

## Milford and District u3a Monthly Newsletter September 2023



**Contents:** Chairman's Message, Friday Talk 'The Crown Jewels', Message from you're Membership Secretary, Outing to Bletchley Park. Retirement of Maria Ammann. Music in the Park, Group News – Art– Creative Mixed Media. Coffee Morning, Chess – potential Group, Lecture: Jack Phillips 'Postcards Home', Reflections, Newsletter.

### Chairman's Message



Thanks to everyone who supported the Staycation event on August 9th at the Wilfrid Noyce Centre. Whilst overall we were pleased so many people came and chatted happily, we know there is a lot we can do to improve the event should

Godalming invite us back next year. So thank you for completing the on-line feedback form as this will help inform our future planning.

September has arrived and with it the new programme. Some groups are up and running in the first couple of weeks so I hope dates, times and venues are in the diaries. Any queries please contact me on [chair@milford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@milford-u3a.org.uk).

During the autumn term I plan to visit as many groups as possible, firstly to introduce myself and secondly to find out from members and group leaders what works well and what challenges, if any, need to be resolved.

We have a strong committee and with your help I hope our u3a will continue to develop and expand so that we can find new ways to meet the needs and interests of all our members.

Looking forward to meeting you,

Lisa.

### MONTHLY TALKS

In order to provide a more convivial atmosphere, we've decided to trial having tea and coffee available from 1.45pm before the speaker starts at 2pm. Please let me know what you think of this arrangement by seeking me out in the Village Hall at our next meeting on Friday 8th September. Biscuits and cake will also be available so remember to have a light lunch!

The committee have also agreed to charge £2.00 per person for the monthly talk, which reflects the rising cost of speakers and refreshments. Committee members will be wearing blue sashes so if you're new or have a question to ask please seek us out.

### ELECTION OF SECRETARY AND EXAMINER

As most of you know Jacky Tickner stood down as Secretary earlier this year due to poor health. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Jacky for her hard work on the committee, it was much appreciated and she will be missed. Ray Seeley has agreed to take over this role and therefore needs to be formally elected.

The constitution also requires us to elect an Examiner for the accounts 2023/24.

Both these elections will take place on Friday 8th September immediately before the speaker and should only take a few minutes to complete.

[chair@milford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@milford-u3a.org.uk)

### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

A big 'thank you' to everyone who has so far renewed their membership and, if you haven't done so yet, may I remind you that fees are due by 1<sup>st</sup> September. If you've mislaid your renewal invitation, please let me know and I will be happy to email you a fresh copy.



If you renewed at the Staycation on 9<sup>th</sup> August by payment card and have not yet received confirmation by email, please contact me; we have a couple of payments which we are unable to allocate to specific members, which is something I am keen to resolve before renewal reminders are sent out in September. If you are in any doubt about your membership status, do contact me and I can confirm whether you have renewed or not. (NB: the above only affects card payments, not cheques.)

Thank you also to those of you who renewed via the Beacon Portal, this reduces my workload considerably. I know some of you had a few problems which I could generally resolve but, in the main, the system seemed to work well. *Lavinia Martins*  
[membership@milford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@milford-u3a.org.uk) Tel 07743 129886

## Outings

### **Bletchley Park – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Our October visit is to the home of the codebreakers at Bletchley Park, near Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

We will pick up on Home Farm Road in Godalming at 08.45 and Milford Village Hall at 09.00.

We leave Bletchley at 16.00 and hope to be back by 18.15 depending on traffic.

Expect a fascinating day out, exploring the Bletchley Park stories through immersive films, interactive displays, museum collections and faithfully recreated WW2 rooms.



The history of Bletchley Park is brought to life with a multimedia guide so that you can enjoy it at your own pace. You may wish to take your own headphones,

although the units come with them.

Indoors, in the original Victorian Mansion and refurbished World War 2 codebreaking huts and blocks, you will find recreated set-dressed rooms and fascinating, interactive exhibitions about the Codebreakers and their work.



You may have read in the news that International Governments, leading AI companies and experts will be meeting at Bletchley in November for talks on the safe development of AI technology. Rishi Sunak will be attending.

There is a café/coffee shop and a restaurant, or you may prefer to take a picnic.

Cost including coach, entry and drivers tip is £39.00. Please email: Sue Losson [outings@milford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:outings@milford-u3a.org.uk)

Don't delay as there are already twenty two signed up following our staycation event.

## **THANK YOU MARIA**

After over twenty-five years coordinating and supporting a very successful Patchwork Group, Maria Ammann has decided the time has come to step back and take a well-earned rest.

On behalf of the committee and members I'd like to thank Maria for her commitment to the u3a over the years, and for the loan of the amazing and beautiful patchwork quilts she kindly lent us for the Staycation.

We're exploring whether any of her existing group would feel able to continue as group facilitator.

A very big thank you Maria.

*Lisa*

## **MUSIC IN THE PARK**



### **Godalming Bandstand by the River Wey. - Through Crown Court Car Park.**

- Saturday 02/9/2023 ~ 5.00pm to 7.00pm PROMS IN THE PARK Godalming Masonic Centre Charity Concert featuring Bourne Concert Band and Rock Choir
- Sunday 03/9/2023 ~ 3.00pm to 5.00pm The Poulter Family Concert featuring Alder Valley Brass
- Sunday 10/9/2023 ~ 3.00pm to 5.00pm Godalming Trust Concert featuring Lost Roberts Blues Band
- Sunday 17/9/2023 ~ 3.00pm to 5.00pm Godalming Funeral Service Concert featuring Band of The Surrey Yeomanry

## **Website – Milford and District u3a**

Webmaster. Bob Fearnley on [webmaster@milford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@milford-u3a.org.uk)

## GROUPS

### Art – Creative Mixed Media



1st and 3rd Thursday  
afternoons 2-4pm  
Godalming Unitarian  
Church Hall,  
Meadow Godalming GU7  
3JB

Mixed media art is a term  
used to describe artwork  
composed from a  
combination of different  
media or materials. What is  
great about making art  
combining a range of media

is that you don't need to have fine art or drawing skills. If  
you do have wonderful fine art skills that's fine but our  
group opens up a world of creativity for people who love art  
and feel the urge to express their ideas and thoughts visually  
but are put off because they believe they 'can't draw'!

The skills you need to get started are as simple as being able  
to use a pencil, scissors and glue. These skills will expand  
and develop with practice. Developing your visual literacy  
will happen as you expand  
your own creativity. Specific  
skills for particular media or  
art types can be suggested as  
you go within this group. We  
work in 2d and 3d and  
beyond - limited only by our  
surroundings!

Come and join us and find  
out. We have regular Art  
Gallery visits and lunches  
out and provide a guided  
space in which to make art  
with mutually supportive and enthusiastic group members!

**Group Leader:** [pam-daltonwilliams@milford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:pam-daltonwilliams@milford-u3a.org.uk)



### CHESS

Alan Phelps has volunteered to run a monthly chess  
group if there is enough interest. The venue will  
depend on numbers, and the day and time are yet to  
be decided.

If you're interested in joining this group, please  
email [secretary@milford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@milford-u3a.org.uk)

### Coffee Morning Group

#### Via Zoom

Fortnightly - Tuesday 11.00am -12  
noon One hour or drop in & out.

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 and **Using Zoom**.

**You don't have to have zoom on your computer,  
because I use mine.** . Your access is by an emailed  
link, 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.

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

### September in Godalming

#### Godalming Museum

#### Lecture: Jack Phillips – 'Postcards Home', by Mandy Le Boutillier

Saturday 16th September, 11.30am, 1.30pm,  
3.30pm

We are delighted to be hosting renowned Titanic  
expert, Mandy Le Boutillier, who will be offering  
lectures throughout the day on Saturday 16th  
September titled "Jack Phillips – Postcards Home".  
The lectures will take place at 11.30am, 1.30pm,  
3.30pm and will last for around 45 minutes. *Call or  
visit the Museum to book your free ticket.*

We are open **Wednesday to Saturday, 10am to  
4pm and Sundays, 11am to 3pm.** but staff can be  
contacted from Monday to Saturday 10am to 4pm  
by phone or email. The Museum's telephone  
number is 01483 426510. Email contact:  
[museum.curator@godalming-tc.gov.uk](mailto:museum.curator@godalming-tc.gov.uk)

Godalming Museum, 109a High Street,  
Godalming, Surrey GU7 1AQ.



## Reflections...



### **Wildfires** Copied from this Newsletter of September 2022

*The MET has confirmed that July was the driest July in Surrey since records began 200 years ago. The rainfall has been lower than any other July since 1976. Half of August was dry too. Our reservoirs are depleted by our use of the water and from evaporation. We are now in 'drought'.*

*We love the heathlands around our area. When we smelt the smoke from the fire at Hankley Common, on 4<sup>th</sup> July we were alerted to the local danger. Local firemen are keeping watch on it, as well as on the many other heathlands around us.*

*Gardens have suffered from the early demise of summer flowers. Plants can be replaced, but not the birds, bees and butterflies that depend on them.*

*It's still too dangerous to light even small fires of the garden rubbish which has accumulated, because the wind can catch a spark and take it to the hay which is on our lawns and verges. The Witley TIP near Milford roundabout (A283) offers free disposal of cut grass and garden waste.*

## Newsletter

We are all excited about beginning a new u3a year in September. We have some new groups and we have some new ideas too. Watch this space!

You will see that the Newsletter has a new format this month. This is because most members will read it on their mobile phones and the earlier format was too unwieldy for them. I hope you will all be able to read it now.

August was holiday month for many of our members and so, the Newsletter is also smaller in content this month.

**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. 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 load, 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 October Newsletter

**The Closing Date for entries for the October Newsletter is 27<sup>th</sup> September.** So you need to get your contributions to me by 26<sup>th</sup>. Pam Brown...

[newsletter@milford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@milford-u3a.org.uk)