

# Mid-Bucks (Aylesbury) u3a

[www.u3a.co](http://www.u3a.co)

## Newsletter - September 2024

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Meet at Community Centre, Prebendal Avenue



1.30 p.m. for start at 2.00 p.m.

Refreshments available - Cost will be 20p per person

Please ensure that you pay for your refreshments and do not place your used cup in the bin, they are recyclable and were bought with this in mind, thanks.

### **SPEAKER 19<sup>th</sup> September – Colin White – Reducing environmental impact**

A talk about actions that can be taken to lessen your environmental footprint.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Colin White**

Welcome to our Newsletter for September 2024. By the time we meet for our monthly meeting many of us will have been to the Cotswold Wildlife Park on the final coach trip of the year. The Trips Organisers will be looking for your ideas for future coach trips. Please engage with this so that we can all look forward to another exciting programme of trips next year. Thank you, Roger King, for your report on the recent coach trip, there's clearly lots to see and do in Portsmouth.

I would like to remind you all that if you are not able to attend a coach trip or other event where you have booked a place, please ensure that you inform the organiser using the telephone number given. This will save time and anxiety on the day. We should all have a u3a Branch 'In Case of Emergency' (ICE) card in our possession when we are on organised trips or events. Please ensure that you have yours with you, and, if you are able to, why not add the contact information to your mobile phones as well? This could potentially save a life.

Some weeks ago we produced an information leaflet to hand out at the public event we attended in Aylesbury. A number of these A4 leaflets have now been laminated. One will be put up in the entrance to the Community Centre at Southcourt where we hold our monthly (and some other) meetings. We would like ideas for where to put up the other copies. Is there a doctor's surgery, library, community centre, parish or church hall or office near you that might accept one? If so, do let us know and we will investigate. With such publicity we may gain new members for our Branch.

We have been informed by Mary Evered that her husband, Brian, has recently passed away. The funeral will take place



Learn, Laugh and Live!



**u3a**  
Mid-Bucks (Aylesbury)

The time after you are retired, or semi-retired, is known as the 'Third Age'. This is a time when you can pursue your interests at leisure and make the most of life. There is no lower age limit.

At the Mid-Bucks (Aylesbury) u3a you can learn, laugh and live by:  
Being **creative** through craft and music; being **active** through walking; being **educated** by engaging with discussions about local history, music appreciation or transport; being **informed** by listening to a variety of speakers on a host of topics; **learning** new skills such as bridge, and being **social** by going on trips, taking part in quizzes and attending various social events.

Interested? Why not join us for our general meeting at 2pm on the third Thursday of each month, at the Southcourt Community Centre, Prebendal Avenue, HP21 8LF. Prospective members are always welcome!

Further details about Mid-Bucks (Aylesbury) u3a can be found at [www.u3a.co](http://www.u3a.co) or you can contact the Membership Secretary, Wendy Russell, by emailing [wendyrussell@hotmail.com](mailto:wendyrussell@hotmail.com) or by calling (01844) 206767.



Don't be shy – give it a try!

at 11.45am on **Monday 23rd September** at Amersham Crematorium, then afterwards at Ellesborough Hall. Our condolences go to Mary and her family and those close to Brian.

## **LOCAL HISTORY GROUP - Jasmine & Simon Reeks**

**August Meeting** –Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 11.00 – 13.00  
Quinton Walk Part 2.

A select band toured the Village Green, then turned along Upper Street. The weather forecast was against us, 40 mph winds and 90% chance of rain but apart from a little drizzle and wind gusts, we weathered fair. Mainly 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century history in evidence with reference to Romans? plus current anecdotes. Our guide was Martin and we donated to the Quinton Village Society.

We started with drizzle and we could see the clouds approaching from the hills ..... but we carried on and all was well. We are a committed group!



Fire Insurance Plaque on a house in The Strand. Words = COUNTY and an illustration of Britannia. It had been painted over so by using the camera to enlarge the image, the word and illustration were easy to see. The County Fire Office 1807-1906.

**September Meeting** – Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> September  
14.30, St John The Baptist, Little Missenden Church,  
Village Rd, Little Missenden, Amersham HP7 0RA.  
Father John will take us on a guided tour of the church. I will say no more but wall paintings and Roman bricks so as not to spoil the amazing impact of this very historic church. Cost will be £5.00, payable from the August general meeting to Pauline Noble, which will include tea and cake! Parking is on the road so please car share – arrange this between yourselves. (photo: Copyright Britain Express)



### **October Meeting – Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> October**

Ashmolean Museum 2.35 for 2.45 – 3.45. If dry meet Val Blackburn outside Travel with your own arrangements. Bus or Park & Ride from Thornhill to High Street then walk along Cornmarket to the Martyr's Memorial and you will find Ashmolean, a good 12 minute walk. Or you can Park & Ride from Bicester (trip about 25minutes). Plenty of places to eat in Oxford including basement café in Ashmolean or at the Weston Building. Still awaiting final arrangements. (photo: Copyright Wikipedia)



**November Meeting – Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> November** Rupert's Retrospective 10.30 for 11.00 start. Please don't arrive before 10.30 unless you are on the helpers' rota. Volunteers required for kitchen duty and donation of a cake or two, please.

No December meeting. We will restart in January with planning meeting. **Different location and time for this meeting due to my dilatory booking of normal venue.**

**January Meeting – Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025** Planning Meeting Southcourt Community Centre 14.00. Volunteers required for kitchen duty and donation of a cake or two, please.

### **JIGSAW TABLE - Julie Leach**

From this month the suggested contribution for a jigsaw will be 50p. Our supply of puzzles is getting rather low, so if you have any at home that you would like to add to the selection, please bring them along. If you have finished a jigsaw that you previously obtained from the table, why not bring it back?



### **PUB WALKS - Jan Paver (07768 205950)**

The pub walking group met at the Greyhound Inn at Aldbury near Tring on Thursday 5th September. The 4 mile walk was touch and go due to a grim weather forecast, but ten hardy souls did make it up to the Bridgewater monument from Aldbury without getting soaked.



I can't quite believe where the summer has gone but the next walk will be the last of the year. The walking group takes a break over the winter months. Paul Ingram has kindly offered to lead a walk on **Thursday, 10th October** from the Seven Stars

pub in Dinton (HP17 8UL). We will meet at 11.00 and the walk is between 3 and 4 miles and fairly flat. All are welcome. Please sign up on the sheet at the September meeting, and tick if you are staying for lunch, or ring Jan for more information.

**All are welcome on these walks.**

### **QUIZ GROUP - Ann Burman**

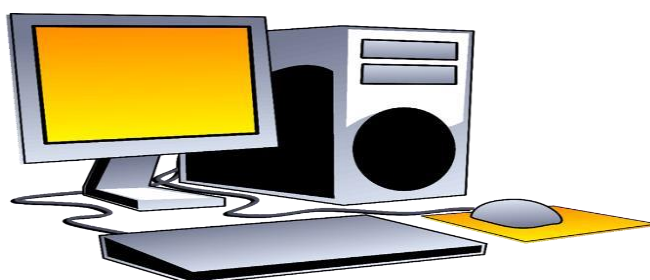


The next Quiz is on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September** at Foxhills Indoor Bowls Club, starting at 2.00 pm (including tea/coffee and biscuits). Cost £2 per person. All members are welcome.

*Quiz is always on the third Tuesday in the month.*

### **GADGET GROUP - Simon Reeks**

Local u3a groups have been reporting a spate of hacking recently although we have been lucky to have only one that I know of. The best advice that I can give is to "think before you click" on emails or websites - Any doubts at all, simply don't click.



- Does it feel alright? Is the spelling and grammar up to standard?
- Keep all software up to date, particularly Windows and antivirus (Norton, McAfee etc.). Don't simply leave it for another day, it could be too late by then.
- If you have any suspicion that you've been hacked, immediately cut off the internet connection or simply switch off your device and seek help.

If you need advice about Windows 11 (highly recommended) or indeed any other (non Apple) "gadget" subjects, please contact me by phone/email on 01296 482735 or [reeks@fangio.co.uk](mailto:reeks@fangio.co.uk) and I'll see what I can do.

### **HISTORY OF TRANSPORT - Jim Wilding (01296 623628)**

Not yet finalised as some responses still awaited, but visit to the Oxford Bus Museum is now likely to take place on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October**.

If this does not materialise, we will have our next meeting on that date, at 2.30pm at 9 Mill Mead, Wendover. Final details in October Newsletter.

### **MUSICAL APPRECIATION - Jim Wilding (01296 623628)**

Our next meeting will be at 2.30pm on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September**, at 9 Mill Mead, Wendover, when we will decide the future of the group.



## **COACH TRIPS REPORT**

We have now completed our schedule for the year and hope you have found the venues varied and interesting.

As stated at the last U3A meeting we will be asking you, the membership, for suggestions for 2025. A list for suggestions will have been circulated, on the coach, to The Cotswold Wildlife Park as well as a list to tick restrictions re price, travel time and day of the week. This will be available at the meeting also, please find a few moments to add your comments and suggestions. We aim to please!

Your trips team.....Ann, Sally, Chris and Michael.

### **Portsmouth Coach Trip Report – Roger King**

It was hard to believe that in my 10 years membership of Mid Bucks U3A, Portsmouth was only the second coach trip I had made with the club. I had visited the city as a school boy in the early 1960's when Victory was the only attraction and then briefly over 25 years ago. The Mary Rose was being restored at that time

After a pleasant and easy run down on Motorways, in the hands of our capable Motts driver David, I decided I would head for The Spinnaker and get some good views of the place. I was not disappointed. From the top I could also get my bearings which is often difficult to do at street level.

The Spinnaker Tower is a 560 ft landmark observation tower. It is the centrepiece of the redevelopment of Portsmouth Harbour, which was supported by a National Lottery grant.

The tower's design was chosen by Portsmouth residents from a selection of three different designs in a 1998 public poll. The Spinnaker Tower reflects Portsmouth's maritime history through its design and is named after a spinnaker, a type of sail that balloons outward. It has three viewing platforms one on top of the other at heights of 328ft, 345ft and 360ft. The tower was designed by local firm HGP Architects and engineering consultants Scott Wilson and built by Mowlem. The tower was opened on 18 October 2005.



I then decided I would explore the old town which was a delight. The Hotwalls Studios in Broad Street were very interesting bringing local artists, designers and makers together, in an exceptional heritage location. Just behind the walls was a pebble beach with plenty of sun worshippers and swimmers enjoying the exceptional weather. After a good lunch and a

pint of Tiny Rebel local IPA in the Spice Island Inn I headed away from the old harbour to the cathedral.

The mediaeval church of St Thomas of Canterbury dates back to 1188 but the Civil War saw most of it destroyed. It cost £9,000 to rebuild the tower and nave, which took place from 1683 to 1693. The tower and nave were built in the classical style. Very similar to many Wren churches in London. Galleries were added in 1708 to cater for growing congregations, and were extended in 1750.



It certainly is an impressive building. The establishment of the Diocese of Portsmouth out of part of the Diocese of Winchester in 1927 brought about significant changes. On 1 May of that year, the parish church of St Thomas of Canterbury received cathedral status in the new diocese, becoming the second cathedral in Portsmouth, as the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St John the Evangelist had already opened in 1882.

On the way back to the coach another pint beckoned in the appropriately named The Ship Anson. Possible connections to Rupert? The journey home was via the A34, nice and quick until the driver decided on a convoluted country lanes route from Oxford to Stadhampton and then onto Thame. I should not have had that extra pint!



## **WEBSITE – David Mummery**

The website is the door to our u3a and in need of contributors to submit items to the website manager who would gratefully publish them.

## Sudoku Puzzle September 2024

		2	7	1	4			8
5								9
6		7			9			3
					3	2	1	
7				2		8	9	5
2						3		6
		3			5			
					7		3	1
			9	3				

Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 9 by 9 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

## Sudoku August 2024 solution

3	2	1	9	5	4	6	7	8
7	6	4	2	3	8	1	9	5
8	5	9	1	6	7	2	3	4
5	8	2	4	9	3	7	6	1
4	3	6	8	7	1	9	5	2
9	1	7	6	2	5	8	4	3
6	9	8	3	4	2	5	1	7
2	7	3	5	1	9	4	8	6
1	4	5	7	8	6	3	2	9

**Next Newsletter latest contribution date – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024**