



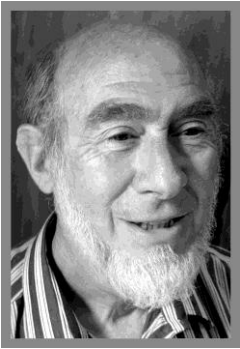
The opinions and statements made in this Newsletter are those of individual members. They are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Committee of Buckingham and District U3A.

## 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
22 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> May	Adrian Boyton continues his journey through "More Patterns and Shapes in Music".	Plants & Cuttings	Russian & Spanish Beginners
24 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> July	Social Event.	Tombola	Singing for Fun
23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	"National Parks – Not ours but ours to look after" Adrian Thornton will show what "National Park" means in England and Wales and take us on an illustrated tour of the present 12 National Parks.	Jams, cakes, pickles	Spanish Intermediate
28 <sup>th</sup> Oct	AGM.	Group Displays	Square Dancing
25 <sup>th</sup> Nov	"Magic Lantern" – Tony Brown – A Victorian magic lantern show looking back on Victorian times using an original Victorian magic lantern and original slides.	Books & Magazines	Strollers
16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Members Social – Betty Page – "Let me Entertain You".	Raffle	Committee



### CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

As I sat down to try and think of something to say, I realised that this is my penultimate lot of notes. My three years ends in October, so the September edition will be the last one for which I have to write a contribution.

We have had a real winter this year. Everyone has made a great fuss; traffic has ground to a standstill, schools closed, even our local banks and high street stores could not maintain a normal service. But I guess most of us are of a similar age and our generation can remember when such winters were the norm and really exceptional winters were those of 1947 and 1962/3. In 1947 when walking, yes walking, to school, the snow was so deep that the front garden walls were buried and we could not tell if we were on the pavement or in someone's garden. When it snowed, the first thing you did on arriving at school was to create a slide right across the playground. If you fell over and hurt yourself it was an accident – nobody's fault and nobody was sued.

In 1963 Pat and I were still engaged. I lived and worked in Bristol, whilst she lived and worked in London. So, each weekend I drove from Bristol to London and back again in an open car with no heater. The idea that snow would cause us to not get on with our normal lives would have been unthinkable. How different it is today.

But our stoicism was reflected in the fact that many of our Group Co-ordinators turned out in terrible conditions for our annual gathering on 6<sup>th</sup> February – thank you to all those brave souls. Likewise, I believe that most of our groups carried on as normal; the ones that I attend certainly did.

We are going from strength to strength; we are now over 500 strong. I offer a warm welcome to all our new members; I hope that you will enjoy your membership. If you have any ideas, suggestions or comments please let a committee member know and if you want to start a new group we will do all we can to assist you. I draw your attention to the items below.

### OUR FINANCES

Some of you will be aware that your Group Co-ordinators have been canvassing opinions and ideas about our finances. The background to this is that at year end September 2006 we had a very large surplus. This was nearly double what the Charity Commissioners recommended that we maintain. The decision was made to reduce the subscriptions from £12 to £10 from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007 and at the same time to cease collecting 50p at the door for our Wednesday General meetings. This reduced our income by about £500. It was also decided to continue paying all room hire from central funds and that groups could keep any surplus funds that they collected from group members. We have now reduced our surplus to about the recommended level. Our costs are going up all the time. The rental for rooms and halls is increasing and with more and more groups we need more and more rooms. Postage is going up again. The capitation that we pay to The U3A Trust is increasing next year. If we do not restore our income and expenditure to a roughly balanced situation, we will end up with no reserves in about 3½ years.

The four officers of this U3A: myself; Bryan, as Vice-Chairman; Pat, as Treasurer and Valerie, as Secretary; formed a sub-committee to look at the figures in detail and the projections for the coming years. We will be making our recommendations to the AGM in October. By the time you read this we will have probably decided how we should proceed. If you missed out on the discussion in your group and if you have ideas or opinions you want to put forward, please let one of us know. Nothing will be settled until the AGM  
John Walton

## BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

### COMMITTEE

Chairman	John Walton 7 Partridge Close Buckingham MK18 7HH	01280 814668 chairman.bucku3a@tiscali.co.uk
Vice-Chairman	Bryan Weston-Thomas 18 Coopers Wharf Ford Street Buckingham MK18 1UP	01280 813664 pbwt@btinternet.com
Secretary	Valerie Shaw 8 Nightingale Place Buckingham MK18 1UF	01280 812547 valshaw@care4free.net
Treasurer	Pat Costello 17 Campbell Close Buckingham MK18 7HP	01280 815143 pat.costello.uk@virgin.net
Membership Secretary	George Walker 2 Burleigh Piece Buckingham MK18 7BB	01280 813735 george.walker7@talktalk.net
Technical Resources	David Angrave 10 Moreton Road Buckingham MK18 1LA	01280 816453 angrave@madasafish.com
New Member Support/Publicity	Colin Armstrong 1 Moorhen Way Buckingham MK18 1GN	01280 817285 laganal@virgin.net
Speakers	Jackie Page 28 March Edge Buckingham MK18 7BP	01280 822320 posh_5@msm.com
Theatre & Outings	Beryl Carr 16 Robin Close Buckingham MK18 7HD	01280 823808 berylalan@waitrose.com
Monthly Stalls	Margaret Elliott 7 Fishweir Stewkley Leighton Buzzard LU7 0HB	01525 240174 mechippie@aol.com
Newsletter Editor	Sheila Dalzell 18 Partridge Close Buckingham MK18 7HH	01280 817747 sheilaeditor@hotmail.co.uk

### 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
Paul Radcliffe	01280 813352	Flip Chart Stand
Merle Harrison	01280 821693	Miniature Tape Recorder
Valerie Shaw	01280 812547	Photocopier
Mo Borrill	01280 813735	Magnifier
Peter Cammas	01280 815279	Digital Camera; Digital Projector (new); DVD player (multi region); Projector Stand

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.

**Please note the deadline for contributions for the next Newsletter is Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2009.  
Please e-mail or post to the Editor at above address.**

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### 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 (10.30)	House
Art Appreciation 2	Pam Tonge	01280 823370	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	10.30	House
Book	Gillian Macdonald	01280 822688	4 <sup>th</sup> Thur	2.00-3.30	Buck Parish Ch.
Bridge (Starters)	Russell Tobin	01280 817918	Mon	2.00 – 4.00	M.M. Village Hall
Bridge (Rubber)	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 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thur	10.00-12.00	Buck Centre
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> Thurs & 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri	2.00	House
Croquet	George Walker	01280 813735	Fri	2.00-4.00	Buck Cricket Club
Digital Photography	Peter Cammas	01280 815279	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs	10.00-12.00	Buck Parish Ch.
Exploring the Past	Shirley Knight	01296 713765	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
French Beginners	Ginny Booth	01280 813802	Fridays	2.00	House
French Advanced 1	Jenni Burke	01280 816546	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	10.00-12.00	House
French Advanced 2	Chris Strain Clark	01280 816832	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> Wed	12.30	House
French Lunch 2	Judy	01280 814864	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	12.30	House
Friendship	Jane Walker	01280 813382	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thur	2.30-4.30	Buck Centre
Gardening	Jennie Newcombe Sandra Nicholls	01296 712476 01280 823491	1 <sup>st</sup> Tue	2.00-4.00	M.M. Village Hall
German	Ursula Archdeacon	01280 823640	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	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	Roy Walker	01280 812836	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tue	2.00-4.00	House
Italian Beginners	Peter Cammas	01280 815279	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue	2.00	House
Jazz Appreciation	Derrick Olliff	01280 823305	3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	10.00-12.00	House
Local History	Sylvia Cooley	01280 816634	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	10.00-12.00	Chandos Court
Music Pleasure 1	Anthea Kay	01280 821680	1 <sup>st</sup> Thur	2.30-4.30	House
Music Pleasure 2	Dot Hamilton	01296 714307	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	2.00-4.00	House
Outdoor	Val Bradley	01280 817746	Ask Co-ord		
Painting	Pam Gower	01280 823279	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	1.30-3.30	Well St. Centre
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	Germaine Radcliffe	01280 813352	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	3.00-4.30	Buck Centre
Russian	Roy Walker	01280 812836	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon	1.30-3.30	Well St. Centre
Strollers	Lesley Suggate	01280 812195	Ask Co-ord	10.00	The Swan
Yoga	Gwyneth Jebson	01296 715674	Tue	10.00-11.30	University Studio

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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 Chess	Gardening Scrabble Spanish Beginners Italian Beginners	Bridge – Tuition Philosophy Spanish Intermediate 1 Yoga Chess	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 1 Cribbage
FRI	Handbells Art Appreciation 2	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 Chess	Flower Arranging Italian Beginners Scrabble Spanish Beginners	Bridge – Tuition Spanish Intermediate 1 Philosophy Yoga Chess	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	Art Appreciation 1 Crafts & Card Making	Books Singing for Fun
FRI	Handbells Jazz Art Appreciation 2	Croquet French Beginners	Handbells	Croquet French Beginners Cribbage

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GROUP	NO.	GROUP REPORT
Art appreciation	16 (8-10)	Have reached High Renaissance in history of art; included visit to National Gallery. Increase in numbers has led to 2 <sup>nd</sup> grp suggestion, as members prefer more personal venue of houses.
Book	18 (12)	Books are chosen by vote, from a wide range (Tolstoy to Victoria Hislop!) Anyone welcome. The August meeting was held in a member's garden, Christmas one in a member's house.
Bridge	21 (11-16)	Chandos Ct not ideal but members happy enough. 20p/pw charged but would agree to increase if necessary. Play Rubber Bridge.
Bridge (Tuition)	37 (28-32)	4 on waiting list as only 8 tables. Self-supporting (including rent), paying £1 pw. Tuition once a fortnight, supervised play and competitions other weeks. 28 had an excellent w/e in Worthing; 16 pairs played for the U3A Challenge Cup, won by Rosie and Clive Cowdy.
Bridge (Starters)	23 (16)	7 Bridge beginners have become 23 improvers with 4 on waiting list; looking for another leader to start a new group. Keep in close contact with other groups. Play Duplicate Bridge at MM Village Hall.
Craft & card-making	16	Buckingham Centre room suits the group wonderfully. Huge range and output of activities. Programme has included visits to exhibitions. Combines with small card-making group. Occasionally charge 50p to cover materials for group project.
Creative Writing	17 (10-12)	Really need to split or re-locate but friends are loath to separate and they feel more comfortable in a house. Published selection of work, covering costs. An author inspired and enhanced their writing skills. 3 members attended a Northampton Library Service free day for writers.
Croquet		Do not meet in the winter.
Digital Photography		Have adjusted programme to take in projects (eg trees) and also to visit Stowe Landscape Gardens. 2 members are also Camera Club members, giving useful advice.
Exploring the Past	18 (+2?)	Members take it in turns to organise trips eg to Winchester, Worcester, Stoke Bruerne and Winslow, using previous meetings to learn more about these destinations.
Flower Arranging	14	Use demonstrators to develop skills. Some U3A members just pop in. 50p sub. goes towards expenses.
Family History		Becoming more popular following TV programmes. Group has found the Buck Centre to be a very good venue. They use the Winslow Bus scheme regularly (U3A pays annual sub.) and the U3A digital projector often (easier to illustrate a point than photocopied papers.)
French Advanced 1	10	Once a month a French Teacher gives a structured session, appreciated by all. Highlight was a DVD of the smash hit "Bienvenue chez les Ch'Tis" (viewed with other group), followed by articles and TV quiz about the film: very good for listening and comprehension.
French Advanced 2	6	New group, an offshoot of French Advanced 1. Each host decides a topic, to be prepared by all, with presentations and perhaps text, grammatical and vocabulary comments and a listening challenge. 2 more members would be most welcome.
French Beginners	14	Excellent progress in a short time with a very keen group, using the BBC "Steps" course on the internet and other material. GC e-mails every member each week to inform them of what has just been covered, the homework for next time and the venue.
French Intermediate	6	Enjoy the expertise of a volunteer member who can guide studies and correct mistakes. Would welcome more members.
French Lunch 1	15	Continues to be much enjoyed. Highlight was day trip to Lille via Eurostar for a gourmet French lunch. 2 lunch groups got together in January at MM Village Hall.
French Lunch 2	8	Enjoy meeting monthly and chatting in French...until coffee-time! Would welcome more members to ensure a good number each time.
Friendship	16	Some meet on first Sunday of month for lunch somewhere, as well as monthly meeting in Buckingham Centre. Ring each other to go out when required.
Gardening	50 (25-30)	Learn from speakers eg garden centre experts, RSPB; visit gardens.
German		Warm thanks offered to retiring GC. Continue to meet in homes with host providing material but mostly conversation, encouraging all to join in. Visited Munich in May, planning holiday in Dresden.
Handbells 1&2	16	Groups are thriving, repertoire increasing. Bells due to be refurbished in March, for which appreciation expressed for U3A support. They have 3 invitations to play in public this year.
Italian	7	Having completed 2 course books, they now use a variety of texts and recordings. 3 more

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		members expected (the max?) and lunches at Italian restaurants are occasionally enjoyed.
Italian Beg	8	Charge 50p for materials. Make little headway but have fun!
Jazz Appreciation	12	Group enlivened by some very knowledgeable new members. Visit the Stables less frequently now as the concert programme there is more diverse. No foreign trips as flight times are not convenient.
Local History	34	Variety of speakers and outside visits. Members also gave talks (eg Georgian architecture, Postcards of Buckingham) and arranged visits to villages. Local people talk about businesses etc. and group hopes to record local members' reminiscences. £55 in funds for coffee and speakers (£1 collected when a speaker to be paid, £2 when visiting a church.)
Music for Pleasure 1		A small loyal group which would welcome more members. Occasionally have an <i>ad hoc</i> meeting on a 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday with a video of an opera or a bring-and-share lunch.
Music for Pleasure 2	14	Listen to various composers and do not worry if pieces are repeated – it's because they are popular! Enjoyed live artists during the Buckingham Festival of Music in July.
Outdoor	77 (8-20)	£1pa sub works well to cover costs of 3 programmes and coffees at 2 meetings. Car passengers now give £2 to drivers. Evening "midsummer" walk followed by meal at Prezzo and pre-Christmas walk followed by superb lunch, both very popular. Biggest problem is getting information to members who don't read notices!
Painting	28	Highlight was "Painting Outdoors" at a member's farm + strawberry tea. Demos from 6 local artists have helped greatly. Group was treated to a presentation on Waddesdon Manor art (+tea!) Members pay 50p per session (ie limited funds) and have suggested ideas for future activities.
Philosophy	25 (15)	More men than women. Full title – Politics, Philosophy & Economics-allows wide base for talks, discussions and debates eg Descartes, Aristotle, Malthus; "Economic Globalisation", Ayn Rand and Tom Paine; Religion, Euthanasia. To come: Darwin; Money.
Play Reading	17	Play sets borrowed from County Library. Read a play each month, chosen by GC. ( <i>Great variety, some hilarious, always thought-provoking! VS</i> ).
Poetry		Hassles with venues. Take turns to lead the meeting, with others also bringing favourite poems on eg Childhood. To come: The Waste Land by TS Eliot, introduced by professional Peter Farquhar.
Russian	4	Continue to explore the language and country via course book, CDs, Russian newspapers and letters from Russian friends. Learning of events and daily living from Russian perspective is illuminating!
Scrabble		The group is very happy with the Buckingham Centre as a venue.
Singing for Fun	12	Enjoy singing twice a month. Sang carols for Senior Citizens at Christmas and are thinking about organising a concert eg at Red Cross, with perhaps Songs from the Shows.
Spanish Beginners	9	Progress slow due to absences but new members have given impetus to change the course used to "Instant Spanish". Are reviewing what is available as a follow-up.
Spanish Intermediate		Has disbanded as it was difficult to justify a weekly meeting with numbers available. Sometimes meet monthly to keep their Spanish ticking over. Some may join morning group.
Spanish (am) Intermediate	8	Meetings are always quite lively – have reached Chapter 7 (of 10!) of "Suenos 2" and finished the year with a "bring-a-Spanish-flavoured-contribution" lunch, much enjoyed by all.
Square Dancing	36 (16-24)	Numbers keep up well and new moves are added when group is ready. A charity dance attracted 60 dancers from the Square Dance world to join the group, raising nearly £1000 for Willen Hospice.
Strollers		Enjoy short walks of 1-2 miles, usually close to Buckingham, sometimes ending with coffee at a member's house.
Yoga	12	Very friendly group gaining a great sense of well-being! Moving to warmer venue at Tanlaw Mill, UofB. Members are happy to pay £1pw towards costs. Highlight was demo. to December meeting!

NB: The full reports are on file and may be viewed by any member.  
The numbers in brackets indicate the usual attendance figure.

### Science and Technology

Unfortunately, the Technology and Science Group disbanded during 2008 due to the lack of a co-ordinator. I was asked to request a show of hands at the January meeting if anyone was interested in reforming this group; about 6 or 8 hands were raised. Is there someone who is willing to undertake to get this group going again?

At one time this group mainly comprised members who had some kind of scientific or technical background who could happily talk on a subject with which they were familiar. However, this group does not have to comprise only scientists. Anyone who is interested in science and technology could join such a group. There are many DVDs on scientific subjects which would appeal to a wide range of members. Many scientist and engineers led fascinating lives; these could be the subject of a talk without having to get deeply technical. Science and technology plays such an important part in our everyday lives that this could and should be one of the biggest groups in our U3A. So if someone feels like reviving this group, please let myself or another committee member know.

John Walton

### Cribbage

The Crib group is now up and running and we have had three successful meetings so far in January and February. We have plenty of packs of cards, plenty of Crib boards, plenty of tea and coffee, plenty of lively discussion but could do with one or two more players to ensure that we can develop the group and make it all the more enjoyable. We have arranged the next two meetings for Thursday 12th March and Friday 27th March, both at 20 Highlands Road in Buckingham starting at 2.00pm. Please contact me if you need any information or a chat.

Mike Baker 01280 816460

### Art Appreciation

We enjoyed a first class Christmas lunch at Rigoletto's Restaurant in Middleton Stoney on 9<sup>th</sup> December. By the end of the year, we had reached the work of Leonardo da Vinci in the story of Art. We began the New Year with studies of Michelangelo and Raphael. The first meeting in February was snowed off and at our second meeting, we watched a DVD of the Renaissance Portraits Exhibition at the National Gallery. We ended 2008 with a thirteen strong group which rapidly expanded to 19 in the New Year! We have therefore agreed to start up a second group with our six new members, which will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

Fridays in the month at 10.30am at members' houses.

Pam Tonge



### Flower Arranging

This group has blossomed – the numbers have increased but we still have room for more ladies, or men, if you would like to try flower arranging. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month and have a varied programme. A warm welcome will be had from us all at Maids Moreton Village Hall at 1.45 pm. We are NOT experts – we are just trying to improve so come and give us a try. We have oasis and dishes available, at low cost, so why not bring yourself – a few flowers – a little greenery – and see what you can accomplish. If you already have expertise why not come and share your knowledge with us. Julie and Cath encourage and helps us. They show us each month just what we will be doing the next time and then give us a helping hand or gentle suggestion when we need it. If you have any queries, or want further information, please give me a call on 01820 823565.

Anne Liddle



### Buckingham U3A Local History Group

We have started the year with a membership of 34 and we are so sorry not to have room for the people on the waiting list. It would be ideal if someone would come forward and start another group. We meet in Chandos Court on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays in the month and have had Rosemary Heywood talking about her book, Paynes Coaches and Susan Hatton giving us the history of Maids Moreton Hall. We had our annual lunch at Villiers Restaurant with a guided tour of the hotel after lunch. We start our visits to local villages in April and have some exciting places lined up as well as speakers from our own group. We look forward to a good year.

Sylvia Cooley



### Travel & Theatre

Since Christmas our only activities have been theatre visits and we have seen some excellent shows. I think that the one that everyone enjoyed most of all was Cinderella on Ice – that was quite a spectacle with absolutely superb skating. However, now that the better weather is around the corner, there's optimism for you, things will start hotting up. I am sorry that I had to cancel the Windsor tattoo and the Classical Spectacular at the Albert Hall. I suppose one can't win them all. Starting off the season will be our trip to Anglesey Abbey at a National Property near Cambridge – not Wales! Following that will be our visit to the Hatfield Rose & Garden show in June, which includes entrance to the House. Jenny Newcombe and I attended a travel show at Hatfield House and were told that the house will be full of flowers in addition to all the flowers and plants in the gardens. I am hoping that there will be a lot of interest for our children's outing. This year we plan to go to Dickens World. If you wish to know more about it look it up on the internet where you will see a little animated description I have put up the poster which, I hope, will give you some idea of what it is all about. It looks as if it is fun for children of all ages from 5 years old to 90. We all enjoyed our trip on the Duck last year and it is always a pleasure to have the children with us. I must say they are very well behaved. Well done grandparents! I have been asked to do another London walk and think it will be a repeat of the Royal Parks in early September. There are still places for Croatia in September and also for Thursford. Call it our run up to Christmas. I don't think that too many people are familiar with Thursford but those who have been are very enthusiastic. I have put a small description on the board, beside the Thursford poster. Once again look it up on the internet if you wish to know more. I was reading a travel magazine and read a letter written by a group organizer and will quote a little bit of what the man said. "We have been to Thursford three years running and can recommend it. It is fantastic. Set in a barn the stage spans the width so there is good viewing wherever you sit. There are lots of singers and dancers with everything themed around Christmas. Choirs walk down the aisles by candlelight....." Our itinerary includes a lunchtime stop in Ely and a day in Norwich. On our return journey we will have lunch in Bury St. Edmunds. So join us on what promises to be a super few days. As I write there are still quite a few twins still available but only 3 singles left.

Alan, I couldn't manage without his help and support, and I will be in our usual spot looking forward to taking your bookings to say nothing of your money.

Beryl Carr

### Book Group

Meet on the fourth Thurs of the month at 2.30pm. Our choices for the rest of the year are

26th March – The good soldier by Ford Maddox Ford *meet The Buckingham Centre*

23rd April – The age of innocence by Edith Wharton *meet Buckingham Parish Church*

28th May – A thousand splendid suns by Khaled Hosseini *meet The Buckingham Centre*

25th June – Salmon fishing in the Yemen by Paul Torday *meet Buckingham Centre*

23rd July – The private patient by P D James *meet Buckingham Centre*

27th August – The portrait of a lady by Henry James *meet the Buckingham Centre*

24th September – Cakes and Ale by W Somerset Maugham *meet the Buckingham Centre*

22nd October – The heart of the matter by Graham Greene *meet the Buckingham Centre*

26th Nov — Mr Pip by Lloyd Jones *meet the Buckingham Centre*

In February we discussed Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka. This proved to be a most interesting and disturbing book. Some of us read it as a straightforward Grimms' fairytale type of story, others looked for interpretation of symbols and analysis of contemporary psychological thinking. The transformation of Gregor Samsa was vividly and sympathetically described and the impact on his family and household reached the boundary between horror and pity. A fascinating book of 64 pages - do read it. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Gillian Macdonald

### Bridge Tuition

What a time it has been for the Tuesday Bridge Group since the last newsletter. There has been the weekend away, the annual challenge cup as well as a Christmas competition. The weekend break to the Ardington Hotel, Worthing, in November was a great success and was enjoyed by 24 members of the group plus 4 other players from within the U3A. The hotel was very

## BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

comfortable with an excellent menu and a very good bridge room. Bridge was played on Friday night, Saturday afternoon and evening and Sunday morning with an optional seminar on Saturday morning. This still left time for the players to visit the shops or take a walk along the seafront both of which were close to the hotel. Prizes were awarded for the first and second pair at each session, but nobody could win more than one prize so there was an award for the champion pair of the weekend which was won by Elaine & Terry Barnett. Elaine also won the Quiz prize and the prize for the best hand bid and made over the weekend went to Buddy Jell and Sheila Harkness with a bid of 7 no-trumps. (To non playing readers that means that they won all 13 tricks). The weekend was such a success that another has been booked for next November and already 36 people have paid their deposit. The third playing of the Buckingham and District U3A Duplicate Pairs Challenge cup took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> November and 14 pairs took part. After an enjoyable afternoon of bridge, followed by an excellent tea whilst the results were calculated, resulted in a win for Rosemary and Clive Cowdy followed in second place by myself partnered by one of the first group of beginners, Iris Mobbs. In third spot was Mary Meliush and David Hemsley. If you wish to play bridge with the champions why not join them on a Monday morning at Chandos Court as Rosemary and Clive are the group leaders. 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 is a waiting list, currently four, but I cannot forecast when they might be able to join us. Finally for other bridge players there is Clive's group on Monday morning and Russell's on Monday afternoon, please get in touch with either if you require any more information. .

Peter Holman

### **Garden Buddy**

Referring to my rather long entry in the last newsletter, I realise that I could not have found a worse time of year, or worse weather, to mention gardening. Nevertheless I am still hoping to find a Garden Buddy to help me to grow - and share - some produce from my small vegetable plot. Any offers? Phone Rosalie on 814 373.

### **Buckingham Summer Festival**

Like many of you, I am involved with other organisations in Buckingham. I am hoping that our editor will allow me to use these pages to promote another interest of mine.

Buckingham Summer Festival is entering its 21<sup>st</sup> year. Every year we have a week of music, mainly classical. It starts with a choral concert on the first Saturday; then continues with a morning recital, a lunchtime recital and an evening concert every day: Monday through to Friday and concludes with a gala concert on the final Saturday. This year's programme includes: The London Mozart Trio; Caledon – 3 Tenors; Maria Linnemann – guitar; Maurizi Ensemble; Respectable Groove and the gala concert by The Stowe Opera Orchestra. These and all the artists who appear are first class professional musicians.

As always, with ventures of this nature, we operate on a shoestring. Ticket sales rarely cover the cost of these excellent musicians and to make up the shortfall we rely on the generosity of our sponsors, patrons and Friends of the Festival. It is with the hope of persuading some of you to become Friends that I am writing this appeal. You can become a Friend for £30 a year or £50 a couple. For this you will receive invitations to some Friends only musical events, a free ticket to a concert of your choice an advanced copy of the programme and the knowledge that you are helping to maintain the cultural life of Buckingham.

If you are unable to become a Friend, then do at least come along to the concerts and support us whilst enjoying some first class music. Within the U3A we have two "Music for Pleasure" groups, "Jazz Appreciation", "Handbells" and "Singing for Fun". So we have plenty of members who either enjoy listen to or making music. Can we persuade some of you who do not yet support the Festival to do so this year? What about the rest of you, there must be a lot who enjoy music, so why not support your local Festival and enjoy live music on your door step? For more information visit our website:

[www.buckinghamsummerfestival.org](http://www.buckinghamsummerfestival.org) or contact the Festival Office: 12 Bristle Hill, Buckingham MK18 1EZ, Tel: 01280 813834, e-mail: [bsfestival@btinternet.com](mailto:bsfestival@btinternet.com)

# BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

## Buckingham U3A 2008 Christmas Party.



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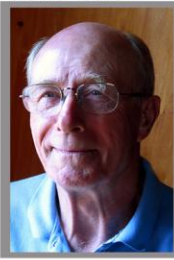
**Art Appreciation**  
Pam Tonge



**Book Group**  
Gillian MacDonald



**Bridge (Starters)**  
Russell Tobin



**Bridge (Improvers)**  
Clive Cowdy



**Rubber Bridge**  
Peter Holman



**Chess**  
David Pond



**Cribbage**  
Mike Baker



**Croquet**  
George Walker



**Digital Photography**  
Peter Cammas



**Exploring the Past**  
Shirley Knight



**Flower Arranging**  
Anne Liddle



**Family History**  
Geoff Kirk



**French Beginners**  
Ginny Booth



**French Advanced 1**  
Jenni Burke



**French Advanced 2**  
Tony Randall



**French Intermed. and  
Fr.Lunch 2** Judy Austin



**French Lunch 1**  
John Murray



**Friendship**  
Jane Walker



**Gardening**  
Sandra Nicholls



**German**  
Ursula Archdeacon



**Handbells**  
Derek Smith



**Italian**  
Roy Walker



**Italian (Beginners)**  
Peter Cammas



**Jazz Appreciation**  
Derrick Olliff



**Local History**  
Sylvia Cooley



**Music For Pleasure 1**  
Anthea Kay



**Music For Pleasure 2**  
Dot Hamilton



**Outdoors**  
Val Bradley



**Painting**  
Pam Gower



**Philosophy**  
Don Horne



**Play Reading**  
Jane Walker



**Poetry**  
Germaine Radcliffe



**Russian**  
Roy Walker



**Scrabble**  
Rosalie Stein



**Singing For Fun**  
Jane Walker



**Spanish**  
Vicky Steadman



**Spanish Lunch**  
Tony Randall



**Square Dancing**  
Susie Kelly



**Strollers**  
Lesley Suggate



**Yoga**  
Gwyneth Jebson

