

## Newsletter February 2018



### From the Chair,



Osborne's Sports and Toys in High Street was the first independent retailer to sell Lego 60 years ago. To mark the anniversary the toy giant offered to make a Lego model of the shop front – and it was in place over the weekend.

The replica facade was built at a Lego factory in the Czech Republic

and shipped over. It is made out of more than 277,500 bricks weighing 610kg and measuring 4m tall by 16m wide. The replica took 639 man hours to make and was made by 41 team members.



Shop manager Will Osborne said: "My dad was the first person in the country to sell Lego and with that in mind they said what they would like to do was make a replica of the shop. "I said 'will it be about 3ft?' and they said 'no, no, it will be the whole front of the shop'.

Will said. "We were astounded to be honest. It's phenomenal. "To think the little Lego brick can create something like that is amazing and the attention to detail is superb."

## Notices

### Where do we come from?

The search for a new venue prompted me to look at members' home addresses.

Rushden:	450	55%
Higham Ferrers:	112	18%
Raunds:	44	7%
Irthlingborough:	33	5%
Irchester:	23	4%

Members living in Rushden and Higham account for 74% of membership, which justifies our name; even if there might be a case for saying it should be reversed. (Only joking!) And the five communities listed above account for 90% of our members and I feel this does justify our search for a venue that is close to where the majority of our members live.

Phil Grace, Chairman

### Settlements A



For our January meeting we had an outside speaker who told us about Raunds. She is a long-term resident of the town and a member of

their History Society. She brought along a large amount of written information and some interesting photographs which she passed round. The grade 1 listed church in particular



has a long history but at present is being underpinned to rescue it from subsidence. Inside there are several mediaeval wall paintings and the tower is also of interest. She also talked about the shoe industry and how the town was noted for making army boots.



The most famous person born in the town was Ada Salter nee Brown. Ada lived and worked in Bermondsey among the poor together with her GP husband Alfred. She was the first woman Mayor in London and the first female Labour mayor in the UK. Ada led a fascinating life and died in 1942. A statue of Ada with her family was erected on the South Bank in 2014. At the end of the talk we were given an information pack about Raunds which will be very

useful when we visit the town in July.

At our February meeting we will be finding out about the small village of Wymington. Quite a contrast! Frances Francis

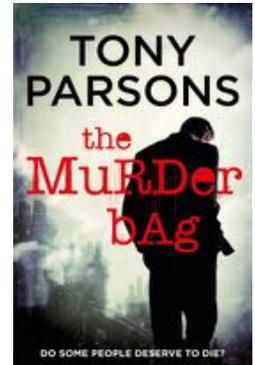
## BookMarks



### The Murder Bag by Tony Parsons

There's a serial killer on the loose. He cuts throats. And he is good at it. Twenty years ago seven rich, privileged students became friends at their exclusive private school, Potter's Field, founded 500 years ago by King Henry VIII.....and now the past is catching up with them all.

This is Tony Parsons' first venture into crime writing, and it has proved a successful move as he now has a trilogy of books featuring the flawed detective, Max Wolfe, under his belt ( but if you think that's a corny name, what about a journalist in the book called Scarlet Bush?!). Although this is a change of genre for Parsons, he still writes about what he knows best – living and working in London, single-parenting, boxing – and his thorough research into police procedures, forensics and weapons really shows.



We mostly agreed it was a good and absorbing read – once we got past the horrifying prologue – and in a similar way to J K Rowling's character with a striking! name, (Cormoran Strike), we could envisage a successful move to a TV series featuring Max Wolfe.

.....

We start the New Year off with an intriguing tale which, appropriately, starts in the depths of a harsh winter in England. Two sisters return to the home where they spent idyllic summers as children. As they sift through remnants of the past, a secret emerges, reaching all the way back to a beautiful heiress in Oklahoma. The book is 'The Legacy' by Katherine Webb, and we'll let you know what we think of it in the next newsletter. Dominica Jones

## Gardening



We ended 2017 with an excellent lunch at The Old Friar, Twywell. Despite the bad weather it was well attended and everyone enjoyed the occasion. After a break in January we held our first indoor meeting of 2018 at Rushden Hall with an excellent talk on Agronomy (soil and plant science) by U3A member Peter Wright. It was extremely interesting and I know many us learnt a lot. Carole



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## Family History



Our December meeting was cancelled because so many of our regular members were unavailable; the unfortunate consequence is that we will find ourselves doing the Christmas Quiz sometime in the Summer!

We swiftly got back into the swing in January with a talk from Andrea Pettingale about Criminal Records, which covered many aspects of the history of legal proceedings in this country as well as a guide to the best ways to find the black sheep in our own families. The amazing site Old Bailey Online is free and available to anyone, not just family history addicts,

who wants to explore in detail some interesting cases going back to the late 1600s or simply to dip into the lives of people who found themselves on the wrong side of the law over 250 years or so.



In February we are looking forward to hearing from member Muriel Denney about her researches into her Whitworth forebears, followed in March by a research session, which is an ideal time for beginners to get some support from the more experienced members. Sharon

## Settlements B



We had our meeting on Valentine's Day but our minds were on Riseley. We had a very entertaining talk by Susan James, a member of Settlements A.

Frances came to see the talk as she hadn't managed to see it at her Settlements group A. There was a discussion about Susan's theory regarding pubs. Some of them in the past just sold beer with no bar, you took your own jug and took the beer home to drink. Susan thought the design of the pubs, now often private houses looked the part. It will be a very interesting place to visit in the Summer and Susan is going to send me details of a man who has lived his whole life in Riseley who, hopefully, will take us round the village and what he doesn't know, is not worth knowing.

**Chris.**

The Five Bells was situated on the High Street. This pub closed in 2008 and has now been converted to a private house. Ed



## Days Out Car Share



We will not be at the Feb/ March meeting. Phone 01933 387892 or email [spidar.girl@btinternet.com](mailto:spidar.girl@btinternet.com)

“The Days Out group is running a coach trip to Wimpole Hall on Monday 23 April. The cost is £13.00 per person for the coach + £15.30 ticket entry includes: Hall, Gardens & the Rare Breed Farm – Free ticket entry for National Trust members. Picking up at Rushden 9am, also Higham Ferrers. A few places still available.

Wimpole Hall is the largest country house in Cambridgeshire and the creation of Wimpole Hall as it appears today began in 1640 when Thomas Chicheley began to build a new hall on the Estate which his family had leased since 1428. Explore inside the Hall with its many rooms including the spectacular yellow drawing room and unusual plunge bath, plus a fascinating glimpse of life below stairs. Enjoy the gardens and the colourful parterre. Discover the Shire horses and the rare breed cattle. There is also a restaurant and shop.

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.

BOOKING: Phone Linda Walker on 01933 387892 or  
e-mail: [spidar.girl@btinternet.com](mailto:spidar.girl@btinternet.com)”

## 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.

Stantonbury Theatre. Box-office 01908 324466

## Country Park Walks



Irchester country park walk: As Sunday 11 March is Mothering Sunday, for this month only we will change the walk to Saturday 10th March and our walk will be at Irchester Country Park, meeting in the car park near the Café for the start of the walk at 10.30am.

There are pretty woodland trails through the Pine trees overlooking the spectacular quarry with Jurassic geology and it is an easy walk of about 2 miles with even hard standing paths. There is a café and toilets within the park. For those members who like to enjoy lunch after the walk we will go to the Carpenters Arms Pub, High Street, Irchester. As I will need to book a table in advance, could you please let me know if you would like to join us for lunch.

New Members are very welcome, also dogs if they are kept on a lead. Please Phone Sylvia Wright for more details.

## Driving



Very quiet month, the weather has not helped. Hopefully we are over the worst and can get back onto the road again.

Your driving skills may deteriorate over age and especially if you live alone you maybe do not have anyone around to point this out to you. Come and have a one hour assessment, no tests, in your own car, at your convenience just to brush up your skills.

Regards Steve Evans 01933 356784

## Wine Appreciation Tuesday and Thursday

Wine Appreiation



Welcome to our new Tuesday group, we still have spaces but the Thursday group is full.

Our Winter warmers were a Malbec from Argentina vintner Opi Sadler and Full Fifteen Big Red from South East Australia Family Estate Andrew MacPherson..

The Malbec grape tasted quite thin and sharp not the best Malbec we have tasted though it was only 2017 so may need a bit more time in the bottle to mature. Some members preferred this. The Australian was a blend of grapes and tasted fuller and lasted longer on the palate. This was our preference.

Next months tasting is Sicilian, red , white and a Marsala.

Salute or Chin chin Steve

## History



### ***History talk January 4th.***

Brief History of Twywell and the Rev. Horace Walker's Links with Dr David Livingstone..

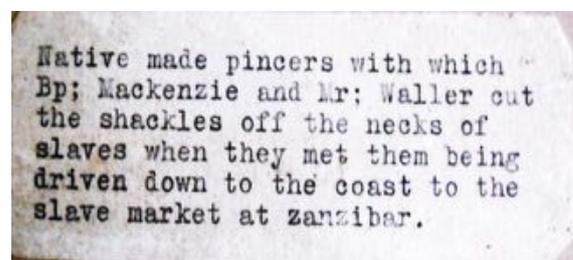
With a natural curiosity and a flair for Historical research, Gloria and Peter Wright created for us an entertaining and wide ranging detailed presentation.

Meandering through the village, past the church, we saw delightful Ironstone cottages and houses with sprinklings of early spring flowers setting the scene. We were reminded of past farms, alleys and yards with memorable names such as PUDDING BAG LANE. Not all rural life was so pastoral with the Blackwell Bros producing the Wincing machine and followed by the Fowlers Traction engine. In the 1870's brick kilns were producing the engineering bricks that even our modern electric drills find challenging!!

And now the link with Dr. David Livingstone. Born in 1813 he started work in a Cotton Mill at the age of 10 in Blantyre and studied at the same time . He trained to be a medical missionary and his wide interests included geography, ethnology and natural history impressing all those he met. Exploring Africa he was horrified by what he observed of the slave trade. His journeys took him both to the East coast of Africa and across the Kalahari Desert to the West with some of his exploration being financed by the Royal Geographical Society. A Victorian obsession was to find the source of the Nile and Livingstone discovered the magnificent "SMOKE THAT ROARS" and called it Victoria Falls. Suzi and Chuma, were loyal servants and friends to David Livingstone who had become a hero of his time, and today we would think of him as an A list celebrity.

After his death the two loyal men came to England, where they brought his papers and journals to his friend and Anti -slave campaigner the Rev Horace Walker at Twywell to be translated and edited. Published in the nineteenth century, these Journals are still available today. Peter pointed out the privations and problems both medical and familial suffered by Livingstone, and many of us will wish to visit the church to view the beautiful wooden carvings depicting Africa. Gloria lightened a sombre mood with a past resident's reminiscences of her happy childhood based around the Railway Station at Twywell. We shared her delight at the arrival of the Cambridge fruit train, the simple but unexpected bonus that came from goods lost or forgotten at the station which, thanks to Mr Beeching, is now long-gone.

Thank you to two talented members of our History Group. Ann Kemp



## Jewellery Making



With a great deal of help on the design side from Diana Turner the group pulled together to source the materials for this oh so

fashionable ribbon and pearl necklace.



The group goes from strength to strength with most members having belonged for 18 months. Places do not often come up but let me know if you are interested in joining at some future date.

Sherry Calvert

## Knit and Natter



The knit and natter group is still going well. Some of us are knitting squares for a care home in Rushden as well as knitting jumpers for the fish n chip babies and we still do a Twiddlemuffs now and then.

I have been knitting an owl doorstep (picture below) and I am very pleased with it. We natter about a wide variety of subjects and always put the world to rights. I have no vacancies at the moment but if anyone is interested I can start a waiting list. Anyone who was on the waiting list in the past and are still waiting to join, could you please contact me to let me know. Kathy Arnold 01933 311599



**Free to a good home**, an electric propagator which I have used for many years raising cuttings, sowing seeds. When I lived at Higham I had a very warm airing cupboard downstairs and I could grow anything there. Since I moved to Finedon, I don't have the same set up and I have tried using it without success. I still enjoy gardening but I now buy my tomato plants

So, members of the Garden Group or anyone who loves growing seeds etc. please get in touch with me and we can sort out delivery. Chris Holden 01933 680967 e-mail [chris.holden@jglas.co.uk](mailto:chris.holden@jglas.co.uk)

## Committee Listing

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## 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

- |                                    |   |                |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Feb 21 <sup>st</sup>               | The American Civil War<br>A fascinating insight into this subject.  | John Wright    |
| Mar 21 <sup>st</sup>               | Tales from Rockingham Castle.<br>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.<br>A return and much requested visit and will talk about his favourite dive.  | Lee Bishop     |
| May 16 <sup>th</sup><br>Curran     | Forensic Podiatry More than a talk about feet.<br>Mike travels often to America as he is an expert in his field.  | Professor Mike |
| Jun 20 <sup>th</sup>               | Life in War Torn Middle East.<br>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><br>Anderson   | Hunters of the sky. A wonderful audio visual experience with breathtaking photography about birds of prey.  | Jennifer       |
| Aug 15 <sup>th</sup>               | TBA   |                |
| Sep 19 <sup>th</sup><br>Boullemeir | The Little Book Of Monarchs<br>A wonderful fascinating amusing and accurate guide to English Monarchs.  | Tony           |
| 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.<br>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	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 Appreciation	Leader's Home		4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs 14.00-16.00