

# Newsletter

News for members of Beeston u3a

*Produced quarterly and distributed electronically to all members.  
Some printed copies will be made available for new members and  
anyone who has difficulty reading from a screen.*

**June 2025**

## **Next Open Meeting: July 3rd 2025**

### **Roger Neuberg from the charity Mary's Wheels**

Roger will tell the story of the humble beginnings of this charity in a shed in Dalmally, Scotland to being a global charity feeding over 2.6 million children in some of the world's poorest countries.

Open meetings take place at Beeston Methodist Church (currently in the church hall due to ongoing refurbishments) on the first Thursday of the month, starting at 10a.m. with refreshments and time to mingle and chat, with a speaker at 10.30a.m.

Please remember to bring your own mug if possible.

There is no need to sign in to these meetings. New members and visitors will continue to be welcomed in the reception area.

A Zoom hyperlink is circulated to all members prior to the open meeting for those who are unable to attend in person.

## **Calendar of Future Open Meetings 2025**

<b>August 7th 2025</b>	<b>Emilie Carter</b> <b>Head of Costume</b> <b>Nottingham</b> <b>Playhouse</b>	<b>Costume makers guide to the Galaxy</b>  From the sparkles and extravagance of pantomime to the contemporary art of dressing an actor to portray life through the ages translating the designer's ideas from page to stage.
<b>September 4th 2025</b>	<b>Elizabeth Heery</b>	<b>'Writing a saga'</b>  Join Eliza Morton, author of 7 historical fiction sagas (and previously an actress) as she discusses her experiences of becoming a published author, her Liverpool roots and the inspiration behind her writing.

## From the Chair...

I would like to introduce myself as the new Chair of Beeston u3a.

My name is Noel Kelly. I joined Beeston u3a two years ago and it has enriched my life immeasurably. I had discovered an organisation which fosters both social connections and lifelong learning. A magic combination.

I joined several interest groups, met new friends and learnt new things. I became one of the facilitators for the History group, working with a wonderful team who taught me a great deal about u3a ethos and values.

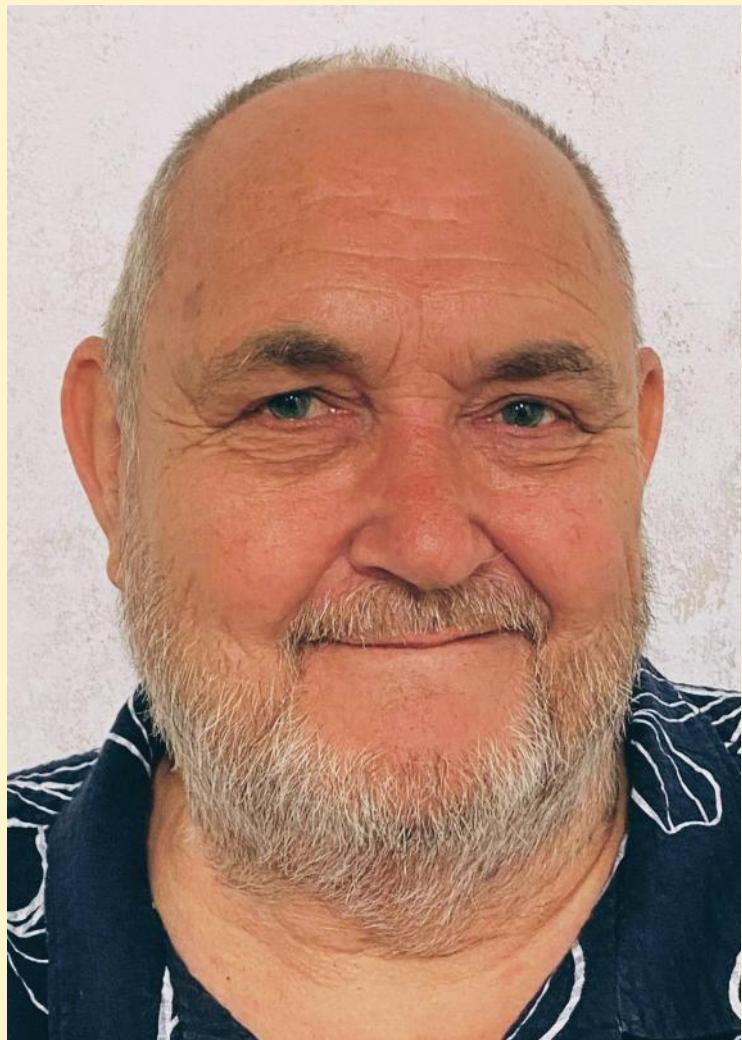
My work as a member of the Groups Coordinators team has been incredibly insightful, teaching me so much about the inner workings of Beeston u3a. It's been truly inspiring to visit and see different groups in action.

I am reasonably new to u3a practices, policies and procedures but I am not new to the underlying u3a ethos of lifelong learning, inclusion and diversity. Those were my guiding values for 40 years in education as a schoolteacher and ultimately as a school leader and I am grateful to you all for giving me the opportunity to pursue and promote those principles in retirement.

For six years, Anne Pinnock has done a truly remarkable job overseeing Beeston u3a. Under her guidance, it has blossomed into one of the largest and most successful u3as in the country, with nearly 1200 members and over 100 interest groups. I will do my utmost to follow her example.

Our organization focuses on helping members to build new social connections and to explore new learning opportunities, encouraging members to share their knowledge and interests in a supportive environment. That is our mission, and I am proud to be part of it.

**Noel Kelly**  
**Chair Beeston u3a**



## Meet the New Committee 2025-26



**Noel Kelly—Chair &  
Group Coordinator**



**Richard Taylor—Treasurer**



**Pauline Duke  
Business Secretary**



**Lindsay Litton  
Social Treasurer**



**Roberta Pearson  
Membership Secretary**



**Karen Attwood  
Vice Chair & Publicity/Speaker Seeker**

## Meet the New Committee 2025-26 And there's more!



**Brendan Breen**  
**Group Coordinator**



**Susan Krause**  
**Group Coordinator**



**Roger Farmer— Website**



**Julie Tabreham—**  
**shadow speaker seeker**



**Last but not least:**  
**Dee May**  
**Communications**

## Our new Facebook Editors



Following the recent request for volunteers to help with running such a large and successful group, we would like to introduce ourselves:  
We are Grainne Costello (on the left) and Sandra Doyle.

We have recently taken over the management of our FaceBook page to assist Karen with some of her duties as Publicity Manager. Grainne is currently an active member of the Ukulele group and Sandra the Pickleball group. Although we are aware that not all members will use Social Media, the FaceBook page is there to show the wide range of things that our members get up to, both to current members and prospective new recruits. We will shortly be inviting group facilitators to share photographs in particular or information in general, so if you have any photographs you would like to share that you have taken at recent events or meetings, please let your group facilitator know so that they can then forward them to us. Otherwise it might get a bit Ukulele/Pickleball heavy!

**Grainne and Sandra**

## VOLUNTEERS UPDATE

Thanks to everyone for all your efforts—there are always opportunities available and a comprehensive volunteer update will be provided in the September edition of the Newsletter and Monthly Notices.

Meanwhile, click this link to see current opportunities:

<vacancy-update-for-the-website-for-june-25.pdf>

**Karen Attwood**

**Publicity/Speaker Seeker**

## BROXTOWE COMMUNITY AWARDS

Our previous Chair, Anne Pinnock was recently nominated for the Broxtowe Borough Council Community Hero Award.

Anne's self-less commitment to Beeston u3a in recent years, culminating in her 3-year role as Chair, saw Anne reach the final three in this year's awards in a very full category.

Anne was praised in recognition of her significant contribution to Beeston u3a. Our organisation was also recognised for its valuable contribution to the local community. Well done Anne!



**The Committee**

## **Important Information for ALL Members**

### **U3a Beeston: Copyright, privacy and the use of images**

#### **1. Members being photographed doing Beeston u3a activities**

This is covered by our statement in the membership T&Cs and privacy policies:

*Occasionally we would like to use photographs of our members taking part in activities for publicity purposes. If you do not wish to have your photograph used in this way, please inform the photographer.*

In addition, it is good manners for any photographer to ask permission as they take the photo.

#### **2. Members using images in Interest Group presentations**

Showing an image for the sole purpose of illustration for instruction at an interest group presentation is acceptable as it will fall under the copyright exception category relating to "illustration for instruction".

#### **3. Members using images to publicise a talk or activity**

Using an image on the u3a website or in a newsletter to promote an event or to encourage people to join an interest group may constitute copyright infringement, even if only a limited number of people, e.g. members, can access it.

However, some images are classified as being in the Public Domain and may be used freely. Images in the public domain are those where copyright has expired, never existed, or the copyright owner has abandoned all rights, making them free to use for any purpose.

One of the best sources of public domain images is Wikimedia Commons. If you search for an image using the Wikimedia Commons website a collection of images will appear related to your search. If you then click on the '**License**' drop-down tab you will be able to refine your search to only include images with no usage restrictions (ie images that are in the Public Domain).

You can also find such images on sites like Flickr Commons, Pixabay, Unsplash, and Pexels – but ENSURE you are using a copyright free version.

There's further information about all aspects of copyright on the Third Age Trust, which is on the Beeston u3a website.

Link here: [https://beestonu3a.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/copyright\\_and\\_licences\\_2024\\_v3.pdf](https://beestonu3a.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/copyright_and_licences_2024_v3.pdf)

## Review of previous Speakers' at our Open Meetings

### Professor Sir Martyn Poliakoff

April 2025

Local resident and distinguished chemist, Professor Sir Martyn Poliakoff, delivered a talk about **Mendeleev's invention of the Periodic Table - a gift to Education (and all of us)**.

Martyn was introduced by one of the Beeston u3a founders and distinguished chemist in his own right, Jim Turner, who has known Martyn since 1966 and was his PhD supervisor.

Martyn introduced Mendeleev's Periodic Table as a flexible framework for understanding chemistry. He showcased various periodic tables from his collection, including a Soviet stamp from 1969 and an Austrian classroom chart from 1886. Reflecting on his own education, he recalled his first school periodic table, which had gaps for elements yet to be discovered.

He noted that 17 new elements had been discovered during his own career.

Exploring innovative periodic table designs, Martyn described how the Chinese version uses special characters to indicate element states. He pointed out that the five most abundant elements on Earth exist as gases in their natural state. While the modern periodic table appears complete, the Janet table suggests two undiscovered elements.

Unique representations of the periodic table were displayed, including a fan-shaped design and a clock that uses analogue positions to indicate atomic numbers.

Martyn introduced a teaching aide he uses - a molecular model made out of squeaky dog toys, which was passed around the audience to great hilarity.

He also recommended *The Periodic Table* by Primo Levi, praising the literary approach to chemistry. He noted that 2019 marked both the International Year of the Periodic Table and the centenary of Levi's birth.

Martyn's outreach efforts began in 2008, when he collaborated with video journalist Brady Harron to create educational videos about the periodic table. In just five weeks, they produced 120 videos, and the project has since grown to 730 videos with 291 million views and 1.62 million subscribers.

To end, Martyn shared the story of Eduardo, a young fan from Italy who visited his lab at age 10, later pursued chemistry, and eventually published his own research. He also highlighted technician Neil Barnes, who received a Royal Society award, emphasizing the importance of technicians in scientific work.

The discussion concluded with reflections on chemistry education. Some of his students became teachers, while his son now creates physics videos. He theorized that making subjects compulsory versus voluntary influences student interest. He also discussed how chemistry education has become safer over time, though some of the excitement has diminished. Once-common classroom chemicals, such as benzene and carbon tetrachloride, are now banned due to their carcinogenic risks. He stressed the need to balance safety with maintaining curiosity and enthusiasm for science.

This was a fascinating talk, enjoyed by everyone and there is newfound enthusiasm for Chemistry on the streets of Beeston.

*This report was largely written using our own experiment, conducted by Roger Coombes and Colin Portman, which involved feeding the Zoom output into Chat GPT. It was lightly edited by the human Karen Attwood.*

Please see photos from this hugely popular presentation overleaf.....

# Professor Sir Martyn Poliakoff

April 2025

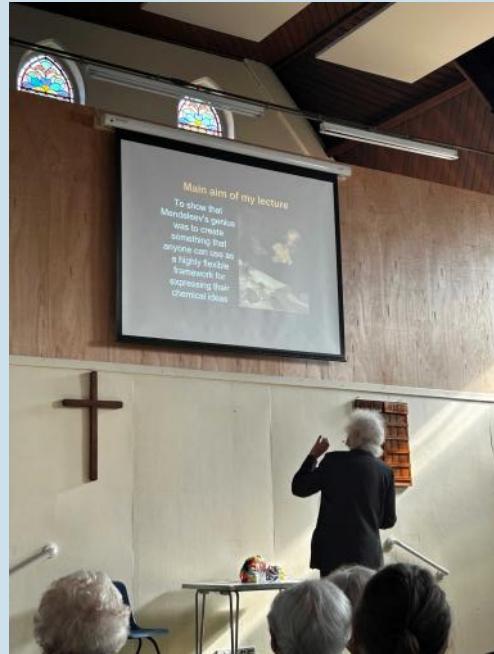
## Mendeleev's invention of the Periodic Table - a gift to Education (and all of us)



**A full house!**



**Professor & Mrs. Poliakoff**



**Introducing the main aim of his lecture**

**Beeston u3a's  
very own  
IT support team**



## **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

### **May 2025**



**We had a full house with more members attending on Zoom**

**Anne Pinnock  
outgoing chair  
giving her final  
report**



**Noel Kelly incoming  
chair introducing  
himself**

**Jerry Jarvis**  
**The Race to Fix the Nerve Agent Detector**  
**June 2025**

In these uncertain times it was heartening to hear about Jerry's successful achievements in helping to develop a nerve agent detector back in the 1980s.

After a varied career in the Civil Service and the Digital Photography sector, Jerry moved to Thorn EMI Semtec, a defence contractor based in Bulwell. His task here as the quality manager was to gain the international standard of quality management systems for the company (ISO 9000). With this under their belt, the company went on to win a contract to build a nerve agent detector.

Jerry had his own challenges to deal with. He likened these to the well-known Cleese, Barker and Corbett sketch. This sketch was about class but Jerry faced challenges in education background, credibility of job and (according to Jerry) his Scottishness!



We had a terrifying picture painted of how a nerve agent spreads like a fly spray and the dreadful things it does to the human body. A fine incentive to develop something that worked. The trouble is, prototype after prototype failed and this made the situation more and more desperate.

Eventually, thankfully, the realisation was made that the washer in the mechanism of all the detectors contained silicon, and that silicon was trapping water which was leading to failure.

A new silicon-free prototype was taken by Jerry to Porton Down where it was tested against all known nerve agents. Jerry terrified us by describing the testing methodology, including holes in the test huts bunged up with plasticine!

Thankfully it all worked out fine. Time for the audience to let out a huge sigh of relief.

**Karen Attwood**

## Recent Events

### Annual Quiz Night April 2025



**Our Quiz Masters!**



**Our Winning Team!**



**Plotting next year's  
questions!**

## **Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) & Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Training**



Thanks to Simon Horsnall, our popular new First Aid trainer, almost 100 Beeston u3a members have now had the opportunity to take part in a training session to become more confident in lifesaving CPR (Cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and AED (Automated External Defibrillator) use.

Simon's down-to-earth delivery of such important information, mixed with the chance for everyone to test out the necessary skills in practice engaged everyone for the whole 2 hour session. We are very grateful to Simon and all attendees for helping to make Beeston u3a, and the local community a safer place.

**Anne Pinnock**

## Interest Groups Activities

**In our role as Groups Coordinators we get the opportunity to visit your meetings to get a feel for how different groups operate. This is a really worthwhile and rewarding aspect of our job which highlights the richness and diversity of the activities undertaken by Beeston u3a members.**

### Model Railway Group

I recently visited the Model Railway group. Members meet in each other's homes on a rota basis to share and demonstrate their railway setups. The enthusiasm of the group is magnetic and it is one of those groups which bridges the generation gap. Members describe how the children in their family are so obsessed and excited by operating Grandad's train set that they forget all about their mobile phones and their video games for a while. Here are some photos of the group in action.



### Beer Appreciation Group

I also visited the Beer Appreciation group but I can't remember much about that! I'm joking. This is a group of intelligent, articulate and friendly men and women who enjoy discussing everything from politics to sport over a good ale. And they know their ales! They meet regularly at different pubs on a rota basis. I might run into them again next week.



**Group Facilitators are welcome to invite a Groups Coordinator to one of their sessions to see them in action and share their enthusiasm. We would consider it a privilege to join you. We can also offer support if groups have particular issues or problems they need help with.**

Just email [groups@beestonu3a.com](mailto:groups@beestonu3a.com)

**Noel Kelly**  
**Groups Coordinators Team**

## Various Beeston u3a Events in recent months

### Long Walks Group



13 members of the Long Walks group had a very enjoyable and interesting walk starting from Froghall Wharf in the Churnet Valley, Staffordshire.

As well as the beautiful and varied scenery they were able to observe the areas industrial past including the huge dormant lime Kilns at Froghall Wharf.

It was perfect walking weather and there was even time for a refreshing drink by the Cauldon canal.

**Chris Brown**

## Theatre Visits Group



The theatre visits group went to see *Les Misérables* at the Theatre Royal and we were blown away by the energy and professionalism brought to the performance. We were brought to our feet at the end for a standing ovation, during which I had tears running down my cheeks!

We arrange group trips to the theatre to see drama plays and musicals, often supporting local amateur groups of this area. We are blessed with a huge choice of what to go and see, either locally or in town, and we have a team of helpers who organise the purchase of tickets at the different theatres. A great team effort! Everyone in the group is immensely grateful to Anne Pinnock who was running the group up until recently, when she took a well-earned rest!

**Celia Billau**