

The Third Way e-Newsletter

September 2022

News from the Chair

Anniversary Celebrations

I still feel as if we are keeping our fingers crossed and that it “will be all right on the night” but thanks to our hard-working team on the planning committee I’m starting to feel excited about our anniversary celebration day and really looking forward to seeing so many of you there along with your friends and family. I will be sending out one more email outlining what is planned for the day with some time slots where appropriate but as a little teaser the following groups are scheduled for the main auditorium: Play Pals, English Country Dancing, TAP, Sequence Dancing, Ukulele, Keep Fit and the Choir. In the foyer and stage 2 area there will be displays from other group – Art Displays, Italian, Photography, Cribbage, to name but a few. We are currently grappling with the welcome challenge of fitting everyone in!

So, log on to the website (with your membership number), go to the **Diary** tab and sign-up for the event on Wednesday 21st September, at the Stables Wavendon, main events 11.00am to 2.45pm.

Third Age Trust – TAT

As I hope you are all aware the Third Age Trust is effectively the umbrella organisation for all u3as, part of your annual subscription of £15 is used to pay membership fees to TAT and this supports a number of activities they provide to us from a central source. At this year’s TAT AGM, co-incidentally being held in Milton Keynes, the management board are proposing increases to the membership fee we will need to pay. As matters stand, and we still awaiting to see if there will be any amendments to the current resolutions, MKu3a will be voting against the proposals. We are carefully considering the various proposals being made and as always will endeavour to act in the best interest of our members. We are also very aware of the cost of living pressures impacting some of our members and will do our best to not pass on any increases to our members. If you wish to find out more about the proposals then information can be found on the TAT AGM website: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/agm-2022>, and of course you can raise any questions or points of view with myself or other committee member.

Management Committee

This seems to be a regular plea but in order for MKu3a to thrive and indeed remain in line with our constitution we need members to volunteer to be on our management committee as Trustees. We have an immediate requirement for a volunteer to come forward to take over the position of Vice chair, one of the four officers of our charity, and a further volunteer to support and shadow the secretary. Two of the current Trustees, the Chair and Membership Secretary, will be approaching the end of their three year term as Trustees and will be standing down at the next AGM. If you need any further information about any of these roles then please contact me.

Monthly Meetings and Talks

A reminder that our next monthly meeting and talk is on Wednesday, 28th September at our usual meeting place Oaktree Centre, Shenley Brook End. Doors open at 2.00pm for a 2.30pm talk. I am delighted to confirm our speaker this day will be Lynne Morris, OBE who is the Chief Executive of a local charity, Toybox.

Lynne Button
Chair

New Members Induction Meeting – 12 September 2022

Our next Induction Meeting for new members is on Monday, 12 September, starting at 2.00 pm. It will be held in the Great Linford Parish Office meeting room, in the Great Linford local centre.

The session will briefly outline the background to the u3a movement, explain how to get the best out of your membership with MKu3a, and show you how to navigate around the website and join interest groups. It's also an opportunity to meet other new members.

If you joined MKu3a recently you will receive an email invitation in due course. Please send me an email if you want to join. You will receive further information nearer the time.

Yvonne Ashmore (Membership Secretary)
Email membersec@mku3a.org.

Exploring World Faiths Group

We have a **Spiritualist Minister** speaking to us on Wednesday 7th September at 2pm. Please contact me on ewf@mku3a.org if you are interested in attending this meeting. Look on our group page for more details.

Linda Morris

MKU3A CHOIR



Just a reminder that we will be performing at 2pm as part of the u3a 40th Anniversary Celebrations taking place at the Stables on Wednesday 21st September from 11.00am–2.45pm. We hope you will join us on the day in the main auditorium.

We start back from our Summer break on Tuesday 6th September at the Cross and Stable Church in Downs Barn at 2pm. There are vacancies in all vocal ranges so please make contact with us via the website if you would like to join a friendly group of likeminded singers.

Sheila Staincliffe
Joint group coordinator

The Third Age Players

In case you haven't yet seen what the Third Age Players are up to, this is it: A Triple Bill on October Thursday 27th at 2.15pm, Friday 28th at 7pm and Saturday 29th at 2pm. Tickets are £7 for the whole lot! The venue is the new Great Linford Community Centre (MK14 5HH).

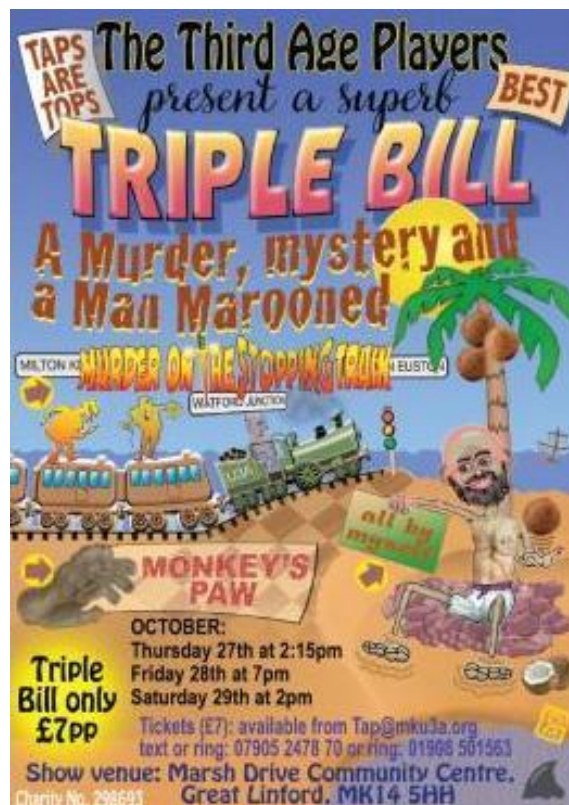
What are the three plays about?

Murder on the Stopping Train (from Milton Keynes to Euston via Watford Junction) by Margot Lista is rather self-explanatory – you don't want to be a passenger ... but you might enjoy being an observer!

The Monkeys' Paw is a classic thriller by WW Jacobs, adapted for our group by Margot Lista. Make sure you have a light meal beforehand as it grips your stomach and sends shivers down your spine! Lastly.

All By Myself is a comedy by the award-winning Robert Scott – suspend disbelief as you are transported back to 1563 on a desert island, where its reluctant inhabitant(s) try to rub along together.

Seats are limited so book early! Ring Greta on 01908 501563 or text 07905 247870 for tickets or more details.



Greta Langdale

Garden & Environment Group – Change of Venue

From 2pm on Wednesday 10th August 2022 this group is meeting regularly in the large lounge of Falaise Court Sheltered Housing, Bec Lane, **Bolbeck Park**.

This lounge is over twice the size of our previous venue so we have plenty of room if you wish to join this group. Details from Mike at gardening2@mku3a.org.

Mike Jenner, Group Co-ordinator

Art Appreciation Group 1 looking for new members

Do you marvel at Michelangelo? Are you crazy about Klimt? Or does Banksy float your boat? Then why not share your enthusiasms with the Art Appreciation Group 1 who meet monthly on Tuesday afternoons?

Our new Autumn term session starts on Tuesday 13th September at 2pm in the MKu3a Kingston Meeting Room. The topic is the development of Welsh Landscape Art from the 1700s to the present day. We look forward to welcoming new members for a 'taster session'.

For more information email artapp@mku3a.org or refer to the MKu3a website.



Pauline Wright

Craft and Create Group – Proposed New Group

Do you have an interest in crafting or would you like to learn new skills? Would you like to join a group of like-minded people who like to create gifts, keepsakes or whatever their imagination can produce?

We plan to meet twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month in a room at the Kingston Centre, where the MKu3a have their offices.

As crafting covers a wide range of activities, group members might like to work on their own projects or share their knowledge of crafts such as knitting, crochet or sewing with those who would like to learn. There may also be an opportunity to attend workshops on projects using textiles and hand sewing run by myself as I have been crafting for many years.

The idea of the group is to learn new skills, swop ideas, tips and encourage each other as we craft, create, chat and have fun.

Interested? Send your enquiry to the New Groups Facilitator, **Hazel Spencer**, at groups@mku3a.org. When making your enquiry please share any skills you may have or may wish to learn.



u3a Tai Chi Series

Tai Chi is a health-promoting exercise that increases well-being, balance and mobility and decreases stress.

National u3a is offering a free, online, 6-week Tai Chi course for u3a members, from Thursdays 20 October. It is led by a member of the Melton Mowbray member.

More details and Registration from the website:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tai-chi-autumn-series-tickets-395202309747

Yvonne Ashmore

Quizzes at Simpson

Saturday 10th September 7.00pm, QUIZ & Curry Supper in Simpson Village Hall. £15.00 p.p. or £7.50 p.p. without the food. Proceeds to St Giles Church Roof Fund. Places must be booked with missquiz@sky.com

Saturday 1st October at 7.00pm, QUIZ & Fish & Chip Supper in St Thomas's Church, Simpson. £15.00 p.p. or £7.50 p.p. without the food. Proceeds to Water Eaton Community Choir. Places must be booked with missquiz@sky.com

Pat Hodges

A Literature Class in Milton Keynes – September to December 2022

This class should appeal to MKu3a members 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, 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.

Literature and Science in the nineteenth century

The class will study a number of significant works that bring together science and literature during this period: one of Goethe's Italian travel accounts, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Daniel Kehlmann's *Measuring the World*, Buchner's extraordinary play *Woyzeck*, Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species* and readings from Laura Otis' OUP World's Classics anthology *Literature and Science in the Nineteenth Century*.

Time and Place The class will be held on Mondays from 10.00 to 12 noon **starting on 26th September 2022**. 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**.

Contact If this looks attractive, please email the class secretary, Jean Cooke for more details including fee and possible financial help: jcookiejean@aol.com.

Joe Clinch (joeclinch@btinternet.com), MKu3a member and **Karen Hewitt** long-standing Literature Class member.

Introduction to Lip-reading

Community Learning MK



We are offering a new three-hour course on Saturday 24 September from 10am to 1pm at the Church of Christ the Cornerstone, Central Milton Keynes.

This course will offer an opportunity to improve lip-reading skills, develop strategies to manage hearing loss and to meet other learners with hearing loss in a supportive environment.

Cost: £24. A 20% concession is available for the deaf and carers of the deaf

Free online Lip-reading taster session – Thursday 15 September – 7pm to 8pm

For more information and to enrol for this course or the taster session, please visit our website www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/clmk or email communitylearning.mk@milton-keynes.gov.uk.

Sheila Dale

Bletchley Evening WI

Bletchley Evening WI are back in St Andrews Baptist Church, St Andrews Road, MK3 5DR. We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30p.m.

Come along around 7.15p.m. on 6th October and hear about 'The Power of Plants' from our speaker. If you live in Bletchley you might find that you already know one of our members. Feel free to ring the Secretary for a chat on 01908 379675.

Carol Jeffery

ADRIAN BOYNTON'S ABC OF MUSIC

A Series of monthly talks illustrated by fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton, all talks are on a Wednesday between 1.45 and 4.00 pm and held at The Oaktree Centre, Wallinger Drive, Shenley Brook End, MK5 7GZ.

Series 1:

Wednesday 14th September - letter A

AMERICAN POPULAR MUSIC OF THE 19th and 20th CENTURIES

A celebration of an outstanding tradition, embracing Stephen Foster, Tin Pan Alley, Ragtime, Blues, Swing and Big Band.

Wednesday 12th October - letter B

BEETHOVEN 250th ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE

Delayed by the Pandemic, a belated 250th tribute to the musical giant who sums up the Classical era and shows the way forward for the Romantic composers.

Wednesday 9th November - letter C

CONCERTO IN THE 18th & 19th CENTURIES

We trace the fascinating history of the Concerto from its origins in the Baroque period, through the Classical masterworks of Mozart, Haydn, and Beethoven to the great Romantic concertos of Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff.

Wednesday 14th December - letter D

DANCE IN MUSIC

So much of our musical heritage has been inspired by dancing. We hear wonderful examples from the Medieval and Renaissance periods, the great dance suites of Bach and his contemporaries, minuets from the 18th century, waltzes from the 19th, and brilliant dance-inspired works from the beginning of the 20th.

Admission for all the talks is £5 at the door. No need to book, just turn up! 1.45pm start. There is ample free parking at the Oaktree Centre. Each talk is complete in itself. Each talk includes a break for refreshments and convivial conversation.

Please call/text 07961 348697 or email boyntonmusic@gmail.com for further details.

Tina two

Milton Keynes Heritage Open Days: 9–18 September 2022

Free Events at St Mary Magdalens Church, Milton Road, Willen, Milton Keynes, MK15 9AB

Event 9 – **Robert Hooke’s Astounding Architecture at Willen Church**

9–18 September, 10.00–17.00

Visit this beautiful Grade 1 listed building, designed by Robert Hooke



Event 10 – **Beautiful Church, Beautiful Garden at Willen Church**

Friday 9 September, 10.00–17.00

Visit this historic church and take a look at the recently reclaimed church garden, plus plant sale!

Event 65 – **Play & Chat with Willen Hospice Choir**

Monday 12 September, 13.30–14.30

The choir is made up of Willen Hospice supporters, patients, relatives, friends, volunteers and staff, come together to sing.

Event 77 – **Children’s Story Time at Willen Church**

Tuesday 13 September, 15.30–16.30

Looking for an after-school activity? Join us for story time as a local storyteller brings some tall tales for small children.

Event 90 – **Church History Talk & Fun Quiz with speaker John Figg**

Wednesday 14 September, 11.30–13.30

Listen to the fascinating history of St Mary Church and its connection to Robert Hooke and then see how many answers you can get right in our fun local history quiz!

Event 103 – **Rolling Home in Concert & Willen Hospice Presentation**

Thursday 15 September, 15.30–17.00

Enjoy a musical interlude with Rolling Home with a selection from their wide range of songs. Followed by a presentation from Willen Hospice about their work and future plans.

Event 131 – **Meet Robert Hooke at Willen Church**

Saturday 17 September, 10.00–17.00

Come and meet Robert Hooke and ask him about his astounding inventions and the beautiful church he created.

Event 148 – **Quorum Choral Performance**

Saturday 17 September, 14.00–15.00

Enjoy a beautiful choral presentation from MK chamber choir Quorum, who specialise in Renaissance and contemporary sacred choral music, singing unaccompanied repertoire to the highest standard.

Event 155 – **Family church Service in Praise of Robert Hooke at Willen Church**

Sunday 18 September, Service at 09.30–10.30, church open all day

A fascinating service in praise of the scientist Robert Hooke, who designed St Mary Magdalene Church, and an insight into the life of Mary Magdalene. Listen to Margaret Moakes (licenced lay minister) as she presents her take on these two figures and how they influenced the world.

Sharron Marland

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. (Entrance fees for National Trust properties will have to be paid by non-National Trust members during our day excursions and holidays.) We are scheduled for the following:

DAY VISITS 2022

24 September – Windsor Castle

29 October – Somerset House

Money raised through these 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:

1 September – Chenies and the Russells

6 October – Lady Craven

3 November – What Is Life If Full of Care....

1 December – Christmas Social (no lecture)

2 February – In the Wake of the Mayflower

2 March – A Social History of Cutlery

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 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.

David Romine

Key Contact Details—more on the web site

Chair Lynne Button; email: chair@mku3a.org

Vice Chair email: vicechair@mku3a.org

Secretary Brian Baldwin; email: secretary@mku3a.org

Treasurer David Hall; email: treasurer@mku3a.org

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

Webmaster Dave Barratt; email: webmaster@mku3a.org

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

Communications Coordinator Martin Woodman; 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: MKu3a, 11 Winchester Circle, Kingston, Milton Keynes MK10 0BA. **Telephone:** 01908 281717; **email:** info@mku3a.org

Registered charity number: **298693**