

Milford & Godalming u3a Monthly Newsletter March 2024



Milford and District u3a Monthly Newsletter March 2024

The Monthly Friday Talk 8th March 2024 2.00pm

'The Amazing Mr. Dickens'

Speaker David Allen



Milford Village Hall,

Talk, tea, coffee, cake and conversation
£2.00

Link to Miriam Margoyles' video reading of 'Dear Mr. Dickens':

[Click here](#)

Message from the Chair



I always like to start with good news! This month's good news is the formation of a Pickleball group. Following an introductory session there are sufficient members interested to make a viable group. Thanks to David Sowerbutts for getting this off the ground and Joanne Barry for agreeing to be the group coordinator. If anyone has ideas for a group please let me know, I'm sure there are many members with skills and interests which could be shared and enjoyed by others - just give it a go!

Plans are now being put in place for our twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations this year. We hope these will include a plot at the Rotary Spring Fair on 4th May, an invitation to be part of the Godalming Staycation in August and a social event for all our members in early September. These are still at the working party stage so watch this space as dates, times and details will be shared with everyone when they become available.

As a result of Gillian Martin's hard work in identifying and booking interesting and varied speakers attendance at our monthly talks is steadily growing. From my perspective these monthly meetings are an excellent opportunity to be informed and entertained followed by a chat over a cup of tea and piece of cake. I'd like to take this opportunity to give a special thanks to Gillian who has arranged and organised our speakers for a significant number of years. Gillian is taking a well-earned rest and has placed the task in the capable hands of John Oakey. My thanks to Gillian and John.

Slowly but surely I'm getting to know and meet members of our u3a, not quite as efficiently as I had hoped, so there is still room on my part for improvement! However please contact me if you have any comments or queries and I will do my best to respond. Most importantly the committee value feedback from our members. chairman@milford-u3a.org.uk.

In any organisation there are those who lose partners, family members or friends. It's always sad and often hard for those left behind. This newsletter bids farewell to Robert Bayley who for many years coordinated the Current Affairs Group. Robert's meetings were often lively, sometimes provocative but never dull. Thank you Robert.

I look forward to seeing you on Friday 8th March for our next monthly talk, or round the card table playing canasta or sipping a drink at the Refectory whilst discussing a book, or maybe just pottering around Milford or Godalming.

A date for your diary - our "Singing For All" group will be performing a selection of Easter music on Sunday

24th March at 2pm at St John's Church Milford.
Please support them and bring your friends and family.

Lisa

Our Monthly Meetings are the only opportunities we have to meet people from our wide range of members, other than the groups we join personally.

Conversation is good, so is the tea or coffee and the biscuits are excellent!

Pam



Run for u3a

In 2024, Team u3a will be running in the Great North Run, the largest half-marathon event in the world, to raise money for the Third Age Trust.

The run is taking place on **Sunday 8 September 2024** and we have five charity running places available. If you are interested, please email communications@u3a.org.uk by **Thursday 29 February** - heading your email: Great North Run. Please include the u3a you belong to and whether you have experience of running a half-marathon.



Do you know about ESA?

This week I met Chloe. Chloe is a little Pomeranian dog who has made a tremendous difference to a lady who suffered from the lockdown period of the covid pandemic. Chloe's owner was unable to shake off the effect of loneliness caused by the isolation.

Many people who live alone,

especially after the loss of a loved one are affected in a similar way. Caring for such an animal, and gaining the love and respect from their companionship is not going to alter the grief of such a loss, but it is a sharing of mutual sensitivity. Animals respond to disabilities we don't see.

If you know of someone who might be interested in enquiring about the ESA, a search on Google for **Emotional Support Animal** will find them.

Pam



Milford & Godalming

u3a Singers

present



A Celebration of Easter

at

*St John the Evangelist
Church*

Church Road, Milford

on

Sunday 24 March 2024 at

2.00 p.m.

Entry is free,

There is a retiring collection towards the upkeep of
this beautiful church



Come and spend
an hour or so
listening to
beautiful music.

OUTINGS

**The Tulip Festival at Arundel Castle is
our next outing**



Annoyingly they have not yet given the dates but I am going to suggest **Thursday 25th April** as the Festival is held between April and early May.

The festival is regarded as one of the top tulip displays in Europe, and is set against the backdrop of the castle's gardens. I visited with a group last year and absolutely loved it, the setting makes it quite spectacular.

Coach to leave Hambledon Road/Home Farm Road at 9.15 and Milford Village Hall at 9.30.

It is a relaxing day out. We allow 2 hours or more to enjoy the Tulips and then you have until 3pm to enjoy lunch/tea and the shops in Arundel.

The coach will leave Arundel at 3.00pm.

Cost for coach, entry and drivers tip will be approximately £35.00.

All still to be confirmed.

At the Castle you can have a light lunch or snack. The Coffee Shop in the Victorian pantry provides a selection of sandwiches, cakes and drinks. Apologies for the vagueness but I am waiting on replies from others.

It would be helpful if you would register your interest in the trip.

Sue Losson

Please email suestours96@gmail.com

Review of the Monthly Friday Talk on 9th February 2024.

'Meeting Disaster Head On with Hope.'

Our Friday Monthly Talk on February 9th, chosen by Gillian, was the remarkable story of Chris Arthey and his lovely wife, Denise, who came to tell us how together they found themselves, meeting disaster head on with hope.

Chris and Denise took up a work posting in Texas, USA. Soon after arriving there, they began to explore the new surroundings on their Harley Davidson motorbike.

On this first trip, on a straight stretch of Highway 35, disaster struck. A drunken driver veered across the carriageway on to the wrong side of the road and hit the motorbike in a head on collision. The Artheys knew nothing about what happened next.

The medics who lifted them away by air ambulance didn't expect them to recover consciousness.

Remarkably, they did recover after many weeks in Intensive Care. Eventually, each having lost their left leg and suffered head, internal and external injuries, they began their even more remarkable journey on the road to survival.

They had to make this journey in pain, and to learn to live a completely different life with immense difficulty.

They were determined to succeed. They were determined not to be physically held back or to be frozen in anger and regret. They told us how they rebuilt their lives, step by step – an extraordinary account of personal strength, of their relationship, and of their determination to overcome their many obstacles.

'Highway 35', the story of their fighting spirit, determination and faith has now been published. They hope that reading this book will give other people a guide to overcoming their own deeply traumatic challenges.

You can see their video on You Tube by typing **Chris and Denise Arthey**.

Pam

To buy the book 'Highway 35' go to Google and type publishers: [Muddy Pearl.com](http://MuddyPearl.com)

Pickleball - Potential u3a Group



David Sowerbutts organised a trial taster booking at the Surrey Sports Centre in Guildford for two sets of our u3a members to try the game of pickleball. This picture shows some of our first pickleballers.

The tuition was given by Ian Shaw, a u3a member who with much friendly coaching made everyone able to play the game to some extent by the end of their session. David says:

I think everyone who came to our pickleball taster on Monday enjoyed the game, and huge thanks are due to Ian Shaw who managed to coach us through the whole two hours without laughing at our incompetence.

Everyone I asked was keen to carry on, and Joanne Barry has kindly offered to run the group. Not only that, but Ian is available from March 7th to help us out. Who will be the first to take a point off him?

It's impossible to pick a day and time to suit everyone, so we've chosen Thursday mornings as the first choice of several of us. I'm sorry if that doesn't work for you; maybe, like table tennis, there could be two groups for different days?

Joanne Barry is going to be the main contact and her address is joannembarry05@gmail.com.

Joanne has booked two courts from 9.30 to 11.30 on 7th March. She needs to know by **tomorrow** if you're coming on March 7th, so don't delay, email her today.

You might like to give some thought to how often you would like to play. As u3a members, our annual membership fee covers court hire once a month. Surrey Sports charges less than £25, including putting up the net and supplying all the bats and balls. See you on the 7th. david.sowerbutts@gmail.com

Digital Workshop



This group was started in the knowledge that many older users of computers, tablets and phones are only scratching the surface of the facilities on offer with these devices. In addition they keep coming across questions and difficulties for which they cannot find a solution.

We, the Tech Team of Kirsten, Alan and Bob, decided to try, as far as we could, to rectify that situation. The topics for all our talks are chosen by the members themselves as they are the ones with the need to know! We then prepare talks on those subjects, trying to explain a technology as clearly as possible, though sometimes it is difficult to explain a complex technology in simple terms, we do our best.

Questions are welcomed and are frequently asked, we believe there is no such thing as a stupid question, only a stupid answer!

In the almost three years we've been running, we have covered myriad topics from email to the Internet, from Microsoft to Linux via Apple, Apple and Android, phones and tablets to backing up!

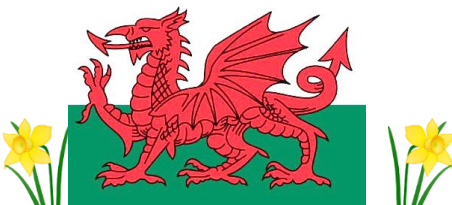
We email out a list of topics prior to each meeting so that members only need attend for topics of interest to them. The result is that only 10-15 of our 36 members attend each month, this is good as it makes the meeting more personal to them.

Tea, coffee and biscuits at 'half time' allow for a certain degree of natter and networking among our members.

Bob Fearnley

Bob Fearnley

bob-fearnley@milford-u3a.org.uk



St. David's Day
First of March

Zoom Time Group

Dates by arrangement. One-to-one session



Is there is anyone who would like to experiment with using ZOOM for a session or two to discover whether it you might find it useful?

On Christmas morning last December, my family and I had a 3 hour zoom meeting which united family members in Canada, Paris, Devon, Oxford, Somerset and Surrey, (15 people). Why not give it a go for Easter?

You don't have to have zoom on your computer, because I will be sending the link from my laptop. Your access is by an emailed blue link like the one below, it's almost the same as using an email.

Please email me or phone so that I can send the link to your email address. Contact: 01252 702075 or pam-brown@milford-u3a.org.uk

WANTED! A new Editor for the Newsletter

I am still anxiously waiting for a volunteer to take over from me as Newsletter editor. This is the fourth month of my appeal for another member to step into the most interesting job on the committee.

Stop Press News:

I have a possible volunteer who could take over the technical side of producing the Newsletter!!!! Now we need someone who would take over the content; the writing and checking of information from Group Leaders and committee members, plus the addition of any subject likely to interest our Branch of the u3a.

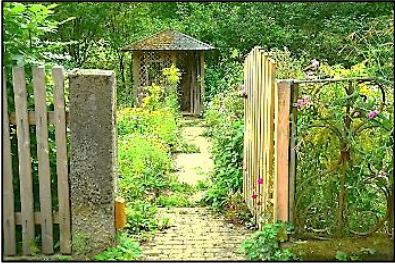
There would be lots of help, if needed, and a free hand to do your own thing.

This appeal is urgent now. I will not be up to continuing and so I shall have to just let the Newsletter go, after this March Issue.

Please contact me very soon if you can volunteer to look into the idea with me.

pam-brown@milford-u3a.org.uk

2024 OPEN GARDENS Campaign In aid of Phillis Tuckwell Hospice



If you are a lover of gardens and like to visit them, Why not open your own garden this summer of 2024 to join the Phillis Tuckwell 2024 Open

Gardens Campaign, and at the same time help to raise funds for our local hospice.

Gardens of all sizes and design can take part. If you have an interesting garden we would love you to join our 2024 Open Gardens. You could even have fun getting together with your neighbours and do a group opening.

To find out more and to arrange a garden visit by our team please call 01252 729446 or email

<mailto:fundraising@pth.org.uk>

Phyllis Tuckwell, Waverley Lane, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8BL

Group Leaders

Would you like to show your group activities to the other members of our u3a? I would like to put an article from you into the next Newsletter, if there is one. 🤔

If it would be fun for your Group to take this on, perhaps you would agree on a few lines that I would love to include in the next issue. If they agree but are reluctant to write, just send me a few lines and I will make it an entry. Add photographs if you have some. If not, I will find an appropriate photo to go with it.

The closing date for the April issue, if we have one, is Saturday, 23rd March.

Best wishes,

Pam Brown,
Editor, Milford & Godalming u3a Newsletter.
newsletter@milford-u3a.org.uk

Hobbies and Pastimes



Things we like doing- Hobbies and Activities

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Are any of these hobbies yours? Or have you other interests that you might be able to share with our u3a members? We are always looking to introduce new groups to our Milford & Godalming u3a.

Contact: Any member of the committee.



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newsletter@milford-u3a.org.uk