

Rutland u3a newsletter

April 2022

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

A note from the Chairman

I have just come home after a lovely Easter with some family members. It was great to be able to sit in the garden in warm sunshine and to do a couple of walks in the wonderful Yorkshire Dales.

Our April speaker, Ian Bedford gave a very good polished talk about Companion Planting. It was good to see so many of you at Victoria Hall to hear him.

Alex Leger is our May speaker on May 5th. He will be telling us about his Blue Peter days. Claire Kavanagh will continue to provide coffee at £1 per cup.

You will have received an e mail from our secretary, Hedley Greaves, letting you know about the change of date for our June meeting (9th instead of 2nd) because of the Jubilee bank holiday. We will hold our AGM at this meeting.

Some members have mentioned to me that they miss the social outings that we used to have. Is anyone out there interested in helping to organise a social calendar? We are blessed with a couple of members on the old social committee but two members are not enough. Ideas for outings will also be gratefully received.

With good wishes

Ros



Thank-you to everyone who contributed to this month's newsletter. If you have run or taken part in a U3A activity we would love to hear about it. Please send items for next month to: rutlandu3a.info@gmail.com or via the website

The deadline for publication for the next edition of the newsletter is 20th May 2022

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Monthly Meeting at the Victoria Hall - Thursday 5 May 10..00 for 10.30am

Alex Leger: Adventures behind the lens - hot rocks and high places.

Alex grew up in Devon and left Exeter School to join Voluntary Service Overseas to teach in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate. He returned to the UK to study industrial engineering and management sciences at Loughborough University.

He joined the army and spent two years training recruits in the Aldershot area before joining the BBC as a very junior management consultant. He subsequently found opportunity to work in television becoming a producer and location director for the children's programme Blue Peter. He is author of two books, the first of which is an account of life behind the camera during his 36 years on the programme.

Luck played its part a when Alex joined the Blue Peter programme in 1975. The presenters were John Noakes, Peter Purves and Lesley Judd. He describes pivotal events in broadcasting and memorable encounters with an erupting volcano, gorillas in Uganda and a life-threatening storm at sea. These and other events like John Noakes climbing Nelson's Column secured his position as a producer for 36 years. Others caused a stir like LuLu the baby elephant who ran amok and created probably the funniest moment in Blue Peter history.



The ever popular Christmas Lunch is booked for Thursday 1st December 2022 at Barnsdale Lodge Hotel.

There will be more details nearer the time but certainly one for your diary.

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Your U3A needs you – NOW!



At our AGM in June nominations will be requested for members of the Executive Committee. The U3A Constitution specifies that there will be a minimum of five members. Each member can serve for six consecutive years. Currently there are eight members and one prospective member which gives no reserve capacity.

In June our Chairman will be retiring meaning that some Committee positions will go unfilled during 2022/23.

During 2023/24 a further 3 members will serve their last year taking the number below 5. **If this occurs the Rutland U3A will have to close.**

As you can see it is imperative that we recruit new members of the committee. This is not an onerous role; in fact we have a lot of fun. Meetings are held at approximately 6 weekly intervals and the workload is light. We need co-opted members now so that they can learn how the committee works.

If you want to ensure the continuation of a very successful U3A please put your name forward or talk to a committee member.

Hedley Greaves
Secretary

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New groups & groups seeking more members

Groups seeking additional members:

For contact links see: <https://u3asites.org.uk/rutland/groups>

Android Tablet Users Group - We currently have vacancies. Please contact the Group Leader via the hyperlink on the group page.

Tai Chi -(Thursdays 2.30pm) Please contact Janet, Tel: 01664 474116

Watercolour - We meet on the first and third Monday of the month at 1.30pm in The Lord Nelson. We currently have 1 vacancy. Please contact the Group Leader via the hyperlink on the group page.

Basic Computing - Previous meetings have taken place on Wednesday pm in Oakham. Please contact Phil email: phil.grimley@hotmail.co.uk for more information

Apps from Scratch - We meet every three to four weeks to explore the technology behind web sites, and more. We would love more people to join us - please email us using the link on our group page.

Scrabble Group 3 - GROUP LEADER: Ralph Carter. We currently have vacancies - new members are most welcome to come along and join us. No experience necessary. Currently meeting at The Lord Nelson pub, Oakham at 2.00pm on 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. There is an expectation that a tea or coffee is purchased at The Lord Nelson.

English Country Dancing - First Wednesday of the month (excepting January, when it is the second Wednesday) at 2pm at VAR building, Lands End Way, Oakham. Please contact Pam, Tel: 01572 724387

Play Reading 2 - Meeting on the fourth Thursday morning of the month. Contact Melanie or Derek Grant via the hyperlink on the Play Reading 2 link page.

Intermediate Italian - Meeting on alternate Tuesday afternoons and very keen to hear from anyone interested in developing their skills in Italian. Please contact Julie Garner

Current Affairs Discussion Group 2 - We meet monthly, usually at The Lord Nelson in Oakham. If you are interested in joining us, please contact [Alan Hodgkinson](#).

Living History - We meet at 10am on the third Monday of the month. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Lucy Marsland via rutlandu3a.members@gmail.com

French for Fun - We are a beyond beginners French group and are looking for new members. We meet at 2pm on the first and third Wednesday of the month at The Lord Nelson. Please contact [Sallie Chester](#) if you are interested in joining us.

Poetry Appreciation - We would welcome a couple of new members. We meet in members' homes at 2pm on the third Wednesday of every month (except August). Please contact Charles Lawrence via the group page if you are interested.

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News from the Groups

Possible New Group - Art Appreciation 3

There are plans for a third Art Appreciation group. There will be a sign up sheet at the April Victoria Hall Meeting or alternatively please contact Sharon, the groups coordinator on 07796931828 or rutlandu3a.groups@gmail.com.

There will be a first meeting for those interested in the Snug at the Wisteria in Oakham between 10am and noon on Monday 23rd May to discuss how the group can progress.



Wine Tasting Group

There will be an initial meeting of a new Wine and Wine Tasting Group - 09:30 Tuesday 10 May at Strays Coffee Shop, High Street, Oakham.

Interested? Come along or contact Sharon Pratt on 07796931818 or via rutlandu3a.groups@gmail.com.



u3a Learning events

There are a number of upcoming free online learning events using Zoom. Of interest are:

- Pre-war Blues a 4 week course on the origins of blues music. Thursdays in May.
- Laughter Yoga workshop. 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10am.
- Cryptic crosswords for beginners. May and June
- The Stories of the Willow Pattern Plate. 13th May 2pm
- Exploring World Faiths: Buddha Day. 16th May 10am
- The women who took revenge. (art) 17th May 10am
- Japan: Lasting Impressions. 24th May 10.30am
- Geometric Abstraction (art) 27th May 2pm

More information can be found on the u3a website:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

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News from the Groups



Rummikub Group

Rummikub is a fascinating, but not a difficult game involving numbers and the arrangement...or in terms of our opponents, the re-arrangement thereof!

There are no complicated rules, so the meetings are light hearted and friendly, although a degree of concentration is required on occasions.

Rummikub is an easy game to learn and it exercises the brain.

The group is a mixture of couples and single people. It is a fun group and not competitive, so no prizes, but a lot of laughter, tea and cake.

On the right is a picture from one of our recent games

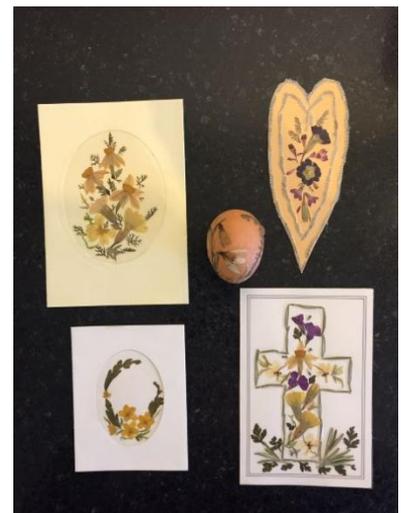


Pressed Flower Group



The group next meets at 14:30 on Wednesday 18 May and has one vacancy.

Anyone who is interested please contact Sharon Pratt on 07796931818 or via rutlandu3a.groups@gmail.com



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News from the Groups

The talented members of the photographic group are again sharing with us their beautiful photographs of nature and the world around us



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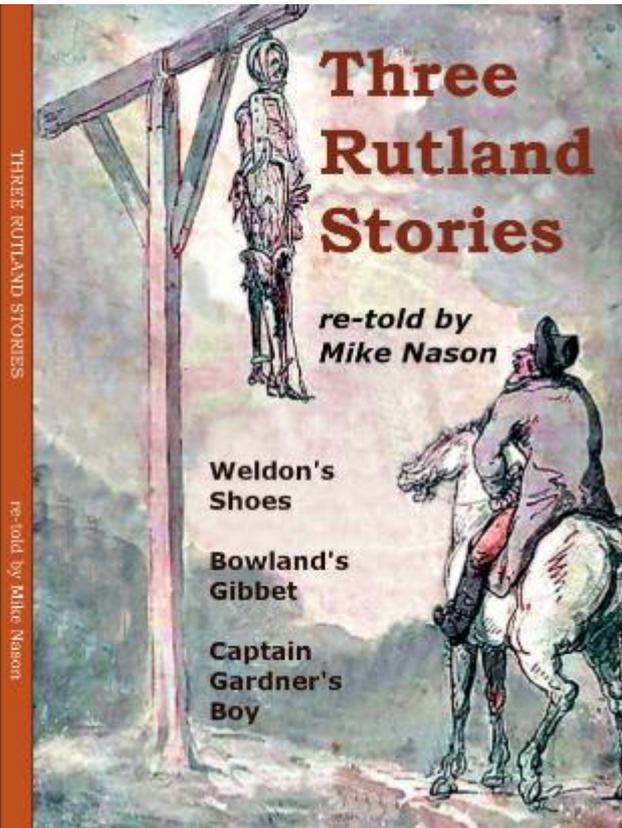
Three Rutland Stories

The narratives are based on events that took place in the years 1769, 1788, and 1803.

Weldon's Shoes recounts the 1788 murder of local baker, John Freeman, in Hambleton by William and Richard Weldon. While in gaol awaiting trial, Richard also murdered the gaoler, Henry Lumley. The brothers were hanged and then gibbeted near to where Freeman was murdered.

Bowland's Gibbet tells the poignant story of John Bowland, who seems to have been a Walter Mitty character. After he robbed a post boy at gunpoint on Empingham Common, the Post Office investigators apprehended him and he was hanged in Oakham, and gibbeted near the scene of his crime in July 1769.

Captain Gardner's Boy traces the history of a black child, buried in Hambleton churchyard in 1803. John Gardner was a Royal Navy lieutenant and in 1801 he sailed home from the Cape of Good Hope to England, with his servant boy. A few days after the birth of John Gardner's first son, the boy walked out into a Rutland winter's night.



One of our members, Mike Nason has produced a small local history book which looks interesting. It is 114 pages with a soft gloss cover and is for sale at the museum and in the High Street for £6.99. One reader said *"I read your book last week - lovely learning about our local history and your use of surviving landmarks to put it all into context"*.

The book tells the stories of the murder of a local baker in 1788, the hanging of a robber in 1769 who had robbed a post boy on Empingham Common and the death of a black child buried in Hambleton Churchyard in 1803. All sound of interest to those of us interested in the history of the county in which we live.

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Community News

ACTIVE RUTLAND WALKING & CYCLING FESTIVAL



21ST MAY -
1ST JUNE 2022

www.activerutland.org.uk/
walkingandcyclingfestival

01572 720936
ACTIVERUTLAND@
RUTLAND.GOV.UK


**Active
Rutland**

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2021/22

Committee Members

Chairman

Ros Kenny

Company Secretary

Hedley Greaves

Treasurer

Bob Bennett

Data Protection

Bryan Howard

Digital Inclusion

Sue Morecroft

Groups coordinator

Sharon Pratt

Membership Secretary

Lucy Marsland

Speakers Secretary

Wanda Allen

Social Secretary

Vacancy

Committee advisers and helpers

Publicity

Jill Stacey

Minutes

Vacancy

Website

Phil Grimley

Hall set up and AV

Peter and Jane Hammond

Michael Seccombe

Beacon

Vic Newland

IT

Mike Shea

Social Team

Diane Case

Janice Ferguson

Noticeboard

Anne Trigg

New Member Support

Janet Bilby

Jenny Wilce

Jane Gillon

Printing

Margaret Macpherson