

Mid-Bucks (Aylesbury) u3a

www.u3a.co

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

Nigel has been delivering talks for over 30 years on a range of subjects to many different and varied audiences throughout the UK. At the age of 55 he was invited to go to University for the first time and gained a Masters Degree in British History, specializing in First World War Studies. During his career in the fire service he did presentations on the development of the Fire Service and other emergency services.

Nigel's talk will follow the development of fire fighting from the earliest known forms through social changes, the industrial revolution, two world wars and modern day. A wide use of photographs enhances the talk. Additionally, Nigel will discuss the role of women in fire fighting, especially during the Great War. We will look forward to what Nigel has to say.

SPEAKER - 19th November 2026 - Sara Shelby - *10 years inside*

SPEAKER - 17th December 2026 - Sun Jester - *A Christmas Entertainment*

SPEAKER - 21st January 2027 - Dr Helen Fry - *The Man Who Saved M16*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Colin White

Welcome to our Newsletter for October 2026.

I mentioned in the last Newsletter that we are now moving in to a more fallow part of the year with regard to Groups and Outings. A good number of us thoroughly enjoyed the final Coach Trip of the year to Stamford and Rutland Water. If you have any suggestions for trips for 2027, please let the Trips Team



know. Unfortunately, I had to cancel the final pub walk of the year at Cholesbury, though will try and include the walk in the calendar for 2027.

As many of you know the Musical Appreciation Group is sorry to announce that Jim and Gwyneth Wilding are no longer able to Chair and Host the Group. Wendy Russell has very kindly agreed to both Chair and Host the Group and we are most grateful to her for that. If any Member is interested in joining us, we will now be meeting in Long Crendon (see later in the Newsletter for more information). Any music will be considered, so don't hold back!

I would like to remind you all, once again, that if you would like to be accompanied by friends or family at our Branch events, they will all need to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the organisers and group leaders that they are members of the u3a. If they cannot demonstrate this, then I'm afraid that they will not be allowed to join us. We have to insist on this because we would not be covered in terms of insurances and liabilities. This applies to all, please do not embarrass yourself, your friends and family and our hard-working organisers and group leaders by trying to book places for non-u3a people. Thanks.



At the last Monthly Meeting I mentioned to various people that I had approached u3a HQ about the sort of things that would need to be put in place should the Branch fail to get a new Chairman at next year's AGM. In mid-September I had a useful conversation with a lady who is a Senior Advice and Information Officer at the u3a. Once I have received the advice that she will give, I will report back to the Branch Committee and Monthly Meeting.

Enjoy the newsletter, if you have any suggestions for new or additional content, please let us know.

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP Jasmine & Simon Reeks.

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)



November Meeting Thursday 26th November 10.30 for 11. 00 Methodist Church, Buckingham Road, HP20 2 NQ

£2.00 Rupert's ever popular, pictorial resume of the Local History past year. Request for admin and hospitality help, please. (Your arrival will be 10.00)

December - NO MEETING

January Meeting Thursday 28th January 14.00 for 14.30 at Southcourt Community Centre HP21 8LF. Planning Meeting. Request for admin and hospitality help on the day, please.

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)

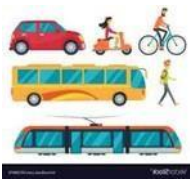
Chris Blaik (01296 425964)



The next Quiz will take place on **Tuesday 20th October 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 at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 21st October **at 9 Barge Crescent**, Broughton, HP22 7BH - a talk by Ken Berry will cover a short history of Airborne Radar and Surveillance by the RAF after the Second World War. There will also be a group discussion about the programme for the next few months. Any queries, please contact us by email / phone on reesks@fangio.co.uk / 01296 482735.

MUSICAL APPRECIATION – Wendy Russell (01844 208767)



This Group will meet on the **fourth Tuesday of each month, from 2.30 pm to about 4.30 pm at 36 Elm Trees, Long Crendon, Aylesbury, HP18 9DF.**

We each bring a CD or LP with any sort of music we would like to hear, lasting about 10 minutes. It can be Classical / Pop / Instrumental / Opera / Jazz / Country – a real assortment.

We pause in the middle of the afternoon for a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits. If you would like to join us for a relaxing afternoon, please contact me on the above telephone number. **Next Meeting 27th October, 2026.**

GADGET GROUP - Simon Reeks

Virgin has announced that they are no longer going to provide an email service, the business is being sold to **Junara** - this will affect anybody that has an email address including

@virginmedia.com, @ntlworld.com,

blueyonder.co.uk or @virgin.net. Have a look at

<https://tinyurl.com/3ydepkjm> for further details. There will be an initial 99p transfer cost covering the first 12 to 18 months then an annual charge of up to £65. You will have the choice of signing up to **Junara**, transferring your emails to a new free account with the likes of Gmail or Outlook, or simply closing down email. Virgin are contacting email customers in tranches, keep your eyes open for a communication from them - you will be given at least 45 days to react. **THIS IS SOMETHING THAT CANNOT BE IGNORED AND REQUIRES ACTION ON YOUR PART.**



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

Day out to Stamford and Rutland Water – Jan Paver

Our last trip of the year, on September 8th, did not look too good at first. After a summer of high temperatures and no rain, the heavens decided to open on us, and it rained constantly as we travelled north to Stamford in Lincolnshire. Dave, our Motts coach driver, coped extremely well with the conditions, both inside and outside the coach. There were so many discussions and predictions on the forecast, he must have been very bored listening to us.



"Oh, no it's getting heavier now", "No, I'm sure it looks brighter ahead" or "My app said it would stop by 11.30". Whoever said that the Brits always talk about the weather? And as luck would have it as soon as we got to Stamford, it quickly dried up and got brighter during the afternoon.



Everyone loved Stamford. It is a historic market town sitting on the River Welland, famous for its 17th and 18th century limestone buildings and five medieval parish churches. Unlike a lot of towns we know well, there is a thriving high street which was appreciated by our members with plenty of options for coffee or lunch. If a walk by the river is your thing, there is a path around the meadows offering wonderful views of the town's architecture and church spires.

Two of the churches we found were open and the quality of the stained-glass windows was awesome.

After lunch, it was back on the coach for a short 15-minute drive to the north shore of Rutland Water. This huge artificial lake and reservoir, the largest in the UK, provides water to the East Midlands. However, we saw that the area provides a lot more than drinking water. Set in beautiful countryside, there are walking trails, cycling tracks, nature reserves, water sports centres, fishing, sailing clubs, and of course boat trips.



We were booked on the 3.00 pm round trip on the Rutland Belle, which has a running commentary on the construction of the reservoir and important features along the shore as you sail around. The Normanton Church, built on a promontory out into the water is an iconic building, once the church for the estate. It was going to be demolished as part of the reservoir construction but was saved due to the public outcry.



Nobody fell overboard and nobody was left stranded as the coach drove off without them, so a good last trip!

Thank you everyone for your company on the day, and your support for all of our trips this year.

Trips Team

PUB WALKS – Colin White (07941 652918)

Unfortunately, the final pub walk of 2026 had to be cancelled. We will visit The Full Moon at Hawridge near Chesham for one of 2027's walks.

The Pub Walks Group has seven 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; The Red Lion at Little Missenden in August and The Bow at Waddesdon in September.



We had 66 people along to the seven walks and I am sure we all had a lovely time! I intend to start next year's walks in April 2027. If you have any suggestions for locations and routes do let me know in the meantime.

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: 4th and 18th October; 1st and 15th November, and 6th December 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 October 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)

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

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

**Sudoku Puzzle September 2026
solution**

Next Newsletter latest contribution date – Sunday 1st November 2026