



Newsletter Number 73 October 2023

Views and opinions expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or Committee

Deadline for the next newsletter will be 31 January 2024

Copy should be sent to:

newsletter.editor@buckinghamu3a.org.uk

Chair person's report, October 2023

The year is flying by, and we are already in autumn! I am pleased to say that this year we have created a number of new interest groups, enjoyed our summer social, and welcomed new members at our coffee mornings. We continue to thrive making this organisation the biggest charitable organisation in Buckingham and the surrounding villages.

I also cannot believe that this will be my last newsletter, as I am coming to the end of my three years serving as chair required under the U3A constitution. So, I will be stepping down on the 22nd November at our next AGM meeting.

I do hope to see many of you at this meeting, so that you can meet and support your new committee members and trustees.

I have learned so much, met so many amazing people, made so many friends, and now regard the organisation as my second family. Like most families, we have had challenges over the years, losing some of our dear and devoted members, and said goodbye to members who have moved out of the area. We have had difficulties with setting up and sustaining some interest groups, and the biggest challenge of all the, COVID Pandemic.



I am sure that this pandemic will never be forgotten, but I continue to be amazed how our members confronted challenges and found new ways of communicating and looking after each other, so that our organisation continued to thrive even through unprecedented times.

Despite these challenges we have continued to “Live, Laugh, Learn,” and the organisation continues to grow with now almost 800 members. This would not have happened without the dedication of our members and our committee, who believed in sustaining the values and future of the organisation.

I now take this opportunity to thank all the trustees on the committee who are also coming to the end of their period of service in November.

Paddy Collins (Treasurer)
Dorothy Morgan (Secretary)
Janti Mistry (Membership secretary)

They have all gone far beyond what would be reasonably expected, and we all have so much to thank them for.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all those who have welcomed me as chair, group member, and friend, and gave me the opportunity to be part of this caring and wonderful organisation. I will always cherish and treasure my experiences and memories gained over these last three years, and look forward to meeting you all in the future as I continue to be an admiring and devoted member of the Buckingham U3A.

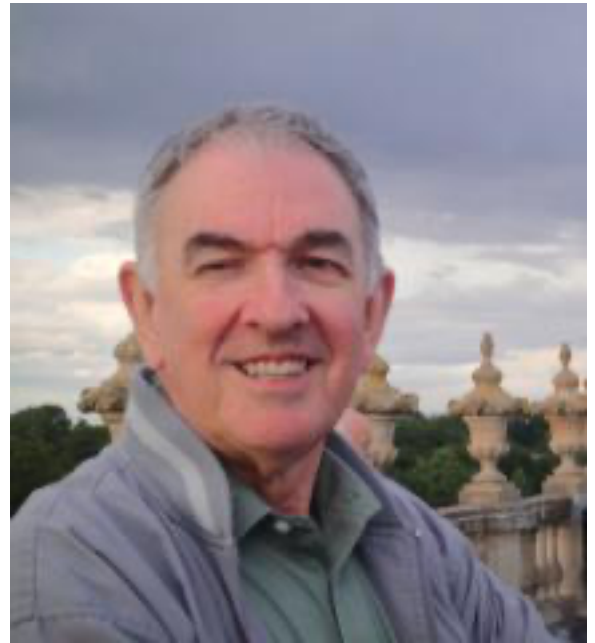
Best wishes and good luck for the future,
Lilia



Derek Morgan: Trustee/Committee Member for Buckingham U3A
Died 28th August

It is with the greatest sadness that I share that we have lost a very valuable U3A committee member and friend. Derek was a valued and respected team player; his loyalty, dedication, passion, and enthusiasm in all he did allowed him to make major contributions to the organisation. For this, we would all like to express our gratitude.

He was with the committee for over seven years serving as a Trustee on the Committee as Webmaster. He supported many changes and was instrumental in setting up the recently implemented Simple system, an amazing achievement in improving our technology and data. He also managed the U3A's technical resources, overseeing and making sure that the group coordinators had the equipment they needed to run and sustain their interest groups.



His talents did not stop there; he was also a group coordinator for several groups such as Science and Technology, Jazz Appreciation, and Music for Pleasure. His love and passion for music gave him a unique ability to bring people together in social, creative, and educational ways as he embraced the U3A's ethos: "Live, Laugh, Learn."

He will be missed greatly by all who had the pleasure of meeting and working with him. Our deepest sympathies go to his wife Dorothy (U3A Secretary) and her family for the loss, and for all those who met and knew Derek. A service of love and thanksgiving for his life was held on September 19th. I'd like to share a poem that was read at that service:

He is Gone

By: David Harkins

You can shed tears that he is gone
Or you can smile because he has lived
You can close your eyes and pray that he will come back
Or you can open your eyes and see all that he has left
Your heart can be empty because you can't see him
Or you can be full of the love that you shared
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday
You can remember him and only that he is gone
Or you can cherish his memory and let it live on

You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back
Or you can do what he would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on

Derek, it was a pleasure and privilege to have known you.

Lilia Bogle

Chair, Buckingham U3A



A Note from Your Newsletter Editor

It has been a real pleasure getting to know you for the past year and half. I have enjoyed putting together the Buckingham U3A's newsletter, and have been inspired by all the amazing activity and community that you all sustain. This will be my last newsletter, as I am preparing to move out of the area with my family next year. While I still have several months to go, I am relinquishing some responsibilities to deal with preparations for the move.

The newsletter will be in capable new hands soon! Keep doing great things together.

Warm regards,

Sarah Katz

Outgoing Newsletter Editor

Membership News

It is time to renew your membership on **1 October**. You will be happy to know that fees remain unchanged for the coming year. By now, all of you have been notified how to renew by the Simple Membership System (SMS). As a reminder there are two types of membership levels.

STANDARD £15 and ASSOCIATE £11 for those belonging to more than one U3A.

There are two ways to pay:

1. Bank transfer to sort code: 30 – 63 – 97 Account: 24773360, Account Name: **Buckingham and District U3A**. For reference use your **membership Number/surname** to identify your fee in the bank statement.

2. Cheque to **Buckingham and District U3A**. Write on the back your **membership number** to identify you uniquely. Cheques may be handed in at monthly open meetings or posted to *16 Robin Ride, Brackley, NN13 6PU*.

*It is also possible to pay a joint fee for a couple but make sure **both membership numbers** are provided.*

Please note if not renewed by 31 October, your membership lapses and your group activities is suspended.

Third Age Matters Magazine is sent out 5 times a year. If you do not read the magazine regularly then you have an option on your SMS profile to cancel it.

Janti Mistry and Fiona Catlin

(memsec@buckinghamu3a.org.uk)

Your U3A Needs You!

We are currently looking for volunteers to help us as follows:

(1) **Secretary (Business Secretary)** - this role is one of the 4 Trustee Officers needed for our U3A to continue to operate under the terms of membership of the Third Age Trust. The main task is to look after day-to-day administration of the BU3A, including meetings and minutes. A role description can be provided on request. Please note that we do have a Membership Secretary as well, so the Secretary doesn't have to deal with any of the membership details at all. I am not going anywhere and will still be here to help and support you. I am taking up the Webmaster role formerly carried out by my lovely late husband Derek.

(2) **Events Organiser for Special Events** - we have 2-3 occasions per year when members can socialise and have a meal together. We need someone to bring together a small team to achieve this, in liaison with the Committee. The first task would be to organise the Christmas Social on 14th December.

Please do get in touch if you feel you can help with any of these, and further details can be provided on request. Rest assured you would receive initial and on-going support.

If interested please contact by email (secretary@buckinghamu3a.org.uk) and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Dorothy

Secretary

Spanish Beginners

In August the Spanish Beginners Group lunched at the Spanish Tapas cafe in Wolverton. Everyone tried to speak a little Spanish to the Spanish waitress. We enjoyed a variety of tapas and chatted animatedly... in English! The food was good, the wine and beer were good, and a good time was had by all!

Judy Austin



Painting Group

The painting group recommenced in September after the August break and we had only 7 members attend, due mainly to holiday absences. However, we had one new member attend!

So, if you enjoy painting and would like to spend a couple of hours relaxing with like-minded souls then do join us on the third Monday in the month from 2.00pm to 4.00pm at The Cote next to the Woolpack in Well Street.

On Monday, 16 October we have a choice to either have a go at a self-portrait - in which case, don't forget to bring a mirror or a photo - or design a Christmas card. Yes, I know it's too early to mention Christmas but if you design a card, and you're pleased with it, you can always get it printed at Phillips Print & Stationers in Ford Street at a very reasonable price and it does give a lovely personal touch to your festive greeting!

You can use any medium although the majority of group members opt for water-colours.

Pam Tonge
Group Co-ordinator

Table Tennis

Table Tennis is a great game for all ages. It is a non impact, highly social sport which needs no fancy equipment. You need no special togs, just a good pair of sport shoes that you probably already have in the wardrobe. We are a mixed group of members aged from 50 to 85 playing at many different levels, both singles and doubles.



We play at the local youth centre, next to the Swan Pool throughout the year on a Thursday from 10 to 11.30 at a cost of £1.50.

If you are interested please contact me. We would welcome you to a free session to see whether you liked it and then you decide if you want to become a member.

Thank you

Ruth Holiday



Spanish Lunch Group

We were lucky in July that the sun shone on our party as we strolled through the gardens of the house of one of our members and then met up for drinks on the terrace prior to enjoying our lunch inside. We were also lucky in that one of the group was accompanied by his Spanish girlfriend! She chatted to us encouragingly and we responded in varying degrees of fluency!



Our Spanish guest rated the Gazpacho soup as very authentic, after which we enjoyed a range of tapas which we had all contributed. Some Spanish wine and beer was drunk which maybe inspired us to chat in Spanish for the whole meal! No lapses into English! We all decided the event was 'un exito.'



Our next lunch will be in November. If you speak Spanish and would like to be involved contact the coordinator for further details.

Judy Austin

ARE BOARD GAMES YOUR THING?

If "YES" then come to the KING'S HEAD any Wednesday at 10.00 am to spend a fun couple of hours with some like-minded individuals.

We have a varied selection; card games, board games, tiles. Some to tax the little grey cells. Some are just for laughs. Cribbage, Canasta, Uno, Rumikub, Azul, Ticket to Ride, Carcassonne. Why not bring your favourite game and teach others something new.

Plus, the Kings Head make very nice tea and coffee!!

There is no fee and no commitment. Dip in and out as you please. All members are welcome.

However, if "NO" was your response, well how about giving us a try out anyway? We don't bite, in fact we are a very friendly bunch. Most of our games have very simple, straight forward rules, and we play for the fun of the game.

So, pop on down to the KING'S HEAD GIN AND COFFEE BAR any Wednesday at 10.00 am for a giggle and a game.

Arthur Newman, Group Coordinator.

Italian Beginners Plus

Parli un po' di italiano?

Do you speak a little Italian?

Planning a holiday in Italy or just enjoy learning a language? Want to give your brain some gentle exercise?

Why not join our friendly group?

For details contact Judith Dipple, Group Coordinator: italian.post-beginners@buckinghamu3a.org.uk

Strollers Walking Group – Summer 2023

Strollers walking group continues to walk every Wednesday, come rain or shine. Walk and talk is our theme, and there is plenty to go around!

Coffee is always welcome at the end of our walks, plus lots of chatting, but we are always made welcome wherever we go.

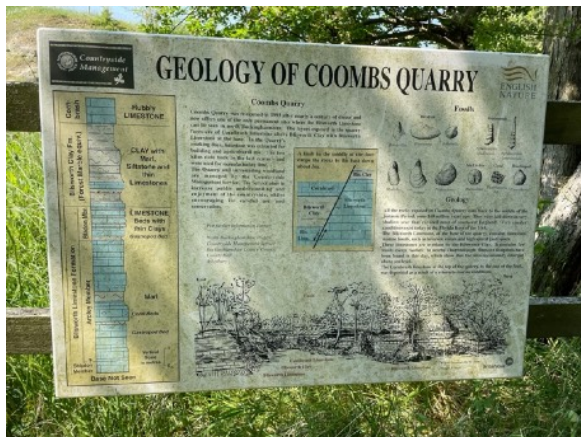
We have taken on new members and look forward to meeting more.

If you would like to join our merry band of walkers, please contact me, Barbara Willis, for more information on strollers@buckinghamu3a.org.uk

Walks between June and September



May - Some of the Strollers knitted the purple and gold roses for the Coronation Crown



June - We had a very interesting walk around Coombs Quarry.



July – we did the Buckingham Swan Trail, showing off artists from local schools and clubs, and local artists.



August –we ventured along the Buckingham railway walk, so interesting around that area.



September – Brackley and St James Lake (this is the other side!)

Local History Group

Our May meeting was on the subject of Viscount Cobham presented by our member Anne Beaty, who has carried out detailed research on the life of this truly fascinating man.

When not yet ten years old, he was commissioned as an ensign in Prince George of Denmark's regiment but a year later, despite his youth he was court-martialled for refusing to obey a superior officer. He was dismissed from the regiment, but was recommissioned in May 1687, and was promoted captain in 1689 when he was 14.

Temple was returned to the Commons for Buckingham in the by-election following his father's death. In the Commons he was a Whig.

He continued to receive promotions in the army: his rank of major-general was confirmed on 1709, and he was promoted lieutenant-general a year later. On 24 April 1709 he received the colonelcy of the Earl of Essex's regiment of dragoons. In December 1711 he voted in the Commons for 'No Peace without Spain'. But in April 1712 was omitted from the list of general officers intended for service in that summer's campaign in Flanders.

In 1715 he married Anne Halsey (*d.* 1760), whose father was Edmund Halsey, proprietor of the Anchor Brewery in Southwark. Anne Halsey brought her husband a £20,000 settlement and family connections with valuable London business interests.

In 1717 he opened the New Inn on the outskirts of the grounds of Stowe to accommodate tourists. Bridgeman extended the gardens to the south, adding an octagonal lake, while Sir John Vanbrugh contributed ornamental buildings. His gardens at were further enlarged and beautified under Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, head gardener from 1741 and then clerk of works.



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June saw an interesting talk by Dr Roger Harrington, from the Hospital League of Friends, about early medical services in Buckingham before the hospital; followed by the history of the hospital from its inception to the present day.

Buckingham Hospital was opened in 1887 as a Nursing Home. It was presented to the town by John Gellibrand Hubbard the 1st Lord Addington in thanks to Buckingham for caring for his son after a head injury 12 years earlier.

Before then doctors and nurses visited outlying areas by horse and cart, providing care and treatment for injuries and illnesses.



They carried out this work in all weathers and through plagues. They were a truly dedicated band of men and women.

There had been several other hospitals in Buckingham before this one, including a nursing home in Castle Street, a home for sufferers of Leprosy and the Chantry Chapel. This hospital was said to have housed the world's first conference on rural health visitors. A movement inspired and started by Florence Nightingale and local doctor, Dr De'ath.

In **1921**, the Home was renamed the 'Cottage Hospital' and in **1930** the long awaited operating theatre was opened. The death of Egerton Hubbard's widow, the second Lady Addington, in **1933**, led to the setting up of a fund in her name and in **1935**, a new wing was opened with a four-bedded children's ward on the first floor – the Lady Addington Memorial Ward – and new nurses' quarters on the ground

In **2010**, the League paid for the services of a part time physiotherapist which resulting in reduced waiting times for physiotherapy from sixteen weeks to four weeks over a few months. The installation of a new X-ray machine in March **2014**, which made available the first digital X-ray equipment in the Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust, was part funded by the League, with a donation of £70,000.

A threat to the Hospital surfaced in **2017** as in Buckingham, plans were being made for a new state-of-the-art health hub – the Buckingham Healthcare Centre – as part of the Lace Hill development, but it is not really clear of the effect a community hub in Buckingham would have on the Hospital.

Meanwhile there is an active League of Friends looking after the local interests.

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In July we visited North Marston viewing the 13th century church and John



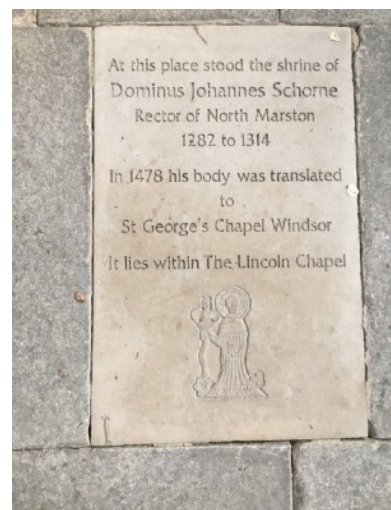
Schorne's [well](#). It was said to cure those who drank its water. Its fame spread and North Marston became a destination for pilgrims from all over the south and west of England. The pilgrim badge of John Schorne's well was the devil in a boot, as this was said to be one of his miracles.



John Schorne was a rector of North Marston in the medieval period, he died in 1314.

Pilgrimage was one way to show religious devotion in the medieval period.

There was a shrine to him in [St Mary's church](#) that was later moved to St George's Chapel, Windsor.



The church itself is 13th century in date, though it was added to in the 14th and 15th centuries. The village retains its charm and is well worth a visit.

-o-O-o-

Our July speaker was Phillipa Atkinson who treated us to an insight of Dadford. This is a village we have all heard of, but usually simply pass it by on the way to Silverstone.

Phillipa had surveyed all graves in the village graveyard (which included those from Stowe). Her husband removed undergrowth to expose any overgrown grave stones, so that all were documented.

For the Dadford folk she painstakingly linked them to houses and workplaces.

She discovered that the population rose and fell, particularly when the land was enclosed by the Temple family, effectively removing common land from the small holders and villages. It was said that at night the Dadford men used to remove the enclose posts but sadly the enclosures prevailed and men and their families had to move away to find work.



For the millennium her research was displayed in the village hall and resulted in several reunions from wartime evacuees who were placed in the village and local area, with the families who accepted and looked after them.

For details of our upcoming meetings please refer to the U3A website – you will see that we have a very full and interesting programme for the rest of the year.

Rodney Glew, Group Coordinator

Jazz Appreciation Group

Do you like Jazz Music? If so, the Jazz Appreciation group needs help re-starting the Group which was previously run by Derek, who unfortunately had to give up due to illness. If you feel you would like to join and could possibly co-ordinate and/or host the group (it can be two or more people if preferred) then please contact

jazz.appreciation@buckinghamu3.a.org.uk

Upcoming Open Meetings

2.30 in the Buckingham Community Centre

1) **25th October** Tony Harris presents Henry VIII – England's Favourite King

Tony Harris is a professional comedian, raconteur and actor who specialises in historical talks with an hysterical twist that tackle Churchill, the sinking of the Titanic, Hercule Poirot, the Loch Ness Monster and the Curse of Tutankhamun.

For two years Tony lived and worked at Hampton Court Palace and played Henry VIII every other day for the benefit of more than half a million tourists.

He learnt his Tudor trade at the feet of major historical experts and has been bringing his unique blend of history and comedy to the speaker circuit for the past six years. His aim is to trick people into learning by making them laugh, but every point he makes is historically accurate.

2) **22nd November** The Annual General Meeting

3) **Thursday - 14th December** - Christmas Social (note the different day and time)

From 2-4pm - booking essential, please RSVP. Christmas treats, Drinks and a terrible quiz....

Entertainment through the afternoon with our special guests, The Barn Rat Band (who you may have seen at The Stables, Wavendon this July and can watch via the next link)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SS2WhSsRODM>