

Newsletter July 2018



The flower of the month for July is Larkspur (Delphinium consolida) which belongs to the buttercup family - Ranunculaceae. Larkspur blooms range from white to blue to violet.



Something old, something new. Last month the Newsletter reported on the first couple of meetings of the Ukulele Group. This seems to have been a group that has been talked about since I joined U3A but we got there in the end. The Group seems to have got off to a good start under the leadership of Ron Smith. In contrast, Hilary Bettles reported that the Badminton Group has been running for nine years – what a wonderful achievement! They are looking for new members if anyone fancies their hand at reviving the skills of the past.

And this issue marks a change for the Newsletter. As many of you will already know, certainly those who send in copy for inclusion in the Newsletter, the Editor has changed. We owe a big debt of gratitude to Peter Turner who has guided the Newsletter over many years – well done Peter. The Editor's role has now been passed on to Maggie Morrison, wife of Jim our webmaster. We welcome Maggie to her new role and wish her every success.

And on the subject of "old" I was a bit worried when my younger son, who will be 40 later this year proposed a yomp up some mountains in N Wales. I reminded him I had a significant birthday this year... but it all worked out well since his older brother was able to join us and we had a really good day on the hills. What I hadn't expected was that my younger son gave me his place on the zip wire. Nearly a mile in length, starting at over 1,500 feet, a terminal speed of over 100mph and a journey time of 55sec. That was a birthday present!

Phil Grace

Appeal for Help: We have noticed that many members are hearing-impaired & we wondered whether anyone would be able to give basic sign-language tuition (or indeed knows someone outside the U3A who could be approached). If you feel you can help or point us in the right direction please contact the webmaster.

Calling all music lovers, there are currently three separate music groups; Classical Music Appreciation; Popular Music Appreciation and Rock & Blues Appreciation. All have vacancies for new members, so if you fancy a couple of relaxing hours, once or twice a month in pleasant company, in the group leader's homes, listening to music with which you may or may not be familiar, contact the relevant group leader via the contact page on the website.



Classical Music Appreciation. Come and share your classical music loves with us. Small friendly group. **New members welcome.** We meet the last Wednesday afternoon of the month at the leader's home. Contact leaders for details. We will have a table at the main meeting most months. **Or ring us on 01933 387892.** Linda Walker



Driving: Hot summer days, bright sunlight, overheating you and the car, do you know how to help stop the car overheating if stuck in traffic??? And the gauge starts to go up?? Answers on a post card to me. Always carry plenty of fluid and snacks on a long journey and make sure you take regular breaks. Phone me if you need a refresher on the road.

Steve Evans 01933 356784.



Bird Watching: Our July meeting was at Marston Vale Millennium Country Park, also called the Forest Centre, which is set amongst clay pits created by the old brick workings. We walked around the wetlands nature reserve and at the first hide there were a number of common birds out on the water including a great crested grebe with 2 chicks. Suddenly a lesser black backed gull swooped down trying to grab one of the chicks which fortunately dived underwater. The gull made repeated attacks while the chicks kept diving under and the mother lunged upwards at the attacker. One of the chicks got onto the mother's back but we were worried that the other one was still vulnerable with the gull still circling. Eventually the other chick managed to clamber to safely join its sibling and the gull gave up – a really great wildlife moment worthy of Springwatch. Otherwise things were a bit quiet on the bird front so we spent some time looking at and identifying plants and butterflies before having lunch at the on-site café.



Note that the Bird Watching group does not meet in August.

Chris Ebdon

History Group - Trip to Selly Manor and Bournville 28 June: Cadbury's chocolate has delighted us all our lives since childhood but how many of us know the full story behind the name, so on a very warm, sunny Thursday we left to find out more at Selly Manor & Bournville village. On arrival we had refreshments after which Daniel gave a fascinating presentation on the history & development of Bournville. In 1879, having made a success of their father's chocolate business in Birmingham & needing to expand, George & Richard Cadbury moved to the present site where rail links bought workers from the city. The two brothers were appalled by the living conditions of many of the workers & in 1893 they purchased 120 acres of land close to the factory intending to provide cheap, less cramped housing for any low-income families, not just their own workers. The houses, (many & varied styles) were built in a village setting in lovely tree-lined streets. As all houses could only occupy 25% of their plot there were large gardens for residents to grow their own fruit & vegetables. The village green provided a central focus around which were built shops, infant & junior schools, a day continuation school for adult education, the Friends Meeting House (the Cadbury family were Quakers) & an Anglican church. Public Houses were not permitted then, or now. The Rest House on the green, modelled on Dunster yarn market in Somerset was built to mark the silver wedding of Elizabeth & George Cadbury in 1914 & was paid for by Cadbury employees.



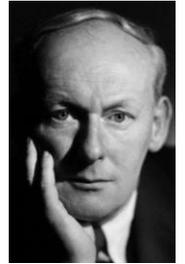
The beautiful medieval Selly Manor, near the green looks like it has always been there but was bought by George Cadbury in 1907 & moved from its original site in Selly Oak, a mile away. It appears to have been a prosperous house until the late 17th Century. Its status declined & by the end of the 19th century it had been divided into 3, sometimes very overcrowded dwellings. After it's move, George's son Laurence furnished the property which now contains the Laurence Cadbury Collection of period furniture & domestic objects. A full inventory of the house contents was found in the will of a 1608 resident. Standing in the lovely cottage garden next to Selly Manor is Minworth Greaves, a 13th century cruck framed building moved from 12 miles away & rebuilt by Laurence in 1932. After lunch we toured this with David who pointed out many fascinating features of both building & contents. A walk around the points of interest in the village followed & Daniel told us about the buildings & highlighted the variety in architecture. We even glimpsed the factory conveniently built in a hollow.
Colin & Gina Crouch.



BookMarks Reading Group:

A Celebration of H E Bates Reviewed by

Margaret Shelton. This month our Reading Group



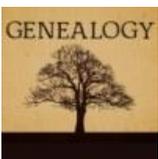
decided to delve into the works of our local and well-known author, H. E. Bates, with emphasis on his books based in this locality and featuring its people. Although time prevented a full discussion of each book we had read, it is worth recording our meeting.

Just prior to this, Brian and I had got into the right time frame of mind by reading J.L. Carr's book 'A Month in the Country', set in times when life was slower and life styles were so different from those of today. Some of this was so wonderfully described in 'The Vanished World' (1969), HE's biography about growing up in this area and the influence of his grandfather on viewing the world of nature. A livened up, saucy version of a real relative from the Sharnbrook area was told in 'My Uncle Silas' (1939). Other members read 'The Sleepless Moon' (1956), described by critics as one of his very best books, a tale of two mismatched characters joined in marriage. We were delighted to be meeting together in the coffee shop on Higham Market Square, the very same shop featured in this story. However, the era was really brought to life with Paul Marshall joining us to read a little known Bates' short story, 'Let's Play Soldiers', capturing the Rushden accent, bringing the child's perspective of war, and a great adventure until the sad conclusion and realisation of truths not told before. Thank you to Paul for joining us and to Dom for arranging this interesting event. Do look up H.E. Bates - a very talented writer.

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Thank you for that, Margaret – it certainly was a good morning. We are now all busy, (or escaping the heat in a darkened room!), reading C J Sansom's 'Dominion' – a whopping book of nearly six hundred pages! It's an intriguing thriller set in a 1950's Britain under the Nazis.

Dominica Jones.



Family History: Our June meeting was a sort of "problem page", to which members brought information about missing records, disappearing ancestors, and requests for advice or assistance in taking the next steps, whether as absolute beginners or more

experienced family seekers who had hit a brick wall. We worked in pairs or small groups to share ideas and websites, with varying degrees of success - sometimes the information you want just isn't there, but sometimes a bit of lateral thinking on where to look or how to phrase a search results in a breakthrough!

This month we have a guest speaker on the subject of Welsh Mariners - definitely a niche topic, which sounds very intriguing. Sharon Safford.



Days Out Car Share: Trips 2018. Christmas trip.16/11/18. Coach Trip to Nat.Trust property Waddesdon Manor

Aylesbury HP18 0JH. There is a Christmas market with places for 50 stalls. The manor will be seasonally dressed. Coach price to be confirmed. No more than £13. Yes, N.T. members £5 have to pay too! Non N.T. £18 group rate. The list is open now. All car-share trips unless stated otherwise.

30/7/18 Apethorpe Palace PE8 5AQ. 1 place available. £7 65 entrance [including E.H. members] with guided tour. Please be aware there are no loos at the property.



New! Car share trip.19 July. Althorpe. The Spencer home. Car share trip. I have an offer of 1 place in a car. We have had a request to plan another visit this time in the summer. We need 12 for discount. Price to be decided. Please let us know ASAP of your interest.

Report of our 2/7/18 Wrest Park visit. On a very hot day 9 of us from H&R U3A enjoyed this lovely pre-Capability Brown garden. We met up for lunch then, after looking round the gloriously restored downstairs rooms, joined the cool of the pre-arranged archaeological tour. We saw some of the bones from Rowell church which were being dated and a collection of 16 pieces of wallpaper from one room which had not been removed until English Heritage found them. After a drink in the café we returned to Rushden. We missed the rush hour too.

Linda Walker



The Sewing Group has been running for several months now. We have been able to help someone who hadn't done any sewing for a long time; helped with fitting alterations; generally discussed things such as what could be remade out of a much-loved jacket and other general sewing matters. If you think you might be interested in joining us please call me on 01933 460631. We meet in the morning on the third Thursday of the month at my home. Easy to remember as it is the same week as the U3A Monthly Meeting.

Linda Grace.



Wine Appreciation: Lovely tasting in the garden, Summer wines; two Rose from Europe. One a sparkling wine from Baden area, Germany 'Secco' light and fruity and not too fizzy. Second 'Tavel' from Provence very pink not a traditional onion skin rose, but good in flavour. Both ideal for summer. July wines are undecided at time of going to press. Likely to be something that will go with Barbecue. Probably still a light summer wine. Steve Evans 01933 356784



Sunday Lunch Group: 29/7/18 The Bowls Club Northampton Rd. Rushden. 12.30 for 1pm. This lunch is fully subscribed as it now numbers 22. Offers of transport appreciated. We do like to welcome new members of H&R U3A to these lunches but 10–16 is the ideal number. The next booking is for Sunday 30 September and the venue is The Miller, 2 Millers Lane, Wellingborough, NN8 2NF 12.30pm for 1 pm. Pre-booking is essential with the leader. Recommendations for venues please.



Garden Group: Our July visit on a hot, sunny afternoon began with a picnic lunch in the unique woods owned by Lynn and Bob McIntosh who, some years ago, purchased an empty three-acre field to turn into woodland, and which is now filled with a variety of trees, plants and wildlife. This was the third visit the Garden Group have made to catch up with how the woodland has developed. The afternoon also included a short talk explaining the process in carrying out a project of this size, an orientation quiz, and everyone had a small plaque to dedicate and hang on a tree of their choice. It was a lovely, very enjoyable way to spend a summer afternoon, thank you Lynn and Bob for the invitation. Kathy Main.



The Churches in Finedon, instead of having a Fete this year, encouraged people in the town to put scarecrows in their gardens & shops on 23rd & 24th June. Altogether there were more than 50 scarecrows & it was a good walk around the town to see most of them. The Knit & Natter scarecrow (pictured right) was named Nora, after Nora Batty in the series “Last of the Summer Wine” as her stockings were equally wrinkled. Several members of the K & N made items for our display, including me, who made the cat sitting on Nora’s lap. Judy, who runs the K& N group & her husband Les, had great difficulty putting up the cat on the library porch roof! Chris Holden



Digital Photography B meets on the third Friday of each month from 2pm - 4pm. We have recently changed our venue and now gather at the Stanwick Village hall which is opposite Stanwick church. We cover a variety of topics and regularly share pictures on a range of subjects. This month, on Friday 20th July, the subject is buildings and architecture, and we will also be showing some videos about photography. Everyone is welcome, and you certainly do not need to be an expert photographer, I definitely am not!
Keith Saunders



Handicraft Group: At the June meeting the group had a try-out with some weaving under the expert eye of Frances Francis. We were asked to bring a picture of a favourite landscape, to give us ideas for colours and shapes. Frances provided a card loom and we had a huge selection of wool and weaving materials. We endeavoured to recreate our chosen images. The photo shows the start of Ayers Rock. Many members made a good start and hopefully will finish them at home.

Macramé & Origami

We are looking for someone to show us these crafts. Have you done this in the past and could you show us how in 2019? Do you have books on how to do them so I can have a practice! Please telephone Diana Turner on 01933 314425 if you can help us.



Settlements A: Our first visit this year was to Riseley, on the hottest day so far. Despite the heat we survived a tour of the village led by Andrew Gel who was born in Riseley and still lives in the same cottage. His entertaining descriptions of the village and its inhabitants kept us enthralled. At each stop he showed us old photos so we could see how it used to look. One lady, out tending her garden, discovered for the first time from Andrew that someone hanged himself in her outhouse in the 1930s! We also met the village blacksmith – a real character who still carries on his trade despite his health being affected by the fumes. For several generations his family have run the forge and he hopes his daughter will take over from him. We walked over the fields to the church, isolated on a hill. Andrew explained the original village was centred around the church but after the Plague the people moved down to the current site following the main road which became a turnpike in the 18th century. 17th Century Rose Cottage is just one of the interesting places we looked at. Andrew arranged for us to use the village hall at the end of our walk for a welcome rest plus homemade cakes & a much-needed drink. An excellent first visit organised by Susan James. Let's hope the rest are equally enjoyable. In July we are due to visit Raunds, a very different settlement with some surprising history. Frances Francis.





Settlements B: This was our second visit to one of the villages/towns we had talked about in the cooler months. This visit to Poddington was led by Margaret & Brian Shelton. Most of the group had just been to the Garden Centre but Margaret & Brian led us down some big steps from the Garden Centre & we were in a beautiful lane, as in the picture. From there they took us round the byways and little cut-throughs and we were all surprised at how many interesting buildings there were. They had done a lot of research and really brought the old days in the village to life. Like most of our villages they were self-supporting, we saw a lovely farmhouse, which had been the heart of the village, having the weighing equipment, had had a blacksmiths & many other crafts. We saw the schoolhouse with 1 teacher, a tiny building where 100 children attended part-time as their parents needed them gleaning in the fields. Our next visit will be to Riseley. Chris Holden



Country Park Walks: The walk on Sunday 8 July was a circular walk around Kinewell Lake, Ringstead. It was a hot, sunny morning but there was some shade from the trees overhanging the lake. The Water Mill Tea rooms were closed but instead we watched several small boats going through the lock on the marina before we continued our walk. Lunch was at the Axe & Compass pub which only recently re-opened for meals, & we were very pleased with the service & the menu selection.

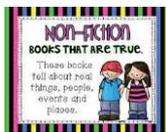


12 August 2018 – Irchester Country Park, Gypsy Lane, Irchester NN29 7DL meeting at 10.30am in front of the café for a circular 2-mile walk ending back at the café. There are two car parks, one at the entrance and another one near the café. The car parking charge is £3 and the ticket machine doesn't give any change; take care to put your car parking ticket on the car dashboard so that it can be clearly seen by the parking attendants otherwise you may get a parking ticket. There are beautiful woodland trails, a Narrow-Gauge Ironstone Railway Museum, and the spectacular quarry and Jurassic geology. For those who like to have lunch after the walk, it will be 12.30pm at the Dog & Duck pub in Wellingborough, which is near the embankment and the Lidl store. There is free car parking at the back of the pub. We are lucky to have sufficient 40% discount vouchers for the main meal so with that saving you might want to indulge in a pudding? As I will need to firm up the numbers for the lunch booking, could you please telephone or text me if you would like to have lunch.



LIFTS CAN BE ARRANGED FROM HIGHAM AND RUSHDEN

Please contact Sylvia Wright if you will be coming on the walk, require a lift and if you would like to order lunch.



Non-Fiction Book Group: Next Meeting 23/7/18 2-4pm at leader's home. Contact leaders for date of next meeting by telephone on 01933 387892. **New members welcome. *The group leaders will not be at the July meeting in the Pemberton Centre.***

Are you a non-Fiction reader, are you interested in Travel, History, Biographies etc. The group meets every month, or 2 months for a long book, at the Group Leader's home on Monday afternoons. Members would need to commit to buying the books we will be reading on Kindle or online. Our current book is Nella Lasts Peace, the 2nd book written during, and just after, WW2 for the Ministry of Information. Nella was portrayed by Victoria Wood in her play Housewife 49. It's an easy read.

There is a Free Two-Day Exhibition of Northamptonshire's Ideal Countrymen (HE Bates [HE] and DJ Watkins [BB]) at Lamport Hall, NN6 9HD on 21 & 22 July 2018. Hours are 10am-4.30pm each day. The BB Society and the HE group join together at Lamport Hall to bring some accomplished authors, artists, historians, actors and others together to celebrate the Country's Literary and Artistic heritage of 'BB' and 'HE'. Visit our U3A website for details of the whole programme or the www.bbsociety.co.uk or www.lamporthall.co.uk websites for more details.

Linda Walker

Quote of the month

A new feature, and if you have a favourite quote which you would like included, please let me know and I will see what I can do.

One of my favourites from those master poets, Viv Stanshall and Neil Innes of the Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band, authors of such classics as "My Pink Half of the Drainpipe" (wonder how many of you remember them?), is: "*No matter who you vote for, the government always wins*".

U3A MONTHLY MEETINGS

Speakers for 2018

If you, or a friend, have had experience as a speaker at other groups on topics which you think would be of interest to our U3A members then please contact the Speaker Secretary.

Note: - The Speakers may be subject to change

Speakers for 2018

Jul 18 th	Hunters of the sky. A wonderful audio-visual experience with breathtaking photography about birds of prey	Jennifer Anderson
Aug 15 th	From Leeches to Laxatives A lighthearted and fun talk looking at the weird and wonderful cures offered by Victorian Quack Doctors.	Tricia Thompson
Sep 19 th	“It’s Rushden Feast again m’duck.” Anita will talk about memories of living in Rushden and promote her book.	Anita Howard
Oct 17 th	Topic TBA	Leigh Bishop
Nov 21 st	A photography special.	Tom Way
Dec 12 th	The complete history of Christmas.	Mike Kennedy
<i>Please note this is the 2nd Wednesday, not the 3rd.</i>	<i>A colleague of Lesley who you may remember as Nell Gwynn so expect something a little different. Please note this is a week early, the 2nd Wednesday, not the 3rd.</i>	

Speakers for 2019

Jan 16 th	The Little Book of Monarchs. A wonderful, fascinating, amusing and accurate guide to English Monarchs.	Tony Boullemeir
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GROUP	VENUE	MORNING	AFTERNOON
A Little Aloud	Alternate Fridays		
Badminton	The Pemberton Centre	Tuesday 10.00-12.00	
Badminton for Fun	The Pemberton Centre	Tuesday 09.00-10.00	Friday 12.00-13.00
Bird Watching	Various	1 st Tuesday	
Bridge (Beginners)	Leader's Home		Alt. Mondays 14.00-16.00
Bridge (Social)	Leader's Home		2 nd & 4 th Tue 13.30-15.30
Canasta	Rushden Bowls Club	Mondays 10.00-12.00	
Classical Music Appreciation	Leader's Homes		Last Wed 14.00-16.00
Computing and Technology	St Peters RC Church Hall, 1 Hayway		1 st Wed and 3 rd Thur 13.00-15.00
Country Dancing	H\F WMC		Alt Mon 14.00-15.30
Country Park Walks	Various Parks	2 nd Sunday 10.30	
Crib and Solo Whist	Windmill Club		Alt Mondays 19.00-21.00
Cycling multi groups	Stanwick Lakes	Every Monday	
Days Out Car Share	Ad hoc	No Fixed Venue	
Digital Photography A	Rushden Hall	2 nd & 4 th Wed 10.00 to 12.00	
Digital Photography B	Ringstead Village Hall NN14 4DA		1 st & 3 rd Fri 14.00-16.00
Driving	On the Road	Various	Various
Family History	St. Peters RC Church Hall		3 rd Tue 14.00-16.00
Garden	Rushden Hall and Visits	Garden visits in Summer. Otherwise Hall	2 nd Thu 14.00-16.00
Golf	Various	Fortnightly	Various
Guitar Monday Group	Monday	Full Gospel Chur	13.00 – 16.00
Guitar Beginners	Various	Thursdays	
Guitar Improvers	ASDA Training room		Tue 17.00-19.00
Handicrafts	Rushden Town Bowls Club		4 th Thu 14.00-16.00
History	Winter Months Full Gospel Church Hall, otherwise Trips		1 st Thu 14.00-15.30
Holiday Spanish (Beginners)	Alternate Mondays	10.00-12.00	
Holiday Spanish (Intermediate)	Alternate Wednesdays	10.00-12.00	

GROUP	VENUE	MORNING	AFTERNOON
Home Dining	Various	Twice per Month varying days	
Jewellery Making	Members' Homes		3 rd Mon 13.30-15.30
Knit and Natter	Leaders Home	Alt Mon 10.00-12.00	
Mahjong	Windmill Club		1 st and 3 rd Friday 19.00 – 21.00
Non-Fiction Books	Leaders Home		3 rd Monday 14.00 – 16.00
Painting for Pleasure	Coleman's Craft Warehouse		Alternate Mon 14.00
Philosophy	Various		3 rd Mon 13.30-15.00
Play Reading	Higham Ferrers Library		1 st Tue 13.15-
Popular Music Appreciation	Leader's Home	Alt Fri 10.00-12.00	
Reading Bookmarks	Higham Ferrers Library	2 nd Wednesday	
Rock & Blues Appreciation	Leader's Home		Last Thursday 2-4pm
Scrabble	Residents Lounge, Kilburn Place Higham Road Rushden		Alt Tue 14.00-16.00
Sequence Dancing	Heritage Halls Park Road		Alt Thu 14.00-16.00
Settlements A	The Vestry Hall, St Mary's Church Rushden		4 th Tue 14.00-16.00
Settlements B	Rushden Hall, Hall Park		2 nd Wed 14.00-16.00
Sewing	Group Leader's Home	3 rd Thursday	
Singing for Fun	Rushden Hall, Hall Park		Alt Thu 14.00-16.00
Special Events	Various	Various	
Sunday Lunch	Every 2 Months	Venue varies	
Table Tennis	Pemberton Centre	1 st ,2 nd & 4 th Wed at 13.00	
Ten Pin Bowling	Wellingborough AMF Bowl	Alt Fridays 10.00 to 12.00	
Ukulele	Rushden Transport Club	13.30-15.30	Every Monday
Video Editing	Leaders Home	2 nd & 4 th Tue 10.00- 12.00	
Walking	Various	Various	
Wine and Dine	Various	Various	
Wine Appreciation	Leader's Home		4 th Tuesday & 4 th Thurs 14.00-16.00