



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
Officer - Rita Aggarwal
Officer - Viv Carr

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 14th May

Speakers — Alison and Val from the Ramsey Neighbourhood Trust
Group Display — Writing for Pleasure

APRIL AGM MEETING

The Ramsey & District u3a AGM took place at the start of the meeting and after welcoming everyone, the various officers gave their reports. The Treasurer advised that we were in a good financial position and the annual subscription would remain at £17 per member. The admission for the monthly general meeting would be reduced to £1 per member and £2 per visitor. Membership was now at 208 and already over 70% of members had renewed their subscriptions. Thanks were given to Maureen, who resigned during the year. Those committee members staying on were re-elected by a show of hands. Two new members, Viv Carr and Rita Aggarwal were elected and welcomed to the committee. Hazel advised everyone that she would step-down once Brendan was happy in the position of Treasurer. Formal closure of the AGM was declared.

Bruce then introduced our speaker for the day, Peter Tatum, who was visiting us from Haverhill u3a to talk about The Fens and Fenmen. There was a slight mix-up with speakers as Peter had arrived a month early, but Alison and Val from the Neighbourhood Trust were very understanding and offered to come and talk to us in May.

Peter's passion is walking and during his walks he came across the Fen Rivers Way, which created an interest in all things to do with the Fens. We heard about the many people who originated in the Fens, including Hereward the Wake. Wisbech was once on the edge of The Wash but due to silting, it is now 10 miles inland. There were photos of the Holme Post showing how the land has shrunk since this post was originally put in, showing how far below sea level the Fens are sinking. Draining of the Fens has been going on since 1487 culminating in the Denver Sluice being built by Cornelius Vermuyden in 1651, and being rebuilt in 1834. It was reconstructed in 1982-86 and is a major contributor in keeping the Fens drained.

Peter retold many stories of strange happenings in The Fens from *Mucky Porter and the Grey Goose Feather* and *Shady Meg, The Burning Witch*. A most interesting afternoon completed with tea/coffee, biscuits and good conversation.

MEET & GREET

The date for our Meet & Greet Meeting is Friday 17th May and will be for all new members. An invitation has gone out and we hope as many of you as possible will attend to learn more about what the Ramsey & District u3a has to offer. If you haven't received an invitation and would like to attend, please contact Ken Gardner.

The Meet & Greet is an opportunity for new members to see what Group Activities are all about and we try to get as many Group Leaders as possible to have a table to 'show their wears'. They will be on hand to talk briefly about their group, answer any questions members might have, and also to encourage new members to join their groups and benefit from the u3a adage 'to live, laugh and learn'. A demonstration of the Ramsey & District u3a website will be given.

DAY TRIPS for 2024

Due to the excellent support we have received from members, the cost of the following day trips has been reduced.

Wroxham Barns & Great Yarmouth - Thursday 4th July - £24pp (£10 non-refundable deposit. Balance due by 12th June)

We will leave from the Ramsey Clock 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 5th September - £25pp (£10 non-refundable deposit. Balance due by 18th July)

Optional Land Train Tour : £6.50pp

We will leave from the Ramsey Clock at 8am for our journey to the National Memorial Arboretum. An Act of Remembrance service takes place each day at 10.50am in the Millennium Chapel for FREE for those who want to attend. The Land Train has been booked for 12 noon for those who opted for this facility. Wheelchairs and mobility scooters are FREE to hire but you will have to book in advance if you want one. Otherwise 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.

Payments: Whenever possible payment should be by Bank Transfer using **Wroxham** or **NMA** 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

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our new members this month, Wendy Thorpe and Leslie Robinson. 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. If you feel you could help, please let Liz (Membership Secretary) have your name and she will make you a badge.

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.

Knits that Matter are now meeting on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at a new venue, the Ramsey Town Council Meeting Room on the Gt Whyte. If anyone thinks they might like to join, please come along at 2pm for a taster session before committing, or contact Ken Gardner.

Two new groups—**Astronomy** and **Harmonica** are just getting started so if anyone would like to join please contact Ken and he will put you in touch with the leaders.

If you find it difficult to attend any of the activity groups, have you considered looking at the [Online Learning Events](#) - these are mainly Zoom presentations and cover a multitude of interesting subjects.

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

JOKES

- I went to the doctor with a suspicious looking mole. He told me they all look that way and I should have left it in the garden.
- 70% of the earth is water, and virtually none of it is carbonated. So the earth is, in fact flat.
- What do you call a lazy kangaroo? A pouch potato.
- What kind of car does an egg drive? A yolkswagon.
- What kind of award does the world's top dentist get? A little plaque.