

Newsline November 2026

u3a Southwell

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Front Cover: Image by Lisa Burdett called "Light Stream". Taken in Southwell Minster, Lisa set her camera shutter speed for 3.5 seconds. She focused on the window for 3 seconds and then moved the camera to the top left for the final 1/2 second. As a result, the light streaming through the window becomes ethereal and dramatic.

From the Chair, November 2026



On a recent road trip around Ireland, we were kept amused by the names of some of the villages we went through. Two of our favourites (both in Tipperary) were Two Mile Borris (Buiríos Léith) and Horse and Jockey (An Marcach). Both have derivations somewhat less exciting than their names. In medieval Ireland, a buiríos denoted a small settlement e.g. burgage, and the Horse and Jockey is, as expected, probably named after a pub.

I'm sure our Creative Writing group could come up with more imaginative derivations. In an article in the paper recently, Adrian Chiles described that when stuck on a recent long journey, he passed the time by making imaginary characters out of place names he was passing through. For example, Leigh Delamere – "the glamorous heiress of an American biscuit-making fortune, now fallen on hard times". This led others to remember a Douglas Adams book, The Meaning of Liff where the Lincolnshire village Mavis Enderby is defined as "The almost-completely-forgotten girlfriend from your distant past for whom your wife has a completely irrational jealousy and hatred".

This reminded me of other car-games we used to play to while away long journeys. A family favourite of ours (when journeys weren't on motorways) was to play pub cricket. You scored runs depending upon how many legs the pub name had (e.g. Dog and Duck = 6 runs) and were given "out" if it had none. My dad was a great master at this. On journeys through Hampshire and Wiltshire to see my gran, when it was his turn to "bat" he'd suddenly take a strange detour which would, inevitably, take him though villages where there would be a "Fox and Hounds", "George and Dragon" and "Coach and Horses", giving him an unbeatable 26 runs!

I'm sure many of you can remember similar, creative ways, that were used to pass the time on long journeys. Those of us privileged to have grandchildren can now enjoy passing such games on to them.

Mike Freemantle Chair

Interim Editor's Jottings and "Letters to the Editor"

Dear Reader,

Thank-you for bearing with me as "Interim Editor" for the past several months: I will leave it to Janet to introduce herself in the December edition, as I "sign myself off".

I was so pleased to see that we hit the milestone of 1001 members as at 28 October! Welcome, new members!

Our Photography Group supports "Newsline" brilliantly, and as you will see, they have gone totally weird this month, with some wonderful results! I enjoyed working with them for the pictorial quiz in the October Newsline.

Look out for articles from our country dancers, violinists and "How Do They Do That" groups this month.

I am happy to accept "Letters to the Editor" whether for publication or offering improvement suggestions.

The deadline for the December edition is earlier than usual, 15th November, again to assist a smooth handover to Janet, future Editor. Please email articles and pictures via a "Reply" to your Newsline email, otherwise contact the Newsline Editor **via our website "contacts" page**. Contributions are shared with our Facebook and Website teams. If you submit photographs, please ensure you have permission from any individuals featured. If you use an image taken from the internet, please ensure that it is copyright-free.

Rik Ludlow, Interim Editor

Remembrance Day 2026

On Sunday 8th November, Southwell will hold a ceremony for Remembrance Day, 10:30am at the War Memorial on the Burgage. Last year, for the first time, the u3a joined the local groups laying a wreath to remember the dead and injured from the first, second and later wars.

We invite all members to join us for this act of Remembrance (but wrap up warm please).

If you are an ex-forces member, do please email me beforehand if possible.

Mike Freemantle, Chair

Note from our Webmasters

You may notice that we have made several changes to our website over the past month: the changes are intended to simplify the navigation around the site by splitting up the large pages that have multiple sections into smaller pages with a more logical menu structure on the main pages. Another change we have implemented is a display of 'Notices' on the Home page.

To activate the sub-menus simply 'hover' over the top-level menu and the other options will appear. Left-click the option you require. The top menu is also active and can be accessed by left clicking on the top-level menu item.

The only issue that you may encounter is if you have set up a 'Bookmark' or Favourite for any of the following pages: News, Groups, Events, or Members as their names will have changed.

Most saved bookmarks and favourites will be unaffected.

We hope you enjoy the new features.

Steve Dickman and Richard Peacock



Calling new members… Social and Learning Opportunities

We know many people join our u3a because it gives so many opportunities to meet and get to know other interesting people. If you are a new member, this page may help you identify some of the social opportunities that membership offers. With just over a thousand members, we are one of the larger u3a organisations in Nottinghamshire and we now have 87 Interest Groups

Our Monthly Meeting:

Our u3a meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month, starting at 10.00am, at the Leisure Centre, Nottingham Rd, Southwell NG25 0LG. The **3rd November meeting** will include an interesting speaker, and you will detect his details on page 29. The monthly meeting allows time for news and notices, and a break to allow you to meet other members informally over tea/coffee, for which please bring a mug or cup if you can. You can complete membership applications or renewals, collect your membership card and lanyard, ask about interest groups, pay for concert and social trips and chat to our Chair and Committee members.

Coffee Mornings:

Southwell u3a members enjoy fortnightly coffee mornings at Southwell Garden Centre, Fiskerton Road. It is an opportunity to have a chat and a coffee and get to know other Southwell u3a members. We meet from 10:30am on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, so note the **12th and 26th of November** in your diary. It helps other members if you remember to bring and wear your u3a lanyard if you have already collected it.

Other Opportunities:

Elsewhere in Newsline and on our website, you will see details of events organised by our **Social Committee** and our ever-popular **Concert Coaches.** Do look at our programme of Workshops and Short Courses, now reaching into 2027. As a u3a member, you can enjoy discounts at several local businesses, and in most cases a small discount if you join other local u3a organisations to join their activities. You may read about opportunities in the wider movement on the last page of this edition.

Rik Ludlow (Interim Editor)

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u3a Diaries for 2027

Good News - the u3a diary for 2027 is now available. It has the same layout as previous years, with the days of the week on one side and a lined page for notes, ideas and reminders on the facing page. It is available to order **direct from the Third Age Trust** (and not, as in previous years, from Southwell u3a). Price: £9 per diary, plus £3 postage.

Diary details can be found at the on-line u3a Brand Shop

ClaireWallis, su3a Secretary



Seeking a Speaker Seeker Assistant:

Our monthly meetings normally include a "Guest Speaker". Finding "OK" ones is easy, but finding the "Wow" ones is a greater challenge!

We are looking for a willing member with a phone and internet, and about an hour each month, to become an assistant to John Cook, our "Speaker Seeker".

Whilst it need not be time consuming, it will really help John, who suspects you would, like him, find the hunt enjoyable!

If you think you may be the "someone" available to help, please get in touch with John Cook by email or at the next monthly meeting.

Social and Trips Committee: FUTURE SOCIAL TRIPS

Tickets for the Doddington Hall trip and the Caunton Christmas meal will be on sale at the November meeting. Please be ready to complete a booking form and pay (by cash, card or cheque). Alternatively contact the organiser of each trip to arrange ticket purchase. They can also answer any queries.

We are pleased to say that the coach trip to **the East Midlands Airport Amazon Depot** is now fully booked, sold out, and eagerly awaited!

Organiser: Jane Parker.



On Wednesday 9th December we have a visit to see **Doddington Hall** decorated on a Christmas theme. We will be greeted with a hot drink, get to see the wonderful hall and grounds, visit the shops and have lunch. Cost £43 per person. There are just few places left.

Organiser: Jane Parker.

A **Christmas Dinner** is on the menu for su3a at Floral Media Caunton on Thursday 17th December. Tickets £30, on sale at the November and December meetings. Organiser Miriam Tate.

The programme for 2027 is nearly completed. Keep the date 15th April free for a 2027 visit to the "**Queen Elizabeth: Her life in Style**" exhibition. Travel from Southwell to Buckingham Palace by coach. £55 pp including ticket to the Exhibition. We depart at 8am, with a coffee stop en-route. QE2 clothes exhibition, then tea stop en-route home. Any queries: Miriam Tate.

We have booked the next **Social Quiz** for the afternoon of Monday, 8th February 2027, at Southwell Rugby Club.



u3a Southwell

NEW LEARNING EXPERIENCES: Workshops and Courses

The next few pages list our programme of Short Courses and Workshops, updated to late October, which now runs through to early 2027. Please look through the programme and **click on the title** of any course or workshop that interests you. This will take you to the latest information on our website. On the webpage, **click on the title or the name of the organiser.** This will take you to a form on our website where you can submit your booking request or make further enquiries. **You can't just turn up on the day - you need to book in advance.**

Prompt booking both ensures that you will get a place if the venue has limited capacity and allows the course or workshop leader to contact you if there are any late changes. All events now have definite dates, so do check your diary and see if you can fit any more sessions in!

Brian Platts Groups Co-ordinator and New Groups Enabler

SUBJECT AND CONTACT DETAILS	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	DATE, TIME and VENUE
ADULT BASIC LIFE SUPPORT Book via Vice Chair on the website contacts page	Workshop provided by Newark Community First Aiders. Learn how to give emergency first aid for adults experiencing life-threatening conditions, such as cardiac arrest or choking. This is a longer course which includes use of a defibrillator.	Friday 13th November 1:00 – 3:30pm W.I. Hall, Southwell

INTRODUCTION TO SMARTPHONES Book via Tony, on the website	Back by popular demand! Two sessions for beginners to learn the basics of smart phones, presented by Lorna and Tony Mellor. Much of the content is also applicable to tablets. Please **note change of venue**, as this course is more popular than the previously booked venue can accommodate.	Monday 9th and 16th November 10:00 – 12:00 Our Lady of Victories RC Church, Southwell
PROTECT YOUR DIGITAL LIFE **WORKSHOP 3:** **Network Perimeter-WiFi and Router Configuration (advanced)** Book via Vice Chair on the website contacts page	For those ready to go further, Steve Dickman explores home network security. Learn how to configure your WiFi router safely, protect yourself from "Internet of Things" devices, use advanced ad-blockers and understand VPN endpoints, extending protection to your laptop and smartphones, even when you're not at home! WORKSHOP FULL BUT EMAIL ORGANISER FOR CANCELLATIONS OR POSSIBLE REPEAT	Monday 16 November 9:30 – 12:30 Venue: Southwell Library, **Downstairs** meeting room
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS WORKSHOP **Contact:** **Annabel Kingsbury, via the website**	Annabel will be running a Christmas decorations workshop at her home in Southwell. Come along to make snowflakes and mini wire wreaths. All materials provided and no previous experience necessary! Book asap as places are limited	Wednesday 18 November 2:00pm, at Annabel's home.

PROTECT YOUR FUTURE HEALTH! Contact: Brian Platts, Groups Co-Ordinator 	Join local NHS GP Dr. Anna Kirby, aka 'the later life GP', for an interactive session on the simple, everyday tweaks you can make today to safeguard your general health. As our bodies enter later decades, our nutritional and physical needs subtly shift, yet the crucial messages around this are often missed, especially if you are healthy and don't have regular contact with health services! Dr. Anna is on a mission to change this. Designed for active adults who want to stay that way. This talk reveals how to optimise your muscle strength and reserve, protect your bone density, and build lasting balance and confidence. Learn how small, proactive steps now can keep you living the full, independent life you love for years to come.	Friday 22 January 2027 10:00am to 12:00 Noon Southwell Rugby Club

Member Benefits



MEAL DEAL AT THE HEARTY GOODFELLOW

The Hearty Goodfellow in Southwell has agreed to give a 10% discount on all food (not drinks) to Southwell u3a members for lunch or dinner.

You will need to show your membership card **before you order** your meals and drinks, and the discount will only apply to individual u3a members in your party.

Extra Member Benefit for 2026:

A DAY AT THE RACES!

Southwell Racecourse have kindly offered a very special deal to our members:

Southwell u3a members can book day tickets (except on "feature" days) on a 2-for-the-price-of-1 basis. Just scan the QR code to take advantage of this generous offer.



DISCOUNT AT LASANI, SOUTHWELL



In the mood for a curry? **Lasani**, on Church Street in Southwell, has agreed to give Southwell u3a members a 10% discount on their bills (both food and drink), at their 'contemporary Indian Brasserie".

The offer excludes vouchers. You will need to show your membership card when you order your meals and drinks, and the discount will only apply to u3a members in your party. The discount is on offer throughout the week, but does not apply to takeaways, as these are already discounted.

Member Benefits

Riviera Travel offer a 10% discount which is paid to the member's u3a group, on many holidays: Members have to show proof of membership at time of booking. **PLEASE NOTE: DISCOUNT IS NOT TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS.**

RIVIERA TRAVEL

u3a Southwell

Member Benefits

BAG A DISCOUNT

AT

ROHAN!

The Rohan clothing shop in Southwell is generously offering a discount to all u3a members. Members will receive a 10% discount on all **full price** items (not sale items) – just show your membership card on request.





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GROUP NEWS: Smartphone and Computer Help

This month's meeting is all about staying in contact with friends and family. Lots of great tips on how to stay in contact with people as we approach Christmas.



It's just £2 and the meeting will be in the back room of Southwell Library at 2pm on 24th November. Free tea and coffee!

Mike Pye (Group Leader)

GROUP NEWS: A Cappella Group

We welcomed Autumn with a few "golden oldies" from our repertoire — shanties and classic pop songs — before diving into our most ambitious project yet: a spirited four-part rendition of the 59th Street Bridge Song (Feelin' Groovy). There was plenty of enjoyment and laughter as we tussled with the harmonies, but by the end of the session we were definitely getting there.

New members are always welcome, and we have room for more singers. You don't need any experience beyond perhaps singing along to the radio or belting out a tune in the shower. We always begin with gentle warmups — physical (and gentle really is the operative word) and vocal — before moving on to rounds and simple layered songs. We're a friendly, welcoming bunch, and you'll be assured of a warm reception.

In November we'll introduce a couple of Christmas songs, which we'll sing with gusto at our festive December meeting — complete with Christmas treats. We meet on the third Wednesday of every month from 2–4 pm at the WI Hall, Sheppards Row, Southwell (parking available in the Co-op car park on the Ropewalk). Our next two meetings are Wednesday 18th November and Wednesday 16th December. Do come along.

Alyson Chaney A Cappella

Astronomy Group

In September we moved deep into the solar system and studied Saturn, looking at its make-up, the massive storms it experiences, its history and of course those magnificent rings.

Moving on to October, we went 'ultra-modern' by looking at the Artemis project, which recently had the well documented phase 2 of its programme. We looked at all the five planned stages (which include landing humans once again on the Moon) and an extension of the project which is scheduled to build a habitable base there.

In November we will change tactics and study a DVD on 'ice worlds', which looks deep into space at some of the dwarf planets, notably Pluto, plus a collection of major moons around the gas giants, which all fall into this category. It is designed and narrated by the eminent scientist Brian Cox in his usual enthusiastic way.

Lastly, see this space next month for news about our Christmas special meeting.

As a rule we meet on the fourth Thursday of every month (but in December this is moved to the 3rd Thursday to avoid the Christmas period), from 10am to 12 noon in the downstairs back room of Southwell Library. The dates of the next few meetings are 26 November, 17 December and 28 January 2027.

The group tries to cater for beginners by not making the sessions too technical but with enough content to stimulate those with more knowledge. The audience always has the chance to ask questions, comment or offer views, which is, I think, an important part of our sessions and we also allocate a much-needed coffee break!

Please see the webpage Astronomy - Southwell u3a where you can contact me, Richard Peacock, Group Leader.



Pluto

Courtesy of NASA/ESA

u3a Southwell

CREATIVE WRITING November 2026

AN ASTRONAUT'S VIEW

From the confines of my tiny capsule,
Now I view the Earth through different eyes,
Its vulnerability plain for all to see.
Floating through the deep and silky blackness,
Lost in the vastness of the universe,
The Earth shines like a bright and distant star.
Clouds reflect the piercing rays of the Sun.
Protected by its fragile atmosphere,
A hair-thin silver line at the edge of the world,
The blue-and-white marble hangs alone in space.
Our fragile sphere, our one unique oasis,
With meaningless and merely man-made borders,
Artificial lines designed for conflict,
I can see only one Earth, one planet.
Delicate, exquisite, tiny, whole and elegant.

© Graham Coulson, 2026



Please see our web page Creative Writing - Southwell u3a

COME DINE WITH US (CDWU) Brian Platts

Pollo Al Gallego – Galician Style Chicken - serves 2



Galicia is an autonomous community in the North-West corner of Spain. Its capital is Santiago de Compostela. I'm guessing that quite a few of our u3a members will have ended up there at the end of the pilgrimage routes known as the Camino de Santiago.

Here we have some typical dishes from the region, with Galician chicken and Padron peppers. Although we served the peppers with the chicken, they can equally well be eaten first, as an appetiser.

Ingredients:

Chicken:

2 chicken breasts (approx. 250-300g total)
½ tsp smoked paprika

Rice:

150g basmati rice
375ml water
½ tsp ground turmeric

Sauce:

2 cloves garlic (crushed)
1 bay leaf
½ tsp smoked paprika
Pinch of cayenne pepper
1 tbsp flour
½ tsp salt
250ml chicken stock/bouillon – stock cube is fine

Padron peppers:

About 180g Padron peppers (available in larger supermarkets), washed and dried.
Olive oil
Flaked sea-salt

Garnish:

4 pimento-stuffed Spanish olives (sliced for added colour)

COME DINE WITH US (CDWU) (Continued)

Method

1. **Chicken:** Pre-heat oven to 230°C (210°C Fan). Cut each breast in half lengthwise. Sprinkle chicken with ½ tsp smoked paprika. Put about a tbsp olive oil in a small roasting pan and bake the chicken for approx. 25 mins (turning once) or until golden brown.
2. **Rice:** Whilst the chicken is in the oven, rinse the basmati rice in a fine mesh sieve under cold water. Put the rinsed rice in a medium saucepan and add 375ml water and stir in a ½ tsp ground turmeric and a pinch of salt. Bring to the boil and then immediately put on a tight-fitting lid and reduce the heat to low. Simmer for 10-12 mins so that the water is fully absorbed. Remove the pan from the heat and let it sit for a further 5 mins. Remove the lid and fluff up the rice before serving.
3. **Sauce:** Whilst the rice is simmering, heat about a tbsp olive oil in a small pan. Add the crushed garlic and bay leaf and sauté briefly until the garlic browns (but does not burn). Add ½ tsp paprika, pinch of cayenne pepper, tbsp flour and salt. Mix well and slowly add the chicken stock/bouillon (made with hot water). Bring slowly to the boil, gently stirring to prevent lumps. Simmer on a low heat for 5 minutes or so, stirring frequently.
4. **Padron peppers**: Whilst the sauce is simmering, heat 1 tbsp oil in a frying pan and then fry the washed and dried peppers in the pan for at least 5 mins turning several times, until the skins are blistered and soft. Sprinkle with the flaked sea salt.

Serve the chicken breasts on a bed of rice on 2 warmed plates and pour over the sauce. Either eat the Padron peppers as an appetiser (using the stalks as handy handles!) or use as a garnish with the pimento-stuffed olives. **Enjoy!**

Link to CDWU Web Page

Country Dancing Group

Country Dancing continues to be popular, and a good way to keep fit as the inclement weather sets in. Come along and join us at Thurgarton Village Hall on the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 10.00am to 11.30am (term time only) to chat, laugh and enjoy some easy "Country Dancing". All dances are 'called' and no experience is necessary. Everyone is welcome either with or without a partner.

We currently have room for just a handful of new members. Contact Sue Baines via our webpage if interested.

How Do They Do That? Group 2



In June we visited Papplewick Pumping Station and underground reservoir which was built by the celebrated engineer Thomas Hawksley in 1879 and once stored the water that the beam engines pumped to the surface. This beautiful place was designed in the early 1880s to pump millions of gallons of clean fresh water every day to the rapidly increasing population of Industrial Nottingham. It is now protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument which is the highest preservation order that can be bestowed upon a site in England. It was a very wet day, but the group were well prepared for the weather and had a thoroughly enjoyable



How Do They Do That? Group 2 (Continued)



visit including being taken by tractor and trailer to tour the underground reservoir.

In September, nineteen of us visited Severn Trent Green Power Stoke Bardolph Crop Anaerobic Digester Facility which is a major renewable energy and sewage treatment facility operated by Severn Trent Water. It processes agricultural energy crops (maize) to generate green biogas, electricity, and organic fertilizer which is spread on local farmland. The digester comprises four pre-fermentation units from which material is fed into two secondary fermentation units and then finally to a single container where the last of the methane is extracted. Stoke Bardolph produces solid digestate which can be used by soil improver manufacturers as a peat replacement, while the liquid digestate is an alternative for farmers to use as a land fertiliser.

Visit the HDTDT web page if you want to either know more about our group or contact Sue Baines, the Group Leader.

Literature Group

Our Literature Group, led by Dinah Foster, ably assisted by Chris Bennett, goes from strength to strength. Around 20 strong, our aim is to read challenging texts, studying them in some depth and discussing content and style and how they relate to our own experiences.

We can fit a few more members in: If interested, visit our web page, both to read more, and to contact Dinah.

Literature Group programme 2026-27

date	theme	book	lead	poetry	lead
Sept 16th	*100 best novels*	The Brothers Karamazov [1880] Fyodor Dostoyevsky		Russian poetry	
Oct 21st	*100 best novels*	Wide Sargasso Sea [1966] Jean Rhys		Jamaican poets, 1800s, poets with Jamaican heritage - Benjamin Zephaniah	
Nov 18th	*100 best novels*	Orlando [1928] Virginia Woolf		Poems by Virginia Woolf, Vita Sackville West - Leopards at Knole, And So It Ends, poems about Bloomsbury group?	
Dec 16th	*Play*	Our Town [1938] Thornton Wilder			
Jan 20th	*Non-fiction Travel*	All The wide Border [2023] Mike Parker		Welsh / English border, The Welsh Marches - AE Housman, Welsh poets	
Feb 17th	*Novel with GB travel theme*	Resistance [2007] Owen Sheers		WW2 alternative history, Welsh borders, WW2 poems about the Home Front	
Mar 17th	*100 best novels*	Transit of Venus [1980] Shirley Hazzard		Post WW2 England, Australian poets	
Apr 21st	*100 best novels/ GB Travel theme*	The Rings of Saturn: An English Pilgrimage [1995] W G Sebold		Suffolk poets- George Crabbe, Elizabeth Sennitt-Clough, Kevin Algar, poems about Suffolk - landscape	
May 19th	*100 best novels*	Housekeeping [1980] Marilynne Robinson		1950s Idaho, family bonds - Mothers and daughters / sisters	
June 16th	*100 best novels*	Song of Solomon [1977] Toni Morrison		Mid-20th century, Racism, flight as escape [magical realism]	
July 21st	*Non-fiction - travel*	The Hidden Ways: Scotland's Forgotten Roads[2018] Alistair Moffat		Scotland, types of road [Roman roads, footpaths, forgotten roads], Scottish history and landscape	
Aug 18th	*Novel with GB travel theme*	History of the Rain [2014] Naill Williams		Irish poets, poems about Irish history and landscape	

u3a learn, laugh, live

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The Photography Group has perhaps gone a bit crazy this month! Normally one has to keep the camera/phone as still as possible when taking an image otherwise the result will be blurred.

But this month we have encouraged our members to move their cameras when taking a shot – it is called Intentional Camera Movement (ICM). When the shutter speed is slowed down you can inject a sense of movement into the image. The results can be quite abstract or surreal or emotional or just weird. You choose.

It isn't an easy skill to master and it is possible to use either a camera or a smartphone to produce these really amazing results. We hope you are impressed with these images.

The Photography Group is always happy to hear from anyone interested in learning more about this amazing pastime. Contact me if you are interested in joining our Group: Graeme Stewardson



Lady in Red

By Barry



Red Roses

By John M

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP (Continued)

Rudbeckia in Motion by Graeme





Single Rose

By Karen

Burbage Rocks, Derbyshire

By Richard



u3a Southwell



Yachts

By Deb



Tree Alley

By Jim

Violinists Group



Over the past couple of years several su3a members have enjoyed the delights of su3a member Katherine Clark's fast and fun introduction to the violin in four sessions, her "Violin Virtuoso Short Course"

Whilst four sessions do not create fully fledged international soloists, Katherine does "light fires" and shows how fun and frustrating learning one of the world's most difficult instruments can be. Several of us have been sufficiently motivated to carry on after the short course. We now meet every week or two in each other's homes to practice together, with our Group Leader Richard Winning co-ordinating us and our unco-ordinated bowing arms! About once per month we go to Rik Ludlow's home, where Rik helps us to move our skills on to the next level: We are learning so much about care and maintenance, finger and wrist positions, not to mention "music notation", "chords" and "harmony", that despite (or because of) the challenges, we are still enjoying ourselves as we master playing in tune (not as easy as it sounds) and using all four fingers on all four strings. With half a dozen of us in the group, we are not far off full, given the space needed to wield bows without poking eyes out!

Contact Richard via our webpage if interested in knowing more.

Our Previous 2026 Speakers



January:

The history and work of the Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance Service. (Tony Hendon and Lynn)



February:

The History of Rockingham Castle (Michael Burton)



March:

John Constantine spoke about the history of magic, which dates back to ancient Egyptian times.

April:



Our speaker was William Brown MBE who gave a fascinating talk on museum security.

In **May**, Paul Lillie returned and gave an entertaining morning on "The Beatles".

June:

Our own John Cook stepped in and, drawing on his extensive knowledge led a presentation on Mars, comparing its early days to the barren planet it is today.

July:

We celebrated our 20th birthday as a u3a with a review of the past 20 years and live music from our Folk and Recorder Groups.

August:

Our speaker was Martin Lloyd:



He spent 24 years in the immigration department. Martin's talk was entitled "Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies".



In **September,** we had an enthralling talk by Nick Bailey about Radio Caroline.

Nick recounted the great times of fun and laughter he had on Caroline with the other DJs. Nick was subsequently recruited to host Classic FM.



In **October,** Tony Heydon, retired Chief Inspector of Nottinghamshire CID gave an interesting and engaging talk on a homicide enquiry. He explained how every facet of a homicide enquiry has a lead person(s) managing the various facets on behalf of the SIO (Senior Investigation Officer). This might be forensics, CCTV, media, firearms arrest and interviews, the CPS and trial. Not forgetting the support provided to relatives. The SIO will have sight of every aspect and ensure significant co-ordination is maintained to bring about the best result. He discussed how this approach works and where occasionally things don't go to plan and challenges can occur. Everything is checked, rechecked and then looked at again to ensure nothing is missed. In Tony's view the way we investigate homicides in this country is miles ahead of counterparts across the world.

He then gave us the example of a murder which he investigated in Nottingham in 1988 of Matthew Pyke by David Heiss from Frankfurt in Germany. Heiss stabbed Pyke in a frenzied attack in a flat above the Orange Tree pub - now renamed. This all came about due to a dispute over the internet on a war games forum, which centred around the fact that Heiss became obsessed with Pyke's girlfriend. The investigation was not overly difficult, but all facets of the potential issues were tested, including the arrest and extradition of a German national. The forensic evidence was also critical in confirming Heiss' intent to kill Pyke, coupled with analysis of computers, phones and the evidence of the critical witnesses.

There were many questions at the end of an enthralling talk!

Our Remaining 2026 Meeting Events:

This month, 3rd November: we have Stephen Booth as our speaker. Stephen writes detective stories from the Peak District where he lives, entwining them with local folklore and legends. It will be interesting to compare his investigations with the above description Tony gave of actual murder cases, especially to members who attended in October. We will also hear about how Stephen started to write detective novels and have an opportunity to buy his books.

Next month, 1st December: this will be Christmas related and again a big surprise to you all!

Further ahead, in **January 2027,** Caitlin Rutland will talk about Women in Science. In **February** Marcus Alton will be talking about Brian Clough.

Link to Contacts Page for John Cook

Southwell u3a Speaker Seeker

Seeking a Speaker Seeker Assistant:

(Try saying that heading fast!)

I am looking for a willing assistant to help me with speaker finding. It will not be time consuming but will greatly assist me in my searches, and I suspect you would find the hunt enjoyable! So please, if you think you may be the "someone" available to help, do get in touch with me.

John Cook

SOUTHWELL u3a CONCERT COACHES



I will be at the November Monthly Meeting to take bookings and payments for the concert as shown below. Prices for this concert will be Band A £44, Band B £40 and Band C £36.

TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER, 7:30PM: SINFONIA VIVA

Michael Seal	Conductor
Michael Foyle	Violin
Elgar	Violin Concerto
Florence Maunders	Uprising
Beethoven	Symphony No. 5

Any new members interested in being informed of concerts please contact me via the Southwell u3a website, which contains full details of how the coach trips operate.

Roger Bennett

Southwell u3a contacts and other u3a websites:

Southwell u3a:

Southwell u3a website is https://southwell.u3asite.uk

Southwell u3a Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/southwellu3a

To contact our officers, Committee members and other postholders:

Contact - Southwell u3a

For information about our Interest Groups and to contact our Group Leaders: Groups - Southwell u3a **Names and contact details are also available at our monthly meetings.**

The Global and UK u3a:

As a member of Southwell u3a you may be surprised to find that there are 33 other u3as within Nottinghamshire, over a thousand groups across the UK, and very many more across the world. This article gives a useful overview.

The National website is https://www.u3a.org.uk This is worth visiting, as the National u3a organises many (mainly virtual) events and workshops:

www.u3a.org.uk/events

Nottinghamshire and Regional u3as:

The 34 individual u3a organisations in our county are all federated into the Nottinghamshire Network, which has its own website and magazine:

Nottinghamshire Network of u3as - Learn, Laugh, Live! In turn, the Nottinghamshire Network is a part of the wider East Midlands u3a, and this also has its own website: https://eastmidlandsregion.u3asite.uk/

u3a
learn, laugh, live