



u3a

RADCLIFFE ON TRENT u3a

NEWS SHEET

DECEMBER 2025 ISSUE 108

u3a Christmas Party

**"CJ Jackson - sensational
Soul and Motown singer"**
& **"The Bridge Singers"**

Includes Food + Drink + Quiz

Thursday 4th December 2025 at the Grange
Hall – please arrive for a prompt 2pm start.

Party time!

Please note that on the 4th of December we are holding our annual Christmas party at The Grange. This replaces the speaker meeting and admission is by pre-purchased ticket (members only please).

Get your ticket from **One More Chapter** bookshop before they sell out. Only £3!



From The Chair

"Our u3a and all other organisations like us, rely on individuals to make it such an enjoyable experience for their members. Radcliffe on Trent u3a has been fortunate to have one of the best in Rodney Fogg, who has had such a profound influence on it. Rod is the group leader for our Friendship & Support Group, which gives great experiences for its members. He is also group leader for the Real Ale Group and as a member has also supported many of our groups. On top of all these he has been the editor for our News Sheet and sadly November's issue was his last, after 10 years exemplary service. On a personal basis Rod made me very welcome when myself and Mary joined the Real Ale Group and now as Chair I sadly have to thank him for all the time and effort he has put in over many years and wish him well for the future.

As we come to the end of the year, it is a time for reflection on the past 12 months. Our u3a has continued to grow, both with new members and groups ensuring we remain a vibrant and forward-thinking organisation. It is important that your u3a has new blood getting involved and bringing with them new ideas. As Chair I can confirm that our committee put in an impressive amount of time and effort, but it is dependant not only on the committee but on all of us, our fantastic Group Leaders and Members to support them to ensure we stay relevant."

🎄 It is my great pleasure to wish all our members a Merry Christmas whilst looking forward to a Happy & Healthy 2026 🎄

George Roberts <mailto:chair@rot-u3a.org.uk> Tel 07971593802

WELCOME TO THIS MONTH'S NEW MEMBERS

Anthony Doyle, Sue Lakeman, Susan Goodman, Angela Unwin, Richard Noon, Christine Simons, Chris Skingle and Keith Skingle. *Melanie Gregg, Membership Secretary* (members@rot-u3a.org.uk)

DID YOU KNOW THAT OUR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP IS IN EXCESS OF 600!

CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT MORLEY HAYES GOLF CLUB on Tuesday 9th December

We are once again holding our members' Christmas Lunch trip at Morley Hayes Golf Club. This is the third year we have done so, reflecting the quality and ambience enjoyed by our members. The event has sold out but we will let you know if any tickets do become available by email.

The day will include a visit to the Museum of Making in Derby that highlights the Lace Industry in the area. This is an excellent museum with a café to have a tea/coffee before we set off for Morley Hayes.

Please contact: *Sandra Straw* on 07411 910142 email: <mailto:msandrastraw50@gmail.com> Or *George Roberts* on 07971 593 802 email: chair@rot-u3a.org.uk

A VISIT TO THE AIR RAID SHELTER WEST BRIDGFORD



It was a tight fit when 24 of our members squeezed into the recently renovated and re-opened (for history purposes only!) the World War II Air Raid Shelter on Abbey Circus in West Bridgford.

This is one of just two such Shelters that survive in West Bridgford and has been rescued by a team led by Professor Chris Reynolds of Nottingham Trent University, ably assisted by Jason King a retired secondary school teacher and an inveterate collector of second World War artefacts – tin helmets, stirrup pumps, gas masks and the like. Originally intended as a living lesson on the history of wartime

Nottingham for school children it has proven doubly interesting for members of our u3a some of whom can actually remember the shelter or others like it being built in 1939 (I'm too young at just 79 years old!)

The visit also included a short film produced by students at Nottingham Trent University showing how the visiting children were able to learn about the war and to re-enact the aftereffects of an air raid acting as Air Raid Wardens and so on.

John Addiscott

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 are included FREE!



u3a FILM CLUB (FILM APPRECIATION GROUP)

Reviews Dead in Winter

A chilly thriller starring feisty, still grieving widow Emma Thompson with her real-life daughter as a kidnap victim. Three male characters, dressed for -40c in lumberjack coats toted big rifles. A very scary "off her head on Fentanyl" woman with a bigger gun on an unknown mission completed the ensemble.

Set in the snowy wastes of Minnesota there were plenty of iced-up beards, clouds of mouth vapour and ice-hole fishing with a tiny 'warming hut' the size of a privy on wheels belching chimney smoke. There were flashbacks, blood, axes and falling through the lake ice shockers, not good for Minnesota State winter tourism!

We all watched a truly dramatic final two minutes with the big reveal. Medics amongst us pointed out anatomical inaccuracies!

Members appreciated the cinematography and performance by Thompson, a star in a (frozen) sea of mystery.

Starting votes given by all ranged from 6-7 out of 10. After further diagnosis and some swipes/scoffing at the storyline - not believable - the final vote was unchanged, between 6-7 out of ten.

We welcomed two new members from the initial 12 who expressed interest. Five folk are on the waiting list planning to enjoy future movie buff conversations when places arise.

Lindah & Paul Kiddey

Trips & Outings Next Year

Dates for your 2026 Diary

Tuesday April 21st - Lichfield and the Staffordshire Regiment Museum - £25 pp

We will visit the Regimental Museum before taking the short trip to Lichfield where we will have free time to explore the city. Places of interest are the Cathedral, The Old Guildhall Prison and Lichfield's first Social Enterprise Coffee Shop, The Hub, which is a colourful new space in the heart of the city, located at St Mary's on Market Square. Visit the Stunning Georgian home of Erasmus Darwin, grandfather of Charles Darwin and leading 18th century doctor, scientist, botanist, inventor and poet. There are also many interesting buildings, shops, cafés and Pubs to explore.

Thursday 21st May - Coventry Cathedral and the Transport Museum - £28-00 pp

We will visit the Transport museum which explores the growth of manufacturing of transport related items in the Midlands and it has the largest collection of British manufactured vehicles. We will then have free time to visit the Modern Cathedral and the old town that survived the Blitz in WW 2. There are many other interesting places to explore all within walking distance, including Sgt. Bilko's Vintage Emporium, specialising in vintage & modern TV, Film and Stage memorabilia. Bilko was memorably played by Phil Silvers, in his 60's TV show.

Tuesday 16th June - Liverpool - £20 pp

This will be a coach only visit where we will drop you off by the Albert Dock and you will have plenty of free time to visit many of the interesting opportunities within a short walking distance of the dock.

Wednesday 16th July - Kilworth Outdoor Theatre - £60 pp

We will visit Palmers Garden Centre en-route to Kilworth where you will be able to enjoy the shopping and have a coffee in the café. We will then drive to Kilworth to enjoy the musical 'Anything Goes' featuring great songs by Cole Porter such as 'I get a kick out of you' 'Friendship' & 'You're the Tops' along with the title song, all supported by the wonderful singers & dancers from Kilworth.

Tuesday 22nd September - National Coal Museum & Sculpture Park - Cost TBC

At the Coal Museum there will be the opportunity to go underground at an additional cost, this to be booked when confirming your booking for the trip. The Sculpture Park is a short distance away with the sculptures set outside, within the 500-acre park. They have a planned walk that will take about 1-30hrs and is the best way to view all the works.

Tickets for Kilworth will be on sale at the January 8th monthly speaker meeting on a first come basis.

CLASSICAL MUSIC GROUP

We meet every 3rd Thursday in the month 10.30 - 12.30 in the Dawson Room, The Grange but please note that in December it will be the 2nd Thursday. All are 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 Thursday 11 December.

Group leader Michael *Riggall*

Contact at michael.riggall@ntlworld.com

AVIATION GROUP The Schneider Trophy Air Races

We have no meeting in December as we will be having our Group Christmas Lunch. Our next meeting will be on Tue 6 Jan at 2pm in the Trent Room in Grange Hall.



Our speaker will be Brian Fernley, who will talk to us about the Schneider Trophy Air Races were seaplane races held initially to encourage technical advances in civil aviation but became a contest for pure speed. The race was held twelve times between 1913 and 1931, the year when it was finally won permanently by the British.

The races were significant in advancing aeroplane design and were instrumental in developing the best fighters of World War II, most famously the Spitfire.

Adrian Cresswell
Aviation Group Leader
crela7@gmail.com

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY!

The **Ukulele group** wishes member Joy a very happy 90th Birthday!



Join Our 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 and consider joining the u3a in Radcliffe on Trent. Membership is open to all not in full-time employment and offers many quite different possibilities to enhance your time. With over 600 members and over 40 Groups as varied as Geology, Gardening, Knit & Natter, Wine Appreciation, Bridge, Trips & Outings, Scrabble, Friendship Groups and 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 of each month. No age limit and only £20 a year!



WANTED: a Co-editor for this newssheet

If you enjoy this Newssheet and wish it to continue to be published monthly

Tasks include requesting content from Group Leaders. Using our dedicated editorial u3a laptop and Word to create the Newssheet, seeking Committee approval then arranging printing and distribution.

With tech help on hand "in case"

Contact the Editor radcliffeu3a.news@gmail.com

OUR GROUPS

Archaeology Group
Art 2 Tuesday
Art 1 Wednesday
Aviation and Aerospace Contact
Aviation and Aerospace alternative Contact
Book
Board Games
Boules
Bridge
Canasta
Church Visit
Classical Music Appreciation
Croquet
Discussion
Family History Discussion
Film Appreciation
Fit and Toned
French Conversation
Friendship and Support
Friendship Group
Garden
Geology and Environmental Studies
German

Indoor Carpet Bowling
Jiving for Fun
Keep Fit
Knit and Natter
Let's Go Bowling
Local Outings
Luncheon Club Belvoir
Luncheon Club Newstead
Photography
Pickleball
Play Reading
Poetry for Pleasure
Pop Music Quiz
Pub Trail Group
Real Ale Group
Scottish Country Dance
Scrabble
Table Tennis
Trips and Outings
Ukulele
Wine Tasting Afternoon
Wine Appreciation Group Evening

Visit rot-u3a.org.uk to contact a group leader

SPEAKERS FOR Q1 2026

JANUARY 8TH - *The Transformation of St Pancras*

This talk is for anyone with an interest in history, world class architecture, elegant engineering, or a great story. It describes how the fantastic mid Victorian Gothic cathedral like building came to be built and how the long-neglected building underwent a breathtaking transformation...

The speaker is Nigel Lowey from Nottingham who has become a minor expert described as a historian of the building.

FEBRUARY 5TH - *Mary's Meals*

Mary's Meals provides life changing school meals to children living in some of the world's poorest communities. The promise of a good meal brings hungry children into the classroom where they can gain an education. Our meals make it possible for them to have the energy they need to participate. We are serving more than 3 million children every school day. Jane Wright, Supporter Engagement Officer will describe the Mary's Meals work and its impact.

At a time when in our own communities' families are under financial pressure it will be an opportunity to reflect on the most effective ways to help children.

MARCH 5TH - *Uncle Toms Cabin* (AFTER THE AGM)

Mike Burton who delivered the very well received January 2025 talk on Abraham Lincoln's America will return with 'Uncle Toms Cabin' which became America's best-selling book, unleashing a storm. Listen to how the book originated and the events which accompanied its publication.

Chris Hopton



CHRISTMAS PARTY ORGANISER REQUIRED



We are seeking an enthusiastic individual to take on the role of Christmas Party Organiser. This position involves working closely with the Committee throughout the year to coordinate key aspects of the event, including: sale of tickets, booking the venue, ordering food and drink, choosing and liaising with the performers as well as assisting on the day with the smooth running of the event. You will receive guidance and mentorship from Carol, who has successfully fulfilled this role for several years.

If you are interested, please contact info@rot-u3a.org.uk.

THE NEXT EDITION DEADLINE

We hope that you like our new layout. Thank you to all Group Leaders for your articles and especially your photos—they help keep members informed about your group activities. Please continue sending items (articles, photos, sketches) to: radcliffeu3a.news@gmail.com.

Our next issue is the **January edition**. **Deadline for submissions: 17 December 2025**

When sending photos, please include the photographer's name. Unless advised otherwise, we'll assume permission to publish email addresses and phone numbers. Here's to a festive Christmas and a bright, happy New Year! *the Editor*.

