

July 2026

Hi All,

As I hope you are all aware of the situation regarding new committee members or should I say the lack of members volunteering to become committee members. This has come about due to three of the committee members resigning, as stated in the email sent to you, but not because they were fed up.

I must emphasize that this is not just the usual request to members but is a real threat that if we do not get the committee up to the required level then Rutland u3a would cease in the 30th year of the founding of it.

I would like to remind members to vote when the email re this is sent to you. Your vote is required in order to comply with National guidelines as to the percentage of members voting for the AGM.

Returning to the three members finishing, I would like to give my vote of thanks to them for their work and contribution they made to the u3a.

Without anything further I hope you have been enjoying the good weather, but keep having hydration breaks.

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 21st August..

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July Members Meeting

Wednesday 5 August

Venue: Oakham Baptist Church

Doors open at 10.00am for a 10.30 start.

Speaker: Jim Stebbings

Jim says about himself, "I am a retired professional businessman with a life-long interest in the theatre, and in particular the musical theatre. I now consider myself a music historian with particular interest and expertise in the American songwriters of the 20th century and whose compositions make up what is commonly called The Great American Songbook."



The Talk - American Cultural Influences on Post-War Britain

Anyone growing up during the austere and gloomy years immediately after the end of WW2 and into the second half of the 20th century will recall the influences that American culture had in brightening up our lives and introducing us to new sounds, images, fashions and foods, themselves promoted by the American servicemen who still remained among us.

With images and sounds of the era we recall some of these influences and how they remain part of our lives today. This is not so much a study of post-war social history but a celebration of the things we shared with our great ally as part of the 'special relationship'. It will stir the memories of those who grew up in that era and act as a reminder of how much as a nation we still share today. We shall also give some consideration to what cultural influences flowed in the opposite direction in later years.

The presentation will be accompanied by images and music from the post war era.

NOTE: Since his last visit to Rutland U3A, Jim has published a book on the history of Gilbert and Sullivan and D'Oyly Carte (www.thelosttheirs.co.uk). Although this is not the subject of his talk to us, he will bring copies for sale at a discount to members

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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.

9 September	Mike Burton	The Bayeux Tapestry
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(2nd Weds)

7 October	Tony Perkins	Medieval Pilgrimage.
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4 November	Jack Perks	Britain's rivers in crisis.
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2 December	Tracey Akenhurst	Festive Feasting
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July Members meeting:



On Wednesday 1st July, Ru3a members who attended the monthly meeting at the Baptist Church were treated to an extraordinary and highly entertaining talk from Philip Caine.

He has lived an incredible life with exploits to match, in some of the most inhospitable parts of the world. He recounted his experiences from the North Sea to the deserts of Iraq in a most informative and relaxed style. Now a published author with a series in line for the BBC, it was a truly fascinating morning, much enjoyed by all who attended.

All members are welcome to attend the monthly meetings at no extra charge. We enjoy interesting speakers and a chance to meet and chat with other members.

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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

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Bharat Patel, the speaker at our General Meeting on Wednesday 3 June, has asked to thank you for your generosity. Following his talk he has been able to donate £300 to the Hope Cancer Research Charity. The total is made up of his fee, plus the money from the sales of his book, 'Indian Takeaway'.

Rutland u3a newsletter July 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

[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, Norman Walton

[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 July 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
- ✓ 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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U3a Church Visit Group at Exton Wednesday 8th July

The Church of St Peter and St Paul is an extraordinary structure, for it boasts an aristocratic connection. The Noel family paid for some wonderfully expensive 16th to 18th century tomb effigies to be placed in their local village church.



It was a blistering day, but we managed. Indeed, we excelled with twenty-two members coming out for the tour. We almost beat our own record of twenty-three just last month. Nick our guide entertained us with tales of times past. We came back fully understanding the connection between the current Earl of Gainsborough and the Noel family's sculptures.



Tea was provided by Bernie, our wonderful churchwarden and another member of the PCC. She had been baking that morning just for us! There were scones, a Victoria sponge and a Madeira loaf. We were very spoilt for choice.



Our next visit, which is to St Nicholas' Church, Stretton. It is on Wednesday August 12th, where our host is Richard Foster, a sidesman. Contact Mary for more details via the groups web page.

NEW GROUP - TALKING TECHNOLOGY

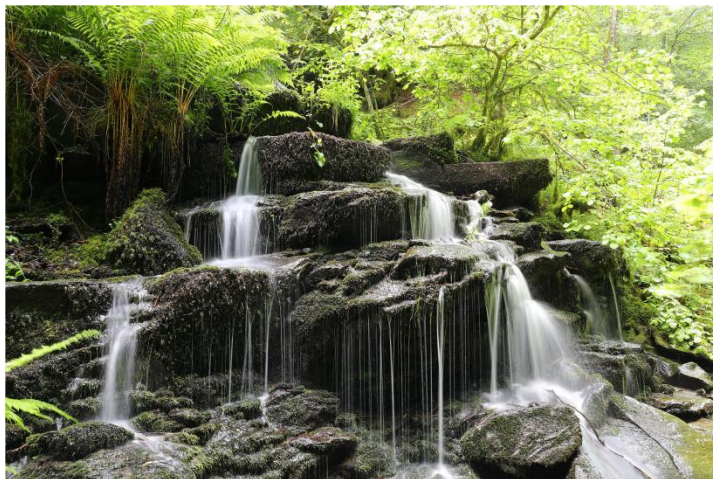
This recently launched group is looking for new members. Our area of interest is smart technology and the application of that technology in our daily lives. We will look at both emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and developing existing technologies such as health innovations and the 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:



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Rutland u3a newsletter

July 2026 - Community News



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

GOLF FOR RUTLAND

The date of the annual fundraising Golf For Rutland competition has been announced, Wednesday the 19th August 2026 at The Rutland Water Golf Club. Register a team or contact the organisers to see if a team needs you to make up the numbers. Or if you don't play or can't make the date, support For Rutland by sponsoring a hole or providing a raffle prize. – it's a great day of golf all in a good cause!

Sponsored by Taylor & Baines of Oakham, the event is a team competition with a shot gun start, followed by an evening of fun for players, partners and guests alike with prizes for the winning teams! At the two-course dinner afterwards along with the prize giving, there's also a raffle and an auction with the chance to bid for some amazing items. For information more on how to take part in Golf For Rutland, email: info@forrutland.org.uk or head to the For Rutland website: www.forrutland.org.uk

Enter a team or sponsor a hole, or donate via the links below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/forrutland>

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/forrutland/>



For Rutland is a fundraising group of the charity **Citizens Advice Rutland**, raising money to pay for specialist advisers who provide invaluable non-medical advice to people of all ages living with the consequences of debilitating long-term health conditions in Rutland and the surrounding community.

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FOR RUTLAND GOLF DAY



**19th August 2026
at Rutland Water
Golf Course**

Entry fee: £80 per person,
£60 for RWGC members

Includes coffee and bacon buns
during registration, green fee and
a two-course dinner.

Our main sponsor:

TAYLOR *Q* BAINES

For more information, visit
forrutland.org.uk/golf-for-rutland

'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.



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RUTLAND LINERS



TASTER SESSIONS

Langham Village Hall

Thursdays 6 & 20 August, 5:45pm

Have a go at line dancing!

Summer taster sessions to be followed by a
regular absolute beginner class starting
September.

Booking is essential.

Contact Chloe for more info
chloe@rutlandliners.co.uk or
Rutland Liners on Facebook

BOOK HERE



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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