

## Radcliffe on Trent u3a: Learn, Laugh, Live with us!

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—with no qualifications needed. Come meet new people and get involved at your own pace!

## NEW! Spanish Group



Would you like to join this new Spanish group aimed at developing an understanding of the language in an informal way through speaking, listening and fun activities? Initially the group hopes to appeal to members of all levels and then develop onwards from there.

The first meeting will be at **The Royal Oak** on **Thursday 12th February at 2pm** although a permanent venue is still to be confirmed. If you are interested, please come along on the 12th. If you can't make it or want any other information, please contact Lynette on 07743 703561 [lynettecnorris@gmail.com](mailto:lynettecnorris@gmail.com).

## 🎵 POP, POP, POP MUSIC 🎵

Are you **making your mind up** to go to the u3a Pop Quiz? It's **solid gold easy action**. The next quiz is on Thursday 12th February 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.



**Welcome** to this month's new Members: Mike Lee; Lesley Neville; Glenn Stredder; Beryl Keogh. We hope you enjoy your time with our u3a!  
**Melanie Gregg**, Membership Secretary ([members@rot-u3a.org.uk](mailto:members@rot-u3a.org.uk))



## From The Chair

I am pleased to report that we have two volunteers to join the committee, Joy Moran and Hilary Jones who will stand for election at the AGM. Knowing them I am confident they will bring energy and ideas to the committee and I look forward to working with them.

We have lost one of our most important members on the committee, as Patrick Mountford has stood down. Speaking personally, I always found Patrick to be a sounding board and someone I could confidently turn to for advice and I know that he will still be available if needed. I take this opportunity to thank him, on behalf of our members, for his many years of service.

As we come up to the most important monthly meeting in March, our AGM, I urge all our members to try and attend, as this is how our democracy works. It gives all our members the opportunity to make any comments on any part of our u3a that they feel strongly about.

I recently visited the Museum of Curiosities in Nottingham, with our Local Trips group. This was not somewhere I would have thought about visiting, but one I really enjoyed, so thanks to our group leader Carol White, for giving me the opportunity and for all the other trips the group has been involved in this year.

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

## Trips & Outings 2026

- Tuesday April 21<sup>st</sup> - **Lichfield and the Staffordshire Regiment Museum** - £25 pp  
**We will be selling tickets for our visit to Lichfield at our Monthly Meeting in the Grange on Thursday 5th February. 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 21<sup>st</sup> May - **Coventry Cathedral and the Transport Museum** - £28 pp
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June - **Liverpool** - £20 pp
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July - **Kilworth Outdoor Theatre\*** - £60 pp **SOLD OUT**
- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September - **National Coal Museum & Sculpture Park** - Cost TBC

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

## Join the Boules Group!



Are you ready to enjoy some fresh air and friendly competition? Our **Boules Group** currently has one rare vacancy for a new member to join our team.

We are a social group that plays at the **Radcliffe on Trent Golf Club**, typically enjoying two or three games followed by lunch together. We plan to head back out onto the pitch in **early April** (weather permitting).

If you'd like to claim this final spot or want more information, please contact our group leader, **Jon Jones** Email: [jonjones33@gmx.co.uk](mailto:jonjones33@gmx.co.uk) Phone: 07967 194467

## AVIATION GROUP

### Military Drones – Master or Servant?

**Due to the high demand, all places have been booked. We will be unable to accept any further attendees on the day.**

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?

**Adrian Cresswell**, Aviation Group Leader, [crela7@gmail.com](mailto:crela7@gmail.com)

## Classical Music Group



Join our friendly music appreciation group every 3rd Thursday of the month from 10:30am to 12:30pm at the Dawson Room, The Grange. Led by Michael Riggall, we explore a variety of composers from Tchaikovsky to Vaughan Williams for just £2.50, including refreshments and a social break. No musical knowledge is required—simply come along to listen and relax at our next meeting on Thursday, 19 February; contact **Michael Riggall** [michael.riggall@ntlworld.com](mailto:michael.riggall@ntlworld.com)

## **ALL OF 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/](http://rot-u3a.org.uk/groups-page/) to find out times, venues etc and to contact a group leader. Some groups operate a waiting list.

## St Pancras: The "Railway Cathedral" Comes Back to Life

We had a fantastic session on January 8th with **historian Nigel Lowey**, who took us behind the scenes of the incredible transformation of St Pancras Station. Nigel kicked things off by explaining how this "cathedral-like" building was born in the Victorian era. It was not just a station; it was a statement. He highlighted the mix of George Gilbert Scott's stunning Gothic architecture (that iconic red brick made in Mapperley!) and

William Barlow's engineering genius—creating the world's largest single-span roof at the time.



The Great Escape – It's hard to believe now, but this building was once a "long-neglected" mess. Nigel shared the "great story" of how it narrowly escaped the wrecking ball in the 1960s. After years of decay, it finally got the makeover it deserved, turning a crumbling landmark into a breathtaking international hub.

Whether you're a history buff or just love a good comeback story, Nigel's talk was a brilliant reminder of how elegant engineering can stand the test of time. Huge thanks to Nigel for sharing his expertise with us!

## FUTURE SPEAKER TALKS

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

### FEBRUARY 5<sup>th</sup> - *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 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

*Chris Hopton*, Speaker Finder [christine.hopton@outlook.com](mailto:christine.hopton@outlook.com)

## KNIT & NATTER GROUP

The Knit & Natter

Group turns passion into purpose, crafting everything from tiny hats for premature babies to "twiddlemuffs" for dementia patients and warm



gear for homeless charities. No wool goes to waste; even leftover "odds and ends" are knitted into colorful 6" squares and joined into blankets for the Nottingham Ukraine Hub and overseas disaster relief. Whether you're showing off your new Christmas socks like me 😊 or looking to contribute to a good cause, come join our friendly circle where every stitch

makes a difference.

*Jan Addiscott* 0115845 7398 [jan@addiscott.net](mailto:jan@addiscott.net)



# Welcome to Our Friendly Jive Group!

Our group is a very friendly and informal bunch. We don't take ourselves too seriously, as our main goal is simply to enjoy the music and the dancing. If you're thinking of joining us, please don't worry that "jiving" means we are a fast-paced or high-kicking dance group—for most of us, it's quite the opposite! We invite you to come along, have a look, and join in at your own pace. You are also more than welcome to just sit back and enjoy the music.

There is no previous experience or partner needed to take part. We meet every Wednesday from 3 to 5 pm at the Grange Hall Radcliffe on Trent. We look forward to welcoming you!

Please contact **Margaret** on **07773426253** or **Sue** on **07954586735** or just turn up.



## ✓ Mark us as safe!

To ensure you receive our emails via the Beacon system, please check your spam folder. If you find our messages there, move them to your inbox or mark [noreply@u3abeacon.org.uk](mailto:noreply@u3abeacon.org.uk) as a "safe sender." If you need technical assistance, please consult your local IT expert.

## 👉 Renewal Time!

Our annual membership year ends on February 28th, 2026. Existing Members, including those who joined anytime during 2025, are reminded to renew by 1st March 2026. You can renew right now! There are several ways to renew as detailed in the enclosed document.

**Melanie Gregg**, Membership Secretary, [members@rot-u3a.org.uk](mailto:members@rot-u3a.org.uk)

## ✉️ Did you receive our data check email?

You have recently received an important email from us checking that your details are up to date. Please reply to that email with any changes. There is no need to reply if your information is correct.

## 🤝 Starting a group

Do you have a particular skill or interest in a topic for which no group currently exists? You could start one yourself. We are here to help and guide you through the process. We would help you to publicise the group, find a venue and support you until the group is established. There is no formal process and it is easy to do! Email: [groups@rot-u3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@rot-u3a.org.uk)

## 📅 Next Edition Deadline

Please continue sending items (articles, photos, sketches) to: [radcliffeu3a.news@gmail.com](mailto:radcliffeu3a.news@gmail.com). Our next issue is the **March edition**. **Deadline for submissions: 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

# Joining 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](mailto:members@rot-u3a.org.uk) for more information..

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



## 2026 Diary

### Dates

**January** 28<sup>th</sup> – Coffee Morning; **February** 5<sup>th</sup> – Speaker: Mary's Meals; **Feb 11<sup>th</sup>** – **Renewal session Grange**; Feb 25<sup>th</sup> - Coffee Morning; **March** 5<sup>th</sup> – AGM then Speaker: Uncle Tom's Cabin; March 25<sup>th</sup> – Coffee Morning; **April** 21<sup>st</sup> – Trip to Lichfield and museum; April 29<sup>th</sup> – Coffee Morning; **May** 21<sup>st</sup> – Trip to Coventry and Transport Museum; May 27<sup>th</sup> – Coffee Morning; **June** 16<sup>th</sup> Trip to Liverpool; June 24<sup>th</sup> – Coffee Morning; **July** 16<sup>th</sup> Trip to Kilworth Outdoor Theatre; July 29<sup>th</sup> – Coffee Morning; **August** 26<sup>th</sup> – Coffee Morning; **September** 22<sup>nd</sup> Trip to National Coal Museum and Sculpture Park; Sept 30<sup>th</sup> – Coffee Morning; **October** 28<sup>th</sup> – Coffee Morning; November 25<sup>th</sup> – Coffee Morning; **December** 3<sup>rd</sup> – Christmas Party (Grange).

## 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!



**RADCLIFFE REPAIR CAFE**

**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**

