

Dear Members.

I write to you all with notice that after 10 years we are finally moving from the Pemberton Centre. It has, up until this year, served us well with great co-operation from the staff. However, East Northants Council have given the franchise to Freedom Leisure who have subsequently managed to 'see us off'. As you are aware, we had planned to move to the Railway Goods Sheds, but even there East Northants Council managed to put a spanner in the works, requiring the Sheds adjust their proposed development. They are requiring more detailed planning which has delayed our move and with winter approaching we cannot possibly expect you to endure sub-zero temperatures at the venue. Nor can we stay at the Pemberton Centre where we endure poor audio & visuals.

After our August meeting it was decided we had had enough, following the many complaints and aggressive comments from members to our volunteers. We have therefore decided to move to the Wesleyan Church in Rushden which is big enough to accommodate us in better circumstances for the time being. You will know (if you live locally) that the church is for sale and no longer conducts its services within the church building, but in the church hall to the rear. We are able to use the church itself until the building is sold after which we can use the church hall, the entrance located in Queen Street. Obviously there are drawbacks as parking will be an issue and we ask you use the Wilkinson/ Iceland car park or the car parks surrounding Rushden town. It is not much of a walk from most car parks and disabled parking is close by. We will also be moving the monthly talk to Thursday, which unfortunately may impact on your other commitments, but we hope you will still join us.

I would ask you to reflect on 10 years ago when our U3A was formed, for I believe this venue would have been perfectly acceptable had the Pemberton Centre not been available. So please remember we either move here or face the prospect of having to split into two U3As ('Higham' and 'Rushden') or indeed, have no U3A at all.

Angela Mason

Chairman