



Newsletter Number 79 October 2025

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

Deadline for the next newsletter items is Tuesday 4th February 2026. Please email newsletter.editor@buckinghamu3a.org.uk

Chair person's report, October 2025.

Wednesday 22nd October sees the last of our open meetings for the year with Roger Edwards talk 'Oh Yes It Is! A Short History of Pantomime' and another year comes to a close, but we do have the AGM on the 26th November and the Christmas social on the 18th December. The Buckingham U3A continues to grow with new ideas being put forward including 'Theatre



Trips and Outings', 'Craft Group', and a 'Memory Group'. I look forward to another year of great speakers including a return visit of Tony Harris in a different role of Winston Churchill. At the AGM we will need a new speaker secretary, as Roland is stepping down after doing a tremendous job over a long time.

It is easy to forget that Buckingham is one of over 1000 U3As across the UK with over 400,000 members. Third Age Trust Trading Limited has a turnover of over £1,570.753 and is responsible for their newsletter, Beacon database system for U3A Groups and SiteWorks which provides WordPress websites for U3As, U3A Friends Discount Scheme and the U3A Brand Shop. The U3A UK is split into 12 areas with each one electing 2 representatives to the council.

The Gardening Group came on U3A radio recently and talked about what to do in your garden, to prepare it for winter. They talked about enjoying your garden in the autumn and not just shutting your curtains. Did you know that as well as all the tidying up, you can leave a corner with leaves and logs, so hedgehogs and insects can have somewhere to hibernate?

The joy of U3A is there is always something to learn so why not invite your friends to come along?

Howard Mordue, Chair Buckingham U3A, contact chair-person@buckinghamu3a.org.uk
The committee is:

Chairman - Howard Mordue	Vice Chairman - Mark Owen
Secretary - Heather Haydock	Treasurer - Susan Geary
Membership Secretary - Steve Warnes	Webmaster - Dorothy Morgan
Speaker Secretary - Roland Simpkins	Technical Support - Steve Meakin
Newsletter Editor - Sheryl Hargreaves	
Group Liaison Officers - Mark Owen, Katerina Owen, Arthur Newman	

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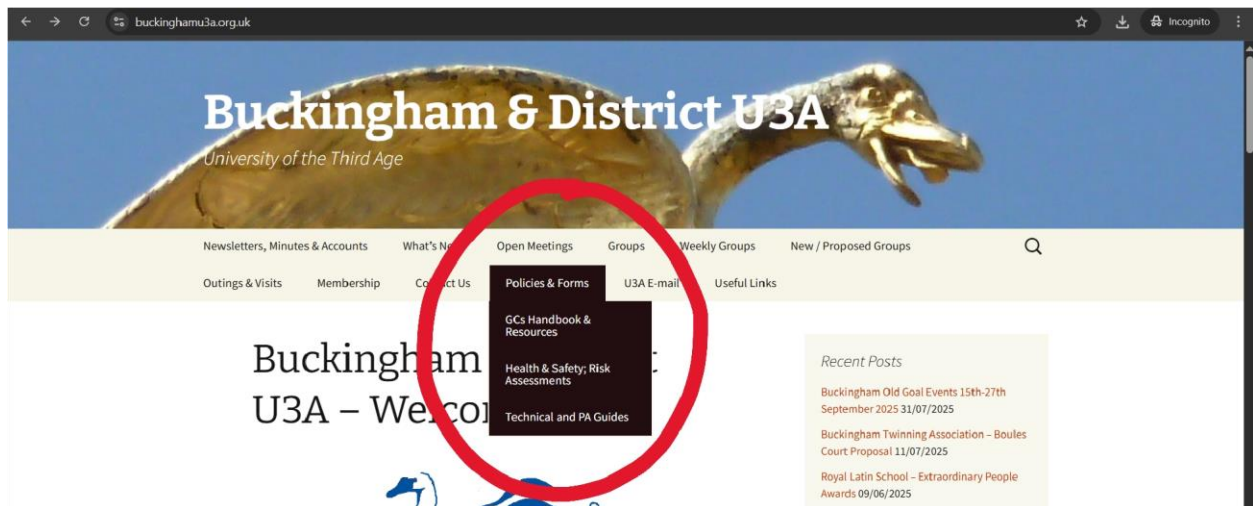
Committee

May Meeting – Health and Safety Co-ordinator

As a result of the Group Co-ordinators meeting and the discussion surrounding accidents, the committee agreed someone be appointed to co-ordinate Health and Safety matters.

Heather Haydock has agreed to perform these responsibilities, and please note all Health and Safety details are provided on the website, as shown here.

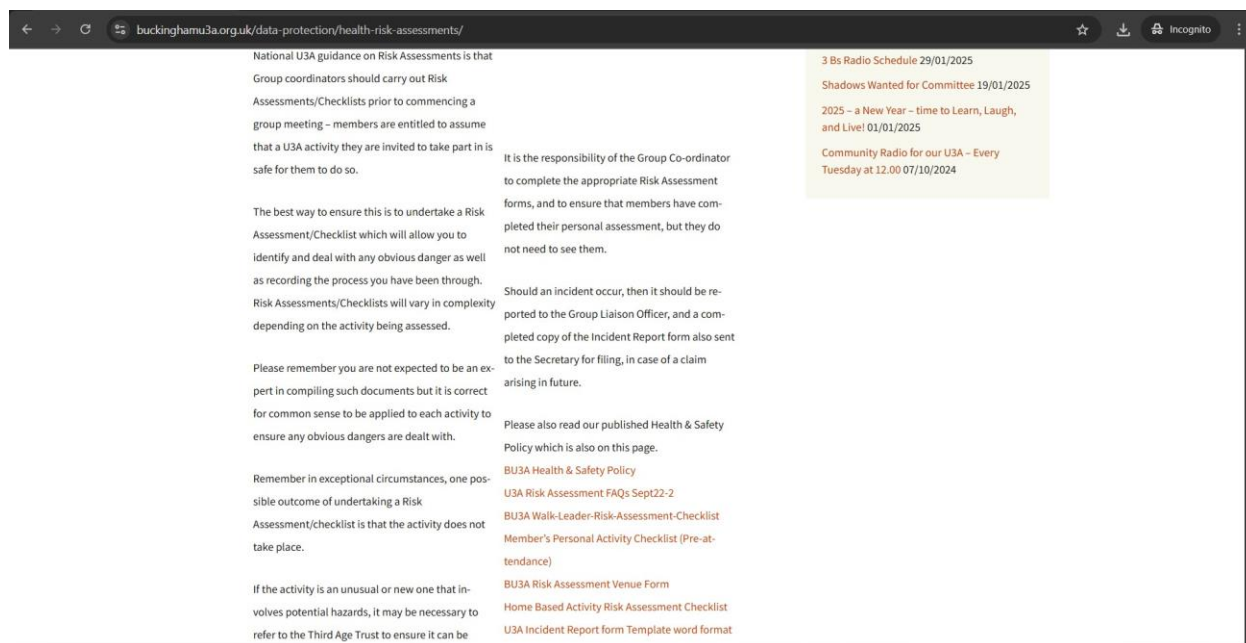
The Home page of the website shows a menu bar labelled ‘Policies & Forms’:



Select the ‘Health & Safety, Risk Assessments’ option to show:



The ‘Health & Safety: Risk Assessments’ page contains guidance and forms:



Contact Heather via email using secretary@buckinghamu3a.org.uk

Group Liaison – Co-ordinator Thanks and Excursions

Many thanks to the Group Co-ordinators' hard work in keeping their groups going. To those leaders who have recently stepped down, we are very grateful for their years of dedication. We particularly want to thank those people who have recently taken on the running of a group when the leader had to step down, ensuring an established group did not have to fold.

We still need new groups to start up as our membership continues to increase so, if you have an idea for a group contact us by email (below) or have a word at the Open Meeting.

Excursions:

We are very grateful for the Milton Keynes U3A Outings team who kindly took the time to meet with us and share information on how they manage their excursions.

We know that there is interest in starting trips again, so if you have any suggestions of places to visit or would like to help, please speak to us at the Open Meeting or email.

Contact Katerina, Mark or Arthur, email group.liaison.officer@buckinghamu3a.org.uk

Membership Secretary – 2025/2026 Renewals

Membership renewals is well underway and we are ahead/behind of our progress compared to last year. As of 13th October, we have 700 members who have renewed and

242 who are still to renew. This is a little behind last year but not much. A reminder email will go out mid-October, and those who have not renewed by 1st November will have their membership lapsed and will no longer be able to take part in U3A events and activities. However, they can easily renew if they send in their payment. Anyone not intending to renew this year can simply ignore the emails and their membership will lapse.

We have had quite a few members who have paid twice again this year, often because they have a standing order set with their bank and then respond to our general email to renew as well. Refunds are very time consuming to process, so please either cancel the standing order or take note of the first renewal email which does indicate how you paid last year.

The automated system left to me by my predecessor is working splendidly and allows me to do weekly bulk updates quite simply. Thanks to Janti Mistry.

Once the renewals are over, I will dig into the database and give you some statistics on our membership as a whole.

Contact Steve Warnes by emailing memsec@buckinghamu3a.org.uk

Enquiries Phone Number – Please note, is no longer in use

You can still send your enquiry to the email address enquiries@buckinghamu3a.org.uk. Your message will be forwarded as appropriate and you will receive a response as soon as possible.

Regular Items

Recent Events – Open Meetings

Main speaker 28th May '25 Tony Harris – As Winston Churchill

Tony delighted us again with biographical highlights, weaving today's current events and people comparisons into Winston's opinions. – a certain US President getting a mention



Main speaker 25th June: Dr Livingston I Presume – Fran Sandham

Fran was most interesting with a wide-ranging set of facts surrounding the background to both men and their exploits. See speakernet.co.uk

Summer Social 23rd July:

We had a good attendance with entertainment from the Ukelele group performing songs we all knew.



Main speaker 24th September: Restoring English Rivers – Doug Kennedy

Doug described past and present comparisons of a selected few river states over time, providing thought-provoking statistics and concerning conditions. Only a minority are in good shape, yet there is increasing awareness and movements of people taking action.

Contact speaker.secretary@buckinghamu3a.org.uk to book the 5-minute slot.

Coffee Mornings – New Members

The next new members coffee morning is Friday 24th October, 10am until noon in the Community Centre. All new members should receive a personal invitation from Judy Austin to attend the coffee morning. The Enquiries phone service has not been renewed, therefore email new_joiners@buckinghamu3a.org.uk.

Redesign and Reinvent Your Retirement

Lilia Bogle is on holiday and will feature again soon. Email lilia_bogle@yahoo.co.uk

Groups

Singing For Fun - Celebrating Our Centenarian June Lewis

The week began on Tuesday 24th June with a call to attend the parish church of St Peter and Paul. The lunch club and the town mayor helped June to start a full week of

celebrations. On Thursday, she was in attendance at the Football club with the Singing for Fun Group where there was more cake, more balloons, more flowers and a lot more cards.

Saturday afternoon was spent at the Rugby club where a host of family, friends and helpers gathered to enjoy a perfect sunny summer day of festivities. Family members had traveled from the four corners of the globe to be in Buckingham for the occasion.

Monday 30th June, the day of her actual birthday, was spent quietly at home enjoying a well earned cup of tea surrounded by massive bouquets of flowers, lots of wonderful gifts and hundreds of cards with one very special card in pride of place signed by a certain CHARLES R.

What a week, what an achievement.

Article and photos supplied by Arthur Newman, Singing-For-Fun group co-ordinator.





[Ed - Isn't she lovely!?!]

Walking Group – Charles' Walk Milton to Bloxham

The Buckingham u3a Walking Group meets every Thursday morning to enjoy a walk. But not just a walk – it's walking, talking, and lunching. On 25th September Charles Tanner led a walk from Milton to Bloxham and back again. There was a scenic drive through Croughton, Aynho and Adderbury to get there, with people car-sharing as much as possible. They parked in the car park of the Marlstone Tavern in Milton and set out on the walk to Bloxham. It was four and a half miles total across nice country, the weather was good, and it was just the right temperature for walking.

There is lots of advice about how one's mental health is improved by walking, especially in parks or in the countryside. But the experience is even better with congenial companions (and a walk-leader who knows the way).

It's always good to add in a visit to a monument or church, and Bloxham has one of the best churches in Oxfordshire. St Mary's is a Grade 1 Listed medieval church (right). The east window contains work by William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones.

Norman stonework has been re-used (below):



There is a 15th century rood screen and an abundance of unusual and interesting carving (photo right).

It is an extraordinary experience.



So having exercised the body and delighted the mind and intellect, it was time to indulge the appetite.

The Marlstone Tavern in Milton is known as The Pie Pub. Over 20 savoury pies are made every morning, with totally fresh ingredients and handmade pastry.



The menu changes daily and can be seen on-line via a live feed, like this example below:

Pies.....	Pies.....	More Pies
Beef & Cask Ale £17.50	Beef & Stilton £18.50	Steak & Kidney £17.95
Roasted Quorn £17.15 Sage & Onion Stuffing	Oriental Style Fried Beef, Sesame, Soy, Chilli & Garlic £18.50	Roast Chicken, Honey Roast Potatoes & Fresh Sage £17.95
Peppered Steak, Mushroom Brandy & Cream £18.25	Chicken & Chorizo £17.95	Jerk BBQ, Reggae Kebab Chicken £18.75
Turkey, Sage & Onion Stuffing £17.45	BBQ Beef, Bacon & Cheese £18.25	Moroccan Style Spiced Lamb & Apricot £18.70
Pork, Sage & Onion Stuffing, Apple Sauce £17.50	Curried Chicken, Coriander & Cream £18.25	Chicken, Mushroom, Double Cream & Parsley £18.25
Chinese Style Salt 'n' Chilli Pepper Chicken £18.25	Chicken, Homecooked Ham & Leek £18.25	Steak, Onion, Marmite & Cheddar Cheese £18.50
Peppered Mushroom, Potato, Tarragon & Cream £16.95	Beef, Mushroom, Red Wine & Horseradish £18.25	Curried Parsnip, Sweet Potato & Tandoori Potatoes £17.50
Steak, Jack Daniels, Monterey Jack Cheese, onion, chives & sauce £19.50	This Menu is Live on piepub.co.uk ~	

There are also pies or tarts for afters, if you have room. Needless to say, the beer and wine lists are good as well.

Perhaps some enterprising soul will create a new weekly Buckingham u3a group:

The Life of Pie, which simply involves making a reservation, hiring a minibus, filling it with hungry u3a members, and driving to Milton.

Here is an example of what such a group might look like (photo right).

Contact the coordinator Stan Surzyn, email walkers@buckinghamu3a.org.uk



The Music Ensemble – Enthusiastic and Fun

The group has more than doubled in size since inception some years ago and we seem to be busier than ever! Last week we did a full concert for the residents of Clarendon House, playing a programme of golden oldies that we thought would appeal – and so it did, as we have been invited back to play some Christmas number for them for the festive season.

Before that, in the summer, we played in our music director's garden – this on the occasion of Padbury Open Gardens weekend. The weather was not great, but that didn't dampen our enthusiasm – we were well sheltered under a gazebo, although some of the audience had to put up their umbrellas!

Christmas is always a busy time of year for music groups – and so it is for us. Besides Clarendon House, we will be playing at the Nativity service in Padbury and also for the Community lunchers, who meet at the Parish Church on Tuesdays. It's probably time now for us to dust off our Christmas tunes!

We are always happy to welcome new players, at whatever standard. We are a friendly, sociable group, who aim to have fun but also to play to the best of our ability – so if you would like to try us out, don't hesitate to come to Padbury Village Hall on the 1st, 3rd or 5th Wednesday in the month at 2.00pm. We would love to see you then.





Contact the coordinator Sandra T, email music.ensemble@buckinghamu3a.org.uk

Strollers Walking Group – October 2025

Strollers are a weather reliant group, and up to a point this year we have walked on many a sunny day. Until ... we had a spate of the 'wet Wednesdays' curse! We couldn't work out why it was always sunny on a Tuesday and sunny on a Thursday, but not on those Wednesdays in-between! No, we are just living with it and adjusting to it. I have had to cancel some of those walks as it was far too torrential to walk in. But, onwards and upwards, we managed quite a few walks this year, with new additions of Langford Park and the Nature Reserve Wolverton. Many thanks to leader Sheila, Geoff and Jennie.

I am having a reshuffle on numbers for the group at the moment, hence no available spaces, but you can contact strollers@buckinghamu3a.org.uk to be added to the waiting list.

Lovely view across the lake at Silverstone in May.



Howe Park Wood in June (photo right)



Campbell Park in July (photo below)



The Tiller girls (and guy) at Stowe, a favourite haunt – in August (right)



Langford Park, Bicester – September (photo below)



German Group – Traditions

There is one particular German tradition, which our German Group particularly likes to embrace, and that is the social ritual of *Kaffe und Kuchen*. This involves meeting up with friends to enjoy coffee, cake and conversation, and fostering a sense of togetherness.

Over the summer months our group has met three times at the Larder Café in Buckingham. The selection of cakes is wonderful there and, away from the hustle and bustle of the town, it is the perfect venue for catching up with friends. It couldn't be better. Well, actually it could and it was! Imagine our surprise and delight when we discovered one of the ladies who works there is actually German. She was more than happy to allow us to practice our German with her and even answer a few vocab questions when we didn't know the right word. On our second visit she burst into song as we were leaving. What did she sing? Well, Germany's 1983 Eurovision Song Contest entry of course: *99 Luftballons* by Nena (99 Red Balloons). What more could you ask for?



Contact Group Co-ordinator Marion by email to german@buckinghamu3a.org.uk.

Upcoming Open Meetings – 2:30 Buckingham Community Centre

Non-members are welcome as guests and doors are open from 2:15pm. 1) **22nd**

October – Roger Edwards: “Oh Yes It Is!” A Short History of Pantomime

Another of Roger's famous talks, just in time to get you ready for Christmas.

2) **26th November** – Annual General Meeting

3) **Thursday 18th Dec** – Christmas Social

This year we have “Milady Clare’s Musicke” providing an afternoon of festive fun.

January and February 2026 – To be confirmed

Roland Simpkins, email Speaker.secretary@buckinghamu3a.org.uk