



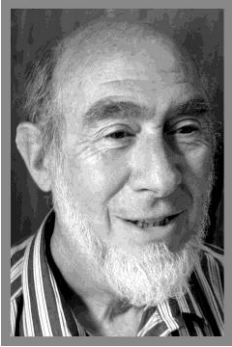
The opinions and statements made in this Newsletter are those of individual members. They are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Committee of Buckingham and District U3A.

MONTHLY OPEN MEETINGS

Monthly Open Meetings are held in the Large Hall, Buckingham Community Centre, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham at 2.30 p.m., usually on the 4th Wednesday of the month. We do not meet in August.

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.

Date	Topic & Speaker	Stall	Tea Rota
28 Jan	“And Another Thing I Meant to Say” – Mel Rees A welcome 3 rd Visit from Mel who will entertain us with his observations on ordinary, everyday life.	Jigsaw Puzzles	Painting
25 th Feb	The History of Claydon House – Philip Warner	Unwanted Gifts	Philosophy
25 th March	“Another Opening-Another Show” – Simon Gilbert Simon will share stories of the world of Opera and Musical theatre where he has worked with some of the great names of the musicals.	Books & Magazines	Play Reading
22 nd April	“Deaf but Not Daft” – Louise Reed Louise teaches lip reading to deafened adults and will explain some of the joys and difficulties of this task. She may also be able to give some of us with “older hearing” a few pointers.	Videos, CDs, DVDs, Tapes, Records	Poetry
27 th May	Adrian Boyton continues his journey through “More Patterns and Shapes in Music”.	Plants & Cuttings	Russian
24 th June	Actionaid in Africa – Jane Alexander of Windmill Vets will talk to us about her gruelling walk in Africa when she visited water and schooling projects in Kenya.	White Elephant	Scrabble
22 nd July	Social Event	Tombola	Singing for Fun



CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I am suffering from writer's block. When I was voted Chairman just over two years ago, I thought that writing this column would be one of the more difficult tasks. I have just looked back at the previous six issues of this newsletter and realise that I have always managed to find something to say, so here goes.

Our year started on the first of October, so most of you should have renewed your membership by now. If you have not done so, please let George have your subs a.s.a.p. Last year we nearly reached 500 members, so if everyone renews and we get a few new members we will certainly hit the 500 this year. Let's make it happen!

Our Christmas is on the **10th December**, please note the date, hopefully you will have received this newsletter before the meeting. This year we have decided to ask several of our groups to entertain us and let us see what they do and just how good they are. I am looking forward to this and I hope that you will give them full support and encouragement.

On a serious note, I have one question to ask all of you. It concerns "U3A News" the national magazine. We have a large number delivered to my house, three times a year. I bring them to the meetings and invite you to collect your copy. A few of you do, I pack up the remainder and take them home and bring them back the following month. A few more are collected and any that are left after two months are put into the recycling. Do you or do not want this magazine? If yes, how can we improve the take up? If not, should we reduce the number of copies that we order? If you have a view on this please let your committee know.

We will have our annual get together with your group co-ordinators in February. We hope that all GCs or their deputies will be there. We want to know how you are doing and if you have any problems and what we as a committee can do to help.

I would like to thank everybody who attended the AGM. I was surprised at how few topics there

were from the floor. Does this mean we are doing most things right? I would like to thank Mo and Don for their service on the committee and to welcome our new committee member, Colin Armstrong. I look forward to working with all of the committee during the coming year. And finally it gives me great pleasure to wish each and every one of you a very pleasant Christmas and a Happy New Year.

John Walton
Chairman

One of "The Fearless" Jenny Pond

The computer swallowed Grandpa
Yes, honestly it's true!
He pressed "control" and "enter"
And disappeared from view.

It devoured him completely
The thought just makes me squirm
He must have caught a virus
Or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind
I've even used the Internet
But nothing could I find.

In desperation I asked Jeeves
My searches to refine
The reply from him was negative
Not a thing was found "online".

So, in inside your "Inbox"
My Grandpa you should see
Please "Copy", "Scam" and "Paste" him
and send him back to me.

This is a tribute to all the Grandmas and Grandpas who have been fearless and learned to use the computer.

They are the greatest!

We do not stop playing because we grow old

We grow old because we stop playing.

NEVER be the first to get old.



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COMMITTEE

Chairman	John Walton. 7 Partridge Close, Buckingham MK18 7HH	01280 814668 chairman.bucku3a@tiscali.co.uk
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BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

THIS NEWSLETTER

Editor: Sheila Dalzell 01280 817747

SPRING 2009 NEWSLETTER

The deadline for contributions for the next Newsletter is Friday 6th March 2009

Email to sheilaeditor@hotmail.co.uk or

Post to:

Sheila Dalzell
18 Partridge Close,
Buckingham MK18 7HH

NOTE FOR GROUP CO-ORDINATORS

There will be a meeting of Group Coordinators or their representatives on Friday 6th February 2009 from 2.00-4.00 p.m. in the Small Hall of the Community Centre.

EQUIPMENT REGISTER to borrow, contact keeper

Keeper	Telephone	Item	Item
June Lewis	01280 815849	Keyboard	
David Angrave	01280 816453	Radio Microphone (lapel)	35mm Slide Projector
		Radio Microphone (hand held)	Screen – floor standing
		Microphone with lead	Overhead Projector
Paul Radcliffe	01280 813352	Flip Chart Stand	
Merle Harrison	01280 821693	Miniature Tape Recorder	
Valerie Shaw	01280 812547	Photocopier	
Mo Borrill	01280 813735	Magnifier	
Bryan Weston-Thomas	01280 813664	DVD Player (multi region)	
Peter Cammas	01280 815279	Digital Camera	Projector Stand
		Digital Projector (new)	

In addition to the equipment listed above, we have purchased certain items, specifically to help individual groups to function. This equipment is the property of the U3A. It is held by a responsible person in the group. In general it would not be suitable, nor practical, to lend this to other members. However, any queries should be directed to the committee.

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GROUP DIRECTORY

N.B. Mezzanine Room, Buckingham Centre – also known as “Library Upstairs”; M.M. Village Hall – Maids Moreton Village Hall

Activity	Co-ordinator	Telephone	Weekday	Time	Venue
Art Appreciation	Pam Tonge	01280 823370	2 nd & last Thur	2.30 (10.30)	House
Book	Gillian Macdonald	01280 822688	4 th Thur	2.00-3.30	Buck Parish Ch.
Bridge (Starters)	Russell Tobin	01280 817918	Mon	2.00	House
Bridge (Improvers)	Clive Cowdy	01280 824274	Mon	10.00-12.00	Chandos Court
Bridge Tuition	Peter Holman	01296 720737	Tue	10.00-12.00	M.M. Village Hall
Chess	David Pond	01296 714112	Tue	10.30	House
Computing (Intro)	Geoff Suggate	01280 812195	Ask Co-ord		
Crafts & Card Making	June Olliff	01280 823305	2 nd & 4 th Thur	10.00-12.00	Buckingham Centre
Creative Writing	Susie Kelly	01280 816940	1 st & 3 rd Mon	10.30-12.30	House
Croquet	George Walker	01280 813735	Fri	2.00-4.00	Buck Cricket Club
Digital Photography	Peter Cammas	01280 815279	2 nd Thurs	10.00-12.00	Buck Parish Ch.
Exploring the Past	Shirley Knight	01296 713765	1 st Mon	10.00-12.00	Ask Coordinator
Flower Arranging	Anne Liddle	01280 823565	3 rd Tue	1.45-4.00	M.M. Village Hall
Family History	Geoff Kirk	01280 812772	1 st & 3 rd Tue	09.45	Buck Centre
French Beginners	Ginny Booth	01280 813802	Fridays	2.00	House
French Advanced 1	Jenni Burke	01280 816546	2 nd & 4 th Wed	10.00-12.00	House
French Advanced 2	Tony Randall	01280 821388	2 nd & 4 th Wed	10.00-12.00	House
French Intermediate	Judy Austin	01280 814864	Alternate Wed	10.30	House
French Lunch 1	John Murray	01280 813792	1 st Wed	12.30	House
French Lunch 2	Judy	01280 814864	3 rd Wed	12.30	House
Friendship	TBA		3 rd Thur	2.30-4.30	Buck Centre
Gardening	Jennie Newcombe Sandra Nicholls	01296 712476 01280 823491	1 st Tue	2.00-4.00	M.M. Village Hall
German	Cyril Cox	01280 817843	2 nd & 4 th Wed	10.30-12.30	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	Roy Walker	01280 812836	2 nd & 4 th Tue	2.00-4.00	House
Italian Beginners	Peter Cammas	01280 815279	2 nd & 4 th Tue	2.00	House
Jazz Appreciation	Derrick Olliff	01280 823305	3 rd Fri	10.00-12.00	House
Local History	Sylvia Cooley	01280 816634	2 nd & 4 th Wed	10.00-12.00	Chandos Court
Music Pleasure 1	Anthea Kay	01280 821680	1 st Thur	2.30-4.30	House
Music Pleasure 2	Dot Hamilton	01296 714307	1 st Wed	2.00-4.00	House
Outdoor	Val Bradley	01280 817746	Ask Co-ord		
Painting	Pam Gower	01280 823279	1 st & 3 rd Mon	1.30-3.30	Well St. Centre
Philosophy	Don Horne	01280 813587	2 nd & 4 th Tues	10.00-11.30	Buck Centre
Play Reading	Jane Walker Judith Bell	01280 813382 01280 813721	4 th Tue	2.00-4.00	Buckingham Parish Church
Poetry	Germaine Radcliffe	01280 813352	3 rd Wed	3.00-4.30	Buck Centre
Russian	Roy Walker	01280 812836	1 st & 3 rd Mon	2.00-4.00	House
Scrabble	Rosalie Stein	01280 814373	Tue	2.00-4.00	Buck Centre
Singing for Fun	Jane Walker	01280 813382	2 nd & 4 th Thur	2.30	Chandos Court
Spanish Beginners	Vicky Steadman	01280 847980	Tue	2.30	House
Spanish Int. 1	Vicky Steadman	01280 847980	Tue	10.15	House
Square Dancing	Susie Kelly	01280 816940	2 nd & 4 th Mon	1.30-3.30	Well St. Centre
Strollers	Lesley Suggate	01280 812195	Ask Co-ord	10.00	The Swan
Table Tennis			Sunday	10.00	M.M. Village Hall
Yoga	Gwyneth Jebson	01296 715674	Tue	10.00-11.30	Buck Youth Centre

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WEEKLY TIMETABLE

DAYS	FIRST WEEK		SECOND WEEK	
	AM	PM	AM	PM
MON	Bridge – Improvers Creative Writing Exploring the Past	Bridge – Starters Painting Russian	Bridge – Improvers	Bridge – Starters Square Dancing
TUE	Bridge – Tuition Family History Spanish Intermediate 1 Yoga	Gardening Scrabble Spanish Beginners Italian Beginners	Bridge – Tuition Philosophy Spanish Intermediate 1 Yoga	Italian Scrabble Spanish Beginners
WED	French Lunch 1	Music for Pleasure 2	French Advanced 1 French Advanced 2 French Intermediate German Local History	
THUR		Music for Pleasure 1	Crafts & Card Making Digital Photography	Singing for Fun Art Appreciation
FRI	Handbells	Croquet French Beginners	Handbells	Croquet French Beginners
DAYS	THIRD WEEK		FOURTH WEEK	
MON	Bridge – Improvers Creative Writing	Bridge – Starters Painting Russian	Bridge – Improvers	Bridge – Starters Square Dancing
TUE	Bridge – Tuition Family History Spanish Intermediate 1 Yoga	Flower Arranging Italian Beginners Scrabble Spanish Beginners	Bridge – Tuition Spanish Intermediate 1 Philosophy Yoga	Italian Scrabble Spanish Beginners Play Reading
WED	French Lunch 2	Poetry	French Advanced 1 French Advanced 2 French Intermediate German Local History	OPEN MEETING
THUR		Friendship Group Poetry	Art Appreciation Crafts & Card Making	Books Singing for Fun
FRI	Handbells Jazz	Croquet French Beginners	Handbells	Croquet French Beginners

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Anyone for Cribbage?



I love playing any card game but have a special fondness for Cribbage. I'm sure a number of you did, as I did, and learnt from my father who played the game when he was in the Army doing his National Service.

I would love to play the game again and wondered if anybody would be interested in forming a group to play Cribbage on a fairly regular basis, say once a fortnight, either at a Buckingham Town venue or at one of the playing partners' houses. I already have several crib boards and packs of playing cards. The game is not too complicated and can be learnt fairly well in a couple of sessions.

We could start things off by meeting at my house (20 Highlands Road, Buckingham) probably in early January, see if we like it and develop it on from there.

Please let me have any thoughts you may have and we can try and get it off the ground.

Mike Baker 01280 816460
veronicandmike@tiscali.co.uk

Art Appreciation Group



During October, we made a group visit to Upton House, near Banbury. This is a National Trust property with a real treasure trove of paintings and porcelains and, for anyone interested in gardens, it holds the national collection of asters. We were offered a private guided tour and talk by one of the curators. Many of the paintings in the Picture Gallery were particularly relevant to our studies of Flemish Gothic Art and the Northern Renaissance. These included works by Jan van

Eyck, Robert Campin, Rogier van der Weyden, Hugo van der Goes and Hans Memling. In addition, we saw paintings by Hans Holbein, El Greco, Canaletto and Hogarth, to name but a few. We had a coffee on our arrival as the fire brigade had been called out and no one was allowed into the House. Fortunately, it was a false alarm but it all added to what was a truly memorable day!

A couple of members also visited the National Gallery in London to view "Renaissance Faces: Van Eyck to Titian" and it is hoped that more members of the group will be able to make a visit to this wonderful exhibition.

Our current study of the story of art has led us to the Venetian Renaissance and the work of Bellini.

Pamela Tonge – Group Co-ordinator

U3A Strollers' Group

The Strollers' Group is now just over one year old and has developed into an interesting and integrated group. Our aim is to walk every week (either on a Thursday or Wednesday) and during the last year; we have only missed walking a handful of times because of the weather. Walks are planned on hard surfaces and usually little more than a mile or so. Generally we walk around Buckingham or Bourton Park, up to Chackmore or Maids Moreton but we try to get out of Buckingham, once a month. During the last few months, we have walked around Finmere Aerodrome on an extremely hot day, around Winslow, along the Stoke Bruerne Canal and recently Tingewick. During the summer we walked around Padbury and visited the local Art Exhibition where we were served tea and coffee. Coffee does play an important part of our walks! Our walks will take a break over the Christmas period and will recommence on the 7th January with a Buckingham walk. The picture shows us during our visit to Tingewick.

Lesley Suggate



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Poetry Group – change of time and venue.

In the New Year the Poetry Group venue will be changed from upstairs at the Parish Church to the Mezzanine room at the Buckingham Centre (in the Library building next to Waitrose car park.) This should prove easier both for access (there is a lift) and for parking (reasonable at this time of day).

The time of the meeting has been set at **3 pm to 4.30 pm** to allow recovery from French lunches (or any other kind of lunch) and we have returned to the former day of the Third **Wednesday afternoon of the month**. I hope this will encourage more people to join our group. You will be very welcome.

We plan to begin in January with poems about Childhood. One of our number will be in charge of the meeting and both they and others will bring along their own favourite poems to read aloud and discuss. It would be nice to have a few photocopies to share, especially for more difficult poems, but don't let that put you off coming. Bring along a poem or two, even ones you have written yourself (!) And then we always have the library to fall back on!

Dates booked so far are as follows:

January 21st Poems on the subject of Childhood

February 18th

March 18th

April 15th

May 20th

June 17th

July 15th

Topics for the other dates will be arranged later. If you have any questions about the group, please ring me on 01280 813352 and I will be pleased to help.

Germaine Radcliffe

The Outdoor Group

Our current programme has been very successful in two ways. Firstly, we have been very lucky with the weather which has been much better than in the summer and secondly, we have managed to have a walk offered for every week of the Autumn. Many thanks to those who have lead walks as without you there would be no programme.

The walks have been varied in both length and location from a 3 mile stroll around paths in Milton Keynes, 4 miles on footpaths and fields

from Cottisford and Juniper Hill (Larkrise to Candleford!) to 5 miles around Wendover Woods. We have done our bit for the environment by using the bus to get to one walk and we have found out some History at the Civil War battle site at Cropredy. Mainly though, we have just enjoyed the company, the views and, of course, the healthy exercise.

Our numbers for each walk vary between six to sixteen but we always manage to find a pub to accommodate us for lunch.

In January we will have our main Indoor Meeting, this year on Wednesday 7th in the small hall at the Community Centre, starting at 10 a.m. This should be a more comfortable place for us and there should be no need for anyone to stand this year.

This will be an important meeting as we will decide whether to have a fixed £2.00 charge for passengers who get a lift to walks. Those at the meeting will be asked to vote and their decision will be final. If you have a strong opinion, please be at the meeting. We will also collect the annual subscription of £2 to cover the cost of producing the programmes at the meeting. Free refreshments will be available to all who attend. Of course, I hope to be inundated with offers of walks for February to the end of May.

If you are interested in joining our group, please come to the meeting and find out what we do. Programmes of walks are obtained by sending SAEs to Mrs Daphne May but will members please be aware that Daphne has moved recently and make sure they get her new address!!

Hopefully, this will be available at the U3A meeting in December.

Val Bradley

From The Bridge Tables

The demand for bridge continues to grow within our U3A and a meeting between the three group leaders is to be held to discuss the way forward. A list was displayed at the AGM in October asking members to put their names down if they were interested in learning/playing Bridge and there is considerable interest in both learning and improving with at the moment no available group. Russell Tobin, who runs the starters' group, is unable to take new members part way through a course, (a starters' course takes a year to complete at two hours a week), but he is currently collecting names of members who would like to learn bridge. If you are interested and did not put

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your name down at the AGM then please get in touch with Russell on 01280 817918.

The bridge (improvers) group has no tuition but is open to members with knowledge of the game wishing to improve by just playing. This group play rubber bridge, which is no different to duplicate bridge except for the scoring. After running this group for many years John Murray has now handed over to Clive Cowdy who can be contacted on 01280 824274. This is an "arrive and play" group but it is suggest you check with Clive before going for the first time.

The bridge tuition group has had to limit players to a maximum of 36 due to the number of tables available at Maids Moreton village hall.

Additionally, any more players would make it difficult for the tutors. There has been a waiting list for this group for over two years but it needs to be updated. If you wish to remain on the waiting list or would like to be added then please get in touch with Peter Holman on 01296 720737 (excluding those who put their names on the list at the AGM). The aim will be to try and set up a second tuition group.

The third annual Duplicate Bridge Pairs competition for the Buckingham & District U3A Challenge Cup will have been played by the time this newsletter is published and a report will appear next time

A further report in the next newsletter will cover the U3A bridge break to Worthing on 21/23 November. There has been a good response to this new event and 28 members will be taking part. Finally, please get in touch with one of the group leaders if you require any more information or, more importantly, if you would consider leading a new group.

Peter Holman

Local History

We have had a very good year, with many guest speakers and also members giving their views and ideas on various subjects.

Visits to villages have been very successful, and local people have welcomed us, given talks on the church and the village history and also been kind enough to provide coffee.

We visited Willen Church and the Hospice which was very memorable. The history of the Hospice was extremely interesting.

At our last meeting in Chandos Court we were fortunate enough to have Julian Hunt speak to us about 'Buckingham Churches'. His photographs

were excellent and he has now given us lots of new ideas for places to visit next summer. Our last meeting this year will be in Chandos Court and we will celebrate with nibbles and wine and look forward to beginning next year in January with planning for the next year's programme.

We still have a waiting list and wondered if anyone may like to start another group?

Sylvia Cooley

Exploring the Past

During the year the Group have had the usual mixture of talks and outings and even used the mezzanine room at Buckingham Centre for an illustrated talk on archaeological conservation of pottery from a visitor from Canada. Our last meeting was a very interesting talk by a Winslow resident on life as a young person in pre-war Nazi Germany and for December we have changed the day and are meeting for lunch at the Bell Hotel in Winslow on Thursday 4th.

The Group have decided on an experiment. So that one person is not having to undertake all the arrangements for the meetings, pairs of members are taking it in turns to arrange our activities though I am remaining as the officially named Group Co-ordinator. We are looking forward to our 2009 programme which is:

5 Jan – Talk by Paul Rice "My experiences as a Jewish refugee from Czechoslovakia before and during the War".

2 Feb – Finding out more about Winchester before our visit.

2 Mar – Visit to Winchester.

6 Apr – Learning more about Worcester.

11 May – Visit to Worcester (Please note this is 2nd Monday because of Bank Holiday).

1 Jun – Visit Stoke Bruerne for journey along the canal.

6 Jul – A walk of exploration round Winslow.

The January, February and April meetings will be at St. Bernardine's starting at 10.00 a.m. See you there?

Shirley Knight

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Travel & Theatre

As I started to think of the celebration of the Buckingham U3A 10th Anniversary it occurred to me how long I had been involved in travel and theatre. I got involved about nine years ago. I had mentioned to Eileen Llopis, who was at the helm then, that there was a theatre outing that I thought people might be interested in; she immediately said "Advertise it and go ahead" – the rest is, as they say history. It, of course, like many things, started in a small way and by natural progression grew. I started, as I said, by doing the odd theatre trip and then onto days out. I then got more adventurous and tried a holiday. Our first holiday was to Llandudno and then, gaining in confidence, I took a group to Paris. Both holidays were not without interest (problems?). Wales had a foot and mouth epidemic and the French public servants were on strike resulting in absolute chaos in Paris. We have been almost from one end of the country to the other from the Highlands of Scotland to the Eden project in Cornwall. Our theatre trips have been varied, and in the most part, enjoyable. We have had quite a few trips up to London to the theatre but now I have to wait for a good offer to come along because London theatres have become so expensive. However, we are fortunate to have Milton Keynes theatre where many famous actors and actresses have performed and will continue to do so I hope. Our day's outings have been varied from Buckingham Palace, the Globe and the Eye and the latest trip with the children on the "Duck". Over the years we visited quite a few stately homes and interesting cities, all of which I trust have been enjoyed by everyone. I always look forward to our day out with the children. Next year I am thinking that we might visit "Dickens's World". Speaking of next year there are some good shows coming to Milton Keynes, such as "The Spider's Web", "Pack of Lies" and "Boeing Boeing" and the "Coppelia" ballet. We are looking forward to our holidays in Madeira and Croatia and there are still twin/double rooms available for both holidays. The day trips are still in the planning stage. I am hoping to go to Anglesey Abbey and Polesden Lacy among other places. So it looks as if 2009 is shaping up to be another busy, and I hope, enjoyable year. This is the time of the year when Alan and I wish you and all your families a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy 2009.

Beryl Carr

Scrabble

It has been a good year for this group, if not in numbers, then certainly in quality! There are 12 of us on the current list and we are a happy bunch, but that does not mean that we would not welcome some new "scrabblers". There is plenty of room for more, whether experienced players or beginners. Look forward to seeing some new members any Tuesday 2pm at the Council Offices.

Rosalie Stein

Book Club

Our choices for 2009 are:

22nd January – Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy

26th February – Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka

26th March – The good soldier by Ford Maddox Ford

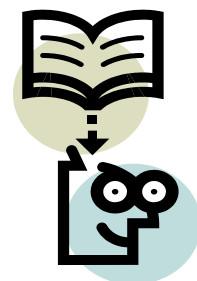
23rd April – The age of innocence by Edith Wharton

28th May – A thousand splendid suns by Khaled Hosseini

25th June – Salmon fishing in the Yemen by Paul Torday

In the latter part of the year we shall be reading The portrait of a lady, by Henry James and The heart of the matter by Graham Greene, The private patient by P D James, Cakes and ale by W Somerset Maugham, and Mr Pip by Lloyd Jones. If you would like to join us in discussing any or all of these books please come to the Tower Room in Buckingham Parish Church on the 4th Thursday of the month at 2pm where you will find a warm welcome.

Gillian Macdonald



Who'll be my Garden Buddy?

We are always hearing about climate change, depletion of oil reserves, the over-use of the world's resources, and "carbon footprints" - so how is it that we in Buckingham hear hardly any mention of Transition Towns?

Many of you might ask: "Transition Towns? What are they?" Well, just look up that phrase on the web and see what is going on in many other towns in Britain and elsewhere. In over 120 communities, people are beginning to plan to take local "resilience" into account. And many more towns (villages, cities and even islands) are "mulling it over" before they decide to take the plunge into a more resilient future. My daughter Val lives in Lampeter, a Transition Town in Wales.

Rob Hopkins, who came up with the Transition Town idea, says that a town's resilience is "its ability to function indefinitely and to live within its limits, and able to thrive for having done so". When the oil runs out, and as the climate changes, we are all going to have to change our lifestyle. But we could see it as an opportunity, not a crisis. The government's attention is on the "financial meltdown", and even when it considers reducing the country's carbon footprint, or planning for a more sustainable future, it isn't taking the initiative. But communities can start making plans and taking action themselves.

It is up to US, not THEM. We – you and I – as members of the community, could be combining our energy, knowledge and expertise to make Buckingham more self-sufficient. Small steps add up to great strides. I'm sure that everyone can think of something, however small, which could help to move such a project along. The essence of Transition is using our "creativity and imagination" and then perhaps we can thrive as well as survive in this changing world.

One of the most important things in the Transition plan is food. It's common sense, not only are we clocking up "food miles" when we bring our food in from far away, but as the oil starts to run out, the current delivery systems will no longer function. We can all make a start by buying locally-produced fruit and veg where possible, supporting local growers and producers. And many of us can, and do, "grow our own" too. I'm pleased to see that we are about to have the Buckingham Bag. Well, it's a start and there's a long way to go.

I expect that some of you have been watching Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall on Channel 4 proposing a project he calls Landshare – see the link below. You can sign up to receive his monthly newsletters. It is about "linking people who want to grow food to space where they can grow it."

All this is leading me towards what I wanted to write about in the first place. Ever since I came to live in Buckingham I have grown some vegetables and fruit in a small plot in my garden. Now that I have more than 80 birthdays behind me, I am finding it increasingly difficult to continue with this work, which I always found very enjoyable and rewarding. In an effort to do my bit towards Landshare, I thought I would try to find a 'Garden Buddy', someone who would be willing to come and share this small plot with me, helping to grow the produce and then share, eat and enjoy it. Maybe I could do some other type of jobs in return – not involving digging, of course! I'm a very experienced handywoman, especially with woodwork, a Jill of all trades in fact. Any offers? Do get in touch with me if any of the above has inspired you to make a move. My telephone number is 01280 814373 or email rosalie@landaubucks.plus.com

Rosalie Stein (with a bit of input from Val!)

Web links (notice that there are no "www"s in these addresses)

Landshare:

<http://landshare.channel4.com>

For a good introduction to the Transition idea, look at:

<http://transitiontowns.org/TransitionNetwork/TransitionInitiative>

or this article by Luke Leitch on The Times's website:

http://women.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/women/the_way_we_live/article5158241.ece

When you have got the basics, find out the latest at: <http://transitionculture.org>

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A

Notes on the Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2008

This year we have succeeded in reducing our surplus funds, by various means.

The subscription was lowered to £10, and even though our membership is up, this income is down by £527.

Beryl has again expanded her efforts, giving us about 30 differing types of entertainment – holidays and the theatre. She keeps me busy.

Other income items are in line with last year.

The stalls contributed £287.40, which has been passed on to the Air Ambulance Trust.

Our charity for the coming year will be North Bucks Carers.

On the expenses front, room hire is up by £327, with 15 groups using facilities for which we have to pay – there is also of course this Community Centre.

Printing etc. is up by £300, which is the increased cost of the newsletter and postage.

Social events' costs are up by £624 – we celebrated our 10th Anniversary and had a thank you buffet for our Group Co-Ordinators, without whom we cannot operate.

We bought a projector for £500, which is available for use by all groups, and have contributed £412 for the refurbishment of the bells.

We finish with a shortfall of £1685, leaving us with funds of £8806.

This brings us into line with accepted practice, in that one year's expenditure (in today's terms) is roughly that.

However, with reduced income from subscriptions, we need to start paring down some of our standard expenses.

My thanks to Angus Davidson for carrying out the audit for me.

Pc 4.10.08

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A

Income & Expenditure Account Year Ended 30th September 2008

	<u>2007/8</u>	<u>2006/7</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Subscriptions	4870.00	5397.00
Theatre Visits, etc.	67015.20	54705.90
Interest	783.53	710.76
Miscellaneous	91.50	62.35
Inland Revenue-Giftaid	622.91	868.14
	-----	-----
	73383.14	61744.15
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Room Hire	2964.01	2637.55
Print, post, stat	1440.81	1140.21
Capitation fees	1170.00	1075.00
Theatre Visits, etc	66278.35	54497.24
Speakers	493.00	442.95
Christmas/Social	1014.02	390.24
Equipment/maint.	1093.00	1705.54
Miscellaneous	575.90	425.65
Teas/coffees	39.57	85.69
	-----	-----
	75068.66	62400.07
	-----	-----
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	(1685.52)	(655.92)
Add Accum funds b/fwd	10492.08	11148.00
	-----	-----
Funds c/fwd 1/10/08	8806.56	10492.08
	=====	=====
<u>Represented by</u>		
Bank	5545.69	7921.13
Petty Cash	1.52	64.85
Woolwich Bonds	5383.69	5152.81
Income Rec'd in Advance	(1278.50)	(2134.85)
Cash o/s	-	60.00
Accrued expenses	(767.85)	(571.86)
Regional Forum funds	(77.99)	-
	-----	-----
	8806.56	10492.08
	=====	=====

Certified to be in accordance with the invoices, vouchers and information given to me.

.....(E.Davidson- Hon. Examiner)