

Newsletter October 2011



From the Chair



Well, hello everyone. I hope you like our new look, monthly Newsletter in the capable hands of our new Newsletter Editor Peter Turner. Peter is known to many in the Computer Group and he now runs the Safe Driving Group.

He has been very busy in the past few weeks assembling copy for the Newsletter and I would like to thank him and also all the group leaders and members who have contributed to this edition. It is, of course, **your** newsletter so if you have any news - a special birthday or anniversary perhaps - please let Peter know. His e-mail address is: prtdmtemail-u3a@yahoo.co.uk.

If you are able to e-mail this to him this would be helpful, otherwise you can always post your contribution having first typed ***it*** out if at all possible. Of course, there have been a lot of changes to get to this point, and we may not get everything right in our first edition!

We want to keep the information interesting and relevant to what's happening now. If you have more to say, the website is the place for photographs and longer articles.

Our new experienced Webmaster is Alan Bailey. Please send your entries to him, his e-mail address is: alanbailey@rmpc.co.uk, and keep our website interesting.

I do hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and that you find new interests or hobbies to fill your days. If you have any suggestions to improve it please let me know.

Chris

Discussion Group



The discussion group meet on the first Wednesday of the month at H/F library, from 2pm-3.30pm. We have 14 members who enjoy a lively, stimulating discussion on a range of topics.

Each month we choose the subject for the following month - this gives everyone time to have a think about their own opinions and views on that subject. At the same time somebody volunteers to be the chairperson - there is never any pressure or obligation to chair a discussion.

Some of our recent topics have been:

- Is modern democracy a myth?
- Should the U3A keep "university" in the title?
- Royalist or Republican?

The subject for the October meeting, which was on the 5th, was, - Should the English language have a controlling body in the same way the French have for their language?

The cost to use the room at the library is £12, so each member pays £1 and that is usually sufficient. If you are interested in joining the discussion group, please contact Janet.

Computer Group



The Computer group is looking for new members, particularly novice users who have either just bought their first computer or are thinking of getting a computer but need help to select a suitable machine.

We work in small groups of 2 or 3 members to allow individual help and the personal touch. Some sessions you will be helped and in some you will help someone else. Remember you only need a little more knowledge than someone else to be able to help them.

Safe Driving Group



The Safe Driving Group is going from strength to strength and we now have 16 members and 5 on a waiting list. This means that anyone wishing to join the group will be placed on the waiting list until some of the current members reach a standard that they are happy with.

Most members are surprised by how their driving has improved. One has said "at last I am being taught how to drive".

Scrabble Group



We have now settled into our new venue, The Residents Lounge, Kilburn Place, Higham Road, Rushden, which is much more comfortable. We are a friendly group and members play at their own pace. We are not fiercely competitive, we play for pleasure and enjoy a sociable afternoon. We meet on alternate Tuesday 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm.

History Group



For September, the group had two events. Firstly, there was a visit to the magnificent Apethorpe Hall, where a very knowledgeable guide took the group round the rooms and halls with their stunning fireplaces and plasterwork.

Then later in the month the group visited the Military Intelligence Museum at Chicksands, where again the guides were interesting and the exhibits and stories fascinating.

In October, the group is going on a full-day visit to Pershore and Tewkesbury, to visit the abbeys there and also explore the fascinating townscapes. The trip was opened to all members of Higham & Rushden U3A, and is fully subscribed. A full report will be given in the next newsletter. In November, the indoor programme will begin at Chelveston Village Hall, with an audio-visual presentation on the wonderful and eventful life of Jean Overton Fuller.

If all this sounds like the sort of thing which you would enjoy, please get in touch. Come and feel the Blast of the Past !

Badminton Group



We have had a very happy and successful year. Interest has been so good that I have put newcomers on a waiting list. I am planning to open a beginners class on a Tuesday either from 9.00 to 10.00am or 12 to 1.00pm under the guidance of an experienced coach, the lovely Jean Humphries, and she and I will be collecting names at the October meeting or by telephone.

The cost of the hourly session is normally £1.50 but it depends on the number of people attending the session. Classes are every week but are not compulsory but if you are unable to attend it is helpful to let the group leader know. My desire is to accommodate everyone's needs so feel free to contact me at any time. Cheers Hillary

Canasta Group



If you enjoy playing cards, then you may well enjoy Canasta. We are happy to teach anyone how to play. If you would like more information please contact Linda Grace.

Philosophy Group



We are continuing to examine philosophy of mind. Which is fine, except that there are those who argue that as everything that happens in the brain (beliefs, desires, fear, elation, rational thought) is mistaken, and can be or will be reduced to neurological explanations. We will look at whether this neurological reduction means the end of thought, or if they can survive side by side, each enhancing the understanding of the other. Imagine not being about to use the word imagine.

Digital Photography Group



We meet fortnightly on a Wednesday morning from 09.45 to 11.45am at St Peter's RC Church Hall in Rushden.

We are a friendly group and welcome all abilities and all camera type users from compacts to DSLR. In summertime (mainly) we have outside activities (field trips) to various venues. Recent field trips include Hamerton Park Zoo and Thrapston Lakes. We use a subsequent indoor meeting to review our handiwork.

Other indoor activities include learning about using the camera and what the controls do. Using editing software to improve your masterpieces. Creative activities to use your photos in projects such as greetings cards, bookmarks etc. In fact anything the members find interesting or helpful.

Chess Group



The Chess Group has been going ever since the Rushden and Higham U.3.A. started, we have full capacity of 8 members, as the group meets at the Leaders home. Almost everyone has started Chess from scratch, learning the pieces and moves and have become quite competent.

It becomes a very enjoyable get together followed by tea and biscuits, each week we put 50p in a box and when it becomes full we go out for dinner and a good time is had by all.

Wine and Dine Group



The next meeting of the Wine and Dine group will be at the Conservative Club On Monday 24th October at 11.15am

Come Dine With Me



The latest dinner party, on Friday, 30th September was another great success. With three starters, two main courses and one dessert of which to dispose, along with biscuits and cheese, wine, beer and coffee, all my guests were almost filled to capacity when they left at 23.35pm.

Lots of intelligent conversation (interspersed with stupid jokes via the host), laughter, a little music, filled the whole evening thus making the time speed quickly towards midnight.

I shall be looking for new members to join us in the coming months, and in the New Year we may attempt themed evenings, where each course has its origin in one particular country, so WATCH THIS SPACE!

Genealogy Group



There will be no October meeting of the Genealogy Group, due to other commitments of the Group Leader.

Our key focus in our meetings remains on helping our Group members overcome “brick walls” in researching their ancestors, ranging from “I can’t find him or his parents in the 1861 census, they just seem to have disappeared!” to “but there are thousands of Jones on the records, how can I pick **MY** Jones family out?”

These sorts of obstacles are often addressed by combining information from civil registration records (births / marriages/ deaths) with that from Census records, using one to fill in gaps from the other, sometimes calling upon information from family wills, occupational records and many other online databases that continue to come online at an alarming rate.

We use the U3A projector connected to a laptop to access websites and databases via an internet router, enabling all Group members to participate and contribute to our research.

The Genealogy Group has a BLOG that covers scores of interesting developments within the field of family history research, anyone can see this at: <http://rodneysgenealogyblog.blogspot.com>

Our next meeting will be on November 15th, 2pm at the Catholic Church Hall in Rushden. New Group members are always welcome.

Day Trips



Highgrove Outing:- For all those who endured the enforced walk up the hill on the Highgrove trip, I have now had a refund from the coach company of £5 per person. So if you would like a fiver back, please see me at the October or November meetings. Brian



Would you enjoy a trip to the **GLOBE THEATRE**, London?

A visit includes a guided tour of the Globe Theatre, and the nearby site of The Rose, Bankside's first playhouse. You can explore the Globe exhibition, where you can enjoy a demonstration of dressing in Elizabethan style attire. There are some dates available in February. Cost £17 per person plus cost of coach. Minimum of 15 people required to make trip viable. Please contact Brian Shelton if you are interested.

Handicraft Group



We were pleased that there was so much interest in the items that the group had knitted for charity. We hope that there will be equal interest in our Christmas decorations and gift ideas on sale at both the October and November Pemberton meetings. To date, group members have made cards, beaded baubles, jewellery, and small knitted and patchwork items, but production continues, so come and shop early for Christmas!

The group is also working on behalf of Higham and Rushden U3A to produce our contribution for the Christmas Sparkle weekend at St. Mary's Church, Higham Ferrers. We will need some help, and we hope that we can count on fellow members for their support if needed.....our theme is, We 3 Kings.

We meet in members' homes on the 4th Thursday afternoon of the month. Space is limited but we would be pleased to welcome new members.

Singing For Fun



Hi, Just a little about Singing for fun. We have a busy programme until Christmas. We welcome new members particularly you men. No audition, we provide song sheets too Contact Linda for details.

Also Higham Ferrers Xmas light switch on day.

We are singing carols in St Mary's Courtyard. Higham Ferrers by the church Nov 19th 2pm and 3-15pm. Please come and join us

Local Bus Services

New route, Rushden Higham Link, replaces Rushden Rider & Higham Hopper services from 5th September 2011

Rushden- Higham Link - *** Serving Crown Park & Irthlingborough ***

Rushden – Higham Ferrers Monday to Saturday except public holidays

If you go to the web address www.expresslinesltd.co.uk/routes.html you will find details of the times and routes.

Forthcoming U3A events

National Institute of Medical Research lecture. ‘Curses and benefits of parasites’ Thursday 17th November 2011, 2.30pm – 4.30pm. Free of charge – admission by ticket only.

U3A First Christmas Concert, with traditional carols and mulled wine. Wednesday 14th December 2.30pm – 4.30pm at St John’s, Waterloo, London . Mosaic Chamber Choir, Brandenburg Brass and organ. Tickets £16 per person.

The Marriage of Figaro opera screening. Tuesday 17th January 2012, 12.45 -4.45pm. The Odeon Cinema, Shaftesbury Avenue. Tickets £12.50 per person. (maximum 2 tickets per person)

For tickets for these events apply to The Third Age Trust, 19 East Street, Bromley, BR1 1QE enclosing s.a.e. Cheques payable to The Third Age trust.

Applications can be downloaded from [www.u3a.org.uk/members area/events](http://www.u3a.org.uk/members%20area/events). For further information contact U3A National office 020 8466 6139.

The Pemberton Centre

As far as we can see we have dates for 2012. apart from January when " The Rats " have the Hall for the week so we will meet on Wednesday 25th when Carol Pullen will be our speaker.

November Meeting

In view of the subject matter, "From St Dunstan’s to The Cenotaph" the committee has decided to hold a collection on behalf of the St. Dunstan’s charity.

December Meeting

My Life on the Amateur Stage Mr David Wicks -- followed by members from Stanwick Hand Bell Ringers. Members from our U3A will be amongst the team, as well as playing several items, they will lead in a short carol singing time together.

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?

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

19 October "The Story behind the Painting" Mrs Sue Edwards
16 November "From St Dunstan's to The Cenotaph." Mr Kevin Varty.
14 December "My Life on the Amateur Stage" Mr David Wicks
NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Your Committee

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Thank you to everyone who contributed to this the Newsletter. Please note that views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily the views of Higham & Rushden U3A. Reports on group activities, other items of interest to Members would be most welcome for the next edition.

Please keep [Linda Grace](#) up to date with new or changes to your e-mail addresses and contact details. Personal details will only be used for Higham and Rushden U3A business and never passed on to any third party.