

January 2026

Hi All

Now we are into the new year with what has happened regarding the Victoria Hall, just before Christmas, I would like to draw your attention to the situation regarding the monthly meetings.

We, the Rutland u3a, are now holding our monthly meetings in the Oakham Baptist Church. This will now be on the 1st Wednesday of the month from now on. You can enter from the entrance to the church off the Melton Road (railway crossing end) or from the Westgate car park. It is all on the ground floor so no climbing stairs. There will be tea and coffee supplied by the u3a for those attending.

February is our group's display meeting so no speaker. However, due to the change of days we are in the process of checking with the speakers regarding their ability to keep the appointments. This will mean that we will post the updated list as soon as possible.

As mentioned before, please don't pay your subscription until at least 1st March and please be aware of the Gift Aid requirements and the signing of the Gift Aid form.

Finally, stay safe.

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 the next newsletter to Jill at:

rutlandu3a.info@gmail.com or via the website

The final date for submissions is 15th February.

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February Members Meeting Wednesday 4 February

Doors open at 10.00am for a 10.30 start.

As you may already know our February Rutland u3a monthly meeting, now in the 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 for 2026. Some groups will also be 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



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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 **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.

The speaker programme is below but in view of the change from Thursday to Wednesday for our meetings there may be changes.

4 March	Iain Betson	The BBC and the Bomb: Cold War broadcasting from the bunkers
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	Jim Stebbings	American cultural influences on post-war Britain.
9 September	To be Confirmed	
7 October	Tony Perkins	Medieval Pilgrimage.
4 November	Jack Perks	Britain's rivers in crisis.
2 December	Tracey Akenhurst	Festive Feasting

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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)

Rutland u3a newsletter January 2026 - 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](#) - 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, Kathy Andrews

[French Conversation 2](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Mary Parkin

[Friday Scrabble](#) - 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

[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 Valleriu

[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, Charlie Massey

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

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

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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.



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Second Photography Group

I am exploring the possibility of leading a second photography group.

This would be a 10 week session, meeting every fortnight, for 1½ hours.

Broad objectives

- Provide some guidance on equipment, methodology, software, printing and mounting.
- Encourage participation in Stamford and Rutland Photographic Society.

Meet at my house (Greetham). Limited to 6 members.

Intended for all levels of expertise – either learn or pass on your experience

Meeting 1 Establish where everyone is at and what they want to do.

Meeting 2 Pros and cons Camera & Lenses

Meeting 3 Photo editing – software

Meeting 4 Other equipment tripods / flash etc

Meeting 5 Printing and mounting

Meeting 6 Photoshoot

Meeting 7 Review Photoshoot images

Meeting 8 Plan a trip somewhere

Meeting 9 Photoshoot

Meeting 10 Review images from photoshoot



If you would be interested in participating, please email me at hodson001@gmail.com

Bonne année, tout le monde

The Rutland U3A advanced French conversation group celebrated Epiphany in true French style on January 6.

The Galette des Rois tradition marks the visit of the three kings to the baby Jesus, guided by the star of Bethlehem. The galette is a light pastry filled with an almond cream, and tradition has it that the lucky person to find a bean in their slice, gets to be king for the day.



This year's winner, and the fearless leader of the group, Margaret Beever, was delighted to win the right to wear the crown, and joked: "Je ne regrette rien, I never win anything!"

Happy New Year to all

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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 - rutrotary.sec@gmail.com

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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

The For Rutland Good and New Clothes Sale 2026

Make sure you put this date into your 2026 diary - the For Rutland Good and New Clothes Sale on Friday the 27th and Saturday the 28th March. The annual sale of pre-loved clothing and accessories, one of the biggest of its kind in the country never mind Rutland, hosted once again at the prestigious Rutland Hall Hotel overlooking Rutland Water, just outside Oakham.

The volunteers at For Rutland are looking forward to shoppers coming along in their droves, the venue has plenty of free parking making it easy to pop along. Details of the sale are available on the For Rutland website: www.forrutland.org.uk including ticket prices and sale times and directions for the Rutland Hall Hotel can be found here: www.rutlandhall.co.uk. The Friday night sale is ticket only, tickets are £30 each but the sale on Saturday morning costs just £5, is open to everyone and most items will be half price!

With sustainability, recycling and reusing high on most people's agendas, if you haven't already got into the habit of *not* buying new clothes, the For Rutland Good and New Clothes Sale is the best place to start! The sale has something for everyone: there are loads of pre-loved women's, men's and children's clothes and shoes, bags and accessories with items ranging from designer to high street. The organisers want everything to go, so items such as suits, coats, dresses, jeans and separates are priced at amazingly affordable prices, even for things that have never been worn.

All of the money raised goes to fund the vital advice service at Citizens Advice Rutland, supporting people in Rutland dealing with the effects of long-term health conditions like dementia, cancer and MS when and where it is needed, from the Citizens Advice Rutland office in Oakham's High Street.

Ends

For more information, contact Alison Taylor: alison.taylor3gp@gmail.com

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7TH ANNUAL
SEEDSWAP
OAKHAM CASTLE
7 FEB 2026



SATURDAY 7 FEB 2026 11AM - 1PM



Rutland
County Council



Oakham
Castle



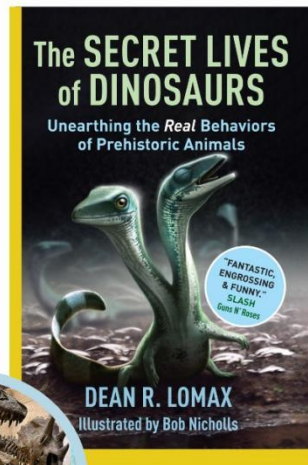
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Unearth the *real* behaviours of prehistoric animals as we join acclaimed palaeontologist Dr Dean Lomax on a fascinating journey through the grand cycle of life in deep time. Focusing on the direct evidence of astonishing behaviours recorded in some of the world's most extraordinary and unusual fossils, Lomax provides a glimpse into the real-world stories of prehistoric life, from fighting dinosaurs to mosasaur mealtimes and a two-headed fossil reptile. Along the way, Dr Lomax shares his adventures as a palaeontologist, including leading the excavation of our own "Rutland Sea Dragon", the most complete skeleton of a large prehistoric reptile ever found in the UK.

Based on Dr Lomax's new book, we are given a unique view of the private moments of long-extinct creatures. The talk will be followed by a Q&A and a book signing with the author.



RUTLAND
County Museum

RUTLAND COUNTY MUSEUM

A SPECIAL EVENT WITH DR DEAN LOMAX

SATURDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2026

TICKETS £25
£49 including signed book

DOORS OPEN 5PM glass of wine on arrival
TALK 6.30PM

Tickets available from [wegottickets.com](https://www.wegotickets.com) and Rutland County Museum reception

DR DEAN LOMAX

Dean R. Lomax is an internationally recognised paleontologist, author, television presenter, and science communicator. A leading authority on ichthyosaurs, he is an honorary research fellow at the University of Manchester and an 1851 Research Fellow at the University of Bristol. He is the author of more than ten books.

RUTLAND
COUNTY MUSEUM
RUTLAND'S HIDDEN TREASURES

 **Rutland**
County Council

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SYMPHONY OF LOVE
14 FEBRUARY 2026
7:00PM OAKHAM
ALL SAINTS CHURCH

An evening of classical and original
piano & bandura music

ORGANIZED BY:
UKRAINIAN ROTARY IMPACT
CLUB OF RUTLAND
IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL COMMUNITY



YAROSLAV OLIINYK - PIANO
MARIA PETROVSKA - BANDURA

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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

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