



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.

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. Where there is more than one Group listed please could the Group Leaders liaise with each other.

Date	Topic & Speaker	Stall	Tea Rota
26 th Jan 2011	Justine Rutledge on the NSPCC	Jigsaws	Music for Pleasure 1 & 2
23 rd Feb	Captain William Wells on various topics ranging from London's maritime history to Myths and Legends of the Bermuda Triangle	Unwanted Gifts	Local History 1, 2 & 3
23 rd March	David Vaisey – a follow on to “Treasures of the Bodlian Library”	Books & Magazines	Outdoor
27 th April	The Buckingham Community Pantomime – Roger Edwards	Videos, CDs, DVDs, Tapes, Records	Painting & Philosophy
25 th May	Jackie Painter “The Mayflower Girl”. The true story of the Life of Elizabeth Tilley who voyaged to America in 1620	Plants & Cuttings	Play Reading, Poetry & Russian
22 nd June	Dr Tony Maisey “Spare Parts Medical History”. A lively, humorous look at the availability of new body parts and then a thought- provoking section on the ethical and moral dilemmas	White Elephant	Scrabble & Singing for Fun
27 th July	Social	Tombola	All Spanish Groups

Please note the deadline for articles for the next newsletter issue No. 40 is **Wednesday 23rd March 2011**

Please Email or post to:

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sheilaeditor@hotmail.co.uk



Chairman's notes No 39

I would like to welcome Elaine Squires and Jane Brown onto the committee. The Secretary's role has been split into two, a minute secretary (Elaine Squires) and a business secretary. I therefore also welcome Val Bradley (co-opted committee member) as the Business Secretary. Val is responsible for the distribution of the correspondence that comes in from the Third Age Trust and other sources. I would also like to show my appreciation for the "shadows" that have volunteered to come forward to assist the committee. They are; Lesley Suggate (Membership Secretary), Pat Williams and Jane Brown (Theatre and Outings Organiser) and Joyce Bernert who will assist Margaret on the stall in times of need. We still have a vacancy for somebody to shadow the Treasurer.

At the National U3A AGM the Chairman stated that there is a growing gap between the "Active" members and "Apathy" members of the U3A and this was of great concern to the organisation. If anybody wants a brief report from this meeting please let me know and I will email it to you (one page only). Buckingham and District U3A were featured in the autumn edition of the U3A News on page 62. It featured our very successful Square Dancing group run by Susie Kelly who is a well known figure the world of square dancing.

At the Buckingham and District AGM the subject of Charity Collections was brought up by a member. Last year we collected for The Memory Cafe, a charity based in Well Street. The Committee set a target of £500 at the beginning of the project and the members donated £500.14p. During the open forum at the AGM a member described this as a poor effort given our membership of over 500 and compared it with a Scout Group that had raised £1000 in three hours. I think that the ethos of the two organisations is completely different. The U3A is not a fund-raising body; we are a self help group with self managed learning cooperatives for people no longer in full time work providing members with opportunities to share learning experiences. It was also suggested during the forum that we run a weekly raffle to raise money for the selected charity. I have had many emails pointing out the disadvantages of such a scheme. For 2010/2011 the meeting voted to support two charities; the CAB and PSL (Project Street Life) in Buckingham.

For the last twelve months I have been chairing a network of local U3A branches, Milton Keynes, Bedford, Dunstable, Luton, Biggleswade, Flitwick, Leighton/Linslade and Toddington. The purpose of the Network is for the branches to exchange ideas and share experiences. I have also attended the monthly and committee meetings of the Milton Keynes branch. As well as the chairs of each branch we have also, on separate occasions, included the Speaker Secretaries, Treasurers and Membership Secretaries. It is difficult to evaluate the benefits of belonging to such a network but it has certainly broadened my understanding of the Third Age Trust and the U3A in general.

There was another New Members' coffee morning held at The White Hart on the 12th November. The meeting was attended by 21 new members who had the opportunity to meet other new members and talk to four members of the committee. The idea of the new learning Spanish group sprung from three new members chatting and discovering that they had the same interest to learn Spanish. Details of this group are included below under possible new groups.

There are two additional groups started since the last Newsletter; Short Mat Bowls and Beginners' Bridge both at Maids Moreton Village Hall. See the directory in the newsletter for details. We are also examining the opportunity of starting two more groups, a Knitting/Crochet group, contact n.steadman@btinternet.com and a Dog walking group, contact kathystevens09@btinternet.com

Coffee Morning for New Members



The next coffee morning will be held on **Friday 25th February 2011 at 11.00 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 Sheila on 01280 817747 or email at sheilaeditor@hotmail.co.uk

Monthly Stall

At the September meeting we were given, for the stall, large clip on jars of Green Tomato Chutney and Marmalade all in expensive jars with clip on tops. We would be grateful if members could return the jars when empty and we will give a 50p refund so that they can be recycled or refilled by the donor. Margaret Elliott

BUCKINGHAM MEMORY CAFÉ



The committee decided this year to support The Memory Cafe. We set ourselves a target of raising £500. With the proceeds of the stall run by Margaret Elliott, an Alzheimer's collection tin and a couple of donations we just achieved the target and a cheque for £500.14p was presented to Nicole Palmer by our Vice-Chair Pam Tonge on Thursday 14th October 2010 at the Well Street Centre. The Memory Cafe is run by the Aylesbury & Buckingham branch of the Alzheimer's Society and is held on the second Thursday afternoon of each month at the Well Street Centre in Buckingham. The Cafe is open to people with memory problems, friends, family members and carers and provides a safe, welcoming environment in the company of others who understand. A typical afternoon at the Cafe starts with an informal chat over light refreshments. A presentation by a guest speaker then follows with time for questions afterwards. The afternoon continues with something to eat and drink and a chance to meet with friends old and new. A dementia support worker is always present to give information and support and health care professionals are often on hand to give advice.

National Resources Available to U3A Members

It is worth remembering that the Third Age Trust in Bromley does have a well-stocked Resource Centre that any member can access and borrow items by post free of charge. The only cost to members is the return postage. Slide sets, CDs, DVDs, audio cassettes and videos are available on a wide variety of topics. In addition, they can provide tutorial and untutored on-line courses and will gladly forward specific listings by post of stock that they hold. They will send "Sources" which is an educational journal, that is well worth a read. Although the various catalogues can be sourced "on-line", they recommend that in the first instance, contact is made by phone. (Good news for those of you who have yet to take the internet plunge!) Be aware though, that the Resource Centre is only staffed on Tuesday to Thursday. My own recommendation is that your Group Co-ordinator or a designated member of your group makes this contact. You will find it well worth the effort and you will find the staff extremely helpful. Their phone contact is 020 8315 0199.

Mobility Scooter – For Sale

"Days Healthcare" Strider, 4 wheels, blue, with basket, dismantles for transporting by car, hardly used. Excellent condition. £400.00 o.n.o. Phone Rosalie 01280 814373.

Disclaimer:

All negotiations are between seller and buyer and nothing to do with Buckingham and District U3A.

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
Treasurer	Pat Costello 17 Campbell Close Buckingham MK18 7HP	01280 815143 pat.costello.uk@talktalk.net
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Business Secretary	Val Bradley Cosy Nook Mount Pleasant Close Buckingham MK18 1DN	01280 817746 valmbradley@btinternet.com
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New Member Support/Publicity	Colin Armstrong 1 Moorhen Way Buckingham MK18 1GN	01280 817285 lagana@talktalk.net
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 mehippie@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
Val Bradley	01280 817746	Photocopier
Mo Borrill	01280 813735	Magnifier
Clive Cowdy	01280 824274	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	9.45	Buck Centre
Book	Gillian Macdonald	01280 822688	4 th Thur	2.30	Buck Centre
Bridge (Improvers)	Russell Tobin	01280 817918	Mon	2.00-4.00	M.M. Village Hall
Bridge Beginners	Nick Steadman	01280 847980	Mon	10.00-12.00	M.M. Village Hall
Bridge (Contract)	Annastasia Kavanagh	01280 817828	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 Thurs	10.30-12.30	M.M. Village Hall
			4 th Thurs	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
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	01280 812772	1 st & 3 rd Tue	09.45	Buck Centre
	Jenni Burke	01280 816546			
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	Vee Sampson	01327 855626	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
Jazz Appreciation 1	Derrick Olliff	01280 823305	3 rd Fri	10.00-12.00	House
Jazz Appreciation 2	Russell Tobin	01280 817918	2 nd Fri	2.30-4.30	House
Local History 1	Peter Bowtell	01280 815946	2 nd & 4 th Wed	10.00-12.00	M.M. Village Hall
Local History 2	Jean Churchill-Coleman	01280 848971	1 st & 3 rd Thurs	10.00	Buck Centre
Local History 3	Glenys Warlow	01296 711775	2 nd & 4 th Fri	10.00	Buck Centre
Mah Jong	Marilyn Day	01280 823633	1 st & 3 rd Wed	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	01280 813382	4 th Tue	2.00-4.00	Buckingham Parish Church
	Judith Bell	01280 813721			
Poetry	T.B.A.		3 rd Thurs	2.30	House
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
Short Mat Bowls	Don Horne	01280 813587	2 nd & 4 th Fri	10-12	M.M. Village Hall
Singing for Fun	Jane Walker	01280 813382	2 nd & 4 th Thur	2.30	Parish Church
Spanish Beginners 1	Vicky Steadman	01280 847980	Tue	2.30	House

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

GROUP DIRECTORY: Buckingham Centre (Library), Maids Moreton (MM) Village Hall (continued)					
Activity	Co-ordinator	Telephone	Weekday	Time	Venue
Spanish Beginners 2	Jenny Mainwaring	01296 713514	Tuesday	2.00-3.30	Ask Coordinator
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	Swan Statue Car Park
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 Bridge – Beginners Creative Writing Exploring the Past	Bridge – Improvers Painting Russian	Bridge – Contract Bridge – Beginners	Bridge – Improvers Square Dancing
TUE	Bridge – Tuition Family History Spanish Intermediate 1 Yoga Chess	Gardening Scrabble Spanish Beginners 1 Spanish Beginners 2	Bridge – Tuition Philosophy Spanish Intermediate 1 Yoga Chess	Italian Scrabble Spanish Beginners 1 Spanish Beginners 2
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 Short Mat Bowls	Croquet French Beginners Cribbage Jazz Appreciation 2
DAYS	THIRD WEEK		FOURTH WEEK	
MON	Bridge – Contract Bridge – Beginners Creative Writing	Bridge – Improvers Painting Russian	Bridge – Contract Bridge – Beginners	Bridge – Improvers Square Dancing
TUE	Bridge – Tuition Family History Spanish Intermediate 1 Yoga Chess	Flower Arranging Scrabble Spanish Beginners 1 Spanish Beginners 2	Bridge – Tuition Spanish Intermediate 1 Philosophy Yoga Chess	Italian Scrabble Spanish Beginners 1 Spanish Beginners 2 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 Book Singing for Fun
FRI	Handbells Jazz Appreciation 1 Art Appreciation 2 German – Diskussionsgruppe	Croquet French Beginners	Handbells Local History 3 Short Mat Bowls	Croquet French Beginners Cribbage

Possible New Groups

Vicky Steadman is considering starting a



Knitting/Crochet group. If knitting and crochet appeals to you contact Vicky on 01280 847980 or email Vicky at n.steadman@btinternet.com

Kathy Stevens would like to get together with other



U3A members on a regular basis to form a Dog Walking group. She would like to start in the New Year so if you have

got a dog and fancy joining Kathy on her walks please give her a call on 01280 821781 or email Kathy at kathystevens09@btinternet.com

Jenny Mainwaring is keen to get members to join a second Spanish Beginners group.



If you are interested in learning Spanish please give Jenny Mainwaring a call on 01296

713514 or email stationmastersh@yahoo.co.uk

Local History 1

The Buckingham Local History Group 1 has had some very interesting meetings during the Autumn, following on from our visit to 'The New Inn Project' at Stowe, which was one of the highlights of our year, we had a talk by Helen



Prescott about the work and progress of 'The Buckingham Canal Society'. Ed Grimsdale came along to talk about 'The Early Quakers in Buckingham and District'. Ed is always such a good speaker and entertainer, so full of knowledge. The 'Wartime Memories' meeting has been a favourite this past two years, members bring along their stories and memorabilia, and we all discuss our memories. Next we are having a 'Social and Quiz' meeting and have invited the other two Local History Groups, it will be good to all get together. This will be my last meeting as Group Coordinator and I would like to thank everyone for making the 'job' so enjoyable. I have had four years of very happy meetings and outside visits, it's been a real pleasure to be the coordinator and I'm sure Peter Bowtell will have just as much enjoyment and support as I have had.

Sylvia Cooley

Local History Group 2

Talks, walks, visits, pub lunches and a little history,



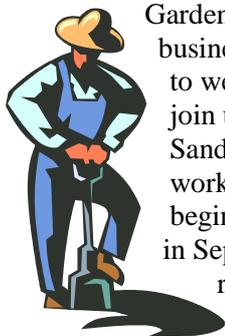
all within a radius of 20 miles of Buckingham! What a busy and interesting year this has been for Local History Group 2. Had

you heard that history was dull? Even the January snow didn't spoil the guided tour of Villiers Hotel and the Old Town Hall by the manager, Jean Rush. This was followed by an excellent meal in the restaurant. Our talks have been held in the Buckingham Centre and have covered a variety of subjects: The History of Buckingham Hospital (Dr Brown), Changes in Buckingham (Ed Grimsdale), Maids Moreton (Susan Hatton), Domestic Architecture (Peter Bowtell), History of Stowe House (Andrew Rudolf), Florence Nightingale (Glenys Warlow). We have also learned about the lives of other interesting people – Ted and Joan Flaxman spoke of the "Real Larkrise to Candleford" and of the extremely hard life of people living rural England in the 19th Century as experienced and written about by Flora Thompson. We walked through the villages of Juniper Hill where Flora was born, Cottisford, where she went to school and church, and to Fringford, where she worked at the Post Office. We then met at the Butchers Arms for a much-needed lunch! From Germaine Radcliffe, we learned of the lives and work of the great poet, William Cowper, and his good friend, John Newton. Newton was a slave trader who converted to Christianity. He became a priest at Olney and adviser to William Wilberforce. Cowper's house and garden in the centre of Olney have become the Cowper/Newton Museum. It was well worth a visit. Members recalled memories of their own experiences during the 1939-45 war. We spent a day touring Bletchley Park to learn about its wonderful code breaking machines and of the brilliant people who worked there. On a walk through the delightful village of Swanbourne we heard about Manorial villages from our guide, Ken Harris. The village is the home of the Fremantle family. Admiral Thomas Fremantle, a friend of Lord Nelson, sailed to Australia in the 18th Century. Settlements were named after him and some of the villages in Bucks. Fremantle, now one of the busiest ports in Australia, stands at the mouth of the River Swan. The Admiral's wife, Betsy, nee Wynne, was a diarist. Their eldest son,

Thomas, became the first Lord Cottesloe. The new village pub is named Betsy Wynne and we discovered that it serves an excellent lunch! In Stony Stratford, we were fortunate to have the Blue Badge Guide, Lillian McDonald with us to explain the history of the town. It straddles the Roman Road, Watling Street, and is well known for the many coaching Inns. We saw the inn where the two young Princes spent their last night of freedom before being imprisoned and murdered in the Tower of London. On a sunny day in October, a canal boat took us along the Grand Union Canal from Stoke Bruerne to the Blisworth Tunnel. We were reminded of the skills and ingenuity of the Victorian engineers and of the hard work of the men who developed the British canal system. After browsing in the Canal Museum, lunch was taken at the Navigation Inn. Our final meeting of the year is to be held at Buckingham University where 30 members will be taken on a tour of the University by Professor John Clark. I have enjoyed my two years as Co-ordinator of this group, and would like to thank all the members for their support. This Group is now full and has a waiting list. Information about the group and future programmes may be obtained from the new Co-ordinator, Jean Churchill-Coleman Tel 01280 848971.
Dorothy Shaw

Gardening

After period of uncertainty I am pleased to say the Gardening Group is fully open for business and we would be very pleased to welcome new members wishing to join us. Thank you to Jennie and Sandra for all their previous hard work in running the group. The beginning of our gardening year starts in September and this year it was really a discussion and planning meeting to see how members wished the group to go forward and perhaps adopt a new format to help formulate the yearly programme. There were lots of ideas and lots of enthusiasm. I am confident we can look forward to an interesting and varied gardening year. All updates to the programme will be posted on the notice board at the main monthly meetings. We have been pleased to welcome 6 new members in the last two months and both the Oct and Nov meetings were well attended and enjoyed by about 20 members each time. October we focussed on spring bulbs. We had an interesting session of questions and answers covering bulbs and ended with the raffle which consisted of a variety of bulbs to plant and then enjoy



in the garden next year. November was 'Gardeners Question Time'. Members' questions provoked a lively meeting with questions ranging from insulating a greenhouse, choosing and planting clematis to overwintering fuchsias. In true BBC fashion we finished with the gardening weather forecast. Thank you to panel members Margaret and Joyce and the whole group for their knowledgeable input. There were Sutton Seeds catalogues available for members to order seeds at a large discount of 50%! Orders can be telephoned or e-mailed to me by end November. In December we can look forward to our Christmas Social. There will be a fun quiz and the opportunity to make a Christmas table decoration, all helped along by some mulled wine and followed by afternoon tea provided by group members. As we don't meet in January, February will be the next time we have a meeting and that will be visiting speaker Peter Warden from The Wildlife Trust and a talk entitled 'Gardening for Wildlife'. We also have a monthly plant sales table with usual and unusual plants for sale for a modest donation into Garden Group funds which will help us pay for any future speakers. Finally, Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. If you enjoy your garden do come and join us. Good gardening!
Vee Sampson

French Beginners

Our Group has now been going for over two years and numbers have more or less stayed the same. Because we meet in houses we are restricted with numbers and unfortunately cannot take any more members at the moment. We are still ploughing our way through the BBC French Experience text book with visiting 'experts' to show us the way with verbs etc. We are very lucky to have a delightful Frenchman coming to our group regularly, who helps us with our accents and hopefully we assist him with the English language. We try to concentrate mainly on conversation and have sometimes had some very amusing stories in French. In the summer we held a party at the home of one of our members and in December we are all off to Oxford for our Christmas meal. Last year one of our group ordered their meal in French, only to be told by the waitress that she couldn't understand as she was Lithuanian!!! It is a great group and the members jell extremely well.
Ginny Booth



French Lunch Group 2

We now have eight members and we meet on the third Wednesday of the month in one another's houses. We all contribute French food and wine and we speak French at least until the dessert when we do tend



to lapse into English! Sometimes when members are away on holiday we can be as low as four people at a meeting, so we would welcome one or two more people to join us. If you would like to know more – and we are a jolly group – please phone 01280 814 864.

Judy Austin

French Intermediate

We have seven members and we meet on alternate Wednesday mornings in one another's houses. We spend some time at the beginning of each session having coffee and then move on to describing to each other what we have been doing recently – in French, of course – and then we go over the homework which we always set ourselves. We work from an Intermediate Course in French for Adults called "Voici", which comes as a book and CD. We always find something to laugh about and we are quite happy to be corrected on our grammar and vocabulary. It is a self-help group and we have no French specialist but we enjoy meeting and tackling something new. In the summer we all went with spouses to the Brasserie Blanc in Milton Keynes for dinner and spent a very enjoyable evening. In December we are meeting at the house of one of the members of the group to have a "Christmas Party". We will all contribute food or wine and expect to have a very good time. If anyone is interested in joining us, please phone 01280 814864.

Judy Austin

Short Mat Bowls

The Short Mat Bowls is a new group who meet in Maids Moreton Village Hall, from 10am to 12 midday on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month.

However, dates for December have not yet been fixed. Details from the Group Coordinator 01280 813587 or dhorne@dhorne.plus.com

Don Horne



Craft

The craft and card ladies are creating a varied assortment of different things, some useful some just decorative. We work individually or together on various projects. Our latest joint project is making quilts for the soldiers at the rehabilitation unit at Headley Court. The latest 3 quilts are on their way making a total of 8 so far, more fabric strips are still being sewn – who knows what the grand total will be! In 2011 we will be using the Maids Moreton Village Hall for our meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 10.30 until 12.30 to fit in with the bus times from Buckingham. Our *first* meeting in 2011 will be on **Thursday 6th January** due to booking clash. The 4th Thursday will still be at the Bucks Centre.

Ann Liddle



Art Appreciation Groups

In the story of art thus far, Group 1 is currently studying the life and work of the great Spanish master, Goya whilst Group 2 has progressed through the artists of the Italian High Renaissance to the Mannerist paintings of El Greco. In September, Geoff Kirk kindly set up the U3A projector for a viewing of a DVD of "Renaissance Portraits" from a 2009 exhibition at the National Gallery. More recently, we made a visit to the Royal Academy to see "The Glasgow Boys", in collaboration with Buckingham Decorative and Fine Arts Society. In November, we again visited the Royal Academy this time using the Winslow Community Bus to deliver us door-to-door to see "Treasures from Budapest". A wonderful exhibition with exceptional Old Master paintings including Raphael, Goya, Durer, Leonardo da Vinci, Rubens, Claude, Canaletto, Monet, Picasso, Chagall and Schiele. Also in November we caught the X5 to Oxford and saw "The Pre-Raphaelites and Italy" at the Ashmolean, featuring art by John Ruskin, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Holman Hunt and Edward Burne-Jones amongst others; in all over 140 paintings, some of which appeared for the first time in Britain. Coincidentally, the BBC has been running programmes on "The Glasgow Boys", "The Pre-Raphaelites" and a preview of the "Treasures from Budapest" to add to our appreciation. Attendance at both groups continues to be good.

Pam Tonge

Outdoor Group

The Outdoor Group is one of the original groups of this U3A. Its purpose was, and still is, to encourage members to walk and enjoy the countryside. We have a large membership but a fairly small group of regular walkers. We walk almost every week, but not always on the same day, although Thursday is the popular day.

Our walks are about 4–5 miles long and we usually end a walk with a pub lunch. Some would say that this is the main reason for the walk! This last summer, we introduced a slightly longer walk of up to six miles in the first week of the month. These walks are broken into morning and afternoon sessions with a break for lunch about three quarters of the way through. We practise car-sharing to get to and from the start of each walk and we do not allow dogs as we cannot be sure if we will come across livestock or stiles during a walk. Each walk is planned by individual members and a programme is produced showing the walks that will be held in the following three or four months. Members pay £1 per year to cover the cost of printing these programmes. If you are interested in finding out more about our Group, or enjoy walking in company, contact me, Val Bradley, at one of the Wednesday meetings. Our routes are varied, covering fields, footpaths and hard surfaces. The locations are spread from Northamptonshire villages in the north to The Chilterns in the south. Milton Keynes is a popular area, especially during the winter months. In fact, we are almost half-way through walking the city's boundary, using buses to get to and from the chosen section. This has opened our eyes to the very varied architecture of the different housing estates. We can offer good health, good company and a good time.

Val Bradley 01280 817746

Travel & Theatre

It has been a full year as far as theatre, outings and holidays go. The shows at Milton Keynes have all been well worth seeing, from Pirates of Penzance, Neil Sedaka's Laughter in the Rain, Oklahoma and the last musical was the brilliant Hairspray. We all remember the trip to London to see "Sister Act". All the shows had a "feel good" factor. There is nothing better than coming out of a theatre with a smile on one's face. I hope everyone enjoyed the outings, from the river cruise to Windsor, Kenilworth Castle and even the day I got you lost



on Hampstead Heath. What a great museum The Churchill War Experience is. That is where we sat in an Anderson air raid shelter and listened to the doodle bugs coming down. I am sure you will not forget later in the afternoon when I took you to the Royal Mint instead of the Bank of England, but we got there in the end and had a good time in the museum. I cannot claim an unblemished record this year! I am keeping my fingers crossed that all goes well when we go to Rochester to the Dickensian and German Christmas market.

We start the New Year with a visit to London to see the Jersey Boys and we look forward to going to Milton Keynes to see the "Cinderella" ballet and the Noel Coward play "Blithe Spirit". I have not yet been informed of any forthcoming shows at Milton Keynes beyond February, but I am sure that there will be many worthwhile shows for us to enjoy. As you know I am planning to go to the Royal Albert Hall in March, to see the Classical Spectacular. The only drawback is that they only hold my booking for a month so anyone wishing to go must book and pay as soon as I have confirmation of date and cost.

My forward planning for trips next year includes a visit to the National Arboretum in Alrewas in Staffordshire. Some of us went a couple of years ago and of course these places expand and improve over the years. I found it to be a wonderful and moving experience and look forward to a return visit. Naturally I have tried to include visits to National Trust properties during the year.

On to holidays – we are all looking forward to our Egyptian holiday. I have thought, as you will see from the Events programme, that if there was enough interest I would try to do a 3 or 4 day trip to Ironbridge. There are several museums there, the most interesting, I found was the Blist Hill town where everyone is dressed in turn of the 19th century clothes. At the moment I am discussing, with travel companies, our visit to Wales. I hope that we can stay in Tenby or Carmarthen. At the beginning of December we hope to make a return visit to Norfolk to see the Thursford show. Last time we spent a day in Norwich so I thought this time we will go to Blickling Hall, which is a National Trust property.

So as you can see I am busy with the arrangements for 2011 and look forward to seeing a lot of you at the theatre, on the outings and holidays. A final thank you to Alan, my right hand man, without his support things would not be as easy.

We both wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy 2011.

Beryl & Alan Carr

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

Events 2011

Event	Date	Cost	Booking
Jersey Boys – London	January 4 th	£25.00 + cost of coach	
Blithe Spirit – M.K.T	Feb 16 th	£15.00	
Matthew Bourne’s Cinderella M.K.T.	Feb 23 rd	£15.00	
Classical Spectacular	March	T.B.A.	
Egypt	April 6th		
National Arboretum	May	T.B.A.	
Ironbridge ? 3 or 4 day trip	June	T.B.A.	
Packwood/Baddesley Clinton N.T.	July	T.B.A.	
London Walk ?	August	T.B.A.	
Tenby Holiday	September	T.B.A.	
Thursford	Early December	T.B.A.	

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



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A

Income & Expenditure Account Year Ended 30th September 2010

	<u>2009/10</u>	<u>2008/9</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Subscriptions	7222.00	5387.50
Theatre Visits, etc.	40181.45	41557.90
Interest	283.97	420.28
Miscellaneous	1503.61	268.40
Inland Revenue-Gift aid	1160.64	694.41
Chosen Charity	500.14	209.13
Rented venues receipts	1296.80	-
	-----	-----
	52148.61	48537.62
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Room Hire	3932.62	2510.22
Print, post, stat	1368.72	1387.33
Capitation fees	1694.00	1267.50
Theatre Visits, etc	39883.61	40858.70
Speakers	519.00	598.80
Christmas/Social	669.74	224.38
Miscellaneous	752.19	523.63
Teas/coffees	57.63	101.49
Chosen Charity	500.14	209.13
	-----	-----
	49377.65	47681.18
	-----	-----
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	2770.96	856.44
Add Accum funds b/fwd	9663.00	8806.56
	-----	-----
Funds c/fwd 1/10/10	12433.96	9663.00
	=====	=====
<u>Represented by</u>		
Bank	10899.60	5367.81
Petty Cash	77.92	82.52
Barclays Bonds	5958.63	5686.01
Income Rec'd in Advance	(4212.81)	(1228.10)
Accrued expenses	(620.14)	(160.00)
Regional Forum funds	(84.24)	(85.24)
Expenses pd in advance	415.00	-
	-----	-----
	12433.96	9663.00
	=====	=====

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

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

BUCKINGHAM AND DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2010

INCOME

The increase in numbers and in the subscription has created a positive variance of £1835 over last year.

Theatre visits and holidays have remained constant, with 21 outings during the year.

Miscellaneous income has increased by £1235, mainly the result of collecting at the door £634, and a grant of £800 received from AVDC Community Chest.

Inland Revenue Gift Aid, as a result of the subscription change and more members signing the form, has increased by £466.

EXPENDITURE

The change in the payments for rented venues has increased this cost by £1422, but this is largely offset by the monies collected from the groups which use them.

Capitation fees have gone up by a £1 per member, and taking into account our larger membership, the net effect is an increase of £427.

Summer & Christmas socials – the Committee decided to make these more memorable at a cost of £670 against £224 last year.

Miscellaneous expenses – made up of Insurance £153, New Members' coffee mornings £89, purchase of a Digital Camera £118, Diaries for Committee and for Group Co-Ordinators £89 and Beds Plus meetings and Third Age Trust AGM £155.

This leaves us with a surplus for the year of £2771 and funds of £12434.

We had an annual expenditure of £8994 this year, so we are slightly higher than the accepted practice of having one year's costs in hand, having about 16 months.

However, the grant of £800 received this year is a one-off, and various costs will inevitably increase in the future.

I would like to record my thanks to Angus Davidson for acting as our Examiner.

Buckingham & District University of the Third Age received funds from the Community Chest, a grants scheme for community projects run jointly by AVDC and VAHT.

If you would like more information about the grants available, please call the Community Chest Grants Officer, Sarah Rothwell on 01296 585634.

P Costello 20/10/10