

# Ravenshead U3A Magazine



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



Ravenshead



The impressive interior of Cardiff Castle, visited by RU3A.  
More about the trip on pages 12 & 13

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**Freephone :0300 030 2990**

## Welcome from the Editor

Some of you may notice that the summer magazine has moved from August to September. August is a busy month for many of us, myself included, as well as being a time when people are away. By moving on a month it also means that the next issue will be available in the New Year rather than December which gives us a chance to report on Christmas activities including the annual "Christmas Bash". Obviously we will still be relying on contributions from our membership so if you have a story to tell please contact me any time.

We were sad to hear of the death of Patrick Ellis who has been a regular contributor to this magazine writing on such diverse topics as a visit to a Sheffield Industrial Museum, the snowdrops of Hodsock Priory, Tennyson's birthplace and, as recently as our last issue, a description of Alfred Nobel's magical coach. Patrick was a man of many interests and I very much enjoyed getting to know him through his writing.

Our next issue is planned for January 2018 so please send any contributions (preferably in word processed form) to myself at xxxxxxxxxxxx or phone me on xxxxxxxx. The closing date is Monday, December 4th.

Judith Moore (editor) Philip Jones (proof reader) Terry Moore (desktop publishing)

## Ravenshead U3A Committee

Lesley Green	Chair
Val Ford,	Vice-Chair
Alan Wilson	Treasurer
Maria Gabrielczyk	Business Secretary
Sue Owen	Membership Secretary
Diane Rumsey	Speaker Finder
Maureen Smith	member
Frances Gilbert	member
Margaret Craddock	member
Mike Salmon	member
Alan Paul	Web Editor
Terry Moore	Publications and cloud storage

Contact Ravenshead U3A committee members via the [CONTACT page of our website](#) .

**Or Freephone: 0300 030 2990**

## Thoughts from the Chair

As I sit in the chair for the first time I am reminded how much everything has changed since I queued with many others to join Ravenshead U3A five years ago.

It has changed my life as I am sure it has many other members who are doing things they never envisaged they would be able to do as well as making new friends.

So I have a hard act to follow from Judith, but I hope I can continue with my committee to help Ravenshead U3A expand and widen our horizons.

Wish me luck!!

### **Lesley Green, Ravenshead U3A Chair**

*[Find out more about the latest committee members below. Ed.]*



### **Returning Committee member 2017: Mike Salmon**

I have lived in Ravenshead for 26 years and have thoroughly enjoyed living here and still do! My wife and I joined the U3A at its inception and we have found it to be very enjoyable, social and in the process have met some very nice and interesting people. I am looking forward to serving on the Committee.

I have been involved in road transport in various roles over 40 years and before retirement spent the last 20 years working for the Road Haulage Association as their Area Manager for the East Midlands.

My hobbies have been many and varied. I have kept, bred, shown and judged cage birds and other small animals all of my life and for the last 30 years have been very active caravaner.. I was on the Caravan Club Central Regional Council for 10 years and have served on various committees in different capacities with many different organisations. In recent years I have had a keen interest in horse racing (not gambling!) and bloodstock and have shares in a racehorse. I have also recently taken up woodturning as a hobby which is again something that I thoroughly enjoy. Since retiring in 2010 I have also become a volunteer driver for Ravenshead Community Transport. This gives me great pleasure and the opportunity to put a little bit back into the community.



## New Committee member 2017: **Maureen Smith**



I was born in 1944 in Shillong, Assam (Pakistan) into a military family. The first nine years of my life was spent moving around England and also living in Hong Kong and Egypt. Fleet in Hampshire then became “home” on and off for the next forty years. I was educated at the Convent in Farnborough and later at the Technical College. I was a teacher at a pre-prep school in Camberley before marrying a Doctor in the R.A.M.C. in 1966. We had two sons and postings to Ballykinler, N. Ireland and Malawi (Africa) before I was sadly widowed in 1972.

I returned to teaching at a school in Fleet until I remarried in 1979 and then had another two sons, and also gained a wonderful step daughter. Again, travel was a large part of my life and I was so lucky to experience living in Swaziland, Botswana, Spain and S.Africa.

Unfortunately, things did not work out and I moved down to Somerset in 1994 and started working in a nursing home just outside Wincanton. A complete change from teaching small children, but a job I absolutely loved and continued doing when I moved down to Mortehoe in North Devon, where I then lived for 20 years before moving up to Ravenshead in 2016.

I am nearer my two youngest sons now and also a very special little grandson. Everyone here has been so welcoming and helpful – I have become very involved in the church here and also joined the Ravenshead U3A soon after my arrival. I am a member of the Folk and Country Dancing Group, the Luncheon Group and also a ‘reserve’ in one of the wine tasting groups – all great fun and a wonderful way of getting to know the local community.

I am now a member of the committee and hope to get to know more of you and be able to help wherever and whenever I can.

## **New Committee member 2017: Frances Gilbert**



Originally from Princethorpe, Warwickshire (not far from Rugby), I have lived variously in Coventry, Birmingham, Nottingham, Southwell, Surrey and Berkshire. I returned to Coventry in 1989 and moved to Mansfield last October. I was previously a member of the Warwick District and Coventry U3A Groups.

My entire career has been in health and education; I started as a student nurse at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, and retired a few years ago as a SL in Nursing at Coventry University.

I believe I have a broad range of interests including reading, concerts, theatre, French, family history, days out etc. Prior to moving here I was a volunteer with several 'wildlife / conservation' organisations and a 'Walks for Health' Leader. Since settling here I have joined several interest groups and am in the process of setting up a Cryptic Crossword group for beginners.

## **Returning Committee member 2017: Margaret Craddock**

I was born in Mansfield where I lived until I was married and moved through my husband's job living in North Notts and later West Yorkshire both Wakefield and Huddersfield, before moving to Ravenshead in 1981. I have 2 sons - one now in Bristol and the other living on the tops above Durham.



I was minute secretary on the original Steering Group for Ravenshead U3A and then on the first committee for a further 3 years.

As well as volunteering with RU3A I also volunteer in The Centre being on the welcome team and also the hospitality team with my husband, Paul.

My hobbies are various: reading, knitting, gardening and walking when we can - we have run the Thursday Walking Group since it started but unfortunately this group is not active at the moment due to injuries from the both of us.

We also have 6 grandchildren ranging from 2 - 14 years old who keep us busy in school holidays and at other times. We, therefore, love our holidays, especially cruising.

## **Schooldays remembered!**

### **Nine Decades of Fashion continued.**

I started school in 1925 aged four. On the first day I was taken to school by my mother alongside Molly, who became my best friend, and her mother. The following day Molly and I set off together hand in hand to our first class of 45 children of which only three girls and two boys wore shoes. Everyone else wore clogs, thick black leather uppers with steel on the base and “nose” (the front of the shoe). The boys wore short trousers and a jumper (mostly with holes in the elbow and often used to wipe their noses!). The girls wore a white overdress to protect their clothes. Lesson number one – the distinction of clothes! But children do not discriminate and in the playground we happily played together.



On Thursday, which was market day, mothers would collect their offspring and make their way to the many stalls. My favourite was the fabric stall where the stallholder had a yardstick to measure the material. My mother would often buy from the box of “fents” pieces or remnants which would mean a new dress for me, often with a pair of matching knickers.

An important day in the town’s calendar was Whitsuntide, the yearly holiday and the town’s carnival. On Whit Friday the town was filled with the sound of brass bands. Each denomination had a banner, a band, a parade and a carnival queen. I went to a Methodist Sunday School and at the age of seven I was chosen to be the queen. My dress was of white satin with a silver lace deep border and I wore white and silver shoes, gloves and fabric crown.

At the age of eleven Molly and myself started at a girls’ grammar school, Fairfield High. In 1729 a group of Moravian refugees who had been driven out of their homeland near Prague for their religious beliefs were granted a piece of land outside Manchester where they built a little settlement of cobbled streets and various buildings including my school and a corresponding school for boys.

It was to this place that I travelled by tramcar, bus and train for much of the next decade. Soon I started saving my pocket money and each month I would buy a Good Housekeeping magazine because of the fashion, the cookery and the literature. School uniform now consisted of a gymslip, white short-sleeved blouse and striped blazer worn with a woolly cap in navy and green (modernised by me with safety pins) and navy gabardine raincoat. My mother stopped making clothes for me but she still had a say in what to wear and she was always ahead of fashion. The sewing machine was still in the house but I took no interest in it, preferring to go into Manchester to the big stores.

When I entered sixth form we were all invited to tea with the head teacher to discuss our next moves in life. She was horrified when I told her I wanted to be in fashion as no one had ever wanted this before. However she did manage to get me an interview at the “Harrods of Manchester”, Kendal Milnes. I went for my first interview and everything went well. Not so on my second interview which was conducted entirely in French. My schoolgirl French was rapidly diminishing and I was told to go back to school and perfect my French (because I was speaking it with a Lancashire accent) which I did for another year. It was now 1939 and I went back for my interview too late; war had broken out and food and clothes rationing was coming. France was being overrun by the Nazis and in those days Paris was at the forefront of fashion. No Milan, no New York, no anything. With my fashion career on hold I worked firstly for a few weeks in the beautiful Manchester Library deep in the underground cellars cataloguing huge tomes of books. Another interview with the school headteacher followed with the result that in 1940 I began training as a teacher and Liverpool University had a new scholar.

More about wartime fashion next time!

**Marjorie Eyre, Ravenshead U3A member**

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## **A visit to Coffee and Conversation, August 21st**

Coffee and Conversation meetings are held on the third Monday of each month in room 3 of the Centre between 10 and 12. Some members are regulars and have been attending since the meetings were first set up almost five years ago.

It is a chance to catch up with friends in a relaxed and informal setting and also offers an opportunity for committee members to interact with members on a more personal level than is possible at the larger monthly meetings. It can also be a first step for potential members who are hoping to find out more about the Ravenshead U3A and what is on offer.

This morning, August 21st, is a typical example of what Coffee and Conversation is all about. Sixteen people have attended and are offered coffee, tea and biscuits by Maureen and Frances who are newly elected committee members and hosting for the first time, helped out by Janet and Bob.



Regulars Marjorie, Shirley and Helen are chatting while membership secretary Sue talks to Philip and Michael. At another table Val and Geoff are talking to a prospective member, Paul, who is given a copy of the last issue of this magazine and an application form. Later they are joined by Frances and Diane, another member of the committee.



I join Marjorie, Shirley, Helen and Maureen and conversation ranges from Marjorie's ongoing magazine article based on her lifelong love of fashion, the importance of oral history and keeping stories alive, television programmes, specifically the recent "Carehome for 4 year olds" and anecdotes about grandchildren and the things children say! Interspersed with these are thoughts on tattoos and piercings, upcoming or past holidays and jokes.

Michael joins in with a description of his past experience of working in a printing works, prompted by a discussion of a biscuit wrapper. Meanwhile Paul and Geoff are getting to know each other and seemingly finding mutual interests.

Some of those present give their own views on the Coffee and Conversation meetings and why they attend:

*To learn the ropes, get to know everyone and make myself useful.* Maureen

*Here to help and enjoy the company.* Frances

*Catch up on the gossip, pay for trips and talk to committee members.* Shirley

*To meet up with folk.* Helen

*As membership secretary and committee member it's essential to attend and also chance to talk to lots of friends.* Sue

*Come to see what U3A is all about. Met fascinating member (Geoff).* Paul

*At times the conversation can flag but at its best it can be hilarious and a tremendous laugh. Met potential new member, he will fit right in!* Geoff

*Find out the latest gossip.* Michael

*Chocolate biscuits!* Philip

So: Coffee and Conversation, "Exactly what it says on the tin." Anyone is welcome to join us so why not come along next time?

**Judith Moore, Ravenshead U3A member**



## SPOTLIGHT ON THE Birding Group



In April the Birders challenged themselves to identify 161 different species of birds over the following 12 months: so far we have managed to identify 61.

Our June visit was to Gibraltar Point, near Skegness, an area which has sand dunes, salt marshes, fresh water lagoons and old meadows



Recently the paths around the reserves have been upgraded causing some disturbance of the soil. As a consequence, dormant seeds have germinated, mainly field poppies and ox-eye daisies although there were also some garden Californian poppies.

There was an abundance of flowers in the meadow grasses, mainly marsh orchids and dragonflies and moths were also seen. Altogether 46 species of birds were identified, which made it a good day for the group.



The group is open to all regardless of birding experience - there are plenty of members willing to share their knowledge. See groups page for details.



**Graham Jukes,  
Ravenshead U3A**

**RAVENSHHEAD U3A – INTEREST GROUPS**

<b>Group Name</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Meeting Day and Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Full</b>
Angling	Lionel Castle		Please ring for details		No
Art Gallery/Museum	David Turner		Various visits to be arranged	Please contact for details	No
Beginners Bridge	Maria Gabrielczyk		10 – 12 1 <sup>st</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	At leader's home	No
Bird watching	Graham Jukes Tony Wardell		Usually once a month	Please contact for details	No
Canasta	Trevor Davy		2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues 2 – 4pm	Brammer Room	No
Chess and Backgammon	Jan Fraser		1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 10 -12	Home	No
Computing Beginners	Alan Paul		On demand	Alan Paul's house	No
Craft workshops	Kate Asquith		Thursday 10.00-12.00	Room 2 The Centre	No
Creative Writing	Villia Bullock		Friday of the week following the U3A monthly meeting	Members' Homes	No
Cryptic Crossword	Frances Gilbert		9.00 – 10.45 Thursday	Room 1 The Centre	No
Current Affairs	Carol Wright		3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 2 -3.30	Brammer Room	No
Family History	Barbara Jukes		4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday 10-12	Brammer Room	Full
Folk Dancing	Alex Fraser		2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon 2 - 4pm	Ravenshead Village Hall	No
French Conversation	Brian Machin		1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 10.00-11.30.	Please telephone for details	Full
French Conversation 2	Anick Spence		1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 2 – 4pm	Anick's house	No
Gardening	Elizabeth Clarkson		Various dates and locations	See group web page	No
Guitar	John Bewick		1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday 10.00 -12.00	Ravenshead Church Lounge	Full
Hikers (5-8 miles)	Steve Hargreaves		Various dates and locations	See group web page	No
Knitting and Crochet	Anne Lovegrove Liz Corner		2pm – 4pm 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	Brammer Room, Village Hall	No
Latin	David Morton		2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed -9.30 - noon	The Centre	Full
Local History	Judith Walker		2pm – 4pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	Kighill Farm	No
Luncheon Club	Chris Dean		Various locations monthly	See group web page	No
Mah Jong	Anne Eldridge Jennifer Philby		1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 1.30-3.30	Brammer Room, Village Hall	No
Mindfulness and Meditation	Mandy Conway		11 – 12 Thursday starting 05.10.17	The Centre	No
Music Appreciation 1	Joan Harvey		2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 2.00 – 4.00	Members' Homes	Full
Music Appreciation 2	David Turner		3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 1.30 – 3.00	Members' Homes	No
Painting	Mary Abbott		2nd Monday 1.30 – 3.30	The Centre	
Pastels	Wanda Parker		Gp 1 Wed.10.00 – 12.00 Gp 2 Fri. 10.00 – 12.00	Wanda's house	Full No
Photography	Dennis Harvey Glynne Payze		Last Wed in month 2pm	Brammer Room	Full
Play Reading Group	Alan Kirkham		2.30 Wednesday after U3A monthly meeting	In members homes	No

Reading Group 1	Pat Brown		3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 2.30pm	Members' Home	Full
Reading Group 2	Carol Payze		3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 2pm	Carol's house	No
Science and Technology	Alan Paul		1 <sup>st</sup> Friday in month	The Centre	No
Scrabble, Rumikubs and Cribbage	Susanne Smith Leslie Newey		3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 10am 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday 7.30pm-9.30pm	Brammer Room	No
Singing for Fun	Graham Jukes		Not running at present		No
Spanish	Joyce Capps		2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Mondays at 11am	Sue and Stuart's house	No
Table Tennis	John Clay		2pm-3pm 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	Cornwater Leisure Centre	Full
Thursday Walks	Paul and Margaret Craddock		Running intermittently at present	Details on the website or contact Paul and Margaret	No
Trips and Visits			Various times and locations	Please see website for details or speak to a committee member	
Weekenders	Sue Owen Pat Van Grondelle Chris Munton		Various events and visits	For more information see the web site	No
Wine Group 1	Lionel Castle		3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	Members' homes	Full
Wine Group 2	Brenda Beale		3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	Members' homes	Full
Wine Group 3	Michael Neville		2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	Members' homes	Full
Wine Group 4	Judy Vaughan		3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	Members' homes	Full
Wine Group 5	Sue Tidbury		1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	Members' homes	Full
Yoga Group 1	Bob Ford		Wkly 2.00–3.30 Tuesday	The Centre at St Peters	No
Yoga Group 2	Bob Ford		Wkly 10.00–11.30 Friday.	The Centre at St Peters	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.*

## 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.*

New group starting on 27th September: Cryptic Crossword. See list above for details.

Potential new group: Pétanque ( at the new Cornwater site). Expressions of interest to Val.

*To post a message contact the Editor!*

## Ravenshead U3A Cardiff tour

Leaving aboard the Skills luxury coach the March skies were grey and the breeze chilly with a hint of drizzle. Despite this our thirty or so intrepid explorers set out led by the seemingly indefatigable Steve Hargreaves on a South Wales adventure. Would the land of our Cambrian neighbours offer us welcoming sunshine or the cold shoulder of driving rain and gales? Any doubts were quickly dispelled by the enthusiastic and reassuring Steve who seized the microphone tapping it into life then cheerfully exclaimed “*Yachi Da!*” His first dabble at Welsh meaning “Good Health”. Our first stop was Monmouth - the pretty border town situated at the confluence of the Rivers Wye, Monnow and Trothy where we could have a wander and lunch. Having made good time we had a couple of hours to explore Monmouth finding a choice of cafes, restaurants and shops as well as some fine buildings and an interesting medieval bridge built and fortified to prevent incursion by those “Welsh rebels” keen on running amok in a peaceful English market town. Ultimately the plan failed as Monmouth now is proudly Welsh and we noticed no rebels or havoc making. Onwards then to Cardiff - the Welsh Capital and our base for the next five days. Arriving at the Clayton Hotel around 4pm giving time for a short break until dinner. The modern Hotel is set in the heart of town next to the main station, a busy road junction and the Millennium stadium. Despite its location the Hotel was both quiet and comfortable.



The next day we set off for Dyffryn Gardens, a National Trust house and gardens just out of the City. Despite the grey, overcast weather spirits were high as Steve and Tim, our witty driver, regaled us with local knowledge en route. Sadly the House was still being prepared for the season but the gardens were extensive and the flora had ignored the calendar to offer a wonderful display. Almost in the blink of an eye the clouds vanished and we enjoyed blue skies and the warmth of a brilliant spring sun. Time to enjoy a cuppa with welsh cake in the lovely cafe before departing. Steve helpfully explained that this sweet Welsh delicacy was, in fact, a scone that had been squashed flat possibly by stamping on it!

The afternoon was spent at Cardiff Bay, the impressive modern waterfront that has been recovered from the dominant coal shipping dock area from times passed. Now the bay boasts restaurants, bars and shops as well as the pretty Norwegian Chapel

and the home of the Welsh Assembly. Here I sheltered from a storm chatting with a surprisingly cheerful policeman from Pontypridd who sported a very large gun so as to ensure security at the home of the Parliament. After lunch the sun took a break to allow sharp showers to be delivered by the Atlantic winds so famous there.



Our third day was split between a morning visit to Cardiff Castle that was a short walk away and an afternoon of free time. The castle was fascinating with its history and features being delivered by an entertaining Guide. The structure was begun by the Romans and eventually continued into modern times by the Bute family who drew their wealth from Welsh coal.



On Thursday morning, our day four, we travelled to Swansea where we visited the impressive and fascinating Waterfront Museum again set in an area that had been recovered from post -industrial decline. Alan Kirkham - our resident Bard - wrote to commemorate our visit:

*There was a young Lady from Swansea  
Who went everywhere just in her onesie  
But one day in town  
She wore only a frown  
She'd forgotten to put the thing on - see!*

Then on to the Mumbles or in Welsh the “Mwmbwls” - notice the characteristic shortage of vowels! Good weather allowed an exploration of the rocky outcrop and beach for the lively and a longer lunch in a splendidly scenic cafe for those more relaxed!



Day five and home at a leisurely pace via Tintern Abbey for coffee and then Bourton on the Water for a Cotswold lunch. Home safe and sound after a delightful break.

**Chris Young, Ravenshead U3A**

# Scenes from the AGM and birthday celebrations June 2017





## Visit to Smedley's hosiery factory at Lea Mills in Derbyshire

If you are like me, you may think of Derbyshire as a place for country walks in beautiful surroundings but if we go back to a time when moving water was the only source of power for machines, many parts of Derbyshire witnessed the start of the industrial revolution.

Nestling in a small valley with a brook at Lea Bridge was a small factory established in 1784 by Peter Nightingale and his associate John Smedley. It has been managed through to the present day by members of the Smedley family and a close community of workers to produce knitted garments originally specialising in underwear (vests and 'Long Johns').

A group of twelve members of the Ravenshead U3A Science and Technology Group enjoyed an interesting morning hearing the history of the management and generations of families who worked at the factory. We were surprised to find out at the beginning of our tour that Florence Nightingale, Peter's daughter, was born in Holloway, and wanted to marry a Vicar, a family relative of one of our Science and Technology group members. However her family did not approve, so it never happened.

To-day Smedley's is a very progressive producer of high quality fine knitted fashion garments which are single fibres or blends of Australian Marino wool and Sea Island cotton. They hold a royal warrant and export their products all over the world. Our tour of the factory reminded us that the buildings were a continuous adaptation of the original stone buildings as new technologies were introduced to the factory, which is evidence of a transformation from a cottage industry.

Throughout the visit we were given thorough explanations of the processes undertaken to ensure a consistently high quality product. We saw machines completing many processes at high speed using thread that was no thicker than normal sewing thread, without breaking it. The first process was preparing the thread for blending.

Typically, the moisture content of both the wool and cotton thread is received by Smedley's at 12%, which is then conditioned and raised to 18% before being spun into a two fibre wool/cotton blend. The thread is passed over a ribbed wheel which is half submerged in the



conditioning fluid, resulting in it being wetted. The dark drum shaped cylinder seen just below the bobbin, has a continuous helical groove machined into the surface, which looks like multiple figure of eights. These grooves guide the thread evenly on to the bobbin.

In the unlikely event of a thread snapping a small device joins the two ends together. Each end is placed in the horizontal groove and held whilst a jet of air is used to blow the fibres apart and blend them into one continuous thread producing a hardly discernable join.



We saw rows and rows of knitting machines producing, garment fronts, backs, sleeves and collars, all to precise measurements for a range of styles and sizes.

All component parts of a garment are inspected for faults in the knitting process before they are made into a whole garment.

Completed garment parts are joined on circular linking machines. The garment piece has to be placed so that every hole is correctly positioned on a needle. There is a row of holes which is slightly larger than the others, which indicates which row should be placed on the needles. You need good eyesight for this work. I was shown the line ..... and could not identify it!



Throughout our tour of the processes I was very aware of the attention given to accuracy and quality at each stage of production. The finished garments are obviously very fine quality and sold to the premium markets.



All our party enjoyed the visit and the friendly and informative role of our two guides.

## **Alan Paul, Science and Technology group**

## The Hikers Group 50th Walk!



The Hikers Group was formed by Steve Hargreaves as a Ravenshead U3A Interest Group in December 2014. Our 50th walk was held on the 16th August 2017. Walk leader Steve Hargreaves led fifteen group members on a seven mile circular walk from Cresswell Crags Visitor Centre. It passed the two Lakes at Welbeck Abbey, through open countryside towards Worksop Manor and returned back to the Cresswell Crags Visitor Centre.

We commemorated our 50th walk with Victoria Sponge Cake made by Sandra Smith and Almond Summer Fruit Cake (raspberries and blackberries) made by Jean Spencer. Jean supplied the plates and napkins, and Prosecco and drinking cups were supplied by Steve Hargreaves.



As well as toasting our 50th Walk we celebrated John and Sue Clay's 56th Wedding Anniversary with sparkling Prosecco wine!

**Steve Hargreaves, Hikers  
Group Leader Ravenshead  
U3A**

## The Pendulum of Life

I can hear your heart beat  
pulsating in the living room.  
Remember how I'd listen in my lonely bed,  
and turning to the empty side  
be comforted.

Recall how you used to have a voice  
and chime each quarter hour,  
serenading whoever listened  
when the hour wound round.

The passing years will never daunt you.  
For whenever the all-clear sounded,  
and we clambered over rubble  
from that hell-hole of destruction,  
you were standing upright on the landing, still  
our guardsman at his post.

So we'll soldier on together  
Through this world of wars declared, few battles won,  
me fading in the waning sun,  
you still ticking to the end.

### **Villia Bullock (Creative writing group leader), June 2017**

*Whatever age, our memories and experiences in life are fodder for any form of creative writing, whether in poetry form or as stories, short or long. We can all put pen to paper or use a computer and just letting one's imagination flow is a very exciting and rewarding hobby. Why not join our group and discover this for yourself? We meet in each other's homes on the third Friday each month, 2-4pm, where we share and appreciate - but above all enjoy one another's written efforts. Contact number xxxxxxxxx*

## Dates for Your Diary

(Always check the website for the latest information!)

**Monthly Meetings** (10.00 a.m. St. Peter's Church, Ravenshead)

- Tue Oct 10th**                    **Britain's Rare Plants;  
Speaker Dr. Fred Rumsey**
- Tue Nov 14th**                   **Black caps and Bird Migration;  
Speaker Prof. David Parkin**
- Tue Dec 12th**                   **The Rose Singers**
- Tue Jan 9th**                    **To be announced**

### Social Events

**Coffee and Conversation**, commencing 10am.

Venue: Room 3, the Centre at St. Peter's (3rd MONDAY of each Month) Dates: **Sep 18th; Oct 16th; Nov 20th; Dec 18th**

**Tues Dec 19th**                -                **CHRISTMAS BASH**

### Occasional Visits

*Details on website 'TRIPS and VISITS' page.*

- Thu Sep 28th**                   **National Media Museum Bradford**
- Fri Oct 13th**                   **Boat Trip on the 'Edward Elgar'**



Tintern Abbey. A brief stop on their return for the U3A holiday travellers!