

# Rainworth & District

**May 2026 Newsletter**

[www.rainworth-u3a.org.uk](http://www.rainworth-u3a.org.uk)

[rainworthu3anews@gmail.com](mailto: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**

Our speaker last month was Bob O'Neil with his "Bits and Bobs!"

A challenging and enjoyable quiz testing our knowledge of many items,  
either never seen before or long forgotten!



## 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 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> Thur	Ann Mills	631714	ann_mills@me.com
Hobbies	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	Maureen Litchfield	799322	maureen.litchfield@hotmail.com
Indoor Games	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	Andrew Goodison	438702	goodisonj2@gmail.com
Local History	4 <sup>th</sup> Fri	Diane Hibbert	795399	diane.hibbert@btinternet.com
Lunch Group 1	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue	Ann Mills	631714	ann_mills@me.com
Lunch Group 2	2nd Wed	Jackie Massey	07881 661894	masseyjackie@hotmail.com
National Trust	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thur	Maureen Litchfield	799322	maureen.litchfield@hotmail.com
Odeon Visits	Various	Pam Berry	795473	randp33@hotmail.com
Pub Quiz	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thur	Gordon Brown	07925 896004	gordonbrown66@ntlworld.com
Ringtones-Singing	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon	Pam Haywood	406078	pamhaywood@hotmail.co.uk
Strollers	4 <sup>th</sup> Mon	Andrew/Susan Goodison	438702	goodisonj2@gmail.com
Trips & Visits	Various	Ann Brown	07982 243462	annbrown051@gmail.com
Wine Appreciation	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	Jill Pullan	400545	jillandmalcp@gmail.com

## **Meeting Programme 2026**

- Wed 13th May** Paul Cullen talking about  
"Nottinghamshire Place Names"
- Wed 10th Jun** AGM

## **Future Events 2026**

**Wed 17th Jun** **North Notts Neighbourhood Group of u3as are holding a "u3a Festival in Sherwood Forest" 10.30am-3pm**

This is a free event for all, not just u3a members, so bring along friends, family and anyone else! It is being held at the Visitors Centre, Edwinstowe, NG21 9RN. Car parking is nearby and you can wine and dine at the café or bring your own picnic! Bring chairs etc. for an enjoyable day in the forest. There are musical performances, games and guided walks. Come along and meet other u3a members from the area.

Details on the display board.

**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.

**Ravenshead u3a** have spaces on a holiday to Cromer on 12th September for 4 nights. Cost will be £429-£459. Contact Halinka on 07762 802 112  
Details on the display board.

**Bowling** invitations from Arnold u3a at Daybrook Bowls Club on Thursday 14th May 12-4pm and from Welbeck Abbey Bowls Club on Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st May on the Welbeck Estate.  
Details on the display board.

**u3a friends extra** have offers and discounted prices on wide range of items, entrance fees, railcard train fares and many more.  
Details for this month's offers are on the display board or look on the National website and sign up to receive monthly emails so you don't miss out!

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](mailto:rainworthu3anews@gmail.com) with any photos as an attachment.

### **The closing date for the next issue is 31st May**

**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.

Visit the u3a National website, [www.u3a.org.uk](http://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.

You can also sign up to receive the u3a friends extra email which has lots of offers and discounted prices on many items for members.

We are a member of the Notts Network of u3as, 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 the 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.***

## **Notification of Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of Rainworth and District u3a will be held at 10am on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, in Rainworth Village Hall, Kirklington Road, Rainworth, NG21 0GY.

**All fully paid-up members** are entitled to vote, either by attending the meeting or by proxy. To do this, please contact the Secretary, Diane Hibbert, on 01623 795399, or text on 078119 30244, to appoint her as your proxy.

### **AGENDA**

- \* Chair's opening remarks
- \* Apologies for absence
- \* Minutes of the previous AGM, 2025
- \* To receive and adopt the Chair's report
- \* To receive and adopt the statement of accounts, April 2025 to March 2026
- \* To appoint an examiner of accounts
- \* To elect the officers and members of the committee

### **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS**

The list of nominees to date is as follows:

Chair - Vacancy

Vice-chair - Jean Bingham

Secretary - Diane Hibbert

Treasurer - Jill Lowe

Committee members with areas of responsibility:

Ann Brown

Anita Bush

Ian Hibbert

Ann Mills

\*Amendment to the constitution :-

Removal of the position of vice-chair from June 2027

**Book Group**  
**The House across the Lake by Riley Sagar**

A change of genre for us last month. This was a psychological thriller following Casey Fletcher, a widowed actress with an alcohol problem who escapes the publicity in New York by going to her families' lakeside house in Vermont. Here, she spies her new neighbour, Katherine, in trouble whilst swimming in the lake and goes to her rescue. They briefly become friends until Katherine mysteriously disappears. What happened to her? Casey becomes suspicious and begins to seek the truth especially when she discovers that three other women have disappeared in the lake. There are many twists and turns along the way, some of them a bit far-fetched in my opinion! *Betty Foster*

*Next meeting Friday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 10 – 12 at Blidworth library*



**Snapshot  
Gallery**



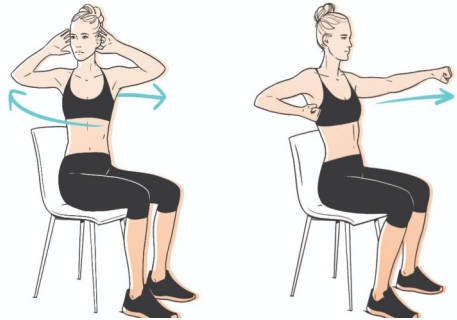
## **Strength and Balance Course**

A group of us gathered a few months ago to take part in a keep fit initiative not sure what to expect or how it would unfold!

Friendly instruction, great camaraderie, laughter and chat accompanied gentle exercise which built each week showing us how to use our bodies correctly and waking up muscles we had forgotten existed!

I think at the end we all feel we have achieved something and feel fitter! Fingers crossed we are given the opportunity to take part in a similar course again.

*Feedback from the now very strong and balanced group who attended!!!*



**You're only old when  
you're standing still.**



[www.takinglongwayhome.com](http://www.takinglongwayhome.com)

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



## **Odeon Group**

Our last event of the current season saw a few of us being taken into the fantasy world of The Magic Flute from Mozart. The singing was brilliant as always and the Queen's aria in the second act just amazing. It was full of woodland creatures very well exhibited including a huge snake at the beginning that reminded me of the Chinese dragon dance! The opera was part verbal and part spoken. All introduced by Jess Gilliam, a classical musician.

In the interval we were given an insight into how the production was filmed for the cinema. We didn't realise quite what was involved! Cameras and microphones were here there and everywhere!

We were given a very brief resume of the next season's event which included some classics in both ballet and opera. Watch this space! The programme is usually out in the summer. *Pam Berry*

## **Strollers**

The new walk we undertook at the end of April turned out to be a success.

Having been away on holiday for a few days the previous week at Weston-Super-Mare we brought the lovely weather back with us. So on a beautiful sunny Monday morning with total blue skies we set off on the walk led by Jackie and Colin. Although the path goes through part of Tippings Wood, it is known locally as the "Yellow Brick Road." Nobody seems to know why it has this name, but we did pass a field with loads of dandelions growing in it!

We met a few people on the way with their four legged friends. Some of us saw a cheeky robin perched on a branch and a couple of orange tipped butterflies as well as bluebells and other wildflowers. The pond was nearly dried up, whereas five weeks previously it had contained a lot of water according to Jackie. We ended the walk down the road at the Archer Pub where we were given a very warm welcome.

The refreshments were thoroughly enjoyed, especially our fish finger baguettes with crisps and salad.

*Our next walk on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May, Spring Bank Holiday, will take place at Hardwick one of our favourite places. We will meet up in the car park at The Hardwick Inn, Derbyshire, off the A6175, to leave at the usual time 10.30 am.*

*Andrew and Susan Goodison*

## **Armchair Film Club**

### **This month we watched Calendar Girls.**

After the death of her best friend Annie's husband, Yorkshire housewife Chris (Helen Mirren) comes up with an idea to raise money for a memorial to him.

As they and their friends are all members of the local Women's Institute, Chris has the idea of creating a calendar. But this is a calendar with a difference. It would use the WI members as nude models engaged in traditional WI activities.

Their husbands are rather stunned by the idea, but it goes ahead and is a success. This results in a trip to Hollywood for publicity, which does not turn out quite as well as expected!

However, on return to England, they find they have raised more than half a million pounds for the local hospital.

There were many recognisable faces, both male and female, in this quirky comedy, with Helen Mirren, Julie Walters, and Celia Imrie leading the way.

*Diane Hibbert*

## **Garden Visits**

Helmsley Walled Garden is located near Thirsk in North Yorkshire, a beautiful part of the country.

All was well until we drove up Sutton Bank, not far from our destination. About 2/3 of the way up the (very steep) hill the bus started making strange noises. At the top of the hill, we pulled into a lay-by. Unfortunately, the driver couldn't get the bus started and the AA was called. While we were waiting several phone calls were made to taxi firms to transport us to the gardens but all were expensive.

The lay-by was opposite a farm and we watched a farmer busy with her sheep. Our driver went across to speak to her and amazingly she had a friend who ran a local taxi firm. More phone calls and we were on our way to the gardens. A breakdown recovery vehicle collected the bus it couldn't be repaired at the roadside. A replacement bus collected us from Helmsley.

In case you wondered, we did have an enjoyable day. It was a lovely day and we sat outside for our lunch! *Ann Mills*

## **Local History Group**

**Visit to the Portland Gallery, Welbeck** - to see the new exhibition *The World's Mine Oyster - Art, Nature and Collecting the Globe*, which opened last month.

The Portland Collection has been built up over 400 years by the Cavendish family of Welbeck and their descendants. It is vast and varied, including portraits, furniture, jewellery, porcelain, silver and books from all over the world.

Portraits include women who helped shape the collection - Bess of Hardwick, Margaret Cavendish, Duchess of Newcastle, Margaret Cavendish Bentinck, Duchess of Portland and Winifred, 6th Duchess of Portland.

It was interesting to see items of ivory from pre-conservation times.

Jewellery included Queen Mary's pearl necklace and the pearl earring taken from the head of Charles 1.

Also on view for the first time in public was the huge 3-metre-wide painting *A View of Antwerp*. Clues were given that had us searching for certain items in the picture.

We were privileged to view the prize of the collection, the Michelangelo drawing of the Madonna of the Silence, protected from the light in a shaded part of the gallery.

This is an astonishingly varied and extremely well- presented world-class collection that tied in with our talk last month on Margaret Cavendish, Duchess of Newcastle.

*Diane Hibbert*

*Next month we will be visiting Byron's church at Hucknall , plus a short history-based walk - Friday 22nd May*

## **Lunch Group 2**

After a very interesting morning with speaker Bob Neil, a number of us went to the Sherwood for lunch. I was quite pleased that I could identify the items on the table, knife, fork and spoon, which was all I needed to enjoy my meal.

As usual we were made very welcome and the food was up to its usual high standard.

They are putting on quite a bit of entertainment in the week and at weekends and we understand they are trying to fit a quiz night in, which might be on a Wednesday.

*Jackie Massey*

## Rainworth & District u3a Committee June 2025-June 2026

Mary Howarth	chair@rainworth-u3a.org.uk rainworthu3anews@gmail.com	07930 243121	Chair Website & Newsletter Communications
Jean Bingham	vicechair@rainworth-u3a.org.uk membership@rainworth-u3a.org.uk	07572 075528	Vice-Chair Membership Secretary Communications
Diane Hibbert	secretary@rainworth-u3a.org.uk	01623 795399	Business Secretary Communications
Jill Lowe	treasurer@rainworth-u3a.org.uk	01623 230023	Treasurer Communications
Ann Mills	ann_mills@me.com	01623 631714	Programme Secretary Social Secretary
Anita Bush	ani.tab@hotmail.co.uk	01623 361997	Committee member
Ann Brown	annbrown051@gmail.com	07982 243462	Committee member
Jackie Massey	masseyjackie@hotmail.com	07881 661894	Co-opted Committee member Press Secretary
David Gelsthorpe	gelsthorpenorma22@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.



Armchair Film Club showing of the "Calendar Girls"



Local History Group's visit to the Portland Gallery

Strollers enjoying a morning along the "Yellow Brick Road" or Tippings Wood in Rainworth!

