

May 2025

Hi All,

Hi, It's June and time for our AGM. This will be at 10.am on the 5th June prior to our speaker at 10.30. We need our members to record a vote in order for the business to be completed; if an insufficient percentage is recorded its possible we could cease to operate and in doing so all the groups would not be covered by insurance of the u3a. So please make the effort and vote.

N.B. lapsed (have not paid this year's subs) members cannot vote.

Going on, regarding insurance, group leaders do need to know that their participants are paid up members of our u3a. Further to this point, from the committee Treasurer, when paying your membership please either put your membership number or your name as a reference on the payment. This helps to identify who makes the payment.

We are still after personnel to stand as committee members, and for someone to help set up the audio system at our monthly meeting.

To keep the Rutland u3a going and healthy we do need extra help from all of you.

On a lighter note I hope you are enjoying the spell of good weather and remember to check your windows and doors are locked before bedtime.

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 21 June.

Rutland u3a newsletter

May 2025

Next monthly meeting - Thursday 5 June 2025 -

The AGM will be at 10am followed by the talk at 10.30 am

Speaker: Denis Kenyon

In 2012 Denis became one of the co-founders of Leicester City, County and Rutland At Risk War Memorials Project. He had been actively involved in the preservation of war memorials in the counties of Leicester and Rutland for some time before that as a long-standing regional volunteer for the War Memorials Trust, an organisation dedicated to the protection and conservation of war memorials throughout the whole of the UK. He was also a volunteer for the UK National Inventory of War Memorials which is now part of the Imperial War Museum.



The Talk: See to it that their Names be not Forgotten - the work of Leicester City, County and Rutland at Risk War Memorials Project (ARWMP)



Denis and his fellow co-founder of ARWMP, Chris Stephens, were horrified to find so many churches, chapels, workingmen's clubs and even factories, closed, being prepared for change of use or demolition with no one showing concern for the safety of the war memorials in them. They started with a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and a base in the deconsecrated chancel of one of Leicester's medieval churches, All Saints on Hoghcross street. Since then they have taken care in to their care 54 war memorials of all sorts.

The talk is free for members with new members welcome.

Ad Hoc Dining

The next Ad Hoc dining meeting will be on Wednesday 18th June 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

May 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 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
5 March	Jim Stebbings	American Cultural Influences on Post-war Britain

Rutland u3a newsletter May 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

[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

Spanish (advanced)

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 May 2025 - News from the Groups

Our Poetry Writing Group is Now Up and Writing!

We're finding inspiration through sharing our work and exploring the craft of poetry together. Some of us haven't written in years, but that's not holding us back. Our subjects range from politics to dolls' houses and everything in between, with poems in many forms, from sonnets to open verse.

If you'd like to try your hand at poetry, why not begin with a tricube? This short form consists of 3 verses, each with 3 lines, and each line containing just 3 syllables.

Below are two tricube examples written by members of our group.

Blue badge renewal

*Anxious Dad -
New blue badge.
Online app!*

*Just as well
Daughter helps.
Website hell.*

*Blue badge came!
Crying shame -
Daughter's name.*

KV

Life Story

*Foreign-born,
came here young -
cold and dark.*

*Working hard,
fitting in,
family...*

*Grandad now,
kicks a ball -
this is home.*

MS

Lastly, we are honoured to share a beautiful poem written in tribute to a brother. These words left us all deeply moved.

Dyn Yr Wyddfa (Man of Snowdon)

A mountain of a man stands tall against the backdrop of Grib Goch.
His birthright, sheep and life flash before him as he ebbs away.
He endures his disease with forlorn hope but smiles, reassuring others "It'll be OK."

His beloved dogs howl, echoing the silent cries of his family
their futures lost so swiftly.
Memories and footprints remain on this sacred land, his Snowdon.
Wyn, my brother, your mountain is now climbed.

JL

Thank you to Karen V for this submission

Rutland u3a newsletter May 2025 - News from the Groups

News from the Papercrafts group



Last month we made two styles of paper flowers: Kusudama origami flowers and music paper roses. Unfortunately the photo doesn't do justice to the paper roses.

This month we treated ourselves to a Cotton Bud painting session at Springboard Arts. We managed to make a couple of bookmarks each as well as card fronts depicting snowdrops and hydrangeas.



Rutland u3a newsletter May 2025 - News from the Groups

History Group visit to Bletchley Park

Just a matter of days after the 80th anniversary celebrations of VE Day, a small party from the Rutland U3a History Group undertook their first (and hopefully annual) field trip.

The highly appropriate destination was Bletchley Park - the home of the 'codebreakers'.

A glorious sunny morning allowed for easy and comfortable access to the numerous blocks, huts, and of course - the mansion.

Even for those of us with some familiarity with the story the large scale of the operation and the need, for example, for three shift working, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, was a revelation.



Considering the highly secretive and sensitive nature of the work and the potential for information to leak (and the fact the enemy would of course be undertaking similar work) it seemed extraordinary to us now that the sheer number of supporting Businesses, Organisations, Manufacturers, Civil Servants and Army, Navy and Airforce divisions and personnel were able to maintain that illusion and the confidentiality of the work being undertaken.



The levels of information extracted, interpreted, and shared was simply remarkable - the importance and relevance of that information to the success of the Allied war effort simply cannot be exaggerated.

We left with a profound sense of pride and gratitude for the selfless, dedicated and crucial work of so many; and poignantly, that for so many years after the event those people were unable to say what they had done."

Right: Group members from left to right, Richard B, David L, Chris C, Linda E, Graham O



Thank you to Richard for this report.

**Rutland u3a newsletter
May 2025 - Community News**

Saturday May 31st & Sunday June 1st

Barrowden

Open Gardens

8 Gardens open to the public

Cream teas in the Village Hub

Pimms in one of the delightful gardens

£5 for adults - kids under 16 are free

Tickets on the day from the tent on the village green

Plant Stall



All proceeds to St Peter's Church

Rutland u3a newsletter
May 2025 - Community News



**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

Rutland u3a newsletter
May 2025 - Community News

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



Rutland u3a newsletter
May 2025 - Community News

COTTESMORE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENTS

An Evening Of Rocking Blues

with

SMOKESTACK

BLUES BAND

SATURDAY 7TH JUNE

FROM 7.30PM

DOORS OPEN 7PM

£10 - TICKETS IN ADVANCE FROM
TICKETSOURCE TEL 0333 666 3366

BRING YOUR OWN FOOD & DRINK

CHARITY NO. 1194997



Rutland u3a newsletter
May 2025 - Community News

A CALL FOR ARTISTS AND ART LOVERS

RUTLAND OPEN
2025 ART

EXHIBITION

Sat 12 July

Sat 9 August

An exhibition of artwork
by artists from Rutland
& surrounding counties

**Rutland
County
Museum**

Catmos Street, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HW

Open: **10am - 4pm Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat**

Private View: **Fri 11th July Time: 6-8pm**

Prizes awarded during the evening

For details on how to take part
& for entry forms; please go to:

www.a4r.org.uk

Artwork available for sale

Promoted by:



Rutland u3a newsletter
May 2025 - Community News



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



Rutland u3a newsletter May 2025 - Community News



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)

Rutland u3a newsletter - May 2025

2024/25

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