

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!

Inside – “From the Chair”, “Submarine Hunting”, “Hamnet”, “Trips”, “Speakers” and more!

Jiving For Fun Open Afternoon

U3A Jiving for Fun Open Afternoon Wednesday 11 March, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Grange Hall, Radcliffe on Trent.

Join us for a relaxed afternoon of music and movement. You can have a go at jiving or simply sit back and enjoy the atmosphere. Admission is free with tea and coffee available. No partner or previous experience is required. Both members and non-members are welcome, so feel free to bring a friend along.



Membership Renewals

Our annual membership year ended on February 28th, 2026. If you overlooked your renewal, there is still time to do it. There are several ways to renew as detailed in the enclosed document.

Melanie Gregg, Membership Secretary, members@rot-u3a.org.uk

OUR GROUPS...

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

Tuesday – Art 2; Aviation; 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.**

Welcome to our new members

Julie Pearce, Veronica Perry, Barry Dawber, Jenny Sims, Jenny Thompson, Dev Bithal, Vina Bithal, Mary Walker, David Hobson, Liz Harding, Bob Harding, Mark Moore, Carole Moore, Chris Snowden, Row Hammond.

We hope you enjoy your time with our u3a!

Melanie Gregg, Membership Secretary (members@rot-u3a.org.uk)

Indoor Bowling Group

Tuesdays, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Radcliffe Bowling Club (off Cropwell Road/Glebe Road). Join our small, friendly group for casual competitive matches. Teams are mixed weekly to help everyone get to know each other, and all skill levels are welcome. Members are happy to help beginners pick up the game. Entry is £5 and includes tea, coffee, and biscuits during the interval. No need to book, just turn up and join the fun. All equipment is provided.

Contact: *Phillip Adams* on 07742 146 657

Classical Music Group

Join us for a relaxing morning of music and conversation at the Dawson Room, The Grange. Our next meeting is **Thursday 19 March from 10:30 to 12:30.**

We meet every 3rd Thursday of the month and all are welcome—no previous knowledge is needed! Entry is just £2.50, which includes tea, coffee, and biscuits during the interval.

For more details, contact our group leader *Michael Riggall* michael.riggall@ntlworld.com.

Scottish Country Dancing

Whether you are a seasoned pro or have two left feet, our dance group is the perfect place to find your rhythm and a good laugh. We firmly believe that dance and laughter are the best medicine, and we certainly get a healthy dose of both every week. Our patient instructor, Tony, does a heroic job of teaching us new steps, often tailoring the moves on the fly to help those of us who occasionally forget our left from our right. While he might head home a bit dazed by our unique interpretations, we always leave with a skip in our step.



We would love for you to join our friendly community and experience the joy for yourself. We meet **most Wednesday afternoons at 2:00 PM in the Scout Hall on Walkers Yard**, right alongside Costa, **except for the last Wednesday of each month.** There is no pressure and plenty of support, so come along and try a session; we guarantee you will walk home with a smile on your face and a new group of friends to look forward to seeing the following week.

Contact *Andy Conacher* andy.conacher@gmail.com

MONTHLY SPEAKER TALKS

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

MARCH 5th - *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (AFTER THE AGM)

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

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.

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

🎵 Pop Music Group Goes Classical

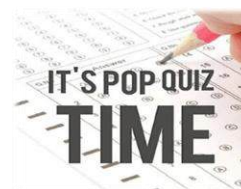


As well as receiving a special Valentine's Day gift, there was a big surprise for participants at February's Pop Quiz. A round on identifying pieces of classical music. The pop quizzers were really up for the challenge. There were no *enigma variations* and the *lark was definitely not ascending*. However, many clearly knew their Bach from their Beethoven. It just goes to show what a cultured ensemble they are. Don't worry it's back to pop music from the 60s, 70s and 80s this month. That's 1960s not 1760s.

Next Pop Quiz!

Make me smile (come up and see me) because we're *wired for sound* at the u3a Pop Quiz. The next quiz is on **Thursday 12th March 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.

Richard Turner



From The Chair

"As we approach the end of another year for our u3a and with our AGM due on March 5th, it's a good time to reflect. As a u3a we have been most successful in recruiting new members and we now stand at an all-time high with 640, however we know that we will lose many members for differing reason during the year, so your committee works very hard to replace them. This work goes on in the background but our regular monthly coffee meetings in the Royal Oak has proved to be a good source and our attendance at the Villages Carnival and Village Show have also brought in new members. We would encourage members to spread the word about what we can offer and the friendships membership can bring. New members will bring new life, energy and ideas to our u3a and this ensures we will never become stale and irrelevant. We have started new groups during the past 12 months, Pickleball, Pop Quiz, Spanish and Cribbage and your committee will always support the formation of new groups. We have also recruited two new members to the committee, who are fairly new to our u3a and I am looking forward to working with them. The AGM is our most important meeting of the year and I urge all our members to make the effort to attend, it is the basis of our democracy that everyone can have a voice."



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

TRIPS & OUTINGS 2026

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

We will be selling tickets for our visit to Lichfield before and after our AGM Monthly Meeting in the Grange reception area on Thursday 5th March. As always on a first come first served basis. Cards, cash, or cheque accepted.



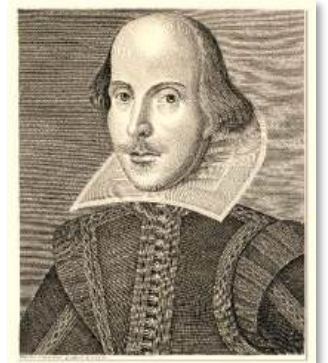
We will visit the Regimental Museum before taking the short trip to Lichfield where we will have free time to explore the city. Places of interest are the Cathedral; The Old Guildhall Prison and Lichfield's first Social Enterprise Coffee Shop and The Hub; which is a colourful new space in the heart of 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 pp
- Tuesday 16th June - **Liverpool** - £20 pp
- 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

u3a Film Club Reviews *Hamnet*

Nobody knows much about Shakespeare. Academics and researchers dig deep to no avail. So ... weaving a 'factional' tale around our greatest literary giant is rich pickings for a story well told. *Hamnet* is that story. The group, as usual, gave their initial individual marks out of ten. They were high at 8.25.



The film was shot in rich dark tones, plenty of small windows in large, dark, oak-beamed rooms, twilight and candlelight. Some scenes looked like a Caravaggio painting. Agnes always dressed in burgundy red, the other characters in greys, creams and browns. The cast were all grubby and sweat-stained. The woodland and countryside were lush greens against contrasting red earth. We know more about Agnes or Anne (two interchangeable names) Hathaway, Shakespeare's older wife. She's in her father's Will as Agnes; on her marriage lines, on house deeds.

And so to the movie - much hyped even before it won a Golden Globe for Best Film and a Best Actress award for Jessie Buckley (Irish), as Agnes. Paul Mescal, also Irish, as Shakespeare put in a worthy performance.

The fiery love between Agnes and Will burns throughout the story. From frantic couplings to laughter and freedom, the disapproving mother-in-law, disobeying his bullying father, birth contractions between tree-roots and husband's arms, the sweaty, mucky joy of holding their first baby son. A simple story of country folk sort of, apart from her husband being a genius playwright which she didn't comprehend. She'd never seen a play of his or been to London or the theatre.

This was a film about Shakespeare's wife rather than the Bard. She was left in Stratford to run the family whilst William was touting his plays in London, mixing with actors, acting himself, beginning to make a name, and sending money home to have a bigger house built. And then, their eight-year-old son, Hamnet, dies of a fever, possibly the plague. No matter how deep her knowledge of medicinal plants, potions and embrocations, nothing could save her child.

Parental grief is portrayed in its full bleakness. Hardly a dry eye amongst the group and across the cinema. Some critics were cruel, suggesting it was crass emotional manipulation, like throwing sand in the public's eyes. No, this was a portrayal of raw pain and gut-wrenching agony on losing a child. Any parent watching would empathise. Bruising rage and friction between the parents is angry mourning, neither knowing where to throw blame. Meanwhile, Will's imagination is working overtime,

as is his quill when he returns to London and 'Hamlet' the play is written and staged. He invites Agnes to London to see it launched at The Globe Theatre. She sees her son reincarnated. The character of 'Hamlet' and his anger and pain at losing his murdered father follows her own pattern of mourning. Agnes realises this is a homage to their son and a vehicle through which Shakespeare helps reconcile his own grief, and hopefully hers.

Gifted Chinese director Chloe Zhao is the second of only three women to receive a Best Director Academy Award, hers for 'Nomadland' (2020). She creates the world of a resourceful but lonely woman from a mother's perspective. Family life's twists and turns were admirably captured. Composer Max Richter's music soundtrack complemented the film's pace and emotion.

Final voting average 8.75, a small increase from the original after our discussion. A film not without flaws but great entertainment and worthy of its plaudits.

Lindah Kiddey
U3A Film Club

AVIATION GROUP Submarine Hunting



"Red October wasn't all fantasy"

Our next meeting will be on Tue 3 March at 2pm in the Trent Room in Grange Hall. Our speakers will be Alan Russell and Adrian Ditchburn, who will talk to us about: Submarine hunting in the 1970s.

A presentation by two retired Nimrod crew about hunting for submarines in the North Atlantic in the late 1970s. Alan and Adrian both worked as Air Electronic Officers or Operators (AEOs) on the Nimrod, a highly specialised position employing, and interpreting, the multitude of sensors that the advanced aircraft carried.

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

Potential New Groups – an update

Spanish: Following a meeting at the Royal Oak, which was well attended, it looks like this group will be viable. Final details are being dealt with so more information will be forthcoming soon.

Cribbage: Nicky (one of our u3a members) is hoping to arrange for those interested to play Cribbage. If you are interested in finding out more, please let me know so that I can pass on your details to her. Jan Addiscott – 01158 457398.

Jan Addiscott, Group Co-ordinator

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 <https://rot-u3a.org.uk/home/join-us/> or email members@rot-u3a.org.uk for more information.

Everyone welcome — just £20 a year.



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

<u>March</u>	5 th AGM then Speaker – Uncle Tom’s Cabin 25 th Coffee Morning
<u>April</u>	9 th Speaker – Hearing Dogs 21 st Trip to Lichfield and museum 29 th Coffee Morning
<u>May</u>	7 th Speaker – Lowdham Grange Prison 21 st Trip to Coventry and Transport Museum 27 th Coffee Morning
<u>June</u>	16 th Trip to Liverpool 24 th Coffee Morning
<u>July</u>	16 th Trip to Kilworth Outdoor Theatre 29 th Coffee Morning
<u>Aug</u>	26 th Coffee Morning
<u>Sept</u>	22 nd Trip to National Coal Museum and Sculpture Park 30 th Coffee Morning
<u>Oct</u>	28 th Coffee Morning
<u>Nov</u>	25 th Coffee Morning
<u>Dec</u>	3 rd Christmas Party (Grange)

Community event

RADCLIFFE REPAIR CAFÉ 28th March 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

Next Edition Deadline 20th March 2026

Please continue sending items (articles, photos, sketches) to: radcliffeu3a.news@gmail.com.

“Radcliffe u3a is run entirely by volunteers”