Dukeries u3a
Learn, laugh & live.

Staying Connected.

No 81 November 2026



If you were at the last Members' Meeting in October, you will have heard my plea for new blood to join and refresh your U3A Committee. I lay particular stress on your Committee, because that is precisely what it is, and precisely who it is accountable to – you, our Members.

So, who are 'The Committee', and why should they matter to you? Well, all the current Committee Members, together with their job titles, are always listed within the pages of 'Staying Connected', so you can get a pretty good idea of who we are and our areas of expertise and responsibility. What it doesn't say is that we are all amateurs, doing the job not for profit, not for glory – simply because we believe in the power of the U3A to help make people's lives a little bit better by offering support and a whole range of opportunities to all Members, irrespective of who they are and what their background is.

So, what is the function of the Committee? In brief, their main function is to oversee all of the activities happening under the umbrella of the Dukeries U3A and to ensure that we all operate legally and that we work within the bounds established by the National U3A body and the Charity Commission in particular. We also work closely with other local U3As – especially those in the North Notts Neighbourhood Group – to ensure that we are all offering the very best experiences to our members.

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

But of course this is by no means all we do. We offer support and advice to members; we oversee what is happening within our groups; we handle financial affairs, both day-to-day and long term; we plan strategically for the future; we generate ideas; we publicise the great things that go on here via this newsletter, via the internet and via regular columns in the local press; we try to keep abreast of major local and national issues to ensure that both we, and our members, are up to date in an increasingly unpredictable and perilous world.

All of that is just part of the story – and this really is where you come in. We are desperately in need of fresh faces and fresh ideas on the Committee. No matter where your skills or talents may lie – perhaps you enjoy working with figures, or maybe you are handy with a computer; it could be that you like to write, or that supporting others is your forte; you may be a creative thinker who likes to share their ideas; you may have none of those skills at the moment – but you may be interested enough to pick some of them up, perhaps by 'shadowing' a member of the current team. No matter who you are, or what skills you may have already, we would love to hear from you.

Please just drop our Business Secretary, Jules Worthington – julesworthington59@sky.com - a brief email expressing your interest in joining our Committee and we will get back to you very shortly.

With Very Best Wishes,

Mike



Speaker for November

Martin Perry - The Magic of the Guitar

Martin joins us to give a fascinating description about how an electric guitar works as well as capturing our hearts with his singing and playing of certain songs from the 1950s and 1960s. He began playing the guitar at age 13 having been inspired by the release of 'Apache' and continued to play in bands throughout his teenage years. Firstly with the 'Dominators' in the Manchester area, then with the 'Lyrics' on the Welsh boarders and finally with the College Jazz Band. He has however remained a lifelong Shadows devotee.

Martin Is a retired Deputy Head having taught Mathematics and coached football for over 30 years. In his 30's he appeared in 38 local dramatic productions and in his 40's spent many frustrating years on the golf course.

After retiring he returned to the pub and club circuit in 2001 as a solo artiste, He gives talks on the guitar and plays classical guitar at local venues but his real passion is playing the great Shadow's music.



Monthly Activity Chart

	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 & Social Discussion 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

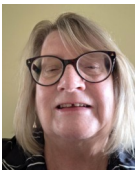
Chair, Publicity & Press
Mike Mounsey



Deputy Chair
Sharon Thornhill



Business Secretary
Julia Worthington



Treasurer
Jane Young



Website & Groups coordinator
Paul Webb



Membership
Sharon Jones



Newsletter Editor
John Harris



Health & Safety Officer & Deputy Chair

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

Remembrance Sunday
8th November



Dukeries u3a will be attending the parade in Ollerton on Sunday 8th November. Members are invited to join the parade or meet at the War memorial Cross by the river in Ollerton Village.

10:00 AM: Participants and groups assemble outside the Town Hall on Sherwood Drive (New Ollerton).

10:15 AM: The parade sets off from Sherwood Drive, making its way towards the village war memorial area.

10:45 AM: The parade arrives at the War Memorial Gardens

11:00 AM: Service of Remembrance begins, featuring the Act of Remembrance, the two-minute silence, and the laying of wreaths.

For more information contact Sharon Thornhill 07739 003251

THANK YOU FROM THE EVENTS TEAM

Your suggestions for trips and social events are being considered!

News will be available in the New Year's Newsletter 2027.



Hello Dukeries u3a Members,

The events team are excited to announce a trip to 'The Holocaust Centre ' at Laxton on **Friday 19th of February** 10.30 to approximately 14.30.

The museum is offering an experienced educator for our group. We will have the opportunity to hear survivor stories and testimonials from this period, plus the chance to handle artefacts. This thought-provoking experience helps us to understand what it was like to be Jewish or different back then. The centre is surrounded by beautiful memorial gardens for quiet reflection.

Lunch can either be bought or you can provide your own packed lunch. The on-site cafe is lovely.

Travel to the centre will be by car and we hope members will offer lifts to non-car drivers. The entry fee is £9.50 and this ticket gives you free admission for another visit (within a set time frame).

Please come and see me, at the Events Table, in November and January for further information and to buy your tickets.

Anji Emmingham

The Events committee.

https://www.holocaust.org.uk/

Hot Supper!! & QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2026

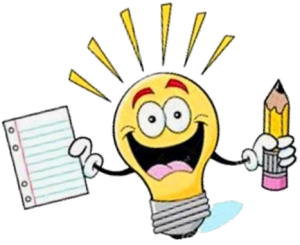


DOORS OPEN 5.15PM

HOT SUPPER SERVED 6.00PM

TICKETS £15 PER MEMBER

Waiting List - please ring Leslye 07946 702296



Bring £1 coins for charity games, your own drinks and a pen.

Are you coming to the Dukeries u3a Christmas Party!!



Monday 14th December 2026

DOORS OPEN 12.45 BUFFET LUNCH 1.15

Charity Raffle & Entertainment!

TICKETS ON SALE, MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER, 19 OCTOBER AND 16 NOVEMBER

BOOK EARLY, TICKETS SELL FAST

Ticket price is subsidised at



£7.00 members only

A Christmas Entertainment !



The U3A's annual Christmas Party will have lots of festive fun and this year it will also include a performance of a comedy sketch / short play by the U3A's Play Reading group.

The Play Reading group meets twice a month and we read through / perform many various genres including some recent murder mystery whodunnits and also we have had great fun doing TV sitcoms such as Hi-De-Hi, 'Allo 'Allo and Dad's Army……"Don't tell him Pike!"

At the Christmas Party the comedy sketch / short play which the group will be performing is written and produced by the group members themselves. It has lots of funny jokes and one-liners in it which we hope will make you laugh or groan……or both! Later on you will be telling the jokes yourself to your family and friends at Christmas just in time for Panto season……..Oh yes you will!!

Our short play is set at Halloween and as well as being a comedy it also has a bit of a ghost story in it which will leave you wondering if the Ambleside Centre at Ollerton is really haunted?!!



We hope as many of you as possible will be at the Christmas party and that you will enjoy the performance by the Play Reading group and as you sit there chuckling perhaps you will also be "Dreaming of a white Christmas……" *Nick Ryan..*

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, QUIZ A. 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.

BOTTLE PRIZES NEEDED!

Notts Lincs Air Ambulance Charity

Have you something you could donate?
You may have unwanted bottles of alcohol
or other drinks
Or you might wish to purchase something to
support this worthy charity.
We will be playing charity games in November
at the Quiz Night.
Huge Raffle at the Christmas Party

Please bring your donations to the Members'
Meeting on
Monday 16th November
Or send/give them to Pam Hardwick
or Chris Hough.

Please ensure your donations are new, unused
and in date!
Thank you for your generosity! The Events Team

French Night at the Crew Yard, Budby.









A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who came along and made our visit to Budby a very enjoyable evening among friends
Jean PW & John Harris



More Photos

Major Oak Pop Choir

Charity Christmas Concert



Saturday 5th December

Doors 6:30pm Start 7:00pm

St Wilfrid's Church, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, NG17 8LA

Raising funds for the CAR Foodbank

Tickets £10

https://www.ticketsource.com/major-oak-pop-choir/t-glyrmxa


Small Instruments Big Smiles
Music Brings People Together
Strum Sing Smile Repeat
Ukes Make a Brighter World
Jubilee
Ukulele Group
Winter Sing-along
In aid of
Bassetlaw Hospice, Retford.
Sunday December 6th
2.00pm - 4pm
(doors open 1.30pm.)
Jubilee Hall Ollerton
NG22 9AP.
£7 per ticket,
inc. refreshments.
Raffle.
Tickets on sale at the November monthly meeting..
To order tickets, call Linda on 01623 861595

Air Ambulance





I have just totted up the donations collected this month for the Air Ambulance and forwarded into their account the princely sum of **£211.00**

Well done to all.

The Ukulele group gave **£75.00** being the proceeds from one of their wonderful performances so a special thanks go to them.

My gardening friends gave **£17.50** from plant sales.

The bring and buy table yielded **£118.50**, a brilliant result due mainly to the high quality of items for sale.

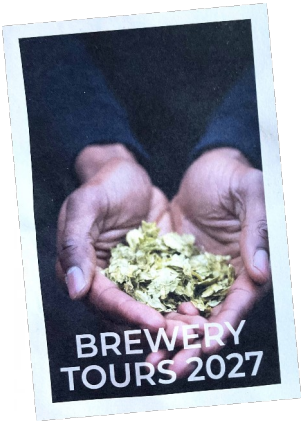
We have now totalled **£10,669.00** in donations over the last few years and a little bit of us are hoping to reach **£11,000** by this year end

So many many thanks to you all, our lovely colleagues in our Dukeries u3a and watch this space.

Pam and Chris

Charity coordinators.

Air Ambulance News. *Click Here*



HAND CRAFTED ENGLISH ALES
Welbeck Abbey Brewery

BREWERY TOURS 2027

Join Dom Haythorne, Brew House Manager, for a guided tour around our traditional microbrewery on the privately owned Welbeck Estate. This is a rare opportunity to take a peek behind the closed doors as the estate is not open to the public.

Tickets includes two pints of beer and a tour which lasts around an hour. Tours begin at 7:30pm and the bar closes at 9pm. Over 18s only please.

To book a brewery tour please head over to our website where you can book directly via the Events section on one of the dates below.

29 April | 27 May | 24 Jun | 29 July | 26 Aug | 23 Sep

https://www.welbeckabbeybrewery.co.uk/whats-on/

www.welbeckabbeybrewery.co.uk

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 latest walk from the WhatsApp Walking Group was enjoyed at Holbeck and Cresswell Crags , a much cooler day and a short rain shower at the end. *Hazel.*

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.

Speaker Finder



Would you like to be our next Speaker Finder? Would you enjoy booking eight speakers a year who would be of interest to our members? After seven years in the role it's time for Ann Street to pass the baton on and she hopes you have appreciated the speakers she has booked for Dukeries u3a. There are plenty of resources to refer to including the Notts u3a Speaker Finder Email Group whose members recommend speakers to each other and Ann will pass on her files and be on hand to help. Our speakers are booked up to April 2027 so there is plenty of time to get used to the role. You do not need to be on the committee to fulfil the role but you do need to have internet access for research and correspondence. There is a Dukeries u3a PC available for the new Speaker Finder to use.



If you would like to takeover this role please get in touch with Ann or any committee member via the Dukeries u3a website or speak to Ann at the September members' meeting.

Click or tap here for an email link to Ann through our website Contacts page. Look for Speaker Finder on the list.



New Facebook Manager ?

Is there anyone amongst our members who is familiar with posting on Facebook and would like to have a go at driving our Facebook page? Our page is currently maintained by our Web Manager & Newsletter Editor who will give full support and would initially supply most of the information to be posted with plenty of scope for additional input from the new FB manager.

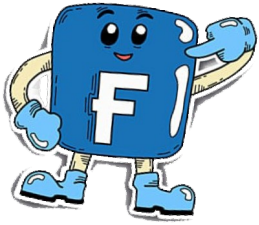
Our FB page has proven to be a very useful way of attracting new members and could be an interesting project for somebody.

Here is a link to the site, have a look and see what you think…

https://www.facebook.com/dukeriesu3a

If you would like to have a go contact John Harris.

jghollerton@gmail.com



History & Social Discussion Group

Dear All

We have decided to continue the group but in a different way, the group will become a general discussion group with John Harris listed as the group leader but he will not be preparing anything each month, instead we will start with a new interest group name (maybe Social Discussion Group) any group name ideas welcome, we will meet at Ambleside on the first Wednesday of each month from 1.15 until 3 (as per the history group) and everyone will be encouraged to contribute.

At the end of each meeting we will decide on the topic or subject for the next meeting which will take the pressure off just one person.

Things that can be brought to the meeting include the following, but anything goes.

Show and tell, History, Objects, Holidays / Photos, Experiences Thoughts, Education, Quiz, Music, Trips/walks, Whatever you are interested in?

The next meeting will be on **4th November at 1.15 to 3 at Ambleside**,

Please bring along anything you would like to discuss outside of politics and Trump.

The room should be set up as a round table format so we can all see each other. Things will hopefully evolve over time. *Paul*

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

LOVE TO SING?

Everyone Has a Voice

THE DUKERIES SINGERS

Join The Dukeries Singers, a welcoming community choir where everyone is encouraged, supported and valued.



YOU'LL ENJOY:

- No auditions
- No need to read music
- Friendly atmosphere
- New friendships
- Fun performances

> ***"I came for the singing and found wonderful friendships."***

Singing together is one of life's great pleasures, and we'd love you to be part of our choir family.

Come and share yours.

CONTACT DETAILS:

John Banbury
07759-086132
john@asherwood.co.uk

REHEARSALS:

The Methodist Chapel, Forest Road, New Ollerton
7-9pm every Wednesday.

Jubilee Hall Upcoming Events (July 26)

Thursday 8th October at 7.30 – AWOL



Cyril doesn't like old people, which is a shame because he is one. When he learns his estranged granddaughter, Lily, has her big break with her thrash metal band, Abscess, he and his friend Neville are determined to show up and support her. Neither of them will ever be the same again.

Tickets from www.Ticketsource.co.uk/ollerton-village-jubilee-hall CASH BAR

Friday 6th November at 7.30 - The Lost Notes



"An eclectic blend of Americana, folk and country (laced, for good measure, with soul, gospel and jazz) ...stories each wrapped in a gilded coating of rich, gentle and perfectly balanced music... all done with sumptuous three-part vocal harmonies.

Tickets from www.Ticketsource.co.uk/ollerton-village-jubilee-hall CASH BAR
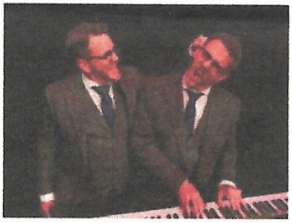
Sunday 22nd Nov.—Christmas Craft Fair. 11.00 till 3.00

Lots of craft, Gift and Card stalls in time to get your supplies for **Xmas.**

FREE parking and Free entry.

Coffee bar and tombola/raffle on the day (please bring some cash)

Friday 9th April— Victor and Albert (Purveyors of fine musical comedy)



A two-man modern variety show. Expect satirical songs, sketches, games, a quiz, classical music, mind-reading and even a sprinkling of magic. Join identical twins Professor Victor and Dr Albert for an evening of riotous comedy, original songs and laughter. A good old-fashioned two-man variety show brought kicking and screaming into the 21st Century

www.Ticketsource.co.uk/ollerton-village-jubilee-hall CASH BAR

Your chance to learn more about the story of "On Freedom's Wings"





Photos by Claire Hartley Photography

On Freedom's Wings is an iconic landmark recently unveiled on the Lincolnshire/ Nottinghamshire border.

The full-size statue of the Lancaster Bomber pays tribute to the aircrew who lost their lives serving their country during World War II.

It is more than a sculpture. It is a beacon of remembrance, a symbol of sacrifice, and a celebration of heritage.

It serves as a constant reminder of the courage, loss, and legacy of Bomber Command.

Inspire Culture are delighted to host a touring exhibition and associated events throughout 2026.

In partnership with The Bomber Gateway Trust - On Freedom's Wings and Motorfinity

Exhibition dates -

Arnold Library - 12th June to the 22nd July 2026

Hucknall Library - 4th August to the 26th September 2026 including a talk about the project on the 22nd September 2026 2.00 till 3.30 p.m.

Mansfield Central Library - 1st October to the 15th November 2026 including a talk about the project on the 20th October 2026 2.00 - 3.30 p.m.

Worksop Library - 18th November to the 23rd December 2026

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...

Interest Group Leaders

All Sorts/Gardening	Sharon Thornhill	07739 003251
Bridge	Georgina Batty	07772 649281
Bowling	Chris Williams	01623 631993
Banjoleers & Guitar	Phil Topley	07980601018
Creative Writing	Mike Mounsey	01623 824789
History/Social Discussion	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***



The Banjoleers

A picture 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 Hal**l. 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 !



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

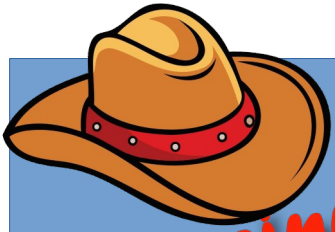
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NETWORK

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





New Guitar Group

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



The Ramblers have been lucky enough to enjoy two of their favourite walks in October, it has been a fabulous year so far for walking, we have only had to cancel one walk due to a heavy downpour and believe it or not that was in June!

Our first walk of the month took us in brilliant sunshine to the Teversal Trail where we walked up to the Miner statue and then back along the old railway track to the cafe where it was warm enough to sit outside. Apart from one incline this is a super walk on good paths and it has always been a favourite with the group, I think it has something to do with the sausage sandwiches in the cafe!



Our second walk was another favourite and this one started in Linby and went through the fabulous grounds of Newstead Abbey via the waterfall and back along the Linby Trail. It was overcast BUT it did not rain and we saw a very sorry looking peacock who had lost his magnificent tail feathers.



Our next walk is on **3rd November**, destination to be decided. *Best Regards, 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.

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)

SHERWOOD OBSERVATORY

Here is a link to the latest news.... Click Here...

SCRABBLE

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.**



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



Tuesday Lunch

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

07967 801467 Or email golferberyl@yahoo.co.uk

Unfortunately the next lunch on November 3rd at the West Retford hotel has no record of my booking even though I booked all my lunches in January.

So I have had to alter it to the **Harrow, Boughton. NG22 9JZ**
Same time as usual 12.30 for 1pm

.Beryl





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….**



TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB
2026 PROGRAMM

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

Meet 12.30 for 1pm

Beryl Lee 07967801467

Jubilee Ukulele Group



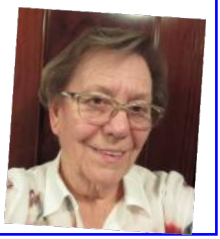
The Jubilee Ukulele Group were invited to play for the Blidworth Hub at the end of September. It is a community group very similar in age to Dukeries U3A. What a good afternoon it was. The audience joined in, sang, played percussion and some even got up and danced, helped by careers. The feedback to the organisers was so good, that they have booked us again for March 2027 and sent a donation to JUG for £75. We are sending this to the Lincs Notts Air Ambulance

ANNUAL JUG WINTER- SING-ALONG

Singing is good for your well- being and we regularly experience this. Every Thursday we go away from practice with a smile and feeling uplifted after making music together. We are so happy to invite you to join us for a fun afternoon on **Sunday December 6th 2.00-4.00pm** We are really looking forward to seeing both familiar and new faces when we present our new programme of songs, followed by some Christmas favourites. All proceeds are for the Bassetlaw Hospice this time. We usually raise around £700 and with your help, hope to do the same this year.

Linda Bond

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



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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