

MANSFIELD & DISTRICT

u3a
learn, laugh, live

NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2021

Website: www.u3asites.org.uk/mansfield/home

Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/mu3a2016

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/349190408987691/

Words from Madame Chair: Amanda Kingswell

Hi everyone, so we are returning to normal and meeting up in person again "yeah".

It is with very mixed emotions that I have to say goodbye to you, I know that some of you were already aware.

Due to family commitments, I am handing over to Yvonne a year early, this was something that didn't pop onto my horizon until May time and I sure as hell didn't see it coming.

Our son is starting a college course in Southampton come September and we have been in the process of getting accommodation sorted etc., but this does mean that I/we are going to be going backwards and forwards to Southampton often.

As I will never quite know when I'm in Mansfield and can't devote the time that the u3a deserves I felt that standing down was a sensible decision, at least everyone knows where they are.

I thank Yvonne greatly for being gracious enough to agree to take over a year early.

I will remain a member so when I am in Mansfield I will come along to meetings.

I wish you all well and hope to see you in the future.

Amanda x

Words from the Editor: Bill Harrison

Well, it has finally arrived, with more restrictions lifted we can now start to return to some form of normality. I'm sure our Group Leaders are poised in readiness to lead from the front. The Coffee morning held at St Philip Neri Church Hall was a resounding success, front cover photo Marie, Yvonne and Mick.

Exciting times as we approach our AGM, we look forward to seeing you all at the meeting, (details below). We would like to wish a warm welcome to our new members: Elizabeth Abbot, Mary White, Vivianne Giraud, Anita Sheffield, Peter Sullivan, June Cox and Jane Phillips. We wish you many happy years with the Mansfield u3a.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Amanda Kingswell our out-going Chair, for her contributions to our u3a, during such unprecedented times. We wish you every happiness for the future.

Also, I would like to thank our Group Leaders for their contributions to the Newsletter. I have updated the Group grids to the best of my knowledge, please inform me of any corrections.

We are going to print on this edition of the Newsletter. It will be available at the September AGM meeting for members who have confirmed their attendance. The full version will still be emailed to all members, also it will be available on the Website

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You know you're getting old when:

Your idea of a wild night in with your partner is listening to classical music with the lights off.

Enrich your interest group offer – without cost or effort!

Sounds too good to be true? Read on... We are over 30 u3as in Nottinghamshire. If just half of us volunteered an interest group which could be shared with other Notts u3as, we would all have 15 new groups to which we could invite our existing members and which we could advertise on our websites as part of our **enriched offer to potential new members**.

In Carlton and Gedling u3a, we'd like to kick the process off by offering to share two groups:

- Film study group (meets once a month)
- Opera study group (meets twice a month)

Both of these groups will continue to meet online, whatever happens to social distancing etc. Because we're online, it doesn't matter if we have 4, 14, or 114 members in each group. Details of both groups are available on our Beacon website. The link is here: <https://u3abeacon.org.uk/u3agroups.php?u3a=17&sc=LJVD&hdr=0>

To remove barriers to participation, there will be no affiliation fee to pay. If any of your members want to join, they need to email me (pkmartinez14@gmail.com) and off we go!

NB If your u3a would like to take part, I would strongly encourage you to do two things:

- Advertise either or both of these groups on your website in order to **enrich your offer to potential new members**, as well as inviting your existing members.
- See if any of your interest Group Leaders/convenors/facilitators would like to include their interest group in this initiative and if they do, **share it with other Notts u3as as I am doing**.

If you need any more information or have any questions about this initiative, please email me. I look forward to hearing from you. Paul Martinez, Carlton and Gedling u3a

Newly appointed Officers for the Third Age Trust

Chair - Liz Thakray

Vice Chair - Michaela Moody

Treasurer - Derek Harwood

Trustee for East Midlands - Jean Hogg

Trustee for London - John Bent

Trustee for Wales - Sue Shannon-Jones

Mansfield & District u3a 22nd Annual General Meeting

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE AGM

As you all know it is essential that we have a quorum for the Annual General Meeting and once again we are having to hold ours during the Covid 19 pandemic. Even though restrictions have lifted somewhat since last year's meeting, it is still important that we take every precaution to ensure our members meet in a safe environment. Therefore, we are asking that you please let us know, one way or the other, whether you intend to come along in person on Tuesday 21 September so that we can socially distance the room and cater for everyone who wants to come.

If you don't feel that you can come just yet, it is equally essential that you let us know how you wish to vote on the proposals set out in the papers sent alongside this message so that the Committee can act as your proxy. Please email your response to businesssec.mansfieldu3a@gmail.com If you don't respond we will take it that you won't be there and provision will not be made to cater for you. We are sorry that we have to take these measures but we are sure you will understand that we have to take every step to make sure everyone is safe.

To ensure we are quorate for the Meeting we need 20% attendance/proxy votes by the members

Tuesday 21 September 2021

10.00-12.00

1861 Suite, One Call Stadium

Quarry Lane, Mansfield

Notts. NG18 5DA

AGENDA

1. Chair's Welcome:

The Chair's Report is in the September AGM issue of the Newsletter and sent out with this Agenda.

2. Apologies:

Apologies to the Business Secretary on 07512 763330 or on the day by another member.

3. Approval of Minutes from 2020 AGM:

These are on the Website, in the September Newsletter and a copy will be sent out with the Agenda. Copies will be available at the meeting

4. Treasurer's Report (incl. approval of the Accounts & election of an Auditor):

A summary of the Treasurer's Report is given in the September AGM issue of the Newsletter.

In addition, the Group Co-ordinator's, Membership Secretary's, Newsletter Editor's and Website Editor Reports are in the September issue of the Newsletter and on the Website. All these Reports will be sent out with the Agenda.

5. Nominations for the Committee:

The following are retiring from the Committee:

Amanda Kingswell (Chair)
Yvonne Kennison (Treasurer)
Lynne Payne
(Groups Coordinator; Safeguarding Officer)

The following are seeking election or re-election to the Committee:

Yvonne Kennison (Chair)	2024
Graham Headworth (Vice Chair)	2023
Stephen Cross (Treasurer)	2024
Carole Harrison	
(Business/Minutes Secretary)	2023
Sheila Pegg (Group Treasurer)	2023
Philip Tucker (Speaker Finder)	2023
Jean Hatton	
(Membership Secretary/Helping Hand)	2023
Mick Kennison (Group Co-ordinator/ Safeguarding Officer)	2024
Lynne Payne (Committee Member)	2024

Members with Special Expertise

Bob Longden (Website Administrator)
Mike Allen (Website Editor)
Bill Harrison (Newsletter Editor)
Sarah Spurry (Facebook Officer)

6. Election of the new Committee:

There being no contest, the Committee will be proposed and elected en bloc.

7. Any Other Business:

• **REVISED CONSTITUTION**

The Committee puts to the Meeting that the revised Constitution, provided by the Third Age Trust, be accepted to replace the previous Constitution. The proposed changes have been highlighted in red. The Third Age Trust and Charity Commission will be informed of the decision made at the AGM regarding our Constitution.

• **SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2021/2022**

New membership subscription for 2021/22 remains at £17 and Associate Membership £8.50.

Members who joined after November 2020 must renew their membership before the end of November 2021 for £15 and £8.50 for Associate Membership.

Fees have been waived for the period September 2021 – September 2022 for members who subscribed before November 2020.

Any motions for consideration at the AGM must be proposed and seconded and sent to the Business Secretary before the beginning of the AGM Meeting.

Many thanks

The Committee

Date of the next Annual General Meeting: Tuesday 20 September 2022

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FINANCIAL REPORT

I am pleased to present the Receipts and Payments Statement for 2020/2021. This will be my last year-end report to you as Treasurer before handing over to Stephen Cross who will become our new Treasurer at the September AGM.

As always, it has been a pleasure to take care of our finances over the last few years (I can't remember exactly how many) and I shall, I have to be honest, miss the challenges of trying to find that elusive 50p to make the books balance, but it is only right that the baton is now being passed on and I am confident that Stephen will prove to be an excellent Treasurer alongside Sheila Pegg who will continue to be our Group Treasurer. I would like to thank her for working alongside me. I think we have made a good team although I say so myself.

On behalf of everyone I would like to thank all those who continue to support the Robin Hood Lottery and all those who have gift aided their subscriptions. This has given us a steady income each month. I would urge any of our new members who are tax payers, to please fill in a Gift Aid form for us. It will be greatly appreciated as it helps to keep the subscriptions low.

Obviously because of the dreaded Covid 19 epidemic there has not been as much income and expenditure as in previous years although you might be surprised at how much has had to be dealt with nonetheless.

I think it is all self-explanatory and I hope you will agree that despite everything, we are still in a strong financial position. The cost of the audit appears to have gone up but that is because I have purchased a gift voucher for Danuta before I hand over to Stephen to save him the trouble of having to go out to buy it so there are two years' amounts in there. Other than that, I think it is all straight forward. However, if anyone needs anything explaining, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you all for your continued support Yvonne – September 2021.

Receipts and Payments Account
2020/2021

Receipts

Subscriptions	£1,889.00
50p table	£28.00
Robin Hood Lottery	£146.00
Gift Aid	£418.79
Grant	£100.00
Tai Chi	£1,525.00
Garden Visits	£706.65
Sci Tec	£20.00
Transfers from Group	
A/C	£5.75

Payments

Membership Fees	£756.00
Direct Mail	£415.60
Audit	£60.00
Stationery/postage	£48.49
Gifts	£89.50
u3a Day	£129.82
Equipment	£296.25
Printing	£153.00
Room Hire	£150.00
Speakers	£685.00
expenses	£38.00
Tai Chi	£1,154.00
Theatre	£74.75
Garden Visits	£803.75
Copyright licence	£60.00

Zoom		£143.90
Transfers to current a/c		£5.75
Social Events		£4.98
Refunds		£20.00
	<u>£4,839.19</u>	<u>£5,088.79</u>

balance b/f	£8,539.58	
Groups	£2,328.62	
p/cash balance	£29.67	
c/f		8087.47
group		2542.02
p/cash		18.78
	<u>£15,737.06</u>	<u>£15,737.06</u>

Carried forward to 2021/2022

Bank balance main a/c	£8,087.47
Bank balance group a/c	£2,542.02
p/cash	£18.78
	<u>£10,648.2</u>
Combined total c/f	<u>7</u>

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Amanda Kingswell, Chair

Due to family commitments, I am having to stand down a year early, please see my note in the September newsletter.

I will be unable to join you at the AGM and will again call on my wonderful Vice Chair Yvonne to welcome you all to the 22nd AGM. A strange eighteen months it has been but I would like to commend everyone who has stuck with us via Zoom meetings. Plus, those Group Leaders who have managed to continue with their groups via Zoom and the outdoor groups for practicing the recommended social distancing requirements as per Government Guidelines.

The Committee have met via Zoom and kept some sort of normality going...well done to you all. It has been nice to have some speakers who have been prepared to attend via good old Zoom.

I wish you all well for the future.

Yvonne Kennison, Treasurer

The last year has been exceptionally hard on all of us but I believe we have come through it remarkably well.

Signing up to Zoom kept us in touch with one another and gave us something to show for our reduced subscriptions. The savings we have made, however, have enabled those of us who kept up their membership to have a free year and despite our fund-raising activities also being curtailed, we are still in a healthy financial position.

I have mixed feelings about ending my tenure as your Treasurer because I have enjoyed the job very much but I have every confidence in our new Treasurer Stephen Cross and wish him well in the role. I would also like to thank Sheila Pegg, our Group Treasurer, for working alongside me; I think we have made a good team, and also to those who have continued to subscribe to the Robin Hood Lottery.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support over the last few years.

Jean Hatton, Membership Secretary

I took over as Membership Secretary last September, in the middle of a global pandemic and just after one lockdown and before two more yet to come.

I am delighted to say that over the past year we have had 27 new members which I think is excellent, especially due to the unprecedented times we have been living through. I hope they continue with their membership, especially as things may be returning to some sort of normality.

Sadly, we have also lost some dear members over the past 12 months and my condolences go to their families and friends.

I have kept the mailing list up-to-date and submitted it to the u3a office so that everyone has continued to receive their TAM magazine. I know that I always look forward to reading mine.

Finally, I hope to be able continue in my post for at least another year and thank the Committee and members for their support.

Bill Harrison, Newsletter Editor

Michael Allen was the previous Newsletter Editor, a position he held for five years, and he did a sterling job. Mike stood down in March 2020. The position of Newsletter Editor was handed over to me along with 'The Bible' as Mike likes to call it, which gave me an insight into how things were done.

So, my role as Editor began in very strange times during several lockdowns due to the global pandemic. There was never a better time our members needed communication than during this period. Contact with the Group Leaders is paramount for future meetings/various visits, so data can be inputted into the Newsletter, keeping all our members informed. I feel the u3a Newsletters are an important role in communication.

Lynne Payne, Groups Co-ordinator

Although it has been a difficult time through Covid, thanks to the Group Leaders who have managed to continue using Zoom etc.

I have enjoyed my time in this role, and will continue as a committee member and would like to wish Mick Kennison all the best when he takes over the role from me.

Bob Longden, Website Editor

The website has been updated to comply with the Third Age Trusts new branding colours and logo. Over the past 12-18 months it's encouraging to see that some Group Leaders are updating their sites and uploading pictures.

Thanks also to Bill Harrison, Newsletter Editor, for updating the Newsletter page and keeping everyone up-to-date.

40th Anniversary u3a Diaries for 2022

Please let me know if you would like to purchase one of the above diaries at a cost of £3.00.

Please bring your money to either of the Members Meetings on Tuesday 21 September and Tuesday 19 October 2021.

Then we will order them to give out at the November Members Meeting on Tuesday 16 November.

Many thanks

Carole Harrison

Businesssec.mansfieldu3a@gmail.com

Antiques and Collectables Group: Pat Blackwell

I am excited to let you know that we are starting to meet again from Tuesday 14 September at 10.00am and that we have a change of venue.

We will now meet at St Peter's Centre, Church Side, Mansfield, NG18 1AP.

Due to the uncertain Covid situation would you please bring your own cup or mug for a drink. I will provide everything else necessary for our tea-break.

The topic for the first meeting will be 'Something with a face'. Ideas for you are watch, clock, picture or toy. This should mean that we can all provide an item to talk about. I am looking forward to seeing you all again and looking at the objects that arrive on the day. If you have any questions, please contact me on: **01623 481745**

Pat Blackwell

You know you're getting old when:

The gap between your belt and your armpits is considerably smaller than it used to be.

Family History Group: Valerie Wood and Ken Gilbert

Since Ken and I have restarted our group via Zoom back in April this year we have had some interesting discussions. Our first month's meeting was an introduction to our group and what we were about.

The topics we have covered so far have been occupations, your family home and its history plus was anyone in your family in the military. Also did you know anything about their service through research you have carried out. Also, all our members regret not having asked enough questions of people before they passed away, and how many photos have you got of people whom you have no idea what their names are and even if they are related to you. I know I have photos of relatives and I have no idea what their names are; it's very frustrating. Perhaps we should start labelling our own photos for future generations.

Our meetings for now will continue via Zoom until we can establish somewhere suitable for our meetings. Our next meetings for 2021 are 28 September; 26 October and the final one for the year is 23 November. The link will be emailed by Yvonne a week before each meeting.

Thank you and we hope to see you at our meetings in the future.

Valerie Wood and Ken Gilbert joint Group Leaders

Coffee Morning 24 August St Philip Neri Church Hall

How lovely it was to see so many members coming together for the Coffee Morning.

It was such a pleasure to make the hall look so welcoming and I have to thank so many people for making it such a success.

I want to say a huge thank you to the Social Committee - Linda, Sheila, Marie, Elizabeth and Eileen for the tombola and raffle.



We made a profit of £116.77 which is fabulous. Thanks to Bill, Carole and Jean our greeters, Sheila Pegg, Mick and Stephen for helping out in the kitchen and with the clearing up and to everyone who turned up to make it such a great atmosphere.

Now we have made a break through the Covid barrier, I think we will all feel a fresh confidence in moving forward. See you at the AGM. Yvonne.

Message from Denise Whitsed

Thursford 16 to 18 November £289

1 single room has come available

All balances to be paid by 5 September please
Potters resort 13 June to 17 June 2022

5-star all-inclusive holiday, limited places available due to popular demand
Twins and doubles available in bungalow plus or hotel (supplements apply for hotel).

This family-owned holiday resort boasts 5 star Holiday of all inclusive, 4 meals a day, all drinks, branded spirits and wine etc plus full daytime programme, spa facilities and 5- star West End evening entertainment.

This is booked with Potters, so the full discount is passed on to all our members and bus is booked with Skills Travel.

Price will be approx. £410 depending on discount numbers and bus approx. £30 return
A holiday not to be missed.

Contact Denise via deewhits@aol.com or 07791941502 Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm

Bridge Group:

BIG “THANK YOU” must go to John and Joan Hufton for their years spent running the Bridge Club. It is sad that they have felt the time has come to wind it up but the effort they have put into it is very much appreciated by everyone who has spent an enjoyable evening with them.

BUT IF ANYONE INTERESTED IN PLAYING OR LEARNING BRIDGE?

The Pavilion Bridge Club – is hoping to re-start after 19 September - Tuesday mornings 10.00 am - 12 noon. Contact mikejlake@btinternet.com for details. Beginners welcome. Also Thursday mornings at Mansfield Mechanics Institute 10.00 am - 12 noon. Contact Val Hill 07963 829380 for details. Once again beginners are welcome.

SOFT TENNIS AND INDOOR CURLING

We have confirmed with River Maun Recreation Centre that we can recommence Soft Tennis on 9 September 2.00pm – 3.00pm and we have booked the same court to set up the first Indoor Curling Game 3.00pm – 4.00pm on the same day. New members are welcome and indeed encouraged to come along. Please contact Yvonne & Mick Kennison m.kennison@ntlworld.com if you are interested.

We would love to see you. Yvonne

Message from Lynne Payne: Groups Co-ordinator

To be announced at the AGM, Mick Kennison is going to take over the Group Leader Coordinator role if approved.

Joan Hufton has confirmed to me that she is no longer going to run the Bridge club. There are only 2/3 Mansfield people in this group, if anyone would like to run the group.

Anyone interested, please contact the Group Co-ordinator or Joan Huffton.

Lynne Payne will be starting up the Scrabble Group and keep to the same date and time, 2-4 pm on the 2nd Monday of each month. I can't do this in September, so I aim to start on 11 October.

Initially it will be at my house. Anyone who may be interested to contact me. You may also need to put my contact details in, so my home number is 01623 555738 and my email address is lynne.Payne1@ntlworld.com

Many thanks

Lynne

Mini Breaks: Jacqueline Hampshire

The Chesford Grange, Warwickshire

20 May- 23 May 2022 (Friday- Monday)

Direct coach from our pick-up points, 3 nights' accommodation in en-suite rooms.

Complete luggage handling* (government guidelines permitting)

Dinner, bed and breakfast (please note that some meals may be carvery service). Tea and coffee at evening meal is not included, however it is at breakfast.

Full day in Stratford upon Avon, visit to Sims Vintage Antiques Centre

I will endeavour to arrange another visit, possibly river or theatre to add to this trip nearer the date.

£359 per person when sharing a Twin or Double Room.

£359 for a limited number of single rooms, however these are going quickly.

Deposit £50 per person due as soon as possible.

Balance due 25 March 2022

Optional insurance £25 and this does cover for COVID-19

Cheques made payable to **JUST FOR GROUPS**. (Not u3a)

Thank you.

Jacqueline Hampshire

Shufflers Group: Sylvia Newlyn

Big thank you to Sylvia Slack for starting The Shufflers group originally. So many members have benefited from it. Thanks now to Sylvia Newlyn for agreeing to take it over.

Some of her waiting on staff. Thank you Sylvia for the wonderful Shufflers get together at your home. We enjoyed the occasion and delicious meal.



Key to Meetings details:

The following tables on pages show:

The Interest Group Hyperlink for each Group, hold Ctrl and double click to follow the link to the chosen Group on the Mansfield u3a website for up-to-date information of your group. The Asterix denotes that the Group is full.

Some outdoor activities will be indicated by various meetings / meeting places.

Meeting Places: various Groups will be meeting as indicated in the meetings column, please check with your Group Leaders or u3a website if any amendments have been made.

Leader/Contact, Group Leader's names and contact details: please make a note of the contact details for your chosen Group.

All members are asked to contact the relevant Group Leader beforehand if they would like to participate in any interest group or attend an event

Disclaimer: All details are correct at time of going to print. Could all Group Leaders please inform the Newsletter Editor of any alterations, contact Bill Harrison at bill20newsletter@gmail.com .

Interest Group	Meetings	Meeting Places	Leader / Contact
<u>Afternoon Teas</u>	2 nd Sat, Monthly 3.00 – 5.00	Various	Sheila Whalley 01623 453908
<u>Antiques and Collectables</u>	2 nd Tue, Monthly 10.00 – 12.00	St Peters Centre Mansfield	Pat Blackwell 01623 481745
<u>Beadwork *</u>	1 st Wed, Monthly 10.00 – 12.00	Leader's Home	Marilyn Jones 01773 819155 0780324484
<u>Birdwatching Wildlife</u>	Various	Various	Ken White 07973315050
<u>Bridge</u>	Mon, Fortnightly 6.30 – 9.00	The Rushley, Nottingham Road	Joan Hufton 01623 557488
<u>Bowls</u>	Tues, Weekly 2.30 - 4.00	Mans, Bowls club Summer / Lammas Centre Winter	Dave Drew 01623 555012
<u>Calligraphy</u>	1 st Thurs, Monthly 10.00 - 12.00	Leader's Home	Marilyn Jones 01773 819155 0780324484
<u>Chat and Stitch</u>	3 rd Mon, Monthly 2.00 - 4.00	St John's Centre, Mansfield	Doreen Storer 01623 407731
<u>Family History</u>	4 th Tue, Monthly 10.00 12.00	Stanhope Centre	Valerie Wood 07989695773 Ken Gilbert
<u>Film Studies</u>	1 st Wed, Monthly 1.30	Joy's home	Joy Crowe 01623 645400
<u>Gardening and Gardening visits</u>	1 st Tues, Monthly 10.00 -12.00 Visits Various	St Peter's Centre, Mansfield	Marilyn Dibble 01623 634805

Tues 7 Sept at 10.00am at St. Peters Centre in Mansfield.
Our guest speaker is Steve Lovell (one of our favourites) and the title of the talk is "Roots and Shoots".

Interest Group	Meetings	Meeting Places	Leader / Contact
<u>Golf</u>	Last Friday Monthly	Various	Paul Mann 01623 615416
<u>History</u>	3 rd Wed, Monthly 10.00 - 12.00	Mansfield Bowling Club	Philip Tucker 01623 437516
History Group will reconvene on Wednesday 22 Sept at Mansfield Bowling Club			
<u>Mini Breaks</u>	Various	See table at meetings	Jacqui Hampshire 01623 239210
Please see under Mini Breaks in the Group News			
<u>Classical Music</u>	4 th Mon, Monthly 2.00 - 4.00	Leader's house	Mike Allen 01623 653345
<u>Popular Music Appreciation</u>	4 th Tues, Monthly 2.00 - 4.00	St John's Centre, Mansfield	Liz Ellis 01623 644429
<u>Pudding Club</u>	1 st Tues, Monthly 4.00 - 6.00	Members' Homes	Sylvia Slack 01623 633981
<u>Read a Little Aloud</u>	2 nd Fri, Monthly 2.00 - 4.00	Members' homes	Sue Howlett 01623 627423
<u>Reading 1</u>	3 rd Thur, Monthly 2.00 - 4.00	Peter Dawson's home	Peter Dawson 01623 882191
<u>Reading 2</u>	3 rd Tues, Monthly 2.00 - 4.00	Ravenshead Library	Joan Hufton 01623 557488
<u>Soft Tennis/Table Tennis/ Indoor Curling</u>	2 nd & 4 th Thurs, Weekly 2.00 - 3.00 3.00 -4.00	River Maun Recreation Centre	Yvonne and Mick Kennison 01623 481721
<u>Solo Dining</u>	1 st Thurs, Monthly 6.00 pm	Various	Sheila Pegg 01623 661401

Interest Group	Meetings	Meeting Places	Leader / Contact
Tai Chi	Mon, Weekly 9.30 - 10.30	Bethel Chapel Nottingham Road	Lorna Pye 01623 636060 07712 029262
Tai Chi We are starting on Monday 6 September at 10.30am for 1 hour			
Theatre Visits	Various	See table at meetings	Sheila Whalley 01623 453908
See Theatre table at meetings, Newsletter or website pages for full details.			
Walking Groups			
Hikers (all-day, 6 – 8 miles)	3 rd Mon, 9.30 Monthly, finish times variable	Various	Tim Spurry 01623 647961
Next Meetings:			
Shufflers (short & gentle)	4 th Thur, Monthly 12.00 variable finish times	Various-short + gentle	Sylvia Newlyn 01623 655893
Strollers (a leisurely 2 miles)	2 nd Wed, Monthly 10.30	Various	Val Hart 07745208248 Sue Howlett 01623 627423
Pathfinders Walking Group	4 th Wed, 10.30 Monthly 1 st Mon, 10.30 Monthly	Various 4/6 miles	Ken White 01623 617136 Val Hart 01623 201810
Wine Appreciation 2	3 rd Wed, Monthly 7.30	Members' homes	Mike Allen 01623 653345
Wine Appreciation 3	4 th Tues, Monthly 7.30	Members' homes	Graham Allin 01623 473662
Writing for Pleasure	2 nd Mon, Monthly 14.00-16.00	Mansfield Bowls Club. Chesterfield Road, Mansfield	Hilary Miller 01623 620067 Sue Ford 01623 844286
Meeting on 13 September will be held at Mansfield Bowls Club, Chesterfield Road, Mansfield at 2.00 p.m.			

Solo Dining : Sheila Pegg Group Leader

The Solo Diners ventured out after an 18-month gap and enjoyed a lovely meal and good company for their long awaited get together.

I booked three tables of four at The Redgate to ensure people felt safe and comfortable after such a long time and everyone agreed it had been a successful evening.

We are looking forward to our next outing; anyone who didn't go in August will be invited to the September evening, as, for the time being, I am limiting the numbers to twelve.

From September I will be inviting people to a lunchtime venue to ensure all members get an opportunity to attend at least one meal per month.

Thanks to all members for their continuing support.

Sheila Pegg

Solo Dining: sent in by Jean Hatton

On 5 August eleven of us attended our first Solo Dining group in just about 18 months.

It was a rainy and windy evening and we entered The Redgate in Mansfield with a mixture of excitement and trepidation but we needn't have worried.

The staff made us feel very welcome and safe, still wearing face coverings and still abiding by social distancing as they put us on 3 separate tables, which was fine.

An enjoyable evening was had by all, the food was excellent and it was so good to see some familiar faces and to catch up with what everyone had been going through.

A huge thank you should go to Sheila Pegg for organising this and I'm sure we are all looking forward to next month's get together when hopefully a few more of the members will feel a bit more confident to join us.

Jean Hatton

You know you're getting old when:

The car you have now, cost you as much as your first house did.

Golf Group: Paul Mann Group Leader

A late entry that missed the August edition.

The fixture took place at Bulwell Forest Golf Club on 30 July. The weather forecast was not good.

However, 6 brave souls turned out to fight the elements and their golfing demons. The players managed to reach the 8th hole before the heavens opened and play was suspended under umbrellas for about 1 hour.

One player who shall not be named gave up at this stage. The remaining 5 continued their round once the weather slightly improved and full credit goes to them.

Nine members competed at Tipton Golf Course Chesterfield on an almost perfect day for golf. The Course was in excellent condition and played really well.

However, one member found the hills too much and packed up after 9 holes but he is forgiven because of his age!

The match was won by the group leader on 38 points. I will be arranging the next fixture for the end of September.

PAUL MANN

Gardening Group: Marylin Dibble

We meet again in person on Tues 7 Sept at 10.00am at St. Peters Centre in Mansfield.

Our guest speaker is Steve Lovell (one of our favourites) and the title of the talk is "Roots and Shoots".

Looking forward to catching up with you all.

New members are always welcome.

Take care
Marilyn



Hello everyone and hope you are all keeping well and busy?

After a very quiet 2020, this summer has been the opposite and over the past month I've been busy away at shows judging and giving talks and at several events Jill joined me for our joint Gardening on the Menu talk. This talk is based on our book by the same name and I talk about growing fruit and vegetables and Jill cooks the fresh produce to create some very tasty dishes. Normally we let the audience sample the dishes, but to comply with COVID regulations there's no tasting, which means that I have to eat everything afterwards back-stage!

We both thoroughly enjoyed being back at shows and it was lovely to see so many people that we know from clubs and groups that came up to say hello to us.

One of the highlights for me was at the Great Yorkshire Show where I had the pleasure of showing the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall around the gardening section.

August is a quiet month for shows and we're hoping to get a few days off to explore in the North York Moors and the Dales. There's so much to see there and we are lucky it's on our doorstep. We will of course be catching up in our vegetable garden where at the moment courgettes and dwarf French beans are coming thick and fast. Jill's also busy making her delicious jams and chutneys ready for when we are back on the road giving talks to groups through autumn and winter. We've got lots booked in the diary, so fingers crossed we'll be able to attend them all.

Continue to keep safe everyone as life gradually gets back to normal.

The gardener's diary with Martin Fish

Water and feed all plants growing in pots and containers on a regular basis to keep the compost moist and the plant healthy.

If vine weevil grubs are a problem in your containers, now is the time to apply nematodes to the compost. The microscopic worms are watered into the compost and seek out and kill the grubs that feed on plant roots.

To keep lawns green and healthy mow little and often which helps to maintain a thick covering of grass. If the weather turns hot and dry, lift the height of cut slightly.

To keep annual weeds such as chickweed, groundsel and bitter cress under control, hoe the surface of the soil every couple of weeks to chop off any germinating weed seeds.

Deadhead roses and other summer perennials around the garden to encourage a late flush of blooms in early autumn.

Trim hedges to keep them compact and in shape.

Bearded irises can be lifted and divided once they have finished flowering. Discard the oldest part of the clump and replant the outer parts that have fleshy roots (rhizomes), in a sunny position, making sure the rhizomes are just at soil level. To help them settle in cut the sword-like leaves back by two-thirds and water in thoroughly after planting.

Keep an eye on apples and plums, and any fruits that turn brown and start to rot on the tree should be removed and disposed of. This is known as brown rot and if left on the tree it soon spreads to healthy fruits.

Keep harvesting vegetables such as runner beans and courgettes to encourage more flowers and fruits to develop.

If growing tomatoes, remember to pinch off the side shoots on upright varieties and feed them weekly with a high potash tomato fertiliser to help the fruits develop and ripen.

Cut back the old foliage and runners from strawberry plants and feed with a general fertiliser to encourage a new flush of healthy growth.

If main crop potatoes are damaged by blight, which can be a problem at this time of the year, cut back all stems to soil level to prevent the blight getting to the tubers. The initial signs of attack are brown spots and a watery rot of the leaves that spreads quickly causing the plants to collapse.

There's still time to sow beetroot, carrots, lettuce, spring onions, spinach and other leafy veg to enjoy through late summer and early autumn.

Best wishes

Martin & Jill

CONGRATULATIONS WENDY AND CHRIS NEIGHBOUR

To have and to hold
One vow that's what we say
Now you are both United
In the Mansfield u3a.



So, with Wendy and Chris
In love, one became two
So, Wendy and Chris
Are both Neighbours now too.

Our newlyweds on June the 3rd
Both took their vows
For all it was heard.



Best wishes from all
At the Mansfield u3a
May the rest of your lives
Flourish, as your wedding day.

Strollers Group: Sue Howlett

Once again, the weather was kind to us for our August stroll along part of the Teversal Trail which covers the site of the old Teversal and Silver Hill Collieries.

It is now hard to believe that until the 1990s it was the site of working mines on the route of the Mansfield to Ollerton railway line. The station at Teversal was opened in 1886.



There are now lovely wide surfaced paths among a beautiful landscape where you can enjoy walks of various lengths. It is now a site of scientific interest as it is one of only a few areas of limestone grassland left in Nottinghamshire. Silver Hill was originally a huge pit tip before it was made safe. It is now one of the highest places in

Nottinghamshire and is the site of the miner's statue. On a clear day, like the one we had, you can see for miles in all directions



Tai Chi Group: Lorna Pye

We will at last be seeing our lovely instructor Ken, face to face at the Bethel Chapel on Nottingham Road, Mansfield.

Many people did not want to do Zoom and will be so pleased to be getting back to some sort of normality.

We are starting on Monday 6 September at 10.30am for 1 hour,
Each Monday.

We can park at Sainsbury's (which is opposite) for up to 2 hours.
The cost for the term is £30.00.

If you are interested in joining us for this gentle, stimulating exercise then do please get in touch

Lorna Pye
Tel 01623 636060
E mail harry.pye@ntlworld.com

Beadwork/Calligraphy Groups: Marilyn Jones

Our Beadwork Group has been meeting up now since the Government put in place the rule about having 6 people from different households at your home since mid-May.

The group is strong and I don't really have any spare places at present. They are a very friendly, fun group and we all have a lovely time every week.

The Calligraphy Group has not resumed as yet. Not sure if everyone has lost interest. I'll try to rekindle it.

Kind regards
Marilyn

Writing for pleasure Group: Hillary Miller/Sue Ford

The Best Laid Plans ...

The Writing for Pleasure Group embraced technology and kept going through all the lockdowns using Zoom with Yvonne's help and our improving levels of competency to continue writing in the meetings and circulating our homework but it was with great anticipation that Hilary and I met outside the first of our trial new venues to get things ready for our face-to-face meeting in August.

We had already looked at the facilities and rooms available, worked out our programme, notified our members and been given the key to get in. It was a fine but windy afternoon as we stood by the door with all our bags, ready to set things up. We were reasonably sure we had everything we needed, tea, coffee and biscuits, those vital ingredients for a successful meeting but what we hadn't anticipated was being unable to unlock the side door.

First Hilary tried, then me. We looked at the key and the lock, tried again and again. Getting hot and bothered we went round to the front door, battled in through the gate and tried that lock, but again the key didn't fit! Back to the side door to try again but still in vain. What to do next? We knew that at least 8 members had confirmed their attendance and would be arriving any minute. The key holder was on holiday and not contactable.

Where could we go? Sainsbury's Café was our only option, if there was room. Dashing across the road to the café we asked if we could hold our meeting there and got approval. We chose one of the corners, moved a few chairs, Hilary held the fort and I ran back across the road to find Joy, Eileen and Tracey already waiting by the side door, trying to make sense of the instructions hastily scribbled on the notice stuck on the door. They made their way to the café and Yvonne, Julie and myself followed.

We settled down amidst a lot of laughter caused by being locked out, read out our homework and did some writing until it was time for refreshments. No tea making for Hilary and me, and so no washing-up either as we ordered from the counter. The downside to the Café as a possible venue were the canned music and cool air conditioning but I think everyone enjoyed themselves.

We look forward to meeting at the Bowls Club next time when we know the door will be open!

You know you're getting old when:

Most of your body hurts. If any bits don't hurt, it's because they've stopped working.

Letter home from camp

Dear Mom,

Our Scoutmaster told us to write to our parents in case you saw the flood on TV and got worried. We are okay. Only one of our tents and 2 sleeping bags got washed away. Luckily, none of us got drowned because we were all up on the mountain looking for Adam when it happened.

Oh yes, please call Adam's mother and tell her he is okay. He can't write because of the cast. I got to ride in one of the Search and Rescue jeeps. It was great. We never would have found Adam in the dark if it hadn't been for the lightning.

Scoutmaster Ted got mad at Adam for going on a hike alone without telling anyone.

Adam said he did tell him, but it was during the fire so he probably didn't hear him. Did you know that if you put petrol on a fire, it will blow up?

The wet wood didn't burn, but one of the tents did and also some of our clothes. Matthew is going to look weird until his hair grows back.

We will be home on Saturday if Scoutmaster Ted gets the bus fixed. It wasn't his fault about the crash. The brakes worked okay when we left.

Scoutmaster Ted said that with a bus that old, you have to expect something to break down; that's probably why he can't get insurance.

We think it's a super bus. He doesn't care if we get it dirty, and if it's hot, sometimes he lets us ride on the bumpers. It gets pretty hot with 45 people in a bus made for 24.

He let us take turns riding in the trailer until the policeman stopped and talked to us.

Scoutmaster Ted is a neat guy. Don't worry, he is a good driver. In fact, he is teaching Horace how to drive on the mountain roads where there aren't any police. All we ever see up there are huge logging trucks.

This morning all of the guys were diving off the rocks and swimming out to the rapids.

Scoutmaster Ted wouldn't let me because I can't swim, and Adam was afraid he would sink because of his cast, so he let us take the canoe out. It was great.

You can still see some of the trees under the water from the flood.

Scoutmaster Ted isn't crabby like some scoutmasters. He didn't even get mad about the life jackets.

He has to spend a lot of time working on the bus so we are trying not to cause him any trouble.

Guess what? We have all passed our First Aid merit badges. When Andrew dived into the lake and cut his arm, we all got to see how a tourniquet works.

Steve and I threw up, but Scoutmaster Ted said it was probably just food poisoning from the left-over chicken.

He said they got sick that way with food they ate in prison. I'm so glad he got out and became our scoutmaster.

He said he sure figured out how to get things done better while he was doing his time. By the way, what is a pedal-file?

I have to go now.

We are going to town to post our letters and buy some more beer and ammo.

Don't worry about anything. We are fine and tonight it's my turn to sleep in the Scoutmaster's tent.

You know you're getting old when:

You hear yourself passing on advice to your children that your parents gave you.

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATIONS:

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

Subscriptions 2021/ 2022 New members: £17. Associate members £8.50.

Cheques payable to *Mansfield and District u3a*

The Membership Renewal Form can be downloaded from the website or will be available from the Treasurer at the monthly meetings.

Please Note: All current members must complete all sections of the Membership Renewal Form to comply with Data Protection laws when paying their subscriptions. Thank you.

Online Banking is now available to members to pay their subscriptions online. As publishing details for this facility has compromised its security, members are asked to apply to the Treasurer.

treasurer.mansfieldu3a@gmail.com

Event and Visit Payments

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

Please note: if you go on a trip/visit organised by a company, cheques for the event must be made out to the company, not Mansfield u3a.

Changes of Address, etc. Please contact the Membership Secretary, Jean Hatton on (0793 5707582) if you've changed your address, phone number or email recently so that she can update our records.

Disclaimer

The views expressed here are those of the contributors only, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, the Committee of Mansfield 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 bill20newsletter@gmail.com or by hand to Bill Harrison as soon as you can and by the first of the month at the latest. Thanks!

Editor: Bill Harrison: 01623 462188 / 07849 966962

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