

## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

After discovering debris-covered stairs, British archaeologist Howard Carter & his crew entered the 4-room Egyptian tomb of 18-year-old King Tutankhamen on 26/11/1922.

Parker Brothers introduced the world to the Monopoly game on 5/11/1935.

X-rays: On 8/11/1895 Wilhelm Röntgen, a German professor of physics, discovered X-ray, while experimenting with electricity.

### NOVEMBER FACTS:

- 21st is the 325th day of the year;
- the mineral is Topaz with the chemical formula  $Al_2SiO_4(F, OH)_2$ ; which comes in many colours: blue, yellow, pink, green, white, purple, brown, grey, red, orange;
- the flower is chrysanthemum.
- According to Chinese horoscopes the day of the November monthly meeting (21st) is an auspicious day for sacrifices and tearing down buildings but avoid weddings or funerals!



**PLEASE NOTE: BECAUSE OF CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR THIS YEAR'S FINAL MONTHLY MEETING WILL BE A WEEK EARLIER THAN USUAL ON WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER.**



**From the Chair:** What a start to my first year as Chairman!

I start of course with an apology for the lack of notices being read out at the Pemberton Centre although the notices were, of course, on screen repeating prior to the meeting. These notices are on screen in order that you may grab a paper and pen and scribble the details at your leisure. Being asked to vacate in such a swift manner has never happened before. We simply ran over time and with Freedom Leisure being so accommodating over letting us remain a while longer I did not want to upset them however frustrated we might feel.

As those who were present at the AGM you will have seen me as a rabbit lost in headlights. I can only say in my defence that I have been wholly concentrating on finding us a new home. I ask you all to bear with us as we arrange the move into the sports hall temporarily whilst we wait for the railway sheds to undergo some refurbishment. This new venue when ready will hopefully see us in our new home for many years to come. I also acknowledge and thank Jim and Maggie Morrison who join the committee as co-opted members giving us our full complement. Thank you also to those who have opted to serve on the committee for the coming year.

Optimistically yours

Angela.

Chairman

## EVENTS:

### **Turkey & Tinsel ~ 3rd to 6th December**

There are still a few places left on this brilliant 4-day, 3-night break to Bournemouth. Price **£225** (no single supplement) includes coach trip there and back. On "Christmas Eve" (3rd December) we have a 3 course meal, followed by entertainment. On "Christmas Day" (4th December) free time to visit Bournemouth. In the evening you will enjoy a full Christmas dinner complete with Presents, Crackers & Wine. "Boxing Day" (5th December) starts with a day out to Longleat to include a tour of the House and the Light Festival followed by a Bucks Fizz reception on return to the Trouville Hotel. We leave on Thursday 6th and if the weather is good we hope to stop at a Christmas Market, and return home around 8 pm. Payment required **in full** by the end of October.

### **The Bodyguard ~ Thursday 21st March @ Milton Keynes**

We have 10 tickets still available for this matinee performance. Price £34. Payment required **in full** by the end of October.

### **Les Miserables ~ Wednesday 5th June @ Milton Keynes**

There are a few tickets left for this matinee performance at **£57.50**. Payment required **in full** by the end of October.

To sign up for any of these Events, please see Jean at the Treasurer's Table

### **Dine at Home**

This month I am having a themed Indian meal with various curries and side dishes. Three courses plus a glass of wine & a cup of tea/coffee for £10. There are still 4 places available for Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October. See me at the Treasurer's table to sign up for this or for the November meal.  
Jean Mole.

### **Saving Stamps from Christmas Cards:**

One of our members has been saving stamps from Christmas Cards and now has at least 2 years' worth. Is anyone interested in having these for whatever reason or maybe for collects them for charity?

Contact the webmaster: [webmaster@highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk) for further details.



**Computer Group:** The next computer group will meet on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December and will be the final of 2018. The January meeting will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at the usual venue.

Jim Morrison.



### **Beading/Jewellery group:**

A happy and peaceful festive season to everyone. Come along to the monthly meetings in Nov and Dec to do some very special Xmas shopping. Handicrafts and Beading groups will be offering some of the lovely things they have made during the year. With the festive season in mind we are taking a break until the next meeting which will be 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019 at the home of one of the members. Sherry Calvert.



### **Handicraft Group:**

At the next handicraft group meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November we will be making Christmas Crackers. New members and visitors are welcome.

Contact Diana Turner 01933 314425.

### **Craft Sale**

At both the November 21st and December 12th monthly meetings at the Pemberton Centre the Handicraft Group will have a Sales Table. We shall have a variety of items for sale including: Christmas and Greeting Cards, Beaded Jewellery, Little Boxes and other handcrafted items for sale. All items made by Handicraft Group members.



**Settlement B:** We had our last meeting this year at Rushden Hall when Chris and Linda Walker talked about Aldwinkle and Wadenhoe. Chris dealt with photos and Linda told us about their visits to the villages. They took some beautiful photographs both in the cold weather and in the heatwave that we had this Summer. They had collected a lot of booklets and photographic pieces which the members of the group looked at. Chris had a booklet regarding the upkeep of the Churches in Northamptonshire and he is going to send it to me so that I can send it out to our members as many of our visits are centered around the Church. The picture is of formerly the workmen's cottages in Wadenhoe, Linda thought the boss treated his workers very well.



We will not have a meeting in December, so our next meeting will be on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2019 when I will talk about Raunds.

If I don't see the members of our group, I would like to wish them a happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

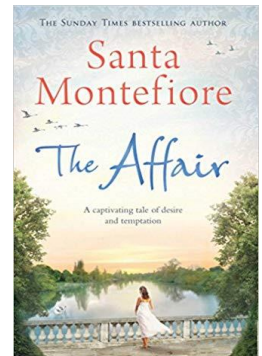
Chris Holden



## **BookMarks Reading Group:**

### **The Affair by Santa Montefiore: Chosen and reviewed by Chris Holden**

When I started reading this book I was dismayed as it seemed to be of the 'Chick Lit' genre - a group of wealthy friends, and constant reference to the designer clothes they wore, even when they took the children to school! As this book was my choice I soldiered on, and found the book quite interesting. Angelica is a children's author, happily married to a banker who is not very interested in her books. She meets a charismatic South African wine grower, Jack, who takes her for a drink, and then later they exchange emails. Angelica does not expect to fall in love with Jack and at first does not reply to his emails, but then finds she is eagerly hoping there will be a reply. They meet for a meal in a small restaurant out in the sticks where they hope not to meet anyone. However, a woman on the edge of the group sees them, comes over and she introduces Jack as her publisher. Jack wants her to go to South Africa and, low and behold, a chance of a book tour turns up and Angelica goes. She misses her two children a lot but looks forward to seeing Jack. Her husband notes a difference in her demeanour and compliments her on her dress. While she is in South Africa, Jack wants her to visit his vineyards and his wife! I won't say any more, only to say it ends surprisingly and Angelica has a good friend to give her support.



A couple of members of the group didn't finish the book and generally were not greatly taken by it, one finding most of the characters 'quite detestable'. Santa Montefiore has written a lot of books and I have her 'Songs of Love and War' at home. I must have bought it at a Charity event and I wonder if I will enjoy it!

*'And now for something completely different'... our next book is 'The Taxidermist's Daughter' by Kate Mosse. This is a wonderful Gothic romp of a novel, set in 1912 in the ghostly marshes of West Sussex. Just right for a spooky Halloween read then!*

Dominica Jones



**Rock and Blues Group:** Next meeting Thursday 29th November at the group leader's home. The topic this month is Animals. Should be an interesting one. If anyone is interested we still have a couple of spaces. Contact the leader Jim Morrison.: [webmaster@highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk).



## Days Out and Car Share:

Contact the Group Leaders who are not attending the next meeting (spidar.girl@btinternet.com 01933 387892) if you want to be added to the mailing list. Also contact the leaders if you have any ideas for trips.

We have just had our last trip of the year to Waddesdon Manor and there will be a report in the December newsletter as the trip fell outside the deadline for the November newsletter.

## Sunday 24/3/19 10am-7pm for film buffs ..'Renown' pictures run Channel 81 Talking Pictures.

A variety of films, shorts and Celebrity Guests from the world of Film and TV we all love, on stage throughout the day and all included in the ticket price! A truly great day out for fans of vintage British film from the 1940s, 1950s & 1960s.

The event address is: The Alban Arena, Civic Centre, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3LD.

We have 2 spaces in our car, would like to join us for a Sunday out? 10am until 7pm. Parking is £1 next-door to venue (see above) all day and there is a cafe at the venue.

Book independently - £25 or £20 if you are a Renown Club member 08081788212. It's free to join. Offers or requests for transport please.

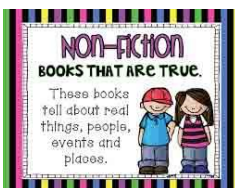


**A Little aloud** has 1 space.

See website for details Contact Chris or Linda for details. Ideas of trips and to go on our mailing list.contact 01933 387892



We have been to local attractions and further afield to N. Trust properties. The coach trips have been very successful. We are always looking for places to go. Please let us know if there is anywhere you visit that you think will be of interest to our members. We prefer coach journey times of 75mins or thereabouts. Car share trips and local bus pass trip venue ideas are welcome too. These attract smaller numbers. Good when you are new to U3A. Watch this space for 2019 trips.



**Non Fiction Book group.** Next meeting 7/1/19 Our current book is

“Family Life: Birth, Death, and the whole darn thing.” by Elizabeth Luard. For the Luard family growing up travelling around Europe, life was a series of adventures. Please contact leaders if you wish to join. Contact Chris or Linda.



**The wine and dine group** still has vacancies for their Christmas Lunch at Knuston Hall on Monday 17th December 12 noon for 12.30pm. Cost £20 for three courses. Feel free to bring a friend, even if they are not members of U3A! Contact Lynn and Bob McIntosh on 01933 311342 to book.



**Birdwatching:** It was a pleasant autumnal morning for our November meeting at Daventry Country Park, a new venue based around a British Waterways reservoir supplying the Grand Union Canal. Initially things weren't that encouraging with only the normal waterfowl and a few snipe on the first part of the walk. However the trees were in splendid autumn colour even though they blocked views of the reservoir. It was only when we were about two thirds of the way round and looking over the inflow end that things picked up. Here a large flock of golden plover were on the mud along with lapwings while black tailed godwit and green sandpiper skirted the margins on the far side. At one point the lapwings and golden plover took off and we were able to see how they looked completely different in flight. Continuing back towards the dam we glimpsed a few female goosander through the trees but decided to carry on to the dam so we could get better views. Here close scrutiny revealed that one was in fact a female red breasted merganser, quite a rarity on inland waters as it normally winters along the coast. We finished with excellent views of a great spotted woodpecker from the dam before have a light lunch in the on-site café.



Chris Ebdon



**Wine Appreciation:** Last month we tasted flavours of Beaujolais. Enjoyed two from George Duboeuf, one a Fleurie and one a Brouilly, both made from the Gamay grape but different areas. Beaujolais Nouveau is out now does any one know where we can buy any locally? Looking forward to tasting Port and Madeira this month.

Steve Evans 01933 356784



**Singing For Fun:** We are currently rehearsing for our Christmas Concert which will be held at the Hall of St Peter the Apostle Church Rushden on Friday 14th December. There will be Christmas songs and carols plus some amusing items and audience participation. Doors open at 6.30pm for a start at 7pm. Tickets are £5 to include tea or coffee and a mince pie or similar. Tickets are obtainable from either Chris on 07778836094 or Gerry on 01933 770756.

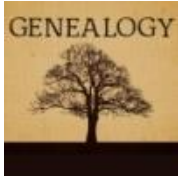
Gerry Burnham



**Driving:** Christmas is coming so is the bad weather (eventually). Do you need a brush up on your winter driving skills.

Make sure your tyres have lots of tread, a warm coat and boots on board, plus a high vis jacket in case of emergencies. A spade and something to eat/drink if you are travelling a distance. I will be at the Pemberton on Wednesday or phone me on 01933 356784.

Steve Evans



**Family History Group:** The October meeting was yet another in which members shared their research and proved how far, historically and geographically, they have travelled. The meeting was called "Hands across the Sea", and Margaret and Kathy both gave presentations. Margaret showed yet again that once you find those long lost relatives across the Atlantic, they can provide information, photographs and oral history about the area in which you grew up and of which you were unaware. Kathy's tales included a runaway marriage, a home now included in historical tours in California, a disorderly house, and a highly regarded Antarctic explorer. Thanks to both of them for a fascinating afternoon.

On 20th November we will have our Christmas meeting, to avoid clashes with all the other Christmas pressures in late December. We shall have a Christmas Family History Challenge, which should stretch the research muscles and provide a few Ho Ho Ho's.

We already have a busy schedule for next year and an excellent beginner's pack to help you get started, and our members are always happy to help , so please get in touch if you think this might be for you.  
Sharon Safford



**Digital Photography B:** At our latest meeting on 16th November I gave a presentation to the group on underwater photography, with some examples showing what not to do as well as successful photographs.

Our next meeting is on 21st December at Stanwick village hall from 2-4pm. The subject will be "red" so if you have any photographs, either on a memory stick or prints that fit the bill please bring them along. As this meeting will be very close to Christmas and the New Year, we will be having an informal discussion about what the group wants to achieve next year, and what subjects we want to include in our programme, whilst munching on some mince pies.

We are always looking for new members, so please come along and you will be made very welcome. Keith Saunders



**Knit and Natter:** The knit and natter group is still going well. We have recently been knitting squares to be turned into blankets for a care home. We also knitted some of the pink ribbons that Crazy Hats required for their displays in October. We also do our own projects. Here is a photo of a knitted Unicorn that was finished recently. We still have room for one more person in our group. Please contact Kathy Arnold for details.



**Country Park Walks: Sunday 11 November we walked at Sywell Valley Way Country Park, Ecton.** It was a glorious morning with bright sunshine, and the changing autumn colours of the trees and deep blue of the reservoir water were quite breath taking. The hard standing path along the reservoir has now been extended through the arboretum which is very much better as this used to be muddy underfoot. Seats have also been provided with views over the reservoir and beyond with uninterrupted views. After the 2.5 mile walk, we all had a healthy appetite and some of us went on to lunch at the World End pub, Ecton where the service and food and prices were excellent

**SUNDAY 9 December - Stanwick Lakes Country Park, NN9 6GY**, just off the A45 Stanwick roundabout, meeting for the start of the walk at 10.30am outside the Visitor Centre for a circular walk of about 2 miles along hard standing paths where we can take the time as we walk to admire the scenery and the birds on the lakes. We are not ramblers, but a friendly group walking at a comfortable pace to suit everyone.

For those who like to have lunch after the walk, it will be 12.30pm at the Star & Garter Pub, The Green, Chelveston NN9 6AJ which is just a short drive from the park. If you just want to do part of the walk, or only join us for lunch, you are very welcome. Lifts can be arranged from Higham and Rushden.

As I will need to firm up the numbers for the lunch booking, could you please telephone or text me by the 4th Dec, if you would like to have lunch.

We are a friendly social group so if you are a slow walker, we will wait for you to catch up. Any member/s of the u3a are very welcome to join us on this walk as a sample to see if they would like to become a member of the group.

Sylvia Wright



## PECAN MINCEMEAT PIE (A favourite for Thanksgiving in the States).

### Ingredients

**For the pastry** (or use a shop-bought pastry case)

250g plain flour, plus extra for dusting

140g cold butter & 2 tbsp golden caster sugar

1 tbsp milk & zest 1 orange, finely grated

**For the filling**

300g pecan nuts & 2 eggs

100g golden syrup & 50g butter, melted

400g homemade mincemeat (or a 411g-bought jar)

**For the brandy cream**

300ml double cream & 2 tbsp icing sugar

4 tbsp brandy, a splash of vanilla extract & large pinch of cinnamon

### Method

For the pastry (if not using a shop-bought case), put all the ingredients in a processor & mix together, then knead into a ball, wrap in film & chill for 30 mins. Roll out on a lightly floured surface & line a tart tin. Chill for 30 mins. Heat oven to 190C/170C fan/gas 5. Prick the pastry base & line with parchment & baking beans or some dry rice. Place on a baking sheet & bake for 20 mins until golden around the edges. Remove parchment & beans & return to the oven for 10 mins until the base is biscuit-brown. While the case is baking, make the filling. Finely chop half the pecans by hand or by pulsing in a processor, then tip into a bowl. Mix in eggs, golden syrup & melted butter & mix until combined, then stir in the mincemeat. When the pie case is cooked & cooled, spoon the mix into the case & top with the reserved whole pecans. Bake for 20-25 mins until just set, then remove from the oven. To make the brandy cream, whisk together the cream & the icing sugar until holding soft peaks, then gently whisk in the brandy, vanilla & cinnamon. Serve the pie warm with a dollop of the cream.



### Quote of the month

Instead of a quote as November is the month of Remembrance Day, copied here is the poem written by the Poet Laureate for the occasion:

#### The Wound in Time



It is the wound in Time. The century's tides,  
chanting their bitter psalms, cannot heal it.  
Not the war to end all wars; death's birthing place;  
the earth nursing its ticking metal eggs, hatching  
new carnage. But how could you know, brave

as belief as you boarded the boats, singing?  
The end of God in the poisonous, shrapneled air.  
Poetry gargling its own blood. We sense it was love  
you gave your world for; the town squares silent,  
awaiting their cenotaphs. What happened next?

War. And after that? War. And now? War. War.  
History might as well be water, chastising this shore;  
for we learn nothing from your endless sacrifice.  
Your faces drowning in the pages of the sea.

© Carol Ann Duffy, 2018



## 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

<b>Nov 21st</b>	<b>A photography special.</b>	<b>Tom Way</b>
Dec 12th	The complete history of Christmas.	
<b>Please note this is the 2nd Wednesday, not the 3rd.</b>	A colleague of Lesley who you may remember as Nell Gwynn so expect something a little different.	Mike Kennedy
	Please note this is a week early, the 2nd Wednesday, not the 3rd.	

### Speakers for 2019

Jan 16th	The Little Book of Monarchs. A wonderful, fascinating, amusing and accurate guide to English Monarchs.	Tony Boullemeir
Feb 20th	The Life and Times of Franz Lehar and The Merry Widow. With video, music and artworks.	David Price
Mar 20 <sup>th</sup>	Ooh Matron: The History of the Carry On Films. With video, music, photographs, etc.	Steve Dimmer
Apr 17th	Discovering MacDonald Gill Architect, Artist and Mapmaker, Illustrated Talk. MacDonald 'Max' Gill (1884-1947, younger brother of the sculptor and typographer Eric Gill), was an architect, graphic designer, and lettered, best known for his pictorial maps. He created painted maps for houses such as Kelmarsh Hall and Lindisfarne Castle, magnificent murals for Cunard liners, and eye-catching publicity posters for organisations such as London Underground. An enduring legacy is his alphabet for the Imperial War Graves Commission used on all British military headstones since the First World War.	Caroline Walker
May 15th	Sing a Century: Songs and Instruments written and recorded over the last century. Performing at least one Song from each decade. It's a lovely musical journey spanning 100 years! Everything from Cole Porter and Charlie Chaplin to Elton John and Adele.	Andy Smith
Jun 19th	.	

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
Badminton for Beginners & Improvers	The Pemberton Centre		Wednesday 1400-1500
Bird Watching	Various	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	
Bridge (Beginners)	Leader's Home		Alt. Mondays 14.00-16.00
Bridge (Social)	Leader's Home		2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tue 13.30-15.30
Canasta	Rushden Bowls Club	Mondays 10.00-12.00	
Classical Music Appreciation			
Computing and Technology	St Peters RC Church Hall, 1 Hayway		1 <sup>st</sup> Wed and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thur 13.00-15.00
Country Dancing	H\F WMC		Alt Mon 14.00-15.30
Country Park Walks	Various Parks	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed 10.00 to 12.00	
Digital Photography B	Stanwick Village Hall NN9 6QJ		1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri 14.00-16.00
Driving	On the Road	Various	Various
Family History	St. Peters RC Church Hall		3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue 14.00-16.00
Garden	Rushden Hall and Visits	Garden visits in Summer. Otherwise Hall	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Thu 14.00-16.00
History	Winter Months Full Gospel Church Hall, otherwise Trips		1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 13.30-15.30
Knit and Natter	Leader's Home	Alt Mon 10.00-12.00	
Mahjong	Windmill Club		1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday 19.00 – 21.00
Non-Fiction Books	Leader's Home		3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday 14.00 – 16.00
Painting for Pleasure	Coleman's Craft Warehouse		Alternate Mon 14.00
Philosophy	Various		3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 13.30-15.00
Play Reading	Higham Ferrers Library		1 <sup>st</sup> Tue 13.15-
Popular Music Appreciation	Leader's Home	Alt Fri 10.00-12.00	
Reading Bookmarks	Higham Ferrers Library	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Tue 14.00-16.00
Settlements B	Rushden Hall, Hall Park		2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed 14.00-16.00
Sewing	Group Leader's Home	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> 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	Leader's Home	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tue 10.00-12.00	
Walking	Various	Various	
Wine and Dine	Various	Various	
Wine Appreciation	Leader's Home		4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs 14.00-16.00

