

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING – 10 am on TUESDAY 14th April 2026

Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday 14th April 2026 10.am
St. Peter's Church, Ravenshead**



All Members welcome!

Find out more!

Help run your u3a!

Have your say and help shape our future!

Your u3a needs YOU!

**This area on the front page is
where we would normally
announce about our upcoming
Trips and Holidays**

**New Trips are currently
suspended until a member is
prepared to be co-opted onto
the new Committee to
perform the role of
Social Account Treasurer
to account for and process all
financial transactions in
connection with trips**

**2026 AGM Information
(Pages 2 & 3)**

**Have you Watched the
new u3a Video Yet?
(Page 3)**

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**East Midlands Region
Council Election Result
(Page 6)**



**Chair's
Chat**

Find out what John
Butler has to say on
page 16

2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We give formal notification that the 2026 Annual General Meeting of Ravenshead u3a (Charity No: 1154123) will take place at 10am on Tuesday 14th April 2026 at St Peter's Church, Sheepwalk Lane, Ravenshead NG15 9FD.

Details of the AGM 2026 meeting and any relevant source documents, such as Minutes of the 2025 AGM, the Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ending December 2025, and the Chair's Report, are available to view/download on a dedicated page at our website at :

<https://ravenshead.u3asite.uk/agm-2026>



Charity registration 1154123

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the RAVENSHEAD u3a
Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 10 a.m.
at St Peters Church,
Sheepwalk Lane, NG15 9FD**

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the AGM on 14 May 2025
4. Matters arising
5. Questions arising from Chair's Report on behalf of the Trustees
6. To receive the annual accounts for 2025 (*1 January to 31 December 2025*).
7. To approve the retention of an Independent Examiner: Margaret Rose Cullip of Anderson & Co Accountants Ltd, Nottingham (Ru3a Member no 599)
8. Motions
9. Election of the Committee 2026/27
10. Date of next AGM – Tuesday 13th April 2027 (*this is a provisional date only*)

2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - POST AGM ENTERTAINMENT



Refreshments, Social, Fun and Games

After the conclusion of the business of the AGM, refreshments will be served in The Centre.

It will be an opportunity to catch up with friends and, if you're feeling adventurous, to have a go at one or more of the games on offer.

Organisers Anne & Fran are remaining tight-lipped about what to expect, so all of us don't yet know what to expect.

Does this image offer a clue?

GO VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION

<https://ravenshead.u3asite.uk>

Have you Watched the new u3a Video Yet?



[Click HERE to view the video on YouTube](#)

RAVENSHEAD U3A - DIGITAL INCLUSION WORKSHOPS

Digital Inclusion Workshops



Smartphone



Tablet



Laptop

Over 100 Ru3a members have attended Digital Inclusion Sessions to date.

Sessions delivered so far :-

- Staying safe and avoiding scams and fraud (by the Nottinghamshire Police Cybersecurity Team)
- A Digital Skills Open Session, including types of hardware and information on tariffs and plans. A needs assessment was also carried out for all participants.
- Introduction to PowerPoint
- What is AI?
- Getting Started

These are the Future Sessions planned for April-September

- Using the NHS App, accessing GP services online and other health sites (to be delivered by the Digital & Social Inclusion Co-ordinator for Sherwood Forest Hospitals)
- Connecting to the Internet
- Stay safe online (practical)
- Socialising online
- Digital documents
- Managing your money online
- Accessing local services online
- Shopping online
- Managing your bills and utilities online
- Plan your travel online
- Ru3a Web Site and Online Groups
- More AI
- Excel
- Word
- More email
- Photo / image editing

In addition, we intend to run regular general workshops, supported by Digital Buddies to promote peer learning.

Facilitators and Buddies

We have been fortunate to recruit volunteers from within our membership who are willing to act as facilitators and workshop buddies – this is supporting the long-term sustainability of the programme.

We had originally planned to engage someone with experience to deliver the sessions, but found it a challenge to find someone. We therefore appealed to our 400+ members, for support with the delivery and were not disappointed. To date we have recruited 20 volunteers to support the sessions.



Funded by
UK Government



CLAIRE WARD
MAYOR OF THE
EAST MIDLANDS



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 up to date details on Beacon

• Fri 10 Apr 2026 9.30 am	Yoga Group 2
• Fri 10 Apr 2026 10.00 am	Hearts BS <i>via website</i>
• Fri 10 Apr 2026 10.30 am	Strollers <i>Stroll around Papplewick</i>
• Fri 10 Apr 2026 2.00 pm	Science & Technology <i>How microchips are made</i>
• Fri 10 Apr 2026 2.00 pm	Chair Yoga
• Mon 13 Apr 2026 9.00 am	Maths for Fun
• Mon 13 Apr 2026 2.00 pm	Country & Folk Dancing
• Tue 14 Apr 2026 10.00 am	Open meeting <i>Monthly Meeting for all members.</i>
• Tue 14 Apr 2026 2.00 pm	Canasta
• Tue 14 Apr 2026 2.00 pm	Yoga Group 1
• Tue 14 Apr 2026 2.00 pm	Writing for Fun
• Wed 15 Apr 2026 10.00 am	Garden
• Thu 16 Apr 2026 9.00 am	Craft
• Thu 16 Apr 2026 9.45 am	Guitar
• Thu 16 Apr 2026 10.00 am	Cryptic Crosswords
• Thu 16 Apr 2026 11.00 am	Petanque <i>Petanque</i>
• Thu 16 Apr 2026 12.45 pm	Belly Dancing
• Thu 16 Apr 2026 2.00 pm	Antiques <i>Topic TBC</i>
• Fri 17 Apr 2026 12.00 am	Wine Group 1
• Fri 17 Apr 2026 12.00 am	Aprons and Appetites <i>Evening meal at White Bear, Stretham.</i>
• Fri 17 Apr 2026 9.30 am	Yoga Group 2
• Fri 17 Apr 2026 1.30 pm	Pickleball
• Fri 17 Apr 2026 2.00 pm	Knitting & Crochet
• Sat 18 Apr 2026 1.00 pm	Food & Cookery <i>Home Fuddle - Favourite Recipe, Favourite Chef</i>
• Sun 19 Apr 2026 12.00 am	Weekenders Sunday Lunch 1
• Mon 20 Apr 2026 10.00 am	Chess & Backgammon
• Mon 20 Apr 2026 10.00 am	French Conversation <i>Conversing in French.</i>
• Mon 20 Apr 2026 2.00 pm	Table Tennis
• Mon 20 Apr 2026 2.00 pm	Arts Appreciation <i>Arts Appreciation</i>
• Tue 21 Apr 2026 12.00 am	Wine Group 2
• Tue 21 Apr 2026 10.30 am	Scrabble, Cribbage, Rummikub
• Tue 21 Apr 2026 2.00 pm	Mah Jong
• Tue 21 Apr 2026 2.00 pm	Yoga Group 1
• Wed 22 Apr 2026 12.00 pm	Salsa
• Wed 22 Apr 2026 2.00 pm	Armchair Travellers <i>A tour around Myanmar</i>
• Wed 22 Apr 2026 2.00 pm	DIGITAL SKILLS - Short Course <i>Using the NHS App and Local Health Services</i>
• Thu 23 Apr 2026 9.00 am	Craft
• Thu 23 Apr 2026 10.00 am	Local History <i>Decoy Airfields of Nottinghamshire in WW II</i>
• Thu 23 Apr 2026 11.00 am	Molky
• Fri 24 Apr 2026 9.30 am	Yoga Group 2
• Fri 24 Apr 2026 10.00 am	Hearts BS
• Fri 24 Apr 2026 2.00 pm	Topical Discussion
• Fri 24 Apr 2026 2.00 pm	Chair Yoga
• Sat 25 Apr 2026 2.00 pm	Weekenders - Games
• Sun 26 Apr 2026 12.00 am	Weekenders Sunday Lunch 2
• Mon 27 Apr 2026 2.00 pm	Country & Folk Dancing
• Tue 28 Apr 2026 12.00 pm	Salsa
• Tue 28 Apr 2026 2.00 pm	Canasta
• Tue 28 Apr 2026 2.00 pm	Yoga Group 1
• Wed 29 Apr 2026 2.00 pm	Book Reading
• Thu 30 Apr 2026 9.00 am	Craft
• Thu 30 Apr 2026 11.00 am	Molky
• Fri 1 May 2026 12.00 am	Sprich mal Deutsch <i>Provisional dates only - Contact Louise via website</i>
• Fri 1 May 2026 9.30 am	Yoga Group 2
• Fri 1 May 2026 1.30 pm	Pickleball
• Fri 1 May 2026 2.00 pm	Knitting & Crochet
• Fri 1 May 2026 2.00 pm	Science & Technology <i>Sevens</i>
• Sat 2 May 2026 10.30 am	Weekenders Coffee and Chat
• Sun 3 May 2026 12.00 am	Weekenders Sunday Lunch 1
• Mon 4 May 2026 10.00 am	Chess & Backgammon
• Mon 4 May 2026 10.00 am	French Conversation <i>Conversing in French.</i>
• Mon 4 May 2026 2.00 pm	Table Tennis
• Mon 4 May 2026 2.00 pm	Family History <i>Meeting to research our Family History and hear about other experiences</i>
• Tue 5 May 2026 10.00 am	Fashion <i>The 1960's</i>
• Tue 5 May 2026 10.30 am	Scrabble, Cribbage, Rummikub
• Tue 5 May 2026 2.00 pm	Mah Jong
• Tue 5 May 2026 2.00 pm	Yoga Group 1
• Wed 6 May 2026 1.30 pm	Photography For Fun <i>Meet together with a "Photoshoot" this month. TBA</i>
• Tue 5 May 2026 2.00 pm	Yoga Group 1
• Wed 6 May 2026 1.30 pm	Photography For Fun <i>Meet together with a "Photoshoot" this month. TBA</i>
• Thu 7 May 2026 12.00 am	Cinema and Theatre <i>Provisional dates only Contact Gilly via website</i>
• Thu 7 May 2026 9.00 am	Craft
• Thu 7 May 2026 9.45 am	Guitar
• Thu 7 May 2026 10.00 am	Cryptic Crosswords
• Thu 7 May 2026 11.00 am	Petanque <i>Petanque</i>
• Thu 7 May 2026 12.45 pm	Belly Dancing
• Fri 8 May 2026 9.30 am	Yoga Group 2
• Fri 8 May 2026 10.00 am	Hearts BS <i>via website</i>
• Fri 8 May 2026 2.00 pm	Chair Yoga

Visit the Groups page at our website :
(<https://ravenshead.u3asite.uk/groups/>)

COMING UP NEXT MONTH - MAY MONTHLY MEETING



Speaker: Stephen Brown

Title: "It's Hell on Wheels being a Driving Instructor!"

Monthly Meeting
Tuesday 10th March
2026 10.am
St. Peter's Church,
Ravenshead

- Could you pass your Driving Test tomorrow?
- Find out how much the driving test has changed since you took your driving test.
- What is the 'new' Driving Theory Test all about?
- Be amazed at the funny (and risqué) things learner drivers say and the questions they ask.
- Ask questions about driving. (as long as they are easy!)
- A mock driving lesson will be held at the end of the talk.
 Education ~ Information ~ Entertainment.

Stephen Brown has been a Driving Instructor for over 40 years and is still alive!



NEWS FROM THE THIRD AGE TRUST - u3a COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Result of the u3a East Midlands Region Council Election

Introducing your new Council Representatives for 2026–2029

East Midlands



Rosie Allen

Arnold u3a



John Butler

Ravenshead u3a

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NETWORK OF u3as WORKSHOP - MONDAY 1st JUNE

Nottinghamshire Network of u3as

INTEREST GROUPS MATTER 2

**Do you lead an interest group? Are you a groups co-ordinator?
Are you a sports group leader? Are you a u3a web manager?**

**We welcome any member of the Notts Network to
this face-to-face workshop**

**Find out more and join our exciting workshop on
Monday 1 June 2026 – 9.45 a.m. until 12.45 p.m.
at the Newstead Community Centre
Tilford Road, Newstead Village, NG15 0BS**



Programme:

- **Presentation: Keeping interest groups vibrant – looking to the future**
- **Breakout groups**
 - Sports
 - Trips and visits
 - Interest Groups co-ordinators
 - Web managers
 - General – will interest those who do not fit one of the groups above

**If you would like to join us please contact Margot Gale by Monday 18 May 2026 giving your full name, email address, your u3a and preferred break out group: margot.nottsnetwork@outlook.com
Cost £5 per member payable in cash on the day – your u3a may be able to sponsor you.**

Learn, laugh, live

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. EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

These are groups that I am hoping to set up in the future. If you are interested, please let me know and I will add your name to the list. No obligation if you change your mind later.

1.1. Quizzing - Anyone like quizzes? Let me know if you would be interested in joining us.

1.2. Book Group 2 - Our existing very successful Book Group is now full – anyone want to join a second group?

1.3 Friends Sharing Food - The objective of this group is primarily to provide a social opportunity to meet up and have a bite to eat. Food will be provided on a 'fuddle' basis – e.g. everyone attending brings something to share with the others. There is no need to cook (unless you really want to), shop bought is just as acceptable. Interested? Let me know.

2.0 NEW Ru3a GROUP - DINING WITH A DIFFERENCE

Following our very successful Planning Meeting we now have a new group – Group Leaders Sue Henson and Deputy GL Sue Warner.

This group will work on a mutual co-operation basis, i.e. members (those who are able) taking it in turns to organise meals/outings. The aim is to hold an event every other month with an emphasis on the word 'Difference' – e.g. International, vegan, vegetarian cuisines and/or visits to Food Festivals, etc – in fact anything that is a little bit different to the norm.

Please let me, or one of the Group Leaders know (they can be contacted via the website) if you are interested in joining this very exciting new venture or would like any further information.

3.0 SHORT LAWN BOWLS (SOMETHING NEW AND A POSSIBLE NEW GROUP FOR US)

Arnold u3a have invited all interested members to a free Open Day. If you are interested in attending, please contact Hazel Ward on hazelshortward@gmail.com. If there is sufficient interest in this, I will explore setting up a Ru3a group using the facilities at Blidworth.

4.0 CINEMA & THEATRE GROUP – RE-LAUNCH

Group Leader, Jayne Piper, and her deputy, Jane Rose, are fizzing with ideas and will be officially relaunching this group at a Social/Planning event on Thursday 14th May, from 10 am until 12 noon in the Centre.

Everyone interested is welcome to join us but please let me know so I can buy the correct number of biscuits!! (Important bit: bring your own cups!)

GROUPS UPDATE FROM ANNE ELDRIDGE - GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR

Calling all local u3a members

A new sport invented by Arnold u3a
at Daybrook Bowls Club

Short Lawn Bowls

- Would you like to learn how to play? or
- Would you like to start SLB at your u3a?

OPEN DAY & TRAIN the TRAINER

Thurs 14th May: FREE: 12noon- 4pm

At Daybrook Bowls Club: Located next to
Sainbury's car park, off Sir John Robinson Way,
NG5 6BN (near Busy Bees nursery)

Contact Hazel Ward, Arnold u3a,
hazelshortward@gmail.com

What is Short Lawn Bowls?

- An outdoor game, where the playing mat is set half way down the bowling lane
- Less strenuous bowling to suit people of differing abilities.
- No experience necessary. Equipment is provided. Please wear flat-soled shoes.

NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS**SPRICH MAL DEUTSCH GROUP**

In the last week of March a few of our members enjoyed an outing to The Mammoth Cinema, Nottingham.

The tiny Mammoth cinema on Broad Street is a self-proclaimed 'climate action cinema' and a 'hub for sharing ideas about how we can all contribute towards a better, fairer, and greener future - focused around film'

The German film we attended was Aguirre: Der Zorn Gottes (Aguirre: The Wrath of God)

Made in 1972 this epic historical drama was written and directed by Werner Herzog and is considered a pinnacle of the New German Cinema movement. Klaus Kinski stars in the title role of ruthless and rebellious Spanish soldier Lope de Aguirre, who leads a group of conquistadores down the Amazon River in an ill-fated search for the legendary city of gold, El Dorado.

Using a minimalist approach to story and dialogue, the film creates a vision of madness and folly, counterpointed by the lush but unforgiving Amazonian jungle. Although loosely based on what is known of the historical Lope de Aguirre, Herzog acknowledged years after the film's release that its storyline is a work of fiction.

"Aguirre, the Wrath of God" is often interpreted as an allegory of imperialist ruin and the futility of human ambition. The film's exploration of madness and obsession resonates with contemporary themes of ecological collapse and expansionist violence.

I think it would be fair to say that it was a very good workout for our German listening skills, (even if there were brief subtitles in English) but we found the scenes of extreme violence and summary executions difficult to watch

Article by Louise Fanfarillo

For more information about the Sprich Mal Deutsch Group contact the Group Leader - Louise Fanfarillo via the website at : https://ravenshead.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/sprich-mal-deutsch/

MEET AND EAT GROUP

I have had a few replies regarding booking a place at The White Lady Restaurant on 7th May.

I will be able to take your £5 deposit at the Monthly Meeting (AGM) on 14th April together with menu choices.

Cash or cheque please - cheques to be made out to Ravenshead U3A Social Account.

You can also pay by BACS

Sort Code 08-92-99

Account No. 65552700

Account Name: Ravenshead U3A Social Account

Please make sure this contains your name or number plus White Lady (or whatever there is room for)

Looking forward to seeing you.

Sue Owen

For more information about the Meet and Eat Group contact the Joint Group Leader - Sue Owen, via the website : https://ravenshead.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/meet-and-eat/

NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS

LIVING WELL GROUP

Led by Lizzie and a respiratory physiotherapist from the Nottinghamshire County Long/Post COVID Service, we had a very informative session on Tuesday 7th April, with lots of interaction.

We were able to understand more about long COVID, its symptoms, how it can be managed, what the team provides and how their services can be accessed.

A scanned copy of a poster for the Long / Post COVID Service is attached. This features all the contact details if you, or anyone you know, may want to contact the team.

Our next Living Well meeting will be on Tuesday 2 June. The topic will be the gut microbiome.

We also hope to provide tastings of 2 or 3 fermented foods and understand how such foods may be beneficial to our gut health.

Jane and Sharan

Anyone interested in joining us please contact Jane Baxter or Sharan Jones via the links on the Living Well Group page at the website page : https://ravenshead.u3asite.uk/u3a_tgroups/living-well/.

NHS
Nottinghamshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Nottinghamshire County Post COVID-19 Service

- ▶ Have you had COVID-19 and do you still have ongoing symptoms?
- ▶ Do you know where you can get help from?

The Nottinghamshire County Post COVID Service offers a non-diagnostic, community based service for:

- Adults (over 18 years)
- With symptoms of Long COVID for more than 12 weeks.
- With a GP in Nottinghamshire County

You can self refer by calling the Post COVID-19 Service on 07771388185 Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, emailing postcovid@nottshc.nhs.uk, or your GP can refer you via F12. You can also refer by scanning the QR code and filling out the self referral form or visiting <https://forms.office.com/e/8MwC2T9dZv>

Please note - If you have acute breathlessness or chest pain please seek immediate medical attention from your GP.

Making a Difference
Trust Honesty Respect Compassion Teamwork

Ru3a TRIPS UPDATE FROM HALINKA RAJCHEL - TRIPS CO-ORDINATOR

TRIPS INFORMATION FOR SPRING/SUMMER 2026

New Trips are currently suspended until a member is prepared to be co-opted onto the new Committee to perform the role of **Social Account Treasurer** to account for and process all financial transactions in connection with trips.

It was a tough decision for the Committee to take, but we can only offer member benefits to the extent that our team have the capacity to cope with, and the strain on our sole Treasurer proved too much.



Ru3a MEGATRIIP TO STRATFORD ON AVON - FRIDAY APRIL 17TH 2026

Mega Trip to Stratford on Avon on a 53 seater Butler Brothers coach

Friday 17th April 2026 - Cost £17

SOLD OUT!

IN ADDITION TO THE £10 DEPOSIT ALREADY PAID, A BALANCE OF £7 NEEDS TO BE PAID BY THOSE GOING BY MARCH 7TH



RAVENSHEAD U3A ALFA TRAVEL COACH HOLIDAY FOR AUTUMN 2026

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 BELPER & THE GREAT BRITISH CAR JOURNEY**Ravenshead u3a visit to Belper and The Great British Car Journey Museum at Ambergate, 9th March 2026**

On a grey misty morning we left the Sherwood Ranger on schedule with Driver Phil and co-pilot Kate en route to Belper and The Great British Car Journey Museum at Ambergate.

There were fifteen of us on board and four ladies and a gentleman chose to spend the day sight-seeing and engaging in retail therapy in Belper.

The rest of us stayed on board and moved on to the museum. We were cordially greeted by a cheerful gentleman who proudly told us that he used to be a member of the Ravenshead Theatre Group and had been looking forward to our visit. He issued us with interactive guide packs which provided both visual and audio information about the museum and exhibits.

The museum is divided into nine sectors arranged in roughly chronological order starting with the first one, which is located adjacent to the reception area, covering the pre-world war two period when Herbert Austin started producing affordable cars for the first time with the Austin Seven.

The subsequent sections cover a range of British cars produced during the heyday when British cars dominated the small car market worldwide. Many of us were picking out individual exhibits and telling whoever would listen: 'I had one of those.' (In the cases of the mini my wife had three in fact.)

All of the exhibits are beautifully presented and labelled and more detailed information on some special ones can be accessed via the personal guide units.

Some exhibits of special note were the Reliant Scimitar, once owned by Princess Anne, the dilapidated grey Land Rover driven by Brenda Blethyn in the 'Vera' TV series, and Baden Powells' Rolls-Royce.

There was also a very well-preserved Mini, with less than fifteen hundred miles on the clock which had had just one careful lady driver.

It has to be said that the large unheated exhibition area was very cold when we visited but fortunately there is an attractive well-heated restaurant which provides excellent food at reasonable prices. Hot food is brought to your table by smiling waitresses. (I can personally recommend the delicious bacon baps and the mouth watering Cornish pasties.)

If you've not yet discovered this attraction I can thoroughly recommend it, as it will appeal to virtually everyone regardless of age or gender.

Report by Alan Kirkham



A POEM FROM A DAY OUT IN BELPER

An outing on March 9th to Belper and Ambergate
We were picked up at the Ranger and nobody was late
Chatting on the bus and enjoying Henry's chewy sweets
A pleasant and safe journey, will there be some other treats?
Phil dropped five off in Belper, eleven went on to view cars on displays
We would meet them later, but now we went our separate ways.
Read Alan's account and you will learn a great deal
In the museum: Minis, limousines, land rovers and a tasty meal
In Belper: great shops, eateries and a library with food
Walking up King Street, a pleasant walk, strollers in a good mood
Nottingham Building Society, Peacocks shop and mysterious black doors
Time to relax in the Memorial Gardens, watching blackbirds and jackdaws
Nearby a cinema: the Ritz, mystery of the black doors revealed at long last
During the war, hidden air raid shelters, film goes safe in there from the blast
Reunited with the others, everyone had an experience to share
Shopping bags with a variety of attire and vehicle stories: famous, old or rare.
One keen walker to the Belper River Gardens went, unfortunately no sun
But nevertheless super scenery, we all enjoyed our day and had lots of fun



Many thanks to Halinka Rajchel for the poem & photos

A REPORT ON THE TRIP TO PLEASLEY MINING MUSEUM

Ravenshead u3a, led by Halinka, ran a trip to Pleasley Colliery on a breezy Spring day on Wednesday March 25th, which proved to be an enlightening and rewarding experience.

The origin of the Pleasley mine began when William Nightingale, Florence Nightingale's father, granted a lease to Stanton Iron Company to allow extraction of coal. Florence herself ceremoniously dug the first hole in the ground. Sadly the pit was named after Pleasley Manor (belonging to William) and not Florence herself.

The pit sunk in the 1870's produced coal until 1983. It still retains its headstocks, engine houses and steam winders and is maintained as a Mining Heritage Museum.

In the mid 1930's 1,260 miners were employed underground and 283 workers on the surface ; 450,000 tons of coal were produced in that decade.

The site was finally closed in 1983, due for demolition in 1986, but was saved by "Friends of Pleasley Pit". In 1996 the colliery was designated an Ancient Monument.

After regeneration work awards were won : The English Heritage Angel Award 2011 and EMCBE Constructing Excellence Heritage Awards.

Volunteers give their time working there,, and we were lucky enough to have a very knowledgeable guide called Mike.

The welcoming cafe provides hot drinks, cakes, sandwiches and lunches.

The trip was certainly an educational, interesting and surprising experience. The enormous amount of machinery, manpower, experience and expertise needed to work and run the mine was overwhelming.

Another volunteer, an ex-miner called Neil, loved the friendships, camaraderie and trust developed whilst working, and confessed that he would go back tomorrow if it was still possible.

The Pleasley Colliery Museum is highly recommended and well worth a visit. Wrap up warmly and soak in the experience.

Report by Lynn Bayliss



NEWSLETTER EDITOR REQUIRED

We are looking for a talented individual to take over the collating of contributions, creation and publishing of our Monthly Member Newsletter from the May Edition onwards. This includes a text-only large print version for printing and distribution by others to those in the village without access to the internet.

Traditionally this has been done by a member of the Committee, and for the last 6 years by John Butler and his predecessor as Chair, Maria Gabrielczyk. John is leaving at the AGM to focus on his roles as East Midlands Region Council Representative and Chair of the Notts Network of u3as, so is unable to continue in the role.

If you would like to continue to receive a newsletter every month, then please consider stepping forward. This does not necessarily have to be undertaken by a member of the Committee.

Our survey revealed that many members wanted more reports from our Interest Groups, but this is entirely dependent upon either Group Leaders or Group Members sending in photos and articles.

CHAIR'S CHAT

It is with a tinge of sadness that I step down from the Committee and role of Chair after 6 years.

I joined the committee during the period of the Covid Lockdowns to help facilitate our u3a Zoom Meetings called "Click and Meet", as I had a Zoom Pro Account and was able to offer considerable experience of running online webinars in the 5 years prior to then. I also took on the role of Publicity Officer, subsequently Business Secretary and then Chair for 3 years.

Although my time on the committee has not always been plain sailing, I have been privileged to work with some selfless, capable and passionate volunteers and I wish to thank each and every one of you who I served with throughout that time.

I particularly want to thank the 3 fellow committee members who are also leaving the Committee at this coming AGM, namely Andy Bebbington, Sharan Jones and my wife Sue.

Finally, I'd like to thank you, as a fellow u3a member, for all your smiles and interactions with me in my time in office. I will cherish them.

I will continue to serve you in various volunteer roles as agreed with the new committee, and will still be looking after our Facebook & Instagram Social Media channels, off committee.

Here's a reminder that you can still contact a committee member outside of using the contact forms on our website by calling us on **0300 030 2990**

Feel free to reach out to us at any time on that number, but after the AGM the person answering the phone will not be either Sue or I, so please be patient during the transition to the new nominated Committee Member.

John Butler

Chairman - on behalf of the Committee of Ravenshead u3a

