

Mid-Bucks (Aylesbury) u3a

www.u3a.co

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

Richard has had a lifelong interest in aviation and he will use that, and his research skills, to bring us a 'behind the scenes' discussion of some of the events and key people involved in the Apollo Moon missions.

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

SPEAKER - 15th October 2026 - Nigel Crompton - *History of the British Fire Service*

SPEAKER - 19th November 2026 - Mike Sheehan - *Optical illusions, art and the brain*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Colin White

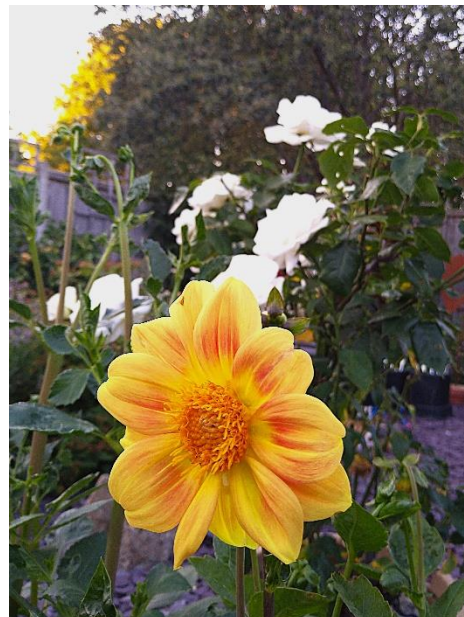
Welcome to our Newsletter for August 2026.

Schools are out for the summer and I'm sure the kids will enjoy themselves. The current state of the grass in most places does remind me of a school summer holiday in 1976, however, in the intervening years I don't recall us having had such prolonged, and continuing, heatwaves as we are now experiencing.



One thing that does seem to happen more frequently is the instigation of a hosepipe ban. Perhaps we need to have more reservoirs being built. I am struggling to keep alive many plants that I have nurtured from seed. Perhaps now is the time that I should take my cues from nature and plant more drought resistant species. The main problem is that many of them are nowhere near as gorgeous to look at!

The heat has not stopped many of us from keeping as active as we can. The Groups still meet over the summer months and we are still looking at other things we can take part in. As I mentioned in a recent email to Members, we have been approached by someone from Padel King offering our u3a sessions at the Aylesbury Rugby Club. Now may not be the best time to be thinking about this, but if anyone is interested in taking part do let me know (my email didn't elicit much of a response I'm afraid).



If you use a hearing aid and are attending the Monthly Meeting, please investigate switching the hearing aid to pick up loop 'T', which we have been assured will be active at the Southcourt Community Centre. We need to let the caretakers know if the loop works, so please let us know if you hear anything!

The Trips Team have been doing a great job of sorting out some excellent visits for us this year. Many of you have gone on a number of the trips and will recall how busy the booking table is at each meeting. This means that Jan and Pauline are not able to help out with the Tea Rota. Can we have a couple of volunteers to join the Tea Rota Team please? This would ease the pressure on all of us! Thanks.

Enjoy the newsletter, I suggest reading it with a large, cool drink of some kind!

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP Jasmine & Simon Reeks.

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.

September Meeting Thursday 24th September 11.00 Third guided walk around Quainton price £4.00. It is not necessary to have walked 1 & 2. Meet at top of the green by the entrance to the windmill for 11.00. If you would like a coffee before you start, we will be meeting at the George & Dragon coffee shop at about 10.30. If you want lunch at the pub, please book yourself at <https://georgeanddragonquainton.co.uk> or you can lunch at the Coffee shop. Please, park around the green with consideration. Wear appropriate clothing. Organiser is Rupert Anson. (This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA)



October Meeting Thursday 22nd October 14.00 for 14.30 at Southcourt Community Centre HP21 8LF. Talk by Nigel males. Willie & Ettie: The Souls of Taplow Court price £3.00. a tale of triumph and tragedy. For 30 years before WWI, William Grenfell, Lord Desborough and his wife Ethel entertained elite friends at Taplow Court. The group was known as The Souls. How could the story end so sadly for so many

Volunteers for hospitality and “administration on the day”, please. (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)

Chris Blaik (01296 425964)

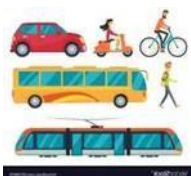


The next Quiz will take place on **Tuesday 18th August 2026 at Foxhill Indoor Bowls Club, starting at 2.00pm. Cost £2 per person** (including tea/coffee and biscuits). All members are welcome. It would be nice to see some new faces, why not give

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



Our next meeting will be on the 16th September - subject yet to be decided so any suggestions will be 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

A rather busy month involving laptops, PCs, mobiles, routers and McAfee.



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 last trip of the year is to **Stamford and Rutland Water**

Tuesday 8th September Cost: £30

The coach will take us to Stamford, a charming town in Lincolnshire with a rich heritage and plenty to see and do. After lunch we are booked on the Rutland Belle for a 45-minute cruise of Rutland Water.

Payment is due for this trip at the August 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 'Rutland' and your surname in the payment details.



PUB WALKS – Colin White (07941 652918)

The next pub walk will take place on **Thursday 3rd September 2026**, meeting for an **11:00** start at **The Bow, 116 High Street, Waddesdon, HP18 0JF**.

The walk is nearly 3½ miles long and is generally over gentle gradients, although you should **note that there is a total of 184ft of ascent, which all occurs in one gentle stretch over about a mile.** There are no stiles and two pieces of walking on footpaths adjacent to main roads of about ¼ of a mile.

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



The Pub Walks Group has now had six outings this year. We have had walks from: The Cock and Rabbit at the Lee in March; the Harrow at Bishopstone in April; The Squirrel at Penn Street in May; The Golden Eagle at Ashley Green in June; The Dinton Hermit at Ford in July, and The Red Lion at Little Missenden in August.



BOWLS GROUP – Colin White (07941 652918)

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

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

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

Sudoku Puzzle July 2026 solution

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

Next Newsletter latest contribution date – Tuesday 1st September 2026