

Brixworth and District Newsletter

u3a

Learn, laugh, live

Registered Charity No 1178196

Issue 104

October 2025

FRONT PAGE INTERVIEW WITH MARY & TIM PARKER



I interviewed Mary and Tim in their lovely house in Hanging Houghton where they have lived for 50 years, with the extensive garden overlooking the fields towards Brixworth. They tell me it is the view and the garden that keep them there. They are both Northampton born and bred, Mary in Spinney Hill and Tim in Abington Park, but although they grew up not far from each other they didn't actually meet until attending Grace Wootton ballroom dancing classes – when Mary was 17 and Tim 21 years old.

After school at Northampton School for Girls, Mary trained as a nurse at Northampton General Hospital subsequently working in Gynae Theatre which at the time also covered obstetrics, while Tim did his secondary education for six years at a boarding college in Ramsgate, Kent. Having taken his 'O' levels he started work as a trainee stockbroker in London (following his father's career as a stockbroker in Northampton) – selling stocks and shares and becoming a "Blue Button" on the floor of the Stock Exchange. He tells me a Blue Button was a go-between checking share prices for Brokers whose clients may wish to invest in Stocks and Shares. In 1963 he joined his father's firm Cave & Sons in Northampton (it is now known as MHA Wealth), eventually retiring 16 years ago.

The couple have 3 children, 2 girls fairly close together, then a boy 10 years later! Now all grown up with two children each of their own and busy with their various careers as a Lecturer in Mental Health, a Primary School teacher and as an Auction House Agent, selling properties all over the UK. Family is extremely important to Mary and Tim and they all get together as often as possible. Following her career in nursing and looking after the family, Mary decided to join the Citizens Advice Bureau, but resigned in 2011 as she felt the organisation was no longer helping the people it was set up to do.

Mary and Tim have been involved with B&D u3a almost since its inception, being member numbers 43 and 81 – definitely in the first year. Mary belongs to quite a few groups: Gardening, Local History, Art Appreciation, London Studies, Walking and the Friday afternoon Bridge group. Tim is not so heavily involved with the u3a, belonging to the Strollers and Local History. This is because his time is taken up with the Northampton & Lamport Railway, which he has supported since 1982/1983 when an attempt was made to preserve at least a part of the Northampton to Market Harborough railway line and a small section of track was laid. Do have a word with Tim if you would like to know its future plans for extension!

It is at Lamport Church that Mary is active outside of the u3a, originally being Churchwarden, but now doing the same duties without the title. With a lovely garden to look after, her "leisure" activities include gardening and playing golf at least once a week.

But they do find time to travel extensively and when I asked where they had visited, it seems that they have been to almost all four corners of the globe – apart from Australia and New Zealand. Their first long-distance adventure was a Yangtze River cruise before the river was flooded following the building of the dams. Nowadays they tend to adventure in Europe and have just come back from Sicily. They also now prefer being hotel-based in one resort/city rather than exploring and touring from one place to another.

Chris Rowe

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our new members who have joined in September and October. I hope you enjoy your membership of the B&D u3a and we look forward to welcoming you to our various Interest Groups.

Vivienne Benjamin
Deborah Hoare

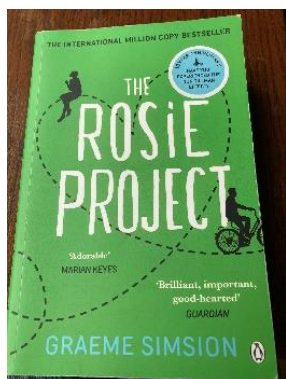
Richard Everitt
David Marriott

David Turner
Peter Dawes

John Cahill

NEWS FROM OUR INTEREST GROUPS

BOOK CLUB 1 – September 2025: The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion



All of the group found this book funny in places. We warmed to the main character despite or because of his social ineptitude. Don had a very rigid and logical view of the world and as such found social situations and relationships problematic. Much of the humour was derived from the application of his world view to every aspect of his life including menu planning!

Many of us felt discomfort in finding humour within a group of people that frequently find it difficult to understand human emotions and also find the conventions that govern social interaction challenging or indeed overwhelming. However, the author redeemed this using Don's character, where by applying strict logic, he was able to find the right answer to his problem. There is a sequel to the book, although not everybody felt they would like to read this.

SOCIAL CYCLING GROUP – reports by Sylvia King



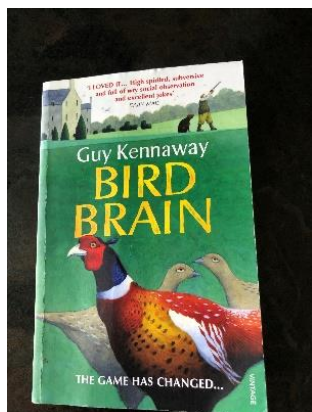
The morning of the 17th dawned wet and uninviting for the group's September ride but by the 10am meeting time roads had dried and things looked much more promising. James, Jeff and Sylvia left The George heading north west out of Brixworth, through Cottesbrooke and Naseby before passing close to Clipston to arrive at the Sweet Pea Tea Room at Kelmarsh Hall.

With light rain having started on the approach to the Hall the group headed inside for some welcome shelter, hot drinks and delicious home made cakes. Suitably replenished and with the rain shower having passed over, the group continued the ride back to Brixworth and into the stiff breeze via Harrington, Old and Scaldwell. A very pleasant 21.7 miles with 1089 ft of ascent at an average speed of just under 11 mph.

On Wednesday 15th October three members of the Cycling Group (James, Jim and Sylvia) met on a dull but dry morning at The George in Brixworth. The planned ride was approximately 22 miles heading out northwards via Scaldwell and Lamport to take the little used road to Draughton where we were treated to an amazing number of aerial displays by Red Kites and Buzzards. From Draughton we passed the Harrington Air Base War Memorial, went through Foxhall and skirted Mawsley to our refreshment stop in Walgrave at Manvell Farm Tea Room. Refreshed and with fingers warmed through we returned to Brixworth on a loop through Hannington and Holcot before heading for Old and Scaldwell and lunch at The George. Our measured distance was 21.95 miles, the elevation gain 1105 ft and average speed 10.95 mph. A very enjoyable morning's ride amongst the autumn colours.

Photo of the group in 2022 – if you would like more information or to join the group, please contact Colin Rowe, Cycling Group Leader via the website

BOOK WORMS – report from Celia Moss



During our September meeting we discussed 'Bird Brain' by Guy Kennaway which was published in 2011.

This is a comic novel about a murdered aristocrat who is reincarnated as a pheasant! The book is hard to categorise. At times it is a social satire but it is also a detective story with talking animals who seem more perceptive than the human characters. It is also concerned with attitudes around class. It presents different views regarding blood sports too.

Most of us enjoyed the humour although there were mixed reactions to the 'toilet' jokes. We felt we gained a lot of information about country life, the gentry, shooting and the beauty of pheasants. There were some wonderful descriptions. The book was thought provoking and in some ways it was refreshing to read a novel that steps outside the usual genres.

WALKERS & STROLLERS / ART APPRECIATION GROUP – report by Janet Womack



What a difference a day makes! On Tuesday September 9th, the Walkers and Strollers Group enjoyed glorious weather for their rambling around Old; twenty-four hours later the Art Appreciation Group braved torrential showers as members visited the Northamptonshire and Rutland Open Studios Art Exhibition at Lamport Hall. This event takes place annually at this time of year and the central exhibition at Lamport is a display of work from many artists working in various media. We had a lovely afternoon appreciating the creativity of potters, glass artists, textile workers, sculptors, jewellery makers, painters etc before resting our feet in the Stables cafe with the obligatory cup of coffee. We are very fortunate to have this exhibition on our doorstep (free entry and car parking!) so do look out for the Open Studios catalogue year.

ART GROUP – report by Norah Daykin

At the September meeting, the more experienced artists painted a still life subject, which they did well. Some good strong colours were used and a new way of painting shadows was tried.

The beginners painted bold patterns. The idea was to get used to the handling of the watercolour paint. This resulted in a great improvement, even after half an hour.



ARMCHAIR TRAVEL – “Borneo Adventures”, with Sue Wintersgill

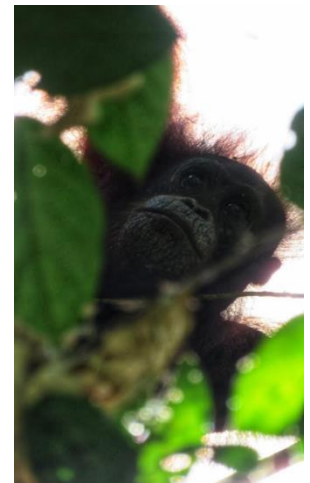
At the September Meeting Sue Wintersgill gave a very interesting and informative presentation about her visit to Borneo with her family. I am delighted that Sue has very kindly offered to write up a report about this adventure, so that you too can share her experiences. Some of Sue’s family live in Thailand so she started her travels there, flying on to Sabah in Borneo on a tour which they had planned and organised themselves.

The adventure started on the island of Selingan where they saw a giant turtle laying her eggs at night. They then went to the Sepilok Forest Reserve where they saw rescued orang-utans. They then travelled to the Kinabatangan staying in a beautiful lodge on the banks of the river.



On boat trips they saw an amazing variety of wildlife including hornbills and a herd of pygmy elephants crossing the river. They were lucky enough to see an orang-utan in the wild swinging in the trees above their heads, which was an incredible experience! Next was a trip into the Danum Valley where they stayed at

working research centre and did several treks into the rainforest accompanied by a knowledgeable research scientist. Accommodation was very basic and power was turned off between 11pm and 7am! Finally, they had some luxury and relaxation in Kota Kinabalu where the rainforest meets the sea.



Thank you Sue for your detailed talk and report about your visit. BBC 2 showed a film about Borneo as part of its current series Wonders of the Monsoon. It is available on BBC iPlayer and will give a good backdrop to accompany Sue’s report.

Our November meeting, on Tuesday 4th at 2.00 in Scaldwell Village Hall, will feature Janet Wadley speaking about her recent cruise to Northern Spain. Please come along and join us. Passports are not needed! The December meeting, on Tuesday 2nd again at 2.00 in Scaldwell Village Hall, will feature some Seasonal activities.

Annie Curtis

KNIT & NATTER – from Sarah Nelson



This month’s meeting brought us a new member who we warmly welcome. We continue with our charity blanket project and hope to present it to them at Christmas, apologies for mentioning it! Lots of nattering about a range of current affairs including travel and the dreaded politics. Sue introduced us to a knitting row measuring/magnifier, really useful tool. Two pairs of booties were completed for Lynne’s new Granddaughter, looking forward to her arrival. We shared some knitted finger puppets which included a witch

ready for Halloween 🎃

Thanks for a lovely meeting again ladies. See you all next month.



WEEKEND GROUP

Eleven of us went to the Saracen's head at Little Brington for lunch on the 28th September. It is always enjoyable to get together and enjoy each other's company, and they are always jolly affairs. The group doesn't have a set date for our get togethers but they can vary from Village Open Gardens with, of course, tea and cake to our Sunday lunches and we always welcome suggestions for other activities.

Sue Dodds Smith

RAMBLERS & STROLLERS – October walk by Paula Smith

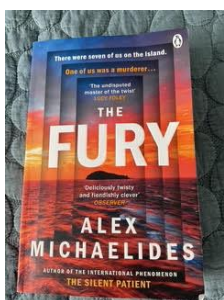


With good weather and a spring in our steps, the 30 plus ramblers and strollers enjoyed the great outdoors! Providing a great opportunity to enjoy good company and conversation!! Walking along canal paths and fields we spotted abundant wildlife around Cosgrove and then crossed over the iron bridge aqueduct, dating from



1811. Lunch was enjoyed at The Barley Mow pub which finished off a real good time and we look forward to the next ramble.

BOOK GROUP – October review of *The Fury* by Alex Michaelides:



The group unanimously gave a big thumbs-down to this book. It lacked any tension that you would expect from a psychological thriller. The plot was thin and by the end we were very frustrated and confused by the narrator's constant changing of events that he had previously reported as fact. The ending was an anti-climax, by this point we had mostly lost interest.

Chris Laukaitis

Forthcoming titles:

4 November: And So I Roar by Abi Dare

2 December: Trust by Domenico Starnone

2026

6 January: Love Untold by Ruth Jones

3 February: A Pale View of Hills by Kazuo Ishiguro

3 March: The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See

ART GROUP – October's review by Norah Daykin



In October, we were joined by another new member.

The group painted plastic bottles, such as tomato fertiliser & bleach.

The idea was to paint them as quickly & as loosely as possible, to get the watercolour to flow. I could not believe how much, and how quickly everyone improved by doing this exercise. It was great!



DUPLICATE BRIDGE RESULTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

It was certainly a couple of good results for the ladies this time around, fending off the chasing men in both events this month. In particular, Del Smith taking second place with Thursday evening partner Gila, followed by a very big win with her Friday partner Jane, achieving a massive 68% that afternoon.

Thursday 11th September

FINAL RESULTS TABLE					
	IMPS	%	Players	Tops	Jt Tops
1 st	53	63.1	Denise Cowling & Lynda Stevenson	2	6
2 nd	50	59.5	Del Smith & Gila Gwinn	5	2
3 rd	48	57.1	Brian Collett & Roger Atterwill	5	1
3 rd	48	57.1	Ruby Cole & Chris Hill	1	6
5 th	46	54.8	Sally & Simon Bevan	2	3
6 th	41	48.8	Tony Nixon & Paul Jarvis	0	3
7 th	33	39.3	Jill Snedker & Rosemary Heaver	1	3
8 th	17	20.2	Karen Brown & Steve Sercombe	0	1

Friday 19th September

FINAL RESULTS TABLE					
	IMPS	%	Players	Tops	Jt Tops
1 st	38	67.9	Del Smith & Jane Davis	5	3
2 nd	33	58.9	Tony Nixon & Paul Parvis	5	2
3 rd	32	57.1	Diane Williamson & Brian Collett	4	1
4 th	27	48.2	Fay Duckmanton & Roger Atterwill	2	4
5 th	25	44.6	Sheila Jones & Tim Smith	2	3
6 th	22	39.3	Paula Jones & Lynda Stevenson	1	3
7 th	19	33.9	Gila Gwinn & Hazel Barr	1	0

WRITING FOR FUN

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, Jackie Bird was interviewed for Third Age Matters magazine – here is the article on page 60 of the Autumn 2025 issue. If you can't read the photo, it says:

“At Brixworth & District u3a the popular Writing for Fun group uses clever ways to get the creative juices flowing. “We really like using fiction squares [grid with columns representing different story elements] to inspire stories and 15-minute exercises, such as describing a photograph”, explains group leader Jackie Bird. At every monthly session, we set a title – a recent one was “The Rector’s Holiday” - and members then write their story at home, ready to read out at the next meeting: the different interpretations are fascinating.

We also publish one member’s story on our website each month and have compiled two books of short stories. The most important thing though is that we don’t take ourselves too seriously!”



LOCAL HISTORY GROUP – VISIT TO BRAUNSTON CHURCH & MARINA



A beautiful sunny morning for our visit to Braunston church and marina. The church is the third to be built on the site and has numerous interesting architectural and historical artefacts to view. The village Timeline was particularly fascinating, reporting the early days of the canal, railways and industry of Braunston over hundreds of years. Next door to the church is the remnants of the village windmill which ceased milling after a workman was knocked off his ladder by one of the sails that caught a gust of wind. It is now a private house. After our church visit the



group went in various directions to find coffee and cake, the marina or just wander along the canal. Four of us found the Art Supplies shop – an Aladdin’s cave for anyone wanting to replicate some canal art! A very pleasant morning.



DUPLICATE BRIDGE RESULTS FOR OCTOBER 2025

Report from Brian Collett

This has been an interesting month for both Bridge Groups, with the monthly duplicate sessions for each group throwing up very unusual results. It is very rare for two pairs to end up with the same score, but this did happen on 9th and again on 17th October. The top two pairs on each day were only separated by the individual tops score and shared joint top scores. The very successful first-time pairing of Tony and Lynda had a great evening, closely followed by Simon and Sally who shared the honours with them at the end of the evening.

Then, on a very dull (cloudy) afternoon, a week later, we had two partnerships vying for the win, but again with the honours shared, with Judy and Ann stealing the win at the end via the most outright top scores.

Members of both groups have reached a good level of competence which makes for close battles on each of the monthly duplicate days, and this is highlighted by the excellent result for “newbie” Sharon Hammond, and partner Sheila, who has not yet been playing eight months. So, a very encouraging start to her game.

THURSDAY 9th OCTOBER 2025 - DUPLICATE CHALLENGE

FINAL RESULTS TABLE					
	IMPS	%	Players	Tops	Jt Tops
1 st	49	58.3	Tony Nixon & Lynda Stevenson	3	4
1 st	49	58.3	Simon & Sally Bevan	3	1
3 rd	46	54.8	Richard Hartley & Bea Bennett	3	3
4 th	44	52.4	Mavis Sturgess & Jim Wardle	2	4
4 th	44	52.4	Jill Snedker & Rosemary Heaver	2	2
6 th	37	44.0	Gareth Cox & Steve Sercombe	3	2
6 th	37	44.0	Ruby Cole & Chris Williams	1	3
8 th	30	35.7	Brian Collett & Roger Atterwill	0	4

FRIDAY 17th OCTOBER 2025 - DUPLICATE CHALLENGE

FINAL RESULTS TABLE					
	IMPS	%	Players	Tops	Jt Tops
1 st	59	61.5	Judy Peck & Ann Maynard	6	1
1 st	59	61.5	Brian Collett & Roger Atterwill	4	3
3 rd	52	54.2	Sharon Hammond & Sheila Jones	1	5
4 th	51	53.1	Ruby Cole & Chris Williams	1	4
5 th	50	52.1	Lynda Stevenson & Paula Jones	2	2
6 th	48	50.0	Jane Davis & Belinda Collett	1	4
7 th	47	49.0	Tony Nixon & Katie Lindenbaum	3	2
8 th	34	35.4	Helen Coghill & Mary Parker	2	0
9 th	32	33.3	Fay Duckmanton & Mavis Sturgess	2	0

GARDEN GROUP REPORT – Annie Curtis

The Gardening Group visit in September to Rockingham Dene in Kettering was cancelled at short notice, since the owner had injured her back. Hopefully the venue can be included in our 2026 Summer programme.

The October meeting in Scaldwell Village Hall was the first of the Winter programme. We were delighted to welcome Elaine and William Portch, County Organisers of the National Garden Scheme. William outlined the history of the Scheme, dating back to Florence Nightingale and two friends. Later in 1927 it was taken over by The Queen's Nursing Institute to support district nursing. Now the NGS supports the nursing group which covers QNI, Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Parkinson's UK and Carer's Trust.

Elaine went on to explain that in 2024 NGS raised almost £66,000 in Northamptonshire by way of open gardens, by sales of plants and of course by sales of refreshments. Indeed, William had baked a delicious cake for us to share.

For our Summer programme 2026 we will endeavour to book NGS gardens to support this worthy charity.

The full Winter programme can be found on the Brixworth and District u3a website.

Annie Curtis and Sue Dodds- Smith
Gardening Group organisers.

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL – Canadian Rockies in Winter

At the October meeting of Armchair Travel Chris Rowe told the group about her and Colin's holiday to the Rockies in February. Having visited Canada several times before, in Spring, Summer and Autumn, they thought it would be a nice way to see it in Winter as it would probably be their last visit.

Arriving in Vancouver in persistent rain, they did wonder if they would ever see any snow, but waking up on The Canadian No.2 train in Jasper there was plenty of snow on the mountains. Sadly, Jasper township was heavily damaged by wildfires in July 2024 and clearing operations from the damaged buildings were very much in evidence. Chris explained that the townfolk had just one hour to escape the fires – many of whom lost their entire homes and are still in rented accommodation.

Within Jasper National Park and the nearby lakes, there was plenty of opportunity to walk on the frozen lakes and enjoy an al fresco picnic and toast s'mores on the campfire. Due to avalanche control works, though, their journey down the famous Icefields Parkway was cancelled, forcing them on a 300+ mile detour to reach Banff – through the Alberta oilfield country. But a visit to Lake Louise made up for the



disappointment of seeing the usual sights down the Icefields Parkway, and Chris and Colin had their usual photograph taken beside the boathouse by Lake Louise – which they have done on all their previous visits!



Wildfire damage in the forests around Jasper

Sincere thanks to Chris for her very interesting talk. Being able to show comparison photos from earlier visits, added further interest for everyone, making it a very enjoyable afternoon.

Annie Curtis

WRITING FOR FUN – October activities

We had a smaller group this month but it was fun and a lovely range of stories. The title for next month is 'Lost and Found'. We did an exercise about building a character and decided to try to include this in the next story. The exercise was to describe an assassin eg hair colour, eyes, height, physical characteristics etc and friends, family, pets. The idea is to bring the character to life a little more.

Fiona's story is on the website it is about a writing group!

Jackie Bird

CALLING ALL STRING PLAYERS?



I've had an email from Angela McIntyre (a B&D u3a member) asking if any members would be interested in joining the Northampton Concert Orchestra? This is an amateur orchestra and one of the oldest in Northampton, having started in 1903. They are a friendly group who rehearse at the St Thomas Centre in Semilong and play 3 concerts a year. The music is variable including light classics and well known popular tunes. They are looking to recruit string players of a standard of around Grade 5/6 or above. There are no auditions, you'll be pleased to hear!

So if you are a willing string player hoping to dust off your violin or viola and interested in joining the orchestra, you can find out more by looking at the website northamptonconcertorchestra.org.uk.

PROPOSED THEATRE GROUP – latest from Sue Dodds Smith

We have had over 30 people interested in joining the Theatre Group and are suggesting that our first outing could be “Murder at Midnight” in February. We hope to organise a matinee on Thursday, 19 February at 2.30pm or Saturday the 21 February at 2.30pm.

Members of the group would pay the ticket price to our u3a and then our Treasurer would make payment to the Royal and Derngate which would enable us to take advantage of group discounts. **Please note** that once payment has been made to the Royal and Derngate the payments would be non-returnable.

“Murder at Midnight” - A murder mystery like no other...

Starring national favourites **Jason Durr** (*Heartbeat, Casualty*) and **Susie Blake** (*Victoria Wood’s As Seen On TV, Coronation Street*) and **Katie McGlynn** (*Waterloo Road, Coronation Street, Hollyoaks*). *A killer night out!*

From the writer of Murder in the Dark comes a deliciously twisted crime caper like no other.

It’s New Year’s Eve in a quiet corner of Kent and a killer is in the house...

We meet Jonny ‘The Cyclops’-the notorious gangster, his glamorous wife, his trigger-happy sidekick, his mum—who’s seeing things, her very jittery carer, plus a vicar who’s hiding something and a nervous burglar dressed as a clown. Throw in a suitcase full of cash, a stash of deadly weapons, and one infamous unsolved murder... What could possibly go wrong?

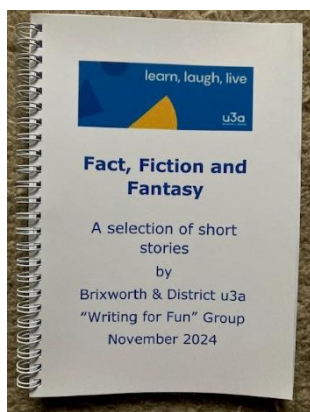
Join us for a murder mystery with a difference. One house. Seven suspects and a Murder at Midnight...

*Written by acclaimed writer Torben Betts and produced by the award-winning **Original Theatre** (*Birdsong, Murder In The Dark, The Mirror Crack’d*), *Murder At Midnight* is a gripping murder mystery filled with twists, chilling suspense and wickedly dark humour—guaranteed to keep you guessing until the final stroke of midnight.*

*Cast also includes **Callum Balmforth, Peter Moreton, Iryna Poplavska, Bella Farr and Andy McLeod.***

PLEASE LET SUE KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE VISIT

“FACT, FICTION AND FANTASY” – STORIES FROM OUR WRITING FOR FUN GROUP



If you missed out on buying copies of the Writing For Fun group’s Short Stories last Christmas, or are new to the u3a, we do still have a few copies of “Fact, Fiction and Fantasy” available – ideal Christmas stocking fillers?

Priced at just £2 they will be available at the November and December monthly meetings and the Christmas lunch if you would like to buy a copy or two to send to friends and family.

A new book of short stories will be ready for Christmas 2026 – we have our quills sharpened already.

OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING – “History of Rockingham Castle” with Mike Burton

At the monthly meeting on 1st October, Mike Burton, senior guide at Rockingham Castle, gave us a very interesting talk about the castle’s history – the people associated with the castle and the owners of this 1,000 year building and estate.

We were told that originally the castle was built by William the Conqueror as a simple, probably wooden, motte and bailey defensive castle, before being rebuilt in stone in the 13th century. It was King Edward I who built the splendid round gatehouse drum towers and many of the buildings within the bailey. Eventually it fell into disrepair as Royalty no longer had any interest in the castle, and under Henry VIII it was sold to the extensive Watson Family – in whose ownership it still belongs.



Mike’s presentation included some beautiful photographs of the castle and gardens, with the circular rose garden where the original motte stood. In one of the bailey fields, archery and jousting still take place on special occasions – just as they did in medieval times.

The photo of Mike during his presentation also shows the screen with a picture of the castle, together with a regular visitor – Charles Dickens. An excellent presentation and as Mike has many other talks hopefully we will see him again in the future.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

The final two monthly meetings for 2025 are:

November 5th: Terry Whenham – **title TBA** (please note change of talk)

December 3rd: **The Two of Diamonds** – return of the musical duo

NEW GROUP SUGGESTIONS?

Poetry group

The group leader will be Margaret Gill and the group will read, analyse and discuss poetry and share their own poems. It will take place in the group leader’s home. Anyone interested please contact me and I will pass the details on to Margaret.

Jackie Bird

Theatre Group

Although we joined with Northampton u3a’s theatre trips for a couple of years, it seems that their theatre-going has waned over the last 12 months, so it is proposed to start our own group. Details earlier in this newsletter.

Ballroom Dancing

Would you like to get involved in learning or practising ballroom dancing? A new group is being considered.

If you would like to find out more, or would like to get involved, please contact Jackie Bird, Groups Co-ordinator via the B&D u3a website. Thanks.

NEWS OF MEMBERS:

KEVIN HORNE completed the Great North Run on behalf of the Bowel Cancer Charity. I know some members sponsored him – so thank you on Kevin’s behalf.

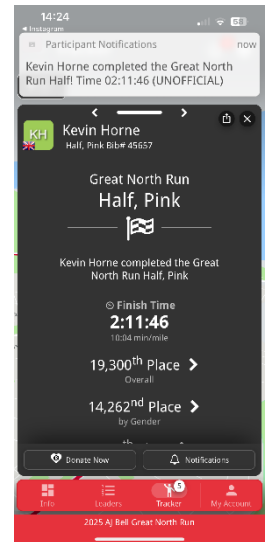
Here is his official completion “certificate”.

BRIAN ROBERTSON has sent me a note regarding the British Legion activities celebrating the 80th Anniversary of VE-DAY (Victory in Europe) and VJ-DAY (Victory over Japan). There were events, gatherings and other celebrations all over the country, which were televised and in the Press. In Brixworth many of you watched the film show in the church, drank the tea and coffee, and ate the cakes before going outside for a short Memorial Service and the Lighting of the Beacon.

Eddie Edmonds, the Chairman of the Brixworth Branch of The Royal British Legion said that those event were “One Offs” but there should be something more permanent and beneficial to the Community, so no Statues or Plaques. Brian Robertson came up with an idea: There were several of them already in the village. They were useful, and used. One was a memorial to a villager lost in the Falklands Conflict. Rules prevented the Royal British Legion paying for it, and Poppy Collection monies could not be used.

So individual Legion Members contributed and raised the money to pay for it.

So it was that on the 21st September 2025 it was unveiled outside the CoOp, underneath the Standards of Brixworth Royal British Legion by Brian himself.



BRIAN'S BENCH was in situ.

Brian cut the Red Ribbon, was the first to sit on it.

He was the joined by Briana Sargent of the CoOp Management, and then by Eddie Edmonds.

Then everybody else had a go at sitting on Brian's Bench.

Since then there have been many reports of people using the bench. Having a sitdown rest going from the Shop with a heavy bag.

It also means that it is available 24 hours a day!.

Something that is Permanent and Beneficial to the Community.

KEITH FEATLEY – Collecting Used Stamps for Charity

Hello members of Brixworth and District u3a

I have been a member of u3a since November 2023 and enjoy participating in the Badminton Group and the Walking Group, I am appealing for your help in collecting Used Stamps for Charities, any stamps old, new, British or overseas and it does not matter how many or how few you can donate. I collect these to send out to various charities on a regular basis so that they can be used to raise funds to continue the works and services that they are providing.

Charities that have been supported with stamp donations this year have included Royal National Lifeboat Institute, People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, Against Breast Cancer, Stamp Out Motor Neuron Disease, Barn Owl Trust, British Hedgehog Preservation Society and Dogs for Good...these are just some that I have helped over the last year. Any stamps that you are able to donate would be greatly appreciated and received with thanks, **Keith Featley**



U3A Christmas Luncheon 2025.

We have booked our Christmas luncheon at Northampton Golf Club on: Thursday 11th December 2025 from 12pm, seated at 12.50 with the meal at 1pm.

The menu is below and will be £33 for three courses or 2 courses will be £27.50 (tip included).

To book your place please contact Yvonne Swallow by email at BrixworthChristmaslunch@hotmail.com with your menu choices.

You can pay by bank transfer to the U3A account. Please make sure you put your name and Xmas on the transfer.

Account Brixworth & District U3A

Sort Code 30-96-09

Account number 00070504

Alternatively you can give your cheque made out to Brixworth u3a to a group leader or committee member with your menu choices.

If you prefer we will be at the November meeting for you to book, giving us your menu choices and payment.

No cancellations or changes will be possible after November 19th 2025.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Yvonne and Tim Swallow

Three Courses - £33.00 (tip included)
Two courses - £27.50 (tip included)

Festive Lunches

2 course £25 , 3 courses £30

Starter

Curried Parsnip Soup

Smooth and spiced parsnip soup, finished with crème fraîche and served with freshly baked bread.

Three Melon Cocktail

A refreshing trio of melons infused with orange Cointreau.

Chicken Liver Pâté

Rich and creamy pâté served with apple cider chutney and crusty bread.

Main

Roast Turkey

Traditional roast turkey with all the trimmings and rich pan gravy.

Braised Beef

Slow-cooked, tender braised beef served with roasted vegetables and a deep pan gravy.

Steamed White Fish Fillets

Lightly steamed white fish served with crushed new potatoes and a Mediterranean salsa.

Vegetable Tart (Vegetarian)

A crisp pastry tart filled with seasonal vegetables, topped with courgette ribbons and a roasted tomato & basil sauce.

Dessert

Christmas Pudding

A festive favourite served warm with brandy sauce.

Warm Chocolate Brownie

Rich chocolate brownie with warm fudge sauce, served with vanilla ice cream.

Christmas Mince Pie

Classic mince pie topped with brandy butter and a winter fruit compote.