

April 2025

Hi All,

As the saying goes April showers bring forth May flowers, but with our “summer” period during April it has not had the showers we need. This was obvious to me as one of my neighbours was having to water his garden pots to save his plants and I having to do the same to save my spring bulbs.

We all like the warm weather but we do want some rain or we could be faced with a hose pipe ban.

Hope you all had a good Easter time, and now looking forward to our summer hols.

Best Wishes Stuart.



Keep in touch with your u3a:

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

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 or via the website

The final date for submissions is 20 May.

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 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 to find out more.

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Next monthly meeting - Thursday 1 May 2025 - 10am for 10.30 am start

Great Scott! Victorian Britain's most prolific architect

Speaker: Nigel Lowey

Nigel is making a return visit to Oakham following his very well received talk on The Transformation of St Pancras. He describes himself as an IT consultant with knowledge of history, architecture and design. His original amateur interest in the madly-Gothic St. Pancras hotel building over several years led to closer involvement, and eventually being asked to comment on the planning application for the restoration of the Victorian Gothic buildings. This in turn led him to look more closely at the life of the architect responsible for St Pancras.

The Talk: Great Scott! Victorian Britain's most prolific architect

One of the most prolific architects ever, in addition to the Hotel at St Pancras, Sir George Gilbert Scott designed the Albert Memorial, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, cathedrals and churches. The talk is not just about buildings as Nigel expands the topic to include the Industrial Revolution, the Victorian Revival of the Church of England, workhouses, political unrest and the Great Reform Act which changed our electoral system for ever.

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 21st May 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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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.

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
8 Jan 2026	Iain Betson	Cold War Broadcasting the Bunker

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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: -

Antiques

Art Appreciation 4

Bridge for Beginners

Gardening

German

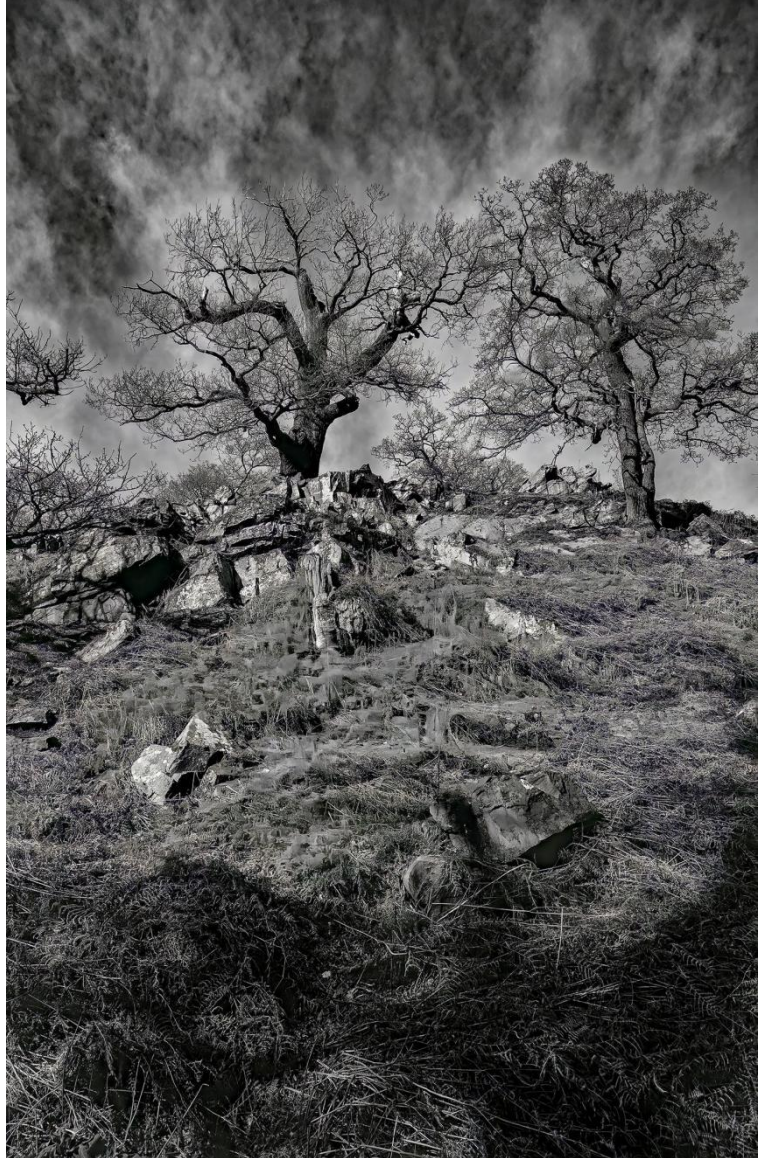
Music Appreciation

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/>

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This month the photography group has continued to be busy and have produced the following images:



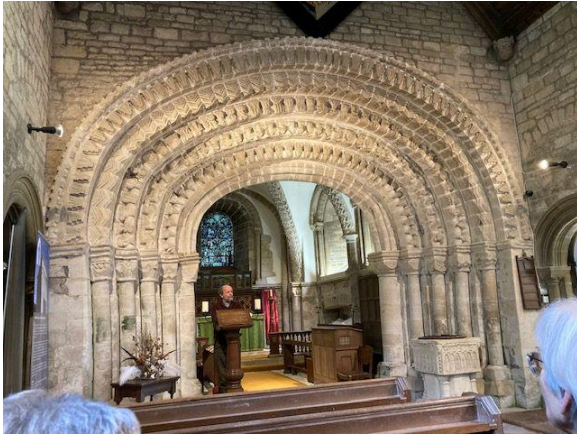
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The Church Visits Group

A fabulous time at Tickencote Wednesday 9th April 2025



It was our best turn out yet, with 21 members turning up at Tickencote Church. That is a record for my stewardship of the group.

The Reverend Don McGarrigle gave us a whistle stop tour around the church, and the village history, back to Roman times. I had no idea that the Great North Road was originally Ermine Street. Don made the point that the Black Death could easily have travelled via this route, to wipe out the Tickencote population in the 14th century.

For, as he suggested, the decoration here is well above a backwater village. The region has to have been more important, and far wealthier, than today with a significant population. Don was a great asset and philosopher on such thoughts.

Don pointed out the detail in the chancel arch and also mentioned a rare category of sculpture hidden away – a wooden knight in excellent condition (see photo). One of very few in the country remaining.



Finally, we headed off to the Stamford Garden Centre up the road and had a cup of tea. A really lovely day. I hope you will join us for our next church visit, hosted by Corinna, at Edmondthorpe on Wednesday May 7th at 2.30pm.

New members are always welcome. Contact Mary for details: https://rutland.u3asite.uk/u3a-contact-form?contact_id=8641

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Rummikub Group 2

Following the February Group's Meeting, a second Rummikub group has been formed. This group includes both new players and those with some experience.

We had a great time during our four-hour training, which we split into two fun sessions. Everyone really connected while enjoying biscuits, cake, tea and coffee together! This new group will meet at The King Centre, Barleythorpe.



Members interested in joining or starting a new Rummikub group can contact Jean via https://rutland.u3asite.uk/u3a-contact-form?contact_id=8624 or

On Line Learning Events:

Membership of Rutland u3a allows you to access many different types of events on offer, including online, to enthuse and inform our members on a range of interesting subjects. U3a is proud to offer high-quality, interactive events that engage our members.

Examples of the events on offer are below, there are many more.

For more information see:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events>

Flight Inspirations Aviation Meeting: May

After France fell in 1940, Britain fought Nazi tyranny alone, urging U.S. support. After Pearl Harbor, the USAAF arrived, using British bases as a launchpad for bombing missions across Europe. Over 300 airfields supported their efforts, leaving a lasting impact on Britain through their presence, operations, and sacrifices.

Tuesday 6 May at 10am

Free – online via Zoom

IWM (CH 15362)



Turner and Impressionism

This illustrated talk looks at the life and work of British landscape painter, JMW Turner. In 2025 we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of his birth.

Thursday 8 May at 10am

Free – online via Zoom



A life living and exploring with the most exciting wildlife on Galapagos

Join Ramiro Tomala from HX as he shares his first-hand experiences of living on Galapagos.

Thursday 8 May at 2pm

Free – online via Zoom

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**All Saints Church Hall
Church Street Oakham, LE15 6AA
Every last Monday morning of the month***

from Monday 31 March 2025

*(No choir on Bank Holiday Monday, 26 May)

Doors from 10.45pm – Singing 11am-12pm

£ 2.50 per person – Tea/coffee provided

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THE ACORN SINGERS

- Sing to stay connected, improve your memory, exercise your lungs, and have fun in good company
- Ideal for those living with dementia or memory issues, along with family and friends
- Everyone of all abilities welcome. It's not about being good at singing, it's about singing being good for you

Venue: All Saints Church Hall, Church Street
Oakham, LE15 6AA.

The hall is accessed through the Church Street car park, by the side of the barrier.

Parking available on the street or in the car park.

Please note the machines do not accept cash: payment is either via Ringo or card.

The choir is led by Heather Tyrrell, stage name **Tricity Vogue**, who has worked as a professional singer, musician and music teacher for twenty years.

For **more information** contact **Yvonne Rawlings**,
Dementia Support Worker, Age UK Leicester Shire
& Rutland

Yvonne.Rawlings@ageukleics.org.uk
07738820910



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Beyond Sight Support



If you or somebody you know is struggling with sight impairment or vision loss, come to our free support group

- **Share tips and tricks with like-minded people**
- **Information and peer support**
- **Professional advice, support and encouragement**

Tesco, Oakham Community Room

**Starting Monday 26th March and held weekly from
11am-1pm**

Drop in and stay for however long you like

**Parking, taxis and buses available with easy access to
room.**

**For more information or help with travel, contact Ruth
on 07858818479**

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'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

BOTTLES NEEDED FOR THE GRAND BOTTLE TOMBOLA

The annual For Rutland Grand Bottle Tombola will be in its usual spot right next to the main show ring at this year's Rutland County Show, where organisers hope that hundreds of bottles will be waiting to be won, for a £1 ticket! Last year, the Grand Bottle Tombola raised £8500, an amazing amount. There were 1450 bottles of anything from champagne to shampoo up for grabs, and visitors to the Grand Bottle Tombola had great fun trying for the top prizes.

But the fundraising group For Rutland can't raise such amazing amounts of money without the support and generosity of people in the local community. Every single one of those 1450 bottles was donated by the residents of Rutland and the surrounding area. The For Rutland team have started the collection effort now and need as many bottles as possible, to make this year's event on the 1st June an even bigger success. And everyone can help.

For Rutland are asking people simply to take bottles – anything from beer to brandy or lemonade to lambrusco - to one of the two collection points: John Porter Dry Cleaners in Oakham or Nelsons Butchers in Uppingham. For more details of how to help, visit www.forrutland.org.uk. By donating a bottle or two, it helps For Rutland raise funds to pay for specialist advisers at Citizens Advice Rutland who support people of all ages living with the consequences of long-term health conditions.

The more bottles that are donated, the more money raised so that by spending a bit at the Grand Bottle Tombola and having fun supports a worthwhile local charity. It's win – win!



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**STARTS 4TH
APRIL**

FRIDAY

CAFÉ

AT
 **Oakham**
BAPTIST CHURCH

EVERY FRIDAY 1PM TO 3PM

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO THIS
COMMUNITY CAFE WHERE WE
WILL PROVIDE A FREE LUNCH,
CAKES & HOT DRINKS.**

- 1st** week of the month – Arty Friday
- 2nd** week of the month – Foodie Friday
- 3rd** week of the month - Special puddings
+ Games Friday
- 4th** week of the month – Curry and Quiz Friday



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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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2023/24

Committee Members

Chairman

Stuart Mason

Company Secretary

Hedley Greaves

Treasurer

Keith Townsend

Data Protection

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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