

## Newsletter August 2018



*The Romans gave August its name in 8BC, after the first Roman Emperor Augustus who ruled from 27BC until his death in AD14. Before then, the month had been known as Sextilis, as it was the sixth month in the Roman Calendar, which began in March. The Anglo-Saxons called August "Weodmonath" meaning "weed month and I am sure the gardeners among you will agree with this. The birthstones for August are peridot and sardonyx and its flowers are gladiolus and poppy.*



### From the Chair

August is the month in which we start planning for the AGM. This is your opportunity to take part in the running of Higham and Rushden U3A. The formal notice advising you of the date is one of the centre pages, along with a nomination form if you are interested in joining the committee. You should also note that items cannot be raised from the floor during the AGM so if you have something that you wish to have discussed you must submit it in writing.

This year there is a real chance to get involved since we will ask you to vote on a change to our Constitution. Do not get too excited since it is a somewhat bureaucratic matter but something that has to be done. A full explanation of the background to the change can be found in this Newsletter and on the website where you can also find a draft copy of the Constitution showing the changes. The draft minutes of last year's AGM are also on the website. There will be hard copies of this information available at the Pemberton for those people who do not use the website or do not have printing facilities.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to speak up, get in touch with me, Phil Grace at Pemberton or via email.

In addition, I must apologise for not attending last month's meeting at the Pemberton. Once again, I was called away on library business. It was a busy week, with no less than three meetings to do with the library and on the Wednesday, it was a meeting with NCC Councillors and Officers. Not that we learned much! Since then NCC have "paused" the process and will be meeting once more to talk about spending cuts. And still they won't talk to us! Phil Grace



## **Classical Music Appreciation Closing:**

Sad day for one of the first groups started by H&R U3A. We have had no response from H&R U3A members to continue the group. Thanks Jim and Maggie for trying to keep it going. Chris & Linda.

## **Appeal for Help:**

We have noticed that many members are hearing-impaired & we wondered whether anyone would be able to give basic sign-language tuition (or indeed knows someone outside the U3A who could be approached). If you feel you can help or point us in the right direction please contact the webmaster.



## **History Group:**

### **Trip to Chatham Dockyard, July 5<sup>th</sup> 2018**

What a great day out, the weather was very hot and the venue was full of very interesting exhibits. During the trip we had a guided tour of the Victorian rope factory (The Ropery), shown round by the guide who presented as a factory girl in the 1800s. We learnt how rope starts as Hemp or Sisal fibres which are combed to create long strands that are twisted together



to create a thin string. Then 3 strings are twisted together in long lengths on a travelling machine to create cord. Then on the same machine 3 cords are twisted to create a thin rope. To create thicker and thicker rope the thin ropes are twisted in



3s and on and on to create huge anchor cables etc. The main rope workshop was huge (over a ¼ of a mile in length). We actually made a thin rope on a scale model of the machinery; the volunteers were rewarded with a length of rope to keep. There were a number of ships to board and view including a large submarine. They were fantastic although the sub was very cramped inside. There were many other exhibits including a covered slipway with a huge collection of military equipment, a Smithy and Lifeboat collection. On the walk round the dockyard we saw some impressive buildings including the Commissioner's House. After a fantastic day we set off home at 3:45pm to tackle a huge queue at the Dartford tunnel but worth it for the great day we had.

Ron Smith



## Beading group

The group has been going now for 2 years! It is currently fully subscribed. I keep numbers small so that everyone gets individual attention.

Look out for the sale of some of our items at the Autumn meetings. This was very popular last year. Sherry Calvert



## Visit to Aston Hall, Birmingham (02nd Aug 2018)

A fine example of a Jacobean Prodigy House built between 1618-1635. Arriving on a warm sunny morning, we were greeted by a somewhat gloomy facade set in parkland more akin to the African veldt than the pastoral green of an English summer. The park had originally been Pleasure Gardens and a deer park, now a public space.



Aston, close to the centre of Birmingham and owned by the city council since 1848, was to reveal an interesting history, wonderful architectural features and artefacts. We entered the Great hall, a panelled room of large proportions, featuring a notable plaster ceiling with an animal frieze. The house, as you would expect, has gone through many changes in its lifetime. Sir Thomas Holte built Aston to demonstrate his wealth and status and I suspect to impress his king, Charles 1st. The family were Royalist supporters during the Civil War and the king is said to have stayed at the house overnight before the battle of Edgehill. The house suffered damage during fighting and a siege by Parliamentary troops left signs of the event. The great oak staircase has a hole through one of the Newell posts where a cannon ball came through the window! There were civil war items on display, cannon balls, items of armour and the famous buff coats. The Holte estate was sold in 1817 and leased to James Watt son of the industrial pioneer. After his death the city council purchased Aston, the first time a stately house had been sold to a municipal authority. In the 20th century some refurbishments were made. We finally visited the Long Gallery, a spectacular 135-foot-long room and finally made our way to the attics, changed little since the 17th century. Needless to say, there was talk of ghosts seen by previous guides! A grey lady thought to be Mary Holte, who was locked up by her father Sir Thomas for several years for trying to "elope with an unsuitable young man" is said to walk the attics. The day was very pleasant not too hot and leisurely, with refreshments in the shade of the courtyard-- "A Grand Day Out" Thanks again to our organizers.

Ann Hunt



## Days Out Car Share: Trips 2018: Christmas trip.16/11/18.

Coach Trip to National Trust property Waddesdon Manor Aylesbury HP18 0JH. There is a Christmas market with places for 50 stalls. The manor will be seasonally dressed. Coach price to be confirmed. About £13. Yes, NT members £5 have to pay too! Non NT £18 group rate. The list is open now.01933 387892.



### Country park walks: Group Leader – Sylvia Wright 9 September: Barnwell Country Park, PE8 5PB meeting at 10.30am in the park carpark for a 2-mile walk.

Beautiful lakes and riverside walks south of the historic market town of Oundle. Bird hides, interactive visitor information centre, Kingfisher Café with lakeside decking. For those who like to have lunch after the walk, it will be 12.30pm at the Shuckburgh Arms, Main Street, Stoke Doyle PE8 5TG which is a 5-minute drive from Barnwell Country Park. Heading North towards Oundle continue on the Barnwell Road onto Mill Street, turn left on Stoke Hill/A427, and continue onto Stoke Doyle Road, and the Shuckburgh Arms pub will be on your right. We have eaten there before, and the food is excellent and prices are reasonable.



**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**



### Ukulele Group:

Monday afternoons (13:30–15:30) Rushden Historical Railway Society.

Our new ukulele group is making good progress and now has a collection of 8 or more songs to play and sing, with many more in the pipeline. The group has grown to 13 members (5 ladies and 8 gents). Each week we are working on new songs involving some new chords/techniques giving the members plenty get to grips with and to practice at home. The group seem to be advancing in skill at a good rate and can be proud of their achievements. We are a fun group and have a laugh and a joke during our hard work, making the session all the more enjoyable. Group Leaders: Geoff Eaton; Martyn Penney; Ron Smith



### Sunday Lunch group:

30th Sept at The Miller Wellingborough NN8 2NF. Booking essential 01933 387892. Linda & Chris





## Country Dancing:

A small group of country dancers enjoyed the annual walk around Kinewell lake, followed by a scrumptious cream tea at the Woodford Mill. Dancing restarts at the Higham and Rushden Working Man's Club on 3rd and 17<sup>th</sup> September. All are welcome, particularly beginners. All dances are walked through and a partner is not required.



George Hearnden.



## Knit & Natter:

Members of our group are currently knitting and crocheting pink ribbons for the Crazy Hats charity, also squares to be made into blankets for a local care home and jumpers for fish and chip babies, as well as working on their own projects. We are a lovely friendly group and meet every 2 weeks on Monday mornings between 10am and 12am at my home (group leader). Due to holidays and Bank holidays there will not be a meeting in August, we will resume in September.

We do have room for 2 more members in our group.

Anyone interested please contact Kathy Arnold on 01933 311590 for further details.



## Digital Photography B:

Our group will meet at Stanwick Village Hall on 17th August, and after viewing some short technical videos, we will be viewing members' photographs. The subject for this month is "Summer" so there should be plenty of material after the current long hot spell.

In September the Rushden Transport Museum has kindly allowed us to visit on 21st September from 2pm onwards, instead of our usual meeting at Stanwick. This is an ideal opportunity to photograph the museum, as it is not a public open day, it will just be us allowed on site.

New members are always welcome. at any of our meetings.

Keith Saunders.

## **Changing our Constitution**

Nationally, the Third Age Trust (TAT) has undertaken a major review of its governance and documentation. The old-fashioned approach of having a Memorandum of Association has been abandoned and the TAT now has a streamlined Constitution that is up to date and fit for the future. The work on this updating was undertaken in conjunction with the Charity Commission, HMRC and our insurers. The changes had to be voted on/accepted and this took place at an EGM held on 2st March. The other matter that was presented to the EGM was a change in the Charitable Purposes clause.

The U3A is an educational charity – that is its sole purpose. It is understood and accepted that a proportion of the activities undertaken, primarily in the Interest Groups is more social than educational and sometimes it is difficult to draw the line, to distinguish between the educational and the social. Whilst not a major problem there have been some instances of confusion and lack of clarity. This has given rise to some problems with HMRC (in respect of Gift Aid) and with our insurers.

The charitable purposes clause has been amended to reflect that U3A members may undertake educational/learning activities but may also be engaged in social activities. In this respect HandR is no different from any other U3A across the country. The EGM agreed the change and that means that we now need to amend our constitution. Unfortunately, this is a “dry and dusty” administrative matter but is important and this will be done at the AGM in October.

The only other outcome of this change will be in our treatment of the accounts. Up until now, the only monies that needed to be reported at our AGM and submitted to the Charity Commission were those in the main account. This is the account into which we place subscriptions, which are used to pay speakers, our educational activities. Also paid from this account are the administrative expenses of running the U3A including hire of the hall, committee expenses, some travel costs, stationery etc. Our second account, the “social account” containing the Interest Groups’ money was separate. In future, both accounts will have to be reported to members – but they will NOT be merged! This is to reflect the fact that our “charitable purposes” now includes both educational and social activities.

Note: The only change to the Constitution is sec3 Charitable Purposes, the section to be deleted is struck out and the new text is in red.

**Notice of  
Annual General Meeting 2018**

Dear Members

The Annual General Meeting of the Higham and Rushden U3A is to be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018, 2pm at the Pemberton Centre, Rushden NN10 9YP.

The Nomination form is printed below, and further copies are available from the Secretary. All nominations must be received by the Secretary by 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Note: In the event that a vote is required only those members who have renewed and have a membership card for the 2018/19 year are eligible and entitled to cast a vote.

Any items for discussion at the AGM must be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary by 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

Denise Evans

Secretary

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Nomination Form 2018 - 2019

Nominations for Committee membership.

	Name (print)	Signed
Name and Signature of Nominee:	.....	/
Name and Signature of Proposer	.....	/
Name and Signature of Seconder	.....	/

All the above must be paid up members of Higham and Rushden U3A for year 2017/2018. Completed forms to be sent to the Secretary: Denise Evans, 58 Grangeway, Rushden, NN10 9JG: by **26<sup>th</sup> September 2018.**



### **Driving :**

**Need to be aware:** Police officers in Northamptonshire will this week be supporting a speed enforcement operation being carried out across Europe. The European Traffic Police Network (TISPOL) launched the campaign on August 6 to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding and to remind drivers of the benefits for all road users of driving at speeds that are both legal and appropriate.

Steve Evans 01933 356784



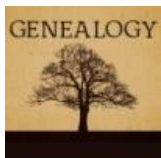
### **Wine Appreciation:**

Hot and humid tastings this past month. Too hot for wine really but we survived and the mini barbeque went down okay. The wines we tasted were Hazy View Chenin Blanc from South Africa (White) and Casillero del Diablo Merlot from Chile. The white wine went surprisingly well with the Bratwurst and meatballs.

Next month: Chardonnay.

We still have spaces on Tuesdays.

Prost. Steve Evans 01933 356784



### **Family History Group:**

Our July meeting featured a talk by Susan James (who is to be especially appreciated for turning up despite an injury which meant she came in on crutches!) on a topic new to us all - Welsh Mariners. We all learnt a lot about this area of research, with sources that were new to us, some of which had wider applications as well. It is sometimes difficult to find a speaker who covers new ground in genealogy, so this really hit the spot.

We are not having a meeting in August, but will finish the year with a September talk on the history of a family, a school and the houses that link them, followed by "Hands across the Sea" in October and a light-hearted quiz linking Christmas and family history in November. New members are always welcome, and our existing members are always happy to give advice and helpful hints! Sharon Safford.





## Settlements B:

This week, we met at the Fox and Hounds on the High Street in Risely (pictured). We were met there by Andrew Gell, a Risely resident. He took us around the very interesting town, pointing out where bakeries and other crafts had been. He also told us about the unusual brickwork on some of the older residences. Many years ago, Risely made their own bricks. There was a process by



removing some of the bricks from the oven when they were an oatmeal colour and the remainder were left until they were a rosy red. The custom then was to make an alternate pattern, making a checker-board effect. The other picture shows Andrew with the group with his laminated photographs, looking at an ancient stone which was on the village green before development took place, it is possible that Margaret Beaufort, mother of King Henry V111s may even may have rested on it while visiting the town. We then visited the church, and admired the war memorial just inside

the church gates. Andrew then took us on a delightful walk across the fields before showing us a photo of the High Street which quite often floods, being next to the stream. Then we found our way back to the pub for a welcome cup of tea and cake. Andrew told us then that his family had lived in the town for several generations. Chris Holden.



## Garden Group:

Of all the afternoons that we could have chosen during this hot sunny summer to visit the wonderful gardens at Tofte Manor near Sharnbook we choose Thursday 9th August, but the garden group was not put off by the rain, all twenty-six members who booked turned up with macs and umbrellas and explored the grounds regardless. Tofte Manor was first mentioned in the Domesday book in 1066, then owned by one of the Knights Templar and then many different people over the years. Today its house and gardens are popular for weddings, and for spiritual retreats. There are formal and sunken gardens surrounded by the grounds with many massive, old trees, and its magical labyrinth set with healing crystals and running water is known as a place for contemplation, creative thinking, healing and stillness. Kathy Main



## Quote of the month

A new feature, and if you have a favourite quote which you would like included, please let me know and I will see what I can do. Here is another of my favourites:

*I have always paid income tax. I object only when it reaches a stage when I am threatened with having nothing left for my old age - which is due to start next Tuesday or Wednesday. Noel Coward*

## And finally.....

Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark...

One: Don't miss the boat.

Two: Remember that we are all in the same boat.

Three: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

Four: Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

Five: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

Six: Build your future on high ground.

Seven: For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

Eight: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

Nine: When you're stressed, float a while.

Ten: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

Eleven: No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Twelve: Maybe the woodpeckers were a mistake.



# 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

Aug 15 <sup>th</sup>	From Leeches to Laxatives A lighthearted and fun talk looking at the weird and wonderful cures offered by Victorian Quack Doctors.	Tricia Thompson
Sep 19 <sup>th</sup>	“It’s Rushden Feast again m’duck.” Anita will talk about memories of living in Rushden and promote her book.	Anita Howard
Oct 17 <sup>th</sup>	Topic TBA	Leigh Bishop
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. <i>Please note this is a week early, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, not the 3<sup>rd</sup>.</i>	Mike Kennedy

## Speakers for 2019

Jan 16 <sup>th</sup>	The Little Book of Monarchs. A wonderful, fascinating, amusing and accurate guide to English Monarchs.	Tony Boullemeir
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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	
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	Stanwick Village Hall NN9 6QJ		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
Garden	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
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
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 <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
Non-Fiction Books	Leaders Home		3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday 14.00 – 16.00
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	
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 <sup>th</sup> Tue 14.00-16.00
Settlements B	Rushden Hall, Hall Park		2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed 14.00-16.00
Sewing	Group Leader's Home	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <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	
Ukulele	Rushden Transport Club	13.30-15.30	Every Monday
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