

Rutland u3a newsletter

February 2023

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

u3a learn, laugh, live

A note from the Chairman

Spring is in the air and it's so lovely to see all the bulbs sprouting in the garden. Day by day I notice more things coming back to life after winter hibernation, including me! I am so happy to see the back of January.

Our groups meeting on February 2nd was a great success, mainly thanks to the hard work of Sharon, our group's coordinator. A couple of people spoke to me of their frustration that the groups they wanted to join were full. Many of our groups do not lend themselves to large numbers. The answer to this is to set up a "mark two" (or three) group. If any of you have been disappointed by the lack of room in your chosen group, please contact Sharon or me and we can get like-minded members together. Sharon has facilitated this successfully with several groups.

It is heartening to see that we have a steady stream of new members joining us. I am looking forward to meeting some of you at coffee mornings in the near future. It goes without saying that you and your contribution to our u3a are vitally important to our future.

Just to remind you all that some of your groups will have had a risk assessment done with regard to its activities. It is your responsibility as a group member to be aware of these. You can find the relevant information on our website.

The speaker at our March meeting on 2nd (10 for 10.30, Victoria Hall) is Julie Kinnear who will talk to us about Marilyn Monroe, someone who we think we know but....do we?

Looking forward to seeing you then

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 **17th March 2023**. (Please note the earlier date due to my holiday)

Rutland u3a newsletter

February 2023

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

Julie grew up in Rutland (then part of Leicestershire) where her Father regularly took her on cycle trips to visit historic sites such as our won Oakham Castle, Kirby Maxwell Castle and the historic ruins at Bradgate Park. Luckily for her, her Father was a natural story teller and often attracted other visitors as he told Julie about the history of the places they were visiting.

Despite finding the school subject dull and boring, Julie maintained her love of love of history and reading history and historic biographies has become a life-long pleasure. Fortunately for us, she enjoys nothing more than sharing what she has learned with others. A testament to the quality of her Father's story telling ability.

Presentation: Marilyn Monroe

This international film star was born in 1926 unwanted and unloved. As well as a stellar career in the cinema, she went on to marry both a sporting legend, Joe D'maggio and America's foremost playwright, Arther Miller.

The Speaker has asked us to let you know that this presentation contains some nudity.



February Groups Meeting

Thanks to everyone who supported the Groups' Meeting in February and thanks to all those who contributed to the 'Swap Shop' which proved very popular. Any feedback or comments please to Sharon via [rutlandu3a.groups](mailto:rutlandu3a.groups@gmail.com) or 07796931818.

One of our members is seeking a bridge partner. Anyone available? Please let Sharon know via Rutlandu3a.groups@gmail.com or 07796931818.



Rutland u3a newsletter

February 2023

Welcome to Rutland

New members are invited to an initial meeting with the Chairman of Ru3a.

These take place each month at The Wisteria Hotel in Oakham.

For more information please contact Sharon Pratt,

Ru3a Groups Coordinator, via Rutlandu3a.groups@gmail.com or phone 07796931818.



Message from Membership



As a way of thanks to all our current members for sticking with us through the difficulties of Covid the renewal rate for this year beginning 1st March will be £1.00 per member. Not only is this our thank-you, it also makes good use of our accumulated funds.

Most members now pay direct to us from their online bank. If however you wish to pay by cheque in keeping with other u3a's in the Leicestershire and Rutland region, may we ask you to add 40p per cheque to cover our bank cost. We will continue to have card readers for payment at our monthly meetings.

Please note the renewal email will be sent to you after 1st March .

Lucy Marsland and Janet Bilby
Rutland u3a Membership

Rutland u3a newsletter

February 2023 - Social Events

We are still taking bookings for this popular musical. The cost is £58 pp & we will travel by coach from Oakham & then pick up in Uppingham. You can book at the March meeting or online in the usual way. See the website for the booking form: <https://u3asites.org.uk/rutland/events>



FISH AND CHIP QUIZ NIGHT



Market Overton Village Hall LE15 7PL

Thursday 13th April

6.45 for 7pm start

Teams of up to 6 players

Tickets **£12** including freshly cooked fish and chip supper

Bring your own drinks, glasses, cutlery and condiments.



No team? We can find one for you.

u3a Members only

For further details and a booking form please see
<https://u3asites.org.uk/rutland/events>

Rutland u3a newsletter

February 2023 - Social Events

Ad Hoc Dining

There was good attendance at this month's 'get together' – 17 members met at the Old Buttercross and enjoyed a convivial evening catching up whilst having a meal and a drink. It's lovely to see new faces as well as 'the regulars'. We look forward to meeting up again on Wednesday 15 March at the usual time – 6.30pm.

See you there, Diane Case and Helen Shea.

Diane Case 07887 990906 Helen Shea 07919 273192



Tolethorpe Hall Theatre.

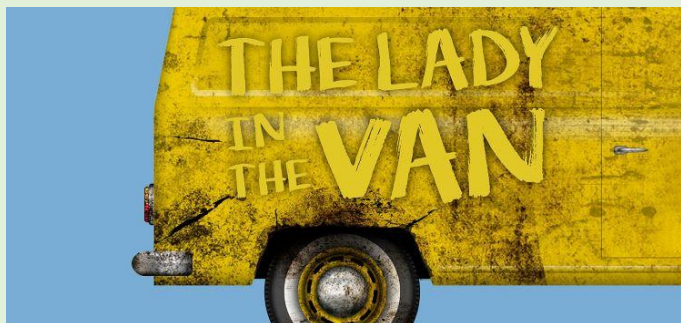
Alan Bennett's poignant and hilarious play "The Lady In The Van."

I have reserved a small number of tickets for Saturday 12th August 2023 at 11:30am, which is the new matinee time. The price is £21 pp.

Those of you who like to picnic are welcome to do so after the performance. Can I remind you that we don't provide transport for this event.

If you would like to book tickets they will be available at each monthly meeting starting February until May.

Please complete a booking form and pay by cheque or card. The booking forms will be available at the Victoria Hall Meetings or on the Rutland U3A website:



<https://u3asites.org.uk/rutland/events>

Rutland u3a newsletter - February 2023

New groups and those with vacancies

GROUPS SEEKING ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:

Birdwatching Two We currently have 3 vacancies. Birdwatching Two is a group formed in early 2019 to accommodate further members with a birdwatching interest. We are all amateurs with limited expertise in birdwatching, but we are keen to learn more.

We meet at birdwatching sites within Rutland, once or twice twice per month, at 9.30am for approximately 2 hours.

The site for each meeting is selected and advised to members a few days before the meeting, agreeing exactly where to meet and on any car parking arrangements. Binoculars (or telescopic cameras) and outdoor footwear and clothing are essential requirements as only a few sites have sheltered hides and most meetings involve some country walking. You are advised to bring water to drink and consider head protection on hot sunny days. On colder days please wrap up well as the hides can be cold and windy, or we may be out in the open and staying relatively still. For more information please contact [Malcolm Boyd](#).

BOOK GROUP 4 We currently have 2 vacancies. For more information please contact [Rosanne Greaves](#) via the link.

Book Group 4 meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:30 in members' houses.

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.

Mah Jong - We meet in the Library room at The Admiral Hornblower on Wednesdays' from 9:30 to 11:30. We have three vacancies. Please contact the Group Convenor, Alan Costello, via 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.

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

Creative Writing – We meet in a private room in The Admiral Hornblower. We usually meet on the last Friday of every month at 2.00pm. For more information please contact Sylvia Raven via the group page.

British History – We are a friendly group who meet once a month, on the second Tuesday of the month between 2pm and 3.30pm, in The Snug at The Wisteria Hotel in Oakham. There is an expectation that a tea or coffee is purchased. We are interested in the different aspects of British History and their impact on Society, ranging from the Stone Age to the last decade. Two or three members research a topic in detail and report back to the group on the aspects of the work that have interested them. Friendly and informal discussion then takes place. Topics recently considered include: The Romans, The Industrial Revolution and Bletchley Park. Interested? Please contact Sharon Pratt via rutlandu3a.groups.com. Or phone 07796931818.

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.

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.

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.

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

On-line duplicate bridge

Chris Brain is the group convenor for a newly formed online duplicate bridge group in Leicester U3A. In December 2022 online duplicate bridge sessions began using a free trial for the Pianola bridge service. These trial sessions have proven to be successful and as of March this year they will be running the sessions on a regular basis - in the first instance 2 per calendar month.

The Leicester U3A committee have given the go ahead to approach other U3A groups in Leicestershire about whether any of our members would be interested in joining these sessions - as the sessions are online locality isn't an issue. There would be an annual fee of about £5 per group member payable to Leicester U3A which would cover all sessions for the year. A free trial session is available for anyone who would like to give it a go before committing.

Although the sessions aren't suitable for complete beginners they aim to cater for all levels of experience - from social bridge players who have never played duplicate bridge through to club bridge players. More information about the group and how they propose to operate can be found on their website.

If you are interested in joining us or would like further information please contact:

Chris Brain

Leicester U3A Duplicate Bridge Group Convenor

Email: chris.brain.home@gmail.com

Rutland u3a newsletter - February 2023

News from the groups

Outside Flat Green Bowling Group



This is a newly proposed group for members who are interested in Flat Green or Lawn Bowls.

It is intended to use the Facilities at Chater Bowls on Pinfold Lane, North Luffenham, commencing May 2023.

Both new and experience bowlers are welcome.

For more information/to register an interest please contact Sharon Pratt (Groups' Coordinator) via rutlandu3a.groups@gmail.com or on 07796931818. There will be a sign-up sheet available at the March meeting.

or

Contact Alan Costello at chaterbowls@gmail.com or 07835421547

If sufficient people are interested, a meeting will be organised to answer any questions.

Ball Room Dancing

Two new members have asked if we can start a Ballroom Dancing group. Please can you let me know if you know of any Ballroom Dancing teachers I can approach. Also if any members are interested in taking part (any day/evening but Thursday), please let me know
Thanks Sharon.

Please contact me

via: Rutlandu3a.groups@gmail.com or
07796931818.



Rutland u3a newsletter - February 2023

News from the groups

Birdwatching group 2

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We currently have 3 vacancies. Interested? Contact Malcolm Boyd via the group's page on the Ru3a website.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/rutland/groups>

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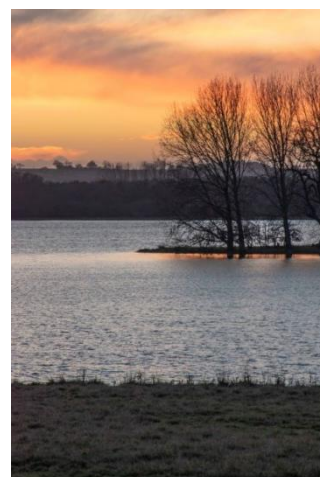
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Rutland u3a newsletter - February 2023

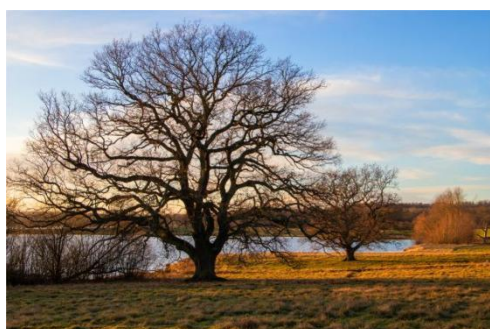
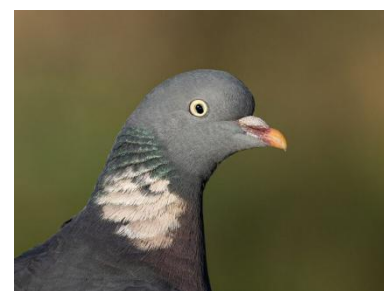
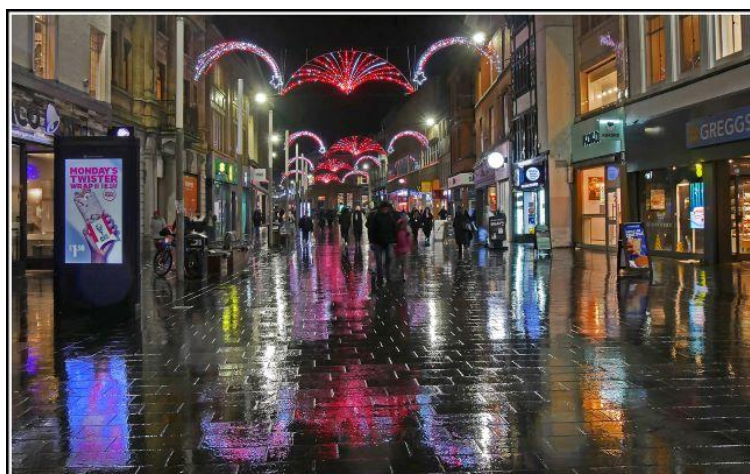
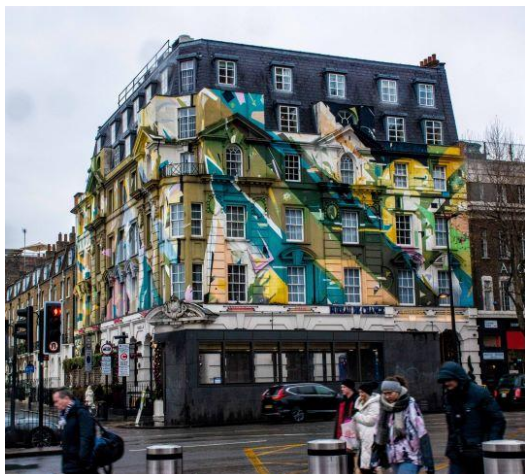
News from the groups

The photographic group continue the year with another selection of impressive photographs.



Rutland u3a newsletter - February 2023

News from the groups



Rutland u3a newsletter - February 2023

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Poetry appreciation

After seventeen years leading the poetry appreciation group, Charles Lawrence has handed on the baton to Gill Penny. At our recent meeting the group celebrated his dedication, enthusiasm and love of poetry and presented him with a book token in grateful thanks for all his hard work over the years. Many thanks Charles and here is one of your favourites:

The Darkling Thrush by Thomas Hardy

I leant upon a coppice gate
When Frost was spectre-grey,
And Winter's dregs made desolate
The weakening eye of day.
The tangled bine-stems scored the sky
Like strings of broken lyres,
And all mankind that haunted nigh
Had sought their household fires.

The land's sharp features seemed to be
The Century's corpse outleant,
His crypt the cloudy canopy,
The wind his death-lament.
The ancient pulse of germ and birth
Was shrunken hard and dry,
And every spirit upon earth
Seemed fervourless as I.

At once a voice arose among
The bleak twigs overhead
In a full-hearted evensong
Of joy illimited;
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,
In blast-beruffled plume,
Had chosen thus to fling his soul
Upon the growing gloom.

So little cause for carolings
Of such ecstatic sound
Was written on terrestrial things
Afar or nigh around,
That I could think there trembled through
His happy good-night air
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew
And I was unaware.



PaperCraft Group

The papercraft book have been busy.
In December the group were book folding and made a selection of Fairy Houses;
in January they used craft kits to make a selection of gift boxes and in February they used a number of paper and card folding techniques to make a selection of butterflies for use on different craft projects along with a base card with a fan fold insert.



LONELINESS SURVEY

Rutland Health Primary Care Network are conducting a Loneliness and Social Isolation Survey in association with Imperial College London.

Everyone over the age of 16 years old who lives in Rutland can join!

With this knowledge we can help improve care in the UK and locally in Rutland.

To complete the survey go to:

https://imperial.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2ulyxcCD7JYbKyq



Rutland u3a newsletter - February 2023

Community News



Calling Volunteers!

On Friday 3rd March we will be holding an Enterprise day for our Y9 students here at UCC. The students will form 'companies' in the morning and then prepare products, marketing materials and business plans to show at a trade fair in the afternoon. We need visitors to come to the trade fair from 1.15 until 2.50pm to talk to the students about their product ideas and vote on the best ones. It would also be great to offer prizes for the best teams - if you are able to help out with these, please let us know.

If you are able to attend please contact Mrs Bennett on bennett_e@ucc.rutland.sch.uk



Rutland u3a newsletter - February 2023

Community News



Upcoming Local Elections

New rules on voter ID

Anyone voting at a polling station in England this May will need to show photo ID before they can be given their ballot paper.

You can use any of the following accepted forms of photo ID, as well as others listed at the website below, when voting at a polling station.

- ✓ Passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country
- ✓ Driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state (this includes a provisional driving licence)
- ✓ A Blue Badge
- ✓ Older Person's Bus Pass
- ✓ Disabled Person's Bus Pass
- ✓ Identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- ✓ Biometric immigration document
- ✓ Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)
- ✓ National identity card issued by an EEA state

Residents who do not have one of the accepted forms of ID can apply for free ID either online or by completing a paper application form and sending this to Rutland County Council's electoral services team.

You don't need photo ID to vote by post. You don't need to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate if you choose to vote this way.

For more information about acceptable ID and how to apply for a voter authority certificate click on the link below:

<https://www.rutland.gov.uk/council-news/2023/02/rutland-residents-need-photo-id-to-vote-polling-stations-may>

Rutland u3a newsletter - February 2023

2023/23

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

Membership Shadow

Janet Bilby

Speakers Secretary

Wanda Allen

Speakers Shadow

David Leary

Social Secretary

Diane Case

Committee advisers and helpers

Publicity

Jill Stacey

Minutes

David Leary

Website

Phil Grimley

Hall set up and AV

Peter and Jane Hammond

Michael Seccombe

IT

Mike Shea

Mike Pearson

Ted Philips

Social Team

Lynne Costello

Norma Hardy

Sylvie Raven,

Irene Reay &

Helen Shea.

Noticeboard

Anne Trigg

New Member Support

Jane Gillon

Printing

Margaret Macpherson