



August  
2021



Dear Members

The eagle eyed amongst you may have spotted that we are in the process of updating the style of our website to comply with the wishes of the National U3A. We changed our logo a couple of months ago and now have a new Home Page in the specified colours and fonts

We are slowly working through the pages so bear with us as we complete further pages in the coming weeks.

We are hopeful that all groups will resume in September and many of the venues we use have indicated that they will be happy to welcome us back. Obviously, we will have to remain vigilant and continue to complete risk assessments if asked to do so by the venue.

Personal safety is paramount so please take all the precautions you feel necessary. Your attendance at any session will be recorded on the group register and will be deemed your personal acceptance of risk.

Lynne has recently sent an email to all members asking for volunteers to step forward to help run our organisation and join our teams – if this were something you would like to consider and need further information, please contact her on [vicechair@mku3a.org](mailto:vicechair@mku3a.org).

We have successfully launched three new groups and the first session of these groups will take place in September, but three other groups have had to be 'mothballed' for the time being as we were unsuccessful in encouraging members to take on the roles of Group Leaders. As we currently have no-one in our team to support the launch of new groups any suggestions from members for possible new groups should always be accompanied by an offer to run the group. The ethos of the u3a movement is that we share our expertise and passions with others in our organisation and ensure we contribute to the running of any groups of which we are a member so that the burden doesn't always fall on the shoulders of the Group Leader.

On this point we are considering a change of name from Group Leader so that the emphasis moves away from the member holding this post as deemed to be 'the teacher' and others in the group 'the students' but that the responsibility for group sessions is shared.

If a study group, for example Art Appreciation, holds one session every month and there are 12 members in

the group each member should be prepared to give a presentation once a year and following this principle if a walking group holds two walks a month and has 24 members each member should be prepared to recce and lead one walk a year.

I hope we are moving to our 'new normal' and we can meet up in September. Fingers crossed anyway.

August is upon us so if you manage a staycation, I hope you have a lovely break.

Best wishes

**Lesley** on behalf of the Trustees

### Virtual Talks to Members

This July we have had two delightful and entertaining talks, both of which met the u3a motto of learning and laughing.

Our first talk was a last minute reschedule kindly provided by David Allen who wowed us with his talk on the making of the iconic film "Casablanca". David gave us an insight into what was happening behind the scenes. I for one didn't realise the script for this film wasn't completed as filming commenced so the lead characters had no idea how the film was to finish as many of the scenes were filmed – perhaps explaining some of the enigma, and David rated highly the beautiful cinematography and the stillness of the acting, something that really rarely happens these days.

Our second talk this month was from another returning speaker. This time Tricia Thompson entertained us with a review of the life and times of the "Two Ronnies", with lots of supporting clips from their well remembered and loved show. My goodness didn't we all laugh and enjoy again their so clever dialogues and humour. Barker the most exceptionally able actor who was the comic, Corbett the superb comedian who could also act. A comedy duo who also were stars in their own individual performances. A complimentary talk delivered by Tricia is on the female equivalents "Victoria Woods and Julie Walters", I hope to book this for 2022.

Talks in August, all starting at 2.30pm:

**Talk no 37: Wednesday 11 August "The City of London, exploring London's Square Mile"** Simon Gregor returns to give us an insight into the hidden gems of this area and supported no doubt by some of his photographs.

**Talks no 38: Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August "Secrets, Sex, Scandal and Salacious Gossip of the Royal Court"**. Another returning speaker, Sarah Slater returns to share more tales from Hampton Court.

In September we are hoping to return again to have a live talk for members at the OakTree venue, with another talk being given via zoom.

As always talks can be booked directly by members by logging onto our website and going to the diary page or by emailing me at [vicechair@mku3a.org](mailto:vicechair@mku3a.org).

**Lynne Button**

## Motoring Group

The new motoring group will have its first meeting in September. There are still a few vacancies. If you would like more information or to join the group please email: [motoring@mku3a.org](mailto:motoring@mku3a.org)

The group aims to cover a broad spectrum of topics from classic and supercars to electric and autonomous vehicles and everything in between. Car design and why certain cars succeed and others fail and more.

Driving including safety, the Highway Code, driving licences and categories, advanced driving and advice for mature drivers will all be covered.

Motorsports and famous people including racing drivers, designers and others. Insurance, Breakdown services. Road trip accounts. Driving abroad after Brexit.

Advice and tips (and no doubt group members' experiences!) on buying, selling, and looking after your vehicle.

We hope to have visits to local companies involved in the motor industry and outings to places of interest such as motor museums and race days.

This is only a small sample of the broad range of topics that motoring can cover and I'm sure group members would come up with many more. Topics would be covered by way of talks, discussions, demonstrations, and videos.



## **Bob Deane**

The **Exploring World Faiths group** met for the first time since lockdown on July 7th at **Bradwell Abbey**. We had an interesting talk from Dr Noel James who is the director and CEO of Bradwell Abbey. She showed us a helpful model of the site in earlier times and gave us an interesting summary of the history of the original Benedictine priory. She told us this was built in 1154 as a daughter house to Luffield Priory in Northamptonshire (Luffield corner at Silverstone race track may be the only reminder of this priory). It soon gained independence by farming the surrounding land and making two fish ponds and orchards to provide food. All went well until the Black Death and plagues, together with poor harvests in the 1300's, from which it never recovered. Even the building of St Mary's chapel around 1340 and the money raised from pilgrims visiting did not stop it being dissolved by papal bull in 1524 and given to Cardinal Wolsey.

In small groups we visited the chapel and saw the wall paintings and original tiles on the floor. The chapel has the 17th century Stuart coat of arms as it was still being used for religious purposes throughout the 1600's.

We were able to walk around the site, through the woodlands and round the fishponds to end our visit. Thanks to everyone who made this visit possible.

Thanks to Betty Course for this report. I was surprised to learn after the visit that Betty had been a birthday girl that day, but kept it quiet!

Thanks also to Martin Bisby, Joe Laredo and Nigel Wright for the photos.



St Mary's Chapel







On Wednesday 1 September 2021 at 2pm our speaker will be from the Unification Church, sometimes called the Moonies. She had a marriage arranged by Mr Moon himself. Venue Wolverton Park Bowls Club, Haversham Road, Wolverton MK12 5TN.



If you are already a member of our group you are most welcome. If you are not a group member you are indeed welcome, but please make contact via our group page on the website before attending.

**Linda Morris**

#### Thames Valley Network Events

There are no reminders for events in August as the TVN events team is having a summer break. The September programme is available at [www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk](http://www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk). I will send you the details of each event as they are released.

Enjoy your Summer activities.

**Brian Baldwin** - TVN Rep mku3a

#### English Country Dancing and Folk Dance Club

In June, despite the rain, 28 group members of English Country Dancing and also Folk Dance Club met to enjoy a delicious strawberry tea.

John Figg welcomed us to his beautiful garden and it was a real pleasure to see everyone again after 16 months.





**Pat Allen**

## THE THIRD AGE PLAYERS (TAP)

**Make-up – costume – props – we are getting ready for the great day when we can start performing again!**

Well, it's nearly here and having found a new safe venue in which to rehearse and perform, we're pleased to announce a show that will combine solos, duets, sketches and short plays - and yes, it might contain a murder:

**'Amuse Bouche' – bite sized comic and dramatic pieces**

**Presented by TAP (The Third Age Players)**

**on September Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> at 3.00pm**

**Marsh Drive Community Hall, off Marsh Drive, Great Linford, MK14 5HH.\***

There is lots of parking. Bring your own refreshments. The performance will last approximately 2¼ hours including an interval.

It will be a covid safe, socially distanced performance, so we ask that you are double jabbed or have had a negative test result within the previous 24 hours. The hall will be very well ventilated, so feel free to layer up with blankets.

Numbers of tickets are strictly limited, cost £3 including a programme, and can be reserved through Barbara at [tap@mku3a.org](mailto:tap@mku3a.org) or 01908 562738. Payment will then be taken on the door. Please note we do not have credit/debit card facilities – so real cash (please bring change!) is necessary!

Please come and support us – we crave an audience after this long time. Also, could we ask that you let us know if you have to cancel, as we are hoping to be over-subscribed!

**Barbara Baker**

\*When finding the venue, please do not confuse where we will be: the new Community Hall is at the sports ground, by the tennis courts (not the old Memorial Hall which is a little distance away, further along the road).

### Quiz Night & Fish and Chip Supper

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August at 7.00 p.m.

Proceeds to Bucks Vision

£12.00 per person, £6 per person without the supper

Teams or individual people can join others

At St Thomas's Church, Simpson MK6 3AD

Bring your own drink – teas served

Please park in the laybys in Simpson Road if possible

All seats have to be booked. For more information or to book

[missquiz@sky.com](mailto:missquiz@sky.com).

### **Pat Hodges**

Please may I give a plug to a Garden opening for the National Garden Scheme, owned by some friends of mine. Details and picture gallery may be found on the NGS website: ([www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk)).

I know I may be biased, but it really is one of my favourite gardens to visit. I always come away very envious, but with lots of ideas for my own garden (not that they are always put in to practice!).

### **Details:**

Date: Sunday 8th August 11am - 4pm

Address: **136 High Street, Irchester, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, NN29 7AB.**

**On the NGS website it is described as a:** ½ acre garden with various different borders including those planted for shade, sun and bee friendly situations. Alpine houses, raised beds and planted stone sinks. Wildlife pond. Seasonal planted tubs.

**For this open day you can pre-book your tickets in advance on the website, but it is not essential.**

### **Refreshments:**

Light refreshments. Refreshments in aid of St Katharine's Church, Irchester.

### **Admission:**

Adult: £3.50

Child: Free

Wheelchair access over mainly grass, with some gravel pathways.

**Sandra Adkins**



### Pilates is Good for Your Health!

Have you been doing Pilates and are you looking to join a class? Our friendly Pilates group will restart our weekly classes from September. We have a very experienced tutor and the classes are held in an airy large hall in Great Linford on Wednesday mornings.

We are looking for members to join our classes. If you are interested please contact our Group Leader, Jane Gibbs, for the details ([pilates3@mku3a.org](mailto:pilates3@mku3a.org)). You will find more information about our group, **Pilates 3**, on the website, under the Interest Groups tab.

**Jane Gibbs**

### A Recommendation

ALS Roofing Limited - this local firm has the expertise to provide an efficient and high quality service in a timely way. 07716 353133 and [alsroofingmk@gmail.com](mailto:alsroofingmk@gmail.com).

**Keith Tipping**

## **Key Contact Details—more on the web site**

Chair: Lesley Sparks email [chair@mku3a.org](mailto:chair@mku3a.org)

Vice Chair: Lynne Button [openmtgs@mku3a.org](mailto:openmtgs@mku3a.org)

Secretary: Fred Bass email [secretary@mku3a.org](mailto:secretary@mku3a.org)

Treasurer: Diana Sears: email [treasurer@mku3a.org](mailto:treasurer@mku3a.org)

Groups Co-ordinator: Marie Stanley email: [groups@mku3a.org](mailto:groups@mku3a.org)

Web Master: Dave Barratt email: [webmaster@mku3a.org](mailto:webmaster@mku3a.org)

Membership Secretary: Yvonne Ashmore email: [membersec@mku3a.org](mailto:membersec@mku3a.org)

Communications Co-ordinator: Simon Wong email [comms@mku3a.org](mailto:comms@mku3a.org)

Thames Valley Network Coordinator: Brian Baldwin email: [tvn@mku3a.org](mailto:tvn@mku3a.org)

Please refer to the website: **[www.mku3a.org](http://www.mku3a.org)** for statements concerning **MKu3a Policies and Guidance** on all aspects of our administration **including Data Privacy, Disclaimers and Copyright**

**Office:** 11 Winchester Circle, Kingston, Milton Keynes MK10 0BA.

**Telephone:** 01908 281717. **E-mail:** [info@mku3a.org](mailto:info@mku3a.org)

Registered charity number **298693**