



OCTOBER 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 1st October 2026

Jo Richart

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.

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.

Members will be greeted in the foyer by our Meet and Greet team (in yellow sashes) who will support and guide new members as well as greeting everyone with a smile and a helping hand.

**Future Open Meetings
Beeston Methodist Church**

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.

Thursday 3rd December

A Festive Extravaganza

We look forward to welcoming you to the last open meeting of 2026.

There will be no speaker at this meeting. Instead this will be a pleasant opportunity for you to:

- socialise with friends and enjoy some food (from local sources) and drink
- enjoy local entertainment including a Christmas Quiz!
- celebrate the wonderful u3a we are lucky to have right here in Beeston

The next **New Members Meeting** will be held on
Thursday 8th October 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 CHAIR

Beeston u3a Publicity stall

On 16th September our Publicity Officers, Nic and Mark Davey, ran a highly successful publicity stall in Beeston Market Square. Various other members of the committee joined them during the day. We got wet at times, but the day brightened up and it was heartwarming to see so many local residents stopping by to explore our groups and expressing an interest in attending the next new members' meeting. It was an invaluable opportunity to share the richness and diversity of Beeston u3a opportunities, and so many people were genuinely surprised by the range of activities on offer.

We were joined by the Mayor of Broxtowe, Councillor Barbara Carr, who wasted no time in 'rolling her sleeves up' to help promote our u3a to passers-by. We were grateful for her presence and her support.



Once again our thanks go out to Nic and Mark for all the work they do for us. This event took a lot of organising and will have a positive impact on our membership numbers as we continue to grow.

Welcome Our New Speaker Seeker!

In last month's notices, we shared our search for a volunteer to succeed Julia Tabreham as our Speaker Seeker. This vital role involves booking our guest speakers for the monthly open meetings at Beeston Methodist Church and liaising with them to ensure a successful event. We are delighted to announce that one of our members, Christine Christie, has stepped forward to take on the role. As part of her new responsibilities, Christine will also be joining the Beeston u3a Committee as a co-opted member.



We would like to take this opportunity to extend our warmest thanks to Julia for all her hard work, dedication, and excellent service during her time as Speaker Seeker. Please join us in thanking Julia and welcoming Christine to the team!

Website Update

We would like to refresh and update some of the photos on our website. It would be really helpful if group leaders would kindly send me some recent photos which show your group in action. Please ensure that you have the consent of your members to use their photo. Please send your contributions to: **chair@beestonu3a.org.uk**

Noel Kelly
Chair, Beeston u3a

FROM THE GROUP COORDINATORS

Proposed Artificial Intelligence (AI) Group

Several members have expressed an interest in forming a Beeston U3A Artificial Intelligence (AI) group. We are therefore arranging a planning meeting to explore the feasibility of this proposal.

The purpose of the meeting will be to share thoughts about what should be the aim and focus of the group as well as discussing the practicalities of dates, venues, activities, etc. The meeting will be led by Roberta Pearson, Robert Dowling and Noel Kelly.

The date of the planning meeting will be Thursday 8th October (12.15-1.15pm), taking place in the Epworth Room at Beeston Methodist Church, Chilwell Road, Beeston, NG9 1EH.

Please note that this is just the date of the initial planning meeting. The day, time and venue of the subsequent monthly meetings of the group will be agreed at this planning session.

Please let me know if you would like to attend this meeting: **groups@beestonu3a.org.uk**. The more people contributing to the planning, the more successful the outcome will be.

Please ignore this message if you have already confirmed your attendance.

Noel Kelly
Group Coordinators Team

A Reminder to Group Leaders

Please remember to inform the Group Coordinators team (groups@beestonu3a.org.uk) whenever there are any changes to your group's meeting date, start time, venue or leaders so that we can keep the website up to date. In addition, it is important that you record the changes on Beacon.

UPDATE ON TRIPS & EVENTS

Our first trip to Chetwynd Barracks and St. Mary's Church, Attenborough has recently taken place. A second visit due to popular demand is planned for October.

A second trip, visiting the walled garden at Wollaton Park goes ahead this coming week.

Two further trips - to Bromley House Library and St. Mary's Church, Lace Market are in the planning for October.

Also underway is planning for a coach trip to the Mercatum Market at Haddon Hall in mid-December. See the next page for details.

Dee, Sue, Lynn and Nic
Trips and events group

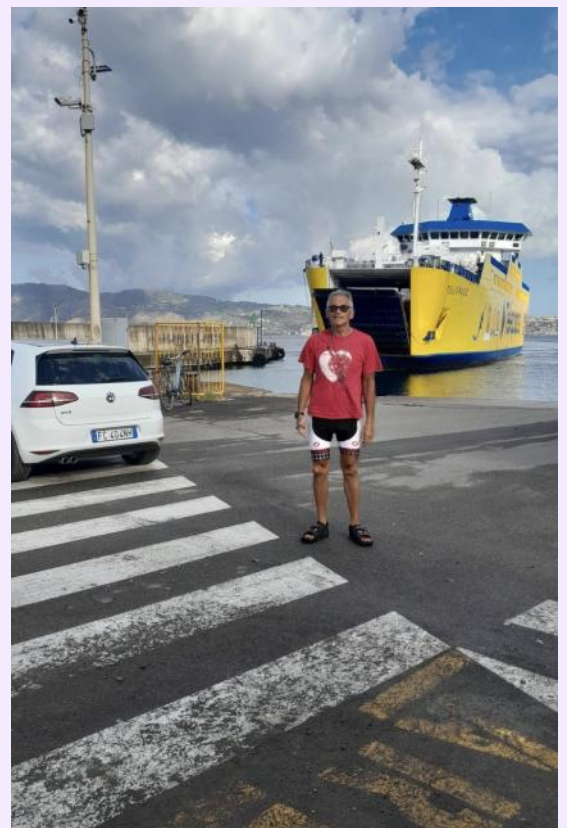
TALKING OF TRIPS & EVENTS Congratulations Michael

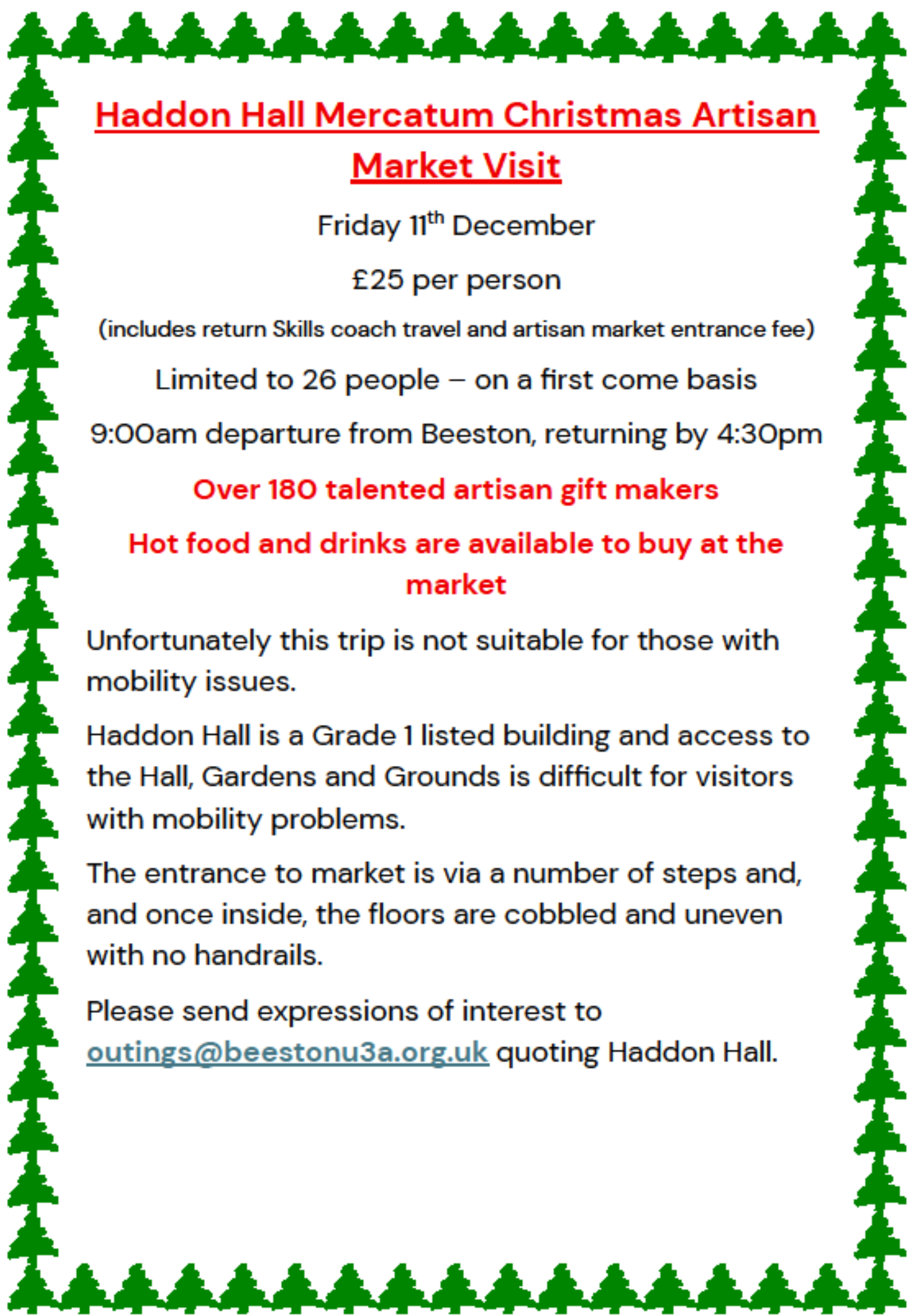
In August's notices Michael D. Jackson's solo fundraising cycle ride to Sicily was advertised, together with details on how to support Michael in his efforts to raise funds for research into Multiple Sclerosis (MS) following the early death of his sister.

I'm pleased (and relieved) to report that Michael has safely arrived in Sicily following his trip through France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland and Italy. Michael arrived by ferry in Sicily on 23rd September.

Oscar and I followed Michael on his epic journey on the Strava app and his Facebook posts. I will be meeting with Michael on his return to Beeston for more details which I aim to present as an article in the autumn newsletter. Meanwhile we wish you a speedy recovery from your journey Michael, although having followed your regular rides on Strava, I don't think you'll be taking much time off!

Dee May Editor plus Oscar (Strava follower)





Haddon Hall Mercatum Christmas Artisan Market Visit

Friday 11th December

£25 per person

(includes return Skills coach travel and artisan market entrance fee)

Limited to 26 people – on a first come basis

9:00am departure from Beeston, returning by 4:30pm

Over 180 talented artisan gift makers

**Hot food and drinks are available to buy at the
market**

Unfortunately this trip is not suitable for those with mobility issues.

Haddon Hall is a Grade 1 listed building and access to the Hall, Gardens and Grounds is difficult for visitors with mobility problems.

The entrance to market is via a number of steps and, and once inside, the floors are cobbled and uneven with no handrails.

Please send expressions of interest to
outings@beestonu3a.org.uk quoting Haddon Hall.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Fine Wine Evening 2026

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

At

Christ Church Hall

Lime Grove Avenue (off High Road)

Starting at 6.45pm and finishing at 9.30pm

Taxis and carriages between 9.45pm and 10.00pm

There will be 6 tables of 12
8 bottles of fine wine to taste and
plates of finger-food to stave off the munchies.

Tickets are £20 each

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

To book your place, contact Pauline Duke:
bussec@beestonu3a.org.uk



Interest Groups

World War 1 and World War 2 Military History Group

PLEASE COME AND JOIN OUR WONDERFUL GROUP OF MILITARY HISTORY MEMBERS

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday in the month
10am - 12pm in the Guild Room

We meet and discuss varied subjects from each war including:

- Understanding and analysing actions from the 3 Armed Forces
- The development of equipment including aircraft and tanks
- The development of strategy and tactics whilst also understanding the failures, including the numbers killed, wounded and missing

We also develop personal stories and family connections of members covering the 1914-18 and 1939-45 periods.

We also undertake visits to sites of interest. Our latest was to Chetwynd Barracks the old national shell filling factory (and site of a massive explosion in 1918) and we are intending to visit the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire which serves as a significant site of national remembrance in the UK. It features over 400 memorials honouring those who have served in the Armed Forces and civilian organisations.

We are also planning for a week's visit to the Somme battlefields in France in May 2027.

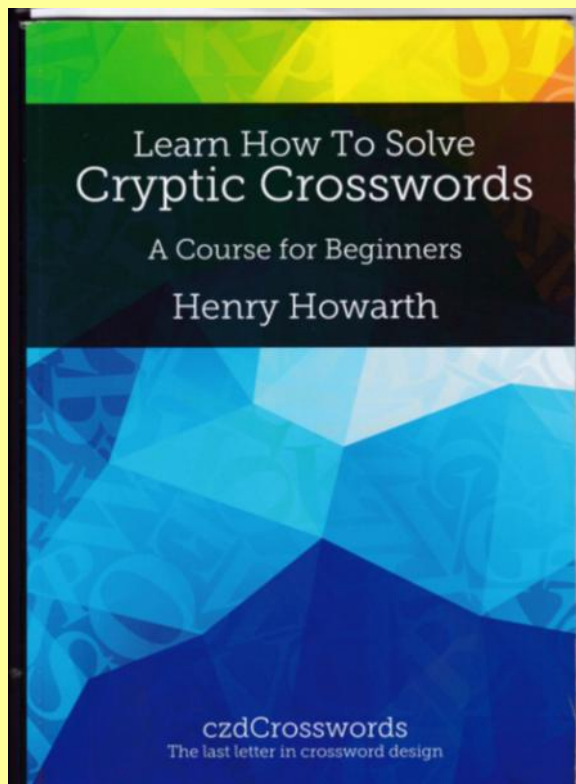
If you would like to know more, or to attend our group, please go to the GROUPS tab on the Beeston u3a website (Beestonu3a.org.uk) and select "contacting or joining a group"

Dave Platt
Group Leader



Interest Groups

Cryptic Crosswords Beginners & Improvers Course



Do you like solving crosswords, but are befuddled by **Cryptic Crosswords**?

Or do you do Cryptic Crosswords, but aren't quite sure how some clues work?

There is a solution!

For the past 4 years or so we have run a course for beginners/improvers and there will be a new one starting on **Thursday 26th November**.

We meet at the Star Inn at 12.15 on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Sessions last until about 2pm and we work through the Henry Howarth book shown left. We go at a suitable pace to ensure no-one is left behind so it lasts around 4 to 6 months.

It's fun and a great way to keep the grey matter working.

The latest 'graduates' and some of their 'tutors'



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 THE ARCTIC CIRCLE



The Arctic Circle

What, Where, Why, When and How

It's cold and dark, so why would you want to go to the Arctic Circle?

Mark Davey will be presenting an Arctic trip from the beginning of this year, followed by a short re-presentation of a talk on AVIOS, initially presented back in 2025.

Come along to our next Travel Interest group talk on 15th October in the Guild Room at Beeston Methodist Church at 10am to find out.

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"

WHO TO CONTACT WITH YOUR QUERIES

Chair: **chair@beestonu3a.org.uk**

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

FORTHCOMING CHANGES TO PUBLICATIONS

Sadly, and much to my chagrin, Microsoft have made a decision to withdraw their Publisher app from the Office 365 suite of tools. This means I'm having to find another medium in which to work, after having taken a good while - and with huge support and guidance from Oscar - getting to understand how Publisher works back in 2024.

So from October onwards, a new look notices and newsletter will appear. We are intending to use the formal u3a Brand Guidelines for our colouring, alongside continued use of RNIB guidelines to ensure the publications are easy to read for those with visual challenges. These changes have been approved by the Committee.

Watch this space.

Dee (supported as always by Oscar)