



## Mansfield & District u3a

Live Laugh Learn

## April 2024 Newsletter

# HAPPY EASTER



The intrepid Strollers left to right are : David Thompson, John Barsby, Stephen Hall, Ian Boucher and Peter Thirkettle. There's more of the group on page 10.



Mansfield u3a QR code

Website : [www.u3asites.org.uk/Mansfield/home](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/Mansfield/home)

Facebook page: [Mansfield u3a](#)

Registered Charity : 1164177

## Words from the Chair



Our Social Committee has been busy organising a host of events coming up over the next few months.

Amongst other events, there will be a Board Games evening with a fish and chip supper on 22 April at the Bowling Club. Tickets are on sale now. It will be a fun, light-hearted evening and a good excuse for a get-together.

Don't forget to sign up for our u3a's 25th anniversary party on 6 June at St Philip Neri's Church Hall. Tickets are just £1 each and we ask you to bring a savoury dish to contribute to the "fuddle". Desserts will be provided. We are searching for an experienced keyboardist to accompany a singer, one of our u3a members, at the event. If you can help please contact me:

[chairmansfieldu3a@gmail.com](mailto:chairmansfieldu3a@gmail.com)

The Picnic in the Park is a joint venture between several North Notts u3as. It will be held in Sherwood Forest on 26 June and is a free event. Just turn up with your own picnic for a few hours of fun, games and entertainment. Fingers crossed for some sunshine!

Full details of all these events and more can be found later in this newsletter. Finally, a big thank you to Irena and her team for organising such an array of events, and to you all for supporting these events.

**Elaine**

Ashfield u3a is holding a disco on Saturday 27 April 7.30pm at Polly Bowls Social Club, 10 Unwin Road, Sutton in Ashfield, NG17 4HN. There will be refreshments and a bar. £6.00 per ticket. Please contact Elaine [chairmansfieldu3a@gmail.com](mailto:chairmansfieldu3a@gmail.com) for details of how to purchase tickets.

## Social Committee News

Many thanks for members' continual support of events the Social Committee organise - the more the merrier, lots of laughter, happy memories and new friendships forged.

**GAMES NIGHT** - Monday 22 April 2024 6.30pm - 9.00pm. Fish and Chip Supper and Board Games at the Mansfield Bowling Club. £10 per ticket. Tickets on sale at April's Main meeting. The bar will be open for drinks.

**REFINED LUNCH**, Friday, 24 May 2024 1.00pm. Thirty places have been booked at the restaurant. A deposit of £10 will be collected at the Main Meeting in April. The balance is paid at the restaurant. Main Course £8.95, two courses £12.50, three courses £15.00. There are only 10 places left.

**MANSFIELD AND DISTRICT SILVER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** - 6 June, 2024 1.30pm - 4pm. We will be celebrating twenty-five glorious years of our u3a at St. Philip Neri's Church Hall for an afternoon tea party. We will look at charging £1 to cover the cost of booking the hall. The u3a will provide desserts, tea and coffee. Please feel free to BYO drinks and glasses. We will ask members to bring a savoury dish to share. Plates, knives and forks will be available. **ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY!** Doors will not open until 1.30pm There will be only twenty-three tickets available at April's Main meeting.

**EVENING TRENT RIVER CRUISE** - Wednesday 10 July, 2024.

This is a joint venture with Dukeries and District u3a and Forest Town and District u3a. There are only four seats still available for Mansfield. The trip includes the bus, a three-hour cruise down the river, a disco, two drinks/a main course of chicken skewers, potato wedges, coleslaw and black forest gateaux with fresh cream. A cost of £37 in total. A £17 balance will be collected at the Main Meeting in April. There will be two pick-up points - Forest Town Arena 4.30pm and the Stags car park 4.45pm.

### **SPEAKER FOR APRIL 16**

Ian Morgan - Inspector  
Hopkinson's Discovery



### **Card Crafting Easter Themed - Jill West**

All materials are provided by Jill. It's a lovely way to spend a couple of hours being creative. There are spaces on the last Tuesday of the month.



## SPECIAL FEATURES

### Thoughts about Mansfield and District u3a - Gordon Howlett

Congratulations to our u3a for reaching its 25th anniversary. The celebration has led to me thinking more about what the u3a is. How has it managed to get to this landmark? It is not a shop selling goods that can judge its success by profit. In my view the product that it sells is the opportunity for people to get together in sufficient numbers to find people of like interests to share and enjoy their knowledge. Many people do not know of the u3a. It will continue this way unless we tell them about it and encourage them to join.

We are the best advertisement because we know what it does for us.



Gordon's self portrait

Sue and I heard about the u3a from Ian Boucher and we applied to join. At that time there was a two or three year waiting list, but we were eventually welcomed into the fold and we joined several groups. The groups had leaders and sometimes deputies but they were not appointed, they were volunteers. They had an interest and had found other members with that interest. In some instances the members were able to contribute by researching a subject and making a presentation. Members willing to start a group can get advice from the Group Convenor. The group may work well but it might fail. Whether it is a success will depend on the availability of sufficient members staying interested and being prepared to be involved. We would not be celebrating 25 years if previous members, right from the beginning, had not done so.

May I suggest that the success of our u3a is the result of there being a constant supply of people who have consistently worked together as equal members to make their group a success. Initially we joined three groups. In two of these we gave occasional presentations one of which has now been shown over twenty times around the area. The other group depends on everyone actively taking part every month. That is the one that is still active today. Maybe this indicates that the success of any group depends on everyone helping, where possible, and not leaving it to the leader to do everything.

Unfortunately, the workload of a leader, linked to family commitments, means they may need to be replaced. It is disturbing that so often there is no one willing to take on the lead. The success of our u3a is based on a continuous supply of members who are willing to work together wherever they can.

One day I discovered that I had been 'Good' at Art throughout my school life and it led to me asking myself why I hadn't used this ability. At the very next u3a meeting Linda Spray asked for people interested in Art to create a new group. Just what I wanted! It allowed us to commit ourselves to meeting once a month to make our own style of artwork and maybe encouraging others. When Linda became ill, I became the keyholder and set a monthly subject if members wanted a challenge. This enabled members to commit two hours a month to make art. On two occasions I was encouraged to arrange a 'Photoshop' group. There was initial interest but it was not successful. The main problem appeared to be over commitment to other groups within our u3a. This was not a failure, it was checking if there was sufficient interest. There are many other ways that a member can contribute. You may have read the article in our Newsletter about how I relaxed during covid creating rotational art. When Yvonne, chairperson at the time, asked for designs for a new logo for our u3a I couldn't wait to put my skills to use and our present logo was created. This led to a request for a new banner that, using my rotational art, brought about the one we see regularly at our meetings and adaptations of the design are used in the Newsletter and other documents. I mention the above only to illustrate what I believe the u3a is about. The leaders, our Committee, at any time, and members working together to make it possible for old and new groups to flourish while there are sufficient members of like interest.

Our thanks must go to all the many people over the past 25 years who started this treasured group and enabled others to take over. They were successful in creating an atmosphere where they could hand over to others up to our present Committee and Group Leaders. Hopefully July will be the start of the next 25 years. We must all do what we can to advertise what we do, help people to take part in developing our work and welcome new members.

Thank You! To everyone who has contributed in any small way over the past 25 years at any level; chairperson, committee member, group leader, worker, helper, regular member and anyone who has joined and participated in any group. Please help moving the Mansfield u3a forward.

## Sheila Whalley

When I was a working girl I worked long hours in my shop. Fortunately I had an excessive amount of energy.

Always having been busy what was I going to do when my 68th birthday was looming and retirement? How to avoid boredom and empty days. A friend introduced me



to the u3a. It has been the best thing I ever did. Very soon I was asked to go on the committee, then later on to be vice chair which led to being chair lady. In between I was group leader for booking for the Theatre Royal at Nottingham, where we enjoyed many fabulous shows and great friendships were formed. I joined the garden group and the popular music group. Later I started a group to go out for afternoon tea once a month. When you are a group leader you meet lots of people. If you make tea and coffee at meetings you meet even more people! The u3a has made my life interesting and happy.

*On behalf of all of us - "thank you" Gordon and Sheila for all you have contributed to Mansfield u3a.*

## Writing for Pleasure

The Writing for Pleasure subject for March Homework was "Walking Away." Here is Tracey Hatton's brilliant contribution :

Walking away when the relationship ends.  
 Spread the memory of our love, as a salve.  
 Upon the rawness of my heart  
 But maybe it's best not to delve  
 In thoughts that we are about to part.  
 Sometimes things are not meant to be,  
 And when we have nothing left to say,  
 Then break our bonds so we may be free  
 When the best thing for both is just ...  
 walking away.

**And here's Mike Allen's Poem :**

Walking away,  
 I watched the sway  
 Of her hips as she danced on her way.  
 I remembered the day  
 When, after cavorting in the hay,  
 We swore eternal love as we lay.  
 I never thought she would betray  
 Our love within a day.  
 With a man who would pay  
 Her with a diamond that shone a ray  
 Of greed in the mind of my beloved May.  
 I knew our love was in decay  
 And determined he would pay.  
 At the dance, I would lay  
 My hands on him and essay  
 A fight to the death, a deadly affray.

But I walked away.

## GARDENERS' CORNER – Marilyn Dibble

I'm very happy our Garden Group meetings got back underway in March. The membership price has stayed the same as last year at £16.00 for the first 5 meetings (yes, that is 1 free meeting). Guests are still £5.00 for any meeting.

Garden Group Trip to RHS Flower Show Tatton Park on Thurs 18 July. Bookings for this trip will be open on Tuesday. The cost is £55.00pp, this includes our group discount. The deposit is £30.00 or pay in full (cash or cheque - Mansfield u3a)

RHS members get £1.00 discount on this price with RHS membership number (no free RHS guest for this show). There is a short walk from the bus park to the show ground or take the shuttle bus. The coach will leave Mansfield football ground at 9.00am.

This trip will be open to general u3a members from April. All money to be in by the May meeting.



For me spring starts on the 21 March and being positive, I'm hoping that because March came in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb? And, while I'm in a predicting mood, I reckon we might be in for a good summer, so we'll have to wait and see. Despite the miserable weather, many plants are ahead of normal and already daffodils that wouldn't normally be out until well into March are in flower. Last week I was up at Harlow Carr for a meeting, which included a walk around the garden and it was uplifting to see so much colour and interest. Two plants that I particularly liked were a dogwood that took my eye called Cornus 'Anny's Winter Orange' which has vibrant stems and Daphne bholua 'Penwood' which has a compact upright habit and was full of the most delightfully scented flowers.

Both are now on my list for when we plant the back garden later in spring and they will be planted so that in future we'll be able to see them from the house, to cheer up a gloomy winter's day! And finally, thank you for the lovely

comments we've had from some of you about our new Pots and Trowels podcast that we launched in November. Keeeeeeeeeeep listening!

With best wishes.

Martin and Jill

### Jobs for March - April

Roses can be pruned any time now to maintain a good shape and to encourage new flowering stems. Cut out any dead or diseased stems and then prune back the main stems just above a bud, by half or two-thirds to create an open shape.

Large clumps of snowdrops can be lifted and divided into small clumps and replanted to help spread them around the garden.

The grass is growing now and will need a light trim to tidy it up and to encourage new growth from the base of the plant. Ideally do this on a dry day when the ground isn't too soggy! It's also a good time to trim and tidy up lawn edges. Now is a good time to prune hydrangeas. The large mophead types (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) with their pink and blue heads are pruned by dead heading back to the plump buds a few inches down the stem. You can also thin up to a quarter of the congested stems back to ground level to encourage new growth that will flower next year. *Hydrangea paniculata* with cone shaped flowers and the white H. 'Annabelle' can all be pruned hard back as they flower on new growth. Finish dividing any established clumps of perennials before they start to make too much growth. Towards the end of March, *cornus* (dogwood) and *salix* (willow) grown for their colourful stems can be hard pruned to encourage new growth over summer. With my dogwoods I cut everything back to just a few inches. Top-dress any shrubs or plants being grown permanently in containers with a sprinkling of general fertiliser and a few handfuls of fresh potting compost to give them a spring boost. Don't be in too much of a hurry to sow vegetable seeds in the garden, but as the soil does warm up and dry out you can plant shallot bulbs directly into the garden and sow broad beans. Start sowing lettuce seeds in trays or small pots to produce plants for an early salad crop. Sow some this week and then again in a fortnight for a continuous supply. Sow tomato and pepper seeds into small pots of compost and stand them in a warm place to germinate. A propagator or warm windowsill is ideal.

Happy gardening

Martin Fish. [www.martinfish.com](http://www.martinfish.com)

-oOo-

Answers to last month's teaser : Cities in the UK - Exeter, Liverpool, Sheffield, Gloucester, Truro, Coventry, Peterborough, Cornwall, Sunderland, Aberdeen.



Alan Miller's Smile for today:

Please be careful in the winter.  
Sometimes animals snuggle close  
to warm cars for the heat.  
Make sure you check around in  
case one is hiding



## Board Games / Card Games Sheila Pegg

Ten members enjoyed an evening at the Rushley in March, playing different domino-based games as well as UNO and Rummikubs.

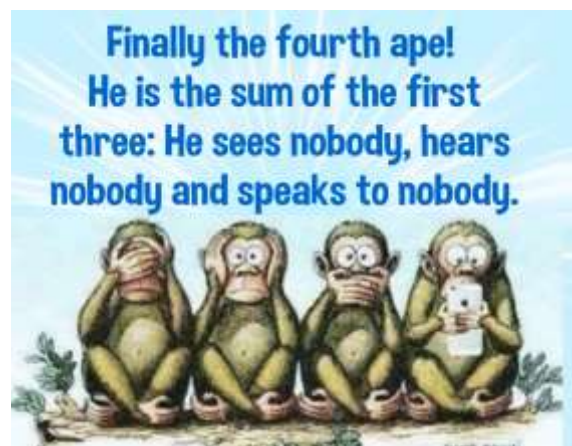
The next Games Night will be 27 April if you fancy getting away from the TV on a Saturday night.

Important information for Theatre goers. "If you wish to pay online for your Theatre tickets, please contact Group Treasurer for the bank details for the Group Account."

## Solo Dining - Sheila Pegg

Sixteen diners had an enjoyable evening out at The Golden Eagle for their first outing of March and thirteen of us enjoyed a Sunday Lunch at The Plough, Farnsfield where the staff, although very busy, were very pleasant, looked after us well and catered for our every need.

I think we can all relate to the scene below:



## Strollers - Mike Allen



On Wednesday 13th March, over 20 brave souls dodged the showers and strolled along the paths of Teversal pit. With the help of Sue, Val and Ian, we climbed the gentle hill and emerged triumphant to look over the countryside, only gasping gently.

Most paths were dry, but low down, the persistent rain had left muddy wastes that we had to stagger through.

After two and a half miles, we sped over the last yards, and under the first drops of rain, to gain the ultimate prize - a bacon butty and coffee at the Visitors Centre.

What better way of beating a miserable day than gentle exercise, great company and good conversation!

## Group Leaders' Meeting - Stella Hall

The Group Leaders' meeting was held on Friday 8 March at the Rufford Arms, where we were made very welcome. The meeting was attended by 24 Group Leaders including four new leaders so it was good to see the number of groups and leaders rising. We had also received apologies from eleven Group Leaders who were unable to attend.

Items on the agenda prompted lively discussions and outcomes were agreed where necessary. Anyone wanting a copy of the Minutes please speak to myself and I will make sure you get a copy

The refreshments were unexpected, delightful and were greatly appreciated.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all Group Leaders for their important role in the u3a and remind them, and anyone wishing to become a Group Leader, that should they need any help they are welcome to contact me.

The next meeting will be held in September. Date and venue to be confirmed.



Apologies for the quality of the photographs. The photographer was rubbish (Yvonne) and the lighting in the room wasn't ideal (my excuse), Sorry. Promise to do better next time!

Ashfield u3a run an Art Appreciation Group held on the first Wednesday of the month between 10am and noon. They also have an Art group - real painting - this is held on the first Tuesday of the month between 9.30am and noon. They have invited any of our members who are interested to join. Both groups meet at The Ashwood Centre Meeting Room in Kirkby-in-Ashfield. For more information please see Ashfield u3a website where you will find contact details for the Group Leaders.

## March 20 Meeting



We were treated to a return visit from speaker Geoff Harris. His previous talk on his job as a Toastmaster was so entertaining and informative but his tales today surpassed anything we learned from him last time. I didn't know Beelzebub had visited Sherwood Forest. It's a pity he didn't stay trapped in the snare for eternity. We were treated to more of an amusing history lesson, learning about the meaning of everyday sayings and traditions which date back over a thousand years and some really bizarre laws that are still on the statute books. It made me laugh when he said the first question the gamekeeper asked when the devil wanted to be freed was "what's in it for me?" How typical is that? We loved hearing about the reasons Chesterfield's crooked spire turned out the way it did.

I think we had all heard about the virgin getting married and the spire, being so surprised, twisted to see her. Legend has it that it will straighten the next time a virgin is married in the church, but it was the first time I had heard about the Blacksmith of Bolsover driving a nail through the devil's hoof and he being in such pain, flew onto the spire. He caught his tail as he flew off causing it to twist out of shape. We heard it is still illegal to die in the Houses of Parliament and a fact about Berwick on Tweed still being officially at war with Russia until 1966. You couldn't help being inspired by Geoff's energy and enthusiasm and I am sure if he has any other talks which will entertain us, he will be welcome to come again any time.



Well done Philip for the booking and thank you Geoff for coming back. [Yvonne](#)

## Greek Night - Irena Dubowski

Twenty-seven people attended the Greek Night at the Refined Dining Restaurant on Thursday, 21 March. It was a very enjoyable evening as usual, with delicious food and excellent company. We all felt quite full after the savoury elements yet had to find room for the sharing dessert platter filled with Baklava strudel with orange syrup, Honey and yogurt doughnuts and lemon and olive oil Drizzle Cake. The students overall, did well. The next Refined Dining experience is on May 24 with 10 places available for lunch. The photographs show everyone had a very enjoyable experience.



## THE ROYAL MAUNDY SERVICE 2024, WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

### THURSDAY 28 MARCH 2024

The annual Royal Maundy Service came to Worcester on Thursday 28 March when Her Majesty the Queen distributed the Royal Maundy gifts on behalf of His Majesty the King at the Cathedral. Ceremonial coins were presented to 75 men and 75 women from around the country, chosen to receive the honour, as they have all given years of service to their local communities. Our very own Norman Tomlinson was amongst those being honoured for his services to St Philip Neri's Church, where, as a special minister, he takes Holy Communion to the sick and housebound and also for his voluntary work for John Eastwood Hospice. Congratulations Norman.



**ALL GROUP LEADERS CAN BE REACHED BY EMAIL VIA THE BLUE BIRD ON THE WEBSITE.**

The only way to LEARN, LAUGH and LIVE, is to get involved in the following groups.

The tables on the following pages show the Interest Groups. Please check the Mansfield u3a website for up-to-date information of your group/groups.

| April 2024 |    |    |    |    |    |    | < | > |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|
| S          | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |   |   |
| 31         | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |   |   |
| 7          | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |   |   |
| 14         | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |   |   |
| 21         | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |   |   |
| 28         | 29 | 30 | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |   |   |

**ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES – Second Tuesday of every month 10 am – 12noon**

**St Peter's Centre.** There is a different topic at each meeting. Members bring along an item relating to the subject. It is helpful if they have done some research on the item and can tell the rest of the group about it. That way we all learn something. If you haven't got anything that month it doesn't matter because you will learn from what others have brought. (Group Full with a waiting list).

**PATRICIA BLACKWELL**



01623  
481745

**BEADWORK – Every Wednesday 10 am – 12noon. Overflow group every**

**Monday at the same time. Marilyn's home, Hillcote.** Often we are all working on a single project, or, at times, members may be making different items. Members can source their own materials singly, collectively, or can buy from Marilyn from her stock at cost price. (Group on Wednesday is currently full).

**MARILYN JONES**



01773  
819155  
07803  
244841

**BIRD WATCHING & WILDLIFE – Times and meeting places vary.**

This group is looking for a new leader/leaders at the moment. Contact Stella Hall, Group Convenor if you are interested in taking this group on.

**07717 297940**

**BOARD GAMES – Fourth Saturday in month 7pm – 9.30 at The Rushley,**

**Nottingham Rd. Mansfield.** Just come along to enjoy a pleasant evening playing board games. Cost of a drink for yourself.

**Next meeting 9 March.**

**SHEILA PEGG**



07883720657

**BOWLS – Mansfield Bowling Club (Summer) Lammas Centre Sutton (Winter).**

Outdoor coaching will take place every week for 5 weeks.

Every session will be organised by DBS checked, registered coaches. The outdoor bowls coaching starts on Tuesday 2 May. 12.15 – 1.45

**PAUL SANDERSON**

07592016691

**BRIDGE – First and Third Mondays 6.30 – 9pm at The Rushley, Nottingham Rd**

Just turn up. We can sort out a partner if you come alone. We are a friendly group, playing for fun. Equipment provided. No fee charged by venue – we just buy a drink (or two).

**SHEILA PEGG**07883  
720657**CALLIGRAPHY – Second and Fourth Wednesday monthly 1pm – 3pm,**

Course led by video tuition and lots of practice. Members will need to source their own pens and paper although they will be provided at the beginning until they know what they need

**MARILYN JONES**01773  
819155  
07803  
244841**CARD CRAFTING – Last Tuesday monthly 1pm – 3pm at Friends Meeting House, Rosemary Street, Mansfield.**

All materials are provided and included in the cost of £5 per session, which includes room hire and refreshments. Members, as well as learning card making skills, have a lovely card to take home.

Contact Jill to find out if there are spaces.

**JILL WEST**

07554012769

**CINEMA GROUP – WEEKLY**

Members of this group will be contacted by Christine to let them know which film will be chosen and on what day.

**CHRISTINE SMITH**

07859 249086

**CLASSICAL MUSIC 1 – Fourth Monday monthly 2pm – 4pm at Group Leaders's home.**

The group listens to, enjoys and discusses all forms of classical music.

**MICHAEL ALLEN**01623  
653345  
07565  
936859

**CRAFTY CHAT - Third Monday 2pm-4pm during Term Time only at Friends Meeting House, Rosemary Street, Mansfield.**

Just bring along something you want to be creative with or just come along for a chat. A charge of £12 is made per term to cover room hire and refreshments.

New members welcome.

**STEPHEN & STELLA HALL**



07940460250

**CURRENT AFFAIRS – First Friday monthly 10am-12 noon at Mansfield Bowling Club NG18 7AP.**

We have some very interesting discussions which can be quite lively, especially when we are discussing Westminster matters. We are always friendly. Members of Mansfield u3a welcome but restricting to 15 guests. Contact Graham on above number for availability. Charge to cover cost of room hire & refreshments.

**GRAHAM HEADWORTH**



01623 468883

**FAMILY HISTORY – Fourth Tuesday monthly 10 am – 12 noon (except August and December) at members' houses.**

The group enjoys researching family histories and welcomes new members with similar interests. Members share their family history research, photographs, maps and artifacts. We also guide members to which websites to use for their research.

**VALERIE WOOD & KEN GILBERT**



[v.a.l.woody11@gmail.com](mailto:v.a.l.woody11@gmail.com)

**GARDENING GROUP – First Tuesday monthly 10 am – 12noon at St Peter's Centre, Mansfield.**

Garden Group Members pay £16 twice a year to cover room rent fees.

Guests most welcome at £5 per session. Cash or cheque payable to Mansfield & District u3a.

**MARILYN DIBBLE**



01623 634805

**HISTORY – Third Wednesday monthly – 10 am – 12 noon at Mansfield Bowling Club, Chesterfield Road. £2 per session.**

If you have a particular passion for some historical event, by all means bring it forward. All our meetings are friendly, with tea and coffee and sometimes home-made cakes. Funds permitting, we may hire an external speaker at least once during the year.

**PHILIP TUCKER**



01623 437516

**MANSFIELD PALACE THEATRE GROUP**






Details of the shows on offer will be advertised at the meetings and on the website

**JULIA HYDE**



01623 514806



|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b><u>MINI BREAKS</u></b></p> <p>Details of breaks on offer will be advertised at the meetings and on the website.</p>  | <p><b><u>JACQUI HAMPSHIRE</u></b></p>  <p>01623 239210</p>  |
| <p><b><u>OPERA</u></b></p> <p>This group is held at the Group Leader's home on second Tuesday of the month at 2 pm. The opera will be chosen by group discussion and will be shown with English subtitles.</p>   | <p><b><u>STEPHEN AND SUSAN COOKE</u></b></p>                |
| <p><b><u>PATHFINDERS WALKING - Times and dates vary.</u></b></p> <p>The events are free except for the cost of transport if required and any entry fees.</p> <p>Shorter walks of 3-5 miles and longer walks of 5-7 miles.</p> <p>Members should bring their own first aid kits and <b>"In case of Emergency Cards"</b> at all times.</p> <p>Suitable footwear and clothing to be worn. Food and drinks for picnics as required.</p>  | <p><b><u>LINDA KENNEDY</u></b></p>  <p>07543 293814</p>    |
| <p><b><u>POPULAR MUSIC – Fourth Tuesday monthly 2 pm – 4pm at Members' homes.</u></b></p> <p>The Group has been running successfully for nine years. In March instead of our usual meeting, we have lunch and a music quiz at the Carnarvon Arms, Teversal.</p>  | <p><b><u>ELIZABETH ELLIS</u></b></p>  <p>01623 644429</p> |
| <p><b><u>READ A LITTLE ALOUD – Second Friday monthly 2 pm – 4pm at Members' homes.</u></b></p> <p>We read extracts from books, poems etc and then discuss. Books are provided which have been marked in sections so that each person reads aloud about two paragraphs each. The topics involved might be : friendship, love and marriage, indiscretion etc. We don't delve into criticism or style of writing. We always fly off on a tangent and it's surprising where it leads us! If a member prefers to just listen and not read aloud that's fine. Currently the group is full.</p> | <p><b><u>SUE HOWLETT</u></b></p>  <p>01623 627423</p>     |

**READING GROUP 1 – Third Thursday monthly 2pm – 4pm at Group Leader’s home or Members’ homes.**

At our friendly meetings, we have tea or coffee and then we discuss the book we have read the previous month; we are then given the book we will read in time for the next meeting.

**PETER DAWSON**



01623 481721

**READING GROUP 2 – Third Tuesday monthly 2pm – 4 pm at Group Leader’s home.**

Our members are supplied with the same book to read and then we meet for discussion

**SYLVIA SLACK**



01623 633981

**SCRABBLE - Second Monday Monthly 2pm – 4pm at Group Leader’s home.**

We enjoy 2/3 games of Scrabble with a break for coffee/tea and biscuits.

**LYNNE PAYNE**



01623 555738

**SHUFFLERS – Fourth Thursday 12 noon finish times vary.**

Mansfield u3a’s Shufflers hold social meetings for members who have problems that restrict their mobility. This has enabled members to continue enjoying friendships and outings with like-minded members. We meet for lunch at various venues that have flat grounds to enable as many as possible to enjoy a short “shuffle,” Rufford Park, Vicar Water and Sutton Lawn have all proved very enjoyable.

**Please have your “in case of emergency card” with you at all times.**

**SYLVIA NEWLYN AND IAN LAKIN**



01623  
655893

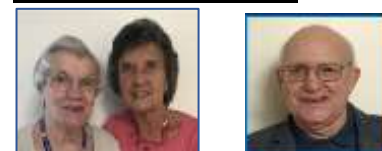
07989 668275

**STROLLERS – Second Wednesday monthly 10.30 am finish times vary.**

It is a good way to improve your health and to make new friends. At the end of the walk there will be opportunity to have refreshments.

**Please have your “in case of emergency card” with you at all times**

**SUE HOWLETT, VALERIE HART AND IAN LAKIN**



Sue 01623 627423  
Valerie 07745 208248  
Ian 07989668275

**SOFT TENNIS – Second Tuesday monthly 2pm – 3pm at Oak Tree Lane Leisure Centre.**

Tennis is played on a badminton court and normal rules apply, but we play with soft tennis balls.

£10 for three months paid in advance. Equipment provided. No black soled shoes please.

Please have your “in case of emergency card” with you at all times

**CHRISTINE SMITH**



07859 249086

**SOLO DINING – First Thursday monthly for evening meal. Third Sunday monthly for lunch. Times vary.**

This group enjoys the company of other single people in a friendly atmosphere.

An evening meal is arranged at various dining locations. Sunday lunches have also proved to be popular.

It is with regret that due to the large number of diners on our list, we are unable to add any new members at the moment. If the situation changes we will certainly let you know through this newsletter. Many thanks to the loyal support of our existing members.

**SHEILA PEGG**



07883 720657

**TIA CHI – Mondays weekly 10.30am – 11.30am at Bethal Chapel, Nottingham Road. £30 per term.**

Within our group, you work amongst friends, within your own ability, standing or sitting and feeling that you have gently exercised every part of your body (even internal bits that you cannot see). Ken really understands how our bodies work. Tai Chi with its calm movements, focuses on deep breathing and is known to reduce chronic stress and improve health and emotional well-being. With all these benefits it comes to u3a members highly recommended

**LORNA PYE**



01623 636060  
07712 029262

**WINE APPRECIATION GROUP 1 – Third Wednesday monthly 7.30pm at Members homes.**

We enjoy tasting wine, drinking it and learning about it.

**MIKE ALLEN**



01623 653345  
07565 936859

**WINE APPRECIATION GROUP 2 – Fourth Tuesday monthly 7.30 pm.**

Our meetings are essentially to give Mansfield u3a members friendly, relaxed evenings, whilst, at the same time, fostering a desire to know more about good wine. A number of wines will be tasted. This group is full.

**GRAHAM ALLIN**

01623 473662



**WRITING FOR PLEASURE – Second Monday monthly 2pm – 4pm at Friends Meeting House, Rosemary St, Mansfield, NG19 6AB.**

We pay three times a year. Cost per session £3.  
Mansfield u3a members enjoy writing for the pleasure of it – simply that.  
Get your ideas and words flowing and share them with others in an entertaining and happy two -hour session. We write on a variety of subjects including found poetry, free verse, many different story titles and even the odd limerick.

We currently have room for two more members.

**SUSAN FORD AND HILARY MILLER**



Hilary 01623 620067  
Susan 01623 844286

**Please note the following telephone numbers are the correct ones which should appear on your Membership Cards : Val Hart - 07745 208248, Ian Lakin - 07989 668275, Lorna Pye - 01623 636060**

**IMPORTANT NOTICES** - First of all, here's hoping everyone is keeping safe and well. If anyone is struggling or needing any help in any way, please don't hesitate to let any of the Committee know. We will do our best to help in any way.

**Subscription costs** for the current year have remained the same - £16. New members £18 and £12 for Associate Members. Cheques payable to Mansfield & District u3a. Online payments can be made. Contact the Treasurer, Gill Mallinder for bank details. Membership forms can be downloaded from the finance page on the Website. All current members must fill in all sections to comply with data protection laws when paying their subscriptions.

**Events and Visit payments.** Members are reminded that deposits and payments for events and visits organized by Mansfield u3a and its groups are non-refundable, but places may be offered to others.

**Changes of address etc.** Please let Jean Hatton, Membership Secretary know to keep our records up to date.

If you have any health issues that you think may affect your participation in, or enjoyment of, the activities of Mansfield u3a, you might wish to disclose them voluntarily to the Group Leaders of the groups you join, should it be helpful to do so. **Please have your "in case of emergency" card with you at all times.** If you do not have one, please obtain one at the next Members' meeting.

If you are concerned about accessing one of our venues, please talk to our Accessibility contact, Stella Hall (07717 297940).

If you have any concerns about another member who seems to be vulnerable, and you think they might be being taken advantage of by someone, you should tell our Safeguarding contact, Irena Dubowski (07549 409262) or one of the Committee.

Should you not wish to be included in any photographs taken whilst members are engaged in any activity, please let the photographer know as otherwise we will assume your consent has been given

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