

# Wollaton u3a

Reg Charity no 1185030

## April 2026 Update

Dear Members

Thank you to all of you who contributed your ideas at the March Open Meeting. We had some very useful and constructive ideas but before we report back to you fully, we would like to consult other members who were unable to attend on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

You gave us lots of ideas for new interest groups, which we will be exploring, but in order to get new groups started they do need convenors to organise them, so please give some thought to whether you would be able to do this. Perhaps you could do it jointly with a friend? Please see Isobel or another member of the committee if it's something you think you could do.

You also asked for more trips and visits and Sarah is organising a Narrowboat trip in June (see article in this update). We are also planning a couple of other things for later in the year that need to be finalised. Watch this space!

Thank you for your support.

Best wishes from Jane and the Committee

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### Interest Group of the Month Strollers

The Strollers group was formed in 2019. I am a retired physiotherapist and wanted to start a group which would enable those members with limited mobility the opportunity to have a gentle stroll along good footpaths.

Our group currently has 18 members, some members come along for a walk and chat, others who use a walking aid, come along for a gentle stroll outdoors. We always end our walks with a visit to a nearby cafe for coffee, cake and a chat.

The walks are chosen for their good paths and if possible benches to rest on. We have walked at Beeston Rylands, Cossall canal, Highfields, Wollaton Park, Strelley village and Colliers Wood.



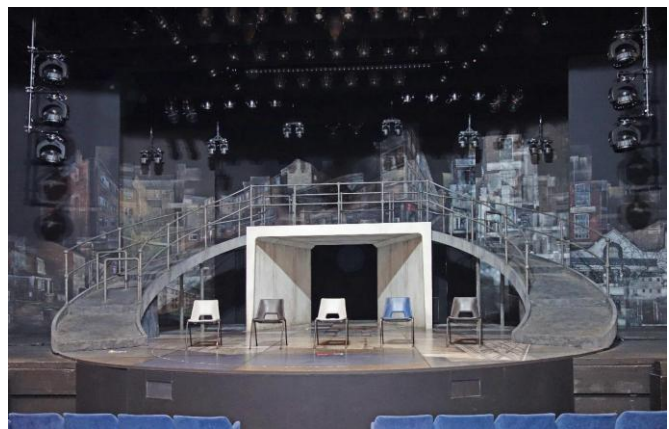
Our walks take place on the 4th Wednesday of the month and we meet at 10.00 am in Grangewood Methodist Church Hall car park, so that we can share lifts. Our first walk this year took place in March. Six of us walked along the river Trent at Beeston Rylands. We started and finished our walk in the sunshine, but the spring weather treated us to a short burst of hail, luckily this only lasted a few minutes! The Heritage cafe was packed out so we returned to Wollaton and had coffee and cake at The Grounds.

If you would like to join us for a monthly stroll please get in touch at [sarahj@wollatonu3a.co.uk](mailto:sarahj@wollatonu3a.co.uk) or speak to our Groups Co-ordinator, Isobel, at a main meeting or coffee morning.

Sarah Spilsbury  
Group Convenor

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## Visit to Nottingham Playhouse Feedback from the March Tour (Punch)



The second Nottingham Playhouse tour took place on 26 March with 18 members joining CEO Stephanie Sirr on the tour. We were shown all the main highlights of the Playhouse such as the auditorium, stage, wardrobe and props. Along the way, Stephanie spoke to us about the history of the theatre from the early 1960s to the present day, their philosophy as a producing theatre and the plans for expansion

and development over the next few years. It was a fascinating tour and a very enjoyable day out.

Many members stayed for the matinee performance of "*Punch*, the true story of a young man from Nottingham who killed another man with a single punch". The play is written by James Graham (writer of *Sherwood*) and is a very powerful story of forgiveness, humanity and the possibility of change.

Jane, Chair

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## Feedback from March Main Meeting

A big thank you for providing so many useful comments and suggestions from your table discussions at the March main meeting. The four main questions considered were:

- What do you value most about Wollaton u3a?
- What should we continue doing?
- What could we improve?
- What new groups, activities or other ideas would you like to see?

If you were unable to attend the main meeting but would like to make any comments or suggestions on the above questions, please send an email to [ann.vicechair@wollatonu3a.co.uk](mailto:ann.vicechair@wollatonu3a.co.uk) **before Friday 8 May 2026**.

A summary of all the comments received will then be circulated to all members.

The Committee will be working through the list and will attempt to address as many of the items as possible in the hope that we can make your experience at Wollaton u3a even better!

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## Wollaton u3a Narrow Boat Trip Monday 8th June 2026

A Narrow Boat Trip for members of Wollaton u3a has been arranged on the above date. There are 20 places split between two boats and the cost will be £10.00 per head. We will be starting and returning to Canal Street Nottingham. Further information to follow.

If you would like to go on the trip please email [sarahj@wollatonu3a.co.uk](mailto:sarahj@wollatonu3a.co.uk) or sign up at the next Main Meeting on 28 April. We will be travelling on the Nottingham Narrowboat project boats <https://meganandtinks.org.uk/>.

## Grangewood Annual Garden Party

Grangewood Methodist Church will be holding their annual Garden Party on Saturday 13 June 2026. Save the date! More details to follow.

## Fish and Chip Supper – 16 April 2026



The latest fish and chip supper took place on 16 April 2026 at the Wollaton Cricket Pavilion. Over 30 members attended and were royally fed. The tradition of a quiz was upheld with a suitable brain teaser provided by Carol. Sarah was the one who brought us our dessert, in the form of chocolate – just what was needed. Thanks go to Sarah and Carol for organising.

## Seniors Afternoon Tea – Fernwood School

One of our members attended this event and she said:

“It was a great afternoon. We were waited on all afternoon by pupils with copious amounts of tea and coffee, plates and plates of delicious food. Then we were treated to lovely music with a large choir and then an orchestra. There were a few individual performances too. All compèred by two very capable and humorous lads. The afternoon ended with Easter eggs to take home. It was sponsored by Tesco, Acorn Windows, Rotary Club and 24 carrot catering.

“I hope they will repeat it again next year!”

## u3a Festival – July 2026

Do you fancy a couple of nights in York at this year’s u3a Festival? If so, please talk to one of the committee members so that we can co-ordinate attendees. It will be held between 1 and 3 July 2026 at the University of York and will be an excellent chance to meet u3a members from around the country, to attend talks and try out new areas of interest. All the details can be found on the Third Age Trust website at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/events/festival-2026>

## Art Appreciation

**Art Appreciation** is a small group which would like to welcome some new members. It meets on the afternoon of the third Thursday in the month in the Library. You do not need to be an ‘expert’ but just enjoy art in its many forms.

## Mobile Phones – a Polite Reminder

Please could you remember to put your mobile phones onto "silent" mode during the guest presentations at our Tuesday meetings as it can be very distracting when calls are received. Thank you.

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

### A Reminder of our March Talk

We were transported into a world of fake news and uncertainty by our March speaker, Colin Harrison, who spoke to us about Artificial Intelligence (AI). Colin explained that AI first raised its head in 1960 with the Plato system which provided multiple choice answers to questions. However, things started to hot up in 1990 when Tim Berners-Lee invented HTML and URL. He began with 50 web pages and within 32 years there was a massive 4.6 billion of them. In 2022, there was another significant launch; that of ChatGPT, by Sam Altman. Within just 2 months there were 100 million users. AI was on a roll! Colin outlined a number of areas where AI now touches our everyday lives, showed us photographs of awkward translations, fake adverts etc, all produced by AI. Of course not everything about AI is negative as some teachers use it for lesson plans or making summaries from a large amount of information. The more we rely on AI, though, the less we will use our brains which is definitely not a good thing. Colin pointed out that technology was forever evolving and he foresees self-driving cars and taxis in the not too distant future together with robots who can learn from each other. It was a fascinating talk filled with a great deal of information and a splash of humour!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Title</b>
28 April 2026	Jack Perks	This local cameraman will talk to us about his work and the amazing wildlife of our local area. <a href="#">"Nottinghamshire's Wildlife"</a>
26 May 2026	Noel Kelly	<a href="#">"Remembering the Fallen"</a> - The Legacy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
22 June 2026	Mike Newbold	<a href="#">"My Extra Life"</a> – tales of being an extra on TV and in film

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Theme</b>
1 May 2026	No topic today – relax and enjoy
5 June 2026	Plant stall
3 July 2026	Photo competition – ‘Colours’ – look out for more information

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	<a href="mailto:chair@wollatonu3a.co.uk">chair@wollatonu3a.co.uk</a>
Vice-Chairs	Julie	<a href="mailto:juliep.vicechair@wollatonu3a.co.uk">juliep.vicechair@wollatonu3a.co.uk</a>
	Ann	<a href="mailto:ann.vicechair@wollatonu3a.co.uk">ann.vicechair@wollatonu3a.co.uk</a>
Secretary	Lucy	<a href="mailto:secretary@wollatonu3a.co.uk">secretary@wollatonu3a.co.uk</a>
Treasurer	Conrad	<a href="mailto:treasurer@wollatonu3a.co.uk">treasurer@wollatonu3a.co.uk</a>
Membership Secretary	Liz	<a href="mailto:membershipsecretary@wollatonu3a.co.uk">membershipsecretary@wollatonu3a.co.uk</a>
Welfare Officer	Julie	<a href="mailto:welfareofficer@wollatonu3a.co.uk">welfareofficer@wollatonu3a.co.uk</a>
Web Editor	Therese	<a href="mailto:thereseholmes@wollatonu3a.co.uk">thereseholmes@wollatonu3a.co.uk</a>
Groups Co-ordinator	Isobel	<a href="mailto:groups.coordinator@wollatonu3a.co.uk">groups.coordinator@wollatonu3a.co.uk</a>
Committee Member	Charlotte	<a href="mailto:charlotte@wollatonu3a.co.uk">charlotte@wollatonu3a.co.uk</a>

**Our Website:**

[wollaton.u3asite.uk](http://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.