



[www.u3arugby.org.uk](http://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: Nigel Baker, Mrs Doris Froggatt, Martin Hill, Ms Nicky Kaye, Caroline Mellers, John Nicholas, Sue Nicholas, Jim Pang, Nigel Polton, Alexander Thomson, Amanda Thomson.

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

## **Membership Renewal – (Reminder)**

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](mailto: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! Emails will be issued as reminders to members who have not renewed.

If you do not plan to renew, it would help if you informed 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 13<sup>th</sup> January at the Kanko Coffee Lounge, 41 Clifton Road, Rugby, CV21 3PY (corner of Bath Street)

### **Monthly Meetings**

#### **9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 2pm to 4pm**

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

#### **13<sup>th</sup> February 2025 2:00 pm–4:00 pm**

Sue Drage - Recycling, not what you may think

#### **13<sup>th</sup> March 2025 2:00 pm–4:00 pm**

Jules O' Brian - Becoming a standup comedian at 50. Bonkers or brave?

#### **10<sup>th</sup> April 2025 2:00 pm–4:00 pm**

Roger Browne "Not father O' Malley", Roger's childhood in wartime and post war Salford

#### **8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 2:00 pm–4:00 pm**

Andrew Lound, Carpathia - "The midnight dash" The Titanic rescue.

#### **12<sup>th</sup> June 2025 2:00 pm-4:00 pm**

Barrow to Bagdad – Philip Caine. Philip's experiences during his working life.

## **Last Monthly Meeting - 'A beginning a muddle and an End' – where do writers get their ideas from?**

This was the title of the entertaining talk given by Bobbie Darbyshire at the December monthly meeting.

Bobbie, a self- confessed Jack (or should that be Jill) of all trades having worked variously as a barmaid, mushroom picker, film extra, maths coach, PA to a cabinet minister, adult literacy teacher and writer has, unlike Jack (or Jill) mastered at least one of these having written five successful novels and won national prizes for fiction and creative non-fiction. Currently living and working in London, she had ventured north to talk about how she goes about plotting and creating characters for her story telling.

Bobbie started writing seriously about thirty years ago and her talk was about her journey since then and how her skills and creative thinking had developed. She said she was once told that there are three golden rules for writing a successful story but unfortunately nobody knows what they are! She then illustrated this point with quotes from many famous authors, the common thread being that they all had a different way of getting their ideas.

Bobbie's practical advice to anyone embarking on a writing career was to write about something you know about so the more widely read you are and the greater your experience of life, the more successful you are likely to be. In this respect her varied career described above has stood her in good stead. She did stress however that novels should not be autobiographical even though they may contain incidents from your own life.

Also not to expect your writing to be a linear process. There is rarely such a thing as a completely visualised story at the outset. Most writers start somewhere and then see where it takes them. Often the characters develop as the story unfolds so it becomes possible to imagine how they might behave in certain circumstances and so to some extent the writer takes on the persona of that person. It is also important not to let any character you have drawn suddenly do something 'out of character' without any reason as that loses credibility with the reader.

Although there are no rules for successful writing all stories whether short stories or novels must keep the reader interested. Common techniques for achieving this are to include elements of suspense and surprise in the work and most importantly to pose questions and answers that need resolution. For example, the protagonist can have a particular objective in mind to which there will be a number of obstacles to be overcome and the story becomes about how that is achieved. If a writer expects to become rich and famous from their work, they will almost certainly be disappointed. Bobbie's journey to success was not a quick one. It took twelve years and many rejection slips for her first novel 'Truth Games' to be published. So why do they / she continue to do it? Some describe it as compulsion or even like getting hooked on a drug that is difficult to give up. The fruits of Bobbie's labours to date have resulted in five published novels and one in the pipeline which she has vowed will be her last and perhaps prophetically titled 'The Trouble with Books'.

To conclude Bobbie admitted that the title of her talk – 'A beginning a Muddle and an End' was actually a quote from Philip Larkin who, although best known as a poet, had written two short novels in his early life, evidence that someone as eminent as he was had found the process difficult. The meeting concluded with a question-and-answer session after which members purchased a number of her books that she had brought with her.

*Brian Radesk*

## Group News

### Singing for Fun

On Tuesday morning, 10<sup>th</sup> December, 15 members of the Friday-Singing for Fun - Friday group and our brilliant accompanist Margaret Tuite, met at Bilton House. This is the third year we have been there to sing carols and re-tell the Christmas story to the residents, in our own peculiar way.

A number of the audience happily joined in with the singing and we were surprised and delighted when a black, grey and white border collie dog and its owner joined us for a session! Luckily, he was an obvious music lover and very well trained. He came in when we were “Watching Flocks” so it was a highly appropriate entry; he’d certainly have kept the sheep safe!

We feel that we’re getting rather versatile; - Gill and Rose sang solo verse 1 of “Once in Royal David’s City”; the men became the shepherds watching their flocks; the Gold verse of “We Three Kings was sung by Ron and David, I sang the Frankincense verse and Bob and John sang of Myrrh!

Following our carol session, we chatted with the residents, all of whom had enjoyed our efforts, then we were treated to mince pies, tea and coffee.



Everyone enjoyed visiting Bilton House, and we hope to do it again next Christmas.

However, Margaret, our pianist has decided to hang-up her black-and-white keys, which means that we’re left with only a poor apology of a pianist – me (Lynne). If anyone would like to join us (and we are really quite a nice group of people -----) **especially** if they can tickle the ivories, please let us know. Our details can be found on the U3A lists.

Happy 2025

*Sarah Oxbury & Lynne Barry*

### Knitting and Crochet Group



This month’s pictures are of a moss stitch crochet blanket and a rabbit comforter crafted by Fran Marchant.