

June 2026

Hi All,

Hopefully you have read the email from the Secretary setting out details for our AGM, which will be in September.

You may wonder why we have been asking for volunteers to stand for the committee positions. This is because the current members of the very small committee have other responsibilities, so they have limited time available for running Rutland u3a; now in its 30th year!

Only so much can be achieved in the time available to keep the u3a's head above the water.

What we really need is for some of the current members (of which there are over 600) to become extra committee members to help out with a view to taking over other committee positions when the current members come to the end of their allowed time (6 years). Some of the current committee are already up to 3 or 4yrs standing and will therefore be required to leave very shortly.

Also a couple of committee members are leaving for personal reasons. If there are not enough committee members the current committee will be too small to legally run Rutland u3a, which would be forced to close. If that were to occur all the money in our accounts would go to head office and thus all the groups of which you are members would also either have to close or be self-funding. This means that each individual group would have to provide their own insurance, which is currently funded by Rutland u3a.

So this is a message to our 600+ members of the u3a to offer to stand for committee posts and then to vote when the list of nominations for the committee is emailed to you. The U3A rules require each u3a to have a minimum percentage of members vote. If that is not achieved the u3a cannot continue and could close, so please note how important it is for you to vote.

Other than ensuring the smooth running of the u3a I have been enjoying the long days and good weather and I hope you are too.
Stuart.

Keep in touch with your u3a:

<https://rutland.u3asite.uk/welcome/>

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 23rd July..

Rutland u3a newsletter

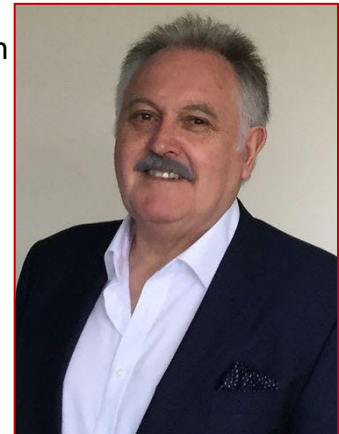
June 2026

July Members Meeting
Wednesday 1 July
Venue: Oakham Baptist Church
Doors open at 10.00am for a 10.30 start.

Speaker: Philip Caine: Novelist, Speaker, Raconteur. Author of the Jack Castle and Shackleton Blister series of adventure novels.

Born in 1950, in Barrow-in-Furness Philip's working life began in the hotel business. His career developed in the oil industry and 30 years were spent in places such as the North Sea, Algeria, Nigeria, Kazakhstan and Russia. From 2003, he spent 7 years in post war Baghdad working with the American coalition and a further 3 years running oil services companies in Dubai. He retired in 2015 and began writing and public speaking, since then, he has spoken at over 700 venues across the UK and written 7 adventure thrillers and 2 detective thrillers.

All Philip's books are available in Paperback, eBook and Audio format.



The Talk: Barrow to Baghdad and Back Again - a career story

- chef and manager in the hotel industry
- oil business on rigs in the North Sea
- Algeria and Nigeria – in the oil business
- Kazakhstan and Russia
- Baghdad working for the American Coalition
- running companies in Dubai and Iraq
- writing adventure/thriller novels inspired by ten years in the Middle East.

Philip talks about things that happened to him in these places, with plenty of interest, humour and inspiration.

The talk is accompanied by images and music from the post war era.

Philip will be selling his books at a discounted price for the U3A: 1x £9.00 / 2x £15.00 / 3x £22.00 : Cash or Card. Since his last visit, Jim has published a book on the history of Gilbert and Sullivan and D'Oyly Carte (see www.thelosttheirs.co.uk).

Although this is not the subject of his talk to us, he will also bring copies for sale at a discount.

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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.

5 August	Jim Stebbings	American cultural influences on post-war Britain.
9 September (2 nd Weds)	Mike Burton	The Bayeux Tapestry
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

Rutland u3a newsletter June 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](#).

[Book Club 4](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Rosanne Greaves

[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

[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

[Mindfulness](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Sushila Raja

[Play Reading](#) - please contact the Group Leader, John Meera

[Scrabble Group 3](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Sue Powers

[Shakespeare](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Marilyn Oliver

[Striders Walking Group](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Charlie Massey

[Talking Technology](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Sue Moorcroft

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

Rutland u3a newsletter June 2026 - 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.

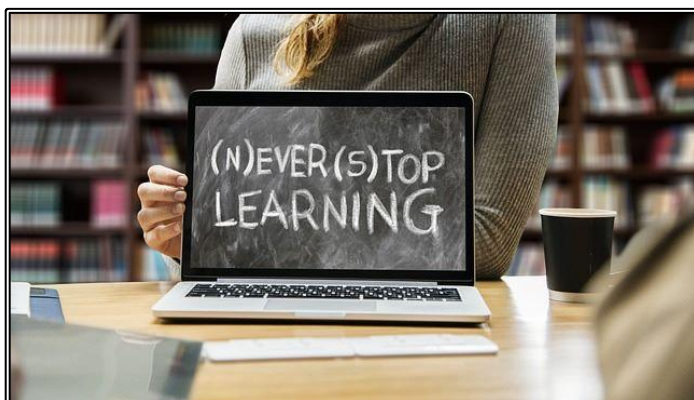
Christopher Clark
Groups Co-ordinator

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

- ✓ Antiques
- ✓ Archaeology
- ✓ Art Appreciation 4
- ✓ Bridge for Beginners
- ✓ Gardening
- ✓ German
- ✓ Music Appreciation
- ✓ A second Photography Group
- ✓ Shakespeare
- ✓ 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 June 2026 - News from the Groups

English Country Dancing



Everyone is very welcome to join us at English Country Dancing from 2pm to 4pm in Langham Village Hall on the first and third Wednesday of the month. We are a very friendly group of folk who dance a while then stop for tea/coffee and biscuits and then dance a bit more. Absolute beginners very welcome. The cost is £2 a session. The photos show one of our dances in progress.

We are not meeting in August and the first week of September but please come along to join us for a taster session from 2pm on Wednesday, 15 September. Contact the English Country Dancing group leader, Kathy, via the group webpage.

NEW GROUP - TALKING TECHNOLOGY

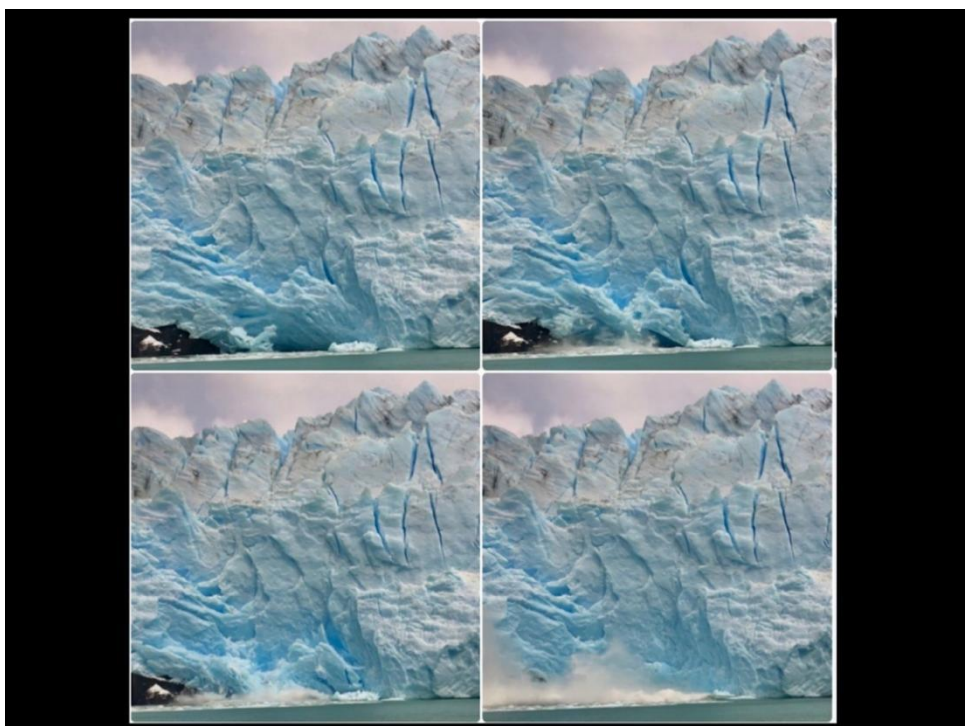
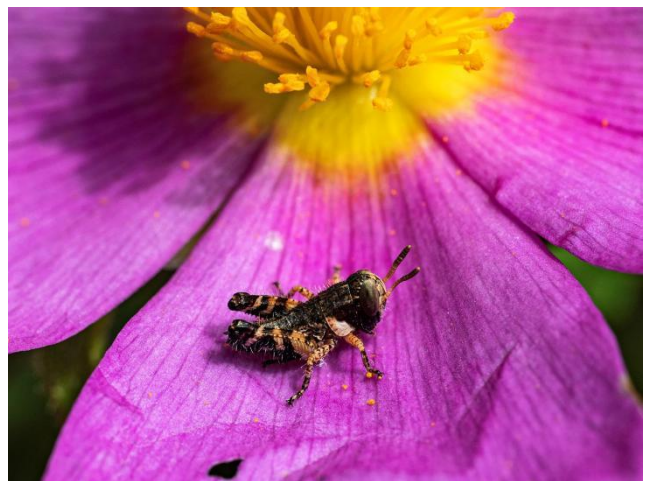
This recently launched group is looking for new members. Our area of interest is smart technology and the application of that technology in our daily lives. We will look at both emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and developing existing technologies such as health innovations and the internet of things. We will also offer practical, hands on help for any smart technology issues you have with your devices so do please come and join us. We meet every two weeks at The King Centre cafe at 2pm. Each session lasts for 90 minutes and our next meetings are on 29/06 and 13/07. For more details please contact [Sue Morecroft](#)

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Images from this month's meeting of the photographic group:



Rutland u3a newsletter June 2026 - News from the Groups



Rutland u3a newsletter
June 2026 - Community News



RUTLAND VOICES

A NIGHT AT THE OSCARS

A concert celebrating Oscar-winning songs
from across the decades

Piano - Anne Bolt
Conducted by Peter Davis

All Saints' Church, Oakham
Saturday 27th June 2026 7.30pm

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



Tickets available from bit.ly/RutlandVoices or scan the QR Code
A retiring collection will be taken to support The Alzheimer's Society

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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

Noticeboard

Caroline Stark

Printing

Margaret Macpherson

Publicity

Jill Stacey

Website

Phil Grimley