cream tea. Well, we would not be a Sherwood u3a group without, would we?

Rambling Group



Marilyn Hugues led this Ramble, supported by Colin and Anne Rolle.

It started in the car park at Duckeries Garden Centre and wound its way through the Welbeck estate (hence the ornate house) to Cuckney through Cuckney Meadows.

Please note the difference between a walk and a Ramble, as well as the distance, walk max 4miles – Ramble 6miles, though some of it is flat, there are stiles and scrambles up and down rough terrain.



However, as a reward there are excellent viewpoints and always a well-deserved and needed break somewhere en route as well as at the end in the pub or café!



**Thanks
Marilyn!**

Oriental Dining – Blue Chilli, Mansfield.



Ann looks as though she is enjoying it and the others are eyes down and get tucked into the starter course. But – oh dear – Claire doesn't look impressed! However, the proof of the pudding is in the eating and though we only had a starter and main course, both were delicious, as you can see from our plates.



Thanks, Jenny, for organising it!

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. May – 1950's, June – Communication.

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. May – Echelon. June – Mexican Train.

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, April – Sarah's Kitchen, May -TBC

Classic Film Club One – 2nd Tuesday in Month, 2pm to 4pm. May – Oliver, June – The Thomas Crown Affair.

Classic Film Club Two – 3rd Tuesday in Month, 2pm to 4pm. May – Manchurian Candidate, June – Ladies in Lavender.

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

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

Days Out – Cambridge - August

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

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. May – Plant swop, June – Bardels Garden Centre Visit.

Gardening Group 2 - 4th Tuesday in Month, 2pm to 4pm, Flint Avenue. May - Bolham Manor for Bluebells, June – Well Dressing Visit.

Heritage – Scarborough, 1st June.

History – 3rd Friday in the Month, 10am to 12pm, Woodhouse Library. May – Guided Tour of Edwinstowe Church, June – 1066 and the Bayeux Tapestry.

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

National Trust – May – Croft Castle

Photography for Fun- 2nd Wednesday in the month, 10am to 12pm. May – Cromford Canal, June – Macrophotography/ What is it?

Rambling – usually 3rd Thursday in month, Meet at Morrisons 10am. May – No Ramble, June – Longshaw Estate.

Social Group – Meetings at Liz’s house, dates vary. May – Woodhouse Treasure Hunt.

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

Strollers – 1st Thursday in month. May = Strawberry Hill, June – Blidworth Bottoms.

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. May – Ravenshead, June – Gedling Country Park.

Wine Group – 3rd Wednesday of the Month, David’s House. May – David’s Choice of American wines, June - Margaret – Off the Beaten Track.

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

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

Oriental Dining – 4th Friday of the Month – 6.30pm for 7pm. May – Porterhouse, June - TBC



GROUP SPOTLIGHT

Soft Tennis – Jane Lowe

This group has been running for two and a half years at Oak Tree Leisure Centre, meeting on the 3rd Friday of the month at 3pm.

Most of us have played lawn tennis in the past but previous experience isn't necessary if you have hand-eye coordination. We play on a badminton court, with a lowered net of course, under the same rules as tennis but with larger spongy balls, which are slower. The smaller court means we don't have to run as much and we normally play doubles. Conventional tennis gear is not needed - just gym wear or comfortable clothing is fine but Oak Tree insist on white soled trainers. Anyone who doesn't have a racket can hire one at Reception.

BOOKINGS AVAILABLE IN MAY

Wednesday 20th May – Social Group – Woodhouse Treasure Hunt - £7 includes food

Starts between 3.45pm (after Games Galore) and 4.15pm and ends at the Greyhound but takes a different route to last time so a whole lot of new questions and puzzles to get the little grey cells working overtime.

Food, at approx. 5.45pm, will be as last time – a tray of chips, sausage and fishcake. Condiments will be provided but if you want anything fancy such as tartar sauce – bring your own.

The games of Games Galore will still be at the pub so if you get back early you will be able to chat or game play.

Monday 1st June – Heritage – Scarborough - £20

Leaves Morrisons 7.30am. Leaves Scarborough 4.30pm,

Scarborough really does have it all, dramatic cliffs and castle headland, award-winning beaches, historic harbour, great family attractions, booming town centre.

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 5pm.



Brodsworth Hall & Gardens in Doncaster offers a captivating journey into Victorian England, showcasing a remarkably preserved country house and

its beautifully restored gardens. A Victorian Time Capsule Constructed between 1861 and 1863 for Charles Sabine Augustus Thellusson, Brodsworth Hall remains virtually unchanged since the 1860s, providing an authentic glimpse into Victorian life. The house features over 30 rooms, from grand reception areas adorned with original furnishings to the modest servants' quarters, all conserved to reflect their historical state. Exquisite Gardens Surrounding the hall are 15 acres of award-winning gardens, meticulously restored to their 19th-century design. Visitors can explore a variety of themed areas, including: The Target Garden: Showcasing vibrant seasonal blooms. The Grove: A serene woodland perfect for leisurely walks. The Fountain Garden: Featuring elegant water features amidst lush greenery. These gardens offer a picturesque setting that evolves with the seasons, providing a delightful experience year-round.

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

SPEAKERS CORNER - MAY 2026

PETER SAVAGE – DO YOU REMEMBER ???



- A light-hearted presentation with considerable audience involvement
- What events can you remember from the last 80 years ?
- Events could be trivial, serious or even life changing but what impact did they have?
 - Quiz questions are included
- **The Speaker is donating his fee to the Charity Medical Detection Dogs. The Committee have granted permission to allow a bucket collection at the end of the talk.**

POSTAL MEMBERS CONTACT – TERRY DILLON

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

May 2026

Thursday 7th – National Trust – Croft Castle

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

Speaker – Peter Savage – “Do You Remember?”

Wednesday 20th - Social – Woodhouse Treasure Hunt

Thursday 21st – Postal and New Members’ Coffee Morning

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.

Deadline for June Newsletter = Monday 18th May

