

u3a

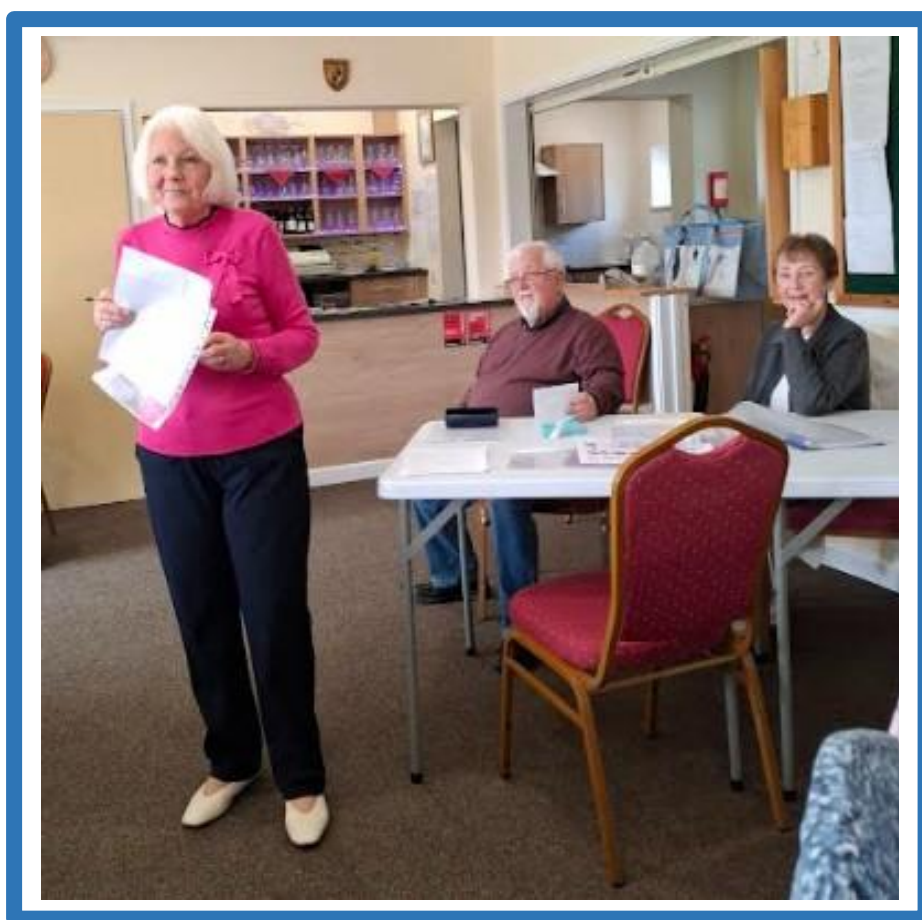
Mansfield and District

Established 1999

Registered Charity No11641

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026



Quiz hosts Jacqueline Harkin, John Severn and Julia Hyde who helped with refreshments

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

Facebook: Mansfield & District u3a





Chair's Chat

Most months I tend to jump straight in and write this, as usually know what I want to say. This time I found myself hesitating, thinking I should come up with something suitably inspirational about spring. In the end, I think Bill got there first with his excellent poem on the front of last month's newsletter.

Less inspirational perhaps, but for me spring is simpler than that. It's being able to get out in the garden more, noticing the new growth, and trying (with mixed success) to get the lawn back into shape. It's getting back to playing bowls outdoors in the sunshine, at least on the better days, and enjoying our morning walk in daylight rather than the dark.

It's a good time of year to take things as they come and make the most of it. I hope the weeks ahead bring a few simple chances to get out, try something different, or just enjoy the change of pace.



SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE - IRENA DUBOWSKI

Retirement can and will be a glorious time in your life. You'll love the freedom and ability to try new things. It's a new phase of life; a chance to become a beginner again.

Future Dates :

REFINED RESTAURANT - We have booked twenty-four places for lunch at Refined for May 22nd and June 14 th at 1pm. A £12 deposit will be collected at the April Main Meeting to secure a place in May.

NNNG - Picnic in the Forest - 17th June 10.00am at Sherwood Forest Centre. There will be games organised by the different U3As and musical performances. Bring your own picnic.

RUTLAND WATER - Tuesday 8th September, an all day excursion. We will combine a cruise on Rutland Water with a visit to the Rutland Nursery. We will leave Ravenshead at 9am. We've hired a 15 seater minibus. We will go to the garden centre first, so lunch can be purchased. Lunch has been booked for a minimum of 8 people at the garden centre at 11.30am. We will leave the nursery at 1.15pm. We will sail at 2pm on the Rutland Belle, it's a 45 minutes round trip. Spaces on sale at April Main Meeting at £35 a head.

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. There are only 9 places left which will be on sale at the April Main Meeting. Thank you to all those who have completed menu preferences. Could anyone who still hasn't completed menu preferences please see the Social Committee,

French Evening

On Wednesday 15th April nineteen of our members sat down at The Refined Restaurant to participate in a French Evening. The starters consisted of French onion soup, moules and Pork Rillettes, all of them were beautifully presented and tasty. The mains were equally as delicious and were enjoyed by everyone. The Beef Bourguignon was particularly tender. The two desserts, Mini Croquembouche and Tart au Citron were works of art.

The students yet again excelled themselves both in kitchen and front of house, The evening was enjoyed by everyone.

Pictures taken on Linda's recce for the Pathfinders' walk on 30 April
around Rainworth and Ransom Wood



Garden Visit - Mike Allen

A visit to Lynne and Barrie Jackson's garden has been arranged for members of Mansfield u3a's Gardening Group on **Saturday May 9th at 2pm**. The cost will be £8.00 pp. including refreshments. The Jacksons opened their previous garden at Nuncargate for the NGS and are continuing this with their new garden. We have a private visit.

The house, on Southwell Road, is a bungalow and has a very large drive which is useful as it is on a service road which cannot be parked on.

There is room for 5/6 cars, so car sharing is advised. The garden slopes at the rear and has grass paths, but is accessible for wheelchairs and other assorted walking aids.

Solo Dining – Sheila Pegg

Our April evening meal was enjoyed at The Foxglove where we took advantage of their 40% offer. It seemed strange going home in daylight after the dark winter nights.

Bridge – Sheila Pegg

Due to the Bank Holiday we just had one bridge evening in April and there will be just one again in May. The next dates will be 18 May, 1 Jun and 15 June.

(If you didn't find last month's April fool, the set of cards under Sheila's Bridge report had two diamond cards instead of hearts, clubs, diamonds and spades. Only one person wrote to say they had found it.)

The following email was received from Barbara Dixon on St George's Day.

This letter featured in today's edition of the Daily Telegraph and I thought it might amuse your readers. I refused to bring the hat back. The bride subsequently had three daughters and Auntie Barbara's hat lived on in their dressing - up box for years.

SIR - My sister married a French Canadian. For their daughter's Wedding, my mother insisted that, as I was representing her English family, I should wear a pastel, wide-brimmed hat, which she lent me. Unfortunately, it was too big to fit in the overhead locker, meaning I had to wear it throughout the flight - much to the amusement of the other passengers.

As I turned out, I was the only guest who wore one. Some of the others Were dressed in hot pants. Barbara Dixon, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

Gardening Group

Group Leader Marilyn Dibble



Martin Fish Guest Speaker at April Meeting

Tuesday 7 April saw the second meeting of 2026 of our once again very well attended gardening group enthusiasts.

Today's speaker was the ever-encapsulating Martin Fish. Always a pleasure to have Martin giving us one of his demonstrations and today's talk and demonstration was on house plants. Just when you think you know how to treat your indoor specimens, we learn from the master of all things plant related. You never too old to learn, with some very useful tips on how not to kill your plant's off, as always Martin's demonstrations are so well presented and everyone went home with a better understanding of house plant's survival.

We are indebted to Martin and his wife Jill for the monthly newsletter's which are submitted for the Mansfield u3a newsletter.

One of our regular u3a gardening group members, Norman is also a fountain of knowledge. With a claim to fame that he trained Martin Fish as an apprentice some years ago, so well-done Norman, you are an all-round lovely guy.

Bill Harrison



Hello everyone, and hope you are enjoying the spring sunshine. Isn't it lovely that the nights are now drawing out, meaning we can spend it little longer in the garden. That extra hour gardening makes all the difference at this time of the year when the garden is waking up and there's so much to do. It's sunny here today in Lincolnshire as I write, although it still feels chilly outside. When I've finished the newsletter, I'll be back into the garden finishing off some re-planting in one of the borders where I've been lifting perennials to divide and adding in a few new shrubs. My plan is to get stuck into the veg plot to get lots of seeds sown and potatoes and onions planted. Once that's all sorted, we can get back to the main garden where we have lots to do before our NGS open garden on Sunday 5 July. It may be two months away, but time just flies by and I'm already behind with what I'd planned. In fact, Jill has now made one of her famous lists and as we complete a job it gets ticked off! It's a long list though and as jobs are completed, we think of more to add to it. A never-ending list! The daffodils in our garden have done well this year and I'm already planning where to plant more in autumn to bulk them up. To remind me where to plant, I'm taking pictures of the beds and borders on my mobile now. The last daffodil to flower for us is Narsiccus 'Joyce Fish' which was named after my mum. It's a lovely daffodil bred by a friend in Northumberland.

Jobs for April-May

April is a great time to plant new perennials and container trees, shrubs and roses. Make sure you prepare the soil well by working in plenty of organic matter. The grass is growing faster now so lawns should ideally be trimmed little and often. It's also a good time to give them a rake or scarify to remove moss and dead material in the base of the lawn. From mid-April onwards they can also be given a fed to promote healthy growth.

Dahlia tubers can be planted directly into the borders from the middle of the month. They like a rich soil and should be planted with the top of the tuber a few inches below the soil surface.

Deadhead early daffodils to tidy them up and to prevent them from using energy to set seed.

Feed established roses and shrubs with a general fertiliser such as growmore, dried poultry pellets or blood, fish and bone and lightly tickly it into the soil with a garden fork.

Check new growth on perennials for slug damage and control if needed.

Borders will benefit from a mulch of compost to help seal in moisture, to provide nutrients, improve the soil and to help suppress weeds through the summer months.

Hardy annuals such as larkspur, nigella, clarkia centaurea and many other can be sown directly into the garden. Make shallow drill and sow the seed. Early potatoes can be planted out directly into the garden. I plant into the prepared soil with a trowel spacing the tubers around 30cm (12in) and 10cm (4in) deep. Sow carrots, beetroot, parsnips, lettuce, salad and peas directly in to prepared soil.

Onion sets can be planted out. Plant 10cm (4in) apart so that the tip of the small bulb is just visible above soil level.

Although you may have already sown tomatoes, there's still time to sow the seed. Sown now they will germinate and grow much faster with the longer days and increasing temperatures.

Feed strawberry plants as they start to grow with a general fertiliser to give them a boost. For a weekly gardening fix you can watch or listen to our "Pots & Trowels" gardening videos and podcasts by visiting www.potsandtrowels.com or on YouTube. Followers of Pots & Trowels can take advantage of the following discounts.

King's seeds offer 10% discount on seeds purchased from their web site www.kingsseeds.com by quoting the code PT2026.

PlantGrow who make a range of organic mulches and compost offer 10% discount when ordering online www.plantgrow.co.uk or by calling 01953 525001 - just quote

PT2026 Happy gardening

Martin Fish. www.martinfish.com

Message via Kathryn our Business Secretary

Hazel Ward from Arnold u3a has asked me to send out the following information along with the attached poster to our members. Please contact Hazel if you need any further information [Contact:hazelshortward@gmail.com](mailto:hazelshortward@gmail.com)

Arnold u3a (at Daybrook Bowls club) invite us to join them for their unique sport, Short Lawn Bowls and their free Open Day on 14th May. Hazel is hoping to attract people who may want to play short lawn bowls but, more importantly, to attract people from other u3as who may want to start their own u3a Short Lawn Bowls groups. Hazel can also help members to approach their own local bowls clubs.

Calling all local u3a members

A new sport invented by Arnold u3a

at Daybrook Bowls Club

Short Lawn Bowls

- Would you like to learn how to play? or
- Would you like to start SLB at your u3a?

OPEN DAY & TRAIN the TRAINER

On Thurs 14th May: FREE : 12noon to 4pm

At Daybrook Bowls Club: Address on the green below!

What is Short Lawn Bowls?

- An outdoor game, where the playing mat is set half way down the bowling lane
 - Less strenuous bowling to suit people of differing abilities.
- No experience necessary. Equipment is provided. Please wear flat-soled shoes.

2026 Mansfield u3a quiz Friday 10 April.

Forty four optimistic quizzers assembled at the Mansfield Bowling Club at 13:30, all hoping for victory and it's spoils. After sorting out tables and equipping themselves with suitable refreshments - both soft and alcoholic, the teams got stuck into the tabletop sheets.

Jacqueline and John introduced a new format this year in an attempt to spread the prize pot a bit more equitably. The first part consisted of forty questions in two tranches of twenty. Each tranche comprised four sets of five questions on a variety of categories. A huge groan greeted the announcement of the sport category! After this round there was a break to refill glasses and cups, during which the scores were collated and entered into the score sheet. There was not much in it at this stage; a mere seven points separating first from last, The Old Levels taking the lead with thirty.

After the break the tabletop quizzes were marked and the scores added, resulting in the lead being shared by Not Yet and Bits & Bobs each with sixty four.

The second part was a quiz bingo which proved a lot of fun, causing laughter and a bit of controversy.

After some initial confusion the quizzers got the hang of it and got stuck in. The first winners were Horrible Histories with a line, then Old Levels and Bits & Bobs needed a tie break for the four corners prize. Old Levels emerged victorious! Not Yet and Horrible Histories declared House at the same time, requiring another tie break. This resulted in much hilarity, and another tie break, when the correct answer was slap in the middle of the answers supplied by the teams! Controversy resulted when one of the teams used a calculator to help achieve their answer to the second question, so a third tie break was necessary resulting in the spoils for Not Yet.

The afternoon concluded with another tie break for the main prize, with Bits & Bobs emerging the victors.

They were awarded their spoils with a special Jacqueline and John prize going to The Glasses Club, for proving worthy participants. An additional "prize" awarded to the winners was the challenge for two team members to organize next year's event! All in all a fun afternoon for everyone. Many thanks to Jacqueline Harkin and John Severn for putting the whole thing together. Thanks also to Irena and Julia for enthusiastically providing hot beverages and cakes all afternoon, and Malcolm from Mansfield Bowling Club for opening, and running, the bar for us. Report by John Lawes who kept the scores up to date.

And Jacqueline (Harkin) added:

Thank you to everyone who worked behind the scenes to make the April quiz possible.

1. The social committee for organising and serving refreshments
2. The people who set the room up, and cleared away.
3. The photocopying of the table top packs, organising prize money, and collating of the scores.

A quiz is not just about asking questions, and testing our grey matter. We hopefully learned a little along the way, and certainly laughed a lot, and that is thanks to all of you who bought a ticket and came along in support of our u3a.

Team Results

TEAM NAME	ROUNDS						TABLE TOP QUIZ				TOTAL	POSITION	
	1 to 20	21 to 40	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4			
BITS & BOBS	14	15						17	18			64.0	1
NOT YET	13	15						19	17			64.0	1
THE OLD LEVELS	13	17						18	14			62.0	3
HORRIBLE HISTORIES	13	15						16	11			55.0	4
WAIFS & STRAYS	10	13						18	12			53.0	5
THE GLASSES CLUB	12	14						16	7			49.0	6

Board Games Group Report April 2026 - Julie Lawson

The inaugural meeting of the u3a Board Games Group was on Thursday 9th April at The Rufford Pub on Chesterfield Road. Unfortunately only one person turned up, Keith Walker. Nevertheless we had an enjoyable session as I had taken a selection of 2 player games. We played Magnetic Effect Chess,

Brain Maze Colour Connect, Tri-Ominos, Shut the Box, Uno Rummy and Genius Square.

Hopefully there will be more members at the next session on Thursday 14th May 11:00 till 1:00. The games are not highbrow but just a bit of fun. I will be taking Cluedo and Mousetrap, as requested by Keith, to the next session. If anyone has Yahtzee, I would be grateful to borrow that too.

As the room is limited to 12 people and to avoid disappointment, it would be best to book by contacting me on 07743427469 or emailing me on juliethesec@yahoo.com. Or come and see me at the May u3a meeting. Please feel free to bring along any games you would like to play.



Tai Chi - June James Barrett and Marie Barrow



The Tai Chi Group posing with Ken, the instructor, at their new venue - St Philip Neri's Church Hall, together with new Group Leaders - June and Marie

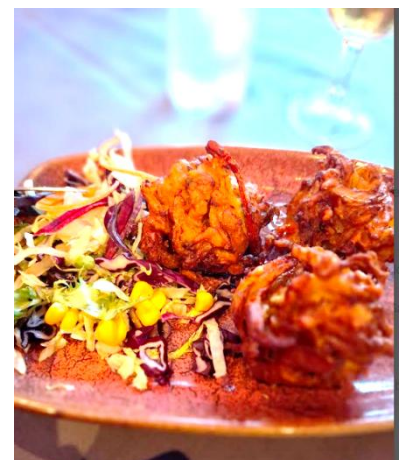
Gliding 12 noon 31 July

Glider image created by ChatGPT



Ooh Bhajis !!

On 8 April, nineteen of our International Diners sampled some scrumptious food at their first visit to Waterlily Indian Restaurant on Nottingham Road. The service and environment were second to none. Many thanks to Christine Smith for organising everyone. Yvonne (My starter pictured)



Simon Croson - Speaker on the Ascention Islands

Simon shared with a large audience some wonderful information, through his photographs and personal descriptions, about this enchanting and fascinating island that he visited on several occasions whilst visiting his wife, Caroline, who was posted there during their time in the Royal Air Force.

The rugged landscape and surrounding coastline is home to some stunning scenery and unique wildlife like nowhere else on earth. We learned that Charles Darwin and recently, Sir David Attenborough had both visited the island to study the flora and fauna.

Simon's interest in wildlife and photography shone through with his enthusiastic descriptions and recollections of the time taking the photographs from underwater explorations to lush tropical mountain forests, land crabs and green turtles.



Descriptions of modern life on the island made our audience aware of how tough life can be whilst serving your country so many miles from home but also to take advantage of some amazing places that many of us can only wish to visit.

After the talk Simon answered many questions and received an appreciated round of applause.

'Dad had a gun under his pillow': The story of how the largest collection of medieval coins was found – Mark Wilson in his own words

This may be of interest. I'm not going into great detail but I was recently contacted with regards to an edited piece in the Ravenshead monthly newsletter. The part I'm referring to is what was known as "The Fishpool Hoard," My late father, at that time, was district coroner, He was called out over some gold coins found during the excavation of what is now Cambourne Gardens. Workman were told to stop. It resulted in my father bringing a large case, which he usually used for Police Federation work, filled with both gold coins plus jewels and jewellery. Being very young I thought these were to play with! He kept them at home for a few days prior to taking them to Spinks in London for investigation. The Hoard is in the British Museum .



Mark Wilson supplied this photograph

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	U3a Monthly Meeting 10.00	Family History 10.00 Card Crafting 13.00 (or last Tuesday) Soft Tennis 14.00 Sewing 10.00 (or last Tuesday) Wine Appreciation two 19.30
Wednesday	Beadwork 10.00	Beadwork 10.00 Strollers 10.30 (except December) Calligraphy 13.00 International Dining 18.30	Beadwork 10.00 History 10.00 Wine Appreciation one 18.30	Beadwork 10.00 Calligraphy 13.00 International Dining 18.30 (or last Wednesday)
Thursday	Solo Dining, evening	Board Games 11.00	Reading Group 13.30	Pathfinders 10.30 (or last Thursday) Shufflers 12 noon
Friday	Current Affaires 10.00	Read a little aloud 14.00		
Saturday				
Sunday			Solo Dining, lunch	

Additional Information

Bowls: Indoor winter and outdoor summer coaching see website for details

Family History – excluding August and December

Gardening – March to December, excluding August

Mansfield Theatre – Dates and times vary, see website for details

Soft Tennis – excluding August

Correct at time of printing (version 1.1)

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	Starting 12 May for 4 wks. 11.30 am	Mansfield Bowls Club
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	New Group Leader required		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	07791 941502	Denise & Liz are members of Sherwood u3a	Both come to our meetings To share details of their trips and holidays.
	Liz Wilson	07837 710386		

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

u3a Festival in Sherwood Forest

Wednesday June 17 2026

**Visitors Centre,
Edwinstowe, NG21 9RN**

10.30am–3.00pm

**A free event open to all.
Join us for games, musical performances
and guided walks.**

Cafe on site or bring your own picnic.

**For a fun filled day of entertainment,
great company and plenty of spaces to unwind and
enjoy the beauty of nature together**

**Please visit the Arts and Crafts Centre
and RSPB Gift Shop**

North Notts Neighbourhood Group

**Ashfield Bolsover Dukeries Forest Town Mansfield Rainworth
Retford Sherwood Sutton Warsop Worksop**

Enquiries: slhu3a@gmail.com www.rspb.org.uk



**All Day Car Parking £7
Free to RSPB Members**

