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NEWSLETTER for Oundle & District

Edition Number 216
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If you would like to find out more about Oundle & District u3a,
take a look at <https://oundleanddistrict.u3asite.uk>
or contact Chairman: chairmanu3aoundle@outlook.com
Membership Secretary: membershipoundleu3a@outlook.com
Website Manager: webmanageroundleu3a@gmail.com

Registered Charity Number **1183800**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As summer turns to autumn, with shorter days and ever-changing weather, there is plenty to look forward to through your u3a membership. We warmly invite you to discover the activities on offer in the coming months, both here in Oundle and online.

Our monthly meetings at Queen Victoria Hall are becoming increasingly popular—not only for the excellent speakers, but also for the chance to meet and catch up with others. If you cannot join us in person, the national u3a website offers plenty of interesting online events to enjoy from the comfort of home.

If you are not completely confident online, please do not let that put you off. Websites have been part of everyday life for more than 30 years, and the Oundle & District u3a website is clear and easy to explore. Why not take a look at <https://oundleanddistrict.u3asite.uk>

There you will find details of our groups, contact information and plenty of other useful resources. Choose the "Events" tab at the top to find out about our monthly meetings and look underneath the photographs for the national u3a Events link.

Looking ahead, our Group Leaders' Meeting will take place on 4 November. It is a welcome opportunity to thank the hardworking members who run our groups and to hear their ideas for making your u3a even better. If you have a suggestion, please share it with your group leader beforehand so they can bring it to the committee.

Please also join us on Friday the 6th November for the u3a Local History Group's presentation on the fascinating history of Lilford Hall, near Oundle. Doors open at 6 pm, and tickets cost £5 in advance or £6 at the door. Members and non-members are equally welcome, so do bring your friends along for an entertaining talk, a chance to support the History Group and a wonderful example of u3a in action.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

MONDAY, 12 OCTOBER

You couldn't make it up – The Life of a TV Reporter

Bharat Patel will talk about the stories behind the headlines in his career as a TV reporter.

MONDAY, 9 NOVEMBER

Women in the First World War

Stephen Barker explores the many changes for women during the time of the 1914–1918 war while their men folk were abroad fighting.

Doors open at 2pm

MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Roles of a Supporting Artist – a TV/Film Extra – Monday, 14 September



Robert Brewer was our speaker at the u3a meeting in September. He told us of his experiences as a Supporting Artist, as he mingled with the rich and famous film stars.

Robert started his career in the British Army and moved on to become a regular area beat officer in Thames Valley Police. He worked for five years as a protection officer before retirement.

He described his next venture as a 'sliding door moment', when he looked on the noticeboard at his local library, and saw an advert for extras wanted for a Hollywood blockbuster. He sent off his details with a photo and received a positive reply. He was invited to visit Cambridge to be interviewed following which he was sent to Pinewood Studios for hair, makeup and costumes.

His first assignment was the circus film Dumbo and he was dressed to look like a 1990's upper-class Manhattan gangster. He made friends easily with the other extras, who came from all walks of life. Parts were abundant for him after that: The Diplomat, which was aired on Netflix; Batman, where he played a security officer in Gotham City; Dr Strange; Holby City; Grantchester, where he was in the congregation, and the BBC production Ladhood. He played in East Enders three times, and also the 007 film No Time To Die with Daniel Craig.

Robert played a clip from The Sun where he was sitting at a table "chatting" with another extra, but all they were saying was "rhubarb and custard!"

His talk was very well received by a large u3a audience at the QVH, who thoroughly enjoyed his presentation. He suggested we Google: supporting artist, if we wanted to follow in his footsteps!

You Couldn't Make It Up: The Secret Life of a TV Reporter – Monday, 12 October

Bharat Patel was one of the first Asian reporters on British radio and TV: his family left India and settled in Leicester, England when he was a young boy.

Bharat has worked for BBC Radio Leicester, Radio 4, ITV and BBC TV. He has covered major events that have made the headlines from earthquakes to plane crashes. He has also interviewed a parrot who spoke five languages and the world's oldest donkey. But behind the headlines are dozens of comic stories which have never been told – until now!

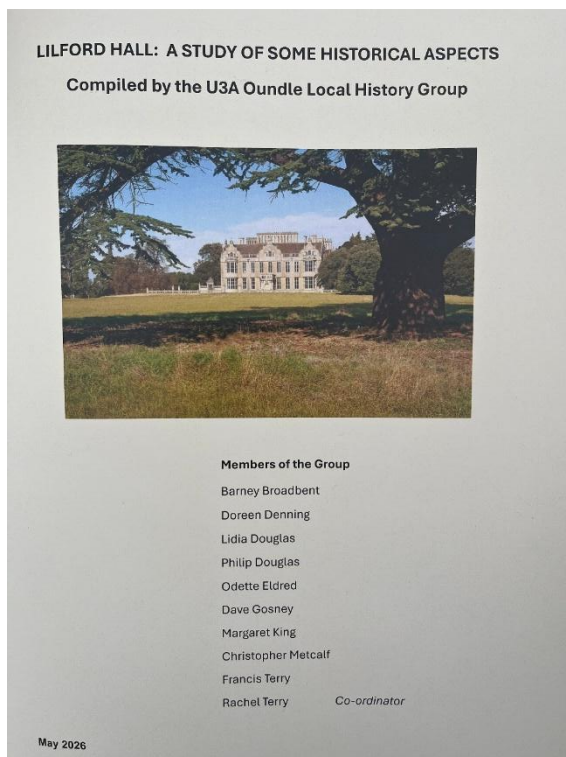
He will be selling his book 'Indian Takeaway' at the meeting for £10 (cash only), all profits from which will go to Hope Cancer Research charity.

Women in the First World War – Monday, 9 November

Women played many roles in the First World War, including in the military, on the Home Front and in factories. Stephen Barker's talk aims to highlight these well-trodden paths, but also some lesser-known themes. As well as increased financial independence, women also enjoyed a greater social freedom. For the first time, young single women could openly visit pubs, cinemas, and other public places, unaccompanied by men. Not all of these freedoms were welcomed by all however, resulting in social concerns about morality. The talk also highlights the impact of the war on women's health, and well-being, relationships and child-rearing. It looks also at the challenges faced by housewives on the Home Front, charitable giving and what happened when the Armistice had been signed.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP'S RESEARCH PROJECT ON LILFORD HALL

Last year, the Oundle U3A Local History Group researched the history of Lilford Hall. The project began when the present owner of the Hall, Michael Block KC, hosted a visit by the Group and raised questions about some little-known aspects of its history. How did the Powys family, owners of the Hall in the 18th century, manage to remove the entire village of Lilford, and its church, so as to 'beautify' the surrounding parkland? What existed before the present Hall was built in 1635? What happened at Lilford in the Second World War? These are some of the topics investigated by the Group, using materials in the Northamptonshire Record Office, newspaper archives and studies by the former Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, along with other published and unpublished sources.



An illustrated research report was printed earlier this year. This booklet will be available for £5 at a presentation and discussion about the project at QVH on Friday 6th November. This u3a event is in partnership with the Oundle documentary film group, DOCS+.

Everyone with an interest in the heritage of Northamptonshire, whether they are a member of u3a or not, is most welcome to come. Lilford is one of the great houses of the county, and has an exciting and chequered history. The Local History Group is hoping that people who remember the days in the 1970s and '80s, when the park at Lilford was a popular venue for all sorts of events, will come and share their memories!

Rachel Terry

SPOTLIGHT ON THE POETRY GROUP

Share a Poem Afternoon

I am on the committee of Oundle Festival of Music and Drama and also a member of the u3a Poetry Group so, when the Festival decided to hold a 'Share a Poem' afternoon, I naturally informed the rest of the Poetry Group.

On the day, I was pleased to see that three other members of the group attended, along with several other u3a members (*See photo*).

A very pleasant afternoon was had by all, with most of us reading a couple of poems on a variety of subjects, some funny, some more reflective. It is always good to come across a poem you have never



heard before and that was certainly the case with Carolyn Traynor's choice of a Russian poem 'Waiting' by Yevgeny Yevtushenko. Pam Ayres, Wendy Cope, John Betjeman, Roger McGough, Benjamin Zephaniah and Charles Causley all featured, as did a few poems composed

by those attending. There was even a poem attributed to the Monty Python team!

The afternoon was a great success, helped along by tea, coffee and delicious home-made biscuits and we agreed that we should hold another event in the near future. So, if you missed the first one, look out for the next date and we hope to see you there.

Gill Potts

NOTICES



JUNK MAIL (SPAM)

There has been a problem recently that when I reply to enquiries from people wishing to join Oundle and District u3a from membershipoundleu3a@outlook.com my emails often go to the Junk Mail/Spam of prospective new members. This means that they think I have not replied to their questions and queries.

If you know anyone who wants to join u3a, please could you pass this message on to them?

PS: It's a good idea to be in the habit of checking your Junk Mail (Spam)!

*Carolyn Traynor
(Membership Secretary)*

DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

Please save the date for our monthly meeting on 14 December. This Christmas Extravaganza is a lovely opportunity for any of our groups to share their entertainment skills – we hope you will come along and enjoy it.



PLAYREADING 2 has space in their Group for a couple more members. If you would like to join a lively bunch of people on the first Thursday of the month from 2.00pm until 4.00pm, please contact the Group Leaders, Jane Morris and Steph Tewson through the contact page on the website.



CHINWAGGERS meets every fourth Thursday of the month (except December) in the Snug at the Talbot Hotel in Oundle from 10.00am 'til noon. All welcome – just buy a coffee from their coffee shop and come across to the Snug.

MAY BE OF INTEREST

Free Mature Driver Event

Are you a mature driver aged 60+?

Do you live in Northamptonshire and rely on driving to stay independent?

This free event is designed especially for you.

This Mature Drivers' event is aimed at drivers aged 60+ and will cover a wide range of topics related to safe driving, including:

- * Practical advice and safety information
- * Opportunities to reflect on how driving needs may change over time
- * FREE hints and tips driving sessions, available to book and delivered by Northampton Advanced Motorists at a convenient date

Event details

Date: 14 October 2026

Time: Two sessions available: 10 am and 1 pm

Venue: The Hub at DIRFT, Dirft Drive, Crick, NN6 7GZ

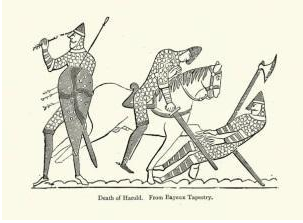
Places are limited and attendance is strictly by booking only.

Book your free tickets via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/northants-mature-driver-roadshows-4099083>

Volunteers needed for Oxfam

The Oxfam shop in Oundle is looking for volunteers. Anyone interested can pop in and see the Manager, Gemma, or call the shop on 01832 274276.



October's Quiz

Part One: The Bayeux Tapestry is now on display in the UK so the news has been all about the Normans. So here is a "Norman" quiz.

1. What is the real name of British DJ Fatboy Slim?
2. What could you buy in Normans of Oundle shop?
3. Which Conservative MP served in Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet and was injured in the bombing of the Grand Hotel in Brighton in 1984?
4. Which English entertainer was famous for catchphrases "swinging!" and "dodgy!" which were accompanied by thumbs-up or thumbs-down gestures?
5. What shape are Norman arches?
6. Which English actor, comedian and singer was popular in Albania?
7. On which beach did the Normans arrive in 1066?
8. The Bayeux Tapestry is not a tapestry. What is it?
9. Who designed the Gherkin (30 St Mary Axe) in London?
10. Norman Bates is a fictional character in which horror film?

Part Two: And then of course there was "Harold" (or Harry)

1. Who was the author of *The Birthday Party*?
2. Who was Prime Minister between 1957-1963?
3. Who was the only Labour leader to have formed a government after a general election four separate times?
4. Who captains the England football team?
5. Who was the actor/singer famous for *Island in the Sun*?
6. He was one of the Goons.
7. He was the 33rd President of the USA.
8. He was born in New Orleans, made his screen debut in *Memphis Belle* and is also a singer.
9. He started his career as a doctor before becoming a comedian.
10. Born in Budapest, he became a magician and escape artist.

Answers to September's Quiz:

Part One: 1. Campfire; 2. Furnace; 3. Magma; 4. Heatwave; 5. Horseradish;
6. Jalapeno; 7. Mulled Wine; 8. Thermonuclear Explosion; 9. The Sahara Desert;
10. Chicken Vindaloo.

Part Two: 1. Antarctic; 2. Avalanche; 3. Himalayas; 4. Vanilla Ice Cream; 5. Black Ice;
6. Lemonade; 7. Refrigerator; 8. Polar Bears; 9. Zero degree weather; 10. Snowdrift.