

Wollaton u3a

Reg Charity no 1185030

July 2026 Update

Hi everyone

The recent weather has certainly presented many challenges for us all over the last few weeks. I hope you have found ways to stay as cool as possible and keep yourself safe from the sun.

I'm sorry that some of our outdoor activities had to be postponed or cancelled but I'm sure you would agree that in such intense heat it would not have been enjoyable or safe.

The committee has been working on some of your suggestions from our March consultation. Many of you wanted exercise and physical activity groups so we have been exploring a selection of things that we think you might be interested in. Look out for a separate email or letter with these ideas and suggestions as to how we could move forward with some of them.

If you are not keen on participating in sport and would much rather be a spectator, we have the Commonwealth Games to enjoy over the next few weeks - that's assuming you have recovered from World Cup Fever and Wimbledon!!

Enjoy your summer

Best wishes

Jane and the Committee

The Tale of a Convenor

After a year of gardening at our Canal Allotment plot, our very knowledgeable convenor suddenly stepped down and I found myself as the new convenor of the [Allotment Group](#). I felt very unsure about this as most of the others had more gardening experience than me, but we work as a team and I have a nice supportive group who are generous with their help and expertise. Our activities are set by the seasons and, between us, the jobs get done. I would like to encourage others to join us, either to look after your own beds or to meet once or twice a week and help generally. You would be very welcome.



Photo supplied by Liz Smith



Photo supplied by Ann Butts

I'm also the convenor of the [Film and Theatre Group](#). It's not a role in which I have a particular expertise, other than an enjoyment of attending these events and feeling that it was something I would like to do more of. So, I was very pleased when they called a meeting to assess interest. Somehow, I found myself to be the convenor!

Again, I find myself at the centre of a very helpful team where we choose a monthly film to see at the Broadway cinema, a play every three months or so and a discussion meeting at the Admiral Rodney every couple of months. I'm very grateful to Jane for sorting out the theatre tickets and to the team who reply quickly to my communications about the choice and date of films. Please take a look at our [reviews](#) on the Film and Theatre page of the Wollaton u3a website!

Being a convenor gives me a chance to find out more about something in order to share with others. I've found it rewarding with the time I can devote. People are pleased that you are prepared to step up to be the convenor of the group and are happy to form a team working with you. I find that it challenges me in a positive way and it's nice to be sharing time with people who have similar interests.

Liz Smith
Convenor

Wollaton u3a Photography Competition 2026



First



Second



Third

Judging of the 2026 photography competition took place at the coffee morning on 3 July 2026. The photos above are the winners – from left to right:

First – Charlotte Cunningham

Second – Sarah Spilsbury

Third – Paul Wren

Congratulations to our winners and thank you to all those who submitted images for consideration.

These photos and the other entries will appear on the Wollaton u3a website for your perusal.

Help Required Co-ordinating Refreshments

We would like to remind everyone that with effect from October, we will need someone/a few people 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.

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.

Vacancy for Treasurer

As recently mentioned, Conrad, our Treasurer, completes his 3 years at the end of September. We are looking for someone to take his place. It is a committee role but you don't need to be an accountant or have financial qualifications to be considered. Obviously this is a crucial role in the running of Wollaton u3a as it is a legal requirement and we cannot function without one. I would therefore ask you to please seriously think about coming forward. There will be plenty of support and we really are quite a nice bunch!! Talk to a member of the committee or email Lucy at secretary@wollatonu3a.co.uk

Pie and Mash Night

Carol and Sarah are organising another [pie and mash night](#). Mmmm, scrummy! This will be held on Thursday 15 October 2026 at 5.45 pm in the cricket pavilion in Wollaton. Please put the date in your diary and sign up at the next monthly meeting or coffee morning.

Website Upgrade

Therese has been working hard to make sure that the Wollaton u3a website is always up to date and has varied and interesting information for you to access. To this end, she has recently created the following:

A new page entitled "[Wollaton Extra](#)" where you will find a photo gallery, links to the monthly Updates and links to useful sites offering support, advice or information.

Take a look – and keep checking it as Therese has further plans for the future!

Free Online Talks

As part of the lead up to the u3a Festival in York, u3a have been organising free online talks about a variety of subjects. These are continuing for a while now that the Festival is over. Have a look and see if there is anything that grabs your fancy! They are available until the middle of August. The link is:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/events/educational-events>

Recycling in the City of Nottingham

With effect from last month, Nottingham City Council residents can recycle a wider selection of items via the brown bin. Please have a look at the information via the link below

<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/information-for-residents/bin-and-rubbish-collections/recycling-in-nottingham/new-recycling-items/>

Investiture of Gandhi Bust, University of Nottingham

On Sunday 2 August there will be a special investiture of the Gandhi bust (see photo below) in the Great Hall, Trent Building, University of Nottingham at 11.30 am. This is to mark Gandhi's remarkable visit to the university and his speech in the Great Hall in 1931 (archive photo below). Usher Sood, on behalf of the Anglo-Indian group, is extending an invitation to any Wollaton u3a members who may wish to attend. Please let me know if you would like to go and I will put you in touch with Usher (ann.vicechair@wollatonu3a.co.uk)



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 June Talk

We were privy to an amusing talk in June by Mike Newbold. Through a chance meeting with the Director of "Last of the Summer Wine", he found himself on the set as an "Extra" or "Supporting Artist" as it is now known. He liked it so much that it became a regular part of his life. He was in several episodes of LotSW together with other TV programmes and two of the Downton Abbey films. He gave us an insight into what happens on the other side of the camera and how important it is to get the lines and actions right first time wherever possible. He was particularly partial to the wonderful spread of food that is provided at filming sessions where you can eat virtually all day long! Although he has not had any formal acting training he

did manage to get himself an "Equity Card" almost through the back door! He has been very happy to play small parts over the years although he did say that those with dialogue were most sought after as they paid extra! He was proud to have made the acquaintance of so many wonderful actors, some of whom have remained friends.

Date	Speaker	Title
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!
22 September 2026	Graham Woodward	The AGM followed by "The Sale of the Century" – how Wollaton Hall was sold to the Nottingham Corporation

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

Date	Theme
7 August 2026	Time to chat and catch up
4 September 2026	Produce sale
2 October 2026	To be confirmed

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
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Committee Member		Vacant

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.