



milton keynes

university of the third age



Oct
2017



Open Meeting – Wednesday 29th October

Mine's a Jamieson by Stephen Kennedy



A curious family tale of emigration, piracy, slavery, drink, drowning, bereavement and shipwreck all in one happy lifetime.

The meetings are held in the Oak Tree Centre, Wallinger Drive, Shenley Brook End,
Milton Keynes, MK57GZ

Starting at 2.30pm

£2 for members and £3 for guests

Open Report

Fellow MKU3A members.

With the advent of Autumn, we see the colours of the trees changing and the leaves falling. After Autumn, we are sure Winter will follow, more change. Likewise, whatever Brexit will bring us we are in for more change. This is the circle of life. Nowadays we must change to stay still. Not something that everyone is comfortable with but that's the way it is.

This is also what we find within the Board of Trustees, a group of MKU3A members who volunteer to help manage and take responsibility for keeping the organisation functioning within the guidelines of the parent U3A and the Charities Commission.

As we heard last month our current Chair has had to move aside, due to health reasons (good luck Nigel). This has created a vacancy for the position of Chair. The current trustees also have a limited term of office, as defined by our constitution, which means all those currently serving will have to step down over time. One of our real issues is finding new volunteers who are prepared to step forward and become a trustee.

Without trustees our U3A cannot operate which would mean, in the worst case, we would have to cease. I'm sure that's not what the membership wants to hear.

Becoming a trustee is not difficult and working in a team to keep MKU3A going is a very enjoyable task. There are no special qualities that define a good trustee expect for a desire to do something to help others. Volunteering seems to be a taboo. 'You wouldn't catch me volunteering, some else can do that'.

Let me change the myth. Volunteering can be a great experience, enjoyable and satisfying and you are doing

something to help others. The more volunteers we can get the less the duties per person and the more secure the future as we start a natural progression of people.

Virtually everyone has skills, some may be obvious like formal qualifications, but most are to do with experience of the University of Life. I'm convinced that we all have qualities that are helpful to someone somewhere.

With that in mind we would be very thankful to hear from any members would be prepared to volunteer to help, no matter how small they feel their contribution may be. The gift of time is very precious and to use that time volunteering is a massive ask I know, but as I said before giving time back is also very precious.

If you would like to talk more about how you could help please feel free to contact any trustee directly or the office as a general enquiry.

Steve Royle (Trustee without Portfolio)

Open Meeting IT Help Desk



We are all (well, nearly all) making more and more use of technology. We have the website and membership database. We communicate by email. When face-to-face communication is not possible, we keep in touch with friends and family using Skype or Face Time. Love it or loathe it, social media (Facebook, Twitter etc) is now a large part of our lives.

However, this explosion of reliance on technology comes with its own issues and problems. What happens when it doesn't work the way you expect it to? Why can't I print or send/receive emails? I've been bought a tablet computer but don't know how to use it.

We have a number of permanent and short-course groups within MKU3A that seek to help keep us up-to-date with technology matters, but what if all you need is a quick answer to a problem? We've been looking to see if it is possible to run an IT Help Desk and have decided to dip a toe in the water at the October and November Open Meetings. At each of the meetings one or more of the IT team will be available to answer questions. We're not expecting to be able to solve everything on the day – the subject is too wide (and deep) for that. However, what we can't solve there and then can be investigated and pursued afterwards.

Will it work? We honestly have no idea, but we're hoping that it will be an additional service to members. Over to you. If you need help, you know where to come.

Dave Barratt MKU3A Webmaster/Datum dave@tigdjb.co.uk

Independent Examiner

Milton Keynes U3A are required to have an independent examination of its financial records every year. The work needs to be carried out in late January early February and will probably take 1 - 2 days (They do not have to be consecutive). We need an accountant or someone experienced in accounting procedures to verify that our accounting records for the previous year are correct and we follow proper procedures in managing the MK U3A funds (this is not an audit). A short report will be required stating that the accounts are accurate and if necessary making recommendations for improving our procedures. This work can be paid for. The person appointed must not be a trustee or a member of the volunteer team, or related to a trustee or team member. For further information or to express your interest please contact treasurer@mku3a.org.

News from the Groups Coordinator

Suggested New Groups

We now have an agreed policy with regard the setting up of suggested new groups. A copy of the policy is available on the website

Would you willing to be a Group Leader/Contact and set up a New Group for a pastime, interest or hobby that you have? MKU3A welcomes new groups and new ideas. Please contact the Groups Coordinator, Shirley Dewar by e-mail at groups@mku3a.org or telephone 07879 007513

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RussianS

Your life was hectic. It was busy with work and home commitments, and now you are likely to have time to devote yourselves to something that was on your bucket list or maybe not but it sounds interesting!!!

Why not Russian!

The Russian language group for adults is aimed at you, complete beginners, and its main purpose is to develop colloquial Russian in basic conversation in order for you to feel comfortable without an interpreter. Therefore, grammar and reading just serve as a background for learning the language. The lessons are built in a form of dialogue between you and teacher on the basis of the learnt material. The subjects of the conversations are situations close to what would be real environment, discussions of Russian culture and cuisine included.

Tatiana Birch, native Russian tutor with 30 years of teaching experience. Think this might be you contact Tatiana on 01908 388 529 or e-mail groups@mku3a.org

Tatiana has also found a central venue for a group to meet.

Two people have already expressed an interest, however for the group to be viable it needs a few more members.

Guitar Playing Retired Rockers

Retired Mods also welcome

Was it an enjoyable misspent youth playing guitar? Rekindle some of that by joining suggested new guitar group(s)?

Perhaps you've been dabbling already and fancy getting together with other guitarist's to 'knock out' some of the tunes and songs you used to play?

Or maybe you're already 'into it' and would like to develop your skills/knowledge arranging tunes practicing and jamming with others?



Interested in finding out more?

Go dig out your guitar in the loft and get in touch...

Contact: **Shirley Dewar** Email: groups@mku3a.org 07879 007513



News from the Groups

Exploring World Faiths – Linda Morris

1st November. 2pm. Visit to the Salvation Army,

Conniburrow MK MK14 7BA



Major Bram Williams from the Milton Keynes Central Corps will be our host. He will show our group around, presenting the Salvation Army way of worship and answering any questions group members might have.

Parking to be arranged.

You are welcome to join us at the **Salvation Army**, Conniburrow, to learn more about their organisation.

Please contact Linda Morris: ewf@mku3a.org for further information

Also, a date for your diary

6th December Coffee Hall Mosque, Truby's Gardens. MK6 5HA.

Choir News



After a Summer break, we it seems have already been busy since our return.

Last month, the choir took part in the first Choral Evening in Newport Pagnell, hosted by the Mayor, Derek Eastman. Despite being the representatives of the 'older generation' (we followed a very lively display by the Diamond School of Performing Arts!), our contribution was very well received, especially as Pat promised the audience we WEREN'T going to do any moving(!!) and we all agreed it was an excellent venue for singing.

Some advance dates for your diary, the U3A Christmas concert will be held in Lovatt Hall, Newport Pagnell on Friday 15th December. Ticket price £7. Reflections, the smaller sub section of the choir, hope to sing at Simpson Village Hall on 21st December. We hope to see you at one or both events to join in with the festive carols. More details will follow.

Thank you to those who have joined us recently to swell our numbers. There is always room for more though.

Pat Mountford and Sheila Staincliffe

The Folk Dance Group - Updated Timing Information

The FolkDance Group have now been able to hire the hall on the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month** at the same venue (The West Bletchley Community Centre)

More information can be found on the group page on the website.



News from the PlayPals

The PlayPals enjoyed a return visit to St Frideswide's church at Water Eaton to provide musical entertainment at a MacMillan coffee morning on 26th September. We were made most welcome and were delighted to be able to assist in the fundraising event for the MacMillan cancer charity. The event was well attended, with an enthusiastic audience who enjoyed tea, coffee and cake and a bring and buy sale. And they must have enjoyed the music as well, as they have asked us to come back soon – see dates below. £360 was raised on the day.

We are having our busiest ever year in terms of performances, and we are looking forward to returning to St Frideswide's on Saturday 18th November at 1.30pm to play at their Christmas bazaar. On 16th November, we will be playing at St Mary and St Giles in Stony Stratford for another in their series of lunchtime concerts TT@TT (Third Thursday at 12.30). Everyone is welcome to come to these events, which will be posted in the diary in due course.

Having broached the subject of Christmas, we are planning to play in MK city centre on the morning of Tuesday 12th Dec but this date is still to be confirmed.



Groups Looking to Increase their Membership

Crafts and Conversation which was formally Lace Making meet in Kingston on Friday mornings. This friendly small group would welcome new members. At the moment, we bring any project we are currently working on and chat as we work. Conversation can be diverse but is always interesting. If you would be interested in joining us please contact Lesley Sparks on 07850 113449 for further details.

The Current Affairs Discussion Group 2 resumes its meetings again on 12 September and would welcome new people to join us. As news events are topical we do not have a set programme for discussion but the leader, Lena Woldemariam will happily incorporate any subject suggested. Please do join us and give us a try. The group meet in Bletchley near Whaddon Way on the second Tuesday of each month in the afternoon. More information can be found by calling Lena on 01908 990053

COME AND SHARE YOUR FAVOURITE MUSIC

..... join us, and make room in your day for some varied music styles for a couple of hours. There's a bit of music in all of us.

We all meet twice a month (2nd and 4th Thursday morning) in Two Mile Ash.

Some of us will take it in turns to create a playlist, some of us just want to come along, chill out and listen to other's choice of music – or maybe just meet new people!

So whether you are a jazz lover, an opera or classical buff or whether you just enjoy relaxing to different styles of music, we'd love to know you.

New folks are joining us each month, but we still have enough room for more.

Give us a call or email us and we can tell you all about our group.

Contact: Sally Saunders 07948366778

Or email us at: musicapprec@mku3a.org



Exploring World Faiths – Linda Morris

4th October Hindu Temple, MK Hindu Association, temporary premises. The centre is at the end of Ferry Meadows Close, Broughton, MK10 9QY. Adequate parking.

If you would like to join our group please contact the group leader, Linda Morris on ewf@mku3a.org or check the website for further details





Tuesday Afternoon Intermediate 4 Bridge Group

We have places available for this group. The standard is generally intermediate with a good range of skills among the current membership. We usually draw for partners and play either rubber or Chicago depending on numbers, the group also plays some duplicate. Playing skills can be improved by joining in with this friendly group. Please contact Judith Exter, the group leader for further details



tel: 01908 976058, e-mail: bridgeint4@mku3a.org

Upcoming Theatre Trips—Aide Memoire

Date	Show	Pay by
Thurs 19 th Oct	Ballet	Passed
Wed 25 th Oct	The Addams Family	Passed
Wed 1 st Nov	Cabaret	Passed
Thurs 23 rd Nov	Glynebourne	Passed
Thurs 30 th Nov	Sunset Boulevard	Passed
Tues 9 th Jan '18	Cinderella	Passed
Wed 30 th May '18	Legally Blond	22 nd Nov
Wed 18 th July '18	Flashdance	22 nd Nov
Wed 3 rd Oct '18	War Horse	Passed



Upcoming Outings

Date	Venue	Last B'king Date
Thurs 19th Oct	Brighton i360 Tower Pavilion	Passed
Thurs 16th Nov	Thursford	Passed
Thurs 23rd Nov	Stonor Park	12th Oct

Please refer to the website for further details or contact the organisers on theatre@mku3a.org 07867978585 or outings@mku3a.org 01908 506706 as appropriate

Booking Forms for both these groups can be found on the relevant pages of the website or on the individual postings in the Diary

Dates for Your Diary

Monday 18 September - New Members Induction Sessions

We run monthly meetings for new members aimed at outlining the background to the U3A movement, explaining how to get the best out of your membership with MKU3A, and showing you how to use the website and join groups. The next meeting will be at 2.30pm on 18 September in the Great Linford Parish Office meeting room, next to the Co-op in the Great Linford local centre at 1 St Leger Court, MK14 5HA. If you are a new member just come along – any queries to Claire Naismith on membersec@mku3a.org

Personal Recommendations by Members

None this Month

Other Items of Interest

U3A Summer Schools - Libby Culshaw

My summer was very enlightening and rewarding, I attended three Summer Schools. The first was organised by the South-East Region of the U3A. We were based at the University of Chichester, minutes from the city centre, a park and two theatres. There was a great variety of courses, I really wanted to try all but in the end, I chose *Walking on the South Downs*. This was a good choice as we had very fine weather. One day we walked from the university, up and along the Downs in an easterly direction. We had breaks to enjoy the views and eat our packed lunch. We caught the bus back. The next day we caught a bus heading west to Emsworth. We walked around Thorney Island and by the coast. On the last day, we walked through the splendid Cathedral Gardens, along the city walls and to the Chichester Canal Basin, where we boarded a boat and travelled in style along the canal as we learned about the canal trade in years past.

The second Summer School was held at the Harper Adams University of Agriculture, just north of Telford.

Again, the choice of subjects was extremely interesting but I decided I needed to understand *How to Solve Cryptic Crosswords*. This was an excellent course, I learnt such a great deal and can now at least make sense of how cryptic crosswords tick. There was also an indoor swimming pool so I swam every morning before breakfast and after sessions I could play tennis. What could be better?

Lastly, I attended the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester where I joined the *Creative Writing for the Radio* course. The group tackled this as a joint effort and came up with *Return to Ravenswood*. Once the play started to take shape we took on various roles. I was involved with the sound effects. On the second afternoon, a sound recordist from *Corinium Radio* arrived and recorded our play. He then went back to his local radio station and added the sound effects, which of course, had a few ravens cawing and squawking as requested! Our play went live last week and is being repeated on Corinium Radio on 19th October at 5.00 p.m. and on 4th November at 9.30 a.m. Our group leader is hoping to put this on the National U3A web site so that more people can listen if they wish.

All three of the Summer Schools were great fun and the choice of subjects offered was very wide indeed. In addition to the courses there were quizzes and entertainment in the evenings. The accommodation was good, food and drink plentiful, and above all, the company was great.

I recommend these Summer Schools whole heartedly and you get to know people who also go to more than one.

Some people in our MK U3A don't like to drive there but I would be happy to give lifts. Perhaps when the courses appear next spring why not put a notice in our newsletter and see if anyone else is going and would be willing to share? The schools also cater for people catching buses or trains and can arrange to put them up for longer than the actual course. But whatever you do, please give them a try!

During one of the Summer Schools the Broughton Community Choir was invited to sing for the members entertainment. They didn't realise that the leader was also a composer. They were then surprised/delighted/horrified when he produced the U3A round. The music is reproduced below if you would like to give it a go.

U3A Round

* other parts come in at the stars

Martin Jones 2017
jonesandjonesmusic.com

U3A Summer School Report by Margaret Young

I recently attended the U3A Summer School at Cirencester—well, Autumn School really, as the weather in the second week of September was rainy, cold & windy! The school was held at the Royal Agricultural University, a large Gothic building with an assortment of outbuildings. I was lucky with my accommodation as I had a large double room with a king-sized bed whereas most participants were accommodated in student study-bedrooms. All rooms were en-suite. Food was good & portions large with some choice & diets were catered for. The lectures were held in airy rooms & tea & coffee supplied between sessions.

I had chosen to join the Exploring English course but there were many other courses, including languages, drama, Anglo-Saxon history, writing for radio, & exploring popular music. The Exploring English course covered the development of the language from its Scandinavian & Germanic roots, the effect of the Norman invasion on it & the gradual flowering into the English of Chaucer, Shakespeare & beyond. We then looked at aspects of grammar & vocabulary, punctuation & dialect. In the final sessions, we attempted to look to the future with the influence of text-speak & technology. Our tutor had given the content of the course in weekly sessions to U3A members in his home town of Leeds but to concentrate it into 11 sessions over 2½ days was a feat for him. In addition, he probably found us a more challenging group as we included several teachers & professionals. However, he made it entertaining & instructive, gave us plenty of opportunity for robust discussion & left us with a file full of hand-outs & snippets.

My overall impression of the Summer School was of the friendliness of U3A members & staff, the patience & diligence of the organisers in dealing with the varied requests & queries from those attending & the eagerness of everybody to explore new horizons. It must have done me some good as I was able to work out some clues on “Only Connect” on the evening I returned & finished the cryptic crossword in the ‘I’ newspaper the next day!

The WEA (The Workers’ Educational Association) are running a course on The Short Story, in which Peter Leyland will discuss the history and development of the short story in English, with reference to earlier Russian and French exponents of the form. Rectory Cottages, Bletchley, MK3 6BJ. Wednesdays between 27 September and 1 November, from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Cost £51.60.

To enrol, call 0300 303 3464, quoting C3741140 or go to enrolonline.wea.org.uk

For further information, please contact Jeannine Golding on: 01908 567869 or email: jeannine.golding@btinternet.com

Do you like Quizzing? If so these events might be for you

Sat 4th November – Quiz Night & Fish & Chips in Simpson Village Hall, proceeds to MK Multiple Sclerosis, 7 pm £10 p.p.

Sat 18th November – Quiz Night with Supper (TBA) in Simpson Village Hall, proceeds to MK Carers, 7 pm £10 p.p.

Sat 2nd December – Quiz Night with Supper (TBA) in Simpson Hall, proceeds to Freedom from Torture 7 pm £10 p.p.

All suppers MUST be ordered in advance by contacting Pat Hodges

Fri 15th December – Carols with the Salvation Army at St Thomas’s Church, Simpson, 7.00 pm, Bring & Share Supper

Collection taken and the proceeds divide between the Salvation Army and the Church’s Restricted Building Fund

Any enquiries: Pat Hodges on tel: 01908 644785 or e mail missquiz@sky.com

Please park down by the Church and walk up to the hall. All suppers MUST be booked with Pat Hodges missquiz@sky.com or tel: 01908 644785

Camphill Communities Christmas Craft & Food Fayre

Marilyn Hearn would like to promote the Christmas Craft & Food Fayre held by Camphill Communities Milton Keynes (Registered Charity 283556) on Saturday 11th November. The success of these events is dependent on the support they receive from the community. Please support this event.



MK50 Event

The Way We Were (St Thomas Church, Simpson 8th & 9th September)

1960s nostalgia was the name of the game at this exhibition in Simpson as part of the MK50 celebrations. The aim was to capture the essence of daily life in the late 60s and to encourage visitors to reminisce and share their own memories. The exhibits included toys, fashion, furniture, household items, books magazines, music and sport memorabilia, all loaned by Simpson village residents. A stunning display of 1960s outfits from Biba attracted a great deal of attention, as did a classic Ercol table laid for a dinner party with vintage china, complete with authentic menu. Background music was provided by hits of the 60s played on a Dansette record player. (One seven-year-old visitor picked up a 45rpm single and asked, 'what is this?'). The exhibition attracted more than 200 visitors during the two days, despite the large number of competing events across the city. Most visitors were old enough to remember the 60s and some brought younger relatives with them. There was a constant buzz as people shared their own stories and reminiscences, stirred by the exhibits. Many responded to the invitation to capture these on paper. Examples included 'my dad said my miniskirt was indecent' and 'screaming at a Beatles concert'. It was clear from the comments received that the 'Swinging 60s' were memorable for so many people, and they thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to remember and to celebrate.



Music in Milton Keynes Church

Sunday 8th October 6pm

CHORAL EVENSONG TO MARK THE CENTENARY OF OSCAR ROMERO

Led by Revd Tim Norwood, with the Choir of the City Church, directed by Adrian Boynton

Saturday 14th October 11.30am

JOHN MACDOMNIC (trumpet)

ADRIAN BOYNTON (organ/piano)

VIVIANI Sonata Prima

HANSEN Sonata for Trumpet and Piano

MENDELSSOHN Andante and Fugue in C

ARATUNIAN Trumpet Concerto

MOSKOWSKI Spanish Dances

PIAZZOLLA Oblivion and Libertango

PUCCINI Aria from Turandot

BAKER Virtuosity

An exhilarating musical journey around the world with virtuoso trumpet soloist John MacDomnic and organist/pianist Adrian Boynton.

Admission by programme at the door £8 (conc £7.50)

Monday 16th October 7.30pm

MUSICAL MILESTONES The American Tradition

SAMUEL BARBER & WILLIAM SCHUMAN

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

Join us to celebrate the life and works of two of the greatest American composers of the Twentieth Century. Barber's legacy include the famous Adagio for Strings, Piano Concerto, the opera Vanessa and the beautiful setting for soprano and orchestra 'Knoxville, Summe rob 1915'. Schuman left overture, ballet scores and a procession of glorious symphonies.

Admission (at the door) £5

Thursday 26th October 7.30pm

EXPLORING MUSIC CLASSICAL MASTERS

HAYDN (i) Keyboard and Chamber Music

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

Towards the end of his 30 years in the relative seclusion of the Esterhazy household, Haydn is said to have remarked: "There was no one near to confuse me, so I was forced to become original." His vast output of music is notable for the number of delights and surprises contained in almost every work. He exploited the capabilities of instruments and voices to the full, and every genre in which he worked he enlarged, extended and re-shaped. In the first of three Haydn evenings, we focus on the magnificent legacy of 83 string quartets, covering a period of more than 40 years. These contain some of his most striking and original ideas. We also extract the pearls from 32 piano trios, 126 baryton trios, 52 piano sonatas and 32 pieces for mechanical clock!

Admission (at the door) £5

Wednesday 1st November 7.30pm

FRANCESCA DEGO (violin)

FRANCESCA LEONARDI (piano)

PAGANINI Cantabile

BEETHOVEN Violin Sonata in A, Op 47 (Kreutzer)

STRAVINSKY Suite Italienne (Pulcinella)

CASTELNUOVO-TEDESCO 'Rosina' and 'Figaro' Variations (Barber of Seville)

RAVEL Tzigane

Francesca Dego is becoming one of the most sought-after violinists on the international scene. Signed in 2012 by Deutsche Grammophon her debut album of Paganini's 24 Caprices, recorded on the ex-Ricci Guarneri del Gesu, received high critical acclaim. The final volume of her complete recordings of Beethoven's Violin Sonatas was released in October 2015. Francesca is joined by prize-winning international pianist Francesca Leonardi for a stunning programme of violin and piano masterworks.

Admission (by programme at the door £10 (conc £9.50)

Maureen, Claire and Lesley receiving the certificate for the 30th

Anniversary of MK U3A at the National Conference



Key Contact Details—more on the web site

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Secretary: Currently Vacant

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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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