

Mid-Bucks (Aylesbury) u3a

www.u3a.co

Newsletter – June 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 - 18th June 2026 - John Tyler - *Woodland Wildlife*

John joins us once again, and at short notice too! He has always been fascinated by wildlife. Having studied zoology and conservation at university, he worked with the Ecological Parks Trust (now the Trust for Urban Ecology). John worked in London and Kent for over 25 years, and since 2005 he has been based in Bucks, giving talks and leading guided walks. John is a keen wildlife photographer and will no doubt demonstrate his depth of knowledge and resources on the topic of 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*

SPEAKER - 17th September 2026 - Dr Stephen Goss - *Opulence, Innovation and Intrigue - the history of the Orient Express*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Colin White

Welcome to our Newsletter for June 2026.

I write as your Chairman, having been elected at our 2026 AGM. Thank you for placing your faith in me once again. This year will be my last as Chairman, though I will continue to do other things when that tenure comes to an end. The AGM also saw the whole of the Committee re-elected to their roles. We should all be grateful for the stability that this brings. We should also thank both David Wilson (for taking on the role of Accounts Examiner) and Cyril Parsons for doing that role for many years.



Having resolved the make-up of the Committee and also the Group Leaders we are now in a position to prepare the Branch Membership Cards for 2026-27. These should be available at the June monthly meeting and we will be printing one card per household to save on costs.

We deal with as much of our correspondence as possible by email. With this in mind, can you please ensure that if you are asked to do so, that you respond to any messages that require a response, by the deadline that is given? We generally won't be sending reminders out.



If you think you have missed something (the newsletter for example), please check your inbox as well as any spam and junk folders that you may have. If the sender of an email does not get an undelivered response, they can only assume that it has been delivered. Finally, please also ensure if you want a response from a group leader or committee member, that you send your message to us at a sensible time in the day? Something sent

late in the evening about the following day is unlikely to get a response!

At the last monthly meeting I raised the possibility of us doing longer walks of about 6 miles (compared to the current pub walks of about 3 miles). We would meet up somewhere, walk about 3 miles to a pub or café and then walk another 3 miles back to where we had met. If you are interested in doing such walks can you please let me know by email? I hope we would be able to avoid the sort of close encounter I had with a herd of cattle near Ford recently!



I also mentioned that a few of us are interested in forming a snooker group. If you are one of those few, can you please let me know by email? I can collate responses and pass those on to someone else who would lead the group.

Sheila Haldane has informed me that the Yarn Crafters Group has 3 spare places at the moment. Do get in touch with her if you're interested in joining.

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP Jasmine & Simon Reeks.

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.

No further information as yet! I have tried.

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, 10.30am - 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 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](#)

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

August Meeting Thursday 13th, 10.00am for 10.30am. Short Walk around Bierton & Burcott – the easy one! **Guided by Jasmine Reeks. Cost n/a.** Meet at the **Bierton Coffee House, The Old Chapel, 185B Aylesbury Road, Bierton, Aylesbury, HP22 5DW.** 10.00am if you are paying for refreshments, 10.30am if you are not. The car park is also for the businesses in the courtyard so we cannot park there for the walk. Park sensibly in Burcott Lane in keeping with existing vehicles and yellow lines or in William Hill Drive. Car share if possible. This walk is weather dependent.



Change of date from normal due to The Bucks Show, to which some of us like to attend.

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? As mentioned at the May Monthly Meeting the Jigsaw Table will be put on hold until October, the summer months are not conducive to making jigsaws.



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



The next Quiz will take place on **Tuesday 16th June 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



In May, we visited the de Havilland Aircraft Museum - here we are having a good time grouped in front of the prototype of the Mosquito, one of the most famous aircraft from the Second World War:



On Wednesday **17th June at 2.30pm**, we will be meeting at **9 Barge Crescent, Broughton, HP22 7BH** for a presentation by Cyril Parsons about the Great Western Region and the Travelling Post Office - all are welcome.

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

MUSICAL APPRECIATION - Jim Wilding (01296 623628)



Our next meeting is cancelled due to Jim's hospital appointment.

GADGET GROUP - Simon Reeks

In between invigilating exams during May I have installed a couple of Windows 11 PCs, repaired three laptops and set up a pair of new mobile phones, together with fielding a number of queries on a wide range of IT subjects.



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

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)

Kelmscott Manor and Lechlade. [Wednesday 1st 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 Payment is due for this trip at the June monthly meeting.

Lead: Jan Paver (07768 205950)

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 'Kelmscott' and your surname in the payment details.

Upcoming trip - Boat trip on Rutland Water and Stamford [8th September](#)

The Savill Garden, Windsor Great Park, Coach Trip Report

Thirty-one members, including two new members, set off equipped with waterproof coats and umbrellas due to the previous day's stormy weather and the gloomy forecast for our trip to The Savill Garden. However, the weather man had got it wrong and although we had a couple of light showers, the weather was bright and sunny, albeit a bit chilly out of the sun.



When we arrived, we were divided into three groups as we had been given three guides. This was a surprise as we had only booked and paid for two! The guides were excellent, being both very knowledgeable and interesting.

The 35 acre garden was commissioned by King George V and designed by Eric Savill in 1932, and opened to the public in 1953. It is planted out to have something of interest for all seasons, but for our visit in May it was the Rhododendrons and Azaleas, in many shades of orange, yellow, pink, red, purple and a beautiful pure white, which made a stunning display. It was also the right time to see the cornus kousa (Japanese Dogwood) trees, which were covered in their spring bracts of various colours.



There is a rose garden planted out with hundreds of roses, which were covered in buds and will be lovely in a few weeks, particularly if they are a highly perfumed variety. There is a New Zealand garden but it looked a bit dry, I suppose May's a bit early for it in our climate, but it had some interesting architecture.



The Café and Restaurant in the visitor centre were excellent, all in all it was a lovely day out. We arrived in sunshine and left in sunshine, and it only took just over an hour to get there! There is a lot more to see than mentioned here, the lakes and streams, a bog garden, the paths are excellent for anyone with mobility problems and there are lots of seats to have a sit down and enjoy the views as you walk around.

Words by Val Blackburn, pictures by Jan Paver

PUB WALKS – Colin White (07941 652918)

The next pub walk will take place on **Thursday 2nd July 2026**, meeting for an **11:00** start at **The Dinton Hermit, Water Lane, Ford, HP17 8XH**. Ford is located in the countryside to the south west of Aylesbury. Please park in the area of the car park closest to the road.

The walk is just over 3 miles long. There are no stiles, the gradients are gentle with 68 feet of ascent and a short piece of on-road walking along a quiet lane. When doing the route assessment I had to wade through a field of oilseed rape as the right of way had not been sprayed. It was manageable and I will lead the way!



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

The Pub Walks Group has now had three outings. We have had walks from: The Cock and Rabbit at the Lee in March; the Harrow at Bishopstone in April and The Squirrel at Penn Street in May.

Shortly after the Newsletter will be published, we will be going on our fourth walk of the year from The Golden Eagle at Ashley Green.



BOWLS GROUP – Colin White (07941 652918)

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

Please note that ongoing work at the Club may affect the session on 7th June – we will let you all know if that has to change.

The next sessions are due to take place from **2:30 to 4:30 on Sundays: 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).

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 11:15am to 12:45pm 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 2.00pm 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 June 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						2		
5	2			7				
4	8	3			1	7	6	
2		5		4				
		7	9			4		6
			7				2	
6	4		1					
3			5	8			4	
		2		6	4	8		1

Sudoku Puzzle May 2026 solution

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

Next Newsletter latest contribution date – Wednesday 1st July 2026