

**NEXT MONTHLY MEETING – 10 am on TUESDAY 11th November 2025**

**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live



## Ravenshead u3a Monthly Meeting

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025 10.am  
St. Peter's Church Ravenshead

**Speaker: Alistair Littlewood, Storyteller**  
**Title of talk: *Bah! Humbug?***

"I believe that Christmas has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!" So says Scrooge's nephew in "A Christmas Carol". But what is the story behind the creation of that most famous Christmas novel? Alistair Littlewood, Storyteller, reveals all, along with a selection of readings from the book itself.



**2nd Evening Event**  
**Sherwood Observatory Visit**  
**Thursday 26th February 2026**  
**BY POPULAR DEMAND**

**Sold Out!** Ru3a Trip **Sold Out!**

**Visit to Southwell with recital**  
**Friday 21st November 2025**

**Christmas Lunch**  
**The Hostess Restaurant**  
**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**  
**ALL TICKETS NOW SOLD OUT!**

**Ravenshead Community Event**  
**(Page 3)**

**2025 Ru3a Member Survey**  
**(Page 4)**

**Get the Nation Learning Week**  
**(Page 4)**

**u3a East Midlands Region**  
**(Page 5)**

**The Time is Coming Next Year**  
**(Page 17)**



**Chair's  
Chat**

Find out what John  
Butler has to say on  
page 17

## HAVE YOU SEEN WHAT'S COMING UP THIS MONTH?

### RAVENSHEAD U3A CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To see what's happening within our Interest Groups, we urge you to go to the Beacon Calendar at <https://u3abeacon.org.uk/u3acalendar.php?u3a=224&sc=XTEM>

which is also linked from a button at the bottom of the Groups Page on our website.

*Information on the Calendar is subject to Group Leaders populating the details on Beacon*

› Fri 7 Nov 2025 9.30 am	Yoga Group 2
› Fri 7 Nov 2025 2.00 pm	Knitting & Crochet
› Fri 7 Nov 2025 2.00 pm	Science & Technology <i>London Power Tunnels</i>
› Sun 9 Nov 2025 12.00 pm	Weekenders Sunday Lunch 1
› Mon 10 Nov 2025 9.00 am	Maths for Fun
› Mon 10 Nov 2025 2.00 pm	Country & Folk Dancing
› Tue 11 Nov 2025 10.00 am	Open meeting <i>Ru3a Member Monthly Meeting</i>
› Tue 11 Nov 2025 2.00 pm	Canasta
› Tue 11 Nov 2025 2.00 pm	Yoga Group 1
› Wed 12 Nov 2025 9.30 am	Hikers (5-8 miles) <i>5-8 mile walk</i>
› Wed 12 Nov 2025 10.00 am	Latin & Roman History
› Wed 12 Nov 2025 12.00 pm	Salsa
› Thu 13 Nov 2025 9.00 am	Craft
› Thu 13 Nov 2025 11.00 am	Molky
› Thu 13 Nov 2025 2.00 pm	Writing for Fun
› Fri 14 Nov 2025 9.30 am	Yoga Group 2
› Fri 14 Nov 2025 2.00 pm	Chair Yoga
› Mon 17 Nov 2025 10.00 am	Chess & Backgammon
› Mon 17 Nov 2025 10.00 am	French Conversation
› Mon 17 Nov 2025 2.00 pm	Table Tennis
› Mon 17 Nov 2025 2.00 pm	Arts Appreciation <i>Expressionism and Art Deco</i>
› Tue 18 Nov 2025 12.00 am	Wine Group 2
› Tue 18 Nov 2025 10.30 am	Scrabble, Cribbage, Rummikub
› Tue 18 Nov 2025 2.00 pm	Mah Jong
› Tue 18 Nov 2025 2.00 pm	Yoga Group 1
› Wed 19 Nov 2025 10.00 am	Garden
› Wed 19 Nov 2025 2.00 pm	Armchair Travellers <i>Salamanca</i>
› Thu 20 Nov 2025 9.00 am	Craft
› Thu 20 Nov 2025 9.45 am	Guitar
› Thu 20 Nov 2025 10.00 am	Cryptic Crosswords
› Thu 20 Nov 2025 11.00 am	Petanque <i>Petanque</i>
› Thu 20 Nov 2025 12.45 pm	Belly Dancing
› Thu 20 Nov 2025 2.00 pm	Antiques <i>Topic TBC</i>
› Fri 21 Nov 2025 12.00 am	Wine Group 1
› Fri 21 Nov 2025 12.00 am	Food & Cookery 1 <i>Ready Steady Cook</i>
› Fri 21 Nov 2025 9.30 am	Yoga Group 2
› Fri 21 Nov 2025 2.00 pm	Knitting & Crochet
› Sat 22 Nov 2025 2.00 pm	Weekenders - Games
› Mon 24 Nov 2025 2.00 pm	Country & Folk Dancing
› Mon 24 Nov 2025 7.00 pm	Wine Group 3
› Tue 25 Nov 2025 2.00 pm	Canasta
› Tue 25 Nov 2025 2.00 pm	Yoga Group 1
› Wed 26 Nov 2025 10.00 am	Latin & Roman History
› Wed 26 Nov 2025 12.00 pm	Salsa
› Wed 26 Nov 2025 2.00 pm	Book Reading
› Thu 27 Nov 2025 9.00 am	Craft
› Thu 27 Nov 2025 10.00 am	Local History <i>Papplewick Pumping Station</i>
› Thu 27 Nov 2025 11.00 am	Molky
› Fri 28 Nov 2025 9.30 am	Yoga Group 2
› Fri 28 Nov 2025 2.00 pm	Creative Writing

› Fri 28 Nov 2025 2.00 pm	Topical Discussion
› Fri 28 Nov 2025 2.00 pm	Chair Yoga
› Mon 1 Dec 2025 10.00 am	Chess & Backgammon
› Mon 1 Dec 2025 10.00 am	French Conversation
› Mon 1 Dec 2025 2.00 pm	Table Tennis
› Mon 1 Dec 2025 2.00 pm	Family History <i>Meeting to Research our own Family Histories</i>
› Tue 2 Dec 2025 10.00 am	Living Well
› Tue 2 Dec 2025 10.30 am	Scrabble, Cribbage, Rummikub
› Tue 2 Dec 2025 2.00 pm	Mah Jong
› Tue 2 Dec 2025 2.00 pm	Yoga Group 1
› Wed 3 Dec 2025 1.30 pm	Photography For Fun
› Thu 4 Dec 2025 9.00 am	Craft
› Thu 4 Dec 2025 9.45 am	Guitar
› Thu 4 Dec 2025 10.00 am	Cryptic Crosswords
› Thu 4 Dec 2025 11.00 am	Petanque <i>Petanque</i>
› Thu 4 Dec 2025 12.45 pm	Belly Dancing
› Thu 4 Dec 2025 12.45 pm	Belly Dancing

# RAVENSHHEAD COMMUNITY EVENT - SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2025

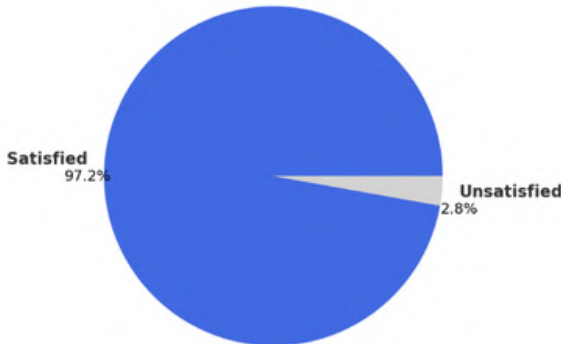
This special event, aimed at bringing together not for profit organisations in our local community, sponsored by the Ravenshead Parish Council, was facilitated by members of our Ru3a committee and volunteers.

Ravenshead u3a were thanked by Parish and County Councillor, Stuart Bestwick, for the significant part they played in making this Community focused initiative a great success.



**RAVENSHEAD u3a MEMBERS' SURVEY 2025**

Thank You to the 143 members (32% of the membership) who took the time to share their views in the recent Ru3a Members' Survey.



We have started to analyse the responses and hope to have the full report completed by January. It's been particularly rewarding for the committee to see the response to the question relating to overall member satisfaction.

More than 97% of you expressed satisfaction with Ru3a, and numerous suggestions and ideas have been put forward for new groups and activities.

Eleven members expressed an interest in knowing more about the work of the committee, and how people can be more involved.

We shall be arranging an informal meeting for those members to ask questions and find out more.

Unfortunately, not all of you left your contact details, so if you might like to be involved, please email our Chair, John Butler, on ravenheadu3a@gmail.com or phone him on 0300 030 2990.

**NEWS FROM THE THIRD AGE TRUST**

**Get the Nation Learning Week**

**3rd to 7th November 2025**

This week is the Get the Nation Learning Week, part of a campaign to champion lifelong learning.

Of course, u3a gets the nation learning every day. As a u3a member you get access to the National Learning Events for free at : <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

Coming up in November, There are talks on Sustainable Energy, Catherine the Great, Pop Music, and World Faiths, to name only a few - there really is something for everyone.

<p><b>u3a Radio Podcast</b></p> <p>Listen to our monthly radio series on our YouTube and podcast platforms. New episodes in the 3rd week of each month.</p>	<p><b>The Talking Drums of Africa</b></p> <p>Join John Baxter, u3a Subject Adviser for Climate Change and Environment, to explore the talking drums of the Congo basin.</p> <p>Thursday 6 November at 2pm</p> <p>Free - online via Zoom</p>	<p><b>The UK and the US constitutions part 2</b></p> <p>Join Paul Carter, our u3a national Subject Adviser on UK and US politics, for the second in the series on these different constitutions.</p> <p>Friday 7 November at 2pm</p> <p>Free - online via Zoom</p>
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<p><b>Exploring World Faiths: Interfaith Week - More in Common</b></p> <p>The late Jo Cox MP said that we have more in common than that which divides us. We will explore with members of different faiths, the extent to which that is true.</p> <p>Monday 10 November at 10am</p> <p>Free - online via Zoom</p>	<p><b>Catherine the Great</b></p> <p>Join Alan Freeland as he uncovers how Catherine the Great's vision and ambition transformed Russia from a medieval to a renaissance state and reshaped Russia into a European political power.</p> <p>Monday 10 November at 2pm</p> <p>Free - online via Zoom</p>	<p><b>Making your smartphone easier to use - Android</b></p> <p>AbilityNet Digital Skills Trainer, Steve Mersereau, presents an online workshop to help you get the most out of your Android phone or tablet</p> <p>Tuesday 11 November at 2pm</p> <p>Free - online via Zoom</p>	<p><b>Laughter Yoga with Judith: November</b></p> <p>Laughter Yoga combines hearty laughter exercises with deep yoga-style breathing (pranayama). Hosted by Judith Anne Walker of Edinburgh u3a.</p> <p>Wednesday 12 November at 10am</p> <p>Free - online via Zoom</p>	<p><b>What Next? From Retired to Redefined</b></p> <p>From her research, Jane Moffett highlights six potential challenges that people might face when retired. She shows how people can design their own unique map for what's next and embrace this life stage.</p> <p>Thursday 13 November at 2pm</p> <p>Free - online via Zoom</p>	<p><b>Adapting to Climate Change</b></p> <p>Ian Hawker examines attempts to minimise the negative impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Friday 14 November at 10am</p> <p>Free - online via Zoom</p>	<p><b>Take Ten Songs 1: How Pop Songs Work</b></p> <p>Join Lee Wellbrook, Bkley &amp; District u3a, to listen to and dissect ten popular songs to see what makes them work.</p> <p>Thursday 20 November at 10am</p> <p>Free - online via Zoom</p>	<p><b>Tiny Algae with Big Impact: The response of micro-algae to river pollution</b></p> <p>Isabelle Fournier of the British Psychological Society discusses the importance of micro-algae and how it can be impacted by pollution</p> <p>Monday 17 November at 10am</p> <p>Free - online via Zoom</p>	<p><b>The Mind of Your Microwave, with u3a Let's Talk Tech</b></p> <p>John Davies of Bearsden and Milngavie u3a reveals the hidden computers that control almost every electrical appliance in your home.</p> <p>Wednesday 19 November at 1pm</p> <p>Free - online via Zoom</p>
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## u3a EAST MIDLANDS REGION

The u3a East Midlands Region comprises 114 u3as across the counties of Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Rutland, Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire.

It has two Council Representatives on the new National Council that came into existence with the “Fit for the Future” governance changes that established a small board for the Third Age Trust and created the National Council, when the role of a single Regional Trustee was abolished.

**John Lewis** of Bingham u3a transitioned to being one of our Council Reps and **Barry Appleby** of Derby u3a was elected as our second Council Rep last April. Whilst it's early days, the Council is now working on some challenging issues that face the u3a Movement, with John & Barry giving input and feedback.



**John Lewis**

One of the new initiatives being introduced to increase the effectiveness of the Council Representatives are Third Age Trust funded Regional Conferences/Trainings.

The first one for the East Midlands Region will take place on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026** at Braunstone Civic Centre in Leicestershire, when the keynote speaker will be **Allan Walmsley**



**Barry Appleby**

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NETWORK OF u3as



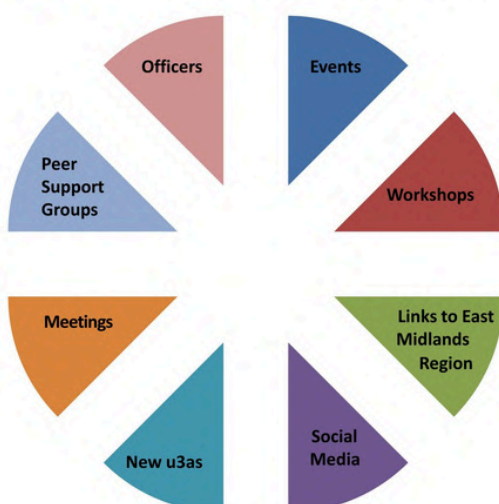
Our current Chair, **John Butler**, was elected Chair of the Nottinghamshire Network of u3as at their AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

Also elected onto the committee was **Terry Moore**, our Ru3a Website Admin, who now undertakes the same Website Admin role with the Network.

Both John & Terry join **Maria Gabrielczyk**, our previous Ru3a Chair, who remains on the network committee in her roles of both Vice Chair and Newsbites Editor.



### u3a Nottinghamshire Network



### What does the Network do?

The Nottinghamshire Network of u3as was established in 2009 to enable cooperation between u3as, to provide support across the county and also to enable the launch of new u3as.

Currently, 34 u3as in Nottinghamshire form the Network and four meetings are held a year, attended by one or two representatives from each u3a. During these meetings members have the opportunity to share examples of good practice and talk through issues that arise.

Peer Support Groups are a major strength of the Network allowing members representing each of the main committee roles to meet and share ideas and common challenges.

Regular workshop sessions are held for Network members to enhance knowledge about running a u3a and committee.

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

If anyone wants further information on any of the following, please contact me via the Contact page on the website at <https://ravenshead.u3asite.uk/contact/>



### 1. NEW GROUPS

#### 1.1. Living Well.

Meeting every other month, alternating with the Fashion. First meeting **Tuesday 2nd December**, 10–11.30 in the Centre at St Peter's.

#### 1.2. Fashion.

Meeting every other month, alternating with Living Well. First meeting **Tuesday 6th January 2026** in the Centre at St Peter's.

### 2. EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

These are purely for me to assess the level of interest before setting up a new group. Anyone who puts their name down will be under no obligation if they later decide that the group doesn't meet their needs.

#### 2.1. International Dining (new EOI).

Does socialising whilst experiencing various cuisines in a variety of venues appeal to you? Do you want to tantalize your taste buds whilst enriching your knowledge of international dining? If any of these appeal (or even if you just want to eat something a bit different to the norm) this may be the group for you.

#### 2.2. Hearts – FREE Taster Session - Fri 14th November, 1315–1415 in the Centre at St Peter's

The card game 'Hearts' is easy to learn but with plenty of room for high-risk strategy later on. If you like card games and would like to give it a try, you will be most welcome. If you could let me know if you will be attending, it would be appreciated. Refreshments will be available (please bring your own cup)

#### 2.3. Keep Fit – Bite Sized workshop (i.e. only one or two meetings)

As it is unlikely that this will run until around May time, I have temporarily withdrawn this EOI and will re-introduce it later when I have definite dates.

### 3. WEEKENDERS GAMES –

#### FREE Review meeting on Saturday 22 November, 14.00–16.00 in the Centre at St Peters.

Looking for something to do on a Saturday? This group has been running for many years and we thought it an opportune moment to review how the group is run and whether it is still meeting the needs of our members.

The group was initially formed to provide a friendly meet-up on a Saturday morning (at the moment we play various board games, Scrabble, Canasta, Rummikub, etc., but maybe you have other ideas for things to do) Come along and give us your views – there is no obligation and the more ideas the better! This review is open to all Ravenshead u3a members, regardless of whether they have attended this group in the past. Refreshments will be available but please bring your own cup!

### 4. INSPIRE COURSES AT THE LIBRARY

I am still researching how best to address the need for some Smart Phone training but have been notified of two training sessions to be run at the Ravenshead Library. These are outside the remit of Ravenshead u3a and I cannot answer any queries on the content, booking, etc., but I thought some of you may be interested.

**Smartphone Use** – Ravenshead Library Dates: **Thursdays, 5–19 February 2026** Time: 10am – 12pm  
Details/booking: [www.inspireculture.org.uk/skills-learning/adult-learning/smartphone-use-4066/](http://www.inspireculture.org.uk/skills-learning/adult-learning/smartphone-use-4066/)  
Or call 01623 677200

**Using AI – Beginners** – Ravenshead Library Date: **Thursday, 26 February 2026** Time: 10am – 12pm  
Details/booking: [www.inspireculture.org.uk/skills-learning/adult-learning/using-ai-beginners-4068/](http://www.inspireculture.org.uk/skills-learning/adult-learning/using-ai-beginners-4068/)  
Or call 01623 677200

## NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS

### ARTS APPRECIATION GROUP

#### Leonardo's 'Last Supper', the Mouseman and Art Nouveau

On 20 October, the Arts Appreciation Group reflected on

- 'The Last Supper' by Leonardo da Vinci
- Robert 'Mouseman' Thompson
- A video introduction to Art Nouveau

Margaret Brook gave an inspiring presentation on her recent visit to Milan where she had been successful in obtaining tickets to visit 'The Last Supper' by Leonardo da Vinci.

The group were fascinated to hear about this world-renowned painting and the history of its development and survival.



*Leonardo Da Vinci - The Last Supper. dated to c. 1495-1498, housed in the refectory of the Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan, Italy ([Image source and licence](#))*

Janet Shaw had the group's full attention when she shared her passion for the work of Robert "Mouseman" Thompson (1876-1955), who was a furniture maker in Kilburn, Yorkshire.

His speciality was beautifully carved oak furniture, that featured a carved mouse. Southwell Minster features woodwork by Robert Thompson. Visitors can find his work, including modern clergy seats, stools, and 1949 altar rails, hidden within the Minster.



*Robert "Mouseman" Thompson's trademark carving on the altar rail in Kilburn Parish Church ([Image source and licence](#))*

Janet had visited his Kilburn factory and was able to show the group a cheeseboard she purchased there.

## NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS

### ARTS APPRECIATION GROUP ..../cont'd

Susan Titman showed the group examples of a William Morris pillowcase and tea towels from the Arts and Crafts era, including the famous Rex Whistler mural at Plas Newydd, a country house in Anglesey, Wales.

As seen below, this 18th-century house features a large, 58 foot "Capriccio" or fantasy landscape mural, painted by the artist Rex Whistler for a new dining room in the 1930s... ([Image source and licence](#))



### Art Nouveau

With its curves, flowers, beautiful women and bold colours, Art Nouveau became a truly international style. It embraces almost every aspect of art, architecture and design. Beginning in 1893, by 1900 it had spread all over Europe.

The video introduction viewed by the group can be seen [here](#). It concentrates on the work of the architect, Victor Horta. The group were 'wowed' by the beauty of buildings such as the Hotel Tassel and the Hotel Solvay.



Façade of the Hôtel Tassel (Tassel House), Brussels, Belgium by Victor Horta (1892–93)  
[Image source and licence](#)



Stairway of the Hôtel Tassel, Brussels, Belgium designed by Victor Horta (1892–93)  
[Image source and licence](#)

## NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY &amp; INTEREST GROUPS

## ARTS APPRECIATION GROUP ..../cont'd

Jane Baxter shared two posters which she had purchased for her kitchen many years ago, not realising that they were Art Nouveau.



Alphonse Mucha - Heidsieck and Co., 1901  
[Image source and licence](#)

Mucha supplemented his income with advertising posters. The curved lines and muted tones are characteristic of Art Nouveau.



Lucien- Henri Weil - Le Frou Frou, 1901  
[Image source and licence](#)

Commissioned to promote a new French satirical magazine, Le Frou Frou, this poster was audacious and provocative for its time.

For more information about the **Arts Appreciation Group** contact the Group Leader - **Sharan Jones** via the website : [https://ravenshead.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/arts-appreciation/](https://ravenshead.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/arts-appreciation/)

## FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

At the group meeting on Monday 3rd November, Richard Surgey shared with the members present about his grandfather, George Hymas.

## MY GRANDFATHER GEORGE HYMAS - AN INTERESTING LIFE

On the 17th December 1851 George Hymas was born in Dagenham, which then was a rural village in Essex. His father was Henry and mother Elizabeth Martha (nee Allen) who were both local people.

Henry worked as a miller for his father. In 1854 a brother, Alfred, was born but he only lived for a couple of months, dying in June.

## NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY &amp; INTEREST GROUPS

## FAMILY HISTORY GROUP .... / cont'd



His life must have been turned upside down when on the 2nd of January 1855, his father Henry was convicted at Chelmsford assizes for larceny and imprisoned for 6 months.

I can find no further information about Henry and assume he died soon after, as Elizabeth remarried in church in 1856 and had a further 5 children.

George stayed with his mother, stepfather and half-siblings in the Dagenham area until we find him in New Marske in North Yorkshire in 1871. He is listed as George Amos, an ironstone miner living as a boarder in the same house as Mary Elizabeth Olford who was a servant there.

It was the same Mary Elizabeth Olford who was born in Cornwall, that on the 8 May 1872 George married at Marske by the Sea.

George and Mary stayed for the next 20 years in North Yorkshire, George working as an iron miner and Mary giving birth to 11 children; 8 girls and 3 boys.

In 1877, George, whilst still living at Marske in Yorkshire, was charged with trespassing in pursuit of game on land belonging to the Earl of Zetland. He was found guilty, fined £2 with costs of 10 shillings.

in the 1881 census was now living at Kirkleatham also in North Yorkshire and working as an iron miner.

Between 1891 and 1893 the family moved down to the Mansfield area, at one point living in Langwith, where George worked in the coal mines initially at Shirebrook pit.

In 1892, Mary had a son named Arthur about whom I can't find any record other than on an old handwritten list of George's children. After that Mary had three more daughters, the last being my mother Gladys May born in October 1899. Apart from probably Arthur all the other children lived well into adulthood.

In 1894, George was again in trouble with the law being fined a guinea for assaulting a neighbour.

In 1904, George was involved in a protracted court case, this time not as a defendant. It concerned a very successful racing dog known as a 'snap', what we would call a greyhound or a whippet called Floss, which he had loaned to a fellow racer.

My mother had told me that he had had the dog stolen and showed me a photo of the dog, but I knew nothing of the details of the case. When I searched for information on the Find My Past newspaper archive, I found numerous reports of the trial in newspapers all over the country. The case went on for a number of months with George getting the dog returned and eventually also getting the cost of the dog being kept in neutral kennels during the process.

## NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY &amp; INTEREST GROUPS

## FAMILY HISTORY GROUP .... / cont'd

Sometime during the first two decades of the 20th century, George took on the responsibility of storing the 'tilts', the canvas covers over the market stalls, which were taken down and replaced daily.

Mansfield market was a thriving business until the last years of the 20th century. My father, who had married my mother towards the end of WW1, joined my grandfather in the market stall business after the end of the war.

By the 1921 census, George was living in Stella Villas, on Nottingham Road opposite Sainsbury's filling station.

He was classed as an employer with a business up The Eclipse Yard on WestGate in Mansfield.

In his old age he developed gangrene as a diabetic and had part of one of his legs amputated, at the time living with my parents in Mansfield, and died in 1937.

In searching probate records, he left £1,177 to two unrelated local miners, the equivalent of about £102,000 in today's money.

I have no idea who they were, but my next task is to find out!



For more information about the **Family History Group** contact the Group Leader - **Andrew Davies** via the website : [https://ravenshead.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/family-history/](https://ravenshead.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/family-history/)

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

### TRIPS INFORMATION FOR 2025/2026

IF YOU WISH TO BOOK A TRIP PLEASE VISIT THE TRIPS TABLE AT OUR MONTHLY MEETING, OR THE 'WEEKENDERS' GROUP

Payment is required at the time of booking.

We can now take Payment at monthly meetings by Credit or Debit card using our Card Terminal machine.



If paying by BACS, please make payments at the time of booking to :  
**Ravenshead u3a Social Account - Co-op Bank - Sort Code: 08-92-99 Account number : 65552700**  
 Add your Membership Number, Surname, followed by a short name for the trip

Contact details for Halinka Rajchel - Mobile: 07762 802112 - Email : via the website Contact Page

**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 from our team at the Trips Table at our Monthly Meetings.

## Ru3a Private Visit

2nd TRIP ARRANGED

### Sherwood Observatory & Planetarium- Evening Visit

**6.15pm Thursday 26th February 2026**

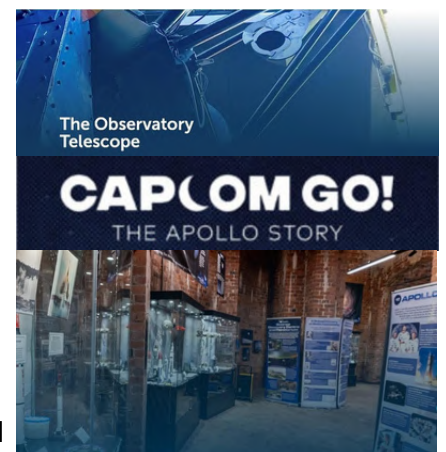
A RCT mini-coach will leave Ravenshead at 6pm, returning after dark at approximately 8.15pm

**Cost : £10.50 (Entrance + Mini Coach Travel)**

**Entrance Only : £7.50 (Drive there Yourself)**

Evening Visit to see the Newtonian Reflecting Telescope (with tour and explanation by Society Members)

Followed by "CAPCOM GO! - The Apollo Story" (Planetarium Show)



## Trip to Southwell

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November

Sold Out!

## Ru3a MEGATRIP TO STRATFORD ON AVON - FRIDAY APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup> 2026

Mega Trip to Stratford on Avon next year on a 49 seater Butler Brothers coach

Friday 17th April 2026 - Cost to be Confirmed

**TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT ON THE COACH, PLEASE PAY AN INITIAL £10 DEPOSIT**

Last Few  
Places Left!



With Attractions including :-

Last Few Places Left!

**- Shakespeare's Birthplace:**

This historic site, where William Shakespeare was born, allows visitors to explore the house and learn about his early life.

**- Royal Shakespeare Theatre:**

The Royal Shakespeare Theatre is a world-renowned venue, offering a diverse range of performances, from Shakespearean plays to contemporary productions.

**- Anne Hathaway's Cottage:**

This charming cottage, where Shakespeare's wife spent her childhood, provides insights into Tudor life and the history of the area.

**- Shakespeare's Schoolroom & Guildhall:**

This building, where Shakespeare received his education, offers a glimpse into the educational system of the time and the local government of Stratford.

**- Holy Trinity Church:**

This historic church is where Shakespeare was baptised and is known for its connection to the Bard.

**- Avon Boating:**

Visitors can enjoy scenic river cruises on the Avon River, offering a unique perspective of the town and surrounding countryside.



## RAVENSHEAD U3A ALFA TRAVEL COACH HOLIDAYS FOR 2026

**The Cliffe Norton Hotel - Tenby : Departing on: 25th April 2026 - Duration: 5 Days / 4 Nights**

**Price : £375 per person based on 30-39 passengers and sole use of the coach**

No single rooms left, only a mixture of Twin/Doubles are now left available (Sea View Supplements will apply)

To include day trips out to St David's & Saundersfoot



**The Hotel De Paris - Cromer : Departing on: 12th September 2026 - Duration: 5 Days / 4 nights**

**Price : £459 per person based on 30-39 passengers and sole use of the coach**

Sea View ( £35 Supplement) & Cosy Double ( £60 Supplement) are still available, with the only remaining rooms being a mixture of Twin/Doubles (Sea View Supplements will apply)

To include day trips out to Sandringham & a Norfolk Broads River Cruise



**A £50 deposit per person made payable to Alfa Travel will secure your place(s).**

**See Halinka Rajchel at the Trips Table at our Monthly Meetings or at the Weekenders Group.**

## TRIP REPORT FOR THE POLISH BOMBER SQUADRONS CENTRE, RAF INGHAM

For our visit to the RAF Ingham Heritage Centre I took an extra layer of clothes, in my experience museums on old airfields have buildings that are always freezing.

I was wrong. A 14-year project has transformed an old farm storage building, formerly a wartime Airmen's Mess, into a museum with underfloor heating. Volunteers are central to the success of this new museum, they made us very welcome, provided us with lunch, and helped us understand the important role of the Polish airforce bomber squadrons who flew from the airfield in WW2.

There were several large rooms of evocative wall displays with carefully curated memorabilia telling personal stories of the Polish airmen and women both during the war and their lives post war.

There was also a small cinema displaying contemporary newsreels and a reconstruction of a Nissen hut that was used by the Polish Resettlement Corps when families were setting up home in Britain after the war.

A particular highlight was a life-size, three-dimensional cardboard cutaway of the front section of a Lancaster bomber, an evocative reminder of the cramped conditions and dangers that crews faced.

It was an interesting and thought provoking visit to a place that I had no idea existed. Thank you Halinka.

*Report by Sue Robb*



**RIVIERA TRAVEL AFFINITY SCHEME FOR u3as**

The Trust u3a has partnered with Riviera Travel to support local u3as.

Book any holiday or cruise and mention your Ravenshead u3a when booking to have 9% of the basic holiday cost donated to Ravenshead u3a through the Third Age Trust.



With a carefully curated selection of holidays, Riviera Travel prioritises quality over quantity, refining each journey to perfection for a truly unforgettable experience.

Every aspect of a Riviera Travel holiday is carefully selected, with thoughtfully balanced itineraries that allow you to explore at a relaxed pace.

**Exclusive offer**

When a local u3a member books a holiday directly with Riviera Travel, 10% of the basic cost\* will be donated to The Third Age Trust (registered charity number 288007) and 9% given to Ravenshead u3a (1% of the donation will be retained by the Third Age Trust to contribute to the running costs of the scheme.)

\*The basic cost excludes travel or accommodation supplements, upgrades, insurance premiums, and any additional expenses.

**Redeem this offer**

Call [01283 901 085](tel:01283901085) or go online to [rivieratravel.co.uk/u3a](http://rivieratravel.co.uk/u3a) and start planning and to book your next adventure! **Remember to mention Ravenshead u3a when booking.**

For queries regarding the Affinity u3a scheme - call [01283 523 470](tel:01283523470) or email [affinity@rivieratravel.co.uk](mailto:affinity@rivieratravel.co.uk)

## THE TIME IS COMING NEXT YEAR - AND WE NEED NEW KEY PEOPLE

With only 5 months or so until 3 loyal members leave the Committee at our 2026 AGM in April, it is imperative that new members come forward to fulfil the roles that will be vacated by those who have reached the end of the maximum term allowed by our Constitution. At that point there will only be 6 trustees left on the Committee going forward into the 2026-2027 year.



**Andy Bebbington**  
Membership Secretary



**Sue Butler**  
Meetings Organiser



**John Butler**  
Chair

Andy Bebbington is one of the three leaving the committee, but fortunately one of our existing committee members, Sue Warner, has offered to take over as our Membership Secretary at the AGM, and will be shadowing/assisting Andy during the member renewals period from the 1st January 2025.

Whilst the majority of our members will not consider putting themselves forward, it is **ESSENTIAL** that at least two u3a members come forward to be nominated for the two roles that will become vacant.

**It would be unreasonable and totally unprecedented if the existing 6 trustees were to be left to run the u3a, and have to cover the 2 committee roles that need to be filled, without additional support.**

## CHAIR'S CHAT

I am becoming increasingly concerned about succession and the continuity of our u3a.

Our charity depends on Volunteers to contribute their time, enthusiasm and expertise to run and support the u3a for the benefit of our membership, from our Refreshment and AV Teams, our Group Lesders and Assistants, the Welcome Team, through to our Committee.

Without them, you wouldn't continue to enjoy the benefits of being a member. At the 2026 Trust AGM last month it was revealed that although the total number of u3a members in the UK grew, around 20 u3as have either folded or merged in the last year, due to nobody joining their committees and performing key roles needed to continue their existence. That is extremely sad, but an ultimate consequence I do not want to contemplate for Ravenshead u3a.

**Finally, for issues relating to any other u3a matters, 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.**

If no-one is available to answer your call, it will return you to my home answerphone, so please leave a message, and we'll endeavour to get back to you promptly.

*John Butler*

Chairman - on behalf of the Committee of Ravenshead u3a