

Radcliffe on Trent u3a: Learn, Laugh, Live

Join a friendly community of over 600 local members in Radcliffe and surrounding areas. For just £20 a year, you can explore new interests through volunteer-led groups, monthly guest speakers at Grange Hall, and social trips. Open to everyone—regardless of age or background. Come and meet new people and get involved at your own pace! Our u3a is run entirely by volunteers.

This month... A Talk on RAF Langar... new Groups... trips... speakers... diary dates and more!

OUR GROUPS...

Monday – Boules; Bridge; Croquet; Film Appreciation; French Improvers; Friendship & Support; Friendship Group; Keep Fit; Wine Appreciation (Eve.)

Tuesday – Art 2; Aviation; Cribbage; French Conversation; Geology & Env Studies; German; Indoor Bowling; Knit & Natter; Let's Go Bowling; Lunch Club (Newstead)

Wednesday – Art 1; Discussion; Fit & Toned; Jiving for Fun; Photography; Real Ale; Scottish Country Dance; Table Tennis

Thursday – Classical Music; Family History; Garden; Play Reading; Poetry for Pleasure; Pop Music Quiz; Ukulele; Wine Tasting (Aft.)

Friday – Archaeology; Board Games; Book Group; Canasta; Church Visits; Pickleball; Pub Trail; Scrabble

Day Varies – Local Outings; Lunch Club (Belvoir); Trips & Outings Group Committee

Visit rot-u3a.org.uk/groups-page/ to find out times, venues etc and to contact a group leader. Some groups operate a waiting list.

SPANISH GROUP *new group*

Nuevo grupo de español de los Jueves

¡Hola! Our friendly **Spanish Group** is officially up and running at **The Royal Oak**, thanks to Chris's kind hospitality. We meet weekly for informal, fun activities focusing on translation, speaking, and listening. By doing a little preparation beforehand, we're able to support each other through our tasks in a relaxed setting. We have plenty of room for new members of all abilities—just turn up any Thursday at 2pm. ¡Hasta la vista!

Lynette Norris lynettecnorris@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We are thrilled to kick off our new membership year with 608 incredible members already on board! It's completely natural to see a small dip during renewal season, but the big picture is even more exciting:

our u3a has seen a consistent upward trend over the past few years, and we aren't slowing down now! We can't wait to see our community grow even larger as we welcome new faces and fresh ideas throughout the coming months. Whether you're a returning member or thinking of joining for the first time, there's a place for you here. Let's make this our best year yet!

Welcome to our new members...

Sandra Weaver, Mandy Smith, Maureen Mitchell, Bob Barnes, Steve Waters, Michele Rollerson, Liz Collins, Julian Smith. We hope you enjoy your time with our u3a!
Melanie Gregg, Membership Secretary (members@rot-u3a.org.uk)

KNIT AND NATTER GROUP

One of the several charities which we knit for is "Tara's Angels" – one which supports families fleeing domestic violence in the Nottingham area. This gorgeous, cuddly teddy bear was recently rescued from a local charity shop by Jean and it will be tucked in amongst our next donation to Tara's Angels.

Jan Addiscott jan@addiscott.net



CANASTA GROUP **new group**



The Canasta group has had enquiries about joining the group from beginners, improvers and also more experienced players. I am happy to run a beginners table at any time and our regular players are very helpful. We play on alternate Friday afternoons from 13:00 for two hours in the Dowson room at the Grange. The cost is £3 per session and refreshments are provided.

The first session in April is on the 10th.

Susan Sinclair susan_sinclair@btinternet.com

CLASSICAL MUSIC GROUP

We meet every 3rd Thursday in the month 10.30 – 12.30 in the Dawson Room, The Grange. 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 16 April.



Group leader Michael Riggall *Michael Riggall* michael.riggall@ntlworld.com.

MONTHLY SPEAKER TALKS

Talks take place monthly at The Grange Hall, doors open at 2pm, free tea/coffee, free for members, guests £2.

APRIL 9th - Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (Canny Canines)

Angela Richards accompanied by her hearing dog will tell us how the work of hearing dogs developed, the training involved and the impact on the quality of life for deaf people. As dogs can become so much

more than the family pet it is an opportunity to think how 'Man's Best Friend' continues to give this added value to our lives

MAY 7th - The Reality of Life in A Cat B Male Prison

The Radcliffe History Society has a book called The History of Lowdham Grange Borstal. We have invited the present Chair of the Monitoring Board of Lowdham Grange Prison, John Andrews, to present a talk. John is a journalist and broadcaster by background and will describe the reality of life in a Cat B male prison from a prisoner and staff perspective. There will be a particular focus on what happened when the Private sector provider contract changed hands in 2023.

JUNE 4th – Nottingham Pubs and Folklore

David J Mooney a Nottinghamshire based writer, musician and public speaker. His talk will be on Nottingham Pubs and Folklore.

Chris Hopton, Speaker Finder christine.hopton@outlook.com



🎵 POP MUSIC GROUP 🎵

When the going gets tough, the tough get going to the u3a Pop Quiz. *That's the way I like it (uh-huh)*. The next quiz is on Thursday 9th April 11am-12noon at the Royal Oak. No charge, just buy tea, coffee or another drink. Come along to identify songs from the 60s, 70s and 80s.

Richard Turner ayamonterichard@gmail.com

From The Chair

"Having completed my initial three-year term as Chair, we haven't yet identified a successor. I am happy to continue in the role, and our constitution allows for this extension since no other candidates have stepped forward and the committee has formally expressed their support. Since we can't officially run our u3a without a Chair, I've stepped up to keep the wheels turning! I'm looking forward to another 12 months with you all to ensure our branch stays open and thriving.



With so many new faces joining us, I'd like to reiterate my core philosophy as Chair. I believe my primary role is one of impartiality—balancing all perspectives for the good of the community. I view the Chair as a conduit between our members, groups, and the committee; my goal is to ensure every voice is heard and every question receives a clear answer. I remain fully available to you all via phone or email for any thoughts you'd like to share.

Our u3a family is growing! Along with our increasing membership, I'm thrilled to introduce Joy Moran (Groups Leader) and Hilary Jones (Minutes Secretary) to the committee. They've already stepped into their roles with great energy, and we are already feeling the positive impact of their work. Our u3a has a bright year ahead, thanks to a committee and group leaders who truly care about our success. I'm excited to serve as your Chair for another year and hope to chat with many more of you at our upcoming events. Here's to a year of fun, friendship, and making our community thrive! "

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

JIVING FOR FUN GROUP



Our recent Open Day was a great success. We were really pleased to welcome around 16 new people, with some saying they hope to join us regularly. It was lovely to see so many of you there, enjoying the afternoon and getting involved. A big thank you to everyone who came along and helped make it such an enjoyable day. Looking ahead to May, we're excited to be welcoming Aaron Fender for a live performance of red-hot Rock and Roll at one of our afternoon sessions. We're hoping this will take place on the 13th of May with more details to follow soon. Everyone is welcome to come along and have a go at jiving or just sit and enjoy the live music. We meet every Wednesday 3pm - 5pm Grange Hall, Radcliffe on Trent No partner or previous experience necessary. Just turn up. Contact: *Margaret* on 07773426253 or *Sue* on 07954586735.

TABLE TENNIS GROUP



Come and join us for a game or two of table tennis every other Wednesday between 2-3pm. Fast paced, but with the chance to recover between games. It is held in the Tardis-like building which is the Boys Brigade Hall on the corner of Tesco's car park.

All ages and abilities welcome.

Contact: *Ali Wilson / Angela Unwin* angelaunwin2018@gmail.com

TRIPS & OUTINGS 2026

At our speaker meeting on the 9th of April, we will be selling tickets in the Grange Hall for our trip to Coventry.

- Tuesday April 21st - **Lichfield and the Staffordshire Regiment Museum** - £25 pp **SOLD OUT**
We will visit the Regimental Museum, entrance fee included, before taking the short trip to Lichfield for free time to explore the city and its attractions. If interested put your name on a waiting list for any cancellations.
- Thursday 21st May - **Coventry Cathedral and the Transport Museum** - £28 pp (inc. museum entry)
Free time in Coventry to explore the Cathedral and many visitor attractions.
- Tuesday 16th June - **Liverpool** - £20 pp tickets on sale at the 14th of May speaker meeting.
- Thursday 16th July - **Kilworth Outdoor Theatre 'Anything Goes'** - £60 pp **SOLD OUT**
- Tuesday 22nd September - **National Coal Museum & Sculpture Park** - Cost TBC

Contact *George Roberts* 07971 593 802 or *Sandra Straw* 07411 910 142

AVIATION GROUP

A talk on Royal Air Force Langar

Our next meeting will be on Tue 7 Apr at 2pm in the Trent Room in Grange Hall. Our speaker will be local historian, Brian Fare, who will talk to us about The Story of RAF Langar.



RAF Langar opened in 1942 as a Bomber Command base housing 207 (Leicester's Own) Bomber Sqn. In Oct 1943, the airfield became USAAF Station 490 and was home to several units of the IX Air Force Troop Carrier Command with C47 Dakota's and WACO Gliders. The Avro Repair Organisation (ARO) also operated a major facility here, from Sept 1942 until Sept 1968, repairing, maintaining, and modifying Lancasters and other types.

After the war, the airfield became a base for the Royal Canadian Air Force as their main supply depot in Europe, forming a close association with Radcliffe on Trent.

Today, the airfield is the base for British Parachute Schools, Skydive Langar, who use the original control tower as their headquarters, and the former Avro repair complex is now used by private industry.

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Adrian Cresswell, Aviation Group Leader, crela7@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. Tea and coffee are included for FREE!

2026 Diary Dates

- March 25th Coffee Morning
- April 9th Speaker – Hearing Dogs | 21st Trip to Lichfield and museum | 29th Coffee Morning
- May 7th Speaker – Lowdham Grange Prison | 21st Trip to Coventry and Transport Museum | 27th Coffee Morning
- June 16th Trip to Liverpool | 24th Coffee Morning
- July 16th Trip to Kilworth Outdoor Theatre | 29th Coffee Morning
- Aug 26th Coffee Morning
- Sept 22nd Trip to National Coal Museum and Sculpture Park | 30th Coffee Morning
- Oct 28th Coffee Morning
- Nov 25th Coffee Morning
- Dec 3rd Christmas Party (Grange)



NEXT EDITION DEADLINE 20th March 2026

Please continue sending items (articles, photos, sketches) to: radcliffeu3a.news@gmail.com. Any member may contribute to our Newsletter. Your experiences could be the inspiration someone needs to join us. Why not share what you enjoy most about being a member?

Join our u3a

Looking for something fun, friendly, and fulfilling? The u3a in Radcliffe on Trent offers 40+ groups, 600+ members, and endless ways to get involved. Join us at our monthly Members' Meeting (first Thursday), visit rot-u3a.org.uk/home/join-us/ or email members@rot-u3a.org.uk for more information.

Everyone welcome — just £20 a year.



Our Geographical Spread...

Location	Number of members	Percentage
Radcliffe on Trent	452	74.00%
Nottingham (General/Suburbs)	67	11.00%
Bingham	24	4.00%
West Bridgford	18	3.00%
Shelford / Newton	15	2.50%
Other (Cropwell Butler, Burton Joyce, etc.)	34	5.50%
	610	100.00%

Community event

RADCLIFFE REPAIR CAFÉ 30th May 10am-1pm



What sort of things can we try and help you with? Woodwork, Electrical, Tool Sharpening, Jewellery, Soft Furnishings, Needlework, Basic Bike Repairs and more.

Refreshments Available. Cash donations can be made on the day. Why not pop along and find out!

Craig Moray Community Centre, Corner of Queens Road and Shelford Road, Radcliffe on Trent, Nottingham, NG12 1DL.

Contact: 07742 434437 radclifferepair@gmail.com

"Radcliffe on Trent u3a is run entirely by volunteers"