

Rainworth & District

July 2026 Newsletter

www.rainworth-u3a.org.uk

rainworthu3anews@gmail.com

facebook – [rainworthu3a](https://www.facebook.com/rainworthu3a)

**We meet on the second Wednesday of the month,
10am-12pm at the Rainworth Village Hall**



U3a Festival in Sherwood Forest

Members attended this event when the ten local u3as of the North Notts Neighbourhood Group came together at the Visitor Centre in Edwinstowe.

There were musical performances, games and a guided walk to the Major Oak (R.I.P.) and although the weather was changeable everyone enjoyed the day sharing enthusiasm for this event.

The event is held to promote awareness of the u3a organisation and the opportunity for groups to socialise.

Interest Groups

Members wishing to join/attend any interest group activities must contact the group leader *PRIOR TO ATTENDING.*****

Snapshot Gallery	"Virtual" Slideshow monthly	Ian Hibbert	795399	snappgallery21@gmail.com
Armchair Film Club	4th Wed	Diane Hibbert	795399	diane.hibbert@btinternet.com
Book Group	3 rd Fri	Betty Foster	07708 444535	betty.foster@btopenworld.com
Breakfast	1st Tue	Gordon Brown	07925 896004	gordonbrown66@ntlworld.com
Canasta	3rd Mon	Enid Thomas	07738 163889	enidthomas@hotmail.co.uk
Card Craft	3rd Mon	Jill Pullan	400545	jillandmalcp@gmail.com
Garden Visits	1 st Thur	Ann Mills	631714	ann_mills@me.com
Hobbies	3 rd Mon	Maureen Litchfield	799322	maureen.litchfield@hotmail.com
Indoor Games	3 rd Mon	Andrew Goodison	438702	goodisonj2@gmail.com
Local History	4 th Fri	Diane Hibbert	795399	diane.hibbert@btinternet.com
Lunch Group 1	3 rd Tue	Ann Mills	631714	ann_mills@me.com
Lunch Group 2	2nd Wed	Jackie Massey	07881 661894	masseyjackie@hotmail.com
National Trust	2 nd Thur	Maureen Litchfield	799322	maureen.litchfield@hotmail.com
Odeon Visits	Various	Pam Berry	795473	randp33@hotmail.com
Pub Quiz	3 rd Thur	Gordon Brown	07925 896004	gordonbrown66@ntlworld.com
Ringtones-Singing	2 nd Mon	Pam Haywood	406078	pamhaywood@hotmail.co.uk
Strollers	4 th Mon	Andrew/Susan Goodison	438702	goodisonj2@gmail.com
Trips & Visits	Various	Ann Brown	07982 243462	annbrown051@gmail.com
Wine Appreciation	3 rd Wed	Jill Pullan	400545	jillandmalcp@gmail.com

Meeting Programme 2026

Wed 8th July

Jane Barnes

"Tales from a Dairy Farmer's Wife"

Wed 12th Aug

Michelle Welsh

"Life of an MP"

Future Events 2026

Fri 31st July

Garden party at the Methodist Church Hall,
1.30-5pm £5 includes fresh cream scones.
Entertainment from The Ringtones, kurling and
games.

Tickets available today and from Ann Mills on
01623 631714

Tue 22nd Sep

**National u3a week event to promote the
organisation and our own u3a.**

Open coffee morning 10-12pm at
Rainworth Village Hall.

Raffle, Tombola, Books and Jigsaws.

£3 admission includes coffee and cake.

Donations for the tombola would be greatly appreciated

***I would like to thank all the members for my retirement gift of a
garden voucher which I will enjoy spending! Mary***

Snapshot Gallery



A warm welcome to all our members and visitors. We hope you enjoy the monthly newsletter, please keep the articles and photos coming! It's not a newsletter if it hasn't got news!

Articles will be put on the website as they are received and has more space for photos, all in colour! Please **email** articles to rainworthu3anews@gmail.com with any photos as an attachment.

The closing date for the next issue is 31st July

Please do not arrive to the meeting before 9.30am.

Please notify Jean Bingham, our Membership Secretary, of any change to your personal details e.g. address, email & phone numbers and if you do not wish to receive the u3a Matters magazine.

In case of an emergency, please give a contact name and number that you would like used to the Membership Secretary and your Group Leaders. Also please write the details on your membership card which should be carried with you at all u3a meetings, events and activities.

If you are aware of a member who is unable to attend the meeting and would welcome a newsletter, please let one of us know.

Have you remembered to bring your mugs? Please ensure mobile phones are set to silent.

Do have a look at our website and join our Facebook page, if you use social media, for the latest information and also the u3a National website, www.u3a.org.uk where you can sign up to receive their monthly newsletter via email. It is full of information, ideas, policies and feedback on the organisation and other branches' activities.

We are a member of the Notts Network of u3a's, who also have a website, <https://nottsnetworkofu3as.u3asite.uk/> and issue a bi-monthly newsletter called "Newsbites."

There are links to these and other organisations on our website.

You can listen to u3a radio on podcasting platforms, including Apple, Spotify and Google podcasts and on u3a You Tube channel.

Don't forget to look at the notice board on display at every meeting for more information about our u3a and other events and organisations.

Committee News

At last month's AGM, you will recall that no- one came forward to offer themselves as Chair.

We have resolved the situation for the time being with a job-share.

Our committee meetings will be taken by Jean Bingham. She is currently vice-chair and membership secretary, and sits at the back welcoming new members and signing people in.

The monthly main meetings will be taken by Lynden Lowe, who has been co-opted onto the committee.

This is not a permanent solution. In fact, this time next year more committee members will have come to the end of their term of office.

So please think about what you can offer to keep us going in committee terms. The infrastructure is there in place. We have a good set-up of groups, speakers, parties, coffee mornings and activities.

And so we carry on, as described above. *Diane Hibbert, Secretary.*

Copyright and Licensing Laws

Using Third-Party Material

Please ensure that any text, photos, or images you submit for our website, newsletter, or Facebook page are your own original work. You must not use or submit material created by anyone else unless you have express, written permission or a valid licence from the copyright owner. Crediting the source or finding the image on Google does not make its use legal. Copyright enforcement agencies actively use automated technology to detect unauthorized usage. Several u3a branches have faced severe financial claims and substantial payout demands for accidental copyright infringement.

Submitting Your Own Material

By submitting your original articles, reports, or photographs to our u3a, you grant us a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to publish and share your work across our newsletter, website, and social media channels.

Protecting Our Content

Conversely, all content, publicity material, images, and text produced by and for our u3a are protected by copyright. This material must not be forwarded, reproduced, or used for any external purposes without our express written permission.

Trips and Visits—Ramsdale Crazy Golf

We were all so looking forward to our annual Crazy Golf and lunch day at Ramsdale Golf Club. Sadly the weather was awful so we all met up in the Clubhouse for coffee and a great social chat. It's surprising how much you can learn of your fellow members previous employments, holidays, music tastes and shopping preferences over a cup of coffee. Lunch was served a bit earlier than booked and was well received, as usual the food was delicious and service spot on!!

In spite of the awful weather we all had an enjoyable day.

Jackie Massey



Trips and Visits—Ely and the Knife Angel

A U3A visit to Ely coincided with the Knife Angel going to Ely from Newark. This will be the last time it is on tour, and it will return to Liverpool after Ely, unless another town or city requests it to be displayed.

It is an astonishing sculpture made from knives that have been confiscated from yobs and criminals. The beautiful face is one of compassion and sadness and the hands are begging. The message is 'do not carry a bladed item, ever' So many young lives have ended due to stabbings. It weighs 3 tons and has to have special transport to move it.

Jill Pullan

Strollers

Because of the severely hot weather, the walk at Hardwick, due to take place on Monday 22nd June was cancelled. Never before have we had to cancel a walk due to good weather, it usually happens when we are expecting heavy rain or gusty winds. Taking note of the advanced heat and health warnings we decided to give members early notice of the cancellation.

Hopefully we will manage to make the next walk on Monday 27th July, keeping an eye out for what happens on St. Swithin's Day 15th July. This time we will be going back to Pleasley Country Park which is situated just off the A619 leaving the car park at the normal time 10.30am.

Andrew and Susan Goodison

Indoor Games

Diane had an unusual run of luck at 12 spot dominoes, winning the first 3 games in a row, until Andrew ended her lucky streak, followed by Jim and Maureen.

After a reviving coffee break it was Kurling - Ladies v. Gents. This session was nip and tuck all the way, with the lead continually changing hands until the final round and ended in a draw at 68 points each. Maureen then called for shipboard rules - each person having one throw for nearest to the bull, by which the Ladies just managed to squeak home. *Diane Hibbert.*

Hobbies, Games and Card Craft, great way to spend an afternoon!



National Trust

This was a damp outing to this Elizabethan Manor House. As the name suggests it was built on the site of a farmstead run by Augustinian priests and it is possible that the materials from the priory, after the dissolution, were recycled to build the House in 1550. The house is famous for its historical ties to witch marks which supposedly turned away evil and gave protection to the building and its residents.

It was a very interesting visit thanks to the welcoming and knowledgeable volunteers who were more than happy to explain any and every detail of the house which they clearly enjoyed.

The gardens looked beautiful through the windows. Sadly we were unable to walk around them, thanks to the rain. Perhaps on another occasion?

Ann Mills

Book Group

A Room Made of Leaves is a 2020 historical fiction novel by the Australian author Kate Grenville.

It is 1788 when the sexually aware, twenty-one-year-old Elizabeth spends a few minutes behind a hedge with the young John Macarthur and it shapes her life forever. Pregnant, she is forced into a loveless marriage with the arrogant, vindictive and highly ambitious soldier and soon realises she has made a terrible mistake. Forced to travel with him to New South Wales, she arrives to find the penal colony of Sydney Town a brutal, dusty place of makeshift shelters, failing crops, scheming and rumour. While her husband is often away, she is forced to discover inner strength and eventually manages the family's burgeoning sheep empire herself. The title refers to a secluded sanctuary Elizabeth discovers with a gentle figure, an astronomer named William Dawes, offering her a rare, peaceful escape where she can be her true self away from her husband's control and the rigid constraints of society. Through William she meets some of the Aboriginals of the area and at the end of the book reflects on the cost of all of her success to the detriment of the original people of the land.

Betty Foster

Garden Visits

June started off as very wet and cool and of course the Garden Visit Group meets on the first Thursday in the month. We set off in rain and came back in rain but in between visiting Burghley House and Gardens we had fine weather and a bit of warmth. As the Gardens were amazing the weather was a bonus. Not just one garden but several different ones and the first to explore called Garden of Surprises was fun! Full of fountains and sculptures and to exit through an intermittent fountain so we waited until it stopped and dived through! Then on to the Remembrance Borders beautifully planted and then up a small hill to the Capability Lake. Back via the Hidden Valley but no time for the Sculpture Garden as it was lunchtime.

After lunch it was the House which as the leaflet quoted "Was Designed to Impress!" One of the largest surviving Elizabethan prodigy houses built by powerful courtiers to showcase their wealth, taste and influence. It certainly does impress. Interestingly the tour started in the kitchen (most stately houses finish with this) with its vast collection of 18th and 19th Century copper. Then upstairs to magnificent rooms with antique furniture and walls covered in paintings and ceilings as good as seen in Italy. Every inch painted with fantastic scenes mostly of ancient mythology. One of these rooms contained the biggest wine cooler we have ever seen! Discussion followed on how many bottles were needed to fill it!! Then it was back down the stairs to the Great Hall which is often used today for wedding receptions.

This has to be one of our best visits.

Pam Berry

Wine Appreciation

The Wine Appreciation group met on Wednesday 17th June. Linda hosted the group this month, and we tasted 4 bottles of Sauvignon Blanc from Greece. The wine was exceptionally good, and none of us had tasted Greek Sauvignon Blanc before, it was a pleasant surprise. Linda provided a delicious supper and the evening ended around 9.15pm. The most expensive bottle came second in our evaluation. The most expensive seldom wins and we taste all the wines blind.

Jill Pullan



Digital support

Do you have a smartphone, I-pad or tablet?

Do you wish you could be more confident using it?

We're seeking expressions of interest from anyone interested in help with all things digital, like the Internet, the NHS app, safe online payments, scam awareness etc.

A free session is available for a group of 5-25 people, date and venue to be confirmed depending on interest.

From the team that brought you your recent Strength and Balance. Course.

Please give your names to Diane Hibbert if you are interested in attending this event.

ODEON GROUP

I am booking for the latest Andre Rieu concert film "VIVA MAASTRICHT" on Sunday afternoon 9th August at 2.45pm, cost £18.50.

Meeting in foyer of the cinema at 2.25pm.

The programme for operas and ballets is out for the Autumn/Spring and although reduced in number there are some new and old favourites showing.

Manon (ballet) Tuesday 27th October

Carmen Tuesday 10th November

The Nutcracker Tuesday 1st December

Pam Berry

Rainworth & District u3a Committee June 2025-June 2026

Lynden Lowe	chair@rainworth-u3a.org.uk	01623 616699	Acting Co-Chair
Jean Bingham	vicechair@rainworth-u3a.org.uk membership@rainworth-u3a.org.uk	07572 075528	Acting Co-Chair and Vice-Chair Membership Secretary
Diane Hibbert	secretary@rainworth-u3a.org.uk	01623 795399	Business Secretary
Jill Lowe	treasurer@rainworth-u3a.org.uk	01623 616699	Treasurer
Ann Mills	ann_mills@me.com	01623 631714	Programme Secretary Social Secretary
Anita Bush	ani.tab@hotmail.co.uk	07592 154723	Press Secretary
Ann Brown	annbrown051@gmail.com	07982 243462	Committee member
Ian Hibbert	ianmusic46@gmail.com	01623 795399	Groups Coordinator
David Gelsthorpe	gelsthorpe_norma22@hotmail.com	01623 481502	Casual Committee member
Maureen Vickers	maureenvickers63@gmail.com	07800 799095	Casual Committee Member

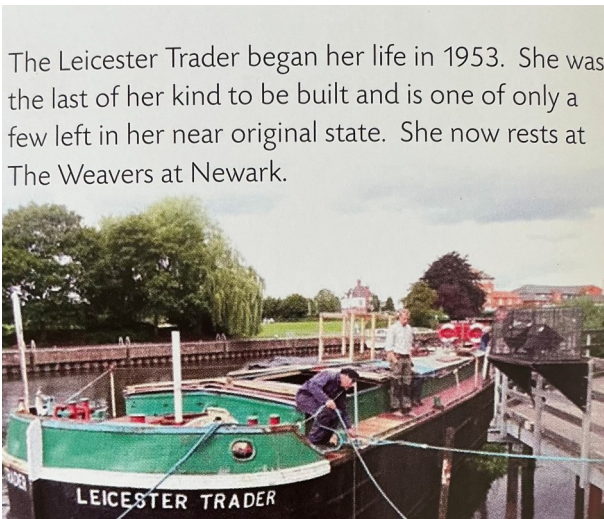
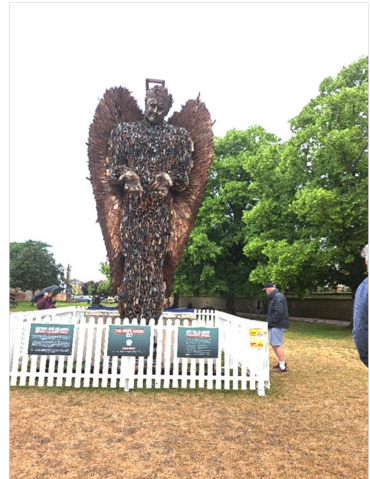
Interest Groups Whilst it is hoped that members can access a particular interest group, it is not always possible due to transport availability and cost, or venue limitations/restrictions. Ask the Group Leader if there is a waiting list you can go on. We are fortunate to be able to hire a Ravenshead Community bus for some trips at reasonable cost which are usually full and is able to access all venues. When a larger commercial coach is hired, the cost has to be shared by those members regardless of the number travelling and is not appropriate for some venues. The Committee will always support anyone in becoming a group leader to set up a second group for that interest, it can be a shared role and would enable others to participate.



National Trust
visit to
Biddulph Grange

The "Knife Angel"

seen on a day trip to Ely



The Leicester Trader began her life in 1953. She was the last of her kind to be built and is one of only a few left in her near original state. She now rests at The Weavers at Newark.

Local History

Scorching temperatures into the 30s and a red heat warning forced the postponement of our visit to the two barges at Newark. However, this will go ahead at a later date in August, precise date to be confirmed.

Diane Hibbert

Photo by kind permission of Les Reid