



milton keynes



March
2021



Dear Members

The first signs of Spring are popping through and what a welcome sight it is. The Covid-19 vaccination programme is well under way and many of us will have had at least our first jab. Another step forward to more normal times.

MKu3a remains closed, following the Government Guidelines, but plans are in place to hold our AGM on 24th March online. Access to the meeting will be the same as to any other Open Meeting but you can also join by phone. The details of how to do this will be sent by email in due course, together with other pertinent documents. These documents will also be available on our website, after you have signed in, by opening the Members Only area - AGM. At the meeting members will be able to ask questions, propose and second any decisions and cast their vote. In fact, apart from being together in the Oak Tree Centre the proceeding should be the same as other years. One added benefit is that you will be seated comfortably in your own home.

We now have a new feature in our website Diary where you can sign yourself into the Open Meetings. Once you have logged into the website, open the Diary, select the speaker you would like to hear and follow the sign in options for that event. Don't forget to press the SUBMIT button which may be further down the page and wait for the green banner saying you have successfully signed into the meeting before you close the website. This banner should appear almost immediately but if your broadband is slow it may take a few more seconds. If all this is gobbledegook you can always ask for help.

In addition, for the AGM this sign in facility will allow you to send in your apologies by selecting the 'I cannot Attend' button. (This will be visible for all events but is only applicable to record apologies for the AGM). Again please SUBMIT and wait for the green banner.

There will be a change of personnel on the Committee this year as Neill Dewar, our current Secretary and Shirley Dewar, our current Groups Coordinator are stepping down as they have been working in those roles for three years. Time flies. Dave Barratt, our Webmaster, will step back from his Trusteeship as he has completed his maximum term of five years but has agreed to be co-opted back onto the committee for a further year. This will allow us to identify a member to take over the post and become familiar with the day to day running of our website.

Diana Sears, our Treasurer, Simon Wong, our Communications Officer, Fred Bass, our TVN representative, and I have all agreed to remain for at least one more year. Fred will change roles and become the Secretary.

Many thanks to all the Trustees for their dedication to our organisation and especially to Neill and Shirley as they retire and have more time to enjoy the groups we have on offer.

We have received Nomination Forms from two members who have agreed to join the committee, Susan Guiver and Marie Stanley and two members, Frank Parisi and Peter Martin, who will take on special projects. Our thanks go to them all for stepping up. We are still looking for further members to become part of the Groups Coordinator team or be our Thames Valley Representative; if this is something which you think might be of interest there is a nomination form in the Members Area - AGM on the website. Please contact me if you would like any information on these roles. chair@mku3a.org.

We still have a great programme of speakers for our Open Meetings. We are now holding them weekly for the time being. Many thanks once again to Dave and Lynne who deal with all the organisation of these meetings. Come and join us on a Wednesday afternoon if you haven't already. There is help available if you are a novice with Zoom. The numbers attending are going up week on week and you will be most welcome.

Best wishes to you all and stay safe.

Lesley on behalf of the Trustees

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

MKu3a 2021 AGM

2.00 p.m. Wednesday 24 March 2021

Via Zoom

All MKu3a members are invited to attend our AGM on Wednesday 24th March 2021. This meeting will be a virtual meeting via Zoom but there is a facility to dial in to the meeting on either your landline or mobile. Cost for this service are dependent on your contract with your

supplier. Details for this will be sent by email with other documents for the meeting closer to the date. All voting will follow the same procedure which we successfully used for our Special General Meeting in January.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 28 March 2019
3. Annual Report and Accounts
4. Independent Examiner's Report
5. Election of Independent Examiner
6. Appointment of Trustees
7. Date of next AGM – Wednesday 23 March 2022

The meeting will be followed by an Open Meeting at approximately 2.30pm via Zoom. Please sign into both the AGM and the Open Meeting. A reminder will be issued Lynne nearer the date.

Speaker Michael Kushner
entitled
'Black Propaganda Radio. Britain's Biggest Hoax'

PACE - The Children and Young People Charity

The BIG Walk 24 April 2021

These walks are organised by and in aid of The PACE Centre which is a UK-registered charity and special school based in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, UK.

The charity helps children and young people with motor disorders, such as cerebral palsy.

NEW CIRCULAR ROUTES!!!

By taking part in the BIG Walk you will have the opportunity to take in beautiful views and scenery through woodlands and along parts of the Icknield Way and the Ridgeway Trail as well as making a BIG impact!

Challenge yourself to take on the full 18-mile route, or one of the shorter distances, and help transform the lives of the inspirational children and young people at Pace.

By taking part you will be helping us to provide life changing support to over 350 children and young people.

Choice of four routes:

- 18m
- 12m
- 6m
- 1m The Superhero Mile

All routes are circular, starting and finishing at the John Colet School in Wendover where parking will be available.

Registration times:

- 18m from 8.00 am
- 12m from 10.15 am
- 6m from 12 noon
- 1m The Superhero Mile from 1.30 pm

Walk starts:

- 18m – 9.00 am
- 12m – 11.15 am
- 6m – 1.00 pm
- 1m - The Superhero Mile - from 2.00 pm

£15 registration fee (18, 12 and 6 mile routes) includes:

- A Big Walk t-shirt
- A participants' medal
- Water and snacks
- Support team

£5 registration fee (1 mile The Superhero Mile)

Join our new one mile accessible route for children and adults. A fun, family friendly event which is open to all ages and abilities - where small steps can make a BIG difference.

Dress as your favourite superhero (optional) and whether you are superman or super gran, we will clap, cheer and support our superheroes as they walk around the grounds of the John

Colet School.

By taking part in the BIG Walk, you will not only have the opportunity to explore this beautiful countryside in a completely unique way, but you will also be helping us to provide life changing support to the children and young people who access Pace services.

Sign up here <https://thepacecentre.org/thebigwalk/>

For information about PACE, visit our website at www.thepacecentre.org

Kelly Houghton

Events Fundraising Manager

Virtual Talks to Members

This month we enabled members to book themselves onto talks, which some members have successfully started to use, a welcome reduction in emails for me – thank you.

Looking back we certainly had a varied and full month of speakers this February.

We started the month with one of our members Richard Kushner sharing with us his fascinating insight into the life and achievements of Alan Turing with a rightly labelled talk “The Real Imitation Game”. This talk was so enjoyed by members, with record numbers dialling in, and I am sure all of our appetites were whetted to return, when restrictions ease, to visiting both Bletchley Park and the adjoining Computer Museum.

Our second talk of the month was a welcome return by AnnaMaria Dall’Anese. AnnaMaria cleverly structured her talk around the theme of change linking various London museums and pieces of art in an informed, knowledgeable and entertaining talk. For those of you who would like to know a little bit more about what AnnaMaria is currently offering, her website address is Annamaria Dall'Anese - Guide London.

This was followed by a glimpse of summer brought into our homes as we enjoyed an expert talk on Clematis by Richard Hodson, the talk supported by some really beautiful photographs. I for one was certainly taken aback by the range, variety and different colours available in the many species of Clematis which Richard holds in his nursery. Unsurprisingly he is a national collection holder for Clematis. If you would like to know more, or perhaps order a plant or two, his website is Hawthornes Nursery - Clematis Specialists (hawthornes-nursery.co.uk).

We finished this month’s series of talks with another performance by FoolsGold. Steve and Carol entertained us with the story of the mystery of Flannan Island and the disappearance of

three lighthouse men and some of their original songs and ending, of course, the show with a medley of well known songs which we could sing along to with gusto in the splendid isolation of our homes.

In March, during this time of continued lockdown, we are again able to offer a talk on each Wednesday afternoon. These can be booked directly by members or through emailing me at vicechair@mku3a.org.

Talks in March:

Wednesday, 3rd March: **Art and Design in the Chilterns** by Dr Graham Twemlow

Wednesday, 10th March: **The Music of Elvis** by Tricia Thompson

Wednesday, 17th March: **Munich to Nuremberg** – an insight to a significant area of 20th century history by Simon Gregor – another returning excellent speaker

Wednesday 24th March: (after the AGM): **Black Propaganda Radio, Britain's biggest hoax** – a welcome and early return by Richard Kushmer

Wednesday 31st March: **Cocktails and Crime** – the link between crime and our favourite drinks by Ian Gunn, a renowned speaker on cruise lines and a former prison governor.

Lynne Button

Play Reading Group

We have been able to continue monthly Zoom meetings with reasonable success. For instance we were able to enjoy and discuss the Netflix showing of "the Dig".

We have to be sensitive to the fact that not everyone has Netflix and I have encouraged members to inquire if their younger relatives would allow them to, if the right word is piggy back, onto their subscription. It is possible to have, I understand, a number of devices even in different households.

I recommend Edith on BBC 1 player, ripe for discussion, I want to go on the Caledonian Express to Inverness.

At present I can see no other way forward and I am delighted that discussion and friendly companionship is going so well.

I welcome anyone else who feel interested to join us. Whenever possible we will return to our original aim. However as of this minute we are not going away!!

Ann Price

World Faith's Group

The Exploring World Faiths group sadly lost a member in January. Gordon Porter was a great supporter of the group, even before we started officially. He didn't mind me telling people his story... He had been sent off to Sunday School by his mother as a child but rarely attended as he would go off with his friends instead. But when he was older he began to wonder if he had missed out on anything important, so he began to investigate world faiths. He valued the chance to step inside MK places of worship and to meet people who he might otherwise have had no chance to listen to or talk to. He was very enthusiastic and often came up with suggestions of places that we could visit. Gordon will be greatly missed.

Linda Morris

Transport Topics Group

Our monthly ZOOM presentations, which have been put together by our members, have continued through February and have been well supported and are planned to continue as follows:

17th March at 2.30pm 'Ransomes, Sims & Jeffries' presented by Chris Turland

21st April at 2.30pm 'The Flying Scotsman Project' presented by Mike Corbett

New members are always welcome to join us.

Dave Bowler

Nutritional Needs While Ageing – Ageing Well Series

Here is a link to an event held on 24 February by an amazing speaker:-

<http://stadium.open.ac.uk/stadia/preview.php?whichevent=3536&s=31>

Linda Morris

Web of the Week

Please see below a link which includes “Guy’s Guides” on core digital skills like [using podcasts](#) and [zoom](#) - and [how to attach a photo to an email](#).

25,000 people have enjoyed our website over the past 8 months but we believe that we can (and should) be doing more to bring smiles to a lot more people that may be feeling lonely, isolated or struggling with new technology.

Web of the Week

Denise Andrews

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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**

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