Mid-Bucks (Aylesbury) u3a

www.u3a.co

Newsletter – November 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 - 19th November 2026 - Sara Shelby - *10 years inside*

Sara Shelby is an ex Metropolitan Police Officer. She joined the Police Force in 1976. She was born in Islington and was posted locally to Bethnal Green in the East End.

Since leaving the Police Force Sara has been a teacher, been in the prison service and has run her own business and much more. We shall look forward, once again, to her particular insights, this time about her time as a prison officer rather than as a prisoner!

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

SPEAKER - 21st January 2027 - Dr Helen Fry - *The Man Who Saved MI6*

SPEAKER - 18th February 2027 - Jeremy Holmes - *Rags to Riches to giving it all away - Andrew Carnegie, the world's richest man*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Colin White

Welcome to our Newsletter for November 2026.

At the October Monthly Meeting Simon Reeks helpfully reported the news that Virgin Media will be making changes to some email accounts. I am aware that a number of Members will be affected by the changes. Please ensure if you change your email address that you keep the Membership Secretary and I informed? If we don't know a new address, you won't receive information.

We will be holding our usual Christmas Raffle at the December Monthly Meeting. This will be in aid of MacMillan Nurses. Please can you have a think about possible donations of prizes that you'd like to make? If you are successful in your search, please bring anything you think appropriate to the November or December Monthly Meetings. Whilst doing so, can you please ensure that whatever you bring is well within its 'best before' or 'use by' date? We don't want to make anyone ill!



I would like to thank all those Members who have taken an active part in organising, hosting and attending the many Groups that we have. As many of you know a number of Groups are struggling with numbers – Bridge, Musical Appreciation and Yarn Crafters in particular. In order to continue to meet such Groups are in need of extra Members. Please consider joining a Group if you have not already done so. If we don't get more people attending some of the Groups will have to close.

In the same vein, if you would like to set up a new Group that is not currently run do let us know. Please note that help is available for expenses for room or instructor hire in order to establish a new Group. Get in touch with us if you would like to know more.



At the last Monthly Meeting I mentioned that I had received some advice from 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. The advice was discussed at the Branch Committee in October and we have resolved that we will hold our AGM in May 2027 as normal, and react to whether or not a new Chairman is elected. Should we get no nominations then we will have to start the dissolution of the Branch. If this happens Members will be encouraged to join another local u3a as an alternative. The future of the Branch is in your collective hands.

Please note that we will continue to run Coach Trips next year, even beyond the May AGM. Have a look at the Trips entry later in the Newsletter and bring along your ideas for the venues you would like to include in the short list.

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

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP - Jasmine & Simon Reeks.

Only two meetings scheduled as we ramp up to the new season. Thinking caps on for the Planning meeting in January. We will need to consider the weather and its implications throughout 2027.

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 begins at 11.00. 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 18th November 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 18th November at 9 Barge Crescent, Broughton, HP22 7BH** - a talk on aviation, all are welcome. Any queries, please contact us by email / phone on **reeks@fangio.co.uk** / 01296 482735

MUSICAL APPRECIATION - Wendy Russell (01844 208767)



This Group will meet on the **fourth Tuesday of each month, the next meeting is on 24th November 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.

GADGET GROUP - Simon Reeks



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.

TRIPS 2027 - Jan Paver (07768 205950)

The following trips have been suggested by members, and you are invited to choose your favourite 6 places to visit. Tick sheets will be available at the November and December monthly meetings.

- Blenheim Palace
- Windsor
- Hampton Court
- Southend/Leigh on sea
- London Zoo

- The Bayeux Tapestry at Reading Museum (includes private tour and free time in Reading)
- Batsford or Westonbirt Arboretum (in October for Autumn colour)
- Gilbert White House (includes a garden tour) and Painshill Park in Surrey
- Richard III at Leicester (free time in Leicester could include National Space Centre)
- Stratford
- Exhibition Road, London (choice of V&A, Science Museum, National History Museum)
- Burghley House

PUB WALKS - Colin White (07941 652918)

The Pub Walks Group had seven outings this year. Our walks from various pubs in the area were enjoyed by many. I will continue to work out routes for next year and we will hopefully start with a walk in April. 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: 15th *November*, 6th *December* 2026, and 17th *January* 2027** (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 November 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)

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

Sudoku Puzzle October 2026 solution

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

Next Newsletter latest contribution date – Tuesday 1st December 2026