

u3a

learn, laugh, live

Rutland u3a newsletter

October 2025

Hi All,

When this is published, we will have had Halloween and possibly Bonfire Night, so we can now look forward to Christmas even if the shops have for the past few weeks.

An important message to all is an update on what's required by HMRC regarding Gift Aid. Keith our Treasurer will outline this later in the Newsletter. Please read it, it does not just apply to u3a subs but to all your Gift Aid declarations.

Please do not pay next year's subs till March.

Last month, I commented on the Christmas do re not having one as there isn't a Social Secretary and that the ladies who did it last year were not doing it this year due to it being hard work getting people to commit. My error was that they volunteered to do it for one year only, but still it was hard work getting people to attend. The u3a still requires someone or two to take on that role.

For those attending the monthly meetings, we will be bringing in a "sign in" sheet as a safety measure.

Finally, stay safe and warm in the coming months.

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 November.

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Next monthly meeting - Thursday 6th November 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: Susan Grossey

For twenty-five years Susan ran her own anti-money laundering consultancy. She is now a full-time author and her obsession with understanding the mechanics and motivations of financial crime has only grown. Susan is a practised speaker. Her speaking style is organised but casual - she loves getting questions all the way through her talks, which often takes the talk off in interesting directions.

The Talk: Policing and Financial Crime in Regency London

Susan has spent years haunting the streets of Regency London, in the company of magistrates' constable Sam Plank. He is the narrator of her series of historical financial crime novels set in consecutive years in the 1820s - just before Victoria came to the throne, and the interesting policing period after the Bow Street Runners and before the Metropolitan Police. Copies of Susan's books will be available for Members to purchase.



Gift Aid

As many of you are hopefully aware, when you join Rutland u3a, the subscription form includes a tick box for us to claim Gift Aid on your membership fees. This amounts to 25% of the subscription rate, (currently £10), providing us with an extra £2.50 for every member who agrees to this.

This is a valuable source of revenue for us, which helps to keep subscription rates as low as possible, and this year, more than 400 of our members signed up for it.

You must be a UK taxpayer, but joint account holders only need one who is.

HMRC rules mean that you have to pay sufficient tax to cover the Gift Aid on all such charitable donations in any given year, so it's important to make sure that is the case. Mindful of this, we will email you all at the end of 2025 and, for the 2026 renewals, we will ask for everyone to confirm they understand their responsibilities. HMRC regulations require us to do this.

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A large graphic of the year '2026' where each digit is filled with a dense, multi-colored pattern of thin, parallel lines in shades of blue, green, yellow, and red.

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.

8 January	Iain Betsen	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
6 August	Danny Wells	The life and times of Marie Lloyd
3 September	Gary Lily	Illegal Wild Animal Shippers
1 October	Tony Perkins	Medieval Pilgrimage

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Ad hoc dining.



EVERYBODY WELCOME!

New to U3A?.....just arrived in the area?.....on your own?.....or simply would like to come and have a meal amongst friends then come and join us!

We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 6.30pm, at The Old Buttercross pub on Panniers Way, Oakham, to enjoy a drink and a meal together in a friendly, social atmosphere.

If you would like find out more, or to join us at any of these meals, please contact.

Helen Shea

07919 273192

chezshea54@icloud.com

(Please do not contact Diane as she is currently indisposed)

If you would like to come to the December meal please let me know by 31st October as the Buttercross will be very busy and we do need to preorder on that day!

Rutland u3a newsletter October 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

Italian Conversation - please contact the Group Leader - Melanie Cortese via https://rutland.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/italian-intermediate/

[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) and
- ✓ 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 straightforward 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 October 2025 - News from the Groups

Thursday Walking Group: new facilitator required

This lovely group of friends desperately wants to keep walking into 2026, but needs someone to act as facilitator from January 2026.

DETAILS OF GROUP:

We walk twice monthly, on the 3rd & last Thursday of each month. Walks are in the mornings, normally starting at 10:30, of 4-6 miles duration and with lunch at a pub/cafe available afterwards.

Walk leaders are members of the group (the group facilitator can lead as many as they wish, but there is an expectation that most other members will share the load). The walk leader will receive a suitable route a couple of weeks before and forward details to the facilitator for circulation to all members.

FACILITATOR'S ROLE:

Maintain a list of current members: requests to join come from U3A website and are actioned, adding new members to email circulation list (& WhatsApp Group, if desired)

Send out details of each walk 1 -2 weeks in advance

Compile a list of walking dates for the year & circulate, asking for volunteer walk leaders from the group (an annual meeting helps to do this)

Review list of members annually with Groups Co-ordinator, to ensure walkers are current members of Rutland U3A

Review attendance annually and liaise with anyone who has not been walking to agree whether they stay on the list or not

Maintain the group page on the U3A website

Current facilitator is Helen Cz, who will remain a member of the group & is more than happy to offer guidance during the handover.

Please contact her via the website if you need any other information on the role:

https://rutland.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/zz-walking-half-day-thursday/



Rutland u3a newsletter October 2025 - News from the Groups

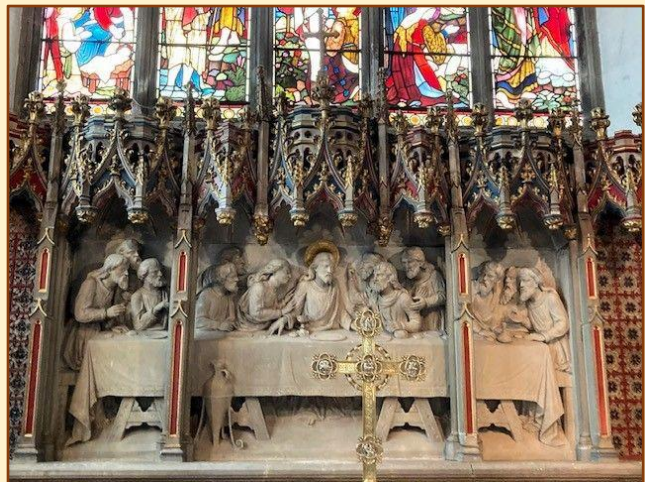
U3a Church Visit Group - 10 October

All Saints Church, Stamford

It was a small turn out but a happy one. We had a most interesting talk from a local guide, who gave us a detailed understanding of how All Saints and Stamford played an important role in the Middle Ages. We were surprised to hear that Stamford, at one point, had 14 churches and 5 monasteries. Extraordinary!



Cups of tea and cake were available for a donation. I had an orange drizzle cake. Yum! If you're in Stamford on a Friday morning, do drop in. The café is open 10am-2pm, and it is excellent.



Our next year's venues are yet to be thought through. If anyone has a burning desire to visit a specific church, do let me know over the winter and we can begin with these.

Otherwise, I hope to have a tea and cake session at my home early in the New Year and we can discuss things.

Mary

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Stunning photographs from the September meeting of the photography group:



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October 2025 - Community News

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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Music for Remembrance

Performed by the

Rutland Concert Band
With an Appearance by
Award Winning Soprano

Katie Marshall
on behalf of and for
The Royal British Legion
Poppy Appeal



Saturday 8 November 2025

7.30pm

All Saints Church, Oakham

Tickets £5



Tickets on the Door



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VOLUNTARY ACTION
RUTLAND

RUTLAND COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SURVEY

★ Transport

Voluntary Action Rutland has operated a low cost community transport service using volunteer drivers for more than 40 years. That's a lot of journeys for local people to, from and around Rutland.

★ Help to plan the future

Complete a survey to tell us about:

- Your experience of community transport in Rutland.
- What is going well?
- What could be better?

★ Get the survey

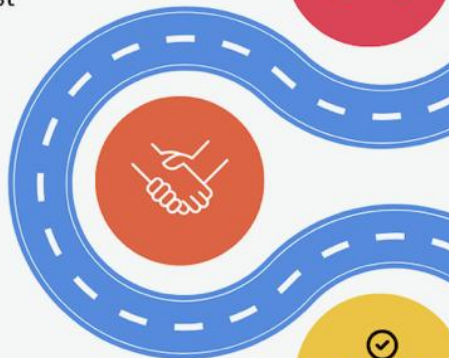
Go online, scan the QR code

Email enquiries@varutland.org.uk for a link

Paper copies at:
Oakham Library
Tesco Oakham
The Falcon Hotel, Uppingham
Ketton Post Office & Village Stores

★ **Survey dates** Open until 30th November 2025

Working for the Rutland community • Registered Charity No. 1123653



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A photograph of Neil Diamond, a middle-aged man with short brown hair, wearing a dark, patterned jacket and blue jeans with a large, ornate silver belt buckle. He is holding a green acoustic guitar. The background consists of a blue field with white stars on the left and a red and white striped field on the right, resembling the American flag.

Cottesmore
Village Hall is
proud to present
“Neil Diamond”
Sat 22nd Nov

A fun night of song and dance with
“Neil Diamond”
**Bring your own picnic and
refreshments.**
Bar open from 6:30pm, doors open from 7pm.
£12.50 each plus booking fee Tickets available from
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cottesmore-village-hall-trust/t-dvnzzjx>

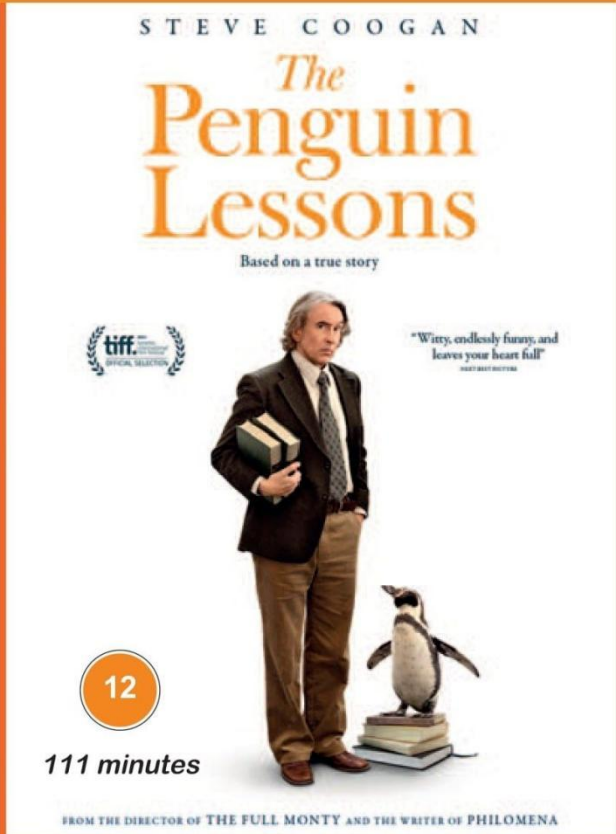
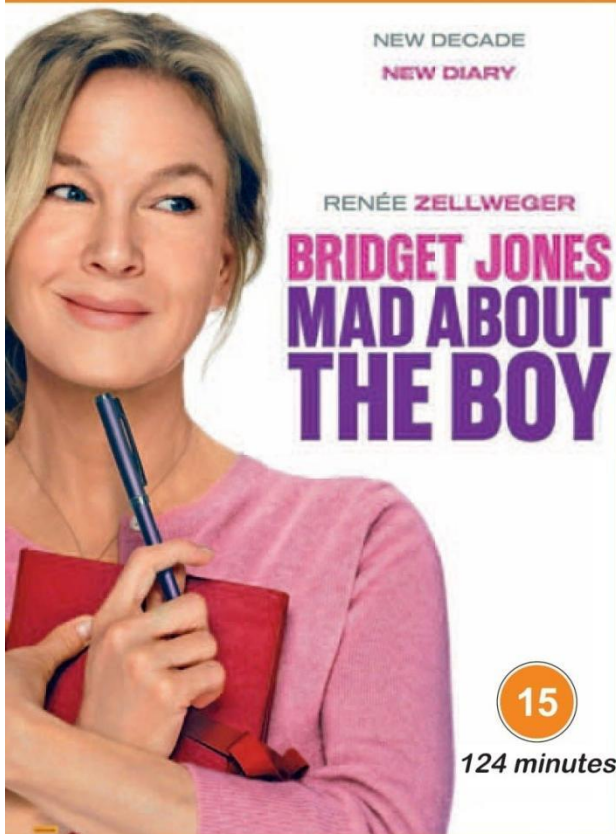
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October 2025 - Community News

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

Ted Philips

Noticeboard

Caroline Stark

New Member Support

Jane Gillon

Printing

Margaret Macpherson