

October 2024 Issue No 102

## Musings from the Chair



**W**ow wow wow! I was delighted to see such a huge turnout for our AGM. To have so many vibrant and interested members is amazing. I always fear that we won't get a quorum, as AGM's are not renowned for being an exciting trip out, but ours are different. I think we finished the formal meeting in less than 15 minutes and then enjoyed the social event.

We now have a new committee and hopefully you will all get to know the new committee members over the next few months. We are all very grateful and give thanks to the retiring members of the committee - Andrew Harper, Carolyn Luckhurst, Val Girling, Pat Wright & Jane Todd. Your contributions to the running of our u3a are greatly appreciated.

Tony & I have just returned from a wonderful break in Pembrokeshire – a glorious county, made more so in the sunshine we had last week. I was celebrating the results of my last CT scan – no evidence of cancer. Those of you who have been members for a while will know I have been battling it, but I am really appreciative of all the wishes of support and the concern that so many of you have expressed. It really helped to know you were behind me. Now it is onwards and upwards, with fingers and toes crossed for the next scan in 6 months. In the meantime we have lots to do here and many exciting groups, trips and events to enjoy. We are off to see Lindisfarne at Lowdham Village Hall with the Local & Live group next week.

Whatever you are doing until we meet again, have fun, make the most of everything and we can all Live, Laugh & Learn together.

Val Wilkinson  
Chair

### Save the Date :

#### General Meeting

Thursday 24 October at 10:00am

### Jump to :

[What's on at the Lace Market Theatre](#)

[What's on at the Playhouse](#)

[Trips and Visits](#)

## Meetings for prospective members - The Old Flower Shop

**P**rospective Members are very welcome to come to our General Meetings. Our Membership Secretary always has forms and information to take away.

The week following the general meeting, we have at least two people at The Old Flower Shop at 934 Woodborough Rd, Mapperley, Nottingham NG3 5QS. We shall be there **from 10.30 am to 12 noon** on **Thursday 3 October and Thursday 31 October.**

We book a table and are there to meet people who are thinking about joining our u3a. It's an opportunity for people to find out more about the groups and events so that they can make the very best of their u3a membership.

If you know of someone who is interested please ask them to come and see us.

## NOTICES

### MISSING JIGSAW PIECE

A jigsaw piece escaped from one of the boxes at the main meeting this month and was found hiding on the floor. If this came from a jigsaw you have our Chair Val Wilkinson has it safely in her possession so you can retrieve it and make your puzzle whole again.

Please [contact Val](#) to arrange collection.



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### PLASTIC BOTTLE TOPS

Many of us are missing the lovely Fruit Bowl shop on Mapperley Top where we bought our fruit, vegetables and many plants, shrubs and trees. One of the other things they did was to collect plastic bottle tops in a dustbin just inside the shop. I believe these were used in some way to support a local children's sports team of some sort. I should have asked before the shop closed as I am now one of many who are still collecting the bottle tops with no knowing when, where or how to recycle them.

Does anyone know? If so, please can you let me know and maybe this is another useful recycling project for our MaD u3a members.

Please contact by email at [webmaster@madu3a.org](mailto:webmaster@madu3a.org) and I shall be happy to follow up any leads.

Carolyn Luckhurst

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### TRIPS AND EVENTS

#### Theatre Royal Limelight Tour - POSTPONED

The Limelight Tour scheduled for 4 October was postponed and we were offered a new date of 11 October. That is short notice and quite a few of our members can't make the new date, so we will be asking the Theatre for another date and will let you know what that is when received.

We have sent out a list of new [Trips and Events](#) and we would ask you to book early if you require a single room for any of the trips. If for any reason you have not received this let us know and we will email a copy to you, and you can also view it via the link above.

[Christmas lunch and Party Night](#) - we need to book asap so please let us know if you wish to go and pay the deposit of £5.00pp [using the relevant code](#). The Lunch is for members only but the evening is open to family & friends. We have sent the menu for the lunchtime and we think the evening menu will be similar but haven't had that one as yet.

Trips Team

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#### Technical Problems?

If you have any problems or issues with our website please don't struggle or, even worse, give up!

We have a team of people who will do their best to assist you to get the most out of our lovely [MaD Website](#) or with Beacon site issues.

Please contact the [Webmaster](#) or one of the MaD Tech Comms group :

Richard Hill, Sue Cullen, Carolyn Luckhurst, Liz Hagan, Andrew Harper

The computer allows us to make more mistakes faster than any other invention in human history, with the possible exceptions of handguns and alcohol ...

## FROM OUR MEMBERS

### Nottinghamshire Network Conference - Saturday 21 September 2024

This was my first Network Conference so I was curious to see what transpired and I was impressed. Fortunately, we had a fine day (shame about the evening weather) which was good for those who had opted for the Walk round the Arboretum.

Registration was streamlined and well organised. There was a bit of a wait for tea/coffee as they'd run out of milk, but, once I'd got my coffee fix I had a look round the lobby. There were several very professional looking story boards from different u3a showing the range of activities they offer. The Fraud Department from Notts Police had a stand - I was attending their talk in the afternoon - and some freebies. We then took our seats in the auditorium for welcome and housekeeping.

The first speaker was Professor Emeritus Chris French who gave a talk on 'The Science of Weird Shit - Why our Minds Conjure the Paranormal'. It was a fascinating talk and gave lots to think about. He went through various tricks used to deceive you into thinking you've seen something you haven't and gave

several insightful examples of how this was done. Chris' conclusion was that people can be susceptible to various factors which shape what they 'saw' and how it differs from what others saw at the same time. This talk gave people a lot to talk about over coffee.

The next sessions were break-out - the same subjects morning and afternoon. The topics included Arboretum guided walk, line dancing, chair yoga, creative writing and scamming/fraud.

These led into lunch. The food was enjoyable - it wasn't the delicate ham salad, prawn cocktail etc finger food but hearty, half doorstops. There was plenty of food but not a lot of choice (several plates of the same fillings). Vegetarians and vegans were well catered for but there wasn't such a good choice for those with allergies.

After lunch we were split into the afternoon break-out sessions and came together again for the Plenary Address by Allan Walmsley, Chair Elect of the Third Age Trust.

Allan informed the audience how he saw the u3a developing in the

future. Although u3a had a very limited advertising budget he wanted to see groups attracting the 'next generation' of u3a-ers so the Trust could grow and develop. He also wanted to see more partnerships with businesses and other organisations to raise the profile. During a Q&A session afterwards it was asked if u3a had thought of getting into various soaps. Allan said that it had got a mention in an episode of the Archers a few years ago! The question of under-representation of men in the organisation was raised. Whilst Allan had no answer he thought there were several reasons - women living longer, men not wanting to get involved, subjects not attractive enough to entice men to join, but it was something that needed looking at.

The day ended with a few minutes of chair yoga and thanks and acknowledgement to speakers, High School staff, committee, volunteers and caterers.

I found the day interesting and thought provoking.

Sheila Ward

### Hope House Costume Museum

The Museum was in an old converted barn. Downstairs there was a lot to see, different costumes - from a Suffragette to a Victorian Policeman - and lots in between! Upstairs were even more wonderful costumes through the ages, plus vintage bags and shoes and even a couple of doll houses with furniture of the period. The lady collector gave us a lot of interesting information as to where various costumes came from as well as many anecdotes.

A nice afternoon tea followed. A quirky and interesting place, perhaps not suitable if you have mobility issues.

Rose De Roeck





## The Longest Yarn

A group of us had a brilliant day out at The Longest Yarn exhibition at Southwell Minster.

It was a fascinating and informative display, comprising an 80 metre 3D depiction of D Day in wool art. The idea for it came from the Bayeux Tapestry and it was Tansy Forster, who lives in Normandy, who had the idea to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D day. She acquired sponsorship from many different organisations, many of whom are based in Normandy.

There were 80 cases, each depicting a scene from 6 June 1944, that had been researched by historians and then knitted by volunteers.

. Each scene was unique and created with care.

We went on the first day so it was quite crowded but we managed to see the whole exhibition and had a fair amount of time at each case. The scenes shown were taken from photographs of D Day or scenes from the film The Longest Day.

Many of the scenes still stay with me - the officers sitting round a table with Dwight Eisenhower who made the decision to launch D Day, the pretty red head who distracted German soldiers while two airmen were hidden in a hay cart, the parachutist who crashed through a greenhouse, and lots of scenes with aircraft, tanks and warships. As a knitter, my hat goes off to the mother and daughter team who knitted the ship convoys with lots of boats - all knitted in dark grey wool!

The most poignant scenes were of the dead horses and the last case containing just one helmet left on the beach. 8000 horses were reported to have been killed. Goodness knows how many soldiers and civilians were killed. But what an amazing way to commemorate such an historic event!!!

If you would like to read more about this, you can visit the website - [The Longest Yarn](#).

Alison Gove-Humphries



Someone told me that it takes three sheep to make a jumper :  
Amazing - I didn't know they could knit!

## INTEREST GROUPS

Click on the group name to visit our MaD website for more information :

[Ale & Cider Group](#)

[Art Appreciation](#)

[Badminton Group](#)

[Book Group 1](#)

[Book Group 2](#)

[Breakfast Club](#)

[Bridge for Beginners](#)

[CineMates](#)

[Creative Craft](#)

[Creative Writing](#)

[Cryptic Crosswords for Beginners](#)

[Cryptic Crosswords for Improvers](#)

[Curry Club](#)

[Family History](#)

[French Conversation and Culture](#)

[French for Fun](#)

[Fun Cooking with Gadgets](#)

[Games Group](#)

[Gardening Group](#)

[German Conversation & Culture](#)

[Italian Speech](#)

[Knit and Natter](#)

[Literature](#)

[Local and Live Music](#)

[Local History](#)

[Lunch Club](#)

[MaD Girls](#)

[MaD Men](#)

[MaDAmDrammers](#)

[Music Appreciation](#)

[National Trust Group](#)

[New & Prospective Members](#)

[Outdoor Activities](#)

[Photography](#)

[Play Going - Lace Market Theatre](#)

[Play Going - Playhouse](#)

[Play Reading Group](#)

[Project Craft Group](#)

[Singing Together](#)

[Table Tennis](#)

[The Bryan Ruskin MaD Jazzers](#)

[Trips and Visits](#)

[Ukulele Group](#)

[Walking - Walk in the Park](#)

[Walking - Strollers](#)

[Wine Appreciation](#)

[Wine Bar](#)

## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

### [Bridge for Beginners](#)

I have 2 places available for the 'Bridge for Beginners' group which restarts on the afternoon of Thursday 17 October from 2:00-4:00pm, and will run every week until 12 December (9 weeks).

The venue is my house in Grouville Drive, Woodthorpe.

If you would like to learn to play but Thursday afternoon doesn't suit I will be repeating the course in the new year on a different afternoon.

I can be contacted via Beacon or by email at [bridge@madu3a.org](mailto:bridge@madu3a.org).

Happy bridging !

John Heeson

### [Fun Cooking with Gadgets](#)

With the beginnings of Autumn on the horizon the theme for this month's challenge was 'fruit'.

We put on our thinking caps and apples featured a lot - blackberry & apple crunch, apple and plum

crumble bars and baked apple - cooked in the air fryer and in the microwave to compare the 2 methods.

Our conclusion was that for baked apples the microwave had the edge - quicker and softer fruit. We also tasted a lovely strawberry cheesecake.

As usual we discussed our cooking methods and which gadgets we had used, had a coffee and just a generally enjoyable morning.

Val Wilkinson





## Local History

Our November meeting will be on **Monday 4 November**. This is a tour of St Mary's Church in the Lace Market and we will **meet at the Church at 10.00am**. Do join us.

**Tuesday 3 December** we will be **meeting at 11.00am** (instead of 10.00am) at the Mapperley Plains Social Club. The Topic will be the Old Market Square and we will follow this up in the new year with a walk and talk around the Old Market Square. We will be having a buffet lunch after the meeting, hence the change of time. **Please let us know if you are coming along for the lunch** so we have a rough idea for catering. Not a fuddle so don't bring anything!

**Tuesday 7 January 2025** will be at the Mapperley Plains Social Club at **10.00am** in the meeting room - Topic TBA.

Marian Donaldson

## Ale & Cider Group

On Friday 20 September, as well as being able to see the Legends of the Lane Statue celebrating the time of Jimmy Sirrel and Jack Wheeler at Notts County and the mural opposite the pub of both Brian Clough and Jimmy Sirrel, group members enjoyed a variety of ales and cider at the Trent Navigation Inn on Meadow Lane.

The October meeting is scheduled for Friday 18 at a venue yet to be decided.

Dean Smith



## Wine Appreciation

The Wine Appreciation Group had a hugely enjoyable afternoon in the glorious sunshine in Maggie and Vic's garden, tasting 'Wine Champions' from The Wine Society. And, to make it even better, Barbara was celebrating her birthday and treated us to fizz and nibbles.

A perfect way to spend a perfect late summer afternoon - probably the last we shall have this year, so we were very fortunate to be able to enjoy it in such lovely surrounds and great company.

Sue Cullen



## Wine Bar

Some members of the MaD Wine Bar enjoyed an evening organised by Weavers Wines, tasting 'Weird and the Wonderful' wines - and some were very weird!

We started with a pet nat (Pétillant Naturel - 'natural sparkling', referring to a very old method of making sparkling wines). Not only was it sparkling, it was also very cloudy and looked like a rosé - but wasn't!

This was followed by 2 each of very different whites and reds and we finished the session with a Saké (rice wine), which also was sparkling!

A very enjoyable and informative evening.

Sue Cullen



## Walking - Strollers

On 4 October, the Strollers will once again be walking around the west lake at Colwick Park. There is ample roadside parking. The footpaths make it an easy and pleasant walk, enhanced by the stop we make at Wired on Wheels for delicious refreshments.

The Strollers Group is for those who wish to walk a short distance at a gentle pace. If you wish to join the group please email [strollers@madu3a.org](mailto:strollers@madu3a.org) and you will then receive a monthly email with full details of where to meet.

Carolyn Luckhurst

## Walking - Short Walks

The last of our Short Walks will be led by Fay Darroch on Friday 11 October in and around East Bridgford.

An email will come to all members in the Group nearer to the date, giving them full details of where to meet etc.

Carolyn Luckhurst

## Walking - Longer Walks

These walks take place on the morning of the 3rd Friday of the month, and tend to be between 5 and 8 miles, in Nottinghamshire. We are only able to offer these walks if a member volunteers to lead one and this works well, provided the weather doesn't intervene and cause a cancellation.

Planned walks :

**18 October** - a 5.5 mile walk from Dob Park, off the Hucknall by-pass, to be led by Georgina Stevenson

**15 November** - around Attenborough and will be led by Cath Greenwood

More walkers are welcome and if you would like to be added to the list of members so that you are notified of walks please let me know. Email . If your name is already on the list but you would now like to be removed anyone wants to be removed, again please let me know.

We need volunteers to lead future walks - if you would be willing to do this please contact me by email at [walking@madu3a.org](mailto:walking@madu3a.org)

Val Wilkinson

## A WALK IN THE PARK

### Starting 8 November

The two walking groups known as Short Walks and Walking have become so similar as to be almost the same but on different Friday mornings. It's therefore difficult to find enough volunteers to help run both groups effectively, so we have debated merging them. Rather than lose a group and a slot for walking on a Friday morning, we are going to trial a new theme, ***A Walk in the Park*** that will take place on the second Friday of each month instead of Short Walks.

We are extremely fortunate to have several lovely parks that look quite different throughout the seasons. The ones that we shall start with are Gedling Country Park, Colwick Park, Bestwood Park, Rushcliffe Country Park and Holme Pierrepont.

Those of us who went to Brierley Forest early in the summer thoroughly enjoyed it and we agreed that it was worth the journey and car sharing worked well. Attenborough and Wollaton Hall are additional options. These parks will usually provide us with a three mile route on easy footpaths.

The greatest advantage to *A Walk in the Park* is that on most occasions we will not need to call on a volunteer to perform a full recce as most parks are well maintained and safe for walking all year round. They are also good for those of us who wish to walk with our dogs.

The Walking Group will be able to focus better on providing walks that are closer to five miles and on varied terrain and it is anticipated that a volunteer rota can be more easily maintained.

Currently, there are 82 names of members who have expressed interest in the Short Walks Group. If you wish to remain on the list then you don't need to do anything. If you wish to be removed or added, please email [walkinthepark@madu3a.org](mailto:walkinthepark@madu3a.org).

There are 50 names on the list for Walking. If you wish to change your listing from A Walk in the Park to Walking Group then please email [walking@madu3a.org](mailto:walking@madu3a.org) and Val Wilkinson will ensure you join that Group instead.

You can, of course, walk with both groups.

None of this affects the Strollers Group that walks on the first Friday each month.

Carolyn Luckhurst



## Art Appreciation

Our first Art Appreciation meeting happened just before the deadline for this newsletter. I'm grateful for members arriving so promptly and being so enthusiastic in their responses.



As with most first sessions there can be some sort of blip. Unfortunately, at ours the problem wasn't with the technical equipment, but with a group leader's timing!

I had to apologise for over-running ... and I promise to cut down the number of slides in October to avoid this happening again! It meant that the anticipated and welcome break was a little late!



However, we looked at public artworks in separate sections dealing with the reasons for their installation, ending with the good, the bad and the ugly (plus the quite frankly puzzling).



I am indebted to both Pat Smith and Maggie Kendrick for their invaluable help in taking the room hire contributions and setting out the room,

respectively. I must also thank members unable to attend who proffered their apologies in advance.

As a 'newbie' to MaD, to my relief I found members exceptionally friendly and welcoming, and I'm sure our future sessions will be as enjoyable, once that speaker gets her timing right!

Next session: 22 October. Please see the website for details.

Joanne Wilson

## German Conversation & Culture

We met on 17 September, a bright and sunny Autumn morning. Unfortunately, due to other commitments, Mike is no longer able to join us. He will be sorely missed, especially with all his 'grammar' help. We welcomed a new member, Joan Wild, introduced ourselves and Joan told us about her family and why she would like to improve her German knowledge.

We read, translated and discussed our first Nachrichten Leicht article about the commemorations in Berlin of 63 years since the building of the Berlin Wall. It was extremely interesting and gave rise to some valued comments from our members. So much so, we ran out of time for the second article so we will hold that over until the next meeting.

Joan showed some photos of Checkpoint Charlie, remnants of the wall, some of which were covered in artistic graffiti, as well as various other parts of the city. These were taken during her visit in May, her hotel looking directly out on to a part of the old wall.

Tricia showed us a very interesting report including a photo of people pulling the wall down in 1989. Leading eventually to the reunification of Germany.

Julie told us about a boy in her sister's class at school, who, back in the 60s escaped to the West. He was lucky to escape while many were not.

Some great sentences from all our members incorporating our 'study' verb for this month - Gehen.

Tricia had been to Eastbourne with National Trust group, visiting several places. She will shortly be travelling along the River Douro, Portugal and then to Lisbon.

Julie and Arthur will be travelling, by train, via Germany to Lake Garda and on to Vicenza.

Our usual lively discussions, including one about penfriends followed. Julie has known hers since school days. Tricia has been corresponding for 61 years. Coffee, tea and biscuits were enjoyed whilst we were chatting.

Our next meeting is on 15 October.

Joy Brown



## Knit and Natter

The Knit and Natter group meets on the 1st and 3rd Friday afternoons of the month from 2.00 to 4.0pm. Numbers attending can vary but we always have plenty of chatter!!

These photos show a couple of our ladies in action and also some gift items which some of the members are currently knitting

Elaine Khan



## GENERAL MEETINGS

### September's General Meeting and AGM

There was no speaker this month as we had our Annual General Meeting and appointment of the Committee. Some members stepped down to allow new people to join; you can see the list of your 2024-25 Committee on [Page 13](#). And if you'd like to put a face to a name look at the [Committee page](#) on our MaD website - all the mug shots are there!

When the business of the meeting was done we had our usual social get-together with tea and coffee and a wonderful selection of home-made cakes, all made by Anna Harper - many thanks Anna, they were delicious (as always)!

We had another jigsaw swap which saw many puzzles change hands (*if you took a puzzle check on Page 2 to see if the missing piece is yours ...*) and an autumn themed quiz which saw 3 teams tie for the top spot so the winning team was decided by a tie-break.

A very friendly, sociable and enjoyable morning.



# PUZZLES

Keep your little grey cells exercised with these puzzles. Answers at the end of the Newsletter.



## The Little MaD Quiz

1. With the longest-ever recorded being 33.58 metres long and estimated to weigh over 160 tons, what is the biggest creature in the world?
2. What is the third-largest island in the Mediterranean, after Sicily and Sardinia?
3. Which Spanish artist created the 1951 painting Christ of Saint John of the Cross, usually displayed in Glasgow's Kelvingrove Art Gallery?
4. In which film does the donning of a pair of magical ruby slippers play a key part to the plot?
5. In which US state are the cities of Tulsa, Norman and Stillwater?
6. In which Gerry Anderson series did the colourful organisation Spectrum appear?
7. Reaching it on 14th December 1911, who was the first man to lead an expedition to the South Pole?
8. In mathematics, what name is given to an angle between 180° and 360°?
9. In the subtractive colour system, which two primary colours do you mix to get green?
10. Which artist spent most of his life in the Berkshire Thames-side village of Cookham?

### Extra eggs

Jenny has 10 chickens that lay eggs every day. She wants to give away her extra eggs to her neighbours, but she wants to give each neighbour an equal number of eggs. She figures out that she needs to give 7 of her neighbours eggs for them to get the same amount, otherwise there is one egg left over. What is the smallest number of eggs she needs for this situation to be true?

### Scrambled cities

Hidden in these phrases are the names of 8 capital cities. Each phrase contains the name of 2 cities. Can you unscramble them and find out what they are?

LION JOB ENDING  
TOOK MY ORE  
CRIMSON ELBOW  
RAPID DISARM

### What common phrases do these pictograms represent?

<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p><b>EDITION</b> <b>EDITION</b> <b>EDITION</b></p>	<p>3</p> <p><b>K E</b> <b>I H</b> <b>CKT</b></p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p><b>CRY</b> <b>CRY</b> <b>CRY</b></p>	<p>8</p>

[Answers at end of the Newsletter](#)

## FUTURE GENERAL MEETINGS

**24 October**     **Sam Boote**

George Green - The Man, The Mill and The Maths

Green's Mill in Sneinton, Nottingham is a well-known local landmark. It was built in 1807 by George Green senior, the father of the famous mathematician. After lying derelict for over a century the mill was restored in the 1980s and is now in working order and a source of organic flour, though major repairs to the mill are about to begin.

George junior (1793-1841) hated milling and tried his best to distance himself from it, so that he could concentrate on mathematics.

George was a shadowy figure whose work was little known until long after his death but is now recognised as important in the development of modern technology.

### Could you help to run an interest group?

### Is there a group you would like to start?

If you have a skill or knowledge about a subject you would like to share with others why not consider starting an interest group? There is lots of help and advice to get you started and help with the technical side of things as well. Conveners find running a group is very enjoyable and rewarding.

If you think you'd like to have a go don't be shy - please send an email to our Groups Support on [coordinator@madu3a.org](mailto:coordinator@madu3a.org) or have a chat with any Committee member so we can help you to get going.

## NOTTINGHAM

NottinghamshireLive

### Police thank public for their views

Did you have your say on the Police and Crime Plan? Many people did, and the police are thankful for the public's views and support for the plan.

To visit the Nottinghamshire Live website read about this click on the link - [Police and Crime Plan](#).

### Nottingham's quirky signs and landmarks

Our city is a treasure trove of signs, statues, plaques, friezes and other items which offer a fascinating glimpse into its history.

It's easy to overlook the city's rich history that is subtly embedded in its signs, statues, plaques and other artefacts. Click on the link to the Nottinghamshire Live website to learn about a few of the historical gems you might have missed if you weren't looking closely - [Quirky Signs and Landmarks](#).



### Wollaton Hall - the parts you don't see

Our much-loved Grade I listed building has been open to the public for nearly a century, but some parts of the mansion are still rarely seen by the public. Although daily historical tours are available, granting a glimpse into the hall's past, several areas stay out of reach for the average visitor. One particularly thrilling hidden gem is the top roof, which remains off-limits to most due to safety concerns - accessible only through a narrow and spiralling staircase.

MaD u3a had a very enjoyable and interesting guided tour around these hidden parts in September 2023. You can click on the link to the Nottinghamshire Live site and learn about the hidden areas - [Wollaton Hall](#).

I was recently fired from my job operating rides at Goose Fair -  
my lawyer has advised suing for funfair dismissal



## Nottingham Goose Fair

Did you know that Nottingham Goose Fair, one of the largest in the country, is over 700 years old?

Here are a few facts about our fair which you may not know ...

- Most historians agree the fair probably started just after 1284 when the Charter of King Edward I referred to city fairs in Nottingham. The name probably came from the hundreds of geese which were driven from Lincolnshire to be sold in Nottingham - a fat roast goose was a traditional Michaelmas treat
- It was originally held for 8 days starting on 21 September, but was moved to early October in 1752 when Britain adopted the Gregorian calendar
- The fair was originally held in Nottingham's Old Market Square (the largest public space in the UK after London's Trafalgar Square) but moved to the Forest Recreation Ground in 1928 due to space constraints
- The fair has been canceled a few times throughout its history, including in 1646 due to the bubonic plague, and during World Wars I and II, and it was also canceled in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Early rides were mostly steam-powered, but today the fair features a variety of rides, including the Brooklyn Cake Walk which was introduced in 1905 and still appears today
- And, of course, you can enjoy Nottingham's famous *Cock on a Stick*. Ben Whitehead started this tradition at the end of the 19th century and passed down the secret recipe to his grandson Ray Brooks who made the cocks by hand at his home in St Ann's - a slow and time-consuming task which he started in July to be ready for the fair. After working the stall for more than 70 years, Mr Brooks, 92, sold the business to 33-year-old fair worker Tom Smith in 2022 and the tradition continues to this day



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## TRAVEL

SAGA

### Heading to Europe? How the new entry system will affect you

Autumn 2024 sees the way we travel in and out of Europe changing again, with the introduction of the new EU entry/exit system (EES). It's planned to launch on Sunday 10 November 2024 (with the possibility it could be postponed by a week to 17 November).

Most people haven't heard about this, so if you are planning to go to Europe later this year it's a good idea to click on the link to the Saga website to find out what the new European border check Entry/Exit System (EES) means for you and your travel plans. [The new EES Travel system.](#)

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## HEALTH

### Why is the RSV vaccine not offered to over-80s?

The potentially life-saving RSV vaccination is being offered to people aged 75 to 79, as well as those who have just turned 80. For most people, RSV causes cough and cold symptoms, but for some older adults it can lead to more serious illnesses, including pneumonia. One study estimated that it causes just under 8,000 deaths in over-65s in the UK each year.

The vaccine is now available for the first time for some older people, as well as women in late pregnancy to protect their babies. But the big question is: why is it not available for the over-80s?

To find the answer, follow the link to the Saga website - [RSV vaccine.](#)

## One small switch cuts emissions

An electrical invention has apparently enabled a dramatic drop in carbon emissions.

Prof Bantval Jayant Baliga has been hailed as having the largest negative carbon footprint of anyone on earth. His eureka moment came way back in the early 1980s and led to the creation of something called the Insulated Gate Bipolar Transistor or IGBT - a kind of high-tech switch which brought extraordinary new levels of precision to the control of electricity meaning that even high voltages can be dispatched in minuscule "digital" pulses.



To go to the BBC News website to read about this amazing switch, click on the link [IGBT Switch](#).

## TECH & SCAMS

### Millions targeted by pension scammers

**Which?**

Millions of people are at risk of being scammed out of their pension savings, according to new research from LV=, and consumers are increasingly unable to spot scams as criminals become more sophisticated.

Pension rule changes over the course of the last decade have provided more opportunities for fraudsters looking to steal your retirement savings. Click on this link [Pension scams](#) to go to the Which? Website and discover more about this and how to spot the signs of a scam.

### Scam alerts from Which?

The Which? Website has some helpful information on scam alerts - follow the link to read about them. [Scam alerts](#)

## GARDEN

### Jobs for the garden in October



There is much to be done in the garden this month. The RHS website has a list of jobs, and helpful tips on how to do them - just click on any of them to go to the RHS website

- Divide established rhubarb crowns to create new plants
- Cut back perennials that have died down
- Divide herbaceous perennials
- Move tender plants, including aquatic ones, into a greenhouse or conservatory
- Plant out spring cabbages
- Harvest apples, pears, grapes and nuts
- Prune climbing roses
- Finish collecting seeds from the garden to sow next year
- Last chance to mow lawns and trim hedges in mild areas
- Renovate old lawns or create new grass areas by laying turf

Happy gardening!

### Your Committee 2024-25

Valerie Wilkinson	Chair	Amanda Knight	Committee Member
Geraldine Chaffe	Vice Chair	Eileen Braham	Committee Member
Elaine Lindley	Business Secretary	Lesley Harrington	Committee Member
Joan Davis	Treasurer	Liz Hagan	Committee Member
Linda Randall	Membership Secretary	Pat Smith	Committee Member
Alison Gove-Humphries	Committee Member	Sheila Ward	Committee Member
		Sue Cullen	Newsletter & Tech Support

## ANSWERS TO THE PUZZLES

### The Little MaD Quiz

1. Blue whale, 2. Cyprus, 3. Salvador Dali, 4. The Wizard of Oz, 5. Oklahoma, 6. Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons, 7. Roald Amundsen, 8. Reflex, 9. Yellow and blue, 10. Stanley Spencer

### Extra eggs

**She will need to have 301 eggs**

The number of eggs must be one more than a number that is divisible by 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 since each of these numbers leaves a remainder of 1.

Therefore, the total is 301 eggs.

### Scrambled cities

Beijing, London

Berlin, Moscow

Rome, Tokyo

Madrid, Paris

### Common Phrases Pictograms

1. A drop in the bucket, 2. First edition, 3. Kick the bucket, 4. Feeling under the weather, 5. Don't cut corners, 6. Pillow talk, 7. Don't cry over spilled milk, 8. Jump the gun

### And finally ...

#### English from around the world :

- In a New Zealand restaurant: **'Open seven days a week, and weekends too'**
- A menu in Vienna: **'Fried milk, children sandwiches, roast cattle and boiled sheep'**
- At a Korean restaurant in Auckland, New Zealand: **'We do not re-use the food'**
- Supermarket, Hong Kong: **'For your convenience, we recommend courteous, efficient self-service'**
- Japanese hotel room: **'Please to bathe inside the tub'**
- On a South African building: **'Mental health prevention centre'**
- On a Korean flight: **'Upon arrival at Kimpo and Kimahie Airport, please wear your clothes'**
- Aeroflot advert: **'Introducing wide boiled aircraft for your comfort'**
- A sign on a car in Manila, Philippines: **'Car and owner for sale'**
- War museum on the River Kwai, Thailand: **'The Museum is building now - sorry for the visitor'**
- Instructions for a soap bubble gun: **'While solution is not toxic it will not make child edible'**
- From Soviet Weekly: **'There will be a Moscow Exhibition of Arts by 15,000 Soviet Republic painters and sculptors. These were executed over the past two years'**
- Tokyo hotel's rules and regulations: **'Guests are requested NOT to smoke or do other disgusting behaviours in bed'**
- A sign posted in Germany's Black Forest: **'It is strictly forbidden on our black forest camping site that people of different sex, for instance, men and women, live together in one tent unless they are married with each other for that purpose'**
- Belgrade hotel lift: **'To move the cabin, push button for wishing floor. If the cabin should enter more persons, each one should press a number of wishing floor. Driving is then going alphabetically by national order'**