

JUNE 2019

ISSUE No 35

www.rot-u3a.org.uk

Radcliffe on Trent NEWS SHEET

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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

OUR NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH



Phil Gregg

Well, we have done it! Our first major refresh since the launch of Radcliffe u3a. It has been our aim for some time to "future proof" our technology. By "future proof" I mean that, as we all know, technology continues to develop. Many of us now do lots of things on the computer that we would not have dreamed of 5 years ago.

It will continue to progress and we must be ready. I believe our wonderful new website makes us so. This is only Phase One and once we have sorted the inevitable wrinkles we will commence Phase Two.

Do have a look if you have not already done so on:-

www.rot-u3a.org.uk

Also and sadly our membership does have inbuilt turnover. Sorry. As new younger "golden oldies" join our ranks they will understand, need, and expect up to date technology. It is interesting to note that now only 10% of our members do not use the internet and that figure would seem set to continue to fall. We will continue to cater for non users and this has been at the forefront of our minds throughout. I have been asked does the revived website mean the end of our very excellent Newsletter. Emphatically NO! They are complimentary but different. Also if you are like me as well as reading the website I actually like a physical copy! For those of us who do not use but would like to, or wish to improve, I expect Phil Gregg, who along with Mike Holding now carries the title of Webmaster will be happy to do user tutorials from time to time on Thursday meeting days. Roger Allton continues to do his Windows For Beginners Group and Ian Jones his IT skills Group. A very major thank you is given to Phil Gregg who has given of his time, skill, efficiency and vision to build this new site and way ahead of schedule. Thank you so much Phil. I am delighted the response from all is overwhelmingly positive. Within 48 hours of launch we had over 2000 hitsas we go to press it is 3,303

So onwards with the next set of challenges for our thriving U3A.

Malcolm
U3A Chairman

MOTORCYCLE GROUP

Motorcycle Group Roars Into Life

The new Motorcycle Group has four riders already but we are looking for more like-minded souls who enjoy social riding. We are not racers! Please visit our website www.rot-u3a.org.uk to view our group page and get in touch."

Phil Gregg

U3A members' meetings are held in the Grange hall on the first Thursday in the month (except August).

Doors open at 2pm and refreshments are available. Group Stalls advertise activities and enrolment.

Announcements are made at 2.30pm followed by the Guest Speaker

JULY'S GUEST SPEAKER



On July 4th, Graham Keal will give a talk to the Radcliffe U3A entitled '50 Shades of Graham'. He will talk about his 30+ years as a showbiz reporter. His talk is a comic miscellany of life lessons learned along the way amid the battle of the sexes and those men are from Mars, women are from Venus moments, all broadly inspired by the phenomenal success of the controversial novels and films.

The meeting will take place at the Grange Hall and doors open at 2pm

Penny Tyler

FILM APPRECIATION GROUP

Red Joan, our chosen spy story film for April, was universally panned by the critics who gave it the lowest ratings I've ever seen. 'Slow', 'boring', 'a waste of the real storyline and acting talent' (Judi Dench and Sophie Cookson starring) were just a few of the missiles thrown at it. 'Not so,' said Radcliffe U3A Film Group. 'It was gentle, subtle and finely portrayed'. The Group Leader, a sensitive and gentle soul himself, attempted in vain to lead them on a path of truth and righteousness, pointing out cliched elements and some weak acting, but they weren't having any of it and refused to budge from their original high scores. There's gratitude for you....

Our next months choice is Ash is Purest White, a tragicomedy set in the criminal underworld in China during the changing times there of the noughties. Its on the on at the Broadway from the 27th.

Please note due to the Bank Holiday and another engagement the next meeting has had to be put back to MONDAY 10TH JUNE at 2.00pm in St Marys Church Hall.

David Richards Group Leader Contact Tel: **0115 9335499** or email d.richards68@ntlworld.com

TRIPS AND OUTINGS 2019

Our next trip is to Boughton House and Gardens on Tuesday 17th September 2019 Cost £35 per person. Payable by cash or cheque (made payable to ROT U3A Social) Located in the heart of England this remarkable house is a blend of the intimate and the grand, drawing its inspiration from the Palace of Versailles. Its village-like Tudor courtyards contrast with its palatial 18th century additions, earning it the title 'The English Versailles' which inspired filmmakers at Universal to use Boughton House in the latest film adaption of Les Miserables. The ticket price includes return travel by coach, a 2 hour guided 'Kings Tour' of the house and a Hot Buffet Lunch in the converted 18th century stable block. The Kings Tour is designed for the enthusiast covering 20 rooms and also ascends the grand entrance staircase to include the High Pavilion and State Apartments created for the visit of William III. Highlights include: Painting Masterpieces, English and French furniture, tapestries, porcelain, silver, armoury and beautiful ceiling paintings.

FUTURE TRIPS for your diary

This is the list of forthcoming trips and outings for 2019. Book soon because these are very popular and fill up quickly.

Weds 12 June – National Brewery Centre and National Memorial Arboretum **SOLD OUT**

Weds 26 June – Kilworth Open Air Theatre – Joseph & Amazing Dreamcoat – **SOLD OUT**.

Tues 17 Sept – Boughton House & Gardens with Lunch- Tickets on sale at June monthly meeting.

Weds 27 Nov – Renishaw Hall & Gardens with Christmas Lunch – Tickets on sale at September monthly meeting.

..... Contact **Steve Harris** Tel: **0115 9333011** or **Sandra Straw** Tel: **0115 9123141**



HOLIDAY GROUP

Trip to London

Four suspicious looking characters arrested by beefeaters from The Tower of London,

Anne McLeod

Scottish Country Dance Group

We will be taking a summer break from the end of May until September. Great fun and good exercise, you may like to think about joining us for the new season.

Watch this space for start date, or contact **Jean** at rotscd@gmail.com.

JIVE GROUP

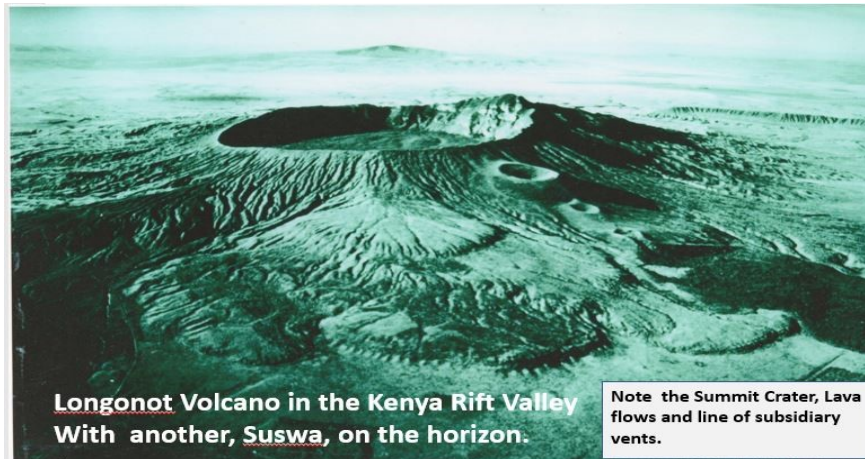
Brilliant do on Friday 10th May! Well done JiveGroup and many thanks for your great support. It is tempting to single out names for the help you all gave in making our fund raising evening so successful but that would be a mistake because this was just a magnificent team effort all round! The Jive Group raised a £1,038-50 donation for Multiple Sclerosis Research - which is what our "Rock and Roll for Charity" jive evening in the British Legion was all about. Terry our dance instructor summed it all up best when he said "We managed to put a smile on people's faces"! I was completely speechless when almost everybody – including the blokes! – got up for his jive lesson at the beginning of the evening, it was a real ice breaker and got the evening off with a swing.

The Legion management were also impressed with the turnout, they generously agreed to refund the fee for hiring the venue to our charity and they have booked the band for another similar do on Friday 26th. July – so put the date in your diary folks!! If that one is successful we may even get a regular "last Friday of the month" Jive Night.

Chris Worthington Group Leader. For details contact email : worthington690@btinternet.com

GEOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES GROUP

Our last meeting, attended by 28 members, comprised the final two sessions of our **Geology Mini Course**. **Session 5**, by Bob Addison, covered Fossils and aspects of evolution while **Session 6**, by Greg Chapman, introduced the occurrence, mining and uses of commercial Minerals. Summaries of these and the previous 4 sessions are available on request as email attachments. The image included here is from Session 4, on Volcanoes. We would like to thank all those who attended all or some of these Sessions, for their support.



Our next 3 monthly meetings are "**Field Trips**", each being a full day outing with walking up to 5 miles: **-June 11th**. Visit to the Markfield area of Charnwood Forest for quarries and hill walking. **July 16th**. Tour of Belvoir Vale area examining building stones in Churches, etc, and relevant outcrops. **Aug. 13th**. Visit to Yorkshire Sculpture Park for both insight into mapping of such an area and viewing the Sculptures exhibited.

For more information, comments, or queries please contact martinclarke@live.co.uk (Group Leader).

AVIATION AND AEROSPACE GROUP

Thirteen members (with 2 guests) attended our May meeting and heard speaker Tony Topliss relating the history of the Royal Observer Corps from its founding in the 1920s to its disbandment in 1995. Whilst some of us remember its exploits in WW2 spotting enemy planes and providing information for the anti-aircraft defences not many of us realised the extent of its functions during the early development of the nuclear age with its threat of such destructive weaponry – quite spine tingling!

We are looking forward to the June 4th meeting when the History of Gliding will be expounded by Roger Allton.

Looking further ahead the meeting on 2nd July will be addressed by Colin Ferguson who will tell of his extensive experiences flying military and civil aeroplanes such as the VC10 and USAF Starlifters. Heady stuff.

We meet on the first Tuesday in the month at 1400 hrs in the Radcliffe Room, the Grange.

Contact Leaders - **Mike Seymour** on email : seymourmd@aol.com

Roger Allton on rogerallton@hotmail.co.uk

CLASSICAL MUSIC GROUP

The Classical Music Group will be taking a summer break so there will not be another meeting until **Thursday 20th September** in the Dowson Room at the Grange from 10.30 to 12.30. £1.50 includes tea/coffee and biscuits. New members welcomed.

Contact **Joyce Bullimore** on email :
joyce@bullimore.f9.co.uk.



Last month's talk by Philip Caine (above) was entitled "BARROW TO BAGHDAD AND BACK " and was an interesting and fast moving biography into Philip's life and career which has taken him to many countries around the world, the last 10 years of which were spent in the Middle East.

Listening to his stories it is obvious that he is a workaholic and has since retiring in 2015, become a publisher, author and now writes the Jack Castle thriller/adventure novels which one or two of our members bought from him after the talk and have found fast moving and gripping yarns.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Since appealing to members each month from October last year the Editors have received only one letter.

Come on Radcliffe you can do better than this, surely we can top similar exchanges on Facebook or Twitter! We want to encourage interest, discussion, debate on all kinds of issues relating to what we do in the U3A....or what you would love to do. Anything our members would find stimulating or of news interest. If you have a story to tell, pictures to share or issues to raise send it to The Editors by e-mail to

radcliffeu3a.news@gmail.com

Or by letter post to

The Editors. 4 Lime Close, Radcliffe on Trent. NG122DF

APPEAL FOR PIANIST from Vale of Belvoir U3A singing group

I have become a member of ROT U3A this year joining the ukulele group. I am also the group leader of the singing group in the Vale of Belvoir U3A based in Bottesford. We have been together now for over 10 years but are in desperate need of a pianist to accompany us. Our current pianist will be returning to work in July when her maternity leave finishes.

We meet in the Methodist Chapel school rooms, Devon Lane, NG13 0BZ on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 2pm-4pm, apart from August or Bank Holidays. We sing a wide range of music in four part harmony and so need someone who can play competently in any key. We have an excellent musical director and are an informal, friendly group. We have members who live in Bottesford, Bingham, Radcliffe, Grantham, Long Bennington and many villages in the Vale of Belvoir.

I wonder if any of your members might be interested. Could you make them aware of this or put it in your newsletter? I would be grateful if you could spread the word and forward this to anyone who might be able to help.

For more information or if you can help contact **Val Lever**
tel: **01949 842538** mobile :**07582469401** email : val.lever@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE.....JULY'S NEWS SHEET

For the next issue of our U3A monthly News Sheet please send your news, articles and photos by **25TH JUNE** to our new email address which is now **radcliffeu3a.news@gmail.com** The old email address is no longer in use so please delete from your address books.

Thank you Editorial Team