

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING - 10 am on TUESDAY 9th APRIL 2024

POP IN TO OUR DROP-IN COFFEE MORNING **Saturday 27th April - 10.30am until 12 noon**



We'll be at The Centre at St Peter's in Sheepwalk Lane to meet current members and those who haven't joined yet but would like to know more!

**Come along and say hello (and bring a friend!)
Find out about our Interest & Activity Groups
Book one of our many Organised Day Trips
Ask any questions you have about our u3a**

Our next monthly meeting will take place on **Tuesday 9th April** at 10am at St Peter's Church on Sheepwalk Lane, Ravenshead, when our keynote speaker will be Ru3a Member

Phil Cooper:

The Rainforests of the Austrians

An illustrated talk about a trip to Costa Rica and his involvement with an international Austrian conservation charity. He will be fundraising for the cause, so **please bring cash to the meeting!**

u3a

April Monthly Meeting

Tuesday 9th April 2024 10 am
St. Peter's Church
Ravenshead

Speaker: Phil Cooper

Title: "The Birds and Beasts of Costa Rica and Rainforests of the Austrians"

A talk from Ravenshead u3a member Phil Cooper about a trip to Costa Rica featuring exotic wildlife and the conservation project 'The Rainforest of the Austrians'.



Join us for an enjoyable meeting with chat, refreshments and socialising in the break, plus news of Ru3a groups, events & trips!

Please remember to bring your own mug for tea or coffee, and we'll provide the biscuits!

Torquay Coach Holiday
2 Excursions
Leaves 28th September for 5 days
ONLY £355 pp
Join us for an Alfa Travel Coach Holiday to the English Riviera

Join us for a 5 day / 4 night Coach Holiday to

Torquay

More Details on Page 4

What have our Belly Dancing Group been doing during March?



Read about their latest performance on Page 7



Chair's Chat

Catch up with what John Butler has to say on Page 18

RAVENSHEAD u3a 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING**

We give formal notification that the 2024 Annual General Meeting of Ravenshead u3a (Charity No: 1154123) will take place at
10am on Tuesday 14th May 2024
at St Peter's Church, Sheepwalk Lane,
Ravenshead NG15 9FD

**ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING**

Please find links below to view/download the :

Notification/Agenda

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/r/ravenshead/docs/ru3anoticecumagendaagm2024.pdf>

2023 Approved Accounts

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/r/ravenshead/docs/signedaccounts202321736.pdf>

Minutes of the 2023 AGM

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/r/ravenshead/docs/ru3aminutesof2023agmrev.01.pdf>

Committee Nomination Form

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/r/ravenshead/docs/agm-nomination-form-2024.pdf>

**Completed Nomination Forms for election to the committee are to be with John Butler, RU3A Chairman, by
FRIDAY 12th April 2024**

To be handed in at our April Monthly Meeting, submitted by hand at 4 Mavis Avenue NG15 9EB
or sent by email to ravensheadu3a@gmail.com

Nominations are now invited from members to fill the following key roles on our Committee :

Treasurer
Business Secretary
Social Treasurer
Committee Members (without portfolio)

PLEASE GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO JOINING THE COMMITTEE IN ONE OF THESE POSITIONS

We are also looking for
Independent Examiner
(non-committee role) to verify our annual accounts for 2024 and beyond

MEET & EAT GROUP (FORMERLY LUNCHEON GROUP)

The next "Meet and Eat" will be an afternoon tea at Forever Green in Ransom Wood on 23rd May with a 2pm start.

This is being organised by Jennie & Steve Kerr. The cost will be £16 but a £5 deposit is required. Numbers are required by 23rd April. Steve will be at the next main meeting on 9th April to collect deposits.

If you prefer you can pay by BACS into the Ravenshead U3A social account quoting reference "Forever Green" followed by your membership number.

Contact details for booking are in the Beacon Group diary.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM OUR Ru3a SPEAKER - PHIL COOPER

THE RAINFOREST OF THE AUSTRIANS - COSTA RICA

My presentation showcases video (and some still photographs) taken on my 2018 trip to this fabulous country.

There are some unique shots of sloths, one mother and child and another of a rarely seen encounter between two alpha male sloths.

Of course Costa Rica is well known for its bird life. While many will have seen humming birds, (as I have) it was a superb sight to be close to these magnificent birds as they weaved their way around us lumbering giants.

I never grow weary of watching these creatures. Fellow traveller Bob Mason provided some outstanding photos - its a must for ornithologists.

Howler, Spider and Capuchin monkeys using their prehensile tail to move from branch to branch provide an often amusing spectacle. Other animals featured are the Tent Maker Bats and White Lined Bats, Agouti, Coati, Caiman and Green Iguana.

Although not an ornithologist, brightly coloured birds such as Toucans, Curassow, Acorn Woodpecker, Scarlet Macaw, Flame Tanager and Emerald Toucanet, I find a delight to watch, particularly watching them feeding.

The places visited represent the full variety of environments, from high altitude cloud forest (at Savegre) , to transitional forest (Manuel Antonio Reserve), to tropical wet forest (Tortuguero) to rainforest (Esquinas).

The photo is a cheeky Capuchin monkey who stole the lunch of one of our party.

In the title I mention the Rainforest of the Austrians.

The inspirational Michael Schnitzler who as a conservationist has obtained over \$4 Million from his Austrian sources to purchase land and develop Esquinas Lodge.

Amazingly he has done this in between travelling to between Costa Rica and Austria, where he is an internationally admired violinist and concertmaster with the Vienna Johann Strauss Orchestra.

I have talked to Michael and any contributions will go to help purchase more land for reforestation.

If members wish to they can individually (or in groups) contribute by donating £5 to buy 10 square metres of land for reforestation. This helps sustain species under that land and also helps to lock in more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Please note that as a u3a member, we are unable to pay Phil Cooper the speaker fee that we normally pay to outside speakers, so we urge you to
PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO HIS CAUSE AT OUR APRIL MEETING



RAVENSHEAD u3a ALFA TRAVEL COACH HOLIDAY TRIP TO TORQUAY



Torquay

Coach Holiday 2 Excursions

Leaves 28th September for 5 days

ONLY
£355
pp

Join us for an Alfa Travel Coach Holiday to the English Riviera

Accommodation will be 5 day / 4 night Half Board at the **Metropole Hotel, Torquay**, which is located within a few minutes walk of the harbour, marina, seafront with its sandy beaches and the town centre shopping area.

The Metropole Hotel features a bar, extensive lobby, lounge, and a large entertainment room. A full Leisureplex menu plus the Chef's nightly specials are served in the bright, airy dining room.

All guest bedrooms are en-suite and feature Freeview TV and tea/coffee making facilities. Rooms are mainly Double or Twin beds, and your preference should be stated on booking. A very small number of single rooms are available. Seaview rooms are available for a supplement of £35.

Included in the itinerary is one day at your leisure in Torquay, and two full-day coach excursions.

We will be visiting **Plymouth**, the famous maritime City with its historic Barbican district, Hoe & Sound, and **Teignmouth**, the Gem of South Devon, with its pier and Georgian architecture.

A Deposit of £50 pp is payable upon booking. **Contact Halinka Rajchel, Ravenshead u3a's Trips Coordinator** to book your place, and bring cheques made out to "Alfa Travel" to a Ravenshead u3a Monthly Meeting or a Weekend Group meeting. You can also deliver or post cheques to Halinka at an address she will advise. There is an option to pay Alfa Travel directly by bank transfer/credit/debit card, but speak to Halinka in the first instance to book.

Alfa Travel Limited are an employee owned company based in Chesterfield, and are members of the Bonded Travel Organisers Trust ABTOT
They are a company registered in England and Wales with company number 02326610.
Their registered office is at Alfa Building, Euxton Lane, Euxton, Chorley, Lancashire, PR7 6AF.
See their Booking Conditions at <https://www.alfatravel.co.uk/booking-conditions> including a Travel Insurance requirement
See their Travellers Rights Statement at <https://www.alfatravel.co.uk/traveller-rights/>



Contact Halinka Rajchel on 07762 802112
or email her at trips@ravensheadu3a.org.uk



CAIRNGORM TRAVEL HIGHLAND HOUSE PARTY HOLIDAY WITH ASHFIELD U3A



HIGHLAND HOUSE PARTY HOLIDAY - 5 DAYS 4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD

DEPARTING SUNDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2025

DUKE OF GORDON HOTEL, KINGUSSIE VILLAGE, SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

COST : £305 per person

Ashfield u3a organiser Caroline Rhoades has negotiated a bespoke Highland House Party for u3a members, and the cost includes all excursions and admissions.

The hotel is located in the village of Kingussie and looks out across the Spey Valley and Cairngorms National Park. All rooms enjoy private facilities, and the comfortable and welcoming lounge bar offers a choice of over 50 whiskies from Scottish distilleries.

Evening entertainment takes place in the Ruthven ballroom with traditional folk dancing and a weekly Ceilidh.

The main itinerary will be as follows : Sunday 23rd February 2025 coach pick up at Kirkby and Newstead Abbey Gates. If there is demand we will also pick up from Mansfield.

Three Excursions are included :

- Eilean Donan full day out with comfort stop at Spean Bridge Mill
- Funicular Railway ride on the Cairngorm mountain. With stop off at Aviemore in the afternoon.
- Red Deer Sanctuary where you will have the opportunity to feed and see these magnificent creatures. Afterwards there will be a stop off at the highland town of Pitlochry for a chance to explore the town.

Your holiday also includes :

- Full Highland breakfast
- Candlelight evening meals with 5 courses at each meal. Please let Caroline know if you have any special dietary requirements.
- Entertainment every evening
- On several evenings, guests are piped into dinner by a piper in full highland dress
- An evening of traditional Scottish Ceilidh... bring your dancing shoes and be prepared to fling the tartan!!

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHEQUES OUT TO CAIRNGORM TRAVEL
Speak to or email Caroline Rhoades to book or for more information

07724210563

crhoades159@gmail.com

CAIRNGORM TRAVEL ARE FULLY BONDED WITH ABTOT - MEMBER 7095

GROUPS UPDATE FROM ANNE ELDRIDGE - GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR

If anyone needs any further information on the following, please contact Anne by email at: groups@ravensheadu3a.org.uk or the relevant Group Leader via the **website**.



1. EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

If anyone is interested in joining one of these possible new Groups, please contact me.

- 1.1. Play Reading - The Planning meeting booked for 21st February had to be postponed. A further date will be organised shortly.
- 1.2. Art Appreciation - Visits to galleries, talks etc envisaged.
- 1.3. Madrigal Singing - unaccompanied singing, no experience necessary.
- 1.4. 'Sewing' - No precise focus as yet but open to all ideas - what sort of sewing would you like to see?

2. BITE SIZED SESSIONS

15 members took part in our first, highly successful, Tai-Chi Workshop. Huge thanks must go to Joan Geddes who facilitated the Workshop for her enthusiasm and introducing us to this gentle form of exercise. Plans are afoot to hold a further Tai-Chi Workshop so "watch this space".

We would like to run more of these Bite-Sized sessions which may be on any subject or interest you wish. I would love to hear from any of you who feel you could facilitate a Workshop or even run two or more sessions at regular intervals. This is an opportunity for those who do not want the time commitment to become a Group Leader.

You don't need to be an expert - all you need is enthusiasm for your subject.

If you feel you may be able to contribute, please contact me via the website and we can discuss what is involved with absolutely no obligation if you don't feel comfortable with progressing it.

3. NEW GROUP - BRIDGE BUDDIES

The emphasis of this new Group is for players of all levels of expertise to enjoy a game in a relaxed friendly environment. Cindy and Paul Rossiter are the Group Leaders and Meetings will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Brammer Room at the Village Hall. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd May and if anyone wishes to join them, please contact Cindy via the website.

4. MOST RECENTLY FORMED GROUP

Molky (Finnish Skittles) is now up and running and meeting on the second and fourth Thursday of every month from 11 am until 12 noon outside the Village Hall.

No experience is necessary but, as this is played outside, suitable clothing is needed. For more information about the game, please contact the Group Leader, **Ray Hardy**, via the website or just turn up at the meeting.



5. SHOWCASED GROUP AT OUR APRIL MEETING

Our Showcased Group at the April monthly meeting will be the **Pickleball Group**, led by GLs **John Clay & Alan Ratcliffe**. The group meets at 1.45pm on the 1st & 3rd Friday of the month at the Leisure Centre. Meet them both and some other group members at the table display at the back of the room.

OUR BELLY DANCERS PUT ON A SHOW!**BELLY DANCING GROUP**

In March our group were invited to perform at an event (called a hafla) in Mansfield to help raise money to donate to Macmillan Cancer Trust, and we had two dances to perform.

We had practiced them at our group sessions and although we, well me ;) got mixed up, and forgot some moves plus on the day, as the music wasn't the one we were all used to, but we had a fun afternoon, and the ladies were fabulous as always.

We were able to watch dance troupes from other areas and different styles of dance too.

The event raised a fantastic £480.

Our u3a regular "shimmy shaker" sessions take place on the 1st and 3rd Thursday at 12.45 till 2.15pm at @ The Centre at St Peter's

For more information about the Group contact **Group Leader - Sue Clipson** via the website.



NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS

ARMCHAIR TRAVELLERS GROUP

In March the group's meeting was all about Costa Rica, a country where Trevor Smith had personal experience, having worked for a Costa Rican American Company and at one stage he was asked to work at Forth Worth Texas, but this was changed to be in the factory in Costa Rica. In the end Trevor did not take up the offer.

As the group settled down they started by listening to some relaxing Costa Rican music with a wonderful and beautiful video of the country, the wildlife including the beautiful birds, and the volcanoes.

Then they got down to business. They learnt that Costa Rica does not have an army and instead it spent its money on the education of young people. As a result the economy has moved from being dependent on coffee, bananas and pineapples to being more reliant on higher technology products and over 35% of their exports are now in medical devices.



The country is a democratic country with new governments elected every 4 years. There is virtually no corruption in the country and all Government Ministers have to put their financial interests in Trust whilst they are a member of the Government.

This set the scene for a tourists view of the country. Firstly it was apparent that Costa Rica is not a third world country. Its towns looked smart and busy and the tarmac roads looked reasonable (but busy) although there are some dirt roads to get to out of the way places.

We saw amazing wildlife, whilst travelling down river or at sea, with lots of spectacular waterfalls including hot a cold streams running almost side by side.

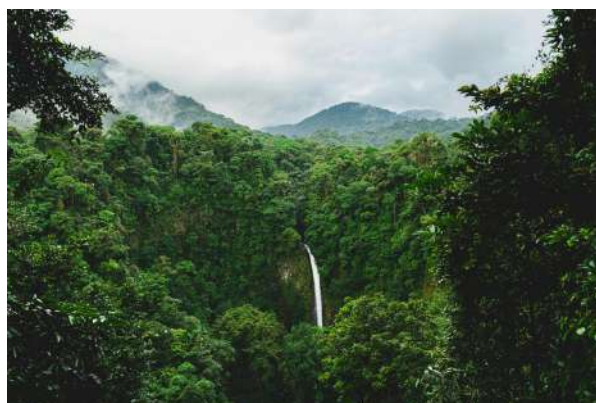
Our guide was an American, and he was constantly stopping to eat. The burgers he consumed were always enormous. The lodges and hotels he stayed in were large, looked interesting and were often hidden in the jungle. The volcanos were a sight to see.

The group were only showed a limited amount of the videos Trevor had added in his prepared presentation, however a they often told the same story but from a different perspective.

We were left with a feeling that Costa Rica is a beautiful country with plenty of sights to keep you occupied whilst on holiday. Clearly there is a need to tour around to get the best of the country.

The next meeting in April will be somewhat different, when we visit Corsica, well known to people who watch National Geographic or Discovery channels.

For more information about the Group contact **Group Leader - Trevor Smith** via the website.



NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS

FOOD & COOKERY GROUP

In early March many of the group members enjoyed a rare outing to Fletcher's training restaurant in Nottingham for a lovely three course lunch.

The building is part of New College Nottingham, on Canal Street and is very easy to reach by tram.

For starters there was a varied choice of either punchy hot smoked salmon on sourdough toast, a deliciously creamy soup of the day or ham hock with piccalilli and white bean dressing.

Main courses included the, in our case very popular, Beef Bourguignon with chive mashed potato, Bouillabaisse with rouille and fresh bread or Mediterranean vegetable cannelloni with broccoli, cauliflower and beurre blanc. Most people went with the beef which was delicious but a somewhat small portion.

The desserts were also well received being either lemon tart with raspberry sorbet, dark chocolate mousse, with crème de cacao shooter, or tropical fruits with passionfruit sabayon.

We enjoyed talking to the young serving staff who are about to take their end of year assessments. We hope to make another visit this year, possibly for Christmas dinner.

Our April meeting in a member's home will be themed "Food Around the World". It will be interesting to see how many different cuisines will be represented.

Hopefully nobody will be serving any Vietnamese eel dishes or Thai locusts!

Maria Gabrielczyk - Group leader - Contact her through the link on the website.



WRITING FOR FUN GROUP

Our Writing for Fun group meets once a month, usually the second Thursday of the month, at Larch Farm. The session commences between 1pm and 2pm so that those who want to eat a pub meal come at 1pm and then our writing for fun session starts at 2pm. We finish anytime after 3pm.

We work as a team, although we also read out any work we have written at home which we want to share with our group. So far we have written recognised forms of poetry, such as limericks, haikus, acrostics, nonets and abecedarians but we have also written pieces of prose e.g. One hundred words exactly which is quite a challenge.

A nonet consists of nine lines, the first line has nine syllables, the second line has eight syllables and so on. We bring in pictures from magazines to write about or choose our own topics.

An exciting and fun activity involves us writing one line and then passing the paper to the person next to us who writes the second line and then passes that on, a bit like consequences.

The group is facilitated by **GL Halinka Rajchel**, who is also Ravenshead u3a's resident poet! Contact Halinka via the website if you wish to attend.



NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS

DOG FRIENDS GROUP

If you like dogs, this group is for you!

Our members are really bonding over on our WhatsApp group, as well as our dogs enjoying their times together, socialising at a secure exercise facility without any doggie fisticuffs.

Jo Weston’s Samoyed breed “Herbie” placed 2nd in the Good Citizen Dog Scheme class at Crufts 2024. Well Done Jo & “Herbie”!



Meanwhile, we welcome Sue Martin’s new puppy “Bailey” the Cavapoo to the group.

We meet on the last Friday of the month at Portland Cafe on the Portland College Campus from 11am to noon.

Katy Roberts - Group leader - Contact her through the link on the website.

SALSA GROUP

What a brilliant lot of dancers we have!

I am so so proud of the group members for picking up on the new moves they are being taught and they went beyond my expectations!

We are learning a new dance to a track called “Toda Una Vida” by Leon Torres. It translates as “A Whole Life” (thanks Google) and is available from Apple Music or any other streaming service.

We are now back to our normal sessions, i.e. every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month.

Katy Roberts - Group Leader - Contact her through the link on the website.

PÉTANQUE GROUP

Also known as Boules, this French game involving a number of heavy metal balls and a small coloured “jack” ball is played by our group members on the special pistes at the Ravenshead Leisure Centre, from 11am to 12noon on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month.

No experience is necessary but flat shoes and sensible clothing is required as play is outdoors. Just turn up if you are interested or contact **Group Leader Peter Eldridge** for more information through the link on the website.



Ru3a TRIPS UPDATE FROM HALINKA RAJCHEL - TRIPS CO-ORDINATOR

TRIPS INFORMATION for April to October 2024

IF YOU WISH TO BOOK A TRIP PLEASE SEE HALINKA RAJCHEL OR ALAN WALKER AT OUR MARCH MONTHLY MEETING OR AT A 'WEEKENDERS' GROUP MEETING.

If paying by BACS, please make payments to :

Ravenshead u3a Social Account

Co-op Bank Sort Code:- 08-92-99 Account number:- 65552700

Add your Surname followed by the Trip e.g Smith-Eastwood



Contact details for Halinka Rajchel: Mobile: 07762 802112. Email: trips@ravensheadu3a.org.uk

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Once you have paid for a trip, it is very important to let Halinka know if you are unable to go for whatever reason, as we have reserve lists and members may be able to go in your place. If someone goes in your place, you will be entitled to a refund!

PROPOSED CHANGE IN TRIP ARRANGEMENTS

In order to accommodate those in the village without cars, and those travelling into Ravenshead from elsewhere on public transport, in addition to the starting point at the Sherwood Ranger on Chapel Lane we are proposing to add a possible additional central pickup point for trips in the Milton Court precinct car park adjacent to village shops, dependent upon demand.

To ensure a punctual departure to the chosen venue, this will mean that the mini-coach will leave the Sherwood Ranger promptly at the advised time.

The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

2ND TRIP - Monday 17th June 2024 - PLACES AVAILABLE

Departing from The Sherwood Ranger at **9am. Cost of travel is £15**

The RCT mini-coach will drop us off for a tour of the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum adjacent to both the ruins of the bombed out old Cathedral and the current Coventry Cathedral that was built next to it to a design by Sir Basil Spence.

Ranging from tiny insects to large industrial machinery, from everyday household objects to artworks by world-famous artists the Herbert collection covers a vast array of topics, time and themes including: Archaeology, Social and Industrial History, Visual Arts & Natural History

The Museum is close to the City centre, so there will be plenty of time to explore Coventry and have lunch before returning around 3pm.



TRIP REFUNDS

Where refunds become payable, they can be claimed in person from Alan Walker on the Trips Table at our Monthly Meetings or at the next Weekenders meeting.

Ru3a TRIPS UPDATE FROM HALINKA RAJCHEL - TRIPS CO-ORDINATOR

Flag Fen Bronze Age Settlement & Peterborough City Centre

1ST TRIP - Monday 22nd April 2024 - TRIP FULL - SOLD OUT

2ND TRIP - Thursday 23rd May 2024 - PLACES AVAILABLE

Departing from The Sherwood Ranger at **9am**. **Cost is £21** including travel & the entrance fee to the Flag Fen Settlement.

The RCT mini-coach will drop us off for a guided tour of the ancient Flag Fen Settlement site and then take us into Peterborough City Centre.

The story of Flag Fen began in 1971 when excavations ahead of the construction of Peterborough New Town revealed an almost intact Bronze Age landscape, which ran along the edge of the drained fen.

There will be time afterwards to explore Peterborough City Centre, have lunch and visit the Peterborough Cathedral (free entry)



Kedleston Hall - A National Trust property near Quarndon in Derbyshire

1ST TRIP - Thursday 18th April 2024 - ONE PLACE LEFT

2ND TRIP - Friday 5th July 2024 - TRIP FULL - SOLD OUT

Departing from The Sherwood Ranger at **9.30am**. **Cost of travel is £8**. Entrance for National Trust members is free. **Non-NT member Entrance Fee for Hall & Parkland is £18**, Parkland only is £8

Kedleston Hall is an 18th-century mansion with Adam interiors, surrounded by vast parkland.



Leicester Cathedral, with an optional visit to the Richard III Visitor Centre

Friday 17th May 2024 - PLACES AVAILABLE

Departing from The Sherwood Ranger at **9.30am**.

Cost of travel is £10

The RCT mini-coach will drop us off in the City Centre close to the Cathedral where Richard III's bones are interred, and you will have time to visit the Richard III Visitor Centre nearby. **Entrance to the Visitor Centre is £9** for those 60+. No group tour is available on this occasion.



The Normans began the construction of the original St Martin's church of around 900 years ago. It was rebuilt and enlarged between the 13th and 15th centuries and became the 'Civic Church', with strong links with the merchants and guilds (with the Guildhall being located nearby)

Just over 100 years ago the Victorian Architect, Raphael Brandon, magnificently restored and, in places, rebuilt the church, including the addition of a 220ft spire. When the Diocese of Leicester was re-established in 1927, the church was hallowed as Leicester Cathedral. In 2015 King Richard III was reinterred in the Cathedral. In 2024 the Cathedral reopened after 22 months of redevelopment.

Ru3a TRIPS UPDATE FROM HALINKA RAJCHEL - TRIPS CO-ORDINATOR

Calke Abbey - A National Trust property near Ticknall in Derbyshire

1ST TRIP - Wednesday 12th June 2024 - TRIP FULL - SOLD OUT

2ND TRIP - Wednesday 8th May 2024 - PLACES AVAILABLE

Departing from The Sherwood Ranger at **9.30am**.

Cost of travel is £8. Entrance for National Trust members is free.

Non-NT member Entrance Fee for Hall & Parkland is £12.50,

Parkland only is £7.50

With peeling paintwork and overgrown courtyards, Calke Abbey is an un-stately home and country estate that tells the story of the dramatic decline of a country house estate. The house and stables are little restored, with many abandoned areas vividly portraying a period in the 20th century when numerous country houses did not survive to tell their story.



Bakewell International Dance Festival

Saturday 29th June 2024 - 1st Bus TRIP FULL - SOLD OUT

Saturday 29th June 2024 - 2nd Bus TRIP FULL - SOLD OUT

Departing from the Sherwood Ranger at **9am. Cost of travel is £7**

There are numerous dance shows starting at 11am in various outside venues in the town all within two minutes walking distance from each other.

There is also the farmers market and an opportunity to view a well dressing in Bakewell. An opportunity not to be missed.

The dance shows finish at approx 4pm. If we have rain, the dances will



Ru3a Mablethorpe 'FUN DAY OUT' Summer Trip

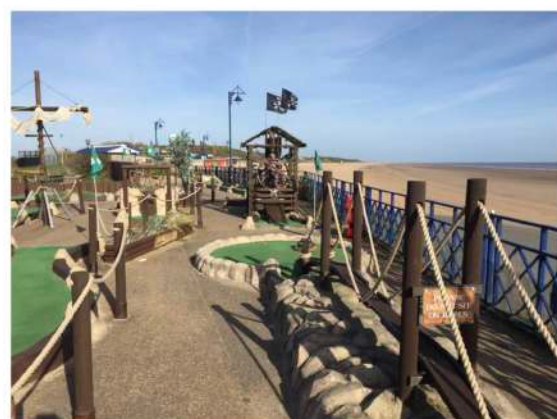
Monday 1st July 2024 - TRIP FULL - SOLD OUT

Departing from the Sherwood Ranger at **9am**.

Cost of travel is £16

For Trippers who paid a £10 deposit, a balance of £6 is now due

There is so much to see and do in Mablethorpe : from strolling along the golden sands, taking a trip on the famous Sand Train, having fun in the beach side Fun Fair, through to a ride on the Miniature Railway or hiring a boat on the lake at Queens Park.



A little further out of the town centre you can visit the Seal Rescue Sanctuary and Wildlife Centre.

Ru3a TRIPS UPDATE FROM HALINKA RAJCHEL - TRIPS CO-ORDINATOR

Tattersall Castle - A National Trust property near Coningsby in Lincolnshire

Tuesday 16th July 2024 - PLACES AVAILABLE

Departing from the Sherwood Ranger at **9am**.

Cost of travel is £11

Entrance for National Trust members is free. **Non-NT member Entrance Fee for Hall & Grounds is £12.50**

Rising proudly from the flat Lincolnshire fens, Tattershall Castle, with its huge Gothic fireplaces and church-like windows, was designed to impress. Built by Lord Ralph Cromwell, Treasurer of England, it was designed to show off his wealth, position and power.



This trip is during the Festival of Archaeology. An optional walk is available (1.2 km about 45 minute walk). There's plenty to do and see, and there is a cafeteria on site for snacks and hot drinks available by the church. People may choose to bring a packed lunch and top up with snacks from the cafe/shop. (NT members have a discount in the shop).

2024 u3a NATIONAL FESTIVAL AT YORK UNIVERSITY EXHIBITION CENTRE

The u3a Movement will be holding their first ever **u3a National Festival** at the **University of York Exhibition Centre** from **18th to 20th July 2024**, where invited u3a members will be delivering a wide range of activities : **Talks, Sporting Activities, Musical Entertainment and Workshops**, which will make it something to remember.



Tickets will soon be available to purchase, and Ravenshead u3a members who wish to attend can find out more at : <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/festival-2024>

Although tickets are not yet available to buy, the cost of the attending festival will be as follows:

- Day 1, Thursday 18 July - £25 including buffet supper
- Day 2, Friday 19 July - £10 for the full day
- Day 3, Saturday 20 July - £5 for a half day
- Full festival to include all 3 days and a buffet supper on Day 1 - £35

Keep up to date with the latest Festival 24 news by signing up to the [u3a Friends Newsletter](#). Once signed up, you'll need to update your preferences to receive the monthly Festival updates. The Third Age Trust will also post regular updates on their social media channels.

Halinka Rajchel will be arranging a Ravenshead u3a Trip to the u3a Festival on Friday 19th July (approximate transport-only cost £15) for those who wish to attend on that particular day.

Full information will be shared as soon as the schedule of activities on that day are published and tickets become available to book.

Ru3a TRIPS REPORT - COVENTRY CATHEDRALs & THE HERBERT MUSEUM

On Thursday 28th March the 1st group of Ravenshead u3a trippers visited Coventry to see the varied exhibits in the **Herbert Art Gallery & Museum**, and view both the adjacent bombed out ruins of the old Cathedral and the current **Coventry Cathedral** that was built next to it post WW2, to a design by Sir Basil Spence.

Photos kindly supplied by Alan Walker & Halinka Rajchel.

Our 2nd trip to Coventry will take place on **Monday 17th June**



ALFA TRAVEL MARCH COACH HOLIDAY TO EXMOUTH WITH ASHFIELD u3a

From 16th to 22nd March, a large number of Ru3a members joined organiser Caroline Rhoades and u3a members from Ashfield and Hucknall u3as on a trip to Exmouth in Devon. They fortunately had mainly good weather whilst those of us at home in Nottinghamshire were enduring the prevailing cold and wet.

Photos kindly supplied by Terry & Judith Moore



**Why not join the 5 day, 4 night Alfa Travel Coach Holiday to Torquay with fellow Ravenshead u3a Members leaving on Saturday 28th September?
MORE DETAILS ON PAGE 4**

A NEW RAVENSHEAD u3a WEBSITE IS ON THE WAY

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Ravenshead

u3a

Ever since the major hiatus on 19th November 2022, when all 700+ u3a SiteBuilder websites disappeared for a period of about 2 months, we have been running 2 parallel websites.

In the week following the loss of our original website, the committee took the decision to create an independently hosted website and purchased the domain www.ravensheadu3a.org.uk.

The "old" familiar SiteBuilder website was finally recovered by the Third Age Trust from a 6 month old backup in February 2023, minus all images and documents, and since that time we've kept both websites running in parallel, but not adding back the many photos and documents that were lost forever from the old SiteBuilder website.

HOME About Us News & Events Groups Membership Social Media Admin
Policies Archive

Ravenshead

u3a learn, laugh, live

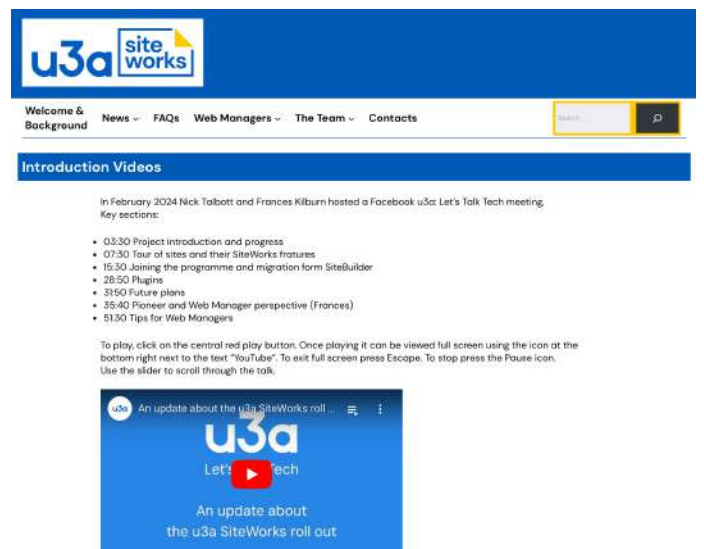
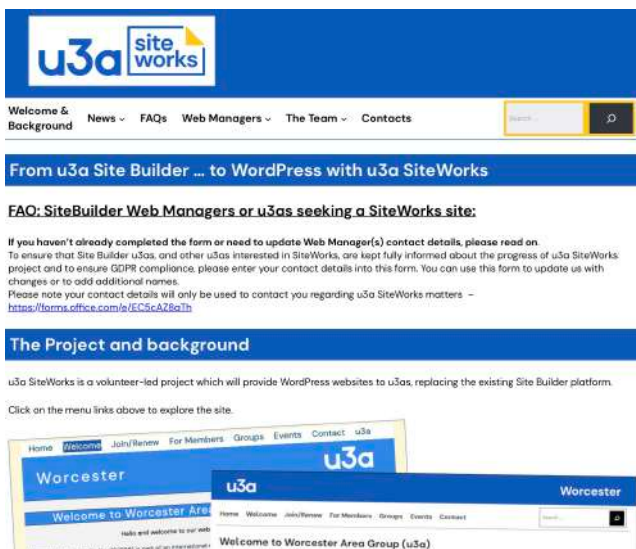
In the time since then, a dedicated team of u3a Trust volunteers have been working to create a replacement for the older SiteBuilder website system, as it is currently supported by only two u3a Trust volunteers, now in their late 80's, and will be fully retired from use at the end of this year.

The migration of the SiteBuilder websites to the new u3a SiteWorks system, which is based upon the very popular WordPress software, started with some pioneer u3as where their website admins were part of the SiteWorks Development Team.,

The progressive migration of the remaining 700 u3a SiteBuilder websites has now started and fortunately Ravenshead u3a is in the first tranche of u3as being migrated to the new system, which has involved an exceptional amount of work by our website admin, Terry Moore, working with a 178 page manual and guided by a volunteer SiteWorks Team migrator called Sue Bailey. Once the new website goes live, sometime in the next couple of months, we will once again only have one website, which will lead to less confusion, although we will retain our own domain name, which will re-point people to the new SiteWorks hosted one.

Full details about the whole project can be viewed at : <https://siteworks.u3a.org.uk>

In February our own John Butler hosted a Zoom session giving the latest update on the SiteWorks Migration progress which can be viewed at : https://youtu.be/o5UnTqP5_5E?si=IkEc4xME4bAHIM46



THE NEW u3a FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

u3a Friends Newsletter

The Third Age Trust have recently relaunched their u3a online newsletter as the **u3a Friends Newsletter**. This enables them to develop their relationship with you as individual u3a members and also with supporters of the u3a movement elsewhere.



Those who choose to join the u3a Friends community will be able to access exclusive offers and services, in addition to news and stories from across the u3a.

If you are not yet subscribed to the u3a Friends newsletter, [Sign Up Now](#)

You can view FAQs about the initiative [HERE](#)

THIRD AGE MATTERS MAGAZINE UPDATE - NAME CHANGE



We have been advised that there are still problems that will delay the next issue of the u3a Members' Magazine, now to be renamed **u3a Matters** magazine.

As long as you have not chosen to opt out of having it delivered, a copy will be delivered to your door by post 5 times a year.

CHAIR'S CHAT

I am still gatecrashing some of our interest groups so I can report back to you all about what is going on in the beating "heart" of our u3a.

To make the most out of your membership, we encourage you to try out a few new ones every year, because if you never experience what they do, you'll never know what you're missing out on!

Over the last month, in addition to the groups that I'm part of, I've tried out the Molky Finnish skittles game with group members outside the Village Hall, been to see the Pétanque group playing in the rain, and next up will be attending the Pickleball Group to see what this popular game is about and take photos and video of our members enjoying playing it.

I do hope to see you at our **Drop-in Coffee Morning** on Saturday **27th April from 10.30am to 12noon** at The Centre at St Peter's. We invite both members and those interested in joining our u3a to join us so please invite a friend along!

Finally, here's a reminder that you can still contact us using old fashioned phone technology on **0300 030 2990**

I do look forward to seeing many of you at our next monthly meeting on **Tuesday 9th April 2024 at 10am**

John Butler

Chairman - on behalf of the Committee of Ravenshead u3a

