

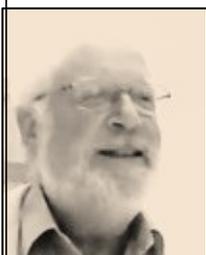
# Milford & District u3a Monthly Newsletter

## March 2022



**Newsletter content:** Chairman's Report, Committee Notices - Friday Talk, Website News – Roving photographer needed. Featured Groups: Writing Forum., Military History, Digital Workshop, and Cycling. U3A Forty Years old, Competitions.

### Chairman's Report



As many of you will have seen in Third Age Matters, or on the U3a website, 2022 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U3a in the UK. Groups are encouraged to celebrate this occasion throughout the year, but there is much to be gained to holding at least one event during u3a week, which are the days either side of u3a day, the 21<sup>st</sup> of September. The u3a have engaged a PR consultant for the six months over the summer with the objective of raising the profile in the National Press. Unlike previous u3a days which have often centred around recruitment, the emphasis this year is around celebration, with the secondary purpose of being visible to our target audience.

The committee has several ideas of what we could do, such as quizzes, walks, or performances, but it is vital that it is of interest to our membership. Although it would be advantageous from a publicity angle to hold an event during u3a week, it is more important that we enjoy ourselves, and if that means that we hold two events, one in July and the other in October, because that would be convenient to the participants, then that is what we will do,.

What we would like is for members to suggest an event that they would wish to put on, or attend, and when that would be convenient. The event could be related to a Group activity, but it is not essential. Although the proposed event maybe several months away, we would ask that members contact a committee member with some ideas during March, so we can start planning ahead..

#### Programme for 2022/2023

March is the time of the year, when many Groups start planning programmes for next year. It also represents the best time for ideas around new Groups to be put together. In some cases we have a member who has a specific interest they want to share, and a Group can easily be created with the numbers in attendance being of secondary importance to the event. Other Groups may require minimum numbers to make the activity viable. In the past the committee has received a number of suggestions, and these have been circulated by email. This year we would like the Newsletter to be the vehicle for members to share their ideas. What we would like is for members to send us a few lines detailing the Group/Activity they would like to create, with a contact address so that an advert can be incorporated in the April newsletter.

## **MILFORD & A DISTRICT WEBSITE -[www.milford-u3a.org.uk](http://www.milford-u3a.org.uk)**

There are **new pages** on the website, the Home Page has been updated and there is a new page for Group Dates and contact information. Have you seen the New Homepage?

### **Website Appeal for Photographs**

The Website needs fresh, new photographs, most of ours date back to 2007!

What we need is an aspiring photographer, to visit some of our groups to take some new photos for the Website. This would be an invaluable contribution to the site and would add an appropriate fresh, new look for this new year. If you have any new photos of your Group Activities, or if you would like to do a turn as our **Roving Photographer**, please let our webmaster know asap.

[webmaster@milford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@milford-u3a.org.uk)

## **Study Day FRIDAY 18<sup>th</sup> March The Art and Objects of the Mughal Empire 1550 -1650**

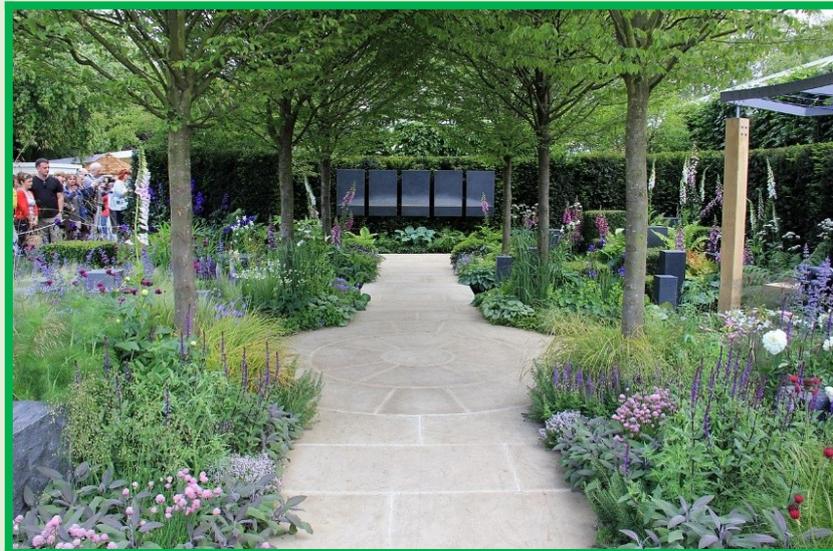


**Dr Ursula Weekes**

**At the Menuhin Hall See: <https://themenuhinhall.co.uk/lectures>**

## **Monthly Friday Afternoon Talk 11<sup>th</sup> March 2.00pm . at Milford Village Hall**

### **Behind the scenes of the Chelsea Flower Show**



Publicity & Friday Speakers, Gillian Martin

Phone 01483 429640

[publicity@milford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:publicity@milford-u3a.org.uk)

## IMPORTANT GROUP NOTICES!!!!

### **Potential New Groups**

We have some interesting suggestions for new groups: Preparation for the next Milford u3a Programme will begin next month. We need leaders for two of our budding new Groups, otherwise they will not be on the programme and will not be visible to attract new group members.

**Photography** – For outdoor meetings arranged by the group members for the next three months. This is a new group who will take advantage of the better weather before becoming an official group in September. If this is an interest of yours, or if you would like to try it out and would like to arrange to meet with other like-minded folk, send an email to this newsletter.

[pam-brown@milford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:pam-brown@milford-u3a.org.uk) [A Leader is wanted to co-ordinate this group.](#)

**Boules** - The happy group we had last year was not renewed because of Covid. The Leader is unable to resume as Leader, but she would be happy to advise. She will also supply the rules of the game and some equipment. This is an outdoor game, suitable for all ages – no running to do!

[A Leader is wanted to co-ordinate this group.](#)

### **Featured Groups**

### **Writing Forum**



It's often said that we all have a book (somewhere) inside us. Maybe a Family history. An autobiography or an incident or period from our life. Perhaps you have an idea for a short story. Or you love reading and are tempted to see if you can write something.

#### **If so, why not consider joining us in the U3A Writing Forum?**

This is a small, very informal group that meets on Zoom on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm. Each meeting has a theme (eg. 'Creating Characters', 'Crime Fiction', 'Autobiography') and involves a slide presentation with plenty of opportunity for discussion and then an opportunity to read something you've written on that topic and to get some constructive feedback from the group. Or you might want to read a favourite passage on the subject rather than something you've written. Maybe you just want to listen to others – you're still very welcome.

Just email Ian Honeysett with your membership number and he will add you to the list. And, if you go on to become a best-selling novelist, don't forget him, will you? Ian's email address is:

[honeysett@btinternet.com](mailto:honeysett@btinternet.com)

## Military History

### West Surrey in the Civil War

Here are a couple of photos from our very entertaining talk last Wednesday at St Johns, Milford Nick Swan, Sue Leach and team covered West Surrey in the Civil War and really brought it to life, as you can see from the photos!

We were told about the causes of conflict, and the "PPE" you have to wear before going in to battle. Ably demonstrated by Piers!



Then you have the cumbersome musket to consider.

Sue explained life at the time, types of clothing, food, herbs etc

There were route marches from Farnham Castle as far as Alton and

Arundel to engage the enemy.



Nick has kindly offered to consider another talk and possibly a visit to the Alton battle site. All in all a very enjoyable afternoon. <[peterstevenson1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:peterstevenson1@hotmail.co.uk)>

### Monday & Wednesday Cycling Groups



The two Groups - Cycling Monday and Cycling Wednesday are considering/planning a ride from Bramley to Shoreham and then Brighton, following the Downs Link which is, for the most part, the old railway track from Guildford to Horsham. Being an old rail route there are no hills to worth mentioning!

Planning is at an early stage as the ride won't be until later in the year when the weather is somewhat more settled. The ride is 35 miles to Shoreham and 43 miles to Brighton. There is an option to return from Shoreham or continue to Brighton. We intend to take all day doing it, taking it in easy stages and returning to Guildford by rail. If you would like to know more about this route you can [find full details here](#), there is a route map and plenty of photos plus a route description.

If there are any intrepid U3A cyclists who would like to join us for what should prove an interesting day please let either [Gertrud](#) or [Bob](#) know.

## Digital Workshop



'The Tech Team', Kirsten, Alan and Bob, know there are many members 'out there' who have technology such as desktop computers, laptops, tablets and even phones, who only understand a tiny fraction of the things their technology can achieve.

For instance, we are frequently asked:

- How do I send a photo by email
- How do I save a photo from an email
- What is the best virus protection
- Can you connect my new laptop to my Wi-Fi
- How do I connect to my new printer
- How do I get my photos from my phone to my laptop

We decided to run a U3A group to help people better understand these and many other questions, and in addition, to help solve real problems. Thus the Digital Workshop was born.

So far our meetings have comprised mainly presentations on various topics of general interest such as 'How the Internet works', 'Things to do with an iPad', 'Cloud Storage' and 'Transferring photos from a phone'. The presentations usually last no longer than 20-30 minutes and the topics we cover are usually those most requested by members of the group.

What we would like to do is to have a meeting where the first hour is a general interest presentation and the second hour is more of a practical session, we have yet to work out how to manage this as there is such a wide range of technology amongst the members!

We meet on the fourth Friday in the month, 2-4pm at the Burton Pavilion which is located beside the Football/Cricket green in Milford, although, due to the high levels of Covid infections our last meeting was held on Zoom. If you would like to join us let me know so that I can add you to the email list: [Bob Fearnley](mailto:Bob.Fearnley)

*Shoot for the moon. If you miss, you'll only end up among the stars.* 

All contributions to the Newsletter gratefully received for example: Group news: what difference has Covid made to you and your group? photographs, successes, funny or calamitous happenings. etc. ([pam-brown@milford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:pam-brown@milford-u3a.org.uk))