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[www.buckinghamu3a.org.uk](http://www.buckinghamu3a.org.uk)

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Deadline for September newsletter is 31<sup>st</sup> August



## Chairman's Report



Hi everyone

Clocks now put forward and hopefully winter finally behind us.

Following my appeals last newsletter before Christmas I'm glad to say the committee is now at full strength with the addition of Cliff Dammers as secretary and Carolina Kenealy as newsletter editor (a role she has had before). We now have almost a new team and in addition we also have a good complement of "shadows" but still need some more folk to volunteer. Shadows act as back up for the committee member whom they are shadowing in the event of illness or absence. They are not usually required to attend committee meetings.

We have a new rota for the teas at the open meetings and have hopefully ironed out any hiccoughs. Groups will take turns to organise – see open meeting info on

website. I'm delighted to say that Karen Burton & Jo Taylor have agreed to act as our catering "team" and will act as reference if any problems as well the catering for our social events.

This February marked 20 years since our U3A branch was founded and we hope to mark the anniversary at our summer social. We will give more news of this at coming open meetings.

On the admin front we have now officially become a CIO, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation from an unincorporated registered charity, as agreed at the AGM. Paddy Collins, treasurer, explains more fully in this newsletter but the change to our status was needed to remove any possibility of committee members being personally liable financially.

**Martin Paul**



## Publicity

Would Group Coordinators to let me know if their groups have done anything that they feel might warrant a bit of publicity in the Advertiser or the "Third Age Matters" magazine. Short items can be emailed to me via the website together with pictures (in Jpeg format) if appropriate. There is of course no guarantee that either publication would take the material.

**Roger Edwards, Publicity Officer**

## Committee

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**Tea Rota for Open Meetings:** April: Italian Improvers  
May: Bridge for Beginners  
June: French Lunch  
September: Recorders



## Changing to a CIO

The Committee are progressing the AGM decision to move to a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). We have just set up a CIO but there are more administrative tasks to be done before the conversion is complete. The Committee will keep you informed. **Paddy Collins**

## 2018 OUTINGS

APRIL 23 <sup>rd</sup>	POSTAL MUSEUM AND UNDERGROUND RAILWAY – £30.00
MAY 14 <sup>TH</sup>	STRAWBERRY HILL – £25.00
JUNE 11 <sup>TH</sup>	MIDDLEPORT POTTERIES – £28.00
JULY 5 <sup>TH</sup>	HAMPTON COURT FLOWER SHOW – coach
SEPTEMBER 24 <sup>TH</sup>	BRISTOL AEROSPACE MUSUEM – T.B.A.
OCTOBER 29 <sup>TH</sup>	QUEEN’S HOUSE GREENWICH – T.B.A.

N.B. Due to cost of Hampton Court Flower show Coach can be paid when booking and entrance ticket to be paid later.

We started 2018 with an eventful trip to the Houses of Parliament. After hold ups in traffic we eventually arrived within sight of Westminster Abbey and because of even more traffic hold ups some of us chose to leave the bus and walk into Parliament Square. Because of all the delays we were later than we expected. Our visit to Parliament was most interesting; the guards were very informative and amusing. We were privileged to go into the Speaker’s chambers but were unable to convey our grateful thanks to John Bercow; he was not available. I did email him, however, to express our thanks. We had quite an interesting experience; we all piled onto the coach to come home only to discover that someone had left their handbag in the Parliament café. Whilst we waited for the person to retrieve her bag a young, handsome, policeman came onto the coach and informed us that all was well; the handbag had been retrieved and the lady was waiting in the police box outside the House. As the coach was facing down Whitehall towards Trafalgar Square Graham, our driver, explained the difficulty. With that the policeman stopped all the traffic on Whitehall in order for the driver to turn the 52 seater bus. Having performed this manoeuvre another young and handsome policeman arrived on the scene to guide us into an official “no stopping” area. The moral to this story is when in trouble in London you must find a handsome young policeman, or preferably two, to appeal to for help. As if all of this wasn’t enough, Graham decided, because of the traffic problems coming into London, he would take another route out. “The road to hell is paved with good intentions”. All was going well until we encountered, on a two lane road with no way of turning, an accident between a lorry and a car. We had to sit it out. I can’t promise that all trips will be so exciting. After having to cancel quite a number of outings last year I am happy to say that, up to now, the bookings are going well. The Postal museum and Hampton Court are full. Places for Strawberry Hill are still available. Don’t forget Middleport Potteries which, I am sure, will be an interesting trip. Will you please let me know if you wish to go to Bristol Aerospace Museum to see, among other things, Concorde. They will not accept my final booking until I have paid a £100 deposit. I am provisionally booked for September 24<sup>th</sup> for a 11.30a.m. tour.

I have a problem: my computer had a little blip and I lost the lists for bookings for Bristol Aerospace and the Queen’s House the latter is provisionally booked for October 29th. Anyone who booked, or wants to book, please let me know – sorry about that. **Beryl Carr**

## Theatre Outings March 2018

A variety of outings have taken place. I have not been so have had to rely on others to give me feedback. Before Christmas there was Andrew Lloyd Webber's **Sunset Boulevard**. Great sets and special effects, especially the car rides with films running behind. There was some excellent singing from the stars Ria Jones, Danny Mac and the company making the most of all the good songs. A large number of people gave the cast a standing ovation at the end.

The ever popular Mathew Bourne Company returned with his version of **Cinderella**. This was most unusual, as he staged a love story set in London during the Second World War when Cinderella meets a dashing young pilot.

The large group, who went to see the Carole King Musical **Beautiful**, thoroughly enjoyed it. It had many hits from the sixties and told the story of Carole King's remarkable rise to stardom.

A select group braved the snow to see the excellent National Theatre production of **Hedda Gabler** – a rather bleak viewpoint on relationships. I believe some erudite discussions happened in the interval and, for some, during the four hour car journey home!

I am sorry that the list of shows booked below is so short but those on offer have either not appealed or we have already seen them. I have had to cancel **The Little Mermaid** as numbers were insufficient and disappointingly there did not seem to be any interest in **An Officer and a Gentleman**.

### New shows booking

**Rainman** Wednesday September 5<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm Tickets in the front stalls £26.50 Pay by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

This is a new production based on the Oscar winning film that starred Dustin Hoffman. A story about two brothers' trip across America, one of whom is autistic.

### The Magic Flute 2019!

Saturday March 30<sup>th</sup> 2019 2.30pm Mozart's Magic Flute

This is an experiment as it is a Saturday booking, the only matinee, Tickets are in the circle and I have two price bands. Book by August 20th

Front circle Row B £50

Further back : Row K £42.50

### Show still booking

**Matilda** A modern musical based on the Roald Dahl story about an exceptional young girl. Music by Tim Minchin. Wednesday June 30<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm Tickets £35.00 in the front circle. *Pay by April 25<sup>th</sup>*.

**Manon** English National Ballet; Kenneth Macmillan's masterpiece of love, luxury and passion.

Thursday October 25th 2.30 pm. Tickets front circle £26.50 pay by June 11<sup>th</sup>

**Birdsong. Oxford Playhouse.** Thursday July 19th. Tickets in the stalls. £14.00 pay by June 1st

A new play based on the Sebastian Faulkes novel set in the First World War in France.

**Di Procter** 01869 278149 [tickets@buckinghamu3a.org.uk](mailto:tickets@buckinghamu3a.org.uk)



## Reading Project in Schools

This project is growing and we now have over 20 volunteers, all reporting their enjoyment of the experience. If you're interested in joining them, please look at the notice board at the open meetings, or contact **Edward Scott** at [e.scott@schoolreaders.org](mailto:e.scott@schoolreaders.org) to be matched with an appropriate school. This initiative benefits the children in many ways: confidence, reading skills, and sharing the joy reading brings. At the moment **Buckingham Primary School** in particular is looking for volunteers

## Hand Bell Group

The Bellfest, hosted by St. Mary & St Giles Church of England (Aided) School in Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes, went well. Milton Keynes is now some fifty years old, and as the school is a member of The Hand Bell Ringers of Great Britain which is also fifty years old the theme for this year was set as "NUMBERS". Of course every piece of music has an "opus" number !!

We selected *Until The twelfth of Never*, *The Church's One Foundation*, *Multiplication*, and *Wi' a Hundred Pipers* for our spot.

The afternoon started as usual with a Peal of bells rung by all the groups together and finished with another mass ringing of The Old One Hundred.

Eleven groups from the surrounding area took part.

The group continues to enjoy a level of support which enables us to play a variety of music. **Rodney Bennett**



## Recorders

News from the Recorder Group and Relax with Recorders.

Our Open Morning at Gawcott Chapel in September was very enjoyable and resulted in a number of new players coming forward. Relax with Recorders on Monday mornings is now a well established group with players trying the full range of recorders from sopranino to bass. We play a good variety of straightforward music and have a lot of fun! The new members are making very good progress and we expect some will feel soon be confident enough to join the Recorder Group. The Recorder Group currently has 10 members but as numbers fluctuate with holidays, illness, grandparent duties etc we would welcome more. If you consider yourself a reasonably competent/intermediate player do think about joining us. We balance our sessions with a mixture of musical styles and genres, some musically straightforward and some less so, old favourites and new challenges. We have the benefit of a very encouraging guest conductor who visits us monthly and helps us with technique, musicality and all round performance. In October we enjoyed playing for the residents at The Red House in Maids Moreton and in November at Juniper Court, Brackley, a new venue for us and where we were made very welcome. Christmas was busy, starting with a performance at St Edburg's Tree Festival in Bicester, busking, on a very cold and windy day, in Buckingham for the U3A charity, Project Street Life, followed by a rather warmer experience when we played at The New Inn at Stowe. It was a pleasure to round off the season with carols to welcome arrivals at the U3A Victorian Christmas Social. **Helen Preston, Sue Norman, Jo Taylor**

## GERMAN GROUP

### Hangovers and Legless in London!

Is it possible to experience the delights of Germany without actually travelling abroad? *Jawohl!* The German Group recently visited Katzenjammers, a *Bierkeller* and restaurant located right next door to Borough Market in London. It serves a splendid variety of everyday German cuisine. From the Swabian speciality, *Spätzle*, to the ultimate German fast food, *Currywurst* – you name it, they have it. It really was a great place to feel temporarily transported to Deutschland.

After a couple of hours of *Gemütlichkeit* at Katzenjammers, we then visited the nearby Old Operating Theatre Museum, which is housed in the roof space of St Thomas' Church. It is Europe's oldest surviving operating theatre (from 1822) and offers a fascinating insight into the history of medicine and surgery. We were given a guided tour of the museum, courtesy of Iris, who works there but who originally hails from Germany. Some of the exhibits were not for the faint-hearted and indeed, one member of our group 'volunteered' to have her leg amputated on the operating theatre table, so that Iris could demonstrate how this process would have been carried out back then. A visit to this museum makes you really appreciate the healthcare we have today!

So where do hangovers fit into all this, you ask yourselves? Well, we were all very restrained on the alcohol front, despite the large selection of German beers on offer. '*Katzenjammer*' is a German word for 'hangover'. **Marion Meakin**



## History of Literature and the Theatre

The group has recently restarted and meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 11 am in the side room next to the Library. To date, we have studied Celtic traditions, Boudicca, the Roman Occupation, Anglo Saxon Literature, Bede, the Viking sagas, the Norman Invasion, Domesday, Arthurian Legend and mediaeval French romances.

New members are very welcome to join us in our study of these absorbing subjects. **Liz Loutfi**



## Art Appreciation

We started the year with a talk on the life and work of William Morris and his younger daughter, May Morris, followed by a visit to William Morris House in Walthamstow. We enjoyed a curator's tour including an exhibition of the lesser-known of May's art, embroidery, jewellery and other designs.

In February, our talk was about the art collection of Charles I, followed by a visit to the Royal Academy to see some of the 'lost' works.

Our meeting in March had to be cancelled due to the heavy snowfall but we enjoyed a trip to Tate Modern to see an exhibition on Modigliani, followed by a talk in April on the artist. In May we will be studying the Flemish art of the Bruegel family and plan to visit the Ashmolean for their current exhibition "America's Cool Modernism". The group continues to grow but new members are welcome. Please follow updates on our website page. **Pam Tonge**

## Strollers

Strollers had many interesting walks in 2017 and were able to walk almost every week in spite of some inclement weather. We went to several new areas; Turweston airfield; Kings Sutton; Marsh Gibbon; Woburn; St James Lake Brackley; walk and quiz in Winslow together with several others. Our coffee stops at the end of the walk still remain the most popular with some being longer than the actual walk!

Our summer picnic at Rushmere Country Park in June was good fun and in December we had an excellent lunch at the Buckingham Golf Club attended by 34 of our members.

Due to the fact that I have a waiting list it has been decided to set up another walking group – called Leisurely Walking – which will be run(or rather walked) along the same lines as Strollers. If anyone is interested in this new group please give me a ring on 01280 817747. **Sheila Dalzell**



## Line Dancing

There are now 2 line dancing groups – an Improvers and a Beginners. With nearly 80 members between the 2 groups the sessions are great fun – luckily everyone doesn't turn up at once! The Improvers group has been going for over 2 years now and we are venturing into the realms of more difficult dances – although we continue to dance to our old favourites. New members, who have danced before, are welcome. Amongst our current favourites are "*Down on Your Uppers*", "*Stroll Along Cha Cha*", "*In Smokey Places*", "*Cowboy Charleston*" and the harder one we are persevering with – "*Islands in the Stream*". For those who don't know what line dancing is, have a look at any of these on You tube and you will see them being demonstrated – although not by us! Altogether we now have a repertoire of well over 30 dances.

The Beginners group has been going for nearly 9 months and members have surprised themselves with how well they have been doing! It is never too late to join if you have never line danced before! It really is great exercise and everyone seems to go out smiling! As you are dancing on your own, nobody cares if you go wrong or make mistakes!

There are some men who come but it would be great if more would come along. So if you think it is something you might like to try, go for it!

At Christmas we hired the Community Centre and, in spite of the freezing weather on the night, over 100 line dancers and square dancers turned up to dance the night away. The Bobcats (our ukulele group) provided us with live music for some of the dancing which was fantastic – if you haven't heard them play and sing yet, you are missing out!

Do contact me if you would like any information about the group. **Gina Crouch**



**A woodland picture from Tony Dines, Group Co-ordinator of the Wild Life Group**

## Poetry Writing

The group has been experimenting with a range of poetry genres.

*Haiku* is a traditional form of Japanese *poetry*. *Haiku poems* consist of 3 lines. The first and last lines of a *Haiku* have 5 syllables and the middle line has 7 syllables. ... Because *Haikus* are such short *poems*, they are usually written about things that are recognizable to the reader.

### WINTER HAIKUS

#### Icicle

Stalactite of ice  
Holding tight to drainpipe  
Drips incessantly

#### Snowflake

White petticoat lace  
Drifts slowly from leaden sky  
Lands on soft pillow

#### Robin

Red-breasted seeker  
Peeping from leafless tree branch  
Spots a stale breadcrumb

#### Snowman

Snowball round, times two  
Knitted hat, lopsided arms  
Standing stoically

#### Hedgehog

Curled in sleeping bag  
Under frosted broken bridge  
Homeless and helpless

#### Tree

Gnarled fingers skyward  
Knotted trunk hides sleeping creatures  
Safely housed 'til spring



## Spanish Revision

Hola,

Recently our lively Spanish group lost our teacher to a full time job and one of our members to other activities! So now we are six, three men and three women, and we would warmly welcome some new members. If you are at about Intermediate level and would like to find out more about us, phone me on 01280 814864 for a chat. in Spanish if we can manage it!

Saludos, **Judy Austin**

**20** years  
OF  
**BUCKINGHAM'S U3A**