



### 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 12th March

**Speaker — Mike Wade “That Rings a Bell”**

**The History of the Town Crier**

**Tabletop Display — Digital Photography**

## FEBRUARY MEETING

Liz Elmore, our Vice Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and after the usual housekeeping notices, she asked members to consider helping to run their u3a by becoming a committee member and putting themselves forward for the AGM in April. Jane was then invited to update members on travel (full details are included in this newsletter).

Liz then introduced our speaker, Graham Sheldon speaking about his Bandmaster’s Life. He was born in London in 1960 and began playing the cornet at the age of 8. After joining the Army as a junior Musician in 1976 he eventually enjoyed a very successful career in the Band of HM Irish Guards, before his retirement from the Army in 2000. He eventually took up his appointment with the RAF Wyton Voluntary Band in April 2002. The Band undertakes a wide variety of engagements every year, ranging from formal concerts to military parades. Concert venues have recently included St Paul’s Cathedral, Peterborough Cathedral, IWM Duxford and Ramsey for their annual Proms Concert. Graham also brought with him two members of the Band who were available to sell CDs and other gift items, with all the money from sales given to RAF Wyton Station Charities.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN RAMSEY

**PIANO RECITAL by Alex Tsvetkov**

**also Josh Cusworth performing on trumpet**

Saturday 2nd March 7pm at St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey

Tickets cost £15 (children free)

**LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS - Royal Air Force Wyton Voluntary Band**

Saturday 20th April 7.30pm at Abbey College, Ramsey

Tickets cost £10 (under 16s free)

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

All potential members are ‘visitors’ this month, ready to join in March for the 2024/5 annual subscription.

**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.

## DAY TRIPS for 2024

### Houses of Parliament & River Thames Cruise - Saturday 23rd March - £56pp (Balance due by 8th March)

We depart from Ramsey at 8am to arrive in London where we will be dropped off at Victoria Tower in Abbingdon Street for a short walk to the Houses of Parliament when our tour will commence at 11.15am. This is a multimedia tour lasting approx. 90 minutes but you can set your own pace. You will then have time for a snack or picnic before making your own way to Westminster Pier to arrive 15 mins before the boat leaves at 2.30pm. There is no food or drink available on the boat but there is a live commentary (WiFi audio commentary for smartphones), toilets, and the boat is wheelchair and stroller accessible. The cruise lasts about 1 hour so when you disembark at Greenwich, you should have time to look round before you pick up the coach for your journey back at 4.30pm.

### Wroxham Barns & Great Yarmouth - Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July - £28pp (£10 non-refundable deposit. Balance due by 12th June)

We will leave from Ramsey at 8am and should arrive at Wroxham Barns between 10-10.30am. This is a leisure and shopping complex with boutiques, craft studios, as well as a kids' farm, funfair and restaurant. At 12.30 we will leave to continue on to Great Yarmouth where you can enjoy fish & chips, two piers, funfairs, beautiful gardens along the promenade, a model village and so much more before we return home at 3.30pm.

### National Memorial Arboretum - Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September - £31pp (£10 non-refundable deposit. Balance due by 18th July) Optional Land Train Tour : £6.50pp

We will leave the Ramsey Clock at 8am for our journey to the National Memorial Arboretum, where we will be met and taken to enjoy a 15-minute Welcome Talk with coffee or tea provided. An Act of Remembrance takes place each day at 10.50am in the Millennium Chapel for FREE and we should be in time for those who want to attend this. Wheelchairs and mobility scooters are FREE to hire but have to be booked in advance and you will be able to explore in your own way. There are a wide variety of cafes and restaurants for you to enjoy drinks and lunch, or you can take your own picnic to eat in the beautiful grounds. Return to the coach for 4 pm to journey home to Ramsey. Full details of the Land Train will be distributed when we know how many people have requested this facility.

**Payments:** Whenever possible payment should be by Bank Transfer using **HoP, Wroxham or Arboretum** as the reference, made to **Ramsey u3a Travel**, Lloyds Bank, Sort Code: 30-99-50 A/C No: 75226568. Only when this is not possible, payment may be made by cheque payable to Ramsey U3A Travel or cash. Only fully paid up U3A members can take part in day trips.

Sign-up sheets will be available at general meetings or 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 March meeting.

**General Meeting - Tabletop display** - The Digital Photography group will be on display at the March meeting. Should you wish to know more about this group, please speak with the group leader - Bruce McDowell.

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

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

- What's the difference between the bird flu and the swine flu? One requires tweetment the other oinkment.
- Have you heard about the corduroy pillow? It's making headlines!
- Why don't eggs tell jokes? They crack up too easily.
- What do you call a row of rabbits hopping away? A receding hare line.
- How did the barber win the race? He knew a shortcut.