



Meet at Community Centre
Prebendal Avenue
1.30 p.m. for Notices at 2.00 p.m.
Full Refreshments this Month
**Face Masks are recommended
except for Eating and Drinking
Sanitise at Door**
Speaker booked for 2.45 p.m.

Date	Speaker	Title
16 th February 2023	Sqn Leader Graham Laurie	The Queen's Flight
Graham joined the RAF as a pilot in 1964. He flew for 36 years. During the last 20 years of his career, he flew the Royal Family and Senior Government Ministers.		
16 th March 2023	Keith Muras	The KGB Remembered

Your u3a Coach Trips 2023

GLOBE THEATRE VISIT - Monday 3rd April 2023 – Cost £43.00 (£45 if less than 14)

This trip was originally advertised as £35 per person (£16 entrance fee for a 50-minute tour + £19 coach fee). Since researching the trip in December, the entrance fee has increased drastically; it is now £24 per person and the tour now lasts 2 hours and is now called The Globe Experience! We have decided that, because of these increases, we should give members a choice of activities for the trip. Members can either opt to continue with the Globe Tour at a charge of £43 per person (£24 entrance fee for 2-hour tour and £19 coach fee), or go to Southwark and choose what you would like to do by just paying for the coach at £19 per person. Maybe visit Southwark Cathedral or Tate Modern or even go over the Millennium Bridge to St Paul's Cathedral. The choice is yours! The booking form will be available at the meeting and payment will have to be made at the March meeting. Please note that if we have less than 14 people opting for The Globe the charge will increase by £2.00 per person to £45.00.

AMERICAN MUSEUM/QUILT MUSEUM – Wednesday 3rd May 2023 -Cost £32.00

The booking form will be available at the March meeting with payment at the April meeting.

Geoff Short – Chair

Good day to you all and I trust you are surviving in this cold weather.

Hopefully you received my e-mail last week, advising of the death of Tony Vickers. Tony has been a mainstay of our newsletter for some time and will be greatly missed. I know that I have enjoyed reading his contributions over the months,

Tony's son, Adrian, has advised that his funeral will take place at the Watermead Crematorium on Monday February 20th at 3:30 and afterwards at the Seven Stars in Dinton.

Last month's speaker, Jeff Evans, was unable to appear due to family illness and we were grateful to Wendy Russell for stepping in at the last minute.

This month's speaker is Squadron Leader Graham Laurie, who will be talking about the Queen's Flight - which is now the King's Flight I would assume!

Dave Rogers – Editor

How the Snowdrops Came

A short fairy tale from “Land of Happy Hours” by Stella Mead
First published by James Nisbet & Co Ltd in 1929

“Fairies are never allowed to stray out of Fairyland during the winter-time. But when spring comes, they may dance and play in the woods and meadows of the earth as long as they please, and at night they may sleep out in the wood, curled up in a bluebell or a buttercup.

There was once a fairy called Silver Wing, who grew tired of waiting for the spring-time. One day early in February she whispered a secret to her playmates.

She was going to run away from Fairyland and see what the earth looked like in winter-time. Her little friends said it would be great fun to go with her. As soon as supper was over the naughty little fairies slipped away in the dusk until they came to the first wood outside Fairyland. For a long time, they played there, looking very gay and pretty in their green silk frocks and white bonnets. But at last, they crept into a bed of ivy leaves and went to sleep.

When they awoke in the morning the ground was covered with soft snow, and a man whose coat was trimmed with hoar-frost, and whose cap had a border of glistening icicles, stood before them.

The little fairies all felt quite frightened when they saw him. They trembled so that even their teeth chattered, for they knew that he was Jack Frost, and he was stern.

"I don't allow fairies to come here during the winter-time." he said angrily. "Why couldn't you keep away until 'Bluebell-time'?"

To punish them for their naughtiness he turned them into flowers and kept them prisoners for three weeks and a day.

Then he allowed them to go home; but every February they have to return for a few weeks, and the children of the earth call them snowdrops.”

According to Icy Sedgwick, a folklore blogger and host of the [Fabulous Folklore podcast](#) there are a number of legends about snowdrops as she describes below:



Legends of Snowdrops

“According to one legend, the snowdrop dates back to the Garden of Eden. After God banished Adam and Eve, Eve grew tired of the endless winters. An angel came to her and created snowdrops from the snowflakes. She proved to Eve that winter doesn’t last forever. They came to symbolize hope as the first flowers to appear after the snows of winter.



Kate Spicer relates a German legend, in which God asked the flowers of Earth to give colours to the snow. The flowers all refused but the snowdrop happily gave the snow its colour. In return, the snowdrop got to bloom before the other flowers. I’ll be honest, I prefer that legend.

In a Romanian tale retold by VC Sinden, the sun took the form of a beautiful maiden when she appeared every spring to warm the earth. One year, Winter kidnapped her and kept her prisoner. Without the sun to warm the earth, the world languished in eternal winter. A hero found the prison and battled Winter. He set the sun free but his wounds overcame him. As he fell down, his blood melted the snow. Snowdrops grew from the droplets.

Perhaps these legends help explain their link with hope. After all, snowdrops even appear in the Victorian language of flowers. Have a fancy for someone and you want to know if there’s hope for a future together? Then “send a posy of snowdrops” (Rich 1998: 46”).

The Snowdrop and Death

“If you’ve seen *Stardust* (or read [the book by Neil Gaiman](#)), you’ll know the little glass snowdrop brings Tristan luck. It also prevents the witches from harming him. For some, wearing a snowdrop would keep your thoughts pure. So how could these sweet little flowers be linked with death?

For some, the link started with the monks who brought the plant to the British Isles. Apparently, planting it in monastery gardens might have given rise to the death/snowdrop association.

Elsewhere, the Victorians planted snowdrops on [graves](#). Vivian A. Rich notes that “[i]t was considered the epitome of good taste to edge the grave in blue scillars with snowdrops planted on the grave” (1998: 55). The profusion of snowdrops in graveyards helped explain the suggestion.

With such a funereal association, it’s hardly surprising people would consider them bad luck to have indoors.”

Reference

Rich, Vivian A. (1998), *Cursing the Basil: And Other Folklore of the Garden*, Victoria, BC: Horsdal & Schubert ([aff link](#)).

An Alternative Name for Snowdrop is Candlemas Bell because:

The snowdrop, in purest white array, first rears her head on Candlemas Day

Sandra Chaudhry - Treasurer

Help our u3a to earn extra funds at no cost to yourself!

Turn on AmazonSmile

Simply sign up by selecting your favourite charity (you can change this at any time) at smile.amazon.co.uk. Open the app and find 'Settings' in the main menu (☰). Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.



AmazonSmile benefits

Same products, same prices, no cost to you
AmazonSmile has the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping as the Amazon you know.

Generate donations

Amazon will donate 0.5% of all eligible purchases to your favourite charity when you shop.



Maximise your impact

Support your favourite charity with every eligible AmazonSmile purchase from your phone or computer.



Support your favourite charity

Choose from thousands of local and national charities. Change your selected charity any time.



Choose: MID-BUCKS(AYLESBURY) U3A and invite your non-u3a friends to support us as well!

Jasmine & Simon Reeks – Local History Group

Thursday February 23rd at 2.00 (for refreshments) with the talk at 2.30, at Southcourt Community Centre (where we hold our main monthly meetings), an illustrated talk on “The Workhouses of Buckinghamshire” by the well-known and respected local speaker, Julian Hunt. £4 a head will cover the costs of the speaker, hall hire and refreshments, payment (correct cash or cheque to S Reeks) please to Jasmine or Simon at the monthly meeting on February 16th. The meeting is open to all u3a members.

On Thursday 23rd March, Terry Bloxham (retired V&A ceramics specialist, secretary of the Bucks. Historical Association) will be giving a talk at the King’s Head (Market Place, Aylesbury) on the Wars of the Roses and the stained-glass windows at the King’s Head. A donation of £2 a head is requested. She will be giving the same talk at 10.30 and 2.30 (due to the small size of the room with the stained glass). Having opened bookings at last week’s monthly meeting, we have three space left in the morning and no spaces in the afternoon. We are very grateful to Terry for giving her time and energy to our group. The King’s Head opens at noon for refreshments. Refreshments in the morning, please bring with you whilst in the afternoon please patronise the King’s Head and carry it to the Great Hall across the alley from the bar. Mind the cobbles! Any queries, please email us as soon as possible.



We will be sending out the proposed calendar for the coming year in the next week or so. Tiggiwinkles is not taking group bookings at the moment for several reasons. It may mean some changes for April and October and even then, it will be provisional.

We were at Stowe this morning (7/2/23), so if you haven't visited in winter, this is what we missed last year due to the snow day. Snowdrops and aconites (the yellow ones).



Ann Burman – Quiz Group

The next meetings is on Tuesday 21st February. The Venue is the Aylesbury Tennis Club and the cost is £1 per person (including tea and biscuits!!)

ALL ARE WELCOME



Any queries contact ANN BURMAN tel.no. 01296 422084 (or Chris Blaik tel.no. 01296 425964)

Jane Elliston – Art Coffee Morning



The Art Coffee Morning next meet on 14th March at Janes house PLEASE NOTE new time is 10.00. Refreshment is 50p and there is often a raffle.



Jim Wilding – Group Leader

History Of Transport

Unfortunately, I have to cancel the February meeting for family reasons, members have been informed. Our next meeting will therefore be on Wednesday 15th March, 2.30 at 9 Mill Mead Wendover.



Musical Appreciation

Our next meeting will be on 28th February, 2.30 at 9 Mill Mead, Wendover.

Next Contribution Date Friday 10th March 2023

Contributions Welcome from ALL Members

Thames Valley Network

**A new Spring Quiz for TVN Members
Friday, 3rd March 2023 at 2.30 p.m. on Zoom
Quizmaster: Avis Furness**

Participants will be randomly divided into teams

This event is free of charge. Please book electronically by clicking on the TICKETSOURCE icon immediately below the event on www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk This is by far the best and easiest option. You will receive an acknowledgement immediately and the Zoom link a few days before the event. If you experience any difficulty, please email the organiser at tvnquiz@gmail.com giving your name and the u3a to which you belong.

Closing date for applications is Wednesday, 1st March