



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.

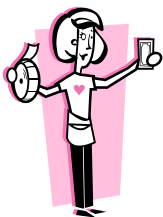
MONTHLY OPEN MEETINGS

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.

TOMBOLA APPEAL



We will be holding a Tombola at our Summer Social in July.

We are in urgent need of tombola prizes.

Margaret Elliott would be pleased to receive any items at the monthly meeting or alternatively phone her on 01525 240174.

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
27 th April	The Buckingham Community Pantomine – 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
28 th Sept	Adrian Boynton “More Shapes and Patterns in Music	Jams, Cakes & Pickles	Square Dancing
19 th Oct	A.G.M.	Group Displays	Strollers & Yoga
23 rd Nov	Alan Painter, Magistrate, a View of the Bench	Books & Magazines	Art Appreciation Groups
14 th Dec	Social		Committee

A.G.M. Date

Please note change of date of A.G.M. which this year is on the 19th October at 2.30 p.m. which is the 3rd Wednesday of October.



Chairman's notes No 40

On the 11th February 2011 we welcomed into Buckingham and District U3A the one thousand, two hundred and fifty seventh member since 1997, his name is Kevin Robinson. The significance of Kevin's membership is that it broke the 600th member barrier and we now have a **membership of over 600 members.**

It is every member's right to be able to see the minutes of the monthly committee meetings. If you want to exercise this right, please email the secretary on johnelainesq@talktalk.net requesting the minutes. They will then be emailed to you. If you want them posted please send a SAE to Elaine Squires at 1 Overn Avenue, Buckingham, MK18 1LG.

The benefits of the shadow system came into force at the February meeting. Beryl Carr was on an outing and George was away on personal business. Pat Williams and Jane Brown stepped in for Beryl and Lesley Suggate stood in for George and the show just ran. We now need a shadow for Beryl to cover outings.

As I stated at the AGM one of my objectives for 2011 is to make it possible for members to have the *option* of accessing the Newsletter electronically. A successful trial has been completed using two of our groups. Nine out ten people who took part were pleased with the results. We would now like to extend the trial to the whole of Buckingham U3A. The electronic version of the Newsletter is sent out to members' email address with full instructions on what to do. In the test most participants had no difficulty. Where there was a problem it was in nearly every case quickly resolved. The emailed version of the Newsletter is similar to the printed version but has some additional features such as colour and you will get it earlier. If you would like to receive the email version in future please let your Group Co-ordinator know your email address. The next issue of the Newsletter will be distributed as in the past but ALSO emailed to those who have requested it. We will see how it goes. If it goes well, at a future date we will ask members to opt for which version they would like to receive.

On the 9th February we held the annual Group Co-ordinators' meeting in the small hall at the community centre. There was an excellent turnout of 37 Group Co-ordinators which represents 78% of the total. At the end of this Newsletter there are short reports from the groups. The Buckingham and District U3A DVD was shown and was well received even though the facilities for showing a DVD were very limited. There are still some minor changes before it goes out to the whole membership. There were some useful discussions at the meeting and the committee identified that there were some issues regarding Group Co-ordinators and their groups' expenditure. The committee is listening to the Group Co-ordinators and have issued some guidelines for the Group Co-ordinators. These will be particularly useful to new coordinators. The Group Finance section will I hope clear up any misunderstandings with the experienced Group Co-ordinators.

Coffee Morning for New Members



The next coffee morning will be held on **Thursday 7th July 2011** 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 Sheila on 01280 817747 or email at sheilaeditor@hotmail.co.uk

Next Newsletter

Please note the deadline for articles for the next Newsletter issue No. 41 is **Wednesday 24th August 2011**

Please Email or post to:

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

sheilaeditor@hotmail.co.uk

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

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Newsletter Editor	Sheila Dalzell 18 Partridge Close Buckingham MK18 7HH	01280 817747 sheilaeditor@hotmail.co.uk

Useful Web Links To Groups

Main Website – www.buckinghamu3a.org.uk

Strollers – www.freewebs.com/bucksu3astrollers

Art Appreciation – <http://www.buckinghamu3a.org.uk/groups/groups/ArtAppreciation2.htm>

Craft and Card making group – <http://www.buckinghamu3a.org.uk/groups/groups/Crafts.htm>

Local History – <http://www.buckinghamu3a.org.uk/groups/groups/LocalHistory2.htm>

Square Dancing – <http://www.uksquaredancing.com/CDBuckinghamU3ASquareDancingGroup.pdf>

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

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* Portable Mains Amplifier/Speaker with three radio microphones **
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.

**New to the Equipment Register this useful addition will enable your Speakers in small to medium halls to be heard clearly. It will also provide a useful boost to our digital projector's sound output. For those of you who are reading the electronic version you can find out more by accessing the hot link at <http://www.astounded.com/pulse-megamouth-20w-wireless-portable-pa-system-3-radio-mics.html>

Buckingham U3A DVD Project

A year ago we were discussing a proposal to produce a short DVD documentary of our U3A to show to new members and as a general publicity tool. The DVD is now finished and was shown to the Group Co-ordinators meeting in February.

We started by buying one of the new generation of cheap High Definition (HD) video cameras. Given a budget of about £100 we bought a Sanyo Xacti CG20. This had good reviews, a 5X optical zoom, a large viewing screen and a comfortable pistol grip shape. With the addition of a large memory card I found it an excellent camera for video with a good battery life. If anyone is interested in buying one, they are currently available for £108.59 from Amazon or £149.95 from Jessops. Please get in touch with me if you want to try out the U3A one.

For the documentary I filmed eight groups to get a balance of activities from discussion groups to outdoor activities. Peter Cammas and I also took group photographs of 27 groups to include in the DVD. Thank you to all the groups who allowed us to come along and disrupt their meetings and a special thank you to the Group Co-ordinators who were interviewed. Making the DVD presented some technical and creative challenges. With traditional video the film is linear on a magnetic tape or disc and easy to follow. With the Sanyo I was left with several hundred unidentified film clips, which had to be sorted. HD video is fine for showing straight onto your digital TV but is not suitable for editing and burning a standard definition (SD) DVD. So every clip had to go through a format conversion process before it could be edited. Squeezing several hours of raw video into a quarter of an hour also required some hard decisions. Editing was done using Pinnacle Studio, which I find is a good compromise between usability and functionality.

The end product is a 14 minute DVD, which gives a good overview of the U3A in general, and ours in particular. We have now ordered 70 copies of the DVD so that every Group Co-ordinator can have a copy. If anyone is interested in joining a video editing group please get

in touch with me. There is a limited number of Buckingham and District U3A DVDs available for sale at £3.00. They will be on sale on Margaret's stall at the back of the hall at the monthly meetings. The revenue from the sales will recover some of the expenditure of production.

Clive Cowdy 01280 824274 – kanata@btinternet.com

BUCKINGHAM AND DISTRICT
U3A
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

£3.00

Limited Stocks

" I am sure you have all struggled to explain to your children and grand children what the U3A is and what you do in it! "

Buy a copy of the DVD and you can show them.

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	Anne Liddle	01280 823565	2 nd & 4 th Thurs	10.30-12.30	M.M. Village Hall
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 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	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	10.00-12.00	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 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	Dorothy Shaw	01908 563904	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 Reading	Betty Stubbs	01280 850630	3 rd Thurs	2.30	House
Poetry Writing	Carolina Kenealy	01280 815636	2 nd & 4 th Mon	1.30 - 3.30	Brooks Court
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	10.00-12.00	M.M. Village Hall
Singing for Fun	Jane Walker	01280 813382	2 nd & 4 th Thur	2.30	Parish Church

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

GROUP DIRECTORY: Buckingham Centre (Library), Maids Moreton (MM) Village Hall (continued)					
Activity	Co-ordinator	Telephone	Weekday	Time	Venue
Spanish Beginners 1	Pat Walton	01280 814668	Tue	2.30	House
Spanish Int. 1	Noel Stacey	01280 821825	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 Poetry Writing
TUE	Bridge – Tuition Family History Spanish Intermediate 1 Yoga Chess	Gardening Scrabble Spanish Beginners 1	Bridge – Tuition Philosophy Spanish Intermediate 1 Yoga Chess	Italian Scrabble Spanish Beginners 1
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 Poetry Writing
TUE	Bridge – Tuition Family History Spanish Intermediate 1 Yoga Chess	Flower Arranging Scrabble Spanish Beginners 1	Bridge – Tuition Spanish Intermediate 1 Philosophy Yoga Chess	Italian Scrabble Spanish Beginners 1 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

New Group

A Poetry Writing Group started on Monday February 14th. If you would like to join this group please contact **Carolina Kenealy** on 01280 815636

Christmas Quiz

76 members took part in the Christmas Quiz. The book token prize was donated so £76 went to our nominated charities. Another £15 was raised by selling little books. Thanks to everyone who took part, we will be running a similar quiz next Christmas.



Dusty Rodes

Square Dancers Raise £960 for Willen Hospice

On Saturday 5th February our U3A Square Dancers joined with four other local clubs, who have recently recruited new dancers, to have fun whilst raising money for Willen Hospice. The clubs who joined us at the Well Street Centre, were Share a Square who dance in Buckingham School on a Wednesday evening; Grand Union Barn Dance Club who meet at Blisworth also on a Wednesday; New City Squares who meet in Milton Keynes on a Thursday and Conround 8s who meet near Oxford. There were nearly 60 dancers in all and at least half of them were new dancers in September. June Oliffe packed a lovely hamper of goodies for everyone to guess the weight. I made a successful gardening quiz which was won by Jane Harvey. I call it successful because even Jane didn't get all the answers right!! There were an enormous number of Raffle Prizes donated and everyone brought delicious food to share for supper.



Thanks to everyone for participating and for helping with all the various jobs that need doing at such an event.
Susie Kelly

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. If you have any queries, or want further information, please give me a call on 01820 823565.

Anne Liddle

Russian

The Russian Group now meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month between 10 and 12 o'clock. There are four members in the group and for the past month or so we have been joined by a member of the Aylesbury U3A. Valerie Shaw has also made contact with a Russian lady by the name of Galina who is resident in Buckingham and who occasionally joins us for the monthly lunch at SS Peter and Paul. We gathered there with spouses for a very enjoyable post-Christmas lunch in January. We have now finished Book 3 of our excellent Russian course "Ruslan" and our intention is to concentrate on the more practical skills of speaking and reading the language, whilst not losing sight of listening and writing skills. To this end we have



begun to use materials which contain everyday conversations and short stories. We also try to keep an eye open for Russian cultural events such as the Moscow State Circus and Prokofiev's "Cinderella", both on the current programme of Milton Keynes theatre. A very interesting lecture was given in the winter term at Buckingham University by Mary Dejevsky, chief editorial writer and columnist at The Independent (owned by a Russian, by the way), entitled "Do the Secret Police still rule Russia?" The BBC's website also features a Russian news page,

which has so far survived the cuts and which we regularly make use of.

Roy Walker

German Diskussionsgruppe

The German Diskussionsgruppe is now approaching the end of its first year. There are four of us at present, meeting as a rule on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month between 10 and 12 o'clock, when we spend our time speaking exclusively in German, discussing a variety of topics ranging from "What made our retirement interesting so far?" to "One of the most embarrassing experiences I ever had". We also have a source book called "45 Stunden Deutschland" and have recently embarked on the history section which covers the post-Nazi period and which we read and discuss, all in German. Periodically we organise a DVD evening when we gather together for a meal and watch a good German film, with or without German subtitles. Last November and December the BBC also broadcast a complete season of German programmes, including Andrew Graham-Dixon's series on "The Art of Germany" and Julia Bradbury's series entitled "German Wanderlust" when she walked us through the Rhine Gorge and into the sandstone outcrops of Saxon Switzerland, albeit in English.



Finally, some of us, together with our spouses, have booked a summer holiday in Mecklenburg with a German travel firm, which means that we shall be travelling from Berlin to Neubrandenburg in the company of German tourists. There should be plenty of opportunity to practise our German and to meet quite a challenge!

Roy Walker

Craft Group Appeal

The craft group need more cotton or thick polyester cotton material to create quilts for the soldiers having rehab at Headley Court. We can't use pink or flowers – men's shirts are ideal, skirts and duvet sets and sheets. I can collect. Please also note that the Craft Group now meets at Maids Morton Hall.

Anne Liddle 823565

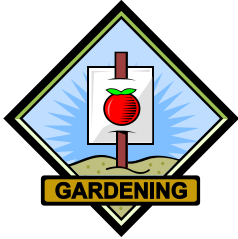


Buckingham and District U3A are particularly proud of the members of our Craft Group, who have so far sewn 20 patchwork quilts for wounded soldiers being cared for at Headley Court, near Leeds.

That's an awful lot of stitches!

Gardening

All gardeners look forward to spring when we can begin to think about planting seeds and get out into our gardens again after the dull winter days and Garden Group members are no exception. We had our first garden visit to a delightful spring garden in Winslow at the beginning of March. Although cold we had 27 members enjoying snowdrops and even a camellia in flower. We were all amazed what had been achieved in such a small space, the variety of plants, pots tucked into every corner and even more amazed to learn our hostess was 90! An inspiration to us all. Afterwards we had a welcome cup of tea and homemade cake in Jenny Wren's Tearoom.



The Christmas social in December was well attended with members each bringing a plate of food along for everyone to enjoy (the table was weighed down!). After Pat Evison's tuition we all made a Christmas decoration to take home. A fun quiz and a secret Santa present completed the afternoon with everyone in a festive mood.

Peter Warden was the visiting speaker in February when he came to talk to us about 'Gardening for Wildlife'. Peter showed us various foods to attract different species of birds, as well as boxes for bats and birds and homes for insects. We all learnt something new and will hopefully try some of his suggestions to encourage wildlife into our own spaces. We continue to welcome new members, the group now numbers over 40, with an attendance of 20 plus at each meeting. If you enjoy your garden – come and join us! Good gardening!

Vee Sampson

Handbells

Four new members have joined the Buckingham Handbells this year. The group entered a Bellfest in March at a primary school in Stewkley. There were several groups taking part including a newly-formed group of children at the school. At the beginning of the afternoon all groups played together ringing pieces everyone had been practising. Each group then performed pieces of their own choice with a 'colour' theme. The afternoon ended with everyone ringing together once more for a final "ring". The standard was good and the Buckingham Handbells played well. Refreshments were provided by the children's parents and it was a very enjoyable afternoon. The group looks forward to further engagements later in the year.



Derek Smith

Local History Group 1

Having taken over as Co-ordinator from Sylvia Cooley in January, I am pleased to report that we have put together an interesting and varied programme of events for the rest of the year covering talks and visits relating to Buckingham and the surrounding area. To date we have listened to fascinating accounts of Florence Nightingale's life and her association with Claydon House from Glenys Warlow, a tale of poachers and pilgrims in the town from ever-popular Ed Grimdsdale and the recollections of six group members about how they came to live in Buckingham and their impressions of the place.



There will be much to look forward to in the coming months, including visits to Canons Ashby, Ascott, Rousham and Wotton Underwood, plus tours around Thornborough, Hanslope and Bletchley Park as well as a narrow boat trip on the Grand Union Canal. As usual our talks are given by a mix of group members and external speakers and forthcoming subjects include the Fegan School of Stony Stratford, the famous (local boy) Victorian architect George Gilbert Scott and the history of our local newspaper The Advertiser.

Peter Bowtell

Book Group

We have chosen the following books for this year:

28th April – The enchanted April by Elizabeth von Arnim

26th May – Red Direct by Gabriel Weston

23rd June – The peppered moth by Margaret Drabble

28th July – Fear and trembling by Amelie Nothomb

25th August – A bend in the river by V S Naipaul

22nd September – The glass room by Simon Mawer

27th October – Alone in Berlin by Hans Fallada

24th November – A month in the country by J L Carr

You are welcome to our discussions at 2.30pm in The Buckingham Centre. Please join us.

Gillian Macdonald

Outdoor Group

The Outdoor Group is already planning its summer programme with a wide variety of walks. There will be



several all-day walks to such places as Charlbury, Fringford and Canons Ashby as well as shorter walks that include Ivinghoe Beacon, Stowe, Puxley and Lathbone Park which is near Newport Pagnell. In addition to these and others not yet booked, Beryl will be taking us to somewhere in London: I believe it will be in the area of the Regent's Canal. Beryl's summer walk has become something of a regular outing for us and is always enjoyed. If you enjoy walking in fresh air with good company and delightful surroundings, then why not give us a try.

Val Bradley

Theatre & Travel

We had a good start to the new year when we went to see the "Jersey Boys" in London. The weather was reasonable and some of us took a little wander around Chinatown. Naturally there have not been any more outings due to the chilly winter weather. However, we have seen some splendid shows at Milton Keynes. I think one of my favourites was "Blithe Spirit" in spite of what the Telegraph critic said. As I write this the sun is shining, so fingers crossed for good weather for our trip up to London for the Classical Spectacular at the Albert Hall. Of course by the time you read this it will be over! You will see an updated events programme in this Newsletter. I can never keep up with the Milton Keynes show. As soon as I revamp the programme I receive a list of new shows.



I hope that the proposed holidays to Ironbridge, Tenby and Thursford will be well supported. It is disappointing for those wishing to go if I have to cancel any of the holidays. Those who went to Thursford a couple of years ago know what a great time we had staying in Sheringham culminating in the wonderful Thursford show, which included a variety of acts – from dancers, a superb organist, to bands and choirs. I choose to go at night because the lit trees leading to the theatre are quite magical. If one is still young at heart one can go to see the animated figures and displays housed in a huge exhibition area, even if they are supposed to entrance the children!

I have people booking for the National Memorial Arboretum. I have just been reading that they have completed 10 more memorials in the last three months, including one for the R.N.L.I. and an award-winning Memorial Garden and there are still 40 more to be completed in the next few months.

The visits to Baddesley Clinton/Packwood house and Knole are proving quite popular so get your names down quickly. For my annual "London Walk" I have handed the responsibility over to City and Village Tours. So this time I will not be blamed for getting you lost – memories of Hampstead Heath on a wet afternoon. The walk will include our morning coffee and lunch with a walk around Horse Guards, a visit to the Guards Museum and Whitehall and a visit to the "Punishment Parade", so be on your best behaviour!

Beryl Carr

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Events 2011

Event	Date	Cost	Booking
National Arboretum	31 st May	£20.00	
Agatha Christie's Verdict M.K.T.	8 th June	£12.50	
Midnight Tango M.K.T.	15 th June	£15.00	
Ironbridge 4 day trip	1 st July	£277.00	
Hampton Court Flower Show	8 th July	£43.00	
Alarms & Excursions M.K.T.	13 th July	£12.50	
Packwood/Baddesley Clinton N.T.	29 th July	£12.00	
London Walk	17 th August	£32.00	
Tenby Holiday	18 th September (6 days)	£473.00	
Journey's End M.K.T.	21 st or 22 nd Sept	£12.50	
Buddy M.K.T.	28 th Sept	£12.50	
Knole N.T.	29 th September	£15.00	
South Pacific M.K.T.	19 th October	£25.00	
English National Ballet Strictly Gershwin M.K.T.	17 th November	£17.50	
Thursford	2 nd December (4 days)	£305.00	
Christmas Carol Sing-along at Royal Albert Hall	17 th December	T.B.A.	

Dates are not set in stone and some changes might be required due to unforeseen circumstances.

N.T. = National Trust which is free to N.T. members

Please Note: Payment for any event is by cheque only

The Group Co-ordinators' Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday 9th February 2011 and below are the reports submitted

French Beginners

The group still meet weekly and continue to work through the BBC French Experience text book interspersed with French conversation. We have also had visiting 'experts' to help us with verbs and our accent and are lucky enough to have had the help of a Frenchman on a regular basis. We generally have approximately nine each week and meet in each other's homes. The group has also enjoyed a couple of social events throughout the year. **Ginny Booth**

Spanish Intermediate

We currently have 8 members and the average attendance is around 5 or 6. Recently we have been putting more effort into speaking Spanish and listening to recorded pieces of a moderately straightforward nature. We have finished working through the textbook "Suenos 2" but will probably go back over the bits not fully grasped the first time. We are always glad to welcome new members to the Group. It is friendly and unchallenging and is ideal for anyone wanting to improve or exercise their Spanish at a fairly simple level.

Noel Stacey

Advanced French

The Group has currently 12 members with an average attendance of 9 at each meeting. We meet in members' houses and our studies vary from French Literary pieces to working on interesting articles downloaded from the internet. We use multimedia technology, DVDs, CDs, etc. to further our studies. We are fortunate that a retired French teacher volunteers and takes us for a more rigorous workout on a monthly basis. We mostly concentrate on our conversational skills with excursions into grammatical items from time to time. **Jenni Burke**

Local History Group 1

Group (1) is the largest of the 3 Local History Groups in our Branch with a current membership of 33. We meet on the second and fourth Wednesday mornings of each month in Maids Moreton Village Hall and frequently have attendances above 20 at our meetings. Our 2010 programme offered a varied selection of in-house and invited speakers on topics such as the Stowe New Inn project, the old Buckingham Canal, the early quakers of the town and group members' war time memories. Outside visits included Sulgrave Manor, Thornton College, Olney and Winslow. Our recently completed 2011 programme features talks on the Fegan School of Stony Stratford, Lacemaking, Florence Nightingale and the history of The Advertiser. Outside visits will include Ascott House, Canons Ashby, Hanslope and Bletchley Park. Under the title "local history" we are happy to extend our interests to areas within easy reach of Buckingham and we actively encourage members to offer their own experiences and local knowledge for the benefit of the whole group. **Peter Bowtell**

Local History Group 2

The group now has a membership of 38 but due to the limited capacity of the Mezzanine Room at the Buckingham Centre we have a waiting list of 6. Normal attendance is about 15-25. We have visited Stowe, Buckingham University, Stoke Bruerne and Bletchley Park and walked around Juniper Hill, Swanbourne and Newport Pagnell, while topics for talks included Florence Nightingale, Buckingham Hospital, and the history and architecture of Buckingham. 2011's programme includes visits to Quanton Railway, Hughenden Manor, RAF Halton and Hook Norton Brewery with talks on Buckingham Drovers' Roads and Buckingham's history. We were sorry to lose Dorothy Shaw as our Co-ordinator who has moved away from Buckingham. **Jean Churchill-Coleman**

Local History Group 3

This group started in April 2010 and meets in the Bucks Centre on 2nd & 4th Fridays. The varied programme has included walking tours of Buckingham and Winslow plus visits to MK and Aylesbury museums. Talks include local buildings: the Hospital, Chantry Chapel, the Workhouse, Villiers Hotel (with Christmas lunch). Industries: Straw plaiting & Lacemaking. Personalities: George Gilbert-Scott & Florence Nightingale. Twice we joined the other groups for coffee/quizz mornings. Some of our speakers are U3A members; is there anyone else who might talk on local history? We have 16 members and, as not all attend each session, we welcome newcomers. **Glenys Warlow**

Short Mat Bowls

The Short Mat Bowls is a new group which meets, in Maids Moreton Village Hall, from 10–12 midday on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. It is early days but with about 6 members we are enjoying ourselves. **Don Horne**

Computer

This group provides one-to-one support with basic computing operations but with very little activity over the last year. I suspect this may be due to the increasing competence of our members, because of their involvement with computers when at work. If this trend continues I will consider closing the group. **Geoff Suggate**

Strollers

The Strollers Group has a regular attendance of between 8 and 18 people. We continue to walk around the town and local villages. This year we visited the Pocket Park at Deanshanger and had a canal trip. Our plans for this year will be to continue local walks and once a month going out to local villages or Milton Keynes. **Lesley Suggate**

Chess

Sadly the Chess Group has had a zero attendance for the last 12 months due to illness on the part of the two other members, myself and my wife. However, after the announcement at the last monthly meeting, I have had tentative responses from one or two people and hope to pursue these enquiries.

David Pond

Bridge Beginners

Since our early beginnings in October of last year we have made steady progress. Our members are now about to discover the delights of having partner respond with a 'change of suit'. Lessons have been lively and there are always plenty of probing questions. We have grown in number and are now up to capacity for this group. In early March we are looking forward to meeting up with Russell Tobin's afternoon improvers for a belated Christmas lunch which fell victim to the snowy weather.

Nick Steadman

Bridge Tuition

The tuition group continues to thrive after 6 years. We have 37 members with an average turn out of around 28. The aim of the Group is to help those bridge players who have knowledge of the game but wish to improve up to Club standard. The competitions, supervised play, individual partnership tuition and seminars form the basis of the programme. **Peter Holman**

Bridge Improvers

Having grown from a Beginners' group meeting in homes, we have graduated to Maids Moreton Village Hall where we now average 6 to 7 tables a session. There have been as many as 8½. There are about 40 very nice people in the group at any one time and some are playing bridge socially as well including at least one eightsome from time to time. Bridge must be just about the cheapest form of entertainment there is and we aim to have a good bridge tip or a wee bit of tuition in at least 3 out of 4 sessions. **Russell Tobin**

Italian

The Italian Group continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month in each other's houses, although this now involves quite a lot of travelling as we cover an area from Winslow to Bicester to Blakely, which is 6 miles north of Silverstone. We continue to develop our reading and writing skills but have tried over the last few months to spend more time improving our comprehension when listening to the language. We all agree that this is the most difficult area but at last we have found a very good CD from the Italian bookshop in London. If there is a fifth Tuesday in the month, we meet in Buckingham for coffee and conversation. **John Shiner**

Scrabble

This group now numbers 13 and is slowly growing, having had 3 or 4 recent additions. New members are always welcome, whether beginners or not and there is plenty of room for many more. We have the room at the Council Offices booked for every Tuesday afternoon in 2011. **Rosalie Stein**

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Outdoor

The Outdoor Group has 79 members, of which about eight have joined this winter. As usual, only about 25 of these are regular walkers. We have had a good year with a walk most weeks. We are continuing our walk around the boundary of Milton Keynes, using buses to get to and from the start and end of each walk. These have proved to be very popular and several members have managed to participate in each section. By doing this, we have seen parts of Milton Keynes that we would probably never have visited, and learned a great deal about the diversity of the city. Members continue to pay £1 per year to cover costs of photocopying the three programmes and the system we use works very well so we will not be switching to email in the foreseeable future. We have a fixed charge of £2, which all passengers pay to the driver who takes them to any walk, regardless of distance. This satisfies both passengers and drivers and saves any embarrassment for either passenger or driver. We hope to join with the Towcester U3A walking group in the summer of 2012, to take part in the National U3A's idea of celebrating the Olympics. As the date is still a fair way away, all I have done is contacted Towcester's co-ordinator who has agreed on a joint walk, the details of which will be made later. **Val Bradley**

Painting

We have had a very happy year with four demonstrations by local artists and a lovely Strawberry Tea provided by one of our members at her farm where we painted out of doors. As all of our members have differing talents we always enjoy visiting demonstrators who pass on to us their special skills. Two new members joined us this year and our average attendance is 14 per session. **Pam Gower**

Flower Arranging

We have 24 members listed with an average attendance of 14. A programme is produced so members know what is being demonstrated, and by whom, so that they are aware of the arrangements that will be made during the year. We have visitors coming to the meetings and some return and join us. We are still hopeful that a man will come to a meeting if only to accompany his wife. **Anne Liddle**

Music for Pleasure 2

We are 12 in number and take it in turns to host proceedings in our houses. Effectively that means we are a full house at the moment but we have decided to open a "visiting guest book". This gives an opportunity for interested U3A members to come along, see how we do things, then either join us (or Group 1) should a vacancy arise, or better still, host a Music for Pleasure Group 3! If this is of interest to you, check out our telephone contact on your Membership card or the current Newsletter, register your interest and when one of our regular members knows they will be absent, we will invite you to come along. Just expect the unexpected with such as Albinoni followed by Jimmy "Snuzzle" Durante finding the lost chord! **David Angrave**

German

Early in 2010 it was decided to start a second German group, the Diskussionsgruppe, in order to keep the numbers small enough to meet in private houses. The first group still follows the same form. With the host leading the session, up to 8 members talk, listen, read and practice German using a variety of materials from books magazines and internet. In the summer we enjoyed a walk and lunch at Stoke Bruerne and a guided tour in German at Stowe. In December we spent an interesting day together at the German Christmas Market in Birmingham. **Ursula Archdeacon**

Russian

There are four members in the group and for the past month or so we have been joined by a member of the Aylesbury U3A. Valerie Shaw has also made contact with a Russian lady by the name of Galina who is resident in Buckingham and who occasionally joins us for the monthly lunch at SS Peter and Paul. We gathered there with spouses for a very enjoyable post-Christmas lunch in January. We have now finished Book 3 of our excellent Russian course "Ruslan" and our intention is to concentrate on the more practical skills of speaking and reading the language, whilst not losing sight of listening and writing skills. To this end we have begun to use materials which contain everyday conversations and short stories. We also try to keep an eye open for Russian cultural events such as the Moscow State Circus and Prokofiev's "Cinderella", both on the current programme of Milton Keynes theatre. A very interesting lecture was given in the winter term at Buckingham University by Mary Dejevsky, chief editorial writer and columnist at The Independent (owned by a Russian, by the way), entitled "Do the Secret Police still rule Russia?" The BBC's website also features a Russian news page, which has so far survived the cuts and which we regularly use. **Roy Walker**

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Art Appreciation Groups

Group 1 has remained the same number as last year at 11. We meet in each other's homes once a fortnight on the second and fourth Thursdays in the month at 2.30pm. There are now 22 members in Group 2, despite having lost three members during the year due to personal circumstances. During the past year we have visited the Prado Museum in Madrid, The Royal Academy in London to see *Van Gogh, The Glasgow Boys* and *Treasures from Budapest*; the V&A to see *Raphael's cartoons*, The Ashmolean to see the *Pre-Raphaelites* and the art collection at Upton House near Banbury. We celebrated Christmas with lunches at the Queen's Head in Chackmore and Rigoletto's, respectively. **Pam Tonge**

Creative Writing

We are 12 regulars. We had a full day's writers' workshop in July, using the man we had first used 4 years ago. He is from Oxford University, generously gave us his time at very little cost to ourselves and gave us plenty to think about. His influence has been felt since then in the succinct writing style from each member to pay for this. We published an anthology at Christmas containing 2 pieces from each person, chosen by themselves. We just printed enough for our own use as Christmas gifts to family and friends. A subject is offered each time, written about at home then read aloud at the next meeting. We occasionally have a session where we do quick writing exercises on the spot. We had a Christmas lunch at Bletchley Training College. **Susie Kelly**

Square Dancing

We have 35 regular members and at most sessions we have about 28 attending. Simon and I teach something new each session and we seem to keep people interested enough to keep coming. We had a lovely Christmas party attended by nearly every member on the list. Earlier in the year we shared in an evening with other dancers from Buckingham, Milton Keynes, Blisworth and Oxford and raised £480.00 in aid of Willen Hospice. This will be matched by the Charitable arm of Santander (was Abbey National) where Simon worked before retirement. We should like to thank the Committee for all their hard work and apologise for not volunteering for positions. We are heavily involved in Square Dancing Nationally and feel unable to take on more work. **Simon and Susie Kelly**

Craft

The Craft Group has gone from strength to strength in spite of me only dipping in and out of the group last year because of illness. Not only did three members take over but they got a project going which inspired the group and resulted in quilts for the service men and women in the war zones. These were shown at the AGM and we have got 4 new members this year. Ann Liddle, whom I and the group would like listed as a group leader on the list in the Newsletter as she now books the accommodation and emails the members and all I do is teach. She also organized a trip by coach to a large Quilt Exhibition last year. This year we will get back to outings to craft shops and displays and we will attend the extra craft classes run at Threads and Patches, Fenny Stratford, to extend our knowledge. Finally, I would like to publicly thank Ann Liddle, Maureen Young and Veronica Baker for continuing the group in my absence. **June Olliff**

Crib

We have been going for about 2 years meeting in my house for the first 12 months and then moving to the mezzanine room at the Bucks Centre. We regularly have about 8–10 members turning up and usually play 3 or 4 games each per session from 2.00 until 4.00pm with a short coffee break. Our meetings are very low key, but can be quite competitive for the experienced players. Several new members have joined us this year to swell the numbers but we have also lost a small number of players. Several potential new players signed up last year but unfortunately did not start coming to the meetings. Crib is a very forgiving game in that 2, 3 or 4 players can play a game, so if we do have an odd number turn up, which is usual, everybody can still get a game. Our membership is predominantly ladies, which is a surprise to me because Crib actually is an old forces game, which used to be played by men in their barracks. Anyway, the ladies usually win so I had better not say too much. We could do with 3 or 4 more players to make things more interesting. **Mike Baker**

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Jazz Appreciation 1

The Group continues to flourish with some 11 members. Outings to jazz and swing events are regularly covered, mainly to The Stables although we had a delightful evening when we combined with Group 2 for an evening event organized by Tad Newton, a local musician. The last jazz holiday was spent at Buxton, where 11 of us enjoyed five evenings of jazz at a very pleasant hotel. The next outing is in March to see – and hear – the Count Basie Band. **Derrick Oliff**

Jazz Appreciation 2

This Group, about 10 people, meets once a month in homes and in a pretty relaxed way. The aim is to learn more about jazz artists through members bringing their own CDs and each member will play 2 or 3 of their own favourite tracks and hear favourites from the others. That way we learn the best from the true aficionados. Information on forthcoming concerts and so on are passed from group to group and a party is formed where viable. We also exchange information and prejudices on a range of unrelated subjects during our regular meetings; jazz is a good background for chat. **Russell Tobin**

Yoga

Our Group is still meeting regularly and improving continually. Over the past year there have been slight changes to the membership, a few drop-outs and a few new faces joining. At present we are 12 and the average weekly attendance is about 8, with a hardcore of enthusiasts who have been there from the start of the group. Our main objective is to enjoy our yoga and the benefit it brings while at the same time striving to improve our postures. I think we are all achieving this aim! I hope this is enough information to enable the Committee to get an inkling of what we get up to! **Gwyneth Jebson**

The Chairman would like to thank all the Group Co-ordinators for their reports.