

Wollaton u3a

Reg Charity no 1185030

September 2026 Update

Hi everyone

September has arrived and everything is starting to get back to normal again. I hope you have all had a good summer and been able to spend some quality time with family and friends despite the intense heat and roadworks in Wollaton. The rain has been very welcome particularly for our gardens which are starting to look green again.

You should all have received your papers for this year's AGM which will be held on **22nd September at our main meeting starting at 10.15am** and followed by a presentation from Graham Woodward about the Sale of Wollaton Hall. This year the papers were mostly distributed by email to save time, money and resources so your feedback on this would be useful. I can also confirm that there will be CAKE!! Any leftover cake will be sold for a donation to Macmillan Cancer Support as we did last year when we raised £20 which is enough for one hour of care for a terminally ill person.

The "Poll" for sport and exercise activities will continue this month so if you haven't voted please do so, the sheets will be on the interest group table by the door.

We look forward to seeing you all on the 22nd.

Best wishes

Jane and the Committee

A Wandering u3a Member



In June 2026 I took part in Maggie's *Toubkal Trek, raising funds for +Maggie's in memory of my wife, Carol. When I signed up for this challenge I hoped to raise around £1,500 for Maggie's Cancer Centres. In all I raised £3,384. Our Toubkal Trek group of 6 raised over £13,000 to help

Maggie's provide support for people affected by cancer and their loved ones. The training in Nottingham and Snowdonia certainly helped, we had a few long days on challenging terrain to get to the summit and back.

The first 2 days were spent getting to the base camp. So it was day 4 when we started the trek to the summit. The ascent varied between steep and very steep on the way to the summit. We had to cross a few patches of ice on the way up. The ground was rocky, with lots of loose rocks and areas of scree so our walking poles came in more than useful. This was the most challenging day; I was glad I'd put the training time in as that definitely helped. It took about 4.5 hours to reach the top.

We stayed at the summit for a while to take in the views, get a few photos and celebrate making it to the top. Then it was time to head back down. The descent was probably harder than the ascent, taking our time and being careful not to slip on the loose rocks and scree. Again, we had to cross some patches of very slippery ice (I ended up on my bum a couple of times!). Eventually getting back to base camp around 5pm. After our evening meal we had time to admire a night sky without light pollution and full of stars.

Our route home took us via Marrakesh and a rather fine hotel with a plunge pool and jacuzzi – what a luxury after the past week. The trek was an amazing experience and for such an excellent cause.



Simon Burrows

*Mount Toubkal is the highest peak in the Atlas Mountains, Morocco and all of North Africa. It is located in the Toubkal National Park around 63km south of Marrakesh.

+Maggie's is a non-clinical, comforting space for everyone who has cancer and their loved ones. It is named after its co-founder Maggie Keswick Jencks who was diagnosed with breast cancer. It provides expert cancer support, information and more. It is located on the Nottingham City Hospital Campus and is funded entirely by voluntary donations, fundraising events and grants from charitable trusts and organisations.

Co-ordinating Refreshments

I am pleased to let you know that a couple of members have stepped forward to take on the co-ordination of the refreshments at the main meetings. My thanks go to Ros and Janet for volunteering. I would appreciate it if those who have already put their names down to help in the kitchen could continue to support the new team to ensure a seamless handover.

Our special thanks go to Sarah and Carol who have organised our volunteers for this past year. They have done a super job and I am sure that they are looking forward to being able to sit down and relax at the meetings. Thank you both!

Pie and Mash Night

There are still some places available for the [pie and mash night](#). A reminder that it will be held on Thursday 15 October 2026 at 5.45 pm in the [cricket pavilion](#) in Wollaton and it is £15 per head. The list will be available to sign up at the September meeting or October coffee morning. If you could have the right money to pay at the same time, that would be appreciated.

Feedback from March Consultation

Name Badges - Some of you asked for name badges so that we all know who each other is. This has created a lot of discussion as there are strong feelings for and against this, so we have decided to trial this for 3/4 months to see what the uptake is. There will be sticky labels and pens available when you check in at the main meeting and coffee mornings for those who would like to do this, but I must stress it is **optional**.

Trips and visits - This year we have been able to organise several additional trips and visits around Nottingham which have been very enjoyable. We are very fortunate to live in Nottingham which is rich in history and culture. It is also relatively easy to get around using public transport. I suspect that even if you were born and brought up in the Nottingham area that there are things you have never done! I therefore propose that we carry on with these visits to explore our city and possibly a little further afield into the County. We have a few things in the pipeline for next year so look out for these in the update.

For trips further afield I think we could use Wollaton Travel. George always welcomes ideas for his day trips and if he thinks they are viable he will organise them. Members of the Local History group suggested a visit to Port Sunlight and he was able to organise for us and Beeston u3a also do this for some of their trips.

Gandhi Investiture at University of Nottingham

Following an earlier article with an invitation to attend the investiture of a bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the University of Nottingham, Usha and Naresh Sood have sent us a few words about the event.

“The investiture of a unique bust of Mahatma Gandhi (sculpted by the Indian artist, Sathe and donated in 1995 to Nottingham University by the then Indian High Commissioner), took place in the Great Hall, Trent Building, at 11.30am on Sunday 2 August 2026. It was attended by members of the local community and coincided with a reunion of medical alumni. This permanent investiture, set upon a carved wooden plinth, marks Gandhi’s visit to the University, and his speech in the Great Hall, in 1931.

“Those attending congregated in the Trent courtyard, then heard in the Council Room from Usha Sood and a historian at the University, Dr Udit Sen, about Gandhi's enduring global values.

“The audience were able to view some personal possessions of Gandhi brought there by a local Gandhi collector, who had met Gandhi many times. We were also regaled by a young musician, Ketki, who played his favourite music on a flute.”

Research Projects

From time to time we receive invitations to take part in research projects that are being carried out in Nottingham. We will send out the details by email as appropriate so that you can decide whether or not you would like to be involved.

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 August Talk

Maureen (Mo) Cooper came to tell us about the St Ann's Allotments. What a revelation! The site has been around since the 1300s and has had a number of transformations along the way. In the 1800s the individual plots of land were used as a sort of country get away from the hustle and bustle of busy town/city life. There was no produce grown at this time; this came later. Following the 1908 Allotment Act, local governments were expected to provide allotments and through the 2 World Wars fruit and veg were grown in abundance to help with demand for fresh produce. They received some funding from the Heritage Lottery and EMDA in the

early 2000s which allowed a visitor centre to be built, better fencing, gates and security to be provided for those renting plots of land. Each plot is around 500 sq yards and 3 sets of keys are required to access individual plots. The rent is approximately £100 per year but if you wanted to start growing your own veg, you would have to go on a waiting list as it is very popular once more.

Date	Speaker	Title
22 September 2026	Graham Woodward	The AGM followed by "The Sale of the Century" – how Wollaton Hall was sold to the Nottingham Corporation
27 October 2026	Richard Kubon	"Preventing Fraud and Scams" – raising awareness and ways to help avoid falling prey to them
24 November 2026	Mike Burton	"Our Christmas Story" – the history of our unique British Christmas

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

Date	Theme
2 October 2026	A talk about 'bone health' by a representative from the Royal Osteoporosis Society 11 am to 11.30 am with questions afterwards Please arrive prompt to get settled in your seat with a drink and biscuit (or two!)
6 November 2026	Relax and chat
4 December 2026	Sing-along-a-Christmas with Mo and John

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
Secretary	Lucy	secretary@wollatonu3a.co.uk
Treasurer	Conrad	treasurer@wollatonu3a.co.uk
Membership Secretary	Liz	membershipsecretary@wollatonu3a.co.uk
Welfare Officer	Julie	welfareofficer@wollatonu3a.co.uk
Web Editor	Therese	thereseholmes@wollatonu3a.co.uk
Groups Co-ordinator	Isobel	groups.coordinator@wollatonu3a.co.uk
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.