

Information Sheet March 2023

Editor: Dave Rogers Email [editor@u3a.co](mailto:editor@u3a.co)



Meet at Community Centre Prebendal Avenue  
1.30 p.m. for Notices at 2.00 p.m. Refreshments available

**Cost will be 20p per person from next month**

Speaker booked for 2.45 p.m.

**The Committee has agreed to re-establish paying for refreshments at monthly meetings from April 2023**

Date	Speaker	Title
16 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Keith Muras	The KGB Remembered
<b>Keith will draw on unique personal experience tales of the KGB actions and plots against western citizens in the Soviet States</b>		
20 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Heather Wright	Volunteering in the NHS

## Geoff Short – Chair

Welcome to our Newsletter for March and a big thank you once again to our contributors and to Dave Rogers for putting it all together.

We welcome Keith Muras as our speaker for this month. Keith’s talk is entitled “The KGB remembered”. This the first of two talks on this topical subject with the second talk due to be given in November.

Many of you will be aware that last month we had difficulty in accessing the Southcourt hall due to the caretaker’s absence. This was taken up with the Council member responsible for ensuring that the hall is available, heated, and open! We have received an apology and telephone numbers to contact council staff, if it happens again, have been placed on the outer door of the building. Luckily, we were able to contact Neil, who is our normal contact and I would like to thank him and also our own members who quickly got the tables and chairs out so that little time was lost.

As Spring approaches (despite the snow!), Jan Paver is starting up the pub walking group again in April. Full details are shown below. Talking of groups, there are a number that need a new leader or leaders if they are to keep going. I know that those taking part in these groups find them an enjoyable experience and so we are looking for members to take over such groups. To begin with, it would be good if replacements could be found from among those already frequenting such groups. The garden group is one such group. We thank Pat Pickering for her hard work in finding gardens to visit and arranging talks. We will miss her on her ‘retirement’ and the group may have to close if no-one is prepared to step forward and take over. It doesn’t have to be one person; it could be two or three. So, if you have enjoyed the garden visits and will miss them, then how about stepping forward into Pat’s shoes? Please let me or Pat know if you are interested.

**Please complete the RENEWAL APPLICATION FORM attached to this Newsletter and return it to Wendy Russell (Membership Secretary) as directed.**

# Your u3a Coach Trips 2023

Thanks to a generous donation from William Harding's Charity, we are able to reduce the cost of travel for all our trips this year. The full list of our proposed trips is below:

1. **GLOBE THEATRE, LONDON – Monday 03 April.** The cost is now £34.50 pp for those booked for the Globe Experience; and £12.00 pp for those members who have chosen to just pay for the coach travel. Payment for this trip **MUST** be made at the March meeting. We can still take bookings for the coach only but, unfortunately, the list for the Globe Experience is now closed.
2. **AMERICAN / QUILT MUSEUM, BATH – Wednesday 03 May.** The cost for this trip is £22.60 pp and the list to register will be out at the March meeting with payment needed at the April meeting.
3. **AUDLEY END HOUSE, SAFFRON WALDEN – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June.** Due to a total lack of response from Highgrove (perhaps they have their mind on other things!!), we have decided to take you to Audley End House instead. The price will be £25 pp, but for those members who are also members of English Heritage the price will be £9 pp (paying for the coach only). The list to register will be available at the April meeting, with payment at the May meeting.
4. **WHITSTABLE, Kent – Wednesday 12 July.** The cost for this trip will be £11.00 pp.
5. **WEALD & DOWNLAND LIVING MUSEUM, Chichester – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September.** The cost for this trip is £21.80 pp.

The Pick-up times and places for The Globe, The American/Quilt Museum, Whitstable and the Weald & Downland Living Museum are Exchange Street – 9.00 am; Tennis Club – 9.05 am; Jansel Square 9.10 am. For Audley End the Pick-up places are the same but the times are 15 minutes earlier, i.e., Exchange Street 8.45 am; Tennis Club 8.50 am and Jansel Square 8.55 am.

**THAT'S ALL FOLKS!!!**

**THE TRIPS TEAM**

**Dave Rogers – Editor**

## **The Flight of Lucky Lady II**

As the cold war began, the USA longed to show the USSR that no matter where the Soviets hide, USA bombers would be there to retaliate. World War II established the importance of controlling the skies during a modern conflict. The ability of an aircraft to deliver a payload of bombs after a long-distance flight from its base in Britain inflicted devastating damage to cities in Europe. The Berlin Airlift in 1948, besides starting the Cold War in earnest, also needed heavy loaded planes to deliver humanitarian assistance. This further established the importance of being able to fly heavy aircraft for long distances.

Heavy research into aviation technology gave the USA the most powerful air force in the world. The bomber of the early post war period (WWII) was the B-50 Superfortress, an advanced design featuring the latest lightweight metal alloys, along with a pressurised cabin and electronic gun control. Its powerful engines gave it three times the speed of the most widely used wartime bomber, the B17 Flying Fortress. Despite the fact that officials knew the propeller-driven B-50 would not remain the premier bomber for long there was a need to send a message to the USSR.



**The Lady Lucky II departed Carswell Air Force Base near Fort Worth, Texas under the command of Captain James G. Gallagher on February 26<sup>th</sup> 1949 with the express goal of making the first nonstop transglobal flight. The trip was so secret that the crew was given only three hours' notice. One of Lucky Lady II pilots had to cancel a Saturday night dinner engagement because of the short notice. "Did you tell the dinner party that you were going around the world?" a reporter later asked. "No," the pilot responded. "I just said I was going to be busy and couldn't make it".**

**Refuelling while flying was the biggest challenge of the flight. Though commonplace today, the technique was not widely used at that time. The Lucky Lady II was refuelled from its close relative, the tanker version KB-29. Four pairs of KB-29s based in Azores, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines and Hawaii were to be used as airborne gas stations. This record-setting flight used a probe and drogue system whereby a long hose is reeled out from the KB-29 tanker and is attached to a refuelling nozzle on the B-50 during flight.**

**Lucky Lady II took off with 14 crew members on board; they would spend the next few days working in shifts. Even when the plane had departed on February 26<sup>th</sup>, the secrecy of the flight was maintained. A writer for the *Air Force Magazine* subsequently described the filing of dummy flight plans. "The Lady was to switch tail numbers with a tanker at each refuelling point to give the impression that it was going only a short distance. The Air Force wanted to be able to publicise a spectacular success, not have to explain a costly failure."**

**The first refuelling over the Azores went smoothly; the second refuelling was "hairy" because a sandstorm sprung up unexpectedly (dust was kicked up even higher than 13,000 ft.); the third near the Philippines ran into trouble when a tanker and Lucky Lady II were pulled apart causing a winch on Lucky Lady II to break and the need for an in-flight repair; fortunately, the fourth and final refuelling by Hawaii went much more smoothly.**

**On March 2, 1949, Lady Lucky II finally arrived back at Carswell Air Force Base near Fort Worth, Texas, completing the first ever nonstop, around-the-world trip by an airplane. It had taken her 94 hours and 1 minute of flying time to cover 23,452 miles at an average ground speed of 249 miles per hour.**

**It was to be the last hurrah for the last bomber of the propeller age.**



# Jasmine & Simon Reeks – Local History Group



On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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). 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! **SOLD OUT**

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April, at 9.50 (be there by 9.35) BMW Oxford Plant, Cowley The Mini Experience **SOLD OUT**

**If you can no longer attend either of the March or April trips no problem but please let me know as I have a tiny waiting list.** Due to the popularity of the talk in February, there is a small refund per attendee. Please collect at the Group Meeting in March. I will keep it for you if you are not at that meeting. From March, you can pay for the March and April trips. Cash or cheque – cheque payable to S Reeks.



Please be patient while I deal with the monies and if necessary, I will continue during the coffee break. You can pay on the day but be prepared for a "flustered cashier", who will do her best.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May, Leighton Buzzard to Linslade Walk. Details to be confirmed.

## Ann Burman – Quiz Group



**The next meeting is at 2.00 p.m. ON 21 MARCH AT AYLESBURY TENNIS CLUB - £2 per person**

It was great to see so many new faces at the last Quiz Meeting, and I hope that more of you can come to our next meeting on 21st March. This will be our last meeting at the Tennis Club as from our April meeting we shall be moving to the Foxhills Indoor Bowls Club. For further information please contact Ann Burman on 01296 422084 or Chris Blaik on 01296 425964

## Simon Reeks – Gadget Group

A fairly quiet month, mainly due to Covid quarantining! Before it struck, I helped set up three televisions and a recording box, helped to copy photos between a camera, tablet and USB stick and advise on a locked email account.

There are still a few Dell PCs that I'm offering free to good homes. If you need a PC, advice about the new Windows 11 (highly recommended) or indeed any other (non-Apple) "gadget" subject, please contact me and I'll see what I can do, by phone / email on 01296 482735 or [reeks@fangio.co.uk](mailto:reeks@fangio.co.uk)



# Jim Wilding – Group Leader

## History Of Transport

Our next meeting will therefore be on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2.30 at 9 Mill Mead Wendover.



## Musical Appreciation

Our next meeting will be on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2.30 at 9 Mill Mead, Wendover.

## Jan Paver – Pub Walks



The pub walking group is starting up again on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April. We will meet at 11.00 at the Greyhound Inn at Wigginton, HP23 6EH. The walk is on the flat and between 2.5 and 4 miles. (I thought we could consider the weather and decide on the day to do either the long or the shorter route!) All are welcome to join us and there will be a form at the March meeting to sign up. You can also ring Jan on 07768205950 for more information. Lunch is optional. The pub will be open at 11.00 so we can pre-order our meals.

## The Globe Experience & Tour

Opens March 2023



From **March 2023**, we are launching The Globe Experience & Tour, combining an interactive look at theatre-craft, the unique story of Shakespeare's Globe, and a guided tour of the Globe Theatre.

Discover how we bring the magic of stories to life in a newly interpreted space beneath the Globe Theatre. With help from our experts, you'll immerse yourself in the world of Shakespeare's storytelling, from the creation of his works to the way they are interpreted today. Explore how we combine different elements of stagecraft to bring these stories to life in our beautiful and unique wooden 'O' and candlelit Sam Wanamaker Playhouse.

Photographer: Pete-Le-May

## Next Contribution Date Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023

# The Third Age Trust

The University of the Third Age (U3A) is a UK movement of retired and semi-retired people who come together to continue their educational, social and creative interests in a friendly and informal environment. The Third Age Trust is the national body that looks after all U3A groups in the UK, providing educational and administrative support.

## The Principles of the U3A Movement

The U3A movement is non-religious and non-political and has three main principles:

### 1. The Third Age Principle

- Membership of a U3A is open to all in their third age, which is defined not by a particular age but by a period in life in which full time employment has ceased.
- Members promote the values of lifelong learning and the positive attributes of belonging to a U3A.
- Members should do all they can to ensure that people wanting to join a U3A can do so.

### 2. The Self-Help Learning Principle

- Members form interest groups covering as wide a range of topics and activities as they desire; by the members, for the members.
- No qualifications are sought or offered. Learning is for its own sake, with enjoyment being the prime motive, not qualifications or awards.
- There is no distinction between the learners and the teachers; they are all U3A members.

### 3. The Mutual Aid Principle

- Each U3A is a mutual aid organisation, operationally independent but a member of The Third Age Trust, which requires adherence to the guiding principles of the U3A movement.
- No payments are made to members for services rendered to any U3A.
- Each U3A is self-funded with membership subscriptions and costs kept as low as possible.
- Outside financial assistance should only be sought if it does not imperil the integrity of the U3A movement.