



RADCLIFFE NEWSHEET

Registered Charity No. 115245

APRIL 2025 — ISSUE 100

From the Chair

I was delighted to once again be elected as your Chair for 2025/26 and look forward to enjoying the following 12 months. I will do my best to meet as many members and groups as I can. I intend to make the most of what will be my last year as Chair, as I have to stand down after 3 years, as per u3a protocols.

As we have gained so many new members I felt it appropriate to again repeat my original thoughts, from when I first became Chair.

I believe the most important quality required to carry out the role is IMPARTIALITY, to see all points of view and reconcile any disagreements, to the benefit of all. I believe that the Chairman's role is to be a CONDUIT between all the Groups, Members and the Committee, to ensure every member who has a concern or point to make is able to do so, and most importantly, if needed, to get an answer, even if it is not the one they wanted. I also believe that as Chairman I should be available at any reasonable time for members to contact, either by mobile, phone or e-mail.

This edition of our News Sheet is our 100th and we have a lot to thank our editors past and present for, it is the way we ensure members are kept up to date on our activities. I am very confident that we are a well organised u3a and this is as a result of our original founders setting out the correct protocols for us to follow, for which we owe them our thanks.

George Roberts



07971593802 gjand.roberts@gmail.com

A WARM WELCOME TO THIS MONTH'S NEW u3a MEMBERS

Susan Becket, Stan Darling, Sallie Finlay, Bob Hawkins, Mik Jenkins, Dawn Shuttle,

Christine Foster, Alwyn Foster, Anne Turner, Richard Turner.

Melanie Gregg - Membership Secretary

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER

Bharat Patel has worked for BBC Radio Leicester, Radio 4, ITV and BBC TV. He has covered major events which have made headlines around the world, including the Kegworth air crash, the death of Princess Diana, the Gujarat earthquake, the capture of the first serial killer through DNA fingerprinting and the disappearance of Madeleine McCann. But it's not all been about tragedy. He's also interviewed a parrot who allegedly spoke five languages, the world's oldest donkey and met Brian the Budgie, who escaped from Ilkeston to Corfu but was found by his astonished owners while they were eating a souvlaki under a tree on holiday in Corfu Town.

Chris Hopton - Talks Secretary

RADCLIFFE on TRENT U3a

How it all started.....

On a grey day in early 2012 my wife, Bev, and three others met at the Royal Oak. We met with a representative from the Regional Office, who deals with advising people who want to set up a new u3a in their area. After the initial chat Bev, myself and the others decided to investigate starting up a u3a group in the village.

After a few months we had arranged an open meeting in the Grange, attended by about 100 people. The representative told us about how we start up the group. At that meeting we set up a working committee, which Dave Barton volunteered to chair & at that point Bev & I joined the committee. After 13 years I am still on the committee acting as Business Secretary and after subsequently fulfilling many roles (including committee chairmn for three years) Dave Barton was honoured by being voted Life President of our U3a.

I am pleased to say we have seen our u3a grow with over 600 members & over 50 groups & it is the biggest organisation in the village. A great achievement by all of us.

Steve Harris



OUR u3a DURING COVID LOCKDOWN

During Covid Lockdown the committee felt that our members really had little or no contact or support from us.

We discussed 'Zoom' meetings which were becoming very popular but would not suit us as at that time many of our members did not have internet access. We used this for committee meetings and some groups were able to use it also.

The committee discussed this and one of our committee suggested producing a TV programme for the u3a on Notts local TV as we had a contact at the TV studios. ALL our members would be able to access this on their TV's. It was decided this was worth investigating. We met on Zoom with the production staff who agreed to do this (although it was quite expensive!!) and eventually we agreed to a trial program. Our first TV programme called NG30 which was on shown live on Notts TV. Sat 29th September 7.30pm on Channel 7 Freeview and Channel 159 Virgin with a repeat in September. We put a notice about this in the Newsletter.

The producers agreed to using a local person as speaker but they wished to make the final decision as some speakers 'freeze' when going out live. We wanted a local speaker to talk about something of interest to Nottingham residents. Our first TV programme was called NG30 (a Nottingham person in 30 minutes) in Sept 2020. The Speaker was a local man Barrie Page, geologist and mountaineer.

This was very successful so we booked a mini series of 5 more productions one to be screened in January, (as the dreaded Lockdown prevented December production). The committee felt that this challenging venture has given our members a better alternative than trying to produce our monthly speaker online via Zoom or some other platform. We hope they agreed

We felt this went some way to keeping u3a alive and ensuring our members did not loose out.

Our second speaker was Laura Parker a local archaeologist. At the end of Lockdown we went on to produce 4 more TV episodes.

Also at the end of Lockdown we decided to cancel the annual membership subscription for one year as we had been unable to provide our regular monthly meeting with a speaker.

We liked to think that these actions by the u3a committee helped our u3a members to keep going throughout Lockdown.

Ann Littlewood

CLASSICAL MUSIC GROUP

We meet usually on every 3rd Thursday in the month 10.30 - 12.30 at the Dowson Room The Grange. All welcome. No previous knowledge needed. Refreshments provided in the interval. The price is £2.50 including tea, coffee and biscuits. Listen and relax at our next meeting on 17TH APRIL.

Group leader

Michael Riggall

Contact at michael.riggall@ntlworld.com

TRIPS AND OUTINGS 2025

Our trips to Bletchley Park and Bradford have sold out but you can put your name down on the waiting list, should anyone have to cancel their booking. We have closed down further sales for Kilworth Outdoor Theatre, as we have now confirmed our booking with them.

Cambridge – June 10th - £20 Coach Only

This will be a day trip with the option of visiting the Botanical Gardens. The coach will drop us off at Parkers Piece a, 5 minute walk to the main colleges. If sufficient members are interested in starting with the Gardens, our coach will drop you off there. Entrance to the Gardens, which are owned by the University, will be at your cost of £7.70 or £8.50 with Gift Aid. For more info see.<https://www.museums.cam.ac.uk/museums/cambridge-university-botanic-garden>

We will open ticket sales for Cambridge at our April 3rd Monthly Meeting. We think it will sell out, so get in early to book your place. Future Planned Trips will include a trip to Salford Quays and the Lowry Museum. More detailed information in next month's Newssheet. Contact **George Roberts** at gjandm.roberts@gmail.com

A personal note from our Groups Co-ordinator.....

We have been reminded that this is the 100th edition of the Newsletter and have been encouraged to write in with our reflections of the Radcliffe u3a over the past few years. I write this as a member of your Committee - which is dedicated to keeping our u3a active so that our members are able to enjoy and give back to the Radcliffe u3a in the future.

I should like to congratulate everyone who has contributed to the Radcliffe u3a which has been a lifeline to so many in the village for over 10 years now. With over 40 groups and with more members joining us monthly we hope to continue to expand and develop in the future. From the "meeters and greeters" and those who sit at the desks in the foyer at our monthly meetings, to the team of people in the kitchen serving up our teas and coffees and the very many who have coordinated and led the variety of groups which have kept our u3a alive and active through the years. This is what comprises a successful organisation and they all deserve a huge pat on the back!

That is the secret of our u3a. As an organisation it relies on our volunteers. I would urge anyone to try it out if a call for extra help goes out, whether it is for pouring out cups of tea or for more committee members. Each is as necessary as the other in keeping the show on the road and you will undoubtedly make new friends along the way.

Jan Addiscott

THE BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge group goes from strength to strength. We now have nearly fifty members who participate in our Monday afternoon sessions to play duplicate bridge in a friendly atmosphere.

On Monday 24th March the group took part in a nationwide U3A charity bridge event. We played duplicate bridge with U3A bridge groups around the country playing the same dealt hands. We saw how we compared with other groups. The money raised by all the groups will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Support.

We are also pleased to say that members of the group will be going on our annual bridge weekend later in the year, always an enjoyable and popular event.

If anyone can play bridge and would like to join us please come along to the main Grange hall on a Monday afternoon starting at 1.45pm. You don't need a partner we will find you one on the day.

Contact **Greg Bungay** on 07437411875

POETRY FOR PLEASURE GROUP

To start a poetry group at the outset of Radcliffe's new U3a was the idea of the late Diana Rorrison who led it until she became too unwell a few years ago. Now, 12 years on from its formation we are still finding new and interesting poetry to read at our meetings. We also enjoy our lunches - see photo!!!

Anne Mountford Group Leader—
annemm510@gmail.com



REAL ALE GROUP

The Real Ale Group was originally envisaged and set up when the u3a was created in Radcliffe on Trent over ten years ago by Bill Sylvester on the simple basis that once a month the group decided which public house, selling real ale (cask ale), they wanted to visit at lunch time on the last Wednesday of each month. Always somewhere accessible by public transport and also on the understanding each member pays for their own drinks, no rounds and no kitty!

The establishments visited should also have character and be of interest. In 2013 Bill and family left Radcliffe and Rodney Fogg took on the responsibility of being Group Leader and has enjoyed it ever since. The group of both male and female, no discrimination here, have always been an interesting and lively social group with a strong interest in maintaining the British Public House and the continuing production of traditional real ale.

Meeting each month in the year, except for December when pubs are bursting at the seams, means the group have visited, during the last 10 years, over one hundred public houses in the area, though some have been visited more than once!

The group also annually visit the Nottingham Robin Hood Beer Festival, originally held at Nottingham Castle but now more recently at the Nottinghamshire County Cricket Ground at Trent Bridge where over a 1000 real ales are available to sample!.

Like many popular u3a groups the number of members out-grew the capacity of the group to work efficiently and two years ago had to divide in to two groups. The second group, now called The Real Ale Trail, has a different ethos from The Real Ale Group and as its group name suggests, visits more than one establishment when it meets.

The original Real Ale Group has a maximum of 15 members and likes to think it also embraces the u3a ethos of being "educational".

Over the years visiting and touring Breweries and Micro-Breweries, has meant learning much about brewing techniques as well as about the history of many of the public houses visited.



Rodney Fogg

GroupLeader Email - rodneymogg@gmail.com

FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT GROUP

"From small acorns large oak trees grow!" - the same can be said about your u3a's Friendship and Support Group which, from small beginnings, became too large and had to divide into two groups to cater for its popularity over the last ten years.

The group was set up to cater for those who lived on their own or were carers to give them an opportunity to make friends and do things in smaller friendly groups be it go out for a coffee or a meal or visit a cinema, theatre, garden centre or stately home. All of which have been achieved.

The group originally met in 2013 in the Manvers when Graham was landlord. Since then also met upstairs in Platform29 Cafe, the Costa and now in the Royal Oak. Always on the first Monday in the month at 2pm.

Over the years friendships have been formed and support given where possible.

I have fond memories of hiring the Community Minibus where we have had days out and visited Crich Museum, The National Space Centre, Gates Garden Center, Southwell Minster and King Richards Exhibition, Leicester.

Most of the local and neighbouring Villages Cafes have been frequented as well as the occasional interesting public houses in the area.

The most endearing characteristic of the group has been that of a warm, cheerful, humorous and friendly group of individuals.

Rodney Fogg,

Group Leader Email rodneymogg@gmail.com



JIVING FOR FUN APRIL 2025

As we celebrate the 100th edition of the Radcliffe on Trent U3A newsheet, it gave us cause to reflect on our jiving journey through the past few years. We started with a germ of an idea from Geraldine Sleight and Chris Worthington, who held a meeting of anyone interested on 27th June 2018. 12 of us met in the upstairs of Platform 29. This led to our first Jive session on 19th September 2018 with 29 of us attending. Terry Hallett with the help of Lynn Juska from Revival Dance School led the session and has continued to do so ever since with the help of Dave Halliwell and other guest instructors.

As our confidence grew we started venturing to live band events. I think we first braved a public dance floor at the Radcliffe British Legion Club in 2019. We then went on to other venues such as Oakleigh Lodge in Bulwell, Newark Retro weekend, Kelham Hall and Colwick Vintage weekend.

In 2020 our dancing stopped as Covid hit. As the rules began to relax a little we met on the Rec on Wharf Lane and danced in the open air thanks to some warm weather and sunshine. Since then our group has grown. We have a mix of all ages and abilities, couples and singles, beginners and experienced dancers.



We have celebrated 70th, 80th and 90th birthdays within our group! We even have a dancer who is registered blind and travels down from South Yorkshire to join us. Watch out Chris McCausland from Strictly!

Recently some jivers have attended events in Skegness and the Savoy Ballroom in Blackpool. They are going to be dancing at the Tower Ballroom in Blackpool in July! One brave soul went to a Rock and Roll week in Torremolinos and flew the flag for our group! In a few weeks time several of the group are travelling to Gran Canaria for a Jazz week where they will be dancing each evening.

If you are interested in joining our group (no partner or previous experience necessary) and would like to find out more then please contact:- ***Margaret Kimpson*** at kimpson1@virginmedia.com

The Aviation Group

The Aviation Group has met on the first Tuesday of each month at 2pm in the Trent Room in the Grange Hall for the past 10 years. We are a thriving group with over 40 members, and we have a varied programme of high-quality presentations and outside visits during the year.

Recent presentations have varied from Hot Air Ballooning to the modern commercial Space Race, building the Buccaneer to flying the Harrier, Ejection Seats to the History of RAF Newton and displaying the BBMF Lancaster and Vulcan.

We have also had visits to the BBMF, Duxford and Yorkshire Air Museums, the C47 Dakota restoration, RAF Cranwell and recently RAF Wittering



Our Next Meeting

Our next Meeting will be on Tuesday 1 April in the Trent Room in Grange Hall, when our speaker will be our old friend, Brian Cleary, talking about:

The Air Action against the Bismarck Battleship in World War II

Brian is a Historian and Curator at the IWM at Duxford, and is a collector of rare and unusual medal groups. He has just acquired a fabulous medal group of one of the swordfish aircrew in the first air attack, and has prepared an interesting talk on the whole subject of hunting the Bismarck from the air, from tracking the ship to the subsequent torpedo attacks.

Adrian Cresswell Group Leader - crela7@gmail.com



Church Visiting Group.

We are about to embark on our 5th Church Visiting Season..This involves 6 visits during the summer between April and September.
These visits include a guided tour of a local Church pointing out the many points of interest. This is usually followed by a coffee and /or a lunch for those interested.

We always check out accessibility and arrange lifts for those who need them.

The dates arranged so far include:-

1. Friday 4th April Plumtree Church 10:30
2. Friday 9th May Tollerton Church 10:30
3. Friday 6th June St Barnabas Catholic Cathedral Nottingham 10:15

Anyone interested in joining this group, please contact **Maggy Holmes** on 01159128926.

FILM APPRECIATION GROUP

A packed house reviewed our film choice for February; The Seed of the Sacred Fig, a family drama shot in secret in Iran against the backdrop of the recent uprising against the Theocracy and the protests following the imprisonment and suspicious death of Mahsa Amini who refused to wear her hijab in public.

A Simple Tale Of Country Folk, this is not. With Daddy a lawyer and a misogynist, forced to sign dodgy death warrants for the Ayatollah and carrying a gun for his self protection, two teenage daughters with friends mutilated and worse by the police at the demonstrations, and a wife torn between cultural duty and her maternal instincts, cosy family evenings round the tele watching Goggle Box was a definite no no.

On the run Writer/Director; Muhammad Rasoulof and the cast... of whom Soheila Golestani as the wife stood out..... gradually unpeeled the characters and the plot, ratcheting up the tension inexorably over 140 minutes to its shocking conclusion.

We rated it highly,

David Richards. Group Leader.

Contact at drichards68@ntlworld.com

Our thanks once again to Linda and Paul Kiddey for managing the meeting and providing the historical background.

JOIN OUR RADCLIFFE ON TRENT u3a

Are you new to the area or have spare time on your hands? Then why not use it in a fulfilling way, whilst making new friends Then why not consider joining the u3a (University of the Third Age) in Radcliffe on Trent Membership is open to all not in full-time employment and offers many different possibilities to enhance your time.

With over 600 members and 50 Group's as differing as Geology, Gardening, Knit & Natter,

Wine Appreciation, Bridge, Trips & Outings, Scrabble and Friendship Groups & many more to ensure you can find something that interests you.

To join come along to any of our monthly u3a Members Meetings on the first Thursday each month at Grange Hall.

GERMAN LANGUAGE GROUP

The German Group, which meets every Tuesday at 2.30pm in the Methodist Church is really flourishing.

When we began, 3 years ago, several members were complete beginners, whilst others had studied German at school, some as long as 70 years ago!

We are a strong cohort of 7, who can all communicate well and understand quite challenging texts. Importantly, we have a lot of fun and have become firm friends.

We are a real U3A success, in terms of learning, socialising and having fun.

Audrey Squires— Group Leader

Contact at a.s.squires@icloud.com

FIT & TONED GROUP

Engage the Core!
Resistance isn't futile for Dave, Peter and Ken at the Fit and Toned U3A exercise class. Quite the reverse, as evidence shows that it's never too late to mobilise the muscles and get fitter.



Engage your brain and join us on Wednesdays at the Scout Hut in Radcliffe at 10.00am. Alternatively, for the very brave, especially men, why not join the Jive group at the Legion from 15.00 - 17.00pm. A pulse and two left feet are the only requirements.

Dave Halliwell

Bev Lawe - Group Leader

Contact at thelawes@ntlworld.com

GROUPS NEWS

"We are aware that some of our groups are so large that there is currently no capacity to expand further and that potential new members are unable to join them. (N.B. Members are always recommended to contact the relevant group leader **in advance** to check there is space for an extra person to attend any group.)

A solution may be the possibility of splitting a group into two - perhaps meeting on a different day/time. As an example we now have **two** Friendship Groups which developed after Rod Fogg's original group became too large to meet in Costa Coffee in one go! A similar solution has meant that we now have two Art Groups.

On the other hand, we do have the following groups which would welcome more members to join them. They are : Table Tennis (Wednesday afternoons, alternate weeks) and Art Group 2 (Tuesday mornings, weekly). You may also be keen to start a new group (eg - singing??). The **GOOD NEWS** is that Richard Turner is actively exploring the opportunity of holding a monthly **NEW QUIZ GROUP**. We hope to bring you the details very soon.

In the meantime, if anyone would like to chat about any of our existing or potential groups, please join us over a (free!) cup of coffee at the Royal Oak at 11.30 am on the last Wednesday of each month.

Jan Addiscott - Groups Coordinator
contact at jan@addiscott.net

GEOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES GROUP.

Our first Meeting was in July 2014 when 16 folk met in the Memorial Park on the Cliff including Dave & Sylvia Barton, Sian Barnard, Brian Cannel, Dave & Maggy Holmes, Howard & Pat Kennington, Graham Leigh-Brown, Stephanie Seabright, John Parry, Rosie Garner, Peter Jackson and Peter Straw,

We examined the Cliff above the weir which exposes good outcrop of typical Radcliffe Triassic age bedrock - reddish clay-rich sedimentary rocks approx. 240 million years old cut by veins of pale grey Gypsum.

Since then we have met, usually monthly, about 100 times, many of which involved field trips to, e.g. 600 million yr. old volcanic rocks in Charnwood, Leadmines in Derbyshire, on-shore oil fields in Notts., Creswell Crags archaeological site, Osprey at Rutland water, etc. Additionally many topics have been presented as talks, currently these are related to investigating the development and origin of our own species, *Homo sapiens*.

The two photos show some of our mineral collection and our group underground during a visit to the National Coalmine Museum, Wakefield.



The three members mainly responsible for guiding this group's activities, Bob Addison, Greg Chapman and Martin Clarke were all employed at the British Geological Survey based at Keyworth.

None of us are experts but the internet is now a mighty source of information allowing those, like us, studying at the **University of the Third Age** to be in contact with modern thought and theory within our own homes or interest groups.

Contact **Martin Clarke** - Group Leader - sumatraman947@gmail.com

u3a COFFEE MORNINGS

We hold a regular Coffee Morning on the last Wednesday of every month at the Royal Oak from 11.30am until 12.30pm.

All members and any potential new members are welcome.

If you are free please come and join us for a coffee and a chat.

The tea and coffee is included FREE !

LETS GO BOWLING GROUP

Join us for these informal sessions that will allow you to have a go at this fascinating game that gives you lots of light exercise, fresh air and loads of fun The Bowling Club will supply Bowls and Tuition. All we ask is that you come in footwear with Flat Soles and NO Heels. Trainers should be OK. Please arrive by 1-45pm to allow registration
Radcliffe on Trent Bowling Club, Entrances are on Glebe Lane & Cropwell Road.

The cost is £3 per session, to include Tea/Coffee & Biscuits

We will be bowling on Monday afternoons for 5 weeks on 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th May & 2nd June – Between 2pm & 4pm If you are interested in joining the group please contact

Philip Adams on 07742 146 657 Email ; philip@radcliffeot.co.uk

NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

To all our Group Leaders thank you for articles and contributions especially photos to keep members informed of what you do.

Please continue to send us your items, articles, photos or sketches to:

radcliffeu3a.news@gmail.com

The deadline for articles please is **20th APRIL, 2025**

The editors assume we have your permission to quote e-mail addresses and telephone numbers unless you advise us not to. Please also let us know who took the photos you submit. Thanks

Red & Patrick Co-Editors