

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

- ❖ Our next monthly meeting will take place at 10am on **Tuesday 13th October** at St Peter's. This month, the u3a will be hearing about the work of a charity called Mary's Meals. They provide meals in schools for children living in poverty and feed more than three million children every school day across some of the world's poorest communities.
- ❖ **U3a Day:** This was a great success on 25th September at the Village Hall. Attendances increased from 85 in 2025 to 175 this year and everyone enjoyed the musical entertainment and the Salsa dancing. Most importantly we secured many new members, now able to join easily online, and groups picked up numerous expressions of interest from members wanting to join them. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the day! Thanks to Anne Eldridge who brought it all together.
- ❖ **Subscriptions:** the committee have extended the present calendar year membership by 3 months until the end of March 2027 and, as a bonus, plan to peg subscriptions at their current level in 2027/28 because of the healthy state of our finances. From 2027, our membership year will run from 1st April – 31st March.
- ❖ **Christmas Meal at The Hostess, from 12 noon on Tuesday 8th December:** Three courses cost £23 pp; choose from the menu on the day. **Book any time online using Ticket Tailor** (you can use [this link](#) or the one on the Ru3a website), **or buy a ticket** at the October monthly meeting. **NB** we need to provide numbers to the Hostess asap so please book by 14th October latest. There are plenty of places available for the lunch but seats on the community bus have almost gone – only 1 left as of 3rd October!
- ❖ **New Trustee:** I am pleased to say that Andrew Spybey has joined the Executive Committee as a Trustee and will focus on development and support to the u3a.

- ❖ **Day Trips:** The trip to the National Memorial Arboretum is nearly booked up – only 1 seat left on the coach. The best way to secure it would be to follow this [link to Ticket Tailor](#) and buy it online. Once the coach is full, the Social Treasurer Team will compile a waiting list and, if there is sufficient interest, will consider booking the community bus. So if you missed out on that last ticket but would like to go, be sure to let one of the team know by emailing socialtreasurer.ru3a@gmail.com (or make sure you speak to either Sue Warner or Jayne Piper at the October meeting if you don't do email).
- ❖ **Health Matters:** Many of us will witness a cardiac arrest in our lifetime. Be ready for that day with RevivR, British Heart Foundation's fast, free and easy-to-use online tool. [Go to the BHF website to view](#). I hope to arrange a practical demonstration of the technique at a monthly meeting. Does anyone know an experienced practitioner who would do this for us?

❖ **News From the Groups (by Anne Eldridge)**

1. TABLE TENNIS – NOW OFFERING SINGLES

Our very successful Table Tennis Group has been in operation for several years now playing doubles. I am pleased to tell you that they are now able to welcome singles players. The Group meets on the first and third Monday of each month from 1 until 3 pm. Please let me know (either by e mail or the monthly meeting) if you wish to join them.

2. KEEP FIT WITH DANCE

A very enjoyable, and energetic, Taster session was held on Monday 21st September. I am now working with proposed Group Leader, Jo Burland, to set this up as a regular group. These things take a little time so there is still time to put your name down if you would like to join us.

3. 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.

NEW EOI.

Hop on/Hop off. The proposed aim of this group is to enable members to travel together to various destinations using our local transport networks. Timings will all be arranged to allow those with Bus Passes to make maximum use of this concession.

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.

Chess &/or Backgammon. Interested in playing either or both? I will be organising a planning meeting to discuss this shortly.

Beer Appreciation. Pretty obvious what this group will do. Cheers!

For a list of activities and dates, consult the [Calendar of group activities on Beacon](#) or visit the [groups web page](#) on the Ru3a website.

- ❖ **Holidays 2027:** The holiday to Scotland in **April 2027** is **full**; the balance payment is due by February 2027.
- ❖ There are spaces left on the **October 2027** trip; plenty of single rooms, and some double/twin rooms. **Cost: £549 pp**; £100 deposit due by end-October. **TEL: 01405 761334** (Cairngorm Travel) to pay by card, or bring your cheque, *payable to Cairngorm Travel*, to the October meeting where Halinka will collect them and forward them all together to Cairngorm Travel.

❖ **Volunteering opportunities (by Frances Leyshon)**

Firstly, I'd like to say a **huge thank you** to two new volunteers:

Andrew Spybey has been a set-up volunteer (among other things) for the last few months and now he has agreed to join us on committee. We're looking forward to working with him.

Lynn Bayliss has volunteered to join the Comms Team, and in particular has offered to help pen the monthly copy for the two local papers (Ravenshead Newsletter and Sherwood News Journal).

The Comms Team would still like to hear from anyone who has a flair for design and some knowledge of suitable graphics software. We're not looking for an expert, but someone who could help design posters and other types of publicity.

The Committee is short of volunteers (even though we've just gained one), and will be even shorter come the AGM in 2027.

We urgently need volunteers to help organise Trips/Holidays and to co-ordinate the growing number of Activity Groups.

These do not have to be one-person jobs even though Halinka and Anne have carried them single-handedly throughout their terms of office. Legendary, both of them!!

We recognise that members don't necessarily have a lot of time to give, but 3 or 4 people could share the load as long as one of them is a committee member.

Contact details:

For those of you without internet access, we do have a phone number service that you can call that redirects you in turn to three different members of Committee, starting with our Chair, Michael Williams.

If none of them are available to take your call you will be redirected to leave an answerphone message, and one of our Team will call you back as soon as they can.

The number is : **0300 030 2990**

Michael Williams, Chair, Ravenshead u3a

QR Code to Ticket Tailor

