

u3a

Mansfield and District

NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2026



REST IN PEACE LORNA – YOU LOVELY LADY

Established 1999

Registered Charity No 11641



Website : [www.https://mansfield.u3asite.uk/](https://mansfield.u3asite.uk/)

Facebook: Mansfield & District u3a



Chair's Chat

As we move through the year, the Committee has been spending some time agreeing a small set of objectives for Mansfield u3a. These objectives aren't a checklist or a set of targets to be ticked off. They're simply a shared way of guiding our decisions and priorities, helping us focus on what really matters: the experience of being a member, the friendliness of our u3a, and keeping things

healthy and sustainable for the future.

Much of this will already feel familiar. It reflects the way Mansfield u3a already works – led by members, shaped by volunteers, and focused on activities people enjoy and value.

You may also notice us trying a few new things along the way. Some will work well, others may not, and that's fine. Learning what works (and what doesn't) is part of keeping Mansfield u3a lively, relevant and enjoyable.

We're very much at the start of this work, and the objectives will continue to evolve as we listen, learn and respond to what members value most. We hope that sharing them gives you a clearer sense of direction and reassures you that the focus remains firmly on our members. If any of this sparks an interest and you'd like to get involved or help in any way, just let me know.

Our Objectives:

Attracting and Involving New Members

Create a welcoming u3a that attracts new members through the positive experiences and engagement of existing members, supported by appropriate external promotion.

Support our groups and volunteers

Sustain a healthy and varied programme of groups by supporting existing group leaders and volunteers, making it easier and less daunting for members to start or help run new groups.

Keeping Communication Clear and Interesting

Communicate in ways that are clear, engaging, and appropriate for our membership, without over-reliance on any single method.

Ensuring a Great Member Experience

Create meetings, groups, and social opportunities that feel friendly, inclusive, and enjoyable, encouraging members to stay connected and involved.

Helping Mansfield u3a Grow Sustainably

Manage growth in a way that protects the values of Mansfield u3a, supports volunteers, and remains realistic about the capacity of venues and people.

A Little Piece of Mansfield's History

Article from the Nottingham Evening News dated 9 June 1930

THE BESOM MAKERS – OLD MANSFIELD INDUSTRY DYING OUT. ROMANTIC TRADITION OF THE ROCK HOUSES

One of Mansfield's old industries, that of besom making, which has been in existence for considerably over a century, is slowly dying out. Even up to twenty-five years ago a colony of besom makers lived in Stockwell Gate and in the Rock Houses on the Southwell Road dwellings cut out of the native red sandstone rock, and the industry found employment for many people. Today there is only a small demand for besoms made from heather and birch twigs. Indeed, this one-time thriving rural trade is now confined to one family. The last of the besom makers is Mr Tom Chamberlain, who, in his 70th year, is still engaged in the employment he learned from his father and which he has, in turn, passed on to this son.

HEATHER AND BIRCH TWIGS

The heather for the besoms is cut on the Ling forest outside Mansfield and it is essential that the plant should have had a growth of several years since the previous cutting or burning. A specially made curved hook is required for cutting purposes, the birch twigs are generally obtained from the woods at Langwith and Scarcliffe and at Harlow Wood on the Nottingham to Mansfield Road. The birch twigs must be cut in the "dead" months of the year – late November, December and January. Both the heather and birch are stacked to dry and season. The heather is ready for use 18 months to two years after cutting, but the birch twigs must remain in the stack for three to five years to make them hard and durable. The last of the besom makers, old Mr Chamberlain and his son, have lived all their lives in one of Mansfield's quaint and ancient cottages at the top of the Rock Houses, and their stacks of heather and birch twigs are well-known features on Jenny Beckett's lane. Visitors passing through a door in the stone wall will find themselves in a dimly-lighted shed and here any day they will see father and son making the besoms. The father prepares strips of split cane for binding purposes, and the son makes the besoms.

HOW BESOMS ARE MADE

Taking a handful of the feathery part of the heather, or ling, the younger Chamberlain neatly and evenly arranges around this the long dry, tough and seasoned birch twigs and then placing the bundle in what may be called iron tongs, worked by the feet and acting as a vice, he presses the twigs together, afterwards, securely binding them with the strips of split cane, which he twists in and out to afford a firm hold. The uneven pieces at the butt end are chopped off and then a handle of hazel or ash, about three and a half feet long and quite straight, is driven in at the end and fastened with a peg. By Mr Chamberlain's expert hands a besom is fashioned in a few minutes.

When years ago, trade was good in this industry numbers of besoms were supplied to estates in the district for use in the stables and on the roads. Malsters also used to take them, and so did colliery companies. But motors have now displaced horses, factory made brushes and brooms are in use and at the mine's machinery does the work which the brooms used to perform. But they are still required on the big estates where they are useful for sweeping up leaves and grass from the roads and lawns. Quite a number of Mansfield besoms are sent into Derbyshire and Leicestershire.

THE ROCK HOUSES

It was only within recent years that the Mansfield Town Council took steps to preserve the Rock Houses by enclosing them, but by that time irreparable damage had been done to these relics of a by-gone age, for they had long been a playground for children. Today the remains of a couple of the houses can be seen from the top of the Southwell Road but there are several others near-by on private property which have now been wholly enclosed and are not on view to the public. These Rock Houses, says Groves in his "History of Mansfield" had their counterpart at Sneinton. In both places there were dwellings cut out of the sand rock and the chimneys of the habitations stood above the surface of the earth. There are legends which assert that these places are of the same age as those in Nottingham and that when Sherwood Forest existed in all its glory they were used as houses by outlaws in short that Robin Hood and his followers occupied them. The work of excavation was very roughly done and without much labour owing to the crumbling nature of the sandstone. In the opinion of Groves the Rock Houses are many hundred years old and were made by squatters who saw an easy way to escape rent and to possessing a permanent home. The example of one would be followed by others. At one time there were as many as 23 families in the Rock Houses and they included several of the old besom makers. Close by these houses and above them, in a tiny dwelling, old Molly Ashmore carried on a dame's school over a century ago.

This information was kindly submitted to me by Angie Roche who administers Mansfield Past and Present Living History Facebook Page. Yvonne.



Mr Tom Chamberlain

Mansfield u3a Cinema Group Group Leader - Christine Smith

On 2 February the Cinema Group met up to experience the John Bishop inspired tale.

Whilst the film had a good storyline, the swearing was a little over the top. It was lovey to meet up again thank you for your support.

If any of our members would like to join this enthusiastic group of film goers please don't hesitate to contact Christine Smith.

Christine's details can be found in the Group List at the back of this Newsletter.

"Is This Thing On?" review – funny is as funny does in Bradley Cooper's John Bishop-inspired tale.

The review from The Guardian :

Comic actor Will Arnett finally gets a straight dramatic role and he's playing ... a comedian. Well, a would-be comedian. But he's not an outrageously awful or failing one; the point of this film is not the delicious ironic cringe of delusional loserdom.

Arnett plays Alex, a regular guy with a regular job, married with two young kids but unhappily heading for divorce. He discovers standup comedy by performing in an open mic slot one night on a weed-fuelled whim, and finds that audiences love his unfunny but sweetly honest confessional ramblings. And then he kind of improves – but are we supposed to think by the end that he is, in fact, genuinely funny? It's not entirely clear. And the film, though likable and spirited and nicely acted, isn't completely convincing on its own terms. It is, after all, intended to be funny on its own account.

Christine posts upcoming visits on the Facebook page. Bill Harrison



PATHFINDERS – LINDA KENNEDY

Bracing Winds, Teacakes and the Great Woolly Hat Mystery

Once assembled in the car park at Lambley Lane Recreation Ground (well... almost all assembled — there is *always* one who decides to start the walk from a completely different location), we set off across the recreation ground, crossed Colliery Way and entered Gedling Country Park.

Gedling Country Park has a fascinating history. Work began here in 1899 to create Gedling Colliery, driven by the huge demand for coal. It quickly became the lifeblood of the village and surrounding area. At its peak just after the Second World War, the colliery employed over 2,000 people and produced more than a million tonnes of coal a year. It became known as the “**Pit of Nations**”, as miners from over 15 different countries came to work here. Coal was last extracted on 7 November 1991, and after many years the site was transformed into the country park we enjoy today, opening to the public in March 2015.

Once in the park, we tackled a couple of short but steep inclines to reach a viewing point. We paused to admire the views across Nottinghamshire... or at least we *would* have done if the damp weather hadn't hidden most of them. Let's just say it was atmospheric.

We continued along the path behind the solar farm, heading steadily downhill towards the Visitor Centre. By this point the cold had well and truly set in, so coffee and teacakes were very welcome.

Refuelled and re-hatted (after a brief but intense game of “*hunt the woolly hat*” — oh look, it was in my pocket all along... you know who you are!), our circular walk wound its way through a mix of woodland and grassland. In the summer, these grassy slopes are excellent habitats for butterflies and ground-nesting birds.

Heading down towards the lakes along the Nature Trail, we passed a series of wooden wildlife sculptures, including an owl, rabbit and a mole — all much more cooperative than the actual wildlife on such a cold day.

We also passed the Memorial Garden, which reflects the importance of mining to the Gedling area and commemorates those who once worked at the colliery. Features include raised beds shaped to represent the winding wheel, mine carts recalling how coal was moved underground, and planting designed to blend naturally into the landscape.

We were also pleased to welcome Sue and Julie, two new starters on the walk. We hope they enjoyed braving the cold with us and very much hope to see them again on a future Pathfinder walk.



If you are not currently on the Pathfinder email distribution list and would like to join us on a future walk, please email me at groupconvenor.mansfield@gmail.com

Solo Dining – Sheila Pegg

Our February evening meal took place at The Foxglove where fifteen of us enjoyed lively conversation and good food.

Solo Sunday Lunch – Sheila Pegg

We held our February Sunday lunch at The Golden Eagle where we tucked into roast dinners.

Whilst the service was efficient most of us agreed that the food was not as good as on previous occasions.

However, we welcomed a new member and hope she will join us again.

Due to the increasing numbers of people wishing to join us, it is with great reluctance that I cannot take anymore names at present for either of the Solo Dining groups. If the situation changes, I will let you all know through this newsletter.

Bridge – Sheila Pegg

We had two enjoyable bridge evenings in February. Our numbers are increasing; we had enough people to fill three tables. Our next dates are as follows:
2 March, 16 March and 20 April. (6 April is Easter Monday so there will not be a bridge session that day).

Soft Tennis – Christine Smith

If you are looking for some gentle exercise and a laugh, they are some spaces on the above group. It is held at Oaktree leisure centre, next to Tesco's, on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month and starts at 2pm, If you would like to come along and see what we get up to, no need to book, if you arrive at 1.50, you can play or just take a look, we provide all the equipment, you need flat non - black soled trainers.

International Dining – Christine Smith

Our first outing for the new dining group was on February 11 at EGO. Fourteen foodies turned out to find a full carpark and a very busy restaurant. As we had not pre ordered we had quite a wait for the food to appear, but this gave the group time to chat and get to know each other. We decided, as a group, to pre order in future. When the food arrived, I tucked in and forgot to take a photo !! but as I looked around the table I noticed empty plates, so the food was worth waiting for. A big thank you to everyone for supporting this group. Next outing is on the 25 of February at Ciao Bella, Nottingham Road. If you have booked onto this date, can you please check out the DINE OUT menu and let me know your choice for starter and main, the puddings can be chosen on the night. Thanks in anticipation.

Canine Walking Group – Calling all waggy tails!



Three adventurous dogs (and their well-trained owners!) have already been exploring the lovely trails around **Pleasley Pit Nature Reserve** and **Vicar Water Country Park**... but we need a few more paws on the path to make it a proper pack!

If you and your four-legged friend fancy some fresh air, friendly company and plenty of sniff-stops, we'd love you to join us. I will be at the members meeting in March so please come and speak to me for more information.



Helen

At our February Meeting, we were transported back to Heartbreak Hotel ...

Elaine temporarily resumed her hosting duties, and set the mood with her Elvis puns, and prepared us for a treat involving music and watching Paul Lillie transform a blank piece of canvas into a very unmistakable depiction of Elvis Presley. Whilst most of the audience grew up listening to Elvis and probably already knowing much of his life story, indeed Mick and I and possibly quite a few of our members, have been lucky enough to visit Graceland, Paul was able to throw some insights into the star that possibly aren't so well known.

Before our eyes Elvis appeared on the canvas and we readily joined in with some of his songs. Judging from the "exit poll" everyone thoroughly enjoyed Paul's very entertaining visit to our u3a. Yvonne.

Paul sent us these insights into his life :



"I work as an Artist at Nottingham City hospital where I use a mixture of art and music to support the wellbeing and mental health of patients as part of the Hospital Trust's Arts programme. In my talk about Elvis, I performed songs on the guitar and encouraged audience participation. It was fascinating to hear Mansfield u3a members discuss their own memories of Elvis. I trained at Wimbledon school of Art and have appeared on various BBC programmes such as the One Show and The Simon Mayo show."



WRITING FOR PLEASURE – HILARY MILLER

The Writing for Pleasure Group welcomed James Ellson, author of several crime novels, to our February meeting. We enjoyed his talk at the u3a monthly meeting last year and decided to invite him to lead a workshop.

He began by breaking down the writing of a short story. We heard how to channel ideas including plot, planning and writing prompts. We were then all asked to write the opening of a short story and some members shared their ideas with the group. James gave useful comments.

Finally, he advised us to "Start with a bang and end with a twist."



DIP IN AND DISCOVER

TABLE TENNIS AND INDOOR CURLING

Monday March the 23rd, a dip in session has been booked at 11am to 12noon.

This is to try out Table Tennis and Indoor Curling. You do NOT have to bend to try the curling, the stones are pushed by sticks.

If there is enough interest in the above, we may look at starting new groups, **if a leader can be found!**

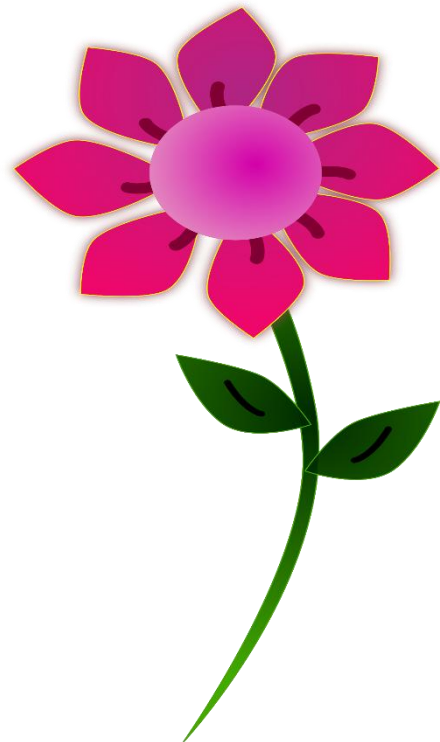
The session will be £3 per person, so come along and give them a try, no need to book, just turn up at 10.50.

Oaktree Leisure Centre, next to the big Tesco
Looking forward to seeing you there –
Christine Smith.



LORNA PYE

As soon as I saw the lovely photograph of Lorna on our Facebook page, holding up the pen holder that she had made at the Beading Group, I knew that I had found my front cover photograph. It was absolutely devastating therefore to learn that a few days after having a lovely conversation with her at our main meeting, she closed her eyes for the last time. Harry, her husband, gave me permission to keep it on the front page and I hope you will enjoy seeing how delighted she was with her beautiful creation. Yvonne



SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE IRENA DUBOWSKI

Retirement is a journey not a destination.

Future Dates :

QUIZ– Friday 10th April, 1.30 pm-4pm at Mansfield Bowling Club. Teams of 8, a prize of £5 each – total £40 for the team. Don't worry about being in a team we will place individuals. There will also be a bingo quiz with prizes. £5 a head with refreshments included of tea/coffee and cake. Spaces on sale at the March Main Meeting. Come and have some fun.

FRENCH NIGHT – Wednesday 15 April 26 - 6.30pm at Refined Restaurant. All 20 places have been booked. We will book a lunch in May and June at Refined.

NNNG – Picnic in the Forest – 17 June 10.00am at Sherwood Forest Centre. There will be games organised by the different u3a's and musical performances. Bring your own picnic.

RUTLAND WATER – Tuesday 8 September, an all day excursion. We are looking at combining a 45 minutes round trip cruise on Rutland Water at £14 per person for the boat trip, with a visit to either Gates Garden Centre or Rutland Nursery. The cost of the Ravenshead U3a minibus is £11,50 per person. We will go to the garden centre first so lunch can be purchased.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH - booked for Tuesday 8th December, 12.00 at Forever Green, Ransom Business Park, Southwell Road, Mansfield. 2 courses £21 and 3 courses £25 with free tea/coffee. A £10 deposit will be collected at the March meeting to secure a place.



Christmas Menu

Starters

Red Lentil & Butternut squash Soup **V,VE,GFOA**
Served with Focaccia

Smoked Mackerel & Lime Pate **GFOA**
Served upon toasted Focaccia & Beetroot Salad

Fig & Ricotta Tart **V,VEOA**
Served with a Honey & Balsamic Dressing

Mains

All mains are accompanied with seasonal vegetables & crushed new potato

Turkey Roulade **GFOA**
Stuffed with Pork & Cranberry Stuffing, wrapped in streaky bacon
Served with a natural roast sauce

Grilled Seabass Fillet **GF**
Served with Stir-fry vegetables & Sweet Chilli Sauce

Mushroom, Brie & Cranberry Wellington **V,VEOA**
Complimented with a Tomato & Garlic Sauce

Desserts

Traditional Christmas Pudding **V**
Served with a Brandy & Vanilla Custard

Yuletide Chocolate Fudge Log **V**
Served with a Caramel Sauce & Vanilla Ice-cream

Biscoff Cheesecake **V**
Served with a Vanilla Sauce

Salted Caramel Brownie **V,VE,GF**
Served with a Vanilla Sauce

NEW CARD CRAFTING SESSIONS - JILL WEST

These are in addition to the existing card classes which are full.

Tuesday 14th April, 12th May and 9th of June. All are 1pm to 3pm at the Quaker Meeting Rooms off Rosemary Street Mansfield.

Please contact Jill on 07554012769 if you are interested. Everyone is welcome although the sessions are aimed at beginners to moderate level. Sessions include tea / coffee and biscuits. All materials are provided and everyone will make 1 or 2 cards per session. Donations of £5 per person per session to cover hall costs and material costs etc. is requested.

If these sessions are popular they will be followed by 2 sessions on Christmas Cards in Sept / Oct or Nov.

GARDENING GROUP – MARILYN DIBBLE

At last, Garden Group starts again next Tuesday.

Our speaker is Steve Lovell and the topic is Perennials for all seasons.

This year's Garden Group trip is to The Tropical Butterfly House and then onto Dukeries Garden Centre; the date is 7th July. We are hiring a mini bus.

Please could you put your names on the list on Tuesday, if you would like to go, no deposit yet, I just need numbers.

This year's Garden Group prices remain the same, £16.00 for four meetings for members or £5.00 per session for guests.

WE NEED YOUR HELP – A PLEA FROM CAROLE AND BILL

Can you please help us to get the word out about Mansfield u3a? We have some publicity leaflets and if you could take any to hand out to family and friends who might wish to join us, it would be very much appreciated.

Leaflets could also go to your hairdresser, doctor, dentist, sports venues or any other place you go to.

The leaflets can be found on the signing-in desk at monthly Members Meetings.

Your Monthly Planner 2026

Day / Week	Week One	Week Two	Week Three	Week Four
Monday	Tai Chi 10.30 Bridge 18:30	Tai Chi 10.30 Writing for pleasure 14.00 Scrabble 14.00	Tai Chi 10.30 Crafty Chat 14.00 Bridge 18.30	Tai Chi 10.30 Classical Music 14.00
Tuesday	Gardening 10.00 Soft Tennis 14.00	Antiques & Collectables 10.00 Soft Tennis 14.00 International Dining	U3a Monthly Meeting 10.00	Family History 10.00 Card Crafting 13.00 (or the last Tuesday) Soft Tennis 14.00 International Dining Popular Music 14.00 Wine Appreciation two 19.30
Wednesday	Beadwork 10.00 Watercolour painting 14.00	Beadwork 10.00 Strollers 10.30 (except December) Calligraphy 13.00	Beadwork 10.00 History 10.00 Wine appreciation one 18.30	Beadwork 10.00 Calligraphy 13.00
Thursday	Solo Dining, evening Bowling 13.00	Bowling 13.00	Reading Group 13.30 Bowling 13,00	Pathfinders 10.30 (or the last Thursday) Bowling 13.00 Shufflers 12 noon
Friday	Current Affairs 10.00	Read a little aloud 14.00		Sci Tec 10.00
Saturday				
Sunday			Solo Dining, lunch	

Additonal Information

Cinema Group – will end on 30 March for the summer.

Family History - excluding August and December

Gardening – March to December, excluding August. Mansfield Theatre – Dates and times vary, see website for details

Tai Chi – excluding Christmas and New Year and instructor's holidays

GROUP DETAILS

GROUP	LEADER	CONTACT	WHEN	WHERE
Antiques & Collectables	Patricia Blackwell	01623 481745	Second Tues 10-12 noon	St Peter's Centre
Beadwork	Marilyn Jones	07803 244841	Each Wednesday 10-12 noon	Hilcote
Bowls	David Drew	07960 385537	Thursdays	Lammas Sports Centre
Bridge	Sheila Pegg	07883 720657	First & Third Mondays	Rushley Inn 6.30-9 pm
Calligraphy	Marilyn Jones	07803 244841	Second & Fourth Wednesday	Hilcote 1 -3 pm
Card Crafting	Jill West	07554 012769	Last Tues in month 1 – 3pm	Friends' Meeting House
Cinema Group	Christine Smith	07859 249086	Every Monday	Odeon Cinema
Classical Music	Michael Allen	01623 653345 07565 936859	Fourth Monday 2-4pm	Leader's Home
Crafty Chat	Stephen Hall	07940 460250	Third Tues 2-4pm (Term Time only)	Friends' Meeting House
Current Affairs	Graham Headworth	01623 468883	First Friday 10 – 12 noon	Mansfield Bowling Club
Family History	Valerie Wood Ken Gilbert	v.a.l.woody11@ gmail.com	Fourth Tues 10-12 noon	Members' houses

Gardening	Marilyn Dibble	01623 634805	First Tuesday 10 – 12 noon	St Peter's Centre
History	Philip Tucker	01623 437516	Third Wed 10 – 12 noon	Mansfield Bowling Club
International Dining	Christine Smith	07859 249086	Second and Last Wednesday of month	Various restaurants.
Mansfield Palace Theatre	Julia Hyde	0792 414101	Details of shows will be Advertised on Website & Meeting	Mansfield Palace
Pathfinders Walking	Linda Kennedy	07543 293814	Last Thursday In month 10.30 am	Various locations
Popular Music	Elizabeth Ellis	01623 644429	Fourth Tues 2 – 4 pm	Members' Homes
Read a Little Aloud	Sue Howlett	01623 627423	Second Friday 2 – 4 pm	Members' Homes
Reading Group	Peter Dawson	07475 713368	Third Thursday 1.30 to 3.30pm	Group Leader's home Farnsfield
Scrabble	Lynne Payne	07954 463384	Second Monday 2 – 4 pm	Group Leader's home
Shufflers	Sylvia Newlyn & Ian Lakin	01623 655893 07989 668275	Fourth Thursday	Various
Science & Technology	David Drew	07960 385537	Suspended	Mansfield Bowling Club
Soft Tennis	Christine Smith	07859 249086	Weekly on Tues 2 – 3pm	Oak Tree Leisure Centre
Solo Dining	Sheila Pegg	07883 720657	First Thursday Evenings times vary	Various Venues
Solo Dining Sunday Lunch	Sheila Pegg	07883 720657	Third Sunday	Various Venues
Strollers	Sue Howlett Valerie Hart Ian Lakin	01623 627423 07745 208248 07989 668275	Second Wed 10.30 am	Various Venues

Tai Chi	June James-Barrett & Marie Barrow	07948 501666 01623 628142	Mon 10.30 – 11.30 am	Bethal Chapel, Nottm Rd
Wine Appreciation	Michael Allen	01623 653345 07565 936859	Third Wed 7.30 pm	Members' Homes
Wine Appreciation Group 2	Graham Allin	01623 474662	Fourth Tuesday 7.30 pm	
Writing for Pleasure	Hilary Miller Susan Ford	01623 620067 01623 844 286	Second Mon 2 – 4 pm	Friends' Meeting House
Holidays and Outings	Denise Whitsed Liz Wilson	07791 941502 07837 710386	Denise & Liz are members of Sherwood u3a	Both come to our meetings To share details of their trips and holidays.

IMPORTANT NOTICES - First of all, here's hoping everyone is keeping safe and well. If anyone is struggling or needing any help in any way, please don't hesitate to let any of the Committee know. We will do our best to help in any way.

Subscription costs for the current year will be £18 and £14 for Associate Members. Cheques payable to Mansfield & District u3a. Online payments can be made. Contact the Treasurer, Gill Mallinder for bank details. Membership forms can be downloaded from the finance page on the Website. All current members must fill in all sections to comply with data protection laws when paying their subscriptions which are due in August.

Events and Visit payments. Members are reminded that deposits and payments for events and visits organized by Mansfield u3a and its groups are non-refundable, but places may be offered to others.

Changes of address etc. Please let Jean Hatton, Membership Secretary know to keep our records up to date.

If you have any health issues that you think may affect your participation in, or enjoyment of, the activities of Mansfield u3a, you might wish to disclose them voluntarily to the Group Leaders of the groups you join, should it be helpful to do so. **Please have your "in case of emergency" card with you at all times.** If you do not have one, please obtain one at the next Members' meeting.

If you are concerned about accessing one of our venues, please talk to our Accessibility contact, Linda Kennedy **07543 293814**


If you have any concerns about another member who seems to be vulnerable, and you think they might be being taken advantage of by someone, you should tell our Safeguarding contact, Irena Dubowski (07549 409262) or one of the Committee.

Should you not wish to be included in any photographs taken whilst members are engaged in any activity, please let the photographer know as otherwise we will assume your consent has been given

Disclaimer - The views expressed here are those of the contributors only and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, the Committee of Mansfield & District u3a or the Third Age Trust. Nor can any responsibility be accepted for members' announcements or any errors that may occur.

Have you heard of The Echo?

Are you having difficulty reading this, or do you know someone who would?



The Echo is an audio magazine of local news and items of interest benefiting blind and partially sighted people in the Mansfield, Ashfield and the surrounding areas of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.


Our team of volunteers prepare and record a new edition every fortnight and mail it to visually impaired listeners on compact disc or USB flash drive.

Please contact us if you or someone you know is visually impaired and would like to be included on our mailing list. It is free of charge, subject to certain conditions, and may also be available to others having disabilities which make reading difficult.

You can contact us by mail, telephone, e-mail or by visiting our website.

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