

THERE IS NO MONTHLY MEETING IN THE CHURCH IN DECEMBER

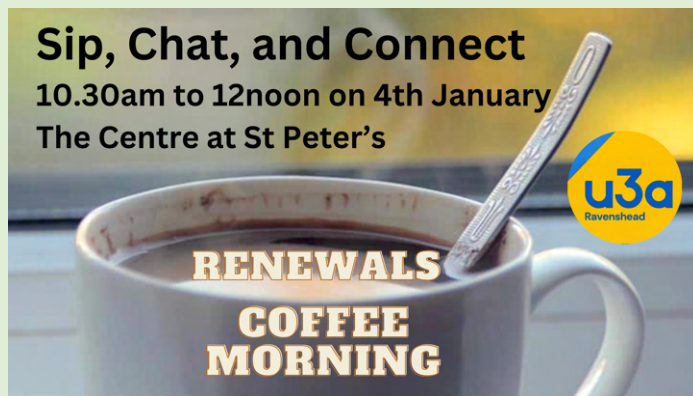
**No Monthly Meeting in December, but we are celebrating with our Christmas Lunch.
See the details below**

Ravenshead u3a Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 10th December 2024 12.30 pm
The Oakham Suite, 155 Nottingham Road, Mansfield
Tickets sales are now closed! See you there!



YOUR 2025 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS DUE ON 1ST JANUARY - SEE PAGES 2 & 3 FOR DETAILS

Sip, Chat, and Connect
10.30am to 12noon on 4th January
The Centre at St Peter's



**RENEWALS
COFFEE
MORNING**

Our u3a Renewals Coffee Morning
will take place at the
The Centre at St Peter's
Sheepwalk Lane
Ravenshead NG15 9FD
10.30am to 12 noon
Saturday 4th January 2025



**WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**
from all members of your
Ravenshead u3a Committee



Find out what John
Butler has to say on
page 14

HOW TO RENEW YOUR U3A MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025

Your u3a subscription for 2025 is due on 1st January.

£17 for full membership

£13 for associate membership *

* Associate membership only applies if you are a full member of another u3a.

* Please provide the name of the other u3a and your membership number at that u3a.



Payment MUST be made before 28th February 2025 to remain a member of the u3a.

Please check your details and correct any errors before sending your payment. If no changes are required to your details, just send your subscription and let Membership Secretary (Andy Bebbington) know that your record is OK on our system.

If you do not wish to renew your membership, it would be helpful if you would let the Membership Secretary (Andy Bebbington) know.

GIFT AID

As a registered charity we shall continue to take advantage of the Gift Aid scheme in respect of subscriptions from those who are eligible to participate i.e. they are individual taxpayers. Their subscriptions are treated as Charitable Donations on which the u3a is able to reclaim tax at the current rate. Many of you have signed a Declaration to this effect so, provided you still remain eligible to participate, there is nothing you need do and your existing Declaration remains valid.

However, if you are an individual taxpayer and now wish to participate for the first time, please let us know by email or contact the Membership Secretary (details below) and we will send you a Declaration to sign along with other notes explaining that what the a3a claims has no effect on your own personal taxation.

For 2025 Ru3a will be not issuing membership cards other than to new members. Please keep your existing membership card as confirmation of your membership.

METHODS OF PAYMENT

1. **BACS**

For payment by Electronic transfer please use:-

Sort Code 08-92-99 and

A/C No 65522594

Quote your initials and your membership number as the Reference so that payments can be identified. **Please ensure that the transfer is dated 1 January 2025 or later.**

2. **PAYPAL**

Go to Ravenshead u3a website and on the **MEMBERSHIP** page is a link to the **MEMBERS PORTAL**. Enter your details using the format shown on your renewal form. You are then invited to renew your membership. You are then given the option to make a payment from your PAYPAL account. If you do not have a PAYPAL account just follow the instructions and use your credit or debit card to pay. You should receive 2 confirmatory emails, one from PayPal and one from Beacon. This payment is automatically paid into the Ravenshead u3a and your records updated. Just for your information PAYPAL deduct 20p per transaction plus 1.4%

HOW TO RENEW YOUR U3A MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025 (continued)**3. CHEQUE**

Please pay by CHEQUE wherever possible to ease administration and increase security. ***The cheque must be dated 1 January 2025 (or later)***, be made payable to: "Ravenshead u3a" and bear the name of the member(s) on the reverse.

This should be posted or hand delivered to Andy Bebbington our Membership Secretary at the address below:

4. CASH

Payments by CASH **in an envelope and including member name(s) and membership number(s)** can be posted or hand delivered to Andy Bebbington our Membership Secretary at the address below:

**4 Cromford Court
Ravenshead
NG15 9GG**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP - Code of Conduct

All members must:

- Members are expected to know, follow and promote the Principles of the u3a Movement at every opportunity.
- Members must always act in the best interests of Ravenshead u3a and the u3a Movement, strive to uphold its reputation and never do anything which could bring their own, another u3a or the u3a Movement into disrepute or expose it to undue risk.
- Members are expected to use Ravenshead u3a's resources responsibly and only to further its stated charitable objects/purposes.
- Members are expected to reflect the current organisational policy of Ravenshead u3a, regardless of whether it conflicts with their personal views.
- Members are expected to abide by Ravenshead u3a's procedures and practices.
- Members are expected to treat each other with dignity and respect at all times.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

Ravenshead u3a requires members to provide their personal information so that they can be kept informed about events and activities that are offered as part of their membership. In collecting your information Ravenshead u3a will:

- Store it securely
- Use it to communicate with you as a u3a member.
- Share your information with group leaders for those groups to which you belong.
- Send you general information about the Third Age Trust (the national organisation to which all u3as are affiliated.)
- Share your information with the company which oversees distribution of the Trust magazines.

If you no longer wish to receive The Third Age Trust Magazine, "u3a Matters", you can cancel by contacting the Membership Secretary, Andy Bebbington preferably by email.

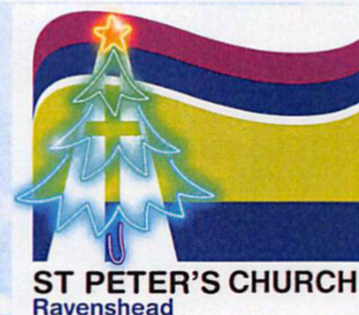
Email: memsec.ru3a@gmail.com

Tel: 01623 405526

Thanks in anticipation of your response. Andy Bebbington, Membership Secretary

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**.

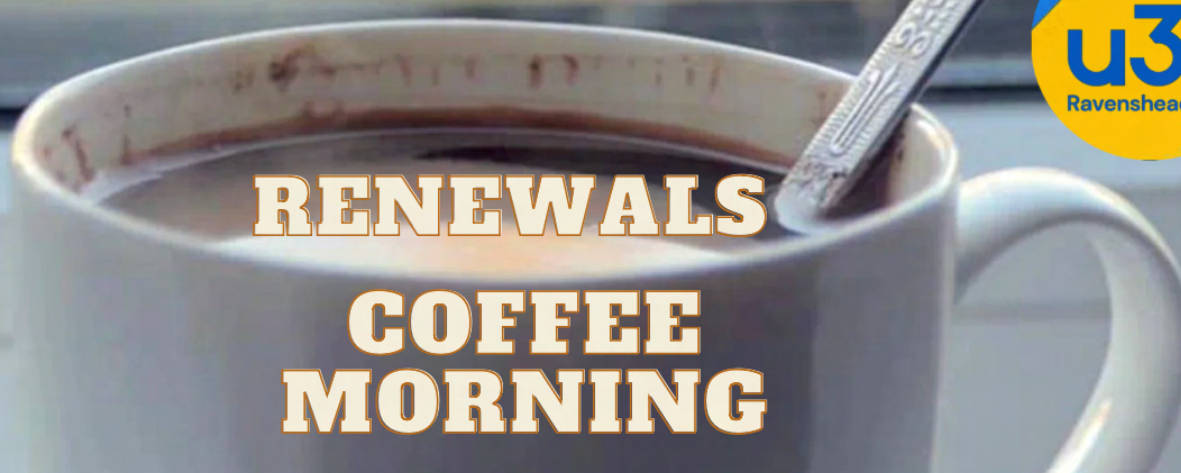
Entry is Free, with Christmas Refreshments on offer, including hot and cold drinks and seasonal home baking, and donations will be invited In aid of the Children's Society and St Peter's.

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

RENEWALS COFFEE MORNING - 10.30am to 12noon - SATURDAY 4TH JANUARY 2025

Sip, Chat, and Connect

10.30am to 12noon on 4th January
The Centre at St Peter's



**Come along and pay your 2025 u3a membership, and have a cuppa and a chat with your fellow u3a members in Room 2 of the The Centre at St Peter's.
10.30am to 12noon on Saturday 4th January 2025**

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**

There will be two new groups - Go Walking 3 miles and Go Walking 5 miles. All walks will be monthly, within a 12 mile radius of Ravenshead. The first walk will be in January on a Saturday. For this walk only, both of the new groups will be walking together for about three miles, This will give you and the Group Leader, an opportunity to assess your walking capability and needs for the future.

We need names of those interested by 31st December and will let you know the actual date as soon as possible. (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)

NOTE : The two mile Walking Group is still at the Expression of Interest stage (see 3.5 below)

2. 🍷 **NEW GROUP - FOOD & COOKERY 2**

Following a very successful planning meeting on 14th November, the viability of the group was confirmed, and a schedule of "fuddle" themes and external visits was created, starting with an initial home fuddle on Friday 10th January with an "All Day Breakfast" theme. Group Leaders will be John & Sue Butler

3. **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.

3.1 **Art Appreciation:** We now have sufficient interest in this group to move to the next step which is a planning meeting to be held on: **Wednesday 5th February 10.30 - 11.30am** **Brammer Room, Ravenshead Village Hall**

There is still time to get your name down if you wish to attend. (If you are interested but can't make that date, I will send you details after the meeting, just let me know)

3.2 **Beginners Spanish:** This is for all of you who are interested in acquiring a new skill in a relaxed and friendly environment.

3.3 **Maths for Fun.** This is for those of you who tremble at the thought of maths, those who have absolutely no knowledge, those who have a little knowledge but would like to know more or those of you who are competent but would like more challenges. In other words - we would like to hear from anyone interested! As always, absolutely no obligation.

3.4 **'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.

3.5 **Walking - 2 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.



NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS

Armchair Travellers Group November 2024

Dundee and the 3 Js plus 1

This month's topic was different from the usual exotic locations of previous months, being centred on Dundee. It is surprising how few people have actually been to Dundee, but it was the first place in Scotland to be granted City status in 1889.

What about Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen, you may well ask, but these had Royal Burgh status since the 12th Century.



Dundee is a place that has gone through considerable change over the years and it is renowned for the **3 Js** with another **J** coming to the fore.

The first J is for **Jute**. At one stage there were 50,000 workers engaged in making linen from flax and textiles from jute. This came about as a port it was easy to import jute from India, and they had access to whale oil, from the local whaling fleet, which was required to help process the fibres. Making sails and rope was big business.

However the advent of the steamship and the Indians deciding to process their own raw material quickly led to a decline in the industry and today the only jute work is undertaken in a museum.

The Second J is about **Jam**. The Keillers discovered a way of making Marmalade from bitter oranges and the rest is history. Much later the Mackay's replaced the purpose of their carrot making factory to make Jams using locally sourced berries.

The third J is for **Journalism**. You will all remember in your youth the stories of Dennis the Menace and Minnie the Minx in the Dandy or Beano supplemented by The Sunday Post and People's Friend. Some 2,000 locals are still employed currently by the industry.

More recently the fourth J is for **Joystick** as Dundee is a centre of some 40 video games companies.

We started the meeting with some bagpipe music and then looked at the various tourist sites including the RRS Discovery which was the ship used by Shackleton and Scott in their exploration of Polar regions.

A quick visit to the V&A Museum showed a very interesting building even if the presenter was underwhelmed by the exhibits as he thought they had given too much room to the restaurant and the gift shop at the expense of exhibits.

We also briefly visited Glamis Castle, the home to the Lyon family and the birthplace of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and also Princess Margaret.

We also were introduced to the first public Astronomical observatory, which the newly opened local Coxmore Observatory will rival now as a spectacular attraction.

The next meeting will be on January 22nd and will be about Estonia



Trevor Smith - Armchair Travellers Group Leader

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

NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS

CINEMA & THEATRE GROUP

The Cinema/Theatre Group were out at The Bonington Theatre, and whilst we knew very little about the musical 'Girls from the North'.

The show had won rave reviews in the USA plus many awards. It tells the story of a Guest House in Mid West Town just after the Wall Street crash and it is set during the depression. The lyrics and music was done by Bob Dylan. There was a star studded cast, and our group left saying it was "Amazing, fantastic lyrics and the story was well told.



This is just one of the great days out we have with the group.

This month we are off to see 'Wicked' On the 14th December. Then the following week on the 18th December we are off to see 'Paddington in Peru'. You are welcome to join us. If interested contact me.

Both these shows are at The Bonington Theatre in Arnold. I know many u3a Members have found The Bonington since joining us on our trips.

Our final promotion for 2024 is in fact to be held on

**SATURDAY 25th JANUARY 2025
PETER PAN - THE PANTOMIME & RAVENSHEAD VILLAGE HALL.**

TIME -2.30pm PROMPT** COST £10 a seat. 🚗**

We will be on the first and second rows.

This show is presented by Ravenshead Theatre group, and one of our u3a Members who is now 103 was a founder member of the group and she enjoys our trips to see their shows.

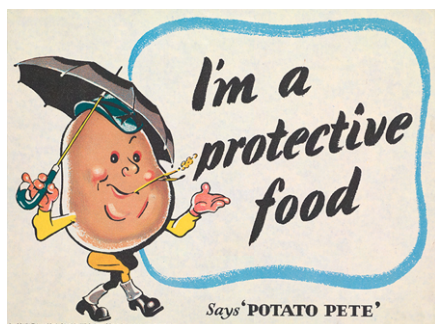
If you want further information please text or email me. Gilly Hagen

🎄 Seasons Greetings to all of our U3A family. 🧑🏻

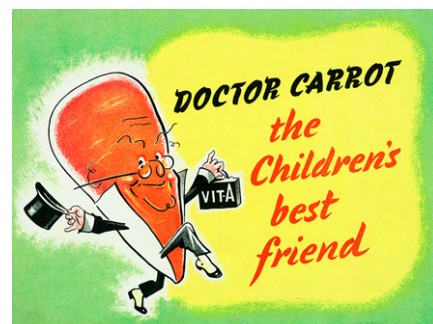
Gilly Hagen - Cinema & Theatre Group Leader

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

FOOD & COOKERY GROUP



Kath McCready hosted the November "Dig for Victory" home "fuddle" where each member of the group brought a pre-agreed cooked course consistent with the WW2 theme, and they shared each contribution over a bottle of wine (or two!)



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.

NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS

Members were also asked to bring along any WW2 paraphernalia they had, such as ration books, and we were surprised that apart from books, recipes and leaflets from that era, there was also an original child's gas mask brought along!

So what did they end up cooking, bringing, sharing and sampling?

Pea and Ham Soup, Meat & Veg Loaf, Black Pudding Hot Pot, Chicken Stew & Fluffy Dumplings, Corned Beef & Potato Pie, Potato Piglets, Red Cabbage Bed, Lord Woolton Pie, Allotment Vegetable Cottage Pie, Wartime Chocolate & Carrot Pudding, Apple Crumble and Wartime Oat & Carrot Biscuits.

For 2025 we now have two Food & Cookery Groups. Group 1 is full and Group 2 is close to being fully subscribed too!

For more information about the Food & Cookery Group 1 contact **Group Leader - Maria Gabrielczyk** via the website at https://ravenshead.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/food-and-cookery/.

For Food & Cookery Group 2 contact **Group Leader - John Butler** via the website at https://ravenshead.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/food-and-cookery-group-2/



NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS

ANTIQUES GROUP

The group met as usual on the 3rd Thursday of November to learn more about **Kitchenalia**

Group leader John Butler had researched the topic and the members present viewed a wide range of kitchenalia items advertised at Helmswell Antiques, watched videos about different aspects of the topic, including from the Museum of Kitchenalia, followed by an episode of the BBC programme "Vintage French Farmhouse", where Antiques Dealers from the BBC "Bidding Room" programme compete to make the most profit from finding items they can sell to their clients and followers within 24 hours, sourced from French street broquantes in the South of France.

The members also enjoyed tea, coffee and biscuits during the break whilst John Butler ran through the local antiques auctions, antiques fairs and valuation sessions.

<p>u3a Helmswell Antiques A Selection of Kitchenalia Items</p>  	<p>u3a Helmswell Antiques A Selection of Kitchenalia Items</p>  
<p>u3a Helmswell Antiques A Selection of Kitchenalia Items</p>  	<p>u3a Helmswell Antiques A Selection of Kitchenalia Items</p>  
<p>u3a Planet Chef Berkel Slicer – Volano B114</p>  <p>u3a Ravenshead</p>	<p>u3a The Museum of Kitchenalia Ice Cream Making in the 1700's & 1800's</p>  <p>u3a Ravenshead</p>

The group aren't meeting in December due to the proximity of their normal meeting date to Christmas, but will gather again on Thursday 16th January 2025.

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 2025

IF YOU WISH TO BOOK A TRIP PLEASE SEE HALINKA RAJCHEL AT OUR JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING, OR AT THE 'WEEKENDERS' GROUP MEETING ON 4TH JANUARY.

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- + Retford



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.

Day out in 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 Open Air Market

Antique Shop in Retford



Ru3a TRIPS UPDATE FROM HALINKA RAJCHEL - TRIPS CO-ORDINATOR

**Workshop & the Welbeck Estate
Friday 14th March**

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

Cost : £7 (RCT Mini Coach Travel only) Visits to :

National Trust "Mr Straws House"

(Free entry for NT members, non members £8)

Mr Straw's House is a preserved 1920s period home of a grocer's family in Worksop, virtually unchanged since the Straws moved there in 1923. The bus will leave Mr Straws after the visit and head to :

Harley Art Gallery - (entry free)

Located in the nearby Welbeck Estate, this is 6 miles from Worksop. (If people only want to go to Harley Art Gallery they can be dropped off en-route to Worksop). There is a cafe located in the grounds of Harley Art Gallery.



**Mega Trip to Hull on a 49 seater Butler Brothers coach
Wednesday 9th April 2025 - £10 DEPOSIT REQUIRED -
AT OR ASAP AFTER OUR JANUARY 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 - 29 so far)

Visits to Wilberforce House & the Hull and East Riding Museums
Other places of note within the City Centre are the Hull Minster, Hull Maritime Museum, The Deep, and the Hull History Centre.



TRIP PHOTOS FROM THE VISIT TO CHARNWOOD MUSEUM & LOUGHBOROUGH FAIR



ELECTION OF EAST MIDLANDS REGION REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NEW U3A COUNCIL

WOULD YOU CONSIDER BEING A CANDIDATE FOR ONE OF OUR 2 EAST MIDLANDS REPRESENTATIVE POSITIONS ON THE NEW U3A COUNCIL?

We know it is challenging to find individuals who may still have the energy, time and skills to perform such a role as a volunteer, but so far, with the application deadline of **Thursday 19th December** looming, no-one has yet applied from within the region.

A u3a member prepared to stand for election will need to be nominated by their home u3a, and seconded by another u3a in the Region, which invariably takes time to arrange.

Information about the role and the upcoming election process, as well as the timetable and nomination form is included in the information below.

Key Dates

Thursday 19 December 2024 - Nominations close

Monday 13 January 2025 - Voting opens

Friday 21 February 2025 - Voting closes

Download the Council Representative candidate pack here :

<https://u3a.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=656ad5962b370cc9e2731d1ed&id=b4bd9a3121&e=b8c9ed1be7>

Fill out the online nomination form here :

<https://u3a.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=656ad5962b370cc9e2731d1ed&id=4e95c6fce9&e=b8c9ed1be7>

u3a
learn, laugh, live

**Council
Representative
Candidate Pack**

ASHFIELD U3A COACH HOLIDAY TO KYNREN - AUGUST 2025

u3a
learn,
laugh,
live

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 2024 draws to a close, and the Christmas Season is well and truly upon us, I reflect with gratitude about the progress our u3a has made over the year.

I lead a full committee of volunteer trustees, that have been serving You, our members, with effectiveness, diligence and harmony, and this year we have attracted a significant number of new members to join us, with our overall membership now standing at an all-time high of 434, an increase of 38 over this time a year ago.

Alan Walker has now completed many years as service as our Social Treasurer and finally stepped back from the committee to be replaced by Mike Fanfarillo, Frances Leyshon joined us as our new Business Secretary, and Sharan Jones came on board to become our Volunteer & Support Teams Champion and also act as our Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Officer.



What will 2025 hold for our u3a and the u3a Movement across the UK?

At Ravenshead u3a, we can only build on the foundations of offering you the Activity & Interest Groups that you as members currently enjoy and would also like to see started.

Our ever popular Day Trips will continue to offer opportunities to visit fascinating, educational and historical venues, and our u3a Holidays are set to become an established feature, with the 2025 Isle of Wight Holiday in June already fully booked out, and two more in the pipeline being organised for 2026.

At a county network level, the u3a Notts Network organised a successful conference at the Squire Performing Arts Centre in September, the East Midlands Region now has a Regional Support Team to assist the current Regional Trustee, John Lewis, perform his role, and Nationally the structural "Fit for the Future" governance changes were voted in, with nominations currently being sought for the new Representative Council Members and also Board Trustees that will be part of the changes in the way the u3a movement will operate from May 2025.

Although we have no monthly meeting in December, I hope to see and chat with many of you at our Annual Christmas Dinner at the Oakham Suite in Mansfield on Tuesday 10th December.

I'd like to wish you a Merry, Enjoyable Christmas, and a Fulfilling and Active New Year with plenty of engagement and social interaction within our u3a.

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

p.s. In addition to being Chair of Ravenshead u3a, I now also head up the u3a Technology Subject Network known as 'Let's Talk Tech' at the u3a National level, details of which can be found at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/subject-networks> and a new website at <https://letstalktech.u3asite.uk>

Please do check it out!