

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER TRIVIA QUIZ

What happened on the following days:

October 13, 1884

October 14, 1957

October 16, 1814

October 24, 1945

October 28, 1971

October 30, 1990

(Answers later in the Newsletter)



OCTOBER FACTS

- The Hunt for Red October, is the only film with 'October' in its title to win an Oscar (for best sound editing).
- October is not mentioned in any Shakespeare play or sonnet.
- On any given day in the last week of October, there is a greater than even chance that it will rain in London.

Samhain is a Gaelic festival marking the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter or the darker half of the year. Traditionally, it is celebrated from 31 October to 1 November, as the Celtic day began and ended at sunset. This is about halfway between the autumn equinox and the winter solstice.



From the Chair:

As I write this we have just enjoyed a beautiful autumn day, almost unseasonably warm, but the nights are getting cooler and rain is forecast over the coming 36/48 hours. Winter is on its way. It will become risky to plant anything apart from the spring bulbs – which should be in by the time you read this! Also I must start harvesting my apples



before the next storm strips them from the trees

But this isn't the gardening page! As the nights draw in one's thoughts turn towards indoor pursuits – or at least my mine are! Could I learn a language this winter? Perhaps I should join the Badminton Group and try to get a fit! I should really join one of the Digital Photography Groups so I can make better use of all the features on my fancy camera (although it is in for repair at the moment!), or I might join the History Group. What I won't be doing is joining Singing for Fun or one of the Guitar Groups (I'm pretty much tone deaf!) nor the Art Group (no artistic talent and can't draw without a ruler!).

Higham and Rushden U3A has so much to offer....there should be something for everyone! And if there isn't a group for your particular interest then speak to the Groups Coordinator or a Committee Member. It should be possible to get a group started. But remember, it won't come on a plate, you might be asked to help set up the group.

Now to close my last "From the Chair" piece... a big thank you to the Committee, the Group Leaders and all members for your help and support during my term of office as Chairman.

Phil Grace

EVENTS:

Turkey & Tinsel ~ 3rd to 6th December

There are still a few places left on this brilliant 4-day, 3-night break to Bournemouth. Price **£225** (no single supplement) includes coach trip there and back. On "Christmas Eve" (3rd December) we have a 3 course meal, followed by entertainment. On "Christmas Day" (4th December) free time to visit Bournemouth. In the evening you will enjoy a full Christmas dinner complete with Presents, Crackers & Wine. "Boxing Day" (5th December) starts with a day out to Longleat to include a tour of the House and the Light Festival followed by a Bucks Fizz reception on return to the Trouville Hotel. We leave on Thursday 6th and if the weather is good we hope to stop at a Christmas Market, and return home around 8 pm. Payment required **in full** by the end of October.

The Bodyguard ~ Thursday 21st March @ Milton Keynes

We have 10 tickets still available for this matinee performance. Price £34. Payment required **in full** by the end of October.

Les Miserables ~ Wednesday 5th June @ Milton Keynes

There are a few tickets left for this matinee performance at **£57.50**. Payment required **in full** by the end of October.

To sign up for any of these Events, please see Jean at the Treasurer's Table

Dine at Home

This month I am having a themed Indian meal with various curries and side dishes. Three courses plus a glass of wine & a cup of tea/coffee for £10. There are still 4 places available for Friday 26th October. See me at the Treasurer's table to sign up for this or for the November meal.

Jean Mole.



Badminton beginners and improvers: This group is for anyone wishing to start playing and for those wishing to improve their game. The group will be held every Wednesday 2pm - 3pm at the Pemberton Centre, Rushden. Cost will be £1.50.

Contact Bob Eames 07969 126591.



Beading/Jewellery group

With the festive season in mind we are making pretty bracelets. Should have plenty to offer for sale in November.

Sherry Calvert.



Days Out and Car Share:

Contact the Group Leaders if you want to be added to the mailing list.



We are hopeful it will happen.

Warner's New destination Studley Castle, Stratford on Avon. Update.

Warner's newest venue opening 2019. Booking for 2019 has just opened. We are taking £30 deposits at the October meeting.

RB Coach Travel has quoted for a 3-day break [2 nights] Monday 13th – Wednesday 15th May 2019:

Standard room, (upgrade possible), bed & breakfast and evening meal, with evening entertainment for £330 sharing. Single rooms are £350 per person.

Lots of things going on during the day at the Castle so there is no need to worry about the weather. There is a day in Stratford on Avon included if you would like to go.

We need a minimum of 20 people. At present there are 12 on the list. £30 each non-refundable deposit to be given to us at or before the October meeting.

Cheques payable to H&R U3A.

U3A members only. Friends can join the U3A in order to come with you.

Ring us on 01933 387892 for more info.

Christmas at Waddesdon manor 16/11/18. We have a full coach. To put your name on a reserve list contact 01933 387892.

We have been to local attractions and further afield to N. Trust properties. The coach trips have been very successful. We are always looking for places to go. Please let us know if there is anywhere you visit that you think will be of interest to our members. We prefer coach journey times of 75mins or thereabouts. Car share trips and local bus pass trip venue ideas are welcome too. These attract smaller numbers. Good when you are new to U3A. Watch this space for 2019 trips.

Chris and Linda.



Birdwatching: Things were rather quiet for our October meeting at Summer Leys, the summer birds had all gone and winter ones only just starting to appear. There were good numbers of Wigeon, a few Shoveler, Teal, Gadwall and the odd little Grebe on the open water. The reserve is currently undergoing a bit of a revamp and the scrape area had been recently bulldozed to remove vegetation and re-create habitat for waders. A new large bird table has been installed at the feeding station but few birds were present, probably due to the abundance of berries and other foods in the hedgerows this autumn. Large numbers of Geese were present, Canadian and Greylags but we also spotted a more unusual pair of Egyptian Geese. Possibly the highlight of the walk was excellent views of a pair of Green Woodpeckers feeding in the meadow beyond the old railway track. This is one of the most colourful of British birds which despite its name feeds mostly on the ground rather than up in trees.



Chris Ebdon.



Settlement B:

On our last Summer visit went to Warkton first, where we saw the wonderful marble monuments to the Montagu family. The picture is of a beautiful angel consoling a member of the family.

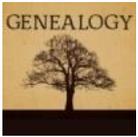
The picture of the bicycle was in the garden of our two guides in the Church. Unfortunately, due to various causes, only 4 of our members including myself were on the visit and saw these wonderful monuments. We then went to the Old Post Office, as I remember it, the café on the corner of the turn into Weekly for refreshments.



Then we walked down the lane to see the Old School House and the impressive house built in 1602, used as a hospital in WW1. Then we went into the Church where there is another monument to the Montagu family and a tapestry of the Last Supper. The two churches are open at certain times and I would urge those of you interested in history to try to see them.

We will now return to Rushden Hall for our Winter Meetings and I will be talking about Little and Great Addington on October 10th.

Chris Holden.



Family History Group:

Those of us who do family history research are resigned to unearthing succeeding generations of agricultural labourers or, depending on gender and geography, domestic servants, coal miners, textile workers and other necessary, often interesting, but unglamorous occupations. So Louise's presentation on an American family member who was in the military, died in an ambush trying to save the life of his senior officer, was decorated for it and had two ships named after him, launched by other family members, was most unusual. And the fact that the ambush took place in Samoa in a conflict that I think it is safe to say no-one at the meeting was aware of, made for a fascinating talk, with lots of photographs and background information.

In October we will be having the first of two meetings where members, Kathy and Margaret in this case, will be talking about links that have been made with family in other countries.

Anyone who is interested in starting or developing a family tree is welcome to come along, and we have a really useful starter pack to help. It would be especially useful to hear from any of you who might like some help with getting started or with breaking down the brick walls that have stopped you early in the process. Genealogy is definitely addictive, but with so much now available on the internet it does not have to be expensive or more time consuming than you can afford. And you might find a few heroes among the agricultural labourers!

Sharon Safford



Garden Group: September visit

A lovely sunny day dawned for the last of this year's summer outings for an excellent tour of Woburn Abbey's 3000 acres of parkland. Martin Towsey, the Estate's Gardens Manager was our excellent guide and driver, hopping on and off the tractor to talk to us, first one side of the trailer and then the other. He described many aspects of the parkland and talked of the features recommended by landscape designer Humphry Repton.



The various breeds of deer were not at all bothered by a trailer full of tourists. In the early 1900's a Duchess learned to fly and the park's grass landing strip was used by the military during the war, when the estate was home to a satellite office for Bletchley's military intelligence staff, including Ian Fleming author of the James Bond books.



The Estate was self sufficient in food production and in the early 1800's the model farm hosted an agricultural show which became the basis of the agricultural shows we know today. The Estate has a world class golf course and a Centre Parcs complex. Away from Woburn the estate also includes property in London's Bloomsbury and Tavistock in Devon.

Sandra Cox.



Rock and Blues Group: Next meeting Thursday 25th October at the group leader's home. The topic this month is Animals. Should be an interesting one.

Jim Morrison.



Country Park Walks: Group Leader – Sylvia Wright

11 November – Sywell Valley Way Country Park, Washbrook Lane, Ecton, NN6 0QX meeting at 10.30am in the car park by the café. The car parking meter cost is £3.00 so you will need £1 coins. This is an Edwardian Reservoir and Arboretum with stunningly beautiful views and in the autumn the spectacular changing colour of the trees. It is a 2.5 mile circular walk around the reservoir, but for those who only want to do a short walk, this can be reduced. There is a café and toilets next to the car park.



For those who like to have lunch after the walk, it will be 12.30pm at the World End pub, Ecton NN6 0QN which is only about 1 mile away via Washbrook Lane.

If you just want to do part of the walk, or only join us for lunch, you are very welcome.

LIFTS CAN BE ARRANGED FROM HIGHAM AND RUSHDEN.

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



Wine Appreciation:

Last month's wines were brought back from our travels in Aix en Provence from an exclusive vineyard across from our hotel Chateau De La Galiniere. One rosé and one red. Both pleasant, but both needed food to take away the sharpness. This month tasting flavours of Beaujolais. We have spaces on Tuesdays if any one fancies a drink and some conversation. Santé

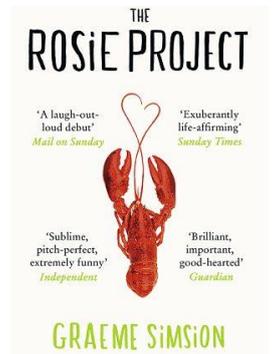
Steve Evans 01933 356784.



BookMarks Reading Group: The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion

Chosen and reviewed by Anne Edwards. It was with trepidation that our group approached yet another novel by an Australian author, having had some 'interesting experiences' of this genre in the past! However, apart from just one member, we all enjoyed this book which provided us with an insight into Asperger's Syndrome in a light-hearted and sympathetic way.

Don Tillman is an expert in the field of genetics, working as a professor at Melbourne University. His life is organised down to the last second, strictly time-tabled for activities, food, and even leisure – no room for any variation! But he is 39 and feeling lonely, so he decides to embark on his 'Wife Project', a 16-page questionnaire to enable him to capture data and apply scientific research methods to get the perfect partner. And then along comes Rosie, the most incompatible woman, who throws his organised world into chaos. Their meetings have some very entertaining episodes! And when Don finds Rosie is unsure of her father's identity he starts on another project involving DNA to help her find him.



We had an interesting discussion and agreed it was written in a very understanding and sympathetic way, but opinions varied as to whether it would be wise to be read by someone with Asperger's.

'A captivating and compelling tale of desire, temptation and compulsion' is promised on the cover of 'The Affair' by Santa Montefiore, our book for October. Oh, well – the temperature is dropping so reading this might save on our heating bills!

Dominica Jones.



Driving: Are you ready for Winter? Are you ready for the new Tiger Crossing in Wellingborough? As always if I can help please call me on 01933 356784

Steve Evans.



History Talk by Archaeologist Matthew Morris: Richard the Third

Imagine that Matthew as a boy growing up in Leicester was told many stories and legends about Richard III, the last Plantagenet King of England, who is buried in the town in an unknown grave.

Shakespeare writing about Richard portrays a very dark, deformed and brooding personality perhaps to please his Tudor audience. Other historians and members of the Richard III Society think the truth about him to be very different. Matthew Morris who enjoys history graduated from Leicester University and became a respected archaeologist. Leicester University wanted to explore the remains of what was an important medieval town with its many Churches and monastic houses and at the same time enthusiastic members of the Richard III Society wanted to find the grave and body of Richard and as a result funding became available. Evidence of where any bodily remains might be even from contemporary chronicles was inconclusive as was the exact location of the Friary.

The dig started in a car park owned by the council which was surrounded by listed buildings and almost immediately the archaeologists found a bone from a leg. Unbelievably the skeleton of a body which had never been placed in a coffin thus well preserved from alteration was the first skeleton found by Matthew Morris and the team. What followed was careful research and analysis of the remains, the diet Richard had eaten, bone evidence from areas he had lived, examination of battle injuries to the body and the sclerosis of the spine. Two descendants from Richard III's sisters were able to provide DNA which were examined at two different laboratories and both proved exact matches and the body could be identified with certainty to be that of Richard III.



How fortunate we were at the History talk to hear from Matthew his first hand experience of the discovery which caught the imagination of so many as he too found it hard to believe he could have an ambition come true.

Ann Kemp (October 4th, 2018).



Computer Group: After a break for summer holidays the computer group will resume on Thursday 18th October.

Jim Morrison.



The wine and dine group have some vacancies for their Christmas lunch at Knuston Hall at 12noon on Monday 17th December. If you would like to join us please contact Bob and Lyn McIntosh on 311342. Cost is £20 and **a £5 deposit is required by 25th October.**

Michael Gibbons.

Quote of the month

If you have a favourite quote which you would like included, please let me know and I will see what I can do.

A dentist and a manicurist were married. They fought tooth and nail.



Answers to the October Trivia Quiz:

October 13, 1884

Greenwich was established as the universal time from which standard times throughout the world are calculated.

October 14, 1957

The USSR launched Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite to orbit the Earth.

October 16, 1814

The Great Beer Flood. More than 323,000 gallons of beer burst out of the Meux and Company Brewery and poured into the streets of St. Giles, London.

October 24, 1945

The United Nations was founded.

October 28, 1971 The British House of Commons voted 356,244 in favour of joining the European Economic Community.

October 30, 1990

For the first time since the Ice Age, Great Britain was connected with the European continent, via a new rail tunnel under the English Channel.

U3A MONTHLY MEETINGS

Speakers for 2018

If you, or a friend, have had experience as a speaker at other groups on topics which you think would be of interest to our U3A members then please contact the Speaker Secretary.

Note: - The Speakers may be subject to change

Speakers for 2018

Nov 21st	A photography special.	Tom Way
Dec 12th	The complete history of Christmas.	
Please note this is the 2nd Wednesday, not the 3rd.	A colleague of Lesley who you may remember as Nell Gwynn so expect something a little different. Please note this is a week early, the 2nd Wednesday, not the 3rd.	Mike Kennedy

Speakers for 2019

Jan 16th	The Little Book of Monarchs. A wonderful, fascinating, amusing and accurate guide to English Monarchs.	Tony Boullemeir
Feb 20th	The Life and Times of Franz Lehar and The Merry Widow. With video, music and artworks.	David Price
Mar 20 th	Ooh Matron: The History of the Carry On Films. With video, music, photographs, etc.	Steve Dimmer
Apr 17th	<p>Discovering MacDonald Gill Architect, Artist and Mapmaker, Illustrated Talk. MacDonald 'Max' Gill (1884-1947, younger brother of the sculptor and typographer Eric Gill), was an architect, graphic designer, and lettered, best known for his pictorial maps. He created painted maps for houses such as Kelmarsh Hall and Lindisfarne Castle, magnificent murals for Cunard liners, and eye-catching publicity posters for organisations such as London Underground.</p> <p>An enduring legacy is his alphabet for the Imperial War Graves Commission used on all British military headstones since the First World War.</p>	Caroline Walker
May 15th	Sing a Century: Songs and Instruments written and recorded over the last century. Performing at least one Song from each decade. It's a lovely musical journey spanning 100 years! Everything from Cole Porter and Charlie Chaplin to Elton John and Adele.	Andy Smith
Jun 19th	.	

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
Badminton for Beginners & Improvers	The Pemberton Centre		Wednesday 1400-1500
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			
Computing and Technology	St Peters RC Church Hall, 1 Hayway		1 st Wed and 3 rd Thur 13.00-15.00
Country Dancing	H\F 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 multi groups	Stanwick Lakes	Every Monday	
Days Out Car Share	Ad hoc	No Fixed Venue	
Digital Photography A	Rushden Hall	2 nd & 4 th Wed 10.00 to 12.00	
Digital Photography B	Stanwick Village Hall NN9 6QJ		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
Garden	Rushden Hall and Visits	Garden visits in Summer. Otherwise Hall	2 nd 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
Handicrafts	Rushden Town Bowls Club		4 th Thu 14.00-16.00
History	Winter Months Full Gospel Church Hall, otherwise Trips		1 st Thu 14.00-15.30
Holiday Spanish (Beginners)	Alternate Mondays	10.00-12.00	
Holiday Spanish (Intermediate)	Alternate Wednesdays	10.00-12.00	

GROUP	VENUE	MORNING	AFTERNOON
Home Dining	Various	Twice per Month varying days	
Jewellery Making	Members' Homes		3 rd Mon 13.30-15.30
Knit and Natter	Leader's Home	Alt Mon 10.00-12.00	
Mahjong	Windmill Club		1 st and 3 rd Friday 19.00 – 21.00
Non-Fiction Books	Leader's Home		3 rd Monday 14.00 – 16.00
Painting for Pleasure	Coleman's Craft Warehouse		Alternate Mon 14.00
Philosophy	Various		3 rd Mon 13.30-15.00
Play Reading	Higham Ferrers Library		1 st Tue 13.15-
Popular Music Appreciation	Leader's Home	Alt Fri 10.00-12.00	
Reading Bookmarks	Higham Ferrers Library	2 nd Wednesday	
Rock & Blues Appreciation	Leader's 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 th Tue 14.00-16.00
Settlements B	Rushden Hall, Hall Park		2 nd Wed 14.00-16.00
Sewing	Group Leader's Home	3 rd Thursday	
Singing for Fun	Rushden Hall, Hall Park		Alt Thu 14.00-16.00
Special Events	Various	Various	
Sunday Lunch	Every 2 Months	Venue varies	
Table Tennis	Pemberton Centre	1 st ,2 nd & 4 th Wed at 13.00	
Ten Pin Bowling	Wellingborough AMF Bowl	Alt Fridays 10.00 to 12.00	
Ukulele	Rushden Transport Club	13.30-15.30	Every Monday
Video Editing	Leader's Home	2 nd & 4 th Tue 10.00-12.00	
Walking	Various	Various	
Wine and Dine	Various	Various	
Wine Appreciation	Leader's Home		4 th Tuesday & 4 th Thurs 14.00-16.00