

January 2025

Hi All,

I hope you all have got back into the groove after the Christmas festivities, at least the afternoons are getting lighter.

After having an interesting talk at January meeting about the National Memorial Arboretum it has been mooted that we should have a visit to the Arboretum. Initial enquiries have been made and details of the proposed visit are contained in this newsletter. Please give your details if interested so we can see if it is viable.

Please remember that February monthly meeting is the "Groups" day so come along and see what's available for you to join and participate in.

Group leaders please be aware that the u3a Policies are being updated.

Stuart.



Keep in touch with your u3a:

<https://rutland.u3asite.uk/>

Facebook

Rutland U3a is also on Facebook: for all the latest news, click [Facebook](#).

**20
25** **HAPPY NEW YEAR**



This is your newsletter, so if you want to publicise your group and its activities, please let me know. Even if you do not need new members, it may give others ideas for groups they can set up.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this month's newsletter.

Please send items for to Jill at rutlandu3a.info@gmail.com or via the website

The final date for submissions is 20 Feb.

Rutland u3a newsletter

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Rutland U3A in 2025

‘To be, or not to be, is this now the question?’

Our U3A is thriving with over 700 members and more than 70 different groups. This gives a lot of pleasure and social interaction to many people.

Although many of the groups are run on an informal basis there is a need to keep things legal and to monitor the finances. This is what the Committee does.

In the background, there are procedures issued by the national U3A which we list on our website, four of which are mandatory. These are Data Protection and Privacy, Health and Safety, Safeguarding and Equality and Diversity.

The Executive Committee have roles which mirror these requirements and in addition should have one or two co-opted members who can learn how the committee operates and fill any roles that become vacant.

Currently, the committee do NOT have sufficient members to cover these statutory roles and certainly have no spare capacity. Concerns are beginning to surface about how much longer this can continue.

It is now time for all U3A members to begin to think how much they value their U3A because if present trends continue there are problems ahead.

At the February monthly meeting there will be a gathering of many of the Groups. Committee members will be present and would welcome expressions of interest from members willing to learn about the Committee. You can also email the Secretary at rutlandu3a.secretary@gmail.com to find out more.

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February Groups Meeting - Thursday 6 February 10.30am at the Victoria Hall, Oakham

Following the note in the December newsletter, so far, I have heard from over 30 groups and of those at over 20 will be present at our meeting on the 6 February. Those groups taking part are:-

½ Day walking, Art Appreciation, Badminton 2, Birdwatching, Birdwatching 2, British History, Creative Writing, Current Affairs, Embroidery, English Country Dance, Family History 1, Family History 2, French Conversation, History, Music Appreciation, Pétanque 1, Play Reading 1, Recorders, Rummikub, Spanish 1 and Ukulele.

Some groups are looking for new members whilst others will be providing information about their work and encouraging others to set up similar groups where the current groups are full.

The Rummikub Group will be demonstrating their tile-based game and the music for our meeting will be, kindly, provided by the Ukulele Group members.

I look forward to seeing you next month.

Christopher Clark, Groups Coordinator

Ad Hoc Dining

The next Ad Hoc dining meeting will be on Wednesday 19th February at 6.30pm at the Buttercross.

Everyone is welcome to join us for a meal and drink with friends but you must contact Diane or Helen in advance. We can then confirm numbers with the Buttercross so then we can all be seated together!

Contact Diane or Helen if you would like to attend.
Diane Case 07887 990906
Helen Shea 07919 273192



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Rutland U3A visit to the National Memorial Arboretum Saturday 21 June 2025

“ The National Memorial Arboretum is the UK's year-round centre of Remembrance. With 150 acres of beautiful woodland and gardens to explore and over 400 unique memorials to see, you're sure to be fascinated by our many memorials and the amazing stories and symbolism behind them.”

As Stuart has mentioned, following Sir Henry Every's well received talk at our January meeting we are planning the following visit:

Numbers: 32 places on a first come first served basis - we have already received some requests for places

How to Apply: By email to rutlandu3a.speakers@gmail.com or at the Committee Table at the U3A Meeting on Thursday 6 February

Deadline: Thursday 6 February

Payment: To secure the booking we need your payment by Thursday 20 February (don't worry, we will explain how to do this)

Depart: Oakham Bus Station at approximately 9.30

Journey time: Approximately one hour thirty minutes

Possible 'pick-up' at Uppingham which may incur a slight increase in the overall cost of the trip

Cost of Travel: £17.50* (included)

Arrive: Approximately 11.00

Welcome talk: 15 minute welcome talk for groups at no extra cost

Entry: Free

Arrival drink: £3.50 (included)

Land Train Tour: £7.50 (included) with an accompanying 50-minute pre-recorded commentary.

Free Time: 1.00 until 3.00 to explore the 150 acre woodland landscape featuring 25,000 trees

Lunch: Restaurant (meals and sandwiches available) or Coffee Stop or bring your own picnic to eat outside

Depart: Approximately 3.00

Return: Approximately 4.30 Oakham Bus Station or Uppingham (if this has been arranged)

Total Cost: £28.50*

*These figured might change slightly



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Monthly Meetings

We hold a general monthly meeting open to **all** members on the first Thursday of each month. It is held in the Ballroom of the Victoria Hall, Oakham (39 High Street, LE15 6AH) and doors open at 10.00am for a 10.30 start. There is no charge to members for attending the meeting, and coffee and tea are available at a small charge.

A ramp is provided for access by wheelchair users located at the rear entrance of Victoria Hall in Church Street. A lift within the property provides easy access to the Ballroom, located on the 1st floor.

At each meeting we announce the latest notices for members and also have an invited speaker. These talks cover a wide variety of subjects of interest and usually finish between 11.30 and noon.

The monthly meetings provide an opportunity to talk to members of the Committee, group leaders and fellow members, as well as reviewing notices about groups and events on our notice boards.

Details of this months meeting appear earlier in this newsletter. The upcoming meetings are listed below but may be subject to change.

6 March	David Smith	The actor as dramatist; a view of the work of John Osborne
3 April	Lucy Lewis	The first female bomb disposal expert
1 May	Nigel Lowey	George Gilbert Scott
5 June	Denis Kenyon	Leicestershire and Rutland "at risk" war memorials project
3 July	Paddy Lambert	Priors Hall Romano-Celtic temple
7 August	Alison Criado-Perez	Life as a Nurse with Medecins sans Frontiers
4 Sept.	Julie Kinnear	Coco Chanel
2 October	John Thomas	Rutland's Roman villa and mosaic- an update
6 Nov.	Susan Gossey	Policing and financial crime in Regency London

Rutland u3a newsletter January 2025 - News from the Groups

A reminder to all members to check your junk / spam box on a regular basis:

I've had a number of conversations with group leaders who said that they have sent e-mails to individuals requesting to join their group and have had nothing by way of a reply. This could be that the message from the group leader has arrived in the member's junk box or the reply has gone into the group leader's junk box!

With this in mind, if you have sent an e-mail to a Rutland u3a member could you just check your junk box, regularly, to see if there is a message for you.

As an example, when I wrote recently the group leaders asking if they were going to participate in the meeting in February almost every response went into my junk box!

Christopher Clark
Groups' Coordinator



Scrabble Group 3:

Why not come along from 2pm to 4pm on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month in the bar at The Wisteria Hotel and have a fun "taster" session with us?

There is an expectation that a tea, coffee or cold drink is purchased.



Rutland u3a newsletter January 2025 - News from the Groups

Groups seeking more members & new groups

Here is a list of **Groups seeking new members**. If you wish to join a group please send a message to the Group Leader by clicking on the group's link below. You will then be shown the group's page, which will include a link for sending a message to the group leader.

Detailed information about all of our groups is available on the Groups page on the Rutland u3a website at [this link](#).

[Church Visits Group](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Mary Wright

[Current Affairs 1](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Marlene Branagh

[Current Affairs 2](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Diana Mothersole

[English Country Dancing](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Pam Hornby

[Friday Scrabble Group](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Debbie Rose

[Indoor Bowls](#) - please contact the Group Leader, John Wilson

[Mah Jong](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Alan Costello

[Mindfulness](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Sushila Raja

[Ravens Walking Group](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Helen Czasznicka

[Scrabble Group 3](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Sue Powers

[Striders Walking Group](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Stewart MacDonald

[Tai Chi](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Julia Haynes

[Tuesday Morning Walks](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Ros Kenny

Requests have been received to set up the following new Groups: -

A Bridge Beginners Group

A third Spanish Group

A second Photography Group

If you are interested in joining or setting up one of these groups then please send an email to Christopher Clark, the Groups Co-ordinator, via the [Contact](#) page on this website.

Rutland u3a newsletter

January 2025 - Community News

WHY YOU SHOULD BECOME A VOLUNTEER DRIVER

Helps your Community

By Voluntary Action Rutland



Rutland is a rural community with a growing older population. We are not well served by buses, trains or transport systems. Joining our Volunteer Drivers and helping people get about and having more independence is a crucial role.



Gives You Purpose

If you have a little extra time on your hands, becoming a volunteer driver is a great way to meet people, help your community and really make a difference.



Makes you feel Good!

Volunteering gives you a great sense of achievement, community spirit and a real glow on the inside, knowing you're making a real difference.

Are you ready to start volunteering?

Call Voluntary Action Rutland on 01572 724705 or email enquiries@varutland.org.uk

VAR, Suite 10, Unit 16a, Oakham Enterprise Park, LE15 7TU



WWW.VARUTLAND.ORG.UK

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Free IT help!

Free “drop in” sessions from Age UK to help you use a smartphone, tablet, I-Pad or laptop computer.

Never used a computer?
No problem!
We can lend one
to get you started!

Drop in for a chat with our friendly experts.

**10am to 12 noon
the first 3 Thursdays each month
At Oakham Library
Catmose St, Oakham LE15 6HW
NO NEED TO BOOK – JUST DROP IN!**

Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales (registered charity number 1146649 and registered company number 7844309)

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6TH ANNUAL
SEEDSWAP
OAKHAM CASTLE
8 FEB 2025



FREE SEEDS
AND SEED EXCHANGE
VEGETABLES FLOWERS HERBS
GARDENING ADVICE
ALL WELCOME

SATURDAY 8 FEB 2025
11AM - 1PM / OAKHAM CASTLE



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We are here to make life easier

We sell or hire Manual Wheelchairs & Accessories
Commodore, Toilet Frames and Seats
Kitchen & Household Aids
Bathing & Shower Seats/Aids
Incontinence Products
Three & Four Wheeled Rollators

Everything to help mobility in & outside the home

As a Charity we offer very competitive prices

RUTLAND HEALTHCARE SUPPORT
Oakham Grange Annex
Wheatfield Way
Oakham
Rutland LE15 7LD
Tel: 07936 552464

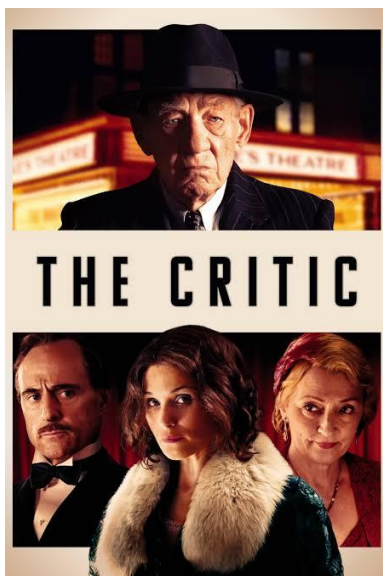
Cash only

Opening Hours: 10.00am - 12.30pm Tuesday to Friday

Cinema for Rutland

February 6th 2025 7.30pm – **THE CRITIC**

All films shown at Rutland County Museum with free parking and a licenced bar.
Tickets for all films available at Oakham Wines or wegottickets.com



Jimmy Erskine (McKellen) is the most feared theatre critic of the age. He lives as flamboyantly as he writes and takes pleasure in savagely taking down any actor who fails to meet his standards. When the owner of the Daily Chronicle newspaper dies, and his son David Brooke (Strong) takes over, Jimmy quickly finds himself at odds with his new boss and his position under threat. In an attempt to preserve the power and influence he holds so sacred, Jimmy strikes a faustian pact with struggling actress Nina Land (Arterton), entangling them and Brooke in a thrilling but deadly web of desire, blackmail and betrayal.

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2023/24

Committee Members

Chairman

Stuart Mason

Company Secretary

Hedley Greaves

Treasurer

Keith Townsend

Data Protection

Caroline Henry

Groups Coordinator

Christopher Clark

Membership Secretary

Janice Ferguson

Speaker Secretary

Wanda Allen

Shadow Speaker Secretary

Caroline Henry

Social Secretary

Vacancy

Committee advisers and helpers

Publicity

Jill Stacey

Minutes

Flic Brewster

Website

Phil Grimley

Hall set up and AV

Michael Seccombe

IT

Mike Shea

Mike Pearson

Ted Philips

Noticeboard

Caroline Stark

New Member Support

Jane Gillon

Printing

Margaret Macpherson