

## Milford & District u3a Monthly Newsletter



**May 2023**

**Contents:** Chairman's Message, Friday Talk – '(Almost) Death in Paradise', Outing to Bamber, W, Sussex, AGM Review of Gilbert & Sullivan Talk, Potential Groups? Groups: Church Visits, Boules, Tennis, History of Arcgitecture, Online Coffee Mornings, Notices.

**Our website:** [www.milford-u3a.org.uk](http://www.milford-u3a.org.uk)

### Chairman's Message:



Although we have two Monthly Meetings to go, we are approaching the end of the season for many of our Groups.

I hope to see you at the AGM, and the following talk, when we can reflect on how the u3a has bounced back from the pandemic. In many ways we are in better shape than we were back in 2019, we have a flourishing newsletter and the Monthly Talks have, in the recent past, been well attended.

We have a broad range of Groups of which the membership of some is much higher than before as they go from strength to strength. We have a number of new groups which have been well received, but there are a number of formally well liked Groups which have closed due to the Group Leader having retired.

In some cases it is impossible to replace the Group Leader because they had a very detailed knowledge of the Subject, but looking at other u3a's there are Groups who set themselves up simply to enjoy or learn from one another by each member leading a meeting on something that they specifically enjoy. Such don't seek to replace the earlier Group, but keep the interest or hobby alive for members.

*John Oakey*



**Hello to the month of May!** It's springtime! The days are getting longer, the birds are singing and building, the trees are blooming, gradually turning green, and the rain keeps raining every day. That's spring in the UK for you.

We have much to look forward to, apart from the local celebrations like Morris Dancing - They will be saluting the spring on the 1<sup>st</sup> May at Guildford Castle - and we have the National celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

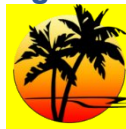
Your committee are preparing for the AGM on 12<sup>th</sup> May at Milford Village Hall at 2.00pm. Come and join your fellow members and celebrate Milford & District u3a. Vote for new committee members, Volunteer to help support the committee. If you have ideas to add to what we have on offer, have your say, suggest improvements, and offer ideas

for new group subjects. It's up to each of us what sort of u3a we have, it's a contributing organisation. Send your ideas to John, the Chairman and he will arrange it if it's possible.

Have you a hobby, or an idea for one that you could share with another one or two members? Our Photography for Pleasure Group began like that. A group can begin with just a few members getting together. I can introduce it in the Newsletter, the idea will spread, and others will join. There is plenty of advice available from your local committee. It really is up to us to keep Milford u3a alive, fun, and supportive.

We hear that '**Everything is online now**'. We have recognised that leaves a gap in social contact caused by the progress of digital communication. This effect is present, not only in our u3a, but in every u3a, and other organisations too. It is up to you to find out what is available in your u3a. If you are not online, Lavinia, your Membership Secretary (**07743 129886**), will send you a copy of the Newsletter, but she won't know you need it unless you ask her for it. The best opportunity to get back that social contact is by coming to the **Monthly Meeting. This is always on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at 2.00pm at the Milford Village Hall.** Gillian will engage a speaker and Tea and cake is available for £1. The next Talk, '**(Almost) Death in Paradise**', will be intriguing. *Pam Brown: Editor:*  
01252 702075

**FRIDAY AFTERNOON TALK on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023**  
**Milford Village Hall at 2.00pm**



**(Almost) Death in Paradise**  
**The Caribbean, Pirates and Rum**  
**A return visit by Neil Sadler**



Neil spent 30 years as a police officer. He started off "on the beat" in the exotic holiday resort of Bognor Regis in the 1970s. Much of his 30 years service was as an operational officer in various ranks across Sussex. He also worked briefly in Hong Kong, Trinidad and Abu Dhabi....and even survived Bognor Regis, Haywards Heath and Crawley!

## **OUTINGS**

**The next trip is planned for Wednesday 17th May to St Mary's Church & Gardens + English Martyrs Church, Bamber, Steyning, W. Sussex.**



St. Mary's Church & Gardens is an historic Pilgrim Inn c1450. The gardens cover 5 acres and include a rose garden, Terracotta garden, English Poetry Garden & Landscape Water Garden. We will have a private tour of the house which I can highly recommend. They also provide tea and cake from £3.00 - £5.00.

After lunch at Haskins Garden Centre Roundhouse, we visit the English Martyrs Church to see a 2/3 scale copy of the Sistine Chapel Ceiling, the only known copy in the world.

The price depends on the number of people, but I expect to be able to keep it to £30.00. *Sue Losson.* Please email your interest to: [outings@milford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:outings@milford-u3a.org.uk)

## AGM 12<sup>th</sup> May at 2.00pm

Our next Monthly Meeting will also be our AGM before the Talk at 2.00pm on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May and we ask you to use your vote to consider the re-election of present members of your committee. We are also looking for people to fill a number of roles which we believe will improve the service to members. If you would like to register an interest then there will be an opportunity during the AOB in the meeting, but if this is not possible, then please contact any committee member at any time. This will be followed up by contact from the chairman who will explain what's needed.

Group Co-ordinator –	Someone to liaise with Group Leaders, for example when a Group is full and they have to form a waiting list, to discuss whether, rather than having to disappoint new members, it may be possible to make other arrangements.
General Committee Member –	A general member who can help at those times when an extra hand is needed. As experience is gained he/she is likely to be assigned to help with some specific events
Vice Chair –	Someone who will deputise for the Chair at internal or external u3a Meetings. Can act as a second pair of eyes in assessing developments within the local as well as the regional u3a's
New Members Co-ordinator –	A person able to help new members, so that they get a personal welcome to the Branch and to offer information and help if required.

## Review of the Talk on April 14<sup>th</sup> on the Heritage of Gilbert and Sullivan

The Talk on Gilbert and Sullivan on April 14<sup>th</sup> by Bernard Lockett was very interesting. Bernard explained the story of this unlikely partnership between the brilliant and privileged man of words, librettist William S Gilbert, and the poor but gifted musician, Arthur Sullivan who set the music to Gilbert's fast and intricate words. The words contained outspoken phrases of political satire which poked fun at the establishment of the time. They created 14 operettas including, ***The Pirates of Penzance***, ***The Mikado***, ***Iolanthe***, and ***HMS Pinafore***. Bernard considered that their heritage is the development of Musical Theatre as we enjoy it today. They are the precursors of Rogers and Hammerstein and Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Bernard's words too were amazing. He spoke for the whole talk without notes, from profound knowledge of his subject.

## Potential Groups?????

This is a list of Group Subjects that I have found on other u3a programmes. If any of them appeal to you, and you think you could help with creating one of them in our Branch, or if there are other ideas that you can suggest, please reply to: the Newsletter: 01252 702075 or [pam-brown@milford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:pam-brown@milford-u3a.org.uk):

Mah Jong	Movement to Music	Scrabble	Theatre Group
Family History	MOTO – Members on Their Own	Short Stories	(Particular genre
Musical Choice	Pub Lunches	Swimming	Book Groups)
and, not to be left out: Canasta!			

## Groups

**Church visits** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 10.30 Virginia Bawden 07843 470217 [virginia-bawden@milford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:virginia-bawden@milford-u3a.org.uk)

I have taken on the long-standing and successful Church Visits groups from Pat Dodman and Elizabeth Burrows. We will continue to explore the architecture and history of local churches, and meet for a friendly coffee and chat afterwards. I am looking forward to visiting Surrey's churches, both big and small, and hope that you will join me and suggest your personal favourites. Existing and new members are welcome. For more information please call me on the above number

The dates for next year are as follows:

**19 September, 17 October, 21 November, 16 January, 20 February,  
19 March, 16 April.**

*Godalming Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul*



**Boules** A big thank you to everyone who came along for the first session of the new Boules group. Eight of us took part for an interesting afternoon in the car park at Burton Pavilion in Milford, sadly curtailed by a torrential downpour after an hour, although it gave us a chance for a chat over a cup of coffee.

We were a mixed group of very experienced players and complete novices (of which I am one). It is one of those sports that can be enjoyed by people at all levels of the game. I had never played before but was able to get involved in several games and enjoy the game and the social opportunities!

We have a spare set of boules if anyone would like to come along next time to give it a go. We will be playing throughout the summer on the first Thursday in the month 2.00 -4.00pm **Liz.**  
[liz-simmons@milford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:liz-simmons@milford-u3a.org.uk)

**Tennis** Every Tuesday Morning at Busbridge Tennis Courts from 10am until Midday.

What better time of year to head for the courts for a few games of tennis, maybe to get you in the mood for Wimbledon, which will be upon us before we know it!

Milford u3a run a wonderful, weekly tennis group at Busbridge, enthusiastically led by Martin Lee who has run this group for ten years now. There are a good number of participants who all have ample opportunity to get several games played during the course of the morning as they have 4 courts in use for the whole of the session.

There are usually a few moments where you may be able to catch your breath when the group stop for a chat and some refreshment half way through - but be prepared for a good morning's work out! New members of all abilities are always welcome. Please contact Martin on: [martin-lee@milford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:martin-lee@milford-u3a.org.uk).

**Sue Allen**



Don't tell your secrets in a garden: potatoes have eyes, corn has ears and beanstalk. Found in Secretts/Squire's Garden Centre, Milford



## History of European Architecture – Every Tuesday Morning from 10am to 12 noon at Rake Court, Milford.

I recently dropped in on this most fascinating group and happened to alight in the Italian Renaissance period where I was treated to an excellent talk, centred on Rome.

Alan Bott gives his time, his home and a huge wealth of knowledge for the benefit of all interested in the development of art and architecture through the ages. Some may know of Alan through the countless books he has written about churches in our area.

Alan starts the morning with a short revision on the previous week's talk (which was about Florence on this occasion). During my visit, he was discussing the development of the Renaissance period in Rome, all handsomely illustrated by dozens of slides.

Alan would welcome anyone who would like to attend these talks, although he will be re-starting the talks from the beginning, in September, which may be the best opportunity to enjoy the timeline that Alan illustrates. A truly interesting and superb opportunity to hear and learn about the development of European Architecture, which I cannot recommend highly enough. *Sue Allen*



## Coffee Morning Group

Via Zoom

Fortnightly - Tuesday 11.00am -12 noon One hour

A fortnightly meeting for anyone who wants 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, will be explained. **You don't have to have zoom on your computer, because I am the host.** Your access is by an emailed link as with reading emails.

Contact: [pam-brown@milford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:pam-brown@milford-u3a.org.uk)



## Digital problems?

If you need to learn more about your digital device –Contact: Webmaster, Bob Fearnley **01483 424475** or email: [webmaster@milford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@milford-u3a.org.uk)



## Roving Photographer.

**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. We are delighted by her visits this month. 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](mailto:sue-allen@milford-u3a.org.uk)

**The Closing Date for all entries into the June Newsletter is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023.** [pam-brown@milford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:pam-brown@milford-u3a.org.uk)