

Newsletter May 2017



From the Chair,



Well here I am in the driving seat so to speak, stepping in whilst our Chairman is away in the great USA.

Most of you won't know me as quite a few members do not attend the monthly meetings at the Pemberton centre but none the less you all as members of U3A are valued by our group. As speaker secretary I mindfully walk a tightrope every month hoping you all take something away from our speakers.

I'm always interested in how it was people came to join U3A.

I joined U3A because a neighbour asked me to join her one Wednesday afternoon, I had arrived in Rushden some two years beforehand and knew so few people and was preparing myself for yet another house move back to Kent to try and get back that very thing I was missing companionship, friendship, you know the things that make us all what we are. That afternoon changed my life, I discovered a life again and have never looked back.

That is why as an organisation whether it is to learn, socialise or both U3A enables people to come together and whilst doing that learn from one another. You might call it educational recycling! Angela Mason

Notices

The committee have decided to alter the start of the meeting to 1.45pm sharp with the announcements first, followed by the speaker starting at 2pm, so please be in your seats by 1,45pm. Committee

Wine and Dine at Wadenhoe House.



Just a reminder to all folk who booked with the "Wine & Dine Group" to double check they will be able to attend on the date arranged Tuesday 13th June 7 for 7-30 pm. We have had a cancellation so if anyone would like to go please contact Margaret Shelton

We have now nearly completed our programme for the next 6 months and hopefully able to go to Knuston Hall for our Christmas Lunch. Another new venue for us will be a B-B-Q in July at Brian and Anita Turner's home who are one of our group members. We are looking forward to our evening meal at Wadenhoe Manor which is also a new venue for us. I hope to be circulating the full programme in the next week to ten days. Gerry Burnham

Family History



April was one of our research sessions, so was quietly studious punctuated by cries of "Eureka", air punches, and similar expressions of delight when another brick wall was sent tumbling down. In May we shall be paying a virtual visit to some graveyards, followed by a test of our detective skills when we research a mystery inhabitant of one of those sites. We are pleased to have arranged for Angela Malin to come to talk to us in July on the topic of pre-1830s research, and the June meeting will therefore be on the subject of newspapers and what they can tell the family historian. Sharon Stafford

Bird Watching



For our May meeting we made a return visit to the Attenborough Nature Centre, an excellent reserve of old gravel pits along the river Trent near Nottingham. Initially we went to the sand martin hide behind the visitor centre where the birds nest in holes either side of the viewing area. We were also able to see some of the commoner birds visiting the feeders in this area plus scarcer tree sparrows. Walking round the reserve identification of common species of warbler became a feature of this meeting.



These 'little brown jobs' are hard to see as they flit about in the foliage and song is key to pinning down the species. This included sedge warbler doing its buzzing chirring song in full view, common whitethroat doing its scratchy little warble completely different to the stuttering song of the lesser whitethroat. After an enjoyable walk in the spring sunshine we had lunch at the visitor centre where the menu was a bit limited due to its popularity but service was quite quick. Chris Ebden

Settlements A



At our April meeting Janet and Roy Presland gave a very interesting talk on Irthlingborough. After outlining the history of the town they took us on a virtual walking tour to see the various places of interest including what amenities there are

in the settlement for modern day inhabitants. The talk was made all the more interesting as Roy's family have strong links with the town and there is even a road named after his uncle!

In May Brian and Margaret Shelton will tell us about Podington and Hinwick.

Our May meeting will be the last indoor meeting until October as from June onwards we will be visiting places we have heard about during the winter months.

There will not be a visit in July as the date clashes with the H&R U3A Away Day to Yelden. Frances Francis, Group Leader

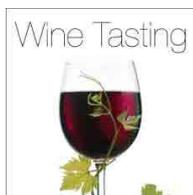


Singing for Fun



By the time you read this, we will have had our show. At the time of writing we can tell you that rehearsals are now coming together nicely and what is more important, we have sold all the tickets. We have already raise over £500 for Macmillan Cancer Relief and there is the raffle to go. The great thing about the production is that the group has underwritten the costs of the production, so all proceeds will go to the Charity. Watch this space for the final figure raised. A big thank you for your support by the purchase of tickets plus some donors and to the those taking part in the show. Gerry(Singing for Fun PO)

Wine Tasting



Successful tasting in April of Gewurztraminer grape from New Zealand and Alsace (France) . The difference in opposite sides of the world was quite marked with the New Zealand one being clearer and brighter taste, whereas the one from Alsace was more rounded and fuller in flavour. We also tasted a Cypriot red wine which we brought back from holiday and after the others was quite tart and lacking in flavour. This month in May 25th we will taste 2 Syrah Viognier wines from France and Australia. This should be interesting as they are a blend of a white and red grapes. Please confirm attendance. Cheers Steve Evans

Driving



I still have spaces for assessments so please get in touch to arrange. I will be as always at the U3A meeting on Wednesday if you want a chat.

Were you aware that when you renewed your license at 70 you will lose some of your entitlements eg mini bus, trailer unless you specifically request extra forms to carry on. Happy motoring. Steve Evans



Waking up watching the news I was confronted by President Trump saying “CLEAN COAL, CLEAN COAL” and wondered what he meant. He has obviously not read Gray Mountain by John Grisham which is based around the Appalachian Mountains and the environmental and human impact of the strip mining of coal. A renowned best-selling author, I had never read one of John Grisham’s novels. Allegedly his books are now written by a team of writers so I was curious and wanted to read one of the books.

Samantha is a young lawyer working long hours as a corporate lawyer in finance and is made redundant in the financial crash of 2008. She sets off to find work experience as an intern in a poor backwoods Legal Aid Clinic. She is immediately involved in the problems of the poor mining community and the health concerns of the families of the miners and the land-owners.

Mattie and Annette, who run the Legal Aid Clinic, introduce Samantha to the process of criminal and family law and the workings of the local courts and trials. Donovan, a swashbuckling local lawyer with a tragic past, is involved in a tense case fighting a big mining company with its bullying tactics, intimidation and vast legal resources. Samantha becomes involved professionally and romantically with both Donovan and his brother.

It is hard for those of us who are unfamiliar with even the basic knowledge of American law and courts to follow the story or, at times, continue with it. This was an interesting read with an exciting story line and tries to cater for all tastes - romance, adventure, community and nature. I felt I learned a great deal about American coal mining methods. As Alex Glasgow, a British Folk musician, sang - “CLOSE THE COAL HOUSE DOOR LAD THERE’S BLOOD INSIDE!”

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Our next book moves us from the United States to Holland. The author Jessie Burton has set her book ‘The Miniaturist’ in the house of a wealthy merchant in Amsterdam in the seventeenth century. It promises to be a fascinating read.
Dominica Jones

Stamp Collecting

Margaret Shelton is still collecting stamps for the Medical Detection Dogs charity so please collect them and bring them into the Monthly Meeting. Please try to minimise the amount of paper attached to the stamp, a good guide is to have a finger’s width of paper all the way around . See examples



History



Visit to Blists Hill Victorian Village and the Iron Bridge

On Thursday 4th May the coach left cold and windy Northamptonshire for the Shropshire Blists Hill where, after a hot drink we went back to Victorian times. The sun shone brightly, and there was an assortment of shops to visit, with household goods, a photographer's with very old cameras, a bank with an ornate spiral staircase, a post office with a museum upstairs complete with old post boxes and an extraordinary "quad bike" with a fifth wheel in the centre for delivering mail.



We sat outside to enjoy delicious Victorian fish and chips in paper (newspaper not allowed) before going into the sweet shop to stock up on aniseed balls and sherbet. We called in at the printer's shop, and discovered the origin of upper and lower case letters, stored in actual upper and lower cases, and the importance of putting the letters the correct way into the stick (a holder for the letters) so a not to "get the wrong end of the stick" We watched a cart horse being harnessed ready to pull a carriage, candles being made and sat in the school room to learn how it was in Victorian times.

There really was a lot to see and experience and for children an area with swing boats and loud music. At 4.30 the coach made its way along narrow twisting roads to Iron Bridge where we walked across and underneath the 200 year old first iron bridge, Then it was time to return to East Northamptonshire which was still cold and draughty but the fascinating day made up for that.
by Ann Webster

Cycling.



There is still time to make your donation to the group members who are doing the London to Brighton Ride in aid of the British Heart Foundation. Thank you to those who have all ready donated. This takes place on the 18th June so the next Pemberton meeting is the last one before the event. The Rushden Reporter has now carried the details so we are now in two of the local newspapers.

In between the training, the cycling group are now seen on Mondays, mostly around the Stanwick Lakes. If you are interested in cycling, be it long or short distance the contact Lynn Gale at the Pemberton Centre meetings for details.
Gerry Burnham(Cycling PO)

Country dance



The country dance group will be holding their summer party on July 24th with live music 2-4 at the Higham and Rushden WMC. All are welcome.

Please bring nibbles to share. George Hearnden

Days out car share. for U3A members only.



National Trust newly reopened ! Farnborough Hall 45miles travel OX17 1DU.Thanks to prompting by a Days Out member Chris and I are planning to visit. on Sat 24th June 2017 Hall opening time.2-5 30pm .House with lovely views It has no tearoom as the family still live there. We will eat somewhere near home on our return. We have 2 places on offer in our. car.

If anyone else would like to come and can offer or need transport we can pair you up. Free to N. Trust members £6.70 non members.

Kelmarsh Hall NN6 9LY and MacDonald Gill Illustrated maps exhibition Again.22/8/17

In September 2018 the speaker for our monthly meeting at the Pemberton Centre Caroline Walker will be telling us about the MacDonald Gill illustrated maps. .We are planning a visit on 22/8/17 to enjoy the exhibition again and the summer garden.

Newish! Glen Miller and more Museum MK41 6AB 10 30-4pm +optional lunch at a local hostelry Sunday 24/9/2017. Museum entrance price £4 each. I should have leaflets at the May meeting.

Hamberton Zoo PE28 5RE trip date arranged with Photography group 1 October 11th.I need 20 to get 20% discount. Booking closes at the August meeting. See Zoo website for ticket price details.

Wednesday 4th October (matinee), Milton Keynes theatre, cost approx £36.50 incl Upper Circle ticket & coach from Thrapston Co-op. The coach leaves in the morning to enable a bit of shopping and lunch before the performance, so a nice day out! Moira contact no is: 07960 640161
Please let me know if this is of interest to your U3A group.

We are looking for ideas for places and matinee theatre visits. If you find anywhere interesting please pick up a leaflet for us.

As Chris and I are busy. Sylvia Wright is running the following trip. She will be on the History table at the May meeting for more information.U3A members only. Or see Chris and Linda on the days out table.

Crick Boat show at Crick Marina which is 29 miles from Wellingborough along the A14 with an estimated driving time of 37 minutes. The reduced price for one person and 9 guests is £12.00 each. - Sunday 28 May 10am-5pm

Sylvia is be willing to give a lift to 3 passengers? In need of transport or can offer it please let Sylvia know

Country Park Walks

Sunday 11 June



The walk will be about 2.0 miles around Kinewell Lakes, Ringstead across fields that are level and even. We will meet at the Axe and



Compass pub, Ringstead to start the walk at 10.30am. Kinewell Lakes is a former gravel pit alongside the River Nene. It is the largest pocket park in the county and is of international importance for the breeding and migration of European birds. Half way around the lake we will stop at Woodford Mill tea rooms for a coffee. This is a very pretty pub overlooking the river and is next to the Marina. At the end of the walk, for those who want to, we can have lunch at the Axe and Compass. There is a choice of menu with the roast costing £10.95 inc. all the veg and Yorkshire Pud.

New members are very welcome, Dogs to be kept on a lead. Can you please confirm to me whether you will be able to join the walk, and if you would like to stay for lunch so that I can book a table. Sylvia Wright

Digital Photography



The Digital Photography Group decided earlier on in the year that in early summer we would go and see if we could photograph some local Bluebells, so this morning we took a trip to Odell which is just outside Sharnbrook and not too far away.



There were some concerns regarding the Bluebells being out as we had some early warm weather, and there was a possibility of them being 'over' before we had chance to see them. However, with the recent cool snap we were very hopeful. This morning's weather was very kind with it being the first warm day we had had for some time.

We met at the Church at our usual time and set off for the short walk to see the Bluebells. We were rewarded with a lovely show under the trees. We are aware that we could have several pictures of the same sight, but also conscious that different camera lenses/settings made a difference.

After a lovely hour or so we made our way back to our cars and then to the local cafes for a well-earned cup of coffee or lunch. We managed to have our coffee sitting outside at Harrold Country Park which finished off our very successful morning beautifully. This was an opportunity to socialise with other members and 'compare notes'. At our next meeting, we will be going to Nottingham for the day. We do have a very few places available, if you would like to join us, please come and see us at the next General meeting. Daphne Jackson

Digital Photography B



We met on Friday 7th May, when I demonstrated how to make Photographic collages using Photoshop and Picassa. This was something new to me and most of our members, but once the basics are understood, it is actually quite easy and very satisfying to do.

We also showed pictures of "spring", and some favourite photos.

Because of holidays during the next few months we have decided to only meet once a month until October, on the third Friday of each month. The next meeting will be on 16 July at 2pm in the Ringstead Village Hall, where we will be showing photos of teddy bears and toys.

New members are always welcome. Keith Saunders

Settlements B



This afternoon's meeting was the last indoor meeting for the summer. Susan James from Settlements A group came to talk to the group about Sharnbrook.



The picture was painted in watercolour by one of Sharnbrook's Painting class. She gave a very interesting tour of the village, which we will be visiting on July 12th. In the past, the occupations of the village covered every need, carpenters, undertaker, village butcher, dressmaker, bakery, cut flowers in a garden for the villagers among many more. I am sure the visit will be very interesting

The other visits we are making are June 24th to Cogenhoe, August 9th to Kimbolton, and September 13th to Barnwell. Chris Holden

Jewellery making



Join a group to make gorgeous pieces of jewellery for you or to give as a present. Make this choker using seed beads, thread and a special needle. Hang it from a metal choker or add to something you already have. We will meet in May date and venue to be decided. Sherry Calvert



Beacon Update & Computer Group



We have now started the training program of Group Leaders for the new Beacon administration system. Following on from attendance at the 1st Beacon annual conference last month, I was surprised to hear that over 110 U3A's throughout the UK are now using the system to administer over 60,000 individual members.

Some feedback responses from the Group Leaders that have been introduced and started to maintain their own group were - "Quite logical to use" "Very good for email", "Added 73 members in a very short time".....

The Beacon team will continue to pace itself through to the renewal in September by which time it's planned hopefully that everyone will have been able to see some part of the system. Then in conjunction with our own H&R website, which continues to expand with help from our webmaster and contributing authors, the integration of Beacon will bring even more useful details of events and timings directly to the members.

This month the computer group members (both existing and new) continue to be updated on the latest aspects of Windows10 and mobile applications. Our webmaster and instructors are now publishing the topics being covered at each session on the website, such that if you see a particular topic you really mustn't miss, then please come along.

We do have fun ! tea, coffee and biscuits are always available and where else could you enjoy yourself at such a low cost !! – hahah.

Alan Nixon – Computer Group Leader & Beacon Project Manager.

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 Speaker may be subject to change

May 17 th	James Gillray Satirist To Insanity	Ian Keeble
June 21 st	Nell Gwynn	Lesley Smith
July 19 th	Royal Mistresses	Roger Powell MA
August 16 th	Showbiz journalism	Graham Keal
September 20 th	Victorian Ghosts	Andrew Selwyn
October 18 th	Victorian Sewers	Andy Tipping
November 15 th	Life as a sea Captain/Ships Pilot	Captain William Wells
December 13th	Northamptonshire Past in Winter	Jon-Paul Carr

Note earlier Date for December

Group Listing

GROUP	VENUE	MORNING	AFTERNOON
Advanced Driving	On the Road	Various	10am -11.30am 2pm – 3.30pm
A Little Aloud	Leader's Home	Alt Friday 10am-12noon	
Avid Readers	Rotate Members' Homes	Last Mon 10am	
Badminton	The Pemberton Centre	Tuesday 10am-12noon	
Badminton for Fun	The Pemberton Centre	Tuesday 9.00am-10am	Friday 12noon-1pm
Bird Watching	Various	1 st Tuesday	
BookMarks Reading Group	H/F Library	2 nd Wed 10.30-11.30	
Bookworms	Members' Houses	1 st Thu 10.30-12.30	
Brush up your Shakespeare	Leader's Home		Various Tuesday Evenings at 7pm
Bridge (Beginners & Rusty)	Leader's Home		Alt. Mondays 2pm – 4pm
Bridge (Social)	Leader's Home		2 nd & 4 th Tue 13.30-15.30
Canasta	Rushden Bowls Club	Mondays 10-12	
Cherished Cars	Various	Various	
Computing	St Peters RC Church Hall, 1 Hayway		1 st Wednesday and 3 rd Thursday 12.30 - 15.00hrs
Car Share Trips	T.B.A.	Various	
Country Dancing	H/F WMC		Alt Mon 2-3.30
Country Park Walks	Various Parks	2 nd Sunday 10,30am	
Crib and Solo Whist	Windmill Club		Alt Mondays 7pm-9pm
Cycling	On the Road	Mondays	
Digital Photography	Rushden Hall	2 nd & 4 th Wed from 10a.m to 12 noon.	
Discussion	Members Homes	Last Tuesday 2-4pm	
Fly Fishing & Tying	T.B,A	T.B.A.	
French Advanced	Leader's Home	1 st Tuesday	
French Rusty O-level			1 st Wednesday
French for Beginners		1 st Monday	
French Circle	Leaders' Home		Various Tue's at 7pm

Group Listing

GROUP	VENUE	MORNING	AFTERNOON
Gardening	Rushden Hall	Garden visits in Summer Otherwise Hall 2nd Thu 2 - 4	
Family History Group	St. Peters RC Church Hall		3 rd Tue 2 - 4
Golf	Various	Alt Mon Tee off at 10am	
Guitar	ASDA Rushden Training room		Tuesday 5-7pm
Handicrafts	Various		4 th Thursday 2-4
History	Winter Months Full Gospel Church Hall, otherwise Trip Venues		1 st Thursday 2.00-3.30
Home Dining	Various	Various	Various
Knit and Natter	Members Homes	1 st and 3 rd Mon10-12	
Music Appreciation Classical	Leader's Homes		Last Wed 2-4pm
Jewellery Making	Members Homes		3 rd Monday
Music Appreciation Popular	Leader's Home	Alt Fri 10-12	
Painting for Pleasure	Coleman's Warehouse (temp)		Fortnightly Mon 2pm
Philosophy	Carriage House, Market Square Higham Ferrers		3 rd Mon 1.30pm - 3pm
Play Reading	H/F Library		1 st Tue 1.15--
Scrabble	Residents Lounge, Kilburn Place Higham Road Rushden		Alt Tue 2-4pm
Sequence Dancing	Heritage Halls Park Road		Alt Thursday 2-4
Settlements A	The Vestry Hall, St Mary's Church Rushden	4 th Tuesday	2pm – 4pm
Settlements B	Rushden Hall, Hall Park	2 nd Wednesday	2pm - 4pm
Singing for Fun	Hall Park		Alternate Thu 2-4
Spanish	Various		
Ten Pin Bowling	Wellingborough AMF Bowl	Alt Fridays 10am to 12 noon app	
Video Editing	Leaders Home	2 nd & 4 th Tuesday 10am	
Walking	Various		
Wine and Dine	Various	Various	
Wine Tasting	Leader's Home	4 th Thursday 2pm – 4pm	