

Newsletter October 2017

agm 2017

From the Chair,



On Wednesday, I shall climb into my car and drive to Pemberton Centre, thinking about my second AGM as Chairman and the changes that I have seen. And it has not just here at HandR, there have been changes across the U3A movement, in other nearby U3As, at Regional and National level. And I think there are more changes to come.

I have been reading about electric cars and the possible changes to the way in which electricity is generated, distributed, used and paid for. In the future, some of us will arrive at the Pemberton Centre in an electric car that will have been sitting on the drive overnight not only charging its battery but also supplying electricity back to the National Grid to help smooth the peaks in demand. In the future, it is likely that many houses will have the means to generate and store electricity thus reducing their reliance on power stations and the National Grid. However, the National Grid must be paid for. Currently that comes out of what we pay our energy supplier for electricity but perhaps the model needs to change. Might there be a need to introduce a charge equivalent to the line rental that is paid by people who have old style telephone landlines?

Change is happening all around us and is likely to do so for the foreseeable future. Some changes are welcome and bring benefits, some are neutral and have little or no effect. And whilst some developments require us to do things differently, I am not sure there are any changes that are actually bad. As a comment I saw recently said "Not good, not bad, just different."

So, I would like to think that HandR is an organisation that looks to the future, that embraces change and moves with the times. Phil Grace

Notices

Handicrafts Annual Sales Table



Our Annual Sales table will be at the October and November monthly meetings at the Pemberton Centre. There will be all sorts of handcrafted items for sale including jewellery, knitted items, greeting cards and more, these would make lovely presents for your friends, family and even a little something for yourself. I'm sure you will be delighted with the exquisite items on sale.

Carols by Candlelight for Save the Children

It will be at HIGHAM FERRERS BEDE HOUSE. December 5th and 7th 7.30pm Ticket s£10 are now available, please email Susan at, superduch5@gmail.com or 0777 396 2347. Rushden Town Band will provide the music, Candlelight, Open Fire, Pay Bar, Mince Pies, Raffle prizes provided by local businesses, Atmosphere, young singers. Susan Perkins

Singing For Fun currently have a waiting list

Avid Readers have decided to become independent and leave U3A
Chris Murdin

Country Park Walks



The October walk at Sywell Country Park turned out to be a sunny day with stunning views over the Reservoir and surrounding countryside. We had a leisurely circular walk of 2.5 miles with part of the group doing a shorter walk along the hard standing path just one side of the Reservoir as they wanted to take time to look at the water birds, and we all met back in the car park by the café. We welcomed two new members who hadn't been to Sywell Country Park before. After the walk some of us went on for a carvery lunch at The Priory, Wellingborough

The 12th November walk will be at Irchester Country Park NN29 7DL and we will meet at 10.30am in the Quarryman's Rest Cafe CAR PARK at 10.30am (not the entrance car park) for a circular walk of slightly less than 2 miles on hard standing paths along the woodland trail with the sweet smelling Fir trees and spectacular quarry views. The Narrow Gauge Ironstone Railway Museum is also open on a Sunday, free entry and well worth a visit. For those who like to have lunch at a pub after the walk, we will eat at the Dog & Duck (Beefeater) restaurant, Wellingborough, near the Lidl store, and opposite the entrance to B & Q, Dunelm etc. If you would like to have lunch, please let me know by text or e-mail as I need to book a table. New members welcome. Sylvia Wright

Digital Photography



We have room for one more member.

To join this group you must like tea/coffee and mixing with friends, be keen to learn more about Photography/Photo editing.

The Photography Groups will be having an exhibition of old cameras at the Annual General Meeting

Settlements A



One of the pleasures of belonging to the settlements groups is that after a virtual video tour, members then get the chance to visit a village they normally only drive through. 23 members walked through the village of Podington in the sunshine on Tuesday 26th. Sept. wandering along hidden paths and side roads, looking at beautiful buildings and cottages whilst some of their secrets and those of previous inhabitants were revealed. Grade one listed "St Marys Church" is described as "Simple-Spacious- and Dignified" with one of the few Spires in Bedfordshire. Many memorials to the Orlebar Family are evident

The organ is of note as it was restored by the 92nd. Bombardment Group of the USAF as a thank you to the village for their help and support during WW2 as they flew 308 missions during the three years they were based at the nearby airfield. Another reminder is a propeller from a "Flying Fortress" Aircraft



Quarrying--Brickmaking--Flax-Milling--Lace-Making, were some of the past industries of the village,

Today however the village life flourishes through several forms - A United Services Club, A Cricket Club, The School, Several Farms, And of course, The Garden Centre. Our October meeting is indoors at St Mary's Vestry Hall when the talk will be on Cransley and Mawsley Margaret Shelton

Wine and Dine.



Believe it not, but time is running out for making your reservation for the Christmas Lunch at Knuston Hall on Monday 11 December. At the time of going to press, there are only 13 places left so if you want come and haven't yet made a reservation, make haste to my table at the Pemberton Meeting with a £5.00 deposit in your hand. I have now opened the reservations to those who are not in the wine and dine group. Alternatively, give me a ring on 01933 770756 and arrange to get a deposit to me. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!!!!

Do not forget the meeting at the Rushden Town Bowls Club at 11am on Monday 6th November when we organise our next 6 months programme.

Gerry Burnham

Canasta



A really interesting card game. We have a couple of vacancies to play Canasta We meet every Monday morning 10.00am to 12.00pm at the Rushden Bowls Club in Northampton Road. Please arrive at about 9.50am. If you enjoy playing cards I am sure you will enjoy Canasta. Elizabeth Horne

Singing for Fun.



A reminder of our Christmas Concert on the 7th December at St Peter's Catholic Church Hall starting at 2pm. Here is a chance to have a daytime concert which means you will not have to go out after dark. Entry is £3 and all proceeds will go to Spurgens' which is a local children's charity.

The cost of the production is being born by the Singing for Fun group so all entry fees will go to the charity. Make a note in your diary NOW! Please give us your support and get your friends to come along too. You do not have to be a member of the U3A to attend. Gerry(Singing for Fun PO)

Handicrafts



The group welcomed Diana Turner as the new group leader at the September meeting. The group plans to meet at Rushden Town Bowls Club for the monthly meeting on the 4th Thursday 2.00 – 4.00pm at a cost of £2 per person. The group looked at activities for the forthcoming year and details will be available soon..

We start our new programme on 26th October by making Kansashi flowers, which we will make into a brooch. Kansashi is a Japanese fabric folding technique and there is minimal sewing. There will be a charge of £1 for materials. It is helpful if you can bring a basic sewing kit of: sewing needle, sewing cotton, pins and small embroidery style scissors.



At the November meeting we will be making "Scandi" Hearts, in Christmas colours, red, white and green. We shall be using felt, ribbons and large beads. These will become a decoration for your Christmas tree. There will be a kit to make these at £1 per kit..

New members are most welcome, so do come along and enjoy a creative afternoon, make new friends and see what we plan for the future. Pick up a leaflet at the October monthly Pemberton meeting or look at the Handicraft page on the website.

Rock and Blues Appreciation



The group met for the first time at the end of September and all those present enjoyed the wide range of music being played. We still have room for more members so if you are in to this type of music why not come along to our next meeting on 26th October. For further details please contact Jim Morrison on 07403 557556 or e-mail him via the Contact page of the website.

BookMarks Reading Group



And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini

Chosen and reviewed by Margaret Shelton

The title is taken from William Blake's poem, The Nurses Song - "And all the hills echoed."

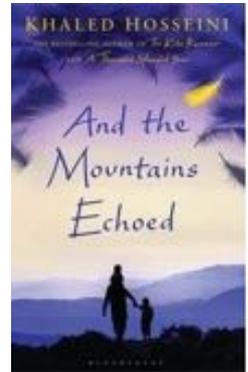
A father tells his children a strange, sad story to prepare them for the action he is about to take. The consequences of this will be dramatic to them both. So starts Hosseini's latest book, which really is a series of interconnected stories about all those involved through the actions of the father.

Set in the harsh climate and history of Afghanistan the story takes you from an impoverished village to the rich life of Kabul, from the rich man's chauffeur to the humble host of Western aid workers.

You journey with the children, and those who have remained and experienced the traumas of life there, those who leave and then return. Some of the individuals you meet are not the simple folk you presume, but become gripping characters in their own right! The children throughout the story, as in the poem, echo down through years.

The book is about "How we love, how we take care of each other, and how the choices we make resonate down the generations". This is an assured and emotionally gripping story, portraying a complex picture of his native country.

Next month's book takes us to Cyprus. 'The Sunrise', by Victoria Hislop, is set against the backdrop of historical events that plunged this Mediterranean island into turmoil. Dominica Jones.



Classical Music Appreciation



We have space for new members contact via website. We are a small home based group ideal if you are new to U3A.

please contact Linda Walker at spidar.girl@btinternet.com

Knit and Natter



We are a small friendly group and meet once a fortnight at the group leaders home. Some of the things we knit are jumpers and hats for the fish n chips babies, babies jackets, dolls clothes, as well as our own personal projects. We have, and still do knit Twiddlemuffs for people with dementia. At the last meeting there was a discussion about knitting twiddle blankets too so that may be the next project for some of us. We have lots of interesting discussions about anything and everything. We are full at the moment but have a short waiting list, anyone who is interested please contact the group leader, Kathy Arnold.



DAYS OUT (PRIVATE COACH)



ANGLESEY ABBEY SNOWDROP FESTIVAL

MONDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2018

Ticket entry for the gardens and house £13.50, National Trust members free

Coach fare: £13.00 per person

Pickup point: The Green Dragon, Higham Ferrers 9.15am and Skinners Hill, Rushden 9.30am
Return: Coach will return at 3.30pm from Anglesey Abbey.

Payment: by the beginning of January please as we will need to

pay for the coach prior to the visit. Cheques payable to: H & R u3a



This will be the first winter that the house will be open to visitors. The gardens are spectacular with a huge selection of snowdrops and winter plants.

If you would like to reserve a place for the trip, please contact Linda Walker at spidar.girl@btinternet.com

Family History



At our September meeting we enjoyed a fascinating talk by Frances Francis in which she explained how she investigated a family story involving a sculptor and the Albert Memorial and discovered the truth which was even more exciting than the story that started it off. This took us to the USA and the statues Frances had walked past without realising their place in her family history (don't you just hate it when that happens!) and to the Isle of Wight and a memorial to those lost in a shipwreck which gave rise to ghostly tales.

Our October meeting brings us right back to our doorstep with a talk by Muriel Denney about the Wagstaffs of Higham Ferrers, with a diversion into the Great Fire of Higham! Then a sort of Lucky Dip talk in November about what you can find when you are not even looking for it and a Christmas Challenge to finish the year. New members always welcome. Sharon Stafford

Bird watching



For our October meeting we headed to the wilds of Lincolnshire visiting the RSPB Frampton Marsh reserve on the edge of the wash. This is a relatively new reserve created by flooding some farmland to create freshwater marsh, ideal habitat for waders and other water birds. We started by heading to the 360 viewing hide which gives excellent views over the shallow pools and we spent some time identifying the different waders which included ruff, redshank, greenshank, dunlin and curlew sandpiper.

Bonus birds were a small flock of twite and a single whooper swan, all birds that we only see rarely if at all on our local sites. After eating our packed lunches back at the centre we did a short walk to the wash wall so we could look out over the salt marsh, one of the largest in Europe.

Here we were able to see a flock of about 300 brent geese that had arrived recently to over winter and had distant views of avocet, both star species for this reserve. Finally on returning to the centre we saw a great white egret in the reedbed, not such a rarity for us Northamptonshire birdwatchers but it did complete the trio of herons for the day with grey heron and little egret seen earlier. Chris Ebdon



Settlements B



This is a photo of the Tower of the old St. Peter's Church in Irthlingborough, usually visible from Higham Ferrer's. There is very little of the old church, just a basement and an old part of the original tower.



We had a very good meeting with 42 members including two new members who asked me about the group at the History group meeting. It was particularly good as two of my members came from Irthlingborough. This was useful as although I had a very good book which the talk was based on with lots of activities and organisations, very little remains of the town so some local knowledge was very welcome and stimulated the discussions. One of the slides was a picture of what looked like a very old midwife, one of my members said "she delivered me!" Our next meeting will be on 8th November when Brian and Margaret Sheldon have kindly said they will talk to the about Poddington. Chris Holden

History



Our winter season programme got off to a good start with a record attendance of 87 members.

With hints of Halloween and the Gunpowder Plot, Derek Blunt a well known speaker gave an entertaining presentation of Stars, Saints, Sinners and Scandal of Northamptonshire.

Covering 1400 years, from the legend of St Wurburgh of Weedon, and the miracle of the geese, Derek followed with royal connections and famous people of Northamptonshire, including King Richard III born at Fotheringhay.



Also William Carey, of Paulerspury, studied theology and later founded the Baptist Missionary Society. He spent his early years at Moulton promoting the Baptist Church, later named after him. Finally his mission took him to India for 40 years where he died in June 1834, and was laid to rest in Serampore, Bengal.



The Duke of Buccleuh, created the current Boughton House with the wealth of his second wife, the mad Duchess of Albermarle. In her insanity, she insisted she would only marry a reigning monarch more precisely, the Emperor of China and so the Duke dressed as the emperor convinced her that she would become the Empress, and so accepted his proposal, bringing with her a huge fortune. It was not long before she was certified insane and confined for the rest of her life. Would you call this a scandal?

Another historical site, Ashby-St-Ledger, home of Robert Catesby, who along with his cousin Francis Tresham of Rushton Hall plotted to blow up the Houses of Parliament.

The disappearing fiddler of Triangular Lodge, and other hauntings took us to the site of the ruined Boughton Church, said to be the most haunted place in Northamptonshire.

And finally, Derek told us of infamous vicars of the past. But here is our local divine star, the vicar of Finedon, Rev Richard Coles, descending from Heaven in the TV programme, "Strictly Come Dancing".



Trip to Kensington Palace Oct 12th 2017

Thursday 12th of October 2017 marked the final History trip for this year. We visited the Royal Palace of Kensington. A very enjoyable and interesting day including:

The King's State Apartments
The Queen's State Apartments
Victoria Revisited
Enlightened Princesses (Caroline, Augusta & Charlotte)
Diana, Her Fashion Story



The day was bright and sunny making a walk in the palace grounds and Kensington gardens a very pleasant way to end a day out.



I found the exhibits to be very fascinating and opened up my understanding of Georgian Royal history through the story of the princesses.

Thanks to All the team who helped to plan the trips this year:

Kathy Main, Peter Head and Sylvia Wright

We have announced the proposed trips for Summer 2018 and a description of each together with a voting form has been emailed to all History group members.

If for some reason you have not received yours, contact Ron Smith on 07986 024635 or visit the U3A meeting in October or the History meeting in November.

Ron Smith (ron.norsmith@yahoo.co.uk)



U3A Monthly Meetings

Speakers for 2017

If you or a friend have had experience of speakers at other groups that you think could be of interest to our U3A then please contact our Speaker Secretary

Note:- The Speakers may be subject to change

October 18 th	The Troglodytes of the Loire Valley	Peter and Gloria Wright
November 15 th	Life as a sea Captain/Ships Pilot	Captain William Wells
December 13th Note earlier Date	Northamptonshire Past in Winter	Jon-Paul Carr

Speakers for 2018

Jan. Life on Stage Variety Theatre A look at what was an important part of the entertainment industry.	Mark Walsh
Feb. The American Civil War A fascinating insight into this subject.	John Wright
Mar. Tales from Rockingham Castle. You may have visited but Trish will give an insiders viewpoint.	Trisha Woods
Apr. A talk on his favourite dive yet. A return and much requested visit and will talk about his favourite dive.	Lee Bishop
May. Forensic Podiatry More than a talk about feet. Mike travels often to America as he is an expert in his field.	Professor Mark Curran
Jun. Life in War Torn Middle East. Philip is a published author of several novels where he has drawn upon his experience whilst working along troops and others in Iraq and other places.	Philip Caine
Jul. Hunters of the sky. A wonderful audio visual experience with breathtaking photography about birds of prey.	Jennifer Anderson
Aug. TBA	
Sep. The Little Book Of Monarchs A wonderful fascinating amusing and accurate guide to English Monarchs.	Tony Boullemeir
Oct. TBA	
Nov. A photography special	Tom Way
Dec. The complete history of Christmas. A colleague of Lesley who you may remember as Nell Gwynn so expect something a little different.	Mike Kennedy

Group Location and Date

GROUP	VENUE	MORNING	AFTERNOON
A Little Aloud	Alternate Fridays		
Badminton	The Pemberton Centre	Tuesday 10.00-12.00	
Badminton for Fun	The Pemberton Centre	Tuesday 09.00-10.00	Friday 12.00-13.00
Bird Watching	Various	1 st Tuesday	
Bridge (Beginners)	Leader's Home		Alt. Mondays 14.00-16.00
Bridge (Social)	Leader's Home		2 nd & 4 th Tue 13.30-15.30
Canasta	Rushden Bowls Club	Mondays 10.00-12.00	
Classical Music Appreciation	Leader's Homes		Last Wed 14.00-16.00
Computing and Technology	St Peters RC Church Hall, 1 Hayway		1 st Wed and 3 rd Thur 13.00-15.00
Country Dancing	Hf WMC		Alt Mon 14.00-15.30
Country Park Walks	Various Parks	2 nd Sunday 10.30	
Crib and Solo Whist	Windmill Club		Alt Mondays 19.00-21.00
Cycling multi groups	Stanwick Lakes	Every Monday	
Days Out Car Share	Ad hoc	No Fixed Venue	
Digital Photography A	Rushden Hall	2 nd & 4 th Wed 10.00 to 12.00	
Digital Photography B	Ringstead Village Hall High Street NN14 4DA		1 st & 3 rd Fri 14.00-16.00
Driving	On the Road	Various	Various
Family History	St. Peters RC Church Hall		3 rd Tue 14.00-16.00
Fishing	Varies	1 st Wednesday	
French (Advanced A)	Leader's Home	1 st Tue 11.00-12.00	
French Advanced B			1 st Tue 12.00-13.00
French (Rusty)		1 st Wednesday	
Gardening	Rushden Hall and Visits		Garden visits in Summer Otherwise Hall 2 nd Thu 14.00-16.00
Golf	Various	Fortnightly	Various
Guitar Monday Group	Monday	Full Gospel Chur	13.00 – 16.00
Guitar Beginners	Various	Thursdays	
Guitar Improvers	ASDA Training room		Tue 17.00-19.00

Group Location and Date

GROUP	VENUE	MORNING	AFTERNOON
Handicrafts	Rushden Town Bowls Club		4 th Thu 14.00-16.00
History	Winter Months Full Gospel Church Hall, otherwise Trips		1 st Thu 14.00-15.30
Home Dining	Various	Twice per Month varying days	
Jewellery Making	Members Homes		3 rd Mon 13.30-15.30
Knit and Natter	Leaders Home	Alt Mon 10.00-12.00	
Mahjong	Windmill Club	1 st and 3 rd Friday	19.00 – 21.00
Painting for Pleasure	Coleman's Craft Warehouse		Alternate Mon 14.00
Philosophy	Various		3 rd Mon 13.30-15.00
Play Reading	Higham Ferrers Library		1 st Tue 13.15-
Popular Music Appreciation	Leader's Home	Alt Fri 10.00-12.00	
Reading Bookmarks	Higham Ferrers Library	2 nd Wednesday	
Reading Bookworms	Various	1 st Thu 10.30-12.30	
Rock & Blues Appreciation	Leaders Home		Last Thursday 2-4pm
Scrabble	Residents Lounge, Kilburn Place Higham Road Rushden		Alt Tue 14.00-16.00
Sequence Dancing	Heritage Halls Park Road		Alt Thu 14.00-16.00
Settlements A	The Vestry Hall, St Mary's Church Rushden		4 th Tue 14.00-16.00
Settlements B	Rushden Hall, Hall Park		2 nd Wed 14.00-16.00
Singing for Fun	Rushden Hall, Hall Park		Alt Thu 14.00-16.00
Spanish		Alt Wed 10 - 12	
Special Events	Various	Various	
Sunday Lunch	Every 2 Months	Venue varies	
Table Tennis	Pemberton Centre	1 st , 2 nd & 4 th Wed at 13.00	
Ten Pin Bowling	Wellingborough AMF Bowl	Alt Fridays 10.00 to 12.00	
Video Editing	Leaders Home	2 nd & 4 th Tue 10.00-12.00	
Walking	Various	Various	
Wine and Dine	Various	Various	
Wine Tasting	Leader's Home		4 th Thurs 14.00-16.00