

**NEXT MONTHLY MEETING - 10 am on TUESDAY 12th MARCH 2024**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 14th May 2024**

Nominations are now invited from members to fill the key roles of **Treasurer, Business Secretary and Social Treasurer** from May onwards.

Our Honorary Auditor, Alan Chapman, has also tendered his resignation after completing the signing off of our 2023 Annual Accounts, so we are also looking for a new independent examiner.

None of the current committee are willing to change positions or extend their current commitment levels to carry out these critical roles, so if no one comes forward we are unlikely to be able to carry on with u3a activities in the long term, as we do need trustees to manage our finances & administration.

**PLEASE GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO JOINING THE COMMITTEE IN ONE OF THESE POSITIONS**

**Completed Nomination Forms to be with John Butler, RU3A Chairman, by FRIDAY 12th April 2024**

To be submitted by hand at 4 Mavis Avenue NG15 9EB or by email to [ravensheadu3a@gmail.com](mailto:ravensheadu3a@gmail.com)

**Nomination Form :** <https://ravensheadu3a.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/AGM-nomination-form-2024.pdf>

Our next monthly meeting will take place on  
**Tuesday 12th March** at 10am at St Peter's Church on Sheepwalk Lane, Ravenshead, when our keynote speaker will be :

**Canon Alan Haydock::**

### **Confessions of a Country Vicar**

An entertaining talk about the often-amusing life of a rural parson.

He has raised over £120,000 for charity from his charity speaking fees.

**u3a**

**Monthly Meeting**

Tuesday 12th March 2024 10.am  
St. Peter's Church  
Ravenshead

**Speaker: Canon Alan Haydock**  
**Title: " Confessions of a Country Vicar "**

An entertaining talk about the often-amusing life of a rural parson.



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!**

*Torquay* **Coach Holiday**  
**2 Excursions**  
**Leaves 28th September for 5 days**  
**ONLY £355 pp**  
Join us for an Alfa Travel Coach Holiday to the English Riviera

**Join us for a 5 day / 4 night Coach Holiday to**  
**Torquay**  
**More Details on Page 2**

**Who wants to go to the Bakewell International Dance Festival?**



**Read about the latest Trip Updates in Halinka Rajchel's Report on Page 6**



**Chair's Chat**

**Catch up with what John Butler has to say on Page 12**

## ALFA TRAVEL COACH HOLIDAY TRIP TO TORQUAY



**Torquay** Coach Holiday  
**2 Excursions**  
**Leaves 28th September for 5 days**

**ONLY**  
**£355**  
 pp

**Join us for an Alfa Travel Coach Holiday to the English Riviera**

Accommodation will be 5 day / 4 night Half Board at the **Metropole Hotel, Torquay**, which is located within a few minutes walk of the harbour, marina, seafront with its sandy beaches and the town centre shopping area.

The Metropole Hotel features a bar, extensive lobby, lounge, and a large entertainment room. A full Leisureplex menu plus the Chef's nightly specials are served in the bright, airy dining room.

All guest bedrooms are en-suite and feature Freeview TV and tea/coffee making facilities. Rooms are mainly Double or Twin beds, and your preference should be stated on booking. A very small number of single rooms are available. Seaview rooms are available for a supplement of £35.

Included in the itinerary is one day at your leisure in Torquay, and two full-day coach excursions.

We will be visiting **Plymouth**, the famous maritime City with its historic Barbican district, Hoe & Sound, and **Teignmouth**, the Gem of South Devon, with its pier and Georgian architecture.

**A Deposit of £50 pp** is payable upon booking. **Contact Halinka Rajchel, Ravenshead u3a's Trips Coordinator** to book your place, and bring cheques made out to "Alfa Travel" to a Ravenshead u3a Monthly Meeting or a Weekenders Group meeting. You can also deliver or post cheques to Halinka at an address she will advise. There is an option to pay Alfa Travel directly by bank transfer/credit/debit card, but speak to Halinka in the first instance to book.

Alfa Travel Limited are an employee owned company based in Chesterfield, and are members of the Bonded Travel Organisers Trust ABTOT

They are a company registered in England and Wales with company number 02326610.

Their registered office is at Alfa Building, Euxton Lane, Euxton, Chorley, Lancashire, PR7 6AF.

See their Booking Conditions at <https://www.alfatravel.co.uk/booking-conditions> including a Travel Insurance requirement

See their Travellers Rights Statement at <https://www.alfatravel.co.uk/traveller-rights/>



**Contact Halinka Rajchel on 07762 802112  
 or email her at [trips@ravensheadu3a.org.uk](mailto:trips@ravensheadu3a.org.uk)**





## 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. NEW GROUP - MOLKKY (pronounced 'Molka')

Following the successful Taster Session, the Molcky Group (sometimes known as Finnish Skittles) is now up and running. The first session will be on Thursday 28th March on the grass in front of the Village Hall followed by regular meetings on the second and fourth Thursday of every month. No experience is necessary but, as this is played outside, suitable clothing needed.



### 2. EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

If anyone is interested in joining one of these possible new Groups, please contact Anne.

- 2.1. **Jogging** - No experience necessary - all you need are appropriate shoes.  
Sessions will be local and held in the daytime.
- 2.2. **Play Reading** - A The Planning meeting booked for 21st February had to be postponed. A further date will be organised shortly
- 2.3. **Bridge** - Planning meeting organised for **14th March, 10.30-11.30 in the Centre**.
- 2.4. **Art Appreciation** - Visits to galleries, talks etc envisaged.
- 2.5. **Madrigal Singing** - unaccompanied singing, no experience necessary.
- 2.6. **'Sewing'** - No precise focus as yet - what sort of sewing would you like to see?

### 3. 'BITE SIZED' SESSIONS

3.1. **Tai-Chi Workshop** - This one-off Workshop will be on Thursday 14th March in the Centre @ St Peters. The session will last from 1 pm until 2 pm. To be fair to everyone, as numbers are limited, we decided to only take bookings and the fee at the monthly meetings. At the last meeting, this proved very popular but there are still two places available.

I will fill these on a first come, first served basis at the meeting on the 12th March. The cost of the Workshop is £1.50 pp and payable in advance at the time of booking. CASH only please? (refreshments will not be available at this workshop)

3.2. **Further Workshops/Sessions** - I am now on the hunt for further ideas for Bite-Sized sessions.

You may remember that these are either one-off sessions or last just a few weeks. They may be educational, special interest, study groups or anything else that takes your fancy (provided it's within u3a guidelines of course!). Maybe you have a skill or knowledge of a subject etc that you feel could be shared with others or just an interest you would like to explore? If so, please contact me via the website and we can discuss what is involved with absolutely no obligation if you don't feel comfortable with progressing it.

### 4. SHOWCASED GROUP AT OUR MARCH MEETING

Our Showcased Group at the March monthly meeting will be the **Hikers (5-8 Miles) Group**, led by GL **Brenda Sibley**. Meet her and some other group members at the table display at the back of the room.

The group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Unless announced otherwise, walkers assemble at 9.30am at the Sherwood Ranger, to car share to the starting point of the hike.

## NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS

### SALSA FUN GROUP

We never dreamed our group would become so popular when it started one year ago!

With approximately 20 members attending every month we increased our sessions to twice a month.

We're not in training for Strictly and steer clear of those complicated spins, lifts and dips and focus more on gentle movement.

Now you can try this amazing Latin dance, whose origins lie in Cuba, right here in Ravenshead.

Our sessions are fun, different and entertaining with inspirational music aimed at getting you to shake and shimmy your way across the dance floor!

Starting with a warm up to get those joints and muscles moving, we then incorporate all the moves we have learned into a simple choreography. You can do as much or as little as you like because at the end of the day we have fun, we move to some great music, enjoy a jolly good work out and get to meet some really lovely people!

Couples and singles, with and without experience, are most welcome. Just bring along a sense of humour, water and wear comfortable shoes!

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at Ravenshead Village Hall from noon to 1pm

**Eric & Katy Roberts - Joint Group leaders** - Contact them through the link on the website.



### ARMCHAIR TRAVELLERS GROUP

This month we visited South America to learn about the deserts on the continent.

First we started with the Atacama Desert which is probably well known to most people with its pink flamingos lunar landscapes, volcanos and geysers, salt flats, ruined temples and colonial villages, all at heights of over 2450m above sea level.

Then we moved on to the Bolivian Uyuni Salt Flats with vast sheets of pentagon shaped plates of salt, stretching as far as the eye could see.

Here we learnt about the old techniques of cutting salt blocks for use in building and we also saw how the Bolivians are now developing Lithium mining which could transform their economy.

Next we moved on to Lençóis Maranhenses National Park in Brazil.

This is a landscape with rippling sand dunes pitted with freshwater lagoons. The park is just round the corner of Brazil's shoulder on the North East, once wealthy with vast sugar plantations, and has a cultural identity all of its own, complemented by wonderful beaches.

The next part of our journey took us to the Peruvian Coastal Desert Nazca Lines. These "structures" will be well known to people who watch National Geographic or Discovery channels. Here you can see the giant geoglyphs depicting animals of all shapes and sizes.

Finally we went a little further north into Mexico to see the beauty of the Chihuahuan desert, with its bleak Desert crust and the fantastic Copper Canyon. You can visit this on a train.

For more information about the Group contact **Group Leader - Trevor Smith** via the website.



## NEWS FROM OUR ACTIVITY & INTEREST GROUPS

### DOG FRIENDS GROUP

If you like dogs, this group is for you!

But we're more than a discussion group about dog-friendly venues and local events, although they feature high on our list. We exchange ideas, share experiences and offer support where we can.

We have an active WhatsApp Group and plan regular meet ups, which could be a forest walk, a meet up in a cafe, an off lead session in a secure field, a play session in an indoor setting with lots more outdoor activities planned as the weather improves.

Plans for the future include a trip to Crufts but this will depend on numbers to keep costs as low as possible and the possibility of a Dog First Aid course. As dog lovers we welcome new members with or without your pooches.

We meet on the last Friday of the month at Portland Cafe on the Portland College Campus from 11am to noon.

**Katy Roberts - Group leader** - Contact her through the link on the website.



### FOOD & COOKERY GROUP

The theme for our February meeting was 'School Dinners' with a twist!

Soggy cabbage, lumpy custard, rocky mashed potatoes were all consigned to memory at the Food and Cookery group's recent school dinner. A feast of tasty dishes using the ingredients for "classic" school meals were combined to prepare an interesting and A++ lunch!

Desserts were like a "walk" down memory lane, Smiley Face Manchester Tart, Cornflake Tart, and Jam and Coconut Sponge served with lashings of smooth Bird's custard!



**Maria Gabrielczyk - Group Leader** - Contact her through the link on the website.

### FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Now in the fifth month since we re-formed, our enthusiastic newbies are learning how to move on with discovering their family trees with the help of a few "old hands" in the group. We have been regularly getting numbers well into the teens attending, and the group is thriving in its new iteration.

If you've never discovered your own ancestry, then perhaps now is the time to do it. With plenty of challenges, twists and turns in the voyage of discovering your own "Family Roots", it really helps to do it in the company of others with experience who can help you.

**Jennie Kerr - Group Leader** - Contact her through the link on the website.

### WRITING FOR FUN GROUP

The group meets monthly for a two hour session of "Live" creative writing. No experience is necessary. Meetings are held in the front restaurant section at Larch Farm on the first Thursday of every month and is led and facilitated by **Group Leader Halinka Rajchel**, who is also Ravenshead u3a's resident poet! Contact Halinka via the website if you wish to attend.



**Ru3a TRIPS UPDATE FROM HALINKA RAJCHEL - TRIPS CO-ORDINATOR****TRIPS INFORMATION for March to October 2024**

**IF YOU WISH TO BOOK A TRIP PLEASE SEE HALINKA RAJCHEL OR ALAN WALKER AT OUR MARCH 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!**

**PROPOSED CHANGE IN TRIP ARRANGEMENTS**

In order to accommodate those in the village without cars, and those travelling into Ravenshead from elsewhere on public transport, in addition to the starting point at the Sherwood Ranger on Chapel Lane we are proposing to add a possible additional central pickup point for trips in the Milton Court precinct car park adjacent to village shops, dependent upon demand.

To ensure a punctual departure to the chosen venue, this will mean that the mini-coach will leave the Sherwood Ranger promptly at the advised time.

**The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry**

**1ST TRIP - Thursday 28th March 2024 - TRIP FULL**

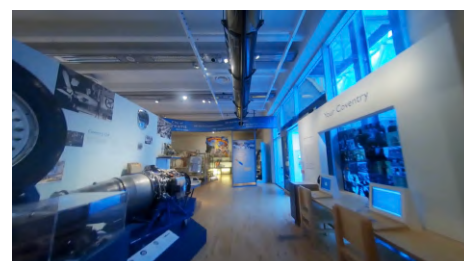
**2ND TRIP - Monday 17th June 2024 - 10 PLACES AVAILABLE**

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.

**TRIP REFUNDS**

Where refunds become 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

## Flag Fen Bronze Age Settlement & Peterborough City Centre

**1ST TRIP - Monday 22nd April 2024 - TRIP FULL**

**2ND TRIP - Thursday 23rd May 2024 - 7 PLACES AVAILABLE**

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)



## Kedleston Hall - A National Trust property near Quarndon in Derbyshire

**1ST TRIP - Thursday 18th April 2024 - ONE PLACE LEFT**

**2ND TRIP - Friday 5th July 2024 - TRIP FULL**

Departing from The Sherwood Ranger at **9.30am**. **Cost of travel is £8**.

Entrance for National Trust members is free. **Non-NT member**

**Entrance Fee for Hall & Parkland is £18**, Parkland only is £8

Kedleston Hall is an 18th-century mansion with Adam interiors, surrounded by vast parkland.



## Leicester Cathedral, with an optional visit to the Richard III Visitor Centre

**Friday 17th May 2024 - 5 PLACES AVAILABLE**

Departing from The Sherwood Ranger at **9.30am**.

**Cost of travel is £10**

The RCT mini-coach will drop us off in the City Centre close to the Cathedral where Richard III's bones are interred, and you will have time to visit the Richard III Visitor Centre nearby. **Entrance to the Visitor Centre is £9** for those 60+. No group tour is available on this occasion.

The Normans began the construction of the original St Martin's church of around 900 years ago. It was rebuilt and enlarged between the 13th and 15th centuries and became the 'Civic Church', with strong links with the merchants and guilds (with the Guildhall being located nearby)

Just over 100 years ago the Victorian Architect, Raphael Brandon, magnificently restored and, in places, rebuilt the church, including the addition of a 220ft spire. When the Diocese of Leicester was re-established in 1927, the church was hallowed as Leicester Cathedral. In 2015 King Richard III was reinterred in the Cathedral. In 2024 the Cathedral reopened after 22 months of redevelopment.





## Ru3a TRIPS UPDATE FROM HALINKA RAJCHEL - TRIPS CO-ORDINATOR

### Calke Abbey - A National Trust property near Ticknall in Derbyshire

**1ST TRIP - Wednesday 12th June 2024 - TRIP FULL**

**2ND TRIP - Wednesday 8th May 2024 - 8 PLACES AVAILABLE**

Departing from The Sherwood Ranger at **9.30am**.

**Cost of travel is £8.** Entrance for National Trust members is free.

**Non-NT member Entrance Fee for Hall & Parkland is £12.50,**  
Parkland only is £7.50

With peeling paintwork and overgrown courtyards, Calke Abbey is an un-stately home and country estate that tells the story of the dramatic decline of a country house estate. The house and stables are little restored, with many abandoned areas vividly portraying a period in the 20th century when numerous country houses did not survive to tell their story.



### Bakewell International Dance Festival

**Saturday 29th June 2024 - 1st Bus SOLD OUT**

**Saturday 29th June 2024 - 2nd Bus ONLY 2 TICKETS AVAILABLE**

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

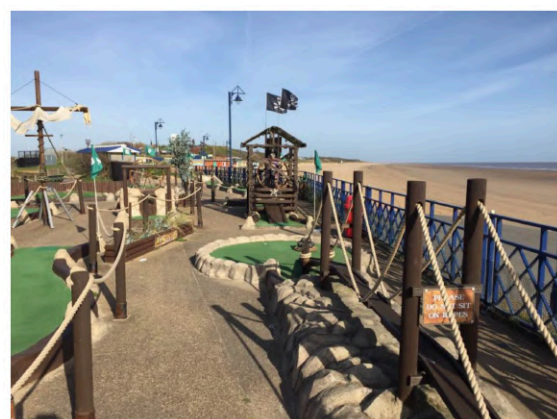
**Monday 1st July 2024 - TRIP FULL**

Departing from the Sherwood Ranger at **9am**.

**Cost of travel is £16**

**For Trippers who paid a £10 deposit, a balance of £6 is now due**

There is so much to see and do in Mablethorpe : from strolling along the golden sands, taking a trip on the famous Sand Train, having fun in the beach side Fun Fair, through to a ride on the Miniature Railway or hiring a boat on the lake at Queens Park.



A little further out of the town centre you can visit the Seal Rescue Sanctuary and Wildlife Centre.



### Ru3a TRIPS UPDATE FROM HALINKA RAJCHEL - TRIPS CO-ORDINATOR

## Tattersall Castle - A National Trust property near Coningsby in Lincolnshire

**Tuesday 16th July 2024 - 4 PLACES AVAILABLE**

Departing from the Sherwood Ranger at **9am**.

**Cost of travel is £11**

Entrance for National Trust members is free. **Non-NT member**

**Entrance Fee for Hall & Grounds is £12.50**

Rising proudly from the flat Lincolnshire fens, Tattershall Castle, with its huge Gothic fireplaces and church-like windows, was designed to impress. Built by Lord Ralph Cromwell, Treasurer of England, it was designed to show off his wealth, position and power.



This trip is during the Festival of Archaeology. An optional walk is available (1.2 km about 45 minute walk). There's plenty to do and see, and there is a cafeteria on site for snacks and hot drinks available by the church. People may choose to bring a packed lunch and top up with snacks from the cafe/shop. ( NT members have a discount in the shop).

### 2024 u3a NATIONAL FESTIVAL AT YORK UNIVERSITY EXHIBITION CENTRE

The u3a Movement will be holding their first ever **u3a National Festival** at the **University of York Exhibition Centre** from **18th to 20th July 2024**, where invited u3a members will be delivering a wide range of activities : **Talks, Sporting Activities, Musical Entertainment and Workshops**, which will make it something to remember.



Tickets will soon be available to purchase, and Ravenshead u3a members who wish to attend can find out more at : <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/festival-2024>

Although tickets are not yet available to buy, the cost of the attending festival will be as follows:

- Day 1, Thursday 18 July - £25 including buffet supper
- Day 2, Friday 19 July - £10 for the full day
- Day 3, Saturday 20 July - £5 for a half day
- Full festival to include all 3 days and a buffet supper on Day 1 - £35

Keep up to date with the latest Festival 24 news by signing up to the [u3a Friends Newsletter](#). Once signed up, you'll need to update your preferences to receive the monthly Festival updates. The Third Age Trust will also post regular updates on their social media channels.

**Halinka Rajchel will be arranging a Ravenshead u3a Trip to the u3a Festival on Friday 19th July (approximate transport-only cost £15) for those who wish to attend on that particular day.**

**Full information will be shared as soon as the schedule of activities on that day are published and tickets become available to book.**

## CAIRNGORM TRAVEL HIGHLAND HOUSE PARTY HOLIDAY WITH ASHFIELD U3A



### HIGHLAND HOUSE PARTY HOLIDAY - 5 DAYS 4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD

DEPARTING SUNDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2025

DUKE OF GORDON HOTEL, KINGUSSIE VILLAGE, SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

**COST : £305 per person**

Ashfield u3a organiser Caroline Rhoades has negotiated a bespoke Highland House Party for u3a members, and the cost includes all excursions and admissions.

The hotel is located in the village of Kingussie and looks out across the Spey Valley and Cairngorms National Park. All rooms enjoy private facilities, and the comfortable and welcoming lounge bar offers a choice of over 50 whiskies from Scottish distilleries.

Evening entertainment takes place in the Ruthven ballroom with traditional folk dancing and a weekly Ceilidh.

The main itinerary will be as follows : Sunday 23rd February 2025 coach pick up at Kirkby and Newstead Abbey Gates. If there is demand we will also pick up from Mansfield.

Three Excursions are included :

- Eilean Donan full day out with comfort stop at Spean Bridge Mill
- Funicular Railway ride on the Cairngorm mountain. With stop off at Aviemore in the afternoon.
- Red Deer Sanctuary where you will have the opportunity to feed and see these magnificent creatures. Afterwards there will be a stop off at the highland town of Pitlochry for a chance to explore the town.

Your holiday also includes :

- Full Highland breakfast
- Candlelight evening meals with 5 courses at each meal. Please let Caroline know if you have any special dietary requirements.
- Entertainment every evening
- On several evenings, guests are piped into dinner by a piper in full highland dress
- An evening of traditional Scottish Ceilidh... bring your dancing shoes and be prepared to fling the tartan!!

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHEQUES OUT TO CAIRNGORM TRAVEL

Speak to or email Caroline Rhoades to book or for more information

07724210563

crhoades159@gmail.com

CAIRNGORM TRAVEL ARE FULLY BONDED WITH ABTOT - MEMBER 7095



**THIRD AGE TRUST - 'FIT FOR THE FUTURE' PROPOSED u3a GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE CHANGES**

The u3a movement in the UK is rare amongst charity organisations in that we don't have a 'Top Down' structure with a Head Office and local branches.

In England we are locally independent u3a charities, with our own governance and differing constitutions, and are 'affiliated' to the national Third Age Trust based in London, which is an 'umbrella' charity that offers support to the over 1,000 local u3as in the country.



In addition we have an active u3a Network at a county level (Nottinghamshire Network) and national representation through a Regional (East Midlands) level. Our Regional Trustee is elected, with John Lewis (previously Chair of Bingham u3a) being our current Regional Trustee.

Since early 2022, the Third Age Trust Board has been considering changes that would give u3as more of a voice and would let them spend more time on issues that directly affect u3as and networks. As there is now much more regulation around charities, they also want to make sure that their Board can deal with such matters more effectively.

Their proposed new structure consists of a smaller Board, focused on governance and finance, and a new "u3a Council" where elected representatives highlight and resolve issues that u3as want to be addressed.

For the past few months, the Trust have been running a Pilot Council to try out how this may work in practice. Also over the past months, there have also been various opportunities for some u3as to comment on these plans, but they now want to ensure all u3as have an opportunity to contribute to the discussion. They want to hear the comments, thoughts and ideas from u3as and their members before taking the proposals any further.

More information was shared with u3a committees on 22nd January about this consultation, which is taking place from now until the end of April 2024, and you can read this email by clicking [HERE](#).

A decision will be made in June about the final proposals and a vote will be tabled for all individual u3as to accept or reject at the 2024 Third Age Trust AGM in October.

In late January, the Nottinghamshire Network of u3a's held a Hybrid Zoom meeting at the Centre at St Peter's for representatives of u3as in the East Midland Region, facilitated by Ravenshead u3a's Tech Team.

The 50 minute long Zoom recording of the explanatory keynote address to that meeting, by the Third Age Trust's Vice Chair, **Allan Walmsley**, can be viewed at the Trust's YouTube Channel at : <https://youtu.be/JUA68qh6gPA>

## THE NEW u3a FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

## u3a Friends Newsletter

The Third Age Trust have recently relaunched their u3a online newsletter as the **u3a Friends Newsletter**. This enables them to develop their relationship with you as individual u3a members and also with supporters of the u3a movement elsewhere.

Those who choose to join the u3a Friends community will be able to access exclusive offers and services, in addition to news and stories from across the u3a.

If you are not yet subscribed to the u3a Friends newsletter, [Sign Up Now](#)

You can view FAQs about the initiative [HERE](#)



## THIRD AGE MATTERS MAGAZINE UPDATE



We have been advised that, due to the company who handle the data transfer portal for the Third Age Matters Magazine having gone into liquidation, there is likely be an interruption in the mailing out of the **Third Age Matters** magazine that you will have been receiving 5 times a year, as long as you have not chosen to opt out of having it delivered.

This will particularly affect new members who have joined us this year whilst a new registration and administration system is put in place.

## CHAIR'S CHAT

I am on a voyage of discovery to experience each of our interest groups so I can report back to you all about what is going on in the beating "heart" of our u3a.

To make the most out of your membership, we encourage you to try out a few new ones every year, because if you never experience what they do, you'll never know what you're missing out on!

This month, at a Dog Friends Group meeting, Katy Roberts encouraged both myself and my wife Sue to attend the Salsa Group for the first time. I know that I essentially have two left feet when it comes to dancing, but despite that it was a ton of fun! We'll certainly be back for more.....



I mentioned last month that we would be having another **Members Social Coffee Morning** on a Saturday morning at The Centre at St Peter's. This has been arranged for the **27th April from 10.30am to 12noon**. Both members and those interested in joining our u3a will be welcome and are invited. **BRING A FRIEND!**

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

I do look forward to seeing many of you at our next monthly meeting on **Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 10am**

John Butler

Chairman - on behalf of the Committee of Ravenshead u3a