

Newsletter June 2018



From the Chair

It was George Bernard Shaw who said that the “...United States and Great Britain were two countries separated by a common language”.

I am pretty certain that nowadays the majority of people in the UK wish to distance themselves from the country that elected Donald Trump.

Whilst visiting my son in Texas I was able to get a feel for the country from the stories that appeared the newspapers... and was struck by the many similarities with the UK. There were articles about the rising price of “gasoline” – although if they knew how much we had to pay I think they might re-consider. On my return I had to fill up, which cost upwards of £65, something that cost only \$25 a week before! However, a Californian friend did point out to me that with the large size of the country driving was a necessity not a luxury. There was a story about an orthodontist, who was facing six figure student debt and had little hope of meeting the interest payments, let alone the capital! And an article on cyber security mentioned the GDPR saying that something like that might be needed in the US sooner rather than later.

However, there were many editorials and feature articles decrying the “Trump approach”. Which seems to confirm that whilst Donald Trump may have gained the Presidency he did not win the popular vote

The one thing that did not seem to be bothering US citizens was Brexit, although people were obviously interested. We were often asked about the decision, the process and what we thought of it. I avoided that question in case it strayed into territory better avoided – our (faint? foolish?) desire to strike lucrative trade deals or the announcement of tariffs on steel! Phil

Notices

Website assistance sought



The webmaster is looking for assistance writing scripts using PHP and would love to hear from any member with greater knowledge than him (which would be anyone with even a little knowledge!) The arrangement could be on an ad-hoc basis or as deputy or joint webmaster, whichever the person chose. If you fit the bill please get in touch with Jim Morrison via the website or by phone (contact number on the Members page of the website).

LADIES DAY AT NEWMARKET ~ Thursday 12th July.

The coach will pick up at Higham Market Square at 10am & Orbit Tyres in Rushden at 10:10.

We will be contacting you again at the beginning of July to confirm your choice of pick up location. Check the Newsletter for further details

New Group



UKELELE (Beginners and intermediate)

Our new Ukelele group has started very well with 12 members. Some of the group have played before and others are complete beginners.

In the first week we started by learning the basics of the instrument and how to hold and strum it. We then moved on to learning four chords (C, Am, F & G7)

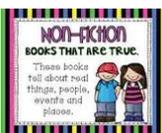
Week 2 we refreshed the chords that were introduced in week 1 and ended the session by attempting a song or two. We also added 2 more chords (Em & G)

This week we continued to play our range of chords and worked on a couple more songs. The progress of the group has been very encouraging bearing in mind that none of the Group Leaders are skilled players, this is very much a self help group.

We meet on Mondays 13:30 to 15:30 Rushden Railway Museum

Looking forward to many fun sessions to come. Ron Smith

Non Fiction Book Group



Next Meeting, 2-4pm 23/7/18 at leaders home. Contact leaders for date of next meeting. New members welcome.

Are you a non-Fiction reader? Are you interested in Travel, History, Biographies etc. The group will meet every month or 2 months for a long book at the Group Leaders home on Monday afternoons. Members would need to commit to buying the books we will be reading on Kindle or online.

Our current book is Nella Last's Peace. previously a 'Radio 4 Book of the Week'. Nella was portrayed on T.V. a few years ago. Victoria Wood wrote a play called Housewife 49 in which she played Nella. There are a further 3 books in the series. Linda Walker

Sunday Lunch Group



29/7/18 The Bowls Club Northampton Rd. Rushden. 12 30 for 1pm
Offers of transport appreciated. Venue contact leader for details.
Pre book with us essential. Recommendations for venues please.

Gardening



On the 14th June the Garden Group and Digital Photography group shared a visit to Warwick, this included a morning visit to the Lord Leicester Hospital and an afternoon visit to Hill Close Gardens.

The hospital is an historic group of medieval timber-framed buildings on Warwick High Street dating mainly from the late 14th Century, that includes a Chancery Chapel built in the 12th century. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth I the buildings became, under the patronage of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, a

place of retirement for old warriors who had fought in the Elizabethan era wars. These soldiers are still known to this day as the Brethren and we were given a very informative tour around the buildings and gardens by one of them.

In the afternoon we went on to Hill Close Gardens, these restored gardens offer a rare opportunity to visit sixteen hedged Victorian pleasure gardens, reconstructed to capture the planting and personality of their original owners. Kathy Main.



Classical Music Appreciation.



Come and share your classical music loves with us. Small friendly group. We met the last Wednesday afternoon of the month at the leaders home. Contact leaders for details. We will have a table at the main meeting most months.

Country Dancing



The group is still going strong but a few more newcomers would be welcome. The Working Man's Club in Higham Ferrers has a large hall with a good floor for dancing, so why not come and join us. We are a very sociable group and all dances are fully explained. As last year, we will be having a walk around Kinewell Lake in Ringstead on July 23rd followed by a cream tea at the Woodford Mill close by. Our summer party is on July 30th with live music led by Kevin Prigmore of Kelly's Eye. All are welcome. Just bring nibbles to share and a mug. Details from George on 622827

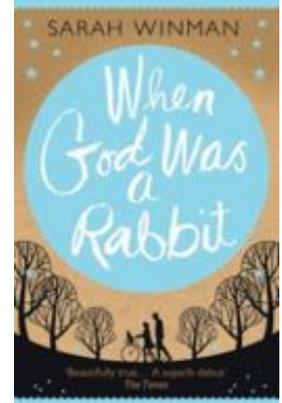
BookMarks

When God was a Rabbit by Sarah Winman

Chosen and reviewed by Vera Bean



This debut, darkly comic novel by Sarah Winman spans four decades and moves between suburban Essex, the wild coast of Cornwall and the streets of New York. It is a story about childhood, eccentricity, the darker side of love and sex, the pull and power of family ties, loss and life. More than anything, it's a story about love in all its forms.



Vera says:-

“This is a book about a brother and sister, their love for each other and their growing up days. When I first started to read it I thought it was a bit strange, but soon began to enjoy it. The unusual parents dreamed of winning the football pools, and then they did! This obviously changed their lifestyle and they bought a big house in Cornwall and opened a Bed and Breakfast. There are various odd people in their lives already, but the B&B brought them in contact with even more. The heroine had a special friend for all her growing up life, and later the friend went through bad times for many years. We move on to New York and all the trauma and heartache of 911, but this is not a morbid book. I thoroughly enjoyed the many aspects of it.”

Next month are reading some of H E Bates earlier works, especially those based in the local area, and we hope to be joined by a special guest. Dominica Jones

Settlements B



We made our first visit to a town/village we had talked about during the Winter months. On Wednesday 13th June we went to Milton Ernest. Frances Francis gave us a talk on Milton Ernest at our last indoor meeting and gave me maps and details of the village. One of our members.



Paul printed a good map out of the booklet Frances left and I listed the places of interest to match the map.

Only 9 members were on the visit, two couples letting me know that they were unable to come. We met at the Garden Centre where I had information and then it was up to the group where they wanted to go.

We met up with most of the group as we walked to the Church and checked out details from the map and most of us ended the afternoon in the café at the Garden Centre for a welcome drink.

Next month Margaret & Brian Shelton are taking us on a tour of Poddington. Chris Holden



Special Events

Ladies Day at Newmarket ~ Thursday 12th July.

The following is information regarding our trip to Ladies Day at Newmarket.

Our coach will pick up at Higham Market Square at 10am and then Orbit Tyres in Rushden at 10:10am. We will be contacting you again at the beginning of July to confirm your choice of pick up location.

We have tickets for the Grandstand and Paddock Enclosure which provides good grandstand race viewing with access to view the Parade Ring, Pre-Parade Ring and Winners Circle.

Please bring your own Picnic, including plate, cutlery and a glass. We will provide the Prosecco!! A fold up chair would also be useful, but as many of these are of similar design, make sure yours is easily identifiable by tying on a ribbon or label. Picnics can only be consumed in the Family Enclosure or car parks. Please note plastic cutlery only is permitted.

Please also note that only food and drink purchased from the racecourse vendors can be consumed in the Grandstand and Paddock Enclosures.

For those of you who don't want to picnic or who require something more substantial, there is the Devil's Dyke Café in the Grandstand and Paddock Enclosure. A spacious restaurant in the heart of the action, serving a variety of food from baguettes to a hot carvery lunch.

Many race goers at Newmarket like to make it a special occasion and choose to dress accordingly. Ladies and gentlemen are encouraged to dress smartly. Most gentlemen would choose to wear smart trousers, shirt and formal shoes to complete the look. Many ladies opt for a hat, although this is not compulsory. Imagine you are going to a smart wedding is our tip. Smart tailored shorts are acceptable in the warm weather. In the Grandstand & Paddock Enclosure T-shirts and trainers are acceptable. The only common sense restrictions would be those of taste and appropriateness which would apply to all areas, for example regarding slogan t-shirts and swimwear. Bare chests are not acceptable! Jean Mole

Badminton



Have been going for 9 years now! Still having fun although eyes, and speed around court varies ! Would welcome new members at intermediate- ish level

Hoping to have a lawn darts challenge in august. Hilary Bettles



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



Coach Trip to Nat. 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. No more than £13. N.T. members £5 yes we have to pay too! Non N.T. £18 group rate. The list is open now.

All car-share trips unless stated otherwise.

2/7/18 Wrest Park MK45 4HR Free entrance to English Heritage members.£10 90p Non members. Optional Archaeological store £3 including E.H. members. pre with us please for tour essential.

30/7/18 Apethorpe Palace PE8 5AQ. 1 place available. £7 65 entrance [including E.H. members] with guided tour. Please be aware there are no loos at the property.

New! Car share trip.19/8/18. Althorpe. The Spence home. Car share trip. I have offer of 1 place in a car. We have had a request to plan another visit. This time in the summer.

We need 12 for discount. Price to be decided. Please let us know ASAP of your interest.

Family History



Our May meeting explored some of those "Lucky Dips", the things you find when you are looking for something completely different, which then lead you up the highways and byways of the internet finding out about the Cornish Cemetery in Mexico, or the coal mining industry in Lanarkshire or the names given to Romany and traveller children and the frustrations of being a census recorder trying to find out where they were born...and so on. A random dip into the Old Bailey Online, a wonderful free site, led to the discovery of a distant cousin thought to have spent her life in rural Huntingdonshire recorded in 1881 not as a criminal but as the victim of a purse snatching in the Minories near the Tower of London, and members reacted as you might expect to the fact that she yelled for a policeman and one instantly appeared and arrested the alleged perpetrator (if only...) - who was found not guilty. Maybe that is why we never complete our family hunts - too much treasure on the way!

Speaking of which, the June meeting is one of our group research ones, where we aim to break down our own genealogical walls and help other members to do the same. This is a good opportunity for prospective and new members to get tips and tricks of the trade from the more experienced, and for the experienced to learn from each other, so do come along, preferably with a laptop, if you are interested. Sharon Safford

Handicraft

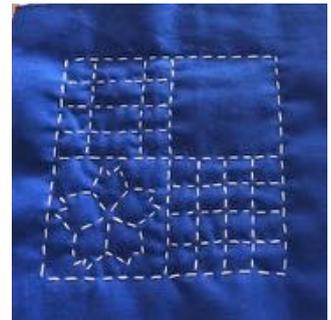


In April members had a go at cardmaking. Susan Jennings had made some samples and we tried to recreate these ourselves. We learnt about texture, shape and proportions in creating cards.



There was a different variety of card to see and members made an A5 card with different layers of card topped with a stencil cut butterfly. An A6 card had a butterfly pattern on it had to be cut and folded in a particular manner. A butterfly was added on top and decorated with glitter gems. Finally a smaller gift card was created which held an after dinner chocolate.

In May we had a Japanese afternoon creating a dinner mat in Sashiko. This is a form of quilting using a blue base fabric quilted in a white or cream thread. Diana created a design using traditional straight lines and an interpretation of a Japanese flower. Once we got hold of the idea how to start and finish our lines everyone worked swimmingly. No-one quite finished their mat, but I am hoping members will bring their finished mat to the June meeting. Diana Turner



Driving



Are you ready for your summer holidays, sometimes if you have not driven long distance for a while tiredness can catch you out. So be sure to take refreshment breaks every one and half to two hours. We are not as young as we were and more stops are better and take your time.

If I can help give me call

Steve Evans 01933 356784

Wine Appreciation



Bit different last month; two mystery wines. The first one we asked if anyone could guess the country close but no prize this was Thiasos from Greece, grape Aghiorgitiko red wine, thin and a bit sharp. Needs food to soften it. Second one we asked can you guess the grape and the country. One correct answer from John - Domaine Boyar, Deer Point, Cabernet Sauvignon from Bulgaria, softer more rounded but surprisingly both the same price. This month Roses in the garden (hopefully). Steve Evans 01933 356784

Settlements A



For our last indoor meeting before our summer visits we looked at Weedon Bec. A fascinating village with a long history. Like Chowns

Mill roundabout it is mentioned most days on Radio Northampton for traffic problems which should be solved when the new bypass is opened. Weedon is at the junction of the old Roman Road, Watling Street - now the A5 and the much newer A45 built in 1923 to link Birmingham and Ipswich. The small agricultural community doubled in size when the Georgians decided to build an ordnance depot there in 1806.



The site was chosen as it was as far as possible from the coast in case Napoleon invaded. It also had good transport links with the first turnpike road in Northampton, the Grand Union Canal and later the railway making it easy to access the whole country.



The military used the area until the 1960's. The huge stores supplied guns, ammunition and clothing for the army for many wars including the Crimean War, WW1 and WW2. During WW1 one huge store contained just army boots many made locally. Now the depot is privately owned and worth visiting with its 26 grade 2 listed buildings one of which has Booksmith's bookshop, gallery and coffee shop on the top floor. Within the village there are several other listed buildings of note.

The area is also known for its antique shops in Road Weedon, Granny's Coffee shop and the Bramble Patch craft centre in the old Catholic church in Lower Weedon. The interesting St Peter and St Paul Church lies between the canal and the railway with trains and boats passing at the same level as the top of the church tower! Weedon was voted village of the year in 2015.

Our next meeting is our first visit this year and is to Riseley a village we learned about in one of the indoor sessions. Frances Francis

Country Park Walks



The walks are suitable for members who want to walk at a slower pace to enjoy the scenery, and to occasionally stop for a short rest.

Mostly the walks are about 2.5 miles between 10am-12noon on the 2nd Sunday each month. Our Walk on Sunday 10 June was at Emberton Park, Olney. It was a lovely sunny day, and the lake looked beautiful with the sun shining on it.



After walking around the park some of us went on to lunch at the Green Man pub, Lavendon. A pretty thatched roof pub with excellent food. We did have to wait a while for service as it was all freshly cooked.

Sunday 8 July - KINEWELL LAKE, RINGSTEAD We will meet at 10.30am in the Axe and Compass pub car park. This is a pretty pocket lake, with a shorter than usual circular walk, giving us time to stop and look at the wild flowers and birds on the lake. Half way round we like to stop for coffee at the Water Mill Tea rooms overlooking the river Nene as it is nice (weather permitting) to sit outside and enjoy the view of the river.

For members who at the end of the walk like to go onto Sunday Lunch, we will lunch at The Star and Garter, The Green, Chelveston (01933 623295) as it is on our way home, and always a favourite with good food at reasonable prices.

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

Digital Photography



The Digital Photography Group members had a very enjoyable morning on 12th June at the Rushden Transport Museum. We were made very welcome by staff also by volunteers who were working on site, the

museum was opened for us to enjoy.

For many of us it was a trip down 'Memory Lane' looking at and photographing cars, vans, fire engines delivery trucks etc from way back when



we were teenagers and even before that. There were some of the old type road signs on display, the ones with reflective studs on that shone in the dark.

Tea and Coffee was laid on for us which was a nice addition to the morning, it is very thirsty work taking photographs also discussing with other members the best way to get the results that we want. We had been to this sight, before but looking back it was around five years ago and the museum has advanced a lot in that time.

Continued over--

If you would like to join this vibrant group, we do have a couple of places available. To join us, you must be, Keen to learn more about Photography/Photograph editing Between 35 & 100 years old, Male Female or other, Like tea, coffee and mixing with friends On 14th June some of our members went on a trip to Warwick with the Gardening group and other friends.

On arrival we visited the Lord Leycester Hospital. This is a 12th Century Chapel Built over the Norman Arch leading into Warwick and beautiful 14th and 15th Century timber framed. n Daphne Jackso

U3A Monthly Meetings Speakers for 2018

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

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	From Leeches to Laxatives	Tricia Thompson
Sep 19 th	The Little Book Of Monarchs A wonderful fascinating amusing and accurate guide to English Monarchs.	Tony Boullemeir
Oct 17 th	Topic TBA	Leigh Bishop
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