

Rainworth & District

SEPTEMBER 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**



Lunch Group 2

Local History Group

Garden Visits



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 9th Sep

Stephen Brown

"It's Hell on Wheels!"

Wed 14th Oct

Graham Keal

"50 Shades of Graham"

Future Events 2026

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.

The Strength and Balance Course resumed on Tuesday 8th September, 10am, at the Cambridge Close Community Centre for another 12 weeks excluding 22nd September, our coffee morning.

If you haven't registered please speak to Diane Hibbert for further information.

Microsoft are retiring their Publisher program on 1st October. The newsletter will change to a new format after this month's issue.

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 rainworthu3aews@gmail.com with any photos as an attachment.

The closing date for the next issue is 30th September

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.

Local History Group-Barging about in Newark!

How many people have driven over Newark's Trent Bridge and missed a hidden gem?

Moored opposite the famous castle is the Leicester Trader museum barge. Its owner, Les Reid, arranged a special opening for us and told us all about it.

It is a dumb Trent barge - the last of its kind on the river - which Les has rescued and restored. The barge has to be the right size to fit into the Trent locks, hence 'Trent' barge. It also has no motor and has to be towed by tug, hence 'dumb'.

The end cabin has been set up as if for a family of 2 adults and 4 children to live and sleep in, and was incredibly tiny, with the children sleeping in a kind of cupboard. The huge hold meanwhile would be filled to the top with cargo. The more you carried, the more you earned.

Les has amassed a great archive of barge memorabilia and photos on display in the hold. He is a fount of knowledge and answered all our questions from his experience of over 60 years working on these boats. He was ably assisted by volunteer Bex Barnes who many will remember from our u3a.

For our second barge experience we followed the old horse towpath under the bridge to the Castle Barge floating pub, where we enjoyed refreshments on board on the water.

We avoided the rain, no-one fell in, so we didn't get wet!

Diane Hibbert



*Our final outing of the year takes us closer to home, to the Mining Heritage Centre at Berry Hill.
25th September*

Garden Visits

We meet on the 1st Thursday in the month and in August it was cloudy and cool but perhaps should be grateful it wasn't the sweltering heat we have had. The visit was to Breezy Knees Gardens near York and as to be expected of this summer certainly brown grass but plenty of colour. There was plenty to see in the different gardens, White Rose



Fountain Garden, Rock Garden, Lawned Garden a lake area and wooded part.



Described by Monty Don as a beautiful modern garden created on the 'grandest possible scale' one of the largest in the North of England at over 20 acres. We had our exercise! Surprisingly there were plenty of flowers in bloom and all still delighted us.

Some unusual plants and a delightful scented rose garden.

The many plants on sale saw the back of our bus fairly full! Another most enjoyable day out.

Pam Berry



Indoor Games

In a well-earned break between 12 spot dominoes and Korridor Kurling, Jim gets to grips with Shut the Box while Lynden enjoys a cuppa.

We all had a go with Shut the Box and Susan eventually succeeded, being determined not to give up.

With Kurling, we all seemed a bit rusty at first, but Reds surged ahead. Blues were in hot pursuit but fell 4 points short in a first- to -50 game.

Diane Hibbert



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



Strollers

After surviving the unusual heat waves of the past few months, the weather was perfect for our stroll to Creswell Craggs on Monday 24th August.

With a blue sky, a few wispy clouds and a gentle breeze we set off from the car park at The Dukeries Garden Centre. The affects of the heat were evident on the local trees and bushes as everything looked very dry and wilting. Some had shed their leaves already although we haven't reached Autumn just yet. One end of the lake in the gauge had also dried out showing the mud at the very bottom and we wondered what might have happened to the fish. There were lots of visitors around, especially children learning about the historical importance of this Neanderthal site.

Some of the rangers were busy clearing weeds from the end of the lake which still contained a reasonable amount of water. Following our stroll back to the garden centre we enjoyed good quality refreshments in the conservatory off the cafe, and after lunch a few of us indulged ourselves in some retail therapy. Currently the only evidence of the upcoming festive season were some premature Christmas cards on display but no doubt it won't be long before the rest of the seasonal decorations etc will be joining them. PLEASE don't start playing any Christmas music for the next three months!

Brierley Park at Huthwaite will be the location for our next walk on Monday 28th September, leaving at 10.30am. There should be plenty of room in the cafe this time as the children should all be back at school! Andrew and Susan Goodison

John Perry JP

Our speaker last month, Michelle Welsh MP, had to cancel her visit at the last minute.

We were very fortunate to have John Perry, Publicity Officer of Bingham u3a, come and talk about his life in the Magistrate Courts in Nottingham.

He presented members with questions on our thoughts/decisions on the outcome of some fictional cases, challenging!

He also encouraged us to organise a visit to the courts in Nottingham.



Odeon Group

After the summer break our first event at the Odeon was to the Andre Rieu concert film from Maastricht. Amazing as always! It featured the large orchestra, soloists, local singers and a very large troupe of ballroom dancers.

We were beguiled as usual. The music was varied and included modern as well as classical so something for everyone. A most enjoyable time and we all came away uplifted and happy. That's what his concerts do !! Join us for the next concert of his at the Odeon on Sunday 6th December at 2.15pm.



The ballets and operas start end of October with Manon on Tuesday 27th October at 7.15. and Carmen on Tuesday 10th November. I will be booking both of these at our October main meeting

Pam Berry

Book Group

To the Land of Long-Lost Friends by Alexander McCall Smith

Published in 2019, this was one of the No 1 Ladies Detective Agency series. Set in Botswana, the novel follows Precious Ramotswe as she becomes involved in several mysteries while also dealing with the personal concerns of the people around her.

None of our group enjoyed the book which they found very difficult to read because of all the names and, although there were humorous parts, it was overall uninspiring. It was the 20th book in the series so there must be people out there who do enjoy them!

Not one to recommend!

Betty Foster

Lunch Group 2

We weren't singing for our supper we were queuing to order our lunch at The Sherwood in Rainworth. Sixteen of us enjoyed the usual good quality of food and service from the staff, always friendly and welcoming.



On our list for another visit probably early New Year

Jackie Massey



Snapshot Gallery



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
Ian Hibbert	ianmusic@gmail.com	07792 523765	Groups Coordinator
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
David Gelsthorpe	gelsthorpenorma22@hotmail.com	01623 481502	Casual Committee member
Maureen Vickers	maureenvickers63@gmail.com	07800 799095	Casual Committee Member
Linda Tift	tifty2404@gmail.com	07950 646620	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.



Indoor games

Strollers

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the eclipse through a colander!

