

Mid-Bucks (Aylesbury) u3a

www.u3a.co

Newsletter – February 2026

Editor: Solo Awadzi - Email: solokawadzi@hotmail.com

Meet at Community Centre, Prebendal Avenue

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

Free Refreshments available.



SPEAKER - 19th February 2026 - Bill Hamilton - *Man on the spot*

Bill Hamilton, who hails from Dundee, has enjoyed a 60 year career as a journalist and broadcaster. Starting from very humble beginnings as a junior reporter on the Fife Herald he later became presenter of BBC Scotland's flagship news programme, Reporting Scotland. He moved to London in 1979 and served successively as Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs and Special Correspondent with BBC Television News, covering major events at home and abroad. He has written three books and has no doubt got lots of stories to recount!

SPEAKER - 19th March 2026 - Tony Lyster - *Bucks (Quinton) Railway*

SPEAKER - 16th April 2026 - Keith Muras - *Guerillas in the mist*

SPEAKER - 21st May 2026 - Gemma Kitching and Julie George - Cancer Research UK - *History and progress of life-saving research*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Colin White

Welcome to our Newsletter for February 2026.

We will soon be publishing the notice for the 2026 AGM. This is a reminder that if nominated and elected once again, it would be my final year as the Branch Chairman. Please have a think about whether you'd like to stand for this very important role. I am more than happy to mentor and advise any prospective candidates. We will also need nominations and elections for the other key roles on the Committee – particularly Secretary and Treasurer, but also Vice-Chairman, Membership Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Trips Organisers and

Website Managers. I am sure most current incumbents will be happy to stand once again, but this cannot be taken for granted.

Please note that pub walks will be starting up in March (see the item later in this Newsletter). Our first walk will be from The Cock and Rabbit Inn at The Lee. I tested the walk in late January after a period of heavy rain and the ground was quite wet at times. Please remember to wear suitable footwear and clothing if the same applies in early March. Please also remember to have your ICE cards (In Case of Emergency) with you when you go on any Branch trip or visit. Whilst we are out, I'll see if anyone spots the lichen pictured to the right!



I would like to welcome the couple of new members that have joined us recently, I hope that you enjoy your time with us and engage with as many groups as you can. If you have any questions please let us know.

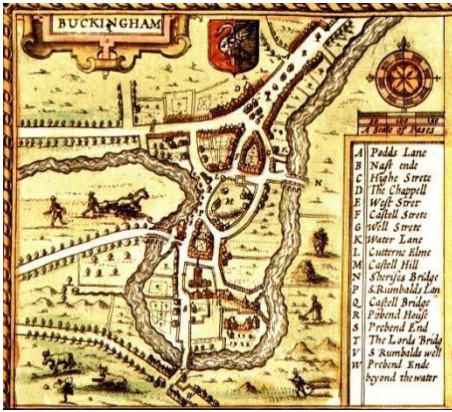
I recently heard about the passing of Yvonne Dick, a long term member who retired from our u3a a couple of years ago. Yvonne died peacefully, at the age of 90, on January 13th in Fremantle care home where she had been living. She and her late husband Norman were longstanding members of our u3a and used to enjoy the outings and annual holidays. I previously sent an email out informing Members that there will be a thanksgiving service for Yvonne at the Church of the Holy Spirit, Camborne Avenue, Aylesbury, on February 5th at 2pm, followed by refreshments at the church, everyone is welcome. Apologies if you receive this information a bit late. I am sure that we would all like to send our condolences and best wishes to her family and friends at this sad time.

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP - Jasmine & Simon Reeks

February Meeting – Thursday 5th 2026 14.00 for 14.30 talk Southcourt Community Centre

Prebendal Ave, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire England, HP21 8LF By popular demand, a return visit by Julian Hunt with an illustrated talk on Buckingham, the original county town. Volunteers for hospitality and a cake or two, please.

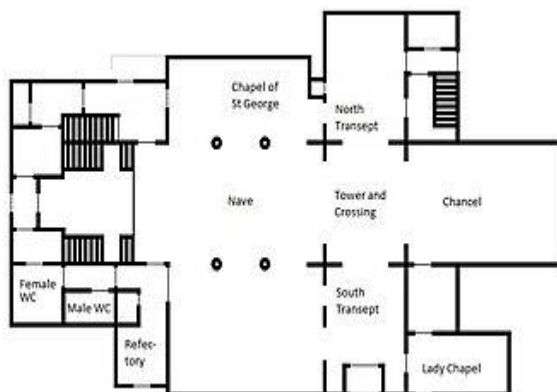
Note change from normal date.



(photo: copyright from BAS Records)

March Meeting – Friday 27th March 12, Noon Lady Chapel, St Mary’s Church, Aylesbury. Movers & Shakers of Old Aylesbury: a talk by Terry Bloxham on two families who have had Memorials erected in the Lady Chapel. £4.00 per person

Simon & I will be in the Temple Coffee, 1 Temple Street from 11.00. Buy your own refreshments. Or see you in the main church from 11.40. The Lady Chapel is not available until noon as it is a venue for Private Prayer. Please do not enter until Terry invites you in.



Copyright Wikipedia

March, note change of day, date and time

April Meeting - We are still looking to book, waiting for available slots to be released

May Meeting Ascott Estate. - Members please respond to communication sent out from 28th January. A nil response is still very useful to us.

JIGSAW TABLE - Julie Leach

The suggested contribution for a jigsaw is 50p. Our supply of puzzles is good at the moment. However, we are always grateful for any donations that are made, and if we don't sell them they will still go to a good home. If you have finished a jigsaw that you previously obtained from the table, why not donate it to another worthy cause such as a charity shop?



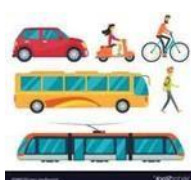
QUIZ GROUP - Ann Burman (07709 226884 / 01296 422084)



The next Quiz will take place on **Tuesday 17th February 2026 at Foxhill Indoor Bowls Club, starting at 2.00pm. Cost £2 per person** (including tea/coffee and biscuits). All members are welcome. It would be nice to see some new faces, why not give it a go?

Quiz is normally on the third Tuesday in the month, apart from December when we do not meet.

HISTORY OF TRANSPORT – Simon & Jasmine Reeks



At our January meeting, we finished watching an excellent DVD (by respected transport journalist Christian Wolmar) about the history of the London Underground.

At our February meeting (14.30 on 18th February, 9 Barge Crescent, Broughton, Aylesbury, HP22 7BH), we will have an illustrated talk by Cyril Parsons on 'Railways of the Aylesbury Vale'. We will also discuss possible future activities.

Any queries, please contact us by phone/email on **01296 482735 / reeks@fangio.co.uk**

MUSICAL APPRECIATION - Jim Wilding (01296 623628)



Our next meeting will be at **9, Mill Mead, Wendover, at 2.30 on Tuesday, 24th February .**

GADGET GROUP - Simon Reeks

It seems to be the season for printers deciding to stop printing but with a bit of "persuasion" I've managed to get them going again. McAfee antivirus renewals, as ever, are also popular. I'm also booked in to set up a new (Windows 11) laptop, should be fun!



I "play" with many gadgets, for example PCs, laptops, Android phones (including connection to get SatNav onto car screens via Android Auto), televisions, printers etc. As long as Apple is not involved, I'll happily try to help. Please contact me by phone/email on **01296 482735** / reeks@fangio.co.uk and I'll see what I can do.

COACH TRIPS 2026 - Jan Paver (07768 205950)

National Trust Wimpole Estate, Cambridgeshire - Tuesday 14th April 2026

Pick up points: Exchange Street 9.00 am/Tennis Club 9.05 am /Jansel Square, Bedgrove 9.15 am. Cost: £16 (NT members) £35 (non-members).

Please sign up and pay at either February or March u3a meetings.

You can pay cash, by cheque (payable to Mid-Bucks (Aylesbury) u3a), or by bank transfer (to Mid-Bucks (Aylesbury) u3a Metro Account, number 47992982, sort code 23-05-80 please remember to include 'Wimpole' and your surname in the payment details).

Please also remember to have your ICE cards (In Case of Emergency) with you when you go on any Branch trip or visit.



(Image copyright National Trust)

Lead for this trip is Jan Paver.

Other (provisional) dates for your diary for 2026:
Thursday May 14th - The Savill Gardens, Windsor
Wednesday June 10th - Chichester or West Wittering Beach
Wednesday July 1st - Kelmscott Manor and Lechlade

Tuesday 8th September - Rutland Water and Burghley House

Pub Walks – Colin White (07941 652918)

The first pub walk of 2026 will take place on **Thursday 5th March**, meeting at **10:45** (to allow for pre-ordering food) at **The Cock and Rabbit Inn, The Lee, HP16 9LZ**. The Lee is located in the countryside to the southeast of Wendover.

The walk is nearly 3½ miles long, there are some gentle gradients, there is one stile and there will be 3 short bits of walking on the road (but these are quiet back lanes). When I tested this route it was rather muddy, so if we get a fair bit of rain prior to the walk please wear suitable footwear and clothing.

Please sign up at the February monthly meeting or call **Colin (07941 652918)** if you would like to join us. All welcome.



BOWLS GROUP – Colin White (07941 652918)

The Bowls Group meets and plays at the Foxhill Indoor Bowls Club.

The next sessions take place from **2:30 to 4:30 on Sundays: 8th and 22nd February, 1st, 15th and 29th March and 12th April 2026** (meet at 2:15pm). The sessions will cost **£5 per person** (which includes refreshments).

We will have booking sheets available at the monthly meetings for those interested in coming along to play.

Please remember that you will need to play in clean, non-marking shoes. Either bring your own or wear a pair provided by the Bowls Club.



The primary contact for this Group is Colin White (email colinwhite100@virginmedia.com) and the secondary contact is Sandra Chaudhry (07881 768449).

BRIDGE GROUP – Martin Lock (01296 433838)

This group meets regularly, on days to be confirmed, at various members houses.

For more information see the branch website or contact Martin Lock.

SINGING FOR FUN – Sheila Bulpett (01296 622540)

This Group is run in conjunction with Wendover u3a and takes place from 11:15 to 12:45 on the second Wednesday of the month at Halton Village Hall. The Group is looking for more singers, particularly men.

For more information see the branch website or contact Sheila Bulpett using the number above or sebulpett@yahoo.co.uk – and remember to say you're from the Mid-Bucks (Aylesbury) branch of the u3a.

YARN CRAFTERS – Sheila Haldane (01296 488267)

This Group meets from 2.00 to 4.00pm on the second Monday of the month.

For more information see the branch website or contact Sheila using the number above.

WEBSITE – Solo Awadzi – (07748 750547) & Colin White – (07941 652918)

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. Please contact Solo or Colin using the numbers above or solokawadzi@hotmail.com or colinwhite100@virginmedia.com

Sudoku Puzzle January 2026 (Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 9 by 9 box contains the numbers 1 to 9)

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

Sudoku Puzzle December 2025 solution

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

Next Newsletter latest contribution date – Sunday 1st March 2026