

Wollaton u3a

Reg Charity no 1185030

January 2026 Update

A New Year Message

Dear Members

A happy New Year to you all. I hope that your festive season was filled with peace and happiness and that you were able to spend quality time with your families and friends.

New Year is a time of new beginnings and I'm sure many of you have made a resolution and I hope you are still keeping to it!

Wollaton u3a has started its year with a new look monthly update - we hope you like it. There is a new monthly feature that will showcase what is happening in different Interest Groups. We have over 25 Interest groups who meet regularly and enjoy a wide programme of activities and we thought it would be interesting for everyone to share this. For January Lucy has put together something about the activities of the Local History Group. During the year we will share the activities of other groups; I know there are a lot of interesting and exciting things planned by the interest groups during 2026 and it will be an opportunity for you to get a flavour of what happens in other areas.

We also have a new Interest Group Coordinator, Isobel Shelton, she has joined the committee and will be taking over from John. Isobel will be at the meeting on the 27th so she will introduce herself to you all.

I am going to be the Speaker Seeker Coordinator so I will be taking over the work of Allan and Mike to search and provide you with a varied programme of interesting speakers for our monthly meetings. Please don't be shy if you have any suggestions.

Let's make 2026 a year that we continue to Learn, Laugh, Live.

Best wishes

Jane and the Committee

Interest Group of the Month Local History

Founded in 2019, the Wollaton u3a Local History Group offers members the opportunity to explore the rich and varied history of Nottingham and its surrounding area.

The group meets monthly and enjoys a lively programme of talks and visits. Presentations are given by both members and guest speakers, and we regularly visit local museums, archives and places of historical interest to bring the city's past to life.

Visits have included Wollaton Hall, the Walled Garden, St Leonard's Church and the Dovecote, as well as sites such as Strelley Hall, The Arboretum, University Park, the Park Estate, the Council House and the Galleries of Justice. Occasional trips further afield have taken us to the Bell Foundry in Loughborough and the Framework Knitters' Museum in Ruddington.



This coming year our talks are to cover topics such as the history of The Meadows, the Luddites, Nottingham School of Art and Design, and past residents of the Admiral Rodney.

Members are encouraged to pursue their own interests, including local neighbourhood history, photographs, archives and oral history. We work on the principle that “many hands make light work”, planning our programme collectively and sharing responsibility for organising sessions. No prior knowledge is needed — just curiosity and a willingness to contribute. Whether new to Nottingham or a lifelong resident, the group offers a friendly and stimulating way to discover more about the city's heritage.

For more information, visit:

https://wollaton.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/local-history/

Lucy, Convenor

Visit to Nottingham Playhouse

Following on from our November meeting last year, Stephanie Sirr, CEO of Nottingham Playhouse, has invited us to have a tour of the theatre. She has also suggested that we might like to stay on after the tour and attend a matinee. We have 2 options for this which are:

The Beekeeper of Aleppo (26 February)

Nuri is a beekeeper; his wife, Afra, an artist. They live a simple life, rich in family and friends, in the beautiful Syrian city of Aleppo – until the unthinkable happens. When all they care for is destroyed by war, they are forced to escape. On their terrifying journey, they must face the pain of their own unbearable loss alongside incredible danger. Above all, they must journey to find each other again. This compassionate and beautiful play is a story of connection – between friends, families and strangers.

Punch (26 March)

Jacob Dunne, a teenager from The Meadows, Nottingham, spends his Saturday nights seeking thrills with his friends. One fateful evening in Old Market Square, an impulsive punch leads to fatal consequences. After serving prison time, Jacob finds himself lost and directionless. Searching for answers, Joan and David – the parents of his victim James – ask to meet, sparking a profound transformation in Jacob's life.

You will have received an email from Jane (Chair) about this already. Please sign up by either emailing Jane at chair@wollatonu3a.co.uk or at the January meeting for a tour only or a tour and a matinee. **Please note that you will need to buy tickets for the matinee separately.** It is only the tour that Jane is co-ordinating.

Stepping Up for your u3a

Jane has agreed to co-ordinate the publicity of Wollaton u3a and the booking of speakers for our main meetings. However, she would very much like a few volunteers to help out on an ad hoc basis with things like distributing leaflets, greeting and looking after the speaker on the day of the meeting etc. Can you help? Please contact Jane at chair@wollatonu3a.co.uk or speak to her at a monthly meeting or coffee morning.

A few interest groups have had to close recently due to lack of support. As you know, interest groups are the bread and butter of a u3a as they are the incentive for people to join. Please have a think about a topic that you would like to see offered by Wollaton u3a and let one of the committee members know. We will do our best to facilitate getting the group up and running.

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

Date	Speaker	Title
27 January 2026	Dave Andrews	King Richard III How he ended up under a car park in Leicester
24 February 2026	Sara Goodacre	Solving problems inspired by nature

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 February 2026	Please note change of time Start 10.15 am and finish 11.30 am. This is due to another event being held in the Church.
6 March 2026	No particular theme – bring your friends
3 April 2026	Good Friday – no coffee morning. Happy Easter!



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