

**February 2025**

Hi All,

First of all, I would like to thank all of the people who came to February's Group meeting. This includes all those who organised it and helped within the meeting to run smoothly and those who came to represent their group.

The overall feed back was that the meeting was a success, having a larger attendance and more groups than the previous year, and those who came found a friendly and informative response from all concerned.

I am pleased to advise that the trip to the National Arboretum has got sufficient numbers to go ahead later in the year.

March is now the time for paying our annual subscription, please do it on line, if you can.

I know its early, but on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> its Mothering Sunday and the clock will spring forward 1 hour as well. So don't get any timings mixed up.



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](#).



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](mailto:rutlandu3a.info@gmail.com) or via the website

**The final date for submissions is 20 March.**

## Rutland u3a newsletter

### February 2025

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 monthly meeting there will be Committee members present and we would welcome expressions of interest from members willing to learn about the Committee. You can also email the Secretary at [rutlandu3a.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:rutlandu3a.secretary@gmail.com) to find out more.

# Rutland u3a newsletter

## February 2025

**Next monthly meeting - Thursday 6 March 2025 - 10am for 10.30 am start**

**The Actor as Dramatist: a view of the work of the actor, playwright and screenwriter John Osborne (1929-1994)**

**Speaker: David Smith**

David trained as an actor in Birmingham and cut his acting teeth in Repertory Theatre in Liverpool, Coventry, Birmingham and Swansea before returning to the academic study of Literature and Philosophy. He graduated from St Andrew's University in 1984 with an MPhil. After entering the teaching profession David was appointed as Oakham School's first Director of Drama in 1987. Here he directed over 50 plays and went on to serve as the Artistic Director of Oakham Festival for over 10 years.



### **Talk:**

John Osborne's best known plays including Look Back in Anger, The Entertainer, Inadmissible Evidence and Luther for which he received a Tony Award for Best Play. His best known screenplay is probably Get Carter. In 1992 Osborne was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Writer's Guild of Great Britain. In his talk David will look at a range of Osborne's work and examine the link between his experiences as an actor and the subject matter of his plays.

Coffee is available for purchase from 10am with the talk starting at 10.30am.

The talk is free for members with new members welcome.

### **Ad Hoc Dining**

The next Ad Hoc dining meeting will be on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 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



## Rutland u3a newsletter

### February 2025

Firstly, a big thank you to all those from the groups that took part in the meeting earlier this month. It's wonderful to see so many groups represented and it was gratifying to see so many of our members attending and taking part in the discussions with the various group leaders. I understand that many of the groups present were successful in attracting new members.

Secondly as this was my second February meeting, I would be grateful for any feedback from the group leaders and the Rutland u3a members about changes they would like to see next year!

I know it does seem a long way away, but time goes past so very quickly doesn't it?

In the meantime requests have been received to set up the following: -

- An Antiques Group
- A Bridge for Beginners Group
- A third Spanish Group
- A second Photography Group
- A Poetry Reading Group

If you are interested in joining or setting up one of these groups then please contact Christopher Clark, the Groups Coordinator: [rutlandu3a.groups@gmail.com](mailto:rutlandu3a.groups@gmail.com)



# Rutland u3a newsletter

## February 2025



### 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.

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 February 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

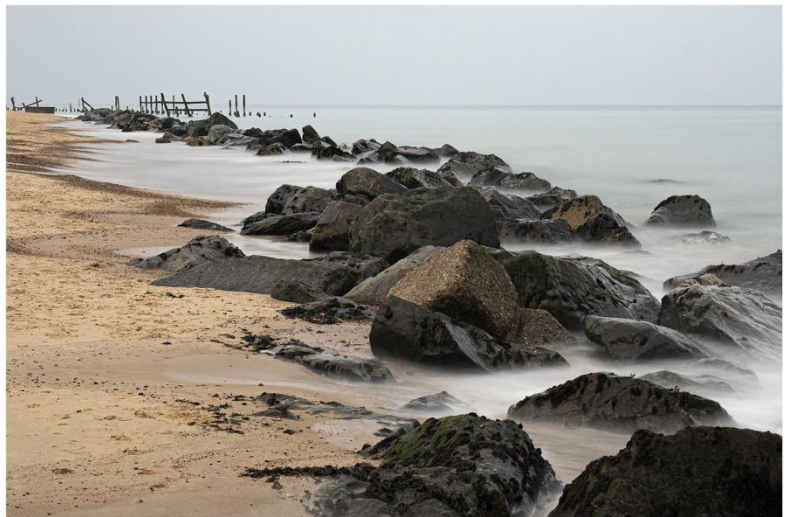
A third Spanish Group

A second Photography Group

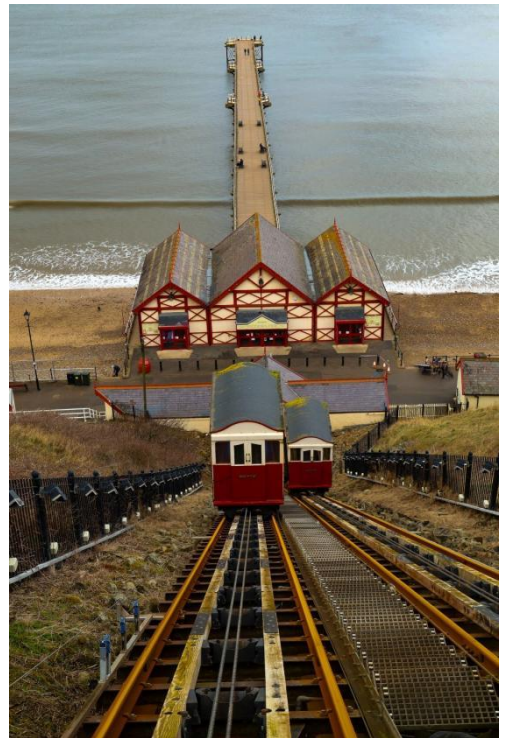
If you are interested in joining or setting up one of these groups then please send an email to Christopher Clark, the Groups Co-ordinator, via the [Contact](#) page on our website: <https://rutland.u3asite.uk/>

# Rutland u3a newsletter February 2025 - News from the Groups

After their break for Christmas the photography group has returned with some more stunning images for us to enjoy.



# Rutland u3a newsletter February 2025 - News from the Groups



# Rutland u3a newsletter February 2025 - News from the Groups

## The Papercrafts Group

The Papercrafts Group continued to enjoy our monthly get togethers in the latter part of last year. Most of our sessions concentrated on Christmas themes as follows:

We used a cutting and folding technique to make braided edged cards; we made Christmas cards depicting candles and a front door with wreath.

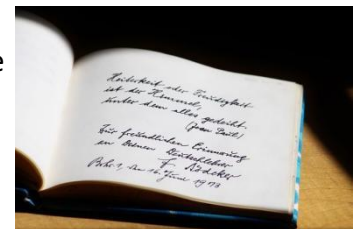
We spent a happy afternoon quilling, making wreaths, candles and presents, to attach to the front of cards.

Finally we made origami star wreaths.



## Calling All Poets

A new Poetry Writing Group is seeking members. Whether you write for page or performance, join us to share your work in a friendly, supportive group. We'll explore poetic forms, discuss ideas and inspiration, and celebrate the art of verse together. Come along and be inspired.



For information and details of an introductory meeting to discuss when and where future meetings will be held contact Karen via [https://rutland.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/poetry-writing-group/](https://rutland.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/poetry-writing-group/)

or the groups coordinator, Christopher Clark via the [Contact](#) page on our website:

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

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## Oakham Medical Practice Patient Participation Group



# Open Meeting

## Improving Access to Health Services in Rutland

where treatment is needed on the same day

An opportunity to find out more about the  
public consultation on proposed  
improvements

Presented by speakers from the  
Integrated Care Board

**Thursday 27 February 2025**  
**7pm**

**Oakham CE School Hall**  
**Burley Road, Oakham**

Please send your questions to [ppgoakham@gmail.com](mailto:ppgoakham@gmail.com)



**Rutland u3a newsletter**  
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**'For Rutland' is a Fundraising Group of Citizens Advice Rutland**



**Good  
&  
New**

# **Clothes Sale**

Rutland Hall Hotel, Near Oakham, Rutland, LE15 8AB

**Friday 28th March 2025 5.00pm - 8.00pm**

With a glass of champagne and canapés kindly  
provided by Hambleton Hall

**Tickets £25**, apply to [info@forrutland.org.uk](mailto:info@forrutland.org.uk)

**Saturday 29th March 2025**

**8.30am - 1.00pm**

**Admission £5** on the door



 ForRutland  @goodandnewclothesale

'For Rutland' raises funds for Citizens Advice Rutland (Reg Charity No 1107907) to pay for Specialist Advisers who provide non-medical advice to people of all ages living with long-term health conditions in Rutland and the Surrounding Community.



[forrutland.org.uk](http://forrutland.org.uk) • [info@forrutland.org.uk](mailto:info@forrutland.org.uk)

# Rutland u3a newsletter

## February 2025 - Community News



'For Rutland' raises funds for Citizens Advice Rutland (Reg Charity No 1107907) to pay for Specialist Advisers who provide non-medical advice to people of all ages living with long-term health conditions in Rutland and the Surrounding Community.



### **'For Rutland' is a fundraising group of Citizens Advice Rutland**

### **The For Rutland Good and New Sale 2025**

Thinking of treating yourself to some new clothes this year? We suggest you don't - buy pre-loved instead! The trend for reusing, upcycling and recycling is becoming more and more popular and there is no better place to shop for good quality, pre-loved clothes than the For Rutland Good and New Sale. The sale, one of the biggest of its kind in the country, takes place on Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> of March at the prestigious Rutland Hall Hotel overlooking Rutland Water, just outside Oakham.

If you haven't already got into the habit of *not* buying something new, the For Rutland Good and New Sale is the best place to start! The sale has something for everyone: there are loads of pre-loved women's, men's and children's clothes and shoes, bags and accessories with items ranging from designer to high street. The organisers want everything to go so items are priced at amazingly affordable prices, even for clothes that have never been worn. The clothing, shoes and accessories are donated to For Rutland through the year and the choice is huge: suits, coats, dresses, jeans, separates; there are loads to choose from.

The volunteers at For Rutland hope that shoppers will come along in their droves. Details of the sale are available on the For Rutland website: [www.forrutland.org.uk](http://www.forrutland.org.uk) including ticket prices and sale times and directions for the Rutland Hall Hotel. The Friday night sale is ticket only, tickets are £25 each, but the sale on Saturday morning costs just £5, is open to everyone and most items will be half price!

The money raised funds a vital advice service at Citizens Advice Rutland, supporting people in Rutland dealing with the effects of long term health conditions like dementia, cancer and MS when and where it is needed, from the Citizens Advice Rutland office in Oakham's High Street.

For more information,

contact Alison Taylor: [alison.taylor3gp@gmail.com](mailto:alison.taylor3gp@gmail.com)



# Rutland u3a newsletter

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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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Cinema for Rutland  
presents

# SMALL THINGS LIKE THESE



Thursday 6 March 2025 7.30pm

Rutland County Museum



Tickets from  
wegottickets, Oakham  
Wines or scan code



## JOHN GODBER'S TEACHERS

Performed by the  
group that brought  
you *Calendar Girls*  
and *Stepping Out*

"A nostalgic and hilarious  
comedy not to be missed!"

This amateur production of "Teachers" is presented by arrangement  
with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd.  
[www.concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)

**27/28 FEB**

7:30pm  
Horseshoe Theatre  
Company

Relive your mis-spent  
youth at **Rutland County  
Museum, Oakham**

Tickets £10 from  
Oakham Wines



# Rutland u3a newsletter - February 2025

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

### 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