

Mid-Bucks (Aylesbury) u3a

www.u3a.co

Newsletter – May 2026

Editor: Solo Awadzi - Email: solokawadzi23@gmail.com

Meet at Community Centre, Prebendal Avenue

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

Free Refreshments available.



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

Gemma and Julie have both worked for Cancer Research UK for a number of years. Their talk will cover: a little of the history of Cancer Research UK; show some of the new advances that are happening right now, and how legacies have had an impact with strange and wonderful things supporters have left us. As cancer never seems to be very far away, I am sure we will look forward to hearing what they have to say.

SPEAKER - 18th June 2026 - John Tyler - *Woodland Wildlife*

SPEAKER - 16th July 2026 - Sara Shelby - *1976 - the year of equality in the Police*

SPEAKER - 20th August 2026 - Richard Paver - *Apollo Moon missions - the risks, the successes and the personalities that made it happen*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Colin White

Welcome to our Newsletter for May 2026.

I'd like to give you all a couple of final reminders. Firstly about this year's Branch AGM, which takes place on Thursday 21st May 2026. Please give a thought to standing for, or making nominations to, the Committee, particularly for the role of Vice Chairman. This is so that we can have someone in place as a 'Chairman elect' for next year. This would ensure both a smooth transition into 2027/28 and continuation of all the Branch activities that we all enjoy. Please also have a look at the Receipts and



Payments Account (attached below) which has been signed off by Cyril Parsons. Many thanks Cyril and Sandra for all your hard work.

Secondly, as we're now in May, we need any final Membership Renewal forms for 2026/27 to be sent or given to Wendy urgently, and subs monies should be in the Branch bank account as soon as possible, thanks.

With the better weather we're getting out and about much more. About 30 of us enjoyed a lovely day for the coach trip to Wimpole Hall on 14th April. The second pub walk round Bishopstone was very well attended and the sun shone on us for that too. The next pub walk in early May at Penn Street should be well attended, and I have sorted out a walk for early June too, see more below.



We continue to have a regular core of attendees for the Bowls Group and this looks set to continue well into the future, though the Foxhill Indoor Bowls Club is closed for a couple of weeks in May which affects the dates we can book – please see later in the Newsletter for more information. Please also see the Bowls Group entry for information about an open day at Hazells Bowls Club on Saturday 30th May.



I know other Groups are as active as those I have mentioned. I will be contacting all the Group Leaders/Organisers in the next few days to find out if they all want to continue in their roles. If they do, we can get the Membership Cards sorted out soon after the AGM. We will print the cards as we did last year. However, is there any desire for receiving the cards in some other format? If you have any ideas and thoughts do let us know.

I hope the fine weather continues and that you are all able to get out and enjoy it.

MID-BUCKS (Aylesbury) U3A

Registered Charity No. 1070207

Receipts and Payments Account For the year ended 31 March 2026

	2026		2025	
	£	£	£	£
Balances brought forward				
Balance in Bank Current Account		3,395		4,264
Cash balances held by Study Groups		258		367
		<u>3,653</u>		<u>4,631</u>
Receipts				
Subscriptions	2,455		1,604	
Xmas Raffle	177		160	
WHC Grants	2,000		2,000	
Trips	2,905		2,675	
Room Hire	41		78	
Books/Jigsaws	75		62	
Gift aid	330		299	
Deposit Account Interest	14		0	
Sundry	57		4	
Refreshment receipts	0		40	
		<u>8,054</u>		<u>6,922</u>
Payments				
Speaker	725		635	
Christmas Raffle Donation	177		160	
Trips & Functions (incl. WHC Grant)	3,890		5,538	
Room Hire	509		515	
Refreshment Costs	22		87	
Copyright Licence	0		67	
Website	180		163	
Sundry	13		47	
Third Age Trust	428		436	
Admin	77		144	
		<u>6,021</u>		<u>7,792</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		<u>2,033</u>		<u>(870)</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for year plus opening balances		<u>5,686</u>		<u>3,761</u>
Net outgoings/income from Study groups		<u>123</u>		<u>(108)</u>
Accumulated Surplus at year end		<u>5,809</u>		<u>3,653</u>
Balances Carried Forward				
Balance in Bank Current Account		<u>5,428</u>		<u>3,395</u>
Cash balances held by Study Groups		<u>381</u>		<u>258</u>
		<u>5,809</u>		<u>3,653</u>

S.A. Chaudhry

Sandra Chaudhry
Hon. Treasurer

Cyril A. Hanon

Independent Examiner

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP Jasmine & Simon Reeks

May Meeting Thursday 28th May Ascott Estate, Wing, Ascot LU7 0PT. Meet at 13.30 in the Cricket Ground Car Park (for those of you who haven't visited for years!). The House is signposted from the main road. Those who have opted for the Garden Tour, it starts at 14.00. Free roamers, do what you will. We will meet up for refreshments (pay for your own choice) in the Long Room at the back of the Tea Pavilion. Timing to be arranged on the day. For those on the Garden Tour, you then have time to visit the House. The site closes at 17.00, so aim to leave by 16.30 but you can head for home before. Numbers have been confirmed and finalised with the National Trust but for exceptional circumstances do speak to us.



Copyright N.T.

June Meeting Friday 26th June, 11.00 Amazon in person tour Dunstable, LU5 4GB. Details to follow. **Note change of date from normal.** Further information will be provided nearer the time but please sign up as soon as possible.

Know Before You Go



Tour Duration. Each tour is approximately 45-60 minutes long and covers between 1-2 km. Tour routes may involve walking up and down multiple flights of stairs. We recommend bringing a clear water bottle that can be refilled at water stations along the route.



Arrive Early. Early arrival is strongly recommended. Plan to arrive 15 minutes prior to your tour. If guests do not arrive on time, the tour will start without you. Once the tour has begun, guests will not be able to join the tour.



Attire To ensure the safety, comfort, and security of all guests, we require visitors to follow our dress code while participating in warehouse tours. Guests must wear flat, closed-toed, and closed-heeled shoes (no sandals, clogs, Crocs, or high heels). We recommend comfortable shoes or trainers.

Long trousers are recommended for additional protection. Shirts must have sleeves (short or long). Visitor badges must be worn at all times for security and identification purposes (Amazon will issue breakaway-type lanyards upon check-in). Long hair must be pulled at or above shoulder length. Loose-fitting

clothing and accessories (such as long-hanging jewellery, scarves, or ties) are not permitted. Headscarves worn for religious reasons are permitted but must be tucked in securely. Other attire or head coverings worn for religious reasons are permitted, provided they do not create a safety hazard.

Not Permitted: Sandals, clogs, Crocs, high heels, or other unstable footwear. Offensive or revealing clothing.

Our warehouse is an active work environment with moving equipment, shelving, and uneven surfaces. Appropriate attire, identification, and footwear help reduce the risk of injury and ensure security.

Visitors who do not meet these requirements will not be permitted to join the tour. **Identification.** Upon your arrival, your tour leader will ask for a government issued photo ID. Please ensure that guest information submitted during sign-up matches the guest ID.



Guest Registration. Required Guests must sign up for the tour prior to arrival. Walk-ins will not be admitted into the tour.



Accessibility. To request a specific accommodation for a tour, please submit a request via the [Amazon Tours Help Centre](#) ahead of registration to confirm we can support.



Photography. All filming or photography of any kind is strictly prohibited, including the use of mobile phones, smart devices, wearable technology, or augmented-reality glasses (such as Meta Glasses).

Items Allowed on Tour. You may bring your wallet, keys, and transparent water bottle on the tour. We ask that you keep all bags, and backpacks at home or in a vehicle, unless medically necessary. If you cannot leave these behind, our team will provide a safe location for you to leave these items for the duration of your visit.



While we encourage guests to bring a clear water bottle to stay hydrated throughout the tour, other outside food and drink will not be permitted.

July Meeting Thursday 23rd, 10,30 Modern Architecture in Aylesbury – Guided walk by Roger King. £3.00 donation to Aylesbury Society. Meet at the top of Market Square near the old Burtons' shop, which is now Starbucks. **Wear**



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA

suitable clothing for the weather. If too hot or too far, you can shorten your participation to match to circumstances.

[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

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 19th May 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 April meeting we had an extremely interesting look at the history of UK motorways, particularly the M62.

Our next meeting will be **on Wednesday 20th May** and will be a visit to the de Havilland Aircraft Museum (near London Colney, just off the M25) - regular attendees have detail of the arrangements already but do contact us if you would like to join our group.

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 on **26th May 2.30 at 9 Mill Mead, Wendover**, subject to my current health problems having cleared! Will contact members if need for cancellation.

GADGET GROUP - Simon Reeks

Currently setting up 3 new Windows 11 PCs as well as the regular McAfee, email issues etc. that tend to crop up on a regular basis.

An unintended consequence of AI (Artificial Intelligence) is the huge demand for AI data centres and the related demand for computer components - prices are shooting up and will affect most electronic "gadgets". Don't be too surprised when you next go shopping!



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

Pickup points: Exchange Street 9.00 am / Tennis Club 9.05 am / Jansel Square 9.15 am.

The Savill Garden, Windsor Great Park Thursday 14th May.

Lead Val Blackburn (07923 023064)

Chichester or East Wittering Beach. Wednesday 10th June

Cost: £16 The coach will make a stop at Chichester and then go on to the beach

Lead: Pauline Noble (07899 726258)

Payment is due for this trip at the May monthly meeting

You can pay by 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 'Chichester' and your surname in the payment details.

Kelmscott Manor and Lechlade. Wednesday 1 st July

Situated on the edge of the Cotswolds, Kelmscott was the historic home of William Morris: designer, writer, and political activist. This trip includes a guided tour of the house and a stop at the typical Cotswold village of Lechlade.

Cost : £35 You can sign up for this trip at the May or June meeting.

Lead : Jan Paver (07768 205950)

Upcoming trip - 8th September Boat trip on Rutland Water and Stamford

PUB WALKS – Colin White (07941 652918)

The next pub walk will take place on **Thursday 4th June**, meeting for an **11:00** start at **The Golden Eagle, Chesham Road, Ashley Green, HP5 3PW**. Ashley Green is located in the countryside to the south west of Berkhamsted (near the A41).



The walk is no more than 3 miles long. There is 1 stile and a short piece of on-road walking. **Please note**

that there will be some quite steep ascents and descents. If you don't feel up to tackling these climbs please consider coming on a different walk later in the year. We will visit Hockeridge and Pancake Woods (Royal Forestry Society sites) and hope to be able to see some varied habitats and possibly a number of different butterflies.

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

The Pub Walks Group have already had two outings. Six hardy souls had a lovely walk from The Cock and Rabbit at the Lee in March and 14 of us enjoyed some countryside around Bishopstone in early April.



Shortly after the Newsletter will be published, we will be going on our third walk of the year from The Squirrel at Penn Street.

BOWLS GROUP – Colin White (07941 652918)

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

Please note that there will be no session on Sunday 24th May as the club will be closed. This may also affect the session on 7th June – we will let you all know if that has to change.

The next sessions take place from **2:30 to 4:30 on Sundays: 10th May, 7th and 21st June, 5th and 26th July, 9th and 23rd August and 6th and 20th September 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).

We have received information about an **Open Day at Hazells Bowls Club on Saturday 30th May 2026, from 11:00 to 17:00.** If you fancy having a go at bowling outdoors why not consider going along? The address is: Hazells Bowls Club, Shakespeare Way, Aylesbury, HP20 1JF.

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

POEM COLUMN

u3a went to Wimpole

Last month we went to Wimpole Hall
The sun was shining, as I recall.
Everyone was waiting, just where they should be.
Avoiding frantic phone calls from me.

Stuart, our driver had the gift of the gab.
He showed us the bouncy chair in his cab.
We got his life story, right from the get-go.
Even the parts we'd rather not know!

The house itself was crammed full of treasure.
Spotting the chicks gave us great pleasure.
They were tucked in each room for children to find.
So, we acted like kids, but they didn't mind.

The estate is spread out. We covered some ground
There was a man in a buggy to get us around
On the farm, the goats and piglets were sweet



And the fabulous shire horses with four hairy feet.

They're preserving rare pig breeds, before they're forgot,
so, there's Oxford Sandy and Gloucester Old Spot.
Watching them busily snuffle through the hay,
did I once think of bacon butties? No way!



We stopped for coffee, for lunch and for tea
Well, we don't really get out that much, you see.
On the way back there was room for ice-cream
Not a bad start for your brand-new trips team!

By – Jan Paver

Birthday flowers

Roses are red,
Vases are blue,
Gypsophila's white and
They're all for Lou!

By - Colin White



Sudoku Puzzle May 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)

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

Sudoku Puzzle April 2026 solution

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

Next Newsletter latest contribution date – Monday 1st June 2026