



learn, laugh, live

Rutland u3a newsletter

September 2026

Hi All,

Hope all of you have enjoyed our summer and here's to hoping for a pleasant autumn. We had the Rutland u3a AGM at the start of the month with a voting email sent to all together with reports. We had enough responses and votes for the members who stood for election to the committee to ensure that we had a quorum to make it official.

My thanks to those members who came forward to stand as committee members and to those who came along to the AGM and heard a great talk about the Bayeux Tapestry.

However, I still find there is a lack of participation of the members in the running of their u3a, this is because of the 650+ members only about 165 deemed to vote on the simple email system which had been created specifically by a member (which I do thank him for) in order that members do not have to actually come to the AGM to vote. I don't want to go on about this lack of response from the membership, but it is there and does need to be identified.

I know that there was some problems with the system initially, not the designer's fault, as it worked perfectly after the 2 different computer systems talked to each other.

It is back to 1st Wednesday in the month next month, so it's 7th October being the date for the meeting; I hope to see you there.

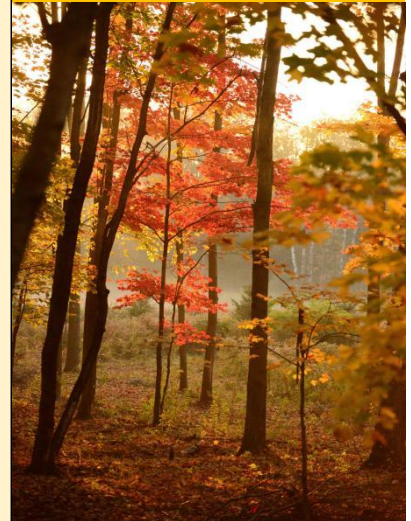
Stuart

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 20th October.

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Members Meeting **Wednesday 7 October** **Venue: Oakham Baptist Church**

Doors open at 10.00am with the talk following at 10.30am

The Speaker: Tony Perkins

Tony Perkins is a semi-professional actor who gives talks in a variety of venues to general interest and history groups. He presents his talk in the costume of a medieval pilgrim and will be showing us some historic artefacts

The Talk: Medieval Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage was not possible for everyone and for those who did go, it was often a once in a lifetime experience. During the talk, Tony will help us to understand the reasons for making these journeys and to see life through the eyes of the pilgrims.

- What sort of people went on a pilgrimage?
- What were their destinations?
- How did they travel?



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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.

4 November Jack Perks Britain's rivers in crisis.

2 December Tracey Akenhurst Festive Feasting

September Members meeting:



Wednesday 9th September saw our Ru3a AGM start at 10am in the Oakham Baptist Church. This was my 3rd AGM as treasurer and I've never seen such a large crowd of excited attendees. This was, of course, nothing to do with the AGM; they were there en-mass to enjoy the Bayeux Tapestry talk from Mike Burton that followed!

And what an enjoyable talk it was. Mike had given a presentation about the meaning of Christmas in December 2025, so was well known as an accomplished raconteur and once again, he enthralled us all with a comprehensive look at the history, meaning and actual making of this 'embroidery' - it's actually not a tapestry at all!

Oh and yes, the AGM was a success.

See you on 7th October for our next presentation "Pilgrimage in the Medieval Period" from Tony Perkins.

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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 September 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 2](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Norman Walton

[Scrabble Group 3](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Norman Walton

[Sewing](#) - please contact the Group Leader, Joan Edwards

[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 September 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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Images from the August meeting of the photographic group:



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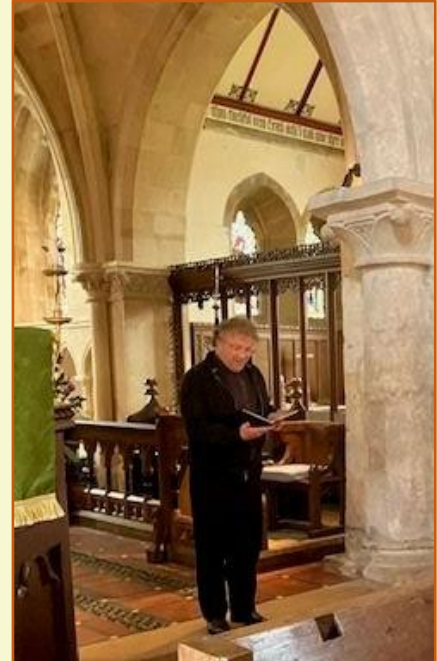


Rutland u3a newsletter September 2026 - News from the Groups

u3a Church Visit Group
Edith Weston Church on 9th September 2026

We had the most fabulous talk by the vicar of St Mary the Virgin Church, the Reverend Peter Collins. He spent an hour discussing all the highlights of architectural importance, and why they are named as they are, together with some interesting superstitions.

For example, I had no idea that the reason that the north porch is never used is because witches could come through it! Good folk are allowed through the south porch, which also has a secret room above it where clergy could live – but not now. That would be rather grim. Peter was highly entertaining and we loved his style.



The good ladies of the church were out in force and had baked us a variety of scrumptious cakes. The outing was top class, and for me the best of the year. We have had excellent turn outs all year. September had 15 members.

The next and last visit of the year is in October. Unfortunately, I have had to change the day to a Thursday afternoon, as Launde Abbey is permanently booked on a Wednesday. The date is Thursday 8th October at our regular time of 2.30 pm.

Anyone interested in joining this group contact: [Church Visits](#)

Rutland u3a newsletter September 2026 - Community News

Volunteering in Rutland Are You Going to Make a Difference?...



Volunteers are desperately needed for a range of activities across dozens of organisations throughout Rutland supporting our Voluntary & Community Sector

To explore volunteering opportunities in Rutland then search <https://rutlandhereonline.org.uk/>

or scan the QR code

When action meets compassion, lives change

Make an Impact in Your Community... Volunteer Now!

Volunteer Recruitment Supported by



Voluntary Action Rutland Registered Charity Number 1123653



Scan Me

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2026/27 - To be updated with new committee members

Committee Members

Chairman

Stuart Mason

Company Secretary

Treasurer

Keith Townsend

Data Protection

Groups Coordinator

Christopher Clark

Membership Secretary

Speaker Secretary

Wanda Allen

Social Secretary

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