

Rutland u3a newsletter

November 2022



A note from the Chairman

I am writing this on a very wet morning, so wet that our walking group have had to cancel our planned walk. Is this a taste of the forecast wetter but milder winters that we are going to experience?

Our November meeting was well attended and Karen Neale proved to be a warm and engaging speaker.

You will be pleased to learn that Diane Case, our Social Secretary, now has a team to help her so we can look forward to more events during the coming year.

Our Christmas Lunch at Barnsdale Lodge Hotel takes place on Thursday December 1st and I'm sure it will be as good as ever. I look forward to seeing you there. Christmas is very much on people's minds now, indeed one of the houses in Cottesmore is already covered in lights.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for helping Rutland u3a to get back to our normal thriving self after our challenging couple of years and to wish you all well for Christmas and New Year.

With all good wishes

Ros Kenny



Find us on facebook

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



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 December 2022

Rutland u3a newsletter

November 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>



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November 2022 - Social Events



Ad Hoc Dining

23 members met up again at the Old Buttercross in Oakham on 16 November for an evening of conversation, a meal and a drink (or two).

It's always good to see our regulars as well as welcoming some newer faces. Everyone agreed it was very enjoyable and decided to meet again before Christmas. This will be on THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER @ 6.30pm. (Please note the change of evening, from WEDNESDAY to THURSDAY, just for this occasion.)

As usual, if you would like to come along let us know by calling:

Diane Case 07887 990906 or

Helen Shea 07919 273192

u3a Poetry Competition - Open Now

The movement wide poetry competition is open now. The deadline is Friday 27 January 2023 and they are looking for poems of less than 16 lines on any topic.

The three winning poems will be published in Third Age Matters and on the u3a website. Find the competition rules and submit your poem :

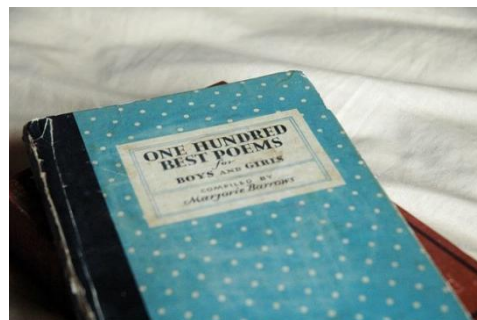
<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/poetry-competition-2022>

Need some ideas and guidance, why not join the practical master-class run by the Third Age Trust which is free to members.

Author and poet Sophia Blackwell will take you through the ins and outs of writing poetry, whether for publication craft a distinct voice and take the next step? Sophia will be digging into these questions and more.

The first half will deal with tips for poetry publication in the UK (including pamphlets and self-publishing).

Moving beyond the written word, Part 2 will focus on poetry for performance, and the practical elements of a poetry career.



For more details see: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

Rutland u3a newsletter

News from East Midlands region u3a

November 2022







MONDAY 12th DECEMBER 2022
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



Open to all u3a members in the East Midlands

Singles – Couples & teams of up to 4

No limit on the numbers from each u3a

Handicap system so fair for all



To Register send:
Your name
Your email address
Name of your u3a
Team name (if any)
to:
u3achristmasquiz@outlook.com
You'll receive confirmation within a couple of days

The quiz will start promptly at 7:00pm – login from 6:45pm
We aim to finish around by 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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News from the groups

Church Visits Group October visit to St Peter's Knossington

Ten members of the u3a Church Visits Group enjoyed an afternoon at St Peter's Church which was arranged by Shirley who also spoke about the history of the church.

Knossington Church is of Saxon origin, but no evidence remains now. The skeleton of a Saxon Warrior was found not far away on the Somerby Road. The earliest record of the Church was in 1199 when the patronage was in dispute when the Abbot of Westminster claimed it as a chapel for Oakham. At that time the patronage belonged to the manor and in 1272 it was in dispute again but stayed with manor. The Manor House adjacent to the Church dates from early C16th but there must have been a previous manor. Owston Abbey would also have had claim to it. The earliest incumbent was Geoffrey in 1206 and there are beautifully inscribed boards showing the full list to this day.



In 1790 an eminent historian surname of Throsby visited the church and thought the Chancel to be older than the rest and that there were some remains of Gothic that belonged to C13th. There were traces of a former Chapel in the Vestry area. In 1882 the Duncan family of the Grange behind the Church took on a complete restoration including the windows. All the box pews were removed, and the seats became "free".

The church originally had a spire encased in lead which stood on top of the tower. This was removed and the tower crenellated. There are only two bells in the tower and these are unsafe to ring. The font is C13th and was moved from the centre of the church towards the rear of the church, and its crumbling pillars replaced with rose marble. The Church Registers start in 1558 and are complete to date. There are a number of tombstones laid in the floor of the church and commemorative plaques on the walls.

Knossington is an OPEN CHURCH, it is open from around 9am until dusk and visitors are encouraged to make themselves a drink. Fresh milk provided every day. At present there are no toilet facilities or running water. Plans are ahead to change the use to a Church with Community use during the week, and installation of sewage and water so that a toilet and small kitchen can be installed. The wheels grind very slowly on these matters.

Mrs Sue Sills spoke about her role as a Reader in the Church of England. She trained for 3 years before being licensed by the Bishop of Leicester. She can take services but not the Holy Communion Service, and she can administer bread and wine to the sick but only if the wine has been consecrated by a member of Clergy. She can also take a funeral service but cannot baptise. She works within the Whatborough Group of Parishes. It is an unpaid role, and she is an absolute treasure as I am sure all Readers are.

Mr Geoff Thomas spoke about the new plans for the church and the funding required and about various grants that could be available if applied for at the right time and all the difficulties concerning faculties as every change requires one. It is a complicated procedure.

Mr David Price gave a short talk about the Old Rectory where he has lived for many years having bought it from the Church Commissioners when the new Vicarage was built in Tilton. This is where the Vicars now live, the old Vicarage at Tilton having been sold and the new one built in its grounds. Mr Price and his deceased wife spent much time and money restoring the Old Rectory at Knossington.

There is a winter break with visits restarting in April 2023.

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News from the groups

Church visit group visit to Whitwell - September 14th 2022

The U3a church visits group met at the Rutland Church of Saint Michael and all Angels, located in the Village of Whitwell on September 14th . The day was bright and sunny, and all were eager to see, and hear the history of this ancient and beautiful Church.

We were met by the Church Warden Mary Bell, who introduced us to a fellow Warden "Tony". He very eloquently over the next hour told us of the long history this church had, and it was obvious that this local Christian Church was well loved, and well used over the last 800 years up to this day. The Church is located in the village of Whitwell, just off the main road to Empingham. It is to the right of the main road, on a high slope, surrounded by trees. Only the bells are to be seen from the road. Easy to pass by and not even know it was there.

There has been a Christian church on this site for at least 800 years. It was recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 ,with over 100 people living in the village at that time. The Church consists of a chancel, and nave with a double bell-cote over the west gable, south aisle and south porch. The chancel is without buttresses, and at the west end of the lower part of the north and south walls for about six feet, it appears to belong to the very first building. The nave was possibly aisle less in the 12th century, and in the 13 century three bays and an aisle were added. The bell-cote was added at this time too. In the 14th century new windows and a new roof were added, and a Lady chapel was founded at the East end of the aisle.

There are many features, to be seen from the medieval time of the building, including two 14th century windows of two trefoiled lights, and the window has carved heads. The nave consists of three pointed arches of two chamfered orders without hood-moulds, springing from octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and bosses.

The 12 century Baptismal font was originally square, the sides ornamented with incised patterns. But the angles were cut away making the bowl an irregular octagon, and it stands on a modern circular stem and base with a flat 17th century cover. The alter rails are of the 17th century too.



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News from the groups

Tuesday Walking Group

We have been walking all around the county (and just beyond) over the last two months and done four new walks



Somerby to Owston and Newbold (above) and then Hungarton to Cold Newton : arable fields, quiet country lanes and the parkland of Quenby Hall (below) Undulating terrain with a couple of gentle hills and some escaped turkeys encountered in Cold Newton! (above)



From pretty Medbourne (above) to the hamlet of Nevill Holt with its impressive manor house and Antony Gormley's Horse head sculpture. A couple of steep hills were worth it for the stunning panoramic views, especially good on a sunny autumnal day, passing the Viking below on our way.

Lastly around Cottingham to Middleton & East Carlton Park with great views over the Welland valley, more outside art and interesting animals (alpacas and reindeer)! We got a bit damp after a late downpour but dried off over lunch.



We are looking forward to our last walk around Harringworth and the Group Christmas Lunch in December. There will then be a winter break until the beginning of March 2023.

Wishing all Rutland U3A members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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News from the groups

Striders Walking Group

On a lovely, warm and sunny Autumn Day, 17 group members gathered at the village centre in Braunston in eager anticipation of a good day's walking. After leaving the village we walked along Drove Road (as the name suggests, an old drovers' road) and then onto open tracks where we enjoyed excellent views of the open countryside. Before too long we stopped for a refreshment break where several coats were shed as the temperature got warmer. We continued on the undulating tracks and eventually arrived at the halfway point where we ate lunch whilst sat around the Market Cross in Belton.

Suitably refuelled we backtracked Northwards but headed off towards Leigh Lodge with another gentle climb. The walk was somewhat interrupted by the presence of an Alpaca farm where several members stopped to admire these amusing creatures and to take some photographs. We arrived back in Braunston just after 3.00 o'clock with clean boots and all agreeing that we'd had a most enjoyable day's walk.



PaperCrafts Group

We had a slight change of direction in November when we enjoyed a paint and prosecco afternoon session with local art tutor Sue Bagshaw.

The paintings were done using acrylics and scumble glaze.



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News from the Groups

GROUP SEEKING ADDITIONAL MEMBERS - HISTORY

We are people with an interest in History and meet from 2.30pm to 4pm upstairs in The Lord Nelson on the third Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is 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 Sharon Pratt on 07796931818 (answerphone available) or via Rutlandu3a.groups@gmail.com or direct to Christopher Clark, History Group Leader, via the hyperlink on the History group page on the Rutland u3a webpage.

Social History of 20th century Britain group

Following the state funeral of Elizabeth II, this month the group researched the state funerals carried out during the 20th century and looked at how previous events have impacted on the traditions we follow today.

We looked at the state funerals of Victoria, Edward VII and George VI as well as those of civilians including Edith Cavell, Edward Carson and Winston Churchill as well as that of the unknown warrior. Whilst there have been other ceremonial funerals, such as that of Princess Diana, the Queen mother and Margaret Thatcher, state funerals are reserved for monarchs and those civilians approved by the monarch and by parliament because of their highly distinguished service.

It was interesting to note the lack of planning of her funeral prior to the death of Queen Victoria and compare it with the meticulous and detailed planning for the funeral of our late Queen. Whilst traditions have been set, Queen Elizabeth broke with royal tradition by attending the funeral of a non-royal, Winston Churchill.

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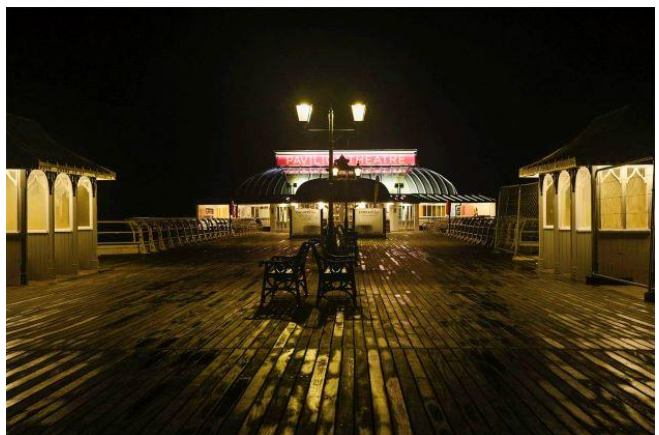
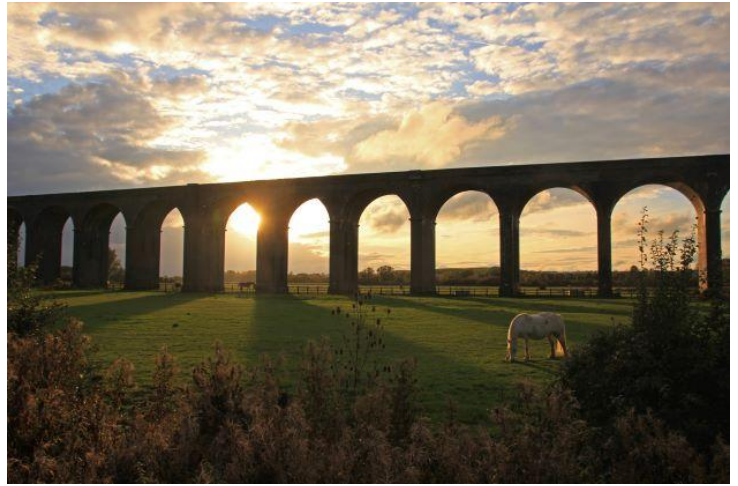
News from the Groups

The photography group have produced some beautiful autumnal images this month



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News from the Groups





**ROTARY CLUB
OF RUTLAND**



CHARITY SANTA FUN RUN



Sunday 4th December

Cutts Close, Oakham

~~10.30am~~

Changed to 12.15

**Run for fun, for Rotary or for
your own charity choice**

**Entry by Santa Suit purchase
£10.00 adult £5.00 child**

**Registration & full information at
www.rutlandrotarysantafunrun.co.uk**

Charity no. 1038138



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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

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Ted Philips

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