



milton keynes

university of the third age



July  
2017



## Message from the Chairman

### **Phew! 30°C+!**

A couple of claps of thunder and a sharp shower have broken the week-long heat wave. The rain off the roof has quarter-filled our five water butts that were about to empty completely as we tried to keep pace with the water needs of our potatoes, onions, beans and fuchsias (*note – even spell check is not at all sure about this word*).

### **National News**

June has been a difficult month for us all. John Simpson (he of burqa disguise fame when news-casting from Afghanistan) reckons that 2017 is the worst year he has experienced in his lifetime as we seem to get daily more suspicious of other people, countries, cultures, races and creeds. I still look optimistically at the spontaneous help, from all sections of society, following recent disasters, as being a true reflection of the hearts and minds of the vast majority. I trust that the U3A approach of shared experience will play a small part in raising awareness of Jo Cox's vision – 'we have far more in common with each other than things that divide us. Our World Faiths group has demonstrated, to those attending, a range of approaches to living by common humanity.

### **MK U3A Choir**

A quick, very belated, thank you to The U3A Choir and its kind invitation to its Anniversary Concert at the end of May in Newport Pagnell for a double celebration MK50 and MKU3A30. It was a delightful evening with a varied programme of music, a guest tenor and presentations of personal memories over years.

### **Conferences**

I haven't heard if anyone wishes to join our three members who are attending the U3A National Conference in Nottingham in September. It is a most interesting occasion with lots of fellowship. The offer is at the expense of MK U3A. If there is anyone else, please contact me soonest.

In the meantime, Mrs. Wright and I are heading off in the first week of July for a one day gathering of the U3A South East Region for a conference on 'U3A and Research'. There are some potentially fascinating presentations on U3A research projects, with topics including footpaths, bees, naval battles and railways (not, I trust, all in one project!). Should be fun.

### **Team Positions**

We maintain our search for all sorts of volunteers, particularly to join the management team. I have tried advertising particular positions, or opportunities to make it easier with job sharing options. Little response. The omens for a continued MK U3A beyond 2017 are not good. You have been warned!

Stay safe all.

Sithee, Nigel

## News from the Groups

Please also see News of our Members at the end of this edition

### Third Age Players Getting 'in the mood' for the 1940s

Those of you who went along to enjoy Newport Pagnell's recent 1940s celebration may have caught sight of Third Age Players doing their research. Unlike our play, the theme was war-time, putting the costume emphasis on uniforms of every service. The authentic men's hair fashion of the time would have been *short back and sides* but today's men it seemed were unprepared to sacrifice their locks. Those with a shiny pate balanced their lack on top with magnificently fecund moustaches. Ladies hairstyles, however, were true to the period in being severe and practical to accommodate the uniform cap which, as those of you who were in the services will remember, was expected to be worn at a regulation and totally unattractive angle!

In our forthcoming play, "When the Lights go on Again" our actors, who are shown in retirement in the 1940s, would also have had to contend with the approval, or otherwise, of their peers. Their choice of fashion in dress, makeup and hair style would have been judged according to the suitability of the style for their AGE. Coloured hair, usually blond to slavishly follow favourite film stars, was considered not so much a fashion statement as an unflattering reflection on the wearer's morality.

How lucky we are to be of retirement age today, knowing that we can wear whatever we like, culottes, four inch heels, green toenails, cerise streaks, purple eye shadow or plenty of bling. Our sense of style may be called into question but our character is unlikely to be assassinated. The women in our play, you will be relieved to know, will be following the conventional styles of the era.

#### **when the goal was respectability**

When you enter the Chrysalis Theatre in September we will be asking you, our audience, to leave your present-day reality in the lobby, and at Curtain-Up to involve yourselves in a 1940s world where respectability was of vital importance. The media, in the form of the local papers, were just as intrusive then as they are today and their readers, satiated with wartime news, hung on every word of juicy gossip and were only too ready to enjoy, before condemning, lapses of any kind.

As the play progresses, the ill-assorted group gradually develop trust in each other until eventually, the dam breaks and years of hurt, anger and frustration flood out with secrets that have long held them captive. To avoid losing their new-found peace and tranquillity, they resolve that they will go to any lengths to protect themselves from publicity; their desperation leading them to follow through on an outrageous suggestion made by ...the Reverend!

**To relive the atmosphere of the 1940s** join the Third Age Players at the Chrysalis, [www.chrysalismk.co.uk/](http://www.chrysalismk.co.uk/)

Thursday 7 and Friday 8 September at 19:30, Saturday 9 September at 14:00

Tickets are available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/tap](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tap)

The full price is £12. Concessions £1 discount, Early bird £1 discount until 24 August.

There is no fee for booking on line.

Phone 01908 887387 for ticket enquiries.

Tickets can also be purchased from Group Leader Frank Tynan at the next Open Meeting of the U3A on 26 Jul 2017, when you may be able to get a sneak preview of the play...

Vera Roper

## U3A Choir activities in May and June



It has been a busy time for the U3A choir. On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May we performed our Spring Anniversary Concert in Lovatt Hall Newport Pagnell to celebrate 50 years of Milton Keynes and 30 years of the MK U3A. We performed a varied programme with pieces from Abba, Don Besig, Andrew Lloyd Webber Musicals, John Rutter's Look to the Day as well as The Ground from Gjeilo's Sunrise Mass. Ralph Mazzone was our guest soloist and there were spoken reflections on the changes in MK from the early days to present day, as well as the development over the years of the U3A. Sam Martin also recited a poem he had written about MK development.

Our guests for the evening were the current Chair of the U3A, Nigel Wright and his wife, as well as invited guests from our nominated charities, the Medical Detection Dogs and the MK Readers Service. The evening was a great success and we could donate £320 to each of our chosen charities. Thanks go to the helpers in the kitchen who served the refreshments, the caretaker at Lovatt Hall, Geoff Morris, who organised the technology and sound systems and of course to our devoted pianist, Jennifer and musical director Pat, without whom none of this would be possible.

Following the concert, our joint GLs attended the MK Readers event to present the cheque to the Committee. The displays and interactive stands highlighted the issues of the service users and were highly enjoyable and informative.

Last Saturday, the choir were invited to sing WW2 songs at a very warm Vintage weekend held in Newport Pagnell. The audience joined in with some of the more well-known choruses, and we also sang Happy Birthday to Milton Keynes before the birthday cake was cut.

Our term ends on July 18<sup>th</sup> and we restart on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September at the Cross and Stable Church in Downs Barn as usual. If you would like to come along and give us a try, new members are always welcome and there is no auditioning. We hope to see you there.

Choir Group-leader.

### Anniversary Concert

Gonna Rise up Singin' – Don Besig

Steal Away – arr Oliver Neal Parker

Cross the Wide Missouri – Don Besig

The Ground – Ola Gjeilo

*Milton Keynes 50 years on – IrisHosegood*

Let There be Peace on Earth – Miller & Jackson

Seal Lullaby – Eric Whitacre

Look to the Day – John Rutter

Solas – Ralph Mazzone

You Raise Me Up – Graham & Lovland

As Long as I Have Music – Don Besig

Imagine – John Lennon (*Reflections*)

Like an Eagle – Carl Strommen

Polly Wolly Doodle – arr Ray Charles

*MKU3A 30 years on – Pat Mountford*

Andrew Lloyd Webber in Concert – arr Ed Lojeski

Thank You for the Music – Andersson & Ulvaeus



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Registered Charity No. 298693



## Have you ever met a Druid?

You are welcome to come along to our **Exploring World Faiths** meeting on Wednesday 5th July at 2pm. We will be finding out about Paganism. Please contact Linda Morris via our webpage if you are interested.

## Groups looking to increase their membership

### THE STROLLING GROUP NEEDS YOU.

**Strolling with Optional Lunch.** If you cannot keep up in any of the walking groups then we are the last resource to keep you moving, do you use a stick, has old age slowed you down then help to keep yourself mobile by joining our regular monthly Strolls. They take place in a different Milton Keynes area (MK Official City Atlas) each month on hard paths and Redways (we walk about 1 mile over an hour with a rest). We are a small but very sociable group admiring the History, Flora & Fauna and the views as we chat along our way. Strolls are mainly circular/figure of 8 with minimum repetition. Our meeting place is centrally located which allows us to give lifts to the Venue for those without cars. We meet by the Xscape in CMK at its 3rd. entrance in off Avebury Boulevard before you get to 'Bank Field' Round-a-Bout. We meet at 10.20 am for a 10,30 am prompt exit to drive to our starting point for our Stroll.



Strolling is always the 3rd Wednesday of the Month, i.e. July 19th, Aug.16th, Sept.20<sup>th</sup>. Finding us from Secklow Gate, turn to get you going by 'The Xscape on Avebury Boulevard' then taking the 3rd. Left entrance into the car parks by the side of the Xscape Building park in sight of Wetherspoons - 'The Moon under Water'. Above is all the information I can tell you about Strolling, you would be very welcome and you do not need to check if there are vacancies. All I ask is to let me know the weekend before Strolling that you are coming to so I can give you my Mobile No. and know to look for you at The Xscape on the Wednesday. Phone Mike Jenner on 01908 210310 or preferably E-Mail [strolling@mku3a.org](mailto:strolling@mku3a.org)

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### START THE DAY WITH MUSIC .....

..... and forget all the stress and struggles of the normal day. You'll feel so much better.

We all meet twice a month (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

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](mailto:musicapprec@mku3a.org)

## Monday Afternoon Intermediate Bridge Group



Do you enjoy a game of bridge but don't have regular partner? We play on Monday afternoons in Great Linford so please come along and join in. Although we play using the rubber bridge scoring system we do adopt the Chicago scoring system and movement if necessary. Please contact Lesley Sparks on 07850113449 if you would like further details

### Upcoming Theatre Trips

<b>Date</b>	<b>Show</b>	<b>Pay by</b>
Wed 6th Sept	The Curious Incident of The Dog in the Night	Passed
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Ballet	Passed
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> Oct	The Addams Family	Passed
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Cabaret	2 <sup>nd</sup> July
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Glynebourne	17 <sup>th</sup> July
Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Sunset Boulevard	3 <sup>rd</sup> July
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan '18	Cinderella	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept
Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> May '18	Legally Blond	22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Flashdance	22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct '18	War Horse	15 <sup>th</sup> May

Please refer to the website for further details or contact the organiser on [theatre@mku3a.org](mailto:theatre@mku3a.org) 07867 978585

### Upcoming Outings

<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Last B'king Date</b>
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> July	The National Brewery Centre	Passed
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Severn Valley Railway	Passed
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug	Countryfile Live	13 <sup>th</sup> July
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Penshurst Place and Gardens	13 <sup>th</sup> July

Please refer to the website for further details or contact the organiser on [outings@mku3a.org](mailto:outings@mku3a.org) 01908 506706

**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

### Open meeting – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July



#### The Ukelele Sensation!

Mark Walsh is an entertainer and musician and will give us a humorous talk about starting to play the Ukulele at the age of 4 to his 10 years working with Danny La Rue and appearing at the London Palladium. Since 2012 Mark has been a regular guest performer on BBC Radio's "Friday Night is Music Night" with live shows coming from the Hackney Empire London.

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

### Monday 17 July - New Members Induction Sessions

We now 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. **STOP PRESS THIS SESSION HAS UNFORTUNATELY BEEN CANCELLED** The next meeting will be on Monday 17 July at 2.30pm in the

Cricket Pavilion, Great Linford High street, MK14 5AX. Parking is available.

**Please note:** this is a change from the usual venue.

If you are a new member just come along – any queries to Claire Naismith on [membersec@mku3a.org](mailto:membersec@mku3a.org)

### Music Mini Series

Adrian Boynton, Director of Music at the City Church of Christ the Cornerstone, will present the third and final session in the Music Mini Series entitled: - This will be held on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **The Richness of Romanticism**

As usual this special series of talks will be liberally illustrated with fine recordings of both well - known and less familiar music. All welcome.

The meetings will be held at The Oak Tree Centre, Wallinger Drive, Shenley Brook End Milton Keynes, MK5 7GZ

2pm – 4pm

£2 for members £3 for guests

### Personal Recommendations by Members

None this Month

## Other Items of Interest

George Manley has sent in this photograph which was taken in the car park of the pub in Waddon by Brian Money on a U3A walk some time ago. Brian sadly has passed away but is fondly remembered by his friend.



Can you see yourself or maybe you know some of the members in the photo? If so please send in the names and I will pass them on to George (comms@mku3a.org)

- George is on the extreme right, with his arms folded.
- Behind him and slightly to the left is Patricia Ainsworth
- Far left is Stanley Ainsworth

**MK Central Library** run general IT buddy help session. These are individual booked so please call 01908 254051 to request a place.

### Milton Keynes Libraries

#### IT Buddy scheme



Milton Keynes Libraries have a small network of IT volunteers who commit their own time to come and help other people with IT related problems.

The sessions provide basic help and support a range of issues such as setting up an email, browsing the internet or help with an iPad or tablet. Sessions are on a one to one basis and last one hour. They are booked weekly and are limited to a maximum of 10 per person.

If you are interested, please complete the form below and leave with a staff member in the Reference Library or call 01908 254051 or 254078.

[www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/libraries) Tel: 01908 254051

#### IT Buddy scheme


I would like to take part in the Milton Keynes Libraries IT Buddy scheme.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to have help with the following:

\_\_\_\_\_

Milton Keynes Libraries



## Living Archive

### ***MK50 – The People’s Story: We want to hear your stories!***

Have you lived, studied or worked in or around Milton Keynes at any point over the last 50 years? Are you interested in being a part of a major heritage project celebrating Milton Keynes’ 50<sup>th</sup>

birthday? Living Archive MK is seeking 50 people to be an integral part of *MK50 – The People’s Story!*

We want to hear about your memories to help us gather, share and celebrate a wide range of stories from people who have lived or worked in or around Milton Keynes over the last 50 years.

We are looking to select 50 people to interview on camera and create a short, 2-3 minute film of each of the 50 selected memories. The collection of digital stories will form part of a major, multi-media exhibition in 2018 uncovering the hidden histories and mapping the peoples’ story of Milton Keynes.

We are looking for people of all ages and across all backgrounds to share their memories, to help us create a digital portrait of the city, to capture Milton Keynes’ diverse voices, people and places. The project will document some of Milton Keynes’ most iconic places and events that have taken place across the last 50 years: from the opening of important buildings such as Milton Keynes Central Station, the shopping building, the hospital to The Point, the Peace Pagoda, the first purpose built mosque, the day David Bowie played Milton Keynes Bowl, the Tree Cathedral and many more. These memories will be important in giving the residents of this young city a sense of a common, shared identity.

The most important factor is for you to share your story or stories with us. This is a fantastic opportunity to discover more about your local area and to play a key part in a major cultural programme.

### **How to Get Involved**

Please send the following information to apply for this opportunity:

A written overview of your story (or stories) - in no more than 300 words per memory. Please tell us about your story: when did it take place, where did it take place, who is involved? Why is this story important to you?

Please complete the application form together with your story overview and email to [projects@livingarchive.org.uk](mailto:projects@livingarchive.org.uk).

If you would like to post your story and application form please send to the address below:

Living Archive, Milton Keynes Museum

Mc Connell Drive, Wolverton

Milton Keynes, MK12 5EL

Website: [www.livingarchive.org.uk](http://www.livingarchive.org.uk)

Facebook: [/living.archive.7](https://www.facebook.com/living.archive.7)

Twitter: [@livingarchive1](https://twitter.com/livingarchive1)

### **Deadline: Midnight, 31 AUGUST**

If you or your community would like to tell your story and have any questions or would like to talk to us, please get in touch with one of the team by contacting [projects@livingarchive.org.uk](mailto:projects@livingarchive.org.uk) or call 01908 322 568.

**Bow Brickhill Women's Institute** held a very interesting meeting on 22nd June at 8 pm in the pavilion when a talk about Saving the Hedgehog was enjoyed.

Our next meeting is an evening outing and picnic at Rushmere Park near Heath and Reach. This will be organised and led by Helen and Stephanie. Friends and family are invited to walk through the woods, look at the herons and wildlife followed by a picnic.



Further details from Stephanie Warren 01908 671394

## **CAF Bank publish a Public Affairs Blog**

Keep up-to-date with our views on the latest charity sector developments and get our take on what's happening in the world of government and politics.

[Click here to read the Public Affairs Blog](#)

### **News of members**

#### **News of Members**

It is with sadness that we have to inform you that John Greenall passed away on June 16th. John was a much-valued member of the MK U3A. He was an actor and director for the Third Age Players and also edited the Newsletter. Our condolences and best wishes go to his family and friends

Elaine has sent information about the funeral which I have copied from her email.

The funeral is at Crownhill Crematorium, Danstead Way, Crownhill, Milton Keynes MK8 0AH on Friday 7 July at 10.45 am. Ever the actor and director, John has directed the outline of the service himself and, if he had had more time, he would have recorded the Shakespeare speeches himself.

(No flowers, please – there will be a collection at the end of the service for Willen Hospice. The Willen Hospice at Home team both provided care and showed much kindness in supporting John and me so that he could remain at home in his last few weeks.)

After the funeral, we are going to The Cock Hotel, 72-74 High Street, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes MK11 1AH. All are very welcome.

Although I am sending this message to many friends, please pass on the details to anyone you think I may have missed because their email address is not in the address book.

Thanks, and best wishes

Elaine



The Mayor and Mayoress of Milton Keynes, Cllr and Mrs Keith McLean, attended a performance of Agatha Crusty and The Murder Mystery Dinner by The Third Age Players. They are seen here being greeted by (left to right) Elaine Greenall, Frank Tynan, TAP's group leader, and John Greenall, the play's director.

#### **Archive Photo from 2015**

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

**Chair: Nigel Wright** email: chair@mku3a.org Tel: 01908 667007

**Acting Groups Co-ordinator: Christine Behrendt** email: currentgroups@mku3a.org

**Datum Project : Dave Barratt** email : datum@mku3a.org

**Web Master : Dave Barratt** email : webmaster@mku3a.org

**Assistant Webmaster: Len Barrows** email: assntwebmaster@mku3a.org

**Treasurer: Maureen Windridge** email: treasurer@mku3a.org

**Membership Secretary: Claire Naismith** email: membersec@mku3a.org

**Communications Coordinator: Lesley Sparks** email: comms@mku3a.org

**Groups Finance Admin: Geraldine Cannell** email: groupsadmin@mku3a.org

**Halls Administration: Sue Giordano** email: Hallsadmin@mku3a.org

**Office Manager: Patricia Telford** email: officemgr@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:** 11 Winchester Circle, Kingston, Milton Keynes MK10 0BA.

**Telephone:** 01908 281717.

E-mail: info@mku3a.org

Registered charity number **298693**