

Wollaton u3a

Reg Charity no 1185030

June 2026 Update

Hi everyone

We have had a couple of successful special events this month which deserve a mention and thanks to those who organised them.

The Narrowboat trip on 8 June was enjoyed by all who went. It was a very relaxing day and gave us all the opportunity to see Nottingham from a different perspective as well as engaging with the nature and wildlife of the canal. Thank you Sarah for organising this, perhaps it can be repeated sometime in the future?

Another "thank you" must also go to Marianne and all the members of the Gardening and Allotment groups who provided a vast array of plants for the sale at the Coffee Morning. It raised £40 with the profits being split between the groups for their future projects.

The surplus plants were taken to the "Garden Party" at Grangewood Church on 13 June where u3a had a stand. Thank you to all the members who came to see us, it was lovely to see you.

If you have any ideas for an event/trip you would like to organise please come and see a member of the committee - we could help you organise it.

Best wishes

Jane and the Committee

Interest Group of the Month Jazz and Blues Appreciation Group

Enjoy listening to Jazz and Blues? Then you might like to try the Wollaton U3a Jazz and Blues Group. We meet monthly, between 10 am and 12.00 noon on the third Tuesday of the month at Grangewood Methodist Church. Check out our webpage at https://wollaton.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/jazz-and-blues-appreciation/

We are an enthusiastic, eclectic bunch, with differing tastes, but with a keen interest in learning about the wide range of music that is covered by the 'Jazz and Blues' label. The group consists of 13 members with 8 of us meeting regularly. We would welcome new members, so come along and sample a wide range of music. A recent session on Black British Jazz ranged from the early work of Joe Harriott in the 1930s and 'Snakehips Johnson', then onto avant-garde Soweto Kinch and the more melodious tones of Courtney Pine and Nottingham's Toni Kofi. Some of it is challenging and outside our comfort zone, some of it relaxing and fun.

Dawn Maddrell and Alec Shelton are the co-convenors and we identified a gap in the range of music offered by Wollaton u3a.

Alec has been meeting with a Blues interest group in 'The Lincolnshire Poacher' for some years, as well as the fact that his youngest son was a keen jazz musician, having studied jazz at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. So, armed with some knowledge, Alec was persuaded to lead some of the sessions. We have also had great presentations from other members, such as one on 'trad jazz' by John Stroud and by other members on female jazz artists.

The sessions consist of listening to music, discussion and a coffee break for a chat as well as a chance to check on what live music events are coming up locally.

A recent trip to see the Mark Harrison Band at Peggy's Skylight was a great success and we hope to repeat this soon. Six of us met on Sunday afternoon at 1 pm to sample 'Peggy's' wonderful Lebanese cuisine before listening to the band. It was all very relaxed and a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon.



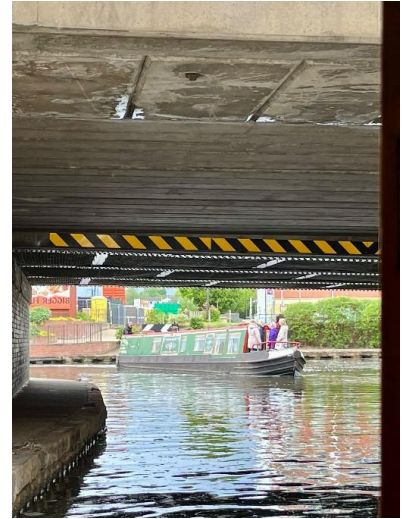
Photo supplied by Alec Shelton

Give us a go. You will be very welcome.

Dawn and Alec
Convenors

Narrow Boat Trip 8 June 2026

On Monday 8 June, 19 members of Wollaton u3a had a day out on the Nottingham canal. We were hosted by the Nottingham Narrow Boat Project, a Nottingham charity providing access to the historic waterways of Nottingham and beyond for community groups and charities.



Photos supplied by Sarah Spilsbury and Lucy Cooper

We set out on their two narrow boats, Megan and Tinks. Our skippers were husband and wife Ben and Sally, ably assisted by their crew, Saul and Pete. Members had an opportunity to work the locks and steer the boats. We motored down to Beeston Rylands passing through Castle Lock. Luckily the weather was kind to us and we could sit outside and watch the wildlife and other boats on the canal. After a short stop at Beeston Rylands to refuel on coffee and cake at the Heritage cafe, it was time to return to Nottingham. A good time was had by all.

Sarah Spilsbury

Grangewood Church Garden Party

Wollaton u3a had a stall at the Grangewood Church Garden Party which was held on the afternoon of Saturday 13 June. There were photographs on the display board of the kind of things we do, fliers about interest groups and a number of members to field questions. The event was well supported by the community including quite a few of our members and helped to raise our profile in the local area.



Photos by Jane Cooper



Wollaton u3a Photography Competition 2026

A reminder that the entries of the 2026 photography competition are due and will be shown at the coffee morning on Friday 3 July 2026. Please send your entries to Conrad at treasurer@wollatonu3a.co.uk without delay! Those attending on the day will be asked to vote for their top 3 choices. The result will be posted on the Wollaton u3a website and will appear in the Update for July.

Help Required Co-ordinating Refreshments

Last September Carol and Sarah agreed, for one year only, to co-ordinate volunteers at the main monthly meetings and coffee mornings, including those to greet members and guests on arrival and organising rotas for stints in the kitchen. This means that from October 2026 we will be looking for a new team to take over.

These are not committee roles but are crucial if we are to continue to have refreshments at our meetings.

Please think seriously about whether you might be able to help. It does not have to be one or two people, it could be a few of you who could share the jobs between you. Come and talk to a member of the committee if you would like more information.

Indo-British Heritage Historical Group

One of our members, Mrs Usher Sood, is part of the Indo-British Heritage Historical Group which held its inaugural season in 2025. Their meetings feature a speaker and last year were held at the University of Nottingham with a variety of topics about India, its history and personal stories. If anyone is interested in learning more about this group, please let me know and I will put you in touch with Mrs Sood.

Ann Marshall, Vice Chair

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
4th Tuesday of the month. Doors open at 9.45 am

A Reminder of our May Talk

The legacy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission was the topic for our May talk. Noel Kelly, Chair of Beeston u3a, gave a fascinating and at times emotional presentation about how the War Graves Commission started and how it has developed over the last nearly 100 years. It is difficult to believe that even today there are bodies of those who lost their lives during the two World Wars still being found. Although the bodies of the fallen were not repatriated, those who did return after the wars were eventually buried in their own country and over 1,000 war graves can be found in the local vicinity. A sobering talk indeed but a very important one to ensure that future generations are educated about what happened in the past in the hope that lessons are learned for the future.

Date	Speaker	Title
23 June 2026	Mike Newbold	" My Extra Life " – tales of being an extra on TV and in film
28 July 2026	Roger Browne	" George and Ira Gershwin " - the fascinating story of the Gershwin brothers and their unique place in the history of American music
25 August 2026	Kayleigh Shooter	" St Ann's Allotments (STAA) " – their history from 1305 to the present day. They are Grade II listed and more than just allotments!

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

Date	Theme
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
4 September 2026	Produce sale

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

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Committee Member		Vacant

Our Website:

wollaton.u3asite.uk

Facebook Page:

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