



From The Chair

"I have to say what a fantastic Christmas Party we had in the Grange Hall and our thanks to Carol White who organised it. It was pleasing to see the hall full with over 200 members present. We were all taken back to our younger years by C J Jackson who regaled us with music by the Drifters and it was good to see some members dancing. We had a fun quiz followed by our own Bridge Singers with their last performance ever. An excellent buffet all washed down with Prosecco & Orange Juice and the tables enhanced by the beautiful flower decorations created by Stephanie Fogg, Alison Rashford, Eve Glover & Ann Snayde.

We must also give thanks to Fruiticious on Main Road who provided the flowers for the displays, at an advantageous cost to us.

By the time you are reading this we will all have celebrated Christmas with our families and this is the best part of this holiday, seeing family you may not have seen for a long period and catching up on all their news.

As the New Year starts, we will all be making New Year's resolutions and plans, planning holidays and generally looking forward to the future with optimism. Your committee will be laying plans for our AGM in March and I would encourage any member to consider getting involved by standing to join the committee. To ensure we remain relevant we need new ideas and the best way for this to happen is to have new younger members join the committee, bringing with them new energy and ideas, so our u3a always evolves in line with today's world. **On behalf of the committee I send all our members our good wishes for a Happy & Healthy 2026. We look forward to you all enjoying the friendship, fun and knowledge our Group Leaders bring to their groups, and we thank them for it."**

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

u3a FILM CLUB

Reviews the Springsteen Biopic 'Deliver Me From Nowhere'

Selected by all members, as always by majority vote from the up-coming screenings list, this biopic was a gift to Springsteen aficionados. To those less familiar with the 'blue collar' US rock hero, it told a novel tale. Spontaneous starter votes from members ranged from 2 to 9 out of 10. Reminiscences of outstanding 'Bruce' concerts attended, favourite albums and anecdotes enjoyed were shared by his loyal fans.

The story led us through 1982, a dark Springsteen year when the ultimate American working-class rock god penned and recorded 'Nebraska' in his bedroom, like a gloomy teenager. He wrote, sang and played good but very different acoustic numbers throughout his solitary sessions. His record company was agitating for more heavy rock numbers, his manager, a childhood friend, was more sympathetic. Bruce stuck to his guns and the album was cut with great difficulty, trying to eliminate the hisses and clicks in the original recording. Even with dodgy sound it was a Number 1 album hit.

The tried and tested 'black and white' flash-back scenes revealed his high anxiety childhood, threatened by a hard drinking violent father and a loving but sadly cowed mother. His demons, struggles with fame and musical uncertainties were writ large.



A fabricated, unsuccessful 'love interest' was added in the shape of a comely single-parent and her pre-teen daughter to further emphasise his emotional dysfunction. Even the car salesman who sold him his first fast and fancy motor was drawn in to underscore his misery. 'I know who you are' opines the sales rep. 'I wish I did' mumbles Bruce in reply. It was agreed - a bit hackneyed but there you go, kick the scriptwriters. Interestingly, Springsteen was working on the ultimate rock anthem 'Born in the USA' which shot The Boss (his nickname) to global stardom at the same time as 'Nebraska'

Jeremy Allen White was given the thumbs up for his Springsteen on-screen portrayal. He didn't look much like him but brought out what we think we know of the essence of the man. Soundtrack was good as you'd expect, and the cinematography was also fine. The real Springsteen was regularly on set and gave the movie the thumbs up. Second voting round at the end of the session upped the numbers to a respectable average of 7.5 with even the first scorer of 2 rising to the heady heights of 3.

Lindah Kiddey thekiddeys@gmail.com

🎵 POP, POP, POP MUSIC 🎵

Especially for you, it's the u3a Pop Quiz. Let's get it on. The next quiz is on **Thursday 8th January 11am-12noon at the Royal Oak**. No charge, just buy a tea, coffee or another drink. Come along to identify songs from the 60s, 70s and 80s.



Welcome to this month's new Member: John Harrison.

We hope you enjoy your time with our u3a! *Melanie Gregg*, Membership Secretary (members@rot-u3a.org.uk)



DECEMBER PARTY HIGHLIGHTS

🎉 In early December 220 members gathered at The Grange Hall for an afternoon of festive fun, music, and community spirit. Soulful tunes from CJ Jackson and a heartfelt final performance by The Bridge Singers set the tone. Guests enjoyed a lively quiz, Prosecco, and tasty nibbles. Thanks to all who helped make the party a joyful success!

🎉 A week later sixty members came together for a festive treat, organised by Trips and Outings, starting with a fascinating visit to Derby's Museum of Making before sitting down to a superb three-course Christmas meal at Morley Hayes Golf Club. With a beautifully decorated room, efficient staff, and food of outstanding quality, it was an occasion brimming with warmth, flavour, and good cheer.

Trips & Outings 2026

- Tuesday April 21st - **Lichfield and the Staffordshire Regiment Museum** - £25 pp
- Thursday 21st May - **Coventry Cathedral and the Transport Museum** - £28-00 pp
- Tuesday 16th June - **Liverpool** - £20 pp
- Thursday 16th July - **Kilworth Outdoor Theatre*** - £60 pp
- Tuesday 22nd September - **National Coal Museum & Sculpture Park** - Cost TBC

***Kilworth House Outdoor Theatre - Thursday 16th July**
With pre visit to Palmers Garden Centre

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



Anything Goes

Bring a Picnic to enjoy on the Lawn, before taking a seat to enjoy the show.

One of the greatest Cole Porter Musical Scores.

With classic songs Anything Goes, Friendship, You're the Top, I get a Kick out of you.

All supported by Kilworth's fabulous Singers, Dancers & Musicians

Tickets : £60 pp

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

Friendship GROUP

At the back end of November. the Friendship Group had a day trip to do some Christmas shopping to Springfield Shopping Centre in Spalding. 16 of us went and had a lovely day, shopping, taking in coffee and lunch but at the end of the day we had an opportunity to visit their Winter Wonderland. it's at the back of the shopping complex, normally gardens but at this time of year, turns into a Winter Wonderland. It was very well done and included 2 talking trees, telling silly jokes to each other.

Diane Williams nottslas1946@yahoo.co.uk
Leader for Friendship Group



AVIATION GROUP The Schneider Trophy Air Races and Military Drones



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.

A date for your diary For our following meeting on **Tue 3 Feb**, we are pleased to announce that our speaker will be **Air Chief Marshall Sir Andrew Pulford**, a recent Chief of Air Staff, who will be talking to us about **'Military Drones – Master or Servant?'**

'The ongoing war in Ukraine against the illegal Russian invasion has focused a great deal of media and public

interest on the role being played on both sides by the huge number of tactical and strategic drones.'

Western militaries too, having been studying the development of the systems, their application and the tactics required to employ and counter them. All of this is taking place at a time when new, ever-more sophisticated drones are being brought into service around the world, yet the legal aspects of their use are far from certain, and the impact of AI and machine learning is yet to be fully understood. So, are modern military drones the master or servant of military capability?

This will be a most current and interesting talk from a high-quality speaker and we anticipate that demand will be high. Please contact me if you wish to attend, so that we manage seating requirements.

Adrian Cresswell, Aviation Group Leader, crela7@gmail.com



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).

Everyone not in full-time work is welcome — only £20 a year.

A LIST OF OUR GROUPS

Monday – Boules; Bridge; Croquet; Film Appreciation; Friendship & Support; Friendship Group; Keep Fit

Tuesday – Art 2; Aviation; French Conversation; Geology & Env Studies; German; Indoor Bowling; Knit&Knatter; Let's Go Bowling; Lunch Club (Newstead); Wine Appreciation (Eve.)

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.



WANTED: a Co-editor for this newsheet

What's involved? Pulling together content, shaping it into our Newssheet on the u3a laptop, giving it a quick thumbs-up from the Committee, then sorting printing and distribution. It's a chance to be creative, hands-on, and part of keeping our members connected. Contact the Editor radcliffeu3a.news@gmail.com

A Plea from the Committee

✦ Do you have time and energy to spare? We're looking for enthusiastic volunteer members to join our committee—organisers, doers, and willing helpers all welcome. Make a difference, stay productive, and be part of something rewarding! info@rot-u3a.org.uk

JAN/FEB SPEAKERS

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, Speaker Finder christine.hopton@outlook.com

🎵 Classical Music Group 🎵

We meet on the third Thursday of each month, 10.30 – 12.30, in the Dowson Room at The Grange. Everyone is welcome—no prior knowledge required. Refreshments are provided during the interval, with tea, coffee, and biscuits included in the £2.50 admission.

Listen and relax at our next meeting on **Thursday 15 January 2026**.

Michael Riggall michael.riggall@ntlworld.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 are included FREE!



KNIT & NATTER GROUP

Please note that for this month only, we will be meeting on the **first** Tuesday of the month (ie : Tuesday 6th January). Same time, same place.

Jan Addiscott 0115845 7398 jan@addiscott.net

2026 Diary Dates

January 8th – Speaker: The Transformation of St Pancras; Jan 28th – Coffee Morning; **February** 5th – Speaker: Mary's Meals; Feb 25th - Coffee Morning; **March** 5th – AGM then Speaker: Uncle Tom's Cabin; March 25th – Coffee Morning; **April** 21st – Trip to Lichfield and museum; April 29th – Coffee Morning; **May** 21st – Trip to Coventry and Transport Museum; May 27th – Coffee Morning; **June** 16th Trip to Liverpool; June 24th – Coffee Morning; **July** 16th Trip to Kilworth Outdoor Theatre; July 29th – Coffee Morning; **August** 26th – Coffee Morning; **September** 22nd Trip to National Coal Museum and Sculpture Park; Sept 30th – Coffee Morning; **October** 28th – Coffee Morning; November 25th – Coffee Morning; **December** 3rd – Christmas Party (Grange).

A few images from our **CHRISTMAS PARTIES**



Top row: **The Grange party – flowers; Bridge Singers; CJ Jackson**

Bottom: **Pub Trail Party at The Trent Navigation; Morley Hayes Meal**

Spam Spam Spam!

We keep in touch with our members through the u3a's Beacon system. Occasionally, some of our emails may be mistakenly flagged as spam or junk. The good news is that most email providers let you mark messages as 'safe', which usually solves the problem. In many cases, simply moving the email from your spam folder into your inbox will ensure future messages arrive correctly.

If you're unsure how to do this, please ask your usual IT expert for help. For those who like the technical detail, you can whitelist (mark as safe) either the full address noreply@u3abeacon.org.uk or the domain u3abeacon.org.uk.

Renewals

This is just an advance reminder that our annual membership year ends on February 28th 2026.

Existing Members, including those who joined anytime during 2025, will be reminded to renew by **1st March 2026**.

If you do not renew, unfortunately your membership will lapse and we don't want to lose you!

Full details about the renewals process will be sent out by email, or in the post to those members that do not use email. So as always please look out for any communications relating to renewals.

Melanie Gregg, Membership Secretary, members@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 **February edition**. **Deadline for submissions: 18th January 2026**

When sending photos, please include the photographer's name. Unless advised otherwise, we'll assume permission to publish email addresses and phone numbers. *the Editor*.

Keeping Your Data Up to Date

It is vital that you contact members@rot-u3a.org.uk if any of your personal details change. It is especially important to advise us if your address, email address or phone number changes. We don't want to lose touch with you.



31st January

10am – 1pm

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

07742 434437

radclifferepair@gmail.com

Refreshments Available

What sort of things can we try and help you with ?

Woodwork, Electrical, Tool Sharpening, Jewellery, Soft Furnishings, Needlework, Basic Bike Repairs and more.

Why not pop along and find out!

All information correct at the time of going to print

Cash donations can be made on the day



AGM NOTICE

AGM Notice for NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE/EMAIL CIRCULATION

We hereby give Notice of our Annual General Meeting
Which will take place at

THE GRANGE HALL ON THURSDAY 5th MARCH 2026 AT 2.00PM.

The Agenda, Minutes from 2025, Accounts for 2025, Chair Report and Treasurers Report will be available on our Website by the 12th of February, Paper copies will be available on Request ahead of 1st March.

The following have indicated their willingness to stand for Election to the Committee.

- George Roberts as CHAIR
- Brian Wildeman as TREASURER
- Jan Addiscott
- John Addiscott
- Melanie Gregg
- Philip Gregg
- Steve Harris
- Christine Hopton
- Ann Littlewood
- Malcolm McDowell
- Patrick Mountford
- Mary Roberts
- Penny Tytler
- Carol White
- Angie Albery

Pippa Harris was Co-opted to the committee but will not stand for election until March 2027.

If anyone else wishes to stand their Nomination must be with the Committee ahead of 19th February. Election would then be by Ballot or Show of Hands.

In common with all AGM's this is meant to be a short affair, ahead of our usual Monthly Meeting with our guest speaker.

It would be helpful if any Questions of significance could be presented in Advance. Routine questions can, of course, be answered at any other time by the Committee.

Members should be aware that they are welcome to attend the Committee meetings, held in the Radcliffe Room in the Grange, at 2pm on the Monday following the Monthly Meeting.

Thank you.