



January
2022



Dear Members

I hope you were able to celebrate Christmas as you wished. We had a very excited 3 year old with us over the festive period and are now recovering from the non stop whirlwind called Freya!! But we miss her joy already.

Boris to date (28th Dec) has not added any further restrictions to our activities and so MKu3a will remain open but we ask you to consider the risk to yourself and others before you attend any meetings. Ventilation is still considered a sensible precaution so dress appropriately if your group meets indoors.

Keep your eyes open for any information on your group pages and emails in case there is a change of plans for your group and if there are different restrictions in the New Year which affect us you will be notified.

I wish you all health and happiness for the coming year.

Best wishes

Lesley

Members Meeting and Talks

We finished 2021 with a talk on ZOOM by Simon Gregor who shared with us some of his favourite Christmas verses. An enjoyable talk but somewhat strange to have a talk about traditional Christmas scenes from a person currently based in Mexico!

To welcome in 2022 we have two talks booked for January, the first on ZOOM, the second at our usual venue The Oaktree Centre, with both talks starting at 2.30 pm.

Talk 2: Wednesday January 12th “The Job of a Laughtime” Brad Ashton will share with us some of his insights from his time as a script writer for such iconic names as Dick Emery and Tommy Cooper with promises of some behind the scene tales.

Talk 3: Wednesday January 26th “Busking around Europe” recollections from David Fisher from a time before Covid and travel restrictions reflecting on stories and hopefully some music from his journey busking around Europe.

As always talks can be booked directly by members by logging onto our website and going to the diary page or by emailing me at vicechair@mku3a.org. Please remember that if you book for a talk on ZOOM, I send out the codes on the Tuesday evening; if you book later then please let me know so I can send codes through to you.

The plan for 2022 is to continue with 2 talks a month (one by ZOOM one live) until Easter when we will revert to one live talk per month only.

Lynne Button

Vice Chair

Mah-Jong Group

Would you like to learn to play Mah-Jong? Are you an experienced player? Somewhere in between? We would love to see you at our friendly group!

The Mah-Jong group is looking to welcome new members. This is not the online matching game that many are familiar with, but an ancient Chinese game of skill, strategy and chance, played with a set of 152 tiles based on Chinese characters and symbols. We are happy to teach beginners and will take you through all you need to know to be able to play. If you would like to give it a go – then please come along and try it for a couple of sessions.

We play twice a month, on Thursday mornings at Fulwell Court, Great Linford.

If you are interested and would like to know more, please email mah-jong@mku3a.org or call **Claire Naismith** on 07425 620167.

Do you have a New Year's resolution?

Not everyone does, of course, but The **THIRD AGE PLAYERS** do! If you have ever fancied treading the boards, or simply trying out a new hobby, we would love to hear from you. Even if you can't commit to regular weekly rehearsals, we can still accommodate you! For example, we are looking for someone who might like to experiment with lighting effects (simple

operating via Bluetooth, but with some scope for variety). Alternatively, we'd value someone who could help with moving things around just on the actual performance days. On the Stage, Front of House or Backstage, we can use you!

We are now in the final stages of casting our next programme, to be performed on Thursday – Saturday 28-30 April 2022 in our lovely new venue at Marsh Drive Community Hall, Great Linford. It will be a “**Double-Plus**” bill: First, ***How to Darn Socks and Save the World*** - a light hearted twist on the creation of the universe - but with an underlying message about what we are doing to our planet. Second, ***Rambles on Radio*** - a play about a group putting on a radio play, which descends into something akin to chaos. The “Plus” part will be an excerpt from a play, ***Office Suite*** by the wonderful Alan Bennett.

We are actively looking for new actors to join our Group. So there's a chance of getting straight in to the action. If you're not sure, why not visit and see what we do for a few weeks, to find out if we suit you? We meet on Tuesday mornings from 10am to 12.30pm. To find out more email tap@mku3a.org

In the New Year - government permitting - we will be socially distanced, windows open and triple jabbed.

So, make your New Year's resolution: **JOIN THE TAP!**

Judy Martin

A Literature Class in Milton Keynes – January to March 2022

This class should appeal to many mku3a members who are keen on discussing good literature with a more structured format than is found 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 independently with a continuing group of about a dozen class members.

The Fiction of Mikhail Bulgakov – a Russian genius

The coming term's class will be devoted to *A Country Doctor's Notebook*, *The White Guard*, and *The Master and Margarita* by Mikhail Bulgakov. We will discuss Bulgakov's dramatic and narratives skills, the acute memories of his time as a country doctor, his exploration of the Civil War in Kiev in 1918, his recreation of the Pilate story, the culture of Soviet Moscow, and the spiritual questions that he demands of himself. His writing is very readable and yet complex. His fiction has been brilliantly translated by Michael Glenny (Vintage Classics).

Time and Place The class will be held on Mondays from 10.00 to 12 noon **starting on 10th January 2022.** It will last for 10 weeks with a half term on Monday, 21st February. Last term the class was held in the comfortable **Methodist Church Hall in Stony Stratford.** Covid permitting, we will continue at Stony Stratford, otherwise we will shift to Zoom.

Contact If this looks attractive, please email the class secretary, Jean Cooke for more details: jcookiejean@aol.com

Joe Clinch mku3a member and long-standing Literature Class member

5th anniversary meal for the Exploring World Faiths group. This will be held at The Fountain, Loughton, on Wednesday 5th January at 12 noon. This is a Harvester restaurant.

On 2nd February we are visiting the Hindu Temple, Neath Hill, 2pm start. If you are not a group member and would like to join us for this visit please contact the group leader.

Please check MKu3a advice for current covid restrictions for these events.

For directions, postcodes and more information please look at our group page on the website.

Linda Morris

Keep Fit Friday Morning 9.30-10.30

Newport Pagnell United Reform Church Hall

We have Vacancies.....

They say life begins at 50, so make the most of your free time by taking up a hobby that inspires and challenges you, like Tennis, Dancing or Keep fit. It is vital to maintain suppleness and flexibility, refine joint movement and build muscle memory. Keep fit will do that.

You may not think you need to focus too much on strength training in your sixties, but the opposite is true. Studies have shown that physical activity can prevent a decline in the brain's white matter, warding off strokes as well as conditions such as dementia and Alzheimers.

We will be using the New Mead Centre in the new year, the new hall is very large and we will therefore be able to accommodate more members. Please come and join us, it is a friendly group and is tailored to suit our needs.

Contact **Anne Davis** 07703 190904 for more information.

u3a Thames Valley Network
Events - By Zoom
A REMINDER of events in January 2022

Day/Date	Time	Event	Cost	Book By
Friday 7 th January	10.30am	Defeat of the Spanish Armada	Free	4 th Jan
Tuesday 18 th January	2.30pm	The Lady Poisoners of Victorian England	£1.00	15 th Jan
Thursday 27 th January	tba	Barbra Streisand	tba	tba

Please book electronically using the 'TICKET SOURCE' icon immediately below the event on the TVN website <http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk/> This is by far the best and easiest option. You will receive an acknowledgement immediately and the Zoom link two days before the event. More detailed flyers are available from the above website.

Always happy to hear from you about TVN events. Having these excellent opportunities via Zoom has been of great value to mku3a members. You can contact me at: tvn@mku3a.org

Brian Baldwin

Holidays & Short Breaks

Fourteen people have already signed up for the short break in July 2022 to the Eden Project and four N.T. properties with time in Exeter and Dartmouth that should be of interest and enjoyment to many. The closing date for booking deposits is 31 January. For further information and booking forms please contact Chris Behrendt. Contact details at the bottom of the flyer.

Chris Behrendt

MKU3A – Holidays & Short Breaks Exeter 2021

Including tour of Exeter Cathedral, Dartmouth, Eden Project, and National Trust properties as shown

Departs Sunday 3rd July 2022

5 Days

Half Board

by coach

from*

£565pp sharing
for NT members



Itinerary:-

Day 1: 8am pick-up at Milton Keynes Coachway M16. Travel to Exeter (190 miles), stopping en route at Montacute House & Gardens (montacute@nationaltrust.org.uk). This glittering Elizabethan mansion is adorned with riches that exude wealth and power and the compartmentalised gardens are quite unique.

Lunch can be taken here before resuming our journey to Exeter and our hotel in the centre of the city.

Day 2: Exeter Cathedral/Killerton House: Depart hotel on foot to meet our guide at Exeter Cathedral for a guided tour at 11am followed by free time in the city. In the afternoon travel by coach to nearby Killerton House (killerton@nationaltrust.org.uk). Following our visit we return to Exeter with time to relax before dinner.

Day 3: Eden Project: Departing after breakfast we travel south into the county of Cornwall to visit the famous Eden Project. Housing plants and landscapes from the Tropics, Mediterranean, South Africa and California in its huge Biomes, this unique feature opened in 1998 on the site of a former china clay quarry and continues to attract visitors from all over the world. Entry cost included

Day 4: Dartmouth and Greenway: Depart hotel at 9.15am for Dartmouth where we join the Greenway Ferry at the town's pontoon. A short journey takes us to Greenway, the former home of the famous author Agatha Christie and her family (greenway@nationaltrust.org.uk). Ferry cost included

Day 5: Exeter/Home - Depart hotel at 9am and commence journey home, stopping at Buckland Abbey (bucklandabbey@nationaltrust.org.uk) for a visit and lunch stop. Depart in the afternoon and continue journey to Milton Keynes Coachway, arriving at approximately 6pm.

Jurys Hotel Exeter

A modern hotel well located on Western Way, just 10 minutes' walk from Exeter Cathedral.

- 170 stylish bedrooms with private facilities, hospitality tray, wifi, air conditioning, TV and hairdryer

- Contemporary Restaurant & Bar
- Porterage on arrival & departure
- Lift
- Four star rated

What's included:

- ✓ 4 nights' stay with 3 choice, 3 course dinner and breakfast
- ✓ Return executive coach travel
- ✓ Guided tour of Exeter Cathedral, Dartmoor Ferry and entrance to Eden Project
- ✓ Visits to National Trust properties as shown

*from price based on National Trust Members. Non National Trust members pay £615 sharing

Sole occupancy supplement £100

Optional insurance £25
(includes Covid cover)

Deposit £60 per person due 31/1/22
Balance 8 weeks prior to departure

*Minimum group size 35 passengers.
Booking conditions apply

**To enquire or request a booking form please contact
Chris Behrendt**

Tel. 07766 026357 Email: h.and.sb@mku3a.org

**just for
groups!**

Tour details are subject to change and have been arranged in conjunction with **just for groups!**

The Old Bakery, Queens Road, Norwich NR1 3PL
01603 886740 www.justforgroups.co.uk

ABTA
ABTA No. V6237

CTA

Kent ARA
ASSOCIATE MEMBER

GO TO

CTA
COUNCIL TOURISM
ASSOCIATION

Key Contact Details—more on the web site

Chair: Lesley Sparks: email chair@mku3a.org

Vice Chair: Lynne Button: email openmtgs@mku3a.org

Secretary: Fred Bass: email secretary@mku3a.org

Treasurer: Diana Sears: email treasurer@mku3a.org

Groups Facilitators: Chris Costello/Hazel Spencer: email groups@mku3a.org

Web Master: Dave Barratt: email webmaster@mku3a.org

Membership Secretary: Yvonne Ashmore: email membersec@mku3a.org

Communications Co-ordinator: Simon Wong: email comms@mku3a.org

Thames Valley Network Coordinator: Brian Baldwin: 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: 11 Winchester Circle, Kingston, Milton Keynes MK10 0BA.

Telephone: 01908 281717. **E-mail:** info@mku3a.org

Registered charity number **298693**