

Rutland u3a newsletter

July 2022

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

u3a learn, laugh, live

A note from the Chairman

As I write this in a lovely cool kitchen I am glad not to be working in this heat. I am happy just to have the time to relax in the shade with a good book.

It was good to see those members who attended our last meeting at Victoria Hall and it would be great to see more of you there. Wanda, our speaker secretary has booked some very interesting speakers and I know they enjoy speaking to a large audience.. I appreciate that some of you are still wary about mixing indoors and the latest figures for Covid won't be helping but ,luckily,we will all be having the fourth jab in the autumn and it is so important for our well-being to be able to socialise.

NEWS!

The committee has decided that coffee will be free at monthly meetings in future. At next month's meeting on August 4th our speaker is Fran Sandham who will tell us about his Walk across Africa.

We now have a table at the meeting where Jane Gillon sits to welcome new members.If you are new to the monthly meeting the table is across the hall opposite the entrance.

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 20th August 2022

Rutland u3a newsletter

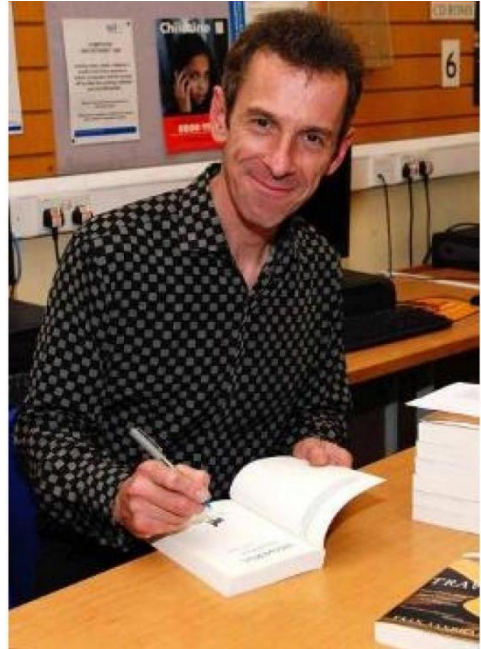
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Monthly Meeting at the Victoria Hall - Thursday 4 August 10.00 for 10.30am

Critically acclaimed author and former Rough Guides editor Fran Sandham walked across Africa solo from Namibia's Skeleton Coast to the Indian Ocean near Zanzibar, a journey of over three thousand miles – the first time on record anyone has crossed Africa by this route solo entirely on foot.

His talk will be based on his book, *Traversa: A solo walk across Africa*, an account of this remarkable journey, which has achieved rave reviews and very wide press coverage in the UK and abroad.

It sounds like one not to miss!



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.

From next month's meeting you will also be able to enjoy a free cup of tea or coffee on arrival.

We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.



Find us on facebook

Keep up to date with what is going on at
Rutland u3a on [@rutlandu3a](#)

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THE IT SUPPORT TEAM GETS MORE HELP

You may be aware that, amongst all the work that goes on behind the scenes to keep our u3a running smoothly, several volunteers work to maintain and extend the automation of our processes through IT systems, for the convenience of our members and volunteers and to keep our costs down.

We recently felt that we needed to expand the IT support team and I am pleased to say that, in response to the request in the March newsletter, we now have two additional volunteers, Mike Pearson and Ted Phillips, supporting our IT systems.

These systems include the Beacon membership system, the website, email accounts for the Committee, and some additional systems that have been developed and introduced by Bob Bennett, our Treasurer.

The latter include the Voting system, which many of us used for the recent AGM, the Online Applications system that allows people to join our u3a, and existing members to renew their membership, and an

Invoicing system used by some of our groups. Quite a few of us will also have used the new payment terminals that Bob has introduced to make it possible to pay for u3a activities, events and membership in a straightforward way by credit or debit card.

Mike and Ted join the existing members of the team, Vic Newland, Phil Grimley and me, bringing the team number to five. We aim to continue to provide a high level of support to all users of our information technology so that it is effective in helping you to do what you need to do, and only rarely should you have cause to 'curse the technology'!

Mike Shea



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Social Events

Petanque and meal at the Old White Hart, Lyddington.

Thursday 18 August at 7pm

Why not join us for a sociable game of Petanque together with a two course meal. Pétanque is a game anyone can play – instruction and the boules are provided. It should prove a fun and enjoyable evening.

Book by completing the form online

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/r/rutland/docs/petanquebookingform.pdf> or by seeing the social team at our August meeting



Canal trip: on the Grantham Canal, starting at Woolsthorpe by Belvoir **Wednesday 21st September morning or afternoon**



There are two trips of two hours each, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, max. 10 people per trip. The cost will be £11 per person – you can get drinks on the boat and you can take your own picnic or call in to the pub (the Dirty Duck (NG32 1NY) at the start/end of the trip. Read about the canal:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grantham_Canal?wprov=sfti1

This event can be booked at the August and September meetings or online:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/r/rutland/docs/bookingform-granthamcanaltrip2022-09-21.pdf>

Ad Hoc Dining

On Wednesday 20 July thirteen members gathered at the Old Buttercross pub near the bypass to enjoy an informal meal, a drink or two and some convivial conversation. If any other members would like to join us you will be made most welcome. The next gathering will be on 17th August.

Contact Helen Shea 07919 273192 or Diane Case 07887 990906 to let us know you are coming.

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.

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.

Creative Writing 2 – We would welcome new members of all levels of ability to the group and we encourage members to work together in critiquing one another's contributions. Some of the areas that we are currently covering include:

- Childhood memories
- Something that makes our heart sing or we are passionate about.

We meet on the third Monday of each month, at 2pm, in The Snug at The Wisteria Hotel in Oakham. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Sharon Pratt via Rutlandu3a.groups@gmail.com or on 07796931818.

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.

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.

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

New groups & groups seeking more members (continued)

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](#)

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.

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

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News from u3a region

THE LATE-SUMMER QUIZ

u3a

By Zoom

MONDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 2022

All u3a members in the
East Midlands can take part:

Singles ☺

Couples ☺☺

Teams (up to 4) ☺☺☺☺ ❌☺

A handicap system makes it fair for all

No limit on the numbers from
each u3a

To Register send:

Your name & email address

Name of your u3a

Team name (if any)

To: u3alatesummerquiz@gmail.com

You'll receive a confirmation email
within a couple of days
and Zoom details on Sept. 16th

REGISTER NOW – PLACES ARE LIMITED!

The quiz will start promptly at 7:00pm – login from 6:45pm

We aim to finish around 8:45–9.00pm

There will be a 10-minute comfort/drinks top-up break after Round 4

Answers will be given after Rounds 4 and 8

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East Midlands Region

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News from the Groups

More interesting images from the photography group this month.



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News from the Groups

Church Visits Group



Stephen Richards / St Mary,
Bottesford

THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BOTTESFORD.

This church is often referred to as 'the Lady of the Vale'. Our group of 15 visited this very beautiful church in the Vale of Belvoir on Wednesday 8 June. We received a very warm welcome from Parish Administrator Pamela and had a very interesting talk and tour, inside and outside the church with guide John, who gave us a very good insight into the history of the church and the local area.

The church has stood at the heart of Bottesford for almost 900 years. It contains a stunning collection of the tombs and monuments of the Earls of Rutland spanning 400 years, 2 of them by Grinling Gibbons.

At 210 feet tall, the spire is one of the tallest village spires in England. . It also houses falcons and they can be viewed via a videolink from the ground.

Inside, the flower arrangers had been busy very tastefully decorating the church with lovely displays of flowers and jubilee regalia.

This is an amazing church, full of local history including a war memorial commemorating the dead of the 2 world wars, also a plaque commemorating the dead of 207 Squadron RAF Bottesford during WW2.

Everyone in our group thoroughly enjoyed this month's visit . They were quite surprised by what they experienced and would thoroughly recommend a visit.

Madeleine Fenton

Papercrafts Group

With only 172 days to go until Christmas, the Papercraft Group met to make start on their home-made Christmas cards.

We used a technique that involves folding strips of coloured paper in such a way to form a design. The centre of the design forms an *iris*—a shape reminiscent of a camera lens.

Jenny Seccombe



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News from the Groups

Wanted - Have you got some experience in painting with watercolours?



The watercolour group meets fortnightly on alternate Monday afternoons at the Lord Nelson in Oakham. Some members are happy to attend and paint but others might appreciate some guidance.

Would you enjoy joining this group and helping the budding artists to flourish?

If so contact the group co-ordinator Kay, via the website:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/rutland/page/117384>

Art Appreciation Group One

The group continues to meet monthly and this month researched the works of three Scandinavian Impressionists, Frits Thaulow from Norway, Anders Zorn from Sweden and Akseli Gallen-kallela from Finland.

It was interesting to compare their works with the more widely known impressionists and reflect on the factors that influence whether an artist becomes a household name. We felt that these three certainly deserve to be better known.



Social History Group

This month the group had an interesting meeting discussing the results of our research into the kindertransport. We discussed the attitudes of the government and British population at the time, the determination of the organisers and the bravery of the parents who sent their children to safety as well as the stories of the children themselves.

Statues have been erected at the main transit points that the kindertransport progressed through in order that we never forget the children nor the reason for their journeys

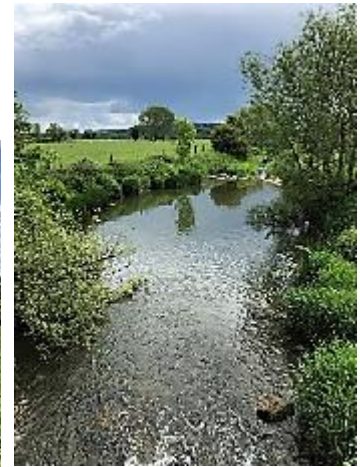
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News from the Groups

Walking Group

We have done more lovely walks over the last couple of months. As always, many thanks to the walk leaders without whom this group would not function and thanks too for the photos from Ian and Clive.

Jean's walk from Cottingham started with a short, sharp shower which caught us on the hop, but the weather very quickly improved for this lovely ramble over the Welland, past Drayton and up to Bringhurst, little villages off the beaten track. The climb up the hill was worth it for the superb views. A great new walk! Lunch was at the Sondes Arms in Rockingham – a new one for me.



Bryan gave us some insight into the history of Hallaton on his walk from the village pond, leading us through lovely countryside and fields of barley towards Keythorpe Hall and past the Motte and Bailey Castle on the way back. We returned to The Fox just before another Walking Group, and 12 of us enjoyed lunch outside in the shade. Bryan had the keys of the local museum for those that wanted to find out more of the Hallaton Hoard and the Easter Monday Bottle Run.



Patrick took 16 of us from Gumley to Foxton Locks and back. A super walk we never tire of, though I am sure that hill is getting steeper (or am I and my knees just getting older and more decrepit?) The canal and Foxton Locks were looking very picturesque in the sunshine. The Bell Inn did some good lunchtime specials.



Last week's walk from King's Cliffe was new for me. Ros led 10 of us alongside the babbling Willow Brook, through grain fields, and lovely cool Westhay Wood. Jen and Ian joined us for the first time. The temperature was around 28 deg but as the sun wasn't beating down, and with an earlier start than usual, we kept our cool - mostly. We saw some lovely foals and some noisy runner ducks. The Crossed Keys provided an excellent lunch, although the beer was a bit frothy!



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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

Vacancy

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

Janice Ferguson

Norma Hardy

Debbie Massey

Noticeboard

Anne Trigg

New Member Support

Janet Bilby

Jane Gillon

Printing

Margaret Macpherson