Mansfield and District u3a

Established 1999

Registered Charity No11641

# Learn Laugh Live

# NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



Photograph taken by Dave Drew

*Website : www.*https://mansfield.u3asite.uk/

*Facebook: Mansfield & District u3a*

*Newsletter : newslettereditor.u3a@gmail.com*



## CHAIR'S CHAT

With Christmas approaching, there is plenty to look forward to at Mansfield & District u3a. Our Christmas Fair on **17 November** will be a lovely opportunity to come together, enjoy the choir, browse the stalls and catch up with friends. We also have **over 80 members attending our Christmas dinner on 8 December**—another chance to enjoy good company and celebrate the festive season.

It is also lovely to see the continuing success of International Dining, organised by **Christine Smith**, with **27 members enjoying a meal at Panda Panda**. Thank you, Christine, for bringing members together to explore different cuisines and enjoy an evening out.

These occasions remind us how much the social side of our u3a contributes to members' enjoyment. From trips and dining experiences to our Christmas celebrations, they help us get to know people beyond our regular groups. My thanks to Irena and our Social Committee and everyone who gives their time to organise and support these events.

Whether you regularly join in or have yet to try a social event, I hope you will take the opportunity to come along. You will find a warm welcome and a chance to make new friends.

## MESSAGE FROM MARIE BARROW

Christmas is coming and there will be cards in the post. Used postage stamps are collected by charities. The stamps are bought by dealers, which provides funds to charities. I still collect used stamps and donate them to charity. If members would kindly save any used stamps (UK or foreign) and bring them to the January 2027 main meeting (or any other main meeting) I'll gladly collect them and send them off.

Marie

## CARD MAKING – JILL WEST

The New Card Group has a couple of places available. If you are interested, please contact Jill (07554012769). The next session is Tuesday 10th November. We meet at the Quaker Meeting House just off Rosemary Street Mansfield (opposite the pharmacy near the Civic Centre) between 1pm and 3pm.

## SOLO DINING – SHEILA PEGG

We enjoyed a lovely evening at The White Lady in Ravenshead for our October monthly meal. The meals were delicious and the company as wonderful as usual and the solo diners also enjoyed their Sunday lunch at The Waggon at Halam. Jean kindly oversaw the proceedings in my absence and I understand a good time was had by all.

## GARDENING GROUP – MARILYN DIBBLE

**Tuesday 6 October 2026 – The Potty Plotters**

What a treat we had when Elaine and Julia came to town. They both have a love of allotments, and are paired next to one another on a council site run by the members. The allotments are 109 years old with 172 plots. They give talks to other allotment users, act as judges and generally share their love of allotments.

**P**lotters was the name of their entertaining and amusing Cheat quiz. Issued with paper and pencils with rubbers on the end we were good to go – back to the good old days. **L**oofahs are one of their favourite things to grow. In an attempt to compete with Yorkshire and their rhubarb growing, they went on local radio to publicise the Midlands Loofah Line. They received hundreds of enquiries for free seeds. When each loofah has finished growing and discarded its brown covering, you have over 200 seeds.

The loofah can be used in the bathroom, but also cut up into rings and used instead of oasis for flower arrangements. Jonathan Mosley, the celebrity florist, has made use of it in his arrangements. They joked about using them for playing games at Christmas, useful for passing the loofah.

**O**nions can be stored over winter in old tights in the shed. Each onion is separate, with a knot between each one. Thicker black tights can store the same size plant pots in each leg. When you are ready to pot-up in the spring, then cut off the foot and pull out the plant pots as needed, which are free of dust and spiders.

**T**ubers, especially dahlias, can be dried and have the soil shaken off them. Then get a large plastic container, put fresh cat litter in the bottom, add the tubers and fasten the lid on and store in a dry cool place.

**T**omatoes are a particular favourite, recommended varieties; Elaine – either Red Robin or Miranda, miniature varieties which can be grown on a window cill. Julia prefers the larger variety and has had good success with Beef Master which she sows directly into the ground. They recommended buying seeds from the family-run Just Seeds, who sells seeds in packs of small, medium and large.

**E**recting greenhouses is another passion and the total so far is 40, some new and some repurposed. They have never broken a pain of glass or had them blown over.

**R**adishes grown from Lidl vegetable seeds (£1.47) using their seed tapes are very useful, particularly for children or people with limited movement. Just lay the seed tape on the ground, cover with compost/soil and water in. Also useful for lettuce and carrots.



**S**undays at 12.00 they appear on "Twiggy's" Radio Derby show live from their allotment.

Their mantra for sowing seeds is "double the depth of the depth of the seeds".

# Members' Meetings Programme

Mansfield & District u3a | November 2026 – July 2027 - Usual venue: Mansfield Civic Centre • Tuesdays, 10.00 a m–12.00 noon

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|---|---|
| 17 November 2026 | **Christmas Fair & Social Committee Meeting**<br>Organised and hosted by the Social Committee. A festive gathering with Christmas stalls and entertainment from the Forest Singers, whose membership includes four of our own u3a members. |
| 19 January 2027 | **The Truth Behind Les Misérables — David Price**<br>A look at the history behind Victor Hugo's novel and the hugely Successful musical, including the 1832 Paris rebellion and how closely the characters reflect history. The talk has previously been described as including slides and musical extracts. |
| 16 February 2027 | **Ukulele Band – Live Musical Entertainment**<br>Featuring some of our very own u3a members, a lively and entertan ing performance filled with familiar tunes, singalong favorites<br>and plenty of musical fun. |
| 16 March 2027 | **The River Trent: From Source to Sea — Mike Burton**<br>An illustrated journey along the River Trent, exploring its landscape and history and the river's role through the heart of England. |
| 20 April 2027 | **Special Members' Meeting**<br>A Committee sub-group is planning something a little different from our usual Members' Meetings. The aim is to create a relaxed, friendly and enjoyable atmosphere, with opportunities for conversation, laughter and getting to know fellow members better. |
| 18 May 2027 | **Bring a Friend Day**<br>**Martin Rowley – The 2004 Northern Bank Robbery.**<br>The story of the Belfast bank robbery where £26.5 million was stolen. None of this has been recovered and no-one has been convicted. A story of ineptitude and, perhaps, collusion. The audience can come to their own conclusions based on the facts presented. |
| 15 June 2027 | **Helen Barrow – Communicating for a Better Life**<br>Helen will talk us through improving communication through lipreading and hearing loss management skills, with a chance to try out our lipreading skills. |
| 20 July 2027 | **Paul Lillie: The Beatles**<br>Join artist and musician Paul Lillie for an entertaining journey<br>through the music and story of the Beatles, combining fascinating<br>Insights with live music playing and painting. |

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS - IRENA DUBOWSKI

"You are never too old to set a new goal or dream a new dream." – C.S. Lewis

Future Dates :

**TEN PIN BOWLING** – Tuesday 10th November 2pm. We've booked 3 lanes at Superbowl but numbers can be increased depending on interest. Cost is £14.95 for non-Superbowl members. £9.50 Superbowl members which includes a free drink Or join on the day for £5 making it £14.50 and then you'd qualify for free drink. Pay on the day.

**CHRISTMAS FAIR** - Tuesday 17th November 10am – 12.00 noon.
The Forest Singers will perform carols and Christmas songs from 11.00 to 11.20am and then 11.40 – 12.00. Christmas jumpers can be worn. The cake stall will sell mince pies and Christmas treats. The Social Committee will be running a tombola stall. Donations of anything in a bottle; - vinegar, Fairy Liquid, beer, wine, ketchup and gift bags will be gratefully received.

**REFINED RESTAURANT LUNCH** - Friday 20th November, 1pm.

**GAMES NIGHT** – We will be holding a Fish/Chip Supper Night in January and a **QUIZ** in February

**POSSIBLE FUTURE TRIPS**
**Greyhound Racing**, Colwick Park, Nottingham. Evening Racing is Thursday and Friday. Doors open 17.30pm. Racing from 18.00 – 21.45pm. Classics Deal = £20 pp includes admission, race card, 3 course meal at a reserved table in glass fronted trackside restaurant with full table service. Drinks and betting in the restaurant.
The restaurant caters for gluten free, vegan and vegetarian diets. Tables of 8. The committee decided that we would look at booking in Spring 2027.

**Cave Escapes**, 63, Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3FN (city centre next to Victoria Centre/Trinity Square). All rooms are in a cave system. Off-peak Monday-Thursday. 2 players £30pp, 4 players £26pp, 5 + players £23pp. Time limit 1 hour. We will be booking after Christmas.

**Amazon Fulfilment Centre**, East Midlands Gateway. The committee are looking at booking for April. 60-90 mins long. 1 flight of stairs and a walk. Free entry. We will look at booking the Ravenshead minibus.

**The Holocaust Centre**, Laxton. We are booking in Spring.

## AFTERNOON TEA AT CAFÉ BOUTIQUE



Twenty-one members had an amazing afternoon tea on Saturday 3rd October at Cafe Boutique at The Patchills Centre. Rachel, the owner served us a selection of sandwiches, sausage rolls, pork pie, a savoury wrap, a cheese scone, cream cheese, a cherry scone, cream, jam and two different cakes. Gill Mallinder was well catered for with her own gluten free tower. We all left feeling very full and a number of us had to ask for a takeaway box as we couldn't manage to finish the food. The group decided that they'd like the Social Committee to organise more afternoon teas in the coming months.





This picture created by AI



## THE LOST CITY - ELAINE HUCKERBY

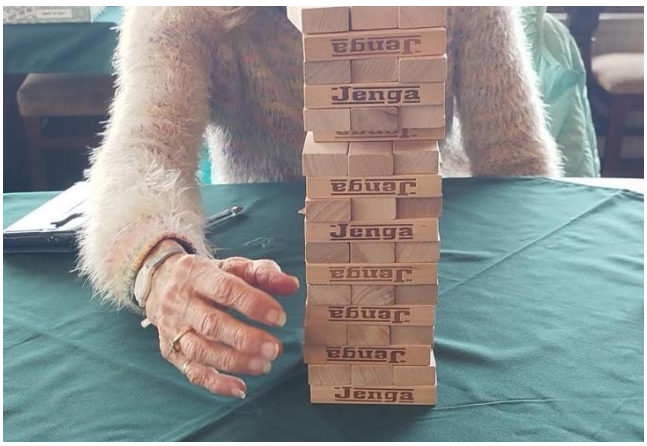
An enthusiastic, but not necessarily skilled, bunch of golfers tackled the Lost City Adventure Golf in Nottingham's Corner House. Undeterred by the eerie atmospheric lighting, a fair few managed a hole-in-one. Equally, however, it's safe to say that we also made some rather unsuccessful putts! Above all, we had a good laugh, a free hot drink and a very enjoyable lunch afterwards. What's not to like?!






## BOARD GAMES – JULIE LAWSON

Here is my report for this month. Five of us enjoyed an afternoon playing games at The Rufford Pub. Starting with a very competitive game of Beetle, which Steve won, we moved onto a more challenging game of Cluedo, again Steve was the winning detective. We then tested our dexterity with Jenga and finished off with a quick fire game of Snap which Joyce won. Commiserations this month to Gill and Eileen.




Hope to see you to join in the fun at our next meeting on Thursday 19th November. 2:00 till 4:00. Only 50 p charge to cover prizes.

Photograph supplied by Julie Lawson

## SPEAKER AT OCTOBER MEETING – JOHN PERRY JP

Talk on the work of the magistracy from John Perry JP, recently retired Presiding Justice on the Nottinghamshire bench; also past Chair of the Nottinghamshire Magistrates Association.




Retired civil servant, and also Publicity Officer for Bingham u3a.

John's talk described the work of JPs, how they are appointed, the cases they deal with and their sentencing powers. Members were then asked - in groups hence the need for tables - to act as magistrates on three sentencing exercises, thus ensuring plenty of audience participation.

John would be happy, if we wished, to take a group around an empty Nottingham court and then take us into a court that was in session. Photograph supplied by Mick

## INTERNATIONAL DINING – CHRISTINE SMITH

Le Mistral the French restaurant in Sherwood which was a great success, Twenty-two diners enjoyed a wonderful evening of good food and good company. All photographs from Le Mistral supplied by Christine Smith






# The Royal British Legion – Bill Harrison

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Today's meeting was a chance to pay tribute to those brave men and women who sacrificed so much for our freedom.

I would like to thank all those that bought a token of remembrance when purchasing one of the Poppies on display.

You're support and donations is much appreciated..



The final total amount raised was £96 pounds. This was presented to David Drew along with the wreath on behalf of the Mansfield u3a to be laid at the cenotaph at the civic centre Mansfield.

Hand- made Double Poppies @ 5.00 x 13 £65

Hand-made Single Poppies @ £2.00 x 13 £26

One donation of £5.00

Many thanks to you all, the monies will be donated to: The Royal British Legion

The Royal Airforce Association -

## Royal Flying Corps' Losses 1914 -18 - Report and Poem by Dave Drew

I'm always sad that when we reach this season of remembrance that little thought is given to our horrendous losses in the air. For four long years the RFC struggled with inadequate machines against a superior enemy. One such was the RE8 a photo recce machine known to its crews as the " Harry Tate." Harry being a music hall comedian. They said the joke was on the crews being expected to go to war in an airborne joke.

So here is my tribute to brave men flying in the face of danger :

The RE8 came home late, pilot wounded observer dead.
The plates exposed were on the nose.
Pilot wounded, observer dead.
'Here's a gap in the wire the brigadier noted.
It's just the job for Buffy's mob to show what they can do'
So, they sent for Buffy, who smiling, sipped his tea."A fighting patrol in strength sir, leave it all to me."
At company level they halted, these orders handed down.
The mug holding the baby, that was captain Brown
Who led his taggled band of clerks and cooks and miners
None of whom had planned
to be a fighting soldier till Kitchener's pointing hand.
Nearing the gap in the wire up went star shells bright
The angry snarl of machine guns shredded the stilling night
Artillery fire came plunging, already zeroed in.
The devil's tunes triumphant, hells own battle din.
The RE8 had come home late pilot wounded observer dead
Here's a gap in the wire the brigadier had said
Whilst the men he sent to find it.
Lay and quietly bled.

Thus, the war in the air is tied to the slaughter on the ground.



**SHUFFLERS-** Having a meal at the Cafe at the Quarry, Berry Hill. Everyone had a good meal and gave a birthday card to Sheila . The cafe gave us all a slice of cake to celebrate.

Article and photograph supplied by Ian Lakin

# Pathfinders – Brimington Circular Walk

Ten Pathfinders joined Richard for a moderately challenging 5.7-mile walk around Brimington, enjoying a lovely mix of open fields, woodland and some great views.



There were plenty of stops along the way to admire the scenery and identify the wildflowers, including the rather pretty Lacy Phacelia, also known as Fiddleneck. Who says walking can't be educational too!

Recent high winds had brought down a tree across our route, but nothing was going to stop the Pathfinders! We managed to clamber our way through, while Richard, a Pathfinder through and through, found an alternative path. However, we weren't going to let him off that easily and insisted he go back and wrestle with the fallen tree, just as the rest of us had done.

Another lovely walk, with great company, plenty of fresh air and a few unexpected obstacles to keep things interesting. Photographs and article supplied by Linda Kennedy



## GROUP DETAILS

| GROUP | LEADER | CONTACT | WHEN | WHERE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Antiques & Collectables | Sue Longden | 01623 486903 | Second Tues 10-12 noon | St Peter's Centre |
| Beadwork | Marilyn Jones | 07803 244841 | Each Wednesday 10-12 noon | Hilcote 10 – 12 noon |
| Board Games | Julie Lawson | 07743 427469 | Third Thursday 2-4pm | Rufford Arms |
| Bowls | David Drew | 07960 385537 | Recommences Most likely Jan - 30 April 2027 | 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 Tuesday in month 1 – 3pm | Friends' Meeting House |
| Cinema Group | Caz Heath | 07936 363171 | Beginning Sept | 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 | Tim Whitworth | 07813 734319 | Third Wed 10 – 12 noon | Mansfield Bowling Club |
| International Dining | Christine Smith | 07859 249086 | Second and Last Wednesday of month 6.30 pm | Various restaurants. |

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| 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 Friday In month 10.30 am | Various locations |
| Photography | Chris Kennedy | Chair.mansfieldu3a@gmail.com | Third Thursday 10 am | Members' Homes |
| Popular Music | Tony Havercroft | qwe456ui@gmail.com | Last Wednesday 1– 3pm | Friends' Meeting House |
| Read a Little Aloud | Sue Howlett | 01623 627423 | Second Friday 2 – 4 pm | Members' Homes |
| Reading Group | Peter Dawson | 01623 882191 | Third Thursday 2 – 4 pm | 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<br>07989 668275 | Fourth Thursday 12 noon | Various |
| Soft Tennis | Christine Smith | 07859 249086 | Weekly on Tues 2 – 3pm | Oak Tree Leisure Centre |
| Solo Dining | Sheila Pegg | 07883 720657 | First Thursday Evenings & Third Sunday Lunch Times vary | Various Venues |
| Strollers | Sue Howlett Peter Sullivan | 01623 627423<br>00797 3907845 | Second Wednesday 10.30am | Various Locations |
| Table Tennis | Linda Priest | Priest.linda62@gmail.com | Last Monday in Month. 11-12 noon | Oak Tree Lane Leisure Centre |

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| Tai Chi | June James-Barrett & Marie Barrow | 07948 501666<br><br>01623 628142 | Mon 10.30 – 11.30 am | St Philip Neri's Church Hall |
| Wine Appreciation | Michael Allen | 01623 653345<br>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<br>Susan Ford | 01623 620067<br>01623 844286 | Second Mon 2 – 4 pm | Friends' Meeting House |
| Holidays and Outings | Denise Whitsed<br><br>Liz Wilson | 07791 941502<br><br>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 next year will be £20 and £16 for Associate Members. Cheques payable to Mansfield & District u3a. Online payments can be made. Contact the Treasurer, Pat Cleland for bank details.

**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 Jacqueline Harkin, 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

## Message from the Editor

**I would be very interested to know what you would like to see more of in the Newsletter and what you wouldn't mind seeing less of!! Please send me your stories. Please think about the Newsletter when you have something you want to report to our members.**

**Yvonne at newsletter.editoru3a@gmail.com. Ideally before 26th of the month please. Looking forward to hearing from you .**