Wollaton u3a

Reg Charity no 1185030

October 2026 Update

Hi everyone

Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM in September. Your support is appreciated. I think the excellent talk by Graham Woodward - "Wollaton Hall - Sale of the Century" and lots of delicious cake certainly helped the turnout!!! I am waiting to hear from Sallie how much money was raised for MacMillan from the sale of the cake and when I hear I will let you all know.

Wollaton Historical and Conservation Society (WHACS) have asked Wollaton u3a if we would like to put on a display in the upstairs room of the Dovecote next year. This will be a good opportunity to showcase what we do to a wider audience both locally and further afield. I have had a few ideas about what we could do but at the moment I think we should show what happens within our Interest Groups. More information about this in January.

If there is anyone who would like to lead or help out with the display please come and see me. We will be working on it early next year ready for the opening in May 2027. We will also need volunteers to be around during the open days next summer so please consider if you could help out with this as well.

Best wishes

Jane and the Committee

Focus Group
Sketch Mates

This group has recently had a change of Convenor as the cancellation of the L2 bus from Bilborough has meant that Andrew F is no longer able to attend the group he was leading. However, Valerie L has stepped into the breach and taken up the Convenor's role. Many thanks Valerie.

This change has enabled me to highlight the group and to put a call out for new members. It is for artists of any ability. Members can draw, paint and exchange tips and ideas with others. It is not a taught group and there's no fixed venue. I'm sure there are some budding 'sketchers' out there!

It is held on the first Wednesday of each month between 1.30 pm and 3.30 pm. Normal practice is to meet by The Pump in Wollaton Village or in the Admiral Rodney and then, if the weather's fine, stroll to a nearby viewpoint or go further afield; details are clarified in advance of each meeting.

Members should bring their own materials and refreshments.

If you are interested in joining the group or learning more about what they do, please visit the group's page on our website, click on the link at the side of 'Group email' and send a message to the Interest Groups Co-ordinator.

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Sporting Activities – Results of 'Poll'

Group Activity

Tai Chi and Line Dancing tied in first place with 14 votes each. These are very different activities and I think would interest different people. Therefore, I am going to go ahead and explore the possibility of trialling both. The key to their success will be finding the right instructor. Following our talk on Bone Health an instructor with a physiotherapy background would seem preferable.

If you know anyone who could lead Tai Chi or Line Dancing please let me know.

"Come and Try"

Badminton topped the poll so I will go ahead and plan something for the new year. Croquet came 2nd which is probably better as a summer activity. I will keep the results and we can gradually work down the list activities.

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Co-ordinating Refreshments

Following my plea for volunteers to help with co-ordinating refreshments, I am delighted that 2 members have agreed to take on the role for the coffee mornings. My grateful thanks go to Marilyn C and Linda W.

Please support our ladies for the monthly meetings and the coffee mornings by continuing to volunteer to help in the kitchen and also to meet and greet people on arrival. It's far more rewarding if we all work together.

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Did you read your Third Age Matters magazine?

If you were able to sit down with a cup of tea and read TAM this month, you would have noticed that one of our members, Kay G, featured in the "Letters/Mailbox" section (page 77). A copy is shown below. I asked Kay to tell me a little more about her memories around the Girl Annual and this is what she said:

"I was the eldest of 7 and 'Girl Paper' was mine to read and keep safe as most of our books were shared between us. We lived in a small village in Northants and Tuesday was our comic day. It gave us a reason to rush home from school on Tuesdays and it must have been a quiet day for my mother as we were all absorbed in reading.

"Like the comic, in the Annual, which we received each Christmas, there were stories, useful information and knitting or sewing ideas. My parents considered them educational. I only have two Girl Annuals left now, given to me by my middle sister, as the others fell apart after much use."



LETTERS | MAILBOX

Part of the club

Wearing the badge with pride

Last issue's letter *Remember the Robin Club?* has stirred up readers' memories of being members of clubs...

• I was very proud of my *Girl* annual membership book and badge. My brother was a member of *Eagle*, and my sisters had *Swift* and *Robin* badges – all part of the Marcus Morris group of children's magazines. I joined in 1951.
Kay Graham, Wollaton u3a

• As a young child I read *Tiger Tim's Weekly*. The photo shows my membership badge of Tiger Tim's Club, which I think I joined aged 7, in 1951. I wore this badge for years on my school uniform. As you can see it is a little bit the worse for wear, but then so am I after all these years!
Wendy Chetwin, Southwell u3a

• I loved seeing the Robin Club badge in Mailbox as I also belonged to this club. Alas, I no longer have the badge.
I also belonged to the TV Times' Tivvy club. Tivvy was a little character seen on a TV Times advert in September 1964. I got my badge in 1965.
Kathy Valentine, Crowborough u3a

Pie and Mash Night

The pie and mash night was held on Thursday 15 October at the Cricket Pavilion. The food was up to its usual high standard and we thank Sarah at The Grounds for that. There was also the traditional quiz to keep the old grey matter going. Full marks won the day and some very tasty chocolates were the reward.

This was the last social event that Sarah S and Carol B are organising. After sterling service over many years, they are finally hanging up their hats. We send them our grateful thanks once again for all of their help and support since the inception of Wollaton u3a. Don't write them off fully though as we might just be able to tempt them back if we are canny!

Hope Nottingham Foodbank

As you are aware, Grangewood Methodist Church collect donations for the Hope Nottingham Foodbank and each Christmas we ask members of Wollaton u3a if they would like to make a donation. If you would like to be involved, you may bring along your contribution to the November Coffee Morning (6th), the November main meeting (24th) or the December coffee morning (4th). The kind of products they are looking for are: tins of meat, fish, fruit, veg, puddings, potatoes; Smash; jars of pasta sauces; UHT milk; tea; coffee; squash; cartons of juice; cereal; porridge; rice.

Name Badges

As requested, we trialled the use of labels as name badges at the AGM. There were quite a few members who took up the option of sharing their names. We will continue to use the labels at least until the end of the year.

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, or better still turn them off, 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 September Talk

We were royally regaled with the story of the "Sale of the Century" – that's not the one you used to watch on the TV in the 70s and 80s with Nicholas Parsons – this was by Graham Woodward and was about how Wollaton Hall was sold to the Nottingham Corporation just over 100 years ago. Graham detailed the history of the building which included well-known local names such as Willoughby, Middleton and Jesse Boot. The new Hall was completed in 1580 with the old Hall, located somewhere near the Admiral Rodney pub, was demolished around 1671. Jesse Boot offered to buy it for £1m in 1921 so that he could use the land for the University of Nottingham campus. His offer was declined. However, in 1925, the 10th Lord Middleton accepted an offer of £200,000 from the Nottingham Corporation (approximately £11m in today's money). Not only did they get the Hall, they also got the gardens, the lake and all of the surrounding land. It opened to the public in 1926 after some internal alterations had been made. The Hall itself is a Grade I listed building, with around another 30 Grade II listed buildings within the Park. It costs about £1.5m per year to maintain which is hardly surprising when you consider the size of the plot.

Date	Speaker	Title
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 **ALSO** – please bring along any donations for the Foodbank at Grangewood Methodist Church
26 January 2027	Marcus Alton	"Brian Clough – The Lost Tapes and other stories" – his colourful career and excerpts from a unique audio archive.

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

Date	Theme
6 November 2026	Craft Stall **ALSO** – a chance to ask about **how to use parking apps** on your mobile phones. Jane, Julie and Conrad will be on hand to answer your burning questions! **ALSO** – we will be taking donations for the Foodbank at Grangewood Methodist Church
4 December 2026	Sing-along-a-Christmas **with Mo and John** **ALSO** – final opportunity to donate to the Foodbank at Grangewood Methodist Church
1 January 2027	No coffee morning

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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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.