

## The Third Way e-Newsletter

March 2023

### News from the Chair

The old saying about time flies when you are enjoying yourself is certainly proving to be true as I reach the end of my three year tenure as a Trustee of MKu3a, latterly as Chair. It has been both a privilege and a pleasure.

It is also a bit of a relief to be writing this last piece for the newsletter sharing a number of positive items of news. Our Volunteer open morning was a great success, thank you to those attending, and we now not only have nominations for the soon to be vacant Trustee positions but also to take over other needed areas of volunteering. I will look forward to seeing the impact of both fresh energy and new ideas. Our annual Thank You lunch to Group Coordinators and supporting volunteers was another well attended success and it was particularly interesting to hear about so many ideas emerging from the group co-ordinators. My final piece of good news to share is how the numbers of members attending our monthly talks has steadily increased and we are now back to pre-pandemic levels – judging by both the feedback and the fact we have to ask people to leave as we overrun our booked time at the Oak Tree Centre. I think it is fair to say our members enjoy their time with fellow members.

### Formal notice of AGM

Our AGM is on Wednesday 22nd March, starting at 2.30 pm at the Oak Tee Centre, Shenley Brook End. We would encourage as many members to attend as possible as it is important we are quorate. You can confirm your attendance by booking in the **Diary** section of our website or by emailing me.

The formal and necessary information relating to our AGM can be found on our website <https://mku3a.org/agm2023> (you will need to log in and access Members area).

Our AGM will be followed by entertainment provided by our Ukulele Group, light refreshments will be available.

As always any questions or queries then please contact me ([chair@mku3a.org](mailto:chair@mku3a.org)).

**Lynne Button** (Chair)

### New Members Induction Meeting – 27 March 2023

We are holding an Induction Meeting for new members who have joined MKu3a recently. The meeting will be held on Monday, 27 March 2023, starting at 2.00 pm. It will be held in the Great Linford Parish Office meeting room, 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 in the last few months you will have received an email invitation. Please email me ([membersec@mku3a.org](mailto:membersec@mku3a.org)) if you want to come. You will receive further information nearer the time.

**Yvonne Ashmore** (Membership Secretary)

## MKu3a Life Members

Do you know that Life membership is awarded to MKu3a members who have completed 25 years continuous membership? Currently we have 45 Life Members.

We are delighted that four members have reached this milestone in recent months. We send our warmest congratulations to them. They received a Life Membership card, and a Certificate.

Sue Kirkaldy  
Dawn Potter  
Eileen Hughes  
Pauline Brown

We hope they continue enjoying their u3a activities.

## Meet a Long-Serving Volunteer

*At our monthly Open Meeting you will have met our volunteers Mollie Plackett and her friend Thelma Warner taking the register. Here her daughter, Sue Putman, shares news of the remarkable achievement of Mollie.*

On Saturday 18 February Mollie Plackett was awarded her 60-years long service award by Girlguiding. This very special award was presented by the County Commissioner Sheila Beales at the Bletchley Division Thinking Day event, held at Water Eaton Church Centre, Bletchley.

Girls of every age group (Rainbows 4–7 years; Brownies 7–11 years and Guides 11–16years) were present and sat listening intently as Sheila spoke of what Mollie had done throughout her 60 years of volunteering with Guiding.

Mollie had first been a Girl Guide in Northampton and in 1962 (as an adult) took on leadership of the Company (this was 20thA Doddridge Memorial) when no one else was able to do so. With no leaders the Company would have had to close, so Mollie became the Captain and has never looked back!

Since then she has been the Leader of three other Guide Companies in Bletchley – during which time she led over 50 camps – she has also been a District and a Division Commissioner, then accepted a Bucks County role as Assistant Registrations Secretary. In 2011 Mollie was invited to become the Division President, a role she continues to hold today.



Mollie is pictured being presented with her award by Sheila Beales (Bucks County Commissioner).



Mollie is seen with her award, various flowers and gifts she was also given, and a certificate from the South East Regional Commissioner for Scouts, Mr James Palin.

## Outings Group – 2023 Programme Summary

Meetings are held the **SECOND** Thursday of the month.

The first meeting will be on 9th March from 2.15pm to 3.45pm for the people attending. The venue for the meetings has been changed to: **Herons Lodge**, Bradwell Road, Loughton Lodge MK8 9AA.

**All members of MKU3A are welcome on any of the outings** and the Group's monthly meeting, and will be able to 'sign up' for the outings either by postal application, at the monthly meetings and paying by bank transfer. Further information on the flyers, and flyers for each outing will be circulated to all members, with details in the monthly Newsletter and hard copies available for those without email access at the monthly Group meetings and Open meetings.

A committee has been set up comprising of Anne Davis, Ray Cockram, Prudence Davies, Erica Thibouville, Deb Hodges, Jennie Savage, Diana Sears (who will deal with the finance, email [outingsmku3a@gmail.com](mailto:outingsmku3a@gmail.com)), Chris Behrendt as the Group Coordinator (email [outings@mku3a.org](mailto:outings@mku3a.org)). All are working on the details of the outings agreed for 2023. 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 we are unable to offer a refund, unless a replacement booking is made for the excursion in question.

- **27 April – St Albans Cathedral** Ref: **OG01**

Pick up Point: The Coachway, Coachway Road, MK16 0AA at 9.00 am. Coach Company: Bill's Coaches. **Cost: £19** includes guided tour of the Cathedral, coach travel and driver's tip.

Then free time to either visit the town, or the museum and art gallery, plus the Verulamium Museum of Roman artefacts (entry at additional cost), and the only medieval clock tower belfry in England. Town Maps will be provided on exit of coach.

**Anne Davis Mobile 07703 190904 for contact on the day of the outing only.**

- **25 May – Dudley Canal and Tunnels Tour** Ref: **OG02**

Pick Up Point: The Coachway, Coachway Road, MK16 0AA at 8.45am. Coach Company: Bill's Coaches. **Cost: £44** with a 'chippy lunch' on board a two-hour open water cruise, or **£37** without lunch; followed by a 45 minutes underground experience of the tunnels. Both costs include the open water cruise, underground experience, coach travel and drivers tip.

**Ray Cockram Mobile 07899 841553 for contact on the day of the outing only.**

- **23 June – Blenheim Palace and Flower Show** Ref: **OG03**

Pick Up Point: The Coachway, Coachway Road, MK16 0AA at 8.30am, Coach Company: Bill's Coaches. **Cost: £36**, includes entry to the palace, gardens and flower show. All refreshments on the day at own cost. This year's flower show features more stands and entertainment, the return of the Grand Flower Pavilion as well as outdoor flower displays and insect trail, talk and demonstrations, fabulous food and drink, homeware and crafts plus live music.

**Deb Hodges Mobile 07769 720233 for contact on the day of the outing only.**

**Chris Behrendt** (Group Coordinator)

## Choir

The choir are taking part in the service to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. It is to be held at Newport Pagnell Parish Church on Saturday May 6th.

Our Summer Concert is being held on Sunday 11th June 2.30 pm at the United Reformed Church (tickets will be available in April).

By request, we will be reprising our Summer Concert programme in St James Church, Bradwell, on Saturday July 22nd.

More details will follow but we hope to see you at one or more of these events.

**Sheila Staincliffe** (Joint Group Coordinator)

## Current Affairs 2

The new Current Affairs 2 group is up and running, having started in January. We try to focus on one main issue each meeting that we can look at in-depth. To do this, one on the group offers to do a short presentation so that we have some background knowledge to act as the basis of our subsequent discussion.

So far we have discussed:

- News: what is it; where do we get our news from and can we rely on it being 'true'?
- Migration: why has it come about why is it such a big issue currently. How can it be managed effectively?
- Voting methods: does first-past-the-post giving a true representation of what 'the people' want? What are the alternatives, and what are the pros and cons of the various methods?

We look forward to further interesting and challenging topics in the coming months.

**Derek Beaumont** (Group Coordinator)

## Appeal from Third Age Players

We are back in action, planning and rehearsing our next production, which will be early autumn 2023. The play is "36, Titty Ho Lane", a comedy by Margot Lista. We are in need of a hamster cage ... Does anyone have one they could lend or donate? (Don't ask why, you'll have to see the play to find out!)

If so, please ring or text the Group Coordinator, **Greta Langdale** on 017905 247870. Thank you!

## Holidays and Short Breaks 2023

A late date holiday this year and a mixed bag of visits whilst away. Staying in Bournemouth we will, finally, get to the Isle of Wight, if only for the day – we have been trying unsuccessfully for the last three years, along with various other outings.

### Brief Itinerary

- Day 1 – Departure, stopping at Basildon Park (National Trust), arrive before dinner
- Day 2 – New Forest excursion, visit Beaulieu Estate, home of the famous National Motor Museum
- Day 3 – Tour to Isle of Wight include visiting Osborne House
- Day 4 – Winchester: visit to the Cathedral and the Bombay Sapphire Distillery
- Day 5 – Visit Greys Court (National Trust) before returning to Milton Keynes

**Cost Sharing:** £524, for National Trust/English Heritage members, £539 for National Trust only members, £554 for English Heritage only members, £569 for non NT or EH members; sole occupancy supplement £100 (sole occupancy rooms are limited with all bookings on a first come first served basis).

The holiday is provided by *Just for Groups*. Booking and insurance forms plus a deposit cheque are sent to me to collate at the address on the booking form. I then forward these to *Just for Groups* who then deal with and manage the bookings on your behalf, sending invoice direct to you for final balance payment.

- A poster with full details of this holiday can be found at the end of this newsletter.

For a booking and insurance form please contact Chris Behrendt [h.and.sb@mku3a.org](mailto:h.and.sb@mku3a.org)  
Mobile number 07766 026357

**Chris Behrendt** (Group Coordinator)

## Backgammon – Proposed new group



We are considering starting a Backgammon group which would meet in Olney (or Newport Pagnell) at a venue to suit the number of members. The group would be held either weekly or monthly on a Wednesday morning from 10.30 (however day and time are not set in stone).

Backgammon is in essence a simple game combining both skill and luck which could provide hours of pleasure and keep brains active. Anyone would be welcome whether or not they have played before as beginners would soon learn how to play.

If you are interested in joining the group please send your enquiry to Hazel Spencer, New Groups Facilitator at [groups@mku3a.org](mailto:groups@mku3a.org)

## Walking Football

Would you like a different way to keep yourself active? If so, would you consider setting up a new Walking Football group. If you would be interested in leading such a group you would receive support from the general manager of the Milton Keynes Power League, who has already helped Peterborough u3a set up such a group. This type of activity would be good for both male and female participants.

More information about Walking Football – the sport and clubs – and The Walking Football Association can be found on their website: <https://thewfa.co.uk/>

If you are interested in setting up a new Walking Football group please contact Hazel Spencer at [groups@mku3a.org](mailto:groups@mku3a.org) for more information.

## Exploring World Faiths Group

The group visited Willen Hospice in early February.



The Hospice Chaplain spoke to the Exploring World Faiths group in the new cafe which will soon open to the public.

**Linda Morris** (Group Coordinator)



The group also enjoyed a tour of the new Well Being centre, met the full time physiotherapist and learned about the activities which include a gardening project.

## Bletchley Evening WI

Would you like to visit Bletchley Evening WI? We are a friendly group who meet at 7.30. pm on the first Thursday of the month at St Andrews Baptist Church, St Andrews Road, MK3 5DR.

Come and listen to a speaker, have a chat and a cup of tea and perhaps try one of our small groups later in the month.

For more information, or a chat, phone Carol on 01908 379675.

**Carol Jeffrey**



## Danesborough Chorus – *Stabat Mater* by Dvořák

7.30pm on Saturday 18th March.

The Chorus, under their conductor Ian Smith will be accompanied by the Alina Orchestra and four outstanding soloists.

Don't miss the chance to hear this rarely performed, moving and beautiful choral masterpiece work, in the beautiful setting of the St Mary's Parish Church at Woburn.

Tickets (£10, £15, £20) are available to order by phone (01908 583460), or download a booking form from our website. They can also be purchased online from [www.wegottickets.com](http://www.wegottickets.com).

Further information about the Danesborough Chorus and our Spring concert are found on our website: [www.danesborough.org.uk](http://www.danesborough.org.uk).

**Helen Richards**

## T.T.T.T

(THIRD TUESDAY TWELVE THIRTY)



On the Third Tuesday of every month St Mary Magdalene Church, Willen, will host free Lunch-time concerts.

This month it is ...

### ***Rolling Home***

Tuesday 21 March @ 12.30 pm

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

No fee but donations for the cake and coffee always welcome. All money goes to repairs to this magnificent old church.

**Sharron Marland**

## **Volunteer Open Day at Milton Keynes Museum**

**When?** Tuesday, 14 March, 2.00–4.00 pm

**Where?** Granary Tea Room, Milton Keynes Museum (McConnell Dr, Wolverton, MK12 5EL)

**Who?** Anyone from age 13 upwards

**What?** Are you interested in volunteering at a local heritage site?

Want to put your skills to good use and pick up some new skills?

Looking to make new friends in your community?

Do you have some spare time on your hands, whether it be an hour or a day?

On our Volunteer Open Days, you will get a chance to learn more about the Museum and its story from Museum Director, Bill Griffiths, and to learn about our available Volunteer Roles from Museum staff and Team Leaders – there will be plenty of behind the scenes views and opportunities to ask questions! Light refreshments and hot drinks will be available.

To RSVP, please email [volunteer@mkmuseum.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@mkmuseum.org.uk)

**Mirjam Rundel** (*she/her*)

Volunteer Support and Recruitment Officer, Milton Keynes Museum

T: 01908 316222, M: 07456 555756

E: [volunteer@mkmuseum.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@mkmuseum.org.uk) Web: [www.miltonkeynesmuseum.org.uk](http://www.miltonkeynesmuseum.org.uk)

**Martin Woodman**



**We are seeking volunteers to support our world-class exhibition programme.**

*Do you like meeting people and talking about art?*

MK Gallery is an 'architectural gem' that presents significant exhibitions of contemporary and historic art and design, alongside extensive public programmes. Volunteering at MK Gallery can involve anything from ushering in our film programme to supporting our galleries.

We are offering opportunities to people who have 2–3 free hours on weekends, or would like the opportunity to volunteer with their children aged 14–18.

*Why get involved?*

- Become a valued member of a team of volunteers and professionals who are passionate about delivering a world-class arts programme in the heart of Milton Keynes.
- Develop new skills or build upon existing customer service and communication skills.
- Gain experience volunteering in a gallery environment and learn about how we run our exhibitions and events.
- Get invited to private exhibition tours with artists and curators prior to opening of new exhibitions.

Enjoy a 30% discount off of food and beverages at the MK Gallery Café.

Please get in touch with Annette for more information or to make an application.

MK Gallery, 900 Midsummer Blvd, Milton Keynes, MK9 3QA

T +44 (0)1908 676900 E [info@mkgallery.org](mailto:info@mkgallery.org)

**Martin Woodman**

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## **Key Contact Details—more on the web site**

**Chair** Lynne Button; email: [chair@mku3a.org](mailto:chair@mku3a.org)

**Vice Chair** email: [vicechair@mku3a.org](mailto:vicechair@mku3a.org)

**Secretary** Brian Baldwin; email: [secretary@mku3a.org](mailto:secretary@mku3a.org)

**Treasurer** David Hall; email: [treasurer@mku3a.org](mailto:treasurer@mku3a.org)

**Groups Facilitators** Chris Costello/Hazel Spencer; email: [groups@mku3a.org](mailto:groups@mku3a.org)

**Webmaster** Dave Barratt; email: [webmaster@mku3a.org](mailto:webmaster@mku3a.org)

**Membership Secretary** Yvonne Ashmore; email: [membersec@mku3a.org](mailto:membersec@mku3a.org)

**Communications Coordinator** Martin Woodman; email: [comms@mku3a.org](mailto:comms@mku3a.org)

**Thames Valley Network Coordinator** Brian Baldwin; email: [tvn@mku3a.org](mailto:tvn@mku3a.org)

Please refer to the website: [www.mku3a.org](http://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](mailto:info@mku3a.org)

Registered charity number: **298693**



# MKU3A – Holidays & Short Breaks

## Bournemouth & Isle of Wight

Including visit to Osborne House and island tour, Winchester & Bombay Sapphire Gin Experience and New Forest with Beaulieu Estate

Monday 2nd to Friday 6th October 2023

5 Days  
Half Board  
by coach  
from\* £524  
per person  
sharing



### Your Guideline Itinerary: -

**Day 1:** Morning pick-up at Milton Keynes Coachway.. Travel to Bournemouth, stopping at **Basildon Park (National Trust)** en-route. Arrive with time to relax before dinner

### Day 2: New Forest & Beaulieu:

A full day excursion touring the New Forest with its narrow lanes, famous ponies, and elusive deer. Stop in Lyndhurst then head for Beaulieu Estate, home of the famous National Motor Museum

### Day 3: Full day tour to Isle of Wight

An early start as we head for Portsmouth to catch a morning ferry to the Isle of Wight. We will visit Osborne House (English Heritage), the favourite home of Queen Victoria, then have a tour of the main sights of this lovely island before returning to Portsmouth and our hotel in Bournemouth

### Day 4: Winchester & Bombay Sapphire.

Morning visit to the cathedral city of Winchester and a visit to the Bombay Sapphire Distillery before returning to Bournemouth to spend the remainder of the day at leisure

### Day 5: Bournemouth/Home

Depart hotel after breakfast and commence journey home, stopping at **Greys Court (National Trust)**, for visit and lunch stop. Depart in the afternoon and continue journey to Milton Keynes, arriving at approximately 1800 hrs

*\*Price £524 sharing for National Trust/English Heritage Members  
£539 for National Trust only members. £554 EH only members  
£569 sharing for non-members. Sole occupancy supplement £100*

### Mercurie Queens Hotel & Spa, Bournemouth (4\*)

Ideally situated in the heart of the town and just a short walk from the beach

- En-suite bedrooms with hospitality tray, Wi-Fi, air conditioning, TV and hairdryer
- Spa, sauna and indoor pool
- Queens Restaurant, Bar and Coffee shop
- Lift

### What's included:

- ✓ 4 nights' stay with 3 choice, 3 course dinner and breakfast
- ✓ Return executive coach travel
- ✓ Visits and entrances as shown
- ✓ Porterage
- ✓ Maximum 14 double rooms for sole use at £100 supplement

### Not included:

Optional insurance £25  
(Includes Covid cover)

Deposit £60 per person due by  
30th April 2023

Balance 8 weeks prior to  
departure

\*Price based strictly on minimum  
25 paying 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](http://www.justforgroups.co.uk)

**ABTA**  
ABTA No. V6237

**AGTO**

**Kent ARA**  
ASSOCIATE MEMBER

**AGTO**

**CTA**  
COACH TOURS  
ASSOCIATION