



The Third Way Newsletter  
March 2026

[News from the Chair – Lesley Sparks](#)

Dear Members,

I am sure that you will already have heard from your group coordinators that we are planning a U3A Day on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, where groups will have the chance to showcase their activities on either the iconic Stables stage or in their foyer. We have display boards to display your craft projects and fabulous paintings. Groups who play games will have tables to demonstrate strategies and maybe give you a chance to 'have a go'. The day will be open to members and non-members, who we hope will be inspired to join us either on the day or online. Please spread the news and add the date to your diaries. More information will be sent out nearer the day.

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at the Oaktree Centre in Shenley Book End followed by our visiting speaker. Please sign into the event which is posted in the diary section of the website (Once you have logged in) so we can ensure that we have sufficient chairs. These meetings are proving very popular and the venue has a maximum capacity. May I also ask that if you find you are unable once you have signed in to attend that you let Wendy

know [openmtgs@mku3a.org](mailto:openmtgs@mku3a.org) in case we are running a waiting list. If you are unsure about how to sign in on the diary events there is a help sheet available to view in the diary section.

Several of the management committee will be standing down in March 2027 and we need volunteers to fill these positions so that MKu3a can continue. Please consider if you could spare some time to help out. We meet once a month, except December for a couple of hours to ensure everything is continuing as it should. It would be helpful to have possible volunteers in place to 'learn the ropes' and come along to some of these meetings this year. Without a management committee we would have to call it a day as our Constitution requires positions to be filled. No one wants this to happen. Could you help? [chair@mku3a.org](mailto:chair@mku3a.org)

Peter Answer volunteered to examine our financial accounts before we submit them to the Charity Commission. He has helped us out for two years but has now decided to step down so we are again asking for a volunteer with a suitable qualification to take on this task. Could this be you? Please contact either myself [chair@mku3a.org](mailto:chair@mku3a.org) or Diana [treasurer@mku3a.org](mailto:treasurer@mku3a.org) if you have any questions. Our year end is November, and we are required to present our accounts to our membership at the AGM in March. I would like to extend our thanks to Peter for his help to ensure we are compliant with our submission to the Charity Commission.


I would also like to thank Shirley Dewar, who has once again excelled herself in organising a thank you lunch for our Group Coordinators and other volunteers at The Barn in CMK. This lunch is a small token of all our appreciation for the time and effort all the attendees have given to our organisation. Shirley was a member of the management committee and has remained a valued volunteer who organises not only the annual lunch but also helps new coordinators navigate our fabulous website with Diana Sears our Treasurer.

Best wishes to you all

Lesley Sparks Chair MKu3a

## News from the Groups

### TAP – Third Age Players


Dramattica\* presents  
**The Seventh Degree** 

*A rare, moving and intense psychological mystery*  
2026

Written & Directed  
by Marget Lista

Fri 24th April - 6.30pm  
Sat 25th April - 3pm  
Sunday 26th April - 3pm  
Wavendon Community Centre  
Walter Road MK17 8LH

Tickets £10  
(+small booking fee) Search  
[Ticketsource.co.uk/Dramattica](https://ticketsource.co.uk/Dramattica)  
Tickets on door: £15 Cash only  
Facebook: MK Third Age Players  
Refreshments: Cash only  
For more info: email  
[TAP@mku3a.org](mailto:TAP@mku3a.org) or text  
07905 247870



\*Dramattica is part of The Third Age Players

**Dramattica!** (Part of The Third Age Players), is excited to present our new psychological mystery, **The Seventh Degree**, At Wavendon Community Centre on Friday April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> at 3pm and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.

Reserved seating in advance is £10 (plus small booking fee).

Book through [Ticketsource.co.uk/Dramattica](https://ticketsource.co.uk/Dramattica) or in case of difficulty, email [TAP@mku3a.org](mailto:TAP@mku3a.org) or text 07905 247870. Unreserved tickets on the door are £15.

*It is November, and the weather is inclement. Our protagonists find themselves sharing the same unusual and unsettling place, with hosts who are enigmatic and perplexing. Each person who arrives has a different motive and understanding of why they are there. The trouble is, they are ignorant of the real reasons they have been brought together and none of them could have imagined the impact and lasting consequences of these unexpected meetings.*

Don't miss this very original drama!

### [Keep Fit 3 Tuesday \(Newport Pagnell Group 158\) – Anne Davis](#)

This group has spaces for new members. Please contact Anne on [keepfit3@mku3a.org](mailto:keepfit3@mku3a.org) for further information

### [Exploring World Faiths – Linda Morris](#)

Forthcoming visits.

You are welcome to join us for any or all of our monthly visits.

Please send an email to [ewf@mku3a.org](mailto:ewf@mku3a.org) if you wish to attend.

Linda Morris, Group Coordinator.

April 1st. Holy Trinity Church, Old Wolverton.

May 6th. Hindu Temple, Neath Hill.

June 3rd. Buddhist Temple and Peace Pagoda.

Further information is available on our Exploring World Faiths group page where can also see our photos on the gallery.

### [MKu3a Choir – Lyn Kidby](#)

It has been a wonderful year for our choir. Our new Music Director, Catherine Rose, has been with us for a little over a year now and with the addition of Jacob Collins as our accompanist, the choir has gone from strength to strength. We are, for now, at full capacity and will be adding any new enquiries to our waiting list.

At Christmas we had our winter concert and raised a little over £1,000 for the Alzheimer's Society. We are now in preparations for our summer concert, which will be on 18th July, in Stony Stratford. Exact details will be available later, when we will also let people know which charity we will be supporting for this event.

Save the date!

The choir would like to thank everybody who supports us and comes to our concerts. Your support means we can help raise money for worthy causes and inspires us to keep getting better and better.

## English Country Dancing Group



**In celebration of Christmas the English Country Dancing group organised a Christmas lunch which was preceded by a photo opportunity**

## Other Items of Interest

### Bletchley Evening Women's Institute

Bletchley Evening WI was established over 60 years ago. We meet once a month usually on the first Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church, St Andrew's Road, Bletchley, MK3 6DR.

Why not come along to one of our meetings and try us out? We are a friendly group who will give you a warm welcome.

We have various interest groups all of which meet during the month, as well as an informal monthly meet-up for coffee and a chat.

Come as a visitor and leave as a friend, or perhaps as a member.

If you are interested and feel that you might like to visit us, feel free to phone for an informal chat on 01908 370468.

## Royal British Legion – Poppy Appeal



Several of our members helped The Poppy Appeal in 2025 by volunteering to man collection positions within the MK centre. The final accounts are ready and this year's donations were up by 14%, and the final total was £74,221.63.

An amazing amount and I believe our collections are the highest in Buckinghamshire. Well done all who volunteered. Please consider helping out this coming Autumn.

## Charity Quiz Night

The next quiz night is 28<sup>th</sup> March. On the night if possible please bring some small change. If you would like a fund-raising quiz later in the year do contact me.

MUST be booked with [missquiz@sky.com](mailto:missquiz@sky.com) or tel: 01908 644785

QUIZ NIGHT and FISH & CHIPS on  
SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 pm. in  
Simpson Village Hall, MK3 6AD

Proceeds to ST JOHN'S AMBULANCE

Raffle prizes gratefully accepted

Bring your own drink – teas served

£17.00 p.p. or £8.00 p.p. without the supper

Maximum 8 people on a table

Seats MUST be booked – please park in the laybys along Simpson Road and walk to the hall if possible



## MALE SINGERS WANTED (60+)

Do you enjoy singing — even if you've never sung in a group before?

I'm a 67-year-old lead singer starting a four-part male harmony group inspired by the classic vocal sounds of the 1960s. The aim is to enjoy singing together, learn harmonies, and build something polished and fun — with no pressure and no experience required.

We'll be:

- Singing well-known, feel-good classics
- Working with simple backing tracks
- Learning harmonies at a comfortable pace
- Adding light movement (nothing strenuous!)
- Focusing on enjoyment, confidence, and teamwork

You don't need to read music or have stage experience.

If you think you can hold a tune and you're willing to have a go, that's enough.

This is about friendship, music, and discovering what our voices can do together.

Location: Milton Keynes

Contact: Ricky Bartram-Carter

Email: [rickyart12@gmail.com](mailto:rickyart12@gmail.com)

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

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

**Secretary** – Deb Hodges email: [secretary@mku3a.org](mailto:secretary@mku3a.org)

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

**Groups Team** – Tina Griffiths/Hazel Spencer email  
[groups@mku3a.org](mailto:groups@mku3a.org)

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

**Membership Secretary** – Tim Hadden email  
[membersec@mku3a.org](mailto:membersec@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: MKu3a, Margaret Powell House, Midsummer Boulevard, MK9 3BN.

Tel. 07521 218903 answerphone only. Please leave a message

Membership and Renewal Queries, email [membersec@mku3a.org](mailto:membersec@mku3a.org)

Finance Queries email [treasurer@mku3a.org](mailto:treasurer@mku3a.org)

Group Queries email [groups@mku3a.org](mailto:groups@mku3a.org)

Miscellaneous queries email: [info@mku3a.org](mailto:info@mku3a.org)

Registered charity number: 298693