



The Third Way eNewsletter

August 2023

News from the Chair

Dear Member,

This edition is a little later this month as we wanted to include a report on the Mad Hatters Tea Party which was held on 23rd August.

The team began planning the event in May. Initially we thought we could organise a walk at nearby Furzton Lake beforehand but with the weather unpredictable this year, the plan was put on hold, as it turned out the weather was fine on the day and we could probably have held it, but hindsight is a wonderful thing. The cycling group organised a short ride nearby and arrived suitably hatted for the event.

We have had numerous complementary emails and messages about the afternoon, and I would like to thank everyone who helped plan, gave their time on the day to prepare and clear up and the Group Coordinators who arrived with displays to showcase their group. A splendid effort by all. I am sure we all felt this event was a success.

There were several 'no shows' which was a pity as this meant we had some food over. Luckily a member running a kids club was more than happy to take the cakes to augment their lunch so in the end nothing was wasted.

It would be wonderful if this could be an annual event – the management committee took on the organisation this year, but we hope to start a group of willing members to take on 'Social Gatherings'.

Please let me know if you would like to help. We could hold quizzes, Christmas events, the list is endless, it just needs willing helpers and imagination! chair@mku3a.org

Almost Ready – Bring in the refreshments.



Welcome Drink, Chatting and Viewing Group Displays



Group Information and Displays





Teatime



Post meeting comments
Collected by Jean Beaver

“Madhatter’s Tea Party”
Wed. 23/08/23



- Well set-out displays by groups; we found the ‘Outings’ Group’s display especially helpful.
What a fantastic turn-out for a very well organised tea party.
Delightful table settings & very good food.

- The car parking was very accessible, we haven't been to this centre before.
Information on groups & trips in abundance
The welcoming drink was a lovely idea, the table decorations were very imaginative & the food was delicious.
- Loved the attention to detail for the table decorations, delicious food – 3 courses!! Good atmosphere & very friendly folk.

Very many thanks to Lesley & team for all their hard work

We don't want to be greedy but would suggest an annual repeat

- We appreciate the huge effort undertaken to put on such a great show.
Well done to all the helpers. Thank you so much, excellent.
- Very well done, excellent food & we loved the table decorations.
We would like to know the antidote for the poisonous blue liquid.
What is the chance of a Spanish group?
- The organising team deserve a medal for the preparation & the laying on of such a great event. Very well done. Thanks.
- A great afternoon, very well organise. Well done.
We were surprised to see the range of interest covered by the various groups.
So much more enticing than the list on the website!!
- What a great idea – thank you Lesley & team.
The place mats & 'Hatter' decorations were a lovely touch. I met lots of new people & chatted about diving, bees, motor cross, etc. Well done & thank you.
- Very well arranged & team members were very helpful during our display setting-up time.
It was lovely to see all the other displays, well presented & interesting & also to meet new as well as familiar/old faces!
Also, thank you to the catering team – especially for my delicious gluten free servings – an additional task on a busy day. Well done & thank you all.
- A very friendly welcome: a lovely chance to meet up & chat with lots of other members.
We didn't appreciate, until now, the vast range of subjects covered by u3a groups. A huge thank you to all group co-ordinators.
The room & table decorations were wonderful, the choice & quantity of food was excellent. Well done all round. Thanks
- A great day. Good effort all round.
The welcome drink, the display area, the 'tearoom' layout & especially the food.
Well done to everyone who worked so hard, both before & during, to arrange such a successful occasion!

We would definitely like more 'Get togethers' whatever form they might take.
What about an Open Day' to bring in more new/younger folk?

News from the Groups

Outings Group – Chris Behrendt

Programme Summary

Meetings are held the SECOND Thursday of the month. Meeting dates, 11/5,8/6,13/7,10/8,14/9,12/10, 9/11/23.

The next meeting will be on 14 SEPTEMBER FROM 2.15PM FOR A 2.30PM START for the people attending. The venue for the meetings is: Herons Lodge Guide Centre, Bradwell Road, Loughton Lodge MK8 9AA

All members of MKu3a are welcome at any of the outings and the Outings monthly meeting and will be able to 'sign up' for the outings also at the monthly Open meetings, by postal application or by paying by bank transfer, further information on the flyers. Flyers for each outing will be circulated to all members through the website, with details in the monthly newsletter and hard copies available for those without e-mail access at the monthly meetings.

The committee comprising of Anne Davis, Ray Cockram, Prudence Davies, Erica Thibouville, Deb Hodges, Jennie Savage and Diana Sears will deal with the bookings and finance – e-mail outingsmku3a@gmail.com Chris Behrendt is the Group Coordinator – e-mail outings@mku3a.org All are working on the details of the outings agreed for 2023 and starting to think about 2024. Ideas for future excursions are always welcome.

A brief description of the outings is listed below, please ensure that you see full details given in the information flyer including the booking form so you are fully aware of any mobility, access or safety issues.

Once we have paid for the coach and venue (just after the booking closing date) we are sorry but we are unable to offer a refund, unless a replacement booking is made for the excursion in question.

23 June Blenheim Palace and Flower Show Ref:OG03

"A lovely day out, enjoyed by everyone on the trip, visits inside the Palace where we saw the beautiful dresses of Royal Weddings (albeit replicas made for the Crown Series) the state rooms with the collections of portraits, tapestries and furniture followed by a stroll in the formal gardens. Then onto the Flower Show grounds where we saw the Gold medal display winners and many a plant was purchased to take home."

27 July Arundel Castle Ref:OG04

"The weather was kind to us, although dull and overcast it stayed dry most of the day. The International Jousting festival was enjoyed by all. The Falconer with his trainee 13 year old son showed us an Owl, Kestrel and Harris Hawk and allowed them to fly around the arena and over our heads, demonstrating their skills of speed and hovering above prey. This was followed by the Kids Battle, with children armed with replica swords, shields and helmets, first taking on their parents in battle and then two armies of Lancastrians and Yorkists doing battle.....the kids loved it, especially fighting their parents. A fire eater followed, who again the kids lapped up, screaming and shouting as he breathed and swallowed fire. The Jousting challengers came from across the world to compete, the farthest away being from Australia. Competitors rode towards each other, lances at the ready. As they passed each other they attempted to prove their dexterity by hitting their opponent on their plate armour aiming to score points with most scored for hitting the shield. They also have to prove their deftness with a sword and exhibit their power by striking a spinning quintain as part of the Skill at Arms competition. Scores are given to the competitor each day, then finalised at the end of the week to decide the winner. Around the castle grounds there were many other

activities to participate in, axe throwing, warrior training and archery. There were also the gardens and the house to enjoy as one of the oldest castles in England." It was to coin a phrase 'A Grand Day Out'.

24 August Hampton Court Palace Ref: OGO5

Pick up Point: MK Coachway, Coachway Road, MK16 OAA at 8.00am

Company: Bills Coaches

Cost: £40 includes entrance to Palace, gardens and a 1½ hour guided tour to introduce the main features of this wonderful palace.

Lead: Erica Thibouville 07749 704001 on the day of the outing only.

Hampton Court – managed by Historic Palaces, an independent charity, has over 500 years of history to discover. The home of Henry VIII, his wives and children, the palace is the greatest and most authentic Tudor experience in the world.

There are various options offering refreshments. The Tiltyard café provides a selection of hot and cold food offerings. The Magic Garden Kiosk serves drinks and ice cream.

Accessibility: While they make Hampton Court Palace accessible to all visitors, this historic building has many uneven surfaces and difficult staircases. They recommend that wheelchair users bring their own wheelchairs for comfort and ease.

Closing Date for Booking: 20 July 2023 – fully booked, waiting list available.

28 September Paul McCartney Photographs: 'Eye of the Storms' National Portrait Gallery(NPG)

Pick Up Point: MK Coachway Coachway Road MK16 OAA at 9.00am

Company Bill's Coaches

Cost: £33 Entry into the exhibition at 2.00pm, plus free time to explore the up to £43million pound refurbishment of the NPG with the revised hanging from over 2million photos and paintings. Includes coach cost and drivers tip. There have been many articles in the papers regarding this re-opening made by the Princess of Wales, the refurbishment looks fascinating with much more to see as well as the Eyes of the Storm exhibition.

These photographs have not been seen since 1964, They are photos the singer took of his friends and bandmates and give a Beatle's-eye view of the mania around the band in 1964. These extraordinary

behind the scenes moments capture four young men on the brink of immortality.

40 tickets have been booked for the exhibition on a first come first served basis.

As this booking leaves 12 spaces available on the coach we are also offering the chance for those who want to visit the refurbished NPG, which is free of charge to enter, at a cost of £14 including coach costs and drivers tip.

All meals and refreshments for both options are at own cost.

Accessibility: The new entrance and renovated gallery spaces are fully accessible for wheelchair and mobility scooters. If you are bringing either of the above or a rollator, please note on the booking form as we need to make Bill's Coaches aware.

Lead for the Day: Chris Behrendt 07766 026357

26 October de Havilland Aircraft Museum Salisbury Hall London Colney

Depart: MK Coachway 9.00am

Arrive: de Havilland Aircraft Museum 10.30am (approx.)

Depart: de Havilland Aircraft Museum 4.00pm

Arrive: MK Coachway 5.30pm (approx.)

Cost: £44 includes entry, refreshments on arrival, 2 hour conducted tour, lunch and drivers tip

Upon arrival at de Havilland refreshments will be served before we take a 2-hour guided tour of the museum over three hangers, including one where ongoing restoration of planes can be seen and learn the history of de Havilland aircraft. Following a lunch, included in the cost, there will be free time to revisit some of the hangers and perhaps explore the outdoor grass aircraft park with eight other aircraft.

Accessibility:

Lead for the Day: Jennie Savage 07885 857270

Third Age Players {TAP} – Greta Langdale

As you can see from the rehearsal photograph, THE THIRD AGE PLAYERS ARE HARD AT IT!



This year's comedy, 36 Titty-Ho Lane, is named after a real place in Northampton. There is even a Titty-Ho Motor Company in Wellingborough. But there, the similarity ends.

The Crankshaws and the Crows are near-neighbours and both without class... the only things that have class in the Crankshaw's house are Bruce's first-class stamps. He's an out-of-work builder turned philatelist. And, the Crows are, well, frankly, the vultures of society – sponging off the state and always on the wrong side of the law. Things start to get nasty on Nellie Crankshaw's 100th birthday....

Performances are on Friday 15th September at 7pm, Saturday 17th at 3pm and Sunday 18th at 2.30 pm.

Venue is Wavendon Community Centre, Walton Road, Wavendon (Opposite St Mary's church, it is not the new pavilion opposite the Stables).

To purchase your tickets –

<https://thelittleboxoffice.com/mktap> (Remember to put the full address into the top search bar, not into Google). If you have difficulty, email magnet@paphos.plus.com or text 07905 247870 to book your place.



The Third Age Player Display from the Mad Hatters Tea Party

Country Dancing group enjoying s Strawberry Tea



Short Mat Bowls Group – Maureen Briggs

We now have vacancies in the Short Map Bowls Group. Interested?
Email bowls@mku3a.org

Prospective New Groups



Do you have an interest in playing or learning to play Chess? If you do you might be interested in joining a new group that we are proposing to set up for interested people to get together every fortnight on a Wednesday morning to enjoy a game at a

location to be confirmed. Both experienced players and beginners alike are welcome to join the group.

If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Hazel Spencer groups@mku3a.org

Do you like playing traditional card games such as Whist? If you do, you may be interested in joining a new group for experienced players to enjoy a few hours a month playing the game.

It is proposed that the group meets once a month on the first Tuesday of the month at a venue in Newport Pagnell.



If you are interested in joining the group please contact Hazel Spencer at groups@mku3a.org



We are thinking of starting a new Backgammon group here in Milton Keynes. If that sounds like something you would be interested in joining, please let us know. We are happy to have any level, complete beginners up to experienced players, we will all share our knowledge.

The group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings from 9.30am till 12 noon. The venue will be Fullwell Court in Great Linford. Start date is still to be decided.

So, if you are keen to learn more about the group, please contact Hazel Spencer groups@mku3a.org

Other Items of Interest

[Bletchley Evening Women's Institute – Christine Norton](#)

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 meet at 7:30 pm on the first Thursday of every month at St Andrews Church, St Andrews Road, Bletchley, MK3 5DR.

We also have a Knit and Natter Group, a Lunch Group, a Gardening Group, and a Family History Group, all of which meet once a 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.

[Alzheimer's Society Memory Walk Milton Keynes – Martin Woodman](#)

I have been asked to publicise this event as volunteers and participants are all required to make it a successful event. If you are able to help out, please contact the Society on the number below or visit their website.

Take part in the Memory Walk this Autumn and join hundreds of others walking across the UK to fund vital support and research for everyone living with dementia.

We'll find our way forwards, together.

Location: Willen Lake, Milton Keynes

Date: 10/09/2023

Sign up today: memorywalk.org.uk

[Heritage Week 8 – 17 September 2023 – Sharron Marland](#)

All events at St Mary Magdalene Church Willen Village & Willen Village Heritage Association

OPEN ALL DAY EVERY DAY 10.00am – 5.00pm The theme for this year is Creativity Unwrapped

Hooke Heritage Centre Public Presentation

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

An opportunity to have your say at

St Mary Magdalene Church
Willen, MK15 9AB



10.30am Friday 8th September, 2023

Architect James Mackintosh presents options to celebrate Robert Hooke, the village, and to preserve Hooke's magnificent Grade I Listed church for future generations.

- See his illustrations
- Explore his options
- Ask him questions
- Tell us what you think

Please come along to share your input and opinions over cake!

St Mary Magdalene Church
Charitable Incorporated Organisation Number 1200563
Smarland9@gmail.com



Friday 8 September 'Beautiful Church – Beautiful Garden'

10.00am– 5.00pm

A chance to visit this historic church built in 1680 and designed by renowned polymath, Robert Hooke. Take a look at the before/after photographs of the recently reclaimed church garden restored by a team of local gardening volunteers and then enjoy a stroll in the garden

10.30 Public Meeting led by James McKintosh Architects to display/ consult on options for Hooke Heritage Centre, display to remain until 17 September .

Daily sale of Plants begins at 12.30

Saturday 9 September 'Ride and Stride Day' Plants & Drinks available
Plans on display. 10.00am – 5.00pm

A wonderful way to enjoy getting out and about safely as well as raising much-needed funds to support Grant applications from churches and chapels across the country.

Sunday 10 September 'ALL WELCOME'

Service: 9.30am 3pm

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership service
at Tree Cathedral led by Revd Dr Sam Muthuveloe.
Theme 'The Light of the World'.

Monday 11 September 'Those Were the Days'
concert with Willen Hospice Singers 1.30pm–3pm

Tuesday 12 September Children's Story Time, snack, drinks, and treasure trail 3.30--4.30
Local Story Teller Philippa

Wednesday 13 September Bell Ringing, Church and Local History Talk by John Figg 11.30pm--1.00pm
Listen to the bells and then the fascinating history of St Mary Magdalene church and its connection to Robert Hooke

Fun Local History Quiz
How many answers can you get right in this fun quiz?

Thursday 14 September 'Rolling Home' Concert 12.30pm
1.30pm

Friday 15 September Film from Living Archive 7.30pm
'Make no Little Plans' The city builders' stories.

Saturday 16 September See the plans for the new Hooke Heritage
10.00 – 5.00

The Brickhills Benefice Robed Choir 2.30pm – 4.00pm
A performance of classical and modern choral works by Mozart, Bach, Byrd, and Rutter. (This choir have stepped in to help us as Quorum were unable to perform this year.) Refreshments all day

Sunday 17 September All Age/Family Worship at 9.30am
A service in praise of the polymath Robert Hooke, who designed St Mary Magdalene Church and an insight into the life of Mary Magdalene. Listen to Margaret Moakes, our LLM.
Also, a last chance to see the plans for the Hooke Heritage Centre.

[Free Lunch-Time Concert Programme](#)

TTTT

THIRD TUESDAY TWELVE THIRTY

Free lunch-time concerts at
St Mary Magdalene Church
Willen, MK15 9AB



Saxophrenia

TUESDAY 19th SEPTEMBER, 2023
12.30 – 1.15pm

Sax Quartet playing classics pop and more...

Pop in during your lunch break. Walking the dog or just passing by, stay for a while or the whole 45 minutes.

Complimentary cake and coffee.

Donations to Church Restoration & Hooke Heritage Project



WILLEN HOSPICE SINGERS

Invite you to remember

THOSE WERE THE DAYS, MY FRIEND



St Mary Magdelene Church

Willen

11th September 1.30pm

No admission charge

**Come along, Sing
and Remember**

A Literature Class in Milton Keynes – September to December 2023 – Joe Clinch

This class should appeal to those 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 in Milton Keynes, 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.

The class theme for the Autumn Term is 'Aspects of Love' when the following works will be studied:

- First Love and Other Stories by Turgenev, Oxford University Press
- Villette by Charlotte Bronte
- Complete Novellas of D.H. Lawrence, Blackthorn Press
- Death in Venice and Other Stories by Thomas Mann translated by David Luke, Vintage
- Either The Chatto Book of Love Poetry edited by John Fuller or the New Penguin Book of Love Poetry edited by John Stallworthy (to be decided)

An essay chosen from a wide list of topics is an essential part of the class.

Time and Place The class will be held on Mondays from 10.00 to 12 noon **starting on 25th September 2023**. It will last for 11 weeks with a half term booked provisionally for 24th October. The class will be held in the comfortable **Methodist Church Hall in Stony Stratford**.

Fee The fee for the 11-week class will be £160 to cover paying the tutor, travel expenses, hire of hall and insurance. Potential new members are very welcome to come along to the first meeting to sample the class before they commit themselves to paying the fee.

Contact If you have any further questions, you are welcome to contact karen.hewitt@conted.ox.ac.uk. Otherwise, write to Jean Cooke, our class secretary, at jcookiejean@aol.com to record your interest.

Posted by Joe Clinch (joeclinch@btinternet.com) mku3a member and long-standing Karen Hewitt Literature Class member

Calling all Mead Centre Users

There are two activities taking place in September and October.

Sat 9 Sept there's an exhibition celebrating Afghan women in Newport Pagnell – this group has been using the Mead Centre although most of them have now moved on from Harben House. Do pop in and have a look.



MK Can!

Milton Keynes will break the
World Record
For the Longest Continuous Line
of Food Cans

On World Food Day,

16th October 2023!



mkfoodbank.org.uk/mk-can

Mon 16 October. MK CAN is a record-breaking attempt by the MK Food Bank to make a 10Km line of cans in Campbell Park. The Mead centre is taking part and we need to collect 350 cans of food and have people available on the day. It would be great if all Mead centre users could bring in cans for the collections – add them to the blue box in the foyer all through September. We'll have something up to show how many we've collected. If anyone can help

on the day, please email on ruth.tompsett@urcnewporpagnell.org

Chair – Lesley Sparks email: chair@mku3a.org

Vice Chair – Diana Sears email vicechair@mku3a.org

Secretary – Deb Hodges email: secretary@mku3a.org

Treasurer – David Hall email: treasurer@mku3a.org

Groups Team – Chris Costello/Hazel Spencer email groups@mku3a.org

Webmaster – Dave Barratt; email webmaster@mku3a.org

Membership Secretary – Tim Hadden email membersec@mku3a.org

Communications Coordinator – Martin Woodman email comms@mku3a.org

Thames Valley Network Coordinator – Frank Parisi 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: MKu3a, 11 Winchester Circle, Kingston, Milton Keynes MK10 OBA. Telephone: 01908 281717; email: info@mku3a.org

Registered charity number: 298693

NOTES