

Information Sheet May 2023

Editor: Dave Rogers Email 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
Speaker booked for 2.45 p.m.

Date	Speaker	Title
18 th May 23	Gordon Rogers	Winston Churchill's Toy Shop When Minister of Defence Churchill created MD1 at Whitchurch north of Aylesbury
15 th June 23	Tony Earie	40 years at Kodak

Geoff Short – Chair

Good day to you all and I trust you had a pleasant Easter break. We are coming towards the end of the year for our u3a group and next month will be the Annual General Meeting. This is a time when your existing committee stands down and you have the opportunity of either supporting them for a further year or kicking us out!

Those members who make up the committee have all indicated their willingness to stand for a further year, but we do have a number of positions that need to be filled. In general, members are invited to join the committee and then can take up a position within that committee if they so wish. The particular roles that are vacant (see Poster on Page 6) include:

Website controller – we need someone who has knowledge of websites and who can keep our own site up to date. David Mummery is the current holder of this role but, now he is living in Sussex, we need to find a replacement.

Vice Chair – it is now some years since anyone filled this role. The vice chair would stand in for the Chair if required, introducing speakers at the monthly meeting for instance. It would also be a stepping stone towards becoming Chair themselves in the future.

Member's representative – again, this is a role that that has been vacant for some time. It is really a name that members can contact if they have a specific issue to raise.

Leading on from this, I should point out that May will be the start of my final year as Chair (unless I'm kicked out in May!) We need to be thinking of a replacement in May 2024 so, if anyone is willing to take on the role, it would be good if they could say so now.

Also, please be aware that we are making a small charge for refreshments from this month – 20p only!

Your u3a Coach Trips 2023

AUDLEY END HOUSE – Thursday 01 June 2023

Please note that for this trip only the Pick-up times will be earlier, i.e. Exchange Street 8.45 am, Tennis Club 8.50 am and Jansel Square 8.55 a.m. The Booking Sheet for this trip will be available on Thursday 20th April, with payment to be made at the meeting on the 18th May. The maximum number for this trip is 30, therefore, we will instigate a Waiting List should the numbers exceed 30.

We are delighted to report that, after protracted negotiations with the venue, they have agreed that we qualify for FREE entry as an Educational organisation!! Thanks to a generous grant from William Harding Trust the cost for the trip will, therefore, be £9.00 per person.

Audley End House is an English Heritage house and has a history dating back to the early 12th century. It went into decline in the late 18th century and was reduced in size. In recent history the Polish SOE trained there from 1941 to 1944. There is extensive information on the website.

Mobility scooters are available for use in the grounds – booking is required by the person wishing to use this facility.

The Lead for this trip is Chris. If you have any queries please contact her on 01296 425964

THAT'S ALL FOLKS!!!

THE TRIPS TEAM

Dave Rogers – Editor

Primrose Day – April 19th



Primrose Day honours the memory of our first and to date only Jewish Prime Minister, Benjamin (Dizzy) Disraeli, 1st Earl of Beaconsfield, who died on this day in 1881.

In the late 19th Century and early 20th Century, people wore primroses on this day to remember him. The statue of Lord Beaconsfield in Parliament square was also decorated with primroses as was his and his wife's grave at St Michael & All Angels, Hughenden Parish Church.

Born to Italian-Jewish parents on December 21st 1804 in London, it was in 1817 that Dizzy's father decided to baptise all of his children as Christians. Without this conversion, Dizzy would have been unable to pursue his chosen career as Jews were excluded from parliament until 1858. In 1837, he was elected as Tory candidate for Maidstone and remained in parliament until 1881. He became Chancellor of the Exchequer (twice); for a short time (1852-1852) and then for three years (1865 -1868). A similar pattern followed when he was promoted to Prime Minister (1868 – 1868).



After four years as Opposition Leader, he was re-elected as Prime Minister (1874 – 1880). In 1876, he took his seat in the House of Lords until his death on 19th April 1881 (aged 76) in his London house away from his country home Hughenden Manor now owned by the National Trust.



From 1868, Benjamin Disraeli oversaw a shift towards the emergence of two parties, each with their own, coherent policies. The polarisation was accentuated by the mutual loathing of Disraeli and Liberal leader William Ewart Gladstone. In 1874, Mrs Gladstone was heard to say “that Jew has become prime minister” whilst in 1868 Queen Victoria had written “Mr Disraeli is Prime Minister. A proud thing for a man risen from the people.” He became her favourite politician, although she began their association with reservations about his exotic appearance, dress and style. Domestically, Disraeli's government concentrated on social reforms. He codifies the law on public health and passed laws to prevent labour exploitation and recognise trades unions. Such measures were mostly uncontroversial, and were described as “dull, suet pudding legislation” in contrast to Gladstone's zealous reformism.

Disraeli was most interested in foreign policy. He used the international crisis in the Near East to assert Britain's importance in Europe, culminating in the Congress of Berlin in 1878. His strong anti-Russian policy in the East, and the passage of the Empress of India Act in 1876, pleased Queen Victoria.



Benjamin Disraeli and Queen Victoria had a strong friendship. When he died, she sent a wreath of primroses to his funeral with a note stating that they were “his favourite flowers.” People assumed that Queen Victoria was referring to Disraeli. However, it is now believed she meant her late husband Prince Albert. I can find no reference for decoration of Disraeli's statue (MP for Buckinghamshire 1852 - 1876) in Market Square on Primrose Day.

Wendy Russell – Membership Secretary

Many thanks to all Members who have renewed their membership already. There will be a box on the Sign-in table for Renewal Forms and cheques/cash at the April and May meetings. Next to the box will be a few Renewal Forms for anyone who has lost theirs or been unable to print one.

We are planning to issue a Membership Card/Sheet after the May AGM.

Jasmine & Simon Reeks – Local History Group

On Monday 24th April 9.50 (be there by 9.35)



BMW Oxford Plant, Cowley The Mini Experience.

SOLD OUT If you can no longer attend the April trip, no problem but please let me know as I have a tiny waiting list.

Thursday 25th May 11.30

Market Cross, Leighton Buzzard. Leighton Buzzard to Linslade Walk of about 6 miles led by Roger King. Some stiles and inclines but generally good surface. Dress appropriately. Regular refreshment breaks (bring your own and don't expect a seat!) and pub stop. £2 donation.



Thursday 22 June 14.00

Ivinghoe Beacon Landscape, National Trust car park, off Beacon Road, Ringshall HP4 1NF. Led by Chris Gill, duration 2 hours. Dress appropriately, rugged terrain. £2.00 donation. Sign up on the board at the General Meetings or email us to add to the attendance list.

Ann Burman – Quiz Group



Hopefully you will receive this Newsletter before the Quiz on the 18th April. If so, may I please remind everybody that we will now be meeting at the Foxhills Indoor Bowls Club, which is the other end of the car park from the Tennis Club!! If you don't receive the Newsletter before the 18th April, please remember that the meeting on the 16th May will be at the bowls club. Any problems please contact Ann Burman on 01296 422084 or Chris Blaik on 01296 425964

Jim Wilding – Group Leader

History Of Transport

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 19th April, 2.30, at 9 Mill Mead, Wendover.



Musical Appreciation

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 25th April, 2.30, at 9 Mill Mead, Wendover.





Jan Paver – Pub Walks

The next walk is from the Three Horseshoes at Towersey near Thame (OX9 3QY). We will meet in the carpark at 11.00 on Thursday 4th May. The walk takes in the Phoenix trail and is around 4 miles. Flat easy walking. All are welcome to join us. Please sign up on the sheet at the April meeting and tick if you would like to stay for lunch.

Simon Reeks – Gadget Group

A very busy month following my absence due to Covid and other matters. Quite a backlog had built up, areas covered included sorting out a streaming stick, several email issues, a backing up problem, sorting out copying photos between camera, tablet and laptop, installing a new SSD hard drive and several printer problems. A BRAND NEW FREE PRINTER has been donated, a Canon Pixma TS3150 in a sealed box - Google to see technical details and contact me if you need a printer. I have just given a PC to a member but there are still a few Dell PCs that I'm offering free to good homes. If you need the printer or 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



Amersham Museum Herb Garden

We have a lovely garden at our museum containing over 100 herbs and medicinal plants. We are keen to raise its profile amongst people interested in gardening, and wondered if you might promote it to your members. We have a special programme of garden-related events this spring and summer, including a temporary display about medical plant expert Maud Grieve and family activities in the school holidays. You can find out more on our website www.amershammuseum.org or via our accounts on Twitter and Instagram, or please get in touch info@amershammuseum.org

See what you are missing without a Group Leader!



**Next
Contribution
Date Friday 12th
May 2023**

Could YOU do one of these jobs?

Vice Chairman

Main Responsibilities

- Uphold the constitution of the Mid-Bucks (Aylesbury) U3A.
- Be aware of the common responsibilities of all trustees (committee members).
- Deputise for the Chair in his/her absence.
- Assist the Chair in organising special events.
- Act as a sounding board for the Chair.
- Be prepared to help the Chair induct new committee members as trustees.
- Assist the Speakers Organiser if required.
- Be prepared to welcome and introduce speakers at the monthly meetings.

One of the Vice Chair's roles is to deputise for the Chair and so he/she will need to be familiar with all necessary committee procedures and able to assume responsibility at short notice, if necessary.

Webmaster

Main responsibilities:

- Maintain website, and deal with incoming messages or spam
- Update group information if provided by group leaders, including dates of forthcoming meetings and planned trips.
- Upload copies of the monthly newsletter to the website
- Upload photos provided by members and file in appropriate section.
- Keep aware of copyright laws and ensure that no material on the website breaches copyright.
- Keep aware of data protection regulations and ensure that material on the website does not breach these.
- Setup, maintain and manage social media accounts such as facebook to facilitate communication between members.
- Report security breaches and other website issues to the chairman and committee members.

Member's Representative

Basically, this is a name that members can contact if they have a specific issue to raise i.e., perform the link between the membership and the committee.

Please get YOUR nomination form in prior to May AGM.