

Newsletter August 2017



Haddon Hall – See History Group

From the Chair,



The Spring issue of Third Age Matters depicted a grey haired couple in a touching embrace, kissing. The letters page in the latest issue contained many letters that deplored the use of the photograph. Some were intended to be humorous, asking if it a new group was being formed or imploring the Editor not to contemplate moving on to include a “page 3” photo or “readers’ wives” type feature.

However, others were incensed at the image. One said that the photo would not encourage them to join! There was also concern that the front cover photos on recent issues were presenting an image of U3A as an organisation concerned with geriatrics and social issues such as care of the elderly. Another said that the cover pictures did not do justice to the “...dynamic educational features of the organisation...” and continued saying “...we are educationalists first and foremost, we are an educational institution not Age Concern.”

I was disheartened by such comments. Whilst some “diehards” will maintain that U3A is all about lifelong learning I think that does an injustice to the social aspects of our organisation. We are what we are; U3A is what WE make it.

I would not want to lose the undoubted benefits of social interaction and engagement that come from membership of U3A. We offer friendship and companionship, the opportunity to enjoy pursuits and pastimes together with like-minded people. If there is some learning alongside that so well and good. And to quote the national U3A website that describes the U3A as “...a learning co-operative...which enables people to share many educational, creative and leisure activities.”

Phil Grace

Notices

Beacon and 2017 Renewals



Everything is proceeding as the Committee hoped and you should all have had your renewal notifications by now. Hopefully it all makes sense.

A set of Frequently Asked Questions has been posted on the website. But if you do have any further questions please get in touch with Phil Grace either by phone or email or speak to him at the Pemberton on August 16th

Beacon Update

Group leader training is now complete, any leaders that wish for further assistance please contact me directly.

hrbeaconpm@highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk

Access to see Newsletters, groups calendars and personal information updates can now be carried out through the website. www.highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk

The access for the “members” section – there is a requirement if not previously registered to do so, via the link shown at the login box - the Administration form, scroll down... <http://www.highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk/administration>

Newsletter

To make a shortcut for easy access to the newsletter on your desktop.

Point the cursor to a clear space on your desktop and right click the mouse and choose....

“New Shortcut” when the box opens then type this address:- <http://www.highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk/magazine> into the box – complete by adding the name U3A newsletter and you will now have a shortcut on your desktop to go straight to the relevant webpage every month before the monthly meeting. Alan Nixson – H&R Beacon Project Manager.

Website

No login requests to the U3A website can be processed from 25th August until 12th September as the webmaster will be on holiday

New Group



Mahjong for fun, beginners group - though all levels welcome 1st and 3rd Friday of each month 7-9 pm at the Windmill club, Glassbrook Road, Rushden, NN10 9RP

Contact: Lynn Gale 07724384593 email: lynndiane2004@yahoo.co.uk

Settlements A



There was no meeting in July to report on. Our next meeting will be our visit to Milton Ernest next Tuesday. Our September meeting will be our final visit for 2017 when we will be exploring Podington.

From October our meetings will be indoors in the Vestry Hall, St Mary's Church, Rushden when Susan will talk about Riseley.

Frances Francis

Video Editing



The Group has space for a new member from September.

We use a Corel Video Editing programme and meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 10am till noon. If you are interested please e-mail me at Caweb@btinternet.com Ann Webster

Sewing Group



Can you fix a zip?

Can you sew on a button?

Can you turn up a hem?

Do you need help with your sewing?

Do you need help with your dressmaking?

We are here to help

Please contact Carole Rider on 01933 350406 or email carolerider12@aol.com

First meeting to be held at home of Linda Grace, 2 Shortwoods Close, Raunds NN9 6NF on October 19th at 14.00 Linda Grace

Safe Driving

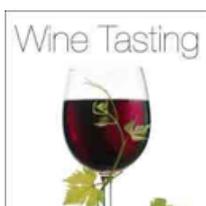


Highway Code question of the month

Where do you find Green Cats eyes. ? Talk to Steve at U3A.

Do you know anybody who is having mobility issues that needs extra controls in the car . I am fully trained in working with people with Disabilities and can support and help if needed. Steve Evans 01933 356784

Winetasting



Last month's tasting was quite interesting as the two wines we tasted were from the Badischer Winzerkeller, Breisach, Germany. Most of the wines produced here are not available in the UK. One Red Merdinger Attilafelsen, Spatburgunder grape and one White Graf von Kageneck, from Tuniberg , Rulander grape. Good light intense wines ideal with a Schnitzel or Bratwurst.

Next meeting August 24th we will be tasting Eastern European wines.

Steve Evans 01933 356784

History



Haddon Hall Visit (see front page)

On a beautiful day in July the History group had an outing to Derbyshire.

Our first stop was at Haddon Hall, and after a quick cup of coffee we started our guided tour.



Our guide was Olwyn and first she told us about the various owners of the estate, the main ones were the Vernon and Manners family. These were connected by marriage so the hall has been in the same family for about 900 years.

The oldest building on the site is the chapel, dedicated to St Nicholas, which is also the parish church. Part Saxon it has some very old wall paintings, including an exotic palm tree fresco, which symbolises immortality, and also victory in various religions.

The main building was started in the 14th Century, and was protected by a 12ft wall; it was not a fortified structure.

The banqueting hall was built first and Olwyn told us about the activities here and how many phrases we use today were derived. The Hall expanded over the years and as the family was wealthy they accumulated many tapestries. These hung safely on the walls even when the hall was uninhabited for 200 years. An unwise decision in recent times was made to store the tapestries all in one room and a fire destroyed a great number of them.

However, a major tapestry given by Henry VIII to Henry Vernon was saved and now hangs in the banqueting hall.

Our guide showed us a number of rooms, including the magnificent long gallery, with its large windows, an impressive sight when viewed from outside.

Having had an interesting tour we thanked our guide and walked round the beautiful garden terraces and enjoyed the view over the park land.

It was now lunch time and the restaurant had a wide choice of food which we all enjoyed.

We boarded our coach and took a short trip to Bakewell. Here we could wander by the river Wye, sit and watch the antics of the ducks or enjoy the scents of the sensory garden.



In the town we admired the lovely flower displays and some of us succumbed to the delights of the ice-cream bar!

Sadly it was now time to make our way home; it had been a lovely day with gorgeous weather. Thank you to the organisers, a job well done. Susan James

Wine and Dine



Last month saw the first B-B-Q by one of our own and as typical, it rained. Brian and Anita Turner did the hosting and they managed to find enough tables and chairs to seat about 26 of us. It was an excellent do and we thank Brian and Anita for their fantastic production.

At the Pemberton Meeting next Wednesday, I shall be taking reservations for the Christmas Lunch at Knuston Hall on Monday 11th December 12.15 for 12.45. The price is £20 and I shall need a deposit of £5 when making the reservation. I have booked 60 places and I will also be taking reservations from those who are not members of the Wine and Dine group on the understanding that if I have too many reservation, priority must go to the group members. Of course in such circumstances the deposit would be refunded. Have your £5. notes at the ready!!.

Our venue for the November meeting is being changed and I will let you know when this has been organised. Gerry Burnham

Country Park Walks



Our next walk on Sunday 10 September will be at Harrold-Odell Country Park. The walk will be approximately 2.0 miles and suitable for any fitness level as the paths are level without any hills.

If you require a car lift this can be arranged from Rushden or Higham Ferrers. We will meet at the Country Park entrance car park which is free, but has a box for a £1 voluntary donation, and the walk will start at 10.30 am. If the car park is full, there is an overspill car parking area.

Harrold-Odell Country Park is a country park and local nature reserve between the village of Odell and Harrold on the Carlton Road, Harrold MK43 7DS. It has two picturesque lakes, river meadows alongside the River Great Ouse, a Nature Reserve and a range of managed habitats. Don't forget to bring your camera if you like to take photographs.



There is a café and toilet facilities within the park and for members who at the end of the walk like to go on to Sunday Lunch, we will lunch at The Bell, Odell. We have been there before and the service and food is good with a main course menu or light lunch of sandwiches, toasties etc.

Please contact Sylvia Wright if you will be coming on the walk, require a car lift, and if you would like to order lunch

The walk on the 8th October will be Sywell Valley Reservoir and Arboretum NN6 OQX This is a stunningly beautiful Edwardian period former water supply reservoir and the trees in the Arboretum will be changing to their vibrant autumn colours. Although the circular walk around the Reservoir and Arboretum is 2.5 miles it is possible to just walk along the Reservoir for about 1.5 miles. Sylvia Wright

BookMarks Reading Group



The Novels of Jane Austen

In commemoration of the bicentenary of Jane Austen's death, the group thought it fitting to read or, in most cases, re-read, one of her famous novels to discuss at July's meeting. Chosen titles included 'Pride and Prejudice', 'Northanger Abbey', 'Emma', and 'Mansfield Park' - with most of us enjoying them more than when forced to do so at school. 'Mansfield Park' was discussed at greater length as the grand house of the title was set in Northamptonshire, usually identified as Cottesbrooke Hall.



No evidence exists of Jane ever visiting our county, but she had written to a family friend who lived here asking for details of the character of its countryside. With the help of an interesting article from a newspaper, we discussed the influence of Austen's work on other famous authors.

Anne had brought along an interesting book, 'Jane Austen, the Secret Radical' which describes the deeply subversive content of Austen's novels – feminism, slavery, abuse, the treatment of the poor, the power of the Church, even evolution. At this time to write about such things was seen as akin to treason. Maybe we should go back and read them all over again!

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A difference in pace next month as then we'll be reading the best-selling book 'Girl on the Train' by Paula Hawkins. You don't know her, but she knows you!!!!
Oooer! Dominica Jones

Gardening



On 10th August the garden group made a sunny visit to Delapre Abbey gardens in Northampton luckily avoiding the rain of the previous two days. We had an interesting guided tour of gardens and part of the park grounds followed by tea and cake, it was a very pleasant afternoon and well worth a visit.
Kathy Main



Bird Watching



The bird watching group does not meet in August so there is nothing to report, our next meeting is on 5th September at Summer Leys.
Chris Ebden

Settlements B



10 of our Group visited Kimbolton this month. Despite the rain, we were guided on a very interesting look at Kimbolton, going into little byways and courtyards which normally one wouldn't see. Nora Butler and her husband who live in the town and are very knowledgeable, took the two groups and we ended up in the lovely church where there is a fabulous Tiffany window. We were then treated to delicious cakes and tea.



In nearly two years in running this group, our summer visits have been on fine days. Today it was different, the weather forecast said it was going to improve but it rained all afternoon. The photo is us standing stoically in the rain close to the Kim river. Chris Holden

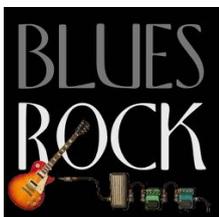
Jewellery Making



Christmas is coming! Don't groan. There is plenty of time to make pretty bracelets and necklaces either to wear or to give as presents. Stringing is one way, the straight forward adding of beads to wire. Bead weaving is the use of a special needle and thread pulling small crystals together. Both are fun and the results are spectacular.

Let me know if you are interested. Sherry Calvert sherry_calvert@msn.com

Blues and Rock Appreciation



Despite limited uptake so far, this group will be starting in September after the group leader's holiday. If you would be interested in joining or would like further details, please e-mail webmaster@highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk or leave a message on 0845 862 141

Days Out Car Share.



We are coming to the end of our 2017 season. We will not be at the August meeting. Contact details 01933 387892 or email spider.girl@btinternet.com

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

We will be advertising trips for 2018 from March next year.

Kelmarsh Hall NN6 9LY and MacDonald Gill Illustrated Maps etc. Exhibition 22nd August 2017. In September 2018 the speaker for our monthly meeting at the Pemberton Centre, Caroline Walker, will be telling us about the MacDonald Gill's work. We are planning a visit on 22nd August 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 1 place left in our car.

Glen Miller and more Museum MK41 6AB. Postponed until May 2018.

10:30 - 4pm plus optional lunch at a local hostelry. Museum open May-September.

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

Trips suggested so far for 2018. Please let us know if you are interested. Apethorpe Palace, Elton hall, Sharnbrook Mill theatre, Market Harborough theatre.
Linda Walker

Singing for Fun



After our successful concert last May, we are proposing to put a Christmas Concert on the 7th December at a venue yet to be confirmed. We are also doing another concert in May next year and will be called "The Singing Sixties" Watch this space for further details.
Gerry (SFF PO)

Family History



We enjoyed a talk from Angela Malin about using pre 1837 records, which covered not only the Parish Registers for births, marriages and deaths, but a whole range of other options for digging deeper, including very specific records such as militia lists. In August we will be doing our own research and helping other members by sharing knowledge and resources. Sharon Safford

The Newsletter and the Beacon System

Due to the holiday season we are a little short of content so I thought I could use this space to explain the advantages of the new Beacon System from my point of view as newsletter Editor

The pre-Beacon method of producing a Monthly Newsletter:-

A week before the Monthly meeting I send a reminder email to group Leaders to send me their Copy for the next Newsletter.

I have to maintain my own Contact List of Group Leaders which is not easy to keep up to date.

I then put the Newsletter together with the content sent in before the Friday before the Monthly meeting. I am limited in space with the hard copy but can add extra pages to the web/email version.

The Hard Copy version is then printed in Booklet form involving 700 sheets of A4 with a lot of ink changing. These then have to be collated with 3 sheets, stapled and folded.

To email the Newsletter out to members I have to maintain a contact list of over 600 members and hold them in multiples of lists with less than 20 recipients as limited by BT, this normally takes a whole evening.

Email is not 100% when dealing with these numbers and I have to cope with some members that did not either get the email or without the attachment complaining that I had left them out, I will be on the Website a day or two before the meeting Beacon is not only saving me at least one whole day per month but a huge amount of hassle. To access the newsletter on the website takes only a couple of seconds using the Desktop Icon described earlier in this issue. Any problems then please ask either the Webmaster or a member of the Committee, it's easy when you know how.

I hope that this gives the average member an idea of what goes on behind the screen by not only myself but the Webmaster, Membership Secretary and other members of the Committee. These things don't just happen so please embrace the Beacon System because it is helping us greatly. Peter Turner Newsletter Editor
Ps. If you don't know ask as those who understand it like it.

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

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

Committee Listing

Chair	Phil Grace	01933 460631	grace710@btinternet.com
Deputy Chair	Angela Mason	01933 624507 Note new	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
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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	07403 557556	jim@jimandmaggie.co.uk

Group Location and Dates (as far as I know)

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 Wednesday and 3 rd Thursday 13.00-15.00
Country Dancing	Hf WMC		Alt Mon 14.00-15.30
Country Park Walks	Various Parks	2 nd Sunday 10.30	
Crib and Solo Whist	Windmill Club		Alt Mondays 19.00-21.00
Cycling for Fun (all abilities)	On the Road	Mondays	
Days Out Car Share	T.B.A.	Various	
Digital Photography	Rushden Hall	2 nd & 4 th Wed from 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
Fly Fishing & Tying	T.B,A	T.B.A.	
French Advanced A	Leader's Home	1 st Tuesday	
French Advanced B			1 st Wednesday
Gardening	Rushden Hall		Garden visits in Summer Otherwise Hall 2 nd Thu 14.00-16.00
Golf	Various	Alt Mon Tee off at 10.00	
Guitar Beginners	The Windmill Club		Tue 18.00-19.30
Guitar Improvers	ASDA Rushden Training room		Tue 17.00-19.00

Group Location and Dates (as far as I know)

GROUP	VENUE	MORNING	AFTERNOON
Handicrafts	Various		4 th Thu 14.00-16.00
History	Winter Months Full Gospel Church Hall, otherwise Trip Venues		1 st Thu 14.00-15.30
Home Dining	Various	Various	Various
Jewellery Making	Members Homes		3 rd Mon 13.30-15.30
Knit and Natter	Members Homes	1 st and 3 rd Mon 10.00-12.00	
Painting for Pleasure	Coleman's Warehouse (temp)		Fortnightly Mon 14.00
Philosophy	Members Homes		3 rd Mon 13.30-15.00
Play Reading	H/F Library		1 st Tue 13.15-
Popular Music Appreciation	Leader's Home	Alt Fri 10.00-12.00	
Reading Avid Readers	Rotate Members' Homes	Last Mon 10.00	
Reading Bookworms	Members' Houses	1 st Thu 10.30-12.30	
Reading BookMarks	H/F Library	2 nd Wed 10.30-11.30	
Rusty French	Marie-Theresa Easter		
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	Hall Park		Alt Thu 14.00-16.00
Spanish	Various	Monday 10.00	
Special Events	Various		
Table Tennis	Pemberton Centre	1 st 2 nd & 4 th Wed at 13.00 2x40min sessions	
Ten Pin Bowling	Wellingborough AMF Bowl	Alt Fridays 10.00 to 12.00 app	
Video Editing	Leaders Home	2 nd & 4 th Tuesday 10.00-12.00	
Walking	Various	Various	
Wine and Dine	Various	Various	
Wine Tasting	Leader's Home		4 th Thurs 14.00-16.00