



SEPTEMBER 2026

Monthly Notices

By the members, for the members

Please remember that all Beeston u3a events, outings and interest groups are for **Beeston u3a members only** unless specifically stated otherwise

This Month's Open Meeting:

Thursday 3rd September 2026

Elaine Perkins (dressed as Medieval Cunning Woman)

**Concealed Objects and Written Charms: Protection in the
Medieval Period**

Have you had a run of bad luck? Do you suffer from unexplained pains? Who can help? Agnes Peterkin, The Cunning Woman, is the answer to all of your problems. She can offer you protection from serpents, thieves and even fairies, with a variety of found and made objects which are displayed and explained. (Written charms and curses are her speciality).

Please note:

Members will be able to log in via Zoom to watch this month's open meeting talk remotely if unable to attend in person. An email containing the hyperlink will be circulated before the meeting.

Refreshments will be served from 10.00am with time to mingle and chat.
Please bring your own mug if possible.

**Future Open Meetings
Beeston Methodist Church**

**Thursday 1st October
Jo Rickart
The Witch and Her Broom**

Explore the dual nature of plants and fungi in Druid folklore, where remedy, poison, and psychedelic blur. From Inca rituals to witches' spells and eerie species like witch's butter, discover the mystical history of healing and hazard.

**Thursday 5th November
Simon Croson
Ascension Island, Atlantic outpost, a long way from home**

A small strategic island that serves as a staging post for the British military's route to the Falklands. This small island is home to some amazing and unique nature and terrain making it a must for lovers of wildlife above and below the water. Having spent many weeks on the island a vast collection of pleasing photos of its wildlife helps the audience enjoy and appreciate this magical place visited by Charles Darwin and David Attenborough.

The next **New Members Meeting** will be held on
Thursday 10th September 2026 starting at 11 am
in the Whiskey Room of the Star Inn
Middle Street, Beeston NG9 1FX

The purpose of the meeting is to let new and prospective members know what the u3a is all about and what it offers, including providing full details of the interest groups available and how to join them. Refreshments will be provided.

Please let Roberta, the membership secretary, know if you plan to attend on
membership@beestonu3a.org.uk

FROM THE GROUP COORDINATORS AND THE COMMITTEE

Thank you Brendan



After four years serving as a Groups Coordinator, Brendan Breen has stepped down from the role. He has had a huge impact on supporting and advising our groups over the years and he will be greatly missed.

He has worked tirelessly to support our members and few people realise how much time and effort he has put into the role, including a number of years on the committee. He has been a strong driving force in moulding Beeston u3a into the organisation it is today. Brendan will continue to be active in the many groups he is a member of, including in his role as leader of several groups.

Thank you Brendan

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

SPEAKER SEEKER

We are looking for a volunteer to succeed Julia Tabreham as our Speaker Seeker. The role involves booking guest speakers for our monthly open meetings at Beeston Methodist Church and liaising with them to ensure a successful event.

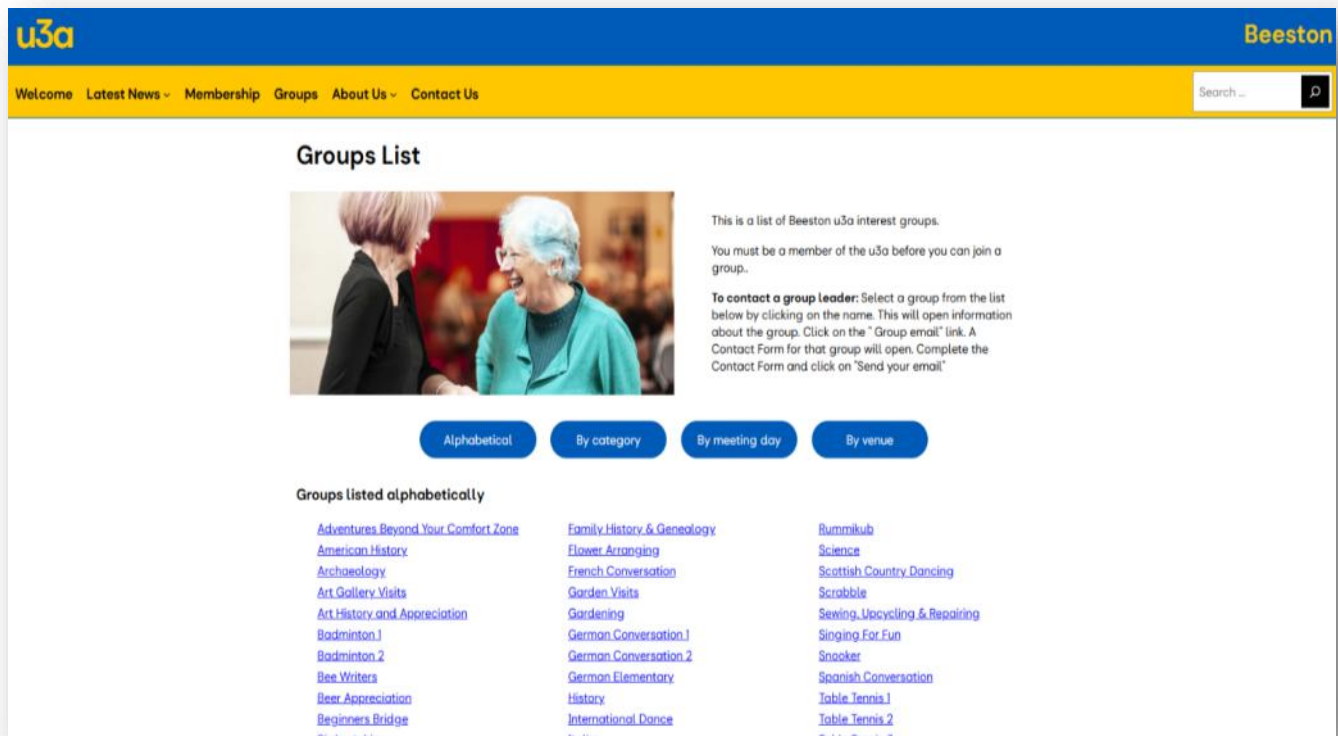
Julia has needed to step down from this role for personal reasons. She has done a wonderful job over the past year and has already booked speakers for the remainder of 2026 and the whole of 2027. The role will initially entail supporting those speakers to ensure that the process runs smoothly and then, looking to the future, finding new speakers for 2028 and beyond. You would be part of the Beeston u3a committee and would be fully inducted and supported in the role.

If you are interested in knowing more please contact me
via chair@beestonu3a.org.uk

A message from the Groups Coordinators

We are changing the way in which Beeston u3a members contact group leaders if they wish to join a group. This development is simple, more user friendly and GDPR compliant.

We have introduced a secure 'Contact Form' on the Groups page of the website so group leaders can be contacted without the need for all Beeston u3a members to have the email addresses of all the group leaders. Previously members have had to locate and consult their copy of the Group Directory to access leaders' email addresses.



Above is a screen shot of the web page. To see the page in action open the 'GROUPS' tab on the Beeston u3a website and click on the '*Contacting or Joining a Group*' link. The list of groups can be sorted alphabetically, or by category, meeting day or venue. By clicking on a group name and then the group's email address you can access a contact form to communicate with the group leader.

We hope you find that this new development is a simple and secure method of contacting group leaders. Please contact us on groups@beestonu3a.org.uk if you require further clarification.

Our thanks go out to our webmaster Roger Farmer for all the work he has put into this development.

Groups Coordinators Team

UPDATE ON TRIPS & EVENTS

Following on from our email to all members advertising our first offerings, we were inundated with enthusiastic responses from members. All our trips received more than the minimum number of members required to proceed.

Here is our latest update:

- Wollaton Hall walled garden - 38 responses
- St. Mary's Church - 53 responses
- Bromley House Library - 61 responses
- Chetwynd Barracks - 65 responses
- Stonebridge Farm - on hold as the farm is not currently accepting group visits

Our group met recently to discuss further arrangements for each of the 4 trips currently going ahead.

All members who replied requesting to attend trips have received emails of acknowledgement. Please note that not all trips will be able to accommodate the number of members that responded. It will be "first come, first served" when we circulate further details of each trip shortly.

Where possible we will arrange additional trips at a later date to these venues.

We will also be organising further trips to new locations including (hopefully) a Christmas special. Watch this space!

Dee, Sue, Lynn and Nic
Trips and events group

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Fine Wine Evening 2026

Save the Date

Our 11th annual Fine Wine Evening will take place on
Saturday December 5th

Please note the following changes:

Where? *Christ Church Hall, Lime Grove Avenue (off High Road)*

When? start at **6.45pm** and finish around 9.30pm; carriages at 9.45pm

As usual, groups of 12 share a bottle of wine and plates of finger-food.

This evening promises to be as popular and enjoyable as in previous years.

Further details to follow next month.

Interest Groups Visit by the Transport Group

Wollaton Travel Service



Visit to Manchester Runway Visitor Park and
Avro Heritage Museum
Friday 25th September 2026



Following enquiries by the leader of the Beeston u3a Transport Group, Wollaton Travel Service is offering a coach trip on Friday 25th September to visit two major aerospace attractions near Manchester Airport:

- Manchester Runway Visitor Park (featuring BA Concorde G-BOAC, plus other aircraft) – <https://www.runwayvisitorpark.co.uk>;
- Avro Heritage Museum (featuring Avro Vulcan XM603, plus other aircraft and cockpits) – <https://www.avroheritagemuseum.co.uk>.

The schedule, as currently planned, is as follows:

- 08.30 Depart from Wollaton Travel Service, 177a Bramcote Lane, Wollaton, NG8 2QJ (on-street parking nearby: see overleaf);
- 10:30* Arrive at Manchester Runway Visitor Park: participants split into two groups for a tour of Concorde, then explore at leisure;
- 13:15 Depart from Manchester Runway Visitor Park;
- 13:30 Arrive at Avro Heritage Museum: participants to explore at leisure;
- 16:00 Depart from Avro Heritage Museum;
- 18:00* Arrive at Wollaton Travel Service. *Subject to traffic

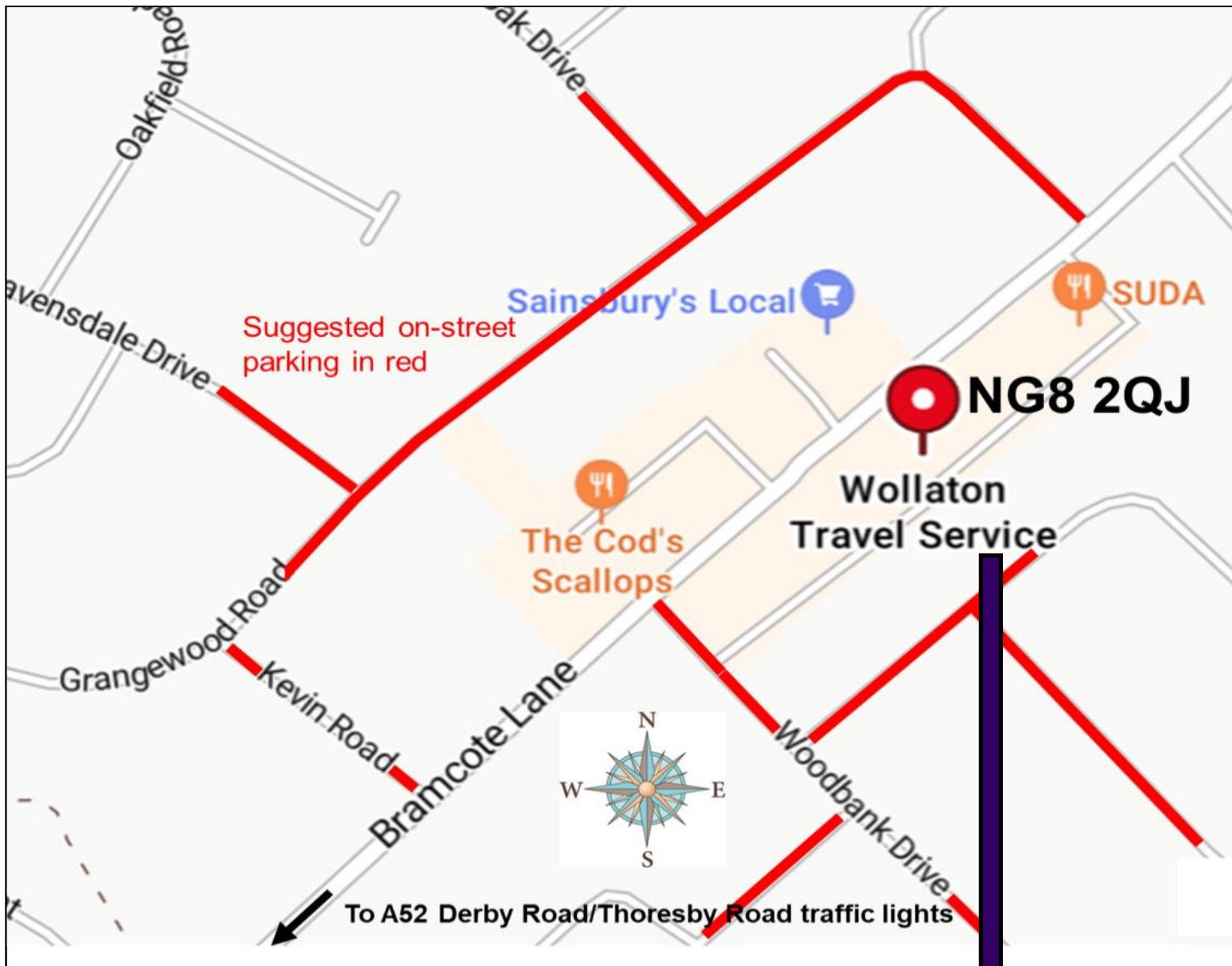
Cost, including coach travel, museum entrance fees and tour of Concorde, is £69 per head, payable directly to Wollaton Travel Service either in person or over the telephone (0115 928 8739). Places are still available, with payment due as soon as possible to secure your seat and avoid disappointment.

Please note that both attractions have a café: the Manchester Runway Visitor Park also has a shop offering a range of aviation memorabilia.

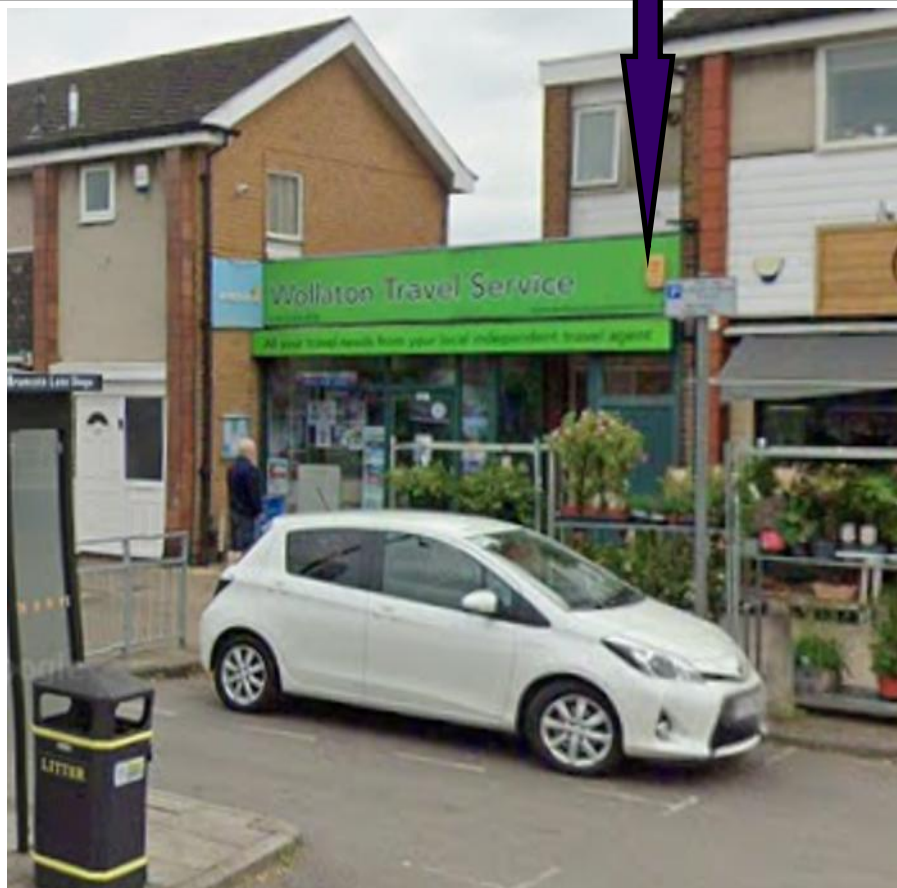
Please contact George Read (Wollaton Travel Service: 0115 928 8739) if you have any queries.

Please note that Wollaton Travel Service are responsible for all the travel arrangements and collection of payments: members of Beeston U3A will be participating as private individuals, along with any other members of the public who may respond to Wollaton Travel Service's local publicity.

Mike Provost
Transport Group Leader



Directions



Interest Groups

World War 1 and World War 2 Military History Group

SOMME TOUR MAY 2027

It is wonderful to discuss aspects of military history with likeminded people but what about getting together and visiting the actual ground where the most infamous WW1 Somme battle took place?

The outline plan is to meet at the Methodist church then travel by coach to the ferry crossing at Dover, head into France and stay in the wonderful city of Arras for 4 nights. Either single room or shared. After breakfast in the hotel we will travel out each day and visit the memorials, cemeteries and significant places of the battle of the Somme of July 1916 which took so many lives.

Visits to include Thiepval memorial, Ulster Tower to the Irish 36 Division, the famous Lochnagar crater, the sunken road, and the wonderful tunnel museum in Albert. We will discuss actions of both sides, the air war and visit the Red Baron's crash site, where the British invention 'The Tank' was first used and the trenches at Newfoundland Park, 80 acres of original battlefield.

It is difficult to cost the trip at the moment as it will depend on group size. Estimated at £600 per person for transport and hotel.

If you are interested in being part of this potential trip please contact the Group Coordinators Team at groups@beeston3a.org.uk. If there is sufficient interest, we will set up a planning meeting with the group leader Dave Platt to explore the feasibility and practicalities of the trip.



Interest Groups Looking for new members Scottish Country Dance Group

Scottish Country Dance is a fun way to keep fit, exercise your memory and socialize. There is a lot of laughter! All you need is light footwear and a willingness to give it a go!

We are inviting new members to join our friendly group.

Beginners are very welcome and our more experienced dancers will help you to learn the steps and figures.

Meetings take place in the main hall of the Chilwell Road Methodist Church at 10.00 a.m. on the 2nd, 3rd and 5th Thursdays of the month.

For further information, or to express an interest, please go to the GROUPS tab on the Beeston u3a website (Beestonu3a.org.uk) and select "contacting or joining a group"



Interest Groups

Cryptic Crosswords Beginners Course



Some of the latest 'graduates' with their certificates (and a few of the 'tutors') from the most recent Cryptic Crosswords for Beginners course. This course started in January and was completed a few weeks ago, but we are continuing to meet to practise and reinforce our skills and learning until the next course starts, probably in early November. The course is based around the book 'How to solve cryptic crosswords' by Henry Howarth (the u3a cryptic crossword guru) but is supplemented with other activities, including clue setting.

We meet in the Star pub in Beeston twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Thursday between 12.15 and about 2pm. There's no charge but you are expected to buy a drink! If you might be interested in learning how to tackle this type of crossword, or already do them but would like to extend your skills, please see below.

For further information, or to express an interest, please go to the GROUPS tab on the Beeston u3a website (Beestonu3a.org.uk) and select "contacting or joining a group"

Interest Groups

Camping, Caravan and Motorhome Group Socials get underway

The Camping, Caravan and Motorhome group held its first informal get-together in the Star Inn, Beeston in early August. It was a great evening, sitting out in the beer garden on a warm evening, swapping tales of travel arrangements and generally putting the world to rights while making new friends.



Unfortunately, we were having such a good time we only thought to take this photo when we were packing up and some had already left! We're now planning to get together every month.

Why not come and join us to meet some of the members and see if the group is for you?

For further information, or to express an interest, please go to the GROUPS tab on the Beeston u3a website (Beestonu3a.org.uk) and select "contacting or joining a group"



Interest Groups Looking for new members Science Group

Interested in the fascinating world of science?

Why not join the Science Group and enjoy informative talks on a wide variety of topics? The level is suitable for anyone – you don't need to be an expert!

The Group meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 10.00-11.00 in the Guild Room.

Talks cover the whole range of Science and Technology and upcoming topics include 'The Evolution of the Universe', 'Social Media Algorithms', 'the Magic of Radio', 'Lasers', and 'Challenges in Recycling'.

For further information, or to express an interest, please go to the GROUPS tab on the Beeston u3a website (Beestonu3a.org.uk) and select "contacting or joining a group"

FORTHCOMING INTEREST GROUP MEETING TRAVEL GROUP ROUTE 66



"If you ever plan to motor west..." We all know the words of the song, and how we will "get our kicks on Route 66". The idea of a long journey by road across America always appealed to me, especially having seen the road-trip movies and listened to the Simon and Garfunkel song "America". I never did do the whole thing, but I'm giving the Travel Group audience the opportunity to travel along the old road in a series of photos, featuring some of the quirky roadside objects and hearing the stories of how Historic Route 66 came about.

Come with Celia on a journey...

Next meeting in the Guild Room, Beeston Methodist Church at 10am on 17th September and every 3rd Thursday thereafter.

For further information, or to express an interest please go to the GROUPS tab on the Beeston u3a website (Beestonu3a.org.uk) and select "contacting or joining a group"

POTENTIAL NEW INTEREST GROUPS

Artificial Intelligence (AI)— What It Means

Would you like to think seriously about artificial intelligence — not how to use it, but what it means? A new interest group is being considered, and we'd like to know if there's appetite for it.

This isn't a practical how-to group. It's for exploring the deeper questions AI raises: Can a machine truly think, or only appear to? If a computer writes a poem or paints a picture, what does that tell us about what we thought was uniquely human? Could a machine ever be conscious — and how would we ever know? What do creativity, understanding, and even personhood mean in an age of thinking machines?

Ours is a generation that watched this idea travel from science fiction to daily reality — from HAL* and Blade Runner to the chatbots of today — which gives us a rather good vantage point from which to consider it. No technical expertise is needed, only curiosity and a willingness to take a good question seriously. Sessions would be monthly and led by members, so there's no homework and anyone keen to introduce a topic would be warmly welcomed.

*Editor's note for the uninitiated (like me):

HAL is the rogue computer in Kubrick's 2001 from 1968. Like Skynet in the Terminator, it's an archetype of fears about AI.

If you are interested in being part of this potential new group please contact the Group Coordinators Team at groups@beestonu3a.org.uk. If there is sufficient Interest, we will set up a planning meeting to explore the feasibility of the group.

MOTO

— Members On Their Own —

You don't
need a partner
to have a
good time!



MOTO is for U3A members who enjoy getting out and about, meeting new people, and sharing good times with good company.



Whether you're on your own all the time or just some of the time, you'll always find a friendly face and a warm welcome.



There's something for everyone—coffee and a chat, leisurely lunches, walks, theatre trips, days out, and the occasional adventure, all shaped by the interests of the group.



Come along to the activities that appeal to you—there's no pressure and no obligation.



♡ So why not give
MOTO a try?

You may arrive on your own,
but you'll leave feeling
part of the group.



Friendly faces
Great company
Good times



If you are interested in being part of this potential new group please contact the Group Coordinators Team at groups@beestonu3a.org.uk. If there is sufficient Interest, we will set up a planning meeting to explore the feasibility of the group.

WHO TO CONTACT WITH YOUR QUERIES

Membership: **membership@beestonu3a.org.uk**

Interest Groups: **Go to the GROUPS tab on the website (Beestonu3a.org.uk) and select "contacting or joining a group"**

Group Coordinators: **groups@beestonu3a.org.uk**

Finance: **treasurer@beestonu3a.org.uk**

Publicity: **publicity@beestonu3a.org.uk**

Potential open meeting speakers:
speakerskr@beestonu3a.org.uk

Any other queries: **communications@beestonu3a.org.uk**

Dee May, Communications Officer