

**NEXT MONTHLY MEETING - 10 am on TUESDAY 10th September 2024**

**u3a** learn, laugh, live



## Monthly Meeting

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



## Speaker: DRONE TO HOME

Drone To Home are a registered Animal search charity. They help to reunite many missing animals with their owners on a daily basis. Please come along to hear about the many rescues they have achieved, the personnel involved and the equipment used!

**There will be a retiring collection for the benefit of the charity, so please bring cash to the meeting**

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



**RAVENSHEAD  
U3A OPEN DAY**

**Friday 27th September**  
11 am - 2 pm  
at Ravenshead Village Hall

Enjoyable, Educational and Sociable  
Activities for older people

Find out more at : [www.ravenshead.u3asite.uk](http://www.ravenshead.u3asite.uk)

## Important Announcement about our organised Day Trips for 2025



**Please read the Full Statement on Page 2**



**Chair's  
Chat**

Find out what John  
Butler has to say on  
page 16

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT RAVENSHEAD u3a ORGANISED DAY TRIPS FOR 2025

# NO SOCIAL ACCOUNT TREASURER = NO TRIPS

## Our incredibly popular Day Trips out to places of Educational & Historical Interest are in Serious Jeopardy of not taking place in 2025!

Halinka Rajchel has been amazing in organising our schedule of organised Member Day Trips over the last few years, and so far in 2024 she has arranged over 20, that's almost one every fortnight.

Both before, and at our AGM in May this year, we asked each and every member to consider if they would be willing to join the Ravenshead u3a Committee in three "key" roles.

We were very fortunate that Frances Leyshon & Gill Parkes (now Gill Davies after her recent marriage) plus Sharan Jones came forward to join the Committee this year and for Frances and Gill to respectively undertake the roles of Business Secretary & Treasurer.

In the intervening period Gill has integrated well with Sue Owen, as Sue's understudy. Gill will take over fully from Sue as our Treasurer from the beginning of our next financial year in January 2025, allowing Sue to step back from the role at that time.



**Unfortunately at our AGM not a single member came forward to volunteer for the key role of Social Account Treasurer, that Alan Walker has dutifully undertaken for many, many years.**

Alan made it very clear that he wished to step down at that time, but was persuaded by our Chair, John Butler, to be co-opted back onto the Committee until the end of 2024, whilst John actively sought to find someone to replace him in the role. Despite speaking with a number of potential members, no one has confirmed their willingness to take over from Alan.

**The work that Alan currently undertakes involves principally, but not exclusively collecting cash & cheques, issuing of refunds, banking and subsequently accounting for all monies received for Trips and other paid events such as the Christmas Lunch at each of our Monthly Meetings, and also at Weekenders Group meetings.**

This is not something that any of our other Committee Members have the skills, aptitude or time available to undertake in addition to their current roles.

Understandably, Alan has more than served his time in post and has confirmed again that he will no longer continue beyond December of this year.

We are immeasurably grateful for his diligence, commitment and service, and fully understand his reasons for not continuing.

**If no-one comes forward to replace Alan before December, then regrettably we will not be able to organise or confirm any further Day Trips starting from January 2025.**

## u3a NOTTS NETWORK CONFERENCE - SATURDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2024

**Admission costs £30 (+ £1.60 online booking fee)** and includes refreshments during the breaks, and a buffet lunch supplied by Delilah's Fine Foods Deli. The online ticketing facility closes on Monday 16th September. **BOOK NOW at : <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DOTV>**

<p><b>A Guided Walk around The Arboretum with Kevin Powell</b></p> 	<p><b>Professor Chris French</b></p> 	<p><b>Creative Writing with Michael Wareham</b></p> 
<p><b>Driving Safety Tips with Adrian Shipway</b></p> 	<p><b>Allan Walmsley</b></p> 	<p><b>Line Dancing with Sue Hillyard</b></p> 
<p><b>Chair Yoga with Bob Ford</b></p> 		<p><b>Be Aware, Stay Safe! with Dale Richardson Nottinghamshire Police</b></p> 

The event runs from **9:30am- 3:15pm** at the **Squire Performing Arts Centre** (part of the Nottingham Girls' High School) **on Saturday 21 September 2024** where a day of talks and workshops are planned.

After initial registration/coffee, the event will commence at 10am with our Keynote Speaker - **Chris French**, Professor Emeritus of Psychology at Goldsmiths College, University of London and his talk "**The Science of Weird Shit - Why our Minds Conjure the Paranormal**".

The Workshop sessions will take place both morning and afternoon, enabling members to attend two :

- Guided walk around the Arboretum**
- Line Dancing**
- Chair Yoga**
- Safe Driving**
- Creative Writing**
- Scamming and Fraud - Be Aware, Stay Safe**

The day will conclude with a plenary session in the Main Theatre, where the new Chair Elect of the Trust, **Allan Walmsley**, will talk about the future of the u3a movement and take questions at the end.

## 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!

Free Refreshments will be available in the Brammer Room, where there will be tables and chairs available to sit & chat.

**Please Invite and Bring along your Friends!**

Every Interest group will have half a display board and be able to promote what they do, and our Mõlkky Group will demonstrate their Finnish Skittles game outside on the Village Hall lawn.



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**Enjoyable, Educational and Sociable**  
**Activities for older people**

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

# Shanklin Coach Holiday

## 2 Excursions

### Leaves 21st June 2025 for 5 days

ONLY  
£465  
pp

Join us for an Alfa Travel Coach Holiday to the Isle of Wight

## Alfa Travel Coach (New) Holiday to Shanklin

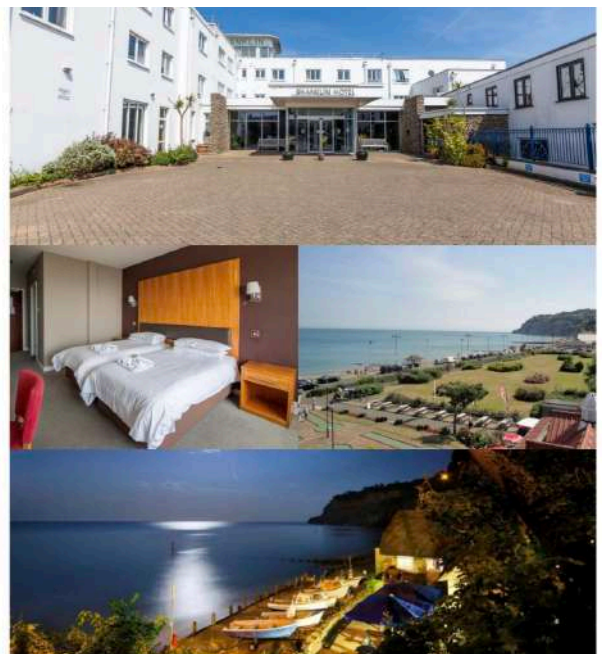
5 days/4 nights at the Shanklin Hotel, Isle of Wight (half board)

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 House, 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 are in the centre of the royal estate.



**VOTING ON THE THIRD AGE TRUST'S 'FIT FOR THE FUTURE' GOVERNANCE PROPOSALS**

Following detailed consideration of the background and all available documents, the Trustees of the Third Age Trust agreed by majority decision to circulate to all u3as a special resolution, proposed amendments to the Articles of Association, Council Standing Orders, and a supporting statement to the resolution to change the Trust's Governance & Structure to include an **Executive Board** and a **Representative Council**.

The proposed changes arise from the workload that the volunteer Regional and National Trustees have had to commit to, their level of relevant expertise, and the requirement for them to prioritise their governance responsibilities as board directors over representing the u3as in their Region.

The Special Resolution is so called because it calls for amendments to the Trust's Articles of Association, and as such, in order to be approved at the **AGM on 16 October 2024**, it would require an approval of 75% of the votes cast by individual u3as. No amendments or counter resolutions are allowed and u3as will be able to submit either a yes or no vote. Abstentions do not count towards the result.

In essence, the **Trust Executive Board** will be u3a members who are elected after screening for their relevant expertise in the various governance skills required as a Trustee of the large charity that the Third Age Trust has now become.

The **Representative Council** will comprise:-

A Chair, who will be a member of a u3a, and will be appointed by the Trust Board following a recommendation from the Council of up to 3 candidates, nominated by u3as. In addition there will be two elected representatives from each of the 9 English Regions and 3 Nations, plus the chair of the Network Link appointed by the Board.

Whilst recognising that the Trust Executive Board directors are the charity trustees of the Third Age Trust and who have ultimate responsibility for the control and operation of that charity, the Representative Council is intended to provide a more effective voice for member u3as, and to be the primary body for engaging with members, representing their views and making decisions about those issues which are of primary concern to the u3as.

It is intended that the council will work closely and collaboratively with the board and will work with it to ensure that there are no misunderstandings, conflicts or overlaps.

**Ask Away Online Sessions**

The Trust have been hosting special online Q&A events for you to find out more about the Board's special resolution, the **Fit for the Future** strategic plan.

This is your final opportunity to **Ask Away** and put any questions you may have to members of the Board.

Hosted by former Trustee Neil Stevenson with questions answered by Vice Chair Allan Walmsley, this is a chance to find out more about this important resolution and what it will mean for our u3a. Please join the last session to form an opinion and help us all shape the future of the u3a movement.

The final event will be taking place on : **Wednesday 11 September - 10 am**. [Book now](#).

Alternatively you may wish to view a 5 minute interview with Chair Elect Allan Walmsley and Head of Member Services, Alison May, titled "**What is the Fit for the Future resolution all about?**"

It can be viewed on YouTube at : <https://youtu.be/PUOYhBfUceY?si=7h1AM9viWqaMarvh>

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COMMUNICATE TO THE Ru3a COMMITTEE ON HOW OUR u3a SHOULD VOTE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING YOUR VIEWS** by email at : [ravensheadu3a@gmail.com](mailto:ravensheadu3a@gmail.com)

## 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

These are groups I hope to be able to set up in the future. If you think you may be interested, please let me know - no obligation if you later decide that the group doesn't meet your needs.

1.1. **'Hearts' Workshop and Tournament.** 'Hearts' is a card game that I am assured isn't difficult to learn. We are hoping to run this Workshop over two sessions. The first session will consist of learning how to play the game and the second (possibly a week or fortnight afterwards) will take the form of a Tournament. As always we will provide you with a cuppa and are aiming for two enjoyable sessions to brighten up your autumn days.

1.2. **Spanish Conversation** (EOI and Planning Meeting). Still time to get your name on the list. This is intended for those with an intermediate level of Spanish and/or as a follow-on from the Holiday Spanish Group. A Planning Meeting has been arranged for:

**Monday 16th September 2 - 3 pm, The Brammer Room, Ravenshead Village Hall.**

Please let me know if you will be joining us on this date and/or if you are interested but can't make this particular date.

1.3. **'Persons in Sheds'** (working group name only)

This is an opportunity for anyone with an interest in joinery or 'pottering around' to develop and/or learn new skills. (It is intended that the group name will be re-considered once we have sufficient members to form a viable group).

1.4. **Madrigal Singing** - unaccompanied singing - please note that it is necessary to be able to read music.

1.5. **Art Appreciation** - unfortunately the planning meeting I arranged for early July had to be postponed but I will be re-arranging it hopefully towards the end of the year. I have the original list of those interested but if anyone else wants to add their name (no obligation), please contact me. It is envisaged that this group will involve discussions, visits, possibly visiting speakers - you don't need a knowledge of the subject just a desire to learn a bit more.

### 2. WALKING GROUP REVIEW - What would you like to see in Ravenshead u3a?

There's still time to get your name down for the meeting. The Walking Group was one of the first groups to be set up by Ravenshead u3a. Inevitably, after over twelve years, our members and their circumstances have changed and we feel the time has come to review this group's activities. We plan to hold an open discussion with the aim of identifying what our members want to see in a walking group. The Review meeting will be held on: **Wednesday 18th September 2 - 3 pm in the Centre at St Peter's.**

This meeting will be open to all members who would like to do some walking regardless of whether or not they are currently a member of Walking Group. Topics to be discussed will include when and where we walk, distance, location or anything else that you would like to see. Whilst we obviously can't make any promises, your views and ideas will be most welcome and will all be carefully considered. Please try to come and bring your ideas along.

If you can let me know whether you will be attending, it will help me to ensure we have enough biscuits!!

## GROUPS UPDATE FROM ANNE ELDRIDGE - GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR

### 3. BITE SIZED SESSIONS

I hope to run another workshop in November but don't yet have confirmation of the date. This is likely to be popular so, in the interests of fairness, I won't be collecting names or taking monies until I have confirmation of the date and then doing so on a first come, first served basis. Watch this space and the announcements at the monthly meetings.

### 4. SHOWCASE GROUP OF THE MONTH - Knitting and Crochet Group

This month's showcase is devoted to the Knitting and Crochet Group who meet on the first and third Friday of every month.

This group is for anyone who wishes to learn how to knit or crochet, those who would like to improve and those already accomplished in the skills. All in a friendly 'knit and natter' environment!

Members can work on their own projects or contribute to making items for hospitals and charities.

Come over to the display table before the meeting starts and during the break and speak to Group Leader, Liz Corner.



## NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS

### FOOD & COOKERY GROUP



On a blustery day in August ten members of the Ravenshead u3a Food and Cookery Group congregated at the Carpenters Arms, Walesby, for an Italian Lunch

Perusing the menus took time and some members found making a choice quite challenging. Dishes ranged from smoked cod with pea and lemon risotto to Saltimbocca.



In addition, there was a tasty variety of pasta dishes and not a pizza in sight.

While their meals were being prepared, the group found time to complete a brain teasing challenge to "crack" a coded menu.

After the delicious main course their meal was made complete by the heavenly desserts.

*Report by Yvonne Bebbington*

For more information about the group contact **Group Leader - Maria Gabrielczyk** via the website.



## NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS

### PHOTOGRAPHY FOR FUN! GROUP

The Photography for Fun group had its first meeting after the summer break on Wednesday 4th September. It was well attended with the addition of two new members, and we crammed a lot into the meeting, as usual!

The group meet usually once a month, to share photographs which are projected to a large screen for all to see. We have several opportunities for members to get involved in the meeting and we usually start by viewing the images that members have taken on a set theme for the prior month. Members describe where and how the shots were taken and any other interesting details.

This month's meeting (being the first one of our new 'season' after the break) was one where members had to decide on their **own** theme, rather than a set one for all.

Chosen themes included topics of Silhouettes, Sunsets, Glass, Garden Fruits, Architectural Features and even Old Geysers!

Heather showed a selection of photographs she had taken at Papplewick underground reservoir which was set up with male and female models dressed in a variety of clothing such as Forties and Steam Punk!

As well as "Shots of the Month", another opportunity is for members to offer us a "Ten Minute Talk" on any photographic subject.

This month Andrew told us about his visit to Haddon Hall Medieval Park for a photoshoot with two professional photographers giving advice and tips for improving. He showed us a few of the photographs he had taken, and we all enjoyed his input.



We closed the session by discussing the list of proposed monthly themes which will take us through the next year. Next month our theme will be "Black and White".

You can find out more details on our group page of our website here: [Photography For Fun - Ravenshead \(u3asite.uk\)](http://PhotographyForFun-Ravenshead(u3asite.uk))

Terry & Judith Moore Group Leaders



## NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS

### ANTIQUES GROUP



The Antiques Group members gathered at Judy Walker's home for their August Meeting, to view a presentation prepared by GL John Butler about **Archibald Knox**, a famous designer from the Isle of Man who worked with Liberty's of London creating of all kinds of special objects in the last few years of the 19th and the first few years of the early 20th century.

It comprised a 10 video compilation about Knox's Life and Work, based on an exhibition and lecture given by Anthony Bernbaum, Curator of the Archibald Knox Society.

Although most of his life was spent as an Art Teacher on the Isle of Man, Knox incorporated many features of the island's Celtic stones and crosses in the Tudric & Cymric ranges that he designed for Liberty's. His design talent covered a wide range of objects, ornamental and utilitarian, and included silverware and pewterware, jewellery, inkwells, boxes, gravestones, watercolours, graphic designs, calligraphy, a house design, fonts and even bank cheques.

Judy treated everyone to tea, coffee and special cakes in the refreshment break, whilst the members looked at a summary of upcoming local Antiques Auctions and Antiques Fairs.

After the break, members watched further videos featuring Antiques personalities Drew Pritchard of Salvage Hunters buying antique furniture items, and David Harper looking at 3 items at an Antiques Auction in Ripon, a tea caddy, a table and a toy car.

The group meet in the afternoon of the 3rd Thursday of the month. For more information about the group contact **Group Leader - John Butler** via the website.



### Ru3a CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT THE OAKHAM SUITE - 12.30pm TUESDAY 10th DECEMBER 2024

We are pleased to announce that the annual Members' **Christmas Lunch** will take place at the **Oakham Suite, 155 Nottingham Rd, Mansfield NG18 4AE** on **Tuesday 10th December** starting from 12 noon for 12.30pm. Pronto buses stop about 100 metres from the venue.

There is a choice of either a 2 course meal for £24.95 or £29.95 for 3 courses. **Tickets will go on sale at our September Monthly Meeting.**

#### Starters

Calamari with Lime mayo served on a bed of leaves  
 Soup of the Day served with a warm bread roll  
 Chicken Liver Parfit served with homemade croutons and chutney  
 Creamy Garlic Mushrooms Served on a toasted Ciabatta

#### Mains

Turkey Christmas Dinner served with all the trimmings  
 Roast Beef Dinner Served with creamy mash, seasonal Vegetables and homemade Yorkshire pudding  
 Poached Salmon Served with New potatoes, Side of seasonal Vegetables with Dill and Prawn Sauce  
 Vegetable Wellington Served with new potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables (VEG/V)

#### Desserts

Traditional Christmas Pudding served with Brandy Sauce  
 Lemon Posset served with homemade Shortbread  
 Terrys Chocolate Orange Cheesecake served with pouring cream  
 Fudge Cake served with Pouring Cream  
 Chocolate Fudge Cake served with pouring cream (Vegan)



## AN A TO Z OF OUR INTEREST AND ACTIVITY GROUPS

### [Antiques](#)

Status: Active  
on Thursdays  
2 pm 3rd Thursday

### [Armchair Travellers](#)

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

### [Belly Dancing](#)

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

### [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

### [Canasta](#)

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

### [Chair Yoga](#)

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

### [Chess and Backgammon](#)

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

### [Cinema and Theatre](#)

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

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

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

### [Craft](#)

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

### [Creative Writing](#)

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

### [Cryptic Crosswords](#)

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

### [Dog Friends](#)

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

### [Family History](#)

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

### [Food and Cookery](#)

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

### [French Conversation](#)

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

### [Garden](#)

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

### [Guitar](#)

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

### [Hikers \(5–8 miles\)](#)

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

### [Holiday Spanish](#)

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

### [Knitting and Crochet](#)

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

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

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

### [Local History](#)

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

### [Mah Jong](#)

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

### [Meet and Eat](#)

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

### [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

### [Photography For Fun](#)

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

### [Pickleball](#)

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

### [Salsa](#)

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

### [Science and Technology](#)

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

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

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

### [Sprich mal Deutsch](#)

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

### [Table Tennis](#)

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

### [Thursday Walking](#)

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

### [Topical Discussion Group](#)

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

### [Weekenders](#)

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

### [Weekenders Sunday Lunch](#)

Status: Active  
on Sundays  
2nd Sunday. Venues vary

### [Wine Group 1](#)

Status: Wait list only  
Monthly on Fridays

### [Wine Group 2](#)

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

### [Wine Group 3](#)

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

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

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

### [Yoga](#)

Status: Active  
Every Tuesday at 2pm or Friday at 9.30am

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

### TRIPS INFORMATION for September to November 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!**

### TRIP CANCELLATIONS

Although we advertise our upcoming trips well in advance and each and every month, there is a minimum number of bookings that we have to achieve for each trip in order for it to be viable.

Unfortunately, if that minimum number is not achieved, then we do on occasion have to cancel the trip, as our trips are not subsidised from our membership income.

In these instances, which are fortunately few and far between, our Trips Coordinator, Halinka Rajchel, will contact you to advise you of the trip cancellation. Bookings for cancelled trips will be fully refunded.

### **Cromford & Matlock - 1st Trip Sold Out!**

**2nd Trip - Tuesday 17th September 2024 - 3 PLACES AVAILABLE**

Trip leaves the Sherwood Ranger at **9.30am**

**Cost : £9** (RCT Mini Coach Travel)

The trip starts with a visit to the Old Lock-up Art Gallery in Cromford (used as a village jail in 1700s) then a visit to St Giles Church in Matlock (famous for film appearances in Women in Love 1960s and Dead Man's Shoes).

Afterwards for those who wish to, there will be a meal at the Duke William pub (year of pub 1700s) and information about the famous people who stayed there, including Alan Bates and Oliver Reed.



### 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. A refund is due for those who visited Kedleston.

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

#### **Carnegie Museum, Melton Mowbray** **Tuesday 22nd October 2024 - 4 PLACES AVAILABLE**

Trip leaves the Sherwood Ranger at **9.30am**

**Cost : £9** (RCT Mini Coach Travel)

We will be visiting a special exhibition in the Carnegie Museum about the Parachute Regiment in the Melton District during the Second World War, created by local historian Brian Fare.



Set up in 1941 in response to the effective German paratroopers, by June 1944, there were five parachute brigades comprising 17 battalions. Five parachute battalions landed prior to D-Day (June 1944) to destroy bridges and gun batteries and to cut off German reinforcements. Six battalions, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 10th, 11th and 156th, fought at the Battle of Arnhem in Holland, during Operation Market Garden in September 1944.

We will then we have free time in Melton Mowbray on its market day to try out the local delicacies such as pork pies & cheese, and to visit the shops and eateries. There will also be a St Mary's Church lunchtime organ recital at 1pm with the trip finally departing at 3.30pm.

#### **Charnwood Museum & Loughborough Fair** **Friday 15th November 2024 - 4 PLACES AVAILABLE**

Trip leaves the Sherwood Ranger at **9.30am** returning at 3.30pm

**Cost : £8** (RCT Mini Coach Travel)

Charnwood Museum is situated in a former Victorian swimming baths. It showcases the rich heritage of the local area, featuring a wide range of exhibits reflecting the history, geology, archaeology and industries of Charnwood and the surrounding area.



Afterwards we will visit the Loughborough Fair in the town centre, and enjoy free time in Loughborough.

### TRIP REPORT FOR THE VISIT TO TATTERSHALL CASTLE & WOODHALL SPA

Arriving at Tattershall Castle was a slightly surreal experience. Here we were admiring a building dating back to 1431 and expecting to be steeped in antiquity when all of a sudden, our ears were filled with the deafening roar of Typhoon jets taking off from the nearby RAF Coningsby! Talk about the clash of ages!

The brick building of today is not the original structure which was a stone edifice going back to 1231 and which belonged to the second Robert de Tateshale who received a licence from Henry III to crenelate his manor house.

In 1367 the castle passed to the Cromwell family (no relation to Thomas or Oliver). On the death of his grandmother in 1416, Ralph Cromwell inherited it. Upon his promotion to Treasurer of England, and the title Lord Ralph, 3rd Baron Cromwell, he expanded the antiquated stone castle using the newly fashionable material, brick, and created the impressive 130 foot high Great Tower and had a second moat dug.

## TRIP REPORT FOR THE VISIT TO TATTERSHALL CASTLE & WOODHALL SPA

The structure was always a status symbol. It was never meant to be a fortified castle with a garrison of troops despite having some of the trappings of such a facility, such as very thick walls, castellations and moats. During the Civil War, prisoners were briefly housed in the basement. Between 1693 and 1910, it could be best described as a 'Romantic Ruin'. All that remains of Cromwell's original castle is the Great Tower.



Lord Curzon of Kedleston and former Viceroy of India, came to its rescue in October 1911. With a 24-hour deadline, he purchased it back from speculators and continued to buy back fireplaces which had been sold to a private collector in America. This cost him twice as much as the entire castle! He continued to refurbish the building up to 1914 to make it habitable and he opened it to the public. His rescue of the building led to the Ancient Monuments Act of 1913 which forms the basis for the present system of historic monument preservation.

Upon his death in 1925, Tattershall Castle passed to the National Trust as per his bequest. The building is unfurnished, but there are various artefacts about to look at in addition to good display boards which provided sufficient information without being too lengthy. The very helpful volunteers were only too pleased to share relevant information.

There were three entry doors. One took you to the ground floor Parlour, one took you to The Basement and the third revealed the spiral staircase to the additional floors.

The first floor is The Hall where guests and general public would have been entertained.

The second floor houses The Audience Chamber and was designed for grandeur and ceremony and for the gentry to be received. It has four magnificent Flemish tapestries on the walls dating back to the 15th and 17th centuries featuring classical and Biblical scenes and purchased by Lord Curzon.

The third floor was The Private Chamber and would have contained the sleeping quarters of Lord and Lady Cromwell.

The fourth floor opened onto the double-storey roof. By that I mean, having arrived on the roof, which is open to the sky and with an almost cloister-like feel with an arched covered walkway following the walls, a further set of stairs leads to the fifth-floor battlements and the most magnificent view. Lincoln Cathedral was clearly visible on the horizon!

If you were unable to climb the numerous steps, there were photograph albums available on ground level to show you what you were missing and some of our group took advantage of this facility.

There were a number of visitors, but not so many to detract from the visit. Children could dress up in period costumes provided. Some families played period games on the lawn in front of the castle whilst others enjoyed a picnic at one of the many tables and benches provided. The neighbouring Collegiate Church for the Holy Trinity provided tea and coffee facilities as they were not available at the Castle.

However, they did have a little shop with the usual items you would expect from the National Trust, including quite a broad selection of second-hand books.



The hour and a half we had allocated flew by and after a very courteous thank you from our host for our visit, Denise drove us off to Petwood Hotel for our lunch and free time to explore Woodhall Spa and its connections with 617 Squadron "The Dambusters" at the nearby airbase at RAF Coningsby.



## WHAT'S IN STORE? - COMING UP AT OUR FUTURE MONTHLY MEETINGS

## OCTOBER 2024



## Monthly Meeting

Tuesday October 8<sup>th</sup> 2024 10.am  
St. Peter's Church, Ravenshead



**Speaker: Geoff Harris**

**Title: "The London No-one Tells You About"**

Geoffrey Harris' talk "The London No-one Tells You About" is a fast-paced, amusing and at times downright funny talk as he sheds a light upon some of the lesser-known facts about London, its laws and its strange inhabitants. You will be left wanting to know so much more about human lavatories, coffin-escape devices and one-legged escalator testers that you will just have to go there yourselves!

## NOVEMBER 2024



## Monthly Meeting

Tuesday November 12<sup>th</sup> 2024 10.am  
St. Peter's Church, Ravenshead

**Speaker: Neil Hallam**

**Title: Policeman to Crime Writer**

Neil's talk From Policeman to Crime Writer weaves his real-life experiences through the creation of his 10 books. Explaining the creative process, and where fact meets fiction. An accomplished mountaineer and adventure cyclist, he has travelled to some of the world's most fascinating places, including the Himalayas and the Mongolian Steppe. His Police career, in both uniform and as a detective, took some unusual turns including spending five years leading an anti-corruption team (the real Line of Duty).



**THE u3a NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NETWORK FACEBOOK PAGE**

The u3a Nottinghamshire Network, where our previous Ravenshead u3a Chair, Maria Gabrielczyk, is Vice Chair, is a separate u3a Network Charity set up to support the 33 individual u3as in the county, and in particular support their committee officers in performing their roles.



They facilitate Peer Support Groups for Chairs, Business Secretaries, Treasurers, Membership Secretaries, Publicity Officers, Group Co-ordinators and Speaker Finders where ideas and resources can be shared freely, meeting online every 3 months or so to discuss common items of concern and develop new skills..

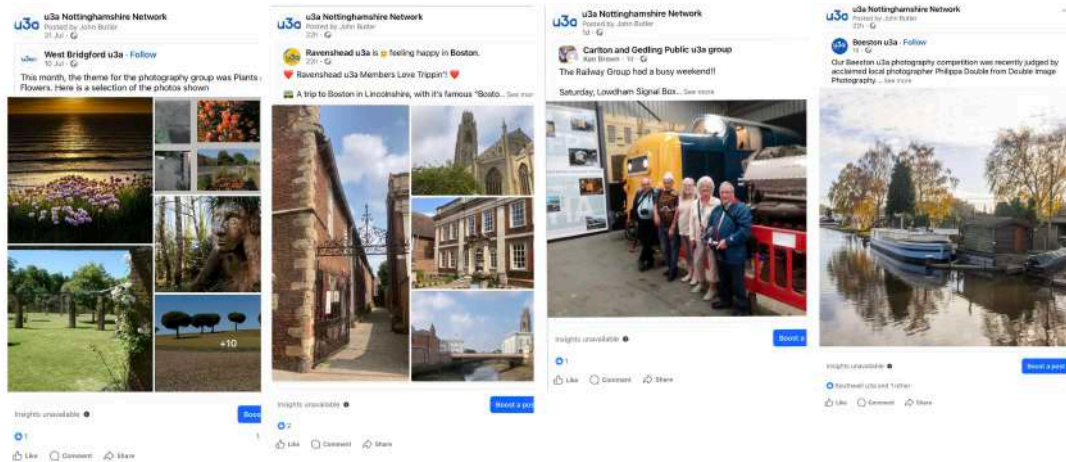
Our Chair, John Butler, with his significant experience of Social Media, was asked to create a Facebook Page for the u3a Notts Network in order to publicise the September Conference, but also to highlight the reports of various activities and interests that u3as within the county are publishing to each of their own Facebook pages.

We know that many of you are not fans of Social Media in general, or Facebook in particular, but we seek support from those of you who do regularly interact with posts on the platform.

The Page went live on 9th July and you can view it by going to :-

<https://www.facebook.com/u3anottsnetwork/>

Please visit the page, **Follow**, **Like** the posts and **Share** those posts that resonate with you.



**CHAIR'S CHAT**

As a Committee we are very concerned at the scenario of not being able to run organised Day Trips out for our members. The stark reality of the situation is that without someone being responsible for the collection of monies, payments to venues we visit, and full accounting for every penny, that we just can't continue with the trips. It would a great shame if we could no longer continue to offer them, but without someone responsible for the finances (it has to be a new committee member) there is no prospect of further trips being offered in 2025.



Here's a reminder that you can still contact us using old fashioned phone technology on **0300 030 2990** so feel free to reach out to us at any time.

*John Butler* Chairman - on behalf of the Committee of Ravenshead u3a