



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 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. We do not meet in August.

*Please note below the changes of dates for the September meeting and the October meeting which will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.*

Date	Topic & Speaker	Stall	Tea Rota
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Brenda Lincoln Headly Court Rehabilitation for servicemen.	Plants & Cuttings	Exploring the Past & Flower Arranging
27 <sup>th</sup> June	Len Holder Former Master Mariner A Sea Faring Tale	White Elephant	Family History & Folk Dancing
25 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Social	Tombola	French Beginners & French Advanced 1 & 2
19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	David Bell Nostalgic pop music, listening and joining in.	James, Cakes 7 Pickles	French Intermediate & French Lunch 1 & 2
17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	AGM	Group Displays	Friendship & Gardening
28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Betty Page A comic monologue using hats	Books & Magazines	German Groups
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Social	Raffle	Committee

### 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.

### NEXT NEWSLETTER

Please note the deadline for articles for the next Newsletter issue No. 44 is **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> August**. Please Email or post to:

Sheila Dalzell,  
18 Partridge Close, Buckingham MK18 7HH

[sheilaeditor@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sheilaeditor@hotmail.co.uk)

**Chairman's notes No 43**



**U3A Magazine**

Included in members' annual subscriptions is the cost of the U3A Magazine. In the past to receive your copy it has been a matter of being in the right place at the right time. The Magazine will be relaunched this year and rebranded as **Third Age Matters**. It will be issued five times a year in April, June, September, November and January. There will also be three issues of Sources with the June, September and January issues. The committee have now agreed to get the new Third Age Matters magazine delivered direct to your home. The cost per member is minimal and has been held at £1.60 per member per annum. If you belong to another U3A branch you may receive two copies. You can stop this by asking George Walker to take your name off the list.

**Christmas Social**

I would like to thank our "Singing for Fun" group for the superb entertainment at the Social and Caroline Kenealy and her team for the organisation of the catering arrangements. They are already planning for the Summer Social.

**January 2012**

The January meeting recorded the greatest number of members attending a monthly meeting. We had between 195 and 200 members attending. The speaker, Victor Botterhill talking on Body Language proved to be very popular.

**Buckingham U3A Network**

The Group Co-ordinators (GC) email is working well. It gives the committee the opportunity to get messages to a very large percentage of the membership. We have around 50 GCs on email, if we assume that each group has 10 members we are looking at being able to reach 500 members. This of course depends on the GCs forwarding their emails to their members. I have no idea if this happens. What I do know is that the GCs of the groups I belong to, do forward the GCs emails. The recent appeal for members to take part in the Inter Beds Quiz delivered the five volunteers within a couple of days. The down side is of course that if you belong to more than one group you get duplication. For that I apologise but they are easy to delete. I do not see an easy way around this. I am aware that this medium must not be abused and it is my intention not to issue more than one or at the most two a month.

**Newsletter**

If you received the newsletter through the post have you considered getting it delivered electronically? There are benefits. The electronic version is colourful; it can be stored on your PC and referred to at any time in the future. The cost of posting the newsletter ranges between 36p and 58p. The cost via the internet is free. Receiving the newsletter through the internet would represent savings in postage, manpower and paper. Please give this your consideration. Give your name and email address to George Walker:  
[george.walker7@talktalk.net](mailto:george.walker7@talktalk.net)

**Nominations for 2012/2013 Charity**

Please submit your nominations in writing for the 2012/2013 Charity you would like to support to the Chairman by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May. All nominations will be discussed at the May committee meeting and a decision made.

**The minutes from the monthly committee meetings**

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 me on [pbwt@btinternet.com](mailto:pbwt@btinternet.com) requesting the minutes. They will then be emailed to you. If you want them posted please send a SAE to Bryan Weston-Thomas, 18 Coopers Wharf, Ford Street, Buckingham, MK18 1UP.

**Beds Bucks Annual Quiz**

Buckingham took part in the quiz on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The results are below:  
Milton Keynes 2 - 119 first: Buckingham 1 - 115 second: Bedford 2 - 110 third: Buckingham 2 - 109 fourth:  
Bedford 1 - 105 fifth: Milton Keynes 1 - 96 sixth: Dunstable 84 seventh  
Not a bad result and thoroughly enjoyed. With thanks to Pam Tonge for organising the event.

## BUCKINGHAM AND DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

### COMMITTEE

Chairman	Bryan W Thomas 18 Coopers Wharf Ford Street Buckingham MK18 1UP	01280 813664 <a href="mailto:pbwt@btinternet.com">pbwt@btinternet.com</a>
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Membership Secretary	George Walker 2 Burleigh Piece Buckingham MK18 7BB	01280 813735 <a href="mailto:george.walker7@talktalk.net">george.walker7@talktalk.net</a>
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New Member Support/Publicity	Colin Armstrong 1 Moorhen Way Buckingham MK18 1GN	01280 817285 <a href="mailto:lagana@talktalk.net">lagana@talktalk.net</a>
Theatre & Outings	Beryl Carr 16 Robin Close Buckingham MK18 7HD	01280 823808 <a href="mailto:beryl.alan@talktalk.net">beryl.alan@talktalk.net</a>
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## BUCKINGHAM AND 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 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thur	2.30	House
Art Appreciation 2	Pam Tonge	01280 823370	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	9.45	Buck Centre
Book	Gillian Macdonald	01280 822688	4 <sup>th</sup> Thur	2.30	Buck Centre
Bridge Improvers 1	Russell Tobin	01280 817918	Mon	2.00-4.00	M.M. Village Hall
Bridge Improvers 2	Nick Steadman	01280 847980	Mon	10.00-12.00	M.M. Village Hall
Bridge Beginners	Peter Holman	01280 822611	Wed	10.00-12.00	M.M. Village Hall
Bridge (Rubber)	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
Canasta	Gina Crouch	01280 820924	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed	2.00-4.00 10.00-12.00	House House
Computing (Intro)	Geoff Suggate	01280 812195	Ask Co-ord		
Crafts & Card Making	Anne Liddle	01280 823565	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs	10.30-12.30	M.M. Village Hall
Creative Writing	Susie Kelly	01280 816940	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	10.30-12.30	House
Cribbage	Mike Baker	01280 816460	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri	2.00	Bucks Centre
Croquet	Anne Liddle	01280 823565	Fri	2.00	Cricket Pitch
Digital Photography	Peter Cammas	01280 815279	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs	2.00-4.00	Bucks Centre
Exploring the Past	Linda Shiner	01296 711068	1 <sup>st</sup> Mon	10.00-12.00	Ask Coordinator
Flower Arranging	Anne Liddle	01280 823565	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue	1.45-4.00	M.M. Village Hall
Family History	Geoff Kirk Jenni Burke	01280 812772 01280 816546	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue	09.45	Buck Centre
Folk Dancing	Vera Moyle-Maton	01280 813719	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	10.30	Cote Barn at Woolpack
French Advanced 1	T.B.A.		2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	10.00-12.00	House
French Advanced 2	Liz Kinsell	01296 713754	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	10.00-12.00	House
French Intermediate 1	Judy Austin	01280 814864	Alternate Wed	10.30	House
French Intermediate 2	Ginny Booth	01280 813802	Fridays	2.00	House
French Lunch 1	John Murray	01280 813792	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	12.30	House
French Lunch 2	T.B.A.	T.B.A.	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	12.30	House
Friendship	Jane Walker	01280 813382	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thur	2.30-4.30	House
Gardening	Vee Sampson	01327 855626	1 <sup>st</sup> Tue	2.00-4.00	M.M. Village Hall
German 1	Ursula Archdeacon	01280 823640	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	10.00-12.00	House
German Diskussionsgruppe	Roy Walker	01280 812836	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 Beginners	Peter Cammas	01280 815279	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue	2.00-4.00	House
Italian Group 1	Linda Shiner	01296 711068	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tue	2.00-4.00	House
Jazz Appreciation 1	Derrick Olliff	01280 823305	3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	10.00-12.00	House
Jazz Appreciation 2	Russell Tobin	01280 817918	2 <sup>nd</sup> Fri	2.30-4.30	House
Latin	Carolina Kenealy	01280 815636	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> Wed	2.00-3.30	Council Chamber, Community Centre
Local History 1	Peter Bowtell	01280 815946	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs	10.00-12.00	M.M. Village Hall
Local History 2	Jean Churchill-Coleman	01280 848971	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs	10.00	Buck Centre
Local History 3	Glenys Warlow	01296 711775	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri	10.00	Buck Centre
Mah Jong	Marilyn Day	01280 823633	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	10.00	Buck Centre
Music for Pleasure 1	Rodney Blackall	01280 823269	1 <sup>st</sup> Tues	10.30-12.00	House
Music Pleasure 2	David Angrave	01280 816453	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	2.00-4.00	House
Outdoor	Val Bradley	01280 817746	Ask Co-ord		

## BUCKINGHAM AND DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

Activity	Co-ordinator	Telephone	Weekday	Time	Venue
Painting	Pam Gower	01280 823279	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	2.00-4.00	Cote Barn at Woolpack
Philosophy	Don Horne	01280 813587	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues	10.00-11.30	Buck Centre
Play Reading	Jane Walker Judith Bell	01280 813382 01280 813721	4 <sup>th</sup> Tue	2.00-4.00	Buckingham Parish Church
Poetry Writing	Carolina Kenealy	01280 815636	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon	1.30-3.30	Brooks Court
Russian	Roy Walker	01280 812836	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri	10.00-12.00	House
Scrabble	Rosalie Stein	01280 814373	Tue	2.00-4.00	Buck Centre
Singing for Fun	Jane Walker	01280 813382	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thur	2.30	Parish Church
Spanish Beginners 1	Pat Walton	01280 814668	Tue	2.30	House
Spanish Revision	Noel Stacey	01280 821825	Tue	2.00	House
Square Dancing	Susie Kelly	01280 816940	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon	1.30-3.30	Football Club
Strollers	Lesley Suggate	01280 812195	Ask Co-ord	10.00	Swan Statue by Car Park
Wild Life	Margaret Hazel Peter Swift	01280 704035 01280 700210	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	10.00	Stratford Road Lay-by
Yoga	Gwyneth Jebson	01296 715674	Tue	10.00-11.30	University Studio



### GROUP LIAISON MATTERS



Since Christmas, our U3A has added six new groups. These are Digital Photography, Italian for Beginners, Wildlife (includes birds, butterflies and wild flowers) Canasta, Film Appreciation and Music for Pleasure. Music for Pleasure Group 1 is actually a re-creation of a former group that ceased to exist last year. At present there are just five members so there is room for more. If you are interested in meeting once a month to listen to a variety of music, please contact me for details or look in the group list in this newsletter. It is hoped to start Croquet next month, details should be on the noticeboard. Interest has been expressed in starting several other groups, such as Recorder Playing, Chess, Table Tennis, Running and Football. There has also been a request for a Line Dance teacher! In particular, a member has offered to lead an Architecture Group. He hopes that both architecture of the past and the present will be looked at and discussed. The occasional visit to important buildings could also be arranged. If this topic appeals to you, either contact me or Peter Bowtell direct on 01280 815946.

If any of the above interest you, please look at the Group Liaison Matters notice board or contact me. If there is a particular interest for any other new group, please let me know. Even better, do you have a skill that you would be willing to pass onto others?

**Val Bradley** [valmbradley@btinternet.com](mailto:valmbradley@btinternet.com) 01280 817746

#### **Christmas Quiz**

Many thanks to all those who entered the Christmas Quiz. We raised £106 for our charities. There were 13 all correct answers so we managed to get three donated prizes instead of the promised one. I will make the Christmas Quiz 2012 a bit more difficult.

#### **Dusty Rodes**

#### **Coffee Morning for New Members**

The next coffee morning will be held on:

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at 10.15 am at The Buckingham Garden Centre restaurant**

**Please note change of venue.**



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](mailto:sheilaeditor@hotmail.co.uk)

**BUCKINGHAM AND DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER**

**WEEKLY TIMETABLE**

<b>DAYS</b>	<b>FIRST WEEK</b>		<b>SECOND WEEK</b>	
	<b>AM</b>	<b>PM</b>	<b>AM</b>	<b>PM</b>
<b>MON</b>	Bridge Rubber Bridge Improvers 2 Creative Writing Exploring the Past	Bridge Improvers 1 Painting	Bridge Rubber Bridge Improvers 2	Bridge Improvers 1 Poetry Writing Square Dancing
<b>TUE</b>	Bridge – Tuition Family History Music for Pleasure 1 Yoga	Gardening Scrabble Spanish Beginners 1 Spanish Revision	Bridge Tuition Philosophy Yoga	Italian Scrabble Spanish Beginners 1 Spanish Revision
<b>WED</b>	Bridge Beginners French Lunch 1 French Lunch 2 Mah Jong	Canasta Latin Music for Pleasure 2	Bridge Beginners Canasta French Advanced 1 French Advanced 2 French Intermediate 1 German	Latin
<b>THUR</b>	Local History 1 Local History 2		Crafts & Card Making	Singing for Fun Art Appreciation 1
<b>FRI</b>	Handbells Art Appreciation 2 German – Diskussionsgruppe	Croquet French Improvers French Intermediate 2	Handbells Local History 3 Russian	Cribbage Croquet French Improvers French Intermediate 2 Jazz Appreciation 2
<b>DAYS</b>	<b>THIRD WEEK</b>		<b>FOURTH WEEK</b>	
<b>MON</b>	Bridge Rubber Bridge Improvers 2 Creative Writing	Bridge Improvers 1 Painting	Bridge Rubber Bridge Improvers 2	Bridge Improvers 1 Poetry Writing Square Dancing
<b>TUE</b>	Bridge Tuition Family History Yoga	Flower Arranging Italian Beginners Scrabble Spanish Beginners 1 Spanish Revision	Bridge Tuition Philosophy Wild Life Yoga	Italian Play Reading Scrabble Spanish Beginners 1 Spanish Revision
<b>WED</b>	Bridge Beginners Folk Dancing Mah Jong	Latin	Bridge Beginners French Advanced 1 French Advanced 2 French Intermediate 1 German	OPEN MEETING
<b>THUR</b>	Local History 1 Local History 2	Digital Photography Friendship Group Poetry	Crafts & Card Making	Art Appreciation 1 Book Singing for Fun
<b>FRI</b>	Art Appreciation 2 German Diskussionsgruppe Handbells Jazz Appreciation 1	Croquet French Improvers French Intermediate 2	Handbells Local History 3 Russian	Cribbage Croquet French Improvers French Intermediate 2

## BUCKINGHAM AND DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

### Theatre & Travel

**N.B.** Payment for any event is by cheque only. Events can be booked either at the monthly meetings or by telephone to Beryl Carr on 01280 823808.

Event	Date / Time	Cost	Pay By
Wonderful Town M.K.T.	25 <sup>th</sup> April	£26.00	A.S.A.P.
Stratford-on-Avon – Options: river cruise or do your own thing	10 <sup>th</sup> May	£15.00	A.S.A.P.
Dirty Dancing M.K.T.	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> May / 5 pm	£39.50	A.S.A.P.
Dancing in the Streets M.K.T.	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> June / 5 pm	£17.50	April
Steel Magnolias M.K.T.	13 <sup>th</sup> June	£26.00	.
Osterley Park N.T.	14 <sup>th</sup> June	£14.00	
Sister Act M.K.T.	20 <sup>th</sup> June	Booked	
Murder on the Nile M.K.T.	4 <sup>th</sup> July	£15.00	May
Midnight Tango M.K.T.	11 <sup>th</sup> July	£15.00	April
Wrest Park, Silsoe, Luton - E.H.	26 <sup>th</sup> July	£14.00	May
Legally Blonde M.K.T.	1 <sup>st</sup> or 8 <sup>th</sup> Aug	£21.00	April
Floriade 4 days	16 <sup>th</sup> August	£354.00	A.S.A.P.
Hanbury Hall, Droitwich - N.T.	6 <sup>th</sup> September	T.B.A.	T.B.A.
Christmas Service at the Guards Chapel London	23 <sup>rd</sup> December	£14.00	November

**N.T.** = National Trust free to N.T. members

**E.H.** English free

**M.K.T.** = Milton Keynes Theatre

### Theatre and Travel

Just before Christmas we had a most enjoyable few days in Sheringham, Norfolk where we visited Blickling Hall to see the Christmas festivities but the highlight of the trip was our visit to the Thursford Christmas show. I have tried to arrange a visit every other year and this year was better, I thought, than before. Our bi-annual trip to London to go to the Christmas Carol Sing-along is always a great pleasure. The Albert Hall at Christmas time has an atmosphere all its own.

The first outing in 2012 was to the Museum of London, ostensibly to see the Dickens Exhibition, which was very good, but the museum itself is a most interesting place. I think I can safely say it was enjoyed by all. We will have been to see the Olympic site by the time you read this so I am keeping my fingers crossed that it will be a success.

There doesn't seem to be a great deal of interest in several of the forthcoming shows at Milton Keynes theatre, which rather surprises me because I thought they would be popular. For example: Wonderful Town with Connie Fisher, Save the Last Dance for Me and Dirty Dancing. Although the latter is more expensive than usual when one compares it with London prices, for the same show and cast, it is still a bargain. London prices are positively eye-watering these days. We were fortunate to see Top Hat, before it went to London. You will have noticed that I had to make a number of changes to the Events Programme – due to “circumstances beyond my control” so I hope that the substitutes will be acceptable. I had hoped to arrange a London visit to see the production of Crazy for You but, sadly, it had a very short run. It is unfortunate that Jane Brown's foray into arranging a holiday to Ireland met with little response and had to be cancelled due to lack of support and it looks as if I will have to cancel Floriade. I hope that this is not a trend and that next year the shows and holidays will appeal to enough people.

A lot of work goes into booking holidays, events and theatre so it is disappointing when some have to be cancelled. I regret that if lack of interest continues I will give up arranging many projects. It is particularly galling when I speak to friends in other U3As and am told that they have waiting lists for identical events and holidays.

**Beryl Carr**



### Bridge (Rubber)

Rubber Bridge Group meets every Monday morning. We are a very friendly group (no long-winded postmortems) and we will supply a partner if needed. Do come and join us.

**Anna Kavanagh** on 01280 817828.

### German Diskussionsgruppe

The German Diskussionsgruppe is now approaching the end of its second 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 "A Turning Point in my Life" to "My favourite book, film, painting, etc". In September we were joined by Ulrich and Almut, friends from Germany, and were able to practise our conversational skills "live".



Our fortnightly meetings have been supplemented by evening activities when we organise a DVD evening and gather for a meal and watch a German film. Our summer holiday in Berlin and Mecklenburg proved to be most enjoyable. In August we met for a German Grillabend when Sue and Steve introduced us to some very good German wine which

they had brought back with them from one of their many visits to Germany. Before Christmas we reassembled for a German meal which Sandra and Bill prepared for us with a great variety of delicious goodies purchased at Aldi. This was preceded by an interesting and instructive board game called Berlin, supplied by the friends who visited earlier in the year and based on a touring the city's many sites. Finally, we sang German carols to the delightful accompaniment of Sandra's clarinet.

Plans for next year include tackling a German play reading and a trip to Bavaria in June where together with our spouses we have been invited by our German friend Werner.

**Roy Walker**

### Russian

The Russian Group has changed its meeting dates and times to the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month between 10 and 12 o'clock. There are five members in the group and we host meetings in our homes by rotation. We try to maintain a reasonable level of language, though this varies according to skill and experience. Whilst we are able to read short stories in Russian at a fairly good level, we do lack adequate opportunity to practise our speaking skills. At each meeting the host provides materials to work on and recently these have consisted of short passages based on everyday themes such as travelling by bus or train, moving house and shopping, linked to written dialogues and grammar exercises as well as short stories with some conversational content.



In the summer we met with a Russian visitor from St Petersburg who videoed our efforts for posterity. We continue to maintain contact and remain au courant with what is happening in Russia. In future we may be able to do this more directly via Skype. He has also pointed out that it is possible to receive travel programmes from the Russian Travel Guide via the internet at [www.rtgtv.ru](http://www.rtgtv.ru) in Russian and [www.rtgtv.com](http://www.rtgtv.com) in English.

Finally, we have discovered the existence of a Russian restaurant in Oxford by the name of Arbat and with our spouses and partners plan to partake of its offerings in the not-too-distant future.

**Roy Walker**

### Flower Arranging



At last !!!!! We had five new members in January and one was a MAN.

Over the years I have said that we would welcome a man into the group as many professional arrangers are men but nobody came forward.

Now that the 'ice has been broken' are there any other men out there who would like to try to arrange flowers? Why not give us a visit to see if this is for you.

**Anne Liddle**



### Craft

I expect that you all know by now that eight of those who make quilts for the soldiers at Headley Court have appeared in the U3A and Saga magazines. We had a lovely day out at a studio in Fulham travelling there by the Winslow Community Bus. Coffee was ready as we arrived and after a chat with Sue from Saga the make-up artist got us ready for the photo-shoot. Andrew, the photographer, then arranged groups of us with the four quilts that we had taken with us. We were able to chat with the French speaking group and later with the model boat men. We had been told that lunch would be provided – thinking that it would be sandwiches etc – but on going up stairs to a balcony overlooking the studio much to our surprise we had a choice of three hot meals served with wine and juices. After ice cream and coffee Maureen and I had a chat with Frances, the editor of the U3A magazine, who wrote the article that appeared in the Saga magazine. We all enjoyed the experience and received our own copy of the Saga magazine together with a copy of the photograph. Apart from making these quilts we all do different things. The following crafts are on-going – cross stitch, embroidery, knitting, crocheting, box making, patterned and log cabin patchwork, candle wicking, card making, whatever anyone wants to do. We all take an interest in what is being created and often then try something new. We still have space for more crafters, so don't be shy, come and see what we can help you make.



**Anne Liddle**

### Italian for Beginners

We have now held our first meeting and there are six keen U3A members who want to develop their Italian skills. All have some prior knowledge and the emphasis will be on speaking Italian and concentrating on the everyday use of the language. The barrier to overcome is the one of confidence in using the language and not feeling embarrassed whilst searching for the right words. By using and developing our skills at the meetings in the comfort and security of the group the aim is to feel comfortable in using Italian and to try and think in “Italian” rather than English and then translating into Italian. We meet at our houses on the first and third Tuesdays of each month between 2pm and 4 pm and we have a number of DVDs and books which are helping us in the project.



**Peter Cammas**

### Digital Photography

There have now been two meetings and we have eight members who are keen on trying to understand their digital cameras and go onto using the computer to organise and possibly edit the photographs they have taken. It amazes me how our generation has taken to using the IT systems of today and how keen everybody is to develop their skills.



Unfortunately camera manufacturers, image processing programmes and indeed computers all vary from manufacturer to manufacturer and the biggest difficulty is in trying to explain how one works and then finding that the other systems all do it differently. However there is some common ground and we will try to exploit this. Our meetings are generally held at the Library on the third Thursday of the month between 2pm and 4pm but as we cannot have the room every month the meeting

will be used to good effect by having outdoor practical sessions. Therefore it always best to contact me for an update.

**Peter Cammas**

### Canasta

The Canasta Group started in March this year. We meet on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month and the second Wednesday morning of the month. New members are welcome to attend one or both sessions in the month. We are a mixture of beginners and experienced players. If you have never played Canasta before come along and give it a go! Give me a ring for details of venues.



**Gina Crouch**

### Book Group

We have chosen these books for appreciation and discussion this year:

- 26th January – Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel
- 23rd February – The house in Norham Gardens by Penelope Lively
- 22nd March – The Empty Family, stories by Colm Toibin
- 26th April – The hare with amber eyes by Edmund de Waal
- 24th May – The great house by Nicole Krauss
- 28th June – Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
- 26th July – A house for Mr Biswas by V S Naipaul
- 23rd August – Enigma by Robert Harris
- 27th September – The power and the glory by Graham Greene
- 25th October – The inheritance by Nicholas Shakespeare
- 22nd November – Look at me by Anita Brookner

We meet in The Buckingham Centre at 2.30pm on the fourth Thursday of the month. Each book is introduced by a reader and then we give our opinions, share our prejudices and look out for books for the following year. Everyone is welcome.



**Gillian Macdonald**

### Outdoor Group

The Outdoor Group is changing in that it will soon have two new co-ordinators.

I am giving up the role after ten years and will be replaced by Judy Cooper and Rosemary Palastanga. I hope they enjoy the role as much as I have and I trust that members will give them support, especially when it comes to offering to lead walks. They will take over gradually during the summer and will be “in charge” from September. I thought I would list the highlights of the past ten years, but found there were too many to include. I suppose I am most satisfied with the walks around the boundary of Milton Keynes, using public transport. It was certainly the most difficult to organise, but also one of the most rewarding in that we all saw parts of the city that we would not have without this venture. It is one that would be possible to repeat with a few changes as the city keeps growing. Our current programme is as varied as ever, with visits to come to Rothersthorpe, Potterspury, Shutford, Addington, Albury, Claydon and Water Stratford. If some of these place names are new to you, why not join us to find out more about local areas.

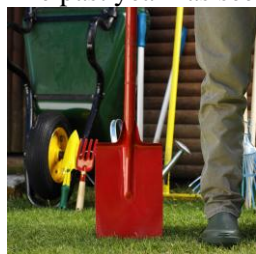


It is hoped in the summer to try one or two of the Radio Times TV walks advertised recently, such as Morse and Midsummer Murders. To find out more about the Outdoor Group, please contact me. We are very friendly, and it is a satisfying way to get some exercise in good company.

**Val Bradley**

### Gardening

The past year has seen a steady increase in membership for the Garden Group and we currently have 60



members with attendance at monthly meetings being between approx 25-30. We do not meet in January so the first meeting of the year was February when Beryl Carr gave us an amusing talk on her own gardening experiences. Members then shared some topical hints and tips in readiness for the new gardening year. March saw us paying a visit to Evenley Wood Garden to see their varied collection of snowdrops. Evenley Wood is a large garden which in spring also has daffodils and delightful cyclamen in profusion. Our April meeting will be another garden visit to Janet Cropley’s garden near Brackley and in May we can look forward to a talk by the Head Gardener at Claydon House. We

have a full programme planned for 2012 and from the feedback I have been getting I think everyone is generally pleased with the way the group has come together. Of course this is due to members themselves who make our meetings fun and enjoyable. Good gardening!

**Vee Sampson**

**Handbells**



We were sorry to lose Percy Allsworth who had been a loyal member for some years. The group is most grateful to him as he assisted in the logistics of changing bells whilst ringing by making shelves for each of the music stands which have been invaluable. Once the cold weather had passed and we had a full contingent of ringers we were rehearsing for the annual Bellfest, this year in Stony Stratford. We were one of approx 12 teams ringing and the afternoon began with all the bells ringing the National Anthem as the theme for this Jubilee year was 'Royal'. Each team played three pieces of their choice associated with the theme – some were a little tenuous! For the finale all bells rang together 'English

Country Garden' – quite a sound! In July we have been asked to play at a boat club open day in MK (7<sup>th</sup> July) and the Buckingham Canal Society's fundraising day (22<sup>nd</sup> July) so we shall be busy once more. We would welcome more ringers so if you would like to come and try us out and 'have a go' on Friday mornings in Gawcott, please get in touch with me.

**Derek Smith** 01280 813946

**Art Appreciation**



In December, we visited the Fitzwilliam in Cambridge to see “Vermeer’s Women: Secrets and Silence”. It was a really popular exhibition and the rooms were unbearably crowded but it was well worth the effort when we came face to face with the four Vermeer paintings, especially *The Lace Maker* on loan from the Louvre for her first visit to the UK, exhibited alongside paintings by Jan Steen, Pieter de Hooch and Gabriel Metsu. Our outing in January took us to the newly-opened Hogarth’s House in Chiswick, where the rooms are hung with his famous prints such as the *Rake’s Progress* and *Marriage a la Mode* and many of his personal items are on display. A few of us managed to get along to see the Leonardo da Vinci, *Painter at the Court of Milan*

exhibition at the National Gallery, which was a very memorable experience. This month we visited the Wallace Collection in London, where we opted for a private guided tour through galleries housing the French Rococo painters Boucher, Fragonard and Watteau; Titian’s *Perseus and Andromeda*, Frans Hals *The Laughing Cavalier*, Murillo’s *Adoration of the Shepherds*, Rubens’ *Rainbow Landscape* and Venetian scenes by Canaletto and Guardi amongst other pictorial gems. It is a truly remarkable collection and well worth a visit and on each occasion we had door to door transport on the Winslow Bus.

**Pam Tonge**

**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
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>

**Things that might be of interest to U3A members:**



**Winslow Bridge Club**

Winslow Centre  
Avenue Road  
Winslow  
Buckingham  
MK18 3DL



We are a small friendly bridge club meeting on Monday evenings in Winslow Centre. We alternate between free-play and duplicate competitions so that there is something for everyone (dates are published on the website address given below).

Free-play evenings allow for a more relaxed atmosphere and gives people who are not so experienced the opportunity to practise their bridge away from home. But even the duplicate evenings are very friendly so there is no need to be nervous, people are always happy to explain procedures.

You can come on your own on free play evenings and if you don't have a bridge partner for duplicate evenings we will do our best to find you one.

Why not come along and give us a try without any commitment? Membership fees are very reasonable and we ask for a table fee of just £2.50 per person per session until you join.

Look us up on <https://sites.google.com/site/winslowbridgeclub> or search for Winslow Bridge Club.

Alternatively, give **Liz Mostyn** a ring on 01296 670419 for more details.

**Transition Towns**

Nationally and Internationally, groups of people are getting together to prepare our towns for the twin threats of Peak Oil and Climate Change. The effect of Climate change on weather patterns is being noticed, rapidly increasing oil prices brought on by increased demand and new oil finds producing less oil and being more expensive to extract. Peak Oil is that point when the maximum rate of global petroleum extraction is reached and from that moment on is in decline. Transition Towns are a way of preparing our communities for a future where there is not only less oil but a much higher global demand for it. In the UK we are in a particularly difficult position for we import 95% of our fruit and 50% of our vegetables. Continuing the way we are, will result in food and resource shortages as the world vies for the crops and resources that are grown and produced. We can take steps to prepare our towns by localising food production, turning our towns into a resource, re-skilling our communities, free spaces where we can gather and enjoy being with each other, buying locally and seeing how we can help our communities.

In Buckingham we are preparing to grow a culinary and medicinal herb garden, to have a 'free' marquee in the park where people can book places to share their knowledge and help re-skill the community. Matching up people who have a space to grow food but cannot either due to lack of time, illness or disability with people who have the time and energy but no place to grow and can share the produce. Buckingham already has many groups working on excellent projects, e.g. the railway walk orchard and clearing the river and canals. There are many other such as community beehives, sewing clubs, to a community farm. Also awards for shops that sell locally-based goods.

One of the firm principles of Transition Towns is to honour our elders. Not just because that is what happy societies do, but particularly with reference to Peak Oil because many of our elders have already lived through a time of much reduced resources and having to be self-reliant and more locally focussed.

Buckingham is a lovely town that has lots of green spaces which could be fantastic places to grow fruit and underneath vegetables. If we start now there is no reason why we can not only have a healthy resilient town and surrounding area but a happy future.

**Louise Smith** [galacticwalker@gmail.com](mailto:galacticwalker@gmail.com)