

 *Staying Connected.*

No 77 July 2026



I don't know about you, but I have had more than enough of the glorious weather that is sweeping across this country with monotonous regularity, bringing heatwave after remorseless heatwave to plague us by day and by night.

As we all know, heatwaves can wreak a devastating toll on health, especially amongst the elderly and the vulnerable. I have two good friends who have recently experienced bouts of breathlessness leading to hospitalisation, and one is still in Kings Mill with pneumonia. The message is, I think, to keep an eagle eye out for all of our friends, neighbours and family who may be experiencing real – and frightening – difficulties at the current time.

The heat was not, however, a problem that deterred our members, led by the indefatigable Leslye, from participating in the recent 'Festival in the Forest' event in Sherwood Forest. Together with participants from other North Nottinghamshire U3As, a full programme of entertainment was mounted, from guided walks through the forest to welly-wanging, and both of our musical groups, the Banjoleers and the Ukelele ('JUGS'), performed with great flair on the day. My particular thanks go to Leslye for her key role in organising the Festival, and also to Linda and Phil for ensuring that the Dukeries U3A was, as always, represented with flying colours.

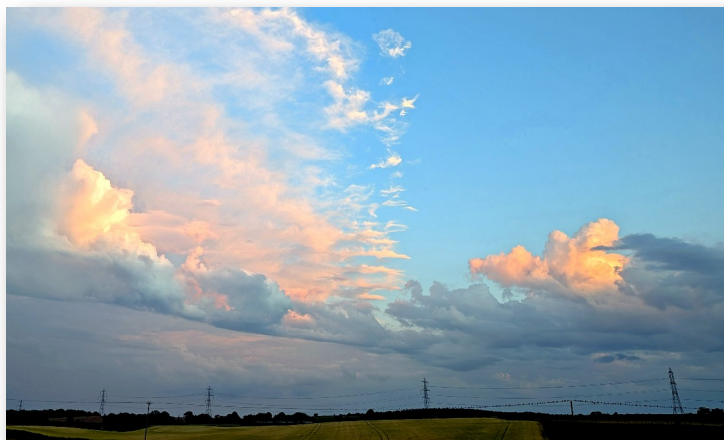


Finally, I have a plea which I very much hope that someone reading this Newsletter will be able to answer. As many of you – especially, perhaps, newer members – will know, at long last the Dukeries U3A has a Social Media presence which has hitherto been very professionally designed and managed. We are now, however, looking for somebody with an enthusiasm for the genre who would be prepared to have a go at managing and running our Social Media input. As we are all aware, the internet plays an increasingly central role in life generally – not least, the lives of U3A members, both actual and potential – and we really would like to continue the excellent work of our previous Media wizard if we can.

If you may be interested in taking on this role, and wish to discuss it further, please contact either John Harris (jghollerton@gmail.com) or Paul Webb (paulmwebb@hotmail.com) in the first instance.

Please keep enjoying the summer – maybe despite the weather!

Mike.



A threatening sky over Ollerton but no rain unfortunately.

Monthly Activity Table

	First in Month	Second in Month	Third in Month	Forth in Month
Mon			Monthly Meeting 12.30pm. Jubilee Hall	
Tues	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
Wed	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
Thurs	Ukulele group 10.00 to 12.00pm Jubilee Hall	Ukulele group 10.00 to 12.00pm Jubilee Hall	Ukulele group 10.00 to 12.00pm Jubilee Hall	Ukulele group 10.00 to 12.00pm Jubilee Hall
Fri	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 in the month 12.30 for 1pm
Green Bowling every Friday 1.15 to 3.30pm

Committee 2025-26

Chair, Publicity & Press

Mike Mounsey

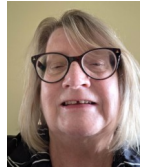


Deputy Chair

Position Vacant

Business Secretary

Julia Worthington



Treasurer

Jane Young



Website & Groups coordinator

Paul Webb



Membership

Sharon Jones



Newsletter Editor

John Harris



Health & Safety Officer

Chris Neighbour



Social Media

Position Vacant

Non Committee Roles

Co-ordinator Charity Donations

Pam Hardwick



Speaker Finder

Ann Street



Events Team Co-ordinator

Leslye Henstock



Minute Taker

Sue Cook



A French Evening.....



Why not come and Join us at the Crew Yard, Budby for an evening meal with a French flavour. This is a repeat of a very successful evening we did some years ago at the same venue. It's the same chief so it should be a very enjoyable meal.

Friday 2nd October

The location is the Crew Yard Cafe & Bistro, Budby, NG22 9EX. <https://budbyantiques.co.uk/>

Arrive 6.30 for 7pm.

Three courses of delicious food for £30
Special dietary requirements - no problem.

Choose your food and buy your ticket at the meeting
Monday 20 July *Menu next page.*

Car sharing is possible!

Any questions contact Jean Parry-Williams
01623 861832





MENU FOR A FRENCH EVENING.

STARTERS

- S1** Smoked salmon pate with rainbow pickles GF
- S2** Caramelized onion crostini VEGAN
- S3** Garlic and herb creamy mushrooms with crouton VEGETARIAN

MAJNS

- M1** Chicken Fricassee Pie with puff pastry top (French chicken casserole – chicken thighs, small onions and mushrooms in a creamy sauce) GF
- M2** Harissa Fish Pie (king prawn, smoked haddock, cod in a spicy sauce topped with paprika and cumin sweet potatoes) GF
- M3** Mushroom Bourguignon (a variety of mushroom types cooked in a 'creamy' sauce) VEGAN/VEGETARIAN

All the above are served with roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables

DESSERTS

- D1** Mixed berry Roulade with summer fruit coulis GF
- D2** Tiramisu. VEGAN available
- D3** Deconstructed Spiced plum crumble with plum cream VEGAN



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 £25.00 for Guests

A few seats left, ring Leslye on

07946 702296

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 MONDAY 20th JULY.

Or pay online,

Reference, Beetle and your Name.



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 on sale 20TH JULY £15.00

**"This is a ticket only event and payment at the door on
the day is not possible'**

**Or pay online, details below, Please reference JUKEBOX
and your name..**

*'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 £25.50 GREAT SEATS

A few places remain,

Email Leslye slhu3a@gmail.com

Car Sharing Possible

**Payment online, see details below,
Reference, PANTO and your name.**



Paying online.

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, JUKEBOX ALAN BROWN

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.

Speaker of the Month...

Ian Morgan - Footpads, Kings & Highwaymen - The story of the A1 in Nottinghamshire



The A1 – renowned as being the route from London to Edinburgh has changed its path and even its name many times over the years, yet as the travellers pass on their way do they know just how fortunate they are? Our journey covers just 34 miles as we take the route of the old Great North Road through Nottinghamshire and in that short distance we shall see the scenes of horrific battles, the haunts of highwaymen, the sites of murder and much, much more.

Ian is a writer, historian and public speaker. As well as having specialist knowledge of crime and punishment from times past he is a published author on historical and crime subjects and has made many appearances on radio in that context. These include articles for BBC Sheffield, BBC Lincolnshire, BBC Nottingham and BBC Derby and many more. As well as giving guided walks around historical locations he also spends much of his time travelling the country giving illustrated talks and lectures to groups. Ian also gives his time to English Heritage to act as a guide at a number of their properties, primarily Bolsover Castle in Derbyshire.

History Group



The future of the History Group

I have to step down from leading the History Group. I took the job on mainly because nobody else volunteered at the time that Barbara Baglee had to give it up and I didn't want to see it close. Unfortunately, experience has shown that I just don't have enough time for organising History as well as the Newsletter. I'd like to continue putting talks together but not every month as I have been.

The next History Group meeting will be held at Ambleside on **Wednesday the 1st of July at the normal time** with the intension of holding a discussion as to the way forward and to see if there is anyone prepared to take on the job of leader. Paul Webb will be chairing the meeting and I believe there will be **tea and cake available**.

If you have enjoyed our History sessions in the past please come along and see if we can't find a way to continue.

John Harris

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



At our Mah-jong session on Friday I was rather hoping to repeat my record of four wins in a row.

I already had three under my belt and a strong promise of the fourth.

Linda was going for a 'Special' (like the cake she brought for half time)

Three of us were 'Fishing' (a precursor declaration for a win.)

Tension was increasing. The atmosphere was electric.

Was another record within my grasp.

Then at the last minute the whole game was quashed by a 'Goulash' *aaaaarrrrgggghhhh!!*

Intrigued? You should be!!

You could find out more at our sessions at Ambleside on the second and fourth Friday of each month from 10.00 to 12.00

Pam. Such fun.....



Trip to Barnsdale Gardens

We had a fabulous day on Friday on the trip to Barnsdale Gardens. They certainly are fantastic, lots to see and buy of course. First port of call was the tea room where there was a good choice of food.



We then went up to Rutland water where some members went for a walk, while another group went down to the boat area where a few of us went on a boat trip which was well worth the cooling effect and stunning scenery. We returned to the coach and onto the Horse and Jockey pub at Manton. Here we enjoyed a nice meal, with lots of laughing and chatting. We had a raffle on the coach and drew the winner at the pub where a local dog pulled a ticket out for me. The raffle was held in aid of our Charity, the Air Ambulance and it raised £45 which was presented to Pam Hardwick. We all returned home very tired but very happy, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. *Sharon*





The most important part of the day?





Congratulations to Paul Webb who "Wanged the Welly" further than any other man at the U3A Festival in the Forest, thus becoming our Dukeries U3A Champion!

North Nottinghamshire Neighbourhood Festival in Sherwood Forest Wednesday 17 June 2026

In spite of the day starting with spots of rain and drizzle, members of Ashfield, Dukeries, Forest Town, Mansfield, Rainworth, Sherwood and Worksop arrived early morning at Sherwood Forest, with their cars full of equipment. This was unloaded and erected and within an hour, the amphitheatre and picnic area of Sherwood Forest, was transformed into a blue and yellow U3A festival.

The live music, which showcased how professional our musicians are, started with Irene and Wynn, a musical duo from Forest Town U3A. After a well-choreographed changeover, the 25 strong Jubilee Ukulele Band (Dukeries u3a) had our feet tapping with their melodies and song. After lunch, the pace was picked up again with sounds from The Banjoleers from Dukeries U3A and the programme was completed by the Guitar Group from Worksop U3A, who concluded the day with encores!

The high standard of the music, clearly the result of hard practice and rehearsal, was greatly appreciated by the surrounding audience and anyone coming into Sherwood Forest on the day was greeted by high quality tunes which bought smiles to lots of faces.

Further down in the picnic area, games were played throughout the day concluding with the Welly Wanging Challenge. Squeals of laughter could be heard around the playing areas.

Midday, a walk to the Major Oak, where Ranger Clare gave information about the challenges for conservationists, was led by Iris, helped by Stefan and Kevin from Dukeries U3A.

Throughout the day, many members of u3a and the general public enjoyed relaxing, chatting and eating picnics in a most amiable and enjoyable atmosphere which promoted the friendship and fellowship of U3A groups. John Butler kindly came to show his support and he chatted with many, many members in the morning. The sunshine made a visit too!

The behind the scenes planning for the event took place over several months by Claire Wilkie, Sherwood, Kathryn Henshaw Carole Harrison and Bill Harrison from Mansfield and Leslye Henstock from Dukeries u3a. Special thanks were sent to Megan at RSPB Sherwood Forest, who arranged the event with the organisers.

A huge thank you is sent to everyone who contributed to the publicity of the event and the festival on the day. A huge amount of equipment was transported safely to and from the site, and by 4pm, Sherwood Forest was back to normal without a trace of evidence that U3A had been there!! *Leslye.*

More pictures on the website <https://dukeries.u3asite.uk/events/>

The Events Team

Welcome

Richard Emmingham and Sharon Thornhill

Who have joined our happy band!



Sherwood Festival 2026



A Message From Phil Topley along with The Banjoleers and JUGS...

From the start at 10:30 through to the close at 15:30, the Festival was great fun, with smiles and laughs from participants and audience in equal measure.



Our own JUGS ukulele band were 26-strong and played a joyous selection from their repertoire including Bring Me Sunshine and Lazing on a Sunny Afternoon. (Fortunately the rain did hold off, and the sun did appear later in the afternoon.) After lunch it was the turn of another Dukeries U3A band, the Banjoleers, who had 13 musicians playing. This time they were supported by a new addition — the Banjolettes (a 6-piece backing singer group from JUGS). They wowed the audience with The Sun Has Got His Hat On, The Deadwood Stage, plus a couple of George Formby favourites, of course. Well done to everyone who took part in organising or participating, for an afternoon full of fun and laughter. *Phil Topley*



A HUGE THANK YOU TO MEMBERS OF DUKERIES U3A

Many people contributed to the success of The Festival in Sherwood Forest, and we acknowledge the work and efforts of our members!

Equipment	Kevin Morrell
Car Park	Anji and Richard Emmingham
Decorations	Lis Greenland, Moira Fox, Leslye Henstock
First Aider	Anji Emmingham
Games Webb	Jean Parry-Williams, John Harris, Paul Webb
Music Ukulele Group	Linda Bond and members of The Jubilee Phil Topley and members of The Banjoleers
Organiser	Leslye Henstock
PA system	John Harris
Printing	Jules Worthington and Chris Hough
Publicity	Paul Webb, Jamie Barabauskas, John Harris

And all those who attended on the day!!!!

Air Ambulance



At our AGM on Monday there was no need for a members' vote for a change in our chosen charity as no objections had been received.

I gave my annual report as follows:-

At last year's AGM I reported an overall donation totalling **£8,283.27**

This year we added £1,473.23 from our usual fundraising activities

So our grand total now stands at **£9,756.50**

We had a small sale of plants at the meeting and a donation from my gardening friends brought this months total to **£71.50** and so begins a new challenge.....**£10,000** Thank you so very much on behalf of the LNAAC

Pam and Chris Charity Coordinators

Air Ambulance News.

[Click Here](#)

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. It doesn't have it's own website but you can find links to other local groups on this Website.

<https://nottsnetworkofu3as.u3asite.uk/our-u3as/>



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...](#)

**DUKERIES U3A WHAT'S ON FROM THE EVENTS TEAM 2026
OUR SPECIAL EVENT ON OUR DOORSTEP**

FRIDAY 10 JULY SCARBOROUGH (SUBSIDISED FOR DUKERIES MEMBERS)

VISIT SCARBOROUGH FAIR VINTAGE COLLECTION OF VEHICLES, CAROUSELS AND ORGANS

FREE TIME IN SCARBOROUGH COACH TRAVEL

ALL THIS FOR ONLY £20!!! BOOK EARLY! GUESTS £25

FRIDAY 24 JULY BEETLE DRIVE AND BEATLES MUSIC SOCIAL

6.00PM JOIN DU3A FRIENDS TO PLAY BEETLE, ENJOY A NOSTALGIC EVENING, CELEBRATING THE MUSIC OF THE BEATLES
SNACKS SERVED, BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS

TICKETS £5 GUESTS £6

TICKETS ON SALE MONDAY JUNE 15 AT THE MEMBERS' MEETING.

MONDAY 17 AUGUST LUNCH AND JUKE BOX JURY 70'S SHOW (TICKET EVENT)

DOORS OPEN 12.30 2 COURSE LUNCH, TEA AND COFFEE, BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS

FOLLOWED BY THE JUKE BOX JURY 70'S SHOW

£15 PER TICKET PUT YOUR NAME DOWN FOR THE JURY!

TICKETS ON SALE MONDAY JUNE 15 MEETING

FRIDAY 2nd OCTOBER A FRENCH EVENING. THREE COURSE MEAL AT THE CREW YARD, BUDBY. 6.30 FOR 7PM. £30 PER PERSON.

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER SUPPER AND QUIZ NIGHT
(TICKET EVENT) TBC

MONDAY 14 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
MORE DETAILS TO COME

MONDAY 21 DECEMBER CINDERELLA PANTOMIME, PALACE
THEATRE MANSFIELD

MEET IN FOYER AT 1.30pm FOR 2.00pm SHOW
TICKETS £25.50 LAST DATE FOR BUYING TICKETS JUNE 15

.All Tickets may be purchased online.

DUKERIES THIRD AGE GROUP (U3A)

Sort code **30-54-66** A/C **47824960**

Remember to reference the event and your name on the
payment.

Email Leslye on slhu3a@gmail.com to confirm payment.

Payments secure places on all events!

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...



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 **Ambleside** 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 !



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

Sessions are every Fridays 1.15 for 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

Chris Williams Tel: 07873 172406

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

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

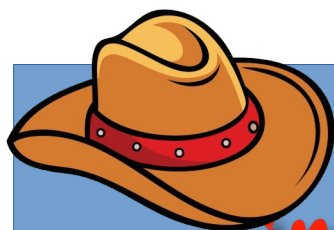
**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
NETWORK**

NEWSBITES!

Sharing ideas across 34 u3a's in Nottinghamshire

*Click on the link for the
latest Newsbites*

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



Beginners Country & Western Group



If you have ever fancied yourself in a Country & Western band then this might be right for you.

Guitar players, banjo, mouth organ, fiddle, washboard players, no experience necessary. If you can make a noise in tune this is the group for you.... Contact

Paul Webb Email: paulmwebb@hotmail.com

Roy Haynes: haynesroy@gmail.com

07812 814240





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

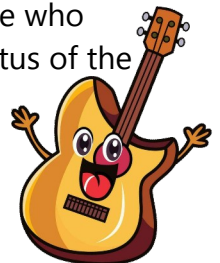
The group goes from strength to strength.

When someone suggested we started a guitar group, never in my wildest dreams did I think we would get to 13 members but that's where we stand at present. I honestly thought that we would max out at 6 or 7 but it seems there are more 'Closet' guitar players in the Dukeries than I ever imagined. At least 4 of our group were not members of the U3A prior to joining the Guitar Group.

Now getting that number of guitars (well 11 guitars a Bass and a Vocalist) to play together and sound reasonable is not as easy as with Ukuleles or Banjoleles we are finding. So for the minute we are going to put the group onto a Waiting List Status. I will still take calls and enquiries and will keep details of people who express an interest then I will let them know if the status of the group changes.

Many thanks for your support.

Phil 07980 601 018



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



When

Second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.
Doors open 1.15pm, **Start 1.30pm to 3.30pm**

Where

The Ambleside Centre, Yew Tree Road, Ollerton, NG22
9UW

What to expect

Discover the joy of play reading
Meet like minded people
A friendly & welcoming atmosphere
Readings of classic, comedy, contemporary and home
grown plays
No experience necessary – just bring your enthusiasm
Refreshments provided

For further information

Contact Leslye on slhu3a@gmail.com 07946 702296 or
speak with any member of the play reading group.

Ramblers Rambles

So, it is June, the start of the meteorological summer, so if it is not global warming, El Nino or stranger things we are unaware of, how come our first walk of June was rained off?



The heavens opened and it was really not fit to be out, yet surprise, surprise by 12.00 it would have been a great day for a Ramble-too late....

Our only walk was therefore a very pleasant trip to Collingham, where we parked at the station and walked through the village to the River Trent. At this location, there is a bird sanctuary with hides on the river side and our resident expert, Liz, gave us an update on all the birds that were there. It was a very interesting interlude on a lovely walk down a part of the Trent we don't normally see, back into Collingham.

This is a picturesque and unspoilt part of the County and this walk was a new one for us, which I think we will definitely do again when the temperature is not touching 30 degrees. Our next walk is on the 7th of July when hopefully we will get nice summer walking weather.

Regards, Kate & Stephen.

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.

It's a while since I updated the Rummikub information.
There are still 9-12 of us who meet and keep our little grey
cells ticking over, and if you feel you would like to join us
you would be most welcome. We meet on the 2nd and 4th
Wednesday of the month, 2.00- 4.00 pm at Ollerton House.
No charge, just buy a drink, or maybe treat yourself to
lunch.

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 u3a 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".



Sewing Bee

**Second & fourth 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 Christine Yates

01623 422113

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

You will have a great time !

Sunday Lunch Club

Forth Sunday in the Month 12.30 for 1.00pm. Contact Maria for more information



Maria Pitrolino 07904 269549



I'm sure many members will already know that the poor old Major Oak has 'popped it's clogs' after so many years just about managing to push out a few leaves. So the other day I stumbled on a little film on YouTube explaining what the RSPB has been doing to help the tree and what the problem was.

It's worth a watch.....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=73NwSy7buao>

John Harris

Tuesday Lunch

Open to all, for more information **contact Beryl on**

07967 801467 Or email golferberyl@yahoo.co.uk

July 7th Rufford Park Golf Club





TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB 2026 PROGRAMM

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

Meet 12.30 for 1pm

Beryl Lee 07967801467

WhatsApp Walkers....

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.



Our last walk in April was this lovely circular walk around Bothamsall and Elkesley wood on a pleasant sunny day the fragrant bluebells were spectacular we saw Reindeers, Alpacas and two friendly horses. We ended with refreshments at Thaymar one of our favourite places.

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

I know in theory we meet to practise or learn to play our ukuleles, but more importantly, we meet old friends, make new friends and enjoy our time together. The ukulele is such a 'joyful' instrument, and we leave each Thursday with a smile on our faces after a 'fun' get-together. We are now a group of over 30 players of varying age and skill levels, from an 80 year+ member who has just started to learn to play, to very experienced players who have been playing over 20 years. After our very successful, whole day Ukulele Jamboree, we are now preparing to entertain the general public and other U3A Groups at the North Notts U3A Festival in June. Hopefully we shall see you there.

Linda Bond

**Meetings Thursday at Jubilee Hall,
10 to 12pm.
Cost £1.50 *inc refreshments***

Linda Bond



Join Us for a Song (The Dukeries Singers)

We start rehearsing for Christmas on Wednesday, July 3rd, a great time to try us out.

If you're fond of a tune, or you hum now and then,
Or you sang once at school and might try it again,
There's a choir in the Dukeries, friendly and bright
We would love you to join us and sing with delight!

No auditions, no tests, no need to be shy,
No worrying which note is low, middle, or high,
Just come as you are, we'll soon get you through
There's always a place in the choir made for you.

We're warm, and we're cheerful, we laugh as we sing,
And friendships, like music, just naturally spring,
With four concerts yearly, there's plenty to do
And a wonderful atmosphere awaits you.

Now Christmas is coming, so here's what to note:
Two concerts to warm every heart and each throat
At Ollerton Jubilee Hall on December 5th, half-past two,
And Edwinstowe Village Hall on the 13th at the same time too!

At our summer event, friends came from afar,
From Warsop and Worksop U3A, how lovely they are!
So why not come join us this festive season?
For music and merriment, plenty of reason!

We'll sing carols and songs that you're sure to know well,
With special guests joining, just listen and tell
How the audience joins in is part of the fun
Before you know it, you'll be singing along with everyone!

And then comes the buffet renowned far and wide!
With Christmas cake piled oh-so generously high,
Sausage rolls, trifle, and treats galore,
With tea, coffee, and wine, who could ask for more?

All included together (you'll find it's a steal),
It's music and friendship and quite a fine meal!
And if you should wonder, "Is this place for me?"
Come along for a while, just wait, and you'll see,

No fees to begin till you're sure you belong,
At roughly £2.50 a week for the song.
So make new memories, make new friends,
Where laughter and music so happily blend,
At The Dukeries Singers, you'll soon feel at home,
And never again will you sing all alone.

John Banbury

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/>

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.

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 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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