

COTTINGHAM U3A Newsletter 149

(Charity registration number 1086936)

May 2026

Monthly Meetings

May 14

Marion Gamble

The Swinging Sixties – Sex, drugs and rock and roll

June 11

Jane Thomas

The works and life of Thomas Hardy

July 9

Colin Bradshaw

When the railway reached Beverley

Monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month in the Darby and Joan Hall, Finkle Street, Cottingham, starting at 2pm.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR – May 2026

Spring is the time of year that I always look forward to. As I write this newsletter, flowers are popping up all over the place and the wisteria (my favourite) is about to open at the back of my house. Spring is a new ‘beginning’ and we have new interest groups that have just started or are about to start: backgammon, Italian and croquet interest groups to name a few.

In the March newsletter I invited members to attend a meeting of the Executive Committee if they wanted to get a clearer idea of its work. Two members took me up on the offer and are thinking of putting their names forward to join the committee at the **AGM in September**. The AGM is also an opportunity for any member to put forward a proposal for consideration/discussion; if you wish to do so, please contact Pam Jackson (Secretary) on secretary@cottinghamu3a.org.uk. What else is happening?

Online Membership Renewal. Membership continues to grow and is now approaching 400; this is obviously good news for Cottingham u3a but it brings a heavier workload in relation to membership renewals. The committee has been really pleased with the uptake amongst members who have taken the opportunity to renew online; this is definitely the way forward. Barring the odd hiccup here or there, the process has gone relatively smoothly, so if you haven’t renewed your membership yet (and why not?!!) have a go online.

Radio Humberside. Many of you will have listened to members of the Crafting Group having a chat with Kofi Smiles on Radio Humberside’s Breakfast Show. They have been really surprised at how easy he is to talk to, and we are looking for any other interest group(s) that Kofi can visit – he is very keen to continue his relationship with us so don’t be shy in coming forward. This is really good publicity for Cottingham u3a and contributes to our ongoing success.

Cottingham Day 2026 (Sunday 28 June). Once again Cottingham u3a will have a presence in the Darby & Joan Hall where we can showcase what we do and we will be in the main hall. As usual, there will be a display showcasing the u3a and any help on the day would be very much appreciated; this is not an onerous task and just involves talking to people about what we do. Please contact me if you feel that you could lend a hand for an hour or two – it would give committee members a break.

And last but not least:

Reminder: New email addresses. You can contact Cottingham u3a officers via the following:

chair@cottinghamu3a.org.uk (Lesley Tempest)
vicechair@cottinghamu3a.org.uk (Joan Lehain)
treasurer@cottinghamu3a.org.uk (Karen Hawtree)
secretary@cottinghamu3a.org.uk (Pam Jackson)
membership@cottinghamu3a.org.uk (Karen Baker)
speakerfinder@cottinghamu3a.org.uk (Jackie McAndrew)

Best wishes to all
Lesley A Tempest (Chair)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

We are halfway through the Renewal Process for 2026/27. If you have not renewed as yet the cut off date is June the 1st 2026.

You can renew three different ways.

You can renew through the Cottingham u3a website.
Click on the Membership portal button. You will need a password and your membership number. Then follow the instructions. If you have been successful you will get your membership card online.

Or

You can download a renewal form from the Cottingham u3a website and either post it or drop it in the u3a postbox in the D and J Hall.

Alternatively, you can pick up a form at the monthly meeting.

Karen Baker
Membership Secretary

[You will have received a copy of the form with the March newsletter, electronically or on paper as appropriate. Ed.]

General Finance – Your Questions Answered

We know members appreciate clarity about how Cottingham u3a manages its finances. Here are answers to some of the most commonly asked questions.

What is the role of a u3a treasurer?

The treasurer's role is to manage the u3a's finances in accordance with charity requirements and constitution. Key tasks include handling bank accounts, processing income and expenditure, keeping financial records, preparing budgets, and presenting the annual financial report to members at the AGM.

How do we set our membership fee and does it cover what we must pay to the Third Age Trust?

Each member's subscription includes the **£4 per-capita fee** we must pay to the Third Age Trust. This covers a range of services including support and guidance, policies and liability insurance. The remainder pays for monthly meetings and essential running costs such as **Beacon**, our membership system, and **SiteWorks**, which supports our website.

Are we properly registered to claim Gift Aid?

We are fully registered to claim **Gift Aid**, and we encourage members to tick the Gift Aid box on the renewal form or notify the Membership Secretary. This extra income helps us keep fees low and support more activities.

Do volunteers submit receipts for their expenses, and how does the committee authorise payments?

Committee members can claim reasonable expenses such as stationery, postage, or hospitality items, and all claims must be supported by receipts. Spending decisions are made by the committee, and no payment is made without dual authorisation.

What is our policy on paying speakers, and do they provide invoices?

Our Speaker Finder has an annual budget to invite speakers to monthly meetings, and these speakers provide invoices for payment. However, u3a policy states that **u3a members cannot be paid** for sharing their knowledge or skills, so internal contributors always volunteer their time.

Interest Group Finances – Your Questions Answered

Our interest groups play a vital role in Cottingham u3a, and we want members to feel confident that group finances are managed fairly and consistently. Here's a quick overview of how things work:

Are all interest groups self-funding?

Yes. Each group charges members enough to meet all its expenses, such as room hire and any required materials.

Do committee members and convenors pay the same as other members?

Yes. Committee members and convenors who take part in any activity pay the same fee as other members. All members pay the same rate, with no concessions offered.

How does the Treasurer ensure that group funds are not held in personal bank accounts?

Convenors complete **Activity Group finance forms** and make regular payments into the main u3a bank account, ensuring funds are properly recorded and centrally managed.

Karen Hawtree
Treasurer

Interest Groups

U3a Group Update: Recent Activity and What's Next

This period has been quieter in terms of day-to-day group operations, but it has been a productive period for developing new interest ideas and planning for upcoming months.

Croquet Group: We are delighted to report that a new croquet group has started. The first meeting was held on Friday the 24th of April with 13 members attending. All members of the group are new to croquet and are looking forward to learning and developing as they learn the game over the summer season. We are thankful to Brigid Murphy and Sandy Voakes for convening the group. The group meets every Friday between 10.30 -12.30. The group is now full.

Interest in the 'Kofi Experience'

Following the recent crafting group visit from Kofi Smiles of BBC Radio Humberside, there has been considerable interest from other groups in having a similar experience. We would like to thank Liz for making it an enjoyable experience for the group and for Kofi. Many members have expressed enthusiasm about inviting Kofi to join their own group meetings, and the level of interest continues to grow.

In response, we are currently compiling a list of groups who would like to participate in a 'Kofi experience'. If you wish for your group to be included, please let us know so that your request can be added to the list before it is sent to Kofi.

New Member Coffee Meetup

What is it? The New Member Coffee Meetup provides a welcoming opportunity for those who have recently joined, as well as members who are still relatively new, to get to know each other in an informal setting. It is designed to help new members connect, share experiences, and feel more at home within the Cottingham u3a community.

Event Details The meetup will take place on Tuesday the 12th May at Pasco's in Cottingham, beginning at 14:00. This is a relaxed, social gathering where members can introduce themselves and enjoy friendly conversation over coffee.

How to Attend An email with further information about the event will be sent out shortly. If any current members would like to attend this meetup, please let us know so we can include you in the arrangements. Numbers will need to be confirmed so if you are interested please respond to the email.

A Note for All Members

Encouraging New Ideas and Growth

At Cottingham u3a, our continued success depends on the enthusiasm and creativity of our members. In order for the group to thrive, expand, and offer a broader range of interest groups, we warmly welcome suggestions and ideas for new groups or experiences. Whether you have a

concept for an activity, a topic you are passionate about, or would like to see something new introduced, please share your thoughts. Cottingham u3a is organised by the members, for the members, and your input is essential to shaping the future of our community.

BACKGAMMON GROUP: SALLIE ANDERSON

A new Backgammon group is now taking place on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 2pm in the Darby & Joan boardroom. It is a mixed group with beginners as well more experienced players. This ancient game is for 2 players and uses dice and counters on a board. The aim of the game is to get all your pieces safely home without being caught – a bit like draughts. Like draughts, it is a game of luck and strategy that anyone can play. There are places left so if you are interested do come and join us for some fun and games!

CRAFTING GROUP: LIZ STEWART.

The Wednesday Craft group were pleased to welcome Kofi Smiles, one of the breakfast presenters at Radio Humberside, to our April session which was aptly named Easter Bunny, when the members of the group were asked to make their own creation using a jam jar, string, glue and a variety of other items. As they do each month the ladies approached the task with their high level of enthusiasm and by the look on his face I think Kofi was duly impressed with our efforts and even made an attempt himself which turned out to be very good. I would like to make a special mention to Ilona and Jeanette who both stepped forward, without hesitation, to talk about the work we do each month at crafting. They both did an excellent job of not only promoting the group but the u3a in general.

HISTORY GROUP: PHILIP GOODALL

We have had a few new members over the last couple of meetings – you are most welcome.

At our April meeting u3a member Steve and his former colleague Mike gave us some insight into life at Hull prison and the wider prison service during the mid to late 20th Century. We also considered by way of contrast Crime and Punishment in earlier times with a brief presentation by myself on the position in Medieval times.

At the May meeting we will be looking at the history of some local businesses

In particular

Boyes
Sydney Scarborough
Imperial Typewriters

The plan for the June meeting is to look at

The English Civil War in East and North Yorkshire

and a general history quiz.

July: the history of the Seaside holiday on the Yorkshire Coast. There will be a presentation by myself for the first part of the meeting and then those who wish to share any memories, stories, photos or postcards etc will be encouraged to do so.

Meetings take place on the 3rd Tuesday each month from 10.30 to 12.00.

New members welcome.

SOCIAL EVENTS AND MINIBUS TRIPS – FOR ALL u3a MEMBERS

SOCIAL EVENTS

- Saturday May 30th** Afternoon Tea with the Society of Mice at Bricknell Avenue Methodist Church
1pm Doors open at noon £7. Organised by Janet
- Saturday June 19th** Social Events and Minibus meeting
11:30am in the Duke of Cumberland
Come along and tell us where you would like to go, what you would like to do. We love suggestions.
- Sunday August 30th** Humberside Police Band in Burnby Hall gardens
£10.43 Organised by Wendy
- Saturday October 3rd** Talk by Paul Schofield at Streetlife Museum
£5 Organised by Wendy

MINIBUS OUTINGS

From January the price will be £13 plus entrance fee due to the rising cost of diesel.

June 9th

Knareborough £12 10am. 3 places available. Pay by May 14th

July 14th

Scarborough £12 9:30am. Pay by June 11th

August 11th

Elsham Hall gardens & country park 10am £20. 1 place available

September 8th Pickering & Thornton Dale 10am £12. Full

October 13th Burton Constable Hall 10am £28. 2 places available

November 10th Woodbank Garden Centre Bingley 10am £12

December 8th Castle Howard *The wonderful wizard of Oz* 10am £?

January 12th Junction 32 shopping outlet 10am £13

All our trips are on the second Tuesday of each month from Finkle St near to the Darby & Joan.

After being received payment is binding except for exceptional circumstances.

To book a social event or minibus trip email: cottinghamu3as@gmail.com

Phone 07586532964

or come to the small hall whilst at the monthly meeting.

Janet & Wendy

CURRENT INTEREST GROUPS

MONDAYS

WALKING GROUP 1	Monday mornings 10:00am	1st Monday of the month
WALKING GROUP 2	Monday mornings 10:00am	3rd Monday of the month
RUMMIKUB GROUP	Monday afternoons 1:30pm-3:00pm	2nd and 4th Mondays each month
TABLE TENNIS	Monday afternoons 1pm-2:30pm	Every week
TABLE TENNIS 2	Monday afternoons 2:35pm-4pm	Every week
BOOK GROUP	Monday afternoons 2:00pm	Last Monday of the month

TUESDAYS

HISTORY 2	Tuesday mornings 10:30am-12:00pm	1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month
ART APPRECIATION	Tuesday mornings 10:30am-12:00pm	1st Tuesday each month
MR MOTIVATOR	Tuesday mornings 11:30am-12:30pm	1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month
CHAIR YOGA	Tuesday mornings 11:30am-12:30pm	2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month
ART	Tuesday afternoons 2:00pm-4:00pm	1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month
BACKGAMMON	Tuesday afternoons 2:00pm-4:00pm	4th Tuesday each month
QUIZ GROUP	Tuesday afternoons 2:00pm-4:00pm	1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month
BOARD GAMES	Tuesday afternoons 2:00pm-4:00pm	2nd Tuesday of each month
DVD FILM GROUP	Tuesday afternoons 1:30pm-4:15pm	4th Tuesday each month

WEDNESDAYS

DISCUSSION GROUP	Wednesday mornings 10:30am-12:00pm	1st Wednesday each month
TALK ITALIAN	Wednesday mornings 10:30am-12:00pm	1st and 3rd Wednesday each month
CRAFTING GROUP	Wednesday afternoons 1:30pm-3:30pm	1st Wednesday each month
BINGO	Wednesday afternoons 1:30pm-2:30pm	2nd Wednesday of each month
LUNCHEON CLUB	Wednesday afternoons 12:30pm	Last Wednesday of the month

THURSDAYS

NEEDLEWORK	Thursday mornings 10:00am-12:00pm	Every week
CREATIVE WRITING	Thursday mornings 10:00am-12:00pm	3rd Thursday each month
CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS	Thursday mornings 10:00am-11:00am	1st and 3rd Thursday each month
DISCUSSION GROUP 2	Thursday mornings 10:30am-12:00pm	Last Thursday each month
T'AI CHI	Thursday afternoons 12:45pm-1:45pm	1st and 3rd Thursdays each month
T'AI CHI 2	Thursday afternoons 2:30pm-3:30pm	1st and 3rd Thursdays each month
SCRABBLE	Thursday afternoons 2:00pm-4:00pm	1st and 3rd Thursdays each month
SOCIAL BRIDGE	Thursday afternoons 2:00pm-4:00pm	1st and 3rd Thursday each month

FRIDAYS

CROCHET, KNIT & NATTER	Friday mornings 10:00am-12:00pm	Every Friday
GOLF CROQUET GROUP	Friday mornings 10:30am-12:30pm	Every Friday April to September
COFFEE CLUB	Friday afternoons 2:00pm	1st Friday each month

SUNDAYS

SUNDAY STROLL AND COFFEE	Sunday mornings 10:30am-11:30am	2nd and 4th Sundays each month
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To join a group please contact: cottinghamu3as@gmail.com or ring 07586 532964

Check Cottingham u3a website for further information.

Committee

Name	Role
Karen Baker	Membership Secretary
Pat Collard	Committee Member
Peter Glover	Committee Member
Karen Hawtree	Treasurer
Pam Jackson	Secretary
Joan Lehain	Vice Chair/Hospitality/Interest Groups Coordinator
Jackie McAndrew	Speaker Finder
Patricia Phillips-Clarke	Interest Groups Coordinator
Jill Robson	Hospitality
Lesley Tempest	Chair
Non-committee roles:	
David Groom	Website Coordinator
Paul Tempest	Beacon Administrator
Pat Windle	Newsletter Editor

Items for the **July 2026** newsletter to be sent to Pat Windle, Newsletter Editor, by **23 June 2026**. Information for the Newsletter can be sent by email as an attachment to cottinghamu3as@gmail.com. Pat can also be contacted via the u3a mobile telephone number 07586 532964.

Please contact committee members via the above email address or telephone number.

Further details of all our activities may be found on our website <https://cottingham.u3asite.uk>

u3a National Office

The Third Age Trust, 156 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8EN. Telephone: 020 8466 6139.
E-mail: u3a.office@u3a.org.uk. Internet: www.u3a.org.uk

Public Liability Insurance for non-members

It is important to note that visitors are allowed to attend one u3a meeting or group activity before they become members, due to insurance requirements.

Privacy statement:

Your personal details are held on a secure database and will be used solely for the purposes of administration and the distribution of u3a communications. They will never be supplied to an outside agency or party other than for you to receive Third Age Matters/Sources by Direct Mail – if you have requested receipt of these magazines. For full details of our Privacy and Data Protection Policies please go to our website: <https://cottingham.u3asite.uk>

Legal Advisory Service

Please contact National Office for legal advice and they will deal with any enquiries on a 'case by case' basis.