



The opinions and statements made in this Newsletter are those of individual members. They are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Committee of Buckingham and District U3A.

MONTHLY OPEN MEETINGS

Monthly Open Meetings are held in the Large Hall, Buckingham Community Centre, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham at 2.30 p.m., usually on the 4th Wednesday of the month. We do not meet in August.

MONTHLY STALLS

All contributions for fund-raising stalls will be gratefully received by Margaret Elliott. The proceeds from the stall go to our nominated charity. Tombola items will be collected throughout the year.

Date	Topic & Speaker	Stall	Tea Rota
27 th Jan 2010	David Vaisey "Treasures from the Bodlian Library"	Jigsaws	Yoga & Art Appreciation
24 th Feb	Douglas Smith "Life as a BBC Camera Man"	Unwanted Gifts	Book & Cribbage
24 th March	Hearing Dogs for the Deaf	Books & Magazines	Bridge Groups
28 th April	Gordon Abbott "The Life of Evacuees"	Videos, CDs, DVDs, Tapes, Records	Craft & Creative Writing
26 th May	Mel Rees "Would I lie to You?"	Plants & Cuttings	Flower Arranging & Exploring the Past
23 rd June	Anna McAvoy "Stowe House, its History and Renovation"	White Elephant	Family History
28 th July	Midsummer Social	Tombola	French Groups

Please note the deadline for articles for the next newsletter issue No. 37 is **Wednesday 17th March 2010.**

Please Email or post to:
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BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER



CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I would first of all like to thank the committee for agreeing to remain for at least another year. I am also very grateful to Pam Tonge for agreeing to be elected onto the committee as the Vice-Chair. John Walton, as our new President, has also offered to give me any help I may require over the next three years.

Jackie Page and Sheila Dalzell organise coffee mornings two or three times a year for new and potential members to Buckingham and District U3A. Pam Tonge and I went along to the October meeting held in The White Hart. There were eight new or potential members at the meeting. We all enjoyed a good discussion as well as coffee and biscuits. One of the things that came out of the meeting was the use of email. I am very keen to get as many members as possible using email for correspondence between the U3A committee and their groups. I mentioned this at the coffee morning; the general response was a lack of confidence felt by some people about going onto the internet and the use of email. With this in mind we have investigated helping people with the opportunity of a short course on "The use of email" (see final page). If you need help please fill in the form in the newsletter and give it to me or any other member of the committee.

At the AGM during the members' forum I asked a question regarding the poor attendance at this year's July social. The reason suggested from the floor was the "not up to expectations" of the Christmas Party last year. With this suggestion in mind the committee is determined to make this year's December meeting an event not to miss. While we are on the subject of the AGM members' forum, I would like to think that if anybody needs, or feels the desire, to make a suggestion regarding Buckingham and District U3A they can approach me in person at the monthly meeting or email me with their comments. (Email address: pbwt@btinternet.com)

If I am unable to give an answer immediately the issue would be discussed at the next committee meeting and any response relayed back to you. This year's nominated charity is the "Memory Café". It is supported by The Alzheimer's Society

and held at the Well Street Centre every second Thursday of the month. Last year we raised just over £200 for The North Bucks Carers. This year I would like to raise at least £500 for the Memory Café. I will keep you all updated on a regular basis at the monthly meeting and through this Newsletter. Please bring in your contributions and visit Margaret's stall on your monthly visits.

Remember, any one of us may need the **Memory Café**. Just when you think the Christmas festivities are all over, you have the opportunity to attend the U3A Christmas Lunch held at Whittlebury Hall on Sunday 17th January 2010, cost £19.00 for three courses and coffee. The event is limited to 100 members There are still a few tickets left. Please contact Pat Costello.
Bryan W Thomas

SECRETARY'S CORNER

Group Coordinators' meeting Please make a note in your new diaries that a meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 10th February 2010 from 2.00 to 4.00pm in the Small Hall of the Community Centre. We usually use this time to air any difficulties, celebrate best practice and share solutions, as well as to get to know each other a little better. You will receive an agenda in January but meanwhile, please think of any issues you would particularly like to raise and let me know, valshaw@care4free.net or 01280 812547.

Lost property After the AGM, a pair of spectacles was found on the Square Dance and Creative Writing table. Please ring if they are yours.

www.u3a.org.uk Don't forget this very useful web site, which has down-loadable leaflets about languages, canals, local history, drama/theatre, family history, living history and many others. These can also be requested as hard copies from the Bromley office (tel: 020 8466 6139) We have been asked to remind members that for a £10 enrolment fee, you can get access to all untutored online courses for 12 months and for 25 Australian dollars, access to all the Australian untutored courses.

Possible Folk Dancing Group

Vera Moyle-Maton has offered to set up a Folk Dancing Group. Anyone interested please contact George Walker for information on 01280 813735.

So, why do we need microphones?

This is a question that is often raised when we have our monthly 'Open Meetings' in the Community Centre. Certainly, a few of our Speakers who are 'seasoned board treaders', such as David Pickering or Betty Page, she will be making a welcome return for our 16th December meeting, do not need any 'sound reinforcement'. In fact, Betty on her last visit to us could not wear any radio microphone at all because she had to make so many costume changes as she went along. Sometimes we have to provide microphones on stands or a hand-held microphone so that members in the audience can be heard and not have to have their questions repeated from the stage for those at the back of the hall.



All the foregoing whilst important enough is not the only reason for the presence of microphones. We like to think that those of us who have hearing difficulties should not be disadvantaged when attending our meetings. Fortunately, the Community Centre provides a hearing loop facility. This consists of a loop of wire that goes around the perimeter of the Main Hall. A large powerful amplifier is connected to the Loop which radiates a magnetic field. This can be detected by the majority of hearing aids when switched by the user to the Loop or 'T' position. The hearing aid can then pick up the magnetic field. The input of the Loop amplifier is connected to a spare output of the hall's sound system. We do have a visual reassurance that the Loop amplifier is working since a vertical display of lights on the panel jumps up and down with the signal from the sound system.

This brings me to a special request having a visual check is okay but it would be doubly reassuring to know that the Loop is radiating out as well. So, if you have, or know someone who has an old hearing aid with a 'T' position that is fit but workless, may we put it to good use with our sound kit – any donation would be accepted and appreciated.

On a final note when we do have a speaker who can not wear our radio microphone, I always leave a wired stand microphone 'on' so Loop users don't totally miss out. Any problems and I would be pleased to help on the day.

David Angrave, Technical Resources.

A PLEA AND A THANK YOU FROM YOUR TREASURER

Thank you to all those who have set up a Standing Order to pay your subscription, and have amended it to £13.

You will all remember that the subscription was increased to £13 from 1st October. Unfortunately a good percentage of those payments received have not been amended to the correct figure. In those cases I will telephone sometime shortly. In the cases where the payment has been duplicated by your bank, I will be sending out refund cheques shortly.

PLEASE if you have not updated, do so ready for next year.

Pat Costello

Coffee Morning for New Members

Following the success of the previous coffee morning there will be another one to be held on **Friday 12th February 2010** at 10.30 a.m. at the White Hart in Buckingham.



We welcome any new members who have not been able to attend a previous coffee morning to come along and enjoy an informal chat and coffee.

If you would like to attend please phone Sheila on 01280 817747.

The Buckingham U3A Duplicate Bridge Pairs Cup

The Duplicate Bridge Pairs Cup competition is held annually at Maids Moreton Village Hall. This year the event was held on the 15th November. It is now in its fourth year and attracted a record number of twenty two pairs. The event is not only a very competitive bridge match it is also a grand social gathering which brings together bridge players from the three very successful Buckingham and District U3A Bridge Groups, Bridge (Beginners), Bridge (Improvers) and Bridge Tuition. The event was organised by the Bridge Tuition Coordinator, Peter Holman with the able assistance of Clive Coudy, Bridge (Improvers). This year the event was won by Sheila and Russell Tobin. Previous winners have been, Ulla Weber partnered with June Belton (2006), Margaret Bullen/Peter Holman (2007), Rosie/Clive Coudy (2008).

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COMMITTEE

Chairman	Bryan W Thomas 18 Coopers Wharf Ford Street Buckingham MK18 1UP	01280 813664 pbwt@btinternet.com
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Treasurer	Pat Costello 17 Campbell Close Buckingham MK18 7HP	01280 815143 pat.costello.uk@virgin.net
Membership Secretary	George Walker 2 Burleigh Piece Buckingham MK18 7BB	01280 813735 george.walker7@talktalk.net
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Theatre & Outings	Beryl Carr 16 Robin Close Buckingham MK18 7HD	01280 823808 beryl.alan@talktalk.net
Monthly Stalls	Margaret Elliott 7 Fishweir Stewkley Leighton Buzzard LU7 0HB	01525 240174 mechippie@aol.com
Newsletter Editor	Sheila Dalzell 18 Partridge Close Buckingham MK18 7HH	01280 817747 sheilaeditor@hotmail.co.uk

EQUIPMENT REGISTER, to borrow contact keeper

June Lewis	01280 815849	Keyboard
David Angrave	01280 816453	Radio Microphone (lapel); Radio Microphone (hand held); Microphone with lead; 35mm Slide Projector; Screen (floor standing); Overhead Projector
Paul Radcliffe	01280 813352	Flip Chart Stand
Merle Harrison	01280 821693	Miniature Tape Recorder
Valerie Shaw	01280 812547	Photocopier
Mo Borrill	01280 813735	Magnifier
Peter Cammas	01280 815279	Digital Camera
Geoff Kirk	01280 812772	Digital Projector; DVD player (multi region); Projector Stand

Please note the changes to the EQUIPMENT REGISTER as above. The Digital Photography Group has gone into hibernation for the time being so Peter Cammas has suggested that it would be more appropriate if items that he looked after, except the Digital Camera, were transferred to someone else. Geoff Kirk is a significant user of the Digital Projector for his group, so kindly offered to look after it, along with the projector stand and the DVD Player. Normally he uses a plain wall for projecting his images so doesn't need a screen. That stays with me, along with all the other visual aids, such as a portable Overhead Projector and a 35mm Slide Projector. May I give a timely reminder to everyone, that everything shown in the EQUIPMENT REGISTER, is available for all our members to borrow. If you are worried about using any of the items, then just contact the listed keeper, to seek reassurance.

David Angrave, Technical Resources

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GROUP DIRECTORY: Buckingham Centre (Library), Maids Moreton (MM) Village Hall

Activity	Co-ordinator	Telephone	Weekday	Time	Venue
Art Appreciation 1	Pam Tonge	01280 823370	2 nd & 4 th Thur	2.30	House
Art Appreciation 2	Pam Tonge	01280 823370	1 st & 3 rd Fri	10.30	Buck Centre
Book	Gillian Macdonald	01280 822688	4 th Thur	2.00-3.30	Buck Centre
Bridge (Improvers)	Russell Tobin	01280 817918	Mon	2.00-4.00	M.M. Village Hall
Bridge (Rubber)	Clive Cowdy	01280 824274	Mon	10.00-12.00	Chandos Court
Bridge Tuition	Peter Holman	01280 822611	Tue	10.00-12.00	M.M. Village Hall
Chess	David Pond	01296 714112	Tue	10.30	House
Computing (Intro)	Geoff Suggate	01280 812195	Ask Co-ord		
Crafts & Card Making	June Olliff	01280 823305	2 nd & 4 th Thur	10.00-12.00	Buck Centre
Creative Writing	Susie Kelly	01280 816940	1 st & 3 rd Mon	10.30-12.30	House
Cribbage	Mike Baker	01280 816460	2 nd Thrs & 4 th Fri	2.00	House
Croquet	George Walker	01280 813735	Fri	2.00-4.00	Buck Cricket Club
Digital Photography	Peter Cammas	01280 815279	Ring for info.		
Exploring the Past	Shirley Knight	01296 713765	1 st Mon	10.00-12.00	Ask Coordinator
Flower Arranging	Anne Liddle	01280 823565	3 rd Tue	1.45-4.00	M.M. Village Hall
Family History	Geoff Kirk Jenni Burke	01280 812772 01280 816546	1 st & 3 rd Tue	09.45	Buck Centre
French Beginners	Ginny Booth	01280 813802	Fridays	2.00	House
French Advanced 1	Jenni Burke	01280 816546	2 nd & 4 th Wed	10.00-12.00	House
French Advanced 2	Liz Kinsell	01296 713754	2 nd & 4 th Wed	10.00-12.00	House
French Intermediate	Judy Austin	01280 814864	Alternate Wed	10.30	House
French Lunch 1	John Murray	01280 813792	1 st Wed	12.30	House
French Lunch 2	Judy Austin	01280 814864	3 rd Wed	12.30	House
Friendship	Jane Walker	01280 813382	3 rd Thur	2.30-4.30	House
Gardening	Jennie Newcombe Sandra Nicholls	01296 712476 01280 823491	1 st Tue	2.00-4.00	M.M. Village Hall
German	Ursula Archdeacon	01280 823640	2 nd & 4 th Wed	10.00-12.00	House
Handbells 1	Derek Smith	01280 813946	Fri	9.30-10.45	Gawcott Chapel
Handbells 2	Derek Smith	01280 813946	Fri	11.00-12.30	Gawcott Chapel
Italian	Roy Walker	01280 812836	2 nd & 4 th Tue	2.00-4.00	House
Italian Beginners	Peter Cammas	01280 815279	Ring for info.		
Jazz Appreciation	Derrick Olliff	01280 823305	3 rd Fri	10.00-12.00	House
Local History 1	Sylvia Cooley	01280 816634	2 nd & 4 th Wed	10.00-12.00	M.M. Village Hall
Local History 2	Dorothy Shaw	01280 822087	1 st & 3 rd Thurs	10.00	Buck Centre
Music Pleasure 1	Annastasia Kavanagh	01280 817828	1 st Thur	2.30-4.30	House
Music Pleasure 2	David Angrave	01280 816453	1 st Wed	2.00-4.00	House
Outdoor	Val Bradley	01280 817746	Ask Co-ord		
Painting	Pam Gower	01280 823279	1 st & 3 rd Mon	1.30-3.30	Well St. Centre
Philosophy	Don Horne	01280 813587	2 nd & 4 th Tues	10.00-11.30	Buck Centre
Play Reading	Jane Walker Judith Bell	01280 813382 01280 813721	4 th Tue	2.00-4.00	Buckingham Parish Church
Poetry	Julia Randall	01280 821388	3 rd Thurs	2.30	7 Bristle Hill
Russian	Roy Walker	01280 812836	1 st & 3 rd Mon	2.00-4.00	House
Scrabble	Rosalie Stein	01280 814373	Tue	2.00-4.00	Buck Centre
Singing for Fun	Jane Walker	01280 813382	2 nd & 4 th Thur	2.30	Parish Church
Spanish Beginners	Vicky Steadman	01280 847980	Tue	2.30	House
Spanish Int. 1	Vicky Steadman	01280 847980	Tue	10.15	House
Square Dancing	Susie Kelly	01280 816940	2 nd & 4 th Mon	1.30-3.30	Well St. Centre
Strollers	Lesley Suggate	01280 812195	Ask Co-ord	10.00	The Swan
Yoga	Gwyneth Jebson	01296 715674	Tue	10.00-11.30	University Studio

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WEEKLY TIMETABLE

DAYS	FIRST WEEK		SECOND WEEK	
	AM	PM	AM	PM
MON	Bridge – Rubbers Creative Writing Exploring the Past	Bridge – Improvers Painting Russian	Bridge – Rubber	Bridge – Improvers Square Dancing
TUE	Bridge – Tuition Family History Spanish Intermediate 1 Yoga Chess	Gardening Scrabble Spanish Beginners	Bridge – Tuition Philosophy Spanish Intermediate 1 Yoga Chess	Italian Scrabble Spanish Beginners
WED	French Lunch 1	Music for Pleasure 2	French Advanced 1 French Advanced 2 French Intermediate German Local History 1	
THUR	Local History 2	Music for Pleasure 1	Crafts & Card Making	Singing for Fun Art Appreciation 1 Cribbage
FRI	Handbells Art Appreciation 2	Croquet French Beginners	Handbells	Croquet French Beginners
DAYS	THIRD WEEK		FOURTH WEEK	
MON	Bridge – Rubber Creative Writing	Bridge – Improvers Painting Russian	Bridge – Rubber	Bridge – Improvers Square Dancing
TUE	Bridge – Tuition Family History Spanish Intermediate 1 Yoga Chess	Flower Arranging Scrabble Spanish Beginners	Bridge – Tuition Spanish Intermediate 1 Philosophy Yoga Chess	Italian Scrabble Spanish Beginners Play Reading
WED	French Lunch 2		French Advanced 1 French Advanced 2 French Intermediate German Local History 1	OPEN MEETING
THUR	Local History 2	Friendship Group Poetry	Crafts & Card Making	Art Appreciation 1 Books Singing for Fun
FRI	Handbells Jazz Art Appreciation 2	Croquet French Beginners	Handbells	Croquet French Beginners Cribbage

Buckingham U3A's very own Novelist
Daughters of Hunger By Frances Sands
(ISBN 978-0-9560924-0-3)

Long time member of Buckingham U3A, Frances Osborne, has at last completed the book she was working on when she became the original leader of the Creative Writing group. The novel tells of the relationships between mothers and daughters of several generations of Irish women against the background of the troubled history of Ireland. The language and imagery is lyrical and one is left with a vivid impression of the personal tragedies and stubborn strength of the characters. Congratulations to Frances upon the completion of a fascinating document which tells a convincing and satisfying tale. (Sorry about the proliferation of adjectives, Frances!)
Susie Kelly

Cribbage

The Cribbage group goes from strength to strength. We have regularly had meetings almost every couple of weeks for the last 6 months or so. At each meeting we cover many topics (and sort out many problems) from subjects ranging from Education to Politics to Religion to Family to AVDC to Pensions and all manner of Health issues and very educational and instructive it is too. Oh yes, and we cram in as many games of Crib as we can in our allotted 2-3 hours. The group usually has 6-7 members attending and we all enjoy it thoroughly. We could do with one or two more players, if only to stop Val winning each week. If you feel you would like to join us either regularly or from time to time, please give me a call or just come along. We usually meet on the second and fourth Friday of each month at 20 Highlands Road in Buckingham.
Mike Baker

Strollers Group

On the 8th October, twenty-two people celebrated the Strollers' second birthday by walking along the canal at Cosgrove. It was a beautiful day and the traffic on the canal was very busy. Along the way, we saw several fishermen; swans just resting by the side of one of the canal boats and a lady relaxing in the front of a narrow boat whilst someone else was doing all the work. One of our members got talking to a fellow walker and found that they had lots of friends and colleagues in common. We walked a lot further than usual but there was a reason, we needed to build up an appetite for our lunch at the Barley Mow Pub. Between us we managed to



sample a good portion of the menu which was excellent. Thanks to Sheila Dalzell and Carolyn Andrews for all the work organising this walk.
Lesley Suggate

Yoga

Our Yoga group has been going strong for three years now, which seems to have passed very quickly. We started off in the Youth Centre and at the time were glad to have found a venue. However in February this year we moved to The Studio in Tanlaw Mill (Buckingham University). It is a great improvement, light and airy and above all really WARM!! So everyone is delighted with the move. We are all aware that we meet every week, which is more often than most other groups, and the venue we have to pay for, so we decided to pay one pound each for every attendance to relieve the pressure on U3A finances. As our sessions are mainly taken up with yoga postures, breathing etc. rather than social intercourse, we have decided to have a "get-together" after our last session before Christmas.



Jean Froude has kindly invited us all to her home, where we will each take a small food contribution for a Christmas buffet. Everyone is looking forward to this event as we are a very happy and relaxed group and enjoy the wellbeing that yoga brings.
Gwyneth Jebson



Painting Group

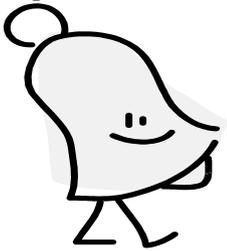
Over the past year we have played host to 6 visiting artists who have kindly demonstrated their distinctive styles using various techniques – and I think that has encouraged us to gradually develop and improve our own painting skills. Last month we also had the Buckingham Town Jester pose for us in his full regalia; it was quite a challenge to capture his portrait!

A highlight of our year was in July at our Outdoor Painting day, when one of our members provided us with a lovely strawberry cream tea on her farm. There were sheep, chickens as well as beautiful scenery for us to portray. At our December meeting we shall be having a free Xmas Tea Party, followed by a DVD and a discussion about our programme for 2010. I'm afraid that at the moment the Painting Group class is full, but there will be a waiting list available for any potential new members who wish to join us.

For more information please contact Pam Gower on 01280 823279.

Handbells Group

We now have three new bells and the others have been refurbished and polished this year, so we can now play in several keys and in tune – great improvement!



We have two teams of 8 who work very hard and sound really good. Rehearsals take place every Friday morning which are good fun. We have played at two functions for which we wear 'uniform' shirts – Women's Day of Prayer and Gawcott Senior Citizens. We have one more engagement this year at Gawcott WI in December. Our repertoire is increasing nicely and we look forward to accepting engagements.

Derek Smith

Travel & Theatre

How quickly the year has flown – is it a sign of old age? It seems such a short time since I wrote last year's Christmas article. I hope that this year's outings, shows and holidays have met with your approval. I only want to hear praise



and not disapproval! I will ask, seriously, if you have anything you might consider we could do or anyway to improve our days out or holidays. Any ideas of places to visit are always welcome. From time to time I do get suggestions. Then I have to decide whether or not I think it is feasible, as far as distance or popularity, is concerned. As you know we have encountered some bad traffic jams on a few of our trips but I am afraid that it cannot be avoided. It would seem that Fridays are the worst travelling days, particularly on the homeward journey, but Friday is the day when fewer group activities take place – hence the reason for going on Fridays. We will have been to Thursford by the time you read this. Needless to say we are all looking forward to it because of the enthusiastic reports that have been given. Our holiday in Croatia was enjoyed by all – the open bar was well patronized! It was a good hotel and good food, but I am afraid that the Madeira hotel would be a hard one to beat. Before we sail off to the Norwegian Fjords we hope to go on a short holiday to Venice in March. The holiday in Scotland is still in the planning stage. I am waiting for a quote from Simply Groups before I can do a comparison between companies. I have received some advanced info about some of the forthcoming Milton Keynes shows. First of all, I was told that the 'La Cage aux Folles' has been cancelled. Two are repeats, I am afraid, 'HistoryBoys' and 'Whistle down the Wind. However, Alison Steadman is coming in 'Enjoy', an Alan Bennett play which is currently showing in the West End. The Northern Ballet is making a return visit, this time performing the Peter Pan' ballet, Agatha Christie's 'Witness for the Prosecution', 'Laughter in the Rain' – the music of Neil Sedaka. Last but not least is Brian Conley in 'Hairspray'. As far as outings are concerned I hope that you approve of what I am proposing. The list of events is in this Newsletter. It only remains for Alan (my stalwart right hand) and I to wish you a very Happy Christmas and, most importantly, a Healthy 2010.

Beryl Carr

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

The Book Group

We have enjoyed reading a wide variety of books and discussing them in the comfortable room in The Buckingham Centre. Anyone is welcome to join us just once or often at 2.30pm on the fourth Thursday of the month. We shall begin the New Year with 'Engleby' by Sebastian Faulks. At our October meeting members chose the following books for 2010:

The Leopard by Giuseppe di Lampedusa, The Clothes on their Backs by Linda Grant, Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil by John Berendt, The Girl on the Landing by Paul Torday, Elizabeth and her German Garden by Elizabeth von Arnim, Incidents in the Rue Langin by Anita Brookner, Brooklyn by Colm Toibin, The Towers of Trebizond by Rose Tremain, The Secret by Philippe Guinbert, and To the Lighthouse by Virginia Woolf.

Quite a mixture of old and new! We hope you will be tempted to join us. Janet Cobham kindly initiated the discussion on 'The Heart of the Matter' by Graham Greene at the October meeting. Here is part of what she said: From 1941-1943, whilst working at the Foreign Office, Graham Greene was stationed in Sierra Leone, West Africa. His experiences there provided the background of 'The Heart of the Matter' published in 1948. 'The Heart of the Matter' is permeated by the complexities of the Roman Catholic view of guilt and sin. (Graham Greene had converted to Roman Catholicism in 1926.) The story is a study of the need for inner peace and the destructive effects of misplaced pity. He explores the ideas of grace, good and evil and, as he says in the novel, "the appalling strangeness of the mercy of God". The story revolves around Major Henry Scobie, portrayed as an incorruptible Deputy Commissioner of Police. His capacity for pity, rather than love, is to be his downfall. His pity for his wife Louise, trapped by the naval blockade into remaining in West Africa, and their shared misery over the death of their only child, inveigle him into a fatal chain of events which leads him into worldly corruption and, in his eyes, as he is a practising Roman Catholic, to eternal damnation. Love for one woman and loyalty to his wife mean he cannot go to Confession and receive Absolution. However, to please his wife he does go to Mass and receives Communion, for him a grave sin. He can see only one way out. I found this book immensely readable and finely crafted. It tells an absorbing story yet manages at the same time to explore concepts of morality, justice, and religion. Gillian Macdonald

Outdoor Group

Our Autumn programme has been varied and full of interest, as well as having several walks that were rather exhilarating. I think the award for the prettiest walk should go to the gentle stroll around the village of Harlestone, Northants. Beautiful stone houses in settings that probably have not changed in three hundred years. Although the main aim of the group is the healthy exercise that walking gives, an undoubted benefit is that we often see, and hear about, places that are not usually visited. As you are reading this, no doubt Christmas is very much in your mind. Perhaps a cue to wish all members a happy Christmas and a good New Year. However, I am already thinking of the Spring and hoping for offers of walks that will take us up to the end of May. I have already "penciled in" a Bluebell walk for early May and am planning stages three and four of our "Milton Keynes City Boundary" walk as well as a summer stroll along the banks of the Thames near to the village of Wytham. As you can see, for me, winter has almost passed over. Just as our walks are varied, so too are the pubs where we stop for lunch. (If you want to know of a good pub, ask any walking member of the Outdoor Group.) Menus and prices can be very different but there is the price of one drink that has become almost a standing joke between us. A pint of soda water and lime has cost me as little as 30p up to over £2, with the most expensive being £1.85 for just half a pint. I was once told that licensed premises do not actually pay for soda water, but I am not sure if this is true. Of course, I accept that the service is worth something, but is there anyone out there who can explain just why this simple drink varies so much in price. Finally, a **BIG REMINDER** of our Indoor Meeting on **Wed 6th Jan 10.30-11.30am** in the Small Hall of the Community Centre. Offers of walks for the Spring programme please, plus any other idea or suggestions will be very gratefully received. A new idea has been put forward by a couple of members. They would like to have one "all-day" walk about once a month, which could include a midway break for lunch on a longer than usual walk, or a morning walk followed by a visit to a place of interest in the afternoon. There is no reason why a shorter walk could not be offered for the same week, so that all members have a choice. Perhaps we could designate a specific week each month so that members knew what to expect??? This is something we could discuss in January 2010. Many thanks to those who make our programmes possible
Val Bradley

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French Beginners

Our group started in October 2008 with a dozen of us and numbers have more or less stayed the same. Most of us studied French at school quite a few years ago but were rather 'rusty' and our aim was to become more confident when speaking French. Valerie Shaw was our adviser and helped set up the group for the first six months. We meet every Friday afternoon, concentrate for an hour then tea and socialising. We are working our way through the BBC French Experience text book and concentrating mainly on conversation. Occasionally we have a guest French speaker to help us with our accents. It is a very friendly and keen group and on our first anniversary 16 of us went to a French restaurant in Oxford and had a great time.
Ginny Booth

Art Appreciation Groups

During the summer and autumn, we have made several trips out. At the British Museum, we were particularly interested in the Sutton Hoo treasures and later had an informative talk on Roman burial goods. We saw the work of John William Waterhouse at the Royal Academy. In a joint visit with members of the Buckingham Decorative and Fine Arts Society, some members visited Thomas Gainsborough's house in Sudbury, Suffolk.

A U3A outing to Polesden Lacey organized by Beryl Carr gave art group members a great opportunity to view their wonderful art collection and in a visit to the Barber Institute in Birmingham, we saw the University College London's collection of prints and drawings from Durer to Stanley Spencer. Most recently, Group 2 (which now has 17 members) has watched a DVD of church architecture entitled "England's 1,000 Best Churches" with a splendid narrative by Simon Jenkins, courtesy of Dorothy Shaw of the Local History second group. This group meets once a fortnight on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month at 10.30am in the Mezzanine Suite above the library in Verney Close. Group 1 with its 12 members is currently studying the work of the Baroque painters, Rubens and Van Dyck and continues to meet in each other's homes.

Pamela Tonge

Flower Arranging

This group has blossomed – the numbers have increased but we still have room for more ladies, and men, if you would like to try flower arranging. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at

Maids Moreton Village Hall at 1.45 pm and have a varied programme. We are NOT experts – we are just trying to improve so come and give us a try. We will be decorating the Old Gaol again this year in time for Santa's visit on December 12th – the day of the Christmas Parade.



If you have any queries, or want further information, please give me a call.
Anne Liddle 01280 823565.

Bridge

Three groups are going strong with vacancies in two of them. On Monday mornings at 10.00a.m. the Chandos Court group play rubber bridge (not duplicate) and anyone, *who has already played Bridge*, and wishes to join should contact Clive Cowdy. The Monday afternoon group plays at Maids Moreton Village Hall at 2.00p.m. This is duplicate bridge for people wanting to improve their play. At the same time and place there will be *an opportunity for absolute beginners* to come and learn to play this lovely game, which must be one of the cheapest forms of entertainment and an excellent way to make new friends. Several people are on a waiting list and I shall telephone them about starting in January; anyone else please give me a ring on 01280 817918.

The Tuesday morning group, meeting at Maids Moreton Village Hall, has been full to capacity from the start and has had spin-offs to smaller groups playing together socially in members' homes. That's what I mean: cheap entertainment and new friends.

Russell Tobin

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

Events 2010

Event	Date	Cost	Booking
Sister Act	January 20 th	£29.50	Now
Venice (4 days)	March 21 st	£510 p.p. sharing*	Now
Wimpole Hall N.T.	April 13 th	See below	February
Runnymede Cruise to Windsor	May 21 st	T.B.A.	March
Laughter in the Rain M.K.Theatre	June 9 th	T.B.A.	
Norwegian Fjords Cruise	June 12 th	Various	Now
Witness for the Prosecution M.K.Theatre	June 16 th	T.B.A.	
Flower Show (?)	June/July	T.B.A.	
Kenilworth Castle E.H./Charlecote N.T.	July 16 th	See below	May
Hampstead Walk & Kenwood House	August	T.B.A.	June
Scotland	September	T.B.A.	
Hairspray M.K.Theatre	September	T.B.A.	
Churchill's Britain at War Experience	October	T.B.A.	
Albert Hall Classical Spectacular	November	T.B.A.	
Christmas Market Cruise (aboard the "Lady Anne" – I hope!)	December **		

* Single Supplement £59.00

** This will have to be booked early, due to cabin availability, as soon as I have the details. As some will know it is quite a small boat.

Dates are not set in stone and some changes might be required due to unforeseen circumstances. As you can appreciate the coach fare will have to be increased due to the extra cost of fuel.

E.H. = English Heritage, free

N.T. = National Trust, free to members; group rates apply to non members. In all circumstances the coach will be an additional cost.

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A

Income & Expenditure Account Year Ended 30th September 2009

	<u>2008/9</u>	<u>2007/8</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Subscriptions	5387.50	4870.00
Theatre Visits, etc.	41557.90	67015.20
Interest	420.28	783.53
Miscellaneous	268.40	91.50
Inland Revenue-Giftaid	694.41	622.91
Chosen Charity	209.13	287.40
	-----	-----
	48537.62	73670.54
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Room Hire	2510.22	2964.01
Print, post, stat	1387.33	1440.81
Capitation fees	1267.50	1170.00
Theatre Visits, etc	40858.70	66278.35
Speakers	598.80	493.00
Christmas/Social	224.38	1014.02
Equipment/maint.	-	1093.00
Miscellaneous	523.63	575.90
Teas/coffees	101.49	39.57
Chosen Charity	209.13	287.40
	-----	-----
	47681.18	75356.06
	-----	-----
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	856.44	(1685.52)
Add Accum funds b/fwd	8806.56	10492.08
	-----	-----
Funds c/fwd 1/10/09	9663.00	8806.56
	=====	=====
<u>Represented by</u>		
Bank	5367.81	5545.69
Petty Cash	82.52	1.52
Barclays Bonds	5686.01	5383.69
Income Rec'd in Advance	(1228.10)	(1278.50)
Cash o/s	-	-
Accrued expenses	(160.00)	(767.85)
Regional Forum funds	(85.24)	(77.99)
	-----	-----
	9663.00	8806.56
	=====	=====

Certified to be in accordance with
the invoices, vouchers and information
given to me.

.....(E.Davidson- Hon. Examiner)
Pc 20/10/09

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

U3A Notes to the Accounts Year ended 30th September 2009

This year we have stabilised our income and expenditure, ending with a small surplus of £856.

Our membership has again increased, with subs being up on last year by £517.

Beryl has organised 29 theatre visits, holidays and outings during the year, juggling the coach costs against numbers, and creating a great deal of enjoyment for all.

Interest, as expected, is down on last year.

Giftaid is slightly up – please sign the form if you pay tax. This is income from the Inland Revenue, which is always welcome.

Miscellaneous income includes a contribution of £180 from one of the groups, towards the cost of their hired venue.

The stalls for our charity raised £209, which has been passed on to North Bucks Carers. Our chosen charity for this coming year is the Memory Club.

On the expenses front, room hire costs are down by £454, as we no longer use North End Court (a saving of £200) and some groups have found free accommodation.

Capitation costs reflect our increased membership.

Social events costs are down by £790, as last year was our 10th anniversary, with attendant expenses.

There were no equipment and maintenance costs, against £1093 last year.

This leaves us with funds of £9663 which, based on these figures, will cover one and a half year's expenditure.

The Committee has decided to raise the subscription to £13. We can anticipate that costs relating to our increasing membership will go up – more groups' venues to be paid for, newsletter printing and postage. We know that the affiliation fee, to the Third Age Trust, our governing body, is going up by £1 per member in 2010. We shall earn little interest on our funds. We were fortunate last year to have no expenditure on equipment, but we need to build in some costs for next year. This will also allow Jackie a little room for expansion in her choice of speakers.

We also decided that we must follow guidelines laid down by the Third Age Trust, in that all venue costs will be channelled through our books, and paid for by cheque. This provides protection to the individuals concerned, both payer and payee, and is standard practice in organisations like ours.

We have asked all group co-ordinators, who use rented venues, to co-operate in this, and to collect 20p from each attending member to help cover this cost.

My thanks to Angus Davidson who has examined these accounts for me.

Pc 20/10/09

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

Do you need some help with Email?

You have purchased your laptop or PC and are not confident with the sending of emails?

To get a computer was going to be the answer to all your problems with communicating with your family and friends both far away and in the next road.

If so Buckingham and District U3A could help you overcome this problem.

One of our members is willing to give an hour's tuition and a write up on the use of email. This could be on your own computer in your home or at the home of the tutor. This will depend on the number of people interested.

If you are interested please give fill in the form below and give it to any member of the committee.

The tuition would commence in January 2010.

Tear off.

Email Tuition	
Name:	
Telephone Number:	
I am interested in receiving tuition on the use of email: a) In my own home. or b) At the home of the tutor. Please highlight your preferred option.	Sign: