

Newsletter March 2018



The search is over!

From the Chair

I think members know that we are going to have to leave the Pemberton in the near future. Those of you who were present at the monthly meeting in February will have heard that the Committee has reached a decision. But first, a big thank you to those members who came up with suggestions and ideas for possible venues. The Committee has considered many potential, possible venues across the area, from Rushden to Raunds, and as far out as Irthlingborough. We have sussed out the schools, contemplated the churches, mused over the Masonic Hall, and briefly considered Rushden Bowls Club. In addition, we searched further afield, looking at the Saxon Hall in Raunds and the Crow's Nest Community Centre in Irthlingborough. All to no avail.

We carefully assessed every venue, looking at issues such as capacity and availability, facilities such as Audiovisual and Public Address, parking and ease of access for all members. The review process weeded out almost all of the possible venues and of those that had the capacity and availability most failed on grounds of ease of parking!

The show of hands that took place at the Pemberton in February revealed that the vast majority travel to the monthly meeting by car – supporting our view that the availability of parking should be a key factor in our decision making process.

The Committee has now reached its conclusion: we will relocate to the Windmill Club on Glassbrook Road. We had little choice – no venue jumped out as a perfect location. Some places would have required us to set out chairs every month; others could not be blacked out meaning some of our speakers would have had problems. A number that had a lot going for them had no parking and we regarded that as an essential matter.

For those who do not know the Windmill it is on Glassbrook Road that runs parallel to Wellingborough Road. If you have any questions please get in touch with me or any Committee member or drop me an email. Phil

Notices

Let the train take the strain...

Unfortunately, that is not possible in Rushden these days but it should be possible to get to our new venue, the Windmill Club by bus.

The X46 bus starts in Raunds and runs through Higham Ferrers and then onto Rushden. It stops to pick up at Skinners Hill before going along Wellingborough Road where you can alight and walk through to Glassbrook Road. It then travels onto Rushden Lakes and eventually Northampton.

So, you could make a day of it and do some shopping at Rushden Lakes in the morning before coming back to the U3A monthly meeting in the afternoon!. Phil

Easter Hunt



Save the Children's Easter Hunt will be on March 31st at Higham Ferrers Bede House from 9.30 to 12.15pm. A prize for every child. Tapot/Stalls in the Bede House. For more information contact Susan Perkins

Bird Watching



Our March meeting was held at Pitsford reservoir where we visited the dam end starting at Brixworth Country Park. Initially we walked through the wood, where robins seemed to be singing in every bush, making our way to Yacht Bay where there were a few ducks plus little and great crested grebes. Moving on to Pintail Bay we found the star bird of the day, a Slovenian



grebe, a rare winter visitor to Northants which breeds in Scotland. This is arguably the prettiest of the British grebes when in summer plumage but this one was in its plain winter colours, still quite distinctive showing clear white cheeks which distinguishes it from the similar black necked grebe. Heading back to the dam we saw a nice pair of bullfinches, long tailed tits and a kestrel perched on a dead tree. On the dam we could hear skylarks singing, a definite sign of spring, and after a while saw birds both in the air and on the ground. At the far end of the dam some of the group were lucky enough to see a little owl. We finished with lunch at the Coach & Horses which has become our favourite eatery when in this area. Chris

Rock and Blues Group



The group now has 6 members but we can still find room for a few more. If you are into rock (particularly late 60s and early 70s) and blues music, why not join us before we fill up completely? We meet at 2 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month at the leader's house in Irthlingborough (that is the 29th of March) and this month's theme is "Mother". Contact Jim Morrison

Settlements A



Despite the inclement weather our February meeting went ahead as scheduled. We had a talk about the rural village of Wymington that suffered from redevelopment in the 1970's but still has a lot to discover. The county boundary marks the edge of the built-up area of Rushden - Wymington having

only doubled in size from 349 in 1871 to 876 in 2011.

The 14th century grade 1 listed church is well worth visiting with its 15th century pull out pews, Mediaeval wall paintings, brasses including one of Sir Thomas Bromflete in full armour and early 19th century organ built by Henry Bryceson. Most of the original thatched stone cottages were demolished and replaced by 1970's boxes but modern developments have been more sympathetic.



The population reflects the influence of the Sharnbrook School catchment area with a higher than normal proportion of families with teenage children. Most residents travel by car to work outside the village which only has a two-hourly bus service. The only shop closed in the 1990's the remaining amenities being the school, the New Inn pub, the church, a chapel and the memorial hall built by villages in memory of those who lost their lives in WW2. It now hosts various clubs including Brownies for children and the Forget Me Not Club for pensioners.



In the Secret Garden arboretum there is the memorial to the American Airforce bomber Miss Liberty Bell which crashed in a field belonging to Poplar Farm on 3rd August 1944. It includes the names of 8 villagers who helped rescue the two survivors. The Secret Garden is hired out as a wedding venue.

The best-known resident was the eccentric author Jean Overton Fuller who wrote "Madeleine" the biography of Noor-un-Nisa Ianayat Khan who was a member of the SOE. She was awarded the George Cross after she was assassinated by the Gestapo in Dachau in 1944.

Tucked away between the railway lines is a small nature reserve known as Wymington Meadow - a tranquil place to visit on a gentle walk. So Wymington is not just a village to drive through on your way to Podington!

At our March meeting we will look at Titchmarsh - a very different settlement.
Frances Francis

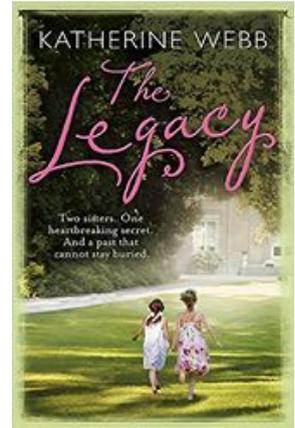
BookMarks



The Legacy by Katherine Webb

Chosen and reviewed by Chris Freeman

Sisters Erica and Beth were both left the house, Stockton Manor, by their grandmother in her will, and it's a place where the sisters spent their childhood holidays. Their cousin Henry disappeared there one summer and sorting through remnants of past times family secrets are brought to light. The book is broken into two stories - one of their great grandmother and her journey and hardships in America, and the other in the present - unravelling their mysterious past. Each story catches the imagination of the reader and flows smoothly, and as each story comes together Erica and Beth must come to terms with acts of betrayal and heartbreak left behind. A good read with an unusual twist.



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'Atonement' by Ian McEwan is our choice of novel to read for next time's discussion. We are looking forward to this, especially as it is considered to be the best book that this literary giant has ever written. Dominica Jones

Country Park Walks



Despite all the snow and rain, we managed to dodge the showers for our walk at Irchester Country Park on Saturday 10 March. As Mothering Sunday was on the 11 March, we changed the day of the walk to Saturday. After the walk several of



us went on to lunch at The Carpenters Arms, Irchester. The food was home cooked, and the service was very good. SUNDAY 8 APRIL, we will be walking at Wickstead Park. This is a circular walk around the park, through the arboretum, and over the floating bridge. If you park on the grass near to the pay machine which is at the Pavilion end of the park we will meet there at 10.30am. After the walk for those who like to lunch, we will go to the Olde Victoria Pub in Bakewell Lane, Burton Latimer NN15NJ. Could you please let me know in advance if you would like to lunch as I need to book a table in advance.

New Members are very welcome, also dogs if they are kept on a lead. If you need a car lift please let me know. Sylvia Wright

Guitar Group



We have been busy lately performing firstly at the Asda Store in Rushden during the week before Xmas and on 13th March at the Brockfield Care Home in Stanwick.



Both sessions went very well and we have been asked back to the care home which proves we were not that bad! Ron

Settlements B



We had a very informative talk on the History of Rushden Hall by Chris Wood, an accepted expert on the Hall, in fact he has written a book about it. The first owner was Sir William Tresham in 1438. He made his fortune working alongside Henry V and fought for him at Agincourt.



The house was handed down the generations until Thomas Tresham inherited it when he was 9 years old. The owners kept in with the Crown and a fireplace was discovered under two more modern fireplaces which has been dated 1820. It is just possible, that King Richard 3rd stood next to this fireplace!! (Shown in the attached photograph). We were shown some lovely old photographs and then Mr. Wood took us on a tour of the hall.

The other picture is the oak fireplace in the Fletcher room where we have our meeting. The Satres family were the owners for many years, much of the house was altered, big bay windows in the front aspect. Eventually due to heavy debts, in 1612 it was handed over to the Crown and was owned until 1619 when it was sold to another landowner. In 1965 the Hall was to be demolished but was obviously saved and now houses Rushden Council Offices



Days Out Car Share Trips 2018



Days Out Car Share Trips 2018.

Our 23/4/18 St Georges day trip to Wimpole Hall is full. We will put any availability on The Days Out group details entry on The H & R U3A website. Or contact us in the usual ways.

Stantonbury Theatre MK14 6NB

Saturday 21/4/18 2 30 The Vicar of Dibley A Play based on the TV series. I have 6 tickets reserved. £13. Our car is full. If you can offer transport please let us know.

Other Trips. All car-share trips unless stated otherwise.

Sun 15/4/18 Carpetbaggers Secret Warfare Museum Harrington NN6 9PF. Guided tour arranged. Transport available.

Sun 13/5/18 Twinwood Airfield Museum MK41 6AB with Glen Miller connections with optional lunch to be arranged.

Mon 2/7/18 Wrest Park MK45 4HR Free entrance to English Heritage members. Optional Archaeological store tour small charge.

Mon 30/7/18 or a Monday in August Apethorpe Palace PE8 5AQ. Booking has been delayed by the owners. We are ringing regularly!

We will not be at the March meeting. Please contact me for offers of or requests for transport and ideas for visits. We will be organising a coach trip in the late Autumn. Suggestions please. Linda

Anglesey Abbey Trip 19/2/18 Report



Our first coach outing of the year. In spite of a very dull damp day at least it was warmish and not windy. Well what did we expect in February? The trip seemed to be enjoyed by everyone. Anglesey's gardens were lovely. We have had lots of photos sent to us. This year for the first time NT opened the main house to winter visitors. Many of us enjoyed time in the cafe warming up after an excellent visit to the very large house. I know some of you used the transport around the gardens. The property is well worth a visit in the Autumn. The gardens and trees are even more spectacular. Thanks everyone for being punctual. It makes the organisers job a pleasure.

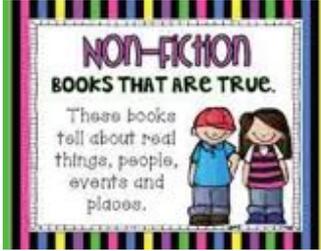
Linda Walker

Sunday Lunch Group



Our next meal is at Rushden Bowls Club, Northampton Rd. on Palm Sunday 25/3/18. Booking essential. This venue has just reopened and has had good feedback. £10 main course, £2 each sweets and starters. Linda Walker

Non Fiction Book Group



Next meeting 16/4/18, 2-4pm at leaders home. New members welcome.

We read our first book, William Dalrymple's Return of a King. 608 pages. One book three of us would not have read in a thousand years. Excellent, thought provoking.

The first 100 pages were hard going setting the scene on Britain's ill thought out interference in Afghanistan in the 19th century. It reflects our involvement in the 20th century and more recently. It may sound dull but was eye-opening and did have some laugh out loud moments.

Our next read is Toast by Nigel Slater the TV chef, 256 pages, is a much lighter read. Each short chapter has food as its title. Nigel tells us of his early life experiences. Gives some interesting reasons why food became his passion. Chris and Linda Walker

Gardening



June 14th - Garden Group and Digital Photography have a joint coach outing to

Warwick. This is a morning visit to the Lord Leicester Hospital, afternoon visit to Hill Close Gardens.

Cost of £32-50 per person includes coach fare, guided tour and refreshments at both venues. Any spare seats will be available to general U3A members from 18th April. If you are interested please see us at the Pemberton meeting. Carole



Committee Listing

Chairman	Phil Grace
Deputy Chair	Angela Mason
Treasurer	Jean Mole
Membership Secretary	Jessica Walker
Secretary	Denise Evans
Speakers Secretary	Pat Bird Joanna Read-Thurner
Groups Coordinator	Lynn Gale
Front of House	Steve Evans
Publicity	Peter Wright
Web Liaison	Mike Mimms
Committee Member	Jenny Carr
Newsletter	Peter Turner
Webmaster	Jim Morrison
Beacon Project Manager	Alan Nixson

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

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| Mar 21 st | Tales from Rockingham Castle.
You may have visited but Trish will give an insiders viewpoint. | Trisha Woods |
| Apr 18 th | A talk on his favourite dive yet.
A return and much requested visit and will talk about his favourite dive. | Lee Bishop |
| May 16 th
Curran | Forensic Podiatry More than a talk about feet.
Mike travels often to America as he is an expert in his field. | Professor Mike |
| Jun 20 th | 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 th | Hunters of the sky. A wonderful audio visual experience with breathtaking photography about birds of prey. | Jennifer Anderson |
| Aug 15 th | TBA | |
| Sep 19 th | The Little Book Of Monarchs
A wonderful fascinating amusing and accurate guide to English Monarchs. | Tony Boullemeir |
| Oct 17 th | TBA | |
| Nov 21 st | A photography special | Tom Way |
| Dec 12 th | The complete history of Christmas.
A colleague of Lesley who you may remember as Nell Gwynn so expect something a little different. | Mike Kennedy |