



www.u3arugby.org.uk

Charity Number 1094479

'Sharing Knowledge to Learn from Each Other'

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members: Ann Gillon, Margaret Evans, Ian Birkin, Janice Paxton, Keith Crowder and David Lawrence

Please look out for them in your Groups and Monthly Meetings and help them to quickly feel part of our organisation.

Sad News

We are extremely sad to report the death of Alan Kidd. (See end of newsletter for tribute and funeral details).

Membership Renewal – (Please save this information somewhere safe if you are not taking immediate action)

If you are a new member, or returning member, who joined Rugby u3a after 1st September 2024 and paid £15 you do not need to do anything. We have already received your subscription for 2025. For all other members please read on.

This is a reminder that your subscription, to continue your membership of Rugby u3a to the end of 2025, is due by 31st December 2024. The subscription for 2025 is £10 per member. If you would like to receive a printed copy of RUN each month the subscription is £22 per member including the postage.

Payment can be made by bank transfer, using the card reader at the monthly meeting, cheque or in cash.

Bank transfer is much preferred. Payments can be made to the following account:

Rugby U3A – Lloyds Bank Sort Code 30-97-17 Account No. 01854449

Please include your membership number and your name in the reference field.

Cheques: make payable to Rugby u3a and post to the treasurer's address shown below. Please don't forget to sign and date the cheque and write your membership number and name on the back. You can make a single bank transfer or write a cheque for more than one member. But please ensure that you give the membership numbers of all those members. Cash: Only if no other method of payment is possible. Please write your name and membership number on a piece of paper and send/give it to us with the cash. If someone is able to do a bank transfer for you, make sure they include your membership number and name in the reference field. Prompt payment would be much appreciated by both the Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

If there are any changes to your contact details, please inform the membership secretary as soon as possible either by email to membership@u3arugby.org.uk or by letter which can be posted to the membership secretary's address below.

If we have an email address for you, you will receive an emailed receipt once your payment has been successfully processed. Please keep this receipt, at least until March 2025, and ignore any further general appeals to those members who have not renewed!

If you do not plan to renew, it would help if you inform the membership secretary as soon as possible.

Gift Aid: If you pay tax on earnings, investments or interest and have not yet completed a Gift Aid form, please consider gift aiding your membership fee. Contact treasurer@u3arugby.org.uk or pick up a form at a monthly meeting. We will submit a Gift Aid claim, for subscriptions received in 2024, after 6th April 2025. If you have completed a form in the past, but are no longer eligible for us to make a claim on your behalf, please inform the Treasurer (treasurer@u3arugby.org.uk) as soon as possible.

Membership badges: Membership badges can be collected at monthly meetings.

Dave Daniel – Treasurer

Address for cheques:

Treasurer Rugby u3a,
27 Duncan Drive, Rugby, CV22 7RS

Joan Fowler – Membership Secretary

Address for contact details changes:

Membership Secretary Rugby u3a,
10 Fisher Avenue, Rugby, CV22 5HN

Dates for your diary

Coffee Morning Drop-Ins

Monday 11th November at the Kanko Coffee Lounge, 41 Clifton Road, Rugby, CV21 3PY (corner of Bath Street)

Monthly Meetings

14th November 2pm to 4pm.

Amanda May, The National Grid: National preparedness for the forthcoming demands on the electricity supply.

12th December 2pm to 4pm

Bobbie Darbyshire. Where do novelists get their ideas from?

9th January 2025 2pm to 4pm

"Aloud out"

A local jazz band playing a mixture of modern and Latin jazz.

Opera Emporio Monthly Meeting October 10th.

A nearly full house was treated to a musical performance by Opera Emporio that was second to none. It is not often that cheering and cries of 'More' are heard at the end of a u3a meeting!

Opera Emporio is a group of classically trained singers who perform professionally throughout the UK and specialise in Classical and Show music. The performers were led by Richard Lloyd Owen (Tenor) with Ellenor Parsons (Soprano), John Kiefert (Baritone) and Phil Ypres Smith (accompanist and musical director).



The programme included pieces from the world of opera and show music and took us on a musical journey through many different styles and periods; exposing us to a roller coaster of emotions from romance and comedy to tragedy, hate, death, and reconciliation along the way.

The male singing voices were powerful and when the soprano hit the high notes it sent a shiver down the spine.

This was a performance worthy of a big stage and it is no exaggeration to say that it left the listeners entranced. The encore ‘Anges Purs’ from Gounod’s Faust sung by the trio was met with rapturous applause.

Each of the musical pieces was introduced by Richard who explained the setting and context from the work in question. Some were connected, including two from La Traviata by Verdi and others were from different works by the same composers, including two from each of Puccini and Schönberg. As expected, the light hearted pieces came from the world of show music including two by Bernstein, and others by Gershwin, Kern and Rogers & Hammerstein.

All the pieces were well received but Bizet’s ‘Pearl Fishers Duet’ sung here by Richard and John, and Jerome Kern’s ‘Can’t Help Loving That Man of Mine’ from Showboat sung by Ellenor came the closest to bringing the house down. In all, a truly uplifting experience.



The afternoon had started at 2pm with the introduction of the Mayor of Rugby Simon Ward who had been invited as the guest of honour for this occasion. This was a special meeting to which guests and members of the public had also been invited to help raise the profile of Rugby u3a and hopefully attract new members. The attendance was estimated to have been approaching one hundred and twenty which is nearly twice the typical post- Covid number.

Expressing his appreciation in a vote of thanks, the mayor confessed that he had been so wrapped up in the performance that he had lost all track of time! He had been able to meet the singers and u3a members before the event and shared a cup of tea and chat with them afterwards for over an hour. Good use was made of many photo opportunities, courtesy of Dave Hopkinson from the camera club, and the plan is to send some of the pictures to the local media outlets to publicize our u3a.



Thanks are due to Fran Marchant our speaker finder for organising and promoting the event and for leaving no stone unturned to publicize it as widely as possible. In this she was supported by other committee members and on the day by the regular helpers at the monthly meetings including the refreshments team who provided ‘posh’ biscuits for the occasion!

Hopefully the event will have helped to publicise Rugby u3a and for his part, the mayor has promised to bang the drum on our behalf for the remainder of his time in office and beyond!

Brian Radesk

A word from our Speakers Secretary

I would like to say thank you to the committee for all their assistance with the organisation for this event.

Also to David Hopkinson from the camera group for taking many photos throughout the performance; Debbie and her team for serving hot drinks and biscuits for over one hundred people; Margaret Tuite and Graham Yates for meeting and greeting and handing out programmes; the church for letting us use their wonderful electric piano.

Thank you to those who came and made the afternoon so special.

Fran Marchant

Group News

Carry On Cruising / Travellers' Tales

A combined group is being formed with meetings taking place on the first Friday of the month at the United Reformed Church, 40 Hillmorton Road. We use the smaller back room and meet from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. A £2.00 fee is required to cover room costs.

The topic for the next meeting on **1st November is Travels in the Caribbean.**

We will be setting the programme for 2025 soon.

I have had a number of people expressing interest in this extended group and already have volunteers to share a range of experiences, which is great.

I hope to arrange a meeting over coffee in the next couple of weeks to pull the plan together.

Looking for a new name for the group to assist the rebrand!!! Ideas welcome.

Dawn Fassam

U3a Committee Meetings

The u3a Committee meets on the third Friday of every month from 2.00 pm to 4.00pm at Dunchurch Baptist Church , Coventry Road, Rugby , CV226RF

You are most welcome to come along and join any of our meetings to see how we operate – just let one of the committee members know so we can ensure we have a biscuit or two for you. If you have any issues and or topics you would like us to discuss, please let us know again by contacting a member of the committees.

We have vacancies on the committee particularly as we are currently functioning without a Secretary or Vice chair; we also need support for the Treasurer. In a recent magazine I stressed that it is essential we fill these roles at our next AGM to ensure the continuation of the society.

Please consider if you could step forward to get involved.

Dawn Fassam – Chair

Alan Kidd

Sadly Alan Kidd passed away after a short illness. He was a member of the Canal Group, Ramblers and Dining groups. He was a regular, long-standing and well-respected member of the Rugby u3a Roving Quiz Group. He frequently acted very successfully as one of the team captains and always maintained a calm and confident presence. He will be sadly missed. He was also a superb trad jazz trumpeter. Funeral details are 10 o'clock St Peter's church, Dunchurch on 11th November, followed by family only burial - flowers welcome, donations to Macmillan Cancer Support, please wear a splash of blue.