

This month... Geology... Jiving for Fun... Pickleball... Coventry trip ... and more!

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.

GEOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES GROUP

Our Next two meetings

A. Tuesday 12th May - 2-4 pm in the Trent Room, Bob Addison will introduce us to the **Earliest Rock Formations known on Earth** which show the emergence and evolution of life. Some of these formations are over 3.5 billion years old and contain traces of formerly living organisms such as stromatolites and bacteria. He will review where these could have originated from and evolved into, or not. Features of the accompanying atmospheres and climates will be touched on as well as the possibility of life on other planets in other galaxies.



B. Tuesday 9th June - same time & venue, Martin Clarke will describe geological investigations leading to **Development of geothermal power stations in the Kenya Rift Valley**. In the last several decades Kenya has become the 10th largest Geothermal Power producer in the world, partly due to work carried out by the British Geological Survey on the chain of young volcanoes in that Rift.

Martin Clarke sumatraman947@gmail.com

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.

Wednesday – Art 1; Discussion; Curry; 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; Spanish; 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 use a waiting list.*

Welcome to our recent new members...

Kathleen Sharpe, George and Linda Wildman, Lesley Gibbons, Gayle Horsfield, Ling Peng, Richard Willes, Carol Marie Edlin, Chris and Richard Johnson. We hope you enjoy your time with our u3a!
Melanie Gregg, Membership Secretary (members@rot-u3a.org.uk)

CLASSICAL MUSIC GROUP



Meets 3rd Thursday monthly, 10.30–12.30, Dowson Room, The Grange. Note: The May meeting is on Thursday 14 May. All welcome, no experience needed. Cost is £2.50 including refreshments.

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.

MAY 14th - The Reality of Life in A Cat B Male Prison

John Andrews, a journalist and TV presenter from the South West who moved to Nottingham, will give a talk based on his experience as the current Chair of the Lowdham Grange Prison Independent Monitoring Board (IMB). This presentation follows an April talk on the history of Lowdham Grange Borstal. John's hour-long session provides insight into life within a category B male prison housing over 800 inmates, the challenges faced by both prisoners and staff, and the specific role of the IMB. He will also discuss the chaotic circumstances surrounding the first-ever transition of a prison contract between private contractors. This talk aims to inform and provoke reflection on current crime policies and may inspire attendees to get involved in the justice system..

JUNE 4th – Nottingham Pubs and Folklore

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

July 2nd - Barrow to Bagdad and back again

A travel themed talk from Philip Caine, a highly regarded professional speaker and author known for his "Barrow to Baghdad" (and beyond) series of talks. He has many tales to tell about his life story, told through the lens of a "reluctant adventurer" who somehow kept ending up in the world's most dangerous places.

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



LET'S GO BOWLING GROUP

For another year we have a special arrangement with the Radcliffe on Trent Bowling Club whereby you can try your hand at this fascinating and enjoyable game in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. There are FIVE informal sessions on MONDAYS commencing Monday 4th MAY, 11th MAY 18th MAY, 25th MAY and 1st JUNE 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm (Please arrive by 1.45 to allow for registration) Tuition and Bowls are provided, and Tea, Coffee and Biscuits during the afternoon but please wear flat shoes, trainers are fine. Cost £3.00 per session Venue: Radcliffe Bowling Club There are 2 entrances, one on Cropwell Road and the other on Glebe Lane GIVE IT A GO and enjoy light exercise, lots of fresh air and loads of fun Contact: *Philip Adams* email: mailto:philip@radcliffcot.co.uk Mobile: 07742 146657

From The Chair

"Linda Lyn-Cook is starting a new group after a successful signup session at the April meeting. The first group is now full and will hold its first visit on Wednesday, May 20th. Due to high demand, we are planning to start a second group once the first is established. If you are interested, please add your name to the waiting list.

Since taking over as chair, we've expanded our u3a with several new groups: Curry Club, Cribbage, Table Tennis, Spanish, and Pickleball. This variety keeps our organization fresh and attractive to new members. We owe a huge thank you to our group leaders, who generously volunteer their time and expertise to make this possible.

Some groups are currently full because they have reached their maximum capacity.

Limits are based on space, such as 10 people for home meetings or hall size constraints, or service quality, such as the 20-person limit for the Curry Club. If you cannot join your preferred group, please notify our Groups Co-ordinator, Joy Moran. We will aim to start a second group once there is enough interest and a suitable leader is available.

It was excellent news in our April Newsletter to read of record numbers so early in our new year, for both renewals and new members. Your committee and particularly our group Leaders work very hard to make our u3a as good as it can be, so it is a good reward for them."

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



TRIPS & OUTINGS 2026

Forty-one members headed to the **Staffordshire Regiment Museum** for a fascinating day of history! We explored moving displays of Victoria Cross medals and walked through realistic frontline trenches that truly brought the past to life. The trip finished in **Lichfield**, where we visited the unique three-spired Cathedral and wandered through charming local shops and historic homes. Despite the chilly weather, it was a thoroughly interesting day out that exceeded everyone's expectations!

Join us for our **Coventry** trip on Thursday, May 21st! We still have a few tickets left for an action-packed day featuring the Transport Museum's legendary land speed record breakers, the stunning modern Cathedral, and the quirky Sgt Bilko museum. Explore the historic old town and more—grab your spot now before they're all gone!

- 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

POP MUSIC GROUP



There was a surprise at last month's Pop Quiz. As well as the usual listening to and identifying pop songs and artists from the 60s, 70s and 80s, the quizzers had a round of recognising artists from the field of Jazz. They knew their Louis Armstrong and Peggy Lee as well as Glenn Miller and Miles Davis...cool!

Walking back to happiness at the next u3a Pop Quiz. *Come together* and *take on me*. The next quiz is on

Thursday 14th May 11am-12noon at the Royal Oak. No charge, just buy tea, coffee or another drink. Come along to hear classic songs from the 60s, 70s and 80s. Groovy man!

Richard Turner ayamonterichard@gmail.com

THOUGHTS FROM THE NEW GOVERNANCE OFFICER

I have been on the u3a committee now for quite a number of years and I was very pleased at this year's AGM to see "new blood" joining the committee. I add my best wishes to Joy Moran, Hilary Jones and Pippa Harris (presently co-opted). Fresh thoughts, opinions and energy are vital.

The reason for submitting this note to The Newsletter is that the committee concluded at a recent meeting that we should have someone who focuses specifically on governance. As I have experience in this area, I was proposed and was pleased to accept.



For any of the readers who are unfamiliar with the term governance essentially it means doing the right things in the right way at the right time, anything from health and safety, finance, internal administration, obeying the constitution, reporting to the Charity Commission and the Third Age Trust, data protection, insurance, legal and so on. I hope only to have a watching brief and I certainly do not intend to make a bureaucratic meal of it.

We do have one governance issue to resolve in 2026/27 and that is to find a new Chair. We should all be very grateful to George Roberts for agreeing to doing a fourth term in The Chair. Chairs should only serve for three years.

Come The AGM in 2027 we will have a major problem, i.e. how do we carry on if no volunteer emerges to chair our u3a. The committee needs everyone's help here please to try and identify a successor candidate.

We particularly need of course that person who is actually going to volunteer. Experience of the u3a committee is not needed. There are plenty of people around to help. If you have served on a committee and know how they work that is the key.

So, help your committee please with this increasingly urgent matter.

Thank you.

Malcolm McDowell

CURRY GROUP

We have two members who are looking to start a **Curry Group**, with the plan to visit a different Curry House each month. The group will use public transport or Car share to get to the restaurants. Decisions on which restaurants to visit will be by democratic vote, at the end of each meal. The proposed day will be the 3rd Wednesday in the month, early evening.

The group had a table at the April Monthly Meeting and the interest was exceptional and we already have over 20 members who have joined the group. This being the optimum number any new enquiries will go on a waiting list. We will be starting a WhatsApp group to keep members informed of which restaurant has been selected. It is anticipated the first visit will be on 20th May at 6pm. Final destination will be confirmed shortly by WhatsApp.

To register your interest contact *Linda Lyn-Cook* 07795 957 438

FILM GROUP

This month we include two reviews: **Wuthering Heights** and **Mid-Winter Break**

Wuthering Heights

First off – Emily Bronte’s tale of love, passion, class and tragedy received a lot of pre-launch hype. Wildly free-spirited Kathy, embraced by the wild North Yorks Moors, is played by blond, blue-eyed, miscast Margot Robbie (aka Barbie) opposite broody Spanish-Basque-Oz actor Jacob Elordi as a believable Heathcliff.

Pre-discussion group marks averaged 5.5 including two zeros! The director’s CV includes TVs ‘Killing Eve’ and salacious movie ‘Saltburn’ showing that you can’t win ‘em all.

Cinema audiences, including Film Club members, did enjoy the on-location cinematography and soaring soundtrack.

A lost boy with an unknown back story is taken in by a family running a remote farm on dicey finances. The daughter (Kathy) develops through her pre-teen years to young adulthood a suffocatingly close bond with the lad much to her spiteful brother’s rage. Racing around the moors in posh frocks with mucky hems, Kathy and Heathcliff’s white hot passions unite. But – she has an eye on improving her status, the farm’s failure looms large. Her father (Martin Clunes on top form) is a gambling drunk.

Kathy succumbs to a totally miscast Edgar Winton’s courtship and joins refined, wealthy society, leaving Heathcliff to bleed his heart dry and gallop off into the night – only to reappear a few years later richly clad, clean and with a good fortune earned.

Kathy becomes pregnant after outrageous flirting and ‘athletics’ in barns and carriages with her childhood ‘friend.’ So, who is the father? Kathy dies in childbirth but the infant survives. Lover and husband are devastated. Heathcliff clip clops off again into the night whilst others weep.

Part 2 the family dynasty is written out of the film. It’s a long book and Austin’s story retelling has filmic flaws. Kathy’s flouncy satin and lace Cinderella outfits are better suited to the panto and totally out of period. Wealthy Heathcliff improves after a bath and riding a potent (?) stallion. Poor old Edgar, the husband, is way out of his 19th century depth. Suggestions are that it’s Austin for folk with little interest in history or class divides?

Critics gave the movie 59% v. audiences 79%. Film Club scores average rose from 5.5 to 7 out of 10 with not a zero in sight!

Mid-Winter Break (after the novel by Bernard MacLaverly)

And now to 21st century Amsterdam and another couple. Opening member’s scores were high, averaging 7.7+ with a single 4 vote, before discussion. General cinema audiences concurred as did critics who gave this movie a consistent thumbs up.

Ulster-born young marrieds Stella and Gerry leave Belfast during The Northern Ireland ‘Troubles’ for a new life in Glasgow. Now in their 60–70’s they fly out of Scottish Winter gloom to the splendid but equally gloomy, leaden skied Dutch capital, its canals, bridges and wet, narrow, cobbled streets enhanced by excellent, atmospheric low-light camerawork. The wife’s (outstanding Lesley Manville) Christmas present winter break has a mighty, bleak, tortuous unexpected edge, which arrives like an express train. The hard-drinking husband Gerry (Ciaran Hinds), genial but with the emotional sensitivity of an axe still can’t grasp his wife’s deep, decades-long Catholic faith. He interrupts her bedside prayers panicked by where his Statins might be (sound familiar?). There is however affection between the two, be it habit or warm complacency perhaps? A volcanic hiatus hits the screen when Stella reveals the true reason for the trip. She is inextricably drawn to a closed religious’ community of women and wishes to join them, leaving Gerry to his own devices. He is devastated and confused. Off she goes, visiting churches enroute, to the community, only to find she’s misread its possibly historic background. This is indeed a splendid old-Amsterdam square but inhabited by those who can afford it; a wealthy not a religious enclave. Stella is struck dumb by the reality.

The couple’s backstory is shown in flashbacks using bleached-out-summer-sun filmstock. Heavily pregnant Stella is shot by one of the many possible ‘Troubles’ gun-toters; military or political, we don’t know, in a Belfast street. During her C-Section birthing and bullet removal, she swears a secret oath to

devote her later life to God should the child survive. 'The little lad ducked the bullet' recalls Gerry, whose architect's practice was bombed and failed to fully flourish thereafter. The pain and soul-searching from both protagonists are sort-of resolved as they make up and return home, but will things ever be the same? We hope Gerry discovers his sensitive side and hits the bottle less, and that Stella releases herself from such heavy religious strictures for a more normal life. The soundtrack was mixed and included 'Something in the Air' by Thunderclap Newman, to 'The Great Pretender.' A little obvious perhaps? Post-discussion votes rose further to 8.5+ with the 4-vote rising to 5.

This brilliantly acted piece, which would make an excellent play, generated one of the most in-depth and engaging Club sessions to date. Could we perhaps empathise as a group of a certain age, many in long-term partnerships? Was it the power of the movie? Almost certainly a mix of both. A film to be thoroughly recommended.

Lindah Kiddey thekiddeys@gmail.com

JIVING FOR FUN GROUP



Our Wednesday sessions continue with great music and laughter, and we're excited to host a special Rock & Roll Jive afternoon featuring live music from Aron Fender on Wednesday, 13th May, from 3pm to 5pm at Grange Hall. Tickets are £7 on the door, and everyone is welcome to dance or simply enjoy the music—no membership, partner, or experience required. To join our regular group, just turn up or Contact:

Margaret on 07773426253 or *Sue* on 07954586735.

BOULES GROUP

The u3a Boules Group sitting outside at the Golf Club after our first game of the season. It was sunny, dry and mildly breezy but good enough for lunch outside.

We're a friendly bunch and we enjoy playing on the Boules pitch up at Radcliffe on Trent Golf Club, where we usually have lunch together after two or three games. Contact Jon, group leader, if you would like more information. Weather permitting we'll be playing each Monday from now till October if we're lucky.



PICKLEBALL a really good sport for the over 50s

The pickleball group will be playing at Cotgrave leisure center from the beginning of May. This game, up and coming in popularity, is best described as a mini tennis, played on a court the size of a badminton court with solid bats slightly bigger than table tennis bats and a hard plastic ball. Simple! We are a small group and could do with more players. Come and have a go - Friday mornings 10.00am - 12.00 about £5 per session.

Contact *John Flynn* - email jaffly52@gmail.com mob. 07854 041280.

TABLE TENNIS GROUP CONTACT

The Table tennis group is looking for new members to join. please contact Ali Wilson on 07949905860.

AVIATION GROUP

A Talk on The Avro Lancaster

A change of subject and speaker. Join us on Tuesday, 5 May at 2pm in the Trent Room, Grange Hall. Our own Mike Seymour is stepping up to the plate to showcase the legendary Avro Lancaster. Get ready for an insider's look at this WWII icon, featuring a film screening that brings the mighty Lanc to life. Don't miss this chance to experience more aviation history—see you there!

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



2026 DIARY DATES

<u>March</u>	25 th Coffee Morning
<u>April</u>	29 th Coffee Morning
<u>May</u>	14 th Speaker – Lowdham Grange Prison 21 st Trip to Coventry and Transport Museum 27 th Coffee Morning
<u>June</u>	4 th Speaker – Nottingham Pubs; 16 th Trip to Liverpool 24 th Coffee Morning
<u>July</u>	2 nd Speaker – Barrow to Bagdad and back again 16 th Trip to Kilworth Outdoor Theatre 29 th Coffee Morning
<u>Aug</u>	6 th Speaker tbc; 26 th Coffee Morning
<u>Sept</u>	3 rd Speaker tbc; 22 nd Trip to National Coal Museum and Sculpture Park 30 th Coffee Morning
<u>Oct</u>	1 st Speaker tbc; 28 th Coffee Morning
<u>Nov</u>	5 th Speaker tbc; 25 th Coffee Morning
<u>Dec</u>	3 rd Christmas Party (Grange)



NEXT EDITION DEADLINE 20th May 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?

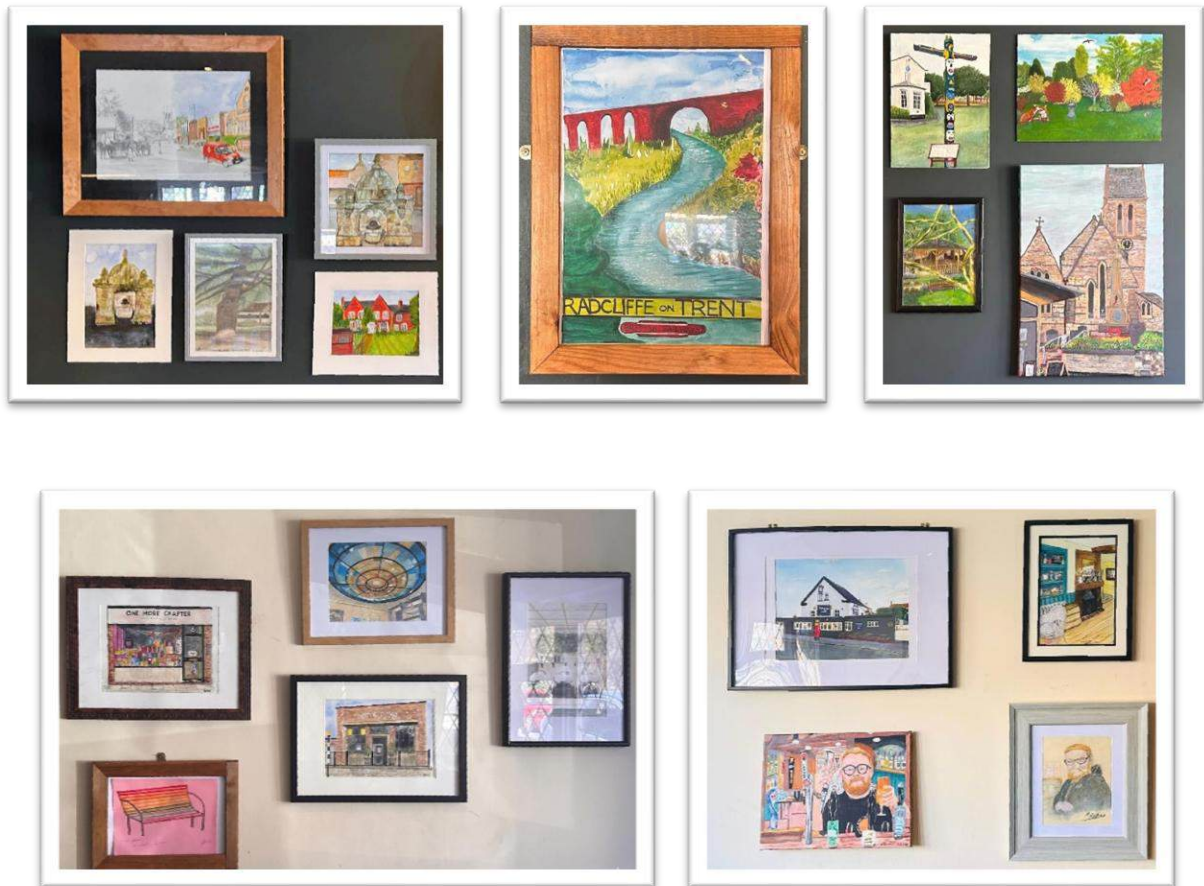
JOIN OUR U3A **Everyone is welcome – just £20 a year.**

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. We also 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!

TUESDAY ART GROUP

Over the Easter weekend, the Royal Oak in Radcliffe on Trent hosted a village-themed art exhibition featuring 15 works by members of two local u3a art groups. Landlord Chris reported that the well-received event successfully increased footfall. Many thanks to Chris for hosting and to the artists for their dedicated time and effort.

John Parkinson john@j-parkinson.co.uk leader of the Tuesday U3A Art group



Art on display at the Royal Oak Over Easter

Community notice



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 - run entirely by volunteers"