

Chair's Bulletin of matters of interest for Ru3a members:-

- ❖ **Skulduggery:** The next monthly meeting will take place at 10am on Tuesday 11th August at St Peter's and there will be intrigue and skulduggery in a talk by crime and TV writer Stephen Booth entitled 'Where the Bodies are Buried – the life of a crime novelist'.
- ❖ **Day Trips** will soon be back! Three members of your Executive Committee have agreed to form a team of volunteers to perform the role of Social Account Treasurer. They are Sue Warner, Jane Rose and Jayne Piper. They will be working with Halinka Rajchel to develop a new programme of day trips.

Arrangements for trips are being simplified to reduce the administrative burden. **Ticket Tailor**, which is an online booking and payment system, is being trialled, but members will still be able to book and pay for trips at monthly meetings. Online booking will benefit those members who can't get to the monthly meetings and will ensure fair access to trips for all members.

You can help the new team by **paying by card**. If you can't do that, cheques are preferred to cash and will still be accepted at the monthly meeting. Please remember, if you pay this way someone then has to make an extra journey to the Post Office or bank.

Trips will be priced to **break even**, not make a profit, but to reduce administration nothing less than £5 will be refunded. Any surplus will go into a ringfenced float in case future trips make a loss.

All trips organised by the team will be recorded on Beacon, be risk assessed, and be covered by u3a insurance.

Group Leaders will continue to organise their own trips and have been recommended to adopt the £5 refund threshold. If they choose to give smaller refunds, they are welcome to do so but must do the refunds themselves and provide a full financial statement to the treasurer. This is to share the administrative burden. Remember, group funds are ringfenced too.

- ❖ **Flying High:** Ashfield u3a have a few spaces for a trip to RAF Cosford and David Austin Roses on Monday 14th September. The coach will leave Ellis Street, Kirkby-in-Ashfield at 8.30am returning to Kirkby around 5.30pm – the coach fare is £15. There is no charge to visit the RAF Cosford museum but there is an opportunity to join a guided tour at £9 per person on either the Battle of Britain or Bomber Command which needs to be booked in advance. If you are interested, please contact Sue Taylor by email: taylor07vic@gmail.com or mobile: 07791 425094.
- ❖ **Family Fun** at the Southwell Ploughing Match and Show: This is taking place on Saturday 26th September in Farnsfield. Southwell u3a are supporting the event for families featuring rural traditions and food, and all are welcome.
- ❖ **Stratford Trip Refund:** For those who went on the Stratford trip and haven't collected their small refund, there is a final opportunity to do so at the **August meeting**, or to send a note authorising someone else to collect on their behalf. Several have already chosen to donate the small refund to the Social Account to save the hassle. This will be the final refund under the old policy.
- ❖ **U3a Day:** Make a diary date for Friday 25th September at the Village Hall, 1100 – 1400. This is a showcase of activities for Members but, most importantly, is the big opportunity to attract new members. You can help by bringing along a neighbour, friend or family member who does not belong to the u3a to share coffee and cakes and find out about what is available.
- ❖ **Christmas:** a date for your diary is Tuesday 8th December for the Ru3a Christmas lunch at the Hostess, Mansfield. Details and bookings available at the September meeting **and** online using Ticket Tailor with a direct link to the booking page from my next Bulletin.
- ❖ **Groups Update:** by Anne Eldridge
 - NEW GROUP – QUIZ NIGHTS
 - The first meeting will be on Monday 17th August at Larch Farm. For more information, please contact the Group Leaders Clive Aveyard or Jayne Piper.

➤ 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.
- 2.1. Winter Croquet (NEW). Thinking of trying something new for the winter months? This relaxed, social game is played indoors – no experience is necessary, just a willingness to learn and have fun!
- 2.2. Walking & Social 4/5 miles. The proposed aim of this group is for members to take it in turns to organise walks that start and end at a café or a pub! Exercise and social – what's not to like?
- 2.2. Soft Tennis. Ideal for the 'not quite so energetic' members as it is slower and there's less distance to run! This game is played with tennis rackets and larger foam balls on a court with lowered nets. Same rules as tennis.
- 2.3. Book Group 2. A Planning Meeting has been organised for 14th August. For more information, please contact Group Leaders, Louise Fanfarillo or Sue Warner.
- 2.4. Chess &/or Backgammon. Interested in playing either or both?
- 2.5. Beer Appreciation. Pretty obvious what this group will do. Cheers!
- 2.6. Fitness with Dance. Gentle exercise with a few basic dance moves.

❖ **Holidays 2027:** with Halinka Rajchel

- Scotland: Leaves 1st October 2027 for 7 days and 6 Nights. Staying at the Duke of Gordon Hotel, Kingussie, with coach operator. Cairngorm Travel. Cost about £540 per person with a range of visits to different (to the April trip) attractions included. £100 deposit payable to Cairngorm Travel needed now to secure a place.

❖ **Trips:**

- **No sooner said than done!!** I announced at the beginning of this bulletin that Day Trips will soon be back and so they are!! Halinka has been busy researching and planning a trip to the National Arboretum on 12th November. This will be a coach trip with up to 53 seats available. Bearing in mind that we are just getting the new processes up-and-running, the Trips team will hopefully have everything in place for ticket sales to open

on 8th September, via Ticket Tailor and also at the monthly meeting. More details next month.

- ❖ **Volunteering opportunities:** we recognise and appreciate that many members volunteer their time and skills in ways that are less 'public-facing' than the committee, and also that many members do this for other organisations outside the Ru3a. However we, the committee, are a bit thin on the ground and could do with a bit of help.
- **Comms Team:** we are keen to establish a team of people with the skills to help promote Ru3a. This already happens to some extent (website, write-ups in local papers, etc) but we could do more if we had the support of a handful of non-committee members.

If you think you could help, please email Frances Leyshon,
secretary.ravensheadu3a@gmail.com

- **Committee vacancy:** we currently have no **Vice Chair**, but would love someone to step into the space. If you're interested, please seek out any member of the committee to find out more about the role.
- **2027 Committee vacancies:** our Trips Co-ordinator, and Groups Co-ordinator, who have both done sterling service over the past 5½ years, will be standing down at the next AGM. As Group activities and Trips form the back-bone of any u3a, we cannot serve members' best interests without someone to take up the baton and continue these roles. Theirs are big shoes to fill and the opportunity to 'shadow' them is shrinking (6 months and counting). Please consider coming forward to join the committee now to give yourselves a head-start.

Michael Williams, Chair, Ravenshead u3a