

Rutland u3a newsletter

September 2021

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

A note from the Chairman

The attendance for this month's zoom meeting was less than 30 which was disappointing as Alison Mews' talk was excellent. I think we are probably all "zoomed out"!

Our meeting on October 7th will be back in Victoria Hall. The Speaker will be Jane Isaac who has called her talk "From pen to publication" It is about her journey to become a published crime writer. She will be bringing her books for sale.

Anne Gurney, the manager of Victoria Hall has put a lot of thought into how we can be spaced as you will see from the photograph that is below and it certainly felt airy when I saw the room. But....Things will feel rather different. There will be far fewer seats available so I would advise you to come nearer 10am than 10.30 or you may be disappointed. There will be a welcome desk in the rear lobby at the foot of the stairs. Tea and coffee will be available to purchase from the back of the room. Unfortunately there will be no space for our usual socialising before the meeting and we ask that you fill the chairs from the front. Masks will not be mandatory. There will be nowhere to leave your coat. Members of the committee will be on hand to offer any help, we will be wearing our blue lanyards.

I do realise that some of you will not feel ready to join us in person. Producing a hybrid meeting is way beyond my capabilities but if there is anyone out there who would be able to do this please e mail me at rutlandu3a@gmail.com.

We are still short of committee members and a minutes secretary, could you join us to help run our u3a? If we don't get fresh blood for our committee it will cease to function in approximately three years time as various members complete their term and we all know what that will mean.....

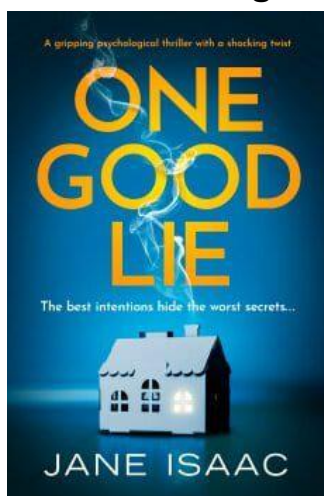
On that note I will end by saying how much I am looking forward to seeing you in person on October 7th. With good wishes to you all.

Ros Kenny



Rutland u3a newsletter-September 2021

Meeting at Victoria Hall- Thursday 7th October 10.30am



Jane Isaac is a best selling author of crime and psychological thriller novels and is based in Northamptonshire.

As a child she had always wanted to be a writer and she is to talk to us about her journey to becoming a published author and about the challenges of writing detective fiction in the modern age, including an insight into the research required.

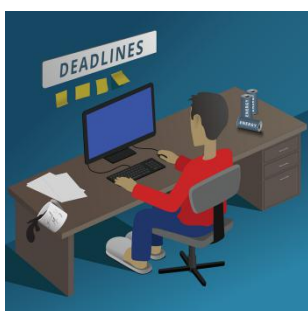
She will have copies of her books available to purchase.

Tea and Tech

On Thursday 7/10/21 at our first 'live' meeting since the pandemic started, Damien Mortimer, the Manager of Barclays Bank Oakham will give us an overview of some new "TEA & TECH" sessions. These sessions are designed to help us all (regardless of skill level) with our online activities such as banking, shopping and keeping safe online.

Brian Lee, from AgeUK's Men/Women in sheds project will give us an oversight of the activities and skills that can be pursued and learnt at this fabulous Rutland facility.

The meetings will be held at Barclays Bank and are open to all. For more information contact Sue Morecroft, Digital Inclusion Rutland u3a at rutlandu3a.digital@gmail.com



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 October 2021

Rutland u3a newsletter - September 2021

News from the groups

New Group: Working with Pressed Flowers and Plant Material

The Pressed Flower Work Group had its first meeting on 7 September (delayed from March 2020).

This new group is for those with a love of flowers and who have an interest in learning about the art of pressed flower work - how to press flowers and plant materials and use these in designs.

As with botanists, botanical artists become very aware of the beauty and delicacy of flower petals with their delicate shading and subtle markings. Pressed plant material is said to have been found in the tomb of Tutankhamen. As with flower arranging, Japanese men have become masters of this art and have played an important role in the development of the pressing of plant materials and designs.

In the past botanists (usually men) would have pressed plants to bring them back from their travels. These gentlemen would send their specimens to the universities, museums and to Kew Gardens to the Royal Horticultural Society for safe keeping; so introducing them into our gardens from the New World. You can still view these collections today.

Queen Victoria and her family were great exponents of the art and during the Victorian era there developed an array of pressed plant material designs using the then popular language of flowers to symbolise love. In the past children as well as adults would simply place their flowers or leaves in a heavy book, such as the family Bible, and wait for them to dry out and be flattened. Today the Japanese and Chinese masters of this art visit our antique fairs, such as in Olympia, to purchase Victorian examples of pressed flower work.

Even without a garden there is a wealth of plant material that you can enjoy and press. All you need are a few simple tools - a small, sharp pair of scissors, tweezers, a cocktail stick, copydex glue, pencil, ruler and a craft knife. Pressing flowers is a lovely way to preserve memories of a happy occasion, such as by making and sending a bookmark or birthday card and gives so much pleasure to the recipient.

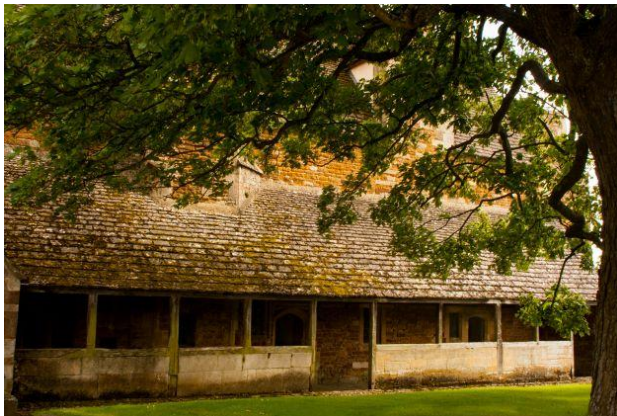
It is inspiring for us all to see and share our ideas on pressing and creation of designs.



Rutland u3a newsletter - September 2021

News from the groups

Once again the photographic group has produced some wonderful pictures for us all to enjoy



Rutland u3a newsletter-September 2021

News from the groups



Papercrafts Group

This month the new papercrafts group made Christmas cards using the iris folding technique, a paper craft 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 the iris diaphragm of a camera lens.



Rutland u3a newsletter-September 2021

News from the groups

U3A Rutland Wind Ensemble Seeks New Members!

Do you play or have you played a wind instrument? Could you aspire to Grade 3 or beyond and read music?

The Rutland U3A Wind Ensemble play at Ashwell Village Hall on most 2nd and 4th Monday mornings of the month between 10am and 12pm and is seeking additional players. At present there are a healthy dozen or so members playing instruments ranging from flutes and oboes at the high end to tubas and euphoniums at the low end with all instruments in between including cornets, clarinets etc.

During the course of a year, we might play a low key concert or two and we hope to be playing a Christmas concert in December.

The mix of people is interesting and made up of enthusiastic members, who mostly participate in other music activities taking place in the county and beyond. The Ensemble is social and enjoys a coffee and cake break during the morning session. Membership does not involve any audition and the fee beyond U3A membership is £10 a term, which pays for the village hall hire.

Would you like more information? Email or call David Fry on 07938 726888 or yofd@icloud.com.



New Scrabble Group 3

There is the possibility of starting a new scrabble group. If you are interested in joining please contact Sharon, the groups coordinator via:

Rutlandu3a.groups@gmail.com

or on 07796931818.

There will also be a sign up sheet at the October

The creation of an additional French group has been suggested and if you are interested please can you contact Sharon via Rutlandu3a.groups@gmail.com or telephone her on 07796931818. A sheet will also be available on 7 October at the monthly meeting in Victoria Hall for folk to sign up to this. If there are enough expressions of interest a meeting will be arranged to discuss this further.

New French Group



Rutland u3a newsletter-September 2021

News from the groups

New Watercolour group



It is planned to start a new watercolour group. If you are interested in joining or want more information please contact Sharon, the groups coordinator via:

Rutlandu3a.groups@gmail.com

or on 07796931818.

There will also be a sign up sheet at the October meeting in the Victoria Hall.

Possible New Groups

As well as the new groups advertised above, the following groups may start dependent on interest:

- ✧ Sugar craft
- ✧ Art Appreciation 3
- ✧ Needlecraft / Tapestry / Upholstery

If you are interested in joining or want more information please contact Sharon, the groups coordinator via Rutlandu3a.groups@gmail.com or on 07796931818.

There will also be a sign up sheet at the October meeting in the Victoria Hall.

Virtual u3a

The Virtual u3a or vu3a is like a local u3a Group except that its activities take place on the Internet.

An important target group are those who are isolated through location, illness or immobility and cannot manage to attend a terrestrial U3A, and for those who have commitments as a carer, or whose own U3A doesn't provide a particular interest group.

For more information see:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/vu3a/home>



Rutland u3a newsletter - September 2021 Community News

Active WALKING, CYCLING & Rutland OUTDOOR FESTIVAL



Saturday 9th - Sunday 24th October 2021

www.activerutland.org.uk/walkingandcyclingfestival

activerutland@rutland.gov.uk

01572 720936



A new website has been launched for all things volunteering in Rutland.

It is the place to go for anyone wishing to look for volunteering opportunities, and any organisation wishing to advertise for volunteers.

It is free, very easy to use, it just requires self registration. Opportunities can be matched to potential volunteers' skills, availability and location.

Have a look at the site and maybe register for any current or future opportunities:

<https://volunteerplusrutland.org.uk/>

Rutland u3a newsletter-September 2021

2021/21

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

Vacancy

Committee advisors 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

Social Team

Lynne Costello

Diane Case

Janice Ferguson

Noticeboard

Vacancy

New Member Support

Kath Rolison

Janet Bilby

Jenny Wilce

Jane Gillon

Printing

Margaret Macpherson