

# Rainworth & District

**APRIL 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**

## Congratulations Rainworth

At last Rainworth village has its own green Sherwood Forest plaque! Shortly after our u3a Local History meeting with the Sheriff of Nottingham in October, the plan took off to put Sherwood Forest on the map by locating a plaque in each village of the old Forest.

The Sheriff and our local MP Michelle Welsh called a Moot - a meeting which decided to celebrate Sherwood Forest Day on 20th February, the birthday of Major Hayman Rooke of Major Oak fame. So far, 58 plaques have been made and delivered to all the villages within the ancient forest boundary. Thanks to the continuing efforts of the Sheriff and Chair of Newark and Sherwood District Council, Linda Tift, we were proud to arrange a formal presentation at our u3a meeting to Tanya and Olivia at the Village Hall, where the plaque will be displayed.



## 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<br>444535 | betty.foster@btopenworld.com   |
| Breakfast          | 1st Tue                     | Gordon Brown          | 07925<br>896004 | gordonbrown66@ntlworld.com     |
| Canasta            | 3rd Mon                     | Enid Thomas           | 07738<br>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<br>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<br>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<br>243462 | annbrown051@gmail.com          |
| Wine Appreciation  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed         | Jill Pullan           | 400545          | jillandmalcp@gmail.com         |

## **Meeting Programme 2026**

**Wed 8th April**

Bob Neill on  
"Bits and Bobs"

**Wed 13th May**

Paul Cullen on  
"Nottinghamshire Place Names"

## **Future Events 2026**

**Wed 17th Jun                    Noth 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.

**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.

**.Our AGM is in June** when a new committee is elected.

We need someone to take on the role of Chair as well as committee members to continue the management of our u3a. Some current members are happy to continue, thank goodness, but we need a Chairperson. Please think about what you can do to help, ask me or Diane as to what is involved and how you can contribute to the future of our u3a. Closing date for nominations has been extended to 13th May. See the notification on the next page. All AGM documents will be sent out via our Mailchimp email system after that date so please look out for it!

A reminder for those who haven't paid their renewed subscriptions for the coming year to do so as soon as possible please and before the end of May.

Our newsletter for the coming year is being funded by "Your CVS" an organisation which funds and supports the community. We are grateful for their support.

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 30th April**

#### **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.

If you have any comments or ideas regarding our activities, **please use the suggestion box**, it can be an anonymous contribution.

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](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.

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.***

## **Notification of Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of Rainworth and District u3a will be held on **Wednesday 10th June, 2026**, in Rainworth Village Hall , Kirklington Road, Rainworth, Notts at 10am.

ALL FULLY PAID-UP MEMBERS are entitled to submit nominations for committee, and vote, either by attending the meeting or by proxy. Nomination forms are available from the Secretary, Diane Hibbert, and must be returned by May 13th, in person or to 18 Diamond Avenue, Rainworth, NG21 0FF. Late nominations cannot be accepted.

Mary Howarth  
Chair of the committee April, 2026.

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

A list of nominees will be included with the documentation to be distributed in May.

- 1) Chair            2) Vice Chair            3) Secretary            4) Treasurer  
and up to 8 committee members with areas of responsibility.

### **AGENDA**

- 1) Chair's opening remarks
- 2) Apologies for absence
- 3) Minutes of previous AGM
- 4) To receive and adopt the Chair's Report
- 5) To receive and adopt the Statement of Accounts from April 2025 to March 2026 inclusive
- 6) To appoint an Examiner of Accounts
- 7) To elect the Officers and Members of the Committee
- 8) Constitutional change to remove the position of Vice-Chair with effect from June 2027

## **Strollers**

Our Strollers group were photobombed by a curious Canada Goose!

It was a lovely warm and sunny day to walk round Rufford Lake, view the wildlife, explore the sculpture gardens and buy some plants.

*Diane Hibbert*

*Our next stroll on Monday 27th April will be a brand new one.*

*We are going to follow 'The Yellow Brick Road', not to see*

*The Wizard of Oz! But to reach The Archer Pub for drinks, alcoholic or non alcoholic., the choice is yours!*

*Who knows if we might encounter the Scarecrow, the Tinman or the Cowardly Lion, unfortunately we don't have a member called Dorothy (as far as we are aware). Also there could be some dog walkers around with their four legged friends, maybe we'll find a Toto. We will be meeting in the small car park off Warsop Lane (B6020) just after the Jerry Green Dog Rescue Centre, Rainworth, for leaving at our usual time 10.30am.*



*Andrew & Susan Goodison*



## **Snapshot Gallery**

## Odeon Group

Our last visit to the Odeon for an event was in February when a few of us enjoyed a ballet "Woolf Works" based on Virginia Woolf. It was in three pieces, very modern and included recordings of Virginia Woolf. The music was a bit weird and the first and third acts better than the second. A Piece called The Waves included children which was most enjoyable. The dancing throughout was amazing and very athletic. However the stage was unlit and just the dancers in the spotlight so somewhat dark.

The next event booking now is

Tuesday 21st April at 6.45pm - Mozart's Magic Flute £20

According to the printed programme it seems to be the last one for the year. Guess the next one will be in the Autumn.

*Pam Berry*

Paula, one of the members of the card craft group, has a range of beautiful hand made cards at almost give away prices! Have a look at them at the meeting and you may even want to make some yourself at the group which meets at the Methodist Church Hall on the 3rd Monday of every month, 2-4pm. All materials are supplied, contact Jill Pullan on 01623 400545

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



## Local History Group

### Margaret Cavendish, - Mad Madge

Duchess of Newcastle, Royalist, writer, romantic, a woman ahead of her time: a talk by Derbyshire archivist and historian Danielle Burton.

Margaret Lucas married William Cavendish of Bolsover and Welbeck in 1644.

He was the grandson of Bess of Hardwick, was 31 years older than her and was a Royalist general in the Civil War.

Margaret had entered the court of Queen Henrietta Maria and gone with her into exile in Paris, where she became William's second wife.

She had had a very liberal upbringing for a girl at that time, and she continued her quest for knowledge supported by her husband.

She wrote poetry, plays, philosophy, and the first acknowledged work of science fiction about an alien world or utopia. The works were published under her own name, which was exceptional for a woman at the time.

She was the first woman to attend the Royal

Society and was quite critical of the work done there by men. (Women were not admitted to the Society as members until 1945!) This led Samuel Pepys to describe her in his Diary as "a mad, conceited, ridiculous woman" Although in Victorian times she gained the nickname Mad Madge, she was by no means mad. She was unconventional, dressed as she pleased in an eccentric fashion, and challenged the renowned thinkers of the day.

A woman far ahead of her time.

*Diane Hibbert.*

*Next month (April 24th) we hope to visit a new exhibition at the Portland Gallery, Welbeck. This explores the Cavendish family collection and includes portraits and collectibles.*



## **Book Group**

### **The Orphans' Letters by Glynis Peters**

Set during World War II, this book tells the story of Kitty Patterson, a Red Cross nurse who is in high demand for her valuable work.

On the verge of collapse from fatigue and mental stress, Kitty's best friends Jo and Trixie intervene to persuade her to make much needed changes in her duties so that she may take better care of herself.

As a result of these changes, Kitty finds herself posted all over Great Britain and involved in a series of events that include managing an orphanage, taking charge of an entire hospital floor, and participating in a rescue mission in France, all the time managing to stay in touch with her friends and her fiancé, a Canadian doctor serving with the British army. The book has an emotional ending and although classed as an historical novel it was more of a love story and not one of the group's favourites.

*Betty Foster*

*We have vacancies in the book group, come along to the Blidworth Library on the 3rd Friday of every month., 10am-noon. The books we read are varied and all it costs is 50p for drinks. The next meeting is on 17th April*

## **Snapshot Gallery**



## Armchair Film Club



**A Song for Marion is a film about a grumpy old man (Terence Stamp) who wants nothing to do with joining his wife (Vanessa Redgrave) in a local OAP singing group - the OAPZ.**

This, of course, could not happen in real life!! Or could it?

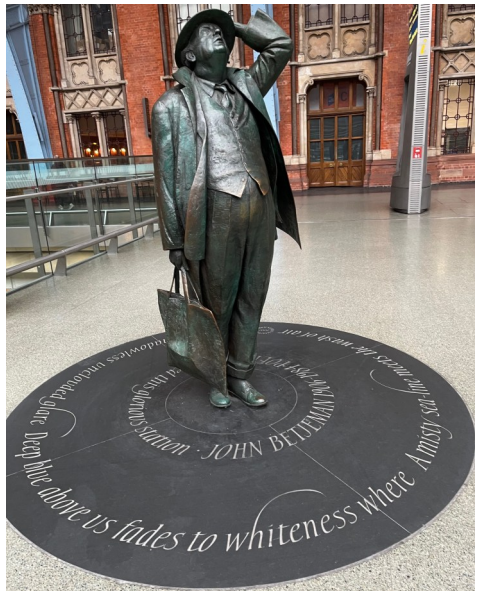
Who knew that Terence Stamp and Vanessa Redgrave, could actually sing, which they do to audition for a singing competition!

There are trials and tribulations on the way, plus some feel-good rehearsals for the competition with their young musical director Elizabeth (Gemma Arterton).

The choir are a joy, but do they win? That would be telling!

This is a touching and heartfelt story with some humour for balance.  
*Ian Hibbert.*

## Snapshot Gallery



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

|                  |   |                 |  |
|------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| Mary Howarth     | chair@rainworth-u3a.org.uk<br>rainworthu3anews@gmail.com          | 07930<br>243121 | Chair<br>Website & Newsletter<br>Communications      |
| Jean Bingham     | vicechair@rainworth-u3a.org.uk<br>membership@rainworth-u3a.org.uk | 07572<br>075528 | Vice-Chair<br>Membership Secretary<br>Communications |
| Diane Hibbert    | secretary@rainworth-u3a.org.uk                                    | 01623<br>795399 | Business Secretary<br>Communications                 |
| Jill Lowe        | treasurer@rainworth-u3a.org.uk                                    | 01623<br>230023 | Treasurer<br>Communications                          |
| Ann Mills        | ann_mills@me.com  | 01623<br>631714 | Programme Secretary<br>Social Secretary              |
| Anita Bush       | ani.tab@hotmail.co.uk   | 01623<br>361997 | Committee member                                     |
| Andrew Goodison  | goodisonj2@gmail.com  | 01623<br>438702 | Meeting<br>Support                                   |
| Ann Brown        | annbrown051@gmail.com   | 07982<br>243462 | Committee member                                     |
| Jackie Massey    | masseyjackie@hotmail.com  | 07881<br>661894 | Co-opted Committee<br>member<br>Press Secretary      |
| David Gelsthorpe | gelsthorpenorma22@hotmail.com                                     | 01623<br>481502 | Casual Committee<br>member                           |
| Maureen Vickers  | maureenvickers63@gmail.com  | 07800<br>799095 | Casual Committee<br>Member                           |

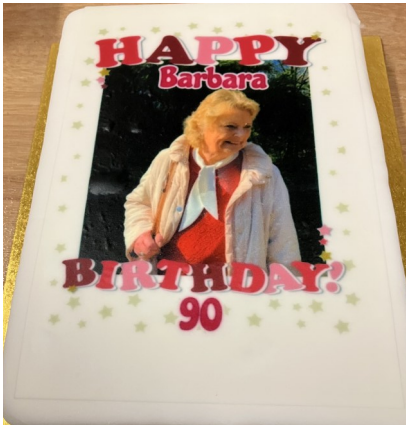
**Interest Groups** Whilst it is hoped that members can access a particular interest group, it is not always possible due to transport availability and cost, or venue limitations/restrictions. Ask the Group Leader if there is a waiting list you can go on. We are fortunate to be able to hire a Ravenshead 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.



### **Sandy Pike**

We were so sorry to hear of the recent death of Sandy, one of our long serving members. Sandy was a valuable member of the group, always willing and happy to volunteer and get involved when required.

It was a privilege and an honour to have known Sandy and our thoughts are with her husband, Bob and daughter Mandy.



We were happy to celebrate the 90th birthday of Barbara Wardle with a rousing "Happy Birthday" and a very tasty cake at our March meeting Well done Barbara!

### **Garden Visits**

We chose the Festival Gardens at Springfields near Spalding and how lucky we were, it was the warmest day of the year so far!

We had a lovely walk around the grounds, then lunch and checked out the spring flowers in the garden centre.

*Ann Mills*

