

Milford & District u3a Monthly Newsletter

September 2022



Summer

Content:Chairman's Message, **Friday Talk**, **U3a 40th Birthday Celebrations**, **Welcome to our new Outings Organiser**,Group News, Volunteers still needed, New Groups, Message from Membership Secretary,Website.Message from Outings Organiser

Chairman's Message



We have had a steady stream of members signing up again this year, as we look forward to our new season. Although most members will have a specific interest or hobby, the fact that we have a flat rate membership fee gives people the opportunity to try something new. I would remind members to contact the Group Leaders to find out details of how the Groups work, and then confirm with them,that they will join the Group this year, once they have renewed membership,We hope to announce an Outing programmes shortly after a hiatus of a few years, so please look out for details in the forthcoming Newsletters.

On the 17th September we celebrate 40 years of the u3a in the UK, with our u3a Celebration which during the afternoon has a concert incorporating contributions from our **Singing for Fun**, and **Poetry for Everyone** Groups, preceded by a **Quiz**. This will be followed by the cutting of the **Anniversary cake** and refreshments. There will also be posters and projected displays of other groups' activities.

John Oakey chair@milford-u3a.org.uk

The purpose of life, is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear, for newer and richer experience.' Eleanor Roosevelt .



MONTHLY FRIDAY AFTERNOON TALK on 9TH SEPTEMBER

SENSORY SERVICES 'SIGHT FOR SURREY' by Brian Palmer



Sight for Surrey is celebrating 100 years of helping and supporting people in Surrey with a sensory loss! Help us mark our Centenary Year with exciting events, fundraising challenges and your chance to make a difference. We're here for you and your family, delivering specialist, hands-on, practical services tailored to your needs. We want to inspire you to take small steps today and achieve the breakthroughs of tomorrow.

WE WELCOME OUR NEW OUTINGS ORGANISER SUE LOSSON



Sue Losson has agreed to be our Outings Organiser. Sue is very welcome and will be a valuable member of our Branch.

Sue brings a lot of experience to this position, but she is eager to know what your wishes are. Where would you like to go, and what do you want to see or experience?

You can contact Sue on: outings@milford-u3a.org.uk.

Please see Page 8 for a message from Sue Losson



U3a is 40 years old!

Hooray!!!

Come and join our celebrations!

It all started in France as the *Université du Troisième Age*, attached to a university in Toulouse, and in 1982 something similar was set up in the UK, as a separate entity and not attached to any university.

Since then it has gone from strength to strength, and there are some 1057 – **yes! One Thousand and Fifty Seven!!** – local u3a's across the country, with something in the region of 450,000 members.

Membership is open to all who are no longer in full-time work – there are no age limits and it doesn't cost the earth!

And if you want to get an idea of what we get up to, then come and see us at **Milford Village Hall** (Portsmouth Road, Milford GU8 5DS) on our

CELEBRATION DAY

on

Saturday 17 September

from 12 noon
(and it's free)



There'll be exhibitions and slide shows showing what we do – There'll be a fun **Quiz**, with our resident Quizmaster - Our **Singing for Fun Group** with the **Poetry for All Group**, will put on a programme for your enjoyment during the afternoon - and there'll be tea/coffee etc - and I have heard that there will be a **special 40th Birthday cake!!** And who knows what else!

So go on! Give it a try!! You know you want to!!!



Wildfires

The MET has confirmed that July was the driest July in Surrey since records began 200 years ago. The rainfall has been lower than any other July since 1976. Half of August was dry too. Our reservoirs are depleted by our use of the water and from evaporation. We are now in 'drought'.

We love the heathlands around our area. When we smelt the smoke from the fire at Hankley Common, on 4th July we were alerted to the local danger. Local firemen are keeping watch on it, as well as on the many other heathlands around us.

Gardens have suffered from the early demise of summer flowers. Plants can be replaced, but not the birds, bees and butterflies that depend on them.

It's still too dangerous to light even small fires of the garden rubbish which has accumulated, because the wind can catch a spark and take it to the hay which is on our lawns and verges. The Witley TIP near Milford roundabout (A283) offers free disposal of it.

New Groups

Coffee Morning Group

Via Zoom

Fortnightly - Tuesday 11.00am -12 noon One hour

A fortnightly meeting for anyone who would like to bring a cup of coffee to a lively online meeting to exchange news. Of course, other beverages are allowed too.



Purpose – Communication, sharing. Listening and responding, using the voice and the smile, which we can lose if we don't use.

Learning – within sharing news and ideas or experiences: of visits or a happening – recommending a good book etc.

Using Zoom to be able to see and talk to friends. Help with zoom connecting, easily explained.

Contact: pam-brown@milford-u3a.otg.uk

"History of European Architecture: Gothic 1100-1500"



Alan Bott, as a new group leader, has volunteered to run a group starting in 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

Telephone: 01483 416546

Current Affairs



Our Current Affairs Group is no longer active because Robert had to give up his excellent stewardship. This is sad for all those members who previously belonged to it. The sessions were always interesting, frequently lively and thought provoking.

I would be happy to help to continue Current Affairs if one or two like-minded members would give me a hand to organise things and to cover for me when I am not able to be there. Do please let me know if this could be you!

To get an idea of how much interest there is I'd also welcome a note from anyone who would like to attend.

Mike Perrin.....Contact: 01483 24544....07976645187 misperrin47@hotmail.co.uk

Fascinating Fungi



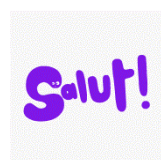
Sara Shepley will be guiding us through the local countryside on walks to discover some of the thousands of fungi which exist, many of them locally. She says that...

There are over 2000 species of fungi in this country and locally we can find a good variety of them. These walks are for anyone who would like to explore the world of Turkey Tails, Destroying Angels and Cavaliers and find out a bit more about them.

Autumn is the best time to look for fungi and we should find a wide range from brackets to jelly fungi. One word of caution though - these walks are not intended to be about identification of edible species, so if that is your main interest, please don't

sign up! Sara-shepley@milford-u3a.org.uk

French Conversation



French Conversation: for anyone who can already hold a reasonable conversation in French and would like the opportunity to practise.

At St. John's Church Hall, fortnightly, on the 1st and 3rd Mondays in the month from 10.00 – 12.00 noon. Beginning on Monday, 5th September.

Subsequent dates in 2022

September: 5th and 19th

October: 3rd and 17th

November 7th and 21st

December 5th and 19th if enough people are able to come...it's a bit close to Xmas Day, so may have to be cancelled if too few people can attend.

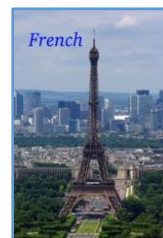
2023 dates

The first Monday of 2023 is 2nd January. This may be too soon after New Year celebrations for some people. We will make a decision about whether to start on the first Monday or the 3rd Monday (16th) at our final 2022 meeting.

Please note

Because we are going to meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, there will be one or two occasions when there is an interval of 2 weeks as opposed to just 1, in between meetings. This happens between October and November 2022, and then again between January and February 2023. In order to keep the '1st and 3rd Mondays' scenario intact, we will just absorb these discrepancies. 'Eager Beavers' can always be given homework!

Contact: 01483 861640



Spanish Group Contact pam-brown@milford-u3a.org.uk
I regret that the address given in the Programme is incorrect

Photography for Pleasure



This new group is for anyone who enjoys photography and getting out with the camera. The type of camera is unimportant, preferably digital, but any photographic equipment welcomed from a Smartphone upwards. All that is required is a desire to take pictures and have some creative fun.

Contact: Sue Allen 07393 984148



Website – Milford and District u3a

The Website is the window to our activities. It can show the latest information on the new programme or report on a meeting or Group news. September is a New u3a year. Would you like to refresh your news? If so contact: webmaster@milford-u3a.org.uk

A Message from your Membership Secretary...Lavinia Martins

A big 'thank you' to those of you who have already renewed your membership for 2022/23 and a gentle reminder to others that payment within the next couple of weeks would be appreciated. Please let me know if you do not intend renewing this year, then I won't bombard you with reminders.

With a few exceptions, payment using the Beacon Portal has been working well; failure to log in is almost always as a result of not inputting your information exactly as set out in the renewal invitation letter sent to you on 8th August. Any errors can be corrected subsequently, but the system only recognises the information as it is held on the membership database. As I have said before, if you are willing to 'have a go' and need any help, I will be more than happy to talk you through the process. I can also send you a fresh invitation letter if you cannot locate the original.

Here is an example of how to enter your details in the boxes:

Membership No	1234	Postcode	AB1 2DE (note the space between the two
Forename	John		groups).
Surname	Smith	Email address:	john.smith@.....

Contact: 01483 273360 Email: membership@milford-u3a.org.uk



Passing

With sadness, we regret to report on the death of Frances Jackson. Many will remember her from her work and her companionship on a number of Outings.

Facebook

How do I search for the Milford & District Facebook Group? Assuming you're a member of Facebook, here are the steps:

1. Go to Facebook
2. Type Milford & District U3A in the search bar
3. That's all. It couldn't be easier!

A Message from our new Outings Organiser – Sue Losson

In a moment of madness at the AGM I offered to organise outings for you! So, here's hoping I find visits that will be enjoyed but I would be very happy to receive ideas of places that you would like to see.

I live in Godalming and am on the committee of the very active Busbridge Evening WI where I help to arrange speakers, fund raising events and outings.

The first tour is planned to visit The Poppy Factory in Richmond on Thursday 10th November.

Explore the home of Remembrance in Richmond as The Poppy Factory marks its centenary in 2022. Discover the story of the people behind the poppies at the charity's new visitor centre and exhibition.

Established in the aftermath of the First World War, The Poppy Factory developed into a community of wounded and injured veterans and their families. You can see how veterans still make Royal and regimental wreaths by hand and have a go at making your own poppy. Today, The Poppy Factory is a national charity that supports veterans with health conditions on their journey into all kinds of employment.

As part of your visit, you'll enjoy a delicious Factory Tea-break served by veteran baristas, with freshly baked cakes served by in-house artisan bakers. 'Teabreak' is a hot drink and a poppy cupcake/ slice of cake baked fresh onsite.

We arrive at 3pm and the visits are usually 90 minutes, there is a maximum of 50.

Please email: outings@milford-u3a.org.uk if you would like to join this interesting tour.

The cost of the coach is dependent on numbers but with entry and tea it should be around £30.

I look forward to meeting you.

Sue.



Newsletter - The Closing Date for the October Newsletter is 26th September.