



Buckingham & District U3A
Newsletter Number 44 September 2012
Registered Charity No.1071631
Web Address: www.buckinghamu3a.org.uk

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 note below the change of date October meeting date to 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Date	Topic & Speaker	Tea Rota
17 th Oct	AGM	Handbells 1 & 2
28 th Nov	Betty Page A comic monologue using hats	Italian Groups
19 th Dec	Christmas Social	Committee
23 rd Jan 2013	Zackary Taylor The Guitar revealed plus demonstrations of the period from 16 th century until today	Jazz Appreciation Groups
27 th Feb 2013	Bernard Lockett The Music of Gilbert and Sullivan	Latin
27 th Mar 2013	Jane Sheeham Reflectology – The art of foot reading	Local History 1 & 2
24 th April 2013	James Caster Queen Victoria	Local History 3 and Mah Jong

CHANGES TO MONTHLY STALLS

The Committee has agreed that after September this year we will no longer be holding our monthly stalls. Therefore the stall in September will be the last one and that is Jams, Cakes and Pickles. Group Displays will take place as usual at the AGM.

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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please would all members note that subscriptions are due at the beginning of October. You can pay either by Standing Order or by cheque/cash. Payment can be made at the Monthly Open Meeting or by sending a cheque to our Membership Secretary, George Walker, whose address is on page 3 of this newsletter. If you opt to pay by Standing Order this is of great help to our Treasurer. Please complete the Standing Order form which you will find enclosed with this newsletter and take to your bank before the end of September. A Membership Form is also enclosed. If you have not already filled in a Gift Aid Declaration please think about filling in that section.

Next Newsletter

Please note the deadline for articles for the next Newsletter issue No. 45 is **Friday 16th November 2012**. Email to sheilaeditor@hotmail.co.uk or post to: Sheila Dalzell, 18 Partridge Close, Buckingham MK18 7HH.

Distribution of Newsletter

For information this Newsletter comes out 3 times a year, April, September and December. Some members have theirs by email. At present myself, along with helpers deliver Page Hill, Badgers, Linden Village, down the Bourton Road, off Bourton Road and Winslow. Another helper has come forward for Moreton Road and area. Bridge Groups on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning are also hand delivered. This distribution is usually a week or so prior to the April, September and December monthly meetings. Any left are taken to the meetings and the remainder posted.

Your Editor



Chairman's notes No 44

This is my last submission to the Newsletter as chairman. The constitution states that I have to stand down after three years. In my opinion it is a good rule and I would not want to change it. I have enjoyed the three years and I have been very well supported by all the committee. A special thanks to George Walker who will be standing down in the near future after six years as Membership Secretary. I would also like to thank Margaret Elliott who is also standing down. Margaret has done an excellent job in organising the tea rotas and the charity stall for the past few years.

I thank you all for giving me the opportunity to fulfil this role and the encouragement you have given me during this period. I wish the new chairman and the new committee all the best for 2012/2013 and I am confident that I will be leaving the organisation in very good hands. I am also very grateful to the 50 plus GCs who put in a lot of work and preparation to make their groups the successes they are. Their cooperation is essential in maintaining the Buckingham and District U3A network. I am very pleased with the achievements of the committee over the last three years. The committee has introduced the e-newsletter, the Group Liaison Officer, the GCs email network, which is capable of getting in touch with an estimated 80% of the members, produced a DVD, the direct delivery of the U3A national magazine and introduced the concept of "shadows" for each member of the committee. At the time of writing there are vacancies for shadows for some key positions. If you want to be part of this exciting Buckingham and District U3A branch and do your bit, put your name forward to be a shadow or a committee member and be part of the team. You will not regret it. Also during this period eleven new groups have started and are flourishing.

The Midsummer Social

About 160 attended the social on Wednesday 25th July. Once again I had some very positive feedback from members. On arrival everybody was offered a glass of Pimms followed by an excellent buffet supplied and served by our catering committee. Once again Villiers donated a Sunday Lunch voucher for two people. This was raffled and along with the Tombola raised over £250 for the Citizens' Advice Bureau and Project Street Life. The Sunday lunch was won by Barbara Hehir.

E-newsletter

If you received the Newsletter through the post have you considered getting it delivered electronically? We now have 21% of the membership receiving the Newsletter electronically. The electronic version is colourful; it can be stored on your PC and referred to at any time in the future. The cost of posting the Newsletter ranges between 50p and 69p. The cost via the internet is free. Receiving the Newsletter through the internet would represent savings in postage, peoplepower and paper. Please give this your consideration. Give your name and email address to the membership secretary.

The minutes from the monthly committee meetings

It is the right of every member to be able to see the minutes of the monthly committee meetings. If you want to exercise this right, please email the chairman requesting the minutes. They will then be forwarded by email.

Sources for Older People

Aylesbury Vale District Council has produced a 51 page document titled: **Sources for Older People**. It is a very useful document with information about a variety of subjects which could be of assistance in times of emergency. If you want a copy please email Lynne Maddocks on lmaddocks@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk or if you email pbwt@btinternet.com asking for a copy I will forward the 51 page document to you.

Charity Fundraising

The Committee has decided not to continue with our monthly charity. However I will be running a quiz again this Christmas. If someone would like to nominate a local charity for this event I will be happy to send the proceeds to them, if not they will go to The Leprosy Mission, one of the charities that I support.

Dusty Roades dusty.roades@yahoo.com

Coffee Morning for New Members

The next coffee morning will be held on **Thursday 4th October 2012 at The Buckingham Garden Centre restaurant** at 10.15 a.m. 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



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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
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Secretary/ Group Liaison Officer	Val Bradley Cosy Nook Mount Pleasant Close Buckingham MK18 1DN	01280 817746 valmbradley@btinternet.com
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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
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Newsletter Editor	Sheila Dalzell 18 Partridge Close Buckingham MK18 7HH	01280 817747 sheilaeditor@hotmail.co.uk

BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

GROUP DIRECTORY: Buckingham Centre (Library), Maids Moreton (MM) Village Hall

Activity	Co-ordinator	Telephone	Weekday	Time	Venue
Architecture	Peter Bowtell	01280 815946	2 nd Thur	10.00-12.00	Buck Centre
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 1	Russell Tobin	01280 817918	Mon	2.00-4.00	M.M. Village Hall
Bridge Improvers 2	Nick Steadman	01280 847980	Mon	10.00-12.00	M.M. Village Hall
Bridge Beginners	Peter Holman	01280 822611	Wed	10.00-12.00	M.M. Village Hall
Bridge (Rubber)	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
Canasta	Gina Crouch	01280 820924	1 st Wed 2 nd Wed	2.00-4.00 10.00-12.00	M.M. Village Hall Bucks Centre
Computing (Intro)	Geoff Suggate	01280 812195	Ask Co-ord		
Crafts & Card Making	Anne Liddle	01280 823565	2 nd & 4 th Thurs	10.00-12.00	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	Anne Liddle	01280 823565	Fri	2.00	Cricket Pitch
Digital Photography	Peter Cammas	01280 815279	3 rd Thurs	2.00-4.00	Bucks Centre
Exploring the Past	Linda Shiner	01296 711068	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
Film Study	Clive Cowdy	01280 824274	2 nd Friday	10.00-12.00	House
Family History	Jenni Burke	01280 816546	1 st & 3 rd Tue	09.45	Buck Centre
Folk Dancing	Vera Moyle-Maton	01280 813719	3 rd Wed	10.30	Cote Barn at Woolpack
French Advanced 1	Steven Thompson	01290 814051	2 nd & 4 th Wed	10.00-12.00	House
French Advanced 2	Buddy Jell		2 nd & 4 th Wed	10.00-12.00	House
French Intermediate 1	Judy Austin	01280 814864	Alternate Wed	10.30	House
French Improvers	Ginny Booth	01280 813802	Fridays	2.00	House
French Lunch 1	John Murray	01280 813792	1 st Wed	12.30	House
French Lunch 2	T.B.A.	T.B.A.	1 st 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 Beginners	Peter Cammas	01280 815279	3 rd Tue	2.00-4.00	House
Italian Group 1	Linda Shiner	01296 711068	2 nd & 4 th Tue	2.00-4.00	House
Jazz Appreciation 1	Bryan Weston-Thomas	01280 813664	3 rd Fri	10.00-12.00	House
Jazz Appreciation 2	Russell Tobin	01280 817918	2 nd Fri	2.30-4.30	House
Latin	Carolina Kenealy	01280 815636	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 5 th Wed	2.00-3.30	Council Chamber, Community Centre
Local History 1	Peter Bowtell	01280 815946	1 st & 3 rd Thurs	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 for Pleasure 1	Rodney Blackall	01280 823269	1 st Tues	10.30-12.00	House
Music Pleasure 2	David Angrave	01280 816453	1 st Wed	2.00-4.00	House

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Activity	Co-ordinator	Telephone	Weekday	Time	Venue
Outdoor	Judy Cooper Rosemary Palastanga	01604 832727 01280 812308	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	Dusty Roades	01327 351670	2 nd & 4 th Mon	1.30-3.30	Brooks Court
Russian	Roy Walker	01280 812836	2 nd & 4 th Fri	10.00-12.00	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	Parish Church
Spanish Beginners 1	Pat Walton	01280 814668	Tue	2.30	House
Spanish Revision	Noel Stacey	01280 821825	Tue	2.00	House
Square Dancing	Susie Kelly	01280 816940	2 nd & 4 th Mon	1.30-3.30	Football Club
Strollers	Lesley Suggate	01280 812195	Ask Co-ord	10.00	Swan Statue by Car Park
Wild Life	Margaret Hazel Peter Swift	01280 704035 01280 700210	4 th Tuesday	10.00	Stratford Road Lay-by
Yoga	Gwyneth Jebson	01296 715674	Tue	10.00-11.30	University Studio



GROUP LIAISON MATTERS



Since the last report, two new groups have been started. They are Architecture and Film Study. The co-ordinators for these groups will be in the Group Directory, if you wish to know more about what these groups offer.

A new Recorder Group is almost ready to start. At present there are 7/8 really keen members, but, ideally, the group would like to have a minimum of 10. If you can, or have ever, played a recorder, and would be interested in playing with others, then give Siobhan a call on 01296 715023, or you can email her at csaanddja@btinternet.com She would be very pleased to hear from you.

It appears that learning and speaking French is very popular amongst our members as we have six groups at present. French Lunch 2 however, needs some new blood, as they have lost a few members lately. If you enjoy good food in pleasant company, plus would like the chance to practise your French, then this is the group for you. If you are interested in finding out more, then contact me as the Group is in the process of choosing a new co-ordinator.

On the same topic, the French Beginners have now progressed to become French Improver. This leaves the way clear for a new French Beginners Group, if enough people are interested to form such a group. Again, contact me for more details. The French Intermediate Group has, I believe, room for a few more members. If you are interested and wish to know the level of French they are at, then contact the co-ordinator, Judy Austin.

Notices and information about new groups are always available at the Monthly meetings, plus a chance to sign up for more information, but I realise that not everyone can come to all meetings. If you would like to see a particular new interest group start up, then do contact me. Similarly, if you have an interest or talent you would like to share, then begin with me.

Finally, I have free U3A diaries for all Group Co-ordinators, which will be available at the September and October meetings. If you would like one but cannot attend either of those meetings, please ask someone to collect one on your behalf. Any not wanted will be offered for sale in November. The AGM in October gives groups a chance to display what they do. If you wish to have a table for display, I need to know a.s.a.p., so I can make the necessary bookings.

Val Bradley (Group Liaison Officer) 01280 817746 valmbradley@btinternet.com

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WEEKLY TIMETABLE

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

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THEATRE & TRAVEL

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

Events can be booked either at the monthly meeting or by telephone to Beryl Carr on 01280 823808.

Event	Date / Time	Cost	Pay By
Rough Justice M.K.T.	19 th September	£13.00	
The Mousetrap M.K.T.	26 th September	£13.00	
Blood Brothers M.K.T.	3rd October	£15.00	
Birmingham Back to Backs & Coughton Court. Both N.T.	19 th October	£15.00	
Phantom of the Opera M.K.T.	8 th November	£43.50	
Holly and Mistletoe Holiday	8 th December	£316.00 p.p.	T.B.A.
Christmas Service at the Guards Chapel London	23 rd December	£14.00	November
2013			
The Ladykillers M.K.T.	24 th January	£15.00	T.B.A.
Sleeping Beauty (Matthew Bourne) M.K.T.	31 st January	£17.50	T.B.A.
Nine to Five M.K.T.	6 th March	£15.00	T.B.A.
Highclere	8 th April	T.B.A.	
Montenegro Holiday	8 th May (8 days)	£627.00 singles £620.00 twins	T.B.A.

N.T. = National Trust free to N.T. members: E.H. English free

M.K.T. = Milton Keynes Theatre

They say time flies when you are having fun. We must be having a great time because when you read this we will be three quarters way through the year. Looking back on what we have done since the last Newsletter, we have been quite busy.

The shows Dancing in the Street and Sister Act were good but a little too loud for my taste. I hope everyone who went to see Dirty Dancing and Steel Magnolias enjoyed them as much as I did. I missed Midnight Tango, yet again, but those who saw thought it was good.

Does anyone remember Alex Guinness in the Ealing comedy The Ladykillers? The play is coming to Milton Keynes in January following a successful season in London. Also in January is Matthew Bourne's version of Sleeping Beauty. The seats are in row A but row A is actually three rows back from the stage so I hope there won't be any cricked necks. The show I look forward to is the Dolly Parton musical Nine to Five. Although it isn't until March the tickets have to be paid for in November.

Going on to forthcoming trips: I decided to add another National Trust trip, as there was a window of opportunity, as they say, in October. So I am offering the chance to see the Back to Backs in Birmingham and then going on to Coughton Court in Warwickshire in time for lunch. This place is not to be confused with Coton Manor in Northamptonshire. Although Birmingham has changed considerably since I lived there I remember visiting a lady in a back to back and the pride taken by the residents in their little front gardens and the cleanliness was very noticeable, even to an eleven year old.

I am looking forward to visiting Portsmouth Historic dockyard for the Victorian weekend in November but at the moment we only have 23 people going. If you want to spend an enjoyable day including a visit from Queen Victoria and an opportunity to see the *Mary Rose* and the Victory sign up as soon as possible. Hopefully there will be plenty of interest for this visit.

I am working on next year's programme and have already encountered a hiccup on the proposed holiday to the Italian Lakes. It appears that the single supplement is much too expensive so I had to consider other options. I had considered Northern Cyprus but the company I was dealing with hasn't been in touch for some months, perhaps it was because I told them that I didn't like the hotel they were proposing. I thought Montenegro sounded interesting so have made a provisional booking with Saga. I have to book early due to the fact that Saga is popular and rooms are quickly snapped up. Of course there are always drawbacks. The main one, as things stand at the moment, means an early start from Buckingham. However, I can arrange a very reasonable rate, with Saga, to stay overnight close to Gatwick. Looking forward to seeing all your smiling faces at the booking table.

Beryl Carr

Architecture Group

Our new group had its first meeting in May and we have now established a programme of regular meetings on the second Thursday of each month (10am to 12 noon). Initially we have been meeting in members' homes, but from 11th October 2012 onwards our venue will be the Mezzanine Meeting Room next to Buckingham Library. Through talks and discussions we are keen to explore all types of architecture, both historic and modern, and between our monthly meetings we are planning a number of trips to look at buildings, starting with Buckingham itself and later to Oxford. We are determined not to treat architecture as a dry academic subject. Buildings affect all aspects of our lives, whether well or badly designed, and everyone has opinions about them which we shall undoubtedly share and debate. For further information about our programme of talks and events do not hesitate to call.



Peter Bowtell 01280 815946

German Discussion Group

Visit to Oettingen, June 2012, four members of the German Discussion group, plus three spouses, enjoyed the good fortune of staying with Roy Walker's friend, Dr Werner Kriele, at the end of June 2012. Some of us attended a performance of 'Cosi fan Tutte' at the Nürnberg Staatsoper. This was followed by a visit to the Burg and the city walls of Nürnberg, the Frauenkirche, the churches of St Seebald & St Lorenz and the remarkable Nazi Documentation Centre, built around the notorious Rally Grounds. Dr Kriele lives in the picturesque town of Oettingen, with its magnificent Baroque Residenz in which we heard a fine Baroque concert. We were also given tours of the Residenz, St James' Church and of the town, the latter by a splendidly attired 'night watchman', and we witnessed the bonfires celebrating the festival day of John the Baptist. We visited the attractive towns of Rothenburg and Nördlingen with their fine churches, Baroque houses and ancient walls, affording splendid views across the undulating Franconian countryside. We visited the spectacular Rococo abbeys at Neresheim and Wemding with their astonishing painted ceilings. We took a beautiful walk through the 'Ries' countryside where Dr Kriele, a geologist, explained how the contours of the land had been created by the impact of a huge meteorite 15 million years ago. The mayor of Aalen showed us round his town and some of us greatly enjoyed relaxing in the warm thermal baths fed by natural springs. We celebrated with the Germans as they beat Greece in the UEFA cup and commiserated when they fell to the Azzuri. Finally, we saw the splendid cathedral at Eichstätt, where we enjoyed hearing the brass band playing at the Domplatz as the town prepared for a festive weekend. Our warmest thanks must go to Dr Werner Kriele and to Roy Walker without whom none of this would have been possible.



Peter Farquhar

French Improvers

We meet weekly on Friday afternoons in members' homes. Last September the Group decided they had progressed sufficiently to change their name to 'French Improvers', thus leaving the opportunity for a new 'Beginners' group to be formed. Currently we have 9 members – 3 having left during the year and 2 having joined – Robin and David, our advisor. We are also fortunate to have Jacques, a native Frenchman, join us sometimes. Our party piece at 'The Polyglot' last summer was to give our rendition of 'Le Marseillaise'. Perhaps we wouldn't win the X Factor, but we had fun! In September we had a very enjoyable Summer lunch at the home of one of our group, with everyone contributing to the delicious buffet. A late Christmas lunch in January was again held at Pierre Victoire in Oxford – the X5 provided free transport. We look forward to another year of enjoyment and some learning.

Merci

Maureen Turner (Acting Co-ordinator)

Beginners Italian

A very slow start and we need more people to maintain the standard. However the language is very lyrical and although we are not up to the romantics of Romeo and Juliet we can at least order a coffee or a meal with confidence and not get lost. Italian has similarities with many languages and whilst it is not recommended – you can almost understand and speak by adding an O to many English words, eg Romantico and you already order cappuccino or eat spaghetti. So why not contact me on 01280 815279 and see if I am correct or only pulling your leg. Ciao

Peter Cammas

Handbells

The Buckingham U3A Handbells Group goes from strength to strength. We have one additional newcomer joining this September, and we have reviewed the membership of the two groups to accommodate the ringers. We are looking forward to some new engagements in the coming months. In July we played at the MK and Buckingham Canal Society's fundraising event – a lovely day on the canalside at Cosgrove where the sun shone. Our playing at the MK boat club this year was hampered due to the rain. New ringers are most welcome, so if you would like to come and 'have a go' on Friday mornings in Gawcott, please get in touch with Derek Smith 01280 813946.

Derek Smith

Strollers

The Strollers Group has struggled with the weather this year. Unlike The Walkers Group, we do not normally walk in wet weather and of course we have had plenty of that this year. Earlier in the year, several walks had to be cancelled and re-arranged as the ground was just too muddy and in places too dangerous. However, the Group has persisted and now that the weather has improved, the numbers are building up again. The Group has managed several walks out of the area, which have been enjoyed by everyone – it is good to see different scenery. We re-instated our 'Chackmore' walk, which we have not been able to do since the changes at Stowe. We normally just wander all over the place, up the road leading to the Triumph Arch but as the traffic now goes up there, we used the path. This was a bit of a mistake as it was very, very muddy and we are not used to getting our shoes dirty! However, we persevered and eventually made our way down to the Bell Gate. This was always our 'turning place' and remains so now as we were ready for our coffee. Having the Restaurant at Stowe was lovely as we could break our journey back to Chackmore. Thanks must go to everyone who arranges our walks. If you would like to join in, we are a very social group and generally have between 4-24 people walking. We do not do hills, stiles or (normally) muddy paths, so the walking, or strolling, is easy and the company and conversation good. Contact Lesley on 01280 812195 or preferably email l.suggate@btopenworld.com

Lesley Suggate

Outdoor Group

After 10 years as co-ordinator Val Bradley has stepped down. She has been a brilliant organiser of our walking programme enabling all members to enjoy varied walks, in the main, weekly. She has also organised other outdoor activities and trips that have given us a wide variety of experiences. We have been persuaded to take over and hope that we can emulate her efficiency and enthusiasm. Thanks very much Val!

Since the last newsletter we have visited some beautiful villages and hamlets, all within easy driving distance and with a good pub for lunch! On July 18th we had a joint walk with Towcester U3A as part of the national U3A project to celebrate the Olympics. The idea was to walk close to water which we did beside Milton Keynes lakes and canal. We also walked IN water as it rained the whole time!! However it was good to meet with another group. Also in July we held an enjoyable midsummer meeting and lunch at Boycott Farm to involve members in the 'hand-over' and to give a small gift of appreciation to Val. The biggest change for the future is that communication, including distribution of the programme, will be by email. We have already found this a quick and easy way to keep members informed. We have welcomed several new members since April and are always pleased to see new faces. We hope that we will be able to maintain the success of this group and if anyone has an interest in our activities or wishes to join us please contact Rosemary, rosiefrombuckingham@hotmail.com or Judy, judy.c@tiscali.co.uk

Rosemary Palastanga and Judy Cooper

Gardening

Despite the awful spring weather members of the Garden Group have had some varied and interesting garden visits. The rain held off just long enough to enjoy the great variety of spring plants in Janet Cropley's garden when we were there in April and several members went away with various samples to pot on. Unfortunately the Head Gardener from Claydon House had to cancel his talk in May so we had an unscheduled visit to Bay Tree Cottage, Farthingstone. After looking around the garden and small nursery we sampled some of Jenny's delicious and unusual cakes in her comfortable kitchen. We look forward to her follow up talk in February. June and we had a very pleasant visit to Steane Park, near Brackley. The head gardener accompanied us around this large diverse garden with church, bog and woodland areas. For once it was actually warm and sunny so we were able to enjoy a cream tea underneath the enormous copper beech. In July members visited the productive plots of Maids Moreton allotments, until the rain came down and we retreated to the shelter of the village hall for a strawberry cream tea. Autumn onwards we revert to indoor meetings until next spring. We have speakers and special interest meetings planned as well as the Christmas social in December. May I remind members to please bring any spare plants for the plant table; proceeds help to raise funds to pay for the speakers. Good gardening!

Vee Sampson

Local History Group 1

We still manage to attract between 15 and 20 members to our fortnightly meetings throughout the year. So far this year we have been entertained by a number of outside speakers covering subjects as diverse as local historic churches, the Silverstone Circuit, a tutor's view of Stowe School and the demon grocer of Brackley. Members of the group have also made contributions, including talks on Buckingham Library, the town's paint factory and recollections of life in the town in earlier times.



In the Spring and Summer months we have been continuing our custom of visits to places of local interest – so far the group has enjoyed trips to the Boarstall Duck Decoy, Brill windmill (beautifully restored), the stunning Norman church at Stewkley and 78 Derngate, Northampton, the work of the famous Scottish architect, Charles Rennie Macintosh. Still to come we have a visit to Wingrave village and more entertainment from a variety of speakers, rounding off the year on November 15th with a social meeting, buffet and quiz.

Peter Bowtell

Local History Group 2

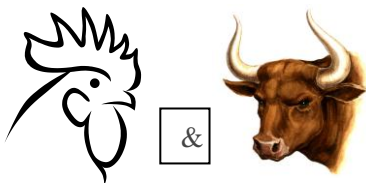
We currently have a membership of 33 who meet every two weeks; sometimes in the Mezzanine Room of the Buckingham Centre and at other times exploring the history round and about Buckingham. Our attendance averages out at about twenty members a meeting. We try to arrange indoor talks for the winter weather and leave the trips out for the warm, dry days of Summer!! This year has been somewhat challenging although we have not had to cancel anything so far. We have been fortunate this year to have been taken round Passenham, Thornborough, Brackley, Thornton College and Padbury by local residents and members of History Societies who have given their time to help bring to life the history of their churches, villages and towns. At Thornton we definitely had proof that there were 'bats in the belfry' as those who were brave enough to climb up into the belfry were treated to a nature lover's delight; seeing bats hanging and flying in there. In June we visited Northampton Museum of Shoes after its recent refurbishment and, following a fascinating talk on the history of shoes, were able to see and handle some of their vast collection. We have also enjoyed two 'Bring and Share' meetings where members have brought along their own antiques and family memorabilia and shared some of their family histories. This proved a good precursor to the Antiques Roadshow at Stowe which we visited as a group as it occurred on a meeting day. Apart from visits we have also had a number of talks; one on Banbury through its Depictions in Art by the curator of Banbury Museum which we followed up with a visit to the museum and lunch in its oldest pub. We learnt of the racy life in Buckingham when Ed Grimdsdale enlightened us about 'Sex in Buckingham' and our knowledge of English Customs was widened by Dusty Roades. Members also learnt about Felicia Skene, the Angel of Oxford, and her work there nursing cholera victims, helping to save 'fallen women' and comforting prisoners in the Gaol. Our programme for the Autumn includes a visit to the Bodleian Library and talks on 'Crossing the Ouse' and 'Life in Mixbury: the Village No-one Wanted' and a pre-Christmas Social. We are always looking out for people to speak on topics related to Buckingham or take us around places local to this area so if anyone can help please get in touch – we will be very grateful.



Jean Churchill-Coleman

Local History Group 3

Topics covered this year ranged from Winslow's 13th century Medieval Courts, through Buckingham in the Civil War, on to the life of a Mixbury Victorian vicar and up to the Queen's Jubilee in the 21st century. We heard about the Old Goal Trust and NADFAS Church Recording of Radclive Church. We gained an insight into the origin of local road names and viewed church architecture. The Story of the *Bucks Advertiser* provided an opportunity to take a peep at old copies of the newspaper and look into earlier lives and concerns of residents as did a big box of letters that had been sent to the Town Council. Out and about we visited Bletchley Park, the Schorne Well at North



Marston and we heard a few Cock and Bull stories as we walked around Stoney Stratford. We are a small friendly group and invite new members to join us. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays at 10.00 at the Bucks Centre. Our thanks go to those U3A members who kindly gave talks this year and we appeal to anyone else (we do not expect lecturers just someone with an interest in their subject) who would give us a talk on ANY topic tenuously linked to Local

History. Being a small group it is difficult to pay speakers a fee but we can offer a donation to a charity of choice.

Glenys Warlow

Poetry Reading

We are a small but enthusiastic group who meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at members' houses in Buckingham. We either study a different poet or theme and are fortunate in having a visiting lecturer about 3 times a year to talk about a specific poet and this year so far that has been Auden, Frost and Spencer. We would very much like our group to expand and if you are interested please ring me.

Betty Stubbs 01280 850630

Poetry Writing Group

Every two weeks we meet
To share our poetic muse
Brooks Court welcomes us
Writing a poem, sharing the news

We are about to publish
A new anthology
Printed on recycled paper
To save the ecology

We are only a few
We would love more
It is all very interesting
Never a bore

Come along
Bring a verse
Better than this
(It can't be worse)

Dusty Roades

Art Appreciation

In April we visited Chiswick House, a fine example of a neo-Palladian villa built in 1729 by the Third Earl of Burlington. Set in beautiful historic gardens which have recently been fully restored, they mark the beginning of the English landscape movement. Lord Burlington used the house to showcase his art collection, which includes statues of Andrea Palladio and Inigo Jones and was inspired by his Grand Tours of Italy.

A number of group members made independent visits to David Hockney at the Royal Academy – a rare chance to see the wonderful body of work of a living artist which was breathtakingly colourful. At the same time but closer at hand, Compton Verney put on an exhibition of French and British painting from Impressionism to the early 1920s which was particularly applicable to Group 1's current studies of the period.

At the end of July we visited the Courtauld Institute in the Strand to see the exhibition of drawings from Mantegna to Matisse. The Winslow bus made good time and was able to use the Olympic lanes as a fast route into and out of London and we had plenty of time to browse through the rest of the Courtauld collection which included many well-known Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings, including Manet's "A Bar at the Folies-Bergere" and "Dejeuner sur L'Herbe", Gauguin's "Nevermore" and Van Gogh's Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear". In September we will be visiting the Royal Pavilion at Brighton.

Pam Tonge

Canasta

The Canasta group started in March this year and meets twice a month. We are a small, friendly group and would welcome new members, whether experienced players or those who are new to the game. Canasta is one of the many games of the Rummy family and is popular all over the world. It is easy to learn and can be extremely exciting, but at the same time its strategy is complex enough to interest serious players, played by 2, 3 or 4 players. In this group we play with 3 or 4 players. At present we play on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month in Maids Moreton Village Hall from 2–4 pm and again on the second Wednesday morning of the month in the Mezzanine Room above the library from 10–12 am. However from the beginning of November we will be playing on the 3rd Wednesday afternoon of the month at Maids Moreton, instead of the first Wednesday afternoon. Why not come along and give Canasta a go!

Gina Crouch

Djgital Photography

We have had a number of indoor meetings, keeping out of the rain trying to master the Camera Instruction books. If only the manufacturers would learn English!! Also we have visited Buckingham and Stowe to take Pictures, the practical being better than the theory. Photography is a wonderful way of preserving memories and avoiding Senior Moments because you have a pictorial proof of being somewhere and seeing a moment of time. Why not join us and keep your memory banks topped up Contact me on 01280 815279

Peter Cammas

Scrabble

“On my way here, I managed to spill my whole scrabble set”

“Really?, so what’s the word on the street?”

Such is the tone of our regular Tuesday afternoon gatherings at the Buckingham Centre (above the Library). In all there are 13 of us (12 women and one very brave man – so far) and we would welcome any additional members, beginners or experienced, so do not hold back if you would like to come, even just for a taster session, a couple of games and a cup of tea. At the moment I am organising the annual Xmas Lunch for members and partners at a local hostelry. So if you are interested in joining us, do contact me.

Rosalie Stein 01280 814373

Jazz Appreciation 1

The past year has been relatively quiet for this group though we continue to meet monthly. There have been some high spots, however, which included an excellent concert given at Padbury by Stowe School Jazz Band, accompanied by a splendid lunch and, of course, plenty of wine. We were lucky enough to have a similar lunch in Ian Smith’s garden in Buckingham, with music provided by an ‘open’ band of seventeen musicians. It was the same band that previously gave a concert at Leighton Buzzard, which was also attended. Ian invited us to hear his trio, which we left reluctantly as they continued to play. After 12 years as Group Co-ordinator I have decided that the time is right for me pass the baton to Bryan Weston-Thomas and I hope he enjoys his time as Co-ordinator as much as I have. I shall, of course, still give my full support to the group.

Derrick Olliff

Blue Badge Holders Beware

My Blue Badge was about to expire recently, so a month in advance of the date, I enquired how to renew. I was sent an application form which had many pages of questions regarding every detail of my medical condition and also asked for a certified photograph. All this took quite a few days to complete but I then posted the form to Aylesbury, first class. From the day I posted the form until receiving a new badge was exactly TEN WEEKS. At various times, I telephoned to ask when I might expect to receive the new card. Initially I was told 5 to 6 weeks but of course this just did not happen. Every time I phoned, I was told ‘next week’. In the meantime my card expired. A few days later, I went to Milton Keynes shopping centre and parked right outside Shopmobility. I displayed the old card and next to a clear notice saying ‘RENEWAL APPLIED FOR’. It had no effect, I received a parking ticket. So, for the next few weeks, I was unable to use Disabled spaces and this became quite distressful for me because sometimes I had to park some distance from where I needed to be.

Don't let it happen to you, start early!

Rosalie Stein

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
Clive Cowdy	01280 824274	Digital Camera; Video Camera
Geoff Kirk	01280 812772	Digital Projector; DVD player (multi region); Projector Stand
Carolina Kenealy	01280 815636	CD Player

*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>