

# Rutland u3a newsletter

December 2022

**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live

**u3a** learn, laugh, live

## A note from the Chairman

The disturbance to our website recently was due to a problem with the company who provides the service to The Third Age Trust. Thanks to their volunteer's diligence and our own IT team it is now restored and fully functioning.

Thanks must go to Diane Case and her social committee members for the very enjoyable Christmas Lunch at Barnsdale Lodge earlier this month. It was lovely to see so many of you there.

Thinking of our Social Committee, there are still places available for the trip to see Hairspray at Kilworth in July. It's a great fun musical and the open air theatre at Kilworth House is a very comfortable venue.

Our first speaker in the new year on Thursday January 5th is Frances Wilkins who will talk to us about The Christian family and the 18th Century smuggling trade. There will be free coffee available as usual.

Our February meeting will be our groups meeting where you can come along between 10am and 12 midday to discover what groups are available, meet the committee and socialise generally. Refreshments including cakes will be provided. It's a great, relaxed event. Think about bringing a friend to show them what Rutland u3a is all about.

I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

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](mailto:rutlandu3a.info@gmail.com) or via the website

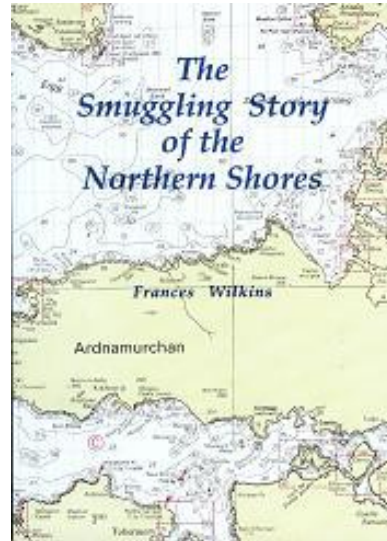
The deadline for publication for the next edition of the newsletter is 20th January 2023

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## December 2022

### Monthly Meeting at the Victoria Hall Thursday 5 January 2023 10.00 for 10.30am

Our speaker, Frances left the University of Birmingham in 1989 to become a 'wandering scholar' with a special interest in smuggling and the slave trade. 2022 marked the 30th anniversary of her involvement in exhibitions and lectures and the Wyre Forest Press, which has published more than 40 titles to date. Some of her publications will be available at the meeting.



Frances is to talk to us about John Christian of Douglas of the Isle of Man, supplied tea, tobacco, rum, brandy and wine to the smuggling trade during the 18th century.

After 1765, he moved to Ayr, became cashier to the new Bank there and partner in a Kirkcudbright company supplying the smuggling trade. When the Ayr Bank failed in 1772, Christian took his family to Dunkirk, where his son supplied goods to the East Coasts of England and Scotland. This talk looks at how the goods arrived in Dunkirk and were then smuggled along the East Coast and goes into how John Christian junior struggled to make a profit and the frustrations he experienced with his customers.

### Monthly Meeting

As well as hearing from our interesting speakers, the monthly meeting is an opportunity to meet the committee and other members and in addition find out about social activities and new groups.

You are also able to enjoy a free cup of tea or coffee on arrival.

We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.



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## December 2022

### Monthly Meeting at the Victoria Hall Thursday 2 February 2023 10.00 for 10.30am

This will be our annual Groups' Meeting in the Victoria Hall. Group Leaders and Coordinators with vacancies in their groups will be available to mingle with the members from 10:30. Two new groups - Cinema Appreciation and Astronomy - will be advertised.

There will be no formal speaker but Jill Harris is going to say a few words to the members about the Oakham Art Society.

There will be cake to go with the usual tea and coffee. Again this will be free to all and rather than a Bring and Buy we will have a 'Swap Shop' stall so that members can exchange things of use - wool for a craft group, maps, etc. (Not large as Sharon will take anything left over to the Cancer Research Charity Shop).



**Find us on facebook**

Keep up to date with what is going on  
at Rutland u3a on @rutlandu3a

# Rutland u3a newsletter

## December 2022 - Social Events

You can book your ticket for Hairspray either on-line or at a monthly meeting in the Victoria Hall, starting on 5 January 2023. See the website for the booking form: <https://u3asites.org.uk/rutland/events>



*The ultimate feelgood musical comedy*

**Hairspray**

*The Broadway Musical*

**KILWORTH HOUSE**

**THEATRE**

**Matinee on Sat 15 July 2023**

**Ticket and coach £58**

Please contact the social team

or see the u3a website



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## December 2022

### Social Events

We started the festive season with our Christmas Lunch on 1<sup>st</sup> December. 72 members met at the Barnsdale Lodge Hotel for our annual get-together, where we were able to enjoy a pre-lunch drink before sitting down to a delicious meal.



On 15<sup>th</sup> December we carried on with the 'drink and food theme' when 15 of us met at The Old Buttercross for our monthly Ad Hoc Dining event. We are always made very welcome there and look forward to the next time, which will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023. All members are most welcome to come along – just call me on 07887 990906 or Helen Shea on 07919 273192 to let us know you are coming.

Our first meeting of 2023 will be at the Victoria Hall on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January where we will continue taking bookings for the musical 'Hairspray' at Kilworth House open-air theatre, which is on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Travel will be by coach from Oakham, with a second pick-up in Uppingham, and the total cost is £58 pp. This is a popular event so do book early to secure your place!

Diane Case



# Rutland u3a newsletter - December 2022

## News from the groups

### GROUPS SEEKING ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:

#### HISTORY

Meeting 2.30pm to 4pm upstairs in The Lord Nelson on the third Wednesday of the month. Next meeting 21st December.

We follow the u3a motto of: Learn, laugh and live. We have a different theme each month. Rather than one person taking the lead we decide at the end of each meeting the subject for the next one. We are interested in the political, social, cultural, religious and financial impacts on History – any aspect, any decade.

Each participant takes an area for them to explore and present at the next meeting. For example, one meeting covered the six wives of Henry VIII. We then chose 'one wife' to research and share that research at a subsequent meeting. Railways were the subject for another meeting with contributors looking at the transport in the London area and Yorkshire. Currently we are researching archaeology with members each choosing a different archaeological site.

For more details contact Christopher Clark via the History group page.

**INDOOR BOWLS** – We meet at Melton Indoor Bowls Club on Thursdays' at 1.45pm for a 2.00pm start, with a refreshment break at 3.00 ish. We have vacancies at all levels and experience, but play mainly for social pleasure. Please contact the Group Leader, John Wilson, via the hyperlink on the group page.

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

**iPad Users Group** – We currently have vacancies. 15:00 to 16:00 on 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Please contact the Group Leader via the hyperlink on the group page.

**Current Affairs** Our meetings start on the last Wednesday morning of the month at 10am and last around two hours including a coffee break. Contact the Group Leader Marlene Branagh via the group page.

**Tai Chi** – We meet weekly. on Thursdays at 2.30pm. Please contact Janet Bilby via the hyperlink on the group page.

**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 at 2pm at VAR building, Lands End Way, Oakham (until Christmas) and then, from 4th January, at Langham Village Hall. There is a £2 charge to cover the cost of the hall hire, paid in advance via direct bank transfer. Please contact [Pam Hornby](#) via the hyperlink on the group page.

**Play Reading 2** – Meeting on the fourth Thursday morning of the month. Contact Margaret Glenn 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 via the Intermediate Italian link page.

**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 Admiral Hornblower. 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.

**The Striders** – This walking group would welcome a couple of new members. Please contact the Group Leader [Stewart MacDonald](#)

The group meets on the third Tuesday of the month. Walks are between 8 and 10 miles in length and are within a 30 minute travelling distance of Oakham. It is a full day walk usually setting off at 10.30am with a finish time of



approximately 3.30pm. All of our walks are circular walks. Walkers need to carry a packed lunch as we have a short coffee break and a lunch break en route. Once a year, usually in June, we have an "away day" where we plan a walk further afield.

**Music Appreciation** – We meet monthly on a Tuesday at 2pm. Each member is expected to take a turn at presenting a programme of an aspect of classical music using CDs, videos, U-tube etc in their own home. Topics vary from "The music of Bartok" "The life and works of Delius" "The chromatic harp" "The music of Carl Czerny" "The influence of gypsy music", to "what a conductor does" and the "art of violin making" and "Sonata form". We currently have 3 vacancies and would welcome new members who like classical music. Please contact the Group Leader [John Bagley](#) if you are interested.

**Evening Book Group** – We have one vacancy. If you are interested please contact [Anna Oliver](#) via the Ru3a Message Page.

The Evening Book Group meets about every 6 weeks, usually on a Thursday. Members take turns to choose a book and host a meeting. We can sometimes obtain copies of books from the library if we order in advance depending on what we choose.

New suggestions for groups are always welcome! You do not have to be an expert to run a group – all that is needed is interest and enthusiasm.

Contact Sharon at [rutlandu3a.groups@gmail.com](mailto:rutlandu3a.groups@gmail.com)

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## News from the groups



### New Group - Cinema Appreciation

It is suggested that the group will discuss, rather than undertake visits to the cinema (although that might also occur) a range of topics related to film such as:

- The Golden Age of Hollywood Directors
- Stardom and Stars
- Bollywood
- Foreign Language Films Oscar Winners (and losers)
- The Studio System
- Decades - e.g. films of the '70s.
- Genres - Westerns, Comedy, Romance, Historical, Thrillers, Propaganda, Horror, Fantasy, Sci-Fi, Serious Drama, Crime, Action and Musicals, etc.

The initial group meeting will take place in the Snug at The Wisteria Hotel at 2pm on Thursday, 19 of January 2023.

This will be an opportunity to discuss future meeting times, days and venue. For more information/to register an interest please contact Sharon Pratt (Groups' Coordinator) via [rutlandu3a.groups@gmail.com](mailto:rutlandu3a.groups@gmail.com) or on 07796931818.

There will be a sign up sheet available at the January meeting.

### New Group - Astronomy

This group will be led by Keith Townsend who is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. The initial Astronomy Group meeting will take place in The Snug at The Wisteria Hotel in Oakham from 2pm on Thursday 26 January to discuss the flexible format of the group - discussions, visits to observatories, physical observations, etc and the frequency - date/time and venue(s) for future group meetings. There is an expectation that a cup of tea or coffee will be purchased.

The group is open to folk who are interested in the sky and what's going on at the minute - whether they are amateurs or experienced astronomers; all will be welcome as prospective group members. For more details/to express an interest in joining this group please complete the sign in sheet at the January monthly meeting or contact Sharon Pratt, Rutland u3a Groups' Coordinator, via [rutlandu3a.groups@gmail.com](mailto:rutlandu3a.groups@gmail.com) or on 07796931818 (answerphone).





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## News from the groups

This month's impressive contribution from the photographic group:





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2022/23

## 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

Diane Case

### Additional Members

Janet Bilby

David Leary

## Committee advisers and helpers

### Publicity

Jill Stacey

### Minutes

David Leary

### Website

Phil Grimley

### Hall set up and AV

Peter and Jane Hammond

Michael Seccombe

### Beacon

Vic Newland

### IT

Mike Shea

Mike Pearson

Ted Philips

### Social Team

Norma Hardy

Debbie Massey

### Noticeboard

Anne Trigg

### New Member Support

Janet Bilby

Jane Gillon

### Printing

Margaret Macpherson