

Wollaton u3a

Reg Charity no 1185030

February 2026 Update

Dear Members

At last we are seeing the first signs of spring, the snowdrops and crocuses are flowering and the days are noticeably longer. It's also time to start making plans for the warmer weather and getting out and about.

In this update you will see that there are some plans for the coming months. The first of these will be our visits to the Playhouse in February and March (see final arrangements); many are also staying to see the 1.30 pm matinee performance after the tour.

A Fish and Chip supper is proposed for April and there are plans for a Canal trip possibly in June.

In March we are having an 'open' meeting so there will be an extended coffee time to catch up with friends and if you have any ideas you would like to share with the committee we will be there to listen. The speaker will start around 10.45 am and will cover the "Benefits and Perils of AI", a subject that is constantly in the news but how much do we really know?

I look forward to seeing you at the main meeting on 24th February

Jane and the Committee

Interest Group of the Month Science

The [Science Group](#) typically meets to discuss a topic of scientific interest. So far this has included all aspects of science from the origin and evolution of the Universe to the development of mRNA vaccines. This is generally covered through a presentation or video led by one of the group members. However, if appropriate, a trip may be arranged, for example to the mill and church at Sneinton when exploring the life and work of George Green.



We are a relatively new and small group having started in 2022 with 6 to 8 members; there is always room for more! The group began when I joined u3a and found that there wasn't one on science. It was then that I was asked the question, "why don't you start one?". So I did!

We draw on all areas of science based on the background and interest of group members but there is no expectation that members have a science background; all that is required is an interest in science.

At present we meet at the convenor's house on the first Thursday of the month, sometimes this is moved to the second Thursday if members' commitments require it, we have a number of walkers in the group and this can clash!

All in all I would argue that science, in some sense, touches every aspect of all of our lives and that everyone can learn something from the discussion and the topic. Why don't you give us a try?

Gren, Convenor

Visit to Nottingham Playhouse

Final Details for February Tour (Beekeeper of Aleppo)

Tour is on 26 February.

Coffee will be available to buy from 10 am and the tour will begin at 10.30 am. NB – no drinks are allowed on the tour. Andrew Quick will be our guide.

Final Details for March Tour (Punch)

Tour is on 26 March.

Coffee will be available to buy from 10 am and the tour will begin at 10.30 am. NB – no drinks are allowed on the tour. Stephanie Sirr will be our guide.

The pace of the tours will be quite slow but there are some steps involved. If this would be a problem for you could you let me know and an alternative route can be arranged.

There is no charge for the tours but there are donation points around the Playhouse should you wish to leave them a little something.

Stepping Up for your u3a

Would you like to help us? Grab a member of the committee and have a chat. It doesn't mean sitting on the committee; there are plenty of other ways you could help. We would love to talk to you.

Don't forget to put forward any thoughts you may have about new interest groups. We are always looking to offer new subjects.

Art Appreciation

Please note that Art Appreciation will be starting again in March. Further details will follow.

Staying Connected with “u3a Friends”

Are you signed up to *u3a Friends*? It is a monthly newsletter through which you can keep up to date about u3a news, events and opportunities. u3a Friends also get access to *Friends Extra*, the exclusive scheme that offers discounts on travel, shopping, electronics and much more.

If you are interested then sign up on the [u3a website](#).

Wollaton 100 Memory Appeal

Throughout 2026, to celebrate the milestone of 100 years of Wollaton Hall as a Natural History Museum since it opened to the public, a year-long programme of special events and activities is planned at the Hall. One of these activities is to share your memories and photographs of Wollaton Hall and Deer Park whether it is a recent visit or stories passed down by family and friends over the years. They are particularly interested in time spent in the Natural History Museum or in the parkland. See more details on the [Wollaton Hall website](#). Please note that it is their intention to use any information or photographs on their website, social media, printed visual and digital projections.

If you wish to participate, please share your photographs by one of these methods:

- Email to – wollaton.hall@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
- Tag - #Wollaton100 on social media
- Add photos as a comment to a post they have on social media about #Wollaton100


Main Meetings
St Leonard's Community Centre
4th Tuesday of the month. Doors open at 9.45 am

January 2026 Meeting

The tale of how the remains of King Richard III were found under a car park in Leicester was ably told to us at the January meeting by Dave Andrews from BBC Radio Leicester. He praised Philippa Langley from the Richard III Society for her tenacity and in spearheading and fundraising to allow the dig to take place. The chance of finding something in the 3 trenches that were dug was thought to be very unlikely. However, it was the afternoon of the first day when a skeleton was unearthed. A distant relative of the family was found in Canada and after a DNA test was carried out there was a 99.5% match to the skeleton. The rest, as they say, is history. It was interesting to note that after much debate by the authorities about the final resting place of King Richard III, in the end the decision was made by the distant relative. The body laid in state for 3 days and was then taken to the site of the Battle of Bosworth before being re-interred in Leicester Cathedral.

Date	Speaker	Title
24 February 2026	Sara Goodacre	"Solving problems, inspired by nature"
24 March 2026	Colin Harrison	Open meeting with a chance to catch up with friends, or chat to the members of the Committee before the presentation on "The benefits and perils of Artificial Intelligence (AI)"
28 April 2026	Jack Perks	"Nottinghamshire's Wildlife"

Coffee Mornings
Grangewood Methodist Church
First Friday of the month from 10.45 am to 11.45 am
Admission £2 for members

Date	Theme
6 March 2026	A look at South Africa by one of our members, Brigitta
3 April 2026	Good Friday – no coffee morning. Happy Easter!
	
1 May 2026	Possible plant stall

Coffee mornings are held in a relaxed space where you can meet up with your u3a friends whilst drinking free coffee or tea and maybe having a biscuit or two! They are also the ideal opportunity to introduce other friends and neighbours to Wollaton u3a (free entry on first visit). If there's someone you know who would love this, why not bring them along?

Your Committee

Chair	Jane	chair@wollatonu3a.co.uk
Vice-Chairs	Julie	juliep.vicechair@wollatonu3a.co.uk
	Ann	ann.vicechair@wollatonu3a.co.uk
Secretary	Lucy	secretary@wollatonu3a.co.uk
Treasurer	Conrad	treasurer@wollatonu3a.co.uk
Membership Secretary	Liz	membershipsecretary@wollatonu3a.co.uk
Welfare Officer	Julie	welfareofficer@wollatonu3a.co.uk
Web Editor	Therese	thereseholmes@wollatonu3a.co.uk
Groups Co-ordinator	Isobel	groups.coordinator@wollatonu3a.co.uk
Committee Member	Charlotte	charlotte@wollatonu3a.co.uk

Our Website:

wollaton.u3asite.uk

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/u3awollaton>

Telephone:

07563 965 968

please leave a message and your telephone number, but it might take a few days to return your call.