



March
2022



The Third Way e-newsletter

Dear Members,

I hope you managed to survive the recent storms and you didn't suffer too much damage to your property.

The AGM is fast approaching, and the details are now posted in the diary section together with the information about the speaker, Graham Twemlow who will give his talk on Iconic Film Posters. Please sign in as usual either from the diary posting or by contacting Lynne Button vicechair@mku3a.org.

Following our email requesting volunteers we were pleased with the response but are still looking for help with some areas of managing our u3a. If you would like to know more, please contact either Lesley Sparks chair@mku3a.org or Lynne Button vicechair@mku3a.org

All the documentation for the AGM is now available in the Members Area, of our website, which is accessible to all members once you have logged in under AGM 2022. We will not have copies of the Annual Report or Accounts for the Charity Commission available on the day of the AGM as we are endeavouring to be as paper free as possible so, please access them from the website in advance as described above.

The u3a organisation is 40 this year and coincidentally mku3a is 35 years old as it held its first Open Meeting on 29th October 1987. In honour of these achievements, we are planning to hold a special event to celebrate these anniversaries. Before too many plans can be made or a venue booked, we need to establish how many of our members will be planning to attend on Wednesday 21st September. To this end we have posted the details in the Diary. Please sign in in the usual way either from the event or by contacting Lynne

Lesley on behalf of the Trustees

MKu3a 2022 AGM

All members are invited to attend

2.00pm Wednesday 23rd March 2022

At The Oak Tree Centre, Wallinger Drive, Shenley Brook End

We are pleased to announce that following the business of the day

our speaker will be Graham Twemlow 'Iconic Film Posters'

Proxy Voting and Committee Nomination Forms are available in the Members Area of the website. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Members Meeting & Talks

In February we had two very entertaining and very different talks from speakers.

The first was from Jim Holme who shared with us some of his insights into Japan from his time living there. The contrast between the old and the traditional and the new and very modern aspects of society was of great interest to members and as always with Jim his talk was illuminated with some of his wonderful Photographs.

The second talk was live at the Oaktree Centre and what can I say about another thoroughly entertaining and inspiring talk by Andy Smith. We had some of his usual mix of thoughtful, poignant and often highly amusing poetry – enlivened by coconut shells, party poppers and tales of highway robbery. An uplifting hour enjoyed by those in attendance.

The two talks in March are as follows:

Talk 6 Wednesday March 9th. Trish Thompson will join us again and entertain us with tales of two renowned female comedians – Victoria Wood and Julie Walters. This talk is via ZOOM and is the last talk currently booked to be delivered by this medium

Talk 7: Wednesday 23 March. This is the date of our AGM which will start at 2.00pm. Following the AGM we will have a talk by Graham Twemlow on the subject of Iconic Fimm Posters. This talk is scheduled to start at 2.30 pm. The AGM and talk are to be held at the Oaktree Centre, our usual venue

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

Lynne Button

The U3A turns 40 years old in 2022 and is 'fit for the future!'

All u3as will be celebrating this milestone with a packed programme of events running all year. All Groups and Members will have the opportunity to get involved in the celebrations and help raise the profile of our wonderful and vibrant organisation. A full programme will be available soon but please find a taster below of what's coming up.

We're delighted to confirm that the Mayor has agreed to join our celebrations on Wednesday 21st September. We are not sure what this will entail at the moment but to help us find out how many people are likely to attend (and thus how large a venue we would need to book) please can you confirm if you are potentially going to attend by booking a place on the diary page of our website or by emailing: vicechair@mku3a.org <mailto:vicechair@mku3a.org>

Follow the link to find out more <https://u3a.org.uk/events/40th-anniversary>

Thames Valley Network

Day/Date	Time	Event	Cost	Book By
Friday 4 th March	2.30pm	Spring Quiz	Free	1/3/22
Monday 14 th March	2.30pm	How does your Garden Grow A talk by David Marsh	£2 Per Device	12/3/22
5 th April	tba	21 st Century Telescopes	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

World Faiths

The members of the Exploring World Faiths group were made very welcome at the Hindu Temple, Neath Hill. We had masked and unmasked photos taken by group member Pauline Wright. Indian refreshments were kindly offered to the group after the meeting. Linda Morris



Wednesday 2nd March

A discussion meeting, 2pm. Whaddon Way Church, Bletchley.

Explorations of Religious Beliefs

1. What is religious knowledge and how can it be verified?
2. Does God exist?
3. Why is there suffering and evil?
4. Is there life after death?

If there is time at the end of the meeting we will consider the thinking of Plato and his influence upon world religions.

Linda Morris

Garden & Environment

Coming out of lockdown last summer Garden & Environment restructured and under Covid Rules met in September, October and November. We have not met over winter, but our full programme starts off in April until November. We meet in the lounge of Hungerford House across the road from Emerson Valley Local Centre Car Park for 2 pm the 2nd Wednesday of the month and we have vacancies. Best if you get in touch by Email if you would like to join us on April 13th: gardening2@mku3a.org

Group Co-ordinator Mike Jenner

Croquet

I am hoping to start up a new Croquet group on Thursday mornings at Stony Stratford Croquet Club. This is on the Ansell Trust grounds on Ostlers Lane. It will be held between 10.30 and 12.30pm weekly from April through to October at a cost of £5. All equipment, refreshments and tuition are included. We can only accommodate 16 in this group, so if you are interested in coming along to learn and play a great game can you please contact me via the website.

Jackie Berry

Art Appreciation 3

We really need some more members for our group, which meets to discuss art, mostly painting, but nothing is ruled out. We meet once a month at Gt. Linford meeting rooms. There is a charge of between £2.50 and £3.50 per session, depending on group numbers as we pay for the meeting room. No expertise in art is required, just an interest in looking at different galleries, movements, artists or whatever. So far, we have looked at Tate Britain, the National Gallery, the current Hogarth exhibition and images of the Nativity and the Wallace Collection. March meeting will be on Turner. Members are encouraged to prepare a session to present if they wish, but there is no obligation. We have had some Zoom catchup meetings for the vulnerable, but from now on these will only be for specific occasions.

Looking at art is exciting, interesting and always topical, please join us!

Patsy McCarthy

Third Age Players

The Third Age Players 25th Anniversary double production is well under way and promises to be vibrant and entertaining. The details are as follows:

HOW TO DARN SOCKS AND SAVE THE WORLD By Margot Lista

(A Play for our Time)

This unusual one-act play is full of humour, visual delight and, ultimately, poignancy. And we also offer:

RAMBLES ON RADIO By Robert Scott

(A Kind of Radio Play)

The group is professional, the play should be a thriller... but chaos ensues as the cast let their personal problems interfere with the performance...

THURSDAY APRIL 28TH /FRIDAY 29TH 7.15pm & SATURDAY 30TH APRIL 2.15pm at
Marsh Drive Community Centre, Great Linford MK14 5HH

TICKETS (Numbers strictly limited) £5 Email: Tap@mku3a.org or call/text 07905 247870 or call 01908 887 387

Greta Langdale

MKU3A Choir



Since Christmas we have been cautiously getting back to something like normality and the numbers at our meetings, at the Cross and Stable in Downs Barn, are gradually stabilising. However, we are always looking to recruit new members particularly in the bass and tenor ranges so please get in touch via the website if you would like to come along on Tuesdays at 2pm. We have started to work on the pieces for our Summer concert which is booked for Sunday 12th June at 2.30pm so please make a note in your diaries. More details will follow.

Sheila Staincliffe, Joint group coordinator

Recorder Group

Are you interested in playing the Recorder? Would you like to join an enthusiastic Recorder Group? The Group will be small - 5/6 players who use all sizes of recorder.

This size of group enables us to play one to a part and to meet in member's houses.

We plan to meet in the morning of the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month for approximately 1.5 hours.

There will be no auditions but aspiring members will need to be able to read music fairly fluently, it doesn't matter if you are a little rusty as it will all come flooding back.

You should also have a range of 1.5 octaves on whatever recorder you play. We play a variety of music and suggestions from Group members are always welcome.

If you are interested please send your enquiry to Hazel Spencer, New Groups Facilitator at groups@mku3a.org. When making an enquiry about the group please include any previous experience you would like to share and the type of recorder you play.

Hazel Spencer

Future Music Lecture programmes with Adrian Boynton

Prior to Covid restrictions I was delighted to organise several wonderful programmes of music lectures which were led by Adrian Boynton, Director of Music at Milton Keynes City Church. The group was friendly and sociable, and Adrian provided entertaining insights into different eras of music and the composers that innovated during each of those times.

I regret that I am no longer able to organise these lectures (although Adrian has already drawn up a new programme) and I wonder if there is anyone (or a couple of people) willing to take on the organisation of the lectures in future. Details of previous lectures can be found in the Groups section of our MKU3A website (see Music Lectures). I would be happy to run through the admin and set up details if this were the case.

Our alternative might be to ask Adrian to set up his own programmes which people could attend outside the umbrella of U3A. There would be no need in that case for our members to have to manage costs or organisation of the lectures as these would then be outside the remit of U3A.

Please let me know if you're interested in taking this forward by emailing me at: t2laughs@gmail.com

Tina Two

Personal request for assistance

I wonder if I could use the medium of the U3A newsletter to help me out of a hole? I am a very long-standing member, and my home has undergone a disaster which will take months to sort out. Insurance company is supposed to find me a short-term house or flat to rent. So far it had not been absolutely hopeless. I have been hotel-hopping since mid-January and am totally miserable. I am unable to follow my normal life or attend U3A Groups.

Does any U3A member know of a solution for the immediate few months? A dwelling vacant for some months? A granny flat currently unoccupied? A spare room with personal living facilities?

U3A members are known to be diverse and resourceful. Can anyone help? Please email me, Christina – cjlay@yahoo.co.uk

Christina (TAP, Country Dancing, Biology Groups)

Danesborough Chorus – Spring concert

Danesborough Chorus (Conductor Ian Smith) will make a welcome return to St Mary's Parish Church, Woburn on Saturday 2 April 2022 at 7.30pm for a performance of Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, Lauridsen's Lux Aeterna and Rheinberger's Requiem in D minor.

This concert showcases the beauty of varied choral styles and will provide the perfect opportunity to shake off the Winter blues and embrace the colourful warmth of Spring! in the Chichester Psalms.

Chichester Psalms, sung in Hebrew, were commissioned by the Dean of Chichester Cathedral for the 1965 Music Festival. There are catchy rhythms, drama and beautiful melodic lines. And we are thrilled to be joined by Alexander Olleson, BBC Young Chorister of the Year 2020, who will be singing the solo treble part.

Lux Aeterna (eternal light) by Morten Lauridsen, the American choral master, was first performed in 1997, and comprises five movements based on sacred Latin texts.

Josef Rheinberger wrote many choral works and his Requiem in D minor is full of rich textures and flowing melodies.

For tickets call 01908 583460 or visit www.wegottickets.com.
More information at www.danesborough.org.uk.

BLETCHLEY EVENING WI

We are a friendly group who currently meet at Chepstow Community Hall, MK3 5NG, on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30.p.m. We have a speaker most months and our new programme starting in April could contain an Introduction to Aromatherapy, Scrapbooking your photos and memories or learning about bird song.

If you are a 'knitter', enjoy sewing or anything 'crafty' we hope to start up our monthly 'knit, stitch and natter' group in the Spring. We have a monthly coffee morning or afternoon which you are invited to join to get to know us first if this would suit you. Feel free to phone for a chat on 01908 379675.

Milton Keynes National Trust Association

Are you a member of the National Trust? Even if you aren't, you can join our local association in Milton Keynes that arranges visits to National Trust properties and places of special interest, lectures, holidays, and social events. You can apply for membership to our Membership Secretary Sue Dee, 53 Mersey Way, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 7PP (01908 374881) or by subscribing at one of our meetings. Annual membership fees are £7.50 or £14 for two at the same address. Money raised through our activities are used to support National Trust projects. We meet once a month on the first Thursday of each month from 2.00pm to 4.00pm, and scheduled lectures include:

Mar 3 - The BBC & Glenn Miller in WW2 Bedford - David Fowlers

Apr 7 - Down Among the Gypsies - Dianne Sutton

May 5 - Claydon, Now You See It, Now You Don't - Frank and Daphne Preece

Jun 2 - The Underground Railroad - Patterned Path to Freedom - Kay Goddard

The meetings of the Milton Keynes National Trust Association are at the Oak Tree Centre, Wallinger Drive, Shenley Brook End, Milton Keynes MK5 7GZ. £2 for members of the MKNTA and £4 for non-members. The Oak Tree Centre is a well ventilated, light and airy place; hand sanitation facilities are provided and the use of face masks is a personal choice. Questions can be referred to Sue Dee via phone or via e-mail to sue-davedee@talktalk.net

Milton Keynes Chorale concert: Saturday 26 March at 7:30 St Mary & St Giles Church, Stony Stratford

Milton Keynes Chorale presents an uplifting concert featuring Fauré's sublime Requiem and Rebecca Dale's 'richly cinematic' When Music Sounds in a new piano arrangement of the orchestral score.

Appealing melodies, comforting harmonies and an understated scale all combine to make Fauré's Requiem a favourite of choirs and audiences alike; it is impossible not to be moved by the beauty of this humble masterpiece. Rebecca Dale's When Music Sounds fuses a cinematic soundscape with lush

choral harmonies to create a vibrant celebration of the power of music. It is a stirring and generous piece, full of soaring melodies and cheering climaxes. Rebecca is hailed by Classic FM as 'one of today's most exciting young composers' and her debut CD shot straight to the top of the classical charts. We are delighted to be performing the premiere of the piano version of this work



MK Chorale

FAURÉ
REQUIEM

REBECCA DALE

**WHEN MUSIC
SOUNDS**

Saturday 26 March 2022 | 7.30 pm

St Mary & St Giles Church, Stony Stratford

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**

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