



March 2022



NEW VENUE

FLUTTERS BINGO,

(College Street, just off Rushden High Street.)

Monday 21st February

Doors open at 1:30 and the speaker will start promptly at 2:00.

For members needing disabled access, you can access this by the brown wooden doors to left of the front of the building and hiding in the same left corner is a doorbell. If you ring that someone will come and let you in.

Chairman's chat:

As I write this the Ukrainian people are in exceptionally serious difficulties caused by one man's Hitleresque attack: particularly odd given that his proclaimed motive for the invasion is "de-Nazification" of Ukraine. I am sure many of you will want to do something to help the affected people, however little that may be. Charity Commission rules prohibit us as a u3a from donating to another charity, but each of us individually can do something.

In my opinion the best way to help is to make a donation to one of the charities providing humanitarian relief in Ukraine, and the simplest way to do this is to give to the Disasters Emergency Committee at:

<https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>. Your money will be shared between various charities, you can increase the value of your donation by using Gift Aid, and the Government has said it will match all donations up to £25 million.

If you decide you would rather contribute directly to a specific charity, please ensure that it is a reputable charity by checking at:

<https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search> and PLEASE do not just click on a link in an email you receive. I received one today from someone on a Romanian website, asking for donations in cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin and claiming to be an Official Ukraine Government request for help. Whilst I do not know that to be a false claim, I am not sure enough to send them any money (and I don't have any cryptocurrency in any case!)

If you are thinking of sending physical items like blankets, please be aware of the advice on the Government website that "Unsolicited donations of goods, although well-meant, can obstruct supply chains and delay more urgent life-saving assistance from getting through". There are organisations across the country gathering essential supplies, such as clothes, first aid and sanitary products. Many charities and community groups will have lists of items they need so please respond if you are able to help, but also remember that charities with experience of responding to disasters are best placed to reach victims on the ground. Let us all hope that this humanitarian crisis is resolved quickly.

Jim Morrison

Front of House

Hope you are enjoying our new venue. Any thoughts or comments please let me know. As you will see when you arrive, the Group Leaders have moved into the hall. They have bigger tables and bigger aisles. So, hopefully, this will allow them to spread themselves out and be more available for all members. Group leaders please arrive around 1.15pm to give you time to set up before everyone else arrives. As this is our third meeting at Flutters, we are sorting out what works and what doesn't. If you have any useful comments, please let the Committee know.
Thanks

Steve Evans 01933 356784

SPECIAL REPORT

Brief History of the Silver Surfers Band – see Addendum.

If you know of a u3a member who is celebrating a special anniversary, or who deserves a special vote of thanks please let us know via the contact form on the website. On a more sombre note, if you know of a member who has passed away, please use the same contact form so that we can send a condolence card to the next of kin/family.

The Role of Publicity:

The key aspects of this role include:

- Advertising our Monthly Meetings in local newspapers/journals/social media (e.g. Northants Telegraph, Raunds Roundup, Irchester Village Voice and Village Connect, plus Spotted Rushden on Facebook). Further expansion into other publications is also planned.
- Displaying the Higham & Rushden u3a posters on local noticeboards (e.g. Rushden and Higham Council noticeboards, local libraries and doctors' surgeries). These posters are designed and produced by our Newsletter Editor, Maggie Morrison.
- Arranging and working on our display stand at various local supermarkets (eg Rushden Asda and Waitrose). These events allow us to make direct contact with prospective new members and have proved to be very successful.

Gerald Boxall



Handicrafts:

Our next Handicrafts meeting is on Thursday, 24th March, 2.00 pm at Rushden Bowls Club. Susan will be hosting the meeting and we will be making Easter cards and there is an opportunity to make a couple of other Easter-themed items. You will need to bring a ruler, pencil, scissors and a cutting mat or anything suitable to protect the table from glue. The cost will be approximately £1.50 to £2.

Kathy and I look forward to seeing you there.

Jenny.



Special Events Group:

Our next special event is the musical show "Singing in the Rain" at the Milton Keynes Theatre on Wednesday 13 April, afternoon matinee. All the tickets have been sold, but sometimes we get last minute cancellations so, if you would like to see the show, just put your name down as a reserve.

Check our Special Events group page for details of the coach trips this year, *Wednesday 18 May to Syon House* for a guided tour of the House, Grand Conservatory and Gardens, and then *Thursday 14 July to Kew Gardens* with breath-taking natural beauty and 330 acres of gardens and greenhouses.

Price per person & itinerary to follow, contact Jean Mole or Sylvia Wright to reserve a place on any of the trips.

Sylvia Wright



Country Dancing:

The group is still meeting regularly at the Working Man's Club in Higham Ferrers.

The facilities are very good with a good floor for dancing and a stage. When numbers permit, we can once again hold our party events with live music.

On the 7th of March we held a luncheon at the Star and Garter in Chelveston. It was well attended and made a very pleasurable afternoon. It is hoped a few more of the pre-covid members will return to enable the group to expand the variety of dances available.

I would like to thank all our regular members for their support during a difficult time.

Do come and join us for a light-hearted hour and a half. It may not be your favourite pastime but come and have a go. You might enjoy it.

Happy dancing.

Contact me on 01933 622827 for more information.

George Hearnden.



MMFC Group:

The group meets every Monday to discuss the weekend's football, as well as some football history(!), over a cup of coffee. The venue is not permanent, and we book on a week-to-week basis. So if you want to join us, please check with Mike, the group leader on 01933

631531, first.

Mike Gibbon



Scrabble:

We play on alternate Tuesdays between 2pm and 4pm in the Waitrose Community Room.

We welcome new members for a friendly contest which keeps the brain cells active. If you wish to join us, contact John Ellingham or

Sally Morton via the u3a website.

John



History Group:

Thursday 7 April - meeting at the Masonic Hall, Rushden. Our Historian speaker is Richard Gibbons on "D day and the Normandy aftermath". Enjoy an afternoon listening to the speaker, socializing with a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits between 2pm-4pm. Entry £2.50 pp to cover the speaker, hall hire, & refreshments.

Monday 28 March - Coach Trip to Lincoln Castle is FULL, but you can put your name on the reserve list in case of any cancellations.

Monday 25 April - Coach Trip £18 pp all inclusive. There are 3 seats still available if you are interested in this trip for a private guided tour of the Oliver Cromwell Museum, town hall and historical buildings in Huntingdon, followed by the free time afternoon in Ely.

Thursday 23 June - Coach tri =, £23 pp all inclusive. Free time in the morning at Banbury to enjoy the market, museum, Tooley's Boatyard and the shops combined with the afternoon at Broughton Castle for a private guided tour of the Castle. We will start to collect the money at the April History Group meeting (we need a minimum of 35 people for the trip).

To reserve a place contact Sylvia Wright or Gillian Nursaw-Smith



Badminton for Fun

Tuesday 9-10am, and
Friday 12-1pm

We are looking for new members to join our very friendly, group of players.

Qualification required is to be a reasonable badminton player

Please come along and join us at the stated times above and have some 'fun'.

Jennifer Carr



Computer Group A:

1st & 3rd Wednesdays 10am till 12pm

The group next meets on Wednesday 6th April at the normal time of 10:00 –12:00.

We have space for new members.

For details contact Jim Morrison using the contact form on the H&R website.

Jim Morrison



Computer Group B:

2nd & 4th Wednesdays 11am till 1pm

Note: New timing for all sessions of this group will now always be held from 11:00am until 1:00pm throughout the year on request of the members.

Due to periods of absence of the leader in the next few months, Please check the calendar on the H&R website for actual reopening dates.

During the period that this group is closed, Jim with Computer Group A will welcome any members from group B to come along with their mobiles, but topics will be based on Winows10, 11 and PC.

Although actually out of the country, I shall continue to be contactable through all communication channels so please feel free to ping me (even with +10hrs time difference).

Email: c101776.3365@icloud.com

Phone: 07850 789447.

Alan Nixson Computer Group



Rock & Blues Group:

NEW MEMBERS SOUGHT!

Our next meeting is on Thursday 31st March at 14:00 hours at the leader's house and the topic is Father(s).

This is a friendly and relaxed group for those whose musical tastes are firmly rooted in the decades between the 60s and the 80s and who get together to listen to tracks they have chosen for a different topic each month.

We have space for new members so if you would be interested please let me know. See me or Maggie (at the newsletter table) at the monthly meeting or come along and see for yourself.

Jim Morrison 07403557556



Bookmarks Again:

The Man Who Died Twice By Richard Osman. The review is written by Carol.

This month we read the second novel in the Thursday Murder Club series. The club comprises a group of elderly residents of a nice retirement village who meet weekly to discuss/deride the lack of success by the law in catching members of the criminal fraternity. As with all groups there is a leader and this seems to be Elizabeth who, in her working years, held a top public position.

The story kicks off with when Elizabeth receives a letter from someone from her past who was, supposedly, deceased. The three other characters in the group are Joyce, a seemingly meeker character than Joyce, and Ibrahim and Ron. The writing by Richard Osman, who is a generation below his characters, shows much empathy with a deep understanding of older peoples' perspectives on life who don't want to retire gracefully from the active and thinking world around them. After all life is for living while you are here.

As the plot thickens some undercover characters appear amid the sleazy world of drug dealing. When one of the team is physically and brutally attacked, we see the deep friendship formed within the group through their shared interest as Ron refuses to leave his friend's bedside. Two police officers we met in the first book reappear and now happily accept that elderly people can be of great help to their investigations.

There are some strange twists within the story and at some points it rather reminded me of the tv series – Last of the Summer Wine – but with a more serious side. The four friends march on regardless of reality or normality – and at times the storyline does become unreal. At one point I considered the author unjust to have a seemingly innocent character murdered but he did make it difficult to guess the outcome. Needless to say, the man did die twice!

Ann Kemp



Wine Appreciation:

February's wine tasting was looking back on the olden days when wine was a foreign word.

Most families, including ours, did not drink wine, but when they did; Liebfraumilch, Mateus Rosé and Chianti in a straw bottle were high on the list.

We tasted updated versions which are available from local supermarkets and were not as bad as we remember.

Good times reminiscing.

Steve and Denise Evans 01933 356784



Driving:

Are you feeling a bit rusty or cautious about driving after lockdown? I am a retired Driving Instructor, Advanced instructor and RoSPA trained so if you need any help or advice, please email dsgrangeway@sky.com and leave a phone number and I will be in touch.

There is no charge, and it can be as little as a phone call or several hours in your car as required.

Steve Evans 01933 356784



W.A.L.T: Would Anyone Like To:

If you are new to our U3A and maybe looking to make friends and socialise more, why not consider joining the " Would Anyone Like To?" Group. W.A.L.T. for short!

The group offers the opportunity to find people to share an event or activity with. ANYTHING AT ALL - because if you want to do it, then there's a good chance that others also will. What a shame it will be if you decide not to do something you really fancy, just because you don't want to do it alone. At present, our W.A.L.T. members are planning regular quizzes, a visit to a snowdrop festival, regular coffee mornings and a cinema trip. Other events are in the pipeline.

So, now that Spring is here and Covid isn't (well, hopefully and almost for both!!) why not ease yourself back into a social life with us?

Contact us through the website or at the monthly meeting at Flutters.

Janet and Ken. Group Leaders.



Garden Group:

The meeting on 14th April will be held at The Masonic Hall @ 2pm.

We have a quiz and plant swap, there are no restrictions on numbers so just turn up. Looking forward to seeing you all

then.

Lorraine Brown



Plant Swap



A Little Aloud

A Little Aloud meets on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month at the leaders' home between 10.15 - 12.15 or on Zoom 10.00 & 10.45 - 11.30. New members welcome..

Please contact leaders for more information.

Linda and Chris Walker



Sunday Walk & Lunch Group:

The next venue and day to be arranged. All walks are weather permitting. Please check the u3a calendar at 8am on the day of the walk for late cancellation. The lunch will take place unless really adverse weather conditions occur. It's worth checking the weather forecast on the morning of the walk. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear. Country park paths are often uneven.

Essential - please book with Chris Ebdon for the walk, Linda for the lunch by emailing Grpscord@highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk

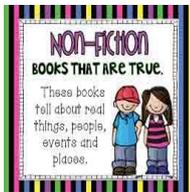


Sunday Lunch group:

Next meeting on the 27th of March (Mother's day) at the Priory, Wellingborough. 12.00 for 12 30. The Priory has an extensive menu plus Sunday carvery. New members to our u3a particularly welcome. Full at present

Please check with Linda Walker for cancellations

Grpscord@highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk.



Non-Fiction Group:

We have been meeting for about 2 years with members from H&R and Wellingborough u3as.

Our book choices are varied. Recently we have read biographies, travel and history, both newly published and from past years.

We meet at the leaders' home in Rushden on the 3rd Monday of each month 2-4pm, to discuss our choice of book and choose another. We use Zoom occasionally.

More information from Linda and Chris Walker:

Grpscord@highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk



u3a MONTHLY MEETINGS

Please note there is a small charge for non-members. Details can be found on our website or call 01933 522934 for further information.

Speakers

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.**

2022		
Date	Speaker	Topic
21 st Mar	Craig Fisher	Stranded in Gambo
You may have seen "Come From Away" the play about the small Newfoundland community who in the wake of 9/11, invited 7,000 air passengers from all over the world into their lives. Now hear the true-life experience from one of the passengers who was grounded in Canada.		
25 th Apr	Danielle Handley	I Did Not Know That
The talk looks at the history and origins of words and phrases, the societies that invented them and how they have become twisted/lost their meaning over time. For example, who originally came up with the phrase "a rolling stone gathers no moss" and did it always mean what it means today? Why do we talk about people receiving benefits to be living "on the dole"? Who is the Bob in "Bob's your uncle"?		
16 th May	John Hope	Time Through the Ages
20 th June	Neil Hanson	Ghost Writer for Celebrities
He has led an extraordinary life in his own right, but as a professional ghost-writer of over 60 published books, he has worked with a diverse collection of interesting people, including household names. His hugely entertaining talk gives us privileged glimpses into the hidden worlds of his ghosting clients. It is revelatory, insightful and very, very funny.		
18 th July	Paul Robbins	Great British Eccentrics
15 th Aug	Rev. Kelvin Woolmer	Nicker to Vicar
19 th Sep	Sandy Leong	Black Cats New Moons & Ladders
A belief in luck and fate are key components of superstitions and that they can be controlled by various actions of humans. Do you throw salt over your shoulder if you spill it; know that it's good luck if you see two magpies together; wonder if things didn't go as planned because it was Friday 13th and touch wood for good luck? But where did these beliefs originate?		
17 th Oct	Dr Michael Leach	Animals behaving badly.
21 st Nov		
12 th Dec		

GROUP DETAILS

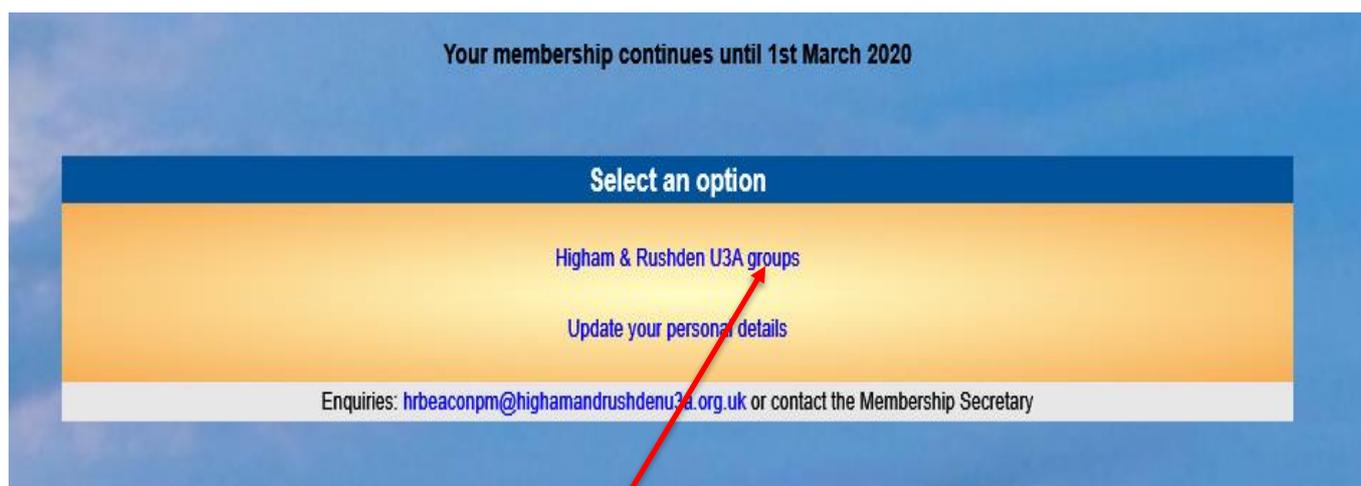
Most Group Leaders have tables at the monthly meeting where you can find out meet them and find out more information.

GROUP	VENUE/DAY	TIME
A Little Aloud	Alternate Wednesdays	2 nd & 4 th Wednesday on Zoom 10.00 & 11.00
Badminton Beginners & Improvers	Pemberton Centre	Wednesday 1400-1500
Badminton for fun	Pemberton Centre	Tuesday 09.00-10.00 & Friday 12.00-13.00
Bookmarks	Zoom	10.00-11.00 2 nd Wednesday every month
Canasta	Saxon Hall, Raunds	1 st & 3 rd Thursday 10.00-12.00
Computing/Technology Grp A	St Peters RC Church Hall Rushden	Mornings 10-12am 1 st & 3 rd Wednesday every month
Computing/Technology Grp B Beginners & Advanced		Mornings 10-12am 2 nd & 4 th Wednesday every month during British Summer Time & 11am -1pm in winter months
Country Dancing	HF WMC	Alternate Mondays 2 15-3 45pm
Country Park Walks	Various Parks	2 nd Sunday 10.30
Cycling multi-Groups	Rushden Lakes	Every Monday
Digital Photography A	Rushden Hall	2 nd & 4 th Wed 10.00 to 12.00
Driving	On the Rd	
Garden	To be advised	
Golf	Various	Alternate Wed & Fri
Guitar Improvers	ASDA Training room	Tue 17.00-19.00
Handicrafts	Rushden Bowls Club	4 th Thursday each month 2-4pm.
History	Masonic Hall, Rushden	1 st Thu 14.00-16.00
Home Dining	Various	Twice per Month varying days
Knit & Natter	Leader's Home	Alternate Mon 10.00-12.00
Mah-jong for fun	Windmill Club	1st & 3rd Friday 19.00 – 21.00
Meditation & Mindfulness - Currently on hold.		
MMFC	Rushden Golf Club	Weekly Mondays at 10am
Non-Fiction Books	Leader's Home	3rd Monday 14.15-16.00
Painting for Pleasure	Coleman's Craft Warehouse	Alternate Mondays 14.00
Play Reading	To be advised	1st Tue 13.15-
Continued...		

GROUP	VENUE	TIME
Reading Bookmarks	Waitrose Community Room	2nd Wednesday of the month
Rock & Blues Appreciation	Leader's Home	Last Thursday of the month 2-4pm
Scrabble	Masonic Hall, Rushden	2-4pm
Singing for Fun	Rushden Hall, Hall Park	Alternate Thu 14.00-16.00
Special Events	Various	Various
Sunday Lunch	Every two Months	Venue varies
Table Tennis	Pemberton Centre	Wed at 13.00
Ten Pin Bowling	AMF Bowl Wellingborough	Alternate Friday 1100-1300
Ukulele	Rushden Transport Club	13.30-15.30 Every Monday
Video Editing	Leader's Home	2nd & 4th Tues 10.00-12.00
W.A.L.T.	Various	Various
Walking	Various	Various
Wine & Dine	Various	Various
Wine Appreciation	Leader's Home	4th Tues & 4th Thurs 14.00-16.00

GROUP LEADER CONTACT DETAILS

In accordance with GDPR we don't publish contact details for group leaders on a publicly available website or newsletter. There is a contact form on the website which can be used to email group leaders and u3a officers. If you wish to telephone a group leader you will need to log into Beacon at <https://www.u3abeacon.org.uk/u3aportal.php?u3a=118&sc=LUDE>. You don't need a password or username, just your own personal details.



Clicking on the Higham & Rushden u3a groups link opens a page listing all our current groups and gives telephone numbers for each leader.



HEDGEHOGS

Dehydration, starvation, injuries

Early Spring warmth begins to bring some hedgehogs out of hibernation. Those that successfully hibernated will be thin and extremely hungry and thirsty! A shallow dish of chicken-based cat/dog food, along with a shallow dish of water, put out each night will help

them enormously.

Although a quiet time compared with summer, the first calls about sick or injured hedgehogs will be made to the rescue centers. Gardeners beginning to tidy up the winter mess are using mowers, shears, strimmers and forks and the calls about injured hedgehogs are not far behind.

Gardeners PLEASE take care and check all areas where hedgehogs are likely to be sleeping BEFORE starting to use hazardous equipment.

Mating can occur in this month but it's rare, they're usually far too busy trying to find food.

How to draw a Hedgehog in 7 easy steps



Step 1: Draw the head.



Step 2: Draw the eyes.



Step 3: Draw the nose and mouth.



Step 4: Draw the ears.



Step 5: Draw the spines.



Step 6: Draw the body.



Step 7: Draw the feet.



Your Hedgehog is now done!



EDITORIAL

This month marks the second year since Covid exploded on the scene and turned our lives upside down. It is a relief that so many people survived and that vaccines were quickly developed which give us a modicum of protection.

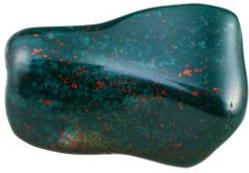
Now that spring is almost on us, soon the clocks will go forward (Sunday March 27th at 0200) and the weather is kinder, I am thinking a bout all my cancelled holidays and looking forward to travelling to America in April, Covid permitting. It seems such a long time since we were allowed to travel long-haul, and I need to consider all the things that need to be done before then. Medications to be ordered, suitcases to be brought down from the loft, USA-compatible electric items need to be checked over, laptops updated, just to name a few. I am quite out of practice and am sure I will forget something important, but it will be good to go somewhere warm and interesting. Then there is the screening testing to be done the day before before we get on the plane (£50 per person – ouch!). The last couple of years just seem to have been a period of hibernation and thank goodness it is ending.



I hope that many of you will also be thinking about impending holidays, and maybe meeting up with family and friends you have not seen for a while. I know we all still need to be careful but maybe, just maybe, we are out of the tunnel and into the light,

Editor

Folklore relating to one of March's two Gemstone: BLOODSTONE



This ancient gemstone was used by the Babylonians to make seals and amulets.

It was believed to have healing powers, especially for blood disorders.

It is sometimes called the "martyr's stone," as legend tells that it was created when drops of Christ's blood-stained jasper at the foot of the cross.

Many other ancient cultures believed bloodstone gems had magical powers, with some references to its ability to heal dating back to 5000 BC.

The Babylonians used bloodstone in their divination, and the Egyptians prized bloodstone because they believed it helped them to defeat their enemies. They also believed it increased their strength or made them invisible.

Still others believed that bloodstone could help control or change the weather, win legal battles or give the gift of prophecy. It was so loved for its properties, many used the gemstone in jewellery, signet rings, and even small cups or statues.

Today, some still wear bloodstone jewellery as a lucky charm. No matter how you use or wear bloodstone, it's a unique gemstone great for everyday wear.

Folklore relating to the other March Gemstone: AQUAMARINE



Aquamarine is made of two Latin words: *aqua*, meaning "water," and *marine*, meaning "of the sea." It was once believed that this gemstone would protect sailors and guarantee a safe voyage. Legend has it that its serene blue colour would invoke calming properties of the sea,

helping to cool tempers and allow the wearer to remain calm and level-headed.

Yet sailors aren't the only ones who thought aquamarine could protect them.

People in the Middle Ages believed that wearing aquamarine would prevent them from being poisoned. Ancient Romans would carve a frog into the gem to help turn enemies into friends. Ancient medicines were made from aquamarine powder to help cure a variety of infections, eye ailments, and allergic reactions.

In folklore, aquamarine represented not only the sea, but also the heavens since the sky is reflected in the water. It was believed that its reflective properties and symmetry could reveal hidden aspects of reality and things deep within our souls. This made aquamarine a popular stone with healers, mystics, shamans, and prophets.

When meditating with aquamarine, people believed it enhanced their paranormal abilities and aided in the occurrence of epiphanies. They focused on the stone's perceived ability of calming reflection.

Other legends say that aquamarine helped with decision making, perseverance, and responsibility. People felt it aided with clear reasoning and feeling empowered during debates in order to come to a compromise.

TRIVIA

As the saying goes, March comes “in like a lion, out like a lamb.” That was certainly true on March 1st, 2007, when a detachment of 170 Swiss infantrymen accidentally invaded neighbouring Liechtenstein when they got lost on a training mission. Luckily, after explaining the mistake to Liechtenstein, the Swiss army was given directions and returned home safely.



Flamingos bend their legs at the ankle, not the knee.

They essentially stand on tiptoe. Their knees are closer to the body and are covered by feathers.



Octopuses have three hearts

Squids do too. One pumps blood to their whole systems, and two are dedicated just to the gills. Learn the truth behind.



The world's largest waterfall is underwater

Yes, there are waterfalls under the ocean. At the Denmark Strait, the chilly water from the Nordic Sea is denser than the Irminger Sea's warm water, making it drop almost two miles down at 123 million cubic feet.



The inventor of the Internet regrets the URL setup

Tim Berners-Lee, who created the main software of the World Wide Web, admitted he regrets one thing: Adding “//” after “https:” in a web address. It was standard for programming but didn't serve any real purpose, and when looking back in 2009, he said leaving it out would have saved time and space. I guess we can forgive him.

A flock of ravens is called an “unkindness”

They're also known as a “conspiracy,” which is equally creepy.



Scotland has more than 400 words for snow. There are 421, to be exact!

ADDENDUM

THE “SILVER SURFERS” BAND - A Brief History

No doubt many of the members of Higham and Rushden u3a are aware of the existence of the ‘Silver Surfers’, as they have played quite often at Rushden Lakes and Hall Park. However, you may not be aware that all of the past and current members are/were part of the u3a Tuesday Guitar group, which formerly met at Asda, then the Railway Sheds & now at the Windmill Club.

It has taken some years for the ‘Silver Surfers’ to reach the audience they currently enjoy, playing a mix of rock and pop tunes from the 50s, 60s & 70s. Their formation started when an electric guitar group was formed which used to meet at the Rushden Full Gospel Church. Up until this point only the Tuesday Guitar group as a whole had played a few public gigs. We had performed in the foyer at Asda as part of their Christmas festivities and we think at least twice at u3a meetings.

We think these gigs ignited, and in some cases reignited, a desire to perform! A small group of the electric guitar group members started rehearsing together. In the days before Covid they enjoyed success playing at local nursing homes. They were much appreciated by the residents, with regular performances organised. They also secured a spot playing at the Irthlingborough 2019 summer fair.

During the Covid lock down, they were granted permission to practise outside at Hall Park. This turned into quite a popular socially distanced event. In more recent times, after many meetings and a lot of paperwork, they obtained permission to play at Rushden Lakes in order to raise money for the Macmillan Cancer Charity. They have currently raised over £3100. Considering they only played at the Lakes from July to September 2021, we think you will agree this is quite an achievement.

Due to their fund raising and need to charge for expenses occasionally, they are not formally part of our u3a. You can see though, that without the existence of the Tuesday Guitar group, it is unlikely they would ever have formed. The current line up of the ‘Silver Surfers’ comprises, Ray Groom, Chris Saunders, Paul Garrod and Ron Smith. Their web address is silversurfersband.uk

Andrew Walker & Karin Wilkinson

