

# Wollaton u3a

Reg Charity no 1185030

## May 2026 Update

Hi everyone

It's so good to be back, I had an amazing trip to South East Asia visiting many wonderful places, but after a month there's nowhere quite like home!

In my absence the committee has been working on some of the ideas and suggestions that you made in the March meeting. You will see there is a more detailed account in this Update and we will continue to update you as we move forward.

The narrow boat trip that is planned for June is oversubscribed with a waiting list. Sarah will be contacting all those who are going with further details about arrangements. This promises to be a lovely day out and I hope we can persuade Sarah to organise another trip later in the year.

Sadly, due to personal reasons Charlotte has had to resign from the committee which has left us with a vacancy managing Facebook content. If anybody is thinking that this would interest them please see a member of the committee. We also have other vacancies we would like to fill so whatever your skills and knowledge we have a role for you. Remember - u3a is run by members for members so your support is really important.

Best wishes

Jane and the Committee

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### Interest Group of the Month Boardgames



The [Boardgames group](#) has been going since the inception of Wollaton u3a. It puts into practice the ethos of the u3a to help each other to learn and also provide friendship. Although in our early days we met at the Community Hall on Harrow Road which had the advantage of a large, pleasant room with appropriate furniture

and an adjoining car park, we found the cost of room hire difficult as the number of attendees varied considerably when members had other commitments and issues.

We have now for a long time met at the Royal British Legion, Bramcote Lane on the third Wednesday afternoon of the month, an easily accessible and less costly venue. We agree to buy a beverage and some of us also take advantage of finger food lunch choices from the bar because our start time is early, 1.30pm. We fit nicely into the space to the window side of the billiard table.

We profess to try boardgames out and challenge ourselves. Members are invited to bring along and introduce a game they think might be of interest. However we seem to have settled to playing Scrabble, Upwords, Rummikub and Sequence regularly with the occasional Chequers or travel – based game. Some members are dab hands at these games but others are novices and we mix up willingly. The group is mainly female but we are happy to include men and are looking forward to a chess table started by men.

We make groups of 2, 3 or 4 to a table according to who is available and what they wish to play. There is usually time for a change of game and plenty of chat within the two hours, and the atmosphere is supportive and friendly. Occasionally members hum or sing along with the ambient music. We survived the pandemic but have lost a few members during our existence mainly through ill health. Some of our members play in other, non U3a groupings or online at other times, but we still appreciate our monthly get-together. We are gaining members currently and welcome anyone interested to come and give us a try.

Sarah Robins  
Convenor

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## **Wollaton u3a Photography Competition 2026**

For the next u3a Wollaton Photography competition you can enter 3 photographs from the categories listed below.

You can submit one from each or all from one category or any combination of 3 photographs that you like.

No editing is allowed and photos can be taken on any camera from DSLR to phone camera.

Photographs should be sent to [treasurer@wollatonu3a.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@wollatonu3a.co.uk) and please use the subject line 'u3a Photo competition'.

### **1 Nostalgia or History Today**

Focus on things of old that are still with us today. Whether it's historical buildings, artisans working with traditional tools, or other remembrances of the past.

## 2 Hometown Pride

I love my hometown. If you have an historical landmark or even many historical landmarks, consider highlighting those places. If you feel your community stands for particular values or attitudes about life, feature those.

## 3 Then and Now

Go to your local historical archive, library, or the internet and find some old pictures of your town. See if you can find roads, buildings, or other structures that still exist today. Then submit shots of those things today. Try to match the original photo as best you can. Also, if possible, include the historical photo in your submission.

The photos will be displayed at the July Coffee morning and winners will be selected by the membership voting for their top 3 choices.

Conrad Steele-Benny

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## Feedback from March Main Meeting

We have now completed the feedback exercise from the 4 questions posed at the March main meeting. As promised, the list of suggestions under each heading are given below for your information.

Some of the ideas/suggestions are currently being put into place but some of them require a little more work, eg exercise classes. The Third Age Trust stipulate that wherever possible interest groups should be convened and run by members of u3a. This would not be possible for certain exercise classes at Wollaton as we do not have anyone qualified in this area. Therefore, we have been told that we can employ the skills of someone outside of u3a but obviously this will come at a cost. Once further investigations have taken place, we will update you on our findings.

Rest assured that we are taking your feedback seriously and we will be feeding back to you over the coming months. We would like to point out, however, that for every new interest group that is started, a convenor will be needed so we will need your help if we are to move forward.

### What do you most value about Wollaton u3a?

Interest groups/activities  
Meeting new people  
Meeting up with friends  
Speakers at main meetings  
Information/tips/quizzes  
Fish and chip evenings

Joining new clubs  
New experiences  
Variety of groups  
Keeps brain stimulated  
Getting out of the house  
Locality

## What should we keep doing?

Have tables laid out main meetings  
Behind scenes tours  
Coffee mornings

Supporting events where appropriate  
Book clubs  
Interesting speakers

## What should we improve?

More cake  
Name labels for all  
Arts and Crafts group at a  
different time to Meditation  
More dynamic coffee mornings  
Knowing who the committee are  
sitting at the front  
More regular meetings for  
Convenors, possibly quarterly

More trips (coach)  
Better information for newcomers  
More lunch groups  
More advertising  
More parking bays for disabled

## What new activities/ideas would you like to see?

Exercise – seated or normal yoga;  
badminton; line dancing; dance;  
keep fit; tai chi  
Short walks group  
Teaching art/ Art for beginners  
Casserole evening  
Mobile phone tuition

Trip to East Midlands Airport  
Talks from White Post Farm; Stonebridge  
Keeping chickens  
Creative Writing

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## Grangewood Annual Garden Party

Grangewood Methodist Church will be holding their annual Garden Party on Saturday 13 June 2026 between 2 pm and 4 pm.

Wollaton u3a will be represented on the day. Come along and support us!



## 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 April Talk

A local lad, Jack Perks, took us on a journey through Nottinghamshire looking at wildlife that we can find on our doorstep. Who knew that there were so many varieties of animals if only we spent a little bit of time to stop and look? Just in Wollaton Park he named around 20 species, which was just a selection. Further afield in the county we have more rare birds like the hawfinch and the lesser spotted woodpecker. He showed us footage of the peregrine falcons and their nest on the top of the Newton Building in the centre of Nottingham (link to the live cam here <https://www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org/peregrine-cam>) and photos of a brown trout in the River Leen. I even found out that "fishes" is a correct word. Look it up! He has worked around the globe and was involved in the Sir David Attenborough series called the "Wild Isles". He is serious about giving something back to society and to this end he is involved with both of our city's universities where he teaches others about his craft. He had such enthusiasm that you were left feeling that you should get out and immerse yourself more in the living world that surrounds us.

Date	Speaker	Title
26 May 2026	Noel Kelly	" <a href="#">Remembering the Fallen</a> " - The Legacy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

23 June 2026	Mike Newbold	" <a href="#">My Extra Life</a> " – tales of being an extra on TV and in film
28 July 2026	Roger Browne	" <a href="#">George and Ira Gershwin</a> " - the fascinating story of the Gershwin brothers and their unique place in the history of American music

**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>
5 June 2026	Plant stall – lots to choose from!
3 July 2026	Photo competition outcome – Topics = ‘Nostalgia or History Today; Hometown Pride or Then and Now’
7 August 2026	Time to chat and catch up

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		Vacant

**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.