

u3a

learn, laugh, live

**Rutland u3a
newsletter**

September 2025

Hi All,

I hope you are all well and have enjoyed the summer weather. Advice has been sent out by National u3a regarding computer security regarding the Beacon system that all u3as use. However, it is worth reminding people to keep good strong passwords and be wary of texts and emails from unknown persons – look at the email address carefully.

I have also some points for your information from the latest committee meeting.

The first being that Chris, the Groups coordinator, has visited some neighbouring u3as to see how they operate in various subjects. One that has stood out is that of members signing in when coming to the general monthly meetings. This stands out as a necessary health and safety item, as if there is a cause for us to evacuate the building for some emergency, we have a list on that day of the members to check all are safe and accounted for. This will be enacted in the future.

The second, is that there will be no Christmas Do this year. The reason being that there is no Social Secretary/group to organise it. The people who did it last year don't want to do it again as trying to get the necessary numbers was hard work. This could be that within our u3a groups some are having their own Christmas dos. You may think what about the other committee members organising it. Well, this comes back to the situation we regularly comment on, that there is a lack of people volunteering, either to be on the committee or give general help. The committee is at present at the minimum numbers, so if we lose a member for any reason, the Rutland u3a could cease to be.

From the second point there will instead be a general monthly meeting in December, this will be just a social get together for coffee and mince pies and a chance for a chat and to pass on Christmas cards to friends. There will not be a speaker.

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 October.

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Next monthly meeting - Thursday 2 October 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: John Thomas

John is Project Manager at The University of Leicester Archaeological Service. He has worked as a professional archaeologist since 1986 and has experience of a wide range of field and post excavation techniques. He is actively involved in promoting archaeology to the general public, regularly providing talks to local societies. This will be John's second visit to Rutland U3A

The Talk: Roman Lifestyles in Rural Rutland: Recent Excavations at the Rutland Roman Villa

Following the discovery and excavation of a unique Roman mosaic showing scenes from the Trojan War cycle on Rutland farmland in 2020/2021, archaeologists from University of Leicester and Historic England joined forces in 2022 to return to the site of the newly discovered villa to find out more. A highly detailed image of the Roman villa complex had been provided by geophysical survey, which gave an excellent indication of where other buildings lay within the field surrounding the original excavation. John Thomas will describe the results of these new excavations at one of the best preserved Roman villas in Leicestershire & Rutland, discussing what they can add to the story of this remarkable discovery, and setting the villa into the wider context of Roman rural life in Leicestershire and Rutland.



Ad Hoc Dining

The next Ad Hoc dining meeting will be on Wednesday 15th October 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.

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
5 March	Ian Stebbings	American cultural influences on post war Britain
2 April	Andrew Tennant	How to catch a killer
7 May	Simon Curtin	Reintroducing Ospreys to Belvoir Castle Estate
4 June	Bharat Patel	Indian Takeaway: one boy's take on three continents
2 July	Philip Caine	Barrow to Baghdad and back again

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Bank Payments - a plea from our Treasurer

Firstly, a huge thank you to everyone paying by bank transfer these days; it really does make the job as treasurer so much easier, especially for the huge number of subscription renewals.

However, it seems a little-known fact that every payment transferred by the banks *automatically* has the payee's name displayed, so there is no need to add it to the reference, which simply duplicates it. Also, since all banks restrict the length of a reference, adding your surname often knocks the purpose of the payment off the end!

What is crucial though, is to reference what you are paying for, so that I can account for the payment correctly, plus a Christian name if paying from a joint account, so I know who has actually paid.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Cyber Crime - Two Top Tips

The following details are copied from a leaflet distributed by an area's Cyber Protect Officer which provides some very helpful information about Cyber Crime:

PASSWORDS

Use Strong Passwords. Consider using - ThreeR@nd0mWord\$. Your password MUST contain at least 12 characters. Don't use the same password for all your accounts. The strongest should be for your primary email account and this password should not be used for anything else.

Where possible activate 2 Factor Authentication (2FA) / Two-Step verification (2SV). This generally involves sending a text to your mobile phone to double-check that it is you carrying out a particular transaction. If you have difficulties remembering lots of passwords, consider using an on-line 'password manager'. There are various free and paid for password managers available.

PHISHING / SOCIAL ENGINEERING. Never assume incoming emails are genuine, even if you recognise the email address because email accounts can be 'hacked'. Never believe voice calls and text messages are genuine, even if you recognise the phone number. Phone numbers can be 'Spoofed' (falsified).

ALWAYS CONFIRM using the contact information you have obtained from your own records or from publicly available sources.

Remember – Criminals will PHISH to obtain information from you. DON'T GIVE OUT ANY SENSITIVE INFORMATION TO INCOMING CALLERS. Send all email PHISHING attempts to report@phishing.gov.uk and send fake text messages onto 7726 (Spam). Call 159 to quickly be directed to your banks Fraud Team.

Rutland u3a newsletter September 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
- ✓ French Conversation 2
- ✓ 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.

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Country Dance

We are a friendly group who meet at 2pm on the first and third Wednesday of the month in Langham Village Hall. Everyone welcome. 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/>



Rutland u3a Golf Group

Throughout the year Rutland u3a Golf Group has various competitions for those members who wish to participate. Our main competition this summer was the annual Knockout where pairs of players compete at each stage until two remain to play in the final.

Ron Jenkins and Charles Babbage met on September 3rd at our Rutland Water Golf Club Par3 venue to fight it out and produced a mighty battle with Ron Jenkins winning by a narrow margin.

The picture to the right shows the finalists on the Ninth green with Ron Jenkins on the left.



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U3a Church Visit Group - 10 September

St Peters Church Stockerson

We had a fabulous day out at Stockerston Church. Priscilla greeted us all at Stockerston Hall Stables, and, together with Mary, an earlier churchwarden and the Rev Stephen Bishop, rector, we were given a combined list of thoughts about this church. Ultimately, it was Stephen who took control and showed us around. Top of the list are the glorious medieval stained-glass windows. So exceptional, Stephen told us, that the V&A had borrowed them earlier for a national exhibition. Now returned, we could enjoy their beauty.



Another interesting feature was the hidden knight. We have had a very good year. With one more visit before the winter break, we are averaging nearly twenty people per visit.



Tea and cake were served back at the Stockerston Hall stables. Fabulous spread as always. Priscilla did us proud with her own home-made lemon drizzle cake and teas of choice. Here we are above, wet and sheltering from the elements, but happy.



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Stunning photographs from the August meeting of the photography group:



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Papercrafts Group

The papercrafts group have continued to enjoy their get-togethers over the summer, using a variety of techniques to make greeting cards, including cutting and embossing, utilising pressed flowers and pop-out designs. You'll see from the photos that we're already making a start on our Christmas Cards, it's never too early!



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New radio play celebrates local undertaker and theatre figure at 30

Tom Johnson is well known in Rutland and Stamford because of his work as an undertaker and through his spare-time acting and directing. Tom, who lives in Uppingham, has also played many theatre roles locally, such as Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Lord Farquaad in *Shrek: The Musical*. As a director, he has taken on shows such as *Sweeney Todd*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Kinky Boots*. Tom is Chairman of Rutland Musical Theatre and is on the Board of Directors at Tolethorpe, home of the Stamford Shakespeare Company.

Uppingham actor and writer Henry Dawe has been a friend of Tom's for many years. As a great admirer of Tom's career choice at a young age and of his skills as an actor and director, Henry gifted Tom the script of a play which he had written, inspired by his life, for his 30th birthday on 13 November last year. Now that play is making it to Rutland and Stamford Sound to celebrate Tom's milestone in his last days as a 30-year-old.

In *Last Orders with the Undertaker*, Tom's character looks to humour to see him through the distressing times which come with his job and encourages the families he serves to find light in the darkness. Rather than being a black comedy, it is a comedy with messages. Stamford-based Cami Carter joins Tom and Henry in the cast. The half-hour play will be broadcast on Monday 10 November at 8pm, followed by a discussion. It is possible to listen live on the Rutland and Stamford Sound website. The website lists other options under How to Listen.

Tom says, 'I was so very touched when Henry gifted me a radio play for my 30th birthday, inspired by the work I do. As such, I was able to identify with the themes and messages that Henry had included, which made performing the piece all the more special. It has been a pleasure to have the opportunity to bring this off the page alongside Henry and Cami.' Cami adds, 'It's a privilege to be working with Henry and Tom in this thought-provoking project. It's my first radio play after my last performance in *Spider's Web* at Tolethorpe in 2022. The fact this is also a celebration of our incredible Tom's 30th birthday is wonderful.' Henry rounds off, 'I am thrilled that this play, which grew out of Tom's life as an undertaker and a remarkably talented local theatre figure, is making it to the airwaves. I am very grateful to Tom and Cami for wanting to join me in this project and for their commitment to it. Many thanks also go to Rob Persani of Rutland and Stamford Sound for accepting the play and for interviewing us about the messages which it conveys.'



l. to r. Henry Dawe, Tom Johnson. Cami Carter.

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Rutland
Sinfonia

in Oakham
conductor **Paul Hilliam**

Grieg Piano Concerto

with soloist Robert Markham

Beethoven Symphony No.5

Schubert Rosamunde Overture

Saturday 4th October 2025 at 7.30pm

Oakham School Chapel

rutlandsinfonia.org.uk for tickets

or visit Oakham Wines or The Oundle Bookshop
Tickets from £16 with £5 for under 18s / students



Scan to book



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**Leicester
Symphony
Orchestra**



**Sun 23rd November 2025
3.00pm**

Scheherazade & Classic FM Rising Star: Ariel Lanyi

**Conductor: Dexter Drown
Leader: Catherine Cole**

FREE
for Ticket holders only.
The opportunity
to meet our soloist
at 2.00pm.

- **Borodin Polovtsian dances**
- **Saint-Saens Piano Concert No 5 'The Egyptian'**
- **Rimsky-Korsakov Scheherazade**

TICKET PRICES:

Full price **£22/17**
Family tickets (up to 3 children) **£36** and **£46**
u18/NUS **£6**
2-4-1 carers scheme

Tickets available from: De Montfort Hall Box Office
www.demontforhall.co.uk
Tel: 0116 233 3111



Registered Charity No: 1078708 Limited Company No: 1397388

I am very pleased to say we are able to continue our offer of half price tickets to established groups in the county for our next three De Montfort Hall concerts.

I am able to offer £22 tickets for just £11 with children's tickets at £6. This offer applies to members of your group together with their families and friends. The ticket order for the group, a minimum of six tickets, must be placed by a Group Organiser at least 14 days before the concert date.

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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

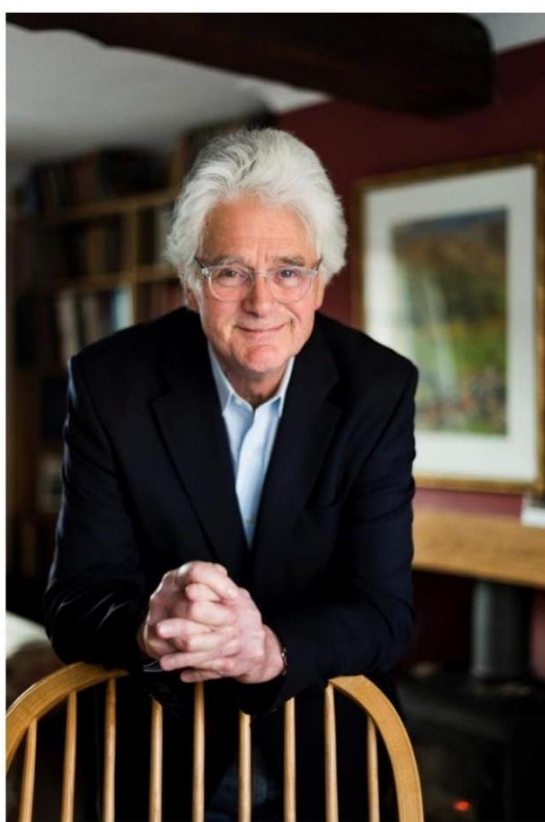
As part of Voluntary Action Oakham School's Service Weekend which promotes inter-generational connection between school pupils and local older people

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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Talk and Social Evening at the Museum



This event is organised by **The Friends of Rutland County Museum and Oakham Castle**. It aims to help raise match funding for the recent Heritage Lottery Fund bid. This includes refurbishing the Museum and enabling the display of the ichthyosaur ('Sea Dragon') and items from the recently discovered Roman Villa near Ketton.

Christopher Payne
the well-known furniture expert from the Antiques Roadshow will talk about

'Furnishing the East Midlands - from the Spectacular to the Vernacular'

at Rutland County Museum,
Catmos, Oakham on Friday
3rd October 2025

Doors open at 6.30pm for a free glass of wine for ticketholders and a look at the current exhibition
The talk starts at 7.30pm

Tickets £25 are available from Eventbrite www.eventbrite.co.uk or from Reception at the Rutland County Museum.

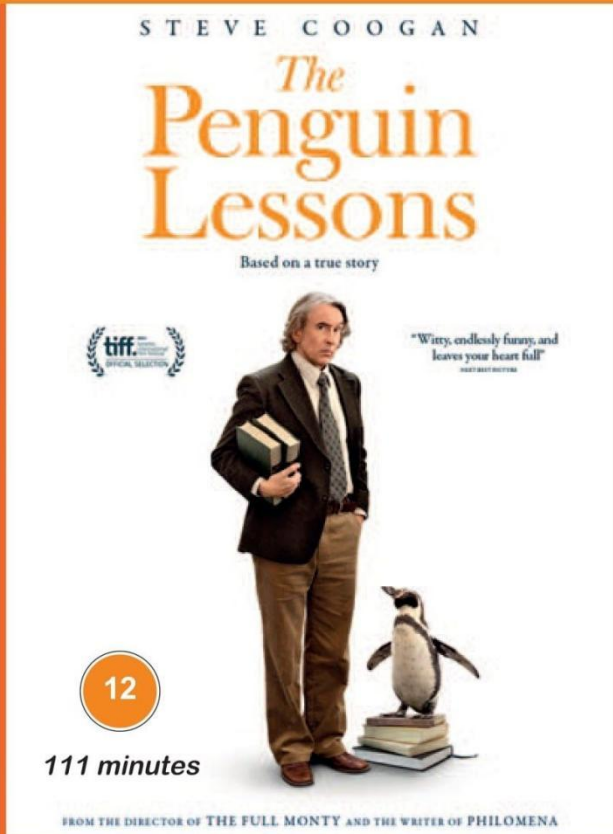
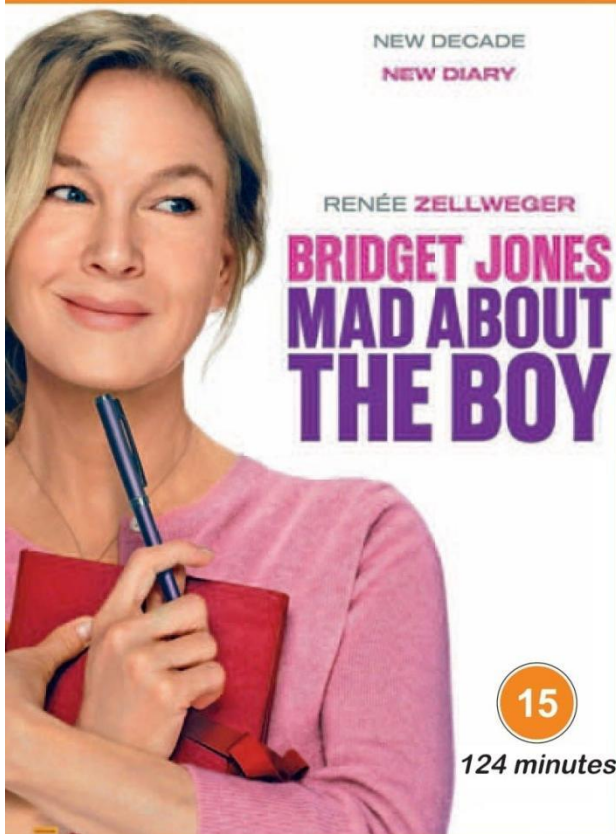
Proceeds will go to the Friends of the Museum who are registered charity No. 1109417

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Cinema for Rutland Rutland County Museum

Thursday
2nd October

Thursday
6th November



Doors and cash/card bar open at 7 for 7.30 pm

Tickets £7.50 from Oakham Wines,

www.wegottickets.com

and on the door.



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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