



December
2021



Dear Members

We have been fortunate with the weather so far this Autumn but this week we have been subjected to some icy blasts and high winds!

The weather was against us as we held our Coffee and Cake Drop-In morning on Friday, but several members popped in to see us to discuss ways they could volunteer to help our organisation. We still need more volunteers so if you think you would like to help, please let us know.

The response for the 40th Anniversary Tree initiative has been good and we will be sending in our order at the beginning of December. If you have notified us that you would like to 'buy a tree' but have yet still to pay, please contact the Treasurer treasurer@mku3a.org We will notify you all with the final number in the January issue of the newsletter.

Many of our groups continue to meet and our membership numbers are increasing again after a drop during the pandemic. A very warm welcome to all returning and new members.

The Trustees would like to thank all the Group Coordinators, other volunteers and the Admin Team who give up their time to keep our organisation running, without them we would cease to exist.

It may be slightly early, but I hope you all have a festive time over the Christmas period, and I look forward to meeting again in the New Year.

Best wishes to you all.

Lesley on behalf of the Trustees

Members Meeting and talks

Sadly, what was to be our final “live” talk of the year was postponed due to an illness within the speaker’s family. We were however very fortunate in our ZOOM talk this month. Peter Carney shared with us an insight to “The End of the Roman Empire” how and why it happened and what was myth and what could be supported by evidence. We learned how the Goths needed to migrate westward within Europe due to climate change and how this shifted the power, priorities and dynamic of the Roman Empire. How changes and different power shifts led to a dismantling of the bureaucratic class with the subsequent loss of ability to raise taxes and support economic well being and how recent excavations of bodies buried as the empire ended showed people were both dying young and showing evidence of chronic ill health. Again, Peter shared with us his expert knowledge in an entertaining and accessible manner.

We currently have one more event scheduled for this year:

Talk 1 (The first of the Charity’s next financial year) Wednesday 15th December: “Festive Verse” shared with us and delivered by Simon Gregor. This talk is via ZOOM.

Further talks by ZOOM and, hopefully, live talks to members in 2022 have been booked, details of which can found on our website within the diary section.

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. Please remember that if you book for a talk on ZOOM, I send out the codes on the Tuesday evening, if you book later then please let me know so I can send codes through to you.

Lynne Button
Vice Chair

A Performance of Handel’s Messiah

The Adderbury Ensemble with MK Youth Choir.

Sunday 5 December at 5pm at The Venue MK.

Tickets £15, £5 under 18s, students and the unemployed.

www.thevenuemk.com 01908 528808

Felicity Head

“Interfaith MK” is our subject for the Exploring World Faiths group meeting on **Wednesday 1st December**. Our speaker is the former Convenor of the Interfaith MK group, David Rennie. The meeting will be held at the Quaker Centre, and starts at 2 pm, with refreshments beforehand. David is a keen photographer, so we are looking forward to seeing some of his many photos of the MK faith communities and their buildings. More information can be found on our group page.

If you would like to join our group for this meeting, please make contact with the group coordinator, Linda Morris. Ewf@mku3a.org.

Also, Group members should please book in for a group meal for our 5th anniversary as soon as possible. More information is on our group page.





Musical Director: Hilary Davan Wetton

Plus special guests: The Christmas Choir of St Edwards

Christmas Celebration



Join us for a fantastic evening of Carols, Brass and festive cheer to kickstart your Christmas celebrations!

**7.00pm, Friday 17th December 2021,
St Edward the Confessor Catholic Church, MK**

Tickets: £15 or £30 for a Family of 4
www.ticketsource.co.uk/alina-orchestra
or alinaorchestratickets@gmail.com





MKu3a Choir

It was a difficult decision to cancel our face to face Christmas Concert again this year as we were looking forward to raising funds for charities that have been hit badly during covid. However we have decided to video record our concert on Tuesday 7th December with the usual format of carols and readings and hopefully this can be accessed via zoom on either Thursday 9th or Friday 10th. Lynne Button will be in touch and you can get an access code as usual if this goes ahead as planned. We may be able to produce a dvd for sale as well. If you wish to make a donation in lieu of a concert ticket we would ask you to support Willen Hospice.

As last year, choir members are donating tins of food to the MK food bank instead of sending multiple Christmas cards to friends in the choir. Last year it took several trips to the collection depot as there was so much gifted. All donations are much needed and appreciated.

We hope you are all staying fit and well and that whatever you are planning over Christmas it goes ahead untouched by the dreaded virus. Stay safe.

Sheila Staincliffe

Joint group coordinator

Good will to all! The Third Age Players perform 'An Alternative Christmas Story' to members of the Milton Keynes Parkinson's Support Group.

The entertainment followed the broad narrative of the Christmas Story but with surprises, twists and turns along the way to Bethlehem. The main characters, Joseph, Mary, Innkeeper, Shepherds and the Angel are as expected, but for the first time we get a lighthearted insight into the lives of the characters and find out what is going on behind the scenes. Unlike other

productions, Caesar Augustus and the sheep have speaking parts. The star of Bethlehem lends support to everyone and continues to shine brightly throughout the play.

The Third Age Players thoroughly enjoyed performing this seasonal production to the Parkinson's Support Group. The play was very well received, and we hope that there will be further opportunities to act and perform to local groups.

The shepherds are frightened by the Angel



The Narrator



Barbara Baker and Greta Langdale who have jointly guided TAP for the last few years



The Kings visit the stable



Angela Forrest

Calling all bridge players, past and present!

Whether you are a lapsed player or a frequent player, we would welcome you to our intermediate game of bridge on Tuesday afternoons, starting at 13.30 until 16.00, at Flintergill Court residential home at Heelands and if you would like more information please call me, Judith Exter, at 01908 976058. We even have time for a natter!

Judith Exter

Holidays and Short Breaks 2022

It has certainly been interesting trying to put together an itinerary for a Holidays and Short Breaks 2022.

However, working with [Just for Groups](#) I hope we have put together an itinerary that you will find enjoyable and interesting and will join us from 3 July 2022 for 4 nights 5 days to visit the Eden Project and four National Trust properties as well as time in Exeter and Dartmouth.

MKU3A – Holidays & Short Breaks

Exeter 2021

Including tour of Exeter Cathedral, Dartmouth, Eden Project, and National Trust properties as shown

Departs Sunday 3rd July 2022

5 Days

Half Board

by coach

from*

£565pp sharing
for NT members



Itinerary:-

Day 1: 8am pick-up at Milton Keynes Coachway M16 (190 miles), stopping en route at Montacute House & Gardens (montacute@nationaltrust.org.uk). This glittering Elizabethan mansion is adorned with riches that exude wealth and power and the compartmentalised gardens are quite unique.

Lunch can be taken here before resuming our journey to Exeter and our hotel in the centre of the city.

Day 2: Exeter Cathedral/Killerton House: Depart hotel on foot to meet our guide at Exeter Cathedral for a guided tour at 11am followed by free time in the city. In the afternoon travel by coach to nearby Killerton House (killerton@nationaltrust.org.uk). Following our visit we return to Exeter with time to relax before dinner.

Day 3: Eden Project: Departing after breakfast we travel south into the county of Cornwall to visit the famous Eden Project. Housing plants and landscapes from the Tropics, Mediterranean, South Africa and California in its huge Biomes, this unique feature opened in 1998 on the site of a former china clay quarry and continues to attract visitors from all over the world. Entry cost included

Day 4: Dartmouth and Greenway: Depart hotel at 9.15am for Dartmouth where we join the Greenway Ferry at the town's pontoon. A short journey takes us to Greenway, the former home of the famous author Agatha Christie and her family (greenway@nationaltrust.org.uk). Ferry cost included

Day 5: Exeter/Home - Depart hotel at 9am and commence journey home, stopping at Buckland Abbey (bucklandabbey@nationaltrust.org.uk) for a visit and lunch stop. Depart in the afternoon and continue journey to Milton Keynes Coachway, arriving at approximately 6pm.

Jurys Hotel Exeter

A modern hotel well located on Western Way, just 10 minutes' walk from Exeter Cathedral.

- 170 stylish bedrooms with private facilities, hospitality tray, wifi, air conditioning, TV and hairdryer
- Contemporary Restaurant & Bar
- Portage on arrival & departure
- Lift
- Four star rated

What's included:

- ✓ 4 nights' stay with 3 choice, 3 course dinner and breakfast
- ✓ Return executive coach travel
- ✓ Guided tour of Exeter Cathedral, Dartmoor Ferry and entrance to Eden Project
- ✓ Visits to National Trust properties as shown

*from price based on National Trust Members. Non National Trust members pay £615 sharing

Sole occupancy supplement £100

Optional insurance £25
(Includes Covid cover)

Deposit £60 per person due 31/1/22
Balance 8 weeks prior to departure

*Minimum group size 35 passengers.
Booking conditions apply

To enquire or request a booking form please contact

Chris Behrendt

Tel. 07766 026357 Email: h.and.sb@mku3a.org

just for
groups!

Tour details are subject to change and have been arranged in conjunction with **just for groups!**

The Old Bakery, Queens Road, Norwich NR1 3PL
01603 886740 www.justforgroups.co.uk

ABTA
ABTA No: 98237

Keef ARA

ATG

CTA

u3a Thames Valley Network Events - By Zoom

A REMINDER of events in Dec 2021

Day/Date	Time	Event	Cost	Book By
Thurs 9 th December	10.30am	The Spirit of Christmas. Its traditions and folklore with a wreath making demo	£1.00	6 th Dec
Tues 14 th December	10.30am	Merry Christmas Mr Dickens	£1	11 th Dec

Please book electronically using the 'TICKET SOURCE' icon immediately below the event on the TVN website <http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk/> This is by far the best and easiest option. You will receive an acknowledgement immediately and the Zoom link two days before the event. More detailed flyers are available from the above website.

Always happy to hear from you about TVN events. Having these excellent opportunities via Zoom has been of great value to mku3a members. You can contact me at: tvn@mku3a.org - Brian Baldwin.

Key Contact Details—more on the web site

Chair: Lesley Sparks: email chair@mku3a.org

Vice Chair: Lynne Button: email openmtgs@mku3a.org

Secretary: Fred Bass: email secretary@mku3a.org

Treasurer: Diana Sears: email treasurer@mku3a.org

Groups Facilitators: Chris Costello/Hazel Spencer: email groups@mku3a.org

Web Master: Dave Barratt: email webmaster@mku3a.org

Membership Secretary: Yvonne Ashmore: email membersec@mku3a.org

Communications Co-ordinator: Simon Wong: email comms@mku3a.org

Thames Valley Network Coordinator: Brian Baldwin: email: tvn@mku3a.org

Please refer to the website: **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

Registered charity number **298693**