



**Whan that Aprill with his shoures soote  
The droghte of March hath perced to the roote...  
Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages...  
...to Caunterbury they wende...**

Well, I don't know about you, but Geoffrey Chaucer's description of early Spring and its reference to the 'droughte' (drought) of March bears little resemblance to this year's Spring so far, which, like much of the winter that preceded it, is generally best described as wet, soggy and miserable with the odd fine day thrown in to tease our bedraggled spirits a little. Whether April is filled with 'shoures soote' (sweet showers) remains to be seen, but one thing that is for certain is that, whilst most of us will not be following in the path of Chaucer and going on a pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral this Spring, we all have our own journeys – some of which will, hopefully, get us out and about, or just exploring, what brilliant new opportunities and activities our U3A has to offer.

How about stretching your legs a little by joining the Ramblers? Or, for those who prefer gentle strolls, WhatsApp Walkers may just fit the bill – and keep you fit at the same time. Crown Green Bowling, at the Ollerton Bowling Club, is again on offer this year after a very successful season in 2025. It all looks deceptively easy on the TV – but is it really as straightforward as it looks?

Or what about learning to play a 'fun' musical instrument, such as a Ukelele or a Banjo? Release your inner George Formby and have a lot of laughs whilst you are doing so.

Learning to play Bridge, or Mahjong, Rummikubs or Scrabble, is a great way to keep the little grey cells cheerfully ticking over in addition to enjoying the company of like-minded aficionados. The AllSorts / Gardening Group and the Sewing Bee both offer the chance to exercise your creativity within an encouraging group atmosphere.

Those are just some suggestions for your own U3A 'journey' this year. There are many others – Creative Writing and History, for example, together with a whole range of special trips, outings and events which are coming up this year. Further information – including contact details – about everything your U3A has to offer can be found within these pages.

*With Every Good Wish,*

*Mike*



## Group Meeting Times

	1st in month	2nd in month	3rd in month	4th in month
<b>Mon</b>			Monthly Meeting 12.30pm. Jubilee Hall	
<b>Tues</b>	Ramblers 6-8 m 9.30 Jubilee Hall  The Banjoleers Jubilee Hall 10am till 11.30am  Tuesday Lunch Club 12.30 for 1.00 pm	Bridge Group 1pm till 4pm Jubilee Hall  Guitar Group 10.00 till 11.30am Ambleside	Ramblers 6-8 m 9.30 Jubilee Hall  The Banjoleers Jubilee Hall 10am till 11.30am	Bridge Group 1pm till 4pm Jubilee Hall  Guitar Group 10.00 till 11.30am Ambleside
<b>Wed</b>	All Sorts Games & 10am till 1 pm Ambleside Centre  History Group 1.15 to 3pm Ambleside Centre  Soft Tennis 12 to 1pm Ollerton Scout Hall	Sewing Bee 10am to 12pm Ambleside Centre Rummikubs Ollerton House 2pm to 4pm Play Reading 1.30pm to 3.30pm Ambleside Centre Soft Tennis 12 to 1pm Ollerton Scout Hall	All Sorts Games & 10am till 1 pm Ambleside Centre  Creative Writing 2.15 to 4pm Ambleside Centre  Soft Tennis 12 to 1pm Ollerton Scout Hall	Sewing Bee 10 to 12pm Ambleside Rummikubs Ollerton House 2pm to 4pm Play Reading 1.30pm to 3.30pm Ambleside Centre Soft Tennis 12 to 1pm Ollerton Scout Hall
<b>Thurs</b>	Ukulele group 10.00 to 12.00pm Jubilee Hall	Ukulele group 10.00 to 12.00pm Jubilee Hall  Savoy Cinema Worksop 1.30pm	Ukulele group 10.00 to 12.00pm Jubilee Hall	Ukulele group 12.00pm Jubilee Hall
<b>Fri</b>	Scrabble 13.30 South Forest	Mah jong 10 till 12 pm Ambleside Centre		Mah jong 10 till 12pm Ambleside Centre

**Sunday Lunch Club** 4th Sunday in Month 12.30 for 1.00pm

**Tuesday Lunch Club** 1st Tuesday of the month 12.30  
for 1pm

# **Committee 2025-26**

## **Chair, Publicity & Press**

Mike Mounsey



## **Business Secretary**

Position Vacant

## **Treasurer**

Jane Young



## **Website & Groups coordinator**

Paul Webb



## **Membership**

Sharon Jones



## **Newsletter Editor**

John Harris



## **Health & Safety Officer**

Chris Neighbour



## **Deputy Chair**

Maria Pitrolino-Baranauskas



## **Social Media**

Jamie Baranauskas



## **Non Committee Roles**

### **Co-ordinator Charity Donations**

Pam Hardwick



### **Speaker Finder**

Ann Street



### **Events Team Co-ordinator**

Leslye Henstock



### **Minute Taker**

Sue Cook

# April's Speaker

## George Nelson - 'Oar Blimey' - Rowing the Atlantic for Dementia Charities



George Nelson undertook a massive challenge in rowing the Atlantic with his brother in law, Russell Davis, to raise funds for people affected by dementia. The funds they raised were in aid of Vicki McClure's Our Dementia Choir and Help at Hand, based in Ladybrook Community Centre, Mansfield. Starting from Portugal in December, the "Oar Blimey" team aimed to reach Saint Martin in the Caribbean by March.

In his illustrated talk George will share with us the story of their hair raising adventure where they encountered whales, sharks and even a flying fish.

## Jugs Jamboree Thursday March 19th



WOW! What a fantastic day we had at the John Fretwell Complex, Mansfield. Eighty ukulele players from as far away as Hull, Halifax, Leicester, Derby and Doncaster, as well as those who live round about, all gathered together for a fun day. The whole gathering played together from the Jamboree Song Book with enthusiasm. Then we split into 8 random Hatband groups each given a mystery song to work on, ready to perform later. During lunch we were treated to 9 performances , 'Open Mic', by soloists and small groups which was a treat. In the afternoon each hatband showed off their songs to a very appreciative audience and finally we all joined in the last play-along. The Jamboree raised £1300 for the two chosen charities, John Fretwell Complex and The John Eastwood Hospice.. Everyone left with a smile on their face, saying they had enjoyed meeting and making new friends and the hope that we would put on a similar day in the future. Well done Jubilee Ukulele Group

*Linda Bond*

# Linda Bond & Phil Topley presenting the John Eastwood Hospice with a cheque for £1000.00



Plus a £300.00 cheque for the John Fretwell  
Centre, all money raised at the recent  
Jugs Jamboree.

# A few more JUGS Pictures...



# Irish Social Night



The 30 or so members who came to the Irish themed social on Saturday night made a real effort to dress the part.

With costumes, many hats and even one or two beards, it was a very colourful evening. [See photos...Click Here](#)

Leslye, as usual, with her team of willing helpers, pulled out all the stops to make it a fun night. The entertainment just kept going all evening, a card game followed by Bingo, a Beetle drive, competitions for the best costumes, a professional photographer with lots of props, a selection of Irish jokes, a Raffle which raised a hundred pounds and the grand finally, a paper aeroplane competition to see who could make, decorate and fly their plane the furthest. Altogether a very enjoyable night, so a big **thankyou** to the events team for yet another successful social evening. *John Harris*





# History Group

## A History of Edwinstowe



Steve Long a local historian, is going to give a talk on the history of Edwinstowe. How it came to be and its early days.

**From St Edwin to Robin Hood**

**Starting at 1.30 on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April.**



Do you have an interest or passion for a time, person, place or event but don't want to commit to regular meetings? If you would like to come along for one session and share with us, you would be more than welcome. Just get in touch.

The group meets on the **1st Wednesday** of the month at Ambleside Community centre, Yew Tree Road, Ollerton from **1.15 to 3pm** £1 for refreshments

Group Leader John Harris. 077077 37095

# Dukeries u3a Bowling Group



**If you have never tried green bowling before, or you are keen to get started for the new season, Ollerton Bowling Club, Whinney Lane, Ollerton have invited us to use their facilities again this year. No experience is necessary as instruction can be provided by the friendly members of the Bowling Club. All equipment will be provided, or you can bring your own if you have it. You will need to wear flat shoes. Dukeries Bowling**

**Group will start on Wednesday, 13th May with further sessions every two weeks after that. The playing day/time is Wednesdays from 1.30 to 3.30 p.m. There is a charge of £4.00 for each session which includes a cuppa and biscuits during the half time break. Free car parking is available.**

**For further information contact Alan Saunders  
on 01623 631993**

**DUKERIES U3A EVENTS TEAM  
ANNOUNCE A NEW EVENT!**

**THURSDAY 30 APRIL 2026 4.00pm  
UNTIL 6.00pm**



## ***POTTERY PAINTING, PROSECCO AND PATISSERIE***

Come and release your creative skills at

*M Spalding Studio, The Art and Craft Centre, Opposite  
Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre.*

**Starting 4.00pm** with a glass of fizz or orange juice and cake.  
Choose your pot to paint. Treat yourself? Gift for someone?

A wide range of pots, plates, vases and ornaments are  
available from £16 to £22 (purchase on the day).

All materials and paints are provided, and guidance is given.

Relax and enjoy taking your time to complete your creation,  
which you leave at the studio to be glazed and fired by Melissa  
to produce a professional, high colour finish. Your product  
will be waterproof and suitable to use with food and liquids.

You can collect your finished pot after a week or we can  
arrange collection.



Car Park – head for Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre and turn left into the approach road.

At The Art and Craft Centre, turn left through the wrought iron gates leading into the car park (free for two hours)



*Need a lift? Speak to us!*

Tickets will be on sale on **MONDAY 20th APRIL AT JUBILEE HALL £5 PER PERSON**

Email [slhu3a@gmail.com](mailto:slhu3a@gmail.com)

**Pay online** Reference **"Pottery and Your Name"**

DUKERIES THIRD AGE GROUP (U3A)

**SORT CODE 30-54-66 ACCOUNT NUMBER 47824960**



*'YOU SHALL GO TO THE  
PANTOMIME'*

## ***Cinderella***

Starring Adam Moss,

Mansfield's Favourite Funny Man

MANSFIELD PALACE THEATRE

**MONDAY 21 DECEMBER 2026**

**2.00pm SHOW** GREAT SEATS

To book your places\*

Come to the Events Table on

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April

Email [slhu3a@gmail.com](mailto:slhu3a@gmail.com)

Car Sharing Possible

\*payment in full by June 15 2026 **£25.50**

# **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**

**u3a**

**u3a**

**u3a**

**North Notts Neighbourhood Group**

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

**Enquiries: [slhu3a@gmail.com](mailto:slhu3a@gmail.com) [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)**



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



# **A trip to Barnsdale Gardens.** *Now open to friends & family.*

**Friday June 19th**, Leaving Jubilee hall 8:45.  
Returning approx Eightish.

The trip includes the following,

...transport and admission to Barnsdale gardens.

... a ride up to Rutland Water, a boat trip is available,  
this is an optional extra.

.... on to the Horse and Jockey at Manton. Meals are  
an option extra. Menus will be available nearer the  
time.

... return home to Jubilee Hall

Total cost is **£38.00** a full non returnable payment is  
required by our March Meeting.

I will be at the next meeting to take your  
payments You may pay by bank transfer, details are  
available. You can pay cash as well.

*It should be a good fun day.*

*Thanks, Sharon Thornhill* **07739 003251**

*Group leader Allsorts and Gardening group.*

*Link to Barnsdale Gardens web site,*

*<https://barnsdalegardens.co.uk/>*



# COME WITH US TO SCARBOROUGH FAIR!

DATE FRIDAY 10 JULY 2026

COACH LEAVES JUBILEE HALL  
8.00AM RETURN FROM  
SCARBOROUGH 4.30PM

**STOP ONE.** The Scarborough Fair Collection which hosts a magnificent working collection of Vintage Cars, Steam Engines, Vintage Fairground Rides and Mechanical Organs topped off with a 'Mighty' Wurlitzer Organ in the spacious ballroom.

**STOP TWO.** Scarborough – Free time to walk by the sea (or dip into it!), shopping, eat fish 'n chips and ice cream!

**INCLUSIVE PRICE** £20.00 per person\* (*based on 45 people going*)

**Buy your seats at the Members Meeting Monday 20 April**

*Pay on-line details below*

**DUKERIES THIRD AGE GROUP (U3A)**

**30-54-66**

**A/C 47824960**

**REFERENCE SCARBO AND  
YOUR NAME**

Email [slhu3a@gmail.com](mailto:slhu3a@gmail.com)

*This trip has been subsidised by Dukeries U3A. The coach company reserves the right to add a fuel surcharge.*





FRIDAY 24 JULY  
DUKERIES USA  
PRESENT

## OUR EXCITING BEETLE DRIVE and GAMES NIGHT!

Jubilee Hall, Wellow Road, Ollerton, NG22 9AP

Doors open 6.00pm Choose your table, chatter  
and drink

Take your seats by 6.30pm

Bring your own drinks, glasses and a pen

Nibbles served during the break

Beetle is good fun. All games easy to play

Full instructions will be given on the night

Come and join in! Live Laugh Learn!  
Guests are most welcome

Prizes for the winners

Charity Raffle £1 per ticket

This is a Ticket Only Event  
Members £5 Guests £6

TICKETS ON SALE AT THE APRIL  
MEMBERS' MEETING





WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE  
THE RETURN OF

# THE JUKEBOX JURY SHOW!!!

**THIS YEAR FEATURING THE 70'S**

MONDAY 17 AUGUST 2026

JUBILEE HALL, OLLERTON

Doors will open 12.15      2 Course Lunch with tea and  
coffee served 12.45



Jukebox Jury Show 2.00pm

**Tickets will go on sale**

**April 20th At the Members' Meeting.**

## **ESSENTIAL INFORMATION WHEN PAYING ON-LINE FOR TICKETS FOR EVENTS**

Dukeries u3a has changed banks and our account  
is now with Lloyds.

Should you wish to pay on-line for an event,  
the details are as follows:-

### **DUKERIES THIRD AGE GROUP (U3A)**

**Account 47824960 Sort Code 30-54-66**

#### **IMPORTANT**

**Please Reference with EVENT NAME and YOUR NAME.**

**For example, IRISH BILL BLOGGS.**

## **Information from The Events Team**

### **Dietary Requirements**

When booking tickets for events, please ensure you  
advise the ticket-seller, if you have a particular dietary  
requirement

(vegetarian, gluten-free, dairy-free etc).

Every effort will be made to accommodate your  
requirements.

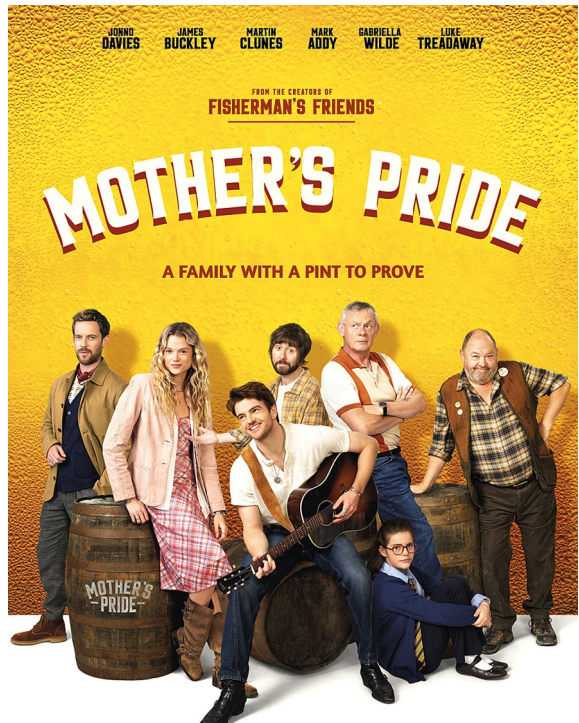
# SAVOY

## Worksop

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

About a failing pub, a divided community, and a grieving family whose lives are changed by brewing real ale and entering the Great British Beer Awards.

**Trailer**



**New Ticket Price £5.15**

**Whether you have a drink or not....**

Doors open 1.30pm Show starts at **2pm**

Greatly reduced ticket price, for u3a members only.

**Remember to bring your membership card...**

# CALYPSO MOON

ALL-WOMEN JAZZ AND SWING BAND



**OLLERTON JUBILEE HALL (NG22 9AP)**

**Thursday 16 April, 7:30pm**

**£15.00 (Standard) / £13.00 (Standard in advance)**

BOOK NOW: 07860 248085 or [wendy@allthingsbride.co.uk](mailto:wendy@allthingsbride.co.uk) or for online tickets visit [liveandlocal.org.uk](http://liveandlocal.org.uk) or scan the QR code

*Bar available on the night*



**LIVE  
& LOCAL**

MAJOR OAK POP CHOIR PRESENTS

# THE SHOW MUST GO ON

*Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> 2026*

*St Mary's Church, Edwinstowe*

*5:00pm performance (Doors open 4:30pm)*

*7:00pm performance (Doors open 6:30pm)*

*(Please book for one performance only to  
enable maximum attendance)*

*Please park at Edwinstowe House NG21 9PR*

*Tickets £7 including raffle number*

*Contact Carol on 07494 252153 to book tickets*



**Lets get  
Together.**

**Informal social get-togethers, early evening in the Ollerton House next to the Jubilee Hall**

If you would like to do something more interesting in the evening, instead of sitting at home flicking through the channels, do come along.

You buy your own drinks, tea or coffee, and stay as long as you want. Everyone is welcome, especially singletons who would like to get out more!! A member suggested it should be called the Laughter Club after a recent hilarious meeting.

Simply text your name and mobile number to Dave on **07517 699105** and he will contact you.

**Contact Dave today and make more of your Winter evenings.**



# Air Ambulance



The raffle at the Irish social evening produced **£100** and throughout the month I have been given donations from generous members and also my happy band of gardeners. The total for this month is **£213** which has been forwarded to Air Ambulance today.

Once again my sincere thanks go to all our charity supporters within the Dukeries u3a and beyond and be proud that the running total of funds you have donated is now a staggering **£9,570**.

Well done and I hope we can make this total **£10,000** by the end of the year

Your Charity Coordinator,

*Pam Hardwick*

**Air Ambulance News.**

*[Click Here](#)*

Don't forget to check out our Website,  
lots more to see there....

<https://dukeries.u3asite.uk/welcome/>

*Just click or tap the link above...*





# Nottinghamshire County Show

Experience the best of farming  
& rural life from your county



DISCOUNT  
**£15**  
TICKETS

16 YEARS  
**FREE**  
& UNDER

OPEN 9AM - 5PM

**9 May 2026**  
AT NEWARK SHOWGROUND

[nottinghamshirecountyshow.com](http://nottinghamshirecountyshow.com)

\*16 & under free of charge when accompanied by a paying adult and will still require a ticket.

\*\*Discounted tickets are available until midnight 1 May 2026, thereafter gate prices will apply.

# DIARY DATES DUKERIES U3A 2026

MONDAY 13 APRIL	COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 20 APRIL	MEMBERS' MEETING
FRIDAY 24 APRIL	TRIP TO NEWARK GARDEN SHOW (TICKET EVENT)
THURSDAY 30 APRIL	PAINT A POT PARTY (TICKET EVENT)
MONDAY 11 MAY	COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 18 MAY	MEMBERS' MEETING AND AGM
MONDAY 8 JUNE	COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 15 JUNE	MEMBERS' MEETING
WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE	U3A FESTIVAL, SHERWOOD FOREST
	FRIDAY 19 JUNE TRIP TO BARNSDALE GARDENS (TICKET EVENT)
FRIDAY 10 JULY	DAY TRIP TO SCARBOROUGH (TICKET EVENT)
MONDAY 13 JULY	COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 20 JULY	MEMBERS' MEETING
FRIDAY 24 JULY	BETLE DRIVE & GAMES SOCIAL NIGHT (TICKET EVENT)

MONDAY 10 AUGUST	COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 17 AUGUST	LUNCH AND JUKEBOX JURY 70'S SHOW (TICKET EVENT)
MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER	COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER	MEMBERS' MEETING
MONDAY 12 OCTOBER	COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 19 OCTOBER	MEMBERS' MEETING
MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER	COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER	MEMBERS' MEETING
SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER	SUPPER AND QUIZ NIGHT (TICKET EVENT)
MONDAY 7 DECEMBER	COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 14 DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
MONDAY 21 DECEMBER	CINDERELLA PANTOMIME PALACE THEATRE MANSFIELD

# *Creative Writing Group*



The Creative writing Group will meet on the **Third Wednesday in the Month 2.15 to 4pm.**

Meetings will be held at the **Ambleside Centre**  
All welcome (Currently no charge)

*Mike Mounsey*



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
NETWORK**

## **NEWSBITES!**

Sharing ideas across 34 u3a's in Nottinghamshire

*Click on the link for the  
latest Newsbites*

<https://nottsnetworkofu3as.u3asite.uk/newsbites/>

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# u3a friends



Join up for the latest 'Friends' magazine

Have a look on the link....

['Click Here'](#)

And **u3a Extra** with products & services

[Click Here...](#)

## **Interest Group Leaders**

All Sorts/Gardening	Sharon Thornhill	07739 003251
Bridge	Georgina Batty	07772 649281
Bowling	Alan or Val Saunders	01623 631993
Banjoleers & Guitar	Phil Topley	07980601018
Creative Writing	Mike Mounsey	01623 824789
History	John Harris	07707737095
Mahjong	Val Saunders	01623 631993
Play reading	Leslye Henstock	07946 702296
Rummy Kub	Linda Bond	01623 861595
Ramblers 6-8m	Stephen Hall	07877 792969
Scrabble	Christine Storer	07980 511308
Sewing Bee	Jane Young	07980 378979
Soft Tennis	Paul Webb	07803 606928
Sunday Lunch Group	Maria Pitrolino	07904 269549
Tuesday Lunch Club	Beryl Lee	07967 801467
WhatsApp Walkers	Hazel & John Francis	07484 728027
Ukulele	Linda Bond	01623 861595

## **Just in case...**

If you have any health issues that you think may affect your participation in, or enjoyment of, the activities of Dukeries u3a, you might wish to disclose them voluntarily with the Group Leaders of the groups you join.



Please have an "in case of emergency" card with you at all times and/or enter details onto your mobile phone.

# All Sorts Group



What a wonderful morning ladies had making Christmas cards. Lots of fun had and lots of mess and fingers stuck together ha-ha. Here's some pictures of their work.

If you fancy having a go at various things pop along and see us at **Amleside** every **1st and 3rd Wednesday** of the month, **10am till 1pm**. For further information please contact,

*Sharon Thornhill 07739 003251*



## A picture of a few of our happy band.

'The Banjoleers are a 16 strong group of like minded individuals, getting together twice a month to play, laugh and enjoy ourselves, We like to think we are 'Improving / advanced' players but don't let that fool you or put you off. If you would like to give it a go, come and join us. We're also looking for some additional voices, so even if you don't fancy playing an instrument, come along with your voice and have some fun.

Every **first & third Tuesday** of the month, **10 to 11.30 am** at **Jubilee Hall**. Playing joyful songs, having a laugh and enjoying ourselves.

For information contact Phil Topley, **07980 601018**



# *The Bridge Club*

Not to be confused with any National, International or any other conventional Bridge clubs ! If you enjoy playing cards and social interaction - this is the group for you !

If you are a seasoned Bridge player, please come along and join us - you will be made very welcome, and can join in the play immediately.

Alternatively, if you have played Bridge in the past, and have become 'rusty' - but would like to take it up again, you are quite at liberty to come along to sit and watch, until you feel confident enough to join in.

Whatever you decide, we have experienced players who will offer kind help and advice. You do not need a regular partner, as we all rotate round and play different people - hence, lots of social chatter !

You will find no harsh judgement or criticism - This is a social occasion where everybody is very friendly and encouraging, and where the emphasis is on having fun !

## **Tuition**

For those who have never played Bridge, but would like to learn, we are now happily able to offer Tuition.

*Next Page...*

Linda Bond has very kindly offered to teach newcomers. If you are interested, please contact us and we will put your name down on the waiting list. The idea is, to integrate the novices into the main Bridge group when they are ready, and this is proving very successful.

We have often been asked about tuition in the past, but until now, have reluctantly had to respond negatively. A big 'Thank You' to Linda for offering this service, which is much appreciated !

The Bridge group meets at the Jubilee Hall, Wellow Rd, Ollerton , DN22 9AP, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in the month - from 1pm until 4pm. There is a break for Refreshments at 2.30pm. The first visit is free of charge, but thereafter, the fee is £3 per session. This covers the rent and refreshments.

Either, just drop in, or contact us beforehand.

For further details please contact Georgina Batty,  
Group Leader, on **07772649281**

PLEASE JOIN US - WE LOOK FORWARD TO  
SEEING NEW FACES !





# New Guitar Group

## Change of Venue and Time....

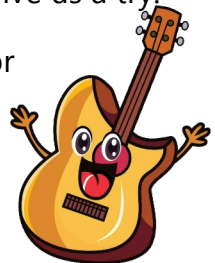
Phil Topley is organising a new Guitar group which will meet twice a month,

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at Ambleside Centre, 10 till 11.30pm.**

**Next Session 14<sup>th</sup> April**

This new group is being set up by Phil (from Banjoleers), and is initially for intermediate players with their own equipment. However, at this embryonic stage the group is looking to learn from each other and decide on the direction it will take. There are currently about 5 people who have expressed an interest but if you play or have played in the past, please come along and give us a try.

Why not give Phil a call on **07980 601018** or just turn up and see if you like it?



# Mah Jong

2nd & 4th

Friday each month



Ambleside, Yew Tree road, Ollerton  
NG22 9UW, 10am to 12pm.

Mah-jong is an interesting, tile-based game that was developed in the 19th century in China and has spread throughout the world since then. It is played by three or four players with a set of 144 tiles based on Chinese characters. Similar to the Western card game of rummy, Mahjong is a game of skill, strategy and luck.

New members are very welcome and existing members will help any newcomers wishing to learn the game.

Refreshments are available at each meeting.

£1 - £2 per session depending on numbers attending



For further information, contact  
Val Saunders 01623 631993



# PLAY READING

**Perfect for theatre lovers and beginners alike!**

*When:*

- ❖ Second and Fourth Wednesdays of the month **1.30 to 3.30 pm**

*Where:*

- ❖ The Ambleside Centre, Yew Tree Road, Ollerton, NG22 9UW
- ❖ What3words app: nightfall.schools.profile

*What to expect:*

- ❖ Discover the joy of play reading
- ❖ Meet like-minded people
- ❖ Improve your reading and performance skills
- ❖ A friendly and welcoming atmosphere
- ❖ Engaging readings of classic, contemporary, and homegrown plays
- ❖ No experience necessary – just bring your enthusiasm!
- ❖ Refreshments provided

*Why join the Waiting List?*

- ❖ Be notified when we have a vacancy
- ❖ Opportunity to join a second group if demand is there

*More Information:* Group convener: Leslye 07946 702296

[slhu3a@gmail.com](mailto:slhu3a@gmail.com)

# Ramblers Rambles

Well, the weather gods really took a liking to us for the 2nd of our March walks. It was St Patrick's Day and Mave did us proud with her green outfit, Irish socks(ask her when you see her) and even a St Patrick's day necklace !



We ventured a bit further afield this time and have to thank Stephen and Milan for scouting out a fabulous walk around the Derwent Dams, it was on excellent paths, with wonderful views and at 18 degrees, by far the warmest walk we had in a very long time. If you look at the photos you can see the water cascading over the dam which is an amazing site. I also look a bit ,teenage girl, distracted! I was trying to get the Dambusters theme on my phone but there is definitely no mobile phone signal at LadyBower Dam.! Our first walk was to an old favourite as we were in search of dry paths.! We walked from the railway station at Mansfield Woodhouse through the Country Park to Pleasley Vale where we stopped for chip cobs at the little cafe and then back to Woodhouse. Part of this route crosses a meadow to the River but Graham opened the gate to the field and realised it was that waterlogged we would need to find an alternative route back, so much for dry paths.! That's it for March, our first April walk will be on Easter Tuesday when we will have to do a good long stretch to walk off all the Easter eggs. All the best, Stephen & Kate.



# Rummikubs Group



We meet on the **2nd and 4th Wednesday each month**,  
in the restaurant at  
**The Ollerton House pub, Wellow Road, Ollerton,**  
**2.00 – 4.00pm.**

About 12 of us meet for a friendly game of Rummikubs at the Ollerton House. If you would like either to play, or to learn to play, please come along and join us. NO FEE but do buy a drink as a thankyou to the Ollerton House for giving us the use of their restaurant.

Cheer's Linda Bond  
01623 861595)



Here is a link to the latest news.... [Click Here...](#)

S C R A B B L E

South Forest Leisure Centre  
Clipstone Road, NG21 9JF  
1st Friday of the month  
1:30pm till 4pm

Contact **Christine Storer** on **07980 511308**  
**for more information.**

The image shows a screenshot of the Dukeries website. At the top, the text "Dukeries on the Web" is written in a large, blue, cursive font. Below this is a yellow navigation bar with the following links: "Welcome", "New members", "Chairperson", "Committee", "Groups", "Events", "Newsletters", "Contact Us", "U3A", "Gallery", "Community", "Gallery 2", "Coronation", and "AGM 2023". Below the navigation bar is a blue header section with the word "Dukeries" on the left and the "u3a" logo on the right. At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a white box with a blue border containing the text: "To find Dukeries u3a on the web, just click, [Dukeries.u3asite.uk](http://Dukeries.u3asite.uk)".



# Sewing Bee

**Second & forth Wednesday in the month. 10am till 12.  
Ambleside Community Centre, Yew Tree Road, Ollerton**



Sewing machines available for use, bring a basic sewing kit and any sewing projects, if you have any. New members very welcome. Knitters, Crochet and needle work undertaken.



Contact Jane Young **07980 378979**

# Tennis, Badminton Pickleball, Boule & Frisbee



Soft Tennis, Badminton and Pickleball (a fast growing sport from the USA), and when the weather suits we also have Boules/Petanque and Frisbee outside.

It's open to all ages and abilities and it's great fun so please come along for some gentle exercise at the Scout Hall, Back Lane ,Ollerton.

Just wear sporty clothes and shoes and bring a drink

Please contact Paul on **07803 606928** for further information or click on the organiser link below to send an email.

We use a WhatsApp group to communicate each week and for special events such as drinks and meals out so please send me your name and mobile number.

More information on our website, [click here](#).



Hope to see you soon,  
Paul Webb on **0780360692**

Or email, [paulmwebb@hotmail.com](mailto:paulmwebb@hotmail.com)

**You will have a great time !**

# Sunday Lunch Club



The Dukeries u3a Sunday lunch club Christmas lunch. This year we visited the Lansbury in Edwinstowe. It was a wonderful lunch with great company. Next year's new Sunday lunch club venues and dates will be available in January. If anyone is interested in coming next year please see either Maria or Jamie.

**Maria Pitrolino 07904 269549**

# Tuesday Lunch

If you enjoy good food.

Why not join us? You choose the ones you want and do not have to support every event.

**Program for 2026 on the next page....**

Open to all, for more information contact Beryl on

**07967 801467** Or email [golferberyl@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:golferberyl@yahoo.co.uk)





## TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB 2026 PROGRAMM

Feb 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Spread Eagle Hockerton
Mar 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Greendale Oak Cuckney
April 7 <sup>th</sup>	The Angel Blyth
May 5 <sup>th</sup>	Refined Mansfield
June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bella Vita Ollerton
July 7 <sup>th</sup>	Rufford Park Golf Club
Aug 4 <sup>th</sup>	The Devonshire Langwith
Sept 1 <sup>st</sup>	The Chequers Ranby
Oct 6 <sup>th</sup>	The Lion Farnsfield
Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup>	West Retford Hotel
Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	Bella Vita Ollerton

Meet 12.30 for 1pm

Beryl Lee 07967801467

# WhatsApp Walkers....

The WhatsApp walks take place on a **Thursday every two weeks at 10.30am**, they are mostly local walks of 3 to 4 miles, we meet at suitable local starting points relevant to the walk, some of the starting points can be accessed by public transport, If a lift is required our friendly members are always willing to oblige. We usually contact everyone by WhatsApp but will also contact by phone call or text message.



A lovely walk around Bevercotes Pit Wood followed by snacks, drinks and Ice Creams at Thaymar Ice cream parlour.

If you would like to join the group please contact  
**Hazel or John Frances on 07484 728027**

You'll be made most welcome.

*Regards Hazel.*

# Jubilee Ukulele Group



Jubilee Ukulele Group, Dukeries U3A

Over the past three years ,the group have held several fundraising concerts for charity, as well as performing at other events locally.

This year we are holding a first for us.

We are getting very excited, and just a little nervous. On the 19th of this month the group will be hosting a Ukulele Jamboree for 80 ukulele enthusiasts, travelling from all the surrounding counties as well as Nottinghamshire. The planning for this event began last September with invitations sent to local U3As and other ukulele groups. Now everything is coming together, with a whole day planned for ukulele players to meet, get to know each other, share their expertise and generally have fun. The icing on the cake is that it will also raise funds for a good cause, as all the proceeds will be donated to 2 local charities, John Eastwood Hospice and the John Fretwell Complex.

I'll let you know how we get on next month!!

*Linda Bond*

**Meetings Thursday at Jubilee Hall,  
10 to 12pm.**

**Cost £1.50 *inc refreshments***

*Linda Bond*

## Information for group leaders.



### Groups Coordinator.

The group coordinator is here to help all group leaders manage their interest Group and also to help anyone who is interested in setting up a new interest group. Please find below a very useful handbook which all current and future interest Group Leaders should read and refer to

[Handbook for Group Convenors Leaders\\_updated2024.docx](#)

You can contact the coordinator using this link [group coordinator](#)

### Website Group Page updates

If you need any changes making to your group page please keep me informed now and in the future, this could include ...

Opening page – I can add photos and any details you would like adding

Future events – I would need to know the venue, date, time, cost, arrangements etc

Past event write up – I can add any write up with photos and comments

Other things can be added that I may not have thought of at the moment

You can contact the website manager using this link

[website manager](#)

Paul Webb

Website & Groups coordinator.

Do you fancy yourself as a singer?  
Would you like to try?

Have you wondered whether you could sing in a choir. No test or audition, just turn up and give it a go...

Here's a few words from John Banbury, a member of the Dukeries Singers...



"We as a choir believe anyone can sing and is good enough to be part of the group, we would like to get that over to anyone Interested, most people think they cannot sing well enough but I can assure you that's not the case, I was a guy who only sung to himself in the shower, now I am really enjoying singing with folks. You only have to see what Gareth Malone achieves in the workplace getting people to sing, its just that we need people to come and try, they will be surprised what they can do and that we don't have auditions or checks on the way people sing."

So, if you fancy giving it a try, contact....

John Banbury  
07759 086132

Dukeries Singers  
23 Paddock Close  
Edwinstowe  
Nottinghamshire  
NG21 9LP

Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/dukeriessingers/>

# **North Nottinghamshire Neighbourhood Group (NNNG)**

## **The following u3a's belong to the NNNG:-**

Ashfield, Dukeries, Bolsover and District, Forest Town & District, Mansfield & District, Rainworth & District, Sherwood, Sutton, Warsop & District, Worksop & District and Retford.

## **What does this mean?**

Anyone from a NNNG u3a can join an activity group, or join a trip. Membership cards must be shown. This is based on places being available.

If you wish to join activity groups, and join social events, in any other u3a, you will need to purchase an Associate Membership from them.

Non NNNG u3a members can join an activity group but must complete an Affiliate Membership form.

Non u3a Guests on trips, must complete a one day membership form.

**Dukeries u3a welcomes members from other u3a's on these terms.**

NNNG actively encourages these opportunities to share members' skills, talents and experience. Learn, Live, Laugh

## **Health and Safety Information**

Members of Dukeries u3a each have the responsibility to keep themselves safe, keep others safe and avoid making an environment unsafe, when taking part in activities.

Please continue to do the following: -

Avoid meeting others if you feel unwell or are infectious

Continue wearing a mask if want you to protect yourself and others

Avoid touching other people (hand-shaking, hugging and kissing) if you feel uncomfortable and want extra protection against infection.

Frequently wash your hands for 20 seconds and avoid touching your face. Ensure that equipment is clean to use in Activity groups.

Event and activity organisers, please ensure windows and doors are open to ventilate the rooms

If you are leading an activity, you do need to keep a register of names at each meeting and file it.

When signing up for a physical activity, please ensure it is within your capability (for example signing up for a walk which is too long for you)

Wash hands before serving refreshments, and ensure all crockery and utensils are clean before and after use.

If we each take on the responsibility, to protect ourselves and safeguard our friends, we will all enjoy our social lives.

Thank you.

Chris Neighbour, Health and Safety, Dukeries, u3a

## **Disclaimer**

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

Please send contributions for the next issue to [johnhu3amag@gmail.com](mailto:johnhu3amag@gmail.com) as early as possible and not later than the 27th of the month.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.

Newsletter Editor: John Harris

Website: <https://dukeries.u3asite.uk/welcome/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dukeriesu3a>

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