

Milford & District u3a Monthly Newsletter



2022

Content: Chairman's Message, Remembrance Sunday, Outing to Poppy Factory, **Friday Talk**, Volunteers still needed, Group News:

Chairman's Message



Our Groups are now up and running, and you should have confirmed your membership number with your Group leader.

A number of our groups still have vacancies so please contact the Group leaders to find out the position.

Our first Outing for several years will be in November. Please look out for more outings in the Newsletters in the coming months.

As ever our Monthly Meeting programme is underway, and I look forward to seeing more of you as you attend these and the year progresses.

John Oakey



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

13TH November 2022
St Peter & St Paul Church,
Godalming:

10.00 Service of Remembrance
10.45 Act of Remembrance at the Godalming War
Memorial at the Philliips Memorial Park.

A Parade of Veterans and Veteran Representatives will follow

To confirm exact timing, contact:
www.godalming-tc.gov.ok/remembrance-in-godalming-2022/



OUTINGS ORGANISER, SUE LOSSON

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. We arrive at 3pm and the visits are usually 90 minutes. **We can only run this OUTING if we have enough members to cover the costs. If you find yourself able to join this Outing it is not too late to email: outings@milford-u3a.org.uk without delay if you would like to join this interesting tour.** The cost of the coach is dependent on numbers, but with entry and tea should be around £30.*



**FRIDAY AFTERNOON TALK
NOVEMBER 11th**

‘BOOMERANG MYTHS’

by Sean McKenna-Slade

The Story of the British Boomerang Society

Find out how to make one.

Tea and cake £1



Short report of October's Friday talk:

Carbon Neutrality: Waverley's response to the Climate Emergency –

This was a lively presentation by Cllr. Steve Williams and Fotini Vickers, the Sustainability Officer at Waverley Borough Council.

There were 50 members present and interaction between them and the speakers was ongoing after the talk ended. It was obviously a subject which resonated with us!

Waverley Borough Council Carbon Action Plan

Key Priorities and Targets

Changes in climate are already happening and Waverley will look to mitigate the impact it has already caused.

Waverley Boro Council have set out the targets areas of their Plan. These are the areas covered by the talk.

- 1.Focus on Organisational Emmissions
- 2.Focus on Active Travel and Air Quality.
- 3.Focus on Energy Generation
- 4.Focus on the Built Environment (Housing, Planning).
5. Fous on Waste and Resources
6. Focus on Land Use and Adaptation
- 7.Focus on Supporting a Green Economy

Gillian Martin - Speaker's Secretary.

NEXT FRIDAY AFTERNOON TALK....11TH November 2022



BOULES

Pam Figg, has retired from our Boules Group. She has given her Boules equipment to the Chairman. This equipment includes some boules and instructions. We have a ready made pitch still available, with free parking.

Appeals for a Leader to take over the Group from Pam have been made many times in this newsletter.

If we cannot find a Leader to run a new group very soon in this u3a branch, the equipment will be passed to another Branch.

Milford & District u3a Singers

A CHRISTMAS CRACKER

Shows to get you in the mood for this magical time of year



2.00 p.m.

Sunday 4 December



**Church of St John the Evangelist,
Church Road, Milford GU8 5HQ**



AND

2.00 p.m.



Sunday 11 December

**Church of St John the Evangelist,
St John Street, Farncombe GU7 3EJ**

There will be a completely voluntary retiring collection in aid of church funds



U3A Current Affairs Group: A Special Meeting, October 27th 2022



We are a new Group. We aim to be “an open minded, courteous forum where everyone can freely and comprehensively discuss local, national and international issues”. We may seek outside expertise, as was the case today.

At our first meeting last month we talked about Waverley's Godalming Regeneration Project, decided there was a distinct lack of information and had the good fortune to be able to have Mark Merryweather, the Waverley councillor who is the Financial Portfolio holder, come to our second meeting today to speak to us.

As there is so much interest the meeting was, we believe for the first time, thrown open to all U3A members.

There was a capacity turnout of 45 people.

This large number brought home to us the impossibility of meeting our goal of a proper discussion for all, with everyone taking a full part. As we are already well subscribed, we have therefore stopped taking on new members. It may well be that our optimum number is as little as for the Book Groups.

Despite the attendance, in today's limited format - Presenter, Audience, Q&As - there was a worthwhile exchange of hard facts, from Mark, constructive views from the attendees and answers from Mark.

Mark started with an overview of the structure of local government, which lead to the services Waverley provides and then a drill down to an analysis of Waverley's spending power, a view of a base line Waverley balance sheet and various scenarios for future, balanced budgets.

We were taken aback by how restrictive the disposal of the council's income is, by the struggle to maintain adequate funding and worse, that Central Government support may shortly be zero and thereafter even reversed: Waverley may well be forced to fund Central Government. Furthermore, there is even less certainty than usual around Central Government's future policy. To cap it all, the situation will deteriorate as the UK's economic position worsens.

Among many fascinating insights we found out that rates are not only mandated by Central Government but that Waverley retains just 5% of the income, so gets all the opprobrium of the tax collector with very little benefit.

With Mark's extensive experience of the imperatives for enterprises around the world it was suggested no commercial organisation would ever accept such a restricted, unstable and in some respects, illogical financial environment.

First up Mark stressed that, appearances perhaps to the contrary, Waverley's current ideas are not definitive. What is happening at present is a consultation: each and every view will be listened to and seriously considered.

The Council Offices in the Burys, built in the 1970s, are now in an advanced state of decrepitude, with a damp, leaking roof, very poor insulation (there was a heartfelt interjection from someone who works there that the offices are far too hot in the summer and freezing in the winter) and there are even asbestos problems. Restoring the offices to an acceptable state will require a considerable sum.

Many options have been considered.

Bearing in mind the dire financial situation, the huge rise in energy costs and the state of - and cost of running - the council's offices, Waverley's idea is to use part of Crown Court car park – which they own, and will continue to do so

- to build and own rental housing which will be affordable to essential local workers and with some public parking spaces retained, and
- to build a two storey public car park in the Burys, adjacent to and no higher than the current council building and partially concealed by trees.

Waverley's commitment is that there will be at least as many car parking spaces as before.

The implication was that this approach would

- generate the wherewithall to resuscitate the Council's offices,
- would save not only huge amounts of money on energy etc but
- also provide a significant reduction in carbon emissions and
- would provide Waverley with a long term income stream which would be entirely under their own control.

This latter part of the presentation was not received with undiluted enthusiasm by the meeting, due perhaps to the perception that we were being presented with a *fait accompli*, despite the speaker's earlier remarks, and the concern that this approach loses the town the visual link from the town to the park, the river and the Lammis Lands beyond.

A lively discussion ensued with many more or less vehement views and alternative ideas put forward.

After the usual two hours, including a break for tea and biscuits, the meeting was closed. Mark stayed on for as long as needed for further discussions with all interested attendees.

We were appreciative of Mark's open, very well informed and frank approach to what by any measure is a very challenging situation.

We went home with much to reflect on.

Mike Perrin: mike-perrin@milford-u3a.org.uk

Mark Merryweather's slides can be seen on our website: [Waverly Issues & Finance](#)

Photography for Pleasure

Thank you, Sue Allen for the photographs of the U3a 40th Anniversary, which we used in the October Issue of the Newsletter.



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. This group meets on the 3rd Friday in the month.

Contact: Sue Allen... sue-allen@milford-u3a.org.uk07393 984148

u3a Online Learning Events....'OK we're online....Now what?'

The National u3a have Zoom Online Learning Events which are like going to a Talk as we do every month in our own u3a branch. You can sign on for these, without payment. They are run by the u3a for the u3a. If you would like to receive notice of further events online, offering a variety of subjects: Hold down the CTRL button on your keyboard and Click the link below:

[Online Zoom programmes](#)



Newsletter



If you know of someone who doesn't get this Newsletter, for example, because their Internet connection, laptop, tablet or iPad are not working – Contact: Membership Secretary Lavinia Martins for a temporary postal arrangement to receive a copy by post.

Lavinia Martins 01483 273360 or email: membership@milford-u3a.org.uk

*If you need to learn more about your digital device –Contact the **Webmaster, Bob Fearnley:** webmaster@milford-u3a.org.uk*

The Newsletter is yours: to share the news of your groups and to show those who don't belong to it what they are missing, to show our members what is available beyond what they can read in the Programme, and to celebrate and share the pleasure you get from your group.

It doesn't have to be the leader who sends in a short article. When you do send in an article, will you try to get the group members involved in some action in a photograph, if you can, please. I really want to use active, real-life pictures of our u3a.members in action. pam-brown@milford-u3a.org.uk

The Closing Date for entries in the December Newsletter is Wednesday 28th November.