

Milford and District u3a Monthly Newsletter November 2023



Chairman's Message, Friday Talk , Special Meeting, Review -
Outing to Bletchley Park., Review Outing to Farnborough, Lip
Reading Course, Milford Singers, Group News. Newsletter.

Chairman's Message



The 2023/24 u3a season is now underway with groups, outings and activities being well supported. Although this month we welcome one new group it also bids a sad farewell to another. Due to poor health, Saxone Renforth has reluctantly

decided to step down as group leader of "Painting 1". On behalf of members, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Saxone for her contribution to our u3a. Having seen some of the artwork produced by her members, I know she will be greatly missed. Thank you Saxone, I hope your health improves.

Just a reminder that on 10th November, immediately prior to our talk from Jonathan Jones on the "Role of a Town Crier", we'll be holding a brief **Special General Meeting** to determine whether to change our name and constitution to become known as "Milford and Godalming u3a" in place of "Milford and District".

The committee decided to invite members to consider a change, as we felt the inclusion of Godalming not only reflected our current membership, but might encourage more Godalming residents to join us rather than Guildford. However, before we can make any changes to our Constitution there must be a two thirds majority in favour of the motion by those voting. So, whether you think we should maintain the status quo, or want to change, just vote by sending back your proxy, or even better by coming to the talk. My thanks to those who have already returned their proxy forms and I look forward to seeing many more of you on 10th.

Apart from continuing to encourage you to invite friends or neighbours to join our u3a we are actively seeking ways to attract new members and form new groups. If you have any ideas for new groups or ways to improve our profile, please let the committee know we'd love to hear from you. I am mindful that although we have welcomed a good number of new members this year, more than 50 have not renewed their membership,

My continued thanks to all members, group leaders and their families, without you we would not be having so much fun!

Lisa

A Special Meeting to be held on 10th November re Change of name for Milford and District u3a to Milford and Godalming u3a.

Milford and District u3a THE MILFORD and DISTRICT U3A NOTICE is hereby given of a SPECIAL MEETING to be held on Friday 10th November 2023 at 2pm at Milford Village Hall, Milford GU8 5DS

The sole business of the Special Meeting will be to consider the following Resolution: "That the name of this u3a as set out in Clause 1 of the Constitution be changed from 'The Milford and District U3A' to 'Milford and Godalming u3a', and that the Constitution be amended accordingly".

Members may vote in person or by proxy and a form of proxy is available from the Secretary. For members wishing to vote by proxy, the completed form must be returned to the Secretary no later than 12 noon on Thursday 9th November 2023 either by post to Buckleigh House, Portsmouth Road, Milford, Godalming GU8 5DP or by attachment to email sent to secretary@milford-U3A.org.uk

NOTE: As the change of name involves a change to the Constitution, to be passed the Resolution requires not less than two-thirds of those voting in person or by proxy to vote in favour.
<mailto:secretary@milford-u3a.org.uk?subject>

November 11th Armistice – Remembrance Day

11th November 1918.
The Armistice was signed to end the fighting of the First World War as a prelude to peace negotiations. Every year at this time we remember those who died, with a Two Minute Silence at 11.00am, on the 11th day of the 11th month of the year.



On Google/Wikipedia There is an excellent, very moving, short video of a messenger bringing the news to trench soldiers, and their reaction to the news of the signing of the Armistice in 1918. I tried to copy the link for you, but it wouldn't let me. If you write: Armistice WWI, into Google you may find it under the heading:

Video, 'This Day in History, November 11, 1918: World War I Ends'.

The Monthly Friday Talk
10th November 2023
2.00pm
Milford Village Hall

The Role of a Town Crier
By
Jonathan Jones



Oyez!
Oyez!
Oyez!

As long as there has been news to share, there have been messengers to deliver it. Town Criers were the original 'newsmen'.

Talk, tea, cake and conversation
£2.00

Review of the Monthly Talk and Meeting
on Friday 13th October 2023.
Farnborough Air Sciences Trust
by Peter Buckroyd

Peter Buckroyd gave us all a stimulating talk on Farnborough Air Sciences. He covered the history of Farnborough Aerodrome as well as its place in both World Wars, and brought us up to date with what is happening there now.



It seems almost unbelievable that it all began with an entertainer whose name was Sam Franklin Cowdrey, a showman who reduced his professional name to Cody – a cowboy with a Wild West Show who developed an interest in using hydrogen to make balloons fly. Cody moved his experimental base from Aldershot to Farnborough in 1905, where the open land gave him the opportunity to build structures with enough space and height to house his balloons and future flying creations. There is a Cody Pavilion at Farnborough now showing some of those structures and experimental creations.

Science was at the base of all the stages that went from flying fun balloons to the development of balloons that were able to carry cameras for observation on military activities, and then to the dirigibles (Zeppelins of the First World War), and eventually in building the first experimental flying machines that led to the development of aircraft.

Peter told us stories and showed photographs including one of the hapless Lela King, Cody's 'wife', who dangled from his homemade balloon as part of his act.

Peter allowed us to handle a magical piece of material made from cattle intestines and a little gold which enables the material to join and re-join. This material lined the balloons which were then filled with hydrogen. The material allowed bullets to fly straight through the balloons without tearing them apart. It must have taken hundreds of German cattle intestines to build the Zeppelins.

In 1907- the first Airship and in 1908 the first British aeroplane No. 1A, a boxlike Kite structure that flew for 27 seconds. Cody built a monoplane that crashed into a cow and his Airplane No 6 crashed and killed him in 1913....The 100 year celebration of the first powered flight in the UK was a hundred years ago on 16th October 1908. As I write this it is the 16th October 2023.

In 1955, The Farnborough Centrifuge was built to study the effect of G Force on RAF Jet pilots. This is the oldest example of a human centrifuge in the world and the only one designed and manufactured by British engineers. It was used to gain a better understanding of how G Force affects the human body and to develop the countermeasures required to equip RAF Jet pilots with essential life-support systems.

Now, there is a museum at Farnborough where you can see the centrifuge, the early aircraft, the wind tunnels, cockpit flight simulation, aircraft displays and many other active treasures of the life of Farnborough Aerodrome.

Pam



NEW EVENT - Thursday 9th November at 2.30 pm we're holding a welcome tea party at the Clockhouse Cafe in Chapel Road, Milford. If you've recently joined us or know someone who would like to join please all come along.

Friday December 8th - To help everyone get into the Christmas spirit, immediately after the Friday talk "Working with the Ghosts of Hampton Court Palace", Wayne Richardson and his Singing for Fun Group will lead us in 30 minutes of Christmas carols. Festive food and refreshments will hopefully add to the occasion, there might even be a cracker or two! Thank you, Wayne, for agreeing to lead us as I'm aware you have two other singing commitments that day...Lisa

Bletchley Park

REVIEW OUTING TO BLETCHLEY PARK ON 19TH OCTOBER 2023



The lake was the place for relaxation and romance



The Mansion House at Bletchley Park



The room in the Mansion House where it all began

Our October trip to Bletchley Park was deemed a success! Fifty-three of us enjoyed seeing and learning all about the work done by the incredible codebreakers and much more.

There is so much information to read and films to watch that it is not possible to take it all in on one visit, but you get a good idea of just how difficult and vital their work was. It is quite amazing that they were able to keep the whole operation secret when up to 9,000 people were working there at one stage and being billeted all around the village. Despite the importance of their work, it was not recognised in the way that it was with medals for those in the field, as it could not be talked about.

There is a lot of information on their website: <https://bletchleypark.org.uk/>



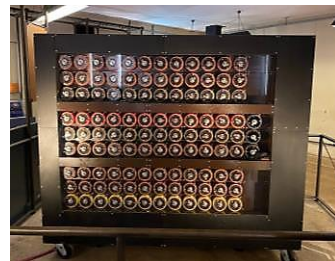
Paperwork everywhere



A magnificent slate statue of Alan Turing



There are not many mementos of Alan's life, but Porgy his bear is well



The Bombe machine, used by the codebreakers to crack Enigma codes



The cottages were the main Codebreakers lived.
Sue Losson



Hopefully, it was easier than cracking this code to get in.



Posters everywhere.

Milford u3a Singers



Singing for Fun – and that's just what we do every Tuesday morning, usually in the wonderful Chichester Hall at Witley, but during its refurbishment, we are at All Saints Church in Church Lane, Witley (10 a.m. to 12 midday).

We are a happy group who just love singing (and we have a great deal of fun and laughter on the way). Everyone can sing - it doesn't matter if you can't read music - we learn by doing it and you'll be dragged along with the others.

So, what do we sing? Well, pretty much a bit of everything – songs from stage musicals and films; a bit of 'pop' (well, our 'pop' anyway); folk songs; rock 'n' roll; country; gospel; quirky; sacred; classical – just about anything you can think of. Some of our favourites: "Oklahoma!" but you have to yelp loudly; we might catch the "Chattanooga Choo Choo"; how about Barry Manilow's "One Voice"; even a nursery rhyme, "Sing a song of sixpence"; and loads more.



Each season, we have a set of music to go through which may be used to entertain like - **this Christmas we'll be with the Hart Male Voice Choir at Holy Trinity Church, High Street, Guildford** (see below), helping to raise money for Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Care. Then we're at **The Clockhouse, Chapel Lane, Milford**, during the evening of Friday 8 December for a Christmas Show (all welcome). And on 10 December, we're leading the singing at **The Mayor of Waverley's Civic Service** in the Chapel at Charterhouse School – Bizzy!! Bizzy!!



Singing really is fun, so why don't you come along and join us – you never know what you can do until you try!! You can be of any age – just not in full time work – and you need to join Milford & District u3a (www.milford-u3a.org.uk). Go on – you know you want to!!



HART MALE VOICE CHOIR with MILFORD u3a SINGERS

u3a
Milford & District

present a

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Fun and laughter in song and carols to support

Phyllis Tuckwell
Hospice Care

...because every day is precious

Holy Trinity Church, High Street, Guildford GU1 3RR

7.00 p.m. Saturday 2nd December (Doors open 6.30 p.m.)

Tickets £12.50 (children under 12 free) available now from

www.hartmvc.org.uk

Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Care shops

at Fleet, Godalming and Guildford (High Street)

Wayne Richardson (wayne-richardson@milford-u3a.org.uk)



Zoom Lip Reading Group – free to U3A members – 2023 – 2024. Time and Dates: Every Friday Morning 10 am to 10:40 – starting 6 October, 2023. As we get older, many people experience hearing loss. It's not that we can't hear other people talking, it's more the case that we CAN HEAR but we CANNOT UNDERSTAND what people are saying. This is because hearing loss tends to affect the high notes rather than the low notes and speech sounds muffled. Lip-reading helps to turn muffled sounds into meaningful dialogue.

The ZOOM Lip Reading Group is essentially a lip reading class but includes other related topics relevant to people experiencing hearing loss, including the structure and function of the ear, hearing charts and how to interpret them, techniques for coping in noisy situations etc. For the lip reading work I plan to work through the recommended textbook: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Lip-Reading-self-help-textbook/dp/1530276853/>

Having your own copy will enable you to continue learning and practising between sessions by carrying out activities detailed in the chapters. It will also enable you to "catch-up" if you have to miss a session. It is essential that participants are able to clearly see the teacher's face and lips. In a classroom about two metres distance is recommended. Now that we have moved to online we find that people can see and read lips better than in the classroom. Even those using hand-held computers. So most personal computers are suitable.

A link to the Zoom meeting will be emailed to you along with a password. Click on this link a little before the start time and be prepared to wait, just as you would when going to a physical meeting. You will be put into the "virtual" waiting room and told to wait for the meeting to start. I will start the meeting at 10 o'clock so that we get our full 40 minutes before Zoom cuts us off. If you haven't used Zoom before, clicking on the link will start the process. It doesn't take more than a few seconds – and you will then be able to join the meetings.

Online Lip Reading Meetings have the advantage that: Everyone has a front row view so you can hear and see the teacher better. Verbal contributions by members are more measured and easier to follow. No-one needs to travel, No parking problems, No need to go out in the cold or rain. To join the group and receive the Zoom link to the weekly meetings, email your name and the U3A branch to which you belong, to Tony Edens <mailto:secretary@milford-u3a.org.uk?>

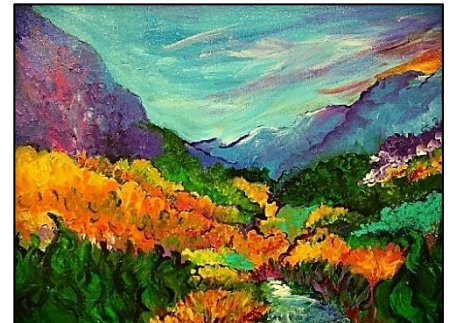
Group News

Painting 1

Very regretfully, Saxone Renforth, Leader of this very motivated group of members has had to retire as the Leader because of ill health. Is there anyone who would like to take her place? All the members are willing to keep going. This would be a very rewarding position for someone with enthusiasm.

As Saxone says, Painting is a therapy in these days of difficulty.' These sessions offer a quiet respite from everyday problems, and offer the pleasure of being able to join friends, and to learn just what happens when you try to paint something new.

<mailto:saxone-renforth@milford-u3a.org.uk>



Needle Arts Group New Group

Monthly on First Thursdays, at Burton Pavilion . 1.45 – 3.45
First Meeting 2 November 2023



If you are interested in any form of needle art, be it embroidery, knitting, crochet, patchwork or any other, why not come along and join our new needle arts group that meets at the Burton Pavilion on the first Thursday of every month from 1.45 - 3.45pm.

Bring along your own project to complete whilst socialising with other group members. Everyone is welcome. Do let me know if you would like to attend so I can make sure we have enough tables out liz-simmons@milford-u3a.org.uk.



CHES

Leader Alan Phelps

This new group had a very happy first meeting. Their dates have now been settled.

They meet on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 2.00pm at the Milford Village Hall. The next meeting will be on 7th November. New members are welcome.

secretary@milford-u3a.org.uk



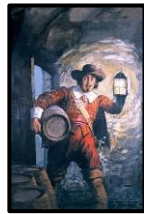
Modern Greek



We have had interest in forming a new group for this subject. What we need now is someone or a few people who would be able to lead this group, and to know how many of our members would be interested in joining.

There is nothing arranged yet in terms of dates, time, venue etc. That will be decided when we know your response to this suggestion. Many people know Greece well and spend their holidays there. Please respond to the Newsletter in the first instance.

<mailto:newsletter@milford-u3a.org.uk>



Remember, Remember
The Fifth of
November,
Of Gunpowder,
Treason
And Plot

Newsletter

Your u3a **needs your vote** on 10th November for the Special Meeting re changing the **name** of our branch of the u3a. The centre of our branch of the u3a would still be in Milford

When the name was first considered, the powers that be decided that although there should have been a Godalming u3a, they thought it was too near the Guildford u3a area. In our Surrey area, I do think that villages have less authority than towns and many potential new members will regard Milford u3a as being less active than one in Godalming would be.

The more members we have, the more we can afford to do things for you, like the Welcome Tea Party on 9th November, or potential First Aid Course etc. The more members we have, the more Interest Groups will be formed as the new members will bring their skills and knowledge with them.

Many thanks to all of you who sent articles for this November Newsletter to me. I hope to receive a load of articles from you for the December Newsletter - news of your Groups and photos – please make the photos as active and interesting as possible, even a raised hand shows they are alive.

Pam



The Closing date for the December Newsletter is Thursday 23rd November.