



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.

Please note that the Tombola at the July Social will cost £1 per ticket but each ticket will get a prize.

TEA ROTA

Would Group Leaders please note that when their group is responsible for teas they should contact Margaret Elliott on 01525 240174 for instruction.

Date	Topic & Speaker	Stall	Tea Rota
28 th April	Gordon Abbott "The Life of Evacuees". Some of our U3A members will have experienced the trauma or excitement of evacuation and will relate to Gordon's talk.	Videos, CDs, DVDs, Tapes, Records	Craft & Creative Writing
26 th May	Mel Rees "Would I lie to You?" A welcome 3 rd visit from Mel with his entertaining and wry look at life.	Plants & Cuttings	Flower Arranging & Exploring the Past
23 rd June	Anna McAvoy "Stowe House, its History and Renovation". A background look at a property we believe we know well but I am sure Anna will reveal some surprises.	White Elephant	Family History
28 th July	Midsummer Social	Tombola	French Groups
22 nd Sept	Ged Marhsall is a local beekeeper and his talk on Beekeeping is timely considering the difficulties both bees and their keepers are suffering. Ged supplies local outlets with his own honey.	Jams, Cakes & Pickles	Friendship & Gardening
27 th Oct	A.G.M.	Group Displays	German & Handbells
24 th Nov	The Civil War in Buckinghamshire – Julian Hunt; a prominent local historian. Our local history is of interest to most of us and the civil war is of particular interest.	Books & Magazines	Italian Groups
15 th Dec	Social		Committee

Please note the deadline for articles for the next newsletter issue No. 38 is **Friday 13th August 2010**

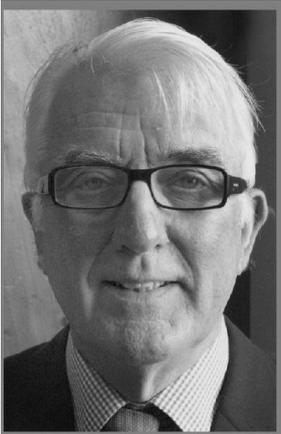
Please Email or post to:

Sheila Dalzell,
18 Partridge Close, Buckingham, MK18 7HH

sheilaeditor@hotmail.co.uk

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES



We recently held a Group Coordinators' (GCs) Forum. The event is held every year in February. This year we had an excellent turnout of 31 GCs. The purpose of the meeting is for the committee and the GCs to get together and generate new ideas as well as voice any issues that may be being discussed in the groups. The GCs meeting should be one of the most important meetings within the U3A. The committee are keen to improve communications within the U3A and encourage all members to feel part of the organisation. Lesley Suggate, GC Strollers asked about the possibility of a credit card style membership card in place of the current membership card. This is being looked into by the committee.

Whilst on the subject of the committee, I want to bring to your attention that we are looking for somebody to shadow George Walker in his role of Membership Secretary. The person would need to be computer literate. The objective is to be able to pick up the reins at very short notice. This could happen in the event of George not being able to continue due to illness or some other reason. This person would not have to come to the monthly committee meetings or be on the committee. The object of the exercise is to be fully on board with the system, to ensure continuity. For all the reasons mentioned above we also require somebody to shadow Pat Costello, the Treasurer and Valerie Shaw the Secretary. The Secretary's position will become vacant in October. There is an advert and a brief job description in this newsletter.

If you are at all interested in any of the above roles, please contact me by email pbwt@btinternet.com or phone on 01280 813664. This initial contact would NOT commit you, in any way. It would give you the opportunity to find out more information. Please consider this opportunity, even if you have only recently joined the U3A.

I think Buckingham and District U3A are very lucky in as much as we have a very dedicated and conscientious committee. I know other U3A's that have had to stagnate or be under the threat of closure because they have not been able to get people to serve on the committee.

There is potential for another Jazz Appreciation Group to start. The current group has a waiting list of five people. Is there anybody else interested in participating in a new group? If so I am sure I could persuade our Mr Jazz, Derrick Olliff to help get you going. The group would need a coordinator and would probably meet in people's houses. If anybody is interested in getting involved, contact me by email pbwt@btinternet.com giving me your name and telephone number.

As most of you will be aware, Sheila Dalzell and Jackie Page organise coffee mornings at the White Hart. The mornings are primarily organised for new members to make them feel welcome. It also gives the new members the opportunity to ask questions. Usually Pam Tonge or I call in to meet the new members and help Sheila and Jackie. We have benefited on the last two occasions from the coffee mornings as several new ideas have been put forward that were either acted upon or at least were considered by the committee. The most notable being the email lessons given by Geoffrey Suggate in a member's home on their P.C. Several members have taken up this offer, which is still open. At the last coffee morning on the 12th February there were 19 new members or potential members. A lot of the new members are now being introduced to Buckingham and District U3A through the web site and the vast majority are computer literate and use email.

The committee are working on the eventuality of circulating the newsletter by email and publishing it on the web site. This would save the effort that goes into the distribution of the newsletter and the expense of postage, three times a year. I can already hear the protests by some of our members about not having a P.C. or being on broadband. Do not worry! There will always be the option to pick up your copy at the monthly meeting or receive a hard copy through the post.

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

SECRETARY'S CORNER

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A

SITUATION VACANT

from October 2010

Secretary

Job description: To be negotiated, but at present mainly involves liaising with Chairman, drawing up agenda for monthly committee meeting and annual Group Coordinators' meeting, writing up Minutes and circulating, if possible within 24 hours, preparing paperwork for AGM, liaising with Community Centre for bookings, receiving mail from Third Age Trust and distributing accordingly, updating annual returns for Trust and for Charity Commission.

Expenses paid but pay nil. Job satisfaction guaranteed. Work colleagues friendly, helpful and great fun.

More details from Valerie Shaw, valshaw@care4fre.net

Applications to Chairman at pbwt@btinternet.com

Coffee Morning for New Members

Following the success of our recent coffee mornings another one is to be held on **Friday 14th May 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 telephone Jackie on 01280 822320.

Notes from Editor

In a bid to manage the rising cost of postage, the newsletters are now available at the meetings in April, September and December 2010. Please could members, who attend these meetings, remember to collect their newsletters and also any for friends or neighbours. (Some are delivered by hand in advance of the meetings.)

BUCKINGHAM SUMMER FESTIVAL

This year's festival, the 22nd, will run from Saturday 3rd July to Saturday 10th July. As usual the choral society will perform in the parish church on the 3rd. During the week there will be three concerts per day at the Radclive centre. The festival will conclude with the Gala concert in the church on Saturday the 10th

The provisional programme is:

Saturday 3 rd		Choral concert
Monday 5 th	11.00am	Piano recital: Craig Green
	1.00pm	tbc
	8.00pm	Pizzetti Trio
Tuesday 6 th	11.00am	Piano recital: Haruko Seki
	1.00pm	Song recital: Philip Fine
	8.00pm	Julie Felix
Wednesday 7 th	11.00am	Piano Recital: Helen Davies
	1.00pm	Craig Green + A.N. Other
	8.00pm	The Frolick
Thursday 8 th	11.00am	Piano Recital: tbc
	1.00pm	tbc
	8.00pm	Maurizi Ensemble
Friday 9 th	11.00am	Piano recital: Sally Mellor
	1.00pm	Recordian
	8.00pm	ZUM
Saturday 10 th	8.00pm	Gala concert: Orchestra of Stowe, Opera – all six Brandenburg concertos

For more information see the festival web site:

www.buckinghamsummerfestival.org or publicity nearer the date.

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

COMMITTEE

Chairman	Bryan W Thomas 18 Coopers Wharf Ford Street Buckingham MK18 1UP	01280 813664 pbwt@btinternet.com
Vice-Chair	Pam Tonge 5 Victoria Row Buckingham MK18 1ER	01280 823370 pamelatonge519@btinternet.com
Secretary	Valerie Shaw 8 Nightingale Place Buckingham MK18 1UF	01280 812547 valshaw@care4free.net
Treasurer	Pat Costello 17 Campbell Close Buckingham MK18 7HP	01280 815143 pat.costello.uk@talktalk.net
Membership Secretary	George Walker 2 Burleigh Piece Buckingham MK18 7BB	01280 813735 george.walker7@talktalk.net
Technical Resources	David Angrave 10 Moreton Road Buckingham MK18 1LA	01280 816453 angrave@madasafish.com
New Member Support/Publicity	Colin Armstrong 1 Moorhen Way Buckingham MK18 1GN	01280 817285 lagana@talktalk.net
Speakers	Jackie Page 28 March Edge Buckingham MK18 7BP	01280 822320 posh_5@msm.com
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; 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

*The Flip Chart is now stored at the Community Centre for use by anyone (including our visiting speaker) during our monthly meetings. Should anyone wish to borrow it outside these times, please contact the listed keeper.

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

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 Beginners	Russell Tobin	01280 817918	Mon	2.00-4.00	M.M. Village Hall
Bridge (Contract)	Clive Cowdy	01280 824274	Mon	10.00-12.00	Chandos Court
Bridge Tuition	Peter Holman	01280 822611	Tues	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 & 4 th Fri	2.00	Bucks Centre
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
Folk Dancing	Vera Moyle-Maton	01280 813719	3 rd Wed	10.00	M.M. Village Hall
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 1	Ursula Archdeacon	01280 823640	2 nd & 4 th Wed	10.00-12.00	House
German Diskussionsgruppe	Roy Walker	01280 812836	1 st & 3 rd Fri	10-12.00	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 Group 1	Linda Shiner	01296 712920	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
Local History 3	Dorothy Shaw	01280 822087	2 nd & 4 th Fri	10.00	Buck Centre
Mah Jong	Marilyn Day	01280 823633	1 st & 3 rd Wed	10.00	House
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	Ask Coordinator
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

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

GROUP DIRECTORY: Buckingham Centre (Library), Maids Moreton (MM) Village Hall (continued)					
Activity	Co-ordinator	Telephone	Weekday	Time	Venue
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

WEEKLY TIMETABLE

DAYS	FIRST WEEK		SECOND WEEK	
	AM	PM	AM	PM
MON	Bridge – Contract Creative Writing Exploring the Past	Bridge – Improvers Bridge – Beginners Painting Russian	Bridge – Contract	Bridge – Improvers Bridge – Beginners 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 Mah Jong	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
FRI	Handbells Art Appreciation 2 German – Diskussionsgruppe	Croquet French Beginners	Handbells Local History 3	Croquet French Beginners Cribbage
DAYS	THIRD WEEK		FOURTH WEEK	
MON	Bridge – Contract Creative Writing	Bridge – Improvers Bridge – Beginners Painting Russian	Bridge – Contract	Bridge – Improvers Bridge – Beginners 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 Mah Jong Folk Dancing		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 German – Diskussionsgruppe	Croquet French Beginners	Handbells Local History 3	Croquet French Beginners Cribbage

Book Group



We have chosen the following books for discussion:

January 28th	Engleby by Sebastian Faulks
February 25 th	The girl on the landing by Paul Torday
March 25th	The clothes on their backs by Linda Grant
April 22nd	The leopard by Giuseppe di Lampedusa
May 27th	Brooklyn by Colm Toibin
June 24 th	Elizabeth and her German garden By Elizabeth von Arnim
July 22nd	The towers of Trebizond by Rose Macaulay
August 26th	Incidents in the Rue Langin by Anita Brookner
Sept 23rd	The secret by Philippe Guinbert
October 28th	To the lighthouse by Virginia Woolf
Nov 25th	Midnight in the garden of good and evil by John Berendt

We hope you will join us on the fourth Thursday of the month in The Buckingham Centre at 2.30pm. Everyone is welcome, whether you have read each book or have just picked out one or two.
Gillian Macdonald

Theatre & Travel



Things have been fairly quiet since Christmas but now things are beginning to hot up! We all enjoyed our trip to the Albert Hall for the Christmas Carol Sing-along. In January we went to see "Sister Act" at the London Palladium – What a Show!! I had previously seen it but I think I enjoyed it more the second time, partly because Sheila Hancock and Ian Lavender were in it, which they were not before. Even without them it was brilliant.

Now we are preparing for a busy year starting off with our holiday in Venice in March, followed by our trip to Wimpole Hall in April. (These two we will have done by the time you get this newsletter.) Staying with the outings – in May there is the Runnymede cruise to Windsor, with optional visits to Eton College or Windsor Castle. The BBC Flower & Garden Show takes place in June in Birmingham. Unfortunately that coincides with our Norwegian cruise so Jenny Newcombe will be shepherding you on that occasion. In July we go to Charlecote House in the morning and after lunch we go to Kenilworth Castle. Kenilworth Castle is English Heritage so I have booked our free visit. Let us hope that we don't get into any traffic jams like last year's visit to Boscobel House and Moseley Old Hall – but it all worked out well in the end, although I have to admit I was rather concerned at first! Looking further ahead I think I will have to clarify the trip to the Churchill's Britain at War Experience. This is not a visit to the Cabinet War rooms, which we did a few years ago. This is something you will experience for yourselves such as going down into the underground during an air raid and other things which will bring back many memories for a lot of people. I must stress that it will not be an unhappy experience but a nostalgic return visit to the war years.

Needless to say there are some good shows coming to Milton Keynes theatre – watch for my posters. There is an Agatha Christie play "Witness for the Prosecution" and "Laughter in the Rain". That is the music of Neil Sedaka and if it is anything like "Dreamboats & Petticoats" we are in for an entertaining afternoon. I look forward to seeing Brian Conley in "Hairspray".

Now onto our holidays. I hope that the Scottish holiday in September will prove popular. As I have already announced, all the single rooms are booked up but there are still twin rooms available. I hope that our Christmas Market cruise in December will prove popular. It is nice to do something "Christmassy" at that time of year. Our holiday to Thursford was a great success. Many people want to go again, because every year the show, which is super, is different. So I am planning that for 2011 – make a note in your diaries!

So Alan and I look forward to seeing you at our table ready to take your bookings, to say nothing of taking your money.

Beryl Carr

Music for Pleasure 3?

I have had one or two enquiries of late wondering if there were any vacancies in our group (Music for Pleasure 2) Rather than sending enquirers away disappointed I have decided to facilitate the setting

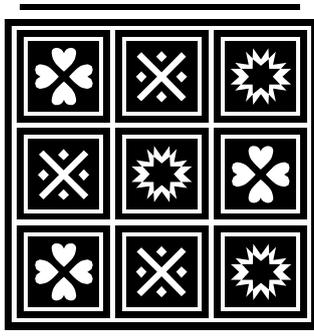


up of a third group. This is a fancy way of saying that I will gather names, have an initial get together at some mutually agreeable venue, present a specimen programme and hopefully help a willing volunteer to become the Group Coordinator. I will then take one or several steps backwards and leave the new group to be self-sufficient. Of course I will be available to give guidance if requested. If you are interested in joining this new group please ring me on 01280 816453 or email me on:

angrave@madasafish.com I await your call.
David Angrave

Craft

We've had a busy and exciting time since I last wrote. New members have been welcomed to the group and all are displaying a wealth of untapped talent and flair. Items presently being crafted include quilts, fabric boxes, photograph frames, greetings cards and small decorative items. Joyce has created a wonderful teenage bag, using knitting yarns, fabrics and trims, an inspiration to anyone who wishes to impress the younger generation. On the agenda for the near future is a trip to the V&A to see an exhibition of quilting from the 18th century to 2010; visits to Threads and Patches and also to Bramble Patch. I know, as I write, several members are taking part in Nimble Thimble's Quiltathon to



raise funds for McMillan Nurses. Members also took part in Sally's Quilts for Soldiers weekend, to help provide a quilt for each member of our Armed Forces who is receiving treatment at Hedley Court. From sharing basic crafting

techniques our skills are finely honed in whichever direction we take with our craft and needlework. Any doubts about our ability are soon dispelled with help and encouragement from other members. If you have any desire at all to try out a new craft or share skills you already possess please come and

join us on the 2nd and 4th Thursday morning every month. The coffee's pretty good too.

Freda Davies

Local History 3

The first meeting of this new group will be held in the Old Gaol, on Friday 30th April at 10am.



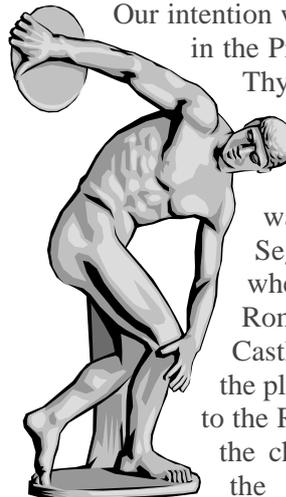
Meetings will usually be held on the 2nd and 4th Friday

mornings of the month and will take place in the Mezzanine Room on the second floor of the Buckingham Centre, next to the Library in Verney Close. On Friday 14th May Blue Badge Guide, Lillian McDonald, will take us on a walk round Buckingham, when we shall meet outside the main entrance of the Old Gaol at 10am. If you are interested in joining this group please contact Dorothy Shaw on 01280 822087 or dorothy.shaw@sky.com
Dorothy Shaw

Art Appreciation Groups

On 1st February, a party of 14 made up of members from both groups travelled to Madrid for five days.

Our intention was to visit the art collections in the Prado, the Reina Sofia and the Thyssen Museum. In addition, Beryl Carr had arranged some optional excursions including a trip to the walled mediaeval city of Segovia in the mountains, where there is a magnificent Roman aqueduct, Cathedral and Castle, with superb views across the plain. Also on offer were visits to the Royal Palace in Madrid to see the changing of the guard and to the working Convent of the Barefoot Sisters with its portraits of St Lucy, the patron saint of eyesight.



Pam Tonge

CROQUET



If you are a member of the croquet group and would like to play more frequently or if you just fancy joining a croquet club, you would be most welcome at Winslow Croquet Club. We

meet on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons at 2.30pm. Later in the year we will also meet in the evenings when it is light. This year we will start on Tuesday 13th April.

Our lawn is at Winslow sports ground, beside the football pitch, near the scout hut. We can offer coaching and the loan of mallets to new members. If you would like to come along and find out more please contact: Liz Kinsell 01296 713754, email: liz.waide@virgin.net

Let's Make A Video?

Some time ago, the possibility of making a promotional video showing various Group activities



was discussed by your Committee. At that time, I must confess that I was less than enthusiastic. The processes involved in collecting the material and producing the finished product

were both costly and technically daunting. None the less, the idea did not go away. Many of us could see it being used as a useful tool for showing at our coffee mornings for informing our new members of our wide-ranging activities and as a useful aid when giving talks to external bodies in the community and not forgetting our own socials.



Such is the nature of technology that the production cost of personal video cameras and user friendly software for editing the material has come tumbling down. I have been looking at these very portable cameras

with a view to purchasing one for our own U3A.

Not only are they capable of recording widescreen in High Definition and stereo sound for good measure but best of all the cost is only a little over one hundred pounds.

Having gathered the material it can be downloaded either directly into a computer or via removable Sim cards and with a bit of user friendly software a highly watchable finished product can



be viewed directly on a television or video projector screen.

At present I am evaluating a "Flip" camera (see illustration above) but there are now several cameras of this type all of which have their respective advantages and disadvantages. I foresee that we will be able to pass the camera around our Groups although I do realise that certain activities lend themselves to active display compared with others that are of a more cerebral and static nature! Never mind, once I have finished the evaluation process we will hopefully get started on the project. It is worth remembering that the camera will form part of our equipment register for all U3A members.

At a recent Group Coordinators' Meeting it could not be denied that there was a strong groundswell of enthusiasm. At the time of going to press Clive Cowdy has volunteered to manage this project.

Finally, you may remember that in the last Newsletter, I waxed lyrical about microphones and the loop system in the Community Hall.



I am sorry to say that this was not working properly at our last open meeting. I have reported this to the Hall's Authorities who are aware of the problem and hopefully this will have been rectified by the time you read this.

David Angrave
Technical Resources.

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

Summarised below are the annual Group Co-ordinators reports. It is not viable to include the full reports.

Events 2010

Event	Date	Cost	Booking
Pirates of Penzance	May 12 th	£12.50	T.B.A.
History Boys M.K.	May 19 th	£15.00	March
Runnymede Cruise to Windsor	May 21 st	T.B.A	March
Stepping Out M.K. Theatre	June 2 nd	£12.50	T.B.A.
Laughter in the Rain M.K.Theatre	June 9 th	£12.50	April
Witness for the Prosecution M.K.Theatre	June 16 th	£12.50	April
Flower Show Birmingham Gardeners' World	June 17 th	£29.50	March
Oklahoma! M.K. Theatre	June 30 th	£12.50	T.B.A.
Bedroom Farce M.K. Theatre	July 14 th	£12.50	T.B.A
Kenilworth Castle E.H./Charlecote N.T.	July 16 th	£14.00	May
Quartet M.K. Theatre	July 28 th	£12.50	T.B.A.
Hampstead Walk & Kenwood House	August	T.B.A.	June
The Country Girl M.K. Theatre	August 25 th	£12.50	T.B.A.
Scotland	September 12 th	£571.00	A.S.A.P.
Hairspray M.K.Theatre	September 22 nd	£25.00	May
Churchill's Britain at War Experience	October 20 th	T.B.A.	June
Albert Hall Classical Spectacular	November	T.B.A.	T.B.A.
Dickensian Christmas Market	December 8 th	T.B.A.	T.B.A.

More M.K. Theatre shows towards the end of the year will be published later on.

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

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

Art Appreciation 1&2	Group 1 continues its study of the story of art, having reached the Spanish Baroque, which coincides with a visit to Madrid, 1–5 February. Following the group’s success, a second was created in March 09 and now numbers 17, many new to U3A. Group 2 began with cave paintings and has progressed to International Gothic style in the 14 th & 15 th centuries. Both groups have enjoyed trips to galleries in London, Birmingham and NT and private collections.
Book	A core group of 10 share opinions monthly in the comfortable Buckingham Centre, followed by tea. The choice of books is made in autumn, each volunteer preparing an introduction. 2 summer meetings were held in a lovely garden and a watermill at the invitation of members. All are welcome, whether for few or many times.
Bridge	On Monday mornings there are two or three tables of Contract bridge at Chandos Court. On Monday afternoons a new Beginners group (15 – twice the number expected!) has started meeting at the same time as the Improvers group (22) who regularly have 4 tables. Bridge Tuition. The Tuesday Bridge group has 37 members with 5 on the waiting list, although none has been able to join for 2 years. Average attendance – 30. Tuition is given at various levels, together with supervised play and competitions. 44 U3A members entered for the Buckingham & District Challenge Cup run by Peter Holman which was won by Sheila and Russell Tobin. 37 U3A members attended a weekend in Worthing. A lot of people are enjoying bridge!
Chess	Not functioning at present but could start up again if there is a demand.
Computing	The demand for computer training remains very low but Geoff Suggate continues to be available should requests be received.
Crafts & Cards	16 members (average attendance – 12) continue to help each other with their projects. June Olliff, GC, is unable to run the group temporarily so Anne Liddle takes care of catering while Maureen Young and Veronica Baker look after newer members. They hope June will return soon to demonstrate new techniques.
Creative Writing	16 enthusiastic members write 1500 words based on a title or key words, which are read out for comments. Chosen pieces are printed in an annual anthology and often feature in the Advertiser. A Writers’ Workshop with a published author (paid for by a 50p sub. through the year), a lunch at Bletchley College and e-mail contact keep members involved and in touch.
Cribbage	The stall at the AGM brought several new members, which forced a change of venue to the Buckingham Centre; although not all are in favour, it is central, warm and airy. Average attendance is 7–8, with varying experience, but with crib, you do not need an even number to get a good game.
Croquet	A summer activity!
Digital Photography	Began with huge interest and wide-ranging discussions. Field visits to Stowe were very successful with the help of Angus Davidson. However numbers tailed off and the group was suspended. After several enquiries, the group will start up again in the spring and should benefit from previous experience.
Exploring the Past	Numbers have increased to 20, with members sharing the arrangements. The group has continued to use the Winslow Community bus to visit Worcester Cathedral (and Elgar’s birthplace), Winchester, Christ Church Oxford, a paper mill at Apsley and have also had a guided tour of Winslow followed by a slide show. The bus only holds 16 (possible problem with rising numbers?) and with Monday the meeting day, places are often closed, so alternative arrangements have to be made.
Flower Arranging	24 members with an average attendance of 14 follow a programme of demonstrations. Visitors come to meetings too and some stay to join. The group is still hoping for a male member, if only to accompany his wife!
Folk Dancing	A new group starting at Maids Moreton Village Hall.
Family History	From a membership of 30, a group meets regularly to follow their Sherlock Holmes instincts, tracing Scottish ancestors, links with waterways, surprise relations. “Round Robins” of reports on searches reveal a variety of sources. Visits are made to the National Archives at Kew and the Family History Centre in London via the Winslow bus.

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

French (Beginners)	Began in October 2008 and have maintained numbers at about 12. Most members were rusty, aiming to improve their spoken French. Study (1 hour) is based on BBC French Experience, mainly the conversation elements. Members are e-mailed each week summarising what has been covered and reminding of homework. A visit to an Oxford French restaurant and a function at a member's home have demonstrated how friendly the group is.
French (Intermediate)	There were 8 women members; after the AGM the group now has 3 men too! They follow "Voici", a text book for adults with CD, supplemented by "Breakthrough". They begin with personal news then check homework and move on to the tape and exercises. They have now lost their teacher so have to correct each other (erroneously?) but enjoy each other's company.
French (Advanced 1)	The group of 10 study texts, read articles and speak as much French as possible. Once a month an ex-French teacher gives a lesson.
French (Advanced 2)	9 members form the group and take it in turns to host and lead the session, using a variety of materials: articles from the internet or magazines, poetry, songs, recorded conversations and reports and knotty problems to argue about in French (adoption? Haiti? wind farms?) Members keep in touch (and give directions!) via e-mail.
French Lunch 1	A superb monthly "ambiance" is created by up to 14 members in individual homes, speaking (mostly!) French over French dishes they have brought, lubricated by a little French wine. Oxford and the Church rooms have provided alternative venues this year. The whole group is now on e-mail.
French Lunch 2	A membership of 10 sometimes makes seating difficult in houses so new members cannot be accepted but talk in French continues until pudding or even coffee. Phone calls to members in 2 groups for the last 3 months have totalled £30; the GC is uncertain how much to request from members and how to ask them.
Friendship	About 9 of group meet for Sunday lunch at different pubs (Royal Oak, Tingewick is a favourite!) to chat and perhaps move on for tea. They keep in touch by telephone and arrange other outings between themselves.
Gardening	Outings to Hatfield, St Albans Rose Garden and Birmingham (Gardeners' World) and speakers on garden birds, allotments and rose-growing for the timid have kept members busy. However, the group desperately needs a new GC, as the current GCs cannot find suitable venues or affordable speakers. None of the present members has offered.
German	An average attendance of 8 members out of 13 has enjoyed an interesting year: a week in Dresden, a boat trip with Northampton Anglo-German Club, a German lunch in a beautiful garden. The group is due to discuss whether to split or find a suitable venue for bigger numbers.
Handbells 1&2	The group has had a good year with 4 public engagements and a marked improvement in playing and sound quality. The 14 members (87% attendance) are rehearsing for the Launton Bellfest in March.
Italian (Beginners)	The group is starting late this term owing to holidays. It is progressing well and finding the language learnt useful. A small group which would welcome new members. Highly sociable!
Italian Russian	Both Italian and Russian groups have used skype to make contact with friends in Italy and Russia and ask and answer questions in their respective languages, which really brings to life all their work.
Jazz Appreciation	A thriving group with 12 members (3 on waiting list) which meets not only for the regular monthly meeting but also for visits to The Stables, Wootton Upper School Jazz Band and Woburn Sands Jazz Appreciation group (a splendid evening!) "Sinatra at the Sands" is planned for March and for August a 6-day stay at Buxton Jazz Fest.
Local History 1	A variety of speakers (members and others) has drawn an average attendance of 26 from 35 members. This number makes outside visits unwieldy so the group cannot expand, although the move from Chandos Court to Maids Moreton Village Hall was beneficial. MK development, old Buckingham and Villiers Hotel feature in the programme. £1 fee for a speaker, £2 for a donation for a church visit have contributed to funds which cover

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

	coffee and deposits for visits (Sulgrave Manor).
Local History 2	In 8 months, this new group's membership has soared to 32, with attendances from 15 to 25. They have explored Bancroft MK, Buckingham, Thornborough and Swanbourne (visit to come) and have been supported by Group1.
Mah Jong	A new group which is attracting growing numbers.
Music for Pleasure 1	The group has 14 members with an average attendance of 10, who enjoy programmes of classical music in each others' houses.
Music for Pleasure 2	The current GC pays tribute to Dot Hamilton for successfully forging the template for this group. She remains a member and hosts meetings when a "full house" of 14 is too many to fit into some of the others' houses. Bad weather forced the cancellation of the January meeting.
Outdoor	A successful year with a walk for each week of the programme and only one rained off. A notional total of 66 members receive a programme unless their envelopes have run out. Car passengers pay £2, which works well, and all member households pay £1 to cover photocopying and refreshments at Indoor Meetings. The Milton Keynes boundary walk, using buses to access the start of each stage, is progressing and proving varied and interesting for its differing architectural features.
Philosophy	Really, Politics, Philosophy and Economics, if one looks at the wide-ranging topics for discussion, each led by a member of the 26-strong group, subjects from Darwin to Hinduism, from Confucius to modern Europe.
Play Reading	Not all 14 members meet each month to enjoy reading a variety of plays borrowed from the County Reserve Library at Aylesbury (sent to Buckingham), the difficulty being finding the right sort of play but members always have a great time!
Poetry	Average attendance is 10 with the venue changing to the Buckingham Centre from February, now booked for 2010 and 2011. Each month a theme is chosen (eg Autumn, Sea etc.). Poems are then chosen and copies printed out, read, discussed and taken home. Peter Farquhar sometimes comes to give a talk on a poet.
Scrabble	11 members meet alternately in houses and the Buckingham Centre, where they have experienced some very unhelpful treatment.
Singing for Fun	The group has a new pianist and about 12 ladies (men welcome!) enjoy singing a variety of songs. They have sung carols at The Red House and are considering practising for a show-time concert later in the year.
Spanish (Beginners)	10 members start each session with an easy reader of short stories in Spanish, then tackle the BBCTalk2 course book, winding up with Michel Thomas on tape for listening/speaking practice...and of course coffee.
Spanish Intermediate	Meetings begin with news of activities then move on to "Suenos 2" for reading and grammar and also listening (a struggle!). A new course (or the old one again?!) will soon have to be selected. The most enjoyable meetings were with Tamara (a member's daughter) and Angel, her Spanish husband. The 2 groups got together in January for a delicious finger buffet and entertainment: a Spanish "Cinderella" (Noel Stacey's Ugly Sister stole the show!) and Spanish Bingo, complete with "dos senores gordas".
Square Dancing	39 members produce at least 2 squares (16) at each meeting, with new dancers starting regularly. Sometimes a long-standing member brings her newly-retired husband along. An annual Saturday dance hosted at Well St. Centre allows new callers to practise and raises up to £1000 for Willen Hospice.
Strollers	20 frequent walkers form the core from 41 members. The programme is formed via e-mail for most and members telephone the GC or walk leader with any queries. Sociable strolls often finish at a coffee shop or Boycott Farm. Walks have included MK, Evenley, Stowe and Cosgrove (with a lunch here.)
Yoga	11 loyal members enjoy stretching muscles and holding postures, which enables the joints to move, always finishing with 10 minutes relaxation. The atmosphere is very friendly (visitors always welcome!) and the U.of B. studio provides a perfect venue.