

August 2025

Hi All,

Summer's over the days are getting shorter, but no one has told the weather we need a bit of rain for the garden, fields, reservoirs etc before our Indian summer in September comes along. I think this can be the best month.

I would like to thank all the contributors of the collection for the speaker Alison Criado-Perez who gave a talk on her working for Medecins sans Frontiers all over the world. The collection was just over £400 which was to be donated to Medecins sans Frontiers. Well done All.

We still need people to volunteer to help or be on the committee to keep this u3a active. Speak to me or another committee member if you are interested in finding out what is involved.

Finally keep well.

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 20th September.

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Next monthly meeting - Thursday 4 September 2025

Doors open at 10am with tea or coffee available for purchase, priced by the Victoria Hall, and the talk starting at 10.30am

Speaker: Danny Wells

A history enthusiast and qualified history teacher, with a MA Degree in Architectural History (University of Keele). Danny has a love of social and cultural history and in 2004 established '*Breathing Life into History*' in order to offer talks, courses and guided historical tours. By Armistice Day 2022 he had delivered his 1,000th talk.

The Talk: The English and Gardening - A Social History of an English Obsession

Gardening continues to be hugely popular in modern day Britain. This talk explores the development of gardening and the meanings and symbolism invested in gardens. The focus is Georgian and Victorian England and the first half of the 20th century.



Wikimedia Commons copyright free

Ad Hoc Dining

The next Ad Hoc dining meeting will be on Wednesday 20th August 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



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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 the next meeting appear earlier in this newsletter. Subsequent meetings are listed below but may be subject to change.

2 October	John Thomas	Rutland's Roman villa and mosaic- an update
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6 Nov.	Susan Gossey	Policing and financial crime in Regency London
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2026

8 Jan	Iain Betson	Cold War Broadcasting the Bunker
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5 March	Ian Stebbings	American cultural influences on post war Britain
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2 April	Andrew Tennant	How to catch a killer
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7 May	Simon Curtin	Reintroducing Ospreys to Belvoir Castle Estate
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4 June	Bharat Patel	Indian Takeaway: one boy's take on three continents
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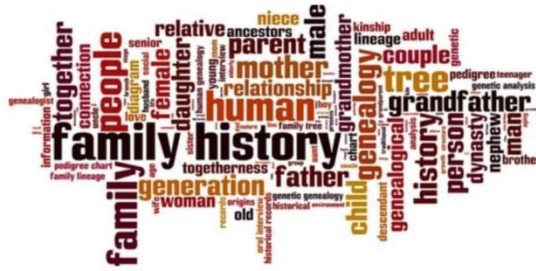
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U3A PEAK DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

Palace Hotel,
Buxton,
Derbyshire,
SK17 6AG

Saturday 6th
September 2025



SPEAKERS

PLUS VARIOUS EXHIBITORS

Tickets £30
Includes Light Lunch, Refreshments
Free prize draw



Debbie Bradley -
Progressing Your Family History



Karen Evans -
Unlocking the secrets of DNA testing



Steve Gill -
Photographic Restoration and Conservation



Peter Threlfall and Judith Beastall -
Researching a War Memorial



QR CODE

For further information and to purchase a ticket go to our website
<https://peakdistrictnetwork.wixsite.com/familyhistory/about-5>
or scan the QR Code

Rutland u3a newsletter August 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

[Poetry Writing](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Karen Vallerius

Scrabble Group 1 - please contact the Group Leader, [Liz Allison](#)

[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)
- ✓ Spanish Conversation

If you want to express an interest in joining one of these new groups please send an e-mail to Christopher Clark, the Groups Co-ordinator, via the [Contact](#) page on our website.

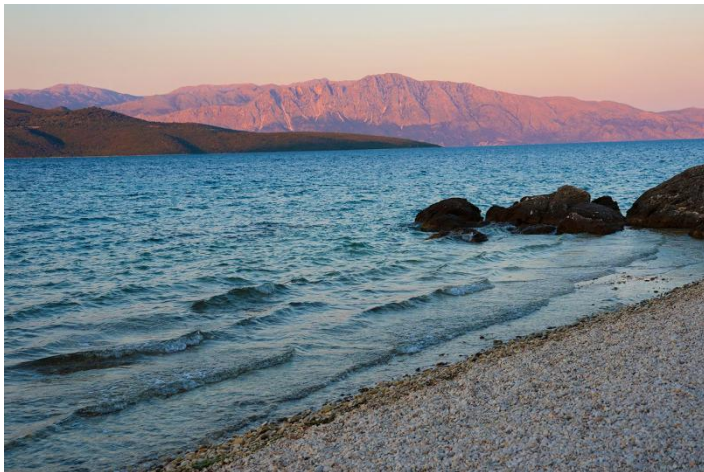
It could be that you may wish to start a group. This is relatively straight forward and full guidance / support is available for those wishing to do so. If you are interested then, again, send an e-mail to Christopher Clark, the Groups Co-ordinator, via the [Contact](#) page on our website.

Rutland u3a newsletter August 2025 - News from the Groups

Some more interesting photographs from the monthly meeting of the photography group.



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Needlecraft 2

We are a friendly group of sewers, quilters, cross stitchers and knitters who meet from 2pm for a couple of hours on the first Tuesday of the month in The Snug at The Wisteria Hotel. There is an expectation that a tea, coffee or cold drink is purchased. Contact the group leader via the link on the group's web-page if you would like to join us.

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



Possible New French Conversation Group

As both the French Conversation group and the French Discussion Group are full and people have enquired about joining them, we hope to set up an additional group that will concentrate on spoken French.



If this would be of interest to you, please either contact Jane directly by going to the "New Groups/Group Seeking More Members" page of the Rutland u3a website: <https://rutland.u3asite.uk/groups-seeking-more-members-new-groups/>

where you will be able to contact the Groups' Coordinator to provide your name and contact details.

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U3a Church Visit Group

August visit to Holy Trinity Church, Teigh

To be honest here, it doesn't get much better than our visit to Teigh. The sun shone, the skies were blue, and we had a fabulous feast care of Mrs Tor Owen who hosted the event at her home, near to the Old Rectory Garden. In sweltering heat, we enjoyed a well-earned rest after our visit to the church, just behind the Rectory.



Teigh Church is extraordinary, for it has its pulpit at the wrong end. And there is no nave. Take a look. It is very 18th century Gothick. Wonderful. I love the drama of the preacher high above his congregation. Tor gave us a very interesting talk about Teigh in general, and how the church had been assigned to a member of the local aristocracy. Indeed, it was built for one purpose alone. To give a second son a career close to his family's estate. The Wedgewood colours represent the style of Strawberry Hill Gothick. Note the two lower preacher places on either side of the pulpit where a sermon could be taken on an off day or a lower order personage may do a reading. Either way, it is an incredible design.



Our hostess, Mrs Tor Owen, made us all exceptionally comfortable with tea and biscuits. The rectory is the exact one where Colin Firth declared his love for Elizabeth Bennett when *Pride and Prejudice* was filmed here.

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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

GOLF FOR RUTLAND

Enjoy your golf? Fancy playing and raising funds for a good cause at the same time? If the answer is yes, then sign up to play in the annual **Golf For Rutland** competition at the **Rutland Water Golf Course** on **Wednesday the 10th of September**.



The event is a team competition and is a great day – and evening – for players, partners and guests alike, as there is a two-course dinner afterwards with prize giving, a raffle and an auction. The main sponsor is Taylor & Baines of Oakham but there are plenty of other opportunities to support this great cause. Enter a team or sponsor a hole, or donate via the links below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/forrutland>

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/forrutland/>

For Rutland is a fundraising group of the charity **Citizens Advice Rutland**, raising money to pay for Specialist Advisers who provide invaluable non-medical advice to people of all ages living with the consequences of debilitating long-term health conditions in the Rutland community.

For information more on how to take part in Golf For Rutland, email:

info@forrutland.org.uk or head to the For Rutland website:

www.forrutland.org.uk

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The Victoria Hall, 39, High Street, Oakham, LE15 6AH

Built as an agricultural hall in 1839 for the Rutland Agricultural Society, it was renamed the Victoria Hall in 1899. Since then, it has flourished as a focus for entertainment and social life in the town. It is more than a building; it is a community space with regular exhibitions on the ground floor.

The upstairs ballroom is available to book for parties, events, birthdays, anniversaries, or club or company Christmas dos! It is also a fantastic space to hold conferences and deliver training sessions, and of course, our u3a meeting on the first Thursday of each month.

Smaller meeting rooms are also available for hire.

Upcoming events for September 2025.

- > Victoria Hall Gallery – 1 to 30 September 2025
- > Northants and Rutland Open Studios Exhibition for the month of September.
- > 25 September – The Pantaloons perform Hamlet
- > 27 September – The Amber Squad and Disco – Fund Raiser Event
- > 2 September - start of new Zumba

The management of the Hall are keen to see the expansion of those organisations using this valuable community resource and if any of our u3a members become aware of potential users of the Hall for their events then Melanie Palmer, who manages the Hall, would be delighted to hear from them.

Contact the team at the Victoria Hall for more information

bookings@victoriahall.org

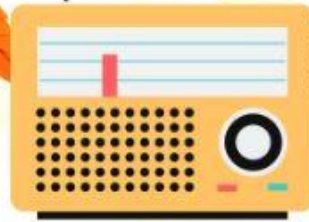
Victoria Hall Facebook page www.facebook.com/VictoriaHallOakham

and Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/victoriahalloakham>



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Oakham
SCHOOL



The Autumn of My Years

by Uppingham actor and writer Henry Dawe

Saturday 4th October

2.30pm All Saints' Church, Oakham

Guests can listen to this radio play, first broadcast on Harborough FM in 2023 and now linked to the Campaign to End Loneliness.

Doors open AT 2PM | FREE ENTRY | Refreshments Available

Post-play discussion

Donations gratefully received to Age UK Leicester Shire and Rutland

As part of Voluntary Action Oakham School's Service Weekend which promotes inter-generational connection between school pupils and local older people

Please register your attendance from 1st-30th September
by e-mailing mf@oakham.rutland.sch.uk
or by telephoning 01572 758500

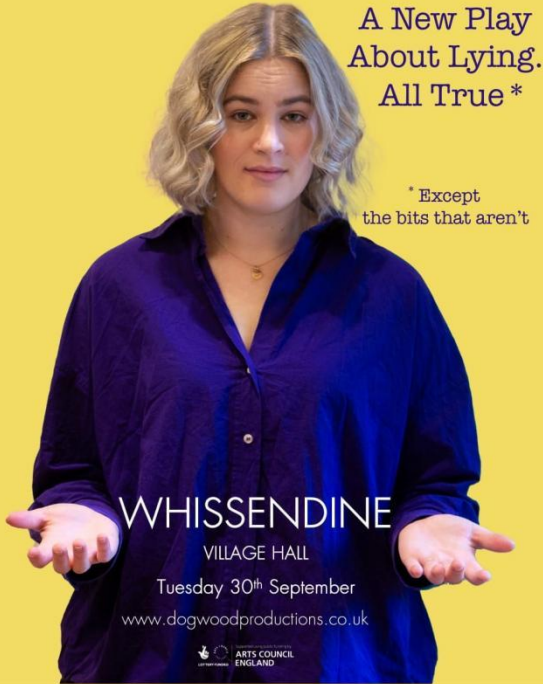


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DOGWOOD
PRODUCTIONS

HONESTLY



A New Play
About Lying.
All True *

* Except
the bits that aren't

WHISSENDINE

VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday 30th September

www.dogwoodproductions.co.uk



HONESTLY

WHEN ONE LIFE IS NOT ENOUGH, JUST CHOOSE ANOTHER.

From an award-winning company comes a new drama, dark, humorous and timely.

Chloe is undoubtedly in trouble. She's already been found guilty. And next? That depends on the psychologist's report.

Emma is undoubtedly in trouble. She has to write the report. It has to be accurate. So, ask a compulsive liar if she's telling the truth.

And she is. A compulsive liar. A condition or a con, villain or victim, deserving of care or incarceration? Chloe has never been content with one life: if you're not happy with this one, why not make up a new one? And she does.

So, who is in the room with Emma today? Faced with a cloud of lies where does she find truth and where is the honesty in her own life? What price truth, reality even, in a post-truth era? If it works for a president, why not for me? Honestly?

Dogwood's productions have been seen at the Lyric, Hammersmith, the RSC, theatres from Cornwall to Northumberland, arts centres and community venues.

WHISSENDINE

VILLAGE HALL

Main St., Whissendine LE15 7ET

Tuesday 30th September

7.30pm

Tickets £15 (£8 Under18)

Tickets From: Mace Store, 35, Main St., Whissendine LE15 7ES
Online at www.dogwoodproductions.co.uk/boxoffice



Enquiries: admin@dogwoodproductions.co.uk

0772 0882 530



A message from the Vista Charity Bookshop

We now have a website, which you may like to bookmark. The address is:

<https://soloist.ai/vistabookshopoakham>

Read all about us and keep coming to see us at the shop too!



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The East Midlands
paintings of
John Louis Petit

Rutland County Museum, Oakham

August 23rd to October 4th 2025

“The greatest discovery
in British art for a
generation...”

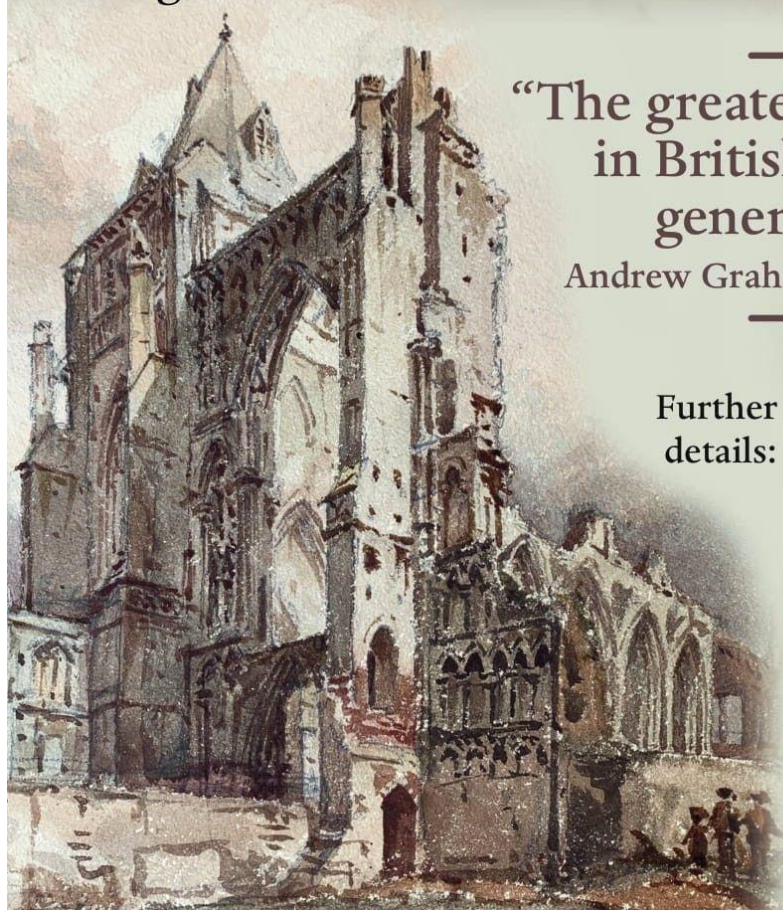
Andrew Graham-Dixon (2022)

Further
details:



Petit exhibition

Left:
Detail from *Crowland Abbey*



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**BLOKES
SUPPORTING
BLOKES**



STRESS *LIFE*
ILL HEALTH *MENTAL HEALTH* *ADDICTION*

Every Wednesday, 7.30pm at Oakham Baptist Church, LE15 6AY
rutlandmansclub@gmail.com
Facebook: Rutland Man's Club

Call for Book Donations

Age UK is back on Oakham High Street in the spacious, newly refurbished former Barclay's Bank premises, selling donated clothes, household goods, small furniture items, bric-a-brac, books, CDs and vinyl.



Books in particular are selling very well and many more are needed, so if you have books that you no longer wish to keep, and would like to donate, they would be very gratefully received in the shop.

Donations can be made at any time the shop is open, Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 4.30pm.

Thank you. Dawn Alder, Manager

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2025/26

Committee Members

Chairman

Stuart Mason

Company Secretary

Caroline Spark

Treasurer

Keith Townsend

Data Protection

Vacancy

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