



u3a

learn, laugh, live

DEREHAM

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GROUP NEWS

Men, it's not too late

Don't panic if you've not yet volunteered to be involved with the Third Age Players group play later this year.....there is still time!

Men in particular are needed to fill roles in this courtroom drama.

No experience is required and, as it will be performed *script-in-hand*, it will not be necessary to learn lines by heart.

Contact convenor, Russell Baylin, through the group page, Third Age Players, on the Dereham U3A website: https://dereham.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/third-age-players/

FOR THE CURIOUS 2026

These varied talks are held in Trinity Methodist Church Hall in Theatre Street and are open to all. The meetings start at 2.00pm, last about an hour and are followed by refreshments. They are always on the last Friday of the month.

Moving forward we will be charging £5.00 entrance fee

Our next talk is as follows:
April 24th - David Robinson
Archaeology of Anglo-Saxon England

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP 2026

14th April - The Strangers: Weavers or Rebels - Christopher Joby
2.00 PM at the Baptist Church in Dereham. Doors open at 1.30 PM.

Full programme 2026 can be accessed via website, groups, local history for by clicking on this [LINK](#).

Some friendly requests:

- Please consider helping with serving tea and coffee after our meeting.
- Should 1 or 2 be interested in helping with planning the programme for 2027/8, please let Lynette or Margaret know by contacting via their groups page. They would love to hear from you, and it will help greatly to ensure the group continues.

FROM THE CHAIR – Pauline Lowe Group/Renewals Day

Our recent Groups and Renewals Day was a great success, with strong attendance and a steady flow of visitors, including many prospective members. We're pleased to welcome a significant number of new members, reflecting the continued appeal of our organisation. We would also encourage more members to come forward to start new groups or add to existing ones.

A highlight of the day was the excellent range of group displays, showcasing the passion and creativity of our members and attracting very positive feedback.

Thank you to everyone who helped organise the event, ran displays, welcomed visitors, and provided refreshments—your efforts made the day run smoothly.

It was a wonderful reminder of the strength of our community, and we look forward to building on this success in the months ahead.





**WE NEED WE NEED WE NEED
YOU YOU YOU**

One of the most pressing issues facing us as a committee is the number of vacant roles currently being covered by existing members. At present, several committee members are undertaking multiple responsibilities to keep Dereham U3A running smoothly. While this demonstrates commitment and goodwill, it is simply not sustainable in the longer term.

No organisation can thrive when too much rests on too few shoulders. The workload is increasing as our membership grows, and spreading ourselves ever thinner is neither fair nor responsible. Committee roles exist for a reason – to share responsibility, maintain transparency, and ensure resilience. An organisation run by volunteers cannot continue without sufficient volunteers willing to take on its core responsibilities.

The following positions are available:

- Vice Chair**
- Secretary**
- Monthly Meetings Secretary**
- Communications Officer**
- Group Convenors to start more interest Groups or add to extra groups for those already in place.**

Role Descriptions are at the end of this newsletter and only require a small commitment.

If you feel you can come to our rescue, then please contact Pauline on paulineloweu3a@icloud.com.

MONTHLY MTGS – MEMORIAL HALL

Doors open 1:30pm, speaker commences at 2pm

PLEASE NOTE THE 2 FRONT ROWS IN THE HALL ARE TO SEAT THE LESS ABLE BODIED.

MARHAM HERITAGE CENTRE Sharon Serpell

Can I say, 'thank you U3a' for the circular sent out about the Aviation Heritage Centre at RAF Marham – what an interesting and informative find. My husband and I spent a few hours there today informing ourselves on aviation history.

We were greeted by an enthusiastic and extremely knowledgeable ex-RAF gentleman called James who introduced us to the museum, before we started our self-guided tour. Starting with WW11 including an actual Barnes Wallis 'Highball' which preceded his bouncing bomb but never saw service – still very thought-provoking.

I found the Falklands Conflict between April and June 1982 interesting especially the 7 Black Buck operations. Pilots flying their Vulcan bombers, radio silence, to destroy the runway at Port Stanley denying the Argentines use of the airfield. The pilots flew, knowing if they didn't rendezvous with their refuelling tanker in mid-air, they would never return because the Vulcan was a mid-range plane not long distance – what courage.

There was so much to see and take in from uniforms to control panels and a TIALD 500 pod to a nuclear bomb. You don't need to be a passionate military lover to enjoy this place – I wasn't.

Put PE33 9NX into your sat nav and it will take you to the door.

Open every Tuesday and Wednesday between 10am – 4pm.

A donation afterwards is very welcome. Whoops nearly forgot, you're given a cuppa and chocolate bikkie to enjoy!





JOLLY DAYS OUT



Contact: Trudy Gust/Jan Hayes-Griffin

Email: jollydaysout@gmail.com



Our outing to Duxford was fantastic! The group enjoyed a fascinating talk on the Lancaster Bomber, some of which was conducted inside the aircraft. Somewhat surprisingly, all of us managed to manoeuvre ourselves in and out of it without injury! We also visited the Sector Operations Room and learned about the logistics of how aircraft were deployed during the Battle of Britain. An unexpected bonus was a photo opportunity and talk on a Mark I Spitfire. Aside from the huge number of aircraft on the site, the information and anecdotes passed on by the guides made the day very special.

Audley End House and Gardens and Saffron Walden - Wednesday 22nd April

There are still places available for this outing.

Audley End House and Gardens is the best place in England to discover how a great house worked in the past. In the afternoon we will visit Saffron Walden, a picturesque, medieval town, in north-west Essex which has a rich heritage of old buildings reflecting its wealth as a rural market town. Click [here](#) for further details.

Cost per person: £23.50.

Expected timings: Picking up from Cherry Tree car park Dereham at 08.45

Picking up from Swaffham Market Place bus stop by the Old Grammar School at 09.15

Journey time from Swaffham approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes, subject to traffic.

Colchester Living History Festival - Monday 25th May

Step back in time this Late May Bank Holiday as 1,000 re-enactors, roaring cannons, and thundering cavalry come to Alresford Hall, near Colchester, for the largest English Civil War re-enactment Essex has ever seen!

Whether you're a history enthusiast looking for a unique day out, or simply curious to see cannons fire and horses charge once more across Colchester's fields, this is history brought to life, louder and more thrilling than ever. To book, and for further details, click [here](#).

Cost per person: £49 - a £10 deposit will secure your place, with the balance payable at the beginning of April - a reminder will be sent).

Timings: Picking up from Cherry Tree car park Dereham at 09.00

Picking up from Swaffham Market Place bus stop by the Old Grammar School at 09.30

Journey time from Swaffham approximately 1 hour, 45 minutes, subject to traffic

Victor Sailing Barge, Ipswich - Wednesday 17th June

Sailing Barge Victor is a perfect marriage of a majestic and traditionally rigged 19th century sailing vessel with comfortable, modern facilities for guests.

A reasonable level of mobility will be needed for this trip, as toilets and the bar are downstairs, accessed by a loft-style ladder.

Cost per person: £49 - a £10 deposit will secure your place, with the balance payable at the beginning of May (a reminder will be sent). Timings: Picking up Swaffham Market Place bus stop by the Old Grammar School at 09.30.

Picking up from Cherry Tree car park Dereham at 10.00.

Journey time from Dereham approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes, subject to traffic

**** At the time of writing, Only 5 places are available for this trip, so book [here](#) as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. ****

Belvoir Castle Flower and Garden Show - Saturday 11th July

Nestled in the breathtaking grounds of Belvoir Castle, the 2026 Flower and Garden Show is shaping up to be our biggest and most exciting event yet!

Perfect for garden enthusiasts and anyone seeking a magical day out in nature, this unmissable event is packed with inspiration and beauty. Gardening experts Adam Frost, David Domoney, Paula Routledge and Karen Gimson will be giving talks and demonstrations.

Cost per person: £59 - a £10 deposit will secure your place, with the balance payable at the beginning of June (a reminder will be sent). Ticket price includes entry to the castle and gardens, as well as the garden and flower show. Sign up for your place [here](#).

Picking up from Cherry Tree car park Dereham at 08.00

Picking up from Swaffham Market Place bus stop by the Old Grammar School at 08.30

Timings: Journey time from Dereham approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes, subject to traffic

Our preference is for you to complete forms on the [Outings page](#) of the Dereham U3a website to book. If you aren't able to complete the form(s) online, either email jollydaysout@gmail.com, or call Trudy on 07748 991522.



COMMITTEE ROLES 2026/27

VICE CHAIR

- Uphold the constitution of the relevant u3a.
- Be aware of the common responsibilities of all trustees (committee members).
- Deputise for the Chair in his/her absence.
- Assist the Chair in organising special events.
- Act as a sounding board for the Chair.
- Be prepared to help the Chair induct new committee members as Trustees.

THE SECRETARY

The Secretary is the official link with the National Office and other outside bodies. The role also includes receiving general correspondence, keeping the Chair and committee well informed, compiling the agenda for monthly Committee meetings, in consultation with the Chair and sending this out at least a week before the meeting.

The role also includes the responsibility for booking the venue for monthly meetings and any extra dates as required.

An up-to-date record of all Committee Members contact details should be kept and circulated to the committee, along with keeping full and accurate files including Minutes, advice sheets, information leaflets etc.

The Secretary is responsible for making sure all paperwork is in order for the AGM, making sure members are aware of the date in time and have access to forms for electing new Committee Members (when applicable) and tabling any questions.

MONTHLY MEETINGS SECRETARY

This position requires the sourcing and booking of speakers for each monthly meeting, selecting speakers on a range of topics that will be interesting, thought provoking and enjoyable.

Speakers are to be advised of our requirements, fees and travel expenses agreed. There is a certain leeway regarding fees but if a speaker requests a fee exceeding £150 this needs to be endorsed by the Committee.

The Monthly Meetings Secretary will keep a record of the speakers, giving a copy to the Memorial Hall stating what equipment will be required on the day and a copy to the Publicity Officer for inclusion in the monthly newsletter and on the website. Speakers should be contacted about 10 days prior to the meeting to confirm details.

The Monthly Meetings Secretary will meet the speaker in the foyer, help with their set up, organise drinking water and refreshments, assist with packing away, as needed and make sure a cheque is available from the Treasurer for payment. An email of thanks is sent following the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

The job entails being responsible for the creation and issue of the Newsletter, issued monthly, in hard copy and electronic version, collection information from officers and members to create a relevant and current diary of U3A Dereham activities and be a ready point of access for notices of these activities.

They are also responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the website and encourage members to report activities and provide details for inclusion on the website.

They should also be available to assist in any Dereham U3A activity to promote interest and membership.