



The Third Way eNewsletter

June 2024

News from the Chair – Lesley Sparks

Dear Members,

We are now halfway through the year and the trustees have been monitoring the content of the newsletter which is compiled and sent by email monthly. We have noticed that the items have reduced in number, and we have made the following decisions.

We will now produce the newsletter on a quarterly basis in March, June, September and December.

For groups which would like to advertise vacancies within their group these messages will now be sent by email to all members as and when appropriate. Please send these messages to Martin Woodman comms@mku3a.org.

All group reports should be placed on your group page, which will keep the information about your activities up to date.

Details of the Outings will be sent as usual by email after the monthly Outings Meeting in Herons Lodge and the upcoming Outing should be placed on the group and Outings page as appropriate.

I would like to thank Eve, who has diligently been collecting and producing the newsletter for several years and has decided that she will continue to produce the September and December publications and will then hand over the reins to another volunteer. Could that be you? If so, please let me know as we rely on volunteers from within our organisation to assist with all aspects of running our association. chair@mku3a.org

Celebration Day – August 28th. Plans are well on the way for this celebration, and I know that groups have been asked to display in some way their achievements throughout this year. Chris Costello is the coordinator for these displays, so if you need a board or a table for your display, please contact her for more information chrisu3agroups@gmail.com

The method to register your attendance for the celebration will be sent shortly, I had hoped to include it in this edition, however with the holiday season in full swing it has been tricky to get all the trustees together to formalise the plan of action, but rest assured the details will be sent in the next couple of weeks, so please add the date to your diaries.

Best wishes to you all and I hope the weather improves for those of you with holidays still to come.

King's Award for Voluntary Service –Dave Barratt

webmaster@mku3a.org

It was during the summer of 2022 that I was originally approached to say that my voluntary group, Milton Keynes Green Gym, had been nominated for (what was at that time) the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. I was asked to supply various pieces of information by the office of the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire and was advised that many groups are nominated, an honour in itself, but that the award itself was far from certain.

Over the following weeks there were further requests for information and then, in September

2022, Queen Elizabeth II died...and everything stopped. It was not known if, or when, the award might continue. It was not until the early part of 2023 that it was confirmed that King Charles III wished the award to continue as the King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS).

As 2023 progressed there was continued contact with the KAVS office, which I took as a good sign that we were still in the running, including notification that the awards would be delayed until 14 November 2023, the King's 75th birthday. However, it was not until early October that I



was advised that we were one of 262 groups across the whole of the UK to receive the award for 2023...but that I couldn't tell anyone until it was made official. It was a long 6 weeks.

The award is considered to be the equivalent of an MBE for volunteer groups. It takes the form of a certificate, signed by the King, and a crystal engraved trophy. Both were presented during March 2024, by the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, the Countess Howe at the City Discovery Centre, Bradwell Abbey. *(Photo credit Graham Jones)*



Receipt of the award entitles the group to display the KAVS logo on our website, Facebook page etc.

The final part of the award was that two of us were invited to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace in May 2024. Along with one of the volunteers, Angela, we travelled down to London on a rather grey and overcast Tuesday afternoon. The weather deteriorated the further south we went, so by the time we arrived in central London it was properly raining, which was a shame, but we didn't want the weather to spoil the experience.



We met some lovely people from other groups, the gardens are impressive (we weren't required to do any weeding), the afternoon tea was splendid, and we did a touch of Royals spotting, including the Prince of Wales, who was hosting the event on behalf of his father.

If you might be interested in volunteering with Green Gym, you can find out more at www.miltonkeynesgreengym.co.uk or contact me directly at MKu3a.

webmaster@mku3a.org

OPEN MEETINGS – Wendy Barrett

Coming soon:

June Double Bill: For our meeting on **Wednesday 26th June**, we are getting two for the price of one!



Our first speaker is Ian Sterling from **The Milton Keynes Safety Centre** also known as **Hazard Alley**. He is with us to talk about the world's first interactive indoor safety education centre which was planned and established in 1992. Originally conceived by Bucks Fire & Rescue Service & Thames Valley Police, it aimed to introduce children to risks, dangers and hazards in a totally safe environment. Since it opened it has hosted half a million children as well as inspiring other centres across the UK.

Our second speaker for June is Nick King from **The Milton Keynes Neighbourhood Watch**. Neighbourhood Watch is a voluntary organisation which is about helping to reduce crime, helping to reduce the opportunity for crime and about reducing the fear of crime throughout Milton Keynes and surrounding areas.

It is also about building community spirit by bringing people closer together with common goals primarily through Watch Schemes.

Our venue is Oak Tree Centre, Wallinger Drive, Shenley Brook End, MK5 7GZ. Doors open at 2:00pm for a 2.30pm start. Coffee, tea and biscuits are available after the talk. There is a £1 charge for members and £2 for visitors.

On **Wednesday 24th July** we are joined by a speaker from The Parks Trust who will be telling us all about "Wildlife in Milton Keynes". Put the

date in your calendar and sign up on the MKu3a diary pages to let us know you are coming along.



NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Exploring World Faiths Group – Linda Morris

Members of the Exploring World Faiths group visited Emberton Parish Church and were given a talk about the voluntary work of the Church Recorders there. We learned that it would take around three years to research every item in the church, including furniture and windows. Even valuable church items stored elsewhere will be researched. Eventually two copies of books about the items will be made – one to be kept by the Church itself and another to go to the V&A museum. If you are interested in history, churches or detective work, (or all three), more volunteers would be made welcome we were told.

Our July meeting will be at 2pm on Wednesday 3rd July at the tiny St Giles' Church, Tattenhoe. If you would like to join the group for that visit, please check the details on our group page, then contact me on ewf@mku3a.org.

Folk Dance Group – Pat Allen

The Folk Dance group were recently invited to a local care home. Fifteen of us took part and we demonstrated original dances from 17th to 21st century during their afternoon of "English culture".



Current Affairs 2 – Jessica Holroyd

Do you know who will win the US election, whether nuclear weapons help to keep the peace, or how to save the NHS? No we don't know either but in Current Affairs 2 we chew over these and a great many other subjects which are in the news, and enjoy a wide ranging and amicable discussion. We meet twice a month on Monday morning in a comfortable retirement home in Springfield with adequate parking.

Currentaffairs2@mku3a.org

Ukulele Group – Ronald Spalding

Betty Richmond will be known to a number of U3A members for her participation in groups over a number of years. She was a founder member of the ukulele group and assisted in its development over the initial years. During lockdown, she decided to move away from Milton

Keynes and settled nearer to her family. However, the skills she acquired were soon put to good use in the setting up of a U3A ukulele



group in her new town. A few of us visited one of her sessions to see how she was getting on and were impressed with the enthusiasm and talents shown in her new group. Clearly ukulele fun is rife all over. The photo shows

Betty, with some of her group at lunch after the session.

On another topic, we have advised previously that we are currently full and have a waiting list. We decided that it would be a good idea to run a workshop for those on the list to explore the possibility of starting a new group. The dozen or so that came along had a mixture of skills from absolute beginner to quite experienced players. It would appear therefore that there is a nucleus that could form another group, but as always that relies on an admin team to get it going. We will be meeting again in a month or two to help them determine the way forward.

Transport Topics Group – Mike Allen

Fourteen from the Transport Topics group visited the Nene Valley Railway to ride on the "Flying Codman" service serving excellent fish and chips on board

We were blessed with fine weather and were able to take in the various exhibits before boarding the train for a 2:30 departure.



Returning at 4:10 we posed for a team photo before heading back home to MK.

Outings Group 2024 Summary – Chris Behrendt

Meetings are held the **SECOND** Thursday of the month. Meeting dates 11 July, 8 August, 12 September, *17 October*, 14 November.

Please note the change of date for the Outings meeting in October

The next meeting will be on 11 July from 2.15pm for a 2.30pm start for the people attending.

The venue for the meetings is:

Hérons Lodge Guide Centre, Bradwell Road, Loughton Lodge MK8 9AA

All members of MKu3a are welcome on any of the outings and at the Outings monthly meeting and will be able to 'sign up' for the Outings. Information will also be available at the monthly Open meetings and sent to all members by e-mail. Postal applications are accepted, please contact Diana, outingsmku3a@gmail.com.

Payment can be made by contactless Card Reader and cash at the Outings meeting and Open meeting.

Bank transfer is also available, details on the second page of the flyer.

The Committee members are Anne Davis, Ray Cockram, Deb Hodges, Jennie Savage, Anne Cowmeadow, and Chris Behrendt who is also the Group Coordinator,

e-mail outings@mku3a.org.

Diana Sears manages the booking for Outings and any finance queries, outingsmku3a@gmail.com

Contact: Chris Behrendt 07766 026357 h.and.sb@mku3a.org.

Kew Gardens – Thursday 22 August

Pick Up Point: MK Coachway 8.30am **Arrive:** Kew Gardens Elizabeth Gate 10.00am approx.

Depart: Kew Gardens 4.30pm

Cost: £33 including entry to Gardens, coach hire and driver's tip

Closing Date for Booking 5 August

London's largest UNESCO world heritage site offering unique landscapes and iconic architecture from every stage of the gardens' history.

The day is yours to spend at leisure wandering the various gardens and greenhouse. The garden dates back to the early 18th century as a royal palace to today's renowned scientific institution for plants and fungal research.

There is throughout the gardens and greenhouses an exhibition of sculptures by Marc Quinn, exploring the relationships between people and plants. There is a Land Train that has stops around the garden at various places. The cost is £6.50 with trains from 11.00am. Tickets have to be booked at the first stop, Victoria Gate; it is not possible to purchase tickets at other stops. The preferred method of payment is by card, however they can accept cash with people paying at the till points at Victoria Gate. The price is for the whole day as long as there is space on the train. Tickets are on a first come/first served basis. Capacity on the train is for 50-55 people.

There are multiple wheelchairs at every gate on a first come first served basis.

10 mobility scooters can be hired in advance. Once you have booked your place on the Outing please telephone 020 8332 5121.

There is an accessibility map of Kew available – should you require a copy, please let outings@mku3a.org know when requesting a booking.
Lead on the Day: Ray Cockram

MK COACHWAY

The access road to the Coachway for those coming from the east of the city across the M1 is closed, temporarily, to vehicles and pedestrians to allow HVSS to carry out excavation of a dual 33kV circuit as part of the main scheme from MK East to Bletchley. It will be closed from 3/6 to 30/8. Whilst the closure is in place the alternative route will be via Newport Road/Fen Street.

MKu3A Choir – Vivienne Shaw

MKu3a Choir presents
Music from Stage and Screen

Saturday 22nd June at 2.30pm

Lovat Hall, Newport Pagnell

Tickets £10 incl. a cream tea

01908 613088

All proceeds to Willen Hospice



TAP (Third Age Players) – Greta Langdale

We have managed to secure these exclusive portraits of Prince George IV and Gertrude, a Soothsayer, both of whom will be coming (briefly) to the Oak Tree Centre Milton Keynes on 24th July for the MKu3a Open Meeting. Prince George really wants to know his fortune. Will Gertrude divulge all?

This is, in fact, a short preview for “**Secrets, Scandals and Gossip**” – a much anticipated and truly golden event on 6th, 7th and 8th September by Invitation of King Henry VIII, King George III & IV and their Queens. It is at their Palaces (also known as Wavendon Community Centre). The common people have to pay £10 (after all, Royalty have to be kept in the manner to which they have become accustomed!) and that includes a royal welcome drink and programme.

Tickets will be on sale from 1st July. Book directly online: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/mkthirdageplayers> (Small booking fee applies) or for further details, ring or text the TAP Co-ordinator on 07905 247870 or email tap@mku3a.org.



Quiz Group – Pat Hodges

Many thanks to those of you who attend the village quizzes and suppers either in the hall or the Church in Simpson Village. Thousands of pounds have been raised already this year for a variety of charities, causes and the food bank. If you have a charity you would like to raise funds for, please let me know for next year. It will require some help

on your part. Here are the future dates for this year if you want to join us. Your place HAS to be booked via me – missquiz@sky.com and the evening starts at 7.00pm with the chosen supper (optional) and finishes around 10.00pm.

29 th June	N.S.P.C.C.
13 th July	Tinker's Bridge Community Fridge
27 th July	SUDC – Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood
31 st Aug	Soroptimists
7 th Sept	Angel Tree
12 th Oct	Camphill Communities
26 th Oct	R.N.L.I.
23 rd Nov	Movember
7 th Dec	St Thomas's Church Funds

If quizzes are not your thing we are always grateful for money donations for the charity or raffle prizes which help to raise funds. Thank you

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Jot & Tittle – Mark Brandon

Jot & Tittle is a free history newsletter that is published twice a month. It started from my work in Salisbury Cathedral archives, destined for the 500 cathedral volunteers. It has since expanded to Wiltshire's historical societies and museums. The latest editions have moved into Dorset and Hampshire and the south-west. There are also a growing number of individuals, from as far away as Seattle, who receive copies. I have attached a recent example.

There are two particular attributes to **J&T**: it is decidedly non-academic and even at times lighthearted – and readers can submit their own articles or correspondence for publication. It is also backed-up by a website jot-and-tittle.com that carries all previous editions. For further information please visit their website as we are only passing on the information and have no further details.

Living Archive – Rosemary le Count

Willen Village Heritage Association



Everybody has a story to tell

40 years of The Living Archive Milton Keynes

With its co founder and Chair

Roger Kitchen

What's a living archive?

Why does it matter in a "new city"?

- **Hear the stories**
- **Watch the videos**
- **Recall your own heritage**
- **Eat cake**

3pm Saturday 13th July 2024

St Mary Magdalene Church

Newport Road, Willen Village, MK15 9AA

Join us for complimentary cake and coffee, and chat about local history.
Donations welcome to Willen Church Restoration & Hooke Heritage Project



Willen Village Heritage Association

Contact: email Jacky Scott on jacky@thescotts.uk.com



Wine Books – Stephanie Warren

I have many and varied wine books and colourful visual aids that my late husband had when he studied wine and gave talks to many groups. These books and visuals can be seen at my home by appointment. I am asking for a donation for charity. My email address is swarren3@sky.com.

Concert at St. Thomas Church, Simpson – Pat Hodges



**Stars and Stripes
Concert**



Saturday 6th July 2024
at 7pm in
St Thomas's Church,
Simpson,
MK6 3AD

Bring and share buffet
Collection for Church Funds

Chair – Lesley Sparks email: chair@mku3a.org

Vice Chair Wendy Barrett; email: vicechair@mku3a.org

Secretary Deb Hodges; email: secretary@mku3a.org

Treasurer Diana Sears; 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**.

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