



Buckingham & District U3A
Newsletter Number 49 April 2014
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.

Date	Topic & Speaker	Monthly Stall	Tea Rota
23 rd April	Rosemary Leonard Songs for St George's Day	DVDs CDs Tapes	Wild Life and Yoga
28 th May	Dr David Wilkins Water Aid in Africa	Plants Cuttings	Architecture
25 th June	Ian Waller There's nowt so queer as folk	White Elephant	Art Appreciation
23 rd July	Summer Social	Raffle	Bridge Groups
24 th Sept	Christine Farmer Masquerade The History of Masks	Jams Cakes Pickles	Canasta
22 nd Oct	AGM		Crafts and Card Making
26 th November	William the Butler Welcome to my World	Jewellery Bling	Creative Writing
17 th Dec	Christmas Social	Raffle	Committee

We were able to send a total of £1,465 to Children with Cancer, with particular thanks to those who donated prizes for our raffle, the Queen's Head at Chackmore, the Woolpack in Well Street and Bartlett's Teashop on the Market Square. This year's charity is MIND and we are supporting the Milton Keynes branch which covers our area. So far we raised £115 in January and £85 in February. Please support the stall and our raffles so we can raise at least £1,000 this year. There will be leaflets about MIND at the stall or, if you want more details just speak to Dusty. Although we have a theme for the monthly stall, books are always welcome.

Dusty Roades 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.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This is my second Newsletter and I am still feeling my way. I would like to put in some writings from some of the groups, a poem or creative prose, a piece about local architecture, history or an interesting holiday. Send them to me at Carolina Kenealy, 22 Lenborough Road, Buckingham MK18 1DJ or email carolina.kenealy@sky.com

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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	Joan Hatherley 30 Moorhen Way, Buckingham MK18 1GN	01280 815019 jchatherley@btinternet.com
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	Dusty Roades 2 Robin Close, Towcester, Northants, NN12 6RB	01327 351670 dusty.roades@yahoo.com
Membership Secretary	Lesley Suggate 26 Highlands Road Buckingham MK18 1PL	01280 812195 u3amember@btinternet.com
Technical Resources	David Angrave 10 Moreton Road Buckingham MK18 1LA	01280 816453 angrave@madasafish.com
New Member Support/Publicity	Gina Crouch 11 Plover Close, Buckingham, MK18 7ES	01280 820924 vcrouch48@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Carolina Kenealy, 22 Lenborough Road Buckingham, MK18 1DJ	01280 815636 carolina.kenealy@sky.com
Webmaster	Roland Simpkins 2 Chestnut Cottages Mitre St Buckingham MK18 1RU	07973 772024 roland2@1stdirectory.com

EQUIPMENT REGISTER, to borrow contact keeper

Pauline Wright	01280 815709	Keyboard
David Angrave	01280 816453	Radio Microphone (lapel); Radio Microphone (hand held) Microphone with lead; Flip Chart Stand
Merle Harrison	01280 821693	Miniature Tape Recorder
Mike Baker	01280 816460	Digital Projector; DVD player (multi region); Projector Stand Portable Mains Amplifier/Speaker with three radio microphones Screen (floor standing)
Jacqui North	01280 823949	CD Player

The Digital Camera, the Video Camera, the 35mm Slide Projector and Overhead Projector: These are now redundant and may be acquired by any of our members at no cost (although a donation to our Charity Stall would be most welcome)

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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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES



Hello everyone,

In February, the Committee voted to place Committee Meeting Minutes on our website www.buckinghamu3a.org.uk to give members an insight into the decision-making processes involved in running the U3A. Committee Members are also Trustees, responsible for the financial management of our Charity.

As mentioned in the December Newsletter, we try and appoint shadows for all our Committee Members, primarily to deputise in their absence but also to plan ahead for when a member may eventually stand down. Many thanks to those of you who responded to my earlier request. We still require shadows for the Treasurer and our Newsletter Editor. Job descriptions for the roles are contained in the body of the Newsletter and if you are interested, please contact the relevant Committee Member to discuss. We will be holding a meeting of Committee Members and their Shadows on Monday, 14th July beginning at 10.00am at the Buckingham Golf Club.

I announced at the March open meeting that Beryl Carr, our Travel and Outings Organiser, has decided to give up booking theatre trips, which is completely understandable as she has a heavy workload organizing and accompanying members on five holidays a year as well as monthly outings. Her efforts are greatly appreciated. The Committee would like to hear from anyone who is willing to take on this separate role.

Looking ahead to the AGM in October, Val Bradley, Di Procter and David Angrave have indicated their intention to stand down. The Committee has agreed to amalgamate the roles of Minutes and Business Secretary at that time so we will be looking for nominations for Secretary, Group Liaison Officer and Technical Resources and, as last year, nomination forms will be sent out in our June newsletter.

We are very fortunate in Buckingham that, as well as a hard working Committee, we have some very enthusiastic Group Co-ordinators who ensure that we all get the most from our U3A. To thank our GCs we are organizing a buffet lunch for them on Thursday 5th June in the Community Centre. At the time of going to press, we have 727 members, which is remarkable! Our next New Members' Coffee Morning is on Thursday, 12th June at the Buckingham Golf Club at 10.15am. If you would like to attend, contact Gina Crouch, our New Members' Support.

Enjoy!

Pamela Tonge

Following is a description of the duties undertaken by the Newsletter Editor and Treasurer. If you feel you could shadow either of these Committee members please contact either Pam Tonge, the Chairman, Joan Hatherley, the Treasurer, or Carolina Kenealy the Newsletter Editor.

Newsletter Editor, Buckingham & District U3A

The Newsletter Editor is required to produce three newsletters each year, April, September and December. The newsletter provides information about the Buckingham U3A.

The Editor gathers articles from the Group Co-ordinators, the Chairman, the Group Liaison Officer, the Travel and Outings Organiser, and any other U3A member. These articles are edited, proofread and then the Editor takes the Newsletter to the printers on a memory stick, together with a hard copy. Before taking to the printers the Editor informs the Membership Secretary, who will advise how many current newsletters need to be sent out and the Membership Secretary will also do the address labels.

The Editor collects the Newsletters from the printers when printed. The Editor then puts these newsletters into envelopes and delivers by hand as many as possible. The remainder are taken by the Editor to the relevant monthly meetings for collection by members. Any left over from the meeting are posted. The Editor buys the stamps for these and is reimbursed by the Treasurer.

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Working in partnership with the Membership secretary, every effort should be made to encourage members to take the Newsletter by email where possible to save on postage. However, any member is entitled to choose to continue receiving a printed copy.

The Editor needs to make sure that the Group Co-ordinators' Directory and any other information is kept up-to-date. With regard to content of the Newsletter, the Editor's decision is final.

Additional Tasks

Attend New Members' Coffee mornings as required. Liaise with Publicity/New Members' Support committee member for notification of coffee mornings for New Members to be included in the Newsletter.

As a committee member the Editor is required to attend monthly committee meetings of the Buckingham U3A, monthly Open Meetings and once a year attend the Buckingham U3A Group Co-ordinators' meeting and the Annual General Meeting.

As Catering Committee Manager, organize milk and other refreshments liaising with GCs on the tea rota. Organise the catering at Socials with the assistance of the catering team.

The Treasurer Buckingham and District U3A

The Treasurer is a Committee member and, as with all other Committee members, is a trustee of the Buckingham & District U3A (the U3A).

The responsibilities involve:-

the preparation of accounts relating to all of the income and expenditure of the U3A both on a monthly and an annual basis;

the maintenance of bank accounts;

ensuring financial compliance with the requirements of the Charity Commissioners and HMRC;

liaison with all other Committee members and Group Co-ordinators;

liaison with organisations providing accommodation for interest groups; and

attendance as required at Monthly Committee Meetings, Monthly Open Meetings, the AGM, the Annual Group Co-ordinators Meeting and New Members Coffee Mornings.

Here is some general information about the U3A's financial affairs.

The Third Age Trust (TAT)

All U3As in the UK are affiliated to TAT to whom the U3A pays an annual capitation fee of £3.50 per member. This fee includes the cost, at £2.10 per member, of the "Third Age Matters" magazine issued five times each year.

Financial Year End and Annual Accounts

The U3A's financial year end is 30th September and annual accounts are prepared as at this date for production to members after inspection by an Examiner at the Annual General Meeting held in the following October.

Membership Subscriptions

The membership subscription is currently £13 per annum and is due on each 1st October. In order to reduce the volume of work both for the Treasurer and Membership Secretary in reminders and to avoid postage costs the U3A encourages members to pay subscriptions by standing order or bank transfer.

In addition, members pay 50p per session towards venue costs when their group meets in rented accommodation. This money is collected by Group Co-ordinators and is passed to the Treasurer for payment to whoever provides the accommodation.

Banking

The U3A is a registered charity, but the Charity Commissioners have no interest in its involvement in holidays and other social activities. For this reason, there are two bank accounts:-

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CAF Bank

All of the U3A's financial affairs which are not related to holidays and other social outings (eg members' subscriptions) are dealt with through CAF Bank, a bank acting specifically for charities. Banking is free provided that no more than 600 cheques are banked each year (standing orders are not counted).

Lloyds Bank

This account is used for the financial arrangements for holidays and other social activities. Currently, there are no bank charges.

Cheques drawn on both accounts require two signatories from any of the Chairman, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and two other nominated members of the Committee.

Gift Aid

...is a useful boost to U3A funds. The annual rebate is currently about £1200. The return to HMRC is compiled yearly by the Membership Secretary.

The following positions will need to be filled after the October AGM. If you feel you would like to take over either of these responsibilities please let Pam Tonge (Chairman) know.

Technical Resources Buckingham and District U3A

General Responsibilities:

To provide practical communications for the U3A

Key Responsibilities:

To liaise with the Speaker Seeker and the various speakers chosen for our main monthly meetings, to ascertain the technical resources that will be required, e.g. sound reinforcement, visual aids etc.

To contact our main monthly venue (Buckingham Community Centre) with a comprehensive list of our technical requirements for the monthly meeting. A reasonable notice of at least two working days should be allowed for this. At the monthly meeting be ready to operate all the technical facilities and call on assistance to operate ancillary equipment.

Meet with the speaker and 'wire' them up (point out that this will help our disadvantaged members via the loop system).

Allow sufficient time to thoroughly check that *all* is working.

Additional Tasks.

Attend monthly Committee meetings of the Buckingham & District U3A.

This is an opportunity to advise fellow committee members as to what is practically feasible within technical limitations.

Attend the yearly Group Co-ordinators' Meeting to bring groups up to date on our own technical advances and to attempt to answer any technical queries that may arise.

Attend the Annual General Meeting and ensure hand-held microphones are set up.

Submit occasional contributions to our Newsletter on topics which may be of interest to our members.

Make sure that your Shadow colleague is kept informed where everything is they may need. You may be suddenly indisposed!!

Amend the committee photo board as necessary

Group Liaison Officer Buckingham and District U3A

Supporting New Groups

Respond positively to requests for new groups when a member or potential member asks for a new activity to be set up:

Write a paragraph about the activity for inclusion in the next Newsletter with the name of the proposed Group Co-ordinator or the Member who proposed the activity. This may depend on when the next newsletter is due; alternatively use the notice board and announce at the monthly meeting.

Collect names and telephone numbers of members who respond.

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If there is sufficient response after a month, arrange an initial meeting for all concerned.

Venue for the initial meeting will depend on the level of interest. At this meeting facilitate the finding of a group co-ordinator (GC). Make sure the GC has a copy and understands the Guidelines (issued in February 2013).

Suggest a venue from the list of venues we already use. Ask the GC to book the venue. Book the venue for three months ahead and notify treasurer.

Give support to the group in the early stages especially with the GCs guidelines.

Monitor existing groups:

Keep up-to-date records of all groups and respond to enquiries and requests for assistance.

Lapsed members' lists will be sent out in November/December. Make sure GCs check that group members are paid up by requesting they inspect current membership cards.

Keep a list of GCs and their addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses and ensure they are updated for submission to Editor for inclusion in Newsletter.

Keep an up-to-date list of venues.

Resources for groups:

Negotiate between GCs and Committee for any new resources that groups need or want. Consult the GCs guidelines before bringing the request to the committee. Any exceptional circumstances can be presented to the committee at the monthly meeting.

Meetings

Attend the GCs meeting in February each year

Attend monthly Committee Meetings

Attend AGM in October each year

Appoint a Shadow to deputise during holiday or sickness absence

Have you considered the benefits of taking an E-Newsletter?

The electronic version of the Newsletter comes out in April and September and is delivered via your email direct to your computer. You can easily open it as it is delivered in a PDF format. At Christmas Time, we currently send out all printed copies as the envelope contains your Membership Card.

The advantages to you are –

- ◆ You receive it earlier than the printed version.
- ◆ Photographs will appear in colour.
- ◆ Links to the Internet will work – no typing them in and getting them wrong!
- ◆ Easily stored on your Smart Phone or Tablet. (I use 'Fileapp' but there are probably other apps.) The information is therefore always available.

The advantages to the U3A –

- ◆ Saves money on postage. Postage is going up again – it currently cost 50p. per Newsletter and will cost 53p.
- ◆ Saves money on printing.

If you are interested – please email me at u3amember@btinternet.com

Please include your full name and email address.

Lesley Suggate – Membership Secretary

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GROUP DIRECTORY:

Buckingham Centre (Library), Maids Moreton Village Hall (MM),

Activity	Co-ordinator	Telephone	Weekday	Time	Venue
Architecture	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
Board Games	Daphne Forsyth	01280 814849	1 st & 3 rd Wed	10.00-12.00	Bucks Centre
Bridge for beginners	Sheila Harkness	01280 423785	Tues	10 – 12.00	Golf Club
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 Club	Bryan Weston-Thomas	01280 813664	Tues	10.00-12.00	M.M. Village Hall
Canasta	Gina Crouch	01280 820924	2 rd Wed 3 rd Wed 4 th Wed	10.00-12.00 2.00-4.00 10.00-12.00	M.M. Village Hall Buck Centre 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
Croquet	Roger Edwards	01280 815588	Fri	2.00	Cricket Pitch
Digital Photography	Peter Cammas	01280 815279	3 rd Thurs	2.00-4.00	Golf Club
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
French Beginners	Jacqui North	01280 823949	1 st 2 nd 3 rd Wed	2 -4.00	House
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	Sue Croney	01869 277614	Alternate Wed	10.30	House
French Improvers	Maureen Turner	01280 812898	Fridays	2.00	House
French Lunch 1	Valerie Shaw	01280 812547	1 st Wed	12.30	House
Friendship	June Lewis	01280 815849			Ring Co-ordinator
Gardening	Vee Sampson	01280 821850	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	Margaret Moore Rodney Bennett	01296 713281 01280 823313	Fri	9.30-10.45	Gawcott Chapel
Handbells 2	Margaret Moore Rodney Bennett	01296 713281 01280 823313	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 Improvers	Linda Shiner	01296 711068	2 nd & 4 th Tue	2.00-4.00	House
Italian for Beginners	Julian Handley	07946 065345	Fri	1.30-3.30	Council Chamber, Community Centre
Jazz Appreciation 1	Bryan Weston-Thomas	01280 813664	3 rd Fri	10.00-12.00	House
Keep Fit	Vera Moyles Maton	01280 813719	1 st & 3 rd Thurs	2.00-3.30	Chantry Chapel
Latin	Rodney Bennett	01280 823313	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

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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	David Angrave	01280 816453	1 st Wed	2.00-4.00	House
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	01280 813382	4 th Tue	2.00-4.00	House
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	Council Chamber Community Centre
Recorders	Helen Preston Lindsay Dunham	01280 821232 01296 712521	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	2.00-4.00	Football Club
Strollers	Sheila Dalzell	01280 817747	Ask Co-ord	10.00	Swan Statue by Car Park
Walking	Stan Surzyn	01280 816974 07831 772577	Every week Thursday	Ask Co-ord	Ask Co-ord
Wild Life	Peter Swift Margaret Hazel	01280 700210 01280 704035	4 th Tuesday	10.00	Stratford Road Lay-by
Yoga	Gwyneth Jebson	01296 715674	Tue	10-11.30	University Studio

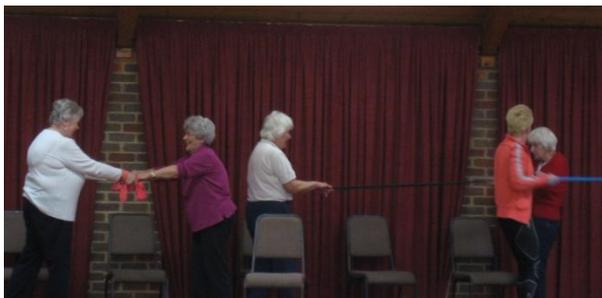
GROUP LIAISON MATTERS A new Board Games Group is now up and running. They meet in the Mezzanine Room on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday at 10am – 12 midday. The new co-ordinator is Daphne Forsyth, Tel 01280 814849 Please contact her if you would like any more information. The intention of the group is that any board /table top games can be played, from Chess to Snakes and Ladders. The games themselves will be provided by members, so if you have a favourite board game but lack a playing partner, this may be the group for you.

Following the talk on Fitness without Lycra at March's monthly meeting, a new Keep Fit has been formed led by Vera Moyles Maton. They meet in the Chantry Chapel on the 1st and 3rd Thursday from 2pm – 3.30pm. Please contact Vera for further information on 01280 813719 or email vera.maton@virgin.net

I have several names of members keen to start learning Spanish. If there is anyone else who thinks they too would like to learn, contact me.

There was a hope that a Woodworking Group could be formed, but due to difficulties with Health & Safety and Insurance, it seems unlikely that such a group will get off the ground.

Finally, I will be giving up the role of Group Liaison Officer at the end of September, as my three years are up, so a new volunteer will be needed. The job is not very time consuming, yet is very rewarding. Attendance one Monday a month at committee meetings are included. If you are interested in finding out more, please get in touch with me or Pam Tonge. **Val Bradley** **01280 817746** valmbradley@btinternet.com



Inspiration for the new Keep Fit Group - the talk in February by Tracy Arthur.
The second photo is a little blurred because everyone was moving at tremendous speed!!

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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 – Club Bridge for Beginners Family History Yoga	Gardening Scrabble Spanish Improvers Spanish Revision	Bridge Club Bridge for Beginners Philosophy Yoga	Italian Scrabble Spanish Improvers Spanish Revision
WED	Bridge Tuition Board Games French Lunch 1 Mah Jong Recorders	French for Beginners Latin Music for Pleasure	Bridge Tuition Canasta French Advanced 1 French Advanced 2 French Intermediate 1 German 1 Recorders	Latin French for Beginners
THUR	Local History 1 Local History 2 Walking	Keep Fit	Architecture Crafts & Card Making Walking	Singing for Fun
FRI	Art Appreciation German – Diskussionsgruppe Handbells 1 & 2	Croquet French Improvers French for beginners Italian for Beginners	Film Study Handbells 1 & 2 History of Literature & Theatre Local History 3 Russian	Croquet French Improvers French for Beginners Italian for Beginners
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 Club Bridge for Beginners Family History Yoga	Flower Arranging Scrabble Spanish Improvers Spanish Revision	Bridge Club Bridge for Beginners Philosophy Wild Life Yoga	Italian Improvers Play Reading Scrabble Spanish Improvers Spanish Revision
WED	Bridge Tuition Board Games Mah Jong Recorders	Canasta Latin French for Beginners	Bridge Tuition French Advanced 1 French Advanced 2 French Intermediate 1 German 1 Recorders Canasta	OPEN MEETING
THUR	Local History 1 Local History 2 Walking	Digital Photography Poetry Reading Keep Fit	Crafts & Card Making Walking	Book Singing for Fun
FRI	Art Appreciation German Diskussionsgruppe Handbells 1 & 2 Jazz Appreciation 1	Croquet French Improvers French for Beginners Italian for Beginners	Handbells 1 & 2 History of Literature & Theatre Local History 3 Russian	Croquet French Improvers Italian for Beginners

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HANDBELLS

We have two groups, the first meets at 09.30 the second at 11.00 on Fridays

The second Handbell Group rings in public on various occasions throughout the year. We have rung at local schools and clubs. On March the 15th we rang at a Bellfest held at the Millennium Memorial Hall Kings Sutton.

Some second group members are called upon to make up numbers in the first group.

We have room for more members so if any one would like to try their hand at ringing we will be pleased to see you.

If you are interested call either Margaret (01296 713281) or Rodney (01280 823313)

Rodney Bennett

LATIN

The Latin Group continues to work through the text book 'Familia Romana'. We are self taught at the moment, but still making progress. One member admits they did not like Latin at school but are now enjoying re-learning. The Latin group are making progress but would appreciate any help on a casual basis from anyone who has knowledge of Latin. While we are 'self-helping', it would be useful to have someone to help with translation from time-to-time. We meet on Wednesday afternoon in the Council Chamber from 2.00 – 3.00. We would also be happy to receive any Latin text books that are surplus to requirements.

Rodney Bennett

DEUTSCHE DISKUSSIONSGRUPPE

The group is now entering its fourth year and has eight loyal members, all keen on practising their oral skills in German. We meet once a fortnight for two hours, during which only German is permitted. We take turns to host the meetings and the host chooses the theme for discussion in advance. This, therefore, varies in content and includes such topics as a newspaper ranging from the latest German census figures to the Berlin Wall East Side Museum; a song I love to hear or sing; my first visit to Germany; and so on. Our Christmas proceedings were considerably enhanced by a selection of Stollen, Lebkuchen and Plätzchen, and earlier on in the season we watched a feature film called "Alemanja" about the adventures and misadventures of a family of Turkish immigrants. We also attempt the occasional extramural activity such as a visit to "Strange Beauty: Masters of German Art" at the National Gallery in London. At the end of April six members of the group plus some spouses are planning to spend a week in Hanover. This year marks the 300th anniversary of the succession of the Hanoverian dynasty to the British throne, to be celebrated by numerous events, both here and there:

<http://www.london.diplo.de/300yearsBritishGermanRoyalTies>

Roy Walker

RUSSIAN GROUP

There are six of us studying Russian in a group which has existed right from the start when the Buckingham U3A began some fifteen years ago. We meet in rotation in members' homes every two weeks and endeavour to practise all four language skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing on a set prepared topic such as Resolutions for the Coming Year or A City I have visited or would like to visit. Occasionally we select a text from the internet such as the Sochi Winter Olympics or Crisis in the Ukraine. It is a challenge surfing the internet in Cyrillic, and the results are sometimes unexpected. For reading and listening and writing skills as well as grammar practice we rely mostly on textbooks at present. In September we were visited by the U3A National Language Adviser for Russian, who also sends us periodic emails with updates, events and trends. For instance, this year many events are going on in London with the UK-Russia Year of Culture:

<http://www.britishcouncil.ru/en/discover-arts/uk-russia-year-of-culture-2014>

Outings this year included a visit to MK Cineworld for a spectacular screening of Borodin's "Prince Igor" from the Metropolitan Opera in New York and Rachmaninov's Vespers sung by the Milton Keynes Chorale at the Church of Christ the Cornerstone. We also watched the DVD of a recent successful film, Elena, at one of our meetings, albeit with the help of subtitles.

Roy Walker

STROLLERS

We are a very friendly group who walk for about an hour followed by coffee. In spite of the bad weather in January and February we have had some interesting walks already, Shenley Wood, Tingewick, Emerson Valley. I would like to extend special thanks to the nine members who turned out on a cold damp January morning and braved the elements at Stowe. Now March is here we have had some good walks including a very enjoyable one along the canal, followed by a lunch at a pub in Cosgrove. We have lots more interesting ones planned, including some of our old favourites, Hillesden and the bluebells at Stoke Lynn. If you would like to know more about strollers please ring me on 01280 817747.

Sheila Dalzell



BRIDGE

We are a friendly Bridge Club and are open to anybody who can play bridge to a reasonable standard. We play Duplicate Bridge and on the first Tuesday of the month we play a competition which runs from February to December. At times there will be also be tuition on an individual basis or in groups of 4. If anyone is interested in joining us please just turn up on a Tuesday Morning at Maids Moreton Village Hall for a 10 am start and introduce yourself to Bryan (Group Co-ordinator) or contact me on 01280 813664. The morning's fee is 75p of which 50p goes to the U3A Treasurer as a contribution for the hire of the hall and 25p which pays for playing cards, bridge stationery and coffee.

During the year we run two social events, an Annual Lunch in March and a Christmas Buffet in December.
Bryan Weston-Thomas



JAZZ APPRECIATION 1

We listen to a cross section of genres, New Orleans, Big Band Swing and Modern Jazz and would welcome new members. The group meets on the fourth Friday of the month from 10.00 to 12.00 in Wicken. You do not have to be an expert or very knowledgeable about Jazz to join the group.

Our programme for the next four months:

Date	Theme	Presented	Biscuits
April 18 th	International Jazz (excluding the USA)	Russell	Pamela
May 16th	History of Jazz - The Adventure (DVD)	DVD	Ron
June 20th	Your favourite number from your favourite discs.	All	Derrick
July 18th	History of Jazz - A Masterpiece by Midnight (DVD)	DVD	David

Bryan Weston-Thomas

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP (1)

Our group still meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month in Maids Moreton Village Hall and our programme continues to offer a wide variety of speakers on local topics. This year we are hearing more about great families of the past - the Temple family at Stowe, the Drydens of Canons Ashby and the Freemantles of Swanbourne. There are also talks about RAF Bicester, Buckingham's Christ's Hospital and the Angel of Oxford, Felicia Skene. As the better weather arrives we will hopefully enjoy walking tours of Whitchurch, Towcester, Piddington Roman Villa, Oxford's Ashmolean Museum and Upton House near Banbury. As in past years, we always welcome contributions from group members, particularly if they have lived in the area for a long time or have done research on a particular subject of local interest.

Peter Bowtell



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RECORDER GROUP

The recorder group has now been operating on a weekly basis for about 18 months, meeting at Gawcott Chapel. We have a regular group of eight players, covering bass, tenor, treble and descant instruments and are very grateful for musical direction and encouragement from Derek Smith. We enjoy playing a wide variety of music and are putting together a modest repertoire for public performance. Following playing carols round the Buckingham Christmas Tree in December we recently enjoyed entertaining clients of the Red Cross in Buckingham.

If you played the recorder at school, or would like to have a go, do contact us. We would very much welcome more members!



This photo was taken when we performed for the Red Cross in Buckingham.

Helen Preston (01280 821232) or Lindsay Dunham (01296 712521)

GARDENING GROUP



The rain has finally stopped and at last we can get on with the seasonal jobs of pruning and tidying up after the very wet winter. Let's hope we have some summer sun to look forward to.

The Christmas party was the usual fun affair with the Garden Group Player's giving a performance of Cinderella followed by mulled wine and vast quantities of lovely food.

We took a break in January and resumed in February with a talk by Peter Camas giving us tips on how to take good photographs of flowers and plants. Hopefully we might be able to see some of the results in the autumn.

Liz Loufti was the speaker for the March meeting, giving an interesting talk entitled 'Gardening on a Budget'. She gave us plenty of ideas and tips on recycling, saving our own seeds, re-using all manner of materials and being environmentally aware.

We have plenty to look forward to on our summer programme beginning with a visit to The National Herb Centre in May.

Good Gardening!

Vee Sampson

POETRY WRITING GROUP

The Poetry Writing Group has now found a home in the comfortable surroundings of the Buckingham Town Council Chamber, come along and join us. There is plenty of good conversation over a tea or coffee together with the reading of our efforts. If you want to see some of our work there are a few copies of our new anthology available from me at the remarkably reasonable price of £1.50. Carolina edited the anthology and it is our best yet.

Dusty Roades

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ART APPRECIATION

Sixteen members of the group visited the Ashmolean museum on 21st March to see the special exhibition entitled: *Cezanne and the Modern*, a wonderful collection which included twenty-four works by Cezanne comprising six oils, two drawings and 16 watercolours. There were also works by other Post- Impressionists including Modigliani, Soutine, Van Gogh and Paul Gauguin. This tied in very well with our current study of the Impressionists and Post-Impressionists.

This summer we hope to visit Broadway to see an exhibition of John Singer Sargent's work and other trips are planned to Upton House and Compton Verney.

We continue to meet in the Mezzanine Room at the Buckingham Centre on the 1st and 3rd Fridays in the month at 9.45a.m. when there is an illustrated talk. The group now has over 40 members but fortunately not everyone comes every time and we are always happy to welcome new faces.

Pam Tonge

CROQUET GROUP

Come and join the Croquet Group



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 new season will start on **Friday April 25th** and the Croquet Group will then meet every Friday until the end of September or thereabouts (weather permitting of course). Games are played on the outfield at Buckingham Town Cricket Club in Bourton Road (opposite the Fire Station), **starting at 2.00 pm**. It is a great way to spend a couple of hours on a pleasant, warm, sunny Friday afternoon and it costs just 50p to play. No previous experience of the game is necessary.

If you are interested in joining the group just come along to the cricket ground on the 25th where you will find a very warm welcome. If you want any more information, please phone Roger Edwards on 01280 815588.

CREATIVE WRITING

Visit at invitation from Luton U3A On Friday afternoon March 21st three members of the Creative Writers joined a room full of members from other U3As at Luton to enjoy a lecture by Colin Street. Colin is a Blue Badge London Guide, a City Guide and Globe Theatre Guide. His talk was about the development of the English Language over the past thousand years. Starting with the year 999, then to 1380, then 1611 and finally 1961 he showed us the same paragraph written in the language of those times. In the words of 999 they were barely comprehensible and virtually unpronounceable to the modern tongue, though Colin gave a very creditable performance. By 1380 it was becoming clearer but still difficult to work out how one would say the words. 1611 was almost all understandable and of course we were back to normal speech by 1961. In 999 there were four different Anglo-Saxon dialects in England. Wessex, Essex, Kent and Northumberland were the main ones but of course there were the different languages in Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. We are all familiar with the place names that have similar endings; eg; Hurst, Leigh, Thorpe, Thwaite and Wick etc. Colin explained the various sources of our language from which these words originate. Anglo-Saxon, Old Norse, Latin, Welsh and Gaelic seem to be the most common ones. Next he explained how words have been imported from other languages. eg: Latin, Greek, French, Italian, Spanish, Arabic, Hindi and so on. Also how words with the same meaning have come via different routes. eg: Friendly is of Anglo-Saxon origin but Amicable is from the French; similarly Underwear and Lingerie, Wash and Launder, Driver and Chauffeur. And finally he discussed how words have been pronounced by different social classes and even different sexes. For instance the word SINGING might have both 'ing' syllables strongly pronounced or might have the final 'g' left off altogether as in SINGIN'. He ventured briefly into Text Speak and the possible future being influenced by International Electronic Communication. Might there one day be just one language used on the worldwide web, International Speak? Who Knows?

Colin recommended the books of David Crystal for those who want to delve deeper into this fascinating subject.
Susie Kelly

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WALKING GROUP

The Walking Group (formerly named the Outdoor Group) meets once a week on Thursdays to enjoy convivial and pleasant walking outdoors.

A programme of walks is drawn up for February to May, June to September and October to January. All walks are chosen and led by individual members and are usually about 4 to 5 miles long (a gentle one and a half to two hours), ending where possible with a pub lunch. We walk both locally and further afield. Sometimes an all-day walk is offered with a picnic or pub lunch to break up the day. Some walks may include a visit to a place of interest such as a National Trust property.

The Walking Group currently has about 40 members, of which about 25 are regular walkers. There is no waiting list for the Group. To join the group, or to try out the group and a walk, please contact the co-ordinator, who will email you a copy of the programme. If no email is available it will be posted to you.

Unless the programme states otherwise, all our walks begin with a 9.30 am meeting at the Stratford Road Lay-by near the roundabout at the end of Page Hill Avenue. We practice a car sharing scheme from there to the start of the walk (and back again!), so no one has to have a car to participate; sometimes we use public transport. U3A membership cards are checked the first time you walk with us.

We aim to provide a variety of walks of varied lengths to encourage as many members to participate as possible. Recent walks have included Maids Moreton & Akeley; Swanbourne & Mursley; Cropredy; Hughenden Manor; the river Cherwell; Steeple Claydon & Hillesden; the Milton Keynes lakes; Marston Moretaine; Chipping Norton; Stockgrove & Rushmere.

Christmas meetings in recent years have included an informative guided walk around Stowe Gardens followed by lunch at Boycott Farm, and a very interesting guided walk round Buckingham and then lunch at Prego.
Stan Surzyn

HISTORY OF LITERATURE AND THEATRE

The group meets every 2nd and 4th Friday, 10.00 – 12.00, in the Council Chamber (opposite Waitrose). We began by looking at the pre-Roman evidence of the nature of social existence and how we can still trace that in our language today. We examined the difference between classical Greek drama and the extremes of its Roman descendants before trying our hand at the poetry of our Saxon and Norse forebears. We've had a stab at acting out bits of the medieval mystery cycles with their highly imaginative takes on tales from the Bible, morality plays such as 'Everyman' and the mumming plays brought back by the Crusaders. We've observed the prevailing literary styles and themes change from the Norman French romances of King Arthur to the English of Piers Plowman and the Canterbury Tales and saw the impact of printing on language, lay-out and subject matter.

We visited the Globe in order to experience the actuality of the built theatre and we are beginning our foray into Elizabethan and Jacobean literature by looking at Thomas More and the impact of the Italy of Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio and Macchiavelli. Then, of course, it will be the Sonnet, Kit Marlowe and Shakespeare. Visits are planned to the British Library and Stratford and, perhaps, further visits to exhibitions in the Bodlean.

Liz Loutfi



Thomas More

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EVENTS 2014

DATE	EVENT	PRICE	PAYMENT DUE
May 8 th	Cable Car and Tower Bridge	£29.00	March
June 10 th	Danube Cruise – Vienna – Budapest		Full
June 20 th	Blenheim Flower Show	£27.00	
June 28 th	Bolsover Castle and Equestrian Event** Total cost to EH members is Note this is a Saturday	£30.00 £19.00	
July 14 th	Kedleston Hall Derbyshire NT*	£17.50	
August 20 th	Austrian Lakes Holiday	£875.00 Plus tips and coach	
Sept. 21 st	West Yorkshire Holiday	£502.00	
October	Wicksteed Park – show, lunch and tea	TBA	
Nov 29 th	Christmas Celebration Portsmouth Historic Dock	£28.00	

Any unforeseen circumstances might render dates, outings and prices different from those shown

NB ** Price based on 30 people

*NT property is free to NT Members

We started the year with a wonderful Strauss concert in Birmingham. I am afraid my reputation for always having fine weather is in tatters – yes it rained. A few of us went to see ‘Priscilla Queen of the Desert’; it was a most entertaining show if a little raunchy. One has to be broad minded in this day and age.

As I have been encountering difficulties with finding sufficient numbers for group rate prices for theatre trips there are no more in this year’s Event listings. (if there is anyone who would like to take over please contact the Chairman.)

Although I was unable to go on the ‘All That Glitters’ outing I gather it was enjoyed by all – in spite of the weather.

We go to London in April for a ‘Legal London’ tour which I will tell you about in the September newsletter.

All systems go for the visit to Tower Bridge on May 8th which I was unable to arrange for March as I had initially planned.

I have now found out the date for the Portsmouth Historic Docks Victorian weekend, which is November 29th. I believe Sherlock Holmes will be around – but don’t quote me on that, I need a few more clues to be sure.

I had proposed a visit in October to see the Great Days Music Hall Show in St Albans but have now discovered that they consider October too close to their Christmas festivities. I have replaced it with a visit to Wicksteed Park which includes show, lunch and tea; real value for money. I haven’t listed a price but the entrance fee is roughly £18.50, coach extra. I was assured by Wicksteed their show is far better than anything Warners have to offer. I don’t yet have dates but will advertise them as soon as I do.

I have now sorted out most of my dates for the forthcoming year; they are list above. The Danube holiday is fully booked but there are still places for Austria in August and for Harrogate in September.

Beryl Carr 01280 823808 16 Robin Close, Buckingham MK18 7HD

Older People's 2014 Conference

In March Rosie and I attended, on your behalf, the Older People's 2014 Conference in Aylesbury. This is sponsored by the Bucks 50 plus forum and supported by Age UK Bucks and Aylesbury Vale and Buckinghamshire councils and Bucks Service User & carer Organisation (SUCO). The theme for the day was "Routes to Information for the Over 50s".

We were told that new legislation, welfare benefits reform and cuts to local authority budgets mean that support for older people is going through a period of great change. It is therefore most important that older people have timely access to good information so that they can adapt to change, make informed decisions and facilitate their choices. We had three short talks before breaking into discussion groups.

The first talk was by Trevor Boyd, Strategic Director Adults and Family Well-being, Bucks County Council. He took us through the main provisions of the Care Bill currently going through Parliament and the impact these would have on the Council and older people. The major provision is for a maximum lifetime care budget per person, which will be administered by the County Council. This will have a significant administration cost and Bucks County Council are already planning how they can monitor the care spending of individuals throughout their lives.

The second talk was by Dr Kevin Suddes who is the Clinical Lead for older people and Urgent Care for Aylesbury Vale. Here also there are big challenges in shaping the medical care for older people more effectively within a frozen budget.

Finally Guilia Johnson, chief executive of Age UK Bucks spoke about the mainly charity and volunteer effort going into countering the isolation of older people within the community.

The discussion Groups looked into the What, When, Where, Who, Why and How to get information on:

Transport
Staying Healthy
Legal & Financial issues
Help at Home
Care & Support

There were no major issues that came back but a common theme was that information was still needed locally and available on paper or by discussion rather than via the Internet.

Accompanying the conference was an excellent exhibition of charities and publicly funded organisations concerned with meeting the needs of older people. I was particularly struck by some of the smaller charities such as:

Community Impact Bucks-
providing Gardening help, Pub Lunches & Men in Sheds!
Transport for Bucks-
provides driving ability assessment for over 65's
Contact the Elderly-
organises Sunday afternoon tea parties with transport

I brought back a lot of leaflets etc and hope to display them at the next monthly meeting.

Clive & Rosie Cowdy