

May 2025 Issue No 108

Musings from the Chair



A different musings from me this month. As I write this we are cruising through the Aegean sea with water all around us and I realised I needed to put some words together before getting home to enable Sue to get the newsletter out on time. I am missing the monthly meeting again, my apologies to you all for that. I hope you have a good and interesting meeting.



Those of you who have been members for a few years will know that three years ago I was in between 2 major operations due to having been diagnosed with stage 3 bowel cancer. Following the operations and 8 courses of chemotherapy when all was looking positive we booked a longer version of this holiday for summer 2024, Greek Island hopping and then a cruise back to Southampton from Athens. Unfortunately in January 2024, on the very day our travel insurance was due for renewal, I was back under the surgeon's knife, losing a third of one of my lungs which contained a secondary bowel cancer, so holiday cancelled. We got a dog instead.

But 12 months on all is OK and, travel insurance obtained at huge expense, here we are on a cruise - just 10 days, but making the most of every day. Waffle is with my sister and her 2 dogs, being walked miles and spending the rest of the time passed out on her sofa - his best life. We are planning as many holidays as we can pull in so this may not be the last time I

apologise for missing meetings.

I am using the time to read "Maurice and Maralyn" which is MaD Book Club 1's book for this month: it is a true story about a couple who set off from their life in Derby to sail around the world to New Zealand. When their boat was damaged by a whale and sank in the Pacific they survived for weeks drifting on a life raft, hoping for a ship to pass close enough to see them, and looking out to sea from the comfort of a large ship, seeing nothing but water as far as the horizon all around, it is difficult to imagine how frightening it must have been. I haven't finished the book yet but as it has been written I think the spoiler must be that they survived

Well today is Thursday - general meeting day. We are in Rhodes. I'll think about you all, and hope to see you next month when, all being well, I should be in Mapperley.

Val Wilkinson
Chair

Save the Date :
General Meeting
Thursday 22 May at 10:00am

Jump to :
[What's on at the Lace Market Theatre](#)
[What's on at the Playhouse](#)
[Trips and Visits](#)

NOTICES



The MaDAmDrammers performance this year will be a play entitled 'Class of '69 - a school reunion'. Rehearsals are well under way and the players are preparing for a one-off performance - not to be missed.

'55 years after leaving school some bright spark decided to organise a school reunion. Life seemed to get in the way of organising a get together before, but have they left it too late? After months of planning and reaching some dead ends (literally) when reaching out to old school pals, the night is finally here.

What secrets and lies will be uncovered and is it too late to rekindle old friendships and settle old scores.'

Class of '69 (a school reunion) - Friday 6 June 2025 at 7:00pm

Venue: Bonington Club, High Street, Arnold (NB - this is NOT the Bonington Theatre building - the Social Club is on High Street, Arnold, behind Asda and opposite Peak Pharmacy)

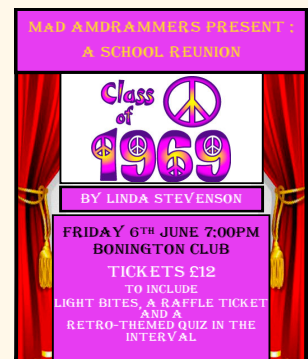
Tickets: £12 to include light snacks and a free raffle

Tickets may be purchased online using code **MD0606**, or at the May monthly meeting - subject to availability.

PLEASE REMEMBER to add your name and membership number to ensure your payment doesn't get lost in the system!

Tickets purchased online can be collected at the May main meeting or at the door on the night of the play - but must be purchased in advance.

Linda Stevenson



Trip to Isle of Wight with Ravenshead u3a

Ravenshead u3a have a few places available on their forthcoming short break to the Isle of Wight - [Click here](#) to visit the Ravenshead u3a website for further details of the holiday.

- Isle of Wight - 21 June for 5 days and 4 nights
- £435 per person
- There are 2 or 3 twin and double rooms left, but no singles
- Payment can be made by credit card

If you would like to join them please contact Halinka Rajchel by phone on 07762 802112 or by email to halijo@talktalk.net for more details

Short Lawn Bowls with Arnold u3a

Hazel Ward, Chair of Arnold u3a, has invited members of MaD u3a to join in the outdoor Short Lawn Bowls season at Daybrook Bowls Club which will meet Wednesday afternoons from 12.45 to 14.45 and every Friday morning from 10:00 to 12noon (weather dependent), starting from Wednesday 7 May at 12.45pm.

The cost is £4 per session which includes a cup of tea or coffee or squash in the interval. This is paid direct to Daybrook Bowls Club on the day, in cash or by bank transfer. If players have their own bowls, please bring them, otherwise bowls will be provided. Flat soled shoes must be worn to play on the green.

If you are interested please contact Hazel direct at hazelshortward@gmail.com.

TRIPS AND EVENTS

Our April day trip was to Stamford where 16 of our members travelled by minibus to the beautiful Georgian town of Stamford known for its historic buildings together with an abundance of independent shops and cafes. David Dobson kindly led a small group of us around this charming town full of beautiful Georgian architecture (familiar if you watch Middlemarch) starting at the Meadows.

First visit was to St. Martin's, home to the tombs of the Cecil family of Burghley House. Also, the grave of Daniel Lambert, who died at the age of 39 weighing 52 stone 11 pounds and requiring a coffin measuring 10.4 sq.metres, which took 20 men to lower into his grave.



We also passed Eleanor Cross, which was one of twelve monuments erected around the east of England by King Edward I to commemorate his wife, Queen Eleanor of Castile, and the passage of her funeral procession. The original cross was destroyed or lost so this was a modern replica.

Several members enjoyed a delicious lunch at Frothys, a family run establishment where all the food was freshly prepared on the premises.

Another member enjoyed a nostalgic lunch in The George Hotel, known locally as the Grande Dame of Stamford. Our member was delighted to see that even though it was some years since her last visit, nothing had changed and she was able to sit in a comfortable easy chair and was served by a charming waitress who attended to her every need.

Amongst the plethora of independent businesses was an amazing Polish pottery shop down one of the side streets, an art gallery, and an enormous book shop consisting of 6 rooms of second hand books. Several members were thrilled with their purchases and choice of retailers.



The weather for the time of year was excellent, enabling members to sit by the River Welland and enjoy the views.

As a bonus, the minibus driver had to follow a diversion on the return journey which necessitated travelling along the scenic route through several villages with magnificent views of the Lincolnshire countryside

An absolutely excellent day out which was thoroughly enjoyed by all

The chosen event for April was a meal at Rakki Rakkas Turkish Restaurant in Sherwood. Fabulous food, service and company. A very enjoyable evening with u3a members and friends. Definitely warrants a return visit.



Criccieth was this month's short break. We stayed in the George IV Hotel for 4 nights. A delightful and unique hotel, full of character and situated on Criccieth's High Street. The hotel is just a short stroll away from the beach, resort shops and rocky headland on which stands the imposing ruins of 13th century Criccieth Castle. Our 5 day break included a three-course evening meal with complimentary drink and three-course breakfast. (Although some members still preferred to bring their own bread!). There was entertainment and dancing every night although we also enjoyed playing "Game of Thrones" Oops! "Five Crowns" which Judith introduced us to with rules made up along the way.



Our short break included a trip to historic Caernafon, dominated by it's imposing Norman Castle. What a fabulous place to visit, we could have spent a lot more time here so definitely warrants a return visit.

We then ventured to Snowdonia National Park to visit Llanberis, not a lot to see here to be honest except the spectacular scenery along the Llanberis Pass on the way to Betws-y-coed which was heaving as it was the Bank Holiday. Lots of shops, places to eat, Bikers & Hikers. We were so lucky with the weather so had a nice walk, but unfortunately there was nowhere to sit down as everywhere was so busy so was not the best day to visit.





Our next day was spent locally in Criccieth, we had downloaded a local heritage walk which got us out and about around the town. We started at the memorial hall which was completed in 1925, the foundation stone having been laid in 1922 by David Lloyd George, the former Prime Minister. We passed an 18th century stone house which was the former Court House and crossed the railway down to the seafront, passing many former churches and chapels on the way. There was once a limekiln down at the seafront which is no

longer visible, the Limestone for the kiln was unloaded from ships on the no longer existent quay.

There was a Great Storm in 1927, where families lost their homes. The barometer at the Lifeboat Station and the unusual way the tide was behaving gave plenty of warning so all the families were moved to safety except for one old lady who refused to leave and hid under a table throughout the storm. At the height of the storm that evening the enormous waves brought down walls of the houses and washed out furniture and possessions. Further along the seafront the waves roared under Bont Du (The railway bridge) almost as far as the main road. After the disaster it was apparent that the houses were beyond repair so they were demolished. The families were housed with other members of their families, neighbours and at the Old Town Hall. Mrs Lewis of Talhenbont Hall gifted some land to build new houses for these unfortunate people at Henbont Road.



We passed a pink house once owned by the Birds Custard family and the former family home of David Lloyd George. We then enjoyed an ice cream from the famous Cadwalladers. After a short break we ventured up towards the castle passing sixteenth century former public house and castle treasurer. We enjoyed the view from the castle before going down Victorian Marine Terrace and beach area where there are many guest houses. Back up the hill towards our hotel and the starting point of our walk. A lovely relaxing day!!



On our next day we visited Ffestiniog, once the major centre of the slate mining industry, we could see the slate on the hills around the area but unfortunately the museum was closed the day of our visit but we had the opportunity to have a look around the area and appreciate what it must have been like when there was a thriving slate industry. There is a steam train that goes from here to Porthmadog which was our next port of call. Some of our party visited the maritime museum and then we watched the tourists boarding the steam train. Judith actually boarded to witness the first class carriage whilst the rest of us enjoyed a drink on the platform in the sunshine.



Stunning views of mountains, lakes and valleys on our journeys in addition to lots of laughs we all returned home relaxed, tired and with some lovely memories of a fun-filled week with a great group of friends, looking forward to our next break.

Coming up

May

- 10th VE Day 80 – Stalls, Vintage Singer Melody Flyte, SNARC Radio Club, Wartime Musical Bingo, Carlton TA Display, Sing-a-long War Songs, Charity Cakes and Stall for SSAFA. Mapperley Plains Social Club 1-5pm. £1 admission on the door. Salute to the 40's – Tribute Acts; Gracie Fields, Vera Lynne, Andrews Sisters, Flanagan & Allen & George Formby @ Mapperley Plains Social Club - 7.00pm Tickets £15
- 17th Queen Rhapsody – Nottingham Arts Theatre. Relive the magic of majestic Queen. Recreates the energy, excitement, and emotion of a classic Queen concert! An authentic tribute, the four-piece band delivers powerful vocals, driving rock anthems and flamboyant showmanship. The band have been touring Britain and Europe captivating audiences with their nostalgic tribute show! *"We are very proud of our show, and put all of our energy into making the show sound like Queen did in their magnificent live concerts"* said Bradley Mitchell, Producer of Queen Rhapsody. After nine years of touring the band is tighter than ever and the show has a great repertoire from fan-favourites' to Queen's stadium rock anthems. Tickets £22
- 20th Day Trip to Buxton – fully booked – waiting list in case of last minute drop out £20.
- 21st 11.00 am Galleries of Justice tour, Coffee/Tea Break followed by Trial & exhibitions. £10.95pp
16.00 ish Social Meal at Pitcher & Piano
19.00 pm Grease at Fletchers, performed by L3 Musical Theatre students £6.50pp

22nd Another opportunity to see Grease @ Fletchers 7.00 pm £6.50

31st Short Break to Blackpool & The Ribble Valley - Enjoy a scenic tour through the Pendle Hills and Ribble Valley hearing myths and legends from our expert guide as we take in the delightful Lancashire scenery. Visit the delightful town of St Ann's with its expansive sandy beach, Victorian pier, historic windmill and charming town centre. Delightful parks, a fabulous marine lake and one of the longest piers in Britain make Southport a must visit. Perhaps call in at the popular Wayfarers Arcade and be impressed by the elegant architecture and glass roof.

June

6th "Class of 69" this year's production from our very own Am Dram Team £12.00

8th Daytime Disco @ Mapperley Plains Social Club – FULLY BOOKED

16th Watson Fothergill Walk around the City

19th Day trip to Eyam – The Plague Village £20.00pp Fully booked - waiting list in case of drop out.

Great days out with Nottingham Heritage Vehicles - they have the following trips in April :

05/05/25	Scarborough	£30.00
10/05/25	Shrewsbury & Ludlow	£27.00
11/05/25	Stonehenge & Swindon Shopping	TBC
11/05/25	Steam Museum of Great Western Railway	TBC
24/05/25	Windsor	£30.00
26/05/25	Hay on Wye book Festival	£30.00
31/05/25	National Coal Mining Museum	£37.00
31/05/25	Yorkshire Sculpture Park	£37.00
19/07/25	Bristol Harbourside Festival	£30.00
26/07/25	Yorkshire Lavender & Malton	£27.00
26/07/25	Eden Camp	£44.00

If you are interested in any please contact Simon Lowings direct please. Email: simon@nhvc.co.uk
Mobile : 0797110549. Feedback has been very good for trips with this company.

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 or have a chat with any Committee member so we can help you to get going.

Every family has one weird relative. If you don't know who yours is then it's probably you

FROM OUR MEMBERS

Visit to Central Library

Two groups were shown round the new Central Library and given an interesting insight into how it works (the morning talk lasted about 90 minutes).



It was opened in November 2023 and replaced the old library on Angel Row which closed in 2020. It feels very light, spacious and airy.

The library covers three floors. The

ground contains a large, light reception which is also used as an exhibition space with display cabinets. There is a popular children's section including an immersive room; meeting rooms - available for hire; a comfortable lounge area containing seating and computers for public use and areas for privacy and a cafe provides refreshments.

The first floor is local studies/history including computers for family history research; fiction; exhibition space (currently showing a commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Lord Byron's death and return from Greece to Hucknall); meeting rooms.

The second floor consists of business studies; non-fiction section - including music scores. The books are catalogued by the Dewey Decimal system; plenty of computers and meeting rooms.

We started on the ground floor, then went to second and ended up in the local studies section on the first floor. These facilities, which are all searchable, include microfiche and microfilm - the fiche and films are kept in filing cabinets which can be loaded into readers - the staff are very helpful and will show how they operate; Nottinghamshire parish records; electoral rolls; census; newspapers - local and national; local trade directories; maps - both Ordnance Survey and local. Maps are kept in filing cabinets (which were brought from the old library as they could not source any with hanging space) in a special, temperature controlled room - which is open to



visitors (although they must be accompanied by a member of staff). There is also a rolling racking system containing local documents. The room is also used for project work.

The city libraries subscribe to Find My Past and the county libraries subscribe to Ancestry - all of which are accessible for free, but you do need a library card. You do not need to use one of the library computers - logging onto Gov.uk. WiFi gives access via your own laptop. You can print at the library, send documents to your own computer or copy onto memory sticks. The staff of the library are all extremely helpful and knowledgeable.



If you can't find what you are looking for they will do what they can to assist and if they don't have the answer to hand they will find it.

At the old library, one document collection was kept in large 'Doubleday Drawers'. These were too big to transfer to the new library so every document (over 300,000 of them) was individually scanned onto a searchable database. The collection belonged to William Doubleday and consisted of 300 shoe boxes containing extracts from books, newspaper and magazine cuttings and scrapbooks. The library purchased the collection from Doubleday's estate on his death in the 1950s. The cost was £212/6/-. Items were added over the years and, in total, over 380,000 were scanned. Originally, Doubleday colour coded each item but during World War II coloured card was not available so he wrote on each card 'this should be pink', 'this should be blue' etc.

We finished the tour in a meeting room where the staff had laid out a series of books, maps and documents which could be handled and looked at, as well as a slide show. Our guides Lisa, Alice and Rebecca, were welcoming, knowledgeable, friendly and helpful.

Sheila Ward

PS - Whilst taking a photo of the 'Standing in this place' sculpture, I met the sculptress Rachel Carter who told me that the background information and exhibits relating to the sculpture are on display at Masson Mill, Matlock until the end of October. It is part of their Textile Tour.



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](#)

[German Conversation & Culture](#)

[Italian Speech](#)

[Knit and Natter](#)

[Literature](#)

[Local and Live Music](#)

[Local History](#)

[Lunch Club](#)

[MaD Girls](#)

[MaD Growers](#)

[MaD Men](#)

[MaDAmDrammers](#)

[Music Appreciation](#)

[National Trust Group](#)

[New & Prospective Members](#)

[Outdoor Activities](#)

[Photography](#)

[Pickleball](#)

[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 Events](#)

[Ukulele Group](#)

[Walking](#)

[Walking - Strollers](#)

[Walking - Walk in the Park](#)

[Wine Appreciation](#)

[Wine Bar](#)

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

[German Conversation & Culture](#)

We had a very pleasant meeting in April. Our usual two interesting articles from Nachrichten Leicht were read, translated and discussed.

Firstly we talked about a project at the Beethoven museum in Baden, Austria to incorporate guided tours for the hard of hearing or deaf enabling them to appreciate the music (Symphony No. 9), via a special telephone which transmits sounds through vibration.

Our second article focussed on the increasing dominance of English chart hits, rather than German language songs on mainstream radio and tv. This article was of particular interest to Pat who especially enjoys German Schlager music.

Our study verb RUFEN led to some very interesting sentences from our members.

Coffee and chocolate biscuits were enjoyed whilst having our usual light hearted chat. Sue had been to Stamford with u3a and Karen had visited Bolsover Castle. Both enjoyed their trips to such historic places. Julie and Arthur are travelling to Scotland shortly. Tricia's husband had recently undergone major heart surgery, and we wished him well.

Frohe Ostern everyone 🐣 🐤 🌻

Our next meeting is on 20th May 2025

[Table Tennis](#)

There's a warm welcome to new members to our table tennis group.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month at Sherwood Methodist Church on Devon Drive (NG5 2EN) from 2:00 to 3.15pm.



If you are interested please contact me by email to [Table Tennis](#).

Maurice Turner

Walking

Nine members and one dog, Poppy, met on Good Friday for a very enjoyable walk around the Wollaton area.



We met alongside Wollaton Ponds and proceeded around Raleigh followed by Martins Pond. These run parallel to the Torville Drive development which was built over the original route of the Nottingham canal on its way to a junction with the existing canal at Lenton.

We then walked into Wollaton Village stopping at The Grounds cafe for refreshments, and then onwards into the Wollaton Hall estate where we strolled around the lake and up through the courtyard, gradually making our way back via The Old Coach Road.

We encountered a group of young deer as can be seen from the photograph.



A very pleasant walk of around 5 miles led by John Greenwood.

John and Cath Greenwood

Walking - Strollers

We continue to enjoy our strolls around the west lake at Colwick Park on the first Friday morning of each month.

We start walking at 10.15am from outside the entrance to the Colwick Hall Hotel. There's plenty of roadside parking. The Strollers group likes to walk at a gentle pace for around one hour and we take a break at the Wired on Wheels cafe near to the Adventure Centre. When walking with this group, the cafe give us a welcome discount on anything purchased. Well behaved dogs are welcome to join us.



Members who are already registered with the group will receive an email about the next walk. If you are not registered and would like to join the group, please email strollers@madu3a.org and you will be added to the circulation list.

Carolyn Luckhurst

Local and Live Music

A few of the group went to a brilliant concert recently. The artist is an award winning Sengalese kora/virtuoso singer, called Kadialy Kouyate, who performed with his band.

It was the last in this year's series of 'pay what you want' concerts, held at the beautiful NTU hall (which used to be a synagogue) on Shakespeare Street.



I will be keeping an eye on next year's programme for future events.

Eileen Braham

Art Appreciation

This month we trialled the main hall as a venue and there were no negative comments voiced - comfort, audibility, and viewing experience all positive! Everyone seemed happy despite some initial reservations on my part! I'm indebted to Richard Hill for his invaluable assistance sourcing the lectern allowing us to project comfortably to the screen above, without which visuals may have been far less successful.

We looked at diverse aspects of this season encapsulating rebirth and renewal, from mythology, cultural representations and even love, up to the more modern artworks, sculptures and installations, including fashion and furniture design!

Next month, rather than the thematic presentations we've covered so far, we'll be looking at an Art Movement for a change, the longest lasting (although elements still reproduced today) - Art Deco - its 3 stages of development, and the second half featuring one particular artist synonymous with the movement.

We will be using the main hall, as it was voted much better than the Games Room, so no waitlist from now on, and no apologies need to be presented for absence, of course. Every member of the group is welcome. Room hire contribution: £2:00.

Please click on the Art Appreciation heading to take you to the website for fuller details.

Joanne Wilson



Scarab amulet



Titian: Madonna of the Rabbit



The Chequers Locket Ring



Evelyn De Morgan:
Demeter mourning Persephone

Local History

Our April meeting was a visit to the Central Library which was an eye-opener, so much going on there. Due to high numbers we had two groups one in the morning and one in the afternoon (See separate article from Sheila Ward on Page 6). At the meeting we noticed a couple of events that looked interesting; 'Crime & Cuppa - True Crime Stories' which takes place on the 2nd Saturday of the month 10.30-12.30 and a one-off 'Blazing a Trail' - two talks on Women's roles in World War II.

Paula and I attended the 'Crime and Cuppa' on 12 April which was about the house fire in Derby at the home of Mick and Maireed Philpott. An excellent event which took you through the investigation including interviews etc.; whilst we probably all remember the case there was a lot we didn't know. The crime reporter throughout the trial was also at the event to give some additional details.

We also attended 'Blazing a Trail' which involved two talks about the roles of Women during the war. Firstly David Needham talked about the women involved in Civil Defence and the Fire Services followed by a talk from Sian Trafford specifically about Nottingham Women. Both very interesting and highlighting how valuable women were during this time.

Future Meetings :

- 6 May - Lord Byron @ Mapperley Plains Social Club 10.00am
- 3 June - Marketside (looking at Sneinton Market)
- 1 July - Theatres & Music Halls - this is a Walk & Talk led by Graham Woodward of the Civic Society. Numbers are limited so please book your place.

Marian Donaldson

Walking - Walk in the Park

This is the group that used to be called Short Walks.

The walk in April was in Bestwood Park. We had a glorious morning in bright sunshine with clear views across the surrounding countryside and villages. Val Wilkinson, aided by Waffle, was able to lead us on a delightful four mile route.

On Friday, 9 May, we are walking around the Netherfield Lagoons (see information below), starting from Teal Close near to the BCA car auctions. For more information about the site, see the link below. There is a 3 mile circuit that can be extended if we wish. Members who are registered with the group will receive an email nearer the time with full details. If you are not already registered, please email walkinthepark@madu3a.org and you will be added to the circulation list.

Carolyn Luckhurst



The Netherfield Lagoons - Gedling Conservation Trust

A Local Nature Reserve in Nottinghamshire
Aerial View of Netherfield Lagoons, Local Nature Reserve, Nottingham. The Netherfield Lagoons, Local Nature Reserve is situated on the Trent Valley Flood Plain in Nottinghamshire and has been partly used as a dump for coal slurry but with two remaining gravel ponds.

www.gedlingconservationtrust.org

Ale & Cider Group

On Friday 25 April drinks were taken at the Hand and Heart, 65/67 Derby Road.

The pub, with a Victorian bar, is built into the sandstone rock found in this locality and has a natural cave seating area at the rear of the pub. The upper floor has a glass conservatory.

For anybody interested - the pub has a good reputation for their Sunday lunches.

Our next meeting is on Friday 23 May at the Byrons Rest in Hucknall.

Dean Smith

Wine Appreciation

Our April Meeting had the title 'Can You Taste the Price?'

The challenge was not to identify which wines we personally preferred, or what we would ourselves be prepared to pay, but (as in the Antiques Roadshow) which wines were the cheapest, the mid-priced and the most expensive. We had 3 New Zealand Sauvignon Blancs and 3 Argentinian Malbecs. The cheapest were under £10.00, mid-priced were £10.00 - £20.00 and the most expensive were over £20.00. We didn't have the year of production or the ABV to help us.

Our Sauvignon Blancs were Fairhall Cliffs 2023 (11%) the cheapest; Baron Edmond de Rothschild "Rimapere" 2022 (12.5%), the mid-priced wine; and Marisco Pride and Glory 2020 (13.5%) was the most expensive. Several people managed to identify the wines in the right order of price, but 8 people preferred the Rimapere, while 5 liked the Pride and Glory and 4 liked the Fairhall Cliffs - so price doesn't necessarily determine taste!

Our Malbecs were, in order of price, Trapiche Vineyards 2023 (12.5%); Zuccardi 'Q' 2022 (14%) and Catena Zapata "Catena Alta" 2021 (13.5%). Again, several people were able to get the wines in correct price order, and this time 7 people liked the Catena Alta best, while 5 liked the Zuccardi 'Q' and 3 preferred the Trapiche. Again, price is not always the indicator of preference.

This was a great Wine Group meeting which showed that we are learning how to recognise quality, even if sometimes we might actually like the cheaper wine most! Our palates are becoming more discerning and we can enjoy complexity. We have learned a lot in the last few years.

The MaD u3a Wine Appreciation group is currently full, but if you would like to put your name on the waiting list please contact either Sue or Maggie by email.



Although the in-person group is full all MaD members are welcome to join the MaD Wine Bar which meets via Zoom most Wednesdays at 6.00 pm. Please send an email to wine@madu3a.org for more information, or to join.

Maggie Grimshaw

The Bryan Ruskin MaD Jazzers

Some of the Jazzers visited the wonderful Peggy's Skylight Jazz Club to listen to Fergus McCready and his band whose style revolves around a fusion of contemporary jazz with Scottish folk music.

As always the food was delicious and although the musicians were extremely talented their style wasn't to everyone's taste - a great example of the huge diversity of this wonderful music genre.

Sue Cullen



Wine Appreciation

Five 'wine appreciators' had a great evening at a candlelight wine and cheese event up in the Architect's Attic at Fothergills.

We were welcomed with English fizz then went on to enjoy a selection of 5 wines provided by Majestic Wines accompanied by 5 English cheeses from The Cheese Shop.

A really enjoyable evening.

Sue Cullen



Wine Appreciation

Another lovely evening tasting wine at an event run by the Wollaton Rotary Club.

We had some surprisingly tasty wines - a sparkler from Morrisons and 5 still wines from Lidl. We would have expected them to be more pricy than they were and they certainly punched above their price ... with the exception of the rosé which was a little 'flabby', but still great for an inexpensive tippie in the garden on a warm afternoon.

There was also a fun quiz ... won by Suzanne and Sam!

Very enjoyable indeed, and thanks to Wollaton Rotary for inviting us.

Sue Cullen



GENERAL MEETINGS

April's General Meeting

The Bee Keeper's Year - Simon Croson

Simon Croson scored an A+ (not a B!) for his fascinating insight into the Beekeeper's year and the lives of bees. Simon's passion for the Apis (Latin for bee) shone through - like all the awards he has won for his honey. He highlighted both its variety of taste as well as its health-giving properties.

It was also an inspirational talk for the Photography group as Simon showed us his award-winning photographs of flowers and bees and gave us tips on photographing them. What's the betting that one of the Photography groups themes soon is going to be Bees and Insects?



One of Simon's award-winning photographs

Photography was how Simon first developed his love of bees - a Bee Orchid being one of his first photos. After 25 years in the RAF and then management, bee-keeping became Simon's escape. It has taken him to many different countries for research purposes and competitive shows like Apimondia, the World Honey show. Simon has visited Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Nepal and Ukraine sharing skills with other beekeepers. Apparently, Nepal has four out of the twelve species of honey bees, including the largest and the smallest!

Simon has been bee-keeping for twenty years and has 200 colonies of bees, generating lots of products and hiring bees out to pollinate farmers' crops. At the moment most of his bees are down in Kent pollinating fruit trees. We'd have a pretty boring diet without them! He spoke in detail about their life-cycle and how we as gardeners can best support them. A cold winter is good for bees as they stay in a cluster in a well-ventilated hive and it keeps them in a state of semi-dormancy. The first Spring flowers, like snowdrops and aconites, stimulate them to start their search for pollen and warmer temperatures stimulate the queen to lay eggs.

I found it fascinating that the only difference between a Queen Bee and a female worker bee is that the queen is selected by the colony and fed only on Royal Jelly. As a result, she lives for five years as opposed to the usual six weeks!! The Queen is double the size of the worker

bees and lays 2-3000 eggs a day in individual cells lined with anti-bacterial propolis. Simon showed us some excellent photos and video of inside the hive which seems to work like clockwork - bees can even emit pheromones which guide other bees back to the hive.

Beekeepers first inspect the hives in mid-March to make plans for the coming weeks. They will put on their protective gear and take a smoker in case the bees get lively. Frames are inserted into the hives so that honey can be collected without inflicting damage on the bees. Beekeepers also have to insert a 'Queen excluder' tray through which workers can pass, but not the much larger queen, so that the honey is not contaminated with the queen's eggs. May and June is the busiest time of year when the colony is really building. The beekeeper has to continually check every week as lack of space and more than one queen will cause the bees to swarm.

Beekeepers are continually trying to improve the species by producing bees that are more gentle, more thrifty through winter, less likely to swarm and produce better honey.

In the Summer, bees feast on plants and trees such as hazel, willow, oilseed rape, field bean, lavender and borage, pyroantha, ceanothus, sunflowers and pumpkins and in turn pollinate them: in the Autumn, on flowering crocuses, saffron crocuses and ivy.

The best thing we can do to help the bees is to grow early-flowering bulbs for the Spring, keep dandelions and ivy and grow winter-flowering shrubs.

Simon's talk drew a lot of interest from the members present, as was shown by the number of questions asked at the end, and the enthusiastic purchasing of the bee products which Simon and his wife had brought along with them.

Thanks for organising, Cathy, and good to see you back.

Alison Gove-Humphries

(Ed: I had some of the honey - delicious!)



FUTURE GENERAL MEETINGS

Thursday 22 May 2025 Nottingham Blood Bikes

Nottinghamshire Blood Bikes was formed in 2013 and is a registered Charity. The volunteers undergo regular, documented training, ensuring the safe and effective transportation of vital items such as blood products, patient samples, medical files, surgical equipment, medication and much more. They provide an out of hours transport service for NHS partners.

This is a charity and there will be a collection at the end of the talk.

THERE WILL NOT BE A ZOOM LINK AVAILABLE FOR THE MAY MEETING

Thursday 26 June 2025 Richard Whitehead MBE

Paralympic Gold Medallist, Marathon Runner, Diversity & Inclusion Champion and Motivational Speaker.

He is a Double Gold Paralympic medallist, 4 x World Champion and European Champion.

Born and raised in Nottingham, UK with a double through- knee congenital amputation, Richard developed a passion for sport at an early age. His parents encouraged him to participate in sports and taught him to live a life without limits.

IN 2021 Richard Whitehead MBE set up the Richard Whitehead Foundation to help disabled people be happier and healthier.

Meetings for prospective members - The Old Flower Shop

Prospective 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 1 May and Thursday 29 May.**

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.

Your Committee 2024-25

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

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, Liz Hagan, Andrew Harper, Carolyn Luckhurst

PUZZLES

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

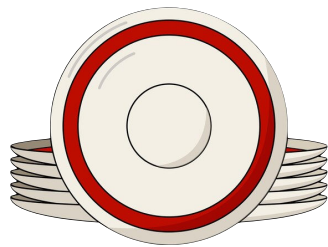


The Little MaD Quiz

1. Which deadly plant takes its name from the Italian for “beautiful woman”?
2. What title was given to Edward VIII after his abdication?
3. What name is given to the periods of play lasting 7½ minutes in a polo match?
4. Which famous person did Joséphine de Beauharnais marry in 1796?
5. Night blindness can be caused by a deficiency of which vitamin?
6. How many nanometres are there in a metre?
7. Which beer has been brewed in Holland since 1615, and produced in its now home town of Enschede since 1895?
8. What was the title of the third Mad Max film?
9. What was the first name of Jeeves in P. G. Wodehouse’s novels?
10. In a medieval poem, who killed Sir Guy of Gisbourne?

What’s the link?

How are these items related?



House numbers

My twin lives at the reverse of my house number.
The difference between our house numbers ends in 2.

What are the lowest possible numbers of our house numbers?

Number riddle

How do you go from 98 to 720 using just one letter?

Link words

For each of the word pairs listed, find the word which can be placed after the first and before the second to make two new words or phrases

- | | | | | | |
|------------|-------|---------|------------|-------|--------|
| 1. Power | ..... | Code | 6. Fruit | ..... | Case |
| 2. Warning | ..... | Off | 7. Black | ..... | Room |
| 3. Slow | ..... | Picture | 8. Wedding | ..... | Stand |
| 4. Field | ..... | Advisor | 9. Close | ..... | Centre |
| 5. True | ..... | Affair | 10. Beech | ..... | Hog |

[Answers at end of the Newsletter - click to jump directly to them](#)

NEWSLETTERS

[Nottinghamshire Network Newsbites - April 2025](#)

[u3a Friends Newsletter - April 2025](#)

[Notts Network Minutes - April 2025](#)

[Gedling Community and Volunteering newsletter](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - April 2025 Newsletter](#)

NOTTINGHAM NEWS

Notts Alerts - Neighbourhood Policing



Nottinghamshire Police is encouraging local communities to help shape local policing in their area by taking part in its new neighbourhood policing priority survey. Nottinghamshire Police is encouraging local communities to help shape local policing in their area by taking part in its new neighbourhood policing priority survey.

The results of the survey will help neighbourhood policing teams to better understand 'what matters' most to the communities they serve, as well as enabling them to focus their efforts on designated neighbourhood priorities within each area.

As Nottinghamshire Police continues to invest in neighbourhood policing, the survey will enable local teams to focus on more of 'what matters' as more officers are recruited and proactive policing teams are introduced across the county.

The survey - [Neighbourhood Survey](#) - is gathering opinions on your neighbourhood.

Notts Alerts - Walk in my Shoes

'Walk in My Shoes' is a campaign by Nottinghamshire Police designed to empower all women and girls, including those who identify as female, to report where they feel unsafe in our city and county.

Ultimately, the policing goal is to reduce violence against women and girls, identify problem areas and issues raised in the survey, and to make women and girls feel safer by creating safer spaces.

Click on the link to take part in the survey - [Walk in my Shoes](#).

BBC - Have your say in its future

The BBC belongs to all of us. That's why it matters that they understand what you want the BBC to offer you and your family, and the UK overall. They also would like to know your thoughts on some ideas they have for the future.



It will take a few minutes to complete, and at the end there will be a chance to tell the Beeb anything else you want to say. All of your answers will remain confidential - [BBC - Have your say](#).

When a man opens the door of his car for his wife, you can be sure of one thing:
either the car or the wife is new

GENERAL

Do you play Wordle? What your guess says about you

Whether you have the same first word or change it up daily, your Wordle puzzle-solving technique is a 'personality test in disguise'.

For nearly three million of us, solving Wordle has become a daily ritual, and everyone has a different approach to the popular word game. Some users do the puzzle at the same time every day and use the same first word, while others are more inclined to dip in and out of it and come up with a random five-letter word as their initial guess.

On the surface it is just a daily game, but people's playing technique can really say a lot about them and how they handle everyday life.

Click on the link to visit the Saga website to find out more - [Wordle - what your guess says about you](#)

HEALTH

Hay Fever - What Works to help with the symptoms?



The better weather's here but for the millions who have hay fever that just means a runny nose and itchy, streaming eyes, and for some people it's seriously debilitating.

Click on this link - [Hay Fever](#) - to go to the BBC Sounds website to listen to a podcast in the 'Sliced Bread' series investigating the treatments that claim to help with the symptoms of hay fever.

Also, you might have heard about the gut microbiome ... but did you know there's a nasal microbiome too?! Listen to the podcast to find out about some new research which shows probiotics could play a role in treating hay fever.

Can the Shingles vaccine protect against dementia?

A new study suggests that it can! Should you have the vaccine?

If you've been hesitating about having a shingles vaccine, new findings that it might reduce by 20% your risk of developing dementia may just swing it for you.

The latest study is based on the health records of 280,000 people aged 70 and over who received a shingles vaccine in Wales after it was introduced in 2013. The research, published in Nature, is being seen as the strongest evidence yet that the vaccine may be protective against dementia. To read more about Shingles and the possible preventative effects of the vaccine, click on the link to visit the Saga website - [Can Shingle jab prevent dementia?](#)

How to soothe a nettle sting



Stinging nettles grow widely across the UK and Europe. Whilst nettle stings aren't usually too serious, they can be in rare cases. Either way, it's important to know what to do if you or someone else is stung, to ease discomfort and to potentially save a life.

The Patient website has advice about this - click on the link to read the article - [Soothe nettle sting](#).

Which is the healthiest bread?

The Saga website has an article ranking breads from best to worst

They've ranked the main types of bread from best to worst, based on ingredients as well as how they're made. To find out which options are good for you and which to avoid, click on the link - [Best to worst breads](#).

TECH & SCAMS

Which? warns Gmail users - watch out for convincing phishing email

Which?

An email tells you that a 'subpoena' has been issued and requests access to your account.

Fraudsters have impersonated Google by 'spoofing' a Google email address and support page in a convincing and widespread scam.

Spoofing is when scammers disguise themselves by masking their true identity with a genuine email address and phone number. This can make it difficult to spot a scam, unless you know what to look for and how to look for it.

In this particular attack, the scammers also managed to bypass Google's filters for scam and suspicious emails.

In this article on there Which? Website you can learn what to look out for so you can avoid scams like these -

[Convincing Gmail scam](#).

Spot Shopping scams

Which?

Which? has advice on Bonmarché scam ads and how to spot purchase scams.

Purchase scams, when you pay for something you never receive, continue to lure victims in with tempting offers. In just the first three months of 2025, Santander customers lost almost £3.5m to a purchase scam.

The bank also revealed that cases involving gig tickets exceeded 10% of all purchase scam claims. Some of these cases capitalised on the recent demand for Sabrina Carpenter and Coldplay tickets.

Which? is warning online shoppers to be cautious of offers that seem too good to be true after spotting seven scam ads in April impersonating the retailer Bonmarché .

Click on the link to find out what Which? discovered and how you can spot, avoid and report a purchase scam - [Spot purchase scams](#).

ID Fraud on the rise

Which?

Fraud prevention service, Cifas, reports that identity fraud was the most prevalent type of fraud reported last year.

Cifas found that reports to the National Fraud Database (NFD), where member organisations record instances of fraud, increased by 13% in 2024, also making it the highest number on record. Of the 421,000 cases recorded on the database, almost 250,000 related to identity fraud.

Identity theft and fraud can happen to anyone. Click on the link to visit the Which? website to learn what to do if you become a victim - [ID Fraud](#).

How to stop scam pop-ups on Windows

Scammers desperate to make a quick profit are tricking unsuspecting users into calling fake support numbers.

Scam pop-ups are designed to cause panic, using urgent messages, flashing warnings and fake alerts to grab your attention. Click a link, and you risk handing over personal information - so it's vital to know what to do when one appears.

But Tech Support experts at Which? have found an effective way to keep your data safe. By adjusting your PC settings, you can force-close unwanted notifications and revoke permissions from potentially harmful sites.

This link - [Stop scam pop-ups](#) - they explain how to banish malicious pop-ups for good and other ways to keep your computer protected.

I've been prescribed anti-gloating cream - I can't wait to rub it in

GARDEN

How to plant a sensory garden

SAGA

The Saga website has an article telling you how to plan a sensory garden that stimulates the senses and soothes the mind.

It's important to create safe spaces, such as a sensory garden, where we can slow down and tune into the natural world around us. Plus, you don't even need a garden to get started.

You might want to create an interactive space for grandchildren in your garden or carve out a haven for anyone you live with or know who will relax in a garden designed around their sensory processing needs. Either way, the Saga guide will walk you through the process. Planning a sensory garden isn't too unlike designing any other garden. There will be plants. There will be paths. There will be decorative objects. But each element is chosen with specific sensory engagement in mind.

Click on the link to discover [What is a sensory garden and what does it involve?](#).

How to grow sunflowers

SAGA

Bring one of summer's most cheerful flowers into your garden, with expert advice on how to grow sunflowers from seed.

Does any other plant embody summer quite like a sunflower? Their cheery faces peering over garden fences on long, warm afternoons can brighten up your day in an instant.

Knowing how to grow a sunflower yourself is handy. Not only because the plant is loved by pollinators, but sunflowers make a wonderful growing project for yourself, or as a joint effort with young children.

Perhaps you have a competitive streak in your family, or enjoy a bit of friendly gardening rivalry with your neighbours? If so, why not start growing your sunflowers on the same day to see who wins the 'Tallest Sunflower Grower' title at the end of summer? (You'll have to top 9.17m (30ft 1in) to beat the current Guinness World Record for the tallest sunflower.)

Again from the Saga website, this article tell you how to grow a sunflower at home, as well as look at how you can protect your plant from pests - [How to grow sunflowers](#).

ANSWERS TO THE PUZZLES

The Little MaD Quiz

1. Belladonna, 2. Duke of Windsor, 3. Chukkas, 4. Napoleon Bonaparte, 5. Vitamin A, 6. One billion (or one thousand million), 7. Grolsch, 8. *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome*, 9. Reginald, 10. Robin Hood

What's the link?	House numbers	Number riddle
They are anagrams of each other - Petals, Plates, Pastel, Pleats	The lowest possible numbers for the houses are 19 and 91. The difference is 72.	Add an X between the 9 and the 8. $90 \times 8 = 720$

Link Words

1. Source, 2. Sign, 3. Motion, 4. Trip, 5. Love, 6. Basket, 7. Board, 8. Cake, 9. Call, 10. Hedge

It's weird being the same age as old people

And finally ...

A to Z of Lost Words

Agathism

It's hard to be an optimist knowing that there are tough times ahead. But in lieu of optimism, there's always agathism - a word coined in 1830 for the belief that all things eventually get better, though the means by which they do is not always easy. It is a word to remind us that though we may be in for hard times, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Bummel

Our daily constitutional needn't be an exhausting run around the block. Derived from a German word for "strolling", a bummel is nothing more than a relaxing leisurely walk or wander.

Concubium

Adopted into English from Latin in the 1600s, the concubium is the soundest, calmest, deepest part of your sleep. "That time of night when all men are at rest", as one 17th-century dictionary put it.

Dolorifuge

Whatever it is that makes you happy, that is your dolorifuge: this 19th-century term describes anything or anyone that alleviates feelings of pain or sadness.

Euneirophrenia

One of the strangest side-effects of our curtailed routines at the moment is that our brains are working overtime while we sleep, so the word "euneirophrenia" might come in useful. It describes the wholly pleasing feeling you have on waking from an equally pleasant dream.

Focillation

Derived from the Latin for "nourish", a focillation is a momentary act of comfort or refreshment. Take it as a reminder that it is perfectly fine to take some time out, whenever you need it.

Glee-dream

If you find solace in films or music, or find that you're dearly missing the theatre or cinema, the word you are looking for is glee-dream. The modern form of the Old English "gleodream", the Oxford English Dictionary defines this as "delight of minstrelsy" - that is, the pleasure that comes from a musical performance or similar entertainment.

Heterocentric

How we all should - and, thankfully, how a great many of us currently are - living our lives: if you're heterocentric then you're more concerned with other people than you are yourself.

Interfulgent

A fitting metaphor for the triumph of light in dark times. Derived from the Latin word for "shining", something that is interfulgent shines through or between that which would otherwise obscure it - as sunshine through clouds or the leaves of trees.

Jamb-friend

A jamb is a supporting timber, of course, which makes a jamb-friend an early 19th-century word for a friend with whom you could quite happily sit by a fireside talking and relaxing well into the early hours.

Watch out for more Lost Words in future editions