

Rutland u3a newsletter

October 2023

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

u3a learn, laugh, live

A note from the Chairman

Hello to you all. I am writing this note as the new chairman of Rutland U3A. As you may or may not know Ros stood down in September and I would again pass on my, and I believe all the members, thanks for the time she was in charge.

For those who were not at the October meeting a précis of who I am. I'm a retired Leicestershire Police officer, finishing as a Police instructor at FHQ, who came to Rutland with my late wife, Linda, 5 years ago.

I volunteered to be on the committee after the pleas made by Ros for help in running the U3A here. I hope I can encourage people to help out within our organisation rather than just in their groups. I believe this is to the benefit of all.

The next meeting is Thursday 2nd November at the usual time of 10am for 10.30 start. I hope you all can come and I can get to know and meet you.

Stuart



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 November to Jill at rutlandu3a.info@gmail.com or via the website

The deadline for publication for the next edition of the newsletter is 20 November 2023.

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Monthly Meeting at the Victoria Hall Thursday 2 October 10 for 10.30am

Speaker - Nigel Lowey

Nigel, a fellow East Midlander based in Nottingham, is an IT Consultant (in what he describes as real life) with knowledge and love of history, architecture and design. His original amateur interest in the madly-Gothic St. Pancras over several years led to closer involvement, and eventually being asked to comment on the planning application for the restoration of the Victorian Gothic buildings. He was asked to do a talk about St Pancras for a local library; then a local history society; then a W.I. Suddenly he was doing a talk a month and has now shared his interest with over 400 groups!

The Talk - The Transformation of St Pancras station

This talk is for anyone with an interest in history, world-class architecture, elegant engineering, or a great story; it covers the amazing changes of mid-Victorian Britain and describes how the fantastic cathedral-like station came to be built, and how the long-neglected buildings underwent a breathtaking transformation. It's not about trains!



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Ad Hoc Dining

The Old Buttercross continues to be the venue for our monthly social 'get-together' over a meal and a drink. We had an enjoyable evening in October and as always the staff at the old Buttercross were very helpful & welcoming.

We look forward to meeting again at 6.30pm on the 15th November. People who would like to join us MUST let either Helen or Diane know that they would like to come.....this is simply because we reserve the correct number of seats at the Buttercross so that we can all sit together and so that we can welcome people as they arrive.

Diane Case and Helen Shea.

Diane Case 07887 990906 Helen Shea 07919 273192



Christmas Lunch 7th December 2023

Owing to recent committee changes and the lack of a social committee, the arrangements for this year's Christmas lunch have been rather delayed. That said, The Barnsdale is currently reserved for our annual Christmas lunch on 7th December, depending on the response for places this year.

These arrangements have yet to be approved at the next executive committee meeting on 1st November, so this is very much a heads-up of the current plan.

The cost is likely to be very similar to last year's option for three courses, about £30 and is currently under negotiation.

Subject to committee approval on 1st November, a link to the menu and an order form will be emailed to all members with a closing date to book selections and secure a place.

Because of these time constraints, payment can only be made by direct bank transfer to Rutland U3a. Bank details for payment will be included in the email.

Finally, we will have to confirm order details to the venue by the third week of November, so your selections and payment will need to be made by November 15th

Thanks for your continued support.



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RUTLAND u3a – HEALTH AND TECHNOLOGY PROJECT



PROJECT UPDATE

We continue to gather responses to the Health and Technology survey, with nearly 160 replies so far. Thank you if you have responded and, if you haven't, we would encourage you to do so.

The QR code below will enable your smartphone or tablet to open the online survey. There is also a link to the survey on the website (see the Latest News page) and we have paper versions available if you would prefer one.



QR code for H&T survey

We will be holding the survey open during the rest of October and into November, and plan to start analysing the responses in December. We'll have paper copies of the survey available at the November monthly meeting.

Thank you for your interest in and help with this project.

Sue Morecroft, Rutland u3a
Mike Shea, Rutland u3a

17th Oct. 2023

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New groups and those with vacancies

GROUPS SEEKING ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:

TUESDAY MORNING WALKS (2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings each month). Leaders for each walk are volunteers from within the group, they choose the length of walk which is usually between 4-5.5 (with, as far as is possible, a maximum of 6 miles), they will survey a route prior to the walk and will provide a suitable description of the walk in terms of length and difficulty (terrain, stiles etc.) plus ensuring suitable arrangements for lunch. These arrangements will be e-mailed to members. We meet up annually to review the walks we have done and discuss changes we want to make in light of our experiences.

We now have some vacancies in this group. Please contact the Group Leader, [Judy Phillips](#) if you are interested.

RAVENS WALKING GROUP Raven's (3rd Thursday) walking group, can accept another 10 or so new members. Please contact Helen Czasznicka via the group page if you are interested.

ASTRONOMY GROUP Currently have three vacancies. GROUP LEADER: [Keith Townsend](#). Please contact him via this email hyperlink. We meet from 13:30 to 15:30 on the first Wednesday of every month in The Snug at The Wisteria Hotel, Oakham. There is an expectation that those attending will purchase a tea or coffee. This group is led by Keith Townsend who is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. 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.

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.

Tai Chi - We meet weekly on Thursdays at 2.30pm. Please contact Janet Bilby via the hyperlink on the 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 Wisteria Hotel, 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 - We are a friendly group who meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 2pm at Langham Village Hall. No prior experience necessary. Members are required to wear flat, soft soled shoes and there is currently a charge of £2 per session to meet the cost of the hall; paid in advance as part of a bank transfer prepayment scheme. Interested? Please contact [Pam Hornby](#) via the hyperlink on the group page.

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.

Please remember that you must be a member of Rutland u3a before you can join any group.

See our website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/rutland/home> if you would like to join us, or if you would like more information.



Pickleball Taster Sessions

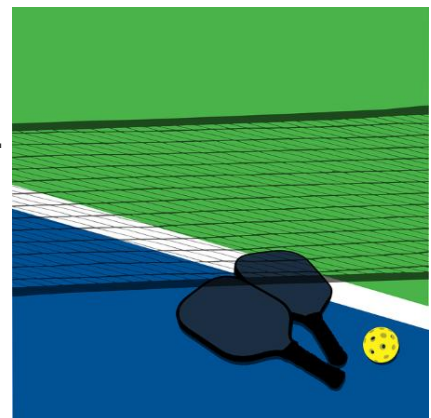
There are 2 tester / trial sessions booked for the Saturdays of 18th and 25th November from 10.30am to 12 noon at the Catmose Sports Centre.

All are welcome to have a go.

We are playing indoors on a badminton court so appropriate footwear will be needed. There is no need for other equipment, that will be provided.

Anyone interested can text me re queries on 07734053972.

Stuart Mason.



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News from the groups

Astronomy Group



On Wednesday 27th September, four members of the recently formed RU3a Astronomy Group set off on a day trip to visit Jodrell Bank, the original home of British Radio Astronomy, established in 1945 by Sir Bernard Lovell. Situated in Cheshire, a short drive from the M6, the trip took a little over two hours. The site contains a number of radio telescopes, but by far the most famous is the 250ft diameter main dish, finished in 1957. It's the third largest in the world and has made hugely significant contributions to research and understanding of meteoroids, quasars, pulsars and gravitational lensing. It was also highly effective at tracking space probes at the start of the space age.

The centre is well equipped and really interesting, with four pavilions to visit. The 'Space Pavilion' near the dish itself is filled with information about the essence of radio astronomy and how Jodrell Bank fits in to the global picture plus a variety of 'hands-on' experiments that children enjoy, to help them with scientific understanding. There is also a new 'First Light Pavilion' which has a wide ranging exhibition including details about Bernard Lovell himself and the 'Space Dome' showing films on a huge, domed ceiling - truly mind blowing. We were treated to the 'Apollo Story' and when the Saturn V lifted off, it was almost like being there!

All in all a very worthwhile day, visiting one of the most iconic research sites in Britain.



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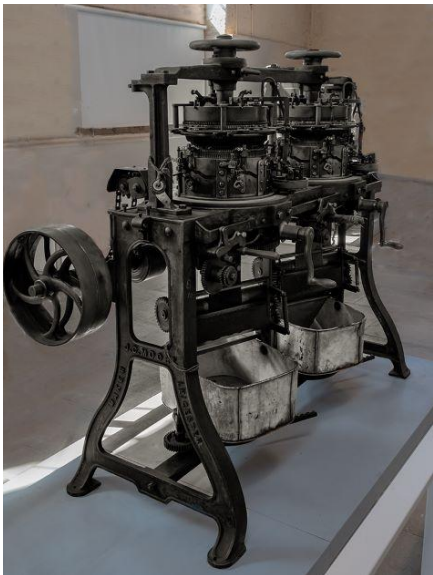
News from the groups

Once again the photography group has produced some impressive images showcasing their skills:



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News from the groups



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Community News



Oakham in Bloom's



QUIZ *Night*



**SAT 18TH
NOV
7PM**

**£12.50
PP**

Our annual quiz night is back! Join us at All Saint's Church Hall for a fun night for friends and family. Fish and chip dinner provided (veggie option available).

PRIZES - DRINKS - FUN

www.oakhaminbloom.org/quiz

pbuxton44@outlook.com

Registered Charity: 1139693

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Community News

The Museum hosts Cinema for Rutland, an initiative by Arts for Rutland.

Cinema showings take place on the first Thursday of the month at the Rutland County Museum.

Doors open at 7pm for a 7:30pm showing

Thursday 2nd November 2023

'The Lost King' (12a)

An amateur historian defies the stodgy academic establishment in her efforts to find King Richard III's remains, which were lost for over 500 years.

Director : Stephen Frears – Starring : Sally Hawkins, Shonagh Price and Helen Katamba.

All are welcome – tickets are available in advance from Oakham Wines or online via [WeGotTickets.com](https://www.wegotickets.com) (Booking Fee).

Tickets can usually be purchased on the door, however they have occasionally sold out.

Wine and other refreshments are available before the film showing.



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2023/24

Committee Members

Chairman

Stuart Mason

Company Secretary

Hedley Greaves

Treasurer

Keith Townsend

Data Protection

Bryan Howard

Groups coordinator

Christopher Clark

Membership Secretary

Janet Bilby

Speakers Secretary

Wanda Allen

Social Secretary

Vacancy

Committee Members

Tony Bianchi

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

IT

Mike Shea

Mike Pearson

Ted Philips

Noticeboard

Caroline Stark

New Member Support

Jane Gillon

Printing

Margaret Macpherson