



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.

Date	Topic & Speaker	Monthly Stall	Tea Rota
24 th April	James Carter Queen Victoria	CDs and DVDs	Local History 3 and Mah Jong
22 nd May	Roger Powell History of the Kings and their Royal Mistresses	Plants & Cuttings	Music for Pleasure 1 & 2
26 th June	Mark Davis A Literary Tour of Oxford's Waterways	White Elephant	Outdoor
24 th July	Summer Social	Raffle	Painting & Philosophy
25 th Sept	Janet Cropley Interesting and Unusual Plants to Grow	Jams, Cakes, Pickles	Play Reading & Poetry Groups
23 rd Oct	AGM	Group Displays	Russian & Scrabble
27 th Nov	Bernard Pumfrey The Shakespeare Country	Jewellery & Bling	Spanish Groups
18 th Dec	Christmas Social	Raffle	Committee

MONTHLY CHARITY STALL

As you know our Charity for 2013 is Children with Cancer and we have made a great start. In January we took just over £80, in February just over £110 and March £153. Many thanks for all who contributed items to sell and to those who bought from the stall. Special thanks to those who put donations into the collection boxes. Although we specifically ask for books twice a year they are always welcome and we will feature them every month. There will not be a stall in October as it is our AGM but donation boxes will be on one of the tables. There will not be a stall in December but we will be running a raffle at that meeting. The usual Christmas Quiz sheets will be available in November with the answers given out at the December meeting. We have a target for the year of £1,000 so let us see if we can beat that!! We will be supporting another charity in 2014 so please bring your suggestions to the AGM and we will vote for a charity then. Maybe a local one?

Dusty Rodes dusty.roades@yahoo.com 01327 351670

Kathy Stevens kathystevens09@btinternet.com 01280 821781

Pam Staple pam.staple@btinternet.com 01280 816300

TEA ROTA

Would Group Leaders please note that when their group is responsible for teas they should contact Carolina Kenealy on 01280 815636 for instruction. Where there is more than one Group listed please could the Group Leaders liaise with each other.

Next Newsletter

Please note the deadline for articles for the next Newsletter issue No. 47 is **Tuesday 27th August 2013**.

Please Email or post to: Sheila Dalzell 18 Partridge Close Buckingham MK18 7HH or
sheilaeditor@hotmail.co.uk

BUCKINGHAM AND DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER



Chairman's notes No 46

Hello everyone,

After my initial report appeared in the December Newsletter 2012 Eileen Llopis, the first Chairman contacted me and confirmed that in October 1998, when our U3A was first established, there were just 70 members. Today, we are rapidly approaching 700 members, which is a remarkable achievement for a market town and country district of our size. We also have over sixty interest groups and every month we seem to be adding yet another string to our bow in this regard, which is wonderful. It highlights how successful we continue to be.

Growth does require careful planning, of course. Some of our groups are becoming very full and in the past, we have tried to avoid having waiting lists, if at all possible. The role that Group Co-ordinators play is vital in ensuring our continued success and we do urgently need a few more volunteers to come forward in this respect. If you feel you can contribute to the running of a group, please have a word with Val Bradley, our Group Liaison Officer.

George Walker has been extremely busy updating the website with the latest group reports which in most cases give details of venues and times of meetings. Suitable venues are of course essential. We are very lucky to have the Buckingham Community Centre for our monthly meetings and hopefully it will be a long time before we outgrow it. Venue costs are on the increase and Pat Costello as ever is keeping a watchful eye on these, as we realize that by the year end we will have depleted more of our surplus and, as a charity, we need to keep six months' funds in reserve. With this in mind, we have been busy negotiating additional free venues for groups to use at the newly-refurbished Nursing Home, Maids Moreton Hall, and at the Buckingham Golf Club.

For the benefit of newer members, I confirm that we have life membership of The University of Buckingham and have recently been in discussions with them. They have kindly offered all our U3A members an increased discount of 20% on most titles, in the bookshop, except academic books or any other offers, upon production of a current membership card. They sell cards and paper also subject to our discount and offer a free gift wrapping service. The University Book Shop is in Hunter Street, opposite Yeomanry House, and there is a parking bay immediately outside the shop, as well as the large University car park. During term time, the shop is open from 9.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday, telephone: 01280 823444. If a book is not in stock, they can usually source the next day.

U3A members are also welcome to visit the Tanlaw Mill Restaurant for breakfast, morning coffee or lunch, preferably on a Friday morning and avoiding the first Friday in the month if in a group. (Please ring Craig Decent to advise numbers on 01280 814080.) We are also offered off-peak access to the University's Fitness Centre on the top floor of Tanlaw Mill and members should contact Stefan Ridley on 01280 820342 beforehand. Individual groups are entitled to access the University's Library in Hunter Street for reference purposes and contact is via the librarian, Louise on 01280 814080. Finally, there is a possibility that we will soon be able to set up a Computer Studies Group with access to the Computer Training Suite above the Hunter Street Library. I will keep you posted on this.

My thanks as ever to my fellow Trustees on the Committee for their hard work and continued support and to all our Group Co-ordinators, with especial thanks to Beryl for organizing so many enjoyable outings and theatre trips.

Coffee Morning for New Members

The next coffee morning will be held on **Tuesday 30th April 2013 at 10.15am at the Buckingham Garden Centre restaurant**. There will be a further Coffee Morning on Tuesday 10th July 2013 at 10.15am.



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

BUCKINGHAM AND DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

My Role as Membership Secretary



I started my new exciting job as Membership Secretary for the U3A a month after I was elected as during this time the previous Secretary, George Walker, was doing all the things that have to be done at the beginning of our financial year. Since taking over the job, I have realised several things that were not apparent whilst I was helping George over the last couple of years. One is that the Subscription **Timetable** is not really understood. The **September Newsletter** reminds Members that their **subscriptions are due**. **Subscriptions are due** on the **1st October**, which is the beginning of our financial year. **New Membership Cards** are issued with the **December Newsletter** (*for those that have paid their subscriptions*)

If **no payment** has been made **by January**, you are **no longer a member** and therefore cannot attend Groups.

The delay between paying and receiving your Membership Card is unfortunate but we like to print the cards with your names and can only do this when the majority of people have paid. We send the cards out stapled to the **December Newsletter**. When the Newsletter is collated in December and is ready for delivery, Sheila the Editor, has a team of helpers who hand-deliver a lot of the newsletters, then the rest go to the December meeting and if not collected there, the remainder are posted.

Late Payees cost the U3A money and time

By paying late, each Membership Card and envelope has to be hand-written and then posted at a cost of 50p. Each late payee has to be 'chased up' either by the Membership Secretary or Group Co-ordinator, which is a cost in terms of time and phone calls.

How can you help to ensure your Membership Subscription is collected more efficiently?

Standing Order is the best way to renew your Membership as you then don't have to think about it. **Forms** are on the Website @ www.buckinghamu3a.org.uk under Contacts. Forms should be dated for **October** (not January).

Payment by Cheque

Please put your Postal Code or Membership Number on the reverse of the cheque and either send to me at 26 Highlands Road, Buckingham MK18 1PL or pay at the Monthly Meeting. Cheques should be made payable to Buckingham and District U3A.

Cash

This involves giving you a receipt but if this is your choice, please bring the **correct money to the Open Meeting**.

Put a note in your diary now – 1st October – pay my subs! Thank you.

Lesley Suggate – Membership Secretary

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COMMITTEE

Chairman	Pam Tonge 5 Victoria Row Buckingham MK18 1ER	01280 823370 pamelatonge519@btinternet.com
Vice-Chair	Clive Cowdy 4 Lark Close Buckingham MK18 7EZ	01280 824274 kanata@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Pat Costello 56 Meadway Buckingham MK18 1BN	01280 815143 pat.costello.uk@talktalk.net
Minutes Secretary	Diane Procter 8 Rectory Close Marsh Gibbon Bicester OX27 OHT	01869 278149 dianaprocter@hotmail.com
Business Sec/ Group Liaison Officer	Val Bradley Cosy Nook Mount Pleasant Close Buckingham MK18 1DN	01280 817746 valmbradley@btinternet.com
Speaker Secretary	Christine Dodds 12 Fair Meadow Winslow Bucks MK18 3JD	01296 714336 christine.dodds@hotmail.co.uk
Membership Secretary	Lesley Suggate 26 Highlands Road Buckingham MK18 1PL	01280 812195 u3amembership@btinternet.com
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
Newsletter Editor	Sheila Dalzell 18 Partridge Close Buckingham MK18 7HH	01280 817747 sheilaeditor@hotmail.co.uk
Webmaster	George Walker 2 Burleigh Piece Buckingham MK18 7BB	01280 813735 George.walker7@talktalk.net

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 815626	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.

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GROUP DIRECTORY:

Buckingham Centre (Library), Maids Moreton Village Hall (MM), Maids Moreton Nursing Home (MMH)

Activity	Co-ordinator	Telephone	Weekday	Time	Venue
Architectural	Peter Bowtell	01280 815946	2 nd Thur	10.00-12.00	Buck Centre
Art Appreciation	Pam Tonge	01280 823370	1 st & 3 rd Fri	9.45	Buck Centre
Book	Janet Cobham	01280 813373	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	9.30-12.30	M.M. Village Hall
Bridge Tuition	Peter Holman	01280 822611	Wed	10.00-12.00	M.M. Village Hall
Bridge	Annastasia Kavanagh	01280 817828	Mon	10.00-12.00	Chandos Court
Bridge Players	Peter Holman	01280 822611	Tues	10.00-12.00	M.M. Village Hall
Canasta	Gina Crouch	01280 820924	3 rd Wed 2 nd Wed	2.00-4.00 10.00-12.00	M.M. Village Hall Buck Centre
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	Buck Centre
Croquet	Roger Edwards	01280 815588	Fri	2.00	Cricket Pitch
Dance and Get Fit	Vera Moyle-Maton	01280 813719	3 rd Wed	10.30-12.00	Cote Barn at Woolpack
Digital Photography	Peter Cammas	01280 815279	3 rd Thurs	2.00-4.00	Buck 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	M.M.H.
Family History	Jenni Burke	01280 816546	1 st & 3 rd Tue	09.45	Buck Centre
French Advanced 1	Steven Thompson	01280 814051	2 nd & 4 th Wed	10.00-12.00	House
French Advanced 2	Sally Parsons	07941 504606	2 nd & 4 th Wed	10.00-12.00	House
French Intermediate 1	Judy Austin	01280 814864	Alternate Wed	10.30	House
French Improvers	Maureen Turner	01280 812898	Fridays	2.00	House
French Lunch 1	T.B.A.		1 st Wed	12.30	House
Friendship	Jane Walker	01280 813382			Ring Co-ordinator
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
History of Literature and Theatre	Liz Loutfi	01280 817853	2 nd & 4 th Fri	10.00-12.00	Council Chamber, Community Centre
Italian Group 1	Linda Shiner	01296 711068	2 nd & 4 th Tue	2.00-4.00	House
Italian for Beginners	Mike Long	01280 823931	2 nd & 4 th Fri	10.30-12.00	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	Ruth Roy Jane Albetino	01280 848532 01869 388860	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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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	MMH
Recorders	Derek Smith	01280 813946	Wednesdays	10.00-11.30	Gawcott Chapel
Russian	Roy Walker	01280 812836	2 nd & 4 th Fri	10.00-12.00	House
Scrabble	Marilyn Crawford	01280 814856	Tue	2.00-4.00	Buck Centre
Singing for Fun	Jane Walker	01280 813382	2 nd & 4 th Thur	2.30	Parish Church
Spanish Improvers	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



A rather brief but still important account this month.

First piece of news is that following a fairly large demand, we have found someone to teach Bridge to absolute beginners. Sadly, despite the demand, not as many members as expected turned up to the first couple of meetings. Before we have to cancel this new group, let me reiterate that Sheila Harkness is willing to teach Bridge to beginners on Friday mornings. To find out more, contact Sheila at sheilaharkness@gmail.com. It would be a shame if this new group did not get off the ground after so many people expressed an interest in learning Bridge.

The other proposed new group, History of Literature and Theatre, seems ready to go, on Friday mornings, 10am-12 midday, 2nd and 4th Fridays each month, starting on 12th April 2013, in the Council Chambers, entrance opposite Waitrose rather than the main entrance to the Community Centre. Liz Loutfi is the co-ordinator for this group and can be contacted on 01280 817853 or loutfi.family@btinternet.com or just turn up on the 12th April.

Since writing the above comments about the Bridge for Beginners group, it seems that this group will close due to lack of members but may try again next September. This does seem a shame when many members had requested such a group and we had found someone willing to teach Bridge. If you have any comments, please let me know, and hopefully, we will have better luck in the Autumn.

The Gardening Group has been over subscribed for some time and now has a waiting list of about 7 members. This would indicate that there is a call for a second Gardening Group. If you would be interested in joining such a group, please contact me or sign the notice that will be on the noticeboard at the next two meetings.

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

BUCKINGHAM AND DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

Theatre and Travel

As I am writing this the snow is falling and although it looks pretty I look forward to warm sunny days for our outings and holidays.

Several of our outings will have happened by the time you read this. I am sorry that Irene Parsons had to cancel the Spalding trip but she has replaced it with a visit to the National Trust Snowhill Manor. For more information on that please talk to Irene.

There are a few places left for the visit to the Pompeii Exhibition at the British Museum and, of course, anyone wishing to go on any of the outings such as Eltham Palace, Greenwich and Buscot Park, Oxfordshire, is welcome to book at anytime.

I am still waiting to talk to English Heritage about the Birmingham Silver Works visit in September. This I will do in April and at the moment I only have details of the Canal Cruise and lunch.

Beryl Carr – Travel and Outings Organiser 01280 823808

Event	Date / Time	Cost	Pay By
Starlight Express M.K.T.	25 th April	£19.50	
Relatively Speaking M.K.T.	8 th May	£15.00	
Abigail's Party M.K.T.	15 th May	£15.00	
Evita M.K.T.	29 th May	£19.50	
British Museum – Pompeii Exhibition	10 th June	£23.00	A.S.A.P.
Sleeping Beauty on Ice M.K.T.	20 th June	£15.00	April
Cats M.K.T	3 rd July	£29.50	April
Eltham Palace, Greenwich (E.H.)	4 th July	£15.00	April
Moscow to St. Petersburg River Cruise (Saga) (11 days)	10 th July	Approx: Twin £1,699.00 Single £2,349.00	T.B.A
Birdsong M.K.T.	24 th July	£12.00	May
Buscot Park, Oxfordshire N.T.	16 th August	£15.00	June
Kent Holiday (6 days)	8 th Sept	£407.00	A.S.A.P.
Birmingham Silver Works E.H. pos canal cruise	September	T.B.A.	
Thursford Weekend Christmas Show	29 th November	£342.00	A.S.A.P
Black Country Living Museum	5 th December	T.B.A.	T.B.A.
Royal Albert Hall Christmas Carol Sing-along	21 st December	T.B.A.	T.B.A.
Danube Cruise from Vienna to Budapest including 2 day extension in Budapest	10th June 2014	From £2,168.00 p.p	T.B.A.

Payment for any event is by cheque only. Please make cheques out to Buckingham and District U3A. Please book either at the monthly meeting or by telephone to Beryl Carr on 01280 823808.

N.B. Dates and outings might vary from those shown.

N.T. = National Trust free to N.T. members: E.H. English free: M.K.T. = Milton Keynes Theatre

Creative Writing

As all the group leaders had been encouraged to make contact with other similar U3A groups in the area, the



Creative Writers have successfully made contact with three. Bedford being the first to reply to emails, very kindly invited a group from Buckingham to a wine and cheese "get together" on January 10th. Five writers: Sue Turner, Pauline Davis, Glenys Warlow, Pam Tonge (our chairman) and Susie Kelly (co-ordinator) plus Simon Kelly are pictured with the Bedford group. Ken Thomas, the Bedford Co-ordinator is seated on the floor wearing the light coloured shirt (blue). We had a very convivial meeting and there are promises to remain in contact and exchange ideas. The Creative Writing Group would like to draw your attention to an article on page 4 of the U3A Sources Magazine which members

will have received with the latest Third Age Trust Magazine.

Susie Kelly

Exploring The Past

When you read this article we will have finished our winter talks and hopefully have started our visits. The



main theme for this year is the history of the garden and following a talk in February on this subject we are intending to visit Canons Ashby, Rousham and Rodmartin, thus showing the development and changes in style. We will also have other visits to Lichfield, Cheltenham and Rockingham Castle. Come Sept it will be our annual meeting to discuss ideas for next year, although we already have some.

Linda Shiner

Art Appreciation

In January 2013 the two Art Appreciation groups amalgamated and now meet on the 1st and 3rd Fridays in the month at 9.45am in the Mezzanine Suite at the Buckingham Centre in Verney Close.



The usual format is an illustrated talk on a specific artist or group of artists, with members being encouraged to comment on and discuss the paintings shown.

At the end of last year, a group visit was organized to the Pre-Raphaelite exhibition at the Royal Academy which tied in with our exploration of this Brotherhood. Our transport was via the Winslow Community Bus which we again booked on 7th March for our visit to the Watts Gallery at Compton in Surrey. This has the distinction of being the only gallery in the country to be dedicated to a single British artist, George Frederic Watts, whose life and work we have recently been studying.

of being the only gallery in the country to

The Watts Memorial Chapel, which we also visited, was built in his memory by his wife, Margaret, and is a wonderful example of the Arts and Crafts Movement.

We currently have 36 members but can squeeze in a few more without infringing the fire regulations!

Pam Tonge



Russian Group

Our small, dedicated Russian Group



continues to circulate between Buckingham, Winslow, Silverstone and Whitchurch. Each member hosts the group in his or her home and chooses the subjects and materials to use. These include short stories and practical reading passages with relevant grammar exercises as well as current topics gleaned from Russian news articles on the World Wide Web. The former provide us with language of a manageable level and everyday vocabulary focusing in part on particular locations such as the post office, railway station, hotel, etc.

The news items present us with rather more challenging material for translation and are often centred around current events in Russia. Recently, for example, we read about the New Jerusalem which is being restored by the Orthodox Church some 50 kilometres west of Moscow, in Siberia, saw temperatures dipping to minus 43, and the death of the famous opera singer Galina Vishnevskaya and her burial in Moscow's Novodevichy Convent alongside her famous cellist husband, Mstislav Rostropovich.

this winter's severe weather which,



Our outing in February was a trip to Milton Keynes with partners to have a meal followed by a live screening of Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin" from The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Up-and-coming this year will certainly be the celebrations in connection with the 400th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty.

The group always welcomes new members, though some previous experience of the language is advisable. **Roy Walker**

German Diskussionsgruppe

In the past two months we have gained two new members, but still retain a small enough size to meet in one another's homes. German is spoken continuously apart from the odd lapse during our Kaffeepause. At each meeting we usually break the ice with a short general knowledge quiz, though lately we have also introduced an introductory reading or listening test, based on a booklet featuring the small Bavarian towns we visited last year.



The host also chooses a general topic, such as a recent film we saw or book we read, a trip abroad or at home, memories of school, etc., and this we prepare in advance for a short presentation and discussion. We use an interesting reader which informs us about German politics, history and culture, which provides us with further subjects for

discussion and comparison with our own country.



Occasionally we watch a German film on DVD, followed by a meal, as for instance at Christmas when Aldi was raided for suitable dishes. Some of us went to Cineworld in Milton Keynes which connected us with the realm of German opera by means of a screening of Wagner's "Parsifal" transmitted live from the Metropolitan Opera, New York. A joint get-together with the German Konversationsgruppe is mooted, as is also a trip to Germany next year.

More German speakers are always welcome. **Roy Walker**

Italian Group 1

We continue to meet at fortnightly intervals in one of our group's houses. The person entertaining is responsible for organising two hours work and also of course for providing tea and cake.



We usually work on some aspect of grammar (always needs revising), conversation and listening, which we probably find the most difficult aspect (why do Italians speak so quickly). We have found a very interesting series of CDs to listen to and at the moment we are hot on the trail of a lost Caravaggio painting.

Linda Shiner

Jazz Appreciation 1

The group has seven members and there are opportunities for new members to join the group. We meet once a month in Wicken at a member's house from 10.00am to midday. The group could accommodate one or two more members. We listen to a cross section of genres, New Orleans, Big Band Swing and Modern Jazz. In March we are watching a film "Birth of the Blues" made in 1941. This film was chosen as several members said that watching this film was the start of their love of Jazz. In March we watched the film "Birth of the Blues" made in 1941 in the cinema room at the Maids Moreton Hall. This film was chosen as several members said that watching this film was the start of their love of Jazz. The monthly meetings are themed with



one of the members choosing the music we listen to or the DVD to watch. The programmes range from *Artists I have Seen*, Christmas Jazz with a DVD, *Instruments of Jazz*, *Artists I have Never Seen*, *Female Jazz Singers* and the film *Birth of the Blues*.

You do not have to be an expert or very knowledgeable on Jazz to join the group; just enjoy listening to Jazz music.

Bryan W Thomas

Gardening

The Garden Group Christmas party was the usual fun affair including a different take on 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' led by Beryl and Rosemary. As always there was a wonderful spread of Christmas food all washed down with the odd glass of mulled wine. The 2013 programme got underway in February with a somewhat false start as our speaker failed to arrive! As always our members came up trumps and we had a most interesting impromptu gardening discussion. Our speakers for March were due to give a talk on hedgehogs. On ringing to confirm I was more than a little dismayed to be told they had double booked their diary! Ever feel that fates are conspiring against you? Fortunately, Brian Sumpton from the RSPB stepped into the breach and showed slides to accompany his interesting talk entitled 'Gardening for Wildlife'. There were plenty of questions and he gave us lots of ideas to encourage wildlife into our own spaces. Judy and Colin Lill will now bring along their spikey friends in October. Good gardening!



Vee Sampson

Recorders

A new recorder group started this year and I am pleased that the standard is much higher than I anticipated, so I need to look to my laurels! We have ten members at present and weekly rehearsals go well – in Gawcott Chapel on a Wednesday morning.

Derek Smith

Handbells

We are finding and rehearsing new pieces to bring our repertoire more up to date, and we have welcomed a couple of new members. We have begun a project to make some banners for the music stands for use at our engagements which we hope will be ready for the summer season – so we really look the part!



Derek Smith

Croquet

Croquet is a simple but devious, gentle but vicious tactical game. The object is to knock a ball through a series of hoops and score points for yourself while trying to make sure that your opponent does not score. It is simple to learn and enjoyable and frustrating in almost equal measure. The Croquet Group meets every Friday from the 5th of April through to the clocks going back in October (weather permitting of course). We play on the outfield at Buckingham Cricket Club in Bourton Road, starting at 2.00 pm. It is a great way to spend a couple of hours on a pleasant, warm, sunny Friday afternoon (we did have one or two of those last summer). If you are interested in joining the group, please phone Roger Edwards (01280 815588) or Anne Liddle (01280 823565).



Roger Edwards

The Bridge Tables

Bridge has become one of the most popular activities within our U3A (around 100 players) with five groups running (covering all standards of play) and a sixth in the process of setting up. A new beginners' course was planned to start in March but, although a number of people had shown an interest, there were insufficient numbers to make it viable. This may have been due to a lack of publicity so we will look at it again later in the year. An able and willing instructor is prepared to run the group on a Friday morning at Maids Moreton Village Hall. If anyone is interested in learning bridge from scratch then please contact Sheila Harkness on 01280 423785 who will co-ordinate the group.

Groups currently meeting are as follows :

Monday morning 10am at Chandos Court: This is a social group who meet to play bridge and enjoy a chat and a cup of tea. Anyone who would like to play but not too seriously is invited to go along to Chandos Court where Anna Kavanagh will make you welcome.

All of the following groups meet in **Maids Moreton Village Hall**

Monday morning 10am: This small group (about 20) has progressed from beginners to player status but is currently full. Should anyone be interested, if a space becomes available, please contact Nick Steadman.

Monday afternoon 2pm: This group also started as a beginners' group but has moved on to improver/player status, playing friendly duplicate bridge. It is now about full, but if you have some bridge knowledge and are interested in playing please contact Russell Tobin.

Tuesday morning 10am: Formerly called Bridge Tuition, this group is now to be known as Bridge Players, most members having been playing for eight years. The emphasis will be on competitive duplicate bridge with individual tuition as required. It will now be open (for a trial period) to any experienced U3A bridge player. Just come along for a 10 o'clock start.

Wednesday morning 10am: Bridge Tuition. Formed eighteen months ago this latest group has progressed from beginner to improver standard with continuing tuition. Anyone who has a basic knowledge of the game and wishes to improve is welcome to come along. For further information on the Tuesday or Wednesday groups please contact Peter Holman on 01280 822611.

All bridge groups are friendly and will extend a warm welcome to you.

Peter Holman

FOR SALE

Upright freezer 4ft 8in by 2ft. Buyer takes away. No offer refused. Please ring Pat Costello 01280 815143