

Melton Mowbray u3a
November 2026 Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 1137780



Welcome to the November edition of your newsletter. We hope you'll find it both entertaining and informative. Details for sending contributions for future editions can be found on the last page.

MONTHLY SPEAKER MEETING

At the next meeting on Thursday 19th November 2026

Speaker: Bob Johnson on "How two oldish people built an eco-house™"

If two retired nurses can build a large multi-generational house that is carbon neutral and costs very little to run, why don't house builders do the same?

Catering	Linda Middleton, David Cooper, Jenny Watmoigh-Sleaford, Janet Tarratt
Meet/Greet	Pauline Posey, Lesley Dyason

Last meeting of 2026	
December 17	Christmas Entertainment

Coral and Vicki
speakersecretary@u3amemltonmowbray.org.uk

COMMITTEE NOTICES

2027 Membership Renewal – Now Open!
Membership renewal for 2027 opens on 1st November.

As the first step is to **register and create an account** on the u3a Members Portal. I hope that you have managed to create your account to enable you to renew online. If not, click on the link and head to the Portal to create your account.
Members' Portal - Melton Mowbray

If you need help, visit the Digital Friends Desk at the monthly meeting. Bring your device and remember your email password or contact the team at: digitalfriends@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk.

Membership clarification: Membership categories have been simplified, and members have been moved to the "Individual" category. The "Individual – after 1st August" category is specifically for people joining after 1st August 2027.

Membership Fees

Choose the membership option that suits you

2027 membership options and annual fees

Membership option	Annual fee
Associate A member who belongs to another u3a	**£13.00**
Individual For single membership with the electronic newsletter	**£18.00**
Individual with Melton Mowbray newsletter (NL)	**£48.00**
Individual with u3a Matters Magazine u3a Matters is published 5 times per year, in early February, April, June, September and November. A free screen reader-friendly version is also available for every issue.	**£23.00**
Individual with Melton Mowbray newsletter (NL) and Third Age Matters (TAM) Magazine Includes a hard copy of the monthly newsletter and Third Age Matters (TAM) Magazine, published 5 times per year.	**£53.00**
Individual - after 1st August For single membership with the electronic newsletter	**£12.00**

Please note: Membership fees and publication options may be reviewed annually. If you **join in November or December,** you will be able to enjoy 14 months for the price of 12.

Renew Your Membership – Open Today!

You will now be able to renew online via the link - click **Membership Renewal - Melton Mowbray** and follow the instructions. Payment may be made via debit/credit card or PayPal.

The guide will help you if you are unsure, click
Microsoft Word - MM_u3a_Helpful_Henry_Online_Renewal_Guide.docx

Still prefer the traditional manual way?

If you are unable to renew online, the manual process is still available to you from 1st November. You can collect a renewal form during the monthly meetings or print a form from the website. If you are renewing manually, we would prefer payment via BACs online or payment by card at the monthly meeting. We are slowly reducing the facility to accept cash or cheques due to access to banks for paying in and associated costs.
NOTE: If you are paying via BACs this will not be processed if the form is not returned to me via post or delivery (emailed forms are not acceptable).

Sharon Baines (Membership Secretary and PR Lead)

COMMITTEE POSTS

As many of you know, we have our Annual General Meeting (AGM) next March where Committee members are elected for the forthcoming year. Some of our Committee members will be standing down at that time, either having completed their term of office or choosing to take a break and therefore we need people to come forward to join us on the Committee at the AGM.

Currently we expect to be looking for nominations for the posts of Groups Coordinator, IT Advisor and Newsletter Editor and I am raising this now to ensure we have nominations in place well before the AGM.

All the roles on the committee are essential to the smooth running of our u3a and we rely on the support of you, our members, to fill them. It's a friendly team and good fun, so please consider volunteering.

If you would like to know more about being on Committee, or any of the roles mentioned above, then come and speak to any of the Committee members at the monthly speaker meeting - details of all committee members are on the notice board in the coffee area at the monthly meetings. Alternatively, do get in touch with any of us by phone or email. Our details are on the MMu3a website.

We look forward to hearing from you!

David Ramsden
Chairman

PR and Social Media - Help Us Spread the Word!



As you are aware we have a social media presence and we need to make this even stronger, and you can help! If you have not joined the Members Only Group, come join us at: **u3a Melton Mowbray Members | Facebook**

Also, please support Melton Mowbray u3a by following our public **Facebook** page and **Instagram** account and join if you haven't already.

Facebook Public Page: https://www.facebook.com/share/1HzkET4i1x/

Instagram:
https://www.instagram.com/u3ameltonmowbray?obrf=MXBzZTlpaXZtdmhzcA==

Brand New – We now have our own YouTube Channel **Melton Mowbray u3a - YouTube.** This is still work in progress so if any group leaders have any videos that we could use to promote different groups, let us know and we can arrange for them to be included.

How you can help- Whenever you see one of our posts, ***please like, comment and share***. These simple actions help more people discover our activities and **encourage new members to join us.** When you do this, it's telling Facebook and Instagram that this piece of content is important and deserves to be shown to more people.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sharon Baines (Membership Secretary and PR Lead)



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Melton Mowbray's 24th Christmas Tree Festival takes place from **Friday 27th November (open from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm) to Tuesday, 1 December 2026, closing at 2:00 pm.**

As usual Melton u3a will have a tree and this year we are taking a pause from our usual interest group decorated tree and we will be celebrating as an organisation.

PAT TESTING

U3A has an annual requirement to PAT test its own equipment, i.e. laptops, etc. Our member, Pete Matthews, has very kindly undertaken this role for us for several years,

but now wishes to step down from the task and consequently we are seeking a replacement. Do you have the necessary skills and equipment to undertake this role for us each year? If so, please contact me.

David Ramsden, Chair
chairman@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk



GROUP NEWS





NEW GROUPS NEWS!

Groups Started in October
BOARD GAMES 2pm Tuesdays, Indoor Bowls Club. Frequency TBC. Bring a game(s). Play and enjoy.

Groups Starting in November
BOOK GROUP CRIME & DETECTION 2pm 1st Thursday. Melton Mowbray Building Society. This group is for people who enjoy detective fiction particularly the detection element and the application and use of forensics and forensic medicine. The progress of the necessary procedural to a dismissal or prosecution is also of interest. To start off the group, just as a basis for discussion, we will begin with Agatha Christie – any of her works that you enjoyed (refresh your reading pre the first meeting).
EUROPEAN RAIL TRAVEL 3rd Wednesday. Time and venue TBC.
Share stories and experiences of rail and ferry journeys across Europe, discuss ideas for new journeys, routes to follow and cities/towns to visit.
ALLOTMENT GROUP Monthly meeting. Date and time TBC.
A u3a member has acquired a full-sized allotment, in the Country Park, which could be shared by the members of the group. Each member could have their own area to produce what they prefer to grow, vegetables, fruit, flowers, etc. Rental is £80 a year in total. This would be shared among members. So, if there are 10 members it's just £8/year each. It has a shed on it. If a greenhouse is required there are few on the site for sale at very low prices.

For any of these please email: groups@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

Would you like to try:
NEW AGE KURLING 2 1st Monday and 4th Thursday. 10 am. Burton Lazars Village Hall. Friendship and fun with easy exercise and without negativity! Join us! *Please email: kurling2@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk.*
SCRABBLE 2-4pm 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. Member's house. Friendly rivalry. *Please email: scrabble@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk.*
MUSIC FOR FUN 1st and 3rd Fridays. Springfield Street. Sing or play an instrument *at any level*. *Please email: musicforfun@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk*

Contact me if you:
- would like to attend a group at a different time, e.g. in the evening or weekend;
- would like to attend a group that is full;
- have a suggestion for a new group; I will try to start one!

Dolores Harvey, Groups Co-ordinator
email: groups@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

GROUP NOTICES

AI EXCHANGE



CAR AND TRANSPORT GROUP

Do you fancy a weekend away with other members to the Lake District? The Car and Transport group are planning a trip to the **4* Damson Dene hotel at Crosthwaite from Friday 16th to Sunday 18th April 2027**. Visits to places of interest will also be organised as part of the weekend. Interested? Then please contact Martin Bishop for further details on mobile: 07904046483 or email miriam.martin@hotmail.co.uk.

CHESS

We meet on the first and third Monday each month at Asfordby Village Hall. Great venue, fully accessible, all equipment, tuition (if needed) and refreshments provided. Space for lots more players.

We're a friendly group, learning one of the world's oldest and most challenging games. If you would like more information, then contact Shaun Cope on *checkmates@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk.*

LOCAL HISTORY

THIS MONTH'S MEETING will be held on -

FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER at 2:00 p.m. at MARY'S PLACE

ROD AXON (Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society) will be talking about "The Munitions Factory of East Goscote"

The New Concept Village of East Goscote was built by Jelson Ltd on the derelict site of Royal Ordnance Factories (ROF) Filling Factory No.10 Queniborough. Opened in September 1942, it went from farmland and rose garden to a munitions factory site employing 6000 people in just 17 months. It could produce nine classes of munitions including standard bombs for direct "export" to Germany. It ceased production in 1945.

This is the real history based on original planning documents and aerial photographs.

Doors open at 1:40 p.m. and admission is £3 per person (cash only please).

Please reserve your place(s) by emailing us on localhistory@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk giving your name and membership number. This enables us to contact you in the event of a last-minute alteration/cancellation of the meeting and gives us a guide as to the number attending so we can set up the room accordingly.

We look forward to seeing you.

Leaders: Debbie Adams, Geraldine Deverson, Brian Ellis and Owen Heath
localhistory@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

OUTINGS

We would like to thank all the members who supported us on our trips during 2026 and hopefully you enjoyed them. **Please remember that a U3A member can bring a friend who is not a member of U3A on any of our trips.**

We are planning trips for 2027 and if any member has any suggestions, please let us know either at the monthly meetings or ring Jean Pearson on 01664 562180.

We have only one place left for our trip to Worcester on Thursday 3rd December. So, if you would like to attend, then please ring Jean Pearson as soon as possible.

Jean Pearson and Ruth Rigby, outings@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

POETRY 3

This poetry group has been very busy during the year and has covered many different poets and genres. Read all about what they've been up to, on the u3a website under groups.

WALKING GROUPS

2nd MONDAY WALKING GROUP

9th November
10:15 am for 10:30 am start
Meet at the **"Bradgate Arms Inn" Cropston. LE7 7HG** for a walk in Bradgate Park

REMINDER. Menu choice and payment is due on this day from all members who are attending our Christmas Lunch on 21st December.

Group Co-Ordinator Geoff Harris. Mobile: 07528 025944

3rd WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

18th November 2026
10:00 am for 10:15 am start
Meet at the The Bluebell Inn, 36 Main St, Hoby, Melton Mowbray LE14 3DT

The walk will be approx. 5 miles and mainly on field paths.

Lunch is booked for 1.00pm. Toilets available and lunch can be pre-booked prior to walking.

NB/ Please let me know by Monday 16 November if you are intending to walk and if you will be staying for lunch.

Terry Hopper (Group leader/Co-ordinator). Email: tjhopper5@gmail.com
Mobile: 07967 147486

1st THURSDAY WALKING GROUP

The **Thursday 5th November 2026,** walk will be from **Launde Abbey, LE7 9XB**. Please park in the car park and be ready to walk for 10:00 am. The walk is easy walking for just less than 6 miles, with some good views.

Lunch if required can be ordered prior to walking. Toilets will be accessible.

If you intend walking/staying for lunch, please let us know by the Monday before.

The **Thursday 3rd December 2026,** walk will be from the **Welby Arms PH, Church Street, Denton, NG32 1LG.**
Please park in the car park and be ready to walk for 10:00 am. No toilets will be accessible. Its an easy walk of about 5 miles on the disused railway line to the canal at Woolsthorpe, along the tow path back to Denton Reservoir and village. Note that it will be muddy in places.

I will circulate a menu nearer the date, and a lunch order can be sent during the walk, if required.

Please let us know by the Monday before if you intend to walk and/or stay for lunch, so that guests can be included if numbers are low.

Stuart and Wendy Posnett, Group Leaders
Email: walkingthursday1@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk. Mobile: 07419357123

ANNUAL GROUP REPORTS

The following annual group reports are now available on the Groups section of the u3a website – u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk –

- Poetry for Pleasure 3

If you are having difficulty in using our website, then please speak to one of the Digital Friends who are available at the monthly Speaker meetings or by emailing digitalfriends@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk.

GOOD TO KNOW …

Nottingham Classics Concert Coach

Enjoy great orchestral concerts the easy way. The Concert Coach travels from Stamford, Oakham then Melton and takes you to the Royal Concert Hall with plenty of time to find seats and have a drink. At the end of the evening, the Coach picks up from the lay-by outside the main entrance for the return journey to Melton (Oakham and then Stamford).

A friend and I used this recently for a wonderful Halle concert at Theatre Royal Concert Hall – we had half-price concert tickets and the coach was free. It was a very successful trial run!

Future Concert Coaches are planned for 2027:

- Wednesday 17th February – The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra
- Saturday 8th May - Philharmonic Orchestra
- Friday 4th June – Halle Orchestra

For more information, please contact the Box Office on 0115 989 5555 or tickets@trch.co.uk

See you on the Concert Coach!! Lynda Middleton

GET PUZZLING!

Bucket Quiz

1. What is a fire bucket usually filled with?
2. What is the name of Patricia Routledge's character in 'Keeping Up Appearances'?
3. Which two items are essential for building sandcastles on the beach.

4. Bucket hats are popular at music festivals and with fans of which Manchester-based group?
5. Which fast food chain sells the Chicken Bucket range?
6. The words of which folk song consists of a conversation between Liza and Henry (or Georgie) concerning the repair of a container?
7. Charlie Bucket is the title character of which popular book by Roald Dahl?
8. What name is given to a list of activities a person hopes to do in their lifetime?
9. What type of wine cooler for use at the table can be made of glass, metal or plastic?
10. A galvanised bucket has an outer coating of which metal?

Answers on page 12 *Kindly provided by Judy Smithers*

November Maths Puzzle

I had another (u3a) appointment on the day when the Maths for Fun group met in October, so the puzzle this week was selected by those members of the group. It is from the u3a Maths Challenge, week 325, question 2:



A four-digit security code satisfies the following conditions:

i) It begins with an odd digit and ends with an even digit other than zero;
ii) Its digits sum to eighteen;
iii) The second digit is the same as the fourth digit;
iv) The sum of the first two digits gives the third digit.

There is quite a neat solution, but you have to think about how to use all the information that you have, or, effectively, how you represent the words in numbers, or algebra.

Solution will be published in the next edition of the newsletter.

Kindly provided by CJ Rupp
Maths for Fun Group Leader (among other responsibilities)
maths@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

FINAL NOTICES

Annual Reports due for December 2026:

- Qigong
- Quiz Team
- Reading 1
- Reading Dawson
- Reading Jenny
- Reading Thursday
- Reading Tuesday morning
- Reading Young

Annual Group Reports
The Annual Group Reports item is included to allow group leaders, or group members to provide an overview of the activities they've undertaken with their groups over the year. We have typically gone through the groups list in alphabetical order, but members are welcome to submit a report at any time during the year, particularly if you are a new group and/or have spaces for new members. It also has the effect sometimes of giving other members ideas for groups they could start and that is always welcome.

We do not wish to put any group leader under pressure to write an annual report but merely provide a platform for your group to showcase achievements and talk about what your members have gained from being part of the group. A brief synopsis will be included in the newsletter and will be published fully on the U3A Melton Mowbray website.

At the meeting next month on Thursday 17th December 2026

Christmas Entertainment

Please join us for the Melton u3a Christmas meeting on Thursday 17th December at the Leicester Road Baptist Church. Doors open 09:30am for a 10:00am start. There will be entertainment from three of our performance groups: Recorder, Generation Gap and the Silver Tones followed by refreshments.

As usual we ask that those attending try to bring a contribution of buffet food to share at the event.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Catering: Angela Fielding, Hilda Cox, Lynn Benton, Robin Benton

Meet and Greet: Linda Roberts, Geraldine Green

SOCIAL MEDIA
Publicity – use this email to spread the word about u3aMM activities - social_media@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk. **Let's Go … Together** This is a group of WhatsApp users who share with other members their upcoming activities, inviting others to come along. You either post your desired activity or answer someone else's post to fill your days or evenings. If you would like to be included on this WhatsApp group, please contact membership@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk. It's a fantastic way of connecting members and building a connected community. If you join but subsequently decide it's not for you, you can always leave the group but please give it a go.
GENERAL ENQUIRIES
General telephone number 0300 102 4512 Website: www. melton-mowbray.u3asite.uk

Your committee is here to help keep Melton Mowbray u3a running smoothly and efficiently. Committee members are always keen to receive feedback on our u3a and encourage members to contact us with any issues, thoughts, suggestions on how we can keep it thriving. Their contact details are available on the Contact page of the u3a website.

GET PUZZLING! ANSWERS

Answers to the "Bucket" Quiz

1. Sand
2. Hyacinth Bucket
3. Bucket and spade
4. Oasis
5. KFC
6. There's a Hole in my Bucket
7. Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
8. Bucket list
9. Ice bucket
10. Zinc

Solution to October's Puzzle.

The challenge was to rearrange the matchsticks to represent the highest number that you could, but you could only move 2 matchsticks, from the existing arrangement.



Let's do this in stages:

- For the individual digits, you can easily make the 6 into a 9, in one move. You can make the 3 into a 2, but that's going in the wrong direction. With the 0 you could make an 8, if you have a spare stick.
- We suggested thinking outside the box might help. What if we take 2 matches off the 0? Do we have an 11? What do we do with the spare matches? We could make the 6 an 8 and the 3 a 6 or a 9. Then 603, becomes 8119. We have added an extra column, which is somewhat unconventional for matchstick puzzles.
- Is that the highest we can go? What if we use the spare matches to make another 1. We could put that first to make 16113, or last giving 61131. We think that's the highest number you can make in this challenge. Unless, you know a better way.

Concatenation is quite a powerful operation on numbers, when you are allowed to do it. Given a number x with n digits and a single digit y. You either get $10x + y$ or $10^n y + x$. However, this only works because you are allowed to operate not on the numbers themselves, but on their decimal representations, the way they are conventionally written.

C. J. Rupp, Maths for Fun Group Leader.
maths@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS: Please send by **25th** of each month to Claire Abbott, editor@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk. It would be much appreciated if you did **not** leave it until the last minute.