

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING - 10 am on TUESDAY 9th JANUARY 2024



**THIS YEAR WE WILL NOT BE HAVING A
GENERAL MEETING IN DECEMBER**

Instead, on **Tuesday 12th December** we will be holding a seated **Christmas Social Lunch** starting at 12.00 for 12.30pm, in the **Centre at St Peter's..**

Bookings for the Christmas Social Lunch closed on Friday 17th November and places are no longer available - Please do not turn up if you have not booked a place!

There will be seasonal videos and entertainment on screen, and competitive Table Games and Quizzes in the room.

The food provided will be an extensive range of **Sandwiches, Open Rolls and Wraps, Quiche Selections, Crisps and Tortillas, Pork Pie Slices, Scotch Eggs, Chicken Goujons, Cocktail Sausages, Sausage Rolls and Cheese Rolls, followed by a selection of Desserts, plus Teas & Coffees.** Bring your own Wine & Glasses.

Our next monthly meeting will take place on **Tuesday 9th January** at 10am at St Peter's Church on Sheepwalk Lane, Ravenshead, and will feature

Dave Andrews with his talk

**Richard III - Mystery Man
the Bones in the Car Park"**

u3a
learn, laugh, live

January Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday 9th January 2024 10am
St. Peter's Church
Ravenshead**

Speaker: Dave Andrews

Title: Richard III - Mystery Man - the Bones in the Car Park

What sort of a man was Richard III really and how did he end up under a car park in Leicester?
This illustrated talk combines the story of Richard III's life and his place in 15th century history with the amazing story of the search for his bones which were eventually discovered under a Leicester car park.
Dave is an ex-history teacher and BBC broadcaster. He is also a deputy to the Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire.



Join us for an enjoyable meeting with refreshments and socialising in the break, plus news of Ru3a groups, events & trips!

**Please remember to bring your own mug for
tea or coffee in the break!**

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN - 2024 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!

2024 Membership fees are due on **1st January 2024** and must be made by 28th February to retain your ability to participate in our Groups, Trips & Events.



Renew at our Saturday Coffee Morning from **10.30am to 12noon on 6th January 2024** at the Centre at St Peter's.

Come along to renew your membership, and chat with other members over a cup of coffee or tea, and biscuits.

Our Membership Secretary, Andy Bebbington, and our Treasurer, Sue Owen will be present to take your renewal, whilst other Committee Members will be there to serve refreshments and available to talk to about upcoming Ru3a

activities, groups & trips.

Due to inflationary costs incurred by the u3a we have had to increase the cost of Full membership by £1 to **£16** per person for the year, and **£12** for Associate Members who can prove they are existing fully paid-up members of another u3a. In this case, please provide the name of the u3a and your membership number with them.

You can contact our Membership Secretary, Andy Bebbington, by phone on 01623 405526 or by email at memsec.ru3a@gmail.com.



There are a number of different ways to renew :

- In person at our Coffee Morning & Monthly Meetings (by Cash, Cheque or Bank Transfer)
- Hand delivered renewal to Andy Bebbington (4 Cromford Court, Ravenshead NG15 9GG) along with :

CHEQUE - in an envelope with cheque made out to "Ravenshead U3A" - include member name(s) and membership number(s) on back of cheque.

CASH - in an envelope and including member name(s) & membership number(s) on the envelope.

- Pay by **BACS**, (include member name(s) and membership number(s) in reference field) and email a confirmation to Andy Bebbington at memsec.ru3a@gmail.com
- **PLEASE DO NOT MAKE A BANK TRANSFER BEFORE 1st January 2024**
- Pay via the **PayPal** facility at the website using a link to Paypal. This is a feature of the Beacon system and enables you to use your credit or debit card or a Paypal account if you have one.
- Click on the following link to sign in to the "[MEMBERS PORTAL](#)" Then enter your details as shown on your renewal and follow the instructions.
- A help-sheet is available here: [ONLINE RENEWALS](#). This will take you to the Beacon website where you can follow the process through.

GROUPS UPDATE FROM ANNE ELDRIDGE - GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR

If anyone needs any further information on the following, please contact Anne by email at: groups@ravensheadu3a.org.uk or the relevant Group Leader via the website.

1. GROUPS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

The **Creative Writing Group** are looking for new members. They meet at 2pm on the last Friday of the month in a member's home.

Contact Group Leader : **Christine Smith** to find out more

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

1.1. Jogging. (New EOI) No experience necessary - all you need are appropriate shoes. Sessions will be local and held in the daytime.

1.2. Play Reading

1.3. Classical Guitar

1.4. Electric Guitar

1.5. Cycling. Open to anyone who has an interest in cycling. Length of rides etc will be decided by interested members.

1.6. Bridge. (New EOI)

2. MOST RECENTLY FORMED GROUPS**2.1. Family History**

This group is now meeting in the Village Hall Brammer Room on the first Monday of every month at 2 pm. Due to the 1st Monday in January being New Year's Day, their next meeting will be in February.

It is great to see how our more experienced members are helping the novices discover their family roots using websites like Ancestry.

For further information please contact the Group Leader, Jennie Kerr, via the website.

2.2. Dog Friends

The group held its 2nd meeting at the Portland College Coffee Shop on Friday 24th November.

Group Leader Katy Roberts is fully engaged in supporting her Labrador "Crunchy" in the early weeks of raising her eleven pups.

They will grow up to be trained as support dogs for the charity Canine Partners for which Katy is an ambassador, so she left the other members to carry on with group activities in her absence.



Their next meeting will now be in January. The group meet at 10.30am on the 4th Friday of the month at the Portland College Coffee Shop. Contact Katy Roberts via the website to find out more about the group.



GROUPS UPDATE FROM ANNE ELDRIDGE - GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR

Meet the Dog Friends Group Cast of Characters!



Top Row (Left to right) : Ruby, Ellie, Theo, Ziggy

Bottom Row (Left to right) : Bear, Boris



2.3. Salsa

Meetings are now **postponed until January** as the Group Leader, Katy Roberts, is unavailable.

Due to the popularity of the Group, plans are in progress to meet twice a month in the New Year (more details to follow). When they reconvene, they will meet in the Village Hall once a month on the 4th Wednesday of every month from 12 noon until 1 pm. No experience is necessary and the group is open to both men and women - you don't need a partner, just comfortable shoes. Turn up if you are interested.

3.0 SHOWCASED GROUP AT OUR OCTOBER MEETING



Our Showcased Group at the last monthly meeting was the **Garden** group, led by GL **Elizabeth Clarkson**

This friendly Group is open to all those who are interested in, or enjoy, gardens.

They usually meet on the third Wednesday of each month and enjoy talks and visits to gardens and other places of interest.

They also operate the on-line Happy-to-Share scheme that allows members to share produce, cuttings or excess plants..

Ru3a TRIPS UPDATE FROM HALINKA RAJCHEL - TRIPS CO-ORDINATOR**TRIPS INFORMATION for January to July 2024**

IF YOU WISH TO BOOK A TRIP PLEASE SEE HALINKA RAJCHEL OR ALAN WALKER AT OUR JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING OR AT A 'WEEKENDERS' GROUP MEETING.

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-Eastwood



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!

Wednesday 14th February 2024 - St Mary's Church (Lace Market) & the Living Letters Exhibition at the Weston Gallery, Nottingham

Transport only £6 per person. Access to the Exhibition free.
Departing from The Sherwood Ranger at 9.30am.

The RCT mini-coach will drop us off for a guided tour of St Mary's Church starting at 10.30am, then take us to Highfields Park for the Gallery visit.

For centuries letters have been key vehicles of human communication. This exhibition explores correspondence from the medieval period to the present and celebrates the letter's enduring importance.

It examines letters' capacity to chronicle all stages and aspects of human life - from birth to death - and to capture both the personal and the professional.

It reveals how they are powerful in their abilities to connect with and impact on the lives of others. It illuminates how letters are also deeply vulnerable, fragile objects whose preservation is liable to the vicissitudes of time, fashion, and chance.

**TRIP REFUNDS**

Some refunds for those who went on the trips to Manchester are still outstanding.

Where refunds are payable, they can be claimed in person from Alan Walker on the Trips Table at our Monthly Meetings or at the next Weekenders meeting.



Ru3a TRIPS UPDATE FROM HALINKA RAJCHEL - TRIPS CO-ORDINATOR**Thursday 28th March 2024 - The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry**

Departing from The Sherwood Ranger at **9am**. **Cost of travel is £15**

The RCT mini-coach will drop us off for a tour of the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum adjacent to both the ruins of the bombed out old Cathedral and the current Coventry Cathedral that was built next to it to a design by Sir Basil Spence.

Ranging from tiny insects to large industrial machinery, from everyday household objects to artworks by world-famous artists the Herbert collection covers a vast array of topics, time and themes including: Archaeology, Social and Industrial History, Visual Arts & Natural History

The Museum is close to the City centre, so there will be plenty of time to explore Coventry and have lunch before returning around 3pm.

**Monday 22nd April 2024 - Flag Fen Bronze Age Settlement & Peterborough City Centre**

Departing from The Sherwood Ranger at **9am**. **Cost is £21** including travel & the entrance fee to the Flag Fen Settlement.

The RCT mini-coach will drop us off for a guided tour of the ancient Flag Fen Settlement site and then take us into Peterborough City Centre.

The story of Flag Fen began in 1971 when excavations ahead of the construction of Peterborough New Town revealed an almost intact Bronze Age landscape, which ran along the edge of the drained fen.

There will be time afterwards to explore Peterborough City Centre, have lunch and visit the Peterborough Cathedral (free entry)

**Saturday 29th June 2024 - Bakewell International Dance Festival**

Departing from the Sherwood Ranger at **9am**. **Cost of travel is £7**

There are numerous dance shows starting at 11am in various outside venues in the town all within two minutes walking distance from each other.

There is also the farmers market and an opportunity to view a well dressing in Bakewell. An opportunity not to be missed.

The dance shows finish at approx 4pm. If we have rain, the dances will be held in the town hall.



Ru3a MABLETHORPE 'FUN DAY OUT' SUMMER TRIP - 1st JULY 2024

Unfortunately the level of interest expressed in deposits for the trip was insufficient to justify paying a large deposit upfront for a 49 seater coach, so we have reverted to using a RCT Yellow mini-coach for the all-day trip to Mablethorpe on **Monday, 1st July 2024**, which will leave the Sherwood Ranger at 9am.

As a consequence, based upon the number of deposits already received, there are only a very limited number of places now available. The cost of the trip has been set at £16, and those who have paid a £10 deposit are asked to pay the remaining £6 at the next monthly meeting to maintain their place.

SEAL SANCTUARY & WILDLIFE CENTRE



QUEENS PARK



SEASIDE FUN FAIR



ARCADES



ADVENTURE GOLF



MABLETHORPE SAND TRAIN



RIVIERA TRAVEL "AFFINITY" CHARITY SCHEME FOR U3As

Riviera Travel operate the "Affinity" Charity Scheme with all u3a's across the country in association with the Third Age Trust. This is how it works :

As a u3a Member you make a booking by contacting Riviera Travel directly, and simply mention you want to claim the Affinity Commission for Ravenshead u3a.

At the end of your holiday, Riviera Travel will pay 10% commission to the Third Age Trust. After deducting a 1% handling fee, the Third Age Trust will pass the remaining 9% commission on to Ravenshead u3a.

For information on holidays with Riviera Travel call : 01283 248 304 or visit www.rivieratravel.co.uk/U3A

Please Note : The commission payment is not payable on bookings made through a travel agent or a third party booking site.

Ravenshead u3a is not endorsing Riviera Travel as a supplier of holidays. No committee member/trustee will receive any benefit or incentive from Riviera Travel.



WHAT HAPPENED AT THE NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING?



There was a special moment at our November Ravenshead u3a Monthly Meeting, when our oldest member, centenarian Marjorie Eyre, was in attendance to see our keynote speaker, Paula Cornwell, deliver her talk "Mind Your Motoring Manners" in character as the Hon. Mrs Victor Bruce, who was a famous female racing driver in the 1920's.

Dressed in costume from the period, Paula shared some surprising information and tales about the quirks and realities of women driving cars on the

roads in the male dominated motoring world of that period, and also her ability to compete with the best male racing drivers in competitions on race tracks such as Brooklands.

AND FINALLY...

Here's a reminder that you can still contact us using old fashioned phone technology on **0300 030 2990**

I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and look forward to seeing many of you at our **Christmas Social Lunch** on **Tuesday 12th December**, and at our next monthly meeting on **Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 10am**

John Butler

Chairman
on behalf of the Committee of Ravenshead u3a

