

## Newsletter January 2018



### From the Chair,



As I write this it is still early January. I am still wishing people a Happy New Year and remembering when signing and dating things to put 2018 not 2017! I hope that you all had an enjoyable holiday season, celebrating with family and friends. My commiserations to any of you who contracted the "lurgi". Linda and I were lucky enough to avoid it but we know many people who were unwell.

A newspaper article recently told us to cheer up saying that Britain was still a great place to live. It set out to explain that despite all the ills that are befalling the world at present we have little to complain about. We have freedom of speech, religious and sexual tolerance (in the main), we have a low crime rate, there are high levels of employment (although we do have some black spots of high unemployment and social deprivation). There is a free press and the judiciary retain their independence and the law deals with people fairly and honestly. There are many, many countries in the world that do not enjoy such freedoms and some are nearer than you think.

And here in East Northants we have Higham and Rushden U3A – an organisation that we can be proud of, that helps and supports the third age community, enabling us to continue to enjoy a meaningful life after our working life has ended. Long may it prosper! Phil Grace

**U3A Diaries** will be on sale at the Monthly meeting - they will be on the Treasurer's table. If we run out and you are unable to purchase from the National website yourself please leave your name with the Treasurer" Phil

## Notices

### Stanwick Handbell Ringers

It was “DING DONG MERRILY ON HIGH” at the Christmas meeting of the History Group at Rushden Full Gospel Church. The members were entertained by the Stanwick Handbell Ringers by both a performance and a history of Handbell ringing and some famous carols.



The Ringers had managed to obtain funding from THE NATIONAL LOTTERY, THE MIDLAND CO-OP GROUP AND NORTHANTS COUNTY COUNCIL as the total cost of the bells could be over £18000. Ringers demonstrated the different techniques used for the bell sounds, much more complicated and subtle than any of us had imagined. We can be proud that the clappers in the bell are made of Leather from Northamptonshire.

Many well-known songs were written by Gene Autry in 1949 and 1953 such as “Rudolph “and “Frosty” . Isaac Watts wrote the ever popular and melodic “Joy to the World “ in 1719 and the music is attributed to Handel. Instead of a pantomime we had a performance of” Goldilocks and the Three Bears “from the Ringers. All were impressed by their skill and versatility creating a lovely Christmas celebration for the History Group.

Audience participation in true festive spirit took place as we sang from the Bethlehem song sheet always remembering the Conductor’s tongue in cheek advice “The conductor is there as a barrier between the musicians and the audience. Remember not to look at him!”

Father Christmas arrived to give the vote of thanks, thank the committee and draw the raffle before we all enjoyed some festive fare.

Ann Kemp 2017

### New Year – New Group



We am hoping to start a new group which we shall call Holiday Spanish. If you would like to brush up your Spanish or simply practice it between friends or learn enough to be able to book a room at a hotel, book a table at a restaurant, be able to chat with locals about the weather, know what you are ordering, know how to asks for directions and understand the answer and to know

your numbers then we would like to hear from you.

If you are interested then please contact Mike Mimms.

## BookMarks



Our meeting in December took on a festive feel with the group sharing some seasonal readings. We were also pleased to welcome two new members, Carol and Jan. The library was hosting an inter-generational Rhyme Time during our session, but we weren't quite near enough to join in with 'Jingle Bells'!

Chris Freeman kicked off with a summary of her festive book – 'When Christmas Bells Ring', by best-selling author Katie Flynn: it's Christmas 1938 in the courts of Liverpool and a single mother and her mischievous twin daughters have no idea what cataclysmic events will soon overtake them..... Still in the 1930s, Ann Kemp had read 'Mystery in White: a Christmas Crime Story' by J Jefferson Farjeon. On Christmas Eve, a heavy snowfall causes a train to halt and some of its passengers are forced to take shelter in a house where all seems ready for guests but is deserted. A bread knife lies on the kitchen floor.....ooer!

Jan had bought along 'The Good Housekeeping Christmas Book, 1922-1962'. We were amused by the advice on tasks to be done by the maid in the earlier years, and to give one's wife a new fangled washing machine as a suitable Christmas present! Brian's contribution was a piece from the seasonal 'Penhaligon's Scented Treasury of Verse and Prose' (though old, it still had a scented whiff!). In this volume, George Bernard Shaw describes Christmas as an 'Atrocious Institution' which, though written in 1893, contained lots of concerns that we still have today about the over-commercialisation and greed at Christmastime. In a lighter vein, Margaret had read a bit of a tear-jerker, 'Christmas at Battersea' – short stories about abandoned dogs, great and small. We were all glad of a cuppa and a mince pie by the end of all this!

.....////////.....

We kick off next year with the first crime novel by Tony Parson's – 'The Murder Bag'. Enter DC Max Wolfe, single parent, defender of the weak, and every murderer's worst nightmare...      Dominica Jones

## Singing For Fun.



We have had to change the date of our concert next May to Saturday 12th May. It will be held at the Heritage Centre and will be "Songs of the Sixties" starting at 7 P.M., The date we had before clashed with "The Wedding" and The Cup Final.

We have already started rehearsals and we have also decided that we will be raising money for Alzheimer's. So keep that date clear and help us raise a goodly sum and enjoy the entertainment.      Gerry(PO Singing for Fun)

## Bird Watching



The bird watching group aims to meet on the first Tuesday of the month regardless of the weather which can be challenging at times, especially for our January meeting when heavy rain was forecast from 10am until 1pm. The meeting was at College Lake near Tring, a fairly new reserve based in an old chalk quarry with good facilities – visitor centre, toilets, café and several hides. Soon after setting off to walk around the we realised the rain had set in and returned to the large hide by the centre deciding to wait in the dry and see what would turn up. In fact this turned out to be quite a good tactic as the hide is on the lip of the quarry overlooking most of the reserve and we were able to see most of the normal winter wildfowl plus bullfinch and goldcrest. Water rail had been reportedly seen in the reeds on the first island in front of us and after keeping a sharp eye on the reeds we eventually caught a glimpse of it moving from one clump to another.



Water rail is a very shy secretive bird which spends most of its time deep in reed beds only venturing out occasionally in winter to feed. In fact later it came out into full view on the grassy bank behind the reeds where it was possible to get a comparison with the rather similar moorhen. We retired to the visitor centre for a light lunch where we were able to see a few more birds which were visiting the feeding station outside.



After lunch we made a short visit to the Natural History museum in Tring where the bird gallery has specimens of virtually all British birds on display. It was interesting to get up close to birds we usually see a long way away and most were considerably smaller than expected. Overall a very enjoyable meeting despite the weather. Chris Ebden

## Sunday Lunch Group.



We meet every 2months. Usually only about 10 of us. Ideal if you are new to U3A.

Next lunch is on 28th January at the Griffin Higham Ferrers, Booking [essential] and more

details from Chris and Linda Walker. 01933 387892 or visit our table at the monthly meeting.



## Events Group

**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.

## Warhorse

A reminder to all those booked for the (self drive) matinee theatre trip to Milton Keynes on Wednesday 26th September, that full payment of £59 is now due as we have to pay for these tickets by the end of January. There are still a few places available if you haven't already booked.

## Ideal Home Show

We have organised a coach trip to the Ideal Home Show at Olympia on Tuesday 20th March at a cost of £30 including entry. A great day out, without the hassle of getting back on the train with all your parcels!! Places still available but we will be closing the list at the February meeting.

## Turkey & Tinsel 2018

Due to the brilliant success of this event last month, we have again booked the Trouville Hotel in Bournemouth from Monday 3rd to Thursday 6th December 2018. The total cost for the 4 days (3 nights) including dinner, bed & breakfast, Christmas gift, day trip out, and coach there and back, will be just £225. Already we have had a lot of interest from members who came with us last year, and as we are limited to 50 places, please put your name down early to ensure you enjoy this Christmas break.

Interested? Contact Jean Mole on :- 07736445658

## Days Out Car Share



We will not be at the Feb/ March meeting. Phone 01933 387892.

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 January 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.

## Theatre Trips.



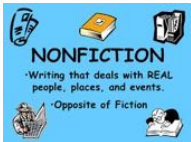
We have 3 places in our car. Ring for availability before booking. Stantonbury Theatre. MK14 6NB easy journey good parking and disabled facilities. Part of Stantonbury Campus. Small venue.

Fri 16/3/18 7 30pm Carry On Jaywick. A play using residents own words. Just right for anyone from Essex and beyond. Tickets £10 concessions.

21/4/18 2.30pm The Vicar of Dibley A play based on the TV series. Concessions £13. Box-office 01908 324466

Linda and Chris Walker

## Non Fiction Book Group.



Our first meeting is on Monday 15/1/18 2-4pm. Please contact leaders Chris and Linda for more details.

We will be at the Pemberton meeting in January. Linda Walker

## Country Park Walks



Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February the walk 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. We will meet at the Country park entrance car park to start the walk at 10.30am. 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 Carlton Road, Harrold MK43 7DS. It has two picturesque lakes and river meadows along 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 are very good for a variety of choices including a roast lunch or 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. New members are very welcome – just turn up on the day – dogs also welcome if kept on a lead.

## History

### *History talk January 4th.*



Delapre Abbey. Past, Present and Future

A post-Christmas talk with the title Past Present and Future one might have expected 3 ghosts to appear as in the many on screen presentations of Scrooge's experiences. Instead our speaker was an enthusiastic Lancashire Lass called Fay Morrissey who led us through the varied history of Delapre Abbey and the ambitious plans for its future.

The site was once the home of the Cluny Nuns founded in 1145. Later in 1291 King Edward 1 rested there as he accompanied the coffin of his wife Queen Eleanor to London and the memorial cross is being restored near the Abbey. Henry the Eighth had a more turbulent marital record and following his break with Rome and resenting the power, wealth and corruption of the Church instigated the Dissolution of the monasteries .

Dalapre was sold despite a bribe attempt by the then Abbess of £266 and became in 1546 the property of the Tate Family. Seven generations of the Tate family ,with the eldest son being named Bartholomew lived there building and altering the house.

Zouche Tate continued the work and supervised the building of the west front of the Abbey. Mary Tate inherited the Abbey and married Sir Charles Hardy who became Governor of New York so spent very little time in Northampton. In 1764 the Bouverie Family purchased the Abbey for £22,000 . Part of what we would now call the Jet Set the family entertained the socialites of the time such as Sheridan and the Duchess of Devonshire.

By 1946 the house had been sold to Northamptonshire Borough Council who for a time used it as a Record Office and was in a state of disrepair. Joan Wake set up a campaign "Save the Abbey" raising £15,000 between 1958 and 1992. A Trust was formed in 2006 and by 2013 a fund matching £3.6 MILLION Lottery Fund was given to help with the restoration.

Work on Phase one has created a café and shop as well as meeting rooms with the aim for the Future for Delapre Abbey to be a place for School visits, Weddings and Conferences. More fund raising continues as out buildings are restored as workshops. In the Battle of Northampton in 1460 the Yorkists were triumphant at Delapre. Let us hope in the future that a Lancastrian can help with the success of Dalapre and I am sure the Members will wish to visit after such an excellent presentation. Ann Kemp 2018

## Driving



Happy New Year hope you survived the festive season. Still have space if you want to polish up your winter driving skills. Foggy morning and icy streets are a bit hazardous – some simple tips will help you cope especially as all streets are not gritted these days. Do you know how to tell which streets are gritted? Steve Evans 01933 356784

## Wine Appreciation

Wine Appreciation



No group meeting in December but we had some good practice 'Turkey and Tinsel' in Bournemouth, found a lovely Rose which we encouraged others to share (you know who you are). Christmas in Lincoln – wines in the hotel not bad though expensive but found a good Nero d'Avola in Zizzis an Italian restaurant chain, they have one in Bedford. Not been yet though.

Welcome to our new Tuesday group, look forward to seeing you on 23<sup>rd</sup> January and continuing with the Thursday group on 25<sup>th</sup> January (Burns night may have a wee dram on offer!) Have some interesting wines planned for the year both groups will be tasting the same. Looking forward to it.  
Steve Evans 01933 356784

## Handicraft



Thursday 25th January. Sherry Calvert will be showing us how to make a stunning bracelet using colourful beads and findings and elastic thread..... so no threading needles! All materials provided at cost of £2 per bracelet.



Thursday 22nd February – We will have a go at marbling paper and perhaps fabric too. Most materials provided at cost of £1.50. Please bring if possible a shallow square cake tin or similar no bigger than A4

Programmes available at January Pemberton Centre meeting. Diana Turner

## Digital Photography



A comprehensive Photography kit has become available within our group it is a Nikon DSLR D3300 Camera in a bag with some lenses and bits, also a telescopic tripod and Adobe Photoshop Elements 2018. The camera uses a powerful 24MP APS-C sensor producing very high quality pictures. The Camera alone would cost £450 new. Only sensible offers considered. Anyone's interested I could bring it to you to show  
Daphne Jackson





## Committee Listing

Chairman	Phil Grace	01933 460631	grace710@btinternet.com
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Treasurer	Jean Mole	01933 626608	peterandjeanmole@btinternet.com
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Secretary	Denise Evans	01933 356784	dsgrangeway@sky.com
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Beacon Project Manager	Alan Nixson	07850 789447	hrbeaconpm@highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk

## 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*

## Speakers for 2018

Jan 17 <sup>th</sup>	Life on Stage Variety Theatre A look at what was an important part of the entertainment industry.	Mark Walsh
Feb 21 <sup>st</sup>	The American Civil War A fascinating insight into this subject.	John Wright
Mar 21 <sup>st</sup>	Tales from Rockingham Castle. You may have visited but Trish will give an insiders viewpoint.	Trisha Woods
Apr 18 <sup>th</sup>	A talk on his favourite dive yet. A return and much requested visit and will talk about his favourite dive.	Lee Bishop
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Forensic Podiatry More than a talk about feet. Mike travels often to America as he is an expert in his field.	Professor Mike Curran
Jun 20 <sup>th</sup>	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 18 <sup>th</sup>	Hunters of the sky. A wonderful audio visual experience with breathtaking photography about birds of prey.	Jennifer Anderson
Aug 15 <sup>th</sup>	TBA	
Sep 19 <sup>th</sup>	The Little Book Of Monarchs A wonderful fascinating amusing and accurate guide to English Monarchs.	Tony Boullemeir
Oct 17 <sup>th</sup>	TBA	
Nov 21 <sup>st</sup>	A photography special	Tom Way
Dec 12 <sup>th</sup>	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 <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	H/F 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 Appreciation	Leader's Home		4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs 14.00-16.00