

Chair's Report



At our recent committee meeting, we identified that membership was down on previous years. Recognising that the significant new housing developments in and around Godalming will bring new people of all ages into our catchment area, we have set about exploring ways to attract their attention.

One suggestion considered by the committee, was to re-brand "The Milford and District u3a" as "Milford and Godalming u3a", in the hope this will appeal to and attract those living in Godalming.

Over the next few weeks you will receive an email/questionnaire asking for your views on the change of name. If there are no material objections to the proposal, we'll seek a formal vote at a Special Meeting on a date yet to be decided, possibly in November. Any final decision to change the name will only take place once every member has had the opportunity to vote. As a change of name would be a change to the Constitution, a two-thirds majority would be required.

Please email or phone me if you have any other suggestions or ideas, I'd love to hear from you.

Friday Talk

The new season got off to a great start with over 50 members and friends turning out on an unseasonably hot September afternoon to hear about the Crown Jewels. To complement the afternoon Linda Denningberg made "crown jewel" cupcakes which disappeared amazingly quickly! Thank you Linda.

As I mentioned last month, we trialled providing teas and coffees prior to the start of the meeting. My thanks to all those who responded to that invitation, it's heartening to know people read the Newsletter. After listening to attendees' views and taking into consideration the practicalities of providing refreshments prior to the speaker, from the October talk, we will return to serving coffees and teas after the talk has finished. Lisa

01483 421529 chair@milford-u3a.org.uk

Milford and District u3a Newsletter



October 2023

*October
October's the month
When the smallest breeze
Gives us a shower
Of autumn leaves.
Bonfires and pumpkins,
Leaves sailing down -
October is red
And golden and brown
Author unknown*

In Memoriam



It is with deep regret that we have to tell you of the death of our recent Branch Secretary Jacky Tickner.

Jacky has worked enthusiastically for our branch of the u3a for many years, until only a few months ago when she became ill and died in The Royal Surrey Hospital on Saturday, 2nd of September.

Our sympathy goes to all of Jacky's family, especially to her twin sister, Gillian Martin who arranges our Monthly Talks. Together they have been at the heart of this u3a and Jacky will be missed by us all.

Contents: Chair's Report, In Memoriam, Friday Talk 'The Farnborough Air Sciences Trust', Review of September Talk 'The Crown Jewels',

Group News: Groups inviting new members, Painting 2, Quiz Challenge, Coffee Time, u3a Interest Groups Online, Gardening Club, Chess, Natural World Lecture at Midhurst, algae warning: Frensham, Newsletter.

Website – Milford and District u3a

Webmaster. Bob Fearnley on
webmaster@milford-u3a.org.uk

The Monthly Friday Talk
13th October 2023 at
2.00pm
Milford Village Hall

Farnborough Air Sciences Trust
by
Peter Buckroyd



The Farnborough Air Sciences Trust, a registered charity, has campaigned successfully to save the most important aviation buildings on the former Royal Aircraft Establishment (RAE) site, and to make available to the public, the story of Farnborough's unique aviation history.

No other single location in the world has contributed so much to aeronautical science over more than a century than Farnborough.

Farnborough Airport has given us air shows, a museum, and visiting opportunities.

We can look forward to learning more from Peter Buckroyd about the Air Sciences Trust situated at our favourite aerodrome site.

Talk, tea, cake and conversation £2.00
 arranged by Gillian Martin mspeakers@milford-u3a.org.uk

Review of the Talk, 'The Crown Jewels' by
Pat Kingshott on 8th September 2023



Fifty members enjoyed our September Talk, **The Crown Jewels** by Pat Kingshott. This was an appropriate subject because this day was the first anniversary of the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

Pat's knowledge is extensive. She worked and lived with her Beefeater husband in The Tower of London.

Pat's job was to be a member of the team who handle the jewels as they are moved in and out of their storage: for use as they were for the Coronations, and for other State occasions like the Opening of Parliament, for display, for cleaning and for repair. A heavy job physically and a heavy responsibility. Pat told us how aware she was of the flag stone floor beneath her feet and her fear of dropping any of the jewels on to it.

Pat and her husband Alan, showed us a wealth of close up photographs of the crown jewels so that we were able to see the swords, crowns, sceptres, the beautiful solid gold ampulla eagle and spoon, the two maces which represent the authority of Law, and many other gleaming objects in all their detail.

Pat knew every emblem on every object, including its history and how and why it was created. She told us which king initiated the creation of each sword, crown or other creation we saw in the photographs. She knows how many diamonds, pearls, rubies and other precious jewels make up these beautiful objects.

We were told of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert being photographed when the Prince wore the precious, jewel-laden Sword of Offering at a fancy dress party!

After the death of Charles I, the jewels were considered unnecessary and many were sold or melted down. Some of the ancient ones have been recovered, others were remade. King Charles III had some altered for use during his own coronation. A member at the meeting said, 'I'm glad they're kept at The Tower and not at British Museum', referring to the recent reports of thefts from the Museum.

When William and Mary came to the Throne, there was so little money to spare that they had to replace those of Charles I, to have their own emblems mounted on the Sword of State.

Pat told us many stories attached to other articles, like the salts, beautiful table vessels, some shaped like castles, which could only be reached by those at the top tables, so that if one was 'below the salt', one was noted as not being 'out of the top drawer' as we would say today.

Another tale was of the beautiful christening font that holds water from the River Jordan, created for the baptisms of the children of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Victoria refused to use the original one because it was used to baptise the eleven illegitimate children of William I.

There was much more of Pat's talk that was fascinating and which you missed if you were not there. The October Talk, **Farnborough Air Sciences Trust**, will be just as interesting.

Pamela Brown

Groups

INTEREST GROUPS WHO WOULD WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New members would be most welcome to join any of the groups listed below, so why not have a look and try something new this year!

See below for how to contact the group leaders to register your interest.

Painting 1	Saxone Renforth
Painting 2	Judy Fearnside
Beginners' Italian	Julie Sharp
Photography	Sue Allen
Canasta (Afternoon)	Sue Allen
Canasta (Early Evening)	Sue Allen
Table Tennis 1	Lloyd Dingle
Cycling (Weds)	Bob Fearnley
Cycling (Mondays)	Gertrude Sollers
Military History	Peter Stevenson
Gardeners Club	Peter Stevenson
Bridge (Social)	Peter Stevenson
Poetry for Everyone	Pauline Wigham
Creative Mixed Media Art (<i>This group also has regular lunch outings, visits to art galleries etc.</i>)	Pamela Dalton Williams
Quiz Challenge	Ian Honeysett
History of Godalming (on Zoom)	Ian Honeysett
Coffee by Zoom (<i>Changed Dates/Times: Now 4th Mon 2.30-3.30 & 3rd Fri 11.00-1200</i>)	Pamela Brown
Badminton	Carol Barsby

Lunch Group (Fri) Peter Lewis

Exploring Great Choral Music
John Bawden

Church Visits Virginia Bawden

Digital Workshop Bob Fearnley

Needlecraft Liz Simmons

Book Choice 3 Nancy Wilks

Shakespeare Rita Kelly

To contact the group leaders, click on:

[A-Z Interest Groups](#)

or contact Sue Allen, Member Liaison, at

sue-allen@milford-u3a.org.uk

Tel no. 07393 984148.

Painting 2 1st & 3rd Friday 09.30 – 12.00
noon St Mark's
Community Centre



This photograph, taken last week of Painting Group 2, looks blissfully peaceful doesn't it, but creative minds and busy paint brushes were very active.

The Group would like a few more people to join them in this lovely situation. Judy says:

'We are a friendly inclusive group and would welcome new members. We mainly use watercolour/acrylic/pastels/coloured pencils but not oils due to the smell.' The October dates are: 6th and 20th. Please contact me:
judy-fearnside@milford-u3a.org.uk

You don't know what you don't know.



Quiz Challenge – Leader: Ian Honeysett

2nd Monday of the Month at the Unitarian Church Hall, Godalming from 2.00 - 4.00pm



After joining the Milford and District u3a, Ian began to run a quiz afternoon five years ago. He has an extremely broad knowledge and a wealth of resources to create a diverse and

fascinating mix of questions.

The group are a lively fun bunch of quizzers, who light-heartedly enjoy being quizzed on a huge range of topics. An afternoon's quizzing will typically include six varying subjects and on the afternoon of my visit these were:

What the Dickens; Around the UK; Movies and TV; Pot Luck; Multiple Choice; and Mountains.

On arrival at the venue, everyone will pick a coloured token out of a bag which denotes the table/group they will join; this ensures that there is a good and constant mix of people and groups from month to month and gives everyone a great opportunity to get to know one another better. Each table will have a 'Joker' card which they can choose to play on any one topic, and this will earn them double points on their chosen subject.



At the end of each subject, the answer papers are marked, and the score is recorded and added to the total accrued so far, so that all the teams know their position in the 'challenge'.

Ian intersperses the rounds with jokes and puns (which, it has to be said, are often groan-worthy!!!) The participants break after Round 3 for a sociable interval when they bring their own refreshments while they enjoy communicating.

Although the group is generally well attended, they would welcome any newcomers to join in the fun and learn along the way – no previous experience required!

It is a sociable and joyful way to spend a Monday afternoon and you will receive a warm and friendly welcome!

Sue Allen



Contact: ian-honeysett@milford-u3a.org.uk

Coffee Time Group

Via Zoom

Fortnightly4th Monday Afternoon
.....2.30 -3.30pm

3rd Friday
.....11.00am -12.00 noon



This group was first suggested for Tuesdays, the busiest day in our u3a programme, and so far we have had no response to the notices in the Newsletter. I have suggested here, a change of days and times in the hope that these will find some 'not so busy' people.

Meeting twice a month, 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 they're not used.

Learning – sharing news and ideas or experiences: of visits or happenings – recommending a good book, meeting friends without having to brave the weather, and **Using Zoom**.

You don't have to have zoom on your computer, because I will be the host. Your access is by an emailed blue link like the one below, it's almost the same as using an email. *We can try it first, before the meeting, one-to-one, if you haven't used zoom before.*

There will be **no charge** at all because we are not using a hired venue.

Dates for 2023: **October 2, 20; November 7, 21; December 15.** Notice of dates for 2024 will depend on response.

pam-brown@milford-u3a.org.uk

u3a Interest Groups Online

Interest Groups Online (IGO), formerly Trust u3a, offers small interest groups which operate mostly via zoom. There are more than 90 on offer.

From 1st October, you can join IGO for £6 for 6 months membership. In the first week of October 2nd to 6th, there will be 30-minute taster sessions for anyone considering joining. Sessions at: 10.00am, 11.30 and 3.00pm every day. To find out what sessions are on offer and to book them for your interest. www.u3a.org.uk/igo

(Taken from third age matters.)

Gardeners Club

Leader Peter Stevenson. 01483 428870
3rd Friday at Milford Village Hall, 2.00 – 4.00pm,
First meeting was on Friday 22nd September. The
membership of this group is now 53.



Peter introduced the range of topics that could be covered over the next year in the Club's programme. The Group is ambitious and accepting of new ideas.

Then, Peter directed the members towards themed stations in the room, where they were invited to record their suggestions for each of the themes, on 'post it' notes which he later collected and has added to the programme.

When the members reassembled, Peter led a discussion and Q and A on the list of themes, and members got their chance to voice some of their gardening problems.



The final subject covered was about this group's possible relationship with some of the local community garden projects being developed at this time in Milford, Broadwater and Farncombe. Members hope to be able to learn from these and to give aid to them in terms of plants, and experience.

The motto for the Gardening Club was extended to
'Learn, Laugh, Live and Grow.'

Pamela Brown

CHESS

Leader Alan Phelps
First Tuesday 2.00pm at Milford Village Hall.

This is a new Group.

Members interested in joining this group, please email Ray Seeley,

secretary@milford-u3a.org.uk



Warning

Visitors to Frensham Great Pond and



Common are being warned not to enter the water due to the occurrence of blue-green algae, which was confirmed by

the Environment Agency at its regular assessment.

Signs instructing visitors to avoid contact with the algae and warning people not to enter the water will be up on site until further notice.

Blue-green algae is a natural component of a freshwater ecosystem, but its presence is potentially harmful to humans, animals, birds and fish as well as being very harmful, **especially to dogs**. Periods of warm weather followed by heavy rain and then further warm, still conditions, cause blue-green algae to appear suddenly. There is no way of removing the algae from the water once it is established. Waverley Borough Council and the Environment Agency recommend that people avoid the algal bloom as it can cause ill health such as dermatitis, eye irritation, rashes, blistering, abdominal pain, diarrhoea and nausea through skin, eye contact or if swallowed. Should anyone believe that they have been affected by blue-green algae, they should seek medical advice or in the case of their pets, veterinary advice.

Waverley Borough Council is monitoring the situation closely and will keep the public informed through its website and social media channels

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Lecture: THE NATURAL WORLD

An exploration including a look at the way nature and landscape are illustrated by artists and photographers



Saturday 21 October 2023

10am - 4pm

at the South Downs Centre Memorial Hall

North Street, Midhurst

Speakers:

Michael Blencowe : Naturalist, writer, and wildlife guide. 'The Wonderful Wildlife of Sussex in Feathers & Fur, Pastels & Paint'

Richard Shenton : Blue Badge Guide and lecturer. 'West Sussex. A Natural History, as seen in our Museums and Galleries'

David Boag : Wildlife photographer, author, and lecturer. 'Natural Art'

Coffee, finger buffet lunch with wine, tea

Plenty of time for discussion.

Cost: £25 per person

Please note: this event is for u3a members or for guests considering joining.

Bookings: Sheila Ingram - see link on www.u3asites.org.uk/midhurst/events.

Enquiries: Carol Brinson - see link on www.u3asites.org.uk/midhurst/contact

Newsletter

Groups

If there is a subject that you would like to see created to make a new Group, let me know, and then we can ask, in the Newsletter, whether there are other members who are interested in the same subject. We are doing this with the Chess Group this month. A few people can be the nucleus of a future Group.

If you are a member of a Group where the Leader is going to retire, please consider stepping up. If there is a restraint that prevents you from doing so, then please contact the Committee, to see if we can find someone else to share the organising, or whether a new approach is needed. If you need more members, let me know and I will put a notice in the Newsletter

Group Leaders, I would welcome news, photos, best/worst moments of 2023 so far – ANY news you can share please, for the November Newsletter

The Closing Date for entries for the November Newsletter is 26th October. ASAP would be even better. Pam ... newsletter@milford-u3a.org.uk

