

December 2025

Hi everyone,

Firstly, I hope you all had a good Christmas and enjoy your New Year celebrations.

Down to business, as you have been told we cannot use the Victoria Hall this coming year as they are not taking any bookings (to any party) so we had to find somewhere to hold our monthly meetings.

The result is that there will be NO meeting in January but our first get-together will be in February when the u3a displays to all groups available for the public and members to join. This will be on Wednesday 4th February at Oakham Baptist Church; reasons for this will be on the update email I send out.

The committee will keep all of you updated with the advanced dates of future meetings which will now be on the first Wednesday of the month.

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 January.

Rutland u3a newsletter December 2025

A little advance information about our groups meeting in 2026. As you may already know our February Rutland u3a monthly meeting, now to be held at Oakham Baptist Church 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

I hope to see you there.

Christopher Clark,
Groups Co-ordinator
December 2025



Rutland u3a newsletter

December 2025

The year '2026' is rendered in a large, stylized font. Each digit is filled with a dense, multi-colored pattern of thin, parallel lines in shades of red, green, blue, and yellow, creating a vibrant, textured effect.

Monthly Meetings

We hold a general monthly meeting open to **all** members on the first Wednesday of each month. These are now to be held at Oakham Baptist Church (Melton Road LE15 6AY and doors open at 10.00am for a 10.30 start. There is no charge to members for attending the meeting.

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.

4 March	Ian Stebbings	American cultural influences on post-war Britain
1 April	Andrew Tennant	How to catch a killer
6 May	Simon Curtin	Reintroducing Ospreys to Belvoir Castle Estate
3 June	Bharat Patel	Indian Takeaway: one boy's take on three continents
1 July	Philip Caine	Barrow to Baghdad and back again
5 August	Danny Wells	The life and times of Marie Lloyd
2 September	Gary Lily	Illegal Wild Animal Shippers
7 October	Tony Perkins	Medieval Pilgrimage
4 November	Jack Perks	Britain's rivers in crisis

Rutland u3a newsletter
December 2025

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)

Rutland u3a newsletter December 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 2](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Diana Mothersole

[Discover the World](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Jill Stacey

Dog Walking - Please contact the Group Leader, [David Richardson](#)

[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

[Social History of 20th Century](#) - please contact the Group Leader, [Ros Kenny](#)

[Striders Walking Group](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Stewart MacDonald

[Tai Chi group](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Julia Haynes

[Tuesday Morning Walks](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Ros Kenny

Rutland u3a newsletter December 2025 - News from the Groups

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.

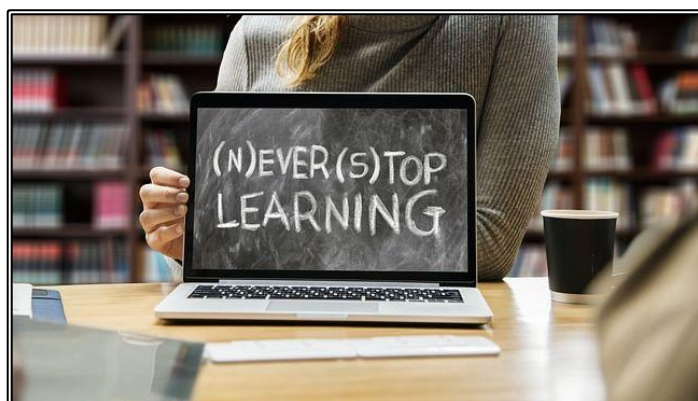
Christopher Clark
Groups Co-ordinator

Requests have been received to set up the following new Groups: -

- ✓ Antiques
- ✓ Archaeology
- ✓ 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 December 2025 - News from the Groups

Social history of the twentieth century.

This friendly and supportive group has vacancies for up to two new members. We meet monthly on the third Monday of the month at the home of one of the members in Oakham.

We decide on a topic to be studied and each member looks at an aspect of the chosen topic and then gives a ten minute informal report to the rest of the group.

Topics recently studied have included, The Kinder transport, spies, women in WW2, The Munich air crash and the Berlin blockade.

Interested in finding out more and coming to a meeting to see if this is for you, contact [Ros Kenny](#)

New Group - Discovering the World



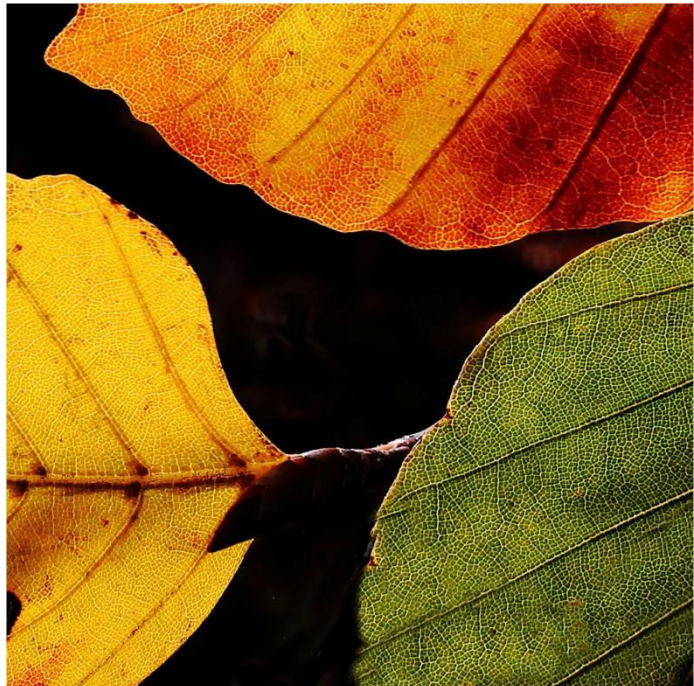
The idea for this group is to learn about the world: places we might want to visit and those places we will never be able to visit. We choose a country or city, and each member would research an aspect of that country or city, for example, the population, the landscape, a world heritage site, or the cuisine. At the meeting we would feed back and discuss our findings.

It is planned that the group will meet in the morning of 4th Monday of the month at the home of the group leader in Oakham, with an introductory meeting being held on 26th January.

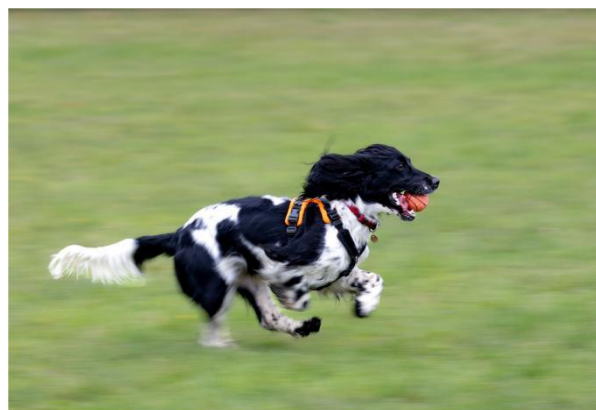
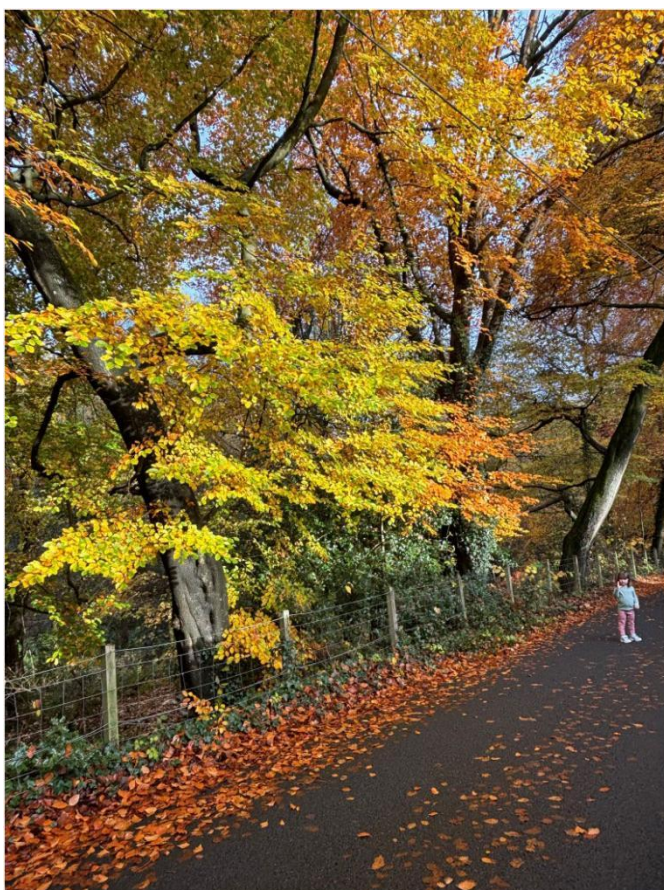
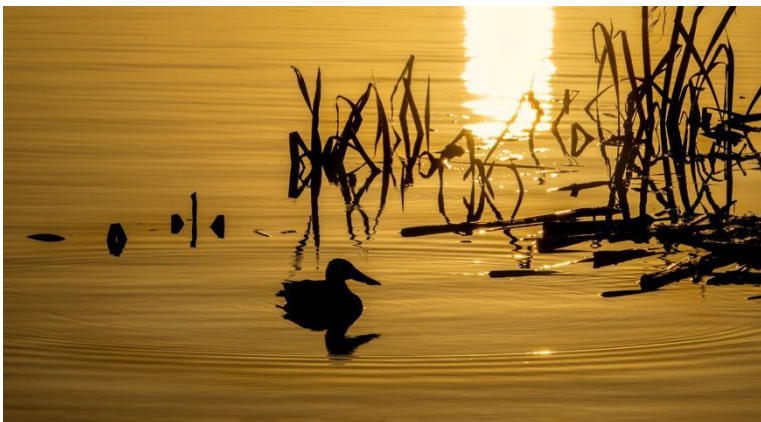
Interested in finding out more and seeing whether this is the group for you? Send a message to Jill via the u3a website [Discover the World](#) for further details of the introductory meeting.

Rutland u3a newsletter December 2025 - News from the Groups

Photographs from the November meeting of the photography group showing some lovely autumnal images:



Rutland u3a newsletter December 2025 - News from the Groups



Rutland u3a newsletter
December 2025 - Community News

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

Rutland u3a newsletter

December 2025 - Community News

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW



ROTARY is just for men? NO!
ROTARY has many women members.

ROTARY is just a dining club? NO!
RUTLAND ROTARY members do meet twice monthly to hear invited speakers and to organise their fundraising and charity donations.

ROTARY fundraises for local, national and international charities?
YES!

RUTLAND ROTARY locally supports Sailability at Rutland Water, Air Ambulance, the Ukrainian Impact Club and many other initiatives including polio eradication worldwide.

ROTARY is just for older people? NO!
RUTLAND ROTARY runs the Young Chef, Young Writer and Young Musician Awards with Oakham schools and Kids Out day trips for disadvantaged children and their carers.

RUTLAND ROTARY enjoys numerous social events too!

RUTLAND ROTARY would welcome new members? YES!

Interested in making a difference? Contact - rurotary.sec@gmail.com

Rutland u3a newsletter - December 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

Hall set up and AV

Michael Seccombe

IT

Mike Shea

Ted Philips

Minutes

Flic Brewster

New Member Support

Jane Gillon

Noticeboard

Caroline Stark

Printing

Margaret Macpherson

Publicity

Jill Stacey

Website

Phil Grimley