

u3a RADCLIFFE ON TRENT NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2026
ISSUE 119

Join us! Join a warm community of 630+ local friends across Radcliffe! For £20 a year, enjoy member-led groups, monthly speakers, and social trips. Meet new people and belong at your own pace.
Learn, Laugh, Live...

CHRISTMAS PARTY

THURSDAY 3RD DECEMBER

Have you got your ticket yet?
Tickets are on a first-come, first-served basis and are selling fast. They are available from:
One More Chapter Book Shop – Main Road and at the November Meeting in Grange Hall on 12th November
Where else can you get a Light Buffet, Prosecco, Quiz, Secret Entertainment and headlined by 'Revival' a local 60's Band, to dance to?

All for £5.00 – Members Only

POP QUIZ

♪ Slow Down
You Move Too Fast... ♪

Get ready for the **u3a Pop Quiz**. It's like a bridge over troubled water. The next quiz is on Thursday 12th November 11am-12noon at the Royal Oak. Abba, Beatles, Culture Club, Dire Straits, Eagles, Freddie and the Dreamers.... these and more could be at the Pop Quiz. Come along and see if you like it.

Richard Turner ayamonterichard@gmail.com

MONTHLY SPEAKER

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



November 12th (date corrected) – Dave Pinion: In the Wake of Shackleton
In the Wake of Shackleton" is based on Dave's Antarctica trips to South Georgia and the Weddell Sea, following the path of "The Boss" (Shackleton) on his ship Endurance. Learn about the voyage through South Georgia, the South Sandwich Islands, deep into the Weddell Sea, and visiting Elephant Island and Point Wild. Dave's website: www.journeystoantarctica.co.uk

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

TRIPS & OUTINGS 2027

Here are some dates for your diary for our coach trips in 2027.

- **April 28th Marks and Spencer Museum** Leeds, then onto the Leeds Armoury followed by an Afternoon Tea at the National Coalmining Museum.
- **May 18th - Avoncroft Village Museum** – 19

Acres of open-air Museum of Historic Buildings. Edwardian Tea Room and over 30 buildings moved to form the museum
- **June 15th** - **Barnsdale Gardens**, Oakham and a Boat Trip on the Reservoir
- **June / July** - **The Kilworth Outdoor Theatre** – Details to be confirmed when the Musical and dates are confirmed

Dates for later on in the year and destinations still under consideration are the **Eden Camp, Scarston Hall and Waddesdon Manor**.

CHAIR'S REPORT

"An organization thrives on fresh ideas, which are best brought in by new committee members. We were fortunate to have Joy Moran and Pippa Harris join our committee. Joy has put in an enormous amount of time and effort, following her appointment as our Groups Co-Ordinator. She has visited many groups to allow her to understand their needs. Joy has worked on revamping our recording process with easy-to-use report forms, ensuring group leaders can efficiently maintain member safety and clear documentation. Pippa Harris has been co-opted onto the committee and volunteered to organize our Christmas Party. I recently met with her to confirm my usual role looking after food and drink, and she outlined the exciting plans her sub-committee has arranged. Attendees are in for a fantastic time. Not got a ticket? My advice is get one ASAP or miss out on a great afternoon's entertainment, all at a low cost of £5 pp.
I want to re-emphasize my gratitude to our Committee and Group Leaders. They are the backbone of our u3a, and we owe them an enormous debt of thanks for everything they do."

George Roberts

GARDEN GROUP

Our Garden Group recently enjoyed an engaging talk by Alison Foster on the theme "Plants: Friend or Foe?" Alison highlighted the vast array of plants used over centuries for our benefit, noting how recent decades have accelerated the development of plant-based modern pharmaceuticals. On the flip side, she cautioned against plants best avoided or handled with care, pointing out a few key culprits. The session wrapped up with a lively Q&A.

Roger Burston roger.burston@hotmail.co.uk

CHRISTMAS DINNER

8th December by coach

Join us for our fabulous Christmas Dinner at
Morley Hayes Golf Club
Preceded by a visit to Derby Blue Diamond Garden Centre
This is our 4th visit to Morley Hayes due to the quality of the dinner,
the ambience of the room & excellent service.

Tickets are limited supply @ £60-00 pp

Book your place by contacting Sandra Straw
07411 910 142

COMMITTEE NEWS

Whilst we have nearly eighteen months until it will be time for our Treasurer, Brian Wildeman to stand down in accordance with the constitution, this very rewarding role always benefits from a transition period.

This role involves being engaged with most aspects of our u3a. Of course the money needs counting and recording but we have very good systems and advice and help from Head Office if ever needed. There is even an occasional voluntary training course. A lot of the satisfaction however is getting to know so many members, especially our Group Leaders and being an important committee member.

So we would encourage anyone who might be tempted to have a go as Treasurer to have a word with Brian or any committee member now to see how this interest can be taken forward over the coming months.

The Committee. info@rot-u3a.org.uk.

JIVE 'TIL FIVE

The Jive 'till 5 group has had a mixed month of social dancing, jive lessons and a very enjoyable afternoon with DJ Rockin Daniel playing a fantastic mixture of vinyl records which got us all up and dancing. Next month we have Aron Fender singing live on the 4th of November, and the West Bridgford u3a Greythorn

band entertaining us with rock and roll tunes on the 18th of November.



For details, contact *Margaret* or *Sue* via the Radcliffe on Trent u3a website rot-u3a.org.uk.

CHURCH VISITING GROUP



In September the Group visited St Mary the Virgin Church in Bottesford. Just over 30 members attended. This is one of the largest Parish Churches in England and contains impressive tombs linked to the Duchy of Rutland and its predecessors. We have one more visit this year and we will then have a full programme next year starting in March. If you want to join, please contact me on scampion50@gmail.com or WhatsApp 07970268096 *Stephen Campion*

AVIATION GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Tue 3 November at 2pm in the Trent Room in Grange Hall. Our speaker will be Tony Broadbent, who will talk to us about:

Flying The Hump – Taking supplies across the Himalayas in World War 2



"Flying the Hump" was the massive World War II Allied airlift operation that flew supplies over the eastern Himalayas from Assam, India, to Kunming and Chongqing, China, from April 1942 to November 1945

Though relatively short, the route is considered the most dangerous ever assigned to air transport. Pilots had to struggle to get their heavily laden planes to safe high altitudes; there was always extreme turbulence, thunderstorms, and icing. On the ground, there was the heat and humidity and a monsoon season that, during a six-month period, poured 200 inches of rain on the bases in India and Burma.

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

PICKLEBALL



The pickleball group is looking for new members to join our friendly bunch, particularly now that we play on Wednesday afternoons 2.00-3.00pm at Saxondale as well as Friday mornings 10.00-12.00 at Cotgrave. Come along and have a go at this activity which is very sociable and great fun.
Contact *John Flynn* – jaffly52@gmail.com

GEOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES GROUP

Our next 3 meetings are as follows: -
Each on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2 - 4pm in the Grange Hall Trent Room.
Oct. 13th. "Introduction to Indonesia and its people and volcanoes". By Martin Clarke. See Map Below.
Nov. 10th. "Mineralogy and Wine, (can you TASTE the minerals?)". By Dave Harrison.
Dec. 8th. " Bring your own specimens, and/or examine our Fossils, Rocks and minerals". By Bob, Greg & Martin.



Martin Clarke sumatraman947@gmail.com

FILM GROUP

'PRESSURE' the movie
Well, talk about an all-round winner for Film Club members. Who knew that meteorology could make for a cracking true story thriller?
The whole theme is based on a vital weather prediction, crucial to the planned June 1944 DD Landings on Normandy's beaches. DD was to liberate occupied France from Nazi grip and Western Europe's release from fascism. June 6th was the final date chosen, but not before torment and much argument.



British versus American weathermen caused tension between the allies, US General Eisenhower, in charge of the operation, versus the truly irritating General Montgomery, hero of the desert, and the weather guys. The splendid Andrew Scott played James Stagg, king of the Met office with few personable skills but a steely determination as the best that a weather predictor could be. He was pitted against US weather-man Irving Crick and his military backers. The latter relied on historic American weather patterns logged and going back as far as 1916! He was certainly knowledgeable of weather on the landmass that is the USA, clueless about the unpredictability of British weather and north Atlantic climate; an island surrounded by unpredictable seas. Tension reigned throughout as a battle of wills and skills between an army itching for a fight, and weather professionals trying to find a break in a stormy few days to give landing troops the best chance of success.
No satellites remember – just weather balloons, physical weather stations dotted about, ships and aircraft reports. Pretty dicey stuff compared to today. A window of relative calm, June 6th, was predicted by Stagg the skilful Brit, despite huge pressure from all sides. The sea, wind and torrential rain calmed, the invasion took place, the rest is history.

Most characters were well drawn, some rather stereotyped, Monty (Damien Lewis at his most stiffly moustached best), against a more reasoned Ike

(Brenden Fraser), still smarting from a disastrous trial run when many American GIs were slaughtered. Love interest was restrained. Stagg's pregnant wife, due to drop an infant any day, and our hero's inability to keep in touch tormented him but was secondary to the task in hand. An interesting relationship has drawn historic speculation. Ike's personal assistant/Batman-woman, played by Kay Summersby, is the intermediary voice of reason. Was she more than an assistant?
Contemporary DD footage was cleverly woven into the visuals. Scenes of infantry, both in Monty's desert and on the British coast captured the grime of war – filthy uniforms and faces, impatience mixed with fear before combat. Many died and were injured during the Normandy invasion.
Votes before and after discussion hardly moved. A sea of nines and a couple of eights for starters. By the end of analyses, the eights rose slightly, with nine's dominating and a single 10, a rare mark of total approval! Catch it if you can.

Group Leader *Lindah Kiddey*

CLASSICAL MUSIC GROUP

We meet every 3rd Thursday in the month 10.30-12.30 in the Dowson Room The Grange . All 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 19 November

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

JOIN US
- JUST £20 A YEAR

Join us at our monthly meeting (first Thursday), visit rot-u3a.org.uk/home/join-us/ or email members@rot-u3a.org.uk. Or visit our 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. Tea and coffee are included for FREE!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Susan Lewis; Jane James; Robin Goodliffe; Helen Watson; Pauline Thorne; Christine Bruton; David Halliwell; Anna Binns; Sara Rose.

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

2026 DIARY DATES

Oct	28th Coffee Morning
Nov	12th Speaker Dave Pinion (date correction) | 25th Coffee Morning
Dec	3rd Christmas Party (Grange) | 8th Morley Hayes Christmas Trip

VILLAGE SHOW PHOTOS

(photos courtesy our u3a Photography Group)







NEXT EDITION

DEADLINE 20TH NOVEMBER 2026

Please send articles and photos 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?

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; Carpet Bowls; Knit & Natter; Let's Go Bowling.

Wednesday – Art 1; Fit & Toned; Jive 'til 5; Photography; Pickleball; Real Ale; Scottish Country Dance; Table Tennis; Vinyl Records.

Thursday – Classical Music; Discussion; Curry; 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 operate a waiting list*.

--- Community notice ---

Radcliffe Repair Café
28th NOVEMBER 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."

u3a Radcliffe-On-Trent