



The Third Way eNewsletter

June 2023

News from the Chair

Plans for our August celebration day are underway, and we will keep you updated by email and in the July newsletter as soon as everything is firmed up – as you can imagine it takes longer to plan than you think.

We will be looking for volunteers to help on the day so if you think this is something you would like to do, please let me know. chair@mku3a.org.

Talking about volunteers we have lost some of our stalwart volunteers who come along to our Open Meetings and assist in meeting new members to make them feel welcome, setting out the room in readiness for our speaker, help put the chairs away at the end, or give a hand with the refreshments. If you would like to help with one of these tasks please let Wendy Barrett, our Open Meeting Coordinator know by emailing openmtgs@mku3a.org. Many hands make light work.

Thankfully, our membership is now increasing, which is wonderful, so this might be timely to remind members, old and new, of the ethos of the u3a movement, which is built on 3 principles:

The Third Age Principle
The Self-help Learning Principle
The Mutual Aid Principle

All u3as follow these principles and the document can be found by following this link

<https://mku3a.org/Sites/MK/Uploads/Documents/The%20Principles%20Of%20the%20U3A%20Movement.pdf>

or looking at the members area of the website.

All u3as rely on volunteers to keep their association working, so whether a member takes on the role of a Group Coordinator, agrees to help at our Open Meetings, supports the administration teams or becomes a trustee they are just members who make the decision to volunteer for the benefit of others. We have no teachers and learners just members who share their unique skills and knowledge.

If you have any queries or questions about any aspect of MKu3a please feel free to contact me on chair@mku3a.org

Best wishes to you all, (as I write I am sitting in the coolest place in the house, but mustn't complain as tomorrow it might be raining).

Lesley



23rd August 2023

The Afternoon Tea held at Oak Tree Centre, Wallinger Drive, Shenley Brook End. Time to be decided. Join in the fun and wear a hat! Limited space - first come first served, for MKU3A guest a charge of £5-00, please book on the MKU3A website or email secretary@mku3a.org once the event has been posted. There will be a Walk and a Bicycle ride beforehand, for those who wish to join either one, starting point at Furzton Lake Car Park. Keep an eye out for more details shortly.

News from our Groups

Music Lecture Group – Tina Gerard-Two

For a number of years, we have enjoyed our Music Lecture Series, held at the Oak Tree Centre in Shenley Brook End and led by Adrian Boynton, Director of Music at Milton Keynes City Church.

We have heard some exquisite music, whether from Brahms, who spoke the popular language of his day, composing scherzos, minuets and concertos, or the English composers such as Thomas Tallis, Henry Purcell and Orlando Gibbon who developed very English musical structures and forms. It would do a great disservice to the programme to try and list here all the areas that we have covered, but some of the details are available on the Music Lecture Group page on our mku3a website (Group 601).

We need a new group co-ordinator who is willing to take on the financial and administrative organisation of future sessions. Full handover and training will be available. Sadly, if we are unable to find a new volunteer to run the programme, we will have to close the Music Lecture Series as an mku3a group.

If you are interested in becoming involved in this fabulous project, please contact Tina Gerard-Two, t2laughs@gmail.com.

Poetry Group – Pat Hodges

Held at Dexter House, Oldbrook on the second Friday of each month from 10.00am–12 noon.

If you wish to join us, for more details, please contact Pat Hodges at missquizz@sky.com or tel: 01908 644785.

MKU3A CHOIR – Vivienne Shaw



On Sunday 11 June we held our annual Summer Concert and Cream Tea at the United Reformed Church in Newport Pagnell. Entitled '*Summer Celebration*', all tickets were sold and it was a great success. We definitely had a good day for it, although temperatures, at around 30 degrees, were rather too warm!

All proceeds are being donated to Willen Hospice, and we are pleased to say that a total amount of £1,000 is being given in memory of Sue Norgett, a much-valued member of the tenor section of our Choir who, very sadly, passed away last week – the first week of June.

Unfortunately, the event on 22 July at St James' Church in New Bradwell, when the Choir had been asked to repeat their Summer Concert, has had to be postponed due to problems experienced by the organiser. Hopefully we can give you further details on this in the near future. Watch this space!

We meet for rehearsals at The Cross & Stable in Downs Barn on a Tuesday afternoon between 2pm and 4pm, and do have a few vacancies, particularly for tenors and basses, so please contact me via the website if you are interested in coming along to join us. Please note that the last session before our Summer break will be on Tuesday 25 July and we will be returning on Tuesday 12 September.

Musicians – Playpals by Marilyn Ridsdale

Come to our free concert at the beautiful Church of St Mary Magdalene at Willen on Tuesday 20 June at 12.30. This performance is part of a regular series of concerts in their T.T.T. – Third Tuesday at Twelve-thirty series.

We will be playing a selection of popular tunes spanning at least the last 100 years – tunes to make you smile and feel good.

Refreshments are available and all proceeds are in support of much-needed church restoration.

We have another upcoming performance at the annual Summer Fair of St Frideswide, Water Eaton on Saturday 15 July – the event is from 1.30 until 4pm and we will be playing at about 1.45. More details to come.

If you are interested in joining us, come to one of our meetings on Tuesday mornings at the Synagogue, Giffard Park. Feel free to ask me any questions at musicians@mku3a.org.

Third Age Players (TAP) – Greta Langdale



This year, the Third Age Players have some new members, a new play, and a new venue!

We offer a cracking comedy, "36 Titty-Ho Lane" by Margot Lista and directed by Greta Langdale.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

36 Titty-Ho Lane is a crowded council house in suburbia, full of mediocrity, burnt dinners and an out-of-control stamp collection. But the Crankshaws' day, hitherto uneventful, is about to be shattered. Bruce and Blanche are

not only in that marital state of near tolerance, together with exasperation, but are desperate for their children to leave home and for Bruce's mother, Nellie, to... well, let's leave it there.

The Crows also live in Titty-Ho Lane, at number 39. They are the nightmare neighbours – loud, uncouth and chaotic. Petula's numerous children (all by different husbands) are always in trouble with the law.

Fast forward, and the Crankshaw's circumstances have changed. But what is Nellie up to? And why is Stella Weitzman calling at the house? And who is Mikhail Volkov and what is his connection to the Crankshaws?

Want to know more?

WHEN? Friday 15th September 2023 7–9pm
 Saturday 16th September 2023 3–5pm
 Sunday 17th September 2023 2.30–4.30pm

WHERE? Wavendon Community Centre, Walton Road MK17 8LH

Directions: From the 5-way Kingston roundabout, take the Woburn Sands turn (Newport Road) . Drive for 4/5 of a mile to the Wavendon Arms on the right. The turn to the Village (Walton Road) is right next to it. Drive about half-a-mile and see the Community Hall on the left, immediately opposite St Mary's Church. Parking is limited, so please arrive early. (Additional parking to be advised).

TICKETS £6 : For Priority Booking – contact the Co-ordinator (Greta) on magnet@paphos.plus.com /phone/text 07905 24 78 70 or book on line from <https://thelittleboxoffice.com> (30p per ticket fee applies).

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH FRONT OF HOUSE: If you feel you could help with putting out chairs, ushering, checking tickets, selling raffle tickets or serving refreshments – please contact us (see above).

We look forward to seeing you!

Ukulele group – Ronald Spalding

The last couple of months have been a busy time for our players, with sessions at various care homes, day centres and social groups across Milton Keynes. These have been very successful and well received by our audiences and enjoyed by our group. Whilst a bit stressful to perform in public, we are finding it easier from gig to gig.

Towards the end of last year, we had to close the group to new members as we were outgrowing our current location and it was not conducive to teaching beginners alongside established players. However, it is likely that we will shortly be moving to more appropriate premises which will allow us to open our books again. To this end we invited members on our waiting list to an introductory session last week. This again proved to be successful, and we expect that most of them will soon be joining us.

If there are any more prospective “ukulelers” out there wishing to give the jumping flea a try, please contact us via the organiser at ukulele@mku3a.org.

Outings Group – Brian Graves

VISIT TO DUDLEY CANAL SYSTEM AND TUNNEL 25 MAY, 2023



I guess, this trip, would have been a “first” for most of us. We arrived at the Dudley Canal Trust HQ and quickly embarked onto the awaiting canal cruiser. We spent around two hours aboard on the cruise which included a fish n’chip lunch (served

in cartons on board) alongside a pleasant grassy area. Returning to our start we put on hard hats and joined another cruiser for a one and a half mile trip through the Dudley Canal. A lot of history here as we sailed through some enchanting colour schemes

Transport Topics Group – Michael Allen



Having received two most interesting presentations from Mary Matts of the Foxton support group, ten of us visited the locks for a guided tour on 31 May. Despite the cool weather, we enjoyed a fascinating day culminating at the museum which contains a mine of

information including a working model of the (now defunct) boat lift.

Exploring World Faith – Linda Morris

Following on from a group lunch at the Prince Albert pub, Bradwell Village, we moved to the nearby St Lawrence Church for a talk about the church's 800 year history. This was given by group member Pauline Wright, who is also a Church Recorder. She was assisted by husband, Nigel, who was in charge of the technology. We will miss the group's founder members Pauline and Nigel when they move to Scotland.

Have you visited a mosque locally? Our July meeting will be held at the Granby Mosque which is opposite the Stadium and MK1 shopping. Please make contact if you would like to join the group for this visit. Details are on our group page. ewf@mku3a.org

Proposed New Groups

Creative Crochet – Hazel Spencer



Do you have an interest in crochet? Would you like to learn how or to improve your crochet? If that sounds like you, why not consider joining a new fortnightly group that we are proposing to set up for crochet lovers of all levels: beginners and experts alike. We'll be sharing experiences, knowledge and skills from each other and websites. The

group will meet on the second and fourth Thursday mornings from 10 am–12 noon. The venue and start date are to be confirmed. So, if you yearn to learn more about the group, please contact Hazel Spencer groups@mku3a.org. We'd love you to hook up with us.

Dining-in Group – Hazel Spencer

We are considering setting up a new group which is intended to appeal to people who to have a love of good food and enjoy cooking and entertaining. It is not a competition – rather a get together to enjoy delicious food and fun company.

At a frequency to be mutually agreed (possibly every 2 or 3 months), the coordinator will randomly allocate members into subsets of three couples. A “couple” can consist of two friends. One couple will be nominated to be the hosts. These 6 people will then agree a date and time to meet at the host’s home.

The hosts will provide the main course enough for six. They will also provide a welcome drink, including non-alcoholic options, biscuits for cheese, tea and coffee.

The other two couples will be nominated to bring either a starter or a pudding course, enough for six. Both couples will also provide a bottle of wine and cheese for sharing.

Food dislikes and intolerances will be catered for.

Does this whet your appetite? If you are interested in joining this new group please contact Hazel Spencer at groups@mku3a.org

Happy Drawers and Painters Group – Hazel Spencer

Do you enjoy drawing, sketching, or painting, whether by pencil, pen, paint, or watercolour. If so, you may be interested in joining a new art group which it is planned will meet every 2nd and 4th Monday in the month in Great Holm.

Everybody is welcome to come and work on their own projects, regardless of their experience, but you will need to bring your own materials. The aim is for it to be a fun, relaxing group with everybody working alongside each other and offering each other tips and encouragement.

If you are interested in joining this new group please contact Hazel Spencer at groups@mku3a.org.

Open Meetings – Wendy Barrett

Next Open Meeting Wednesday 28th June – The Bard of Stony Stratford

This month, we are lucky to be joined by the Bard of Stony Stratford. Lynette Hill is the 12th Bard and won the coveted title at the Bardic Trials held in January this year. It was a tough competition coming down to a single vote – nail-biting stuff!



Lynette feels that more than any other place Stony Stratford and its creative populace has shaped her as a storyteller and wants to give back to the community that has supported her. Also, Lynette wanted to be Bard just because it is so very much fun to tell stories and celebrate her amazing town.

Come along, meet Lynette and hear some stories at the Oak Tree Centre in Shenley Brook End. Doors open at 2.00 pm, the talk starts at 2.30, and tea or coffee is available after. Please sign up to this talk in the Diary tab on the website.

Other Items of Interest

Bee Swarm Season – Wendy Barrett

You may have seen some stories in the media lately about the number of honeybee swarms we've already had in 2023. Swarm season goes on through June and in to July so if you come across one, don't approach it but go on to the North Bucks Beekeepers Association swarm page [Swarms of Bees \(nbbka.org\)](http://Swarms of Bees (nbbka.org)) and check what insects you've come across.

If your swarm contains honeybees and can be reached with reasonable ease, they can probably help you. The NBBKA volunteers provide a FREE service for honeybee swarms. Once you've gone through the insect identification questions, you'll get to their hotline number. Call it and you'll be redirected to the volunteer on duty.

If your bees are inaccessible, they advise you to simply leave them alone, most species of bee that live in such places will die out naturally at the end of the summer, and won't cause you any problems if you leave them alone.

Key Contact Details—more on the web site.



Danesborough Chorus– Sian Rees

Danesborough Chorus' Musical Director, Ian Smith, receives Open University Honorary Degree

The honorary degree of Master of the University has been awarded to Ian Smith in recognition of his exceptional contribution to education and culture.

Ian was nominated for this award because of “the outstanding influence he has had on the musical, artistic and cultural life of Milton Keynes and Bedfordshire, enriching the lives of those with whom he has worked”.

Formerly Head of Bedfordshire Music and Director of Music and Head of Expressive Arts at Wootton Upper School, Ian has been Musical Director of Danesborough Chorus for the past 46 years. He is also Musical Director of Bedford Choral Society.

Tessa Cox, Chair of Danesborough Chorus, says, “We have been exceptionally fortunate to have Ian as our Musical Director. It is thanks to his outstanding musicianship and his great skill in inspiring the choir that Danesborough Chorus has earned a reputation for high quality musical performances.”



Ian can be seen in action at the Danesborough Chorus summer concert at St Mary's Parish Church, Woburn on Saturday 24th June at 7.30pm when the choir will be performing Purcell's Coronation anthem *My Heart is Inditing* as a tribute to the Coronation of King Charles III, Finzi's *Dies Natalis* and Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*.

For more information visit www.danesborough.org.uk or for tickets visit www.wegotickets.com

Volunteering Opportunities at Milton Keynes Museum – Martin Woodman

Milton Keynes Museum was formed in 1973 by local people determined to preserve the area's heritage in the face of the development of Britain's biggest New Town. Housed at Stacey Hill Farm, Wolverton the museum had developed into a local attraction by the 1980s. Today the museum tells the story of Milton Keynes and the surrounding area through the 19th and 20th centuries, focusing on Victorian home life, farming, communication and transport. It is an award-winning community-run heritage site with a unique approach to volunteering.

Volunteers are integral and valued members of the Milton Keynes Museum helping in both visitor-facing roles and vital work behind the scenes. They are also involved in a whole host of different activities from room guiding, catering, retail, administration and education to maintenance and gardening. Everyone can get involved!

All volunteers receive information materials and appropriate training and have access to benefits including free access to the museum for self and immediate family and close friends as well as free access to our partner institutions at Bletchley Park and the National Museum of Computing, both in Bletchley, and the Cowper and Newton Museum in Olney. We also offer a 50% discount off the many delicious foods and hot drinks available in the Granary Tea Room and 10% discount in our shop.

If you would like more information about the Museum and the volunteer roles, please do not hesitate to contact Mirjam Rundel at volunteer@mkmuseum.org.uk. Tel no 01908 316222. Thank you for taking the time to read this and for helping Milton Keynes Museum.

u3a e-Newsletter – Martin Woodman

Keep in touch every month with what is happening across the u3a. Covering all 400,000 people in towns, cities and villages across the UK with the u3a Newsletter Express.

This can be delivered directly to your email inbox. To sign up go to the following website:

<https://mailchi.mp/u3a/newsletter-express-07-06-23-volunteers-week?e=aec4d0911e>

Bletchley Evening Women's Institute – Christine Norton

Why not come along to one of our meetings and try us out? We are a friendly group who will give you a warm welcome.

We meet at 7:30 PM on the first Thursday of every month at St Andrews Church, St Andrews Road, Bletchley, MK3 5DR.

We also have a Knit and Natter Group, a Lunch Group, a Gardening Group, and a Family History Group, all of which meet once a month, as well as an informal monthly meet-up for coffee and a chat.

Come as a visitor and leave as a friend, or perhaps as a member.

If you are interested and feel that you might like to visit us, feel free to phone for an informal chat on 01908 370468.

FRIENDS OF TODDINGTON PARISH CHURCH (Reg Charity No 1028538)

OPEN GARDENS TODDINGTON



Saturday 1st July 2023 - 11.00 am to 5.00 pm

Sunday 2nd July 2023 – 1.00 pm to 6.00 pm

***Plant sales *Books *Refreshments**

Programmes available on the day from the Wilkinson Hall or from the gardens

Adults £5 Children FREE

NOT TO BE MISSED!

A day out for all the family – including a children's 'Spot the Clue' competition

Sponsored by:

Panache Hair and Beauty 01525 873031

**Celebration of St. Thomas's Day
at the Church in Simpson**

on Sunday 2nd July 2023

from 3:00pm to 5:00pm



The Salvation Army Band
Playing in the Church gardens
plus Mike & Matthew Guitar Duo

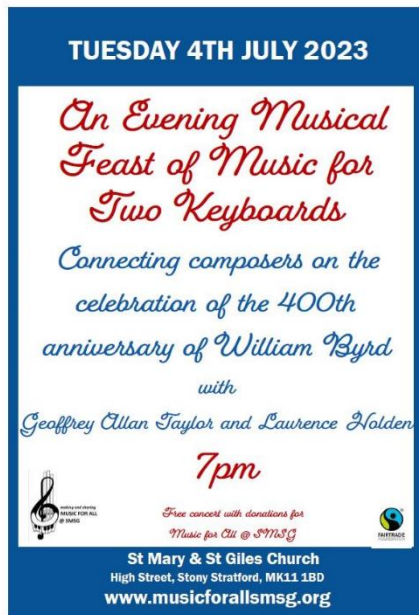
Followed by Cream Teas

Suggested donation £5.00 per person

If possible, please bring a fold down chair
with you.

**Music for Two Keyboards Tuesday 4 July 7pm St Mary St Giles,
Stony Stratford – Laurence Holden**

You are warmly invited to a free concert for two keyboards on Tuesday 4th July in St Mary St Giles, Stony Stratford at 7.00 pm. The programme will connect composers on the celebration of the 400th anniversary of William Byrd, and feature music by Byrd and Bach in the first half of the concert performed on two digital harpsichords. In the second half Bach's *Ricercar a 6* (from *The Musical Offering*) and Gerald Finzi's *Eclogue* will be played on two pianos (noting the Bach was possibly written to trial very early pianos), followed by the first



complete public performance of local composer Geoffrey Allan Taylor's *Belfry*. There are musical connections between all works, and the closing piece, *Belfry*, also draws inspiration from the church in Calverton, close to Stony Stratford.

The concert is being given by Geoffrey Allan Taylor and Laurence Holden, and is in support of Music for All @ St Mary St Giles.

Please Note – MK3A Choir summer concert – Paul Brookman

This will be held on July 22nd in St James' Church, New Bradwell. Please note, it is not Bradwell Church (St Lawrence).

Chair – Lesley Sparks email: chair@mku3a.org

Vice Chair – Vacant email vicechair@mku3a.org

Secretary – Deb Hodges email: secretary@mku3a.org

Treasurer – David Hall email: treasurer@mku3a.org

Groups Team – Chris Costello/Hazel Spencer email groups@mku3a.org

Webmaster – Dave Barratt; email webmaster@mku3a.org

Membership Secretary – Tim Hadde email membersec@mku3a.org

Communications Coordinator – Martin Woodman email comms@mku3a.org

Thames Valley Network Coordinator – Frank Parisi 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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