

**NEXT MONTHLY MEETING - 10 am on TUESDAY 11th June 2024**



## Monthly Meeting

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024 10am  
St. Peter's Church  
Ravenshead

**Speaker: David Skillen**  
**Title: The Gretna Girls and the Devil's Porridge**

In this fully illustrated talk we will look closely at the fascinating story of the people who lived and worked at Gretna making the very dangerous 'Devils Porridge'.



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

## Coach Holiday Fever! Torquay September 2024

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

## Isle of Wight June 2025

*Shanklin* Coach Holiday  
2 Excursions **ONLY £465 pp**  
Leaves 21st June 2025 for 5 days  
Join us for an Alfa Travel Coach Holiday to the Isle of Wight

## Save the Date!

**Saturday 21st September**  
**u3a Notts Network Conference**



More details on Page 5



**Chair's  
Chat**

Catch up with  
what John Butler  
has to say  
on Page 19

## WELCOME TO YOUR RAVENSHEAD u3a COMMITTEE FOR 2024-2025

The Ravenshead u3a 2024 AGM was held on Tuesday 14th May at the Monthly Meeting in St. Peter's Church and the following members were appointed to the committee:



Joining the committee as our new Business Secretary is Frances Leyshon, in one of the four formal Officer Trustee roles. She will be responsible for external communication with other organisations, principally the Third Age Trust.

Also joining us as Assistant Treasurer is Gill Parkes, who will be mentored by our current Treasurer, Sue Owen, with a view to taking over in the key Treasurer role in January 2025 after the 2024 Accounts have been finalised and approved by our new Independent Financial Examiner, Tony Brook.

We also welcome Sharan Jones, who is still to discover which of her skills can be utilised in service of the team, and I'm sure she will bring a fresh perspective to us all, including her experience in IT and also social safeguarding.

**We are still looking for someone to come forward to take over from Alan Walker as Social Treasurer.**

## RAVENSHEAD u3a ALFA TRAVEL COACH HOLIDAY TRIP TO TORQUAY IN SEPTEMBER



**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.

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 Weekenders 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](mailto:trips@ravensheadu3a.org.uk)



## RAVENSHEAD u3a ALFA TRAVEL COACH HOLIDAY TRIP TO ISLE OF WIGHT IN JUNE 2025



# Alfa Travel Coach Holiday to Shanklin

**5 days/4 nights at the Shanklin Hotel, Isle of Wight (half board)**

**Excursions included to :  
Alum Bay/Yarmouth & Osborne  
House/Whippingham Church**

**Leaves 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025**

**£465 per person  
(sharing twin/double room)**

**£50pp deposit payable now**



## ALUM BAY & YARMOUTH

Alum Bay is well known for its multi-coloured sand cliffs and stunning views across the Solent.

Close to Alum Bay is probably the Isle of Wight's most famous landmark : The Needles



## OSBORNE HOUSE & WHIPPINGHAM CHURCH

'It is impossible to imagine a prettier spot,' said Queen Victoria of Osborne, her beloved home on the Isle of Wight

The village of **Whippingham, and St Mildred's Church** as its parish church, are best known for their connections with Queen Victoria, and is in the centre of the royal estate.

## u3a NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NETWORK CONFERENCE - SATURDAY 21st SEPTEMBER

# u3a u3a Notts Network Conference

A full day of Talks, Workshops  
and a delicious lunch

**Saturday 21st September**

**u3a Notts Network  
Conference**

**Nottingham Girls' High School**



**Save the Date**  
(and some cash!)

**Saturday 21st September**

**u3a Notts Network  
Conference**

**Nottingham Girls' High School**



**Professor Chris French**

**"The Science of Weird S\*\*t!"**

Why our Minds Conjure the Paranormal

**Saturday 21st September**

**u3a Notts Network Conference**

**Nottingham Girls' High School**



Come and join members from the 33 other u3as around the county at the **Nottingham Girls' School** where a full day of talks and workshops are planned, including a delicious lunch provided by Delilah's Catering.

Workshops will concentrate on the theme of "**Learn, Laugh, Live**" and include Line Dancing, Chair Yoga, Singing, Creative Writing, Scamming/Fraud, and a guided walk around the adjacent Arboretum.

The keynote speaker will **Chris French**, Professor Emeritus of Psychology at Goldsmiths College, University of London, specialising in the psychology of paranormal beliefs and anomalous experiences.

His talk is entitled : **The Science of Weird S\*\*t! : Why Our Minds Conjure the Paranormal**

**Tickets for the event will go on sale in July**

## UPDATE ON THE THIRD AGE TRUST'S 'FIT FOR THE FUTURE' NEW GOVERNANCE PROPOSALS

A report has now been produced that analyses the feedback from a consultation with u3as regarding the proposals for a change in governance structure of the Third Age Trust.

The report is a very comprehensive, but easy to read, with a collection of views taken from the many presentations and presenters themselves, written comments from u3as, comments on social media, and results from the survey of u3as. The report has also been reviewed by two independent u3a members, and their comments are included as an appendix to the report.

The full report is available to read by clicking the link below. The main message is that there is significant support from u3as for the concept of governance changes. However, as expected, u3as require clarification of a number of issues of detail before they may be required to vote at the Trust's AGM in October.

The next stage is that the Board will decide at its meeting on 19 June whether to go ahead with a resolution for u3as to vote on at the Trust's AGM in October. [Read the Evaluation Report](#)

**OUR NEW WEBSITE IS NOW 'LIVE' AT [www.ravenshead.u3asite.uk](http://www.ravenshead.u3asite.uk)**

After a monumental effort by Terry Moore in creating the new u3aSiteworks Ravenshead website, now hosted on the Third Age Trust's server, Terry has now produced an illustrated guide of the various features.

**WHERE TO FIND US!**

<https://ravenshead.u3asite.uk>

Also on printed material and social media, we have our own domain name which will take you to the same website: [www.ravensheadu3a.org.uk](http://www.ravensheadu3a.org.uk)

The "Home" page (Welcome) looks like this but things will change e.g. the next monthly meeting promotional slide is shown here.

Use the quick access buttons to go to Groups, Trips, Join, or scroll down for up to date information on meetings and events.

Below the Banner are displaying details of our next meeting, there is a scrolling series of images showing some of the activities our members enjoy. Below that section are the Latest Notices described below.

The bottom part of the Welcome page looks like this, but again things will change.

- The Latest Notices section is there to ensure members are informed of anything important or might have missed.
- The next 3 meetings; the next 3 Trips; and the next 3 Other events will also change when out of date
- Quick links also at the bottom show our Social Media pages.

**OUR NEW WEBSITE IS NOW 'LIVE' AT [www.ravenshead.u3asite.uk](http://www.ravenshead.u3asite.uk)**

In addition to the various Navigation Buttons included in the blocks of the various pages, there is a traditional top line menu system allowing you to navigate to all parts of the website.

The screenshot shows the website's navigation bar with the following elements:

- u3a** logo and **Ravenshead** text on the left and right.
- Navigation Bar** with links: [Welcome](#), [About Us](#) (with a dropdown arrow), [Groups](#), [Events](#), [Membership](#), [News](#), [Resources](#) (with a dropdown arrow), and [Links](#).
- A search box on the right with the text "Search ..." and a magnifying glass icon.
- A yellow banner below the navigation bar with the text: "Welcome! We're pleased you found us!"

Numbered callouts explain the navigation bar features:

- The Welcome page shows the "navigation bar" with links to all the pages on the website.
- A couple of these have a down arrow alongside to show extra related pages.
- Clicking any of these links will open up the page and related page
- The new search box feature will enable you to find relevant pages using a specific word search to a group, event, document or person! See next page...

The 'Search' facility is new, and allows you to find results and pages that include the search criteria.

The screenshot shows the search results page for the query "John Butler".

- Search Results** section with the following items:
  - John Butler**: This contact is referenced in the following groups: Antiques. This contact is referenced in the following events: Monthly Meeting : AGM. Join us for a cozy coffee morning! [Read more](#)
  - AGM 2024**: We give formal notification that the 2024 Annual General Meeting of Ravenshead u3a (Charity No. 1154123) will take at 10am on Tuesday 14th May, 2024 at St Peter's Church, Sheepwalk Lane, Ravenshead NG16 9FD. Please find below the Notification/Agenda, 2023 Approved Accounts, Minutes of the 2023 AGM and a Committee Nomination Form. Completed Nomination Forms for election to the... [Read more](#)
  - News**: Latest Notices: (click the headline link below to read.) Latest Ravenshead u3a monthly Newsletters The Ravenshead u3a Monthly Newsletter contains u3a information on Monthly Meetings, Trips, Groups, and Special events. Please read by clicking the links below: (opens a pdf file in your browser) Thankyou, John Butler u3a Notts. Network & Newsbites Ravenshead u3a also belongs to... [Read more](#)
  - Committee**: Ravenshead u3a Committee meet on most 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 10:00 a.m. We now continue to do this 'virtually' by using Zoom. If you would like to join the committee, please contact us! You would be very welcome. All Committee Members are covered by the U3A Trustee insurance. The 2023 AGM was held... [Read more](#)
  - Contact us!**: We have one number for enquiries. Phone: 0300 030 2990 The following members can be contacted by website email. Click on the name of the person you wish to email. This will open a web form for you to complete with your message and other details. Position Name Chair ( plus General enquiries Social media... [Read more](#)
  - About Us**: Hello, I'm John Butler, Chair of the Ravenshead u3a. Ravenshead is a large village and civil parish in the Gedling district of Nottinghamshire. It borders Papplewick, Newstead Abbey and Blidworth, and is part of Nottinghamshire's Hidden Valleys area. So Who are We and What do We Do? Established in 2012, we are a local charity organisation... [Read more](#)

A yellow callout box on the left states: "The Search for 'John Butler' found these related pages!"

**OUR NEW WEBSITE IS NOW 'LIVE' AT [www.ravenshead.u3asite.uk](http://www.ravenshead.u3asite.uk)**

A hugely improved area of functionality is a bespoke created Groups area, that allows better displaying of the List of Groups, Group descriptions and photos with content.

The Groups page lists all the current groups and provides a link to the groups specific page. The blue buttons enable you to sort the list in a variety of ways such as by meeting day or venue.

Group pages contain links to email a group leader and general information about the group. Some (like this one) have extra links to videos, photographs and meeting summaries.

**Interest Groups**

We have nearly 40 active Interest Groups

Our Groups Coordinator, Anne Eldridge, is the link between the groups and the committee and can be contacted via the [Contacts](#) pages or the direct link below. Group leaders and other members give their time voluntarily to plan and organise interest group activities. If any member wishes to start a new group, please contact Anne. We are always looking for new ideas.

Please check with group leaders using the link on the group page or contact [Anne Eldridge](#) for more information.

Click on any of the following group names to see the individual group page on this website. These may have extra details and photographs. Each Group page has a contact form link to enable you to send an email message to the group leader. Also see the [Beacon](#) links at the bottom of the page for Calendar and Groups.

Use the buttons below to sort the groups in several ways such as by category or day of the week.

Alphabetical | By category | By meeting day | By venue

**Sort groups using buttons**

Groups listed alphabetically

<a href="#">Antiques</a> Status: Active on Thursdays 2 pm-3rd Thursday	<a href="#">Food and Cookery</a> Status: Full on Fridays 2nd or 3rd Fridays but not always!	<a href="#">Fiddlers</a> Status: Active on Fridays 140 pm-2:45 pm 1st & 3rd Friday
<a href="#">Archer Travellers</a> Status: Active on Wednesdays 2:00 pm-4:00 pm 4th Wednesday	<a href="#">French Conversation</a> Status: Active on Mondays 10:00 am-11:30 am 1st & 4th Monday	<a href="#">Jokes</a> Status: Active on Wednesdays 12:00 pm-1:00 pm 2nd & 4th Wednesday
<a href="#">Belly Dancing</a> Status: Active on Thursdays 12:45 pm-1:45 pm in term time only	<a href="#">Garden</a> Status: Active on Wednesdays 10:00 am-12:00 pm 3rd Wednesday	<a href="#">Science and Technology</a> Status: Active on Fridays 2:00 pm-4:00 pm 1st Friday
<a href="#">Book Reading</a> Status: Active on Thursdays 2:00 pm-4:00 pm Last Wed. of the month	<a href="#">Rugby</a> Status: Wait list only on Thursdays 9:45 am-11:45 am 1st & 3rd Thursday	<a href="#">Sculpture Club/Workshop</a> Status: Active on Tuesdays 10:30 am-12:30 pm 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesday
<a href="#">Bridge Builders</a> Status: Active on Wednesday afternoons 2:00 pm-4:00 pm 4th Wednesday	<a href="#">U3a (U-3) Club</a> Status: Active Monthly on Wednesdays 9:30 am 2nd Wednesday usually meets in Ranger cor 2024	<a href="#">Search and Outreach</a> Status: Active Times: Variable - am/pm/ lunch/evening Venues: Variable - members' homes, pubs, cafe, local area and others

**Photography For Fun**



Status: Active, open to new members  
 Leader: [Terry Moore](#)  
 Group email: [Photography For Fun group](#)  
 When: Monthly on Wednesdays 1:30 pm-3:30 pm  
 1:30 pm 1st Wednesday  
 Venue: [Ranger Room](#)

The Photography for Fun group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 1:30pm in the Brammer Room of the Village Hall. We welcome members with a wide range of experience who help and learn from each other.

**FFF Photography themes for 2023 - 2024**

- September 2023 3 viewpoints
- October 2023 Black and White / A pop of colour
- November 2023 Faces
- December 2023 Beautiful Blur
- January NO MEETING
- February 2024 Capture the Night
- March 2024 Patterns
- April 2024 No meeting but Visit to Filly Priory
- May 2024 Macro Magic + Filly Priory shots as a slideshow
- June 2024 Sports
- July 2024 Seasons
- August NO MEETING

**OUR MEETINGS**

Each month members submit photographs based on a pre-arranged theme which we look at and discuss as a group. They can also send 'free choice' photographs as a 'Shot of the Month'. This gives us a chance to think about compositional and technical aspects of photography. Occasionally a member will give a ten minute presentation on any aspect of photography which interests them. We then look at the forthcoming theme to get some ideas on what we can take and some of the technical aspects.

**OUT AND ABOUT**

As well as our indoor meetings we will occasionally arrange a 'photoshoot' outing. These have included a trip to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park near Wakefield, and other outings have included Baxwood Windmill House, Southwell Minster and Stridley Woods to photograph the bluebells. Most recently we visited the gardens at Filly Priory.

Reviews of recent meetings with links to photos taken are shown in the posts below. [Click Read More to view](#)

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A module called 'Events' is part of the core functionality of SiteWorks, which lists Meetings, Trips and other Events. Once the events have passed, they automatically disappear from the page, moving the following events into to view.



The Events page lists all Meetings, Trips, Holidays and any other 'extra' events that are being organised by Ravenshead u3a or the u3a trust and sometimes the Nottinghamshire Network of u3as.

Clicking a title will open more details about the event and will provide a contact email link to use if required. Links like these use a website based email form which you complete and send. The contact will receive this and reply to you. (see next page)

Welcome About Us - Groups **Events** Membership News Resources - Links

Diary of Meetings Trips and other Events

Please scroll down the page to see a list of forthcoming monthly meetings, trips and other events. (Click on the heading of each one to see all the details.) They are organised for all members of Ravenshead u3a to attend.

**Click on the links below to view Event details:**

All enquiries about Trips & Holidays contact: [Halinka Rajchel](#)

**Forthcoming events**

<b>28th May 2024</b> 10:00 am Meeting	<a href="#">New Members' Meeting</a> A message from Andy: 'The last time we had one of these was back in June 2023 so, if you have joined Ru3a since then, this is for you. B [...] Venue: <a href="#">The Centre</a>
<b>11th June 2024</b> 10:00 am Meeting	<a href="#">Monthly Meeting June 2024</a> Speaker: David Skillen. Title: The Gretna Girls and the Devil's Parridge A fascinating story of the people who lived and worked at Gretna making the very dangerous Devils Parridge. Venue: <a href="#">St Peter's Church</a>
<b>12th June 2024</b> 9:30 am Outing	<a href="#">Calke Abbey 2 - National Trust - Ticknall</a> Trip 2 - Wednesday 12th June 2024 An un-stately home & country estate with peeling paintwork & overgrown courtyards that tells the dramatic decline of a country house estate. Cost [...] Cost: £8 (TRAVEL ONLY)
<b>17th June 2024</b> 9:00 am Outing	<a href="#">The Herbert Art Gallery &amp; Museum, Coventry</a> The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry 2nd Trip - Monday 17th June 2024 The RCT mini-coach will drop us off for a tour of the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum [...]
<b>29th June 2024</b> 9:00 am Outing	<a href="#">Bakewell International Dance Festival</a> Bakewell International Dance Festival Saturday 29th June 2024 (two buses going!) There are numerous dance shows starting at 11am in various outside venues in the town all within two minutes walking [...] Cost: £7
<b>1st July 2024</b> 9:00 am Outing	<a href="#">Mablethorpe Fun Day Out*</a> Mablethorpe Fun Day Out Monday 1st July 2024 The mini-coach will take us to this popular seaside resort to allow members to experience local attractions such as the huge sandy beach, the famous [...] Cost: £16

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The 'Contact Us' facility is included and accessible by links within each page where it will pop up when the link is clicked. It's ideal for contacting members of our Committee and Group Leaders.


**u3a**

This page opened when clicking Halinka's name from one of the Trip events

Fill in the form with name, email address, and message to email the person.

Click the small box "Send Me A Copy" so that you receive a copy of your own email to the contact.

**Contact Us**



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In summary, Terry has created this banner showing some of the other pages, enhanced facilities and navigation available.

**NEWS PAGE**

Don't miss the News page which has back copies of:

- Ravenshead u3a Newsletters,
- Notts. Network Newsletters.
- Links to subscribe to the u3a Trust "u3a Friends" Newsletters.

**The website has more to offer!**

**Have a look around yourself!**

**MEMBERSHIP PAGE**

All you need to know about joining if you are a potential new member, including a link to the New Member Application Form

All you need to know if you are renewing your membership, including links to the Members Portal to enable payment online

**Resources Section**

Lots of information here including :

- Ru3a Policies and Documents
- Beacon, our administrative system, with links to Beacon Groups, Calendar and the Members Portal link which enables you to change your email address etc yourself (login required)
- Archive page with our past magazines in digital form and some older video links

Please let me know if you spot anything that needs correcting or could be improved!

Thanks,  
Terry Moore  
P.S. You can contact me through the website!

**LINKS**

This page has links to:

- u3a Trust website (national u3a)
- u3a East Midlands website
- u3a Nottinghamshire Network
- Social Media pages : Facebook Instagram Twitter and You Tube

• Do take a look!

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## 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](mailto: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 - Planning meeting set up for Friday 5th July, 1030 - 1130am in the Centre at St Peter's.
- 1.2. Art Appreciation - Planning meeting set up for Wednesday 10th July, 2.30 - 3.30pm in the Centre at St Peter's.
- 1.3. Madrigal Singing - the proposed Leader has suggested that attendees have to be able to read music.
- 1.4. New EOI. Persons in Sheds - Temporary name agreed with a possible Group Leader - the ultimate group name to be decided by the group members.



### 2. 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 the first meeting of the group was held on 22nd May. Further meetings will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Brammer Room at the Village Hall. If anyone wishes to join them, please contact Cindy via the website.

### 3. BITE SIZED SESSIONS



A second Tai-Chi Workshop will take place sometime in July, and further details will be advised next month.

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.

### 4. SHOWCASED GROUP AT OUR JUNE MONTHLY MEETING



Our Showcased Group at the June monthly meeting will be the **Science & Technology Group**, led by GLs **Trevor Smith & Barry Marshall**.

The group meets from 2pm - 4pm on the 1st Friday of the month at the Centre at St Peter's.

Their presentations cover a wide spectrum of subjects, including medical research, biology, food science, construction, manufacturing technology (both hardware and software), artificial intelligence, and everything from astrophysics (A) to zoology (Z).

Meet them both and some other group members at the table display at the back of the room.

## ARE YOU LOOKING TO GET OUT MORE? - CHECK OUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IN OUR u3a

### Monday

#### [Chess and Backgammon](#)

Status: Active  
on Mondays 10:00 am-12:00 pm  
1st & 3rd Monday

#### [Country and Folk Dancing](#)

Status: Active  
on Mondays  
2 pm 2nd , 4th Monday

#### [Family History](#)

Status: Active  
on Mondays 2:00 pm-4:00 pm  
1st Monday

#### [French Conversation](#)

Status: Active  
on Mondays 10:00 am-11:30 am  
1st & 3rd Monday

#### [Table Tennis](#)

Status: Active  
on Mondays 2:00 pm-3:00 pm  
1st, 3rd & sometimes 5th Mondays

#### [Wine Group 3](#)

Status: Active  
Monthly on Monday evenings 7:30 pm-  
10:00 pm  
4th Monday

### Tuesday

#### [Canasta](#)

Status: Active  
on Tuesdays 2:00 pm-4:00 pm  
2nd & 4th Tuesday

#### [Holiday Spanish](#)

Status: Dormant  
on Tuesdays  
Dates and times for 2024 to be decided.

#### [Mah Jong](#)

Status: Active  
on Tuesdays 2:00 pm-4:00 pm  
1st & 3rd Tuesday NO EXPERIENCE  
NECESSARY!

#### [Scrabble, Cribbage, Rummikub](#)

Status: Active  
on Tuesdays 10:30 am-12:30 pm  
1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesday

#### [Wine Group 2](#)

Status: Wait list only  
Monthly on Tuesday evenings  
3rd Tuesday

### Wednesday

#### [Armchair Travellers](#)

Status: Active  
on Wednesdays 2:00 pm-4:00 pm  
4th Wednesday

#### [Book Reading](#)

Status: Active  
on Wednesdays 2:00 pm-4:00 pm  
Last Wed. of the month

#### [Bridge Buddies](#)

Status: Active  
on Wednesday afternoons 2:00 pm-4:00  
pm  
4th Wednesday

#### [Garden](#)

Status: Active  
on Wednesdays 10:00 am-12:00 pm  
3rd Wednesday

#### [Hikers \(5-8 miles\)](#)

Status: Active  
Monthly on Wednesdays 9:30 am  
2nd Wednesday usually meets in Ranger  
car park

#### [Latin and Roman History](#)

Status: Active  
on Wednesdays 10:00 am-11:00 am  
2nd & 4th Wednesday

#### [Photography For Fun](#)

Status: Active  
Monthly on Wednesdays 1:30 pm-3:30  
pm  
1.30 pm 1st Wednesday

#### [Salsa](#)

Status: Active  
on Wednesdays 12:00 pm-1:00 pm  
2nd & 4th Wednesday

### Thursday

#### [Antiques](#)

Status: Active  
on Thursdays  
2 pm 3rd Thursday

#### [Belly Dancing](#)

Status: Active  
on Thursdays 12:45 pm-1:45 pm  
In term time only

#### [Craft](#)

Status: Wait list only  
Weekly on Thursdays 9:00 am-12:00 pm  
Every Thursday

#### [Cryptic Crosswords](#)

Status: Active  
on Thursdays 10:00 am-12:00 pm  
1st & 3rd Thursday ZOOM Meeting

#### [Guitar](#)

Status: Wait list only  
on Thursdays 9:45 am-11:45 am  
1st & 3rd Thursday

#### [Local History](#)

Status: Active  
on Thursdays 10:00 am-12:00 pm  
4th Thursday

#### [Molkky](#)

Status: Active  
on Thursday mornings 11:00 am-12:00 pm  
2nd & 4th Thursday

#### [Pétanque](#)

Status: Active  
on Thursdays 11:00 am-12:00 pm  
1st & 3rd Thursday

#### [Thursday Walking](#)

Status: Active  
on Thursdays 1:30 pm  
4th Thursday. Venues vary

#### [Writing for Fun!](#)

Status: Active  
on Thursdays 2:00 pm-4:00 pm  
1st Thursday

## ARE YOU LOOKING TO GET OUT MORE? - CHECK OUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IN OUR u3a

### Friday

#### [Chair Yoga](#)

Status: Wait list only  
on Fridays 2:00 pm-3:00 pm  
2nd & 4th Fri.

#### [Creative Writing](#)

Status: Active  
on Fridays 2:00 pm-4:00 pm  
Last Friday of the month

#### [Dog Friends](#)

Status: Active  
on Fridays  
4th Friday Meeting places can vary

#### [Food and Cookery](#)

Status: Full  
on Fridays  
2nd or 3rd Fridays but not always!

#### [Knitting and Crochet](#)

Status: Active  
on Fridays 2:00 pm-4:00 pm  
1st (NOT Jun-Aug) and 3rd Friday

#### [Pickleball](#)

Status: Active  
on Fridays 1:45 pm-2:45 pm  
1st & 3rd Friday

#### [Science and Technology](#)

Status: Active  
on Fridays 2:00 pm-4:00 pm  
1st Friday

#### [Topical Discussion Group](#)

Status: Active  
on Fridays 2:00 pm-4:00 pm  
4th Friday

#### [Wine Group 1](#)

Status: Wait list only  
Monthly on Fridays

### Saturday

#### [Weekenders](#)

Status: Active  
on Saturdays  
1st Saturday Planning 10.00am - 12.00 &  
4th Saturday Games 2.00pm - 4.00

### Sunday

#### [Weekenders Sunday Lunch](#)

Status: Active  
on Sundays  
2nd Sunday. Venues vary

### Unspecified

#### [Cinema and Theatre](#)

Status: Active  
Various times and dates: The group  
meeting dates vary according to  
scheduled performance dates.

#### [Meet and Eat](#)

Status: Active  
Various venues, days and times, every  
other month or more often if arranged.

#### [Sprich mal Deutsch](#)

Status: Active  
Times: Variable - am/pm/lunch/evening.  
Venues: Variable - members' homes,  
pubs, café, restaurant and others

#### [Yoga](#)

Status: Wait list only  
Every Tuesday at 2pm or Friday at  
9.30am

## NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS

### FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

At our early June meeting a number of experienced members were helping the newbies with their research using their licensed Ancestry and FindMyPast apps on their laptops and tablets, using the wi-fi available at the venue.

One member has a mystery to solve. She had traced a great great grandparent who was born in 1865, died in 1900, and worked as a Miller, like his father before him. In the 1891 census he was found to be living with his family in a watermill in the village of Congresbury in Somerset, but there was no trace of him or his father in the 1871 and 1881 censuses. The research continues.

The group meet at 2pm on the 1st Monday of the month in the Brammer Room at Ravenshead Village Hall  
For more information about the group contact **Group Leader - Jennie Kerr** via the website.



## NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY &amp; INTEREST GROUPS

**ARMCHAIR TRAVELLERS GROUP - SARDINIA**

In the previous meeting about Corsica we learnt of its history, which was dominated by being the birthplace of Napoleon, and the rugged nature of the country.

This time we hopped over to Sardinia and although they are only separated by a short crossing, their histories and scenery are so different.

We started off by learning about the Nuragic tribes in the period 1800 yo 700 BC and how they built megalith monuments to help defend their positions, with some 7000 still surviving to this day.

We then learnt that the island had been populated by Phoenicians, Punics, Romans, Vandals, Mauri, Byzantines, Aragonese, Spanish, people from the House of Savoy and finally the Italians.



The island is very much Italian these days but 15% of the 1.7million population speak the local language.

This month's presentation was more about the tourist views with hundreds of beaches dotted around the coastline, all with crystal clear waters lapping on the shore. We saw views of many citadels and castles which reflect on its turbulent history.

Then there were the Festivals where people are dressed in traditional clothing and wearing masks, which is a spectacular sight to behold.

We also had a video with relaxing music as the camera went round the island showing off some of its best views.



Sardinia is a place that does not come high on the holiday wish lists of most Britons.

If only they knew more about the place, more would be able to enjoy the island and its beautiful scenery.

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



## NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY &amp; INTEREST GROUPS

## ANTIQUES GROUP

In May the theme for the group meeting was “**Antique Pottery Throwback**”, a look at pottery of all kinds of provenance from the UK and Europe, highlighting potters and pottery companies that are both long gone, to those who survive today.

Group Leader John Butler shared about a friend from his teenage years, David Barnes, who started making pottery whilst at Art College in Kent, and is now a successful sculptor, potter and teacher living in Canada who has a workshop and business called Eversfield Ceramics, and his creative works are displayed in galleries in both France and Canada.

John shared a number of videos from the internet, starting out with an episode of Antiques Roadshow from 2007 with host Michael Aspel, which featured German Lava Pottery, and also a significant private collection of classic striking Troika pottery items from the now defunct pottery business in St Ives in Cornwall.

## Eversfield Ceramics

David Barnes - Potter / Sculptor

[HOME](#) [ABOUT](#) [CONTACT](#) [ARTS & CRAFTS](#) [WORKSHOPS](#) [GALLERY](#) [STORE](#) [BLOG](#)
[EMAIL: \[info@eversfieldceramics.com\]\(mailto:info@eversfieldceramics.com\)](#)


Next up was a short video on how to identify pottery marks, and recommendations for illustrated reference books to allow pieces to be attributed their source manufacturer and approximate date.

John then turned to the life and work of Bernard Leach, who founded Leach Pottery, also in Cornwall. Bernard was influential in bringing some simple

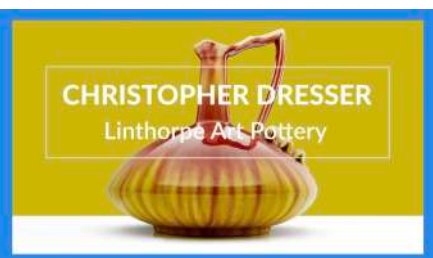
Japanese ceramic techniques to the UK and is revered amongst the current generations of UK potters as a pioneer of art pottery over here.



After a short excerpt from the BBC lunchtime Bargain Hunt TV programme, we were then shown a video of Ewenny Pottery in South Wales, which traces a direct family line through marriage of a pottery business from 1610 to the present day.

Turning to a couple of businesses that didn't survive, we then discovered the sad demise of both Poole Pottery on the south coast, and Hornsea Pottery on the east coast.

Surviving brands were then highlighted, including the flowery transferware Burleigh Pottery, that was saved from extinction in 1999 in by two ardent collectors and can still be observed in production in the Staffordshire Potteries at their premises at Middleport. This was followed by some well known brands, the iconic Moorcroft and the ubiquitous Denby Pottery.



The meeting concluded with an old favourite, Drew Pritchard, discovering the striking design of a jardiniere by Christopher Dresser, and another piece by the same ceramic designer made by Linthorpe Art Pottery from the late 19th century.

The group meet at 2pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month in a member's home.

For more information about the group contact **Group Leader - John Butler** via the website.

## NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS

### DOG FRIENDS GROUP

Group Leaders Katy & Eric Roberts are volunteers for the Canine Partners dog assistance charity, and on Sunday 19th May they were manning a stand at the Portland College Spring Fair.

One of the highlights of the fair was the Portland College Dog Show, and several of the group's members showed up for the day with their pooches and entered the competition.

Cavapoo "**Bailey**" and owner Sue Martin walked off with a 1st place rosette in "**The Dog the Judges Would Like to Take Home**" category, whilst 11 year old Labrador "**Boris**" and owner John Butler came 3rd in the "**Golden Oldies**" category, in a competition sponsored and judged by Ravenshead's Vet practice, **Animal Doctor**.

With the recent improvement in the weather, members have also been meeting together at private fenced dog exercise areas at Coxmoor and Papplewick, where their dogs can safely run free and socialise.

The group meet at 10.30am on the 4th Friday of the month at the Portland College Coffee Shop.

For more information about the group contact **Group Leader - Katy Roberts** via the website.



## RAVENSHEAD u3a DAY - FRIDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2024



We are pleased to announce that the annual Ravenshead u3a Day celebration will be held on **Friday 27th September** at the **Ravenshead Village Hall**.

Starting at 11 am and concluding at 2pm we hope to attract visitors and members alike to celebrate the u3a movement and Ravenshead u3a itself!

Interest groups will be able to display and promote their own groups and some will demonstrate activities.

Publicity will advertise the event locally. Everyone is invited, with free coffee and biscuits to keep them going!



## Ru3a TRIPS UPDATE FROM HALINKA RAJCHEL - TRIPS CO-ORDINATOR

### TRIPS INFORMATION for June to October 2024

**IF YOU WISH TO BOOK A TRIP PLEASE SEE HALINKA RAJCHEL OR ALAN WALKER AT OUR 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](mailto: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!**

### 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.

### **New Trip! Boston Guildhall & 'The Boston Stump'**

**Friday 2nd August 2024**

Trip leaves the Sherwood Ranger at **9am**

**Cost : £21** (RCT Mini Coach Travel & Guildhall Tour)

The trip includes a tour of the Guildhall & cells, Fydell House and 'The Boston Stump'. Refreshments are extra.

This market town and inland coastal port has a fascinating history. The parish church of Saint Botolph, the largest in England, is known locally as the "Boston Stump" and is renowned for its size and its dominant appearance in the surrounding countryside.

The Great Sluice that drains the Fens runs through the town and keeps the tide out of the Fens twice a day, allowing the water from the upland to scour the Haven, the tidal river of the port of Boston, that provides access for shipping between Boston Docks and The Wash.



### 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

### Calke Abbey - A National Trust property near Ticknall in Derbyshire

**Wednesday 12th June 2024 - 1 PLACE 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.



### Coventry Cathedral & Herbert Art Gallery & Museum,

**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 stunning new Coventry Cathedral that was built next to it post-WW2 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



There will be plenty of time to explore Coventry and have lunch before returning around 3pm.

### Bakewell International Dance Festival

**Saturday 29th June 2024 - Both Buses 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.

The dance shows finish at approx 4pm. If we have rain, the dances will be held in the town hall.

### Ru3a Mablethorpe 'FUN DAY OUT' Summer Trip

**Monday 1st July 2024 - TRIP FULL - SOLD OUT**

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

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, and also the Seal Rescue Sanctuary and Wildlife Centre.

## Ru3a TRIPS UPDATE FROM HALINKA RAJCHEL - TRIPS CO-ORDINATOR

### Kedleston Hall - A National Trust property near Quarndon in Derbyshire

**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.



### Tattersall Castle - A National Trust property near Coningsby in Lincolnshire

**Tuesday 16th July 2024 - 1 PLACE 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.



### u3a 2024 Festival and York City Centre - Friday 19th July 2024



The RCT transport will cost **£18pp** for both festival attendees and those wishing to visit York City Centre.

**The trip will leave Ravenshead at 8am** and return from the University at **5pm**.

The mini coach will drop the Festival attendees off at the campus and then proceed to the York City Centre drop-off point, and then collect those at the City Centre rendezvous point at 4pm before returning to the University campus, picking up the festival goers and then back to Ravenshead. Travel time is estimated at 2 hours each way.

## THE 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 directly 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 Here](#). You can view FAQs about the initiative [HERE](#)

## u3a FRIENDS EXTRA



### What is u3a Friends Extra?

u3a Friends Extra is a new benefits website exclusively for those who sign up online to the u3a Friends Community.

u3a Friends Extra provides access to a wide range of offers, discounts and additional services. Friends can make savings on well-known brands, shopping, travel, days-out and much more.

Friends Extra covers a wide variety of benefits such as:

- **Health and Wellbeing** : discounts on eye care, health tests, gyms, spa deals and golf courses.
- **Shopping** : savings on major brands and retail discount cards.
- **Travel** : discounts from selected partners.
- **Lifestyle and Leisure** : offers, like family days out, trips to the cinema and theatre.
- **Insurance** : offers on home, car and travel insurance.
- **Advice** : Access to financial advice and a legal helpline.

Watch this video on **How to Use the u3a Friends Extra website** once you have registered for u3a Friends.

Go to : <https://youtu.be/gyR8yX68YzU>



## CHAIR'S CHAT

It was a pleasure to meet so many of our new members at our New Members' Meeting on the 28th May.

The members of our Committee were able to introduce themselves, and presentations and videos were shared explaining the structure and principles of the u3a movement, information about the Ravenshead u3a charity, how Groups are formed and operate, the Trips and Holidays available, and Terry Moore gave a run-through of the new Ru3a website at [www.ravenshead.u3asite.uk](http://www.ravenshead.u3asite.uk)

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 monthly meeting on **Tuesday 11th June 2024 at 10am**

*John Butler*

Chairman - on behalf of the Committee of Ravenshead u3a