



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. Please check dates below as sometimes the meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

MONTHLY STALLS

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.

TEA ROTA

Would Group Leaders please note that when their group is responsible for teas they should contact Margaret Elliott on 01525 240174 for instruction. Where there is more than one Group listed please could the Group Leaders liaise with each other.

Date	Topic & Speaker	Stall	Tea Rota
28 th Sept	Adrian Boynton will be giving a talk on “More Shapes and Patterns in Music” English revival tunes of the 19 th and 20 th Century including Elgar, Vaughn Williams and Parry. Talk will include music and illustrations.	Jams, Cakes & Pickles	Square Dancing
19 th Oct	A.G.M.	Group Displays	Strollers & Yoga Groups
23 rd Nov	Alan Painter will be giving a talk “A view of the Bench”. It will include a magistrate’s day on the Bench and behind the scenes, general sentencing and your day in court what might happen.	Books & Magazines	Art Appreciation Groups
14 th Dec	Social		Committee
25 th Jan	Victor Botterhill – Body Language Proxemics (effects of distance). Secrets in the handshake, gazes and even courtship. The unwritten rules of behaviour in a lift etc.	Jigsaw Puzzles	Bridge – Improvers & Beginners
22 nd Feb	Stephen Townsend – Chapter 1 Buckingham volunteers in the local community, helping the homeless, their work now and how the project began.	Unwanted Gifts	Bridge – Contract & Tuition
28 th March	Ruth Humphrey Her story of escape from the Czech Republic during the War.	Books & Magazines	Book & Crafts
25 th April	Teresa Hadland The art of Shiatsu Traditional Art of healing using the Body’s own potential for good health and well being.	Videos, CDs, DVDs, Tapes & Records	Creative Writing & Cribbage

A.G.M. Date

Please note change of date of A.G.M. which this year is on the 19th October at 2.30 p.m. which is the 3rd Wednesday of October.



Chairman's notes No 41

The membership continues to grow at a very healthy rate. The committee is aware of the pressures that this puts on venues especially with the closure of The Well Street Centre. We have been very fortunate in being able to book "The Cote" adjacent to the Woolpack public house in Well Street.

The Committee

Due to family pressures Elaine Squires and Liz Mayston have had to stand down from the committee. I would like to thank both Elaine and Liz for their magnificent contributions. Their departures mean that there are now two vacancies on the committee the details of which are on page 3.

We have now nearly fulfilled our complement of shadows and assistants to cover the committee's duties. Some of the roles have been split such as the Theatre and Outings. This was one of my objectives during the first year in office.

The Shadows are:

Treasurer – Joan Hatherley, **Membership Secretary** – Lesley Suggate,
Theatre and Outings – Pat Williams, Jane Brown and Renata Inglis,
Tech Ops – Simon Kelly, **Teas/Fund Raising Stall** – Joyce Bernert,
Newsletter Editor and Webmaster – Geoff Dalzell.

e-newsletter

There are now 20% of members who are receiving the e-newsletter via the Internet. I am satisfied with the achievement after launching the trial six months ago. Some members have reservations and this is understandable. We intend to carry out a survey after six months of the members who have opted to receive the e-newsletter electronically to find out whether this method of distribution is meeting their expectations.

e-communications

There is a secondary benefit in establishing an email membership data base, in that the committee can let the members know immediately of any interesting activities that are being offered by the Third Age Trust. I have always felt that the membership should be informed about these opportunities as soon as possible. Currently unless you go to the monthly meetings and look at the GLOs notice board you would not know about them. The first steps towards this objective are the GCs emails.

e-tuition: Buckingham U3A are offering the opportunity to sharpen up on your computer skills. See page 5.

Committee Minutes

It is every member's right to be able to see the minutes of the monthly committee meetings. If you want to exercise this right, please e-mail me on pbwt@btinternet.com requesting the minutes. They will then be e-mailed to you. If you want them posted please send a SAE to Bryan Weston-Thomas, 18 Coopers Wharf, Ford Street, Buckingham MK18 1UP.

Midsummer Social

This year the Community Centre was at full capacity for the U3A Midsummer Social. There was the traditional Pimm's reception and live music on the accordion by Susanne Winterbottom. There was also a raffle for an opportunity to have Sunday Lunch at the Villiers Hotel. The lucky winner was Cheryl Dawson. We also raised over £100 at the annual tombola stall managed by Margaret Elliott and Joyce Bernert. Thank you for your generosity and for the donation from Villiers Hotel. All the proceeds will go towards the two charities we are supporting in 2010/2011, The CAB and Project Street Life.

I would like to thank Liz Mayston for her work as the Catering Coordinator. Liz stood down after the Summer Social. Thank you Liz, you did a magnificent job.

GCs meeting

The date of the next GCs meeting has been arranged. It is the 16th February 2012. It will be held in the Community Centre between 2pm and 4pm. If there are any issues you want discussed, please let the chairman know in plenty of time.

Coffee Morning for New Members



The next coffee morning will be held on **Thursday 24th November 2011** at **10.30** am at the White Hart in Buckingham. We welcome any new members who have not been able to attend a previous coffee morning to come along and enjoy an informal chat and coffee. If you would like to attend please telephone Sheila on 01280 817747 or email at sheilaeditor@hotmail.co.uk

WANTED

There are two important positions to be filled on the U3A committee.

Minute Secretary

The minute secretary is required to attend the 11 monthly committee meetings. We do not have a meeting in August.

A brief description of the position is as follows:

Draw up agenda, checking previous month's minutes for matters arising. Send draft to the Chair. Circulate one week before meeting, which is usually held on the Monday, before the Wednesday Open Meeting at 10 am to 12 noon.

Take notes during meeting (I manage without shorthand!); write up and send draft to Bryan for checking, if possible within 24 hours. When approved, send out to committee via e-mail, if possible before the Open Meeting on the Wednesday.

Catering Coordinator

The catering coordinator is responsible for organising the food for the two social events we hold each year. These are The Midsummer Social and the Christmas Social. For the last four or five years the food has been purchased from a local supplier.

A brief description is as follows:

1. To sort out the menu for the two events and agree the budget with the committee.
2. To coordinate the catering team.
3. To be responsible for getting the food to the event.

There is a proven format regarding the event arrangements. We will need somebody to organise the Christmas Social on the 14th December.

The drinks are organised by the committee.

If you are interested in either of these positions – please call Bryan on 01280 813664 or email pbwt@btinternet.com

Buckingham Library

Buckingham Library is holding a "Local History" day on Tuesday 27th September 2011. There will be a lot of items on display which are normally kept under lock and key. There will also be experts on hand to answer questions.

Also between 10am and 4pm on the 4th October there is at the Library an "Older Peoples' Day" see links below:

<http://fulloflife.direct.gov.uk/older-peoples-day.html>

http://www.who.int/ageing/events/idop_rationale/en/index.html

The Buckingham U3A will be represented. **A date for your diary.**

National Express

As from the 31st October the concessions for fares for disabled and people over 60 years of age will cease.

Subscriptions

A reminder from your Membership Secretary that subscriptions are due at the end of September.

Next Newsletter

Please note the deadline for articles for the next Newsletter issue No. 42 is **Wednesday 16th November 2011**. Please Email or post to:

Sheila Dalzell,
18 Partridge Close, Buckingham MK18 7HH

sheilaeditor@hotmail.co.uk

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

COMMITTEE

Chairman	Bryan W Thomas 18 Coopers Wharf Ford Street Buckingham MK18 1UP	01280 813664 pbwt@btinternet.com
Vice-Chair	Pam Tonge 5 Victoria Row Buckingham MK18 1ER	01280 823370 pamelatonge519@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Pat Costello 17 Campbell Close Buckingham MK18 7HP	01280 815143 pat.costello.uk@talktalk.net
Minutes Secretary	Elaine Squires 1 Overn Avenue Buckingham MK18 1LG	01280 816131 johnelainesq@talktalk.net
Business Secretary	Val Bradley Cosy Nook Mount Pleasant Close Buckingham MK18 1DN	01280 817746 valmbradley@btinternet.com
Speaker Secretary	Jane Brown Nectaris North End Road Steeple Claydon Bucks MK18 2PG	01296 730972 jane@photocraft.co.uk
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 lagana@talktalk.net
Theatre & Outings	Beryl Carr 16 Robin Close Buckingham MK18 7HD	01280 823808 beryl.alan@talktalk.net
Monthly Stalls	Margaret Elliott 7 Fishweir Stewkley Leighton Buzzard LU7 0HB	01525 240174 mehippie@aol.com
Newsletter Editor	Sheila Dalzell 18 Partridge Close Buckingham MK18 7HH	01280 817747 sheilaeditor@hotmail.co.uk

Useful Web Links To Groups

Main Website – www.buckinghamu3a.org.uk

Strollers – www.freewebs.com/bucksu3astrollers

Art Appreciation – <http://www.buckinghamu3a.org.uk/groups/groups/ArtAppreciation2.htm>

Craft and Card making group – <http://www.buckinghamu3a.org.uk/groups/groups/Crafts.htm>

Local History – <http://www.buckinghamu3a.org.uk/groups/groups/LocalHistory2.htm>

Square Dancing – <http://www.uksquaredancing.com/CDBuckinghamU3ASquareDancingGroup.pdf>

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

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; Flip Chart Stand* Portable Mains Amplifier/Speaker with three radio microphones **
Merle Harrison	01280 821693	Miniature Tape Recorder
Val Bradley	01280 817746	Photocopier
Mo Borrill	01280 813735	Magnifier
Clive Cowdy	01280 824274	Digital Camera
Geoff Kirk	01280 812772	Digital Projector; DVD player (multi region); Projector Stand

*The Flip Chart is now stored at the Community Centre for use by anyone (including our visiting speaker) during our monthly meetings. Should anyone wish to borrow it outside these times, please contact the listed keeper.

**New to the Equipment Register this useful addition will enable your Speakers in small to medium halls to be heard clearly. It will also provide a useful boost to our digital projector's sound output. For those of you who are reading the electronic version you can find out more by accessing the hot link at <http://www.astounded.com/pulse-megamouth-20w-wireless-portable-pa-system-3-radio-mics.html>

Basic tuition in using YOUR computer at Home



We are offering:

- A basic introduction to word processing.
- How to save and retrieve your work.
- How to make good use of the internet.
- How to send and receive an email
- How to make use of a spread sheet.
- Simple everyday language – no unnecessary technical jargon.
- We will work at your pace.

We are NOT offering:

- Anything technical to do with the inner workings of a computer.
- Anything to do with setting up your email or broadband.

Initially we intend to run this as a pilot scheme in order to assess demand.

For further details contact **Geoff Suggate on 01280 812195** to book an appointment.

Christmas Quiz

Last year the Christmas Quiz raised over £70 for our charities. We aim to raise at least £100 this year. Quiz sheets will be available at the November meeting and the results will be announced at the Christmas Social. Entry fee £1. A £10 book voucher has been donated so all proceeds will go to our charities.

Dusty Rhoades

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

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 nd & 4 th Thur	2.30	House
Art Appreciation 2	Pam Tonge	01280 823370	1 st & 3 rd Fri	9.45	Buck Centre
Book	Gillian Macdonald	01280 822688	4 th Thur	2.30	Buck Centre
Bridge (Improvers)	Russell Tobin	01280 817918	Mon	2.00-4.00	M.M. Village Hall
Bridge Beginners	Nick Steadman	01280 847980	Mon	10.00-12.00	M.M. Village Hall
Bridge (Contract)	Annastasia Kavanagh	01280 817828	Mon	10.00-12.00	Chandos Court
Bridge Tuition	Peter Holman	01280 822611	Tues	10.00-12.00	M.M. Village Hall
Computing (Intro)	Geoff Suggate	01280 812195	Ask Co-ord		
Crafts & Card Making	Anne Liddle	01280 823565	2 nd & 4 th Thurs	10.30-12.30	M.M. Village Hall
Creative Writing	Susie Kelly	01280 816940	1 st & 3 rd Mon	10.30-12.30	House
Cribbage	Mike Baker	01280 816460	2 nd & 4 th Fri	2.00	Bucks Centre
Croquet	George Walker	01280 813735	Fri	2.00-4.00	Buck Cricket Club
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 Jenni Burke	01280 812772 01280 816546	1 st & 3 rd Tue	09.45	Buck Centre
Folk Dancing	Vera Moyle-Maton	01280 813719	3 rd Wed	10.30	The Woolpack
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	Liz Kinsell	01296 713754	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 Austin	01280 814864	3 rd Wed	12.30	House
Friendship	Jane Walker	01280 813382	3 rd Thur	2.30-4.30	House
Gardening	Vee Sampson	01327 855626	1 st Tue	2.00-4.00	M.M. Village Hall
German 1	Ursula Archdeacon	01280 823640	2 nd & 4 th Wed	10.00-12.00	House
German Diskussionsgruppe	Roy Walker	01280 812836	1 st & 3 rd Fri	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 Group 1	Linda Shiner	01296 712920	2 nd & 4 th Tue	2.00-4.00	House
Jazz Appreciation 1	Derrick Olliff	01280 823305	3 rd Fri	10.00-12.00	House
Jazz Appreciation 2	Russell Tobin	01280 817918	2 nd Fri	2.30-4.30	House
Local History 1	Peter Bowtell	01280 815946	2 nd & 4 th Wed	10.00-12.00	M.M. Village Hall
Local History 2	Jean Churchill-Coleman	01280 848971	1 st & 3 rd Thurs	10.00	Buck Centre
Local History 3	Glenys Warlow	01296 711775	2 nd & 4 th Fri	10.00	Buck Centre
Mah Jong	Marilyn Day	01280 823633	1 st & 3 rd Wed	10.00	Buck Centre
Music Pleasure 2	David Angrave	01280 816453	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	2.00-4.00	Cote Barn at Woolpack
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 Reading	Betty Stubbs	01280 850630	3 rd Thurs	2.30	House
Poetry Writing	Carolina Kenealy	01280 815636	2 nd & 4 th Mon	1.30-3.30	Brooks Court
Russian	Roy Walker	01280 812836	1 st & 3 rd Mon	10.00-12.00	House
Scrabble	Rosalie Stein	01280 814373	Tue	2.00-4.00	Buck Centre
Short Mat Bowls	Don Horne or Peter Dungate	01280 813587 01280 822163	2 nd & 4 th Fri	10.00-12.00	M.M. Village Hall
Singing for Fun	Jane Walker	01280 813382	2 nd & 4 th Thur	2.30	Parish Church

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

GROUP DIRECTORY: Buckingham Centre (Library), Maids Moreton (MM) Village Hall (continued)					
Activity	Co-ordinator	Telephone	Weekday	Time	Venue
Spanish Beginners 1	Pat Walton	01280 814668	Tue	2.30	House
Spanish Int. 1	Noel Stacey	01280 821825	Tue	10.15	House
Square Dancing	Susie Kelly	01280 816940	2 nd & 4 th Mon	1.30-3.30	Cote Barn at Woolpack
Strollers	Lesley Suggate	01280 812195	Ask Co-ord	10.00	Swan Statue Car Park
Yoga	Gwyneth Jebson	01296 715674	Tue	10.00-11.30	University Studio

WEEKLY TIMETABLE

DAYS	FIRST WEEK		SECOND WEEK	
	AM	PM	AM	PM
MON	Bridge – Contract Bridge – Beginners Creative Writing Exploring the Past Russian	Bridge – Improvers Painting	Bridge – Contract Bridge – Beginners	Bridge – Improvers Square Dancing Poetry Writing
TUE	Bridge – Tuition Family History Spanish Intermediate 1 Yoga	Gardening Scrabble Spanish Beginners 1	Bridge – Tuition Philosophy Spanish Intermediate 1 Yoga	Italian Scrabble Spanish Beginners 1
WED	French Lunch 1 Mah Jong	Music for Pleasure 2	French Advanced 1 French Advanced 2 French Intermediate German Local History 1	
THUR	Local History 2		Crafts & Card Making	Singing for Fun Art Appreciation 1
FRI	Handbells Art Appreciation 2 German – Diskussionsgruppe	Croquet French Beginners	Handbells Local History 3 Short Mat Bowls	Croquet French Beginners Cribbage Jazz Appreciation 2
DAYS	THIRD WEEK		FOURTH WEEK	
MON	Bridge – Contract Bridge – Beginners Creative Writing Russian	Bridge – Improvers Painting	Bridge – Contract Bridge – Beginners	Bridge – Improvers Square Dancing Poetry Writing
TUE	Bridge – Tuition Family History Spanish Intermediate 1 Yoga	Flower Arranging Scrabble Spanish Beginners 1	Bridge – Tuition Spanish Intermediate 1 Philosophy Yoga	Italian Scrabble Spanish Beginners 1 Play Reading
WED	French Lunch 2 Mah Jong Folk Dancing		French Advanced 1 French Advanced 2 French Intermediate German Local History 1	OPEN MEETING
THUR	Local History 2	Friendship Group Poetry	Crafts & Card Making	Art Appreciation 1 Book Singing for Fun
FRI	Handbells Jazz Appreciation 1 Art Appreciation 2 German – Diskussionsgruppe	Croquet French Beginners	Handbells Local History 3 Short Mat Bowls	Croquet French Beginners Cribbage



GROUP LIAISON MATTERS



Hello to those of you who have missed the last couple of monthly meetings and have not heard that a new role of Group Liaison Officer has been set up for our U3A. The purpose of this role is partly to act as a link between existing Group Co-ordinators and the Committee and also to help those members who would like to see the set-up of a new interest group, achieve their aim. It is the second of these roles that I want to concentrate on here.

In May, a member asked me if there would be any interest in a Latin for Beginners Group. At the June meeting I announced the idea and put up a list for interested people to sign. Three people added their names and, in the following week, two more phoned me to say they were interested. Six is enough to start a group but still leaves room for others. I hope that by the time of the October meeting (the AGM), we will be able to have a definite time and place for this group to start. If anyone else is interested in being in at the start of this exciting venture, please contact me.

Latin is not the only idea for a new group that has been suggested to me. Do you like good classic films? Would you enjoy sharing your viewing with others? Derrick Olliffe is keen to start a "film club". This could be watching films with a small group in some-one's home or in a larger venue if numbers required that. Possibly group visits to a cinema on occasions could be arranged at times. If film appreciation appeals to you, please let me know and I will arrange a contact with Derrick.

The third suggestion I received was for a Tai Chi group. I think for this we would need a qualified or experienced Tai Chi person. Do you know anyone who may be willing and able to lead such a group? I feel sure that this would be a popular activity.

Group Liaison Matters is not just about starting new groups. For many years we have had a successful Music for Pleasure group, in fact, so successful that a second group had to be formed. Sadly, the number of members of the original group has declined to about 2/3 while the second group is so full that it has had to turn away prospective members. So it would seem that there are people who like the idea of meeting together to listen and discuss music of all types, but think there is no opportunity. Think again! If you would like to be part of a new Music for Pleasure group, let me know and I will put your names together. Better still, come to the October meeting and sign up on the list that will be available.

Finally, for this rather overlong introduction to the newly-created role of Group Liaison Officer, may I please ask existing Group Co-ordinators to let me know if they are having to turn prospective members away, so that I can see if a second (or third) group could be formed. Contact details of disappointed would-be members would be useful. Similarly, if you have found difficulty in joining a group, let me know. If anyone out there has a skill, talent or experience that they would be willing to pass on to others, I would be pleased to hear from you as well.

Val Bradley Tel: 01280 817746 valmbradley@btinternet.com

Introduction to Duplicate Bridge

It is planned to start a 5th Bridge group within our U3A. This will start with three introductory lessons on the 5th, 12th & 19th October at the Maids Moreton village hall from 10am to 12 noon. The three lessons will give an insight to the game of bridge and allow people to make up their minds if the game is for them. Also for me to decide if they are capable of playing the game. If sufficient members are interested after the introduction period then a new group will be formed. To book a place or for further information please ring me, Peter Holman, on 01280 822611.

A Date for U3A Bridge Players

The 6th playing of the Buckingham & District U3A Duplicate Bridge Cup will be played on Sunday 27th November, 1.45pm at Maids Moreton Village hall. Further details and entry forms will be available in September.

Mah Jong

The group has been playing this fascinating game for the last 18 months. We meet every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. So far we have never had to cancel a session as we always have a good turn out of Ladies and Gentlemen to put the World to right, enjoy a good laugh and of course play an enjoyable game of Mah Jong. Marilyn Day

French Trip – Square Dancers



U3A Gala de Dance

Eleven people, three from outside, but eight Square Dancers from Buckingham, all members of the U3A, were privileged to be invited to our twin town of Mouvaux, near Lille, for the weekend of May 20-22nd 2011. We journeyed there by Eurostar which we found remarkably smooth and easy, much less hassle than an airport. We were greeted at the Town Hall with coffee and cakes when we arrived and then taken to the Theatre for a rehearsal and a picnic supper.

We were to participate in a Gala de Dance to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of dance section of The Jean d'Arc Association of Sports and Culture. We were hosted by members of both the Twinning and the Dance Associations. Valerie Shaw, who is the Secretary of the Buckingham Twinning Association, had organised everything as well as dancing in our “show”.

The theme of the Gala was “Stamps” and our contribution included the music of four songs referring to love letters. The technical side of presenting the music and having to show ourselves from one side only on a stage, was unnerving, but our two performances, one on the Saturday evening and the second on Sunday afternoon, received rapturous applause, with cheers and stamping feet. The audience was very kind and welcoming to our group and enthusiastically joined in the singing of the last song with which they were familiar.

Our five hosts gave us a home-cooked lunch on both days and comfortable beds and breakfasts. Other people were roped in to help transport us around and also to give us a guided tour of the old part of Lille. They were brilliant hosts and forgot nothing, we even had our own lockable dressing room at the theatre. We did not have to spend any money once we had arrived. We were all made to feel like Stars and even got an article and photo in the *Nord Eclair* newspaper on the following Tuesday. Vive la Town Twinning!

Susie Kelly U3A Square Dancers

Folk Dancing

After our demo at last year’s party I had hoped more members would come along and see what a lovely friendly group we are. We still continue to meet on the third Wednesday in the month but we are going to try and make our venue at The Woolpack from 21st September 10.30-2.30 so do pop in. I have a selection of dances from all over Europe as well as English and Scottish, most of them are very simple and you do not need a partner. Recently I have given them a little warm up movement to music before we dance, so apart from the chatting over coffee and biscuits two hours flies by.

Vera Moyle-Maton



Handbells



Since our last report we have practised hard for our summer engagements – and had some fun too! We played at a church event in June at Shalstone where we encouraged onlookers to 'have a go', and at the Buckingham Canal Society event in July at Cosgrove where Bryan Weston-Thomas came to check what we get up to. The weather was kind and both events were very enjoyable. We had a break in August during which time small repairs were carried out on a couple of bells and we start to ring again this month. If anyone is interested in joining us please don't be shy – come and 'have a go'.
Derek Smith 01280 813946

Strollers

This summer has seen us out and about almost every week although we have probably had to cancel or quickly re-schedule more walks this summer than we have ever done before. However the Group continues to flourish and in July we revisited Stoke Bruerne. This is one of our favourite walks as it is quite flat and there is always something happening on the canal to keep us amused. This time we walked left from the Museum along as far as the road but the traffic was so heavy, we crossed over to the other side of the canal and walked back again. At this point, we suddenly realised we had two groups, one that could cross lock gate bridges and one that couldn't! When we reached the main lock area again, we decided to walk up to the Blisworth Tunnel and finally, coffee. Cath had us amused with her bunch of extremely prickly thistles, which, we have been informed, are for flower arranging. This group is for you if you like gentle walking and good exercise for the jaw bone!

Lesley Suggate



Over the lock gates

Art Appreciation

Since April we have continued to attract more new members to Group 2 and attendance at both groups has been consistent. Our proposed trip to the V&A on 26th June to see *The Cult of Beauty (The Aesthetic Movement)* had to be cancelled at the last minute as there was no available driver for the Winslow Community Bus but, undeterred, some members from Group 1 made their own way there! As we go to press, we are due to visit the *Poussin and Twombly – Painters of Arcadia* Exhibition at the Dulwich on 23rd August; two artists we have recently studied. Of interest, there are current exhibitions of *Stanley Spencer and the English Garden* and the work of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown at Compton Verney until 2nd October, which I can personally recommend.

Pam Tonge

Outdoor Group

In May of this year, the Outdoor Group completed its "Walk around Milton Keynes' Boundary", a total of between 35-40 miles, which we split into eight walks over almost two years. Not only did we walk around the very edges of Milton Keynes but we used buses to get to and from the start and finish of each walk. Both the routes walked and the bus journeys introduced us to parts of MK most of us had never seen. This was quite a complicated venture to organise, as we did not want to waste too much time waiting for buses, and, of course, each walk had to end near to a suitable eating place. We were not disappointed in either aspect. Milton Keynes does have a remarkable bus service, all-being sometimes on rather old and shaky buses.



We never had to wait longer than 20 minutes for a bus, drivers were always friendly and the buses appeared to be well used in whichever estates we were driven through. One word of warning: the MK bus timetable is printed twice a year, in April and October. There are very few changes but we did get caught out once. A walk planned for March was "rained off" and when we tried again in June, the expected bus did not turn up and we had to walk for another 10 minutes to Bletchley bus station. The bus we had wanted turned up there but, on enquiry, the driver said the route had been changed in April, as he cheerfully handed me a free copy of the new timetable.

As for the "suitable eating places", well, we have never been disappointed. From good basic food at very reasonable prices to the occasional exceptional food at a little over the average price, you name the area and we can recommend a pub.

As for the walks themselves, that is another story for another day. Milton Keynes is so well endowed for walking and boots are unnecessary. Quiet areas, historical sites, fine housing, almost rural settings and well landscaped commercial parks, we saw them all. If this has wetted your appetite for joining us, just contact me for more details on our programme.

Val Bradley Tel: 01280 817746

Polyglot Luncheon Party

On Wednesday 13th July over 50 members of the various Buckingham and District U3A language groups assembled at Maids Moreton Village Hall to have lunch and fun together. There was a wide and very tasty selection of European savoury and pudding dishes provided by all the groups, so that everyone was able to find food and drink to their taste. After lunch each group provided an entertainment in their language of study. The French groups (French Beginners, Intermediate, Advanced 1 and 2, French Lunch 1 and 2) variously sang the "La Marseillaise", Jo Dassin's "Champs Elysees", enacted poems including Jack and Jill, and involved the audience in the "Qui suis-je?" (who am I?) game. The German groups (German and German Conversation) sang rousing German songs accompanied by Cyril Cox on the keyboard. The Spanish Intermediate group performed to a commentary "Three Little Pigs".



The Russian group sang "Kalinka" with Graham Bove on the keyboard, which had been preceded by the sad, but very moral Soviet tale of the kind-hearted peasant and the unfortunate little bird. A Scottish member read Robert Burns' "To a mouse" with an accompanying translation on boards which one assistant managed to mix up to much amusement. The whole very enjoyable afternoon concluded with all joining in a raucous rendering of "My Darling Clementine" with verses in French, German, Spanish and Russian. Our sincere thanks go to Valerie Shaw for masterminding and compering the event. We look forward to next time, when there could be a Latin group in attendance and perhaps the opportunity to revise in a chant our Latin verbs; amo amas amat; amabo amabis, amabit; amavi amavisti etc.

Report by Nigel Read (Russian Group).

Local History – Group 2



Thunderbirds are Go

We are now over halfway through our programme for 2011 and so far things have gone to plan; we have been fortunate with the weather on our outings and our speakers have all presented us with an interesting and inspiring range of historical information about Buckingham and its environs. The group can now claim to be more knowledgeable about the Drovers who passed through Buckingham, The Old Gaol, English Churches and Milton Keynes. Professor Clarke, from the University of Buckingham, made us more aware of the growth of Buckingham and Brackley and why they fared so differently through the ages and one of our members fascinated us with a talk on the types of theatre which residents of Buckingham would have enjoyed through the Middle Ages to Elizabethan times – we even acted out some of the roles ourselves. Our visits have led us a little further afield than Buckingham itself and again we have been very lucky at being taken around by guides who evidently have a passion for their subject. Two of our guided walks were led by U3A members; Linda Shimer took us around Winslow and Lilian McDonald pointed out the history of Olney, particularly its links to the Olney hymn writers Cowper and Newton. The group was very lucky to visit RAF Halton which included a tour of the Rothschild Mansion, which was recently used for the filming of *The King's Speech*, and the aircraft museum. We also enjoyed a tour of Disraeli's home at Hughenden Manor and saw why Hitler made it one of his main targets during the war. At the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre at Quainton we were taught the skills of sorting the post on the overnight postal train as well as being able to view Churchill and Eisenhower's carriage from which they directed operations during World War II. We hope that our good luck with the weather continues for the remainder of the year especially for our trip to the Hook Norton Brewery in November where I know some members will be hoping to enjoy free samples of the local brew.
Jean Churchill-Coleman

German Diskussionsgruppe



Our July holiday, booked with a German travel firm and spent in the company of German travellers, presented us with a marvellous opportunity to practise our language skills and get to know a new part of the country at the same time. Prior to the holiday we spent a few days in Berlin, a city full of interesting places to visit and one which has changed a great dramatically over the past 25 years. This was also where we eventually joined the coach to Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, a federal state which lies to the north of the capital and borders on the Baltic coast. We stayed in the small town of Neubrandenburg, still surrounded by its walls and ramparts and four very striking town gates. Included excursions took us into the countryside and an attractive area known as the Mecklenburgische Seenplatte where there are over one hundred lakes. We had a boat trip on one of them, the Müritzer See, the second largest in Germany after Lake Constance. Another excursion took us to Poland and the seventh largest city in that country, Stettin (Szczecin), where a delightful local guide gave us an excellent tour. Finally, on our free days, the Buckingham contingent caught the train to the old Hanseatic city of Stralsund and the pretty university town of Greifswald, home of the romantic German artist, Caspar David Friedrich. The whole expedition proved to be relatively inexpensive,

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

and our objectives in undertaking it were successfully achieved. Next year we face the promising prospect of a private tour in Bavaria.

The German Diskussionsgruppe meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month, speaks only German and discusses a variety of topical themes. We also read about Germany and the Germans from our source book "45 Stunden Deutschland", which helps to inform us about German institutions, history and social organisations. We also relax on occasional DVD evenings to watch a German film. We would welcome any German speakers who might wish to join us.

Roy Walker

Facebook – Help

Do you regularly use **Facebook** and know how to set it up and use 'the Wall' etc? I have had a query from someone wanting to use this and I don't have a clue.

Lesley Suggate – l.suggate@btopenworld.com

Introducing Lynne Maddocks, AVDC's Community Engagement Officer who is starting to work in the Buckingham local area focusing on older people.

Her work has 3 aims:

1. To identify older people accessing no support services at all.
2. To increase the information available to older people; ensuring that the information is timely, appropriate and targeted.
3. To support the community and voluntary sector in the area to develop further and strengthen the services they can provide.

Lynne would like to hear from any of our members who volunteer to run or help at a service for older people in Buckingham or the surrounding villages. These services might be lunch clubs, day care, social groups, village car schemes, bingo etc.

If you share your email address with Lynne she will then be able to send you a range of information that will be relevant to the older people that you serve, which you can pass on as appropriate. She is also seeking input from you as to what the needs are in the Buckingham area, what would work well to meet the project aims and how she might help you.

To contact Lynne either phone 01296 585364 or email lmaddocks@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

Did you know that members of The U3A can get Computer Software and Hardware at a discount?

The Trust can get **software** with an educational discount, so check with [The National Office](#) before purchasing upgrades or programmes. **If you want Microsoft products see below.**

The logo for Software4Students, featuring the text "Software4Students" in white on a blue rectangular background.

[Software4Students](#). If you want a **Microsoft** product and are happy to order online you will get it considerably cheaper. You can purchase the software naming **Buckingham as an Educational Charity**. You can also get **Kaspersky** at reduced rates but you may still find it cheaper from other sources, when it is on offer. However, **do not buy Adobe products** as you need to provide valid current student ID.

A Trip Back to the Past and into the Future – Fact or Fiction?

In June, Geoff and I went to London to do some family history research but found that we had entered into a strange dark place!

On arriving at our Hotel (Docklands), we entered through a barrier arm and into a security area we had not seen the like of before. Hardly any people, (apart from in our hotel). Buildings going up to the sky, but seemingly uninhabited by humans. Buildings full of lighted rooms, but also full of machines – computers, servers or



what? Other buildings that had no windows, just walls that looked like metal – what was in them? There was a pleasant little canal or drill with little bridges but not for cars, just for pedestrians who obviously are only allowed out at 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. A strange place.

Things got weirder as we started to investigate our surroundings and went onto the DLR (Docklands Light Railways) and there were trains, or at least carriages – no engines and no drivers. Everything was automatic and when we got into the trains, for that is what they were, bodiless voices told us where to go and when to alight. In the carriages, the people were stranger still. They had all lost the use of their left hands!! (Sometimes right hands, but mainly

left.) These hands were gripped around little oblong boxes, some had wires attached to them that went to their ears. These little boxes made noises and made their humans react. Then the humans, used their voices but not in a tongue that you or I would know. They sounded like they had come from some outer planet like you would find in ‘Dr. Who’. Once these little boxes made a noise, they seemed to take over the people, making them raise their voices and tell the world something, but I know not what, as I did not understand them. As we were planning to visit old family homes, we went to various places, Shoreditch, Hackney, Bethnal Green and Brick Lane.

Our first stop was in Bethnal Green to photograph the homes where my parents had lived as single people. This was very pleasant and the strangeness disappeared for a while. The houses were still there and had been beautifully kept up or restored. But then – we had a drink in a little café – there were lots of cafs – there was one on each corner of this cross road. Whilst I drunk my tea (Geoff had a smoothie) there was a couple sitting next to us who appeared to be lovers (or in the old fashion sense – courting!). Their gestures were loving, touching and very caring, but the conversation was about buying the right size of bike! Yes, I understood this couple!

We moved on to Brick Lane and found a very narrow road full of Indian restaurants and take-aways – again the language (and signage) was different and we felt as if we had come back from the 21st century to the 19th. Off Brick Lane is Princelet Street, formerly Princes Street. We had come to look at the style of houses that were once owned by rich weaver merchants and their workers. Some are in great condition and some have their, apparently original, large glass windows.

Finally at the end of our stay, we went to Canary Wharf – once again a feeling of change of Century. Beautiful new buildings, shopping arcades and converted warehouses. Lots of restaurants and coffee bars and a great feeling of wealth and happiness and also of safety.

If the story of our visit to London sounds odd with the changing feelings, you should try to trace your past and see how it feels also to come into touch with the (possible) future!!

Lesley Suggate

Travel & Outings

Reflecting on what we have done since the last newsletter we seem to have been quite busy, which is good. First of all my regrets on having to cancel the holidays to Ironbridge and Tenby. I thought they would be places of interest. I was wrong. If you have any ideas on what you think would make a good holiday please let me know. We had a great time on our Egyptian cruise. It was lucky for us, but unfortunate for the Egyptian tourist trade, that there weren't many tourists due to the unrest.

There are still places for Thursford – don't miss a great show and an enjoyable few days in Norfolk. Next year Jane Brown is offering a holiday in Ireland, never having been there Alan and I hope to go. I am hoping that quite a few people will be interested in a Danube cruise next October. It is different from most Danube cruises in as much as we start from Budapest and go down to Bucharest. I know it is a long way off but, at the moment, we are able to get upgrades from regular twins to de luxe cabins. I don't know how long that will last.

We did not have too many people on our day at the National Memorial Arboretum but those who went thoroughly enjoyed it. It is in a lovely setting as well as being a very moving experience.

We had a good day at the Hampton Court Flower Show, just the odd cloud burst, which Jennie Newcombe and I managed to avoid by being in a marquee each time. I hope that applied to everyone else! It was a great day and the only drawback was the traffic, which was pretty bad, particularly on the return journey; however, this is a common occurrence so it came as no surprise.

Our visit to Baddesley Clinton and Packwood House was a great success, says she flattering herself. By the time you read this we will have been on our London Walk with a Blue Badge Guide doing the guiding, which will be a relief to all participants!

I am afraid that the Knole trip is fully booked, which serves as a warning for next year's programme – book early. This also applies to the Milton Keynes shows, which leads me to another request, and that is when booking for anything will you please pay because, if there is great interest, it will have to be on a first come first served basis. Speaking of shows – don't forget our bi-annual visit to the Royal Albert Hall for the Christmas Carol Sing Along. It is always great fun and we do enjoy soaking up the Christmas atmosphere at Convent Garden and also getting a glimpse of the Christmas Lights. This serves as a lovely start to Christmas. The updated list of events is attached in this newsletter. However, I cannot keep up with the new shows on offer at Milton Keynes, so please bear with me when I have to produce a more updated list from time to time.

Beryl Carr

See 'Events' list on following page.

BUCKINGHAM AND DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

Events 2011/2012

Event	Date	Cost	Pay By
Three Days in May M.K.T.	5 th October	£12.50	July
South Pacific M.K.T.	19 th October	£25.00	Fully booked
Madness of King George	26 th October	£15.00	September
Slava's Snowshow M.K.T.	3 rd November	£10.00	September
English National Ballet Strictly Gershwin M.K.T.	17 th November	£17.50	Fully booked
Scrooge M.K.T.	23 rd or 24 th Nov	£15.00	October
Henry V (Modern & different) M.K.T.	30 th November	£15.00	October
Thursford (4 days)	2 nd December	£305.00	A.S.A.P
Christmas Carol Sing Along at Royal Albert Hall	17 th December	£25.00 +coach	
Aladdin	12 th Jan 6 p.m.	£15.00	September
All the Fun of the Fair	8 th February	£12.50	
Nutcracker M.K.T.	18 th February	£19.00	December
Possible London Show – if the price is right!			
Olympic Tour	30 th March	£40.00 inc coach	Fully booked
Last Night of the Proms ? Birmingham	March		
Kirby Hall E.H. & Applethorpe	April	T.B.A.	
St. Paul's Cathedral	May	T.B.A.	
Sister Act M.K.T.	20 th June	£22.00	
Irish Holiday. Visit beautiful County Wicklow, Suir river cruise, Dublic City and Irish Stud. For full itinerary see web site www.buckinghamu3a.org.uk	1 st July 2012	£405.00	Contact Jane for this holiday on 01296 730972

N.B. Payment for any event is by cheque only

N.T. = National Trust free to N.T. members: E.H. English free
English National Ballet upper circle seats but first two side rows

Price increases after 30th September

Dates and prices might vary due to unforeseen circumstances