

# The Third Way e-Newsletter

August 2022

## News from the Chair

As I write this the Lionesses have reached the Euro finals, fingers crossed they play well in the final and I am about to go to the other semi final match at the MK Dons stadium. I know a number of our members have also taken the opportunity to support this tournament in our city and I hope, like me, they are proud of how successfully it has been staged here.

I moved to Milton Keynes 40 years ago and would never have thought the City would have grown as it has and been able to host an international event. Co-incidentally 40 years ago saw the start of the u3a movement in this country and I am sure the founders of our inspirational movement will be likewise delighted in how it has progressed. It is also the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of u3a here in Milton Keynes and I hope you all feel it is an achievement to be celebrated. So please put Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September in your diaries and lets see as many as possible at our showcase event at the Stables, another iconic venue within our City. We hope to use this event to advertise our movement so please spread the word, flyers and posters are available if you wish to distribute. As the plans start to come together one of the items I am fascinated to see are the photographs from mku3a events from the last 35 years, very nostalgic and I am sure it will be a walk down memory lane for many of our members.

We currently have some vacancies within our management committee and there will be some trustee vacancies after next year's AGM, if you are interested then please let me know – we need you.

**Lynne Button**

Chair

## **New Members Induction Meeting – 12 September 2022**

Our next Induction Meeting for new members is on Monday, 12 September, starting at 2.00 pm. It will be held in the Great Linford Parish Office meeting room, in the Great Linford local centre.

The session will briefly outline the background to the u3a movement, explain how to get the best out of your membership with MKu3a, and show you how to navigate around the website and join interest groups. You will also meet other members.

If you joined MKu3a recently you will receive an email invitation in due course. Please send me an email if you want to join. You will receive further information nearer the time.

**Yvonne Ashmore (Membership Secretary)**

Email [membersec@mku3a.org](mailto:membersec@mku3a.org).

## MKU3A CHOIR



Following a successful summer concert where we raised £800 for the Ukrainian appeal, we are taking a well-earned break over the Summer holidays, restarting back on September 6<sup>th</sup>. We will then be rehearsing for our contribution to the u3a 40th anniversary celebrations being held on 26<sup>th</sup> September at the Stables venue. After that of course, comes rehearsals for the Christmas concert on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm in the United Reformed church in Newport Pagnell. More details to follow. Looking forward to seeing you at one or both of these events.

New members are always welcome so please contact us via the website and come along and join us to sing just for the pleasure it gives.

**Sheila Staincliffe**  
Joint group coordinator

### **Exploring World Faiths Group**

We have a **Spiritualist Minister** speaking to us on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm. Please contact me on [ewf@mku3a.org](mailto:ewf@mku3a.org) if you are interested in attending this meeting. Look on our group page for more details.

**Linda Morris**

### **Are you interested in PowerWalking football?**

The general manager of the Power League in Milton Keynes has contacted us to see if there is interest from MKu3a members in Milton Keynes. He has been instrumental in helping Peterborough u3a set up a team. If you are interested in being a lead person for what potentially could be a new group then please can you contact a member of the Committee and we can share with you his contact details. This exciting new opportunity is for both male and female participants

**Lynne Button**

## IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO DO SOMETHING NEW

Five years ago I decided I'd been "just an academic writer" and novelist long enough and would like to write screenplays as well.

How?

You CAN do courses lasting a year plus and costing \$1000 or more. I'd no money and far less time, for that. I had a quick look at the preview of one highly respected one and it seemed to be mostly about good manners (yes really!). I reckoned I'd pretty much mastered those now I was in my eighties. I did have some one-on-one advice from a (wonderful) film maker - a bit shattering at first! I hadn't the first clue - but basically just went ahead on my own. After all I'd been a writer ever since I'd learned to read (that was in Ireland, when I was 7, my mother disapproved of children reading before that - rightly, perhaps?).

So I decided I'd teach myself by just - doing it.

True, there was a lot to learn - WHAT an amazing difference there is between the style needed for a novel and for a film script and how much more interesting each is when you see that. Wow. Thoroughly enjoyable. Fascinating.

I was told that successful screen writers normally spend six or more years, maybe a whole career, perfecting just one good screenplay, and even then are highly unlikely to get it produced. Anyway, it seems that to be a typical screenplay writer you'd better be male, in your thirties, and live in Los Angeles.

Hm, I'm clearly odd, none of all that. Just, er, in the last five years I've completed 13 screenplays, they've all won awards in international screenplay contests, and two have been produced (i.e., made into "movies").

Yes - Never too old ...

Here's some information of the latest.

### **I remember: a moment, a life (short film)**

Two outwardly successful but still traumatised once-lovers accidentally run into each other in a railway station years after a mutually misunderstood encounter that had rocked their lives. In the short moments before his train departs they must try to come to terms with their still searing multi-layered memories, but what will be the outcome?

Great acting and production I think. I like it that the third participant (you) alongside the writer and the producer /director, is the onlooker - it's the creative viewers who construct the end and have to decide if it, ultimately, ends sad or happy.

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Oh and the other thing they say is that the thing you must have is a "passion" for what you're doing - whatever it is. Knowing u3a members, I'd think that hardly needs saying, does it?

Never too old to learn. Gershwin had the truth - Just do it!

**Ruth Finnegan** (married/official name Ruth Murray), Bletchley, Summer 2022.

## Country Dancing and Folk Dance Club

Members of the Country Dancing and Folk Dance Club enjoyed a strawberry tea on 20 July 2022 (thank goodness it was the day after the extreme heat) and the rain held off until it was time to conclude in any case. A big improvement on last year when the afternoon was very wet.

Members of the Groups are practicing for a demonstration at the 35th Anniversary day on 21st September 2022 at The Stables and looking forward to contributing to the celebrations.

Of course members needed to fortifying themselves for vigorous dancing at the next Group meeting.



John Figg

## Here are the Third Age Players again!

Following on from our resounding success in April (we like to blow our trumpets to show that we may be golden oldies but we're not entirely over the hill yet) we are not only participating in the mkU3a celebrations at the Stables on 21<sup>st</sup> September, but we are busy rehearsing for our next production, which is a mind-blowing, money saving, entertaining TRIPLE BILL!

For those who prefer a cosy night in as autumn approaches, this time we have two matinees and an evening performance. Our offering (which you will see from the illustration of them, above, by the wonderfully talented Derek Mynard) is on

**Thursday 27th October at 2.15pm, Friday 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> at 2pm**

and comprises a mystery: ***Murder on the Stopping Train*** by Margot Lista, plus an adaptation of the classic thriller ***Monkey's Paw*** by WW Jacobs and, finally, a comedy, ***All By Myself*** by the popular playwright Robert Scott.

Our venue is the new community hall at Marsh Drive, Great Linford. It has ample parking but limited seating capacity, so it's never too early to secure your ticket – which is a bargain at just £7

per person. Contact Greta (TAP co-ordinator) on 01908 501563, or ring or text 07905 24 78 70 or email [TAP@mku3a.org](mailto:TAP@mku3a.org)

And lastly...

In order to cover the costs of our production we rely on sufficient ticket sales and any additional support we can muster. If you - or anyone you know - would like to take space on the back cover of our programme to advertise your own wares, the cost is £25 for a quarter page or £50 for half page. Please contact the TAP co-ordinator to discuss.

We look forward to seeing you!

## **Greta Langdale**

### **A Literature Class in Milton Keynes – September to December 2022**

This class should appeal to MKu3a members who are keen on discussing good literature with a highly experienced tutor and a more structured format than is usually possible in book groups. The tutor, **Karen Hewitt**, taught regularly for Oxford University Department for Continuing Education, but a change of policy by OUDCE and the WEA has meant that she is now running these classes in Milton Keynes independently with a continuing group of about a dozen class members.

#### **Literature and Science in the nineteenth century**

**The class** will study a number of significant works that bring together science and literature during this period: one of Goethe's Italian travel accounts, Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, Daniel Kehlmann's Measuring the World, Buchner's play Woyzeck, Charles Darwin's The Origin of Species and readings from Laura Otis Literature and Science in the Nineteenth Century.

**Time and Place** The class will be held on Mondays from 10.00 to 12 noon **starting on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022**. It will last for 11 weeks with a half term booked provisionally for 24<sup>th</sup> October. The class will be held in the comfortable **Methodist Church Hall in Stony Stratford**.

**Contact** If this looks attractive, please email the class secretary, Jean Cooke for more details including fee and possible financial help: [jcookiejean@aol.com](mailto:jcookiejean@aol.com)

**Joe Clinch** ([joeclinch@btinternet.com](mailto:joeclinch@btinternet.com)) MKu3a member and **Karen Hewitt** long-standing Literature Class member

## **The North Bucks Art Society**

There is a talk on Thursday 8 September at 10.45 at Lovat Hall, Silver St, Newport Pagnell:

Art & Nature in the life and works of Beatrix Potter  
Lecturer- Elizabeth Merry

You can attend as a guest for £7. Contact [yve35gate@gmail.com](mailto:yve35gate@gmail.com)

**Yve Morris**  
**Membership Secretary**

### **The English Speaking Union – local, national and international charity**

The English Speaking Union (ESU) is an educational charity which exists to empower young people from all backgrounds worldwide, particularly the more disadvantaged, through the promotion of oracy, public speaking and debating programmes, in order to create a fairer and more tolerant world in which every voice can be heard, understood and respected.

The local (Ouse Valley) branch covers Milton Keynes, Bedford and Luton and has two main areas of activity:

- meetings with speakers on a variety of topics of interest, combined with lunches which help to fund the educational work of the ESU;
- organising competitions for schools involving public speaking primary (age 8-10) secondary (age 14-16), performing Shakespeare (11-14) and debating primary (9-11) and secondary (11-18).

We would welcome interest from anyone in the MK area who would be interested in coming to the meetings. These will be held at King's House, Amptill Road, Bedford, with doors open at 11.30 for speakers at 12.00 noon followed by lunch at 1.00. You are welcome to just come along to listen to the speaker if you prefer.

The programme for this autumn is:

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September:** Richard Luscombe, *A Brief History of Wrest Park*

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October:** Gail Stuart, *The Life and Work of Eric Morecambe* (Gail is Eric's daughter)

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November:** Prof Jim Norton, *Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence*

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December:** David Fisher, *Busking Beyond Borders* (the talk that was given at MKu3a earlier this year).

Further meetings will be held in the New Year.

Anyone interested in helping with the competitions either in support of the organisation or judging (free training will be given!) would be very welcome. The first round of the secondary public speaking will be held in November and will be online, with the winners going through to an in-person branch final, and from there to regional and, if successful, national finals which are held at Churchill College, Cambridge. The other primary and secondary competitions will take place in 2023.

For further details about the work of the ESU, check out their website on [www.esu.org](http://www.esu.org). To read about the impact of some of our long term work with local primary schools, you may be interested in reading [this article](#). If you want to find out more about the local activities, offer your services as a volunteer or book for one of the lunches, please contact Ellen Punter (chair of the ESU Ouse Valley branch) on [Ellen.Punter@esu.org](mailto:Ellen.Punter@esu.org) or U3A member Steve Gray at [stephen.gray@esu.org](mailto:stephen.gray@esu.org).

**Stephen Gray**

**Scottish Country Dancing - Active, social and fun!**

Branch out and try something new!

An eight week introduction course for new dancers starts on 19 September 18.45-19.45

Venue: Bradwell Village Memorial Hall

Vicarage Road

Bradwell

Milton Keynes

MK13 9AG

£40 for 8 weeks

No partner needed just soft shoes and the classes are taught by RSCDS teachers

Contact Marie and Sarah [intro2scd@gmail.com](mailto:intro2scd@gmail.com)

[www.rscdsmk.co.uk](http://www.rscdsmk.co.uk)

### **ADRIAN BOYNTON'S ABC OF MUSIC**

A Series of monthly talks illustrated by fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton, all talks are on a Wednesday between 1.45 and 4.00 pm and held at The Oaktree Centre, Wallinger Drive, Shenley Brook End, MK5 7 G2

Series 1:

Wednesday 14th September - letter A

**AMERICAN POPULAR MUSIC OF THE 19th and 20th CENTURIES**

A celebration of an outstanding tradition, embracing Stephen Foster, Tin Pan Alley, Ragtime, Blues, Swing and Big Band.

Wednesday 12th October - letter B

**BEETHOVEN 250th ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE**

Delayed by the Pandemic, a belated 250th tribute to the musical giant who sums up the Classical era and shows the way forward for the Romantic composers.

Wednesday 9th November -letter C

**CONCERTO IN THE 18th & 19th CENTURIES**

We trace the fascinating history of the Concerto from its origins in the Baroque period, through the Classical masterworks of Mozart, Haydn, and Beethoven to the great Romantic concertos of Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff.

Wednesday 14th December - letter D

**DANCE IN MUSIC**

So much of our musical heritage has been inspired by dancing. We hear wonderful examples from the Medieval and Renaissance periods, the great dance suites of Bach and his contemporaries, minuets from the 18th century, waltzes from the 19th, and brilliant dance-inspired works from the beginning of the 20th.

Admission for all the talks is £5 at the door. No need to book, just turn up! 1.45 start. There is ample free parking at the Oaktree Centre. Each talk is complete in itself. Each talk includes a

break for refreshments and convivial conversation.

Please call/text 07961 348697 or email [boyntonmusic@gmail.com](mailto:boyntonmusic@gmail.com) for further details.

## **Adrian Boynton**

### **Medical Detection Dogs**

John and I volunteered for an hour today to help an organisation based in Great Horwood teaching dogs to detect Covid 19 , but they also train dogs to detect all sorts of other medical problems and diseases including cancer. We were very impressed with the work they are doing and feel it is so important that more of us should volunteer to help. If you contact [medicaldetectiondogs.org](http://medicaldetectiondogs.org) the site will explain who they are how they work and how to take part. You will not fail to be impressed and the dogs are truly amazing and a delight to watch.

## **Pat Partridge**

### **Videographer Group**

I'm a keen videographer who just started and was wondering if there is anybody else interested in doing video and possibly forming a videographers group. You don't have to have done videoing before. If you are interested please contact Alan Carter, email [alancarter651@gmail.com](mailto:alancarter651@gmail.com) , and I will try arrange a time and place to meet up in CMK.

## **Alan Carter**

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

**Chair** Lynne Button; email: [chair@mku3a.org](mailto:chair@mku3a.org)

**Vice Chair** email: [vicechair@mku3a.org](mailto:vicechair@mku3a.org)

**Secretary** Brian Baldwin; email: [secretary@mku3a.org](mailto:secretary@mku3a.org)

**Treasurer** David Hall; email: [treasurer@mku3a.org](mailto:treasurer@mku3a.org)

**Groups Facilitators** Chris Costello/Hazel Spencer; email: [groups@mku3a.org](mailto:groups@mku3a.org)

**Webmaster** Dave Barratt; email: [webmaster@mku3a.org](mailto:webmaster@mku3a.org)

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

**Communications Coordinator** Martin Woodman; 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**.

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