

Ravenshead U3A Magazine



Promoting Ravenshead U3A at the recent Charities Coffee Morning

Issue No 17: Autumn edition September 2018

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Welcome from the Editor

Welcome to our autumn issue of Ravenshead U3A magazine.

We hope you enjoy the range of articles we have included this time. We have reports and photographs from the AGM, more news from our groups and general information on U3A matters. Marjorie continues her life story and John Senior shares his memories of singing and performing in what we hope may become a new feature entitled "Down Memory Lane". Maybe you would like to submit an article next time!

Thanks to Terry for the front cover photo of myself and Lesley at the Ravenshead U3A display stand at the Charities Coffee Morning at the Village Hall. Other stands included Ready Call, Reach, Guide Dogs, Air Ambulance and Samaritans. We were able to chat to people and promote our activities.

Our next issue is planned for January 2019 so please send any contributions (preferably in word processed form) to myself at xxxxxxxxxxx or phone me on xxxxxxxxxxx. The closing date is Monday, December 3rd.

Judith Moore (editor) Barbara Jukes, David Morton (proof readers),
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	Groups Coordinator
Frances Gilbert	Welfare
Margaret Craddock	Groups Coordinator
Mike Salmon	Committee member
Alan Paul	Web Editor
Terry Moore	Publications and cloud storage
Ian Harrison	Trips and Visits
Trevor Smith	Committee member

Contact Ravenshead U3A committee members via the CONTACT page of our website .

Or Freephone: 0300 030 2990

Thoughts from the Chair



Hello fellow members. I hope you all enjoyed the lovely hot summer we experienced, perhaps a bit too warm for me! I would like just to reflect on our previous year and mention a few things I feel were important, as I did in my trustees' report that not all of you were able to hear at the AGM.

We now have over 400 members which is very encouraging to the continued success of our U3A. We are all increasing our knowledge and expertise in what we are doing and learning in our various groups. These groups are steadily growing and I cannot wait to see what new inventive group comes up next.

What did we achieve in 2017? We have introduced Gift Aid and as a result the membership subscription has been reduced. For the last few months a small group of committee members has been involved in the application and implementation of Beacon, an online management system about which I know Terry Moore has written an article in this and the previous magazine. It is already up and running and all committee members are reaping the benefit and hopefully before long we will be able to transfer our accounts onto Beacon as well. Our speakers have been varied, including our own committee member Alan Paul telling us about his sailing adventures. Ann Barnes gave us a feast of traditional flowers and food of Tudor England, whilst testing us on our history knowledge. Chris Vasper inspired us with his moving account of walking with the wounded across the desert.

There were many interesting trips which everybody enjoyed including a visit to the first RHS flower show to be held at Chatsworth, a cruise down the Gloucester Canal, and many more.

Can I suggest that those who can use our U3A website, which is there for you. It has information on our group activities, and other U3As' news.

And finally a big thank you to all our helpers, welcomers, volunteers, and committee members who help to make our U3A run smoothly, and continue to help us "Live, Learn and Laugh". Enjoy your holidays.

Lesley Green, Ravenshead U3A Chair

URGENT: Treasurer for Ravenshead U3A (January 2019)

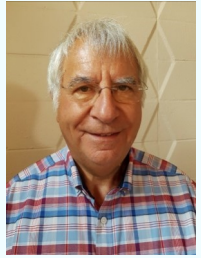
Our current treasurer is completing the accounts for 2018 and then retiring.

WE NEED SOMEONE TO COME FORWARD NOW!

Please let a committee member know of any suitable candidate. We cannot continue as a U3A without this post being filled!

New Committee Member

Dr Trevor Smith



Trevor read Mechanical Engineering at Nottingham University for six years gaining a B.Sc. and Ph.D.. His career then took him to the Gas Council where he was engaged in the development of plastic gas pipes. He returned to Nottingham and worked for Stanton and Staveley Ltd being responsible for their commercial technical operations worldwide. Later he moved to a Nottingham valve company, Hattersley Heaton Ltd. as technical director then to London to head up STC's work on sub-sea umbilicals and well-head connections before becoming the technical manager of their Defence Systems Division setting up a new manufacturing facility and offices in Newport, Gwent. He returned to pipeline and fittings markets when he joined WASK-RMF in Keighley as engineering director and remained there for three years until he was headhunted to become technical director of Kitechnology Ltd which was developing and licensing the manufacture of composite hot water piping and underfloor heating systems, and subsequently, in addition to this role, he became the managing director of their pipe making facility in Germany, and a director of their Indian subsidiary. He returned to UK when the company was sold and joined MBC Components in Ipswich where he was sales director responsible for sales of metal components to the motor industry. Later he joined an American /Costa Rican rubber component operation where he held a multiplicity of roles, UK sales of jointing systems, non America sales of oil industry items, and international sales of railway components. He was later recruited by one of his customers in England to run their international rail components division which he did for 16 years before finally retiring and coming back to Nottinghamshire, where he had started his career.

During his career his experience of technical, manufacturing, sales and marketing, together with legal experience both from a contractual point of view and from appearances in court as a technical witness, and involvement in patent and contractual disputes has given him an all round international outlook which he believes will help him make a positive contribution to U3A.

He has been a frequent flyer and visited many countries around the world and has also been a member of Lions International and president of two clubs. Since the move to Ravenshead he has become a member of Ravenshead and Blidworth Rotary Club. He has been married to Barbara for 52 years.

Calling all dancers.

Twice a month a dedicated group of volunteer callers meets at the “House of Fraser” on Chapel Lane to practise their dances for the following Monday’s meeting of the Country Dancing group. The sessions are hosted by group leaders Alex and Jan Fraser who keep us going with tea and biscuits as we go through our repertoire. Jan plans the programme while Alex and Terry provide the accompaniment on flute and piano accordion and we get a chance to call our traditional dances with such wonderful names as Jack’s Maggot, Ruffy Tufty and The Fair Quaker of Deal.

Like most things the art of calling does take practice and it is important to give your instruction in good time for the dancers to respond to the music. As a caller you have to think ahead, so that you can call ahead. During the dance session you have three main jobs: getting the dancers on the floor in sets, walking the dance through and calling the dance. For a group of people who didn’t know their up a doubles from their Cecil Sharp sidings a couple of years ago we now confidently call such diverse moves as Ladies Chain, Dip and Dive and Petronella Turn and we have been known to throw in a Pothook or two! Don’t worry, it’s not as painful as it sounds. Of course we are not always going to get it right. Part of the fun of dancing is people making mistakes and getting out of them.

At our final callers’ session of the summer we made the most of the beautiful weather by dancing outside and were then treated by Alex and Jan to refreshments in the garden. *(See photograph on the back cover!)* We enjoyed a chat and a glass of wine and even the chickens joined us when they realised there were biscuit crumbs being offered.



It was a lovely way to “break up” for the summer.

Judith Moore, RU3A member

The Country Dancing group meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 2pm to 4pm at the Village Hall. All welcome!

More from Marjorie

The war was nearing its end and everyone was awaiting the declaration. When it came the country was in a state of euphoria. I was in the church hall rehearsing for a play when someone came into the room “It’s over, it’s over!” Everyone rushed around hugging, kissing, laughing and crying. One of our old parishioners who was watching our rehearsal sat, hands resting on his walking stick, head bowed. I will never forget what he said to me. “My dear, you are a product of the first war, you have just lived through the second war and I pray to God you don’t have to live through a third.” Well, so far I haven’t, but there has never been a day in my life when there hasn’t been a war somewhere in the world!

Meanwhile, my engagement to Edmund lasted three years but the relationship was deteriorating rapidly. He had put me on a pedestal but I kept falling off! One day my father asked Edmund what he was going to do after the war. The reply was “Emigrate to Canada and have my own Air Company” The look on my parents’ faces haunted me. They were going to lose their only child from their lives. To make matters worse, one of Edmund’s cousins had recently married and sent me her dress and two bags of sugar. My mother shouted, “Do they think we cannot afford to buy our only daughter her own wedding dress? Send it back at once!” The end was in sight and in front of the high altar in Winchester Cathedral I gave Edmund his ring back. He did go to Canada and married a French Canadian girl. I never saw him again.

I had been writing to Philip who was the cousin of my best friend Milly. He had been captured by the Italians in North Africa and had been a P.O.W. for three years. When I told him about Edmund he had written from a German Stalag: Don’t marry this fellow Edmund. He’s not right for you.

After Edmund I started going out with John, a Lieutenant Colonel stationed in Eaton Square, London and we spent some wonderful weekends there. I would stay at the Strand Palace Hotel, bed and breakfast 10 shillings, but on one occasion I stayed in Eaton Square. John’s fellow officer gave me his bed as he had weekend leave to attend a wedding. That is how I can boast that I slept in the house which eventually became the home of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. I was there first!

In May 1945 I received a scrappy note which read: Would you change one L.C. for another L.C. just for one evening. Love, Philip Philip’s note referred to the fact that he had been a Lance Corporal when captured whereas John was a Lieutenant Colonel. Philip had finally arrived home from Prague, one of the many stalags he had been moved to. He was very thin and his hair was bleached blond by the sun from working on the machinery of a large manufacturing complex. He had no idea of money having handled none for three years. We giggled and laughed about this but he had not lost his sense of humour. I replied to his note: Just for one evening? Love, Marjorie

Well, that one evening led to many more until we became inseparable. A memorable family holiday in Blackpool followed. We joined his mother, sister, brother-in-law and godparents with the proviso that Philip slept in the bathroom and I shared a bed with his mother. I slept with my future mother-in-law before I slept with my husband!

One day Philip and I decided to go swimming off Blackpool's north beach which was still criss-crossed

with wire to stop people or ships landing. Notices warned against swimming at high tide so we consulted the tides timetable and went into the sea as the tide was on the ebb. I soon got into difficulty trying to swim under the wires which were level with my shoulders. Each time the waves came I was pulled under the water. Philip, who was a strong swimmer, came to my rescue, prised my fingers off the wire and hauled me to the pebble beach where I lay until I got my breath back. Then came the surprise: Oh, thank God! I thought you were dead! Will you marry me? My reply: I suppose so, seeing you just saved me!

That night we celebrated in the hotel then returned home to my parents with the news that once again I was engaged. Philip was recalled to the army in September because the war in Burma was still going on. He applied for permission to marry and was granted three days leave in October so the date was set for October 27th.

The ceremony was to take place in my church with two ministers, a Methodist and a Unitarian. My dress of pale azure blue was designed and bought from Marshall and Snelgrove in St. Ann's Square, Manchester. The original design was split high on the leg which my mother thought "too racy" so a second design lengthened the ruched top in order to make the skirt longer. Fortunately, considering that clothes rationing was still in place, the fabric manufacturers were able to provide enough to carry out the alteration. To complete the outfit I wore a headdress of three small ostrich feathers and carried a bouquet of white roses tied with a blue ribbon. I insisted that Philip wore his uniform. The truck which had taken him to the station was an old one and as he jumped down he tore the leg in an L shaped tear. I spent the night before my wedding repairing it



My one bridesmaid was my college friend, Alice as my best friend Molly who was also Philip's cousin was expecting her first baby. Alice's fuchsia coloured dress was a Norman Hartnell design. I still have the original bill for around £29 which was a lot in those days! (*about £1,200 today Ed.*) She wore a blue headdress to match my dress and carried a bouquet of anemones. The best man was Philip's childhood friend Lewis Lee whose wife of one month became a great friend.

Following our reception at the Manchester Midland Hotel a taxi took us to our hotel where I had booked a room. When we arrived a little old lady took us up to our room. She looked at Philip. She looked at me. A pause and then she said, "Do you think you can manage?" We looked at each other and burst into giggles. I had only booked for one in my name. There was only a single bed in the room. The next day we travelled by train to London and then on to Pangbourne where Philip was stationed. As the train arrived the other soldiers made a guard of honour for us to walk in style. A good start to our honeymoon but just wait to hear the rest! Oh Marjorie, why do these things keep happening to you!

Marjorie Eyre, RU3A member

Beacon News

Beacon (the membership management system for U3As) is being used at committee level and so far so good!

Sue Owen, the Membership Secretary, is making good use of the membership facility within Beacon and thinks it works well. It is much more 'user friendly' and better than the old system of using Excel spreadsheets.

All committee members have the facility to use Beacon to email members about any topic that falls within their remit. You may have noticed these emails coming from various committee members with this in the address of the sender:

..... **via Ravenshead U3A <noreply@u3abeacon.org>**

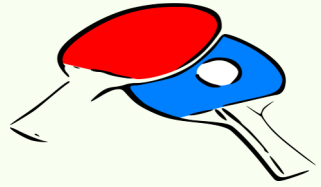
Often this is the first line: **Please ensure that any reply goes to and not to any other default address.**

Please be assured that any email with these headings are genuine and should be opened. Clicking 'reply' works as normal and you should see the email address of the person you are replying to in the 'To: box' at the top of the email. (The 'no reply' bit isn't relevant at this time.) The next step with Beacon is to introduce it to Group Leaders, so that they can take advantage of some of the features: to keep in touch with the members of their group, monitor group finances and to add or delete members from the group.

(continued on page 17)



SPOTLIGHT ON THE Table Tennis Group



The table tennis group meets from 2-3pm at the Ravenshead Leisure Centre on the first and third Mondays of the month, (with an occasional fifth Monday thrown in!) The group was started by group leader John Clay and has been running since June 2016. I asked John why he started the group and he explained: *I have always been*

reasonably good playing most racquet sports. When I reached the age when I felt I was not able to compete I decided to revert to table tennis. I found that I was playing with people a lot older than me; ex league players who were so agile and alert. So I thought it was a good idea to form the group. Table tennis is so good for people that are getting on a bit. It improves your reactions, keeps you fit, even if it's only by picking the ball off the floor, and it's good for you mentally by keeping the score. Since forming the group I have had so much satisfaction seeing people improve and their fitness levels improve. Some are even coping with the scoring.

We can set up four tables in the small sports hall so depending on attendance we can accommodate up to four doubles matches. We try to swap partners and opponents during the hour so we get a chance to play with or against different people. Currently the group is classed as full, but if you are interested contact John Clay for information through Ravenshead U3A website groups page.

Those of us who go along have ranged from absolute beginners to more experienced players but have all benefitted and hopefully improved with practice. It is a thoroughly enjoyable way to spend an hour on a Monday afternoon.

Judith Moore,
RU3A member



Group Displays at the AGM 2018

This was my first AGM as group co-ordinator and I must admit, I was a little bit apprehensive. But, as usual, the groups stepped up to make the displays a success. The Photography Group had prepared a presentation of photos taken throughout the year on a variety of subjects. This was shown in church after the formal AGM business.

It was then to the Centre for refreshments where members were treated to displays from various groups.

A further PowerPoint presentation by the Birding Group ran on a continuous loop showing us some beautiful photos of birds together with where they were taken.

The Craft Group and Knitting and Crochet Groups had been very busy as usual showcasing some beautiful work.

The Art and Pastels Groups had fantastic pictures on display and Jane was also demonstrating how to do a picture. Members could also have a go themselves.

The Gardening Group gave us information on some of their trips and visits as did the Science and Technology Group whilst we were challenged by the Cryptic Crossword Group to complete a crossword. I did try, honestly, but it was way beyond me.

The Scrabble Challenge is an AGM favourite and, as usual, drew a lot of interest and I believe two members achieved the challenge.

I also managed to get a volunteer to take on our Thursday Walking Group – although it may not happen on a Thursday – so keep an eye on the website.

We do have a wide range of talents in our U3A. I feel quite inadequate at the side of you all. So a big thank you to all the groups who volunteered displays and contributed to the success of the morning - it wasn't my doing at all. One member even asked if we could do it more often as it had been a lovely social occasion.

Thank you also to our refreshments people who do an amazing job every month to get us fed and watered in such a short time.

A lot of group leaders were on holiday in June. Perhaps I'll get you next time.

Please!

Margaret Craddock, RU3A Group Co-ordinator



**Members enjoy the
AGM 2018**



My Musical Memories

My first singing experience would have been in Newgate Lane Junior School Choir when the choir won the Blue Boy prize, I would have been about ten years old. When I got to senior school I was in the choir but I remember how much I hated being on stage. I would stand right at the back hoping no one could see me. This now amuses me as since then I have virtually lived on stage in different guises. After school I stood next to my dad in the Nottingham Road Methodist Church Choir. It was a good choir with perhaps around thirty or forty turning up each Sunday including my uncle and aunt, two cousins, my mum, my dad and me. We enjoyed the annual augmented choir oratorios such as Messiah. Something that I really miss these days is singing the harmony to hymns; this was always done with this choir. Many of you may remember the great sounds that harmonious hymn singing can create, very rarely heard nowadays. My dad had a habit of dropping to sleep during the sermons which was okay, but I always had the problem of how to wake him up. If I poked him it would almost always make him jump and shout out so I would sit there nudging him with my knee usually managing to wake him just before the retiring hymn. Dad was brilliant at playing hymns on the piano and like many families in those days we spent many hours around the piano singing countless numbers as they came from the piles of music. I used to love singing when I was on my own; I started work as a painter and decorator and often would paint schools during half term. When a classroom was about finished I would often end up in the room on my own finishing the doors and skirtings. You would never believe what a wonderful sound an empty classroom makes when singing at the top of your voice such things as Fishermen of England or perhaps Mario Lanza's Serenade or Drinking Song. Great! I was brilliant: get thee behind me Pavarotti!



I then got my experiences of stage work when I spent some time with Phoenix Players, Mansfield Operatic, Mansfield Folkhouse Pantomimes and Masque Productions. We covered the usual stage productions White Horse Inn, Oklahoma, Carousel and so on. One show I remember well was 'The Best Little Whore House in Texas'. This was exceptional, as all the ladies and girls of the cast, including Angela, were running around the stage in their underwear. Angela happily joined in the fun as can be seen in the adjacent photo.

I started Male Voice Choir singing at Mansfield MVC around 1970 and was then talked into singing in Mansfield Operatic's production of The Music Man when someone pulled out at the last minute. In this show a quartet of male singers stand at the front of the stage all in darkness with just the spotlight on them. I or we, I am not sure which, were terrible, it was by far the worst singing moment in my life. Trouble is, the worse it got the worse it felt. I was sweating buckets every night of the show. Even though we practised during the day it was still as bad at the next performance.

My next musical venture was singing with a medieval minstrels troupe and a skiffle group. This was mostly great fun and something totally different. We performed at castles, jousting tournaments, mediaeval banquets, pubs and clubs all over the country. It is no exaggeration when I say that at some venues people from all over the world would clamour for our autographs. This was a great experience which lasted for about five years and also gave me the opportunity of getting an Equity Card. These were always difficult to get, as it appeared to be a chicken and egg situation where applications for stage work could only be considered if one had an Equity Card yet the only way to get one was to show you had done paid work in the entertainment industry. From then I was able to get work in many of the TV soap operas like Coronation Street and Emmerdale Farm as an extra. I remember taking the part of Lord High Chancellor in one episode and an Irish navy in another so this shows the variety of parts offered.

I had gone along to join Carlton MVC around 1981. I went for a while and passed the audition, but realised that the commitment was too much at the time alongside the Kick n' Rush skiffle group and Robin Hood's Minstrels. I spent some time at Nottingham Police Choir but I had always said that if I were to go back to Male Voice Choir singing, the choir to go to was Carlton, as some of the tenor singers at that time were brilliant. I rejoined Carlton in 1999 and have sung with them ever since.

I had done some pantomime work with Westfield Folk House Pantomimes in the past. In 1993 Angela and I left the Mansfield Operatic Society and started pantomimes with Big Barn Lane Methodist Church. These went on annually for the next 21 years, with just two years off because of holidays. Although these were church



pantomimes we thought the standard was very high. The scripts, sets, and costumes were good. Over the years we have played some great characters. We really enjoyed the challenge of working out how to create and portray the different characters and Angela's sewing skills were invaluable in costume design and making.



I am still a singing member of Carlton Male Voice Choir and enjoying it having recently moved from the Top Tenors to the Baritone Section. We don't do stage work any-more but who knows what is ahead of us?

I have enjoyed looking back through my time singing and on stage. So much so, that some time I may attempt doing the same with the rest of my life.

John Senior, RU3A member

Do you have any stories from your past that you would like to share? Maybe "Down Memory Lane" could become a regular feature. Ed.

Trips and Visits

We have a number of proposed trips and visits in the programme at this time and a considerable number of interested people who would like to partake in them. However these trips will not happen if volunteers from the 400 plus Ravenshead U3A membership do not come forward to organise and run them.

The trips are always successful and if anyone has a suggestion for a visit to a place or location of interest, bring them to my attention and when approved take the necessary steps to organise them.

The process is very simple; get the trip approved, select a date, get costs of entry and we will produce an advert for the trip. At the next available U3A meeting put out an expression of interest sheet and let the membership do the rest. A deposit can be collected at this time. When the approximate numbers are known, contact a local bus company/community bus (advice on these is available) and obtain costs of the travel. We can circulate the whole cost (travel and entry cost) get confirmation of numbers wanting to go and collect the money. This can be simply by cheque payable to the Ravenshead U3A.

All the details of how to organise trips are available on the Ravenshead U3A website. Have a go and see how satisfying it can be.

Ian Harrison, RU3A Trips and Visits Co-ordinator

Hiking in North Norfolk.

Eight members of the Hikers group joined John and Sue Clay for two days walking in North Norfolk.

Weybourne circular approx. 6 miles.

The first walk started at the beach car park in the village of Weybourne. The route took us inland in a southerly direction by road to Weybourne railway station. The station is one of the stations serving the "Poppy Line " which runs from Holt to Sheringham. We made this a coffee stop and gave everyone the opportunity to explore this Victorian station. It was like going back in time, the gentlemen' loo creating some amusement. We then crossed the line by the railway bridge and walked parallel with the line until we crossed at "Wind Pump" crossing onto Kelling Heath. Kelling Heath is a fine example of Oceanic heathland and birds such as Nighthjar, Whitethroat and Treepipit are to be seen. After Kelling we took the coastal path leading back to Weybourne. The path is shingle which was one pace forward and two paces back. On reaching Weybourne we all retired to the Ship Inn for well earned refreshments.

Cley next the Sea circular approx 9 miles.

The next day, 11th. July, the group met at the car park in Cley. We proceeded to walk the North Norfolk coastal path to Blakeney passing the famous Cley Windmill and Cley marshes most noted for wildlife including the Marsh Harrier and Bearded Tit. On arrival at Blakeney we had a coffee break and then continued along the coastal path before turning inland over Blakeney Downs where we had a picnic lunch. We then continued over Wiverton Down to the village of Glandford, where we enjoyed a light refreshment at The Art cafe. We continued through the village passing the Shell museum over the ford of the River Glavon, along country lanes where we came upon the village green of Cley. We then walked through the grounds of the 14th century church back to the car park.



John Clay, RU3A Hikers group.

Visit to Nottingham University

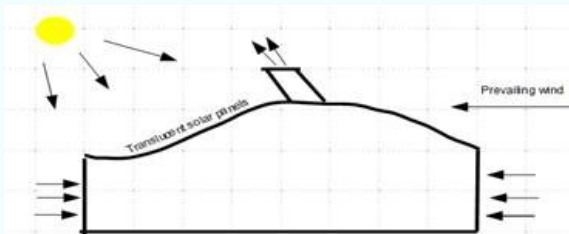
The Ravenshead U3A Science and Technology group had a very interesting visit to the sustainable chemistry department at Nottingham



University in July. Nottingham University is rated within the top 1% of the world's universities, and ranked eighth in the UK for the effects of its research programmes. Research work in the use of carbon neutral alternative materials at Nottingham has generated £1billion of commercial activity in the Derby and Nottingham area of the East Midlands.

Not all of the materials we use for products are recyclable. Copper is recyclable. We individually use 170 kg (374lbs) of copper in our life time and the current rate of use represents twice the world's mining activity since the world began.

Little has changed over the last 200 years in the world's use of resources to provide housing and commercial accommodation. The carbon neutral building recently constructed at Nottingham University is an experiment in making changes in building techniques and the alternative use of sustainable materials that have a low impact on world resources. This building is substantially a laminated timber



structure grown in Eastern Europe, which is sustainable over a 25 years life cycle. The building is heated by the use of a biomass and solar heating, and less water than average is used by using re-cycling techniques.

The building is orientated with the longer curved side of the roof, which is covered with translucent solar panels, facing south west. As the prevailing wind passes over the curved roof it creates a vortex which pulls the internal air in the building out through the roof vents, ventilating the building. Despite the use of a high energy MMR spectrometer, which uses a quarter of the building's energy supply, the solar panels are able to feed a surplus supply into the national grid.

The techniques used in the occupation of this building, compared with a building of similar size and of traditional construction, uses 30% less energy..

We enjoyed three presentations about the research work, developing ways in which natural sustainable materials can be used to replace the finite material resources that

are currently being extracted from the earth, to make everyday products, such as plastic products, fuel, clothing and medicine.

Techniques are being developed in the use of naturally occurring compounds called terpenes. Terpenes are the major components of resin and turpentine produced from resin. The name "terpene" is derived from the word turpentine. Terpenes and terpenoids are the primary constituents of essential oils used in many types of medicinal oils and flowers and steroids. They are a large and diverse class of organic compounds produced by a variety of plants, particularly conifers, and by some insects.

Nottingham University research has been instrumental in developing carbon neutral polymers, used in plastic products, clothes, phones and computer tablets, medical tissue engineering (replacement hips etc.) plastic bags and bank notes. All of this can be done by creating biodegradable products and scratch resistant coatings.

Our visit included a conducted tour of the building where we were shown its unique features and finished with a welcome lunch provided by the university.

Alan Paul, RU3A Science and Technology Group

Beacon News

(continued from page 8)

REMINDER! the **group leaders** have a meeting on 3rd October. Part of this will be the introduction of Beacon for group leaders. If you are a group leader, please try to attend.

Looking to 2019, we hope to be able to use the finance side of Beacon which makes the Treasurer's job easier too. With Alan Wilson stepping down at the AGM in 2019 we are now looking for any potential Treasurer out there who would be prepared to give it a go. Please let any committee member know if you are a retired accountant or bookkeeper with computer skills and willing to help your U3A. You may attend a committee meeting if you wish and certainly we would encourage you to talk to our present Treasurer Alan and our Assistant Treasurer Sue Owen. Ravenshead U3A cannot function without a Treasurer.

At a later date, we also hope to introduce you to the members' portal where you will be able to log in to monitor your own membership and group activities.

Terry Moore, RU3A committee and Beacon Administrator

RAVENSHED U3A – INTEREST GROUPS

Group Name	Leader	Phone	Meeting Day and Time	Location	Full
Antiques	David Turner Maureen Smith		Monthly TBC	Members' Homes	No
Angling	Lionel Castle		Please ring for details		No
Art Gallery/Museum	David Turner		Various visits to be arranged	Please contact for details	No
Bird watching	Graham Jukes Tony Wardell		Usually once a month	Please contact for details	No
Bridge for Beginners	Maria Gabrielczyk		Various times and dates	At leaders home	No
Canasta	Trevor Davy		2 nd and 4 th Tues 2 – 4pm	Brammer Room	No
Chess and Backgammon	Jan Fraser		1 st & 3 rd 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	David Turner		Friday of the week following the U3A monthly meeting	Members' Homes	No
Cryptic Crossword	Frances Gilbert		9.00 – 10.45 Thursday	Members' Homes	No
Current Affairs	Carol Wright		3 rd Wednesday 2 -3.30	Brammer Room	No
Family History	Barbara Jukes		4 th Tuesday 10-12	Brammer Room	No
Folk Dancing	Alex Fraser		2 nd & 4 th Mon 2 - 4pm	Ravenshead Village Hall	No
French Conversation	Brian Machin		1 st & 3 rd Mon 10.00-11.30.	Please telephone for details	Full
French Conversation 2	Anick Spence		1 st & 3 rd Mon 2 – 4pm	Anick's house	Full
Gardening	Elizabeth Clarkson		Various dates and locations	See group web page	No
Guitar	John Bewick		1 st & 3 rd 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 st and 3 rd Friday	Brammer Room, Village Hall	No
Latin	David Morton		2 nd & 4 th Wed -9.30 - noon	Room 3 the Centre	Full
Local History	Judith Walker		2pm – 4pm 2 nd Tuesday	Room 3 The Centre	No
Luncheon Club	Chris Dean		Various locations monthly	See group web page	No
Mah Jong	Anne Eldridge Jennifer Philby		1 st & 3 rd Tuesday 2-4 pm	Brammer Room, Village Hall	No
Music Appreciation 1	Joan Harvey		2 nd Tuesday 2.00 – 4.00	Members' Homes	Full
Music Appreciation 2	David Turner		3 rd Tuesday 1.30 – 3.00	Members' Homes	No
Painting	Mary Abbott		2 nd Monday 1.30 – 3.30	The Centre	No
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	Members' Homes	No

Reading Group 1	Pat Brown		3 rd Tuesday 2.30pm	Members' Homes	Full
Reading Group 2	Carol Payze		3 rd Tuesday 2pm	Carol's house	No
Science and Technology	Alan Paul		1 st Friday in month	The Centre	No
Scrabble Cribbage Rummikub 1	Susanne Smith		3 rd Tuesday 10am	Brammer Room	No
Scrabble Cribbage Rummikub 2	Leslie Newey		1 st Tuesday 7.30pm-9.30pm	Brammer Room	No
Spanish	Joyce Capps		2 nd and 4 th Mondays at 11am	Member's Homes	No
Table Tennis	John Clay		2pm-3pm 1 st & 3 rd Monday	Cornwater Leisure Centre	Full
Thursday Walks now Short Walks	Graham Munroe		1 st Wednesday of the month	Details on the website or contact Graham	No
Trips and Visits	Ian Harrison		Various times and locations	Please see website for details	
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 rd Friday	Members' homes	Full
Wine Group 2	Brenda Beale		3 rd Tuesday	Members' homes	Full
Wine Group 3	Michael Neville		2 nd Monday	Members' homes	Full
Wine Group 4	To be confirmed		3 rd Tuesday	Members' homes	Full
Wine Group 5	Sue Tidbury		1 st 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 9.30-11.00 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.

The old Thursday walking group has now changed to Short Walks which will take place on the first Wednesday of the month. Contact :

Graham Monro: xxxxxxxx or Paul Craddock: xxxxxxxx for details.

To post a message contact the Editor!

Dates for Your Diary

(Always check the website for the latest information!)

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

Oct 9th Yesteryear Acapella: Speaker Kevin Wilkinson

Nov 13th Gardens of the World: Speaker J.P.Bates

Dec 11th Welcome to my World: Speaker William French

Jan 8th The Great Fire Of London: Speaker Paul Newsham

Social Events

Coffee and Conversation, commencing 10am.

Venue: Room 3, the Centre at St. Peter's (3rd MONDAY of each Month) **Dates: Sep 17th, Oct 15th, Nov 19th, Dec 17th.**

Christmas Celebration 2018 at Portland College. Tue Dec 18th
Further details to be advertised.

Occasional Visits

Details on website 'TRIPS and VISITS' page.

Sun Oct 28th Thursford Christmas Show, Jackie Salmon.

Some new occasional visits are being prepared but we need volunteers to lead them. More details and the collection of 'expressions of interest' will be available at future monthly meetings, and on the website.



The RU3A dance callers enjoy a well earned rest!