

Ravenshead U3A Magazine



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



Ravenshead



Christmas Decorations

Picture by Terry Moore, Ravenshead U3A Photographic Group

Issue No 3: Winter 2013

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Website : www.u3asites.org.uk/ravenshead

Welcome from the editor.

Welcome to the winter edition of the Ravenshead U3A magazine.

Once again we have tried to reflect the range of interests of our members by including a variety of articles and photographs. We have had very positive feedback regarding our first two magazines so hopefully we are continuing to keep up the good work!

Thanks to Terry for formatting and preparing the magazine for the printers, David Morton and Philip Jones for proofreading and of course to all the contributors of articles and photographs.

If you think you can produce an article for publishing in the next edition please submit it (preferably in a word processed format) to the editor, Judith Moore, by email XXXXXXXXXXXX or contact by phone (number below).

Deadline date for the next edition : **February 14th 2014**

In the meantime I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

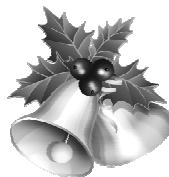
Judith Moore (editor)

Ravenshead U3A Committee Contacts

Bob Ford	Chairman	
Peter York	Treasurer	
Paul Craddock	Business Secretary	
Chris Dean	Membership Secretary	
Margaret Craddock	Minutes Secretary	
Rona McCann	Speaker Finder	
Judith Moore	Groups Coordinator	
Alan Paul	Web Editor	
Alan Walker	Visits Coordinator	
Kate Asquith	Committee Member	
Brenda Sharratt	Committee Member	
Ivan McNulty	Committee Member	

Co-opted members:

Sue Owen, Welfare
Val Ford, Groups
David Morton, Coffee and Conversation
Terry Moore, Publications





Thoughts from the Chair!

It is that time of the year again. I have just renewed my U3A membership for next year and it has set me thinking about what we have achieved this year. We have had lots of visits including trips to Waddesdon Manor and Westonbirt Arboretum to see the autumn colours, and many more.

During one of our walks earlier in the year it was suggested that we hold a Summer Barbecue. As usual everyone rallied round and within a week it had been arranged. The weather had been lovely, but on the day of the barbecue what happened? It rained! Knowing our weather however.

we had taken the precaution to hire inside and outside space so we were sorted. We set up everything inside and as people started to arrive, you've guessed it, the sun came out!

In October we held a fund raising event in order to help with the rebuilding of St Peter's Church Hall. We held a Musical Evening in the Church and were entertained by the Carlton Male Voice Choir. We all agreed that it was a super evening, and at the finish the choir kindly gave us a large donation towards our fund raising.

That brings us up to date with a trip to see Chatsworth House at Christmas and our Christmas Bash in December.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Committee to thank everyone for their support and in particular to our Helpers and Group Leaders for all their hard work during the year. Warmest wishes to all our members for a very Happy Christmas and a great New Year.

Bob Ford, Ravenshead U3A Chair

Folk Dancing Group

Last month John and Angela Senior were looking after their two young granddaughters. As it was a Monday and they didn't want to miss the Folk Dancing they decided to bring them along. The girls joined in and really enjoyed themselves. Later Angela sent this message:

Quote from Niamh (aged 9) "I never knew old people could be so much fun!" and Lottie (age 6) "OAPs are awesome!"

Thanks girls, perhaps we'll see you again sometime. The Folk dance group meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 2pm in the Brammer Room. Why don't you come along and join in the fun?



GOITS, BLISTERS, BEGGARS & INDUSTRIAL SPIES

It was the availability of the former Yorkshire Electricity Board's depot on Kelham Island in the centre of Sheffield that gave the opportunity to establish a museum concerned with Sheffield's industrial development. This fascinating site was well worth a recent Ravenshead U3A visit.

Alongside the main entrance to the Museum can be seen a short stretch of water. It is the head of what is thought to be the oldest 'goit' or mill race in Sheffield and it was constructed, probably in the 12th century, to carry water from the River Don to drive the Lord of the Manor's corn mill.

The construction of the goit, only a small stretch of which is now visible, created a long man-made island. Much of the early history of the island is unknown, but on this same goit in 1637 the town armourer owned a grinding workshop. His name was Kellam Homer and by 1674 the spelling of his name had been altered, and that for the island also, to that in use today.

When the 18th century began, steel was not new to Sheffield but steelmaking was. Blister steel was in general use but it was all imported. During its manufacture from bar iron baked in beds of charcoal it acquired a blistered surface and was of uneven quality but good enough for most purposes.

Not good enough though for one man, Benjamin Huntsman, who wanted it for springs for the watches and clocks he made. He mixed the bars that others had used then melted them at very high temperatures in crucibles. He then kept the process he had developed as secret as possible even to the extent of not patenting his secrets.

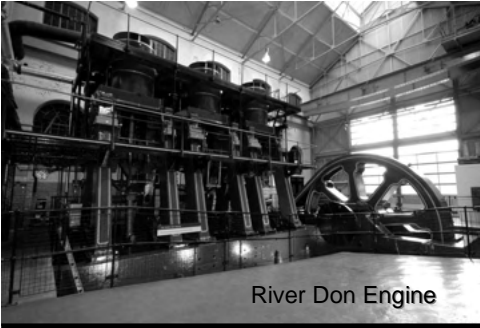
The story of the beggar approaching the warmth of the furnace room on a cold winter night and seeking shelter from the storm is well known. Having been allowed to enter, he pretended to sleep but through half-closed eyes observed the whole process and departed with the secrets the next morning.

Nevertheless as Britain assumed the technological leadership of Europe in her industrial revolution she became a mecca for the technicians of other European countries. Sweden in particular was worried by the threat from the British iron industry and this prompted a long succession of well-qualified technicians to tour Britain at frequent intervals, studying methods of production, and reporting back to Sweden in a series of travel diaries.

One such diary by Eric Svedenstierna was produced in Swedish in 1804 following a tour in 1802-3. It was translated into German in 1811 and from the German into English in 1973 as "The Travel Diaries of an Industrial Spy". Today, these

constitute an invaluable but little-used source of information about the early industrial revolution in Britain.

Patrick Ellis Ravenshead U3A member



River Don Engine

The 12,000 horse power River Don Engine was built by Davy Brothers of Sheffield in 1905. It was made to drive Charles Cammell's armour plate rolling mill located at his Grimesthorpe Works. The engine was one of four all built for the same purpose. The second went to John Brown's Atlas Works, the third to the Japanese government, and the destination of the fourth is unknown.
www.simt.co.uk/kelham-island-museum/river-don-engine

The Christmas Truce

2014 is the centenary of the start of the First World War, and at this time of year in particular we remember all those who gave their lives in this and later conflicts.

However we also remember that something surprising occurred at Christmas in 1914. In one of the truest acts of goodwill toward men, soldiers from both sides in the southern portion of the Ypres Salient set aside their weapons, if only temporarily, and met in no man's land.

This Christmas truce was one in a series of widespread, unofficial ceasefires that took place along the Western Front as the sounds of rifles firing and shells exploding faded in a number of places to be replaced by holiday celebrations in the trenches and gestures of goodwill between enemies.

Starting on Christmas Eve, many German and British troops sang Christmas carols to each other across the lines, and at certain points the Allied soldiers even heard brass bands playing.

At the first light of dawn on Christmas Day, some German soldiers emerged from their trenches and approached the Allied lines across no man's-land, calling out "Merry Christmas" in English. At first, the Allied soldiers feared it was a trick, but seeing the Germans unarmed they climbed out of their trenches and shook hands with the enemy soldiers. The men exchanged presents of cigarettes and plum puddings and sang carols and songs. There was even a documented case of soldiers from opposing sides playing an impromptu and good-natured game of football.

According to one German contemporary source the Germans won 3-2.

The truce is seen as a symbolic moment of peace and humanity amidst one of the most violent events of modern history.

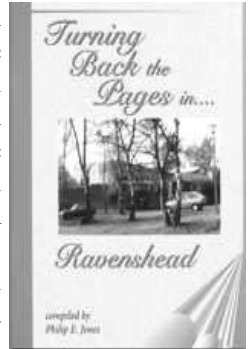


Judith Moore

LOCAL HISTORY

I was born at Skegby, Nottinghamshire, and went to school in Mansfield. I moved onto Regina Crescent with my parents in 1958. Our address was then Linby. I have been interested in local history since my early 'teens, but did not seriously take an interest in the history of the Ravenshead area until the 1990s, when I was studying for a masters degree in local and regional history at Nottingham University.

My book *Turning Back the Pages in Ravenshead*, published in 2009, is a photographic record of the development of the village. There are photographs of what the countryside looked like before the housing boom of the 1960s and 1970s, as well as of buildings no longer in existence, such as the Free Methodist Chapel on Chapel Lane, Newstead Hospital (which opened as a TB sanatorium in 1942), and the old Fishpool Farm (demolished in 2005), the site of the original 'fish pool'. The book is still available from Ravenshead Post Office and the Library, price £3.95, or direct from me at £2 if you are a member of the u3a.



If you would like to find out more about the history of the Ravenshead area and Nottinghamshire in general, you are very welcome to join the local history group.

We are a friendly bunch of people who meet on the second Tuesday afternoon of each month at Kighill Farm on Kighill Lane. We have a varied programme of talks and visits to places of historic interest in the area.



Since the group started up in January 2013 we have visited the Local Studies Library in Nottingham to discover what information they hold about Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. In September a number of us went on a heritage bus tour of historic churches in the

Ashfield area, which included a wonderful lunch stop at Beauvale Priory. We have had talks on the Southwell Diocese Church History Project, historic gardens of Nottinghamshire, and the Moor Pond Wood Project at Papplewick. In between, we have looked at maps, newspapers, trade directories and sale catalogues, all useful in helping us to enrich our knowledge of local history.

Philip Jones

Local History Group Co-ordinator

BOOK REVIEW

The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet

By Jamie Ford.

Mostly the group choose their own titles for discussion, but occasionally the library can't provide sufficient copies, so we take pot luck. This debut novel, published in 2009, is an example which achieved great acclaim.

Author Jamie Ford, who is of Chinese extraction, has written a gentle romantic story with strong themes running through it. The hotel in question is a significant landmark in Seattle situated on the edge of Japantown and it is also significant in the life of Henry Lee, the book's central character.

The book is set in the 1940s, at the height of the war, when Henry and Keiko Okabe, a Japanese girl, are scholarship students at school. Ignored by the white students and made to work in the lunch hour and after school, they form a strong friendship and innocent love that transcends the prejudices of their Old World ancestors.

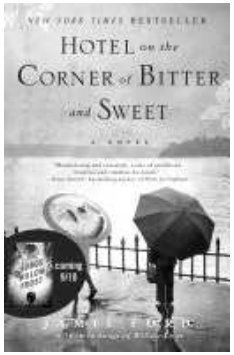
They lose touch when Keiko's family are interned. Forty years later Henry witnesses the discovery of Japanese possessions which have been stored in the basement of the closed hotel and begins a search for the Okabe family things.

This is a tale of loneliness, loyalty and resilience. Henry is a child living through traumatic times, torn between cultures; at odds with his Chinese formal heritage and the more relaxed American lifestyle. Henry is steadfast and never loses hope.

Overall, the group enjoyed the book, perhaps the women more than the men, but it generated some interesting discussion and highlighted the issue of Japanese internment during the war that we had not really recognised.

Jamie Ford's new book, *Songs of Willow Frost*, was published in September.

Ravenshead U3A READING GROUP 1 meets on the third Tuesday of the month.



Cracker Jokes: (groan...)

What does a cat on the beach have in common with Christmas? Sandy Claws.

Why does Santa have three gardens? So he can Hoe, hoe, hoe!

What is the best key to get at Christmas? A turkey!

What's the favourite Christmas Carol of new parents? Silent Night!

What's the best thing to put into Christmas dinner? Your teeth!

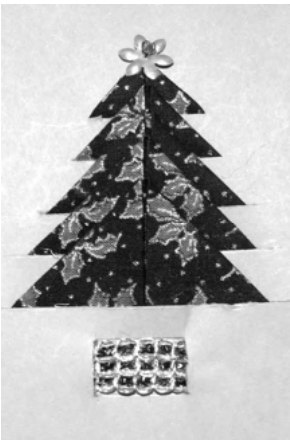
What comes at the end of Christmas Day? The letter "Y"!

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? It's Christmas, Eve!

Craft Group

The Craft Workshop began in earnest at the beginning of September, with 8 members coming on a regular basis. Their aim was to make something both new and fairly difficult so that they learned a new and interesting skill. The choice of crafts was large and most of our intrepid members chose to make some sort of jewellery, a necklace or a bracelet. Comments of “Oh I won’t be able to do that!” or “No way - that’s far too difficult!” were among the first and then “Do you really think I could do that?” followed shortly afterwards.

With a modicum of encouragement and a fair smattering of the occasional swear word, some lovely jewellery was produced and the proud owners then wanted yet more jewellery to make sure that their first attempt wasn’t just a ‘one-off’. The members have surprised themselves with their skill and their enthusiasm and it is hoped that the crafting will extend to other wonderful items that they can and do make.



Why don't you try this card for Christmas?

You will need one piece of A5 card folded in half, sellotape or glue, scissors, craft or sharp knife, a ruler, and 6” square (15cm) of Christmassy fabric.

The strips of fabric could be replaced by Christmas wrapping paper if so desired!

Cut the square of fabric into 3 strips of 2” wide (make sure that you are accurate.) Cut one strip into 3 and then follow the diagram on the opposite page. You will need 6 of these shapes.

You will need 6 of these shapes:



Take the card and measure the middle of it. Draw a very faint line down the centre and then measure a line across it.



**Kate
Asquith
Craft Group
leader**

Once these lines are drawn to your satisfaction to show the shape of a Christmas tree, cut them *carefully* with a craft knife. Insert the pieces of fabric, leaving a smaller section showing at the top and increasing the size as you go down the lines of the tree. Secure the pieces of fabric with either glue or sellotape cutting off any excess fabric that you feel is unnecessary. Use a small piece of fabric (or Christmassy ribbon) to make the tub at the base of the tree, again securing with glue or sellotape. Cover the back of the tree with an extra piece of paper, and add a sequin or star at the top of the tree. **GOOD LUCK!**

Ten Facts about Christmas

Did you know?

- The first Christmas card was created in England on December 9, 1842!
- Pope Julius I declared December 25th as the official Christmas in the fourth century!
- Christmas trees became popular in the UK from 1841 when Prince Albert erected a tree in Windsor Castle following a German tradition!
- Mexicans call the poinsettia "Flower of the Holy Night" - the Holy Night is the Mexican name for "Christmas Eve"!
- In 1647 the English parliament passed a law that made Christmas illegal!
- If you received all of the gifts listed in "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song you would receive 364 presents!
- In Britain the Holy Days and Fasting Days Act of 1551, which has not yet been repealed, states that every citizen must attend a Christian church service on Christmas Day, and must not use any kind of vehicle to get to the service!
- The most valuable Christmas card was sold at an auction in the UK in 2001 for £20,000!
- "A Christmas Carol" was written by Charles Dickens in 1843, taking just six weeks!
- A Christmas wreath hanging on your front door is a sign of welcome and long life for all who enter!



Judith Moore (and Google!)

RAVENSHED U3A – INTEREST GROUPS

Group Name	Leader	Phone	Meeting Day and Time	Location	Full
Angling	Lionel Castle		Please ring for details		No
Art (Watercolour)	Audrey Leech		Monday 9.30 – 12.00	Robin Hood Activity Centre	No
Art Gallery/Museum	Antony Gordon		Various visits arranged	Please contact for details	No
Bird watching	Peter York			Please contact for details	No
Bridge	Cicely James		2.00 – 4.00 Every Monday	Brammer Room	No
Chess and Backgammon	Jan Fraser		1 st & 3 rd Mon 10.00-12.00	Home	No
Craft Workshops	Kate Asquith		1 st & 3 rd Wed 10-12noon	Brammer Room	
Computing (Beginners)	Alan Paul Chris Dean		Beginners Monday 10am	Alan Paul's House	No
Computing (Intermediate)	Alan Paul Chris Dean			Please ring for information	No
Cribbage	Lesley and Rhoda Newey		New Group about to start	Please ring for information	No
Current Affairs	Carol Wright		3 rd Wednesday 2.00 - 3.30	Brammer Room	No
Family History	Barbara Jukes Philip Jones		4 th Tuesday in month 10am	Blidworth Methodist Church	No
Folk Dancing	Mike and Mary Adams		2 nd & 4 th Mon 2pm - 4pm	Ravenshead Village Hall	No
French Beginners	Jill Rogers			Please telephone for details	No
French Conversation	Brian Machin		1 st & 3 rd Mon 10.00-11.30.	Please telephone for details	Yes
Guitar	John Bewick		1 st & 3 rd Thur 10.15 - 11.45	Ravenshead Church Lounge	No
Knitting and Crochet	Anne Lovegrove Liz Corner		2pm – 4pm Friday.	Brammer Room, Village Hall	No
Local History	Philip Jones		2pm – 4pm 2 nd Tuesday	Please ring for venue	No
Luncheon Club	Chris Dean Sue Owen			Please ring for details	No
Mah Jong	Judy Bragg Peter York		1 st & 3 rd Tuesday 1.30	Brammer Room, Village Hall	No
Music Appreciation 1	Joan Harvey		2 nd Tuesday 2.00 – 4.00	Members' Homes	Full
Music Appreciation 2	Val and Mike Willson-Lloyd		2 nd Thursday 2.00 – 4.00	Members' Homes	No
Music Appreciation 3	Fay Garrison		3 rd Tuesday 1.30 – 3.00	Members' Homes	No
Occasional Visits	Various			Please see website, U3A4U or info at monthly meeting	
Pastels	Wanda Parker		Weekly	Please ring for details	No
Photography	Dennis Harvey Glynne Payze		Last Wed at 2pm	Brammer Room	No
Reading Group 1	Carol Payze		3 rd Tuesday 2pm	Carol's house	Full
Reading Group 2	Pat Brown		3 rd Tuesday 2pm	Members' Home	Full
Scrabble	Susanne Smith		3 rd Tuesday 10am	Brammer Room, Village Hall	No
Long Walks	Ivan McNulty			Ring for info or see website	No
Strollers (short walks up to 1 hour)	John West		Postponed until Spring 2014	For more info see website	No
Thursday Walks	Paul and Margaret Craddock		2 nd & 4 th Thursday - 1.30 prompt start.	Details on the website or contact Paul and Margaret	No
• Wine Group 1	Lionel Castle		3 rd Friday	Members' homes	Full
Wine Group 2	Brenda Beale		1 st Tuesday	Members' homes	Full
Wine Group 3	Michael Neville		2 nd Monday	Members' homes	Full
Wine Group 4	Judy Vaughan		3 rd Tuesday	Members' homes	Full
Wine Group 5	Sue Tidbury		1 st Wednesday	Members' homes	Full
Yoga 1 (Beginners)	Jean Cooke		Please ring for details	Village Hall	No
Yoga 2	Bob Ford		Wkly 2.00–3.30 Tuesday	Village Hall	No
Yoga Group 3	Bob Ford		Wkly 10.00–11.30 Friday.	Village Hall	No

If you are interested in joining any of the above Groups but they are showing as full, please contact the Group Leader to ask to be put on a waiting list. You will then be contacted once a place becomes available or there are enough people to form a further Group.

- If you wish to be put on the reserve list for the Wine groups please have a word with Lionel (Wine group 1)

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Norfolk Birding Weekend

Friday 11th to Monday 14th October 2013

The U3A birding group went on their second annual birding “weekend” returning to North Norfolk again.

Eight members met up on the Friday evening at the cottages for an evening meal of melon medley followed by a gourmet chilli with added dark chocolate with rice. Pudding was a totally fat free Eton mess. A reasonable amount of wine was also consumed. Glynne treated us to a slideshow of birds seen on recent birding visits. The weather was a real concern for the next day as the wind had caused all boat trips to be cancelled for the two previous days.



On the boat



Seals



Goldcrest on Blakeney point

Saturday, however, dawned calm and dry and all was good. After a hearty breakfast, we all set off to Morston Quay to get our exclusive boat to see the seals and then land on Blakeney Point for a couple of hours. The trip was fantastic with great views and photos of both common and grey seals off the end of Blakeney Point. We landed and then had two hours on the point to walk around and get really good views of the birds. The recent wind had blown in some great birds on the Point including good views of goldcrest and many continental robins. The highlight was good views of three ring ouzels. They are like a blackbird but have a wide white crescent on the breast and are very hard to

see without going to special places.

We then enjoyed fresh Norfolk crab sandwiches and a drink at the kiosk on the car park. We even had sunshine!



Crab sandwiches and a flapjack—very nice!

Sunday was a day of light rain at times but also good spells of dry periods. After another hearty breakfast we visited two smaller reserves today which are little gems for birds. The first one was at Abbey Farm, a real working farm with strong conservation aims.

Here we saw great birds including two buzzards and a barn owl. Also good views of fieldfares and redwings. A stoat also showed really well allowing the photographers the chance of some good shots.

We had to hit the books back at the cottage to look at the differences between the stoat and the weasel. We then moved on to Sculthorpe Reserve which is run by the Hawk and Owl Trust and was featured a few years ago on Springwatch. Good views of nuthatch and on one of the bird tables we had a real debate over how to distinguish a willow tit from a marsh tit.

After this we moved to have a drink and nice cakes at the nearby Langham Glass cafe. The weather then took a turn for the worse and we returned to the cottages. We later enjoyed a meal together at the cottage – butternut squash soup, venison casserole and vegetables, followed by blackberry and apple crumble.

Monday, our last day, was spent at the RSPB flagship reserve at Titchwell Marsh. After breakfasting in the cottage again, we moved just down the road to Titchwell. The weather was again a bit drizzly but it did stop very quickly. The birds were again very good with chances to discuss the differences between black-tailed and bar-tailed godwits as well as seeing two Mediterranean gulls (rather similar to our usual black-headed gulls). After seeing a very nice male pintail, some of us heard the loud squealing of a water rail. We returned to the cottage for a late lunch and then people departed for home.

This was another very successful trip with over sixty species of birds seen, which was about the same as last year. Plans are already in hand for next year's big trip which will be to a different part of the country. We also made plans for our normal one day monthly trips.

The Birding Group is open to all U3A members. Watch the website for future trips.

Peter York Bird Watching Group Leader

(Photos are from Peter and Sue York, Glynne Payze and David Combs)



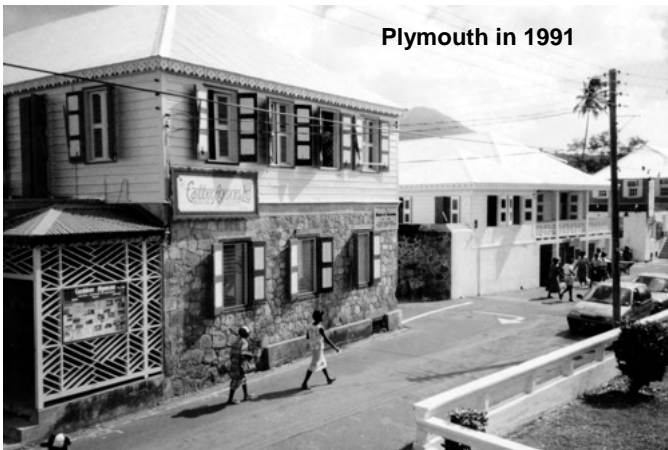
Before the Volcano

A visit to Montserrat — the Emerald Isle

After hearing the fascinating account of member Judith Moore's visit to the Caribbean Island of Montserrat in 2001 (August meeting) we told her of our own two stays on the island in 1991 and 1992, both of which preceded the volcanic eruption which transformed the country a few years later. Judith suggested that members might be interested to read something of our experiences there.

Harry Belafonte once sang "Oh island in the sun" and if we had been capable of singing we would have done so too! Montserrat, a British protectorate and one of the Leeward Islands, seemed like a piece of paradise in miniature. Our overall impression was of a green and pleasant land: green wooded hillsides and ravines, palms and banana trees interspersed with gardens displaying the brilliant colours of tropical flowers and hedges of poinsettia.

We took lots of slides during our visits, both of which were in January, when rain was soon followed by blue skies and bright sunshine and the temperature never dropped below 27degrees C. In 1989 Hurricane Hugo had left its mark, destroying some homes and trees, but the island was slowly recovering its former glory and even the humming birds had returned.



The friends with whom we stayed were often busy so we borrowed a car and went exploring by ourselves. We had to negotiate deep potholes and avoid hitting small brown cows and goats which tended to wander

onto the roads. We loved the colourful little houses perched on the hillsides and liked the Montserratian people who come across as friendly, laid-back and happy, some of whom were descended from Irish labourers who worked in the sugar mills and married local girls. Surnames like O'Connor



The War Memorial, Plymouth



are not uncommon.

It was hard for us to imagine that a sizeable part of Montserrat was covered by volcanic ash to such an extent that its capital Plymouth with its shops, administrative buildings, houses, schools and hospital was destroyed, as was the island's W.H. Bramble Airport. Some of the population left to settle elsewhere including here in Britain, while others moved into the unaffected northern part of the island.

After Judith's talk we looked up our photographs and include here a view of Plymouth before the disaster

struck. It was good to refresh our memories of a magical time which will never be forgotten!

Tineke and Michael Arthur Ravenshead U3A members

Thank you Tineke and Michael for sharing your notes and photographs with us. I was fascinated to hear about the island before the volcanic eruption! Judith

Beany Hat update.

Regular readers will recall that the U3A knitting group sent beany hats to RAF troops serving in the Falklands back in May. We have now received a picture of them wearing the hats. Knitting group members have had fun spotting which ones they knitted!



We've also received a card full of thank you messages and a formal letter from their boss in the Armament Engineering Flight encouraging us to keep the needles clacking.



A short report of our activities appeared in the recent Third Age Matters magazine (page 83), which has elicited enquiries from other parts of the UK.

Altogether a satisfactory outcome, knitting group continue to work on other charity projects and welcome donations of wool as well as new members, knitters or not!

Carol Wright U3A Knitting Group



U3A Photography Group

In the middle of September the Photo Group went on a trip to the “Tropical Butterfly House” near Worksop. It is, in fact, a small zoo with a variety of animals and birds. On arrival, in the early afternoon, we were given a schedule of times when animals were to be fed and birds of prey would be flown. It was an intensive programme which, in the event, didn’t even allow us time for a coffee break. How did we manage?



The keepers were very helpful and gave us a lot of information about the various animals. We were surprised to be allowed into the enclosure when the lemurs were fed. They were friendly little chaps and one perched on Colin’s shoulder which provided a good photo opportunity for everyone but him. However, once the food was gone so were the lemurs – to the far side of the enclosure.

The greatest challenge, photographically speaking, were the birds of prey. We were very close to them and as they did their aerobatic tricks we found it quite difficult to get them in focus and in frame at the same time. It was good practice though.

The butterfly house itself proved quite difficult to work in. The high temperature and very high humidity, augmented by frequent water sprays, instantly fogged up our lenses. That was until a friendly, frequent visitor showed us how to “defog” the equipment using the dyson type hand dryers. To our surprise our lenses stayed clear after that.

The most charming were, of course the meerkats who posed endlessly as they kept their watch. We were so impressed we all felt we had to pose like them at the end of the visit while a keeper took our group photograph! That finished a great visit full of opportunities to get pictures because the zoo was not busy and the afternoon stayed fine for us. All in all a good photographic trip and in our locality too.

Dennis Harvey, Photography Group Co-ordinator



It seemed a good idea at the time to pose for a photo in meerkat style!

Out and About with Ravenshead U3A

Over the past year members have had the opportunity to join in a variety of trips and visits to places of interest. Some have been planned by particular interest groups, for example the photographers have been honing their skills in a number of localities, the birdwatchers have been spotting and spotted around the country (including residential), museum and gallery visits have been organised and luncheon club members have enjoyed eating in a number of pubs and restaurants.

In addition and under the heading "occasional visits" we have had the chance to see such places of interest as Coton Manor, Kew Gardens, Harrogate (for the Spring Flower Show), Kelham Island Industrial Museum, Birmingham N.E.C. (for the B.B.C. Food and Drink Show), Westonbirt Arboretum, Waddesdon Manor, Birmingham Back to Back Houses and , by the time you read this, Chatsworth House decorated for Christmas.

Of course, we need people who are prepared to help to organise and run these visits, so firstly we would like to say a big thank you to them all. In order to continue to provide a varied programme of visits for next year we are meeting to put forward ideas and hopefully to find other volunteers. If you have an idea for a visit which you would like to put forward, speak to one of the committee or contact Alan Walker (committee member with responsibility for trips and visits). We have put together a set of guidelines to support anyone who is prepared to volunteer to coordinate a visit. In the meantime enjoy a selection of photographs showing us "out and about" with Ravenshead U3A.

Judith Moore Groups co-ordinator



Notice Board



Do you have an interest that you would like to share with other members? You can use this notice board to post messages.

- **Industrial Archaeology:** anyone interested in forming a mini group please contact Patrick Ellis XXXXXXXXXXXX
- **Singing for Fun:** Graham Jukes is willing to organise this group but needs a pianist. Any volunteers? XXXXXXXXXXXX

Contact the named person or Val Ford / Judith Moore

A Musical Evening With Carlton Male Voice Choir

On Saturday, October 26th The Carlton Male Voice Choir entertained a packed Church with a programme of songs which included show songs, spirituals, pop and classics as well as solo items. Two Ravenshead U3A members were on stage: Terry Moore (musical director) and John Senior (tenor and African drummer!). The choir enjoyed singing in the venue partly because of the rich acoustic but also thanks to the capacity audience.

A few days later Terry received the following email from Paul and Margaret who had organised the concert.



As you are aware our fundraiser for the St Peters Centre was held last Saturday 26th October. It was a superb evening with the Carlton Male Voice Choir in fine voice with our very own Terry at the helm. Thanks from Bob, Val, Margaret and me and to all who contributed to the successful running of the evening. Our refreshment ladies were superb and our car parking team did a sterling job parking the huge volume of cars. We had over 200 people attending and I am extremely pleased to tell you that we raised a fantastic sum of £1,494 for the St Peters Centre Project! Thanks everyone for your support for a very successful event.

Paul and Margaret Craddock

Dates for Your Diary

(check website for latest information)

Monthly Meetings

Tue Jan 14th 2014	Saints and Sinners in our secondary classrooms!` Speaker, Barry Davies.
Tue Feb 11th 2014	What ever happened to the local press? Speaker, Paul Richardson
Tue Mar 11th 2014	The Exodus Story from a scientist's perspective. Speaker, Dr Paul Roebuck
Tue Apr 8th 2014	If Wishes were Horses. Speaker, Pam Littlewood.

Social Events

Tue Dec 17th 2013 12.00 for 12.30 p.m.	Christmas Bash at Sookholme, Warsop Cost £16.95. Contact Bob Ford
Wed Dec18th 2013	Coffee and Conversation, St Peter's Church Hall, commencing 10am.
Mon Jan 20th 2014	Coffee and Conversation, St Peter's Church Hall, commencing 10am.
Wed Feb 19th 2014	Coffee and Conversation, St Peter's Church Hall, commencing 10am.
Mon Mar 17th 2014	Coffee and Conversation, St Peter's Church Hall, commencing 10am.
Wed Apr 16th 2014	Coffee and Conversation, St Peter's Church Hall, commencing 10am.

Occasional Visits

Details on website occasional visits page.

The programme for 2014 is currently being planned. Information will be given out at monthly meetings, Coffee and Conversation meetings and on the website.