

Newsletter November 2017



From the Chair,



I imagine that most of you are aware of the proposed closure of libraries across the county. The consultation sets out three options - Options 2 and 3 would result in the loss of local libraries in Irchester, Raunds and Higham Ferrers. Option 1 allows the libraries in Raunds and Higham Ferrers to remain open provided there is a local community group prepared to take over the running of the library

AND there is the support of the local Council. Local libraries act as a “community hub” providing something for most people and enriching the community. There is Play and Learn Time for the little ones, Knit and Natter and technology advice for the “oldies”, the Quilters, “Scrabblers” and the Mah Jong players meet there. If you want to research your past there is free advice on how to look into your family history and you can search sources such as newspapers and Ancestry.com. Libraries will help with applications for a Bus Pass or a disabled Blue Badge. Oh, and you take out a book to read!

All sorts of activities will be happening in your area as libraries across the county prepare to fight these proposals. Keep an eye out and assist wherever you can. I ask U3A members to respond to the consultation and to lobby their Councillors, tell your family, tell your friends. It doesn't matter if your library isn't at risk, the loss of any library would diminish the local community. I urge you to make your views known to NCC before the consultation closes on January 13th. You can respond online via the NCC website – enter “library consultation”. Or, if you prefer, responses can be made in writing; Library Consultation, 1 Angel Square, Angel Street, Northampton NN1 1ED

Remember that for Higham Ferrers and Raunds you need to say that you think Option 1 is the correct choice. Phil Grace

Notices

Save the Children's QUINGO quiz with a twist. £12 for table of up to 4 people Thursday, January 18th 2018. Please contact Susan for more info or to book superdutch5@gmail.com or 07773962347 Susan Perkins

The wine and Dine, I want to advertise that I have 6 vacancies for the Xmas lunch at Knutson Hall on 11th December at a cost of £20 (£5.00 deposit) and it is open to non group members.

Singing for fun Xmas concert, all the details are in the item later in the Newsletter.

Wine Appreciation – *(please note new name)*



Excellent tasting last month of the Hain wines from the Mosel valley. Single vintner with a long history of winemaking back to the 1700's.. Slideshow was shown of the area and the vineyards.



Two wines were tasted one a Weissburgunder 2016 (white) and a Spatburgunder 2015 (red). Both well received although the red would have been better with a Bratwurst. Steve Evans

Rock and Blues Appreciation



The Group meets on the last Thursday each month at the leader's home in Irthlingborough. At the inaugural meeting in September we enjoyed music by a wide range of artists, including Elmore James, Traffic, Family, Terry Reid, The Doors, Taj Mahal, Cream and many more.

If you are a fan of bands like these, or Deep Purple, Alex Harvey, Rainbow, Black Sabbath, Jefferson Airship, Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, Peter Green's Fleetwood Mac, Chicken Shack, B.B.King, Derek and The Dominoes or Dire Straits, this group is probably for you!

November's meeting will be on the 30th with a theme of Scottish Rock, while the 28th of December's theme is Christmas (although Slade, Wizzard and other commercial tracks are banned!). Why not come along and join us? Further details are available from Jim Morrison (contact him via the website).

Cribbage and Solo Whist



This group meets every other Monday evening at the Windmill Club in Rushden. The next meeting being on Monday 20th November. The session starts at 7pm and finishes at 9pm. We would like to have more members and even if you can't play either game or are a bit

rusty then don't worry as we are pleased to offer tuition and assistance. The evening is a social and free one, apart from your drinks. If you are interested then please contact Mike Mimms.

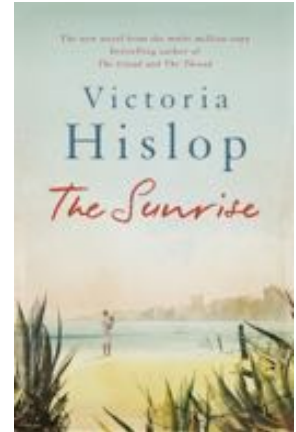
BookMarks Reading Group

The Sunrise by Victoria Hislop



Chosen and reviewed by Chris Freeman

This story set in fabulous Famagusta, Cyprus, and is a story of greed, love friendship and war. A rich man is set on making money and owning the best hotel in Famagusta, 'The Sunrise', while his bored, lonely wife embarks on an affair with the hotel manager.



Greek and Turkish Cypriots live in harmony and friendship together until Turkey invades. Then people flee to other parts of the island and Famagusta is left to rot. Two families remain hiding in their homes one family is Greek Cypriot and the other Turkish Cypriot. As they gradually venture out to look for food and to assess the frightening situation, the two families come together and deep friendships are formed. Eventually some peace came, but the two families were separated once again by the "green line" which divides the island.

I enjoyed this book but for me The Island, will always be the best. Chris

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Our next read is the first novel by Richard Madeley. 'Some Day I'll Find You' plays beautifully into the heart of commercial fiction, a love story with intrigue and betrayal at its core. Dominica Jones

Driving



Nights are drawing in. Have you had your night and winter driving checked. Safety is of prime importance at this time of year as we may not be used to driving in the dark.

Are you starting to have mobility problems? Do you need advice or assistance? I have many years supporting people with Mobility issues. Steve Evans

Gardening



The Garden Group is now into the winter programme with meetings at Rushden Hall. In October we had a return visit from Joe Whitehead updating us on his work on the walled garden at Blatherwycke.

We are planning a visit there next year but sadly Joe is leaving to become Head Gardener at Burghley House.

In November another excellent speaker - Nicholas Warliker. He spent 25 years working at Barnwell and described the Castle, the Manor and the Gardens. An interesting afternoon enjoyed by all. Carole Rider

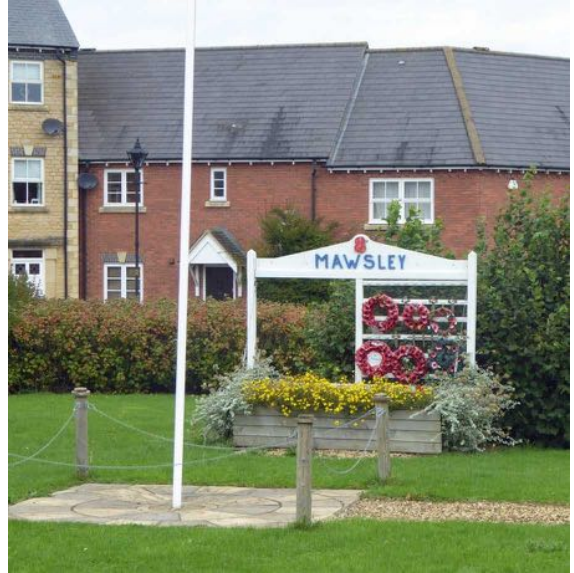
Settlements A



Our October meeting was our first indoors since May. Being half term, several members were unable to come but we still had a good turnout of 22 to hear a talk on Cransley and Mawsley which we hope to visit next summer. Great Cransley despite its

name is very small but has an interesting church and a long history. It is separated from Little Cransley, which is now part of Broughton, by the A45.

Mawley by contrast is a new village which has grown rapidly since building started in 2001. It is now a thriving community of over 2000 residents and many facilities older villages do not enjoy such as shops and a medical centre. It has a strong community spirit and won the Daily Telegraph best new build village in 2014. It has similarities with Poundbury in Dorset with a variety of building styles giving an appearance of being much older than it is.



Our November meeting will be a talk on Riseley. We do not meet in December as the fourth Tuesday is Boxing Day! In January we are welcoming an outside speaker to tell us about Raunds. Frances Francis

Wine and Dine.



Christmas Lunch. There are 6 places left for our Christmas Lunch at Knuston Hall on 11th December 12.15 for 12.45. If you are not a member of our group but would like to come, please come to my table at the Pemberton Meeting armed with £5. per head as a deposit. The total cost of the lunch is £20 and is high quality.

At our meeting last Monday, we have organised our programme for the six months up to June next year. I will be sending out details in due course.

Gerry Burnham.

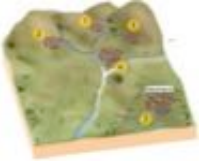
Singing for Fun.



Rehearsals are now going on for our Christmas Concert on the 7th December at St Peter's Catholic Church Hall at 2pm. Entrance is £3.00 which includes a cup of tea or coffee and a mince pie. All proceeds are going to Spurgeons Child Care which is a local charity. The group is bearing the cost of the production so all proceeds will go to the charity. Tickets will be available at Mark Birds Flooring at High Street Higham Ferrers or phone Chris Mordin on 07778836094. I hope to have some tickets at the Pemberton Meeting so just come to the Wine & Dine table and I will be able to sell you some tickets. We look forward to your support.

Gerry Burnham (SFF PO)

Settlements B



This month Margaret & Brian Shelton kindly offered to lead the November meeting. The picture is one of the lovely thatched cottages. They shared the presentation and told us very interesting facts and history of Poddington. As they had prepared the talk and put it on a memory stick, I found I learned another fact regarding the projector as the memory stick went straight into it. It was very useful as I am sure other visiting speakers will no doubt do the same. What is the saying, "you are never too old to learn".



As most of the group and myself had only been to Poddington Garden Centre, it was very interesting to see other houses and a school, cricket field and children's' playground. It will definitely be one of our visits next Summer.

This was our last meeting for this year as like many groups we don't have a meeting in December. We will back on 10th January 2018 when I will talk about Weekly & Warkton, two pretty villages connected with the Montagu family and Boughton House. Cris Holden

Bird Watching



Rain was forecast for our November meeting at Pitsford reservoir but fortunately it held off until the end of our meeting at lunchtime. After sorting out permits at the fishing lodge a scan over Holcot bay showed that the numbers of winter wildfowl had increased considerably in recent weeks with good numbers of wigeon, teal, gadwall, tufted, and shoveler plus a stunning pair of male red crested pochards. A great white egret was on the far bank along with little egret and grey heron while a black swan was in the open water, the latter classed as an escape so not allowed on the official list for the day.

Moving round to Scaldwell Bay we had some waders, two redshank & five dunlin, along the shoreline and a **Stonechat** perched up in the vegetation. These attractive birds are regular winter visitors to Pitsford and always perch up high to look around for food. At the feeding station we saw most of the usual tits and finches plus some now quite scarce tree sparrows.



This year the water level at Pitsford was dropped right down to allow some essential bank maintenance to be carried out so there was a vast expanse of mud in Scaldwell bay where there is normally water. However a walk round to the top of the bay failed to produce very much bird wise apart from pintail and a marsh tit briefly in the willows. On the return trip to the car park we found a couple of ruff on the shoreline and the dunlin had increased to about ten.

The meeting concluded with a enjoyable meal at the Coach and Horses in Brixworth. Chris Ebden

History

Britain in war and peace.



What a delightful afternoon the U3A History Group had at their meeting in the The Full Gospel Church. Linda Walker presented three films she had researched about Life in Great Britain during and after the Second World War.

Ashley Green was a small Buckinghamshire Village where evacuees of all ages arrived at a school to be taught by Mrs James , the headmistress and Mrs Glover , the Reception teacher with additional help

from a craft teacher. To those of us watching and listening to Mrs James this seemed an idyllic time with the children playing on the Village Green, collecting firewood in the woods and drinking milk from the local farm all organised and supporting each other. It was a propaganda film to persuade the Canadians to help and support the War Effort .What shines through and Linda and Chris have confirmed this from their researches is that it was a very accurate snapshot of what the school and rural life at that time was for the children evacuated to Ashley Green away from the perils of the air raids in the towns and cities.

Some memories are triggered by a smell, a touch or a glimpse of the past. The second film from the War Years was a symphony of evocative sounds, music and words. Most of us listening could remember these from the post war era. The Radio pips, Workers Play Time, the Factory whistle, the Lambeth walk and of course Westminster chimes from Big Ben.

John Schlesinger created a Documentary about Waterloo Station entitled TERMINUS In 1961. Beautifully edited we watched the faces of travellers scanning the information boards just as we observe the more electronic boards in stations today. The station staff dealt with worried passengers those that had lost belongings, excited race goers, honeymooning couples, and Home Office prisoners. Near the end we were all emotionally touched by the little boy who was distressed a being lost. The varied sound track enhanced both the film and our responses.

Linda gave an excellent presentation but as she acknowledges Chris helped in her research. Gloria and Peter Wright and Ron Smith spent many hours helping to transfer the film recordings to the create the presentation. For those of you who would like to watch these films they can be found on You Tube.

Ann Kemp 2017



Computing



At our last session “Preparing for Xmas” the group heard that 2018 will be more online and App. related, everyday there is a new App. or Addon coming to the market – just watch the TV adverts. The social online access for everyday life will become even more mobile and cashless will become more prevalent, how many of us use or have heard / understand the following, just the tip of the iceberg!

- 1) Ticketless mobile car parking payments either in shopping centres or hospital car parks.
- 2) Amazon members of their Prime service now get “free” unlimited eBooks to read, free shopping to home deliveries, and a vastly increasing shopping mall of products via third party suppliers through Amazon.
- 3) How many members are still paying phone call bills instead of using free WIFI Apps to make calls and only paying for line rental and broadband.
- 4) How many are using “tap to pay” for purchases under £30 – and then receiving enhanced offers.
- 5) How many have free 2 for 1 cinema tickets for a whole year on qualifying purchases.
- 6) How many are booking train tickets via an App. For substantial savings by adding Senior or Two together cards.
- 7) Cloud based storage of information allows access wherever you are, it provides backup in case of hardware loss or damage and is currently in full supported use by our Beacon servers.
- 8) A major growth in “home automation” linked to voice activated hardware allowing lights to be turned on / off as you come home and them to provide streamed music of your choice direct from the internet as well as turning on any appliance in the home and automatically making a phone call instigated by voice command in any case of emergency.

"The Computer Group is taking a break during December and January although current members can still get in touch with Jim and Maggie via the tutorials page for any urgent queries.

We would like to invite all current and past members of the group, together with anyone who might be considering joining us, to an open house invitation on Wednesday 7th February at 13:00, this meeting is intended to “hear your views” regarding the possible direction of the group and format of meetings for the year ahead, to reconcile the different needs of all actual and potential members from absolute beginners to intermediate and even advanced users.

Alan Nixson – Computer Group Leader

Family History



In September Frances took us to the USA: our October meeting brought us right back home with a talk from Muriel about her Wagstaff ancestors who were firmly rooted in Higham Ferrers. This included information about the Great Fire of Higham in 1882, and an extensive collection of parish records, which are so much more interesting than transcripts, but often pretty illegible, especially when they are enlarged for the big screen.

Hence a suggestion that we try to get a speaker who can help with interpreting old documents! Thank you to Muriel, who has been persuaded to give another talk (see below).

In November we are going to have a look at some of the internet sources that can add background and detail to a family tree, as well as tempting you to spend hours wandering the hidden byways of history. December will be a light hearted quiz, with mince pies etc.

For 2018, the group was almost unanimous in choosing Criminals over Wills and Probate for a talk from Andrea Pettingale in January and we have booked Muriel on the Whitworths and Frances on Coroners Reports. Sharon Stafford

Handicrafts Annual Sales Table



The Sales Table at the October monthly meeting attracted lots of visitors and buyers. We shall be having a table at the November meeting too! So if you missed us, please come and see us this time.

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. Diana Turner

Handicrafts

At the recent October meeting we all made some Kansashi flowers, using fabric, buttons and very little sewing.



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..



Our new venue at the Rushden Bowls Club is proving very successful and we welcome New members. So do come along and enjoy a creative afternoon, make new friends and see what we plan for the future. Diana Turner

Days Out.



Anglesey Abbey snowdrop Festival. This is the first winter the house is open to visitors. 19/2/18. £23 50 non N. Trust £13 N. trust members. We have a few places left. Ring 01933 387892 or email spidar.girl@btinternet.com payment at the November meeting please. Thanks, L&C Linda Walker

Country Park walks is as follows:



Sunday 10 December - 10.30am meeting outside the visitor centre at Stanwick Lakes NN9 6GY. At the entrance barrier to the park take a car parking ticket, and then pay at the ticket machine before leaving the park. We will walk about 2 miles along the footpaths bordering the lakes and overlooking the river Nene. Don't forget to bring your camera or binoculars for the beautiful landscape and the variety of birds on the lake.

For those who like to lunch after the walk it will be at the Star & Garter pub in Chelveston where we have lunched many times before as the food is excellent at sensible prices. As I have to book a table in advance, please let me know if you would like to stay on for lunch. New members are very welcome, also dogs if kept on a lead. Sylvia Wright

Events

The Events Committee are putting together a full programme for 2018. We are now taking bookings for:-

The Ideal Home Show in London on Tuesday 20th March. The cost including coach, will be £30.

The Hollies, at Royal & Derngate, Northampton on Thursday 5th April, (self-drive), at a cost of £29.

Ladies' Day at Newmarket on Thursday 12th July. The cost, including coach, will be £45 for entry into the Grandstand & Paddock area. Take own picnic.

War Horse, Matinee performance at Milton Keynes Theatre on Wednesday 26th September.

Also being researched is a River Boat trip from Stoke Bruene in August, together with the following London musicals Wicked, 42 Street & Tina (the Tina Turner musical).

Please visit the Treasurer's Table at Pemberton to show your interest in any/all of these events.

Video Editing



The group meets in my home on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 9.45am.

We are a self- help group and are of very different abilities but use the same software. At the moment we do have a spare place so please get in touch if you are interested in joining us. Ann Webster

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

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	H/F 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