

Newsletter January



From the Chair



A Happy New year to you all. I hope you didn't make too many New Year Resolutions! I know not many of mine, in the past, have been successful!

On Wednesday 29th February, we are holding another New Members' Meeting. This is being held at Rushden Bowls Club, Northampton Road, Higham Ferrers from 10 – 12 a.m.

The last meeting we held for new members was successful as it gave both Group Leaders and new members time to get to know each other and resulted in some new ideas from both sides.

Many Group Leaders attend the monthly meeting when they can which is an opportunity for members and Leaders to meet, but there is a lot to look at and the time soon passes.

Invitations are being sent to those members who are relatively new but if you would like to attend yourself, please let one of the committee know and we will be pleased to see you at that meeting.

At the previous new members' meeting, ideas for new groups emerged. Any member can suggest an idea for a new group, in fact our U3A needs new groups to keep it evolving.

So, if you have an idea, let Doreen Riley, our Groups Co-ordinator know either at the meeting or by phone or e-mail and she will be pleased to help new groups get off the ground.

Chris

The Pemberton Centre

The May meeting at the Pemberton Centre will have the fixed seating in place as it has been for the Aladdin performance. The entrance and checking desk will be restricted. We will advise you how the meeting will be organised nearer the time.

Proposed New Group

Several people have approached me with regard to starting a new singing group within U3A. Rather than it being in opposition to "Singing for Pleasure" it would run alongside as a more serious group concentrating on harmony and maybe more serious music.

To call it a choir would be rather over-optimistic at this stage, but who knows? I would just like to find if there are enough members interested to form such a group. The venue would depend on the number of applicants. Please contact Trevor Warland.

Painting for pleasure.



Members please note there is no meeting on January 30th. The next meeting is on February 13th. at 2pm at HFWMC. We will be trying Pastels, bring a picture of a bird or animal to copy. If you prefer do your own thing. Doreen

Bowls Group.



I am sorry to say that membership of the Bowls Group is closed for the time being. There have been so many enthusiastic members that it has been a victim of its' own success! If you are interested in bowls, please let me know and I will keep a waiting list and let you know if the numbers decrease in the future. Chris Holden

Chess Group



We now have two spaces if anyone wants to join.....we are happy to teach beginners, if you are interested please phone Anne or Dennis

Computer Group



Are you in need of some help with your computer? Then come along to the computer group and make computing fun. Call Harry Wells for details.

History Group



The weather seems to have remained unseasonably mild over the December/January period, and the group extended a warm welcome at its December meeting to several new members. In accordance with History Group tradition, the December meeting began with the annual Quiz, presented by Carol Pullen, followed by the bring-it-yourself buffet. Members showed their usual generosity, and there was a wide range of savory and sweet items on offer. The final part of the meeting was the screening of a DVD on the life of Elizabeth Woodville, wife of King Edward IV.

The winter programme at Chelveston Village Hall covers the next three months, and it is packed with items sourced by members themselves. In January, Roger Drage is doing a presentation on the Design and Development of Castles, and Linda Walker is sharing a DVD on the story of the Container - "The Box That Changed Britain".

All change again in February, when Carol Pullen and Ann Cook are doing a presentation on Local Railways. Two other members occupy the spotlight in March, with John Layton presenting The History of Plastic, and Brenda Williamson telling the story of The Jarrow Marchers. We are grateful that members are voluntarily willing to share their knowledge and expertise - it certainly isn't a condition of joining the group ...

So you see, we really do cover a very wide spectrum of subjects. If you'd like to sample them and maybe join the group, please get in touch or come along to table 5 and the rolling slideshow at the monthly meetings at the Pemberton Centre. Come and feel the Blast of the Past!

Handicraft Group



We have planned the next three meetings to include jewelry making this month and watching a DVD on Vivienne Westwood and her designs in February. One of our group members, Carol Pullen, has been asked to enter a quilt into an exhibition in Northampton, and in March we are hoping to visit the exhibition instead of our usual monthly meeting. If you would like to join us at a meeting, please contact me. Rosemary van der Meer

Social Bridge Group



We are delighted that we have been awarded a grant from Midland ~Cooperative allowing us to purchase six bridge tables in conjunction with the Stanwick Village Hall . New players are very welcome to join us for an informal game of bridge on 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month 1.30 pm - 3.30pm at Stanwick Village Hall.

If interested contact Tricia Drummond

Happy Feet

I am a member of the Rushden & Higham U3A and I enjoy it very much. Also, away from the U3A, I go to a line dancing group called Happy Feet. The Happy Feet group spend a lot of time raising money for charity. last year we raised just over £2000 for Alzheimer's. This year we are raising money for Hinwick Hall College of Further education for disabled young adults.

We are holding a coffee morning at the St Johns Ambulance Rooms, Fitzwilliam Hill, Rushden on Saturday 11th February between 9.30 and 12.30. and will have a craft stall, a tombola bottle stall, cake stall etc. Admittance is 50p which includes a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit.

Kathy Arnold

U3A MONTHLY MEETINGS

Please come along to the Pemberton Centre at 2 pm to hear some interesting talks, and why not bring a friend with you and introduce them to the many things we do in our Branch of the U3A?

15th February Meeting

Nick Hamilton will talk about "Barnsdale after Geoff" (1966--to present day). A brief review of his famous father and how he has taken his father's beloved Gardens forward.

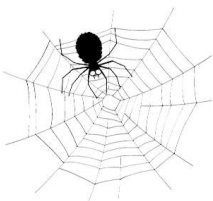
21st March Meeting

In Jim Wright's talk on "Evacuees", many will remember being uprooted from all that was familiar to live with strangers, which often changed their lives for the better, others remember the disruption of taking in lodgers into the homes.

As Speaker secretary, I would be most grateful if some members would offer to give a vote of thanks after the speaker. Please contact me at the monthly meetings or e-mail Brian Shelton

Many thanks Margaret Shelton

Website



Keep checking our website as Alan Bailey is adding useful items and Group information on a regular basis.

www.highamandrushdenu3a.org.

Well done to Mick Aldridge for his Digital Photography group page, a great addition.

Note from the Editor



I hope you are enjoying your Newsletter, but remember it can only be as good as the content supplied by Group leaders and Members. Wishing all readers a Happy New Year.

Peter Turner H/R U3A Editor