

# Message from the Chairman

I'm putting this article together having just returned from Whitby where I was leading a walking holiday of a group of Canadians. At the same time as writing, I'm putting together a presentation for the local National Trust Association on 'Mystery Plays'. If any image of Mounties appears together with Adam and Eve, I have crossed strange boundaries in my mind!

Together with a few days on the Norfolk beaches (and a steam train) with the grand daughters, there was not much time left for U3A except for:

- A business meeting of our trustees with our national chair, Pam Jones, and one of her vice-chairs, Michaela Moody. This was an honour for us and one in which we were able to express our opinion on U3A business matters. Pam and Michaela seem to have enjoyed their visit, even though Michaela had to leave home in Lincolnshire well before sunrise to get through three changes of train to reach Milton Keynes!
- Visits to two of our own groups, Sequence Dancing (beginners) and Wine Appreciation. Even though these
  visits were undertaken in this order, and two days apart, it was quite clear that my feet were already under
  some kind of strange influence. Thanks to the kind ladies who escorted me, at some risk, on the dance
  floor, and to the wine tasters who chanced the bottle of Romanian plonk Pinot Noir that I had brought
  along, with masked label.
- My own presentation (previously put together) to Art Appreciation (group 1) on American Art (19<sup>th</sup> century). Did You Know That . . . the four sons of artist Charles Willson Peale were Raphaelle, Rembrandt, Rubens and Titian? No parental pressure on them, then, but they all did succeed in the American art world. (Well, it keeps me quiet at home!)

The challenge for officer recruitment continues, but I think we have filled at least one place for next year. Introduction to you all later as the task is explained. No treasurer as yet. However, the post is becoming more straightforward as 'Datum' kicks in and our group leaders use it to manage their group returns. Further, the job is shared with monies-in-and-out cashiers, but we do need expertise at the top.

Off, under invite from Brian Baldwin, to a Network Meeting in Bedford later this week. This may, with a bit of luck and a fair wind produce some exciting results. Watch this space.

Any group leaders going to invite me to more meetings? Only eighty groups to go!

Sithee

Nigel

# Message from the Communications Co-ordinator

Have you checked out the Latest News area on our MK U3A website recently?

Any items of interest which arrive between newsletters are posted here. This month there have been a number

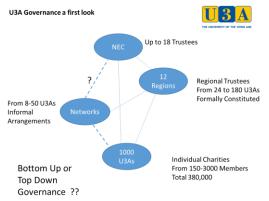
of National U3A and local events which may interest you, including A Christmas Concert with the Brandenburg singers and organ, the Celebration for the formation of the 1000<sup>th</sup> U3A and an all day workshop – Much Ado About Nothing in London.

# U3A Governance, Networks and the 1000<sup>th</sup> U3A

Our national magazine has carried a number of articles of late and I quote: -

- Issue 20 Feb 2016 "We need a new system of governance for the U3A". Author: The Working Group established by the NEC.
- Issue 21 Spring 2016 "I wouldn't start from here". Author: Pam Jones National Chairman
- Issue 22 Summer 2016 "Let's not solve a problem we do not have". Author: John Russell

The Working Group is established and taking evidence from anybody in the U3A that has something to say, particular local Networks. Just in case you are confused by now I have tried to summarise the issues in the form of a chart.



Milton Keynes U3A belongs to two local networks: Thames Valley U3A Network (38 U3As) and the Beds Plus Network (8 U3As). As I am your representative at these networks and for the Beds Plus one I am about to be appointed Network Co-ordinator. Both these networks have "The Way Forward" on their current agendas and we will be reporting back to the national working group. If you have any queries or personal views, please let me know. If you really want to know some more detail, please ask or download copies from <u>www.u3a.org.uk</u> of the papers presented to the National AGM in August. Nigel Wright was there so ask him as well.

There is a very special event, a Celebration of the 1000<sup>th</sup> U3A, on November 22<sup>nd</sup> in the afternoon at Friends House, 173-177 Euston Road NW1 2BJ, London. This is opposite Euston Station and you will need to book. Nobody knows who the 1000<sup>th</sup> U3A will be. All the details are on the national web site. \*\* My wife Norma and I will be going.

Brian Baldwin – <u>bmb28mk@gmail.com</u> or if you would like to talk 01908 670579

\*\* You can also book via the MK U3A website. The details can be found in the Latest News area and a link to the booking form is also active.

# A message from Brian Baldwin Acting Treasurer - Group Returns

The word "financial" is missing deliberately as many of our groups no longer need to report any financial transactions, now that the 50p standing charge has ceased. However, we still need to hear from all groups on a regular basis to gather information, not only about money, but of how many meetings have taken place and the numbers of members attending. There is just one common form for all groups to complete on a regular basis and from January 2017 we will be introducing the option to complete the data on line via a new group

page. This page will look a lot like the latest form in use but will provide you with an overall summary of your financial and attendance statistics as well as some help pop ups where you are uncertain as to what goes where.

Your help is needed to achieve an essential discipline in the regular submission of returns. At present just one group reports every week, a handful report monthly and the majority are on a calendar quarterly basis. The option to report less frequently such as every six months is now withdrawn. Therefore, as at 30<sup>th</sup> September, a return is required from all groups to bring us right up to date. This will help us to prepare for the year end on 31<sup>st</sup> December and the input of all data, including agreed balances, ready for conversion into the on line management system called Datum.

I will be presenting a report on this process to the November Group Leaders meeting including a list of all groups where reports are not up to date.

Any routine queries, and your returns until we go online, should be addressed to Geraldine at groupsadmin@mku3a.org

Thank you,

p.s. after six years at the financial helm it is time for somebody else to take a fresh look at things

## A Message from Chris Behrendt, Current Groups Coordinator

## • Group 57 & 87 Patchwork and Quilting Group

Due to ill health the G.L. for the two groups has stood down. Could anyone who belonged to the Wednesday group (87) please contact Chris Behrendt <u>currentgroups@mku3a.org</u> 07766 026 357

## • Group 48 Latin Group

Are you or were you a member of this group or could you be a member of MKU3A who is interested in learning or revising your Latin knowledge? A proposer has come forward to re-establish the group if enough people are interested. Please contact Chris Behrendt <u>currentgroups@mku3a.org</u> 07766 026 357 if you are interested.

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

## Active New Groups with a Webpage

## • Exploring World Faiths group

If you are interested in joining this group, or helping to set it up and offer suggestions of Faiths to visit please contact Linda Morris, <u>ewf@mku3a.org</u> or phone 01908 617050.

## • Clarinet Players

The first meeting will be on 7<sup>th</sup> October

This is a self-help group for advice and playing tips, but also a group that will be able to play music arranged for two or more clarinets. The group might be of interest to people who are currently playing the clarinet but don't have the opportunity to play with others as well as people who used to play and want to restart. It could also suit people who are having lessons and would like some additional feedback on their playing. Interested: contact: Sophia Clapham, <u>clarinet@mku3a.org</u> 01525 405654

# • Watercolour Workshop

Learning together how to paint watercolours can be fun. This group had a first meeting on 20 September with 20 people having expressed an interest and 16 people attending on the day. The next meeting will be on 4<sup>th</sup> October when those who were unable to attend on 20th September due to other commitments could attend. There is already a waiting list of people interested, however until such time as those who have previously expressed an interest have decided whether the group is 'for them' a waiting list has been commenced. Contact: John Beazley 01908 665005 wworkshop@mku3a.org

# Work in Progress

## • Book Group.

I would like to start a new Book Group. It would be aimed at those of you who enjoy murder, mystery and mayhem! Do you always work out who 'dunnit' before the end of the book? Are you searching for the perfect murder, or perhaps you would like to read authors who you have yet to discover? If so, please come and join us. The plan would be that we would meet once a month at a venue in Milton Keynes. At the meeting we would discuss the chosen 'book of the month' in a convivial atmosphere. If you feel this group is for you please contact me, Chris Costello, at <a href="mailto:newgroups@mku3a.org">newgroups@mku3a.org</a>.

## • Cribbage Group

We have now been offered a venue in a M.K. Sheltered Housing premises. Those who have previously expressed an interest have been contacted. All other who may be interested please contact at the details given below.

## • Language Groups – Spanish and Italian

Two external tutors have been approached and the details of them running a group are being explored under U3A requirements.

## • Family History

Chris Behrendt is working with a current group leader to establish how this can be progressed. Those who have expressed an interest in such a group will be contacted shortly.

# Suggested New Groups – October

## • Current Affairs

Would anyone be interested in meeting together to discuss current affairs one afternoon a fortnight, possibly on a Tuesday or a Thursday? I am sure there must be others like me who cannot make it to the existing morning groups. Meeting would be held at my house in West Bletchley – near the No4 bus route. It is hoped to get together a small group of 4-8 people to begin with to discuss topics in the news over a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit. Contact Lena Woldemariam 01908 990053 or <a href="mailto:newgroups@mku3a.org">newgroups@mku3a.org</a>

# • Play Reading Group

"I run one of the two Play Reading groups (at my house in Woburn Sands) - both of which are most successful, but the situation is that both myself and Gloria Isaacs who runs the other group at York House, Stony Stratford are full and we are continually getting inquiries for members who wish to join us.

The time has come for someone to be willing to start up a third group - I am sure that we could arrange for the same set of plays to be used if we could encourage a keen member to take on this task, either in their home, if they are able, or if not, in one of the many local rooms that can be hired."

For further information, contact: Anna Farmer 01908 282034 playreading2@mku3a.org

## Are any of the above of interest to you?

#### News from the Groups

#### **Stage Success for Tap Again**

With their latest play at the Chrysalis Theatre, the Third Age Players (TAP) has confirmed its place among the most accomplished theatre groups in Milton Keynes. As TAP group leader Frank Tynan wrote in the programme, the "company has been fortunate that, in addition to introducing newcomers to the stage, we



(Left to right) Walter Greaves, Margaret Morton, Jocelyn Lord, Jean Thomas, Allan Thomson, Steve Martin. *Photo by Dave Barratt.* 

have been able to attract some of the most experienced actors and directors in Milton Keynes".

Such experience was exhibited in abundance in *Old Actors Never Die* – *They Simply Lose the Plot,* written by Lynn Brittney and directed by Vera Roper. Around 250 people, spread across three performances, including the Mayor and Mayoress, enjoyed the antics of guests and visitors at a retirement home for old actors. The script and the timing of the actors' delivery brought extensive laughter and applause. The performance was aided by excellent scenery, lighting, costumes, stage management and many other backstage and offstage

contributions.

This was the sixth successful full-length play that TAP has produced in the last eight years and it marked the company's development from its formation primarily to present short plays to a limited audience, usually of MKU3A members only. These performances have also been backed up by the wining of several awards, most recently in the 2016 and 2015 Milton Keynes Festival of the Arts.

The group's attention has now switched to choosing suitable



Steve Martin (left) and Walter Greaves. *Photo by Dave Barratt*.

scripts for the February 2017 festival and for next September's performance at the Chrysalis. 2017 will be TAP's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



Cllr Steve Coventry, MK Mayor congratulating the cast and production team onstage after the performance. (left to right) Jocelyn Lord, Steve Martin, Walter Greaves, Avril Lawson, John Greenall, (Mayor), the Mayoress and Vera Roper (director of the play).

New members are always welcome at TAP, whether for acting or for the many offstage roles required for the presentation of a stage show. Contact Frank Tynan on 1908 368 436 or <u>tap@mku3a.org</u>.

# TAP Production - 'Old Actors Never Die – They Simply Lose the Plot' – Reviews

**A Member writes:** As a supporter of TAP since their earliest days, I never fail to be impressed by their achievements. Simply finding plays that can credibly be performed entirely by actors now of retirement years is

a daunting enough task. The title of this one hinted at organised mayhem and indeed we were not disappointed.

The scene was set from the moment the curtains opened – and what a set! The Company now attracts collaboration from other MK Drama Companies: The Etcetera Theatre Company are to be thanked for their help in building a set from Avril Lawson's design that presented a pleasant and entirely believable lounge of an actors' Retirement Home. I saw it on Saturday afternoon and was impressed: I am told that on the second night spontaneous applause arose as soon as the curtains opened.

Into this cosy and peaceful scene comes the news that a former husband of three of the women residents (successively) has finally got himself into trouble with Russian gangsters and is now on the run. Inevitably he turns up, in disguise, and promptly gets to work charming all the female staff of the establishment. A series of complex misunderstandings and relationships ensues, involving the Russian Mafia, a kidnapping, a dominatrix and a dowager's toy-boy. Farce only works when it is played entirely seriously, and this cast is to be congratulated for this and the sensitive way in which all the characters related to each other.

It would be invidious to mention individual names. This was teamwork at its best, and unlike many amateur drama groups, the Players had not a single actor who was less competent or convincing than the rest. Nevertheless, Allan Thomson's irresistible twinkle and Steve Martin's youthful wig will long remain in my memory. And surprisingly I was not aware of a single prompt.

The entire production showed teamwork, not only among the actors but in direction, aided by valuable support in set-building, costume, props, furnishing, prompt, sound and lighting, transport, and front-of-house. The finishing touch was the wonderfully professional Programme designed by Derek Mynard.

This show was achieved with a total production team of over a dozen in addition to the cast, and I understand that the Company would still welcome recruits in any one or more of the many on- and off-stage roles. I congratulate everyone who contributed in any way to the production. With a little help from their friends, the Third-Age Players have shown that they can hold their own with any other amateur drama company in Milton Keynes, which has always been strong in the Arts.

#### Barbara Albone writes: -

I have enjoyed previous productions by the Third Age Players but the performances given at the Chrysallis Theatre this year were top notch, an amusing story line, well-acted by these talented amateurs who work hard and give others much enjoyment from the skills they collectively offer.

Well done to you all and thank you for sharing your gifts.

**Doreen Griffin** writes on behalf of herself and **June Hoskins**: - A friend and I went along to the TAP production on the Saturday afternoon.

We both enjoyed it immensely, and are amazed at how well the actors remember all those words.

We look forward to their next production, and are pleased there is a matinee performance, as otherwise we might not be tempted out in the evening.

So thank TAP very much for sharing their passion with us.

**Marilyn and David Walter write:** - We saw the performance and really enjoyed it. We thought everyone did really well and are to be commended for their hard efforts. It is not easy to remember all the lines but keep up the good work we will support you again. Great venue.

## **Exploring World Faiths – Linda Morris**

Thanks to those people who contacted me to say they would like to be part of the new monthly group 'Exploring World Faiths' which begins in January with a visit to the synagogue.

We will meet up first of all at the end of this year, on December 7th at 2pm, to get to know each other.

If you would like to join us, please contact Linda Morris via our brand new webpage.

## Wine Appreciation Group – Brian Hundy

Members of the Wine Appreciation Group recently visited a vineyard. Perhaps not surprising, but the location was. Until very recently we had not realised that there was a vineyard within a few miles of MK. The original one within the city boundary had long since vanished. This one is the Chafor Vineyard at Gawcott just south of Buckingham. We were welcomed by Tim Chafor who showed us the vines and explained how he went about growing the grapes and making the wine. We then tasted his prize winning wines and continued our discussions with him in the winery - complete with press and stainless tanks. A great afternoon out and we will be going again. Tim welcomes visitors – but not in the near future when they will be gathering in the harvest (unless you are a grape picker).

# The Monday Sequence Dancing Group held their first anniversary tea dance on 26<sup>th</sup>

**September 2016**. This group is suitable for improvers and those people who like a relaxed and fun afternoon of dancing. Although our friendly group still welcome new members, the learning curve is getting steeper as we have now mastered 12 sequence dances, so some experience of sequence dance is needed and our more experienced dance group meets on Thursday afternoons at the same venue. The success of the new group owes 'many thanks' to these experienced members, whose patience has often been tested. We have all enjoyed our achievements and look forward to further challenges in the weeks to come.

All are very welcome to come and see what we do. We meet on Monday afternoons at 1.45 until 3.45 including a well-earned tea break at The Cross and Stable Church and Community Centre, in Downs Barn. Margaret Atherton is our well qualified dance teacher who is assisted by several members of the Thursday Sequence Dance Group.

We had the pleasure of a visit from Nigel Wight (MKU3A Chairman) on the 12<sup>th</sup> September, during which Nigel joined in with some of the dances (with help from a few of our experienced lady dancers!).

# Shakespeare Group

# **Spotlight on Shakespeare**



When world-renowned Shakespeare guru Professor Sir Stanley Wells and his fellow scholar Dr Paul Edmondson visited Stony Stratford last month (September), three members of the MKU3A Shakespeare Group attended their talk and had a discussion with them afterwards.

The two speakers were presenting excerpts from the book they have jointly edited, *The Shakespeare Circle, an Alternative Biography.* Their work casts fresh light on Shakespeare by examining the lives of his relatives, friends, fellow actors, collaborators and patrons, both in their own right and in relation

to his life. Chapters are contributed by more than 20 specialists. The picture, taken by Sheila MacLean, shows (left to right) John Greenall, Dr Edmondson, Professor Wells and Alan Smart (leader of the MKU3A Shakespeare group)

## Groups looking to increase their Membership

The Music Appreciation Group meet from 10 -12 every second and fourth Thursday of the month Street, at Radcote Lodge in the High Two Mile Ash, Milton Keynes MK8 8BP. Members can present their own musical choices or just listen to the varied selection presented in a relaxing and convivial atmosphere. There is a break for coffee and a social chat at 11am. If you would like to join the group, please contact the Secretary by E-Mail - tewarner@tiscali.co.uk for further details.

## **Biology Group**

To open the new season on September 1<sup>st</sup>, this group had a fascinating, widely researched **Discussion on Malaria** led by Liz. Future topics are

Thursday October 6th - Why reactions happen - structure, shape and relationship of atoms

Thursday November 10th - (unusually, the second Thursday) More on HIV & AIDS

Thursday December 6<sup>th</sup> - Heredity and Inheritance revealed in Mitochondria

The next meeting will be on Thursday October 6<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see you there with suggestions, ideas or questions – or offers of a future topic.

Please note that the **November** meeting will be held on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>** (unusually, the **second** Thursday), hosted and introduced by Graham.

We have more people on our membership lists than is apparent because not everyone attends every meeting. For this reason, it is often useful to repeat a previous topic, though we often find that the subject has expanded or more facts have been discovered in the interval.

Meetings are always held at Graham's house, 30 Muddiford Close, Furzton, MK4 1LS beginning at 10.30 am

Christina on behalf of Liz Padfield

## Marilyn Ridsale has sent in news from PlayPals

We were delighted to have the opportunity to play at the church of St Mary and St Giles in Stony Stratford on the August Bank Holiday Monday. We shared the performance with an accomplished mezzo soprano and her accompanist, giving the audience a contrasting programme of classical and popular music.

The audience enjoyed a cream tea while we played, which made for an informal and friendly atmosphere and the event raised over £140 for the organ fund. It was a treat to perform there and we look forward to a return visit in February 2017, in the 'Third Thursday at Twelve Thirty' spot.

The PlayPals have vacancies for anyone who would like to play an instrument with others. Do get in touch if you would like to find out more. <u>meridsdale99@gmail.com</u>

#### Personal Recommendations by Members

#### Non this month – However an update!

Following the publication of the recommendation for the Ashley Heating Company in the September edition of the newsletter, I have heard from Jennifer Light, a fellow member, who has since used this company for the installation of a new boiler. She is extremely pleased with the company both for the product and the professional way they dealt with her and is happy to endorse this recommendation to other members.

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Date	Show	Pay by
Wed 16th Nov	Relatively Speaking	3rd Oct
Thurs 12th Jan '17	Dick Whittington	22nd Nov
Wed 25th Jan '17	Thoroughly Modern Millie	28th Nov
Thurs 16th Feb '17	The Red Shoes	24th Nov
Wed 1st March '17	Funny Girl	4th Jan
Sun 9th April '17	Lord of the Dance	30th Jan
Fri 28th April '17	Dirty Dancing	10th Oct
Wed 10th May '1	Mamma Mia	13th March
Wed 9th July '17	Wonderland	30th Jan
Wed 6th Sept '17	The Curious Incident of	3rd April
	The Dog in the Night	

Please refer to the website for further details or contact the organiser on theatre@mku3a.org

## Milton Keynes Theatre Group



Please note the Theatre Group is open to you as a MKU3A member.

You can, as a member, bring along family and friends to any performance if there is availability. The more seats we book the cheaper they will be. The minimum booking is usually 10.

I will endeavour to be at the Open Meetings to take bookings or you can email or call me to book a place.

It works like this.

A post-dated cheque (pay by date on sheet) payment with booking form. I will hold your cheque and bank it just before I collect the tickets. If for whatever reason the show does not run, I will either destroy or return the cheque to you. I can post tickets to you if you include an SAE.

I will send you an email asap to say your cheque has arrived and then notify you when your ticket is posted or available for collection

Theatre Contact: Hilary Beckett, 107 Lakes Lane, Newport Pagnell, Bucks MK16 8HT Mobile 07867978585. Email <u>theatre107@gmail.com</u> or <u>Theatre@mku3a.org</u> Cheques to be made payable to MKU3A.

At the time of writing I have heard that Hilary is in hospital following an accident at home. I would like to send her best wishes for a speedy recovery.

# **Upcoming Outings**

Date	Venue	Last B'king Date
Thurs 6th Oct	Cadbury World Tour with	
	Afternoon Tea	Passed

Thurs 20th Oct	Morgan Motors-A Guided	rgan Motors-A Guided		
	Tour of the Morgan Factory	Passed		
Thurs 3rd Nov	Richard III Tour of Leicester	Passed		
Fri 18th Nov	Longleat & Festival of Light	Tues 4th Oct		
Thurs 24th Nov	60's Christmas Show Party	Tues 4th Oct		

Please refer to the website for further details or contact the organiser on <u>outings@mku3a.org</u> 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

## **Open Meetings**

#### Wednesdays at 2pm. MKCC, Oldbrook

#### 26th Oct Stranded in Gambo

Craig Fisher was a pilot on 9 September 2001 and found himself diverted to the town of Gambo in Newfoundland when the Twin Towers were struck, hear what happened next.

#### 23rd Nov The Origins of Pub Signs

#### The Strudwick Café is part of the MKCC and is open for drinks and light lunches before the meeting.

#### Our August Speaker – What a Dump!

Our speaker at the August Open Meeting was Carol (Scottie) McCutcheon who has spent time in Siem Reap, Cambodia as a volunteer recently. Scottie told us about a charity she is involved with, Building Together in Cambodia, which has established a small village and school adjacent to the huge rubbish dump in Siem Reap which is close to the world heritage site of Angkor Wat. The school is aimed at primary age children who live and work on the rubbish dump in appalling conditions. The charity is providing education and support to families to empower them to obtain a better quality of life and a sustainable future.

Scottie's talk was very inspiring and she showed a wide range of photographs highlighting the conditions in which people live, and the new school and village which is aiming to get them away from their very poor lifestyle.

At the end of the talk members asked if they could donate to the charity and we collected £200 to send on to Scottie. All monies raised are used to purchase supplies for the school. When Scottie was told about the donation, which was in addition to her fee which she gives to the charity, she was extremely grateful and has written to say that the school will be so pleased to be able to buy additional supplies for the children.

# **Date for Your Diary**

The Twice Yearly Group Leaders Meeting will be held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at the Ridgeway Centre. There will be a choice of two sessions, either morning or afternoon and Group Leaders or their representatives will be welcome to attend the most suitable for them. We would like to suggest that both groups meet up with a packed lunch either at the beginning or end of the respective meetings to make it a more social occasion where we can catch up with other group leaders and exchange suggestions and ideas. The agenda to be circulated shortly.

## **Items of Interest**

#### **Odeon Silver Cinema**

The Odeon cinema near the stadium MK has a new offer for people over 55. At certain times and for certain showings, standard seat tickets are £3 and included tea and biscuits. You can book online with no booking fee. Check out the timings and films here <a href="http://www.odeon.co.uk/silvercinema/?ast=CkVDb6#showtimes-anchor">http://www.odeon.co.uk/silvercinema/?ast=CkVDb6#showtimes-anchor</a> Films for October include amongst others 'The Legend of Tarzan' and 'Me Before You'



**Libby Culshaw** recommends Kilrock. This is excellent for getting rid of lime scale. Follow the instructions. It can be purchased in Castle's Stores in High Street, Stony Stratford.

**Bow Brickhill Women's Institute** meet on Thursday 27th October at 7.30 pm in the Pavilion in Rushmere Close, Bow Brickhill. This month Andy Malleson will give a talk about Managing a Wood. Visitors are welcome and pay £3 towards refreshments, hire of the hall and speaker's fee. There is also a raffle. Please call Stephanie Warren on 01908 671394 for further details.

**Workers Educational Association.** On 29 October Guy Hurst will talk on <u>Astronomy</u> at the Methodist Church Hall in Stony Stratford. Topics included will be recent discoveries in our own solar system, stars with known exoplanets, formation of the sun, solar storms and threats to our modern technology, asteroids and Keppler space mission. Time: 10.30am to 4.30pm. Cost: £27.50. Bring your own lunch.

On-line enrolment: enrolonline.wea.org.uk/Online/2016/CourseInfo.aspx?r=C3740189

On October 31, David Price starts a 7 week course entitled <u>"In Tune with the Times"</u> which will take us on a journey through the history of operettas and musicals in response to the social times; from Offenbach's satirical look at mid 19th century France to the real von Trapp family. On the way we will look at racial tensions in Showboat, West Side Story and South Pacific, the decadence of Weimar Germany in the Threepenny Opera and Cabaret and 30's American film musicals response to the great depression. These lectures will be held at Stony Stratford Library on Monday mornings from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Cost: £57.40.

On-line enrolment: enrolonline.wea.org.uk/Online/2016/CourseInfo.aspx?r=C3740190

For further information, please contact Jeannine Golding on: 01908 567869 or

Ann and Frank Tynan, members of MK U3A would like to recommend the following: - Milton Keynes Folk Dance Club

If you're looking for a fun way to meet people and keep fit over an evening of dancing and socialising, come visit the Milton Keynes Folk Dance Club.

We cover a wide variety of genres, and there's something for everyone. You can try out everything from lively square dancing to elegant courtly dances such as you may have seen in Pride and Prejudice and other costume dramas.

All ages and ability levels are welcome, and there's zero experience required! All dances have a full walkthrough to learn the moves, and we call the moves out during the dance itself. Don't worry whether you're a couple, single or joining as a group. There's always someone for you to dance with, no matter your level of experience.

Meetings are the 3rd and 4th Wednesday of every month (except August) Time: 8pm - 10pm. Price is only £2 (including refreshments)

You can find us at: New Bradwell Community Centre, Church Street, New Bradwell, Milton Keynes, MK13 0DA.

For any questions about the group, or if you'd just like to let us know you're coming, don't hesitate to get in touch with Mike or Marlene on the numbers below.

Enquiries: Mike Morris 01908 320137 or Marlene Harrison-Jones 01908 373792 or kbanes@hotmail.com

\*Free Taster Session Wednesday October 26th\* All Welcome

# Key Contact Details—more on the web site

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