

Milford & District u3a Monthly Newsletter



February 2023

Content: Chairman's Message, Outing to see snowdrops at Welford Park, Friday Talk, Opera for All. New Roving Photographer, Group News- Digital workshop, Mixed Media Arts Group, Spanish Group. Cycling Groups, Virtual u3a.

Our website: www.milford-u3a.org.uk

Chairman's Message



The u3a is a voluntary organisation and therefore to maintain its vigour we need people to actively participate, as well as to attend functions.

Many of our members are part of Group Leadership teams, have Committee roles, or provide assistance at events such as the Monthly meetings. After many years of leading various successful Groups we have a number of our more senior members, that for a variety of reasons, are unable to lead Groups next year.

Although we have a few people stepping forward to help out, in practice, a Group of our size needs between five and eight people coming forward to take up the mantle of either leading a Group where the leader is retiring, lead a new Group or advise how they could help in some other way.

If you are in a Group where the leader is retiring, now is the time to think, "could I help in some way", it is often hard to replace a Group Leader who has not only great knowledge, but also good presentational skills, but perhaps there is another way of maintaining the interest. As an example: in several areas, Groups which started out as looking at the "History of Jazz" have morphed into Jazz appreciation Groups, where people play their various collections.

For new Groups, the best way for members to find what general level of interest there would be in a topic, is to put a message in the newsletter. *John Oakey*

We welcome a new Publicity Manager to the Committee. Liz Simmons will look for new ways to make our u3a branch become more widely known, and we hope increase its membership and grow in vitality, Liz would welcome any ideas you would like to suggest.

Contact her on liz-simmons@milford-u3a.org.uk

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, river banks 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 coach, entrance, driver's tip and a cup of tea or coffee, it is expected to be between £26.00 to £32.00...Contact: Sue Losson outings@milford-u3a.org.uk

FRIDAY AFTERNOON TALK....10th February 2023
Milford Village Hall at 2.00pm

The History of the Tower of London
 by
Alan Kingshot



Talk, tea, cake and conversation for £1.00

Welcome to February. The catkins are dancing, our Outing will show you the snowdrops, and the gardens are showing signs of bulbs coming though.

'All good things must come to an end.'

Michael Hartnall has decided, with great regret, that he has had to close his two Opera Groups because of ill health. There will be deep regret from the members of the Opera Groups, and from all of us who know him and have enjoyed the experiences he has created in his long leadership of our two opera groups.

He has presented well over 200 sessions and as each session has two distinct subjects, he has covered virtually all aspects of opera and widened the knowledge, and inspired enthusiasm and appreciation of this hugely beautiful and complex art form since 2006.

Michael says that he has benefited himself from running these groups, from the friendships made and from being able to share his enthusiasm with the members of his groups.

Thank you, Michael for your very long leadership of two groups, for all the research and study, and pleasure you have given so generously.

We all hope that someone who shares Michael's enthusiasm for opera will come forward to lead the groups again. Michael would give help to anyone who does so and he has numerous Power Point lectures and masses of opera DVDs available which he would be happy to share with a new leader.

Contact: Email: michael-hartnall@milford-u3a.org.uk.



Message from Lavinia Martins, Membership SecretaryChange of Contact Details....Please note that the number you should use to contact me with immediate effect is 07743 129886



Appeal for Photographs and a Roving Photographer.

We asked on the website and in the newsletter for a volunteer photographer.

And we got one!!!

Thanks to Sue Allen, leader of our Photography for Pleasure Group has volunteered to take photographs for our various Groups and to become our Roving Photographer. She may visit some of our groups to take some new photos, if you invite her.

This is an invaluable contribution to the website and to the newsletter and would add an appropriate fresh, new look for 2023. If you have any photos of your own of your Group's Activities, please continue to send them to me, editor pam-brown@milford-u3a.org.uk or to webmaster webmaster@milford-u3a.org.uk

If you would like to invite SUE ALLEN to take photos of your group in action, her contact is: sue-allen@milford-u3a.org.uk

Digital Workshop

A Computer Class with a difference.



A small (dare I say select?) group of six members from the Digital Workshop group met at the Burton Pavilion on Friday 13th January to learn how to install Linux using some older laptops.

What is Linux I hear you ask? It's a computer operating system that does all the things (and more!) that Windows does, and what's more, it does so without costing anything more than a little time and effort.

Considering the inauspicious date, we didn't do too badly: Two of the group managed to install Linux Mint (one 'flavour' of Linux) and get it running, one started the installation but ran out of time before it finished so took it home to complete, one didn't finish because there was something wrong with the source program, and one failed because the laptop was just too old for the version we were working with.

All those who attended enjoyed the session and said they had learned a lot and those who had installed it would continue to use it, and the others to get it installed.

No similar meetings are planned at the moment although I think one or more could prove useful in order to get these six members happily using Linux in place of Windows or an Apple laptop.

It's interesting to note that Linux is the basis of both the Apple and Android operating systems and runs a vast number of servers around the world.

Bob Fearnley – webmaster@milford-u3a.org.uk Tel: 07581419439.

Places available in the Creative Mixed Media Art group!!

The Creative Mixed Media Art group now has space for one or two new members.

Our group is open to beginners as well as to anyone who would like to work on their art projects alongside other creative individuals. Outings are regularly organised to exhibitions and galleries always including the option of lunch together!

You don't need to have fine art or drawing skills although it's wonderful if you do. Participants bring their own art materials but a list of useful basic equipment to start you off is available if you are just starting out. Suggestions, ideas and guidance are given throughout the term and power points, videos, art books and pictures are used. You may prefer to follow your own ideas and that's fine too. Come and join us, share ideas with others, make new friends and be part of our lively, imaginative, friendly and vibrant group. Contact Pam Dalton Williams 07790 893 622

Venue: Godalming Unitarian Church Hall, Meadow, GU7 3JB

Usually 1st and 3rd Thursday 2.00-4.00pm plus outings



Quiz Questions:

- Who were the 8 Tory candidates in the leadership election for a new Prime Minister to replace Boris Johnson?
- September 8th saw the passing of our much loved Queen Elizabeth II. She reigned for over 70 years. She had 15 Prime Ministers during her reign. How many can you name?
- Liz Truss took the record for the shortest serving Prime Minister (49 days). Do you know who held the record before her?

Answers on Page 8.



Review of the Friday Talk – ‘City Livery Companies’ on 13th January. By Sue Perrin

Michael Goodridge is a former Master of the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators (Arbitrators are people from many professions who deal with mediations between disagreeing parties). Mr Goodridge gave us a fascinating view of the development of the Livery Companies from the medieval Guilds, through to the 110 City Livery Companies of today.

The original Guilds were associations of people with common trades, who tended to live in proximity in the City of London, both for social reasons and for cooperative working. Today many City streets have names which reflect the Guilds that congregated there, such as Bread Street, Milk Street etc. The Guilds eventually became known as ‘Livery Companies’ from the cloths that draped their member’s coffins, which were embroidered with the ‘livery’ of the Guild. While some of the Livery Companies are very ancient, many reflect recent social developments, Mr Goodridge was Master of the Worshipful Company of Solicitors and now there is even a Worshipful Company of Information Technologists!

Of course, many of the medieval Companies were formed in a different era and have modified their interests accordingly – the Horners are now involved in Plastics and the Fan Makers deal with air conditioning!

Nowadays, much of the Livery Companies activities centre around charity work and Godalming has benefitted from the Livery Companies’ charitable activities. The Wyatt’s Close almshouses were originally set up by the Carpenters’ Company, the Skinners are landlords of part of Godalming High Street and Mr Goodridge’s own Arbitrators’ Company endow a sixth-form scholarship at King Edward’s School at Witley.

Our thanks to Mr Goodridge for a very entertaining insight into the history and modern life of the City

New Spanish Group



Spanish 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in the month 10.00 – 11.30am

ONLINE WITH ZOOM

You don’t have to have a zoom account for this. Just click on a message, that I will send to you, as you do to read an email.

Are you going to Spain or South America in the summer? This course will help to make you familiar with some of the situations you may expect to be in when you get there.

We shall use the BBC ‘Talking the Talk’ Spanish Course Book which comes with two CDs, so that you can listen to Spanish speakers, (listen in the car), and check the text. We will be as active as possible. Session times might be flexible to suit you. *Pam Brown*

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

Barcoded postage stamps

From 31st January 2023, regular everyday postage stamps with just the Queen's head on them will no longer be valid. The new stamps have a barcode added to the side of the stamp.

If you have a collection of unused old-style stamps, you can swap up to £200 worth of them for the new version at no cost to you. You will need to complete a Stamp Swap Out Form that can be downloaded from the Royal Mail website, (search online for *stamp swap out form is the easiest way to find it*). *This is then sent by Freepost, together with the stamps to be swapped. Royal Mail values your unused 1st and 2nd class stamps – even old ones – at 95p and 68p respectively.*

Special Issue stamps such as Christmas-themed and pictorial stamps will not be barcoded, do not need to be swapped and remain valid for postage



14th February St Valentine's Day



Monday & Wednesday Cycling Groups

The core members of these two groups met recently over coffee to plan some changes to the way the groups run. The main change is that instead of running through the winter from September to May (the usual U3A year) we will run from March to October, thus making good use of the better weather and the long summer evenings. Too many rides have been cancelled this winter due to the awful weather!

Another idea is to plan a Midsummer ride for the Wednesday group when we will cover a greater distance but with more rest stops, making it suitable for riders of all abilities. Perhaps we could include a midway stop at a convivial country pub!

We are very much mixed ability groups with a range of cycles, ability and experience and could, if the demand was there, organise shorter and easier routes for the less experienced rider.

The Wednesday group rides mainly on quiet roads, cycle tracks and bridle ways, commencing at 10:30 and covering 10-18 miles. The Monday group tends to avoid roads, making use of bridleways, paths and tracks through woods and the local commons, commencing at 14:30 and covering 8-12 miles.

Both groups are always looking for new members, so come on, enjoy fresh air, exercise and good company, all while exploring our local countryside!

Contact [Gertrud Sollars](#) about the Wednesday rides or [Bob Fearnley](#) about the Monday rides.

U3A video

By 2034 1 in 5 of the population of the UK will be over 65. 5% will be over 85. This is the link to an excellent u3a video talk on ageing by Professor Janet Lord of Birmingham University on 'Why we age and making ageing better.'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LymsUn5QzmM>



Virtual U3A

In 2009 the **Virtual University of the Third Age (vU3A)** was launched with the intention of offering the same friendship, support and learning enjoyed by off-line groups. vU3A is affiliated to the Third Age Trust in the UK. vU3A is open to anyone, in particular those who, by circumstances of isolation, health problems or other restrictions, cannot get to a U3A group.

Email info@u3a.org.uk. Telephone: **020 8466 6139**

Answers to Quiz Question on page 4.

1. Jeremy Hunt, Nadhim Sahawi, Suella Braverman; Tom Tugendhat; Kemi Badenoch; Penny Mordant; Liz Truss and Richi Sunak.
2. Winston Churchill; Anthony Eden; Harold McMillan; Alex Douglas-Home.; Harold Wilson; Ted Heath; James Callaghan; Margaret Thatcher; John Major; Tony Blair; Gordon Brown; David Cameron; Theresa May; Boris Johnson; Liz Truss
3. George Canning in 1827. He held the PM post for 119 days and died in office.

Newsletter Competition

The idea for this competition is that we could have groups contributing and making themselves known to the membership who attend the Friday Talks, at the same time, entertaining during the breaks in the programme.

No-one came forward for the February appeal! Can I ask again for the March Issue of the Newsletter?

A Newsletter Competition Prize £10.00 (But mostly for the glory!) for photos or a written description of the villages and spaces around the lovely area that the Milford and District u3a covers. Written entries can be in any form, a poem, short story, a memory, a description - a photograph in words. With an idea of sharing them by Display and Readings at our future Monthly Meetings.

*For publication in the next, March, Newsletter the closing date is **24th February 2023.***

Newsletter



Group Leaders. Do you know of anyone who doesn't get the Newsletter? If so, contact: our Membership Secretary Lavinia Martins for a temporary postal arrangement to receive a copy by post. Lavinia Martins email: membership@milford-u3a.org.uk

Please continue to send your Group News, or in fact anything that you would like to share with other members of our u3a to me, Pam Brown.

The Closing Date for all entries in the March Newsletter is Friday 24th February. This is a short month. pam-brown@milford-u3a.org.uk