

## Newsletter June 2017



**Rushden Lakes opening at the end of July**

### From the Chair,



Angela, our Vice Chairman wrote last month about the benefits she gained from joining U3A after moving into the area. For her, the chance to meet people and make new friends proved invaluable. The main aim of the founders was the promotion of lifelong learning and this is set out on the National website which describes U3A as follows: "Retired and semi-retired people come together and learn together, not for qualifications but for its own reward: the sheer joy of discovery! Members share their skills and life experiences: the learners teach and the teachers learn, and there is no distinction between them."

Here at Higham and Rushden we have many Interest Groups which support that aim. I can think of the Computer Group, Digital Photography, Driving and perhaps the perfect example of learning together, our Guitar Group which started from nothing, quite literally!

However, the social benefits of our organisation should not be overlooked. Many of our Groups provide an opportunity for members to simply get together and enjoy a common activity. Amongst these I count the various card playing groups, Wine and Dine and the various art and handicraft groups.

I think that there is room for both threads within the wonderful organisation that is the University of the Third Age. We have room for everybody and aim to please by providing whatever we can to enrich people's lives. Phil Grace

## Notices

**Members please note that the June monthly meeting is a members only ticketed event. So please remember to bring your tickets with you.. Tickets will NOT be available on the door. The meeting will start at 1.45 prompt**

### U3A Newsletter

This will be the last time the U3A Newsletter will be distributed by email. Due to the difficulty in keeping a contact list up to date and sending out over 500 emails each month on the same day, it has been decided to ask members to access the Monthly Newsletter on our Web Site. On the positive side we now have a very good website linked to a central Data System, (Beacon see later in Newsletter), where members can access all the information they need to contact Group Leaders and Group Activities. To access the Monthly Newsletter you simply go to the website, [www.highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk](http://www.highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk) and click 'Newsletters' in the top menu where you can click on the latest or previous Newsletters. I will not be able to send out emails to remind you that the new Newsletter is available as that would defeat the whole object. Up till now most members have realised that I have sent the Newsletter out during the weekend before the monthly meeting, this will be when I send the Newsletter to our Webmaster and he will upload it as soon as he can, (please remember we are all volunteers and have a life outside the U3A). Peter Turner (Newsletter Editor)

### Awayday planned for July 25th

As a result of low level of interest in this event it has been decided that we have to cancel. We could not afford to proceed any further without incurring financial costs. Any monies paid for this event will be refunded. Linda Grace/ Events Committee

### Possible new group for rock and blues lovers

Did you grow up, or develop your musical tastes, through the late 60s and the 70s? Did you (and do you still) love rock bands like Cream, Deep Purple, Alex Harvey, Rainbow, The Doors, Black Sabbath, Jefferson Airship (and its derivatives), Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin? What about the more bluesy Peter Green's Fleetwood Mac, Chicken Shack, B.B.King, Derek and The Dominoes or Dire Straits, or even the electronic music of Kraftwerk or Tangerine Dream?

I would like to find out what interest there would be in forming a U3A group for rock and blues lovers. Please get in touch with me, Jim Morrison (no, not the one buried in Paris!) by:

- e-mailing [webmaster@highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk) or
- leaving a message on my business voicemail 0845 862 1410

Please let me have your name, contact details, and any thoughts you might have about the group (such as possible venue(s), necessary equipment to play vinyl, cassettes, CDs and digital music on USB drives, and anything else that occurs to you). Jim Morrison

## Settlements A



For our last indoor meeting until October Brian and Margaret Shelton gave a very detailed talk on Podington and Hinwick. Once again we were all familiar with the village but most of us had only driven through or visited the garden centre. We never cease to be amazed at the hidden gems in all our villages.



Church Farm Photo by Kathy Main

This was our last indoor meeting until October. Our first visit this year is to Sharnbrook in June.

There is no visit in July. In August we will go to Milton Ernest and then Podington in September.

Frances Francis, Group Leader

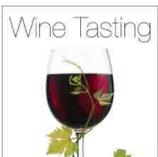
## Gardening



In May we went on our first visit of the year to Castle Ashby. After the briefest of showers we had a very pleasant guided tour of the gardens with a very knowledgeable and friendly guide. The afternoon ended sitting in the sunshine with a cup of tea and a piece of cake - perfect.

On May 27 we had a table at the Chichele College Garden Fair where we took along the left-over balance of our donated plants from the April Plant Swap plus publicity details of the U3A. In total we raised £41.10 which was donated to the College Garden. Carole Rider

## Wine Tasting



The Winetasting group on 22 June will be tasting chilled Summer Roses from various countries.

I am planning an al fresco Winetasting so we can dress up in summer clothes, sombreros, shades, shorts etc.

I hope to have some nibbles to complement and maybe clash with the wines.

In May we tasted two Syrah/Viogniers one from France and one from South Eastern Australia both an unusual blend of red and white grapes. The Australian one was lighter in colour and flavour. Whereas the French one was deeper in colour with more flavour. Cheers Steve 01933 356784

## BookMarks Reading Group

The Miniaturist by Jesse Burton

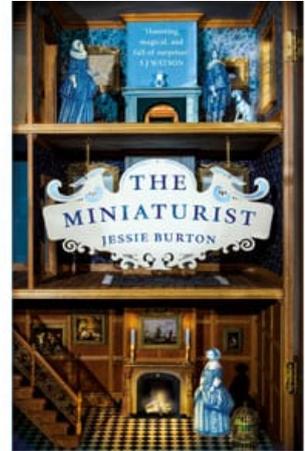


Chosen and reviewed by Dominica Jones

It's the winter of 1686 when Nella Oortman arrives at a large house in Amsterdam. She has been married off to an older man, Johannes Brandt who is rich and charismatic, yet deeply mysterious and secretive. What is he hiding? Why is he so taciturn with his new bride? To add to Nella's troubles, it quickly emerges that Brandt is in no hurry to consummate the marriage. Nella sits alone in her dreary room, adorned with depressing portraits of bleeding birds and shot rabbits. Why won't her husband come to her?

And then, by way of compensation, he presents her with a gift – a doll's house, which is a perfect replica of her marital home and she commissions a miniaturist to furnish it. But when the exquisitely-made, tiny models begin to arrive in parcels, Nella notices something astounding about them. They somehow seem able to mimic events in the real house around them, even to prophesise things before they happen.

This was the debut, best-selling, novel by Jesse Burton and was met with mixed opinions and reviews – reflected similarly within our group.



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To mark two hundred years since the death of Jane Austen, BookMarks will be delving into her novels in June and discussing this at July's meeting.

Dominica Jones

### Family History

### May Meeting



This was a do-it-yourself version of Who do you think you are? and after a quick look at some interesting graves ( Simon Gilker, killed by a rocket on 5th November 1696, the Hardingstone grave of the unknown victim in the Blazing Car Murder in 1931, Scipio Africanus, a slave who died in Bristol aged 18 in 1720 and many more), we investigated Ephraim Hemings Snoad. His gravestone in Kent was the starting point on the basis that he had a name which was unlikely to be a common one, and other criteria such as time and location which make life easier for family historians. He married the equally unusual Cordelia Dunk. A real bonus was the fact that a group member uncovered a potential skeleton in his cupboard, and further investigation after the meeting - we just can't stop digging - discovered an illegitimate daughter born to a servant, which meant that this respectable school principal fathered 17 children all told.

In June we are looking at what newspapers can tell us about family history and in July we have a talk on pre-1830s records.

Sharon Safford

## Singing for Fun U3A Raise £1034 for Charity.

The Higham and Rushden U3A singing for Fun Group held their Old Time Musical Evening on the 13th May. The feedback on performances was good and having sold all the tickets, had a raffle and made refreshments available plus some generous donations, raised £1034 in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support



An enthusiastic audience were left asking for more and were surprised to learn that only two or three people in the group had any theatrical experience. However all the participants had worked hard at rehearsals and the show went off with only minor glitches.

Having enjoyed the experience, the group are now considering putting on another show. Watch this space.



## Cycling.



By the time you read this, your cyclists will have completed their ride from London to Brighton. There is a supporting team of more than 20 going to Brighton by train and greet the arrival of the cyclists. Good luck to them all. Gerry Burnham(Cycling PO)

## Bird Watching



Previously the bird watching group has been quite lucky with the weather, however this was not the case for our June meeting at Paxton Pits which was cancelled due to heavy rain and strong winds. Hopefully the weather will be fine for our final meeting of the current programme in July at Stanwick Lakes. Regards, Chris Ebden

## Wine and Dine.



Last Tuesday(13th June) saw us at Wadenhoe House for an excellent dinner of top quality together with excellent service. The only glitch was when one of the waiters decided to tip coffee over Chris Walker. I am not sure if Chris asked for a “show of hands” and ended up with a “Shower of grouts”. No it wasn't that bad but I think we thought the occasion was amusing.

We have now fixed our programme for the next 6 months including our Christmas lunch at Knuston Hall on Monday 11th December. I have reserved 60 places so that non group members can join us for the occasion. The prices are the same as last year and as usual there is a non refundable deposit of £5. after 30th October. I will be getting the list out in August, so get your £5 notes at the ready and book early to avoid disappointment. Obviously, priority will be given to group members. Gerry Burnham

## Days out car share.



Days Out Car share.U3A Members only please. We can be contacted via the website or 01933 387892

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 National `Trust members £6- 70 non members

Sunday Lunch. July 30th.The George at Wilby 12.30 for 1pm.Final numbers this month please. menus should be available at the June meeting. Deposit collected then too if the George requires it.

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. The Hall will be open on a free flow system. Please let us know if you would like to join us. We have 2 places in our car. leaflet on the collection at the June meeting.

Date Change. Glen Miller and more Museum MK41 6AB 10 30-4pm +optional lunch at a local hostelry Sunday 3/9/2017. Museum entrance price £4 each. I should have leaflets at the June meeting.

Up Date. At present This trip is still going ahead. 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.

Matilda the musical, matinee 21/3/18 at the Curve in Leicester LE1 1SB.Stalls seats £48 each. I have 17. There is subsidised parking next door to the Curve. Payment at June meeting latest. Cheques payable to Linda Walker. Optional pre show visit to Richard the 3rd exhibition its 10mins. or so walk away. English Heritage members get a discount on entry. Contact me for more details.

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

## Scrabble



Our scrabble group meets alternate Tuesdays in the residents lounge, Kilburn Place, Higham Road from 2pm -4pm. Our next meeting is 27th June. If you are interested and need any further information contact either Pam Mimms on 01933 355307 or Glynis Swailes on 01933 355498 or alternatively just come along and join us. Pam

## Sunday Country Park Walks



Sunday 11 June, we had a lovely walk at Kinewell Lakes, Ringstead, starting at the Axe and Compass Pub, and walked across the field by the side of the lake to Woodford with a stop at the pretty riverside café for a coffee, and then continued around the lake in a circular walk. This was about 2 miles. We don't usually stop for coffee during the walk but the Woodford Mill Tearooms by the side of the river marina are very pretty. Most of us ended the walk with lunch at the Axe & Compass pub in Ringstead which has been recently taken over by new owners. The service and food were excellent.

On Sunday 9 July, our walk will be at Barnwell Country Park PE8 5PB. This is near Oundle and 15 miles from Rushden via the A45. We will meet in the park car park (parking charge £3) at 10.30am for a walk of about 2 miles around the beautiful lakes and riverside mostly on hard service paths with sections of grass. There is a café in the park for those who just want a snack or coffee after the walk. For those of us who enjoy a mid-day lunch after the walk, we will travel just 2.8 miles to the Kings Head Pub at Wadenhoe which is a pretty pub with an additional outdoor seating area that runs down to the river. If you need a car lift, please let me know as we can pick up in Rushden or Higham. Could you also please let me know if you would like to join us for lunch at the Kings Head Pub so that I can book a table in advance. New members are very welcome, also dogs if kept on a lead. We also cater for the slowest walkers as our aim is a friendly social group walk on a Sunday morning. Sylvia Wright

### Events Group

#### “TURKEY & TINSEL



We are putting together a”, trip to Bournemouth, staying at the excellent 3 star Trouville Hotel, from Sunday 3rd to Wednesday 6th December.



Day 1: "Christmas Eve" Coach to Bournemouth. Join fellow guests for table quiz & a 3 course meal followed by in House Entertainment

Day 2: "Christmas Day". Day at leisure. Chance to stroll round the Christmas markets in town centre. In the evening enjoy a traditional Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings.

Day 3: "New Year's Eve" A coach drive to one of the surrounding areas (tba). In the evening there is a Bucks Fizz Reception followed by a 3 course dinner.

Day 4: Following a full English Breakfast it is time to depart and take the coach back home

The cost for all this is a very reasonable £225 which includes the coach, hotel accommodation for 3 nights plus all breakfasts & dinners. We need at least 20 members to make this viable. Please register your interest at the next meeting  
Contact Jean Mole

## Driving



One of our U3A members joined the Driving Group about 2 years ago and one of the principles we teach is to expect the unexpected. He did so well that he joined the local RoSPA Advanced Driving Group and passed his Advanced Driving Test. For Ken Chambers this is as good as it gets.

But remember to expect the unexpected! The National RoSPA Advanced Driving Association invited the local RoSPA Groups to forward two members names that would like to attend a Royal Garden Party sponsored by RoSPA. We held a draw and Ken was one of the lucky ones, so Ken and his Partner, Janet Embling, had a great day out at the Palace.

Over the past 4 years nearly 50 of our U3A drivers both men and women have benefited from our help many to just improve and upgrade their standard of driving, some needing to help with their confidence on roundabouts etc. About 10 have gone on to take the RoSPA advanced driving test and passed with either Silver or Gold. We can put you in contact with a member who has completed their training so you can get their opinion as to if it was worth doing.

So please come along for an assessment drive where we can explain the advantages of Advanced Driving not only on the Driver but also your Passengers, we cannot guarantee a trip to the Palace but we can improve your driving and as that is the most dangerous activity you undertake surely it's a must, so contact Steve Evans on 01933 356784

## Settlements B



This week the group made their first summer visit when we went to Cogenhoe. As the picturesque town has only a public house, we altered our normal plan of visit first, and afterwards.

The Royal Oak closed at 3 p.m. so five of our members had lunch there first. We then met the rest of the group at the church, when the Churchwarden Rob Goldswain gave us a very interesting history of the De Cogenhoe family who built the first church and amended subsequent ones. The picture of the church was taken at their Harvest Festival time.



Most of us then continued to look around the town and went down a lane to the River Nene where we enjoyed the view on a beautiful day.

Our next visit will be on July 12th when Susan James will tell us all about Sharnbrook.

## Beacon Update



As training continues for the group leaders many of the branch members are asking how they can access the new system information being configured within Beacon Administration System. The access for all members to Beacon is via the Higham and Rushden website, it is then necessary if not previously registered to do so, via the link shown at the login box - the Administration form. [www.highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk](http://www.highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk)

Having then submitted and received notification from the webmaster, which may take a couple of days, enter the login on the H&R website and go to the blue link labelled Members, upon arrival at this page a new screen detailing Beacon has been installed and from that you can see the Beacon calendar of events, the interest groups information and most importantly a link to update your personal information in the event of changes to address / email / emergency contacts etc.

Note: In future as more information on Beacon and Newsletters etc. will only be made available via the H&R website, it is essential to register once and gain all future access very easily.

Alan Nixson – H&R 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 Speakers may be subject to change**

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

Note earlier Date for December

## Committee Listing

Chair	Phil Grace	01933 460631	grace710@btinternet.com
Deputy Chair	Angela Mason	01933 624507 Note new number	angela.mason@luddite.plus.com
Treasurer	Jean Mole	01933 626608	peterandjeanmole@btinternet.com
Secretary	Ann Kemp	01933 419687	annkemp@hotmail.com
Speakers Secretary	Angela Mason	01933 315477	angela.mason@luddite.plus.com
Front of House	Lynn Gale	01933 563773	lynndiane2004@yahoo.co.uk
Group Liaison Officer	Jenny Carr	01933 274880	jennycarrnhp@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Jessica Walker	01933 418653	u3ahighamrushden@outlook.com
Technical Support	Mike Mimms	01933 355307	mike.mimms@tesco.net
Deputy Group Liaison Officer	Denise Evans	01933 356784	dsgrangeway@sky.com
Promotions	Barbara Wiggins	01933 651084	geoffreywiggins123@btinternet.com
Newsletter	Peter Turner	01933 314425	u3a.editor@btinternet.com
Webmaster	Jim Morrison	01933 652203	jim@jimandmaggie.co.uk

## 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 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	
BookMarks Reading Group	H/F Library	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed 10.30-11.30	
Bookworms	Members' Houses	1 <sup>st</sup> Thu 10.30-12.30	
Bridge (Beginners & Rusty)	Leader's Home		Alt. Mondays 2pm – 4pm
Bridge (Social)	Leader's Home		2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tue 13.30-15.30
Canasta	Rushden Bowls Club	Mondays 10-12	
Computing	St Peters RC Church Hall, 1 Hayway		1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday and 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday 10,30am	
Crib and Solo Whist	Windmill Club		Alt Mondays 7pm-9pm
Cycling	On the Road	Mondays	
Digital Photography	Rushden Hall	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	
French Rusty O-level			1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday
French for Beginners		1 <sup>st</sup> Monday	

## 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 <sup>rd</sup> Tue 2 - 4
Golf	Various	Alt Mon Tee off at 10am	
Guitar	ASDA Rushden Training room		Tuesday 5-7pm
Handicrafts	Various		4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday 2-4
History	Winter Months Full Gospel Church Hall, otherwise Trip Venues		1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday 2.00-3.30
Home Dining	Various	Various	Various
Knit and Natter	Members Homes	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon10-12	
Music Appreciation Classical	Leader's Homes		Last Wed 2-4pm
Jewellery Making	Members Homes		3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 1.30pm - 3pm
Play Reading	H/F Library		1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	2pm – 4pm
Settlements B	Rushden Hall, Hall Park	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday 10am	
Walking	Various		
Wine and Dine	Various	Various	
Wine Tasting	Leader's Home	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday 2pm – 4pm	