

## Newsletter December 2017



### From the Chair,

I want to thank those members of the Committee who did us proud with the display in St Mary's for the Higham Ferrers Sparkle. We didn't win but it is the taking part that counts! And taking part is what our Singing for Fun group did so well in the Working Men's Club. As people sat enjoying a drink and seasonal cakes or browsed the many stall around the room our talented singers serenaded them. Well done to all! **See Photographs Later on in this Newsletter**

As I announced at the last monthly meeting we have now received confirmation from Freedom Leisure that we will have to move out of the Pemberton Centre sometime in the coming year, perhaps before the Spring. The Committee have stepped up their investigations and think that we may have found an alternative venue... keep a look out for further information in the New Year.

Linda and I are currently in the throes of writing our Christmas cards. This is a big task – we have moved around and have friends dotted all over the country – and part of our own family is now overseas. But it always causes us to reflect on family and friendships and how important they are. Our membership of U3A has also added to our circle of friends. As an organisation founded on lifelong learning I find it amazing just how much it operates on a social level. It brings people together, it encourages working and playing together, which in turn leads to friendships that may not otherwise have formed. Long may the social character of U3A remain.

Finally can I wish you all a Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. We are lucky enough to be having one of our sons to stay over the holiday. Our relatively quiet house will be livened up with two more adults, a toddler and a young Labrador. Phil Grace

# Notices

## From the **Guitar Group**



If any of you are shopping at or near Asda on Tuesday 19th Dec. between 4.30 - 7pm (approx.), please support our U3A guitarists, who will be playing & singing in the foyer (at the top of the escalators).

As Asda provide our weekly meeting venue, we will be making a collection in aid of one of their charities. Karin Wilkinson

## **Cycling:-**

At last we have been informed of the exact amount raised by the London/Brighton ride and it totals £1418.50. We don't know who gave the 50 pence?! Perhaps it was all of the donors! Anyway congrats to those who took part. The ride was an achievement on it's own so it is a double whammy. Seasons greeting to all. Gerry (Cycling PO)

## **Video Editing**



The vacancy advertised last month for another group member has now been filled, thank you Ann Webster

## **Bird Watching**



There was a good turnout for our December meeting, a local walk around Irthlingborough Lakes and Meadows nature reserve. Unlike last year there was no fog and we started by walking along the Irthlingborough side of dragonfly lake where a large flock of lapwing were in the margins. It was quite impressive when they took off with over 100 birds (estimated 148!) swirling around in the sky. We also saw a stonechat perched on vegetation while a buzzard soared around in the distance. Moving on to the Ring Res pit there were a couple of shovelers plus a few pochard, tufted duck, the odd gadwall and great crested grebe. On the Higham Lake we added wigeon and goldeneye to the water fowl total and saw grey heron and little egret. Back on the old railway line we saw a few redwings feeding on the last of the hawthorn berries. This member of the thrush family is a winter visitor from Scandinavia and is more easily recognised by the two cream stripes on its head, one above and one below the eye, rather than the red wing which is actually on the underside. On the last bit of the walk we saw a single fieldfare, another winter thrush, plus a linnet perched in the top of a tree. The walk concluded with a meal at the Needle in Awl and a look at the recently published 2016 Northants Bird Report. Chris .Ebden



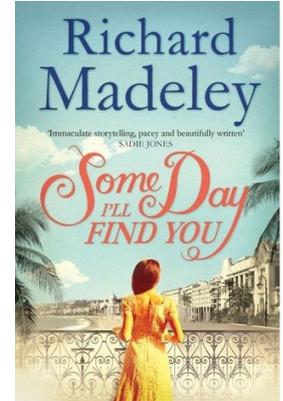
## BookMarks Reading



### Some Day I'll Find You by Richard Madeley

Four years after his TV career, in a much-loved double act with his wife Judy Finnegan, nose-dived, Richard Madeley published his first novel in 2013. A daring move after years of reviewing other authors' work - the boot was now on the other foot!

This tale begins in 1938 when a dashing fighter pilot romances the innocent and lovely Girton-educated Diana but then disappears when his Spitfire is shot down over France. So far, so Mills and Boon! But then, ten years later, the widowed Diana, now re-married and living in Nice, sees someone who looks strangely like her deceased fighter beau. And so we embark on a mystery/adventure/thriller with extra flavours of extortion, abduction, gunplay and the Mafia thrown in. No longer quite such a predictable read!



Most agreed that the plot was a good one, if a somewhat light read. We had an interesting conversation about Richard's first book 'Fathers and Sons', a harrowing chronicle of family violence from a controlling father, followed by some other biographical details of his life. A follow up to this book 'The Way You Look Tonight' follows Diana's daughter to J F Kennedy's circle at the time of the Cuban crisis.

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As our December meeting is the last one before Christmas, the group have taken a selection of seasonal reads. They will be shared at that time – and, with any luck, accompanied by some festive eats and a Christmas quiz.

Dominica Jones

## Country Park Walks



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

## History



We have been busy in the History Group adding photos of our 2017 History Trips to the Web page. To view the History Group photo archive including a selection of pictures from our 2017 coach trips, go to the Groups page and open the History page. Click the “here” at the bottom of the page to access the photo

archive.

We would also like to announce the opening of booking for our 2018 trips. Details of the trips will have been emailed (or posted) to all History Group members. Full details are to be included on the History group Web page.

### Summer 2017 Trips

We have now completed a very successful Summer season of History trips which included some enjoyable and interesting days out:

May	2017	Ironbridge Victorian Villiage and Ironbridge villiage/bridge.
Jun	2017	Greys Court and Henley-Upon-Thames
Jul	2017	Haddon Hall and Bakewell
Aug	2017	Chelsea & Chelsea Hospital
Sept	2017	Blickling Hall
Oct	2017	Kensington Palace

To find out more about each of these trips, view previous newsletters on the U3A Web site or to view photographs / video of the trips, visit the History Group Web page at [www.highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk](http://www.highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk) and click on our new (archive page at the bottom of the screen)

We have now announced our programme for next years trips as follows:

For more details of these trips and information about prices and booking visit the History Group Web page at [www.highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk](http://www.highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk) Ron Smith

### Settlements A

November was our last meeting in 2017. Susan James gave an interesting talk on Riseley which we hope to visit next summer.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd January when we will have a visiting speaker talking about Raunds.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Frances Francis

### Settlement B

I would like to wish all the members of Settlements B Group a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.



I look forward to seeing you on 10th January when I will be telling you about Weekly and Warkton, two villages with close connections to the Montagu family and Boughton House. Chris.

## Wine Appreciation.



Novembers tasting was Sherry, we watched a film on how it is made and then tasted three different types. All bought from Waitrose all the same £7.99. Manzanilla Sanlucar dry, Amontillado Medium Dry and Cream Rich Sweet. Nibbles were offered as food can change the flavour of wine. No meeting in December ---- next month January Winter Warmers. Due to increased interest we are starting a fourth Tuesday group. Both groups will taste the same wines.

Seasons Greetings Steve Evans 01933 356784 (dsgrangeway@sky.com)

## Sunday Lunches

Our next Sunday lunch is on the 28 Jan 2018 time to be arranged, at the Griffin Higham parking at the rear of property accessed from Queensway off the High St then 1st left, car park is on the left.

Sample menu and to put your name down available at the December meeting. or ring us on 01933 387892

Please let us know if you would like to be removed from the list.

Seasons greetings, Linda & Chris

## Family History



The November meeting saw us taking a look at some free websites that can add context and background to the lives of ancestors as well as helping with genealogical research. It is surprising how many communities have village/town websites which contain information that you are unlikely to find elsewhere on the internet, often because you had no idea it exists - the residents of Ringmer in Sussex, for example, who were given soup and coal in 1835, which as well as history, stretched our maths skills - because we are of a certain age we could work out that "560D bread 2 6 8" referred to the cost of 560 penny loaves in old money! These sites can also provide an enthusiastic local historian who is willing to help with research and share resources, and data which has been transcribed and organised in ways which help us to interpret it. Lots of surprises, too - the wonderful Cornwall Online Parish Clerks site, introduced by a slide of Ross Poldark which instantly grabbed attention, revealed that Poldark and Warleggan are not Cornish names, but Carne and Chynoweth - as in Demelza and Elizabeth - are! Using these names to explore the site led us to Van Diemen's Land and Mexico, with criminals and tin miners beginning new lives for very different reasons.

These are the sites which gobble up long afternoons or take you well into the night long after you have finished your own research, because of the fascinating glimpses into past lives that they provide.

The December meeting will involve a light-hearted quiz on a Christmas theme, so bring your laptop along. Sharon Stafford

## Handicraft group.



A big Thank You to all those who supported the group by buying items at our recent Sales Table at the October and November meetings.



There is no meeting in December but the group will be meeting in January on 25th at the Rushden Bowls Club and we will be doing some beading with Sherry Calvert. If you would like to find out more about us, pick up a leaflet at the December Pemberton Centre meeting. Diana Turner.

## Singing for fun



Our Christmas concert took place last Thursday 7th December which we think was a great success. The charity we supported was the local children's charity, Spurgeons. We have raised something in excess of £500.

We will report the exact amount when we can. A big thank you to all the singers who put in many hours of rehearsing and supplying raffle prizes and food for the interval. The cost of the production was born by the members.

We are now looking forward to our next production on Saturday, May 19th and we have initially named it "Songs of the Sixties. So watch this space for more information.

Gerry(Singing for Fun PO)

## Turkey and Tinsel Weekend.



Under the amazing leadership of Jean Mole, just over 30 of us were taken to the Trouville Hotel in Bournemouth for 3 days of fun, laughter, dancing, quizzing and what have you. Oh we did also have a drink or two!!! It was suggested that there was dancing on the table and all sorts of naughty things going on!!! I am sure that is just rumour.

In addition, there was a day trip to Beaulieu Abbey and motor museum. You may ask if this will happen again next year. Well I am not going to say as I would not like it be over subscribe and find I cannot go. Our coach driver was fantastic which just added to the enjoyment of our mini holiday. Gerry Burnham (minus hangover)..

## Driving



Everyone has to renew their driving License at 70 (have you ?!) maybe the time is right to have a refresher drivers assessment.

No cost to you in your own car. Eyesight and reflexes slow down as we get older but with guidance we can find ways to deal with this. You don't have to stop driving just learn to adapt and ensure you are safe.

Best wishes for the holiday season Steve Evans 01933 356784 (dsgrangeway@sky.com)

## Days Out Car Share.

These are the proposed trips for 2018 so far.



Sun 15/4/18 Carpetbaggers Secret warfare museum Harrington NN6 9PF with guided tour.

Sun 13/5/18. Postponed from 2017. Twinwood Airfield MK41 6AB 1940s museums.

Mon 2/7/18 Wrest Park MK45 4HR. English heritage members entrance free. First Monday in the month optional Archaeological store collection tour.

30th July or a Monday in August 2018. Apethorpe Palace PE8 5DJ  
All dates to be confirmed.

More information on the Days Out table at the December meeting. Please come and tell us if these trips are of interest to you. Offers and requests for transport contact us. We will be taking names from January meeting. Linda Walker

## Rock and Blues



Need a break from Christmas Carols?

The Rock and Blues Group is meeting on Thursday 28th December to listen to Christmas-themed Rock and Blues music, and new members would be very welcome.

Please contact Jim Morrison by e-mail (webmaster@highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk) or phone (07403 557556) or come to the group table at the monthly meeting for further details  
Jim

## Our Singing for Fun group at the Higham Ferrers Sparkle



### Newsletter

I think the newsletter is a very important part of our U3A and I would like to thank all Group Leaders who spend their time creating and sending me copy for inclusion in the following months edition.

It enabled all of our members the opportunity to see what our Groups get up to even though they may not wish to join them.

I would like to thank our readers without you there would be little point in producing it.

Wishing our readers a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year

Peter Turner *Newsletter Editor*

## 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*

**December 13<sup>th</sup>** Northamptonshire Past in Winter Jon-Paul Carr  
**Note earlier Date**

## Speakers for 2018

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

## 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 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	
Bridge (Beginners)	Leader's Home		Alt. Mondays 14.00-16.00
Bridge (Social)	Leader's Home		2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> Wed and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thur 13.00-15.00
Country Dancing	Hf WMC		Alt Mon 14.00-15.30
Country Park Walks	Various Parks	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed 10.00 to 12.00	
Digital Photography B	Ringstead Village Hall High Street NN14 4DA		1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri 14.00-16.00
Driving	On the Road	Various	Various
Family History	St. Peters RC Church Hall		3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue 14.00-16.00
Fishing	Varies	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	
French (Advanced A)	Leader's Home	1 <sup>st</sup> Tue 11.00-12.00	
French Advanced B			1 <sup>st</sup> Tue 12.00-13.00
French (Rusty)		1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	
Gardening	Rushden Hall and Visits		Garden visits in Summer Otherwise Hall 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Thu 14.00-16.00
History	Winter Months Full Gospel Church Hall, otherwise Trips		1 <sup>st</sup> Thu 14.00-15.30
Home Dining	Various	Twice per Month varying days	
Jewellery Making	Members Homes		3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 13.30-15.30
Knit and Natter	Leaders Home	Alt Mon 10.00-12.00	
Mahjong	Windmill Club	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	19.00 – 21.00
Painting for Pleasure	Coleman's Craft Warehouse		Alternate Mon 14.00
Philosophy	Various		3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 13.30-15.00
Play Reading	Higham Ferrers Library		1 <sup>st</sup> Tue 13.15-
Popular Music Appreciation	Leader's Home	Alt Fri 10.00-12.00	
Reading Bookmarks	Higham Ferrers Library	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	
Reading Bookworms	Various	1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Tue 14.00-16.00
Settlements B	Rushden Hall, Hall Park		2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed at 13.00	
Ten Pin Bowling	Wellingborough AMF Bowl	Alt Fridays 10.00 to 12.00	
Video Editing	Leaders Home	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tue 10.00-12.00	
Walking	Various	Various	
Wine and Dine	Various	Various	
Wine Tasting	Leader's Home		4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs 14.00-16.00