

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING - 10 am on TUESDAY 12th November 2024



Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday November 12th 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).



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



Our **Members' Christmas Lunch** will take place at the

**Oakham Suite, 155 Nottingham Rd,
Mansfield NG18 4AE**

on **Tuesday 10th December**

Your last chance to book tickets will be at our November Monthly Meeting, after which ticket sales will close

More information on Page 3

Book the 1st of our new Trips for 2025

Reservations (with a £10 deposit) are now being taken for a 49 seater coach trip in April to the City of Hull. Visits to Wilberforce House Museum & the Hull and East Riding Museum



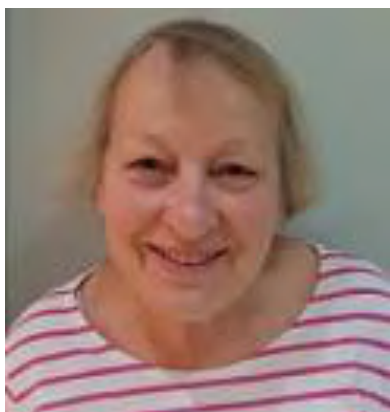
Details of our 2025 Mini-Coach Trips will be advised at next month's meeting



**Chair's
Chat**

Find out what John Butler has to say on page 15

"CHANGING OF THE GUARD" AT OUR TREASURY TEAM



After many years of serving diligently as our Treasurer, **Sue Owen** has finally relinquished the reins and formally handed over the role to **Gill Davies**.

Sue will remain on the Committee until our AGM next April, mentoring Gill through the financial year end at the end of December, and assisting Gill in other ways as she settles into being responsible for our whole Treasury Team.

Alan Ratcliffe will continue as part of the team in his position as Gift Aid Treasurer as well as Vice Chair.

Meanwhile, November's Monthly meeting will be **Alan Walker's** last appearance as Social Treasurer working alongside Halinka Rajchel on our trips table, and taking the final bookings for our Christmas Lunch.

Mike Fanfarillo has now joined the committee as Alan's replacement in the Social Treasurer role. Alan will leave the committee at the end of December.



❤️ Thank You Sue and Alan ❤️

THE 'FIT FOR THE FUTURE" PROPOSAL WAS APPROVED AT THE THIRD AGE TRUST AGM

It's been a busy start for Iain Cassidy, the new CEO of the Third Age Trust, as at October's AGM member u3as voted overwhelmingly to approve the "Fit for the Future" resolution and change the constitution of the Third Age Trust.

The change means that the Trust is now separating the representative and supportive role currently played by elected Region/Nation Trustees from the legal and financial responsibilities that come with being a trustee of a large national charity. They're creating the u3a Council to take on this representative role and act as a conduit between u3as and the governing Board of Trustees.

In doing so, they hope to strengthen the voice of u3a members, ensuring that members' views and ideas help shape the strategic direction of the Trust.

Council and Board nominations

The timeline for the upcoming nomination and voting process for the new Council and Board is as follows:

- **Monday 18 November 2024** - Nominations open
- **Thursday 19 December 2024** - Nominations close
- **Monday 13 January 2025** - Voting opens
- **Friday 21 February 2025** - Voting closes

When nominations open, the Trust will send out candidate packs with information. All u3a members are able to put themselves forward to be part of the new Council, with a nomination from their home u3a.

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 be on sale at our November 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)



Bookings close immediately after our November Monthly Meeting

SUPPORT THE ST PETER'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL!

St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival



Friday 6th - Sunday 8th December

From 3pm on Friday 6th December to 2pm on Sunday 8th December, St Peter's Church will be holding its first ever Christmas Tree Festival, a joyful event for people of all ages.

The church will be decorated with numerous Christmas Trees provided by various local community groups, **including Ravenshead u3a**.

Entry is Free, with Christmas Refreshments on offer, including hot and cold drinks and seasonal home baking, and donations will be invited in aid of the Children's Society and St Peter's.

Timings :

Friday 3pm to 7pm, Saturday 11am to 7pm, Sunday 12 noon to 2pm

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

Only a Few Places Left!

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 21st June 2025

£465 per person (sharing twin/double room) Last Few Places Left! Double/Twin Rooms only

£50pp deposit payable now



ALUM BAY & YARMOUTH

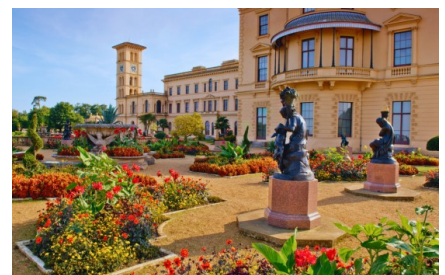
Alum Bay is well known for its multi-coloured sand cliffs and stunning views across the Solent.

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.



GROUPS UPDATE FROM ANNE ELDRIDGE - GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR

If anyone wants further information on any of the following, please contact me via the website.



1. **NEW GROUP - GO WALKING**

Huge thanks to everyone who attended the meeting to review the former Thursday Walking Group. As a result of the discussions, the Thursday Walking Group is no more and we have launched the new Let's Go Walking Group. Walks will be monthly, within a 12 mile radius of Ravenshead and a distance of 3 - 5 miles. The first walk will be in January on a Saturday. **We need names of those interested by 31st December.** Saturday was the preferred day of the week by many at the review meeting but that may change for future walks depending upon the needs of the group members. (See Showcase of the month, item 4 below)

2. **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 - there's no obligation if you later decide that the group doesn't meet your needs.

2.1. **New EOI: Food & Cookery 2 - Planning Meeting:**

The existing Food & Cookery Group (now full) attracted considerable interest at the recent Ru3a Day in September and we already have sufficient names to run a Planning Meeting to form a second group. It is envisaged that the two groups will run independently but join together for outings to outside venues etc. If you think you may be interested, please put your name down for the Planning Meeting. (as always no obligation and you will get a cuppa anyway!).

Food & Cookery 2 - Planning Meeting
Thursday 14th November - 10 am until 12 noon
Brammer Room, Ravenshead Village Hall

2.2. **NEW EOI: Beginners Spanish:**

The Holiday Spanish Group ran for a set number of sessions. Following the success of this, we are now able to offer a regular Beginners Spanish Group. For those of you who enjoyed the Holiday Spanish and want a bit more, are 'off to sunny Spain' (tra la la) or those who just want to acquire a new skill in a relaxed environment, this is the group for you.

2.3. **NEW EOI: Maths for Fun:**

Maths can be fun? - surprised me as well! We would like to hear from any of you at whatever level (even those who are frankly terrified) who are interested in learning a bit more in a very friendly and supportive environment. Great for keeping those grey cells working and an opportunity to dispel any negative school-day memories and actually have fun. Proposed Group Leader, Ian Piper, will be at the monthly meeting on 12th November to answer any queries you may have.

2.4. **'Hearts' Bite-Sized 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, likely in the New Year. 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 winter days. .

GROUPS UPDATE FROM ANNE ELDRIDGE - GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR

2.5. '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).

2.6. **Art Appreciation** - This is proving very popular and it is highly likely that this group will come to fruition. There is a bit of a delay to starting up as the proposed Group Leader has unavoidable issues to deal with beforehand. Please bear with us, I am sure it will be worth it as we are hoping that the group will involve discussions, visits and possibly visiting speakers. You don't need a knowledge of the subject just a desire to learn a bit more. In the meantime, keep those names coming.

2.7. **Walking - 2-3 miles (final name to be decided)**

At the recent Walking Review Meeting, many of you said you would like to see a 2-3 mile Walking Group. I am hoping to set up a Planning Meeting shortly but there's still time to get your name down.

3. **BITE SIZED SESSIONS**

Tai Chi Workshop.



A second workshop will be held on:

**Thursday 21st November : 3 - 4 pm
in the Centre at St Peters.**

Booking & payment (£1.50 pp) at the **Monthly Meeting**
in the Church on **Tuesday 12th November**
only from 9.40 until 9.50 and again during the interval.

(It would help if you can bring the precise amount of change if possible)

Numbers are limited for this session and I have restricted these booking and payment times in the interests of fairness to everyone. I do hope you understand.

4. **SHOWCASE GROUP OF THE MONTH - LET'S GO WALKING**

This is a new group (see item 1 above). Paul Craddock will be on hand to explain more about the group and answer any of your queries.

Importantly, he will be taking names of members who are interested in joining him for the very first walk which will be in January (date to be announced). The closing date for names will be 31st December.

To see an example of the previous Thursday Walking Group view our "promo" video here: (opens in YouTube)

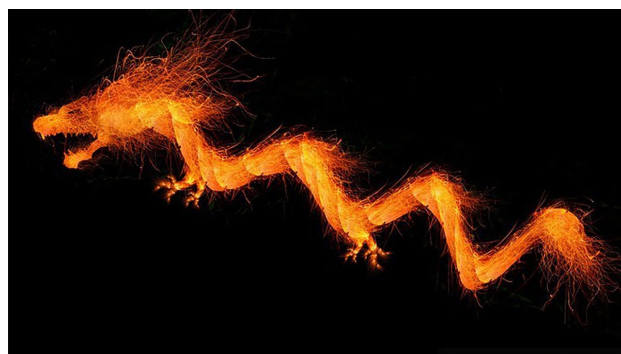
https://youtu.be/dcXT-jW05Zs?si=uheAwtNJB4w_GUB



NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY GROUP**

For our October meeting, the group looked at **Fireworks**, just in time ready for everybody to be able to answer their Grandchildren's tricky questions.

We learnt how the Chinese developed gunpowder and then used it for entertaining by filling hollow bamboo stems with the substance, sealing the ends and putting the assembly in or over a fire. When the temperature rose high enough to initiate a reaction, the tube would explode with a loud bang.



We have come a long way since then, and we were then shown how complicated a modern day display firework has become.

The modern firework consists of a break, a cylinder or spherical unit to contain the individual components until ignition, black powder for the explosive reaction, two or more fuses, the main fuse and time delayed fuses for the second and subsequent parts of the explosive action, stars to produce the multicoloured bursts, a lift charge to propel the firework to a required height and the latch tube to send it in the desired direction,

The fireworks are manually assembled placing all the components almost one by one. It is easy to see how many fireworks are made in China with their access to cheap labour compared to Europe and the USA.

We learnt how the speed of gunpowder increases once it has reached a critical level of heat energy, and how the burnt process can become more rapid by containing in cartridge paper and inside a shell.

Sometimes flash powder is introduced to make the firework go off with a really loud bang.

We learnt how fireworks can burn underwater, but there is not a big market in underwater displays!

For major displays the fireworks are choreographed to ensure that they are fired electronically and in sequence.

As music is broadcast to the audience the firing sequence is scheduled to fit in to the music sequence to make a grand spectacle.

We also had a drone pilot flying his drone through multiple starbursts to show us what it was like close to the action.

There was a hint of multi-level laser drone displays augmenting fireworks, and I suspect In future there will be more of these as drones are more environmentally friendly and they can be reused, and they do not create the smoke and pollution of normal fireworks.

You may not realise that a simple 10 minute display in a local park will cost £2,000 in fireworks and for a major display such as the London New Year's display it will cost well over £4 million.

We finished the meeting with a 12 minute video of the London New Year 2024 fireworks.

Click on this **LINK** to see a 16 minute long video of "**15 Rare Fireworks that Look Incredible**"

Trevor Smith - Science & Technology Group Leader

Find out more details about the group at: https://ravenshead.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/science-and-technology/

NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS

CINEMA & THEATRE GROUP

The Cinema and Theatre Group's latest outing to The Bonington Theatre was to see the 25th Anniversary performance of Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's well known musical, '**Phantom Of the Opera**' filmed at the Royal Albert Hall.

Lloyd Webber cooperated with Cameron Mackintosh on a spectacular production. The show had to be specially designed to fit into the restricted space in the Albert Hall. The story of the mysterious 'phantom', a disfigured musician and composer, who sets out to cause mayhem for the Opera House's new owners, the heroine Christine and her lover Count Raoul was brilliantly portrayed by the cast with moments of tender romance, suspense and even humour.

The close-up nature of the filming displayed the lavish costumes to full advantage and the stage design made it hard to believe that it was actually taking place in such a relatively small arena. The audience was captivated by the story and the music, the quality of which was excellent.

As a bonus, Lloyd Webber appeared at the end to reminisce about his first visit to the Albert Hall as a Primary Schoolboy to see a Beethoven concert, never suspecting that his own music would eventually feature there. He then went on to introduce, to great applause, the original London creative team.

The crowning glory was a concert performance of a selection of the songs by Sarah Brightman and four of the 'Phantoms'. Michael Crawford, who was appearing at the London Palladium, also managed to dash across London for the final curtain call.

Even the dull, miserable autumn weather we emerged to couldn't spoil the enjoyment. I, for one, had 'The Music of the Night' as an earworm for the rest of the evening!report by *Sue Butler*

Gilly Hagen - Cinema & Theatre Group Leader

Find out more details about the group at: https://ravenshead.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/cinema-and-theatre-visits/

FOOD & COOKERY GROUP

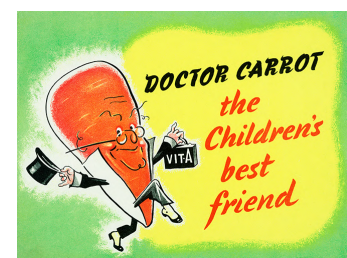
On Friday 25th October, members of the group went for an evening meal to try a different cuisine at Hadia, a Lebanese restaurant in Mansfield.



Coming up next this month is a home "fuddle" where each member of the group brings a pre-agreed cooked course to a member's house, and they share each contribution over a bottle of wine (or two!)



The WWII theme for the fuddle is entitled "Dig For Victory". The meagre rations allowed during the war meant that the population were urged to grow fruit and vegetables (Potato Pete, Doctor Carrot) in their gardens and allotments and also to keep chickens, goats, rabbits and pigs.



Marguerite Patten, who worked for the Ministry of Food during the war, produced lots of economical recipes and it's worth having a look at some of those at : <https://the1940sexperiment.com/100-wartime-recipes/>

Find out more details about the group at: https://ravenshead.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/food-and-cookery/

NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS

ARMCHAIR TRAVELLERS GROUP

October's meeting had the topic entitled '**A Glimpse of China**'.



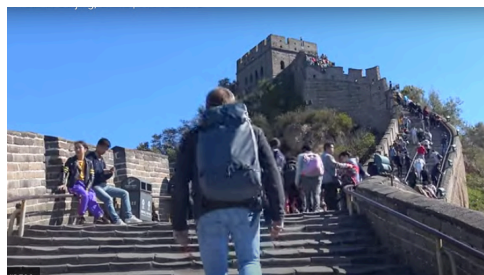
China is a vast country with a whole range of unique sites and beauty. However it was necessary to focus in on three sightseeing areas, Beijing, Xian and Shanghai, and to also learn about the different cuisines of China.

The videos shown included visits to restaurants and food plazas to help illustrate the differences. Did you know that rice is the preferred staple in the south of the country whereas wheat flour is the preferred staple in the north of the country.

Personal experiences were recalled, including that of a maitre d' hotel having a live snake wrapped around his arm and enquiring if you would like snake for dinner, and then there was the experience of eating in Hunan province which is renowned for its very hot and spicy food.

The speaker recalled eating there, and was sweating so profusely that he kept asking for more beer to douse the heat in his throat and stomach. The Chinese colleagues just thought this was hilarious as they had insisted he only had the mildest dishes!

In the travel section we saw the Great Wall and realised that this was not like castle walls as these walls went up and across mountain ranges. The steps were steep and it is hard work to go from point to point.



Just think of how the Chinese defenders used to ride horses up and down the walls. Certainly it required great horsemanship. We looked at palaces, parks and monuments all being unique and beautiful.



The terracotta army is the main focus of a visit to Xian, where there are five pits of excavated terracotta warriors, and still they are finding more wonders, including huge bronze statues of chariots all in harness, but there is much more to the city so that you can enjoy 3 days there.

Finally we moved to booming Shanghai, a city with thousands of buildings of 12 storeys or more, often with stunning architecture. We learnt how at the start of the 21st Century the authorities moved people out of one area around the Bund so that they can develop a new commercial centre which was to power the country to become one of the major reasons for the huge and rapid growth of China as an economic power house.



We learnt that in a three year period China consumed more concrete than the Americans had used over 100 years, such was the pace of development.

Before that we looked at some of the history of Shanghai, and we learnt how in the 1940s large numbers of Jewish people were allowed to settle there. This is not something we normally associate with the Second World War.

NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS

We also found out that people living in cities and urban areas have different types of passport that limits their range of benefits, People who live in rural areas have a different passport which allows them fewer benefits.



If a person migrates from a rural area to an urban area they do not get the urban benefits, and as an example they would have to pay for a child's schooling in the city. For this reason many of these people leave their children with grandparents back in the rural area to get their free education. At holiday times there is a massive exodus from the cities for people to go home and see their families.

Trevor Smith - Armchair Travellers Group Leader

Find out more details about the group at : https://ravenshead.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/armchair-travellers/

ANTIQUES GROUP

The group met as usual on the 3rd Thursday of October to learn more about **Silver & Silver Plate Cutlery**

One member brought along examples from a Dutch canteen of silver cutlery for those present to view and handle.

As usual, members watched videos about different aspects of the topic, an episode of the Vintage French Farmhouse, and enjoyed tea, coffee and cake during the break whilst Group Leader John Butler ran through the local antiques auctions, antiques fairs and valuation sessions.



In November the topic will be **Kitchenalia**

The Antique Guild
Unusual Utensils – Examining a Silver Flatware Set

u3a Ravenshead

Steven Moore
How to Identify Silver & Silver Plate

u3a Ravenshead

Paul Davies Antiques
A Buyer's Guide to English Silver Tea Spoons

u3a Ravenshead

John Walter – London Silver Vaults
Antique English Silver Spoons

u3a Ravenshead

John Butler - Antiques Group Leader

Find out more details about the group at : https://ravenshead.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/antiques/

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

[Beginner's Spanish](#)

Status: Dormant
Dates and times for 2025 to be decided.

[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: Dormant
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

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
Monthly on Monday mornings 11:00 am–12:00 pm
4th Monday usually for meeting
(Portland, but 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

[Go Walking](#)

Status: Active
This group is being reformed and details will be announced when ready.

[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

[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

[Topical Discussion Group](#)

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

[Weekenders](#)

Status: Active
on Saturdays
1st Saturday Coffee & Chat 10.30am – 12.30 & 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
2nd 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 November 2024 & beyond into 2025

IF YOU WISH TO BOOK A TRIP PLEASE SEE HALINKA RAJCHEL 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

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.

TRIP REFUNDS

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

Charnwood Museum & Loughborough Fair Friday 15th November 2024 - 1 PLACE 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 famous Loughborough Fair in the town centre, with its many rides and fairground attractions and enjoy free time in Loughborough.



Ru3a TRIPS UPDATE FROM HALINKA RAJCHEL - TRIPS CO-ORDINATOR

**Day out at Retford
Thursday 20th February 2025**

Trip leaves the Sherwood Ranger at **9.30am** returning at **3.30pm**
Cost : £9 (RCT Mini Coach Travel)

Places to Visit :

- Bassetlaw Museum
- St Swithins Church on Chapelgate (with an organ recital 1pm to 2pm)
- The Edinburgh Woollen Mill, Retford
- Retford Open Air Market
- Antique Shop in Retford



Mega Trip to Hull on a 49 seater Butler Brothers coach

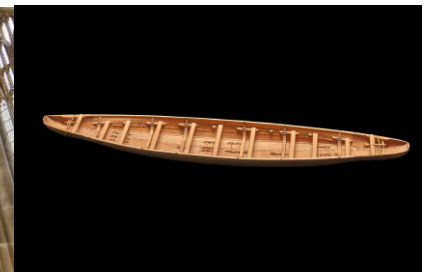
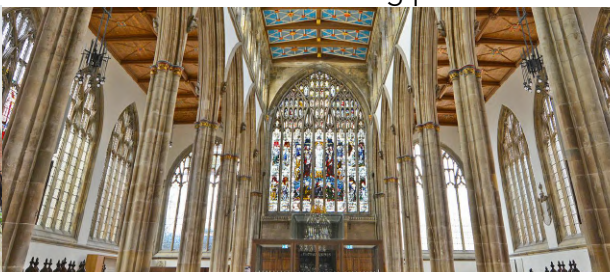
Wednesday 9th April 2025 - £10 DEPOSIT REQUIRED - AT OR ASAP AFTER OUR NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

Trip leaves Church Drive at **9.00am** returning from Hull at **4pm**
Cost : £ TBC (Range £15 up to £25 dependent upon number of members who pre-book - 19 so far)

Visits to Wilberforce House & the Hull and East Riding Museums

Other places of note within the City Centre are the Ferens Art Gallery, Hull Maritime Museum, The Deep, and the Hull History Centre.

There is also the impressive Hull Minster and its surrounding plaza.



TRIP PHOTOS FROM THE VISIT TO MELTON MOWBRAY - THANKS TO SUE ROBB



OUR MEMBER NEIL SLEATH IS AN ARTISTIC TALENT.....

Neil Sleath, a member of our Writing for Fun Group, is also an accomplished artist.

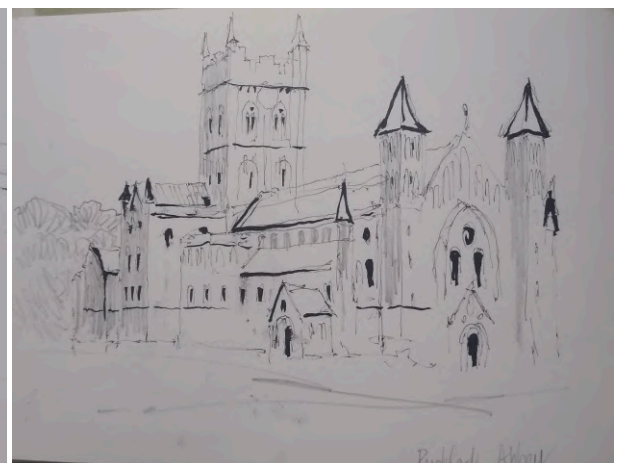
Whilst on the recent Ru3a Holiday to Torquay, we noticed he was creating pencil sketches in a large notebook at several of the locations we visited. Here are some samples of his talent!

First of the sketches is of The Quays at Gloucester Docks, during a 1 hour stopover on the coach journey down to Torquay.

What was remarkable was the speed at which he was capturing the essence and proportions of the subject locations.



The following two sketches were created during our outing to Plymouth and Buckfast Abbey



ASHFIELD U3A COACH HOLIDAY TO KYNREN - AUGUST 2025



Ashfield u3a Coach Holiday to Kynren with Cairngorm Travel

An epic journey through 2000 years of England's history, myth and legend

4 days/3 nights at Redworth Hall Hotel & Spa, County Durham (Twin/Double)

**Entrance Fee to the Event included
Free time in Durham & Raby Castle**

Leaves 1st August 2025

£389 per person (£60pp deposit)

Contact Caroline Rhoades on 07724 210563



CHAIR'S CHAT

As we hurtle towards the end of the year, and perhaps the uncertainty that may exist in 2025, I have to mention that our u3a is enjoying rude health, with new groups being formed, and membership at an all time high of 430 members.

I have to thank in particular all our Group Leaders, Support Team volunteers and our Committee for their part in creating and sustaining both our growth, and also engagement by members in our expanding number of activities. Long may that continue.

As has been mentioned earlier in this newsletter, the changes in our treasury team are significant, but it has been some time coming. We are indebted to both Sue Owen and Alan Walker for seeing us through the most difficult period of Covid and diligently keeping our money management and accounting accurate and on track throughout.

What I'm particularly pleased about is the thoughtful way they have taken time to guide their successors in taking over their roles, particularly Sue as Treasurer who has had so much more to contend with and has patiently guided Gill Davies since our May AGM to the point where her transition into the position of Treasurer has been seamless.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE A MONTHLY MEETING IN THE CHURCH IN DECEMBER

Finally, 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