

**November 2025**

Festive Greetings to You All,

How quickly this year has gone and especially this last month. I would like to thank all those who have attended the monthly meetings recently for taking on their registration at the start of the session. This is only for emergency purposes, should an evacuation occur. However, just one point, should you leave for any reason during the lecture please make sure you are removed from the attendance list for obvious reasons.

The Rutland u3a this year has a steady membership of around 684. This number, from a meeting I went to regarding re-setting up of a Leicestershire/Rutland u3a network to work with the East Midlands u3a committee, shows we are one of the largest groups but are poor in relation to volunteers for committee work. So, does anyone want to help out?

So, other reminders, once again that the January meeting is the 2nd Thursday the 8th. Also, please do not pay your 2026 subscription until 1st March as the committee has to have organised new gift Aid procedures to be followed for HMRC.

Finally, from myself and all who help keep the Rutland u3a viable, A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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](mailto:rutlandu3a.info@gmail.com) or via the website

**The final date for submissions is 18<sup>th</sup> December.**

# Rutland u3a newsletter

## November 2025

**Next monthly meeting - Thursday 4th December 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: Mike Burton**

Mike is a former journalist and teacher who worked for 16 years as a newspaper journalist and editor, and for 27 years as a History teacher. For much of his teaching career he was also Academic Deputy Head at Uppingham School. In retirement he works as a guide at Rockingham Castle as well as delivering History-based talks to groups in and around the area.

### **The Talk: Our Christmas Story**

Our British Christmas is unique. Its customs and traditions date back into the mists of time, but they all developed for identifiable reasons. Christmas has had a rollercoaster history, from crazy over-the-top festivals in Tudor times, to near extinction, then to a modern re-invention. This was when Father Christmas met Santa Claus - and when a great writer blended the best of the past into a new, White Christmas tradition.



**Please note that the January meeting will be held on the second Thursday in January - Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January.**

As you know, we have sheets at our monthly meetings inviting members to sign up to join existing groups and to make suggestions for new groups. Members would normally join existing groups via our website; however, they are able to fill in the forms at our meeting and I pass this information onto the leader of the chosen group.

This is not the case for groups being set up. My dilemma is that, whilst individuals do sign up to join groups being set up, each group does need a group leader. Leading a group is not an onerous task but it is a role that somebody has to take on. So, if you do sign the sheets to join such a group could you also indicate whether you're prepared, initially at least, to lead the group,  
Thank you.

**Christopher Clark**  
Groups Co-ordinator

## Rutland u3a newsletter

### November 2025

A little advance information about our second meeting in 2026. As you may already know our February Rutland u3a monthly meeting in the Victoria Hall is different from the usual monthly meetings. We use this meeting to publicise the work of our groups and to recruit new members to the groups.

At the meeting u3a members will be able to talk to group representatives about the work of their groups and their plans 2026. Some groups will also looking to add to their numbers so this is a chance for members to join new groups and make new friends. I will host a table to gather suggestions for new groups and explain how we go about setting them up.

Refreshments will be provided. So, as well as finding out more about the groups those attending will have the opportunity to catch up with other u3a members over a 'cuppa and cake'.

I hope to see you there.

**Christopher Clark,**  
Groups Co-ordinator  
December 2025

# Rutland u3a newsletter

## November 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 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 from 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 November	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](mailto:chezshea54@icloud.com)

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

# Rutland u3a newsletter November 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/](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 November 2025 - News from the Groups

### Rutland U3A Recorder group



The Rutland U3A Recorder group gave its first public performance on Wednesday 29th October, when we played a selection of British folk song tunes to folks at the Lavender Mill day care centre at Cottesmore.

The group comprised (left to right) two descant (soprano) recorders, three treble (alto) recorders, two tenor recorders and one bass recorder.

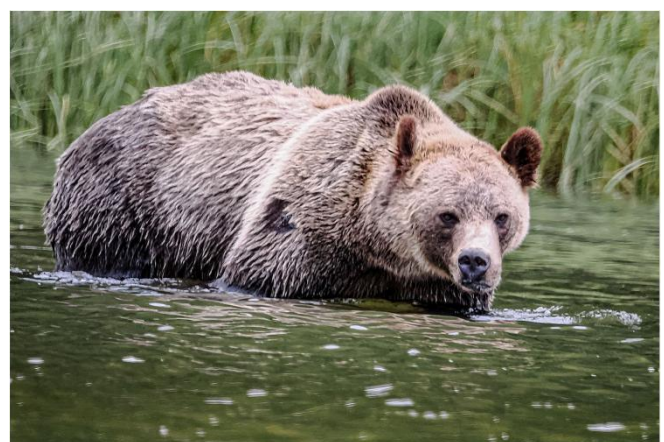
The playlist included, amongst other well-known folk tunes *D'ye Ken John Peel*, a Westmoreland hunting song, *Blow the Wind Southerly*, made famous by the late, lamented contralto Kathleen Ferrier, *Skye Boat Song* and *Scarborough Fair*. We were delighted that our audience, most of whom suffer from some level of memory loss, recognised the pieces and were happy to sing or hum along to them; one visitor remarked that "their faces lit up when they heard the familiar tunes".

Sally, who runs the centre, evidently felt it had been an enjoyable experience for everyone, because she asked if we could go again in December to play some Christmas carols and songs, and gave us a Thank You card signed by all the attendees, staff and volunteers.

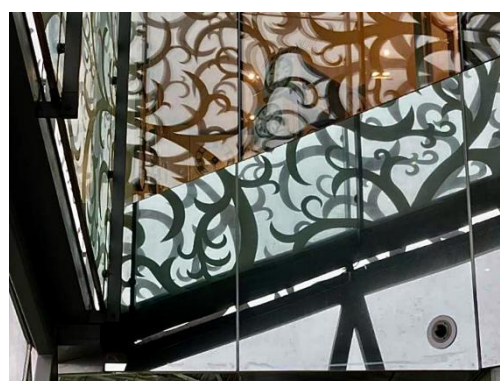
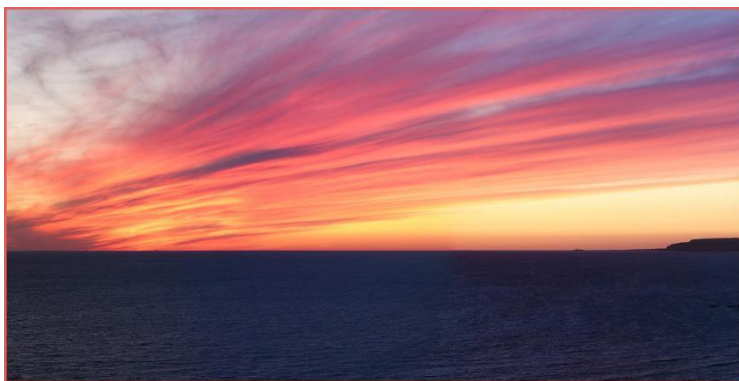
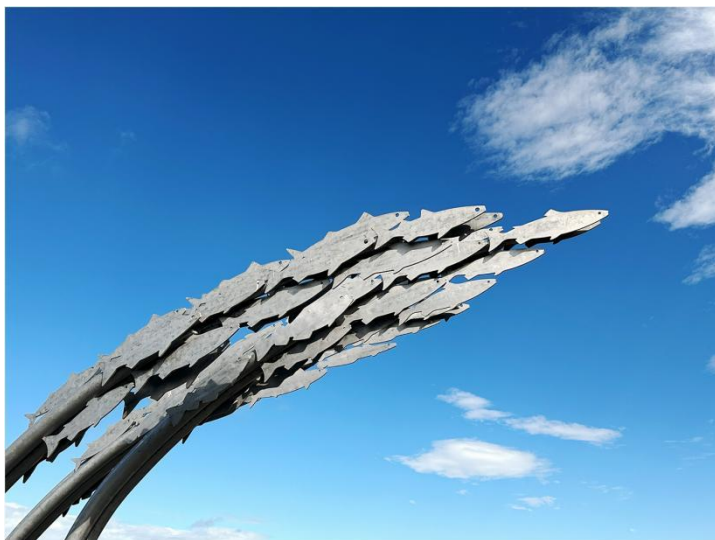
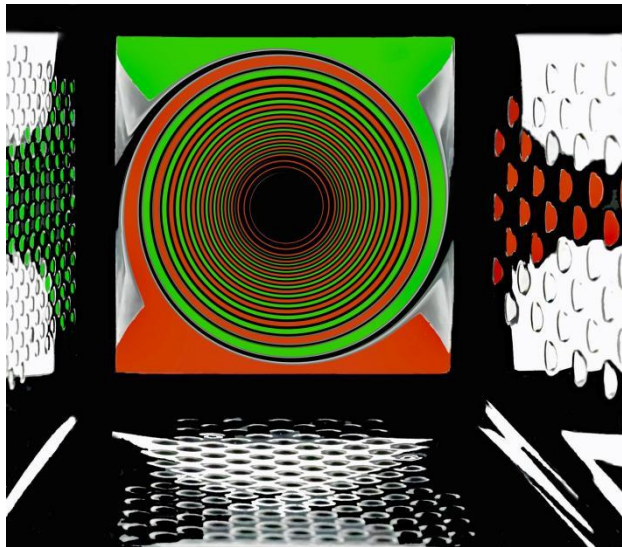
Jane G

# Rutland u3a newsletter November 2025 - News from the Groups

Photographs from the October meeting of the photography group showing a range of different skills:



# Rutland u3a newsletter November 2025 - News from the Groups



Rutland u3a newsletter  
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## **Sing Out Rutland**

# Simply! SING!

***Your Invitation to  
enjoy a Good Sing  
and have some fun!***

Informal Group of very sociable people of all ages  
spending regular time to sing and have fun.

Open to all - Everybody can sing  
Great for Wellbeing and exercising voices.



### **Contact Information:**

Sing Out Rutland!  
Venue: Oakham Baptist Church  
Time: Mondays 7pm to 9pm  
Please come along for a free taster session!  
Call Diana : 07756 002966

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**RUTLAND VOICES**

*The Colours of Christmas*

**A Seasonal Selection of Traditional Carols  
& Pop/Jazz Christmas Favourites**

Conducted by Peter Davis  
Baritone - Andrew Ashwin Piano - Anne Bolt

**Uppingham School Chapel**  
**Saturday 13th December, 7.30pm**

Tickets: Adults £15 Children £7.50  
including a glass of wine or a soft drink

Tickets available from <https://bit.ly/3IAkGON> or scan the QR Code

A retiring collection will be taken to support **Brain Tumour Research**



# Rutland u3a newsletter

## November 2025 - Community News

### Could you lay an extra place at your table this Christmas?

UK charity seeks hosts to share Christmas with  
an international university student far from home

#### Festive Stays 2025

Could you lay an extra place at your table  
this Christmas for an international student?  
Each year the charity EIL UK receives  
hundreds of applications from international  
students studying at British universities  
hoping to experience Christmas or New  
Year in a British home. If you could offer  
friendship and host an overseas university  
student for a 3-night stay between 24<sup>th</sup> and  
27<sup>th</sup> December 2025, drop us a line at  
[host@eiluk.org](mailto:host@eiluk.org) to find out more about



this rich and rewarding experience and how you can be part of the HOST UK  
programme.

# Rutland u3a newsletter - November 2025

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