

# NEWSLETTER for Oundle & District

Edition Number 193  
November 2024

If you would like to find out more about Oundle & District u3a,  
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Registered Charity Number 1183800

## *In this edition*

- Monthly Meeting news
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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Recently I was searching through some old photos for a particular picture. Inevitably I then spent more time reminiscing and thinking about the people staring out at me. Some of the photos were of my parents before I was born, featuring people and places I didn't recognise and, of course, there is no longer anyone around to fill in the blanks for me. They are simply lovely examples of social history with the clothes, hairstyles and trends of the time – a record of a particular moment.

There are two well-known sayings about photos: the first is 'Every picture tells a story', and it is very true; we take photos to record a person, a place, an event, or a gathering of friends or family, and these photos are personal to us and, long after they were taken, remind us of the background to the photo.

The second saying was first quoted in 1911 in a New York newspaper as 'Use a picture. It is worth a thousand words'. I am sure we can all think of famous photos which have become, to use a rather over-used word, 'iconic' – such as the first man on the moon or the Beatles on the zebra crossing at Abbey Road.

Both sayings suggest that memories and emotions will be stirred and I suppose that is why photos are so important to us.

In our u3a, we maintain Archive books, containing lots of photos, in order to record what we do, either in individual Groups or at a special u3a event. I find it fascinating to look through the three volumes and discover the variety of activities recorded since our inception in 2008. The books will be on display at the December monthly meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December, so I do hope you will get the chance to look at them – you may well feature!

Talking of photos, our Camera and Composition Group have once again taken some fabulous photos for the 2025 FOOL calendar and some of the Group's photos can also be seen on the Home page of our website. However, you don't have to be a member of that group in order to submit photos for either the website or for our Newsletter.

There is a lovely quote by Andy Warhol, which may sum up what you may have been thinking while reading this: 'The best thing about a picture is that it never changes, even when the people in it do'.

Keep smiling – for the camera!

*Gill*

PS: Thanks to those of you who emailed me some handwriting tips after my October message: correct posture and holding of pen – I am getting a demonstration on this; try using a fatter pen; hold the paper with your other hand; get a book on using Italic script; do lots of practice – slowly.

MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER

**Helen Frost**

And her talk will be

**Keeping Faith at the Front  
during the First World War**

Queen Victoria Hall,  
Oundle

Doors open at 2.00pm  
for tea/coffee and  
biscuits

MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

**Our DIY  
Christmas Extravaganza**

Queen Victoria Hall,  
Oundle

Doors open at 2.00pm  
for mulled wine and mince  
pies

## MONTHLY MEETINGS



For our monthly meeting in October, we welcomed Colin Hill. Although it was his first visit to Oundle u3a, he knew the area well, having been born in Northamptonshire, moving to London to join the Metropolitan Police in 1977. With the aid of large photo boards, he held our attention as he retold anecdotes of his experiences as a uniformed officer, completing his 30 years' service in 2007. Colin was often amusing and at times sad and serious, paying tribute to WPC Yvonne Fletcher and PC Keith Blakelock.

His stories took us back to the events of those years: in the 1980s the miners' strike, IRA bombings and urban riots. He demonstrated how police uniforms and equipment have changed over the years, drawing attention to the fact that the updating of women officers' uniforms and equipment has given them a far higher level of protection than in days past. Colin's visit to us was an original and very memorable one.

The speaker at our monthly meeting on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November** will be Helen Frost. Her illustrated talk 'Keeping Faith at the Front during the First World War' is said to be 'fascinating, thought-provoking, inspiring, and funny and yet incredibly moving'. It contains true stories and first-hand accounts, and focuses on the idea that 'some people had a faith, and some did not' and will be accompanied by a display of photographs and facsimile documents. Helen is a teacher, lecturer, historian and author. For the past seven years she has been writing a book which is due to be published by the military publishers, Pen and Sword, by the end of this year. We look forward to welcoming Helen on Remembrance Day.



### **December 9<sup>th</sup> sees the return of The Oundle and District u3a DIY Christmas Extravaganza**

After the resounding success of our Christmas 2023 DIY meeting, we just have to do it again! Once more we will be able to see our multi-talented members performing songs, plays, readings and tunes (and anything else they are willing to do) for our delectation and delight on the afternoon of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Doors at the Queen Victoria Hall will open as usual at 2.00pm with the fun due to end at 4.00pm.

Tickets (£2) for the Christmas Extravaganza will be on sale at the November monthly meeting or from Barbara Ding, our Treasurer.



**PLEASE NOTE:** Doors open at 2.00pm, but our December Meeting will start a little earlier this month at 2.20pm to accommodate a Special General Meeting as follows:

**Notice of a Special General Meeting** At the start of our Monthly Meeting at Queen Victoria Hall, West Street, Oundle on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024, we will hold a very brief Special General Meeting at 2.20pm to vote on a small, but significant, change to our Constitution.

The Clause to be amended is Part II 16(8):

*"No-one may hold any specific officer position or be an ordinary (non-officer) trustee for a continuous period in excess of 3 years without an interval of at least 1 year between the periods of service."*

To be changed to:

*"No-one may hold a specific officer position or be an ordinary (non-officer) trustee for more than five years. However, this may be extended to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities."*

The Third Age Trust has given us written permission to hold a vote on this change, which needs to be passed by a simple majority, providing the meeting is quorate. All Members are entitled to vote; this will be by show of hands.

**Please remember to bring your membership card to the meeting as it makes signing in a lot quicker.**

Our talk in January is on 'Scams, frauds and cyber awareness', and Northamptonshire Police have asked us to send out the following information in advance:

***No genuine organisation will ever:***

- Ask you to reveal any of your passwords  
*Not going to happen!*
- Need your banking PIN or access account access code  
*No way!*
- Ask for the one time code you've just been sent  
*Never ever!*
- Need your payment details to issue a refund  
*I don't think so!*
- Claim you have a computer or Internet issue  
*Nope!*
- Tell you to transfer money to a 'safe' account  
*No, no, no!*
- Request that you purchase digital gift vouchers  
*Not really!*
- Tell you to pay a bill or fine via bank transfer  
*Negative!*
- Ask you to withdraw funds for an investigation  
*No chance!*
- Tell you to buy cryptocurrency like Bitcoin  
*No!*

*via any email, text message, WhatsApp or phone call you receive.*

*To verify any call or request from the police or your bank, wait a few minutes for the line to clear then phone 101 for the police or 159 for your bank's helpline or fraud team. [CyberProtect@northants.police.uk](mailto:CyberProtect@northants.police.uk)*

***RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025***

Barbara Ding [oundleu3atreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:oundleu3atreasurer@gmail.com)

The good news is that the annual membership subscription for Oundle and District u3a will remain at £16.00 for 2025 (with Associate membership at £12.00 for those who pay the full subscription at another u3a). I hope that you've been enjoying your u3a membership this year, whether that's attending monthly meetings in the Victoria Hall, going on one of the organised outings, or taking part in activities with your Groups throughout the year. And I hope you'll continue to support your u3a by paying your membership fee promptly when it becomes due in January 2025.



The preferred way to pay your subs is by Bank Transfer and full details of how to pay will be sent by email via Beacon nearer the time (or sent by letter to members without email). When paying by BACS or direct credit, it's important to use your membership number as a reference, so that I can identify who's paid. Your membership number is printed on your membership card underneath the barcode. Alternatively, you can set up a Standing Order to pay your subs if you prefer.

If you want to renew and you're unable to pay by BACS or Standing Order, please contact me by email in January on as above.

One other thing to remember – there are several local organisations with bank accounts in the name of "Oundle and District *name of organisation*" and it's easy to pick up the wrong account when scrolling through your saved payees. It happens, believe me, so please be sure to check that you're paying Oundle u3a, not another local organisation to which you or your partner belong.

I look forward to seeing you at u3a meetings and events next year. Meanwhile tickets for our DIY Christmas Extravaganza will be available at the November meeting or contact me via email as below.



The Friends of Oundle Library (FOOL) will be selling their 2025 Calendars (price £8) at the November Monthly Meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The photos were all taken by members of our u3a Camera and Composition Group.

## Report on the Third Age Trust AGM – 16<sup>th</sup> October

Alan Walmsley chaired the meeting as Liz Thackray, outgoing Chair, was not well.

Gill Phillips and I represented our u3a online.

Alan Walmsley was formally elected as Chair, with Margaret Fiddes as Vice-Chair and Derek Hargreaves re-elected as Treasurer. Jenny Wilson was elected as the London Trustee.

Two new u3as have started this year and 8 are celebrating 40 years.

We then moved on to Resolution 3 – the Fit for The Future special resolution, which I have written about in previous Newsletters. Liz Thackray (pre-recorded) proposed the resolution and Alan (seconder) spoke in favour of the change to the new structure. Two u3a voting reps then spoke – one in favour and one against the proposal.

The result of the voting was 905 For; 144 Against; 24 Abstentions.

This means that the resolution was carried and that, from April 2025, the u3a movement will have both a Board and a u3a Council.

Liz (pre-recorded) reported on her final year as Chair and thanked everyone for their support. Sam Mager, retiring CEO, then made her final statement and handed over to her successor, Iain Cassidy, again thanking everyone.

Finally, Alan closed the meeting.

## Report on GL's meeting:

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October the Committee welcomed thirty-six Group Leaders to Barnwell Village Hall for their annual meeting. Over tea and cakes, we thanked them for all that they do for our u3a and we also discussed a variety of issues and highlighted some changes to the Guidelines for Groups leaflet. These Guidelines are on our website under the Documents tab and *all* Members are encouraged to read them. There was also time for chat and getting to know each other, as well as celebrating Lidia's birthday!

I have sent out some notes from the meeting to all Group Leaders. Please contact me if you haven't received them.



## Theatre and Outings

Just **two** tickets left for the **Hallé Orchestra Concert** in Nottingham on 12<sup>th</sup> December. The coach leaves Oundle at 3.30pm. The cost is £49.50. Please contact Nadine Edwards 01832 274521 or [oundleu3achairman@gmail.com](mailto:oundleu3achairman@gmail.com)

There are still places left for **Blood Brothers** at the New Theatre, Peterborough on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March. The coach leaves Oundle at 6.30pm. The cost is £51, including coach and excellent seats. Please contact Sandra Philpot 01832 273891 or [oundleu3achairman@gmail.com](mailto:oundleu3achairman@gmail.com)

## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

**Military History Group 1** will be giving a talk on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 6.00pm at Oundle Library. The title is **Deception and D-Day** and is about the subterfuge employed by the Allies in the run-up to the Normandy landings. Tickets, £6, including refreshments, in aid of Friends of Oundle Library.

## SPOTLIGHT ON SHAKESPEARE GROUP 4'S VISIT TO THE RICHARD III CENTRE

Our Group has been reading the History plays in chronological order and we have been promising ourselves a visit to the Richard III Centre for a long time. It finally happened in October.

Leicester has undergone quite a transformation since I last visited the city centre – new shopping mall, Highcross; new road network; new galleries and museums. Amongst these developments, the Richard III Centre, right in the heart of the city, casts fresh light on the last English king to die in battle and the first king to be DNA tested.



The exhibition is very thorough; beginning with his genealogy and the complex and dynamic relationships between the principal players of the Wars of the Roses. Don't be put off by this assault on your brain. The exhibition clarifies the situation, via multi-media presentations and takes you on a journey through Richard III's life, from his position as Duke of Gloucester to King of England. It explores his rise to power and how, as king, he introduced many welcome reforms to government and legislation. It then

analyses the reasons for his reputation as a ruthless and ambitious tyrant and suggests that he has been unfairly treated, particularly by Shakespeare.

Finally, the exhibition shows how scholarly research identified where his body may have been buried after his death at the Battle of Bosworth, how archaeologists dug up the remains of a body and how forensic scientists were able to prove that the remains were indeed those of Richard III. A truly remarkable story.

The museum provides a fascinating exploration of many aspects of Richard III from the Wars of the Roses to the present day and is well worth at least one visit. There is enough information without being overwhelming and the multimedia nature of the exhibits means you do not have to spend too much time reading panels. There is also a good café and a shop on site and lifts to the exhibition rooms on the upper levels. A short walk away, and well worth a visit, is the Cathedral, where Richard III's remains have been finally laid to rest.



The Centre is only a short walk from the multi-storey Highcross car park and there are plenty of cafés, galleries, pubs and restaurants in the neighbourhood. We had an excellent day out and would recommend it to anyone with an interest in history, archaeology or science, and how the three overlap.

The exhibition is at 4A St Martin's Lane, Leicester LE1 5DB. Tel: 0116 299 4444; email: [info@kriii.com](mailto:info@kriii.com)

Opening times: Monday to Friday and Sunday 10.00am to 4.00pm, Saturday and Bank Holidays 10.00am to 5.00pm Tickets: £9.00 concessions – online.

Sid Charlton

## SPOTLIGHT ON FLOWERING ARRANGEMENT GROUP:



For our October meeting, the Group had a free choice arrangement of Autumn Colours or Halloween. Various containers were used, including pumpkins, showing a wonderful array of Autumnal colours.



We meet at 1.45pm on the third Tuesday of the month at the Joan Strong Centre in Oundle. Our next meeting is on November 19<sup>th</sup> but we don't meet in December.



# November's Quiz



1. What is a group of witches called?
2. Traditionally, a silver bullet is supposed to kill which creature?
3. What does the German word 'Poltergeist' literally translate to?
4. What animal is considered to bring bad luck on Halloween?
5. In which Shakespeare play do the witches say 'double, double toil and trouble'?
6. Which famous magician died on Halloween in 1926?
7. The Bunyip is a legendary monster in which culture?
8. What is the name of the pot witches use to brew potions?
9. Which country is considered the birthplace of Halloween?
10. How many times in history has Halloween fallen on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>?
11. In what year will the next full moon on Halloween occur?
12. What does the Grim Reaper carry?
13. What is the name of the doll from *The Conjuring*?
14. Which phobia means you have an intense fear of Halloween?
15. From which region in the world do pumpkins originate?
16. Transylvania is a region in which European country?
17. In what year did Starbucks first release the Pumpkin Spice Latte?
18. Who wrote Frankenstein in 1818?
19. If you were born on Halloween, what star sign would you be?
20. Halloween is celebrated the night before which day?
21. Who directed '*The Nightmare Before Christmas*'?
22. Bobbing for apples originates from which ancient civilisation?
23. The Pendle witch trials took place in which English county?
24. In which US state is it illegal to dress as a nun or priest for Halloween?
25. What type of shop is featured in Little Shop of Horrors?
26. Which country celebrates The Day of the Dead?
27. What is the name of the castle cited as a source of inspiration for Dracula's castle in Bram Stoker's iconic book?
28. What vegetable was originally carved to create Jack-o'-Lanterns before pumpkins?

## Answers to October's Quiz:

*(You can recap on the questions in last month's Newsletter which is now on our website)*

**Part One: Unscrambled:** 1. Guy Fawkes; 2. Conkers; 3. Bonfire; 4. Hibernate; 5. Pumpkin Carving; 6. Harvest Moon; 7. Remembrance Sunday; 8. Autumnal Equinox; 9. Halloween; 1. Parkin

**Part Two: Autumn facts:** 1. Earth's tilt; 2. Array; 3. Robin; 4. Coal tit; 5. Rowan; 6. Halloween; 7. Starlings; 8. Isle of Wight; 9. Winter Solstice; 10. John Keats

*(Quizzes compiled by members of the Quizzes 'n' Puzzles Group)*