

Milford & District u3a Monthly Newsletter



December 2022

Chairman's Report



We have now had three months of the new u3a year, and I am pleased to report that we have groups which are broadly covering the topic areas we had pre-Covid. There are of course minor changes as a few Group Leaders have cut back slightly, and a few new Groups have started. .

The success of the u3a depends on having a diverse programme and the Group leaders enable this to happen. However, as Group Leaders get older, they may have finished a cycle with a topic, or simply have decided it is time to cut back. It requires existing as well as new members to take up the gauntlet from a retiring Group Leader in leading the subject area forward, or to pick up a new topic.

I would like to point out there are many subject advisors within the national u3a organisation that can help. So if there are people who might be interested in starting a new Group such as Backgammon, Film, Jazz or Sociology to name but a few, there are people to help.

No doubt many of you will have some Christmas events to attend to in December, and the Singing for Fun group has two concerts during the month, one in Milford the other Farncombe.



As this will be last newsletter for the year, I would like to wish members, on behalf of the Committee, a Happy Christmas, and an even better 2023.

John Oakey



FRIDAY AFTERNOON TALK....9th December 2022

HARP AND HOLLY A RETURN VISIT FROM Margaret Watson,



The Versatile Harpist



A Big Thank You to Milford u3a Group Leaders. Thank you to all our Group Leaders for the inspirational efforts they all put in to making Milford and District u3a the vital Branch that it is.



Have you ever thought of our u3a as a DIY CLUB?

It is a bit like that. A member who has special knowledge because of occupation before retiring, or has an interest, a skill, or hobby, offers to share this knowledge with the other members of his/her u3a Branch.

Then he/she will also see that there are other people who are offering to share something which he/she would like to know more about, and so he signs up to a group being led by someone else.

That is how the u3a exists.

Without volunteer Group Leaders, there would be no u3a. How many members of our Branch are hiding a gift that could be shared with the rest of us, and thereby could be keeping our Branch as a very lively one? The u3a is like an international group of DIY 'clubs' that have created a third age life purpose for many people, and a life saver for many too. The lifesaving of many u3a's is endangered now from loss of members and Group Leaders. The whole u3aorganisation suffered from the covid pandemic, with many people still reluctant to meet in groups, **but we mustn't lose this wonderful organisation. The choice is ours.**



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



Outings Thursday 16th February 10.30 – 15.30

The next outing planned is to see the stunning **snowdrops at Welford Park, near Lambourn**. You only need to stroll around the beech wood at Welford Park taking in the spectacular carpet and breathing the delicate scent to know this natural phenomenon is very special. Galanthus is the Greek name for snowdrop. This derived from “gala” for milk and “anthus” for flower, and through the ages they have held their own in the ever-growing world of horticulture. You will see a collection of rare galanthus cultivars in the formal garden, heavenly white blooms covering woodlands, riverbanks and lime tree avenues.



There is a marquee serving hot drinks, homemade cakes, homemade soup and a selection of light lunches. There is also a shepherd's hut on the front lawn serving hot drinks.

We need a minimum of 20, cost to be confirmed but for the coach, entrance, drivers tip and a cup of tea or coffee it is expected to be between £26.00 to £32.00.

Sue Losson outings@milford-u3a.org.uk

Cutting Your Energy Bills



In the absence of government guidance, Stewart Edge and Philip Oliver of the Farnham u3a Climate Change Group offer the following advice:

1. Draughts. Walk round the house with a candle and look for drafts. If you've an unused open fireplace, buy a chimney balloon to block it up. Heat loves a chimney as an escape route from your house. Fit new seals to any leaky windows and doors and fit a brush flap over your letterbox. Drafts will cool your house very quickly.
2. Insulation. If you can, insulate your roof space with 11" of insulation, (3 or 4" is not enough) and stick some solid foam on top of the loft hatch. Glass is a bad insulator so double or triple glazed windows help a lot. You can buy and fit interior glazing kits ('secondary glazing') now for many windows. You can remove some of them in the summer.
3. Space heating. Don't heat rooms you don't use. Turn the radiator valve off and shut the doors. Set your room temperatures to a level you are comfortable with when wearing a sensible amount of clothing. Bedrooms should be cooler than living rooms. If you have a condensing boiler lower the flow temperature to your radiators. To do this, locate the thermostat on the boiler (not the room thermostat) which is marked for heating. On some boilers there is only one, on others there is one for Hot Water and one for Heating. Some boilers have a flap hiding these controls. Turn the Heating temperature down a little each day until you are unhappy with it then turn it up a bit. (Around 50deg will probably work best.) In so doing you will force the boiler to start condensing if it isn't doing so, and this alone will reduce your heating bill by 5-10%.
4. Bleed your radiators. A key for this will cost you a pound and will save many times this. Simply feel if the radiator is hot all the way from top to bottom. If there's more than a small drop from bottom to top there will be air in it. Use the key on one end of the top of the radiator and open the valve slowly (anticlockwise) and you will hear the air hiss out. Hold a towel under the valve and close the valve when the hissing stops and bubbles appear.

5. Hot water. This is nearly always too hot. If you have to add cold water, it probably is. If you have a combi boiler (no tank), then on the boiler (often under a flap) is a HW temperature control. Keep turning it down a few degrees each day until you are not happy with the hot water temperature, then turn it up a bit. If you have a tank, the hotter the tank the faster it loses heat. Make sure the tank has a jacket (or two). Again, turn the HW control down but not too low as you need the return temperature to be 50C or above to avoid Legionnaire's disease.

6. Boilers. Have your boiler serviced regularly by a trusted, recommended, boiler engineer. Ask them if weather compensation is on: this moderates the temperature of the water in your radiators depending on the outside temperature and will save you 5+% of your bill.

7. Lights. Change to low energy LED light bulbs. They will pay for themselves in less than a year and can now be fitted to all the common fittings.

8. Electrical items - Freezers and Fridges run 24 hours a day. If you are buying a new one buy A++ energy rating: a good fridge freezer will cost £40 a year to run - a bad one nearly £200. Don't overload fridges and freezers. Chest freezers are better as the cold air doesn't fall out every time you open the door. A chest freezer in a garage is best of all. Don't position them next to hot things, notably boilers or cookers. Keep the door seals clean, and keep the back dusted if you can get at it as the dust slows the cooling of the radiator on the back.

9. Cooking Microwave cookers are the most efficient and induction hobs are very good. Ranges and Agas are very wasteful. Slow cookers and pressure cookers (remember them?) are excellent. Only fill the kettle with the water you need!

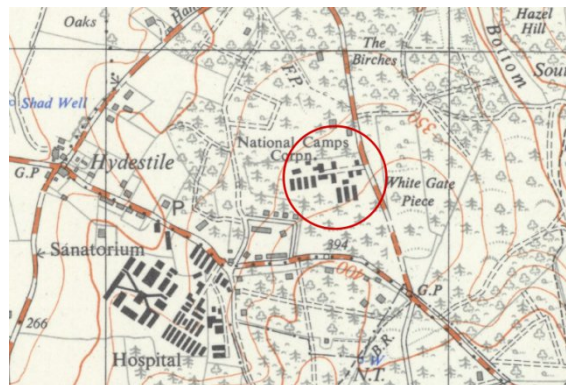
10. Dishwashers, Washing machines and tumble dryers. Run the washing machine and the dishwasher only when they are full. Tumble dryers are very expensive to run, use a wire drying rack if you can and put it outside if it's not raining!

Can you help this U3A member?

Chris Frost lives in a house that he was once told started life as a hut in a First World War Prisoner-of-War (POW) camp that was situated near Hydon's Ball. He understands that the hut was moved to its present location in the 1920's when the POW camp was being dismantled and that at one time there were several of these huts scattered around the area.

In 1969 Chris's parents bought a small farmhouse in the Godalming area which included this hut in its grounds. At that time there was an elderly soldier living in the hut and it was this soldier who told Chris where the hut had come from.

Chris would like to hear from anyone who may have information about the POW camp as he has tried and failed to discover any more about it. The photo shows the hut as it was when some restoration work was being carried out and the map shows what is believed to be the location of the camp.



If you have any further information please contact: webmaster@milford-u3a.org.uk

There are three good reasons as to why Jesus was black:

He called everyone brother
He liked Gospel
He didn't get a fair trial.

But there were equally good reasons as to why Jesus was Jewish

He went into his father's business
He lived at home until he was thirty-three
He was sure his mother was a Virgin and his mother thought he was God.

But then there were three equally good arguments that Jesus was Italian

He talked with his hands
He drank wine with his meals
He used olive oil.

But then there were equally good arguments which say that Jesus was a Californian

He never cut his hair
He walked barefoot all the time
He started a new religion

But there were three equally good arguments to say that Jesus was an American Indian

He was at peace with nature
He ate a lot of fish
He talked about the Great Spirit

But whatever his nationality, the most compelling evidence of all consists of three proofs that Jesus was a woman:

He fed a crowd at a moment's notice when there was virtually no food
He kept trying to get a message across to a bunch of men who just didn't get it
And even when he was dead, he had to get up because there was still work to do.

Newsletter

I have been producing The Newsletter for just over a year. Would you like to suggest changes for our next New Year 2023? Are you able to read it online? If not, contact our Membership Secretary Lavinia Martins 01483273360.

The Newsletter is yours. I will be waiting to have a note about anything that would help you, or for news of your Group that you could share with all the members. Pamela Brown.

pam-brown@milford-u3a.org.uk



The Closing Date for entries for the January 2023 Newsletter is 28th December 2022