



**Committee Members**

Chairman - Bruce McDowell  
Secretary - Glyn Stokes  
Treasurer - Hazel McDowell  
Membership - Liz Elmore  
Groups - Ken Gardner  
Speakers - Brendan Hallisey  
Catering - Henry Shaw  
Newsletter - Jane Cusworth

**LIVE**  
**LAUGH**  
**LEARN**  
**(TOGETHER)**

**Ramsey U3A Officers**

Welfare Officer - Fran Holland

**Publicity Officers**

Enid Hubbard: Aspire  
publicity@ramseyu3a.org.uk  
Dave Cusworth: Posters

Sheila Gilbert-Hill: Website  
www.ramseyu3a.org.uk

**NEXT MEETING - Tuesday 13th February**

**Speaker — Graham Sheldon, A Bandmaster’s Life**

**Tabletop Display—Mahjong**

**JANUARY MEETING**

It was lovely to see everyone back after the Christmas break and our chairman, Bruce, wished everyone a Happy New Year. After the usual notices, an update on travel was given by Jane. Shirley Hammond is hoping to organize the Houses of Parliament and River Trip for Saturday 23rd March and members were asked to sign-up as 35 members are needed to make it a viable proposition. Additional people are also needed for the Bournemouth holiday to take place. Bruce introduced Adrian Kempster, a new member who is interested in forming a group for those interested in either playing, or learning to play, the harmonica.

Bruce then introduced our speaker, Len Priestley, who regaled us with stories of his working life as a delivery driver, lorry driver and eventually running his own removals company. He had some wonderful stories to tell and kept us smiling with sometimes quite risqué anecdotes. He was such a lovely man and nothing was ever too much trouble. Such a refreshing change from how company’s appear to operate today.

**BOURNEMOUTH HOLIDAY : 20th—24th May 2024**

**to include visits to Winchester Cathedral, Beaulieu Palace House & National Motor Museum, Athelhampton House & Gardens and free time to explore Bournemouth**

**£637 per person (£90 single supplement) Still short of numbers for this holiday**

£50 deposit payable on completion of booking form

Price includes 5 days Dews coach hire, 4 nights half-board at the Carlton Hotel, Eastcliff, Bournemouth  
ABTA protection with Greatdays Travel.

For further details or to sign up contact Jane Cusworth (01487 814984)

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

This month we would like to welcome Christine Mally and Margaret Thornton to our u3a. We hope they will enjoy their time with us and take full advantage of the groups on offer and continue to Live, Laugh and Learn.

**WELCOMERS** are available in the foyer at general meetings to help visitors and ‘not so new’ members know who to go to if they have questions or need help. If you feel you could volunteer to do this, please let Liz (Membership Secretary) have your details and she will make you a badge.

## PROPOSED DAY TRIPS for 2024

### **Houses of Parliament & River Thames Cruise - Saturday 23rd March - approx. £56.50 pp**

Weekdays have proven too difficult to arrange so we are going for a Saturday and hope members will give us their support. Departure time is to be confirmed, when we will travel to London by Dews luxury coach. We will be dropped off by the Victoria Tower in Abbingdon Street for a short walk to the Houses of Parliament. Tour times are yet to be confirmed and whether they are with a tour guide or 'set your own pace' with a multi-media tour. Allow 90 minutes. After the tour we will make our way to Westminster Bridge for a cruise up the River Thames to Greenwich. This takes about an hour so there should be time to look around before our coach picks us up to take us back to Ramsey.

### **National Memorial Arboretum, Burton-on-Trent - Thursday 5th September -£TBC**

Further details and price of this day trip will be available at the February meeting.

**Suggestions** - we have received some lovely ideas for day trips and will be considering these at our next travel meeting.

Sign-up sheets will be available at general meetings.

Details of day trips and holidays can be found on the Ramsey & District u3a website.

For further information, please contact a member of the travel committee.

## NORTHUMBERLAND HOLIDAY : 30th September - 4th October 2024

to include visits to Lindisfarne, Alnwick Castle and Beamish, the Living Museum of the North

**£549 per person**    **Waiting list only**

£50 deposit payable on completion of booking form

Price includes 5 days Dews coach hire, 4 nights half-board at the Ramada Encore, Newcastle Gateshead

ABTA protection with Greatdays Travel.

For further details contact Jane Cusworth (01487 814984)

## ACTIVITY GROUP NEWS

**Group news and dates can be found on the Ramsey & District u3a website, on the notice board at General Meetings and in the Aspire magazine.**

**Harmonica Group** - Adrian Kempster has put forward the suggestion of a Harmonica group. If members can already play, then they are welcome to come along and play; if not, tuition will be given. Due to the nature of the group it is necessary to have your own harmonica but guidance will be given on the best place to purchase. A sign-up sheet will be at the February meeting.

### **General Meeting - Tabletop display**

The Mahjong group will be on display at the February meeting. Should you wish to know more about this fascination game then please speak with our group leader - Bill Elmore.

Please let me know what your group is doing so I can include details and even photographs in the monthly Newsletter.

## EAST OF ENGLAND and U3A NATIONAL NEWS

Our East of England Regional Trustee, Maurice Austin, attended our December meeting to watch the thespians perform and was very impressed with the professionalism of everyone involved. He has already asked if he can have an invitation to this year's performance.

The National u3a Festival for 2024 is being held between 18-20 July. Further details will be issued as they are available.

**For more information, visit our website: [www.ramseyu3a.org.uk](http://www.ramseyu3a.org.uk)**

### JOKES

- I was addicted to the hokey pokey, but then I turned myself around.
- People who use selfie sticks really need to have a good long look at themselves.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. It's impossible to put down.
- It was an emotional wedding, even the cake was in tiers.
- I just got kicked out of a secret cooking society. I spilled the beans.