

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



## **It's Membership Renewals Time**

**See Page 2 for full details of how to re-join for 2024**

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.



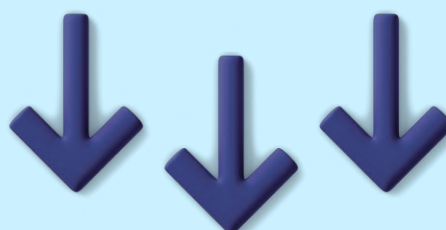
Join us for an enjoyable meeting with refreshments  
and socialising in the break, plus news of Ru3a  
groups, events & trips!

**Please remember to bring your own mug for  
tea or coffee, and we'll provide the biscuits!**



**We have new ideas in store for 2024**

**Check out Anne Eldridge's Groups Update on  
Page 3 for our newest initiative!**



**IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN - 2024 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!**

**2024 Membership fees** were due on **1st January 2024** and your renewal **payment MUST be made before 28th February** to retain your ability to participate in our Groups, Trips & Events.

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](mailto:memsec.ru3a@gmail.com).

There are a number of different ways to renew :

- In person at our 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](mailto:memsec.ru3a@gmail.com)
- 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.
- For **Paypal**, 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 for online renewals is available here: **ONLINE RENEWALS**. This will take you to the Beacon website where you can follow the process through.

If you do not wish to renew your membership, it would be helpful if you would let the Andy know - thanks.

**GIFT AID**

As a registered charity we shall continue to take advantage of the Gift Aid scheme in respect of subscriptions from those who are eligible to participate i.e. they are individual taxpayers. Their subscriptions are treated as Charitable Donations on which the u3a is able to reclaim tax at the current rate. Many of you have signed a Declaration to this effect so, provided you still remain eligible to participate, there is nothing you need do and your existing Declaration remains valid.

However, if you are an individual taxpayer and now wish to participate for the first time, please let us know by email or contact our Membership Secretary and he will send you a Declaration to sign along with other notes explaining that what our u3a claims has no effect on your own personal taxation.

**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](mailto:groups@ravensheadu3a.org.uk) or the relevant Group Leader via the **website**.

**1. SOMETHING NEW FOR 2024 - 'BITE SIZED' SESSIONS**

Recognising that many of our members have little time available to join another Group and not everyone wishes to commit to running a Group on a long-term basis, we will be introducing "**Bite Sized Sessions**".

Basically, these will be short 'courses' or workshops running from just one session to a short series of sessions. They can be an opportunity to learn a new skill or just to socialise in a small group of like-minded members to discuss various issues and topics - nothing is off the table (as long as it's legal!).

Maybe you have a skill or just a passion for a topic that you would like to share or maybe there is something you would like to know more about 'if you had time'. Whatever it is, please let me know so we can discuss it in confidence and with absolutely no obligation on your part. We have this wonderful opportunity for 2024 to make this work for the benefit of us all and I would really value any input you can give.

**2. CLASSICAL MUSIC GROUP**

This small Group was one of the first to be set up by Ravenshead u3a but, unfortunately, after many years of running this Group, the Leader has now had to step down. It would be a shame to let this long standing group close so if anyone feels they could step in, or just wishes to discuss what is involved without obligation, I would love to hear from them.

**3. EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

3.1. Jogging. No experience necessary - all you need are appropriate shoes. Sessions will be local and held in the daytime.

3.2. Play Reading

3.3. Classical Guitar

3.4. Electric Guitar

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

3.6. Bridge.

3.7. Molkkky (Finnish Skittles) - **New EOI**

This game is played outdoors and involves underarm throwing (from a distance of 3-4 m) of a skittle to knock down a set of 12 skittles!

Sounds easy but ..... I tried this game a few years ago and it really is great fun. No experience is necessary.





**GROUPS UPDATE FROM ANNE ELDRIDGE - GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR****4. MOST RECENTLY FORMED GROUPS****4.1. Family History**

This group meets in the Village Hall Brammer Room on the first Monday of every month at 2 pm. Due to the 1st Monday in January being on New Year's Day, their next meeting will now be in February. For further information, please contact Group Leader, Jennie Kerr, via the website.

**4.2 Writing for Fun**

The Group meets monthly for a two hour session. No experience is necessary. Meetings are now held at Larch Farm on the first Thursday of every month. Contact Halinka Rajchel, via the website, if you wish to attend.

**4.3. Pétanque**

Meets at the Ravenshead Leisure Centre on the first and third Thursday of every month, 11 until 12 noon for a friendly game. No experience is necessary but flat shoes and sensible clothing required as play is outdoors. Just turn up if you are interested or contact Peter Eldridge for more information.

**4.4. Salsa**

Meetings will recommence on Wednesday 31st January, from 12 noon until 1 pm in the Village Hall. Due to the popularity of the Group, future sessions will be twice monthly on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. No experience is necessary and the group is open to both men and women - you don't need a partner, just comfortable shoes. Just turn up if you are interested or contact Katy Roberts for more information.

**4.5. Dog Friends**

A group for dog lovers to discuss doggie issues, visit dog friendly places, walks etc.. They usually meet at Portland Training College Café on the fourth Friday of each month but dates may vary. Contact Katy Roberts via the website if you are interested.

Pupdate! - Katy Roberts' Canine Partners breed bitch "Crunchy" gave birth to a litter of 8 pups last November, and her gorgeous babies will hopefully become amazing assistance dogs and transform the lives of disabled people.

**5.0 SHOWCASED GROUP AT OUR JANUARY MEETING**

Our Showcased Group at the January monthly meeting will be the **Pétanque** group, led by GL **Peter Eldridge**, that meets at the Ravenshead Leisure Centre on the first and third Thursday of every month, 11 until 12 noon for a friendly game.

Pétanque is a sport that falls into the category of boules sports. Players or teams play their heavier boules/balls towards a smaller lighter target ball called a 'jack', and the objective is for players to score points by having boules closer to the target ball than their opponents.



## 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](mailto: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)



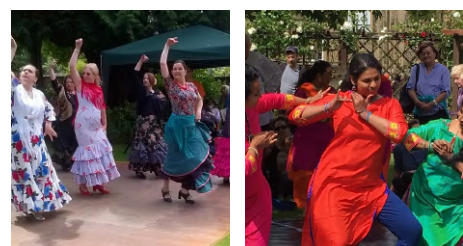
### Saturday 29th June 2024 - Bakewell International Dance Festival

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



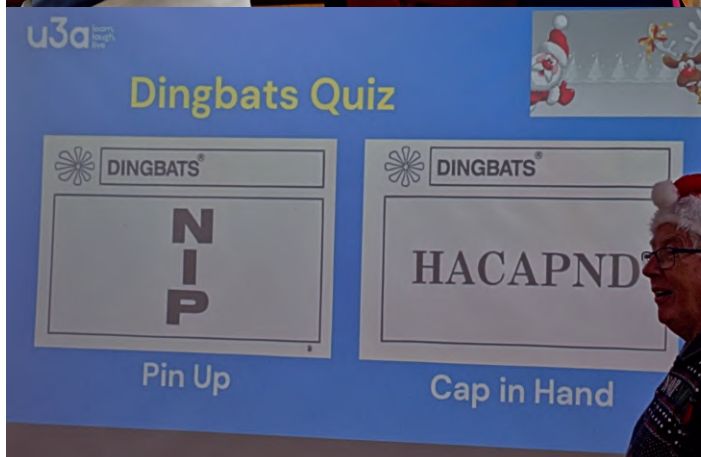


## WHAT HAPPENED AT THE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL LUNCH?

Our Christmas Social Lunch took place on Tuesday 12th December 2023 at The Centre at St Peter's, and we've had so much positive feedback from a lot of members about the format of our celebration that we're hoping we can replicate and improve it in 2024.

We would especially like to thank the team of volunteers led by Paul & Margaret Craddock, who seamlessly delivered the catering side of things, and also the quiz setters Andrew Tucker, Halinka Rajchel & Sue Butler.

From what you've told us you really seemed to enjoy both the food and the competitive table quizzes, and there was a great buzz in the room.





## 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](http://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.

## PLEASE HELP US SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT RAVENSHEAD U3A

We are all really fortunate to belong to such an active and vibrant u3a with so many activities and opportunities to keep us socially engaged whilst pursuing our u3a's stated aim of lifelong learning.

None of us are getting any younger, and it is clear that we do need younger people to not only join us as Members, but as future Group Leaders and Committee Members, to ensure the organisation continues to thrive and be relevant to future generations.

This is why your committee continue to promote our u3a as a forward thinking, dynamic organisation that will appeal to those currently in work approaching retirement, as well as those recently retired, by all means possible including the Ravenshead Newsletter, the News Journal, Facebook and Instagram.

We know that the majority of our members still get to know about us from existing members telling friends, neighbours & acquaintances, and we continue to appreciate the vital role you play in helping our u3a thrive in this respect.

## 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 Happy New Year, and look forward to seeing many of you at our next monthly meeting on **Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 10am**

*John Butler*

Chairman

on behalf of the Committee of Ravenshead u3a

