



The Third Way Newsletter  
SUMMER EDITION JUNE 2025

News from the Chair – Lesley Sparks

Dear Members,

Summer is here with the usual uncertainty of what to choose to wear. One day the temperature is in the high 20s and sunny the next a chilly 16 with showers.

Our new newsletter editor, Colin has pulled together this edition, thanks go to him for undertaking this role and to all of you who have contributed items.

Since the last issue we have been able to open two new groups - Ukulele 2 and ETHEL. New groups cannot be formed without members taking on the position of group coordinators. Thanks to Alan Bretherton, Pete Larrett and Andrew Millburn for taking on these essential roles.

Unfortunately, two groups have ceased, Get on and Sew and Garden and the Environment. Thank you to the retiring group coordinators.

The Keep Fit Wednesday group looked like it may cease when the GC stepped down but thankfully it is still running with a new GC Cheryl Young. Thanks for taking over.

The reminder to send in an Emergency Contact name and phone number just in case they are needed has been successful but if you still have to do this, please let us know. We have had one occasion to use these recently, so they are important.

Our Social Events Team are going strong but always need more volunteers to share the organisation and bring other ideas to the table.

The Afternoon Tea celebrating VE Day was enjoyed by all who attended and other events are in the pipeline so keep your eyes open for the notifications.

Our policy of compiling a quarterly newsletter will continue [Open Meeting](#)

### [Speakers Coming Up:](#)

#### [25th June - Operation Pied Piper - World War II Evacuation of Children – Pat Fawcett](#)

On the 3 September 1939, Britain and France declared war on Nazi Germany. Two days' earlier, on 1 September, the government had initiated Operation Pied Piper, which would see the evacuation of over 1.5 million people from urban 'target' areas, of whom 800,000 were children. Pat Fawcett joins us to talk about her personal experience of evacuation as a child in WWII.

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. Sign up to secure your place to share this piece of personal history.

#### [23rd July - A Photographers Tale, 30 Years in the Business - Janine Kilroe](#)

For our July Open Meeting, we are joined by Janine Kilroe. Janine gave us a fascinating talk about British Piers back in 2024 and it's great to welcome her again. This time we will hear all about "The adventures of a female photographer videographer". With photography and videography throughout the talk, it includes tales of world travel, famous people, flying a drone, then all the way to the Royal Academy and Saatchi Gallery.

#### [24th September - My Life in the Music Business – John 'Wilf' Wilford](#)

John 'Wilf' Wilford is coming along to Septembers Open Meeting to share his tales of "My Life in the Music Business" - 30 years as a sound engineer and tour manager, working with well-known artistes and musicians. This is set to be a lively and entertaining talk so do sign up to secure your place.

## [News From the Groups](#)

### [Playpals](#)

#### [Desperately seeking musicians](#)

Playpals the musicians, is a very friendly group which meets every Tuesday morning from 10 to 12.

The band currently has a rhythm section plus woodwind and string players. We play a mix of popular tunes, and we perform a few times in the year.

We are looking to extend the range of instruments, but we are happy to welcome any additional players. We have no minimum standard, no audition and there is no pressure to take part in performances. Parts are customised to suit players, and we make every effort to welcome newcomers especially if they don't have experience of playing with other people. We aim to develop your confidence in a supportive atmosphere.

If this appeals to you or you know anyone who might be interested get in touch and come along to one of our sessions to try us out.

Marilyn Ridsdale [Musicians@mku3a.org](mailto:Musicians@mku3a.org) [Backgammon MK](#)

### [Are you interested in playing Backgammon](#)

We are a friendly group of likeminded people who play on the 2nd and 4th Thursday morning of each month in Great Linford between 10.00am until 12.00 noon. Some of our current Group are beginners learning to play and others are more experienced.

We currently have spaces for new members and would love to see you. Come along and enjoy learning the ancient and fascinating game of backgammon.

Please contact us Malcolm and Jo - [BackgammonMK@mku3a.org](mailto:BackgammonMK@mku3a.org) [Exploring](#)

## World Faiths



Please join us for our visit to Saint Lawrence's Church, Broughton, to see the wonderful mediaeval wall paintings and to have them explained to us. We will be there at 2 pm, on 2nd July. Some group members will be having lunch beforehand at the Broughton hotel which is nearby. If you would like to join the group for lunch, or the church visit, or both, please let me know

Linda Morris [Ewf@mku3a.org](mailto:Ewf@mku3a.org)

## Third Age Players

The Third Age Players  
invite you to  
**HIGH TEA, LACED  
WITH MURDER**  
*By Margot Lista*

A murder mystery, where the audience is invited to identify the culprit when all the action has played out.

2025 FRIDAY — 29th August at 6pm  
2025 SATURDAY — 6th September at 5pm  
2025 SUNDAY — 7th September at 3pm

**£15** Includes a 4-course tea plus tea or coffee and programme.

**Tickets**  
Reserved seating at tables and booking in advance via Ticketsource. Search under Third Age Players, or title or date (small booking fee applies).

In case of difficulty or dietary needs, email: [tap@mku3a.org](mailto:tap@mku3a.org) leaving your contact number.

**Venue: Wavendon Community Centre**  
**Walton Road, MK17 8LH**  
Registered Charity No. 298693

As you can see from our flyer, TAP is feeling murderous again!

Tickets are now on sale for the much

anticipated Third Age Players production of

High Tea, Laced with Murder a murder

mystery including a four course High Tea and soft

drinks. (Guaranteed no

arsenic in your cake!) We

need YOU! To help catch the culprit(s)!

Performances are on

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August at

6pm, Saturday

6<sup>th</sup> September at 5pm and

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>

September at 3pm.

Advance bookings for

seats at tables, only £15

from

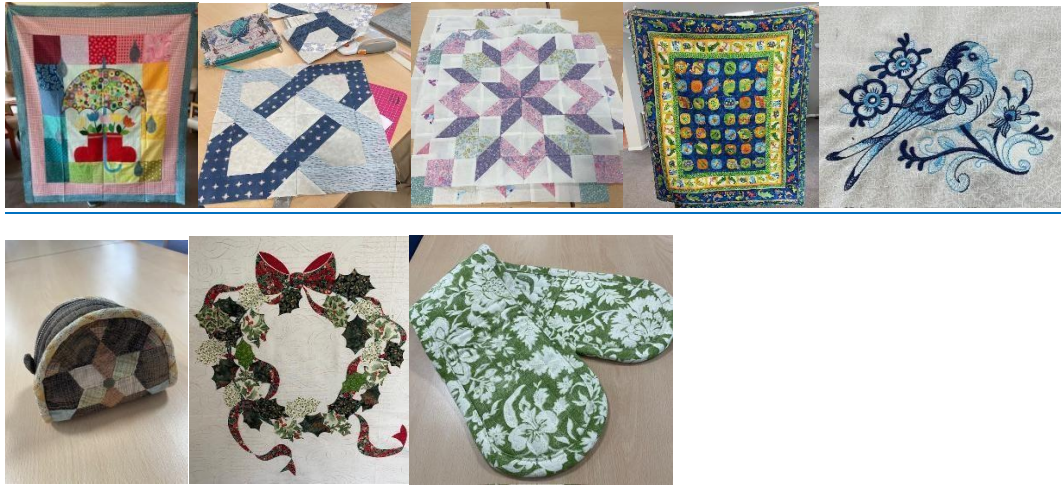
[Ticketsource.co.uk](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk). Search under [mkthirdageplayers](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk)

In case of difficulty email [tap@mku3a](mailto:tap@mku3a)

Places (all at tables) are limited so be sure to book early!



## PQ&OSP Group



The Patchwork, Quilting and other Sewing Projects Group (PQ&OSP Group) has been going from strength to strength this year. With applications for membership flying in. We are now up to our maximum number of 12, governed solely by the size of the available table at Dexter House and the number of chairs which fit round it!

We generally work on our own projects, but help is always at hand if needed and we always seem to manage to have a good laugh. But we do get some sewing done!

Lynne.

## Painters Progress

We recently had a speaker visit our group Painters Progress Mark Warner. Mark spends about 40 minutes en plein air sketching a street scene using water soluble pencils. Composition is all important. Starting with rudimentary shapes, one block for the sky, another for the road, blocks for the buildings. Onto these blocks he sketches the lines of perspective converging at the vanishing point. Gradually suggestions of detail are added.

Sketching is about seeing. As he adds suggestions of details like windows and architectural embellishment's he references how everything lines up across the picture. He then adds some water to blend the shading. When the sketch is dry, he then returns to reinstate the details.

Mark with completed sketch and reference photo.



Sanda Oxley.

There are fuller notes on the U3A website in Painters Progress and also on the Latest News section on the MKU3A website [Items Which May Be of Interest](#)

### Don't Feed the Phish

The Internet has transformed our lives, we cannot take advantage of its benefits, without being aware of its disadvantages and pitfalls.

Below is an explanation of one of those pitfalls that you need to be aware of.

It is called **Phishing**. Similar to the popular pastime “fishing” it involves reeling in unsuspecting victims with promises that are unlikely to materialise to their advantage.

The main weapon used by the fraudsters is an unsolicited email, The emails seek to persuade the receiver to click on a link (usually blue highlighted text) and to encourage them to give up passwords or other sensitive data.

It is often the case that fraudulent email addresses, supposedly being sent by reputable companies, are often a string of random characters - 1845956@hotmail.com - which would be unlikely to be used by professional organisations.

The emails themselves are often in poor quality English, with little or no punctuation. Alternatively, it may appear to come from someone you know. encouraging you to purchase of gift cards (Amazon is a favourite). Replying to the email proves to the fraudster that your email address is valid and guarantees that it will be sold on to other fraudsters.

Increasingly, approaches are being made by SMS text or by voice phone call (known as [smashing and vishing](#)). The call may purport to come from your bank or other trusted organisation. It will suggest that an account has been compromised or hacked and to “safeguard” the monies held, the funds should be transferred to a separate account that the fraudsters have kindly set up for the purpose. Regardless of the method used to reel in the victim, the approach taken to defeat the fraudsters is always to:

- Give yourself time to think. Don't allow the email/text/phone call to panic you into acting hastily.
- Anything that says that you must act urgently must be treated with suspicion.
- Is there any alternative way to check to see if the approach is genuine? Can you telephone (on a number that you know or can be verified independently)?
- If (by chance) the approach is genuine, the caller/sender will not be offended if you elect to check that they are who they say they are.

At least 80% of the world's email traffic is spam/fraudulent. As we rely more on the internet it is more than likely that you will receive phishing scam approaches. Please think carefully about how you respond to them. Should you need advice, the MKu3a IT team are available to help.

Dave Barratt Webmaster MKu3a [webmaster@mku3a.or](mailto:webmaster@mku3a.or)

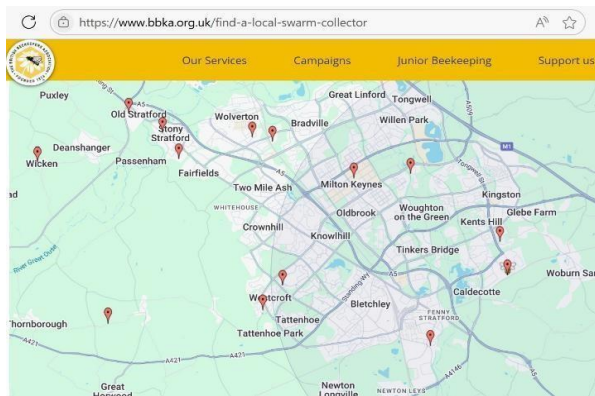
### [A Tale of Honeybees “Moving In”.](#)

Swarm season for honeybees started early this year due to the favourable spring weather. But it's still going on and I wanted to share an issue a local beekeeper highlighted to me when he collected swarms from Milton Keynes estates during May.

He is often called to local swarms by someone using the BBKA swarm collector map. This is useful for members of the public to find the nearest beekeeper to the swarm and often means a much faster response.



This is an example for Milton Keynes:



In the first instance a swarm had entered a vacant property through the extractor fan outlet which didn't have an external cover on it. He found them clustered in the kitchen and had to isolate them there despite there being no internal doors. He managed to do that but also secured a

cover over the outlet pipework to prevent any re-entry.



In the second case the swarm he was called to had settled on the house wall. As he cleared the bees, he noticed a hole in the wall behind the cluster. The householder had recently had his bathroom refurbished and the new toilet no longer needed an overflow pipe. His plumber had removed the redundant pipe but the small hole through to the external wall remained. The bees had gone in and up the inside of

the cavity to settle inside the house wall. That meant it was no longer a job the beekeeper could do but needed the services of a specialist bee removal contractor, please do check your property to make sure there are no external holes that a swarm of bees could come in through. It happens more often than you might think! [Wendy Barret](#)

STOP PRESS From the walking group see full date on Latest News on the MKu3A website



1st walking group  
outing May 5th  
Caldecotte Lake



## BLETCHLEY EVENING

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Meetings at  
St Andrew's Church Hall, Buckingham Road,  
Bletchley, MK3 5DR  
7.30 pm to 9.30 pm

**EVERY 1st THURSDAY OF THE  
MONTH**

**Knit & Natter**  
**Outings**  
**Monthly Speakers**

**Coffee Mornings**  
**Lunch Group**  
**Gardening Group**

## NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Contact 01908 370468 for a chat



**GREAT LINFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

*Newsletter*



Welcome to your June update from Great Linford Parish Council! Summer is just around the corner, and we've got a lot happening across the parish. This month, we're excited to share details about our upcoming Community Fun Day and announce a Photography Competition you won't want to miss! We'll also be looking back at recent highlights, including VE Day commemorations and The Great Cereal Topple. Additionally, discover how to get involved in Pay and Play Tennis, enjoy a cup of tea at the 5 Ways Café, and stay informed about crime prevention tips. For More **For More Information go to**

<https://www.great-linford.gov.uk/>



**MK Chorale**

Mozart  
**Requiem**

Vaughan Williams  
**Serenade to Music**

Oliver Tarney  
**To Music**  
(50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Commission)

Finzi  
**Eclogue**

**Sunday 6 July 2025 6.00 pm**

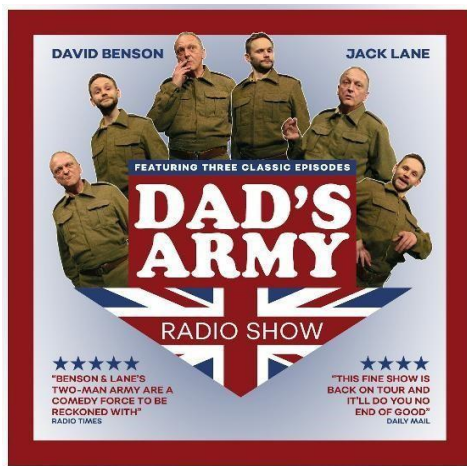
Christ the Cornerstone, Milton Keynes

**Mark Jordan** | conductor  
**Alex Aitken** | piano

soloists | Former MK Chorale conducting fellows

Tickets available via QR code or  
[www.mkchorale.org.uk](http://www.mkchorale.org.uk)





The classic BBC comedy is brought to life on stage in a radio-style performance. Two actors, two microphones, over twenty-five characters – and lots of sound effects! The nation's favourite sitcom is back, newly-minted in this highly-acclaimed production. It's a nostalgic and entertaining show we think your members would love, and we would be grateful if you could share details with them.

For ease the key details can be copy-and-pasted from below:

Dad's Army Radio Show 2nd July 2025 8:00pm

<https://stables.org/event/dads-army-radio-show>

Please note some of these articles have been put onto the MKU3A website under the Latest News tab and will stay there for a month.

Chair - Lesley Sparks email: [chair@mku3a.org](mailto:chair@mku3a.org)

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

**Secretary** - Deb Hodges email: [secretary@mku3a.org](mailto:secretary@mku3a.org)

**Treasurer** - Diana Sears email: [treasurer@mku3a.org](mailto:treasurer@mku3a.org) **Groups Team** -

Tina Griffiths/Hazel Spencer email [groups@mku3a.org](mailto:groups@mku3a.org)

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

**Membership Secretary** – Tim Hadden email [membersec@mku3a.org](mailto:membersec@mku3a.org)

**Communications Coordinator** – Colin Williams email [comms@mku3a.org](mailto:comms@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.

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