



Message from the Chairman

Nigel is away but he has sent in the following item.

Report from distant shores, namely Yamba, New South Wales, Australia.

Week 5 of extended trip around Southern Australia, starting in Perth and visiting all sorts of places on the way to the East Coast and (ultimately) Sydney, including Lake Dumbleyung (where Donald Campbell took the World Water Speed Record); Albany (for a look at the most moving National Anzac Museum); a visit to the amazing National Park at the bottom of the Australian mainland, Wilson's Promontory; riding Melbourne's wonderful trams - and not forgetting a steam footplate ride and a trip down a gold mine.

The most important engagement was meeting up with the officers of Melbourne City U3A. Members were subjected to my presentation on York Mediaeval Guild life, but in return I could discuss, over lunch, the differences in style, management and educational content of our respective organisations which are of similar size but of radically different approach. Don't worry, I'm not in for a revolution, but there are some ideas that we might like to try. (And a twinning arrangement with MCU3A?)

Back in mid May!

Bonzer!



Please consider the item below

GROUPS COORDINATOR.....vacancy

After 5 nearly 6 years I am standing down, as obliged to under the constitution of 3 years + 1 + 1 and a person or persons is needed to take over the mantle.

It is a role that links the Committee to the Group Leaders and members and from members and Group Leaders to the Committee. Pam Jones, the current National Chair several years ago called this role 'The Hub of a U3A'.

It is a role that although there are certain tasks that must be done you can make it your own and develop it as MKU3A grows.

As you will have seen each member on the Committee are developing teams to help in the various tasks associated with their role. Thanks to 'datum' much of it now much easier.

Two members have already indicated that they are willing to help and support whoever takes on the role - assisting in the setting up of suggested new groups as well as supporting existing groups.

Could you be that person? We can meet for coffee/tea and chat to explore this. A role guidance document is

available for further information, however I always find it is good to talk !!!

I came in to the role knowing little about MKU3A, but with skills from a previous life that allowed me to take it on with the support of the previous Groups Coordinator (thank you again Wendy and also to Brian Baldwin and Phil Mountford, not forgetting Marcel Mallens who was in at the beginning with me for the support they gave to a novice in U3A). It's certainly been 5/6 years I have much enjoyed.

I will be there as they were to help and pass on what I have learnt.

Interested: contact me Chris Behrendt on either 07766 026 357 or currentgroups@mku3a.org

Use of External Tutors within MKU3A

After much discussion and taking advice from National U3A as to the requirements of using external tutors with regard HMRC, Insurance including Public Liability and Professional Qualifications we have concluded that the only groups that should be required to have external tutors are the 'fitness groups' on the understanding that the external tutor meets the guidance laid down. A policy regarding this will be on the website shortly. For all other groups, such as languages alternative methods of providing such groups are being considered.

Group News

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

Fantasy Share Group

The group is now active for further details look at the webpage for the group.

Suggested New Groups – April 2017

Relaxation and Wellbeing

The group held the first meeting on 21 April with 7 people attending. For further details look at the webpage for the group.

Idea for a new Walking Group – Walking A2B

The idea is to use public transport to get to and from the walk, an ideal which should appeal to environmentally aware walkers.

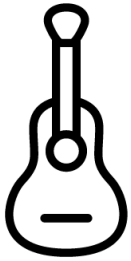
The idea is not just to ramble the moral high ground but to also include those without access to a car.

Using public transport also enables us to tackle different walks from the typical circular tour based on a car park, we can tackle linear walks from A - B and get to areas where parking is a problem.

I would propose initially a monthly walk on the last Friday of the month, starting on 28th April

I am thinking of walks of 8 to 10 miles along footpaths. The timing will be suitable for people using a bus pass and will include a lunch break at a pub, cafe or picnic depending on the walk.

For further information contact either Richard Barrett 01908 607333 or e-mail newgroups@mku3a.org



Ukulele Group

The initial meeting was held on 25 April to progress the group. The suggestion is that the group meets on alternate Monday afternoon commencing on 8 May. Final arrangements are in hand and the information should be on the website shortly.

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 for you to feel comfortable without an interpreter. Therefore, grammar and reading just serve as a background for learning the language.

А	Б	В	Г	Д	Е
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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 newgroups@mku3a.org

Play Reading

This is a plea from the heart!

Some time ago MKU3A talked about the possibility of setting up a third Play Reading group to try to incorporate the waiting lists for our two existing groups. Both Play Reading 1 (run by me) and Play Reading 2 (run by Anna Farmer) are full and our combined waiting lists currently contain enough names to form the nucleus of a third group.

Some of these names go back quite a long way and, of course, not all of these prospective participants are necessarily still interested in joining a play reading group. Nevertheless, this demonstrates a continuing interest in the idea of play reading as a group activity within the MKU3A.

The only thing we lack, to take the idea forward, is someone who would be interested in taking on the role of group leader for a third group. Anna and I run our groups in very different ways and there is no template for how a third group could be organised. Anna and I would be only too glad to pass on our combined experience and support, but we do need initially that special someone to come forward!

So, if you feel you might be interested in talking about the setting up of a third play reading group, do please contact me. You can reach me on 01908 237 537 or you can email me on gloriahorsefair@yahoo.co.uk

Making contact doesn't commit you to anything, other than a cup of coffee and a chat, so ... here's hoping!

Gloria Isaacs

Group Leader Play Reading Group 1

News from the Groups

The Summer Redway Walking Group enjoyed a lovely morning walk, mostly in the Sun, on Tuesday 24th April, looking at the Gyosei Art Trail which is to be found by the canal. If you would like to walk with the group, please contact Linda Morris by email, redways@mku3a.com, or by phone MK 617050.



Members of the Summer Redway Walking Group



A selection of photos from the Gyosei Art Trail taken by Sui Wong

News from the PlayPals - Marilyn Ridsdale

Come and see our next performance at the historic church of St Lawrence in the village of Steppingley on Saturday 6th May at 2.30pm. For more information, visit the Steppingley website at <http://www.steppingley.org/>

We look forward to playing a mix of popular songs played by the whole band, interspersed with smaller groups playing quartets, trios and duets.

The group meets to rehearse every Tuesday morning. We offer a friendly opportunity to make music with others for those who have, for example, rediscovered a long-neglected instrument or those who want to build up their confidence in playing with other musicians. Some of us have found the group a good way of trying out a new instrument in a safe environment. We have a lot of fun and enjoy learning from each other.

If you would like to find out more or visit one of our sessions, email me at musicians@mku3a.org

The Third Age Players are pleased to announce news of their latest production, **'When the Lights go on Again'** a play by Vera Roper. This production will take place in the Chrysalis Theatre during the 2nd week in September 2017. More information below.

'When the Lights go on Again'

The lights go on once again and, now that one or two casting hiccups have been resolved, they will stay burning brightly for our Curtain Up in September. Your ever resourceful Third Age Players have tweaked the script to lose a male character and, in doing so, have discovered in their midst, not just one former 'lady of the chorus' but two gems who will be adding that indefinable 'je ne sais quoi' quality to the performance.

We will still welcome more assistance for our valiant back stage team, who give invaluable support from behind the scenes as well as joining in all the fun and the companionship such a task entails. Or, as one of the team from the last play honestly commented, "I only come for the grub!" As a reward for all our hard work, we always look forward to our 'end of show' lavish party spread.

However, the work comes first; whether learning moves and lines, shifting furniture, designing and making sets, choosing colour schemes, finding costumes and innumerable props, we need your artistry, craftsmanship, sewing, painting, admin and organisational skills. Cheerful and willing grafters are the backbone of a successful production...and did I mention having fun?

Interested? Please contact Frank Tynan 01908 368436

Outing Group 101.....always on the Lookout for New Experiences by Chris Behrendt

6 April 2017 Brooklands Museum

47 intrepid travellers spent an interesting day at the Museum, viewing planes, cars, motor and pedal bikes, London buses and sooo much more.

The day commenced with an introductory talk about the history of Brooklands being the world's first purpose built motor circuit, constructed by wealthy landowner Hugh Locke King in 1917 and is more than a great sporting arena. Brooklands is the birthplace of British Motorsport and Aviation, the home of Concorde and the site of many engineering and technological achievements throughout eight decades of the 20th century.

With a trail guide people set off to explore the 32 different exhibitions that are on site. Divided into different areas and with knowledgeable volunteer guides in each of them you could wander at will to look, reminisce and enjoy. Formula 1 cars from different eras with a McLaren Formula 1 simulator to try for a race round a circuit, if you are brave enough. How about a climb up Test Hill constructed in 1909 for the motor industry to test acceleration and braking on vehicles? Vintage cars with a driver, up the hill you speed before an experience on part of the original banking and back down through the finishing straight.....well worth the £1 minimum payment per person.

The highlight for many was the Concorde Experience. G-BBDG(Delta Golf) was the first British production Concorde and the first aircraft ever to carry 100 passengers at twice the speed of sound. Following a flight briefing we boarded Concorde and saw the memorabilia from its past before taking our seats, very comfy and lots of leg room, for a flight up to speeds of Mach 3 and a height of 50,000 feet. Brilliant!!

As we went back to the coach at Mercedes Benz opposite the cars were out on the track for a Driving Experience including skid pan skills as water was showered onto the track.....now that's one for the brave amongst us and I know a few who are.

Thanks to Shona Hall for organising this. Just keep looking at the website and magazine for what we can come up with next.



YOU DESERVE A MUSIC DAY

Take a break from the chores and come along for a relaxing two hours.

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.

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



The U3A Choir - An Invitation to our Anniversary Concert



We invite you to come and join us for our Spring Concert on Friday 26th May at 7.30pm in Lovatt Hall in Newport Pagnell. The evening is a double celebration for the 50th anniversary of Milton Keynes and the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the MK branch of the U3A. We will have a varied programme of music, a guest tenor and personal memories of the growth of both these organisations throughout the years.

Tickets, available from choir members or on the door, are £7 which includes refreshments served at the end of the concert. There will also be a raffle on the night. All proceeds will be donated to our chosen charities of Medical Detection Dogs and MK Reader Service.

Looking forward to seeing you there on the 26th Sheila Staincliffe Choir Group Leader

Clarinet Players

This group began in October 2016. It is held on the first and third Fridays of the month in the afternoon. We take it in turns to host the meeting in each other's houses.



So far there are between 3 and 6 people attending each session and we are of varying abilities.

We exchange tips about technique, warm up with a scale or an exercise and tune up with an easy piece. Then we play music from different periods and in many different styles – folk, classical, jazz and many more. One of our members is very talented and is happy to compose short pieces for us.

Although this is not a complete beginners group, if you are thinking of taking up the instrument you are welcome to come along to listen and to ask questions before going out and buying a clarinet and taking lessons from a professional teacher.

We recently had a master class from an ex-teacher who gave us a lot of advice about technique and even donated us quite a pile of trios and quartets.

Our aim is to become good enough to give a short recital.

Groups looking to increase their membership



The Current Affairs 2 Group, which meets in Bletchley, need more members. We meet twice a month, very informally, and there is always plenty to talk about, with Brexit, Donald Trump, and everything that is going on around the world.

We learn from each other as we all have different areas of knowledge and, I think, everyone has a chance to contribute. It can be an enjoyable couple of hours, but we do need more members to keep our numbers up – especially during the summer. More people makes each discussion more interesting and informative.

The next meeting is 9th May so please get in touch with the Group Leader, Lena Woldemariam on tel: 01908 990053, e-mail: currentaffairs3@mku3a.org

if you would like to come and give us a try. You do not need to be an expert, everyone can put forward their

own ideas, or bring up matters they would like to discuss.

Line Dancing Improvers - Beginners Welcome

Do you enjoy line dancing? The Improvers Line Dancing Group have vacancies for new members. This friendly group meet on Thursday morning from 10 – 12 am at West Bletchley Community Centre, 3 Porchester Close, just off Whaddon Way. Coffee/tea and biscuits served at 11 am



If you would like further information please contact Brenda Line, the group leader on tel: 01908 460448,

e-mail: linedancing@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

IT'S OFFICIAL: EXERCISE IS GOOD FOR THE MIND AS WELL AS THE BODY!! (BMJ)

There is a new Pilates group now running on Wednesday mornings at Kents Hill.

There are still places available for new members - no previous experience necessary.

Contact Helen on 01908 222639, or via the Pilates3 page on the website.



Upcoming Theatre Trips

Date	Show	Pay by
Wed 10th May	Mamma Mia	Passed
Wed 1st June	Billy Elliott	Passed
Wed 6th Sept	The Curious Incident of The Dog in the Night	3rd April
Thurs 19th Oct	Ballet	22 nd June
Wed 25th Oct	The Addams Family	22 nd June
Wed 1st Nov	Cabaret	2 nd July
Thurs 23 rd Nov	Glynebourne	17 th July
Thurs 30 th Nov	Sunset Boulevard	3 rd July
Tues 9 th Jan '18	Cinderella	22 nd Sept
Wed 30 th May '18	Legally Blond	22 nd Nov
Wed 18 th July	Flashdance	22 nd Nov
Wed 3 rd Oct '18	War Horse	15 th May

Upcoming Outings

Date	Venue	Last B'king Date
Thurs 4 th May	Chatsworth House	Passed
Thurs 18 th May	Dad's Army Museum	Passed
Fri 2 nd June	Suffolk Punch Trust	Passed
Thurs 15 th June	Historic Dockyard Portsmouth	31 st May
Thurs 6 th July	The National Brewery Centre	9 th June

Please refer to the website for further details or contact the organiser on 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

Doreen Griffin would like to express her thanks to the Outings Group committee for the work they do in researching and arranging so many wonderful interesting places for us to go. 'If it were not for them, I would not really be going anywhere outside the boundaries of Bletchley and Milton Keynes.

Sometimes I find I am interested in something I have not even thought of in the past, e.g. Sanger Institute and a visit to Brooklands and the Concorde Experience. Absolutely great!

Long may they continue to keep us oldies interested and travelling. Thanks again'

Dates for Your Diary

Open meeting – 24 MAY – A Day in the Life of a Thames Tug

Richard Thomas



A close look at the work done by the Cory tug General VIII, which is one of a fleet of 7 tugs engaged in the movement of refuse lighters on the Thames. The talk features a voyage from Wandsworth to the aptly names Mucking in Essex. It gives an insight into one of the remaining commercial operations on the tidal Thames.

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 22nd May - 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.

The next meeting will be at 2.30pm on 22nd April 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

Music Mini Series

Back by popular demand.

Adrian Boynton, Director of Music at the City Church of Christ the Cornerstone, has agreed to present a Music Mini Series entitled: -

THREE GREAT AGES OF MUSIC

1. May 3rd - The Splendour of Baroque
2. June 7th - The Perfection of Classicism
3. July 5th - The Richness of Romanticism

He will explore three of the great ages of music, in a special series of talks, 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

Adrian Boynton

Adrian received his advanced music training at the University of Reading where he gained his honours degree and won prizes in organ playing and piano accompaniment. Postgraduate research took him to Nottingham University where he was awarded the Archbishop of Canterbury's Diploma, the highest award in Church music.

Through the 1980's he was Director of Music at Dover Grammar School and at Roedean School. During this period, he conducted a large number of choral, orchestral and operatic works.

Since 1992 he has been Director of Music at the City Church of Christ the Cornerstone where he has established a fine musical tradition.

Advanced Notice – National U3A AGM and Conference

29th – 31st August 2017 at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham. If you are interested in attending please contact Nigel Wright chair@mku3a.org

Personal Recommendations by Members

Talented Hairdresser Recommended by Lin Skyte

I'd like to recommend Ella, a lovely Italian lady, who runs her hairdressing business from home. She lives in Kents Hill where she has a separate salon but is also willing to travel within MK to your home. Ella always takes great care to do a good job. She is a



relatively new MKU3A member and keen to meet other members. You can text or phone Ella on 07722 083 757.



Plumber. Suzanne Miles was recently recommended a plumber to renew her kitchen taps after being let down by another firm. She would like to recommend Paul Merrin, for his promptness with visits and quotation, friendliness and quality of work. He can be contacted on 07946 284945 or Paulmerrinplumbing@gmail.com

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[Other Items of Interest](#)

SWING

Do you enjoy listening to records of swinging big band music? If so, you may enjoy coming to the Woburn Sands Big Band Society where each month we have two presentations of such music with perhaps some jazz mixed in.

Contact Brian Hundy (01908 587608) for more information

The Oxfam Online Hub



Did you know that Oxfam have an online hub?

It is based in Wymbush, Milton Keynes and they are currently looking for volunteers in a variety of roles, these

include hanging and steaming, to photography and listing clothes onto the website, to picking and packing, all following the process of getting the clothes from donation stage to being sold on the website. Our roles are open to people of all ages and all offer skill building and rewarding work.

If you would like further information please contact Sarah McGinley on smcginley1@oxfam.org.uk

This Girl Can – what is this about?

This Girl Can is a Sport England campaign encouraging ladies from 14 years upwards to return to or take up a new sport.

Middleton Pool and Fitness Centre in Newport Pagnell are running a ladies only swim session every Monday from 10.30-12pm.

These sessions do not require pre-booking.

The cost of session is the normal price. £4.30 or £1.90 for concessions.

For further information please contact Elaine Buttler on Elaine.buttler@sky.com

JUNCTION 14 LADIES A CAPPELLA
Present their Pearl Anniversary Show
'Vocal Pearls'



Junction 14 and guest performers
Saturday 10th June 2017
7.30pm
Stantonbury Theatre
Milton Keynes
Tickets and more details:

Junction 14 is an acapella ladies choir who will be celebrating their 30th anniversary on June 10th by performing their 'Vocal Pearls' concert in the Stantonbury Theatre. Gill Holmes, a member of our U3A Friendship group joined the chorus five and a half years ago, a few months after her husband died in an accident. The group has been a lifeline to her, everyone who is a member of the group enjoys singing as well as going on social evenings and events together. The group sing unaccompanied in four-part harmony, which makes it ideal to turn up and sing at events as they need no equipment!

Hannah is the musical director and her enthusiasm has worked magic on the group and the chorus has improved year on year.

The choir are available for bookings for all sorts of events including weddings and birthday parties.

Each year they chose a different charity to support and this year the charity is Motor Neurone Disease. Rehearsals are every Thursday at Shenley Brook End School from 7.00 - 9.45

If you would like more information about the group please contact their chair, Gill Holmes on the following email address

gill.holmes17@googlemail.com

Tickets for the concert can be obtained from the Stantonbury Theatre. Check out their website www.junction14.org where you will be able to hear the group singing

Croquet – A Game for Everyone



Ever thought about playing croquet?

Why not come along to the Stony Stratford Croquet Club, the only croquet club in Milton Keynes, and have a go.

It's a game suitable for all ages and abilities and if you've played before you'll know what fun it is.

Even if you've never played before, you should find it easy to learn, especially as several of our members are experienced players and have coaching qualifications.

The Club can be found at the Ancell Trust Sports Ground, Ostlers Lane, Stony Stratford, MK11 1HA sharing the sports grounds with the tennis, bowls, football and cricket clubs.

We have three courts which are played on all year, so it's not just a fine weather game.

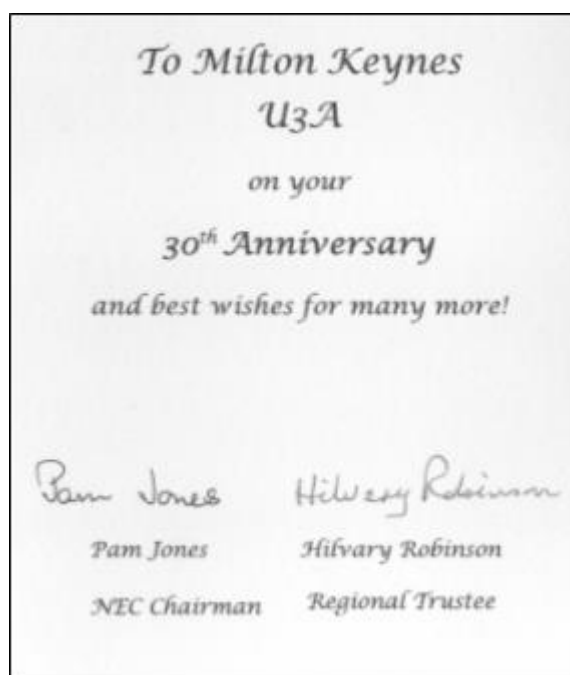
We provide all the equipment needed in terms of mallets, balls and hoops and all you need is a flat pair of shoes to protect the playing surface from undue wear.

We have a team in the East Anglian Croquet Federation League, but our main emphasis is on friendly matches with other clubs in the area from Northampton, Leighton Buzzard, Wrest Park, Dunstable, Wingrave and High Wycombe.

We also play a lot of social croquet within the club itself with regular monthly Fun Days, various competitions and regular club afternoons throughout the week.

Hopefully that's enough information to whet your appetite but if you would like to know more then do please contact either the Chairman Rex Gower on 01908 315068 or the Secretary Roy Healey on 01908 566345 or roy.healey@btinternet.com

It really is an easy game to play, so we look forward to seeing you soon and hope you will get the croquet bug once you've given it a go.



Well wishes from the National Executive on our 30th Anniversary

Key Contact Details—more on the web site

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

Vice Chair : Joe Beckett email: vicechair@mku3a.org

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

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Please refer to the website: www.mku3a.org for statements

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