

Milford & District u3a Monthly Newsletter

April 2022



Monday and Wednesday Table Tennis Groups

Newsletter content: Chairman's Report, Committee Notices - Friday Talk: '4, Website News – Roving photographer needed.
Featured Groups: New Group: History of Architecture, Monday and Wednesday Table Tennis, Book Choice 4, Easter Music.

Chairman's Report



The season continues to run well, with Groups now largely meeting face to face, other than those who believe the on-line experience gives them an advantage.

We are now approaching the point where we are collating information for the **AGM, on 13th May 2022** and starting to create the information to send out to Group Leaders regarding next year.

The committee have been advised of a couple of new fledging Groups, but now is also the time for members to think about reforming Groups that may have been in abeyance for the last few years. Prior to Covid we had quite a large number of Lunch clubs, and different types of Walking Groups, and whilst some of those continued during the Pandemic, I would expect demand to rise significantly next year.

We are aware that some people see leading a Group to be a significant commitment, and if the Group is based on a Lecture format that can be the case. In many cases however the role is much more of a co-ordinating one, where a programme is created, and the individual members run an event each. In many cases it is possible to have a Group leader and a deputy who share the duties, with the only difference being that we need a single contact in the programme. The other thing that sometimes is a consideration is that there is a misconception that because in a previous guise, the Group met every week, this has to continue as the Group reforms. One way of minimising the time commitment of Leaders if the Group is quite small initially, is to start by having monthly meetings, expanding the number of meetings as the Group size increases.

Committee

The majority of the Committee are prepared to continue in their existing roles, however there are some activities which have been shared around the Group, and we welcome members to come forward to help us in particular with **Publicity** and **Outings**. These do not need to be Committee roles, although we welcome additional committee members. We would like names in place over the next few weeks so that at the AGM we have the new team of committee members in place, as the Programme is put together.

Monthly Friday Afternoon Talk 8th April 2.00pm .

at Milford Village Hall

The Lumberjills – Britain's Forgotten Army

Speaker: JOANNA FOAT

On the eve of the Second World War and with only seven month's supply of stockpiled timber, Britain was in trouble. Timber was critical to the war effort and the country was lacking in both lumberjacks and timber...enter... The Lumberjills.



Social Media---Committee Appeal for Help

Are you familiar with the social media platforms? There are many. Your experience would be very helpful to our Tech Team. It's knowledge, not qualifications that we're looking for. If you could help to advise with your knowledge of any of them, Please contact our chairman, John Oakey for more information, by email at: chair@milford-u3a.org.uk

Website Appeal for Photographs and a Roving Photographer

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 u3a 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@mlford-u3a.org.uk

GROUP NOTICES

Group Leaders....Thank You!



Our Group Leaders are the core of our u3a. Thanks to them many of their members have been able to stay in contact throughout the last two plus years, in spite of lockdown and other restrictions. They have had to follow Government guidelines ensuring spacing, masks, cleaning etc, which they didn't sign up for. So Thank You Group Leaders for facing up to all the difficulties and keeping up the spirits of your Group Members.

We have received requests for more **Zoom** Group Meetings which would help members who cannot get to our venues. If anyone could offer to run a zoom group, either with a new subject, or one from a Group Leader already running a conventional group, the Committee would be happy to give hands-on Zoom help, advice, and guidance if it's needed. The cost of a Zoom account will be borne by the Milford & District u3a.

There may also be members who would love to join your conventional groups if only they had transport to get to the venue. Could we suggest, that if this is the situation for anyone, rather than they should just give up, that they should contact you, the Leaders of their favourite groups, and ask you whether you have anyone in your group who might be able to give them a lift? With the present rise in fuel prices, of course no-one will be expected to extend the journey outside their own area. Contact Newsletter (pam-brown@milford-u3a.org.uk)

Two New Groups

"History of European Architecture: Gothic 1100-1500"



Alan Bott, as a new group leader, has volunteered to run a group starting next September.

The groups will be meeting weekly, at Rake Court, Station Lane, Milford, GU8 5AD, on Tuesday 10:00 to 12:00. This course consists of 20 lectures.

After outlining the political, religious & economic background of each period, the course considers chronologically the developing styles of architecture across each country of Europe. The course is lavishly illustrated with slides.

The following year will be devoted to "Architecture: Renaissance to Modern Times".

Dates:

2022... Sept 13, 20, 27, Oct 4, 22, 18, Nov 1, 8, 15, 22,

2023...Jan 10, 17, 24, 31, Feb 7, 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21

Photography– This is a new group which has started and will take advantage of the better weather in the next few months, If this is an interest of yours, or if you would like to try it out and would like to arrange to meet with the other like-minded folk of this Group, send an email to this newsletter. pam-brown@milford-u3a.org.uk (temporary contact).



Potential New Groups

Preparation for the next Milford u3a Programme will begin this month. **If we do not have a volunteer to lead a group, it will not be on the programme and will not be visible to attract new group members.** To be a leader is to be the contact between your Group and your local u3a Committee. You will have a u3a email address so that enquiries from potential new members will not be through your own email address. You will be welcome to contact the Branch committee members for any help or information you need.

Leaders will need to come forward in April for entry into the new Programme for 2022/3

Boules This is an excellent outdoor game that can run during the spring, summer, autumn and winter too, weather permitting, and so it could begin now. The venue for this Group is a beautiful open space at Milford, with lovely trees and free parking. This is a game, suitable for all ages – no running required. Rules, Equipment and advice will be available. Contact needed for the Programme in April. Contact: David Murrell: programme@milford-u3a.org.uk.

Watts Gallery



Becoming an active member of the U3a is one way of enriching our lives through learning and socialisation, but there are other volunteering opportunities that can also help, a recent one came to light...Watts Gallery at Compton are looking for new volunteer stewards to help them in the galleries, studios and house at Watts Artist Village. This may perhaps be of interest to our History Groups. Celia.Hodges@wattsgallery.org.uk

Fund Raising Afternoon
With Margaret Watson, Harpist
Sunday 24th April, 3.00pm
At St Marks Community Centre, Godalming
Tickets £5.00
All proceeds to St Peter and St Paul and St Marks Churches

Featured Groups

Monday and Wednesday Table Tennis Groups



Table Tennis

Have you played table tennis in the past and thought about taking it up again? If so, we'd be delighted if you would like to come along and join in. We play doubles with an element of competitiveness, rotating as much as possible so that everyone gets as many games as they want. We also have coffee & biscuits and generally time for a chat! So, all in all, a good way to start the week! Here are the details:

When: Every Monday morning from 9.30 till 11.30/12 pm

Where: St Mark's Community Centre, Franklyn Road, Milford GU7 2LD

Contact: Lloyd Dingle - lloydbdingle@outlook.com



All contributions to the Newsletter gratefully received, For example:
 Group news: What difference has Covid made to you and your group?
 Group member's photographs, successes, funny or calamitous happenings. Your plans for our next u3a year etc. The closing date for contributions for the May Issue is Tuesday 26th April 2022.

pam-brown@milford-u3a.org.uk



Book Choice 4

We started the group in 2019 when six of us got together to form a new reading group as the other Book Groups were full. We had some good reads, got to know each other, then we went into lockdown.



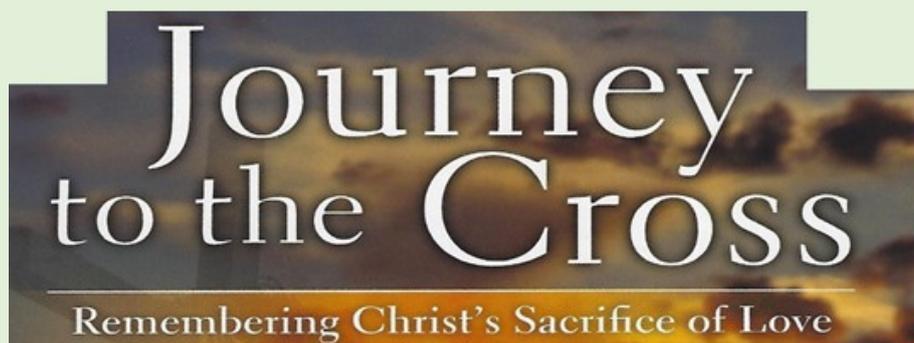
One of the ladies offered to use her IT skills and we continued to meet on Zoom. This was great as we continued to meet on the same day and time over a cup of tea. It was easy to use this system, one person acts as host and sends out the email with the information and we all just logged on. It's not the same as meeting in person so as soon as we could meet outside we did so, we used our gardens for our meetings and what a delight, to sit in the sun and enjoy our gardens over tea and cake with friends. Keeping the group together using Zoom meant we continued our friendship.

We now meet in Squires over tea, where cake is available, to discuss our reads. We have had two new members who joined us at the last meeting. Each person chooses a book for the group and to give you an idea of some of book choices:-

Anatomy of a Soldier, The Beekeeper of Aleppo, American Dirt, Black Water Lilies, The Secret Life of Cows, The Spy and The Traitor, Mr Mac and Me, A Single Thread, A Discovery of Witches and many more.

Our current read is The Book of Lost Children which we will discuss in April and for May we will read A Novel Deaf Sentence. If this has inspired you to join us, do contact me about coming along to one of our meetings, see if we suit you. catherine.maxwellmiles@milford-u3a.org.uk

Milford and District U3A Singers
Presents



An Easter Compilation, with extras
2.30 pm on Palm Sunday, 10th April 2022
St John the Evangelist Church
Church Road, Milford, GU8 5JA

Guest violinist, Connie Chatwin and members of the Lammas Ringers

Do come and spend an hour or so listening to this wonderful music.

There will be a retiring collection in aid of the running expenses of this beautiful village church.