

newsletter

SOUTH BUCKS U3A | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | 2026/27

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u3a

www.sbu3a.org.uk

*Garden Lovers visited
Danesfield House in August
Photo: Sandra Hurst*



From our new Chairman

Dear All

As your new chairman I am keen to listen to and meet all convenors and all members as soon as possible.

I want to say a big thank you to Dieter Shaw, who has run the Film Appreciation Group for so many years but who will step down after the September meeting for health reasons.

Charles Hurst, Chair

Your Committee

The Branch is run by a voluntary committee. See who does what below...

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>
Chair	Charles Hurst	chairman@sbu3a.org.uk
Vice-Chair	Sandra Hurst	vicechairman@sbu3a.org.uk
Treasurer/Financial Admin	David Hawkins	treasurer@sbu3a.org.uk
Secretary	Caroline Searing	secretary@sbu3a.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Kay Harrison	memsec@sbu3a.org.uk
Groups Liaison	Pauline Keyne	groups@sbu3a.org.uk
Publicity	Vacant	
Website Co-ordinator	Keith Searing	webco@sbu3a.org.uk
Equipment Co-ordinator		equip@sbu3a.org.uk

Key Supporters

Publicity Co-ordinator	Dieter Shaw	publicity@sbu3a.org.uk
Newsletter / e-Bulletin	Annie Burkitt	news@sbu3a.org.uk
Speaker Co-ordinator	Sandra Hurst	meetings@sbu3a.org.uk
TVN Representative	Christine Phillips	tvn@sbu3a.org.uk

IMPORTANT:

As a member of SBU3a, if you change your address or email, please remember to notify the Membership Secretary Kay Harrison, email: memsec@sbu3a.org.uk

General meetings

FUTURE GENERAL MEETINGS:

October 20th: Nick Cook – ‘Baked Alaska and Mexican Chilly’

November 17th: Anita Ebdon – My Life in Falconry (with hawks)

December 15th: – Sun Jester Christmas Entertainment

*January 19th: Alison Wall – Chenies Manor and the Russell - Bedfords,
from the 1st Earl of Bedford to the present day*

A very special thank you

must go to our outgoing Chairman Keith Searing not just for his role as our Chair but for creating our first-rate new website. He also stepped up to convene some groups which we would otherwise have lost. We can't thank you enough Keith for your invaluable and on-going help.



Welcome to our newest members

**Stuart & Janet Rowe • Jan Roberts • Ralph Seeley
Barbara A Smith • Sarah Summerbell • Karen Webb
Hilary White • Michael & Rosemary Winston
Sheila Woolgar • Daphne Aldred • Heather Allen
Susan Brewer • Hong Bartlett • Hazel Barber
David Bevan • Francesca Bellis-Jones
Geoffrey Bourne • Cecelia Bock • Stephen Corrin
Judith Devoy • Celia Ferris • Kiran Gombo
Gillie Hanbury • Yubill Kang • Bernadette Morrin
Lesley Moore • Patricia Pruden
Vera Perrett • John Pendered**

We are always pleased to welcome new members, so if you know of people you think might be interested in joining, please ask them to contact Kay Harrison for more information.

Email memsec@sbu3a.org.uk

Thames Valley Network

You may not be aware that this network exists linking 48 u3as in the area. The TVN organises many interesting events both online and face to face.

These do however tend to get booked up very quickly, so please keep an eye out on the TVN's website for any new notifications.

For current detailed information of TVN Events and booking forms please visit:

u3atvnetwork.org.uk

or the TVN page on our own website.

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Our Groups

NEWS ABOUT OUR GROUPS FROM YOUR CONVENORS



Antiques & Collectibles

Sue Abbey

agantiques@sbu3a.org.uk

We meet on the first Friday of the month at 2pm in the Curzon Centre. New members are always most welcome to join our friendly group.

Our Summer programme began in June with the theme of 'Pink', and was followed by a special afternoon tea to raise money for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance.



Posies of pink flowers decorated the room, and we were delighted to raise £185 for our chosen charity. The colour 'Pink' produced a wide variety of items, including some beautiful examples of bone china, a 200 year old pottery drinking vessel (with a frog in the bottom!!) and even an example of tableware for BA passengers, the colour being chosen by one of our members! Probably the most unexpected item was a small piece of pink plaster taken from a partially demolished villa on the island of Rhodes, once owned by a member of the Pink Floyd band, and used as a summer retreat

by all the band and their families. Today their vinyl records are highly collectible.

The following month we chose the seasonal topic of Travel. The meeting began with an interesting talk on the history of passports, which date back 3,500 years. Initially passports were written by hand, and from the fifteenth century in this country, were primarily used to facilitate trade across national boundaries. An example of a handwritten passport was shown to the group. This had been issued to a lady in 1889 with a request that she should pass freely without hindrance and afforded every assistance and protection on her foreign travels, and was signed by the Earl of Salisbury on behalf of the Queen. Members had also brought along a variety of other travel related items, either antique or collectible, such as old foreign currencies, local rail tickets issued in Beaconsfield in the early days of the Metropolitan line, travel books and a holiday essential, a Kodak 127 camera!

In August 'Pocket Sized Items' gave the group considerable scope. Small chinaware, a collection of 1959 quarter sovereigns, today valued at £70 per coin, and a small Chinese teapot with a fascinating explanation of how tea is made in China (a much longer process than in most other countries, and not a tea bag in sight!) were among the highlights

FUTURE MEETINGS

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| <i>Oct 2nd</i> | <i>An item connected with water.</i> |
| <i>Nov 6th</i> | <i>Stained Glass - a talk by Jen Hunt</i> |
| <i>Dec 4th</i> | <i>Festive Lunch - details to follow</i> |
| <i>Jan 1st</i> | <i>No Meeting</i> |



Pam Lloyd

agornithology@sbu3a.org.uk

May: We enjoyed our walk around Otmoor RSPB reserve - dressed warmly, as despite it being May, there was a cold northerly wind.

Our tally was 48 species including a good number of summer migrants. Cuckoos were both seen and heard. Plenty of warblers singing - reed warbler, Cetti's, whitethroat, blackcap and chiffchaff with good views of a sedge warbler and garden warbler.

Other species included little egret, grey heron, 3 glossy ibis, common tern, great crested grebe, tufted duck, shoveler, pochard, oyster-catcher, redshank and lapwing. We enjoyed watching many swifts and a few swallows busy catching insects on the wing.

June: Due to the heat both planned meetings had to be cancelled.

July: We walked around Little Marlow gravel pits and despite the thick foliage, we still managed to find 30 species, including four different types of gull. Highlights were the Mediterranean gull, a grebe with baby "humbag" on her back and at least two grebe

nest with sitting adults. The common terns were very acrobatic in their dives for fish.

August: At Jubilee River our count was 39 species - a pleasant surprise as August is when many birds are quite secretive while moulting and not many are calling or singing as their breeding season is over.

The wetland area had a good variety including lapwings, black-headed and lesser black-backed gulls, Canada geese, mallards, little egrets, grey heron... a welcome surprise was a group of black-tailed godwits.



black-tailed godwit

On the weir we watched a common tern and a common sandpiper, a few cormorants, swans with cygnets and the usual geese.

FUTURE MEETINGS

All Monday meetings start at 10am unless otherwise indicated. Information is sent out by email to group members before each meeting.

Currently the group is full, but you are welcome to join a short waiting list. October 12th Denham Country Park

November 9th am Farmoor Reservoir pm Otmoor (Starling murmuration)

December 14th Marsworth

January 11th TBC



great crested grebe



Book Group One

Celia Oram

agbooks@sbu3a.org.uk



We have read **Best of Friends** by Kamila Shamsie. The story follows Zahra and Maryam, best friends from Karachi whose lives diverge over three decades.

We also read

The Swan's Nest by

Laura Mcneal. This is the start of the romance between the



Brownings.

We also read

All the Broken Places

by John Boyne. This is about the life after the war of the sister in the book *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*.



FUTURE MEETINGS

Oct 27th, Nov 24th, Christmas Meal Dec 14th, Jan 26th



Book Group Two

Judith Collier

& Bernadette Simms

agbooks2@sbu3a.org.uk

The Book of Beginnings
by Sally Page

The book is based around an unlikely trio who meet in Highgate, London. It is about the importance of friendships old, new and fleeting. The majority of us enjoyed this book as it was easy to read with positivity and hope.



The Camomile Lawn
by Mary Wesley

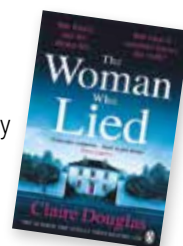
Two time lines - London & Cornwall during WW2 and fifty years later. A portrait of an upper class extended family and their friends. Not a popular



read due to most characters being disliked. A few in the group didn't finish reading it.

The Women Who Lied
by Claire Douglas

A popular thriller which was easy to read with a twist at the end. Once started hard to put down.



The Artist by
Lucy Steeds

Loved by us all and the highest score of the year. Very descriptive so easy to imagine being in Provence and the world of Art.



WANT TO JOIN BOOK CLUB THREE?

Both Book Groups are full so hopefully we can start a new one as we have a number of people interested. A meeting is being held on Tuesday 13 October around 10:30am. It will be in Beaconsfield / venue to be decided depending on numbers. If you would like to join the group please contact Judith Collier (*Book Group 2*) who will help start Book Group THREE.



Bridge

Liz Pratt

agbridge@sbu3a.org.uk

REGULAR PLAYERS PLEASE NOTE

SLIGHT CHANGE TO THE START TIME on November 16th (and possibly, also January 18th 2027) see below.

We are a very friendly group. We welcome and encourage new players who have a good basic knowledge of bridge and some experience of duplicate play.

We average about 30 players playing 20 - 22 pre-dealt boards of duplicate bridge.

Results (& hand records) are usually posted on our website by 6pm.

We meet EVERY Monday EXCEPT BANK HOLIDAYS.

Cost: £2.50 per session

Please note:

- New players are asked to contact Liz before coming for the first time.

- If you need a partner contact Liz beforehand & she will try to find you one on a week by week basis.

N.B. There is often someone looking to establish a regular partnership. Over the years there have been some very successful new partnerships created in this way.

MOST WEEKS ... see exception* below

- Please aim to be in the hall by 1.15pm as we start at 1.20pm

There is limited parking off road but on road parking close by. *please allow 5 minutes to park.

*** EXCEPTION**

Please note ... Due to hall availability

- On November 16th 2026 and possibly January 18th we cannot be sure of access to the hall until 1.15pm

So on November 16th & possibly January 18th please be there about 1.15pm but only go into hall if clearing up has finished. We will aim to finish bridge by 4.45pm

Our website is: www.bridgewebs.co.uk/sbu3a

Venue: St Thomas' church hall Mayflower Way Holtspur HP9 1UF .

FUTURE MEETINGS

October 5/12/19/26 November 2/9/16/23/30 December 7/14 January 4/11/18/25*

PLEASE NOTE

No bridge on December 21 or 28

~ USELESS KNOWLEDGE ~

Edgar Allan Poe married his thirteen-year-old cousin.

*** * ***

Dentistry is one of the oldest professions in the world. Evidence of teeth being drilled, dates back to 9,000 years ago!



Croquet

Peter Constantine

Alan Cairns

agcroquet@sbu3a.org.uk

• *NB: This activity is not run by SBu3a, but our members are welcomed by the host organisation*

This year the group has been very active and we are near to capacity for regular players. However, if anyone is interested in having a go playing there may be an opportunity to play on an irregular basis when space is available. We play at High Wycombe Croquet Club in Hazlemere where with the two lawns are only capable of use for up to sixteen players.

The group is organised by High Wycombe u3a but members from adjacent u3as are also welcome. If anyone fancies a try please give Peter a call.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Every Wed at 10.30 until the end of October.



Current Affairs

Paul Rose

agcurrentaffairs@sbu3a.org.uk

Our group has grown in recent months with several new additional members.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday monthly at St Thomas's C Of E Church St. Thomas Church Holtspur in the small meeting room at the back of the hall.

No December meeting as we hold a Christmas lunch for our members instead on the same scheduled day at a local venue.

Below:

- *The Current Affairs Group enjoyed a lunch in August to celebrate James's retirement as convener of Current Affairs group and the handover to Paul Rose. Most of the group were able to attend.*

Photo: Paul Rose





Discovering Art

Christa Webber
Carole Willatt
agart@sbu3a.org.uk

In MAY- We were glad to welcome JENNY HUNT again. She gave us a super presentation on the marvels of CAVE ART. These sites have now been located in many places of the world, and they are astounding. Their age and the clever depictions. The great thing is, that new ones keep being discovered.

In JUNE – CAROLE WILLATT explained the Renaissance to us – not just the famous painters, but about the lives of the people of that time, the patrons and the architecture of the age. This was a violent era, and not easy to understand fully. Carole made this topic easier for us to comprehend.

In JULY - VICKY BOWEN helped us to understand the story of the life and work of the important and complex Dutch artist PIET MONDRIAN (1872-1944). In Holland he founded the STIJL movement. Then he spent some years in Paris, of course. After several years in England, he lived the rest of his life in America.

Piet Mondrian: New York City –1942



His early works were realist landscapes. Very colourful and appealing. His great love for trees resulted in some marvellous 'tree

Mondrian: Evening Red Tree -1908



Sandra Hurst recently visited Tajikistan and shares with us a true sense of the barren landscape. This country is to be discussed in October at the Spotlight on Eastern Europe & Beyond Group.



*The Wakhan
Corridor
- looking across
the Panj River
to Afghanistan.*



*Our Guest
accommodation*

paintings' in which one can see him evolving towards abstraction. He then became the real artist of geometry with his quest for harmony, purity and balance beautifully executed.

In **SEPTEMBER** – RUBY OSORIO, one of our new members, gave an in depth talk on STANLEY SPENCER (1891-1959) and his connections to Cookham, including a brief history of the village where he was born, lived and died. Ruby explained how he used his surroundings, including villagers and family for his biblical scenes, painted in great detail.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

October 14th – Christa Webber: "The colour blue in art".

November 11th – Eric Harris: "A splash of Colour".

December 9th – Short talks from members, followed by an Advent tea party.

January 13th – Bob Moore: "Eric Revilious water colourist and war artist".



Caroline Searing
agtravel@sbu3a.org.uk

In the last newsletter we said that the group was once again active now the weather was improving. Nobody knew at that point what a very hot and sunny summer we were going to get. So hot and sunny that two of the planned walks had to be cancelled and one rescheduled due to Extreme Heat Warnings being issued! So we did not get to look at Street Art in Spitalfields in May, to stroll around Regent's Park in June, or to visit Greenwich in July though we did manage to visit Regent's Park instead that month. The other missed walks will be rolled over to next year's programme.

In September, Kim our usual guide, guided us around 'Bloody, Flaming, Poxy London'. Who could resist a title like that?





Regents Park

The final walk of the year in October will celebrate Admiral Lord Nelson.

Please look out for emails advertising individual walks before booking a place as days and dates vary from month to month.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Oct 23 2026: Nelson - Remembering Trafalgar Day

England's greatest naval hero is brought to life in our walk around Mayfair and St James.

The group will then take its usual winter break.

Please contact the convenor if you would like to join the group



Film Appreciation

With regret it is necessary for the group to take a pause in meetings due to Dieter's personal circumstances. It is hoped that meetings will resume in the spring.

~ USELESS KNOWLEDGE ~

Strawberries are not technically considered berries but a banana is considered a berry.



Shelagh Wells

agfrance@sbu3a.org.uk

We are a very friendly group who meet for tea/biscuits, and sometimes cake, to chat in French. Our focus is mainly on French conversation, and we have informal discussions about a wide range of topics, which have recently included: Plans & Projects for the summer: Effects on marine life of global warming; Sun cream beneficial or not?; Promoting local organic farming. In addition, we have read articles and discussed issues that interest us.

We meet on the first Tuesday afternoon of the month in each other's homes. We are generally at intermediate/advanced level. One of our members is a native French speaker, which is a great help.

The group is currently full but we do keep a waiting list, and vacancies occur from time to



Garden Lovers enjoy tea at Danesfield House Photo: Val Taylor

time. Please contact Shelagh, if you would like further information.

FUTURE MEETINGS

*6th October; 3rd November; 1st December;
5th January*



**Kay Harrison Sandra Hurst
Caroline McCullagh, Janet Walker
aggarden@sbu3a.org.uk**

This has been an unusual year for Garden Lovers, with meetings being cancelled

because of extreme heat and members feeling unable to commit themselves to meetings because of the problems with the weather. We had a very enjoyable visit to Danesfield House where we enjoyed tea and scones in their splendid tearoom but had to cancel the visit to Chenies Manor due to lack of numbers.

Our final visit of the year will be to Acer Corner and The Lindengte Charity Garden (both in Wendover) in October and this visit is currently well-subscribed.

FUTURE MEETINGS

*14th October : Acer Corner and
Lindengate Charity Garden.*

*Views from Danesfield House
Photos: Val Taylor*





Jon Fantes

aggermany@sbu3a.org.uk

Our friendly group meets to discuss topics of general interest and to share experiences. Our aim is to maintain and practise our language skill and we always have at least one native German speaker to help us out with vocabulary and grammar when needed. New members with basic conversational ability are most welcome.

FUTURE MEETINGS

13.45 on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the lounge of St. Thomas Church, Holtspur



Christine Phillips

Ceri Watson

aghistory@sbu3a.org.uk

I'm pleased to report that our membership continues to grow and our sessions have been well attended.

In June five members took part in a Show and Tell Session by bringing in an historical object and telling us all about it and what it meant to them. We had two paintings - Sue Bailey's picture of a steam roller which had close associations with her family and an Edwardian painting - The House That Jack Built - was the starting point of a talk from Jennifer

Austing. Sandy Phillips brought in a piece of Sunderland pottery and told us something of the history of the firm that made it. Ruth Sobel showed us a framed line drawing by the son of Camille which served as starting point to a talk about Camille himself. Finally we had a short talk about folk music illustrated with musical excerpts which ended with a song beautifully sung by Helen Baker. It was all very well received and something we will be repeating next year.

In July we were treated to a talk about historic Niagara from member Annie Burkitt who lived there for many years. The talk was illustrated with photographs and personal anecdotes and we learnt that there is much more to Niagara than its impressive waterfalls.

Our September meeting takes the form of a trip to Bisham Abbey - but more of that in the next newsletter.

FUTURE MEETINGS

On October 6th Jenefer Farncombe will be telling us about the history of the Hall Barn Estate. The manor house was built in around 1680 and the estate consists of 1000 acres of rural land.

November 3rd 's meeting is a talk by Alan Fitzgerald about Anglo- Saxon London.

On December 1st Hugh Suter will talk about the history of St Mary's Church in Old Beaconsfield. It will be followed by a glass of fizz/fruit juice and some nibbles.

In January Chris Simmonds from Chiltern u3a will tell us about Empress Matilda, who was the first woman to be named heir to the English throne and battled (unsuccessfully) for nineteen years to win the throne.

~ USELESS KNOWLEDGE ~

If every Oreo ever made were lined up, they would reach the moon and back more than five times.



Informal Bridge

Joanna Hughes
agbrb@sbu3a.org.uk

This is a group for relaxed social bridge with some learning on set topics. If you are new to bridge you would be most welcome. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the lounge at the rear of St. Thomas' church hall between 1.30 and 3.30. If you would like to come along please get in touch.

FUTURE MEETINGS

1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month

widely but there is a healthy culture of learning from each other.

Although the group is currently full I am happy to receive enquires for future reference, Michael Kavanagh - agitalian@sbu3a.org.uk

FUTURE MEETINGS

We meet the first and third Fridays of the month except on bank holidays.



Jazz Band

Rod Stevens
agjazz@sbu3a.org.uk

I joined the u3a Jazz Band shortly after I retired in 2008 and the band had already been running for some years. But how many years?? Does anyone know???

The group continues to rehearse every two weeks and plays from time to time for local retirement and other similar groups.

Our membership is steady at around eight but changes as members leave and newcomers join, but remarkably we always seem to cover the various instruments to be found in a jazz band, including our delightful lady vocalist.

Enquiries are welcome and as someone once said 'we aim to please'.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The band continues to rehearse, every 1st and 3rd Thursday in the month. Newcomers are welcome but it is recommended to check before attending as changes can occur from time to time.



Italian Conversation

Michael Kavanagh
agitalian@sbu3a.org.uk

Our informal, friendly meetings take place from 2.00pm to 4.00pm on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month. We explore the Italian language using a topic of the day based on an article in the press which is sent out to all members a few days before the meeting, enabling them to prepare some discussion points. Typically topics include current affairs, arts, music, history and travel, all with a distinctive Italian flavour of course.

We also explore grammar, play games and have quizzes. All designed to increase our ability to speak Italian. The standard varies



Judith Evans

agmahjong@sbu3a.org.uk

Our group is small but increasing as people are becoming interested in the game. It was a Chinese tile game originally but has been adopted by Australians, Americans and Europeans. Our group is using an Australian book of games which gives a lot of games and is interesting once someone has mastered the original ordinary hand.

We welcome new members and are at the moment using the United Reformed Church in Crabtree Close, Holtspur, at 2 until 4.30pm. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

FUTURE MEETINGS

13th and 27th October, 10th and 24th November, 8th and 22nd December, 12th and 26th January



Ursula Hill

agmoto@sbu3a.org.uk

We didn't meet in August but plan to meet on 29th September at 1pm. However we will meet before the General Meeting in October and November at the Royal Standard at Wooburn Common.

It is necessary to book in advance in response to the email I send out a week or more beforehand. New members welcome.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Oct 20th, Nov 17th, Dec tba, January 19th



John Corran

agphilosophy@sbu3a.org.uk

The Philosophy group meets at 2:00 for 2:15 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Usually eight or nine of us get together in each other's homes. Our meetings are very interactive; we choose a book or online source in advance and help each other to understand the topic and see if we agree with the sources. Conversation is wide-ranging, always good-humoured and often provokes laughter!

To give an idea of our activity, over the past four months we have tackled:-

* Hegel: who held that our concept of "reality" is formed by a communally-held "geist" (spirit-of-the-time), which evolves, generally improving a set of shared social values,

* Rousseau: Humans are born free, but are corrupted by society. He advocated a very liberal form of education and rule by a democratic "General Will".

* Artificial Intelligence: Can the concept of intelligence be stretched beyond human/ animal intelligence? What may be the social consequences of future AI?

* Happiness: Aristotle's route to "Eudaimonia" (human flourishing) and modern, scientific approaches. Will AI ultimately increase or reduce happiness?

So, another wide range of interesting and challenging subjects! And more to come in the next few months.

FUTURE MEETINGS

2.00pm on October 8th, November 12th, December 10th and January 14th.



Poetry

Ruth Sobel

agpoetry@sbu3a.org.uk

We missed June and July because of the weather. We met in August to read poems connected with water. This month we're meeting in the 4th Thursday to read the 5 odes of John Keats. Everyone welcome!!!

(Our meetings do very occasionally vary due to holidays and other commitments.)

The music we use is very mixed from Classical, to Traditional Folk tunes through to more modern pieces like Musical Theatre and Pop, so there is always something to please individuals.

Our abilities do vary but we are very enthusiastic 'blowers'! We would welcome more players so if you have a basic knowledge of reading music and possess either of the above instruments, then please come and give us a try by ringing me, Nicky Smith.



Recorders

Nicky Smith

agrecorders@sbu3a.org.uk

We may be a small group but we do enjoy meeting up twice a month on the first and third Wednesday afternoons, when we usually play duets, using both descant and tenor instruments.



Science Engineering & Transport

Paul LeBlond

agscience@sbu3a.org.uk

After a Summer break, we began our Autumn meetings in September with three presentations from members. Anne Hagyard spoke about her time at Mount Vernon



Science Group Meeting Photo: Paul LeBlonde

Hospital when developments in cancer care included tomography and CT scanners which led to much improved outcomes for patients. Jen Hunt explained the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation, part of the world's oceanic current systems, and how they are changing. John Burke rounded off the session describing how colours were developed through organic chemistry with a talk entitled 'Shades of Magic'.

FUTURE MEETINGS

On 1 October, Alan Green from the High Wycombe U3A Geology group will tell us all about Titanium. On 5 November, Mary Taylor will tell us about her experiences with Polio and Paul Le Blond will add the story of the Rotary Polio Plus campaign. On 3 December we will have a Quiz - a much loved annual event (not!).

We will begin our 2027 programme on 7 January with a talk by Graham Skinner on Parkinson's Disease.



**Singing
for Fun**

**Sue Bailey and
Jenny Gibbons
Joanna Williams
agsinging@sbu3a.org.uk**

We are a happy, friendly group who welcome anyone who wants to sing without any pressure. There are no auditions - we just sing for pleasure. We spend an enjoyable morning together singing a wide variety of modern and traditional songs. We welcomed our new leader, Louise, earlier this year and she is terrific. She is full of life and enthusiasm and makes everything fun. We are planning, with her support, to sing for other

Singing for Fun Group in September Photo: Val Taylor



community groups in the future. We have a sociable tea or coffee to round off the session. Come and join us!

While we were looking for a teacher we were led very successfully by other members of the group, including Daphne O'Connor, who sadly passed away suddenly in May. Daphne was a life force who was determined to keep the group going while we found another leader. She was a wonderful person, full of fun and joy, and we are going to miss her very much.



**Sandra Hurst
& Ruti Sobel**
agbelarus@sbu3a.org.uk

During the Summer we concentrated on Czechoslovakia as it was in the early 20th Century, learning about prominent Czech citizens and their work, musicians and politicians and delving into the complicated history of the country which has given us all a deeper understanding of the country and its people.

We have some "stand-alone" talks scheduled for the Autumn. On December 3rd we shall hear about the work of a charity driving to Ukraine with items of aid for the people affected by the ongoing war and In October we shall hear a little about Tajikistan. The November topic has yet to be chosen.

See Pics page 12

FUTURE MEETINGS

October 1st : Tajikistan

November 5th : Tba

December 3rd : Driving to Ukraine



Elaine Baudouin
agstretch@sbu3a.org.uk

As popular as ever, members rarely miss or leave this stretch class but we do have one place available and could occasionally have someone for a single class to try it out. You need to be able to get up and down from the floor - some classes are easy yoga.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Most weeks - Wednesday 9.45 to 10.30



Joanna Williams
agtableten@sbu3a.org.uk

The Table Tennis group meets in the Beacon Centre on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 3 - 4pm with very few exceptions.

We have 3 tables and usually play doubles. Bats and balls are provided and new members are very welcome, so come along for a session to see if you would like to join us.

FUTURE MEETINGS

2nd and 4th Fridays

~ USELESS KNOWLEDGE ~

The most common adjective used in English is "good"



**Sarah Lewis, Elaine Baudouin,
Keith Searing**
agcug@sbu3a.org.uk

We are looking for new avenues and input for our Tech group and, accordingly, the emphasis - from confident use of devices - may change. Given the interest in introductory use of devices, some members may, possibly, take this further. We are prepared to discuss any topic and welcome active participation, especially any new technology experience from members. Share the joy (and pain) so that we all learn and gain. If you would like to try us out, please make contact first to ensure that meeting arrangements have not changed.

Over the course of a number of years, we have covered many topics, both Android and Apple, and many of the presentations are available as a link from our South Bucks u3a website: go to the Technology webpage where you will find the link.

FUTURE MEETINGS

4th Tuesday in the month. 10.30 to 12.00 Wrights Meadow community centre



Sandy Phillips
agtennis@sbu3a.org.uk

We are a small group who have endured the hot summer. We are pleased to see former

convenor James Barrett back in action and are delighted to welcome new member Bernadette Morrin. We play at 10am every Tuesday weather permitting at Hazlemere Tennis Club.



Chris Pearce
Sally Moore
agtheatre@sbu3a.org.uk

The Theatre Group has become very popular, with the visits planned filling up very rapidly. In the last few months we have seen High Society, The Truth and also Abigail's Party. All productions have been enjoyed by those who came on these trips.

In October we have tickets for the famous Oliver, featuring the iconic songs written by Lionel Bart.

In November, we are booked to see Sinatra the Musical. Theatre trips are booked several months in advance in order to get good rates on the theatre seats.

There is a limited number of seats for each show so if a particular production appeals then do not hesitate to respond to the email from the Convenors to avoid disappointment.

Our visits are almost always to matinee performances in the West End and we have the advantage of a coach from the Beacon Centre to the theatre and back.

The money paid includes the theatre ticket and the coach trip. Tickets are not advertised in this Newsletter or at a General Meeting so having your name on the Theatre Group lists essential to be informed of these visits.



Keith Searing
agwalks@sbu3a.org.uk

Our schedule took a battering over the exceptionally hot summer as it was most unwise to venture out in the extreme heat. We welcome the more traditional weather and have some catching up to do.

We have three level of walking groups that meet on Thursdays. All walks are at the pace of the slowest. If in doubt of your abilities, start with a lower group walk. Members join the walks at their own risk. Boots and sticks are recommended.

The short (3 miles, no stiles) meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month and start at 11:00. We walk for 1 to 1.5 hours trying to avoid steep hills [and mud where possible].

The medium (5 miles minimal stiles) meet on the 4th Thursday of the month and start at 10:30. This is for those who prefer something a little more energetic than the shorter walks group. 2.5 hour/5 mile walks of standard Chilterns terrain.

The longer (7 miles, reasonably brisk) also meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month and start at 10:00. This is for those who prefer stepping

out more energetically. 2.5 hour/7-8 mile walks of standard Chilterns terrain including hills. This group assumes that all are capable of a reasonable pace uphill and down dale. Stops are minimal.

These are led by members who have reconnoitred the walks in advance, but accidental diversions have been known... Details of the walks and any particular hazards are sent out usually the weekend before the walk.

We are happy to do new walks or old favourites, and encourage members to volunteer to lead (otherwise the walks may not happen). Discussion of any points of interest as we go is welcomed! Most if not all walks have a pub lunch at the end if you wish. Keith has full details of past walks (GPX tracks and distance/time) in a spreadsheet that is updated as and when he remembers, and contains walks from a similar but private non-u3a group and can be used as a library for ideas.



Annie Burkitt
agwine@sbu3a.org.uk

Our wine club is presently full but please contact Annie if you would like to join us as we can add you to our invitation list. We ask our members to RSVP promptly so we have an idea of numbers for food etc. and if there is space we can accept you as a guest. We can accommodate up to 16 and typically have 14 to 15. Priority would however be given to our long-term members.

We are a friendly 'social' group who enjoy wine and convivial company, so if you are looking for an in depth wine education, we may not be for you.



**1st
week
in month**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BRIDGE* 1.20 pm St. Thomas' Church Hall, Holtspur	TENNIS 10am (Weekly) Hazlemere Tennis Club	CROQUET 10.30am (Weekly/Seasonal) Hazlemere Recreation Ground	SPOTLIGHT ON EASTERN EUROPE 2.30 pm Members' Homes	ITALIAN CONVERSATION 2pm Ethorpe Hotel, Gerrards Cross
	HISTORY 2 pm Curzon Centre	STRETCH* 9.45 am Bourne End Library	SCIENCE ENGINEERING & TRANSPORT 2 pm Curzon Centre	ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES 2 pm Curzon Centre
	FRENCH CONVERSATION 2pm Members' Homes	RECORDERS 2.30 pm Members' Homes	JAZZ BAND 2 pm Holmer Green Village Hall	
		INFORMAL BRIDGE 1.30 pm St Thomas's Lounge		

**2nd
week
in month**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BIRD WATCHERS 10 am - Locations TBA	TENNIS 10am (Weekly) Hazlemere Tennis Club	CROQUET 10.30am (Weekly/Seasonal) Hazlemere Recreation Ground	WALKS - SHORTER & LONGER 10.50 Shorter & 10 am Longer Location TBA.	TABLE TENNIS 3 pm Beacon Centre
BRIDGE* 1.20 pm St. Thomas' Church Hall, Holtspur	SINGING FOR FUN 10.45 Curzon Centre	STRETCH* 9.45 am Bourne End Library	BOOK GROUP 2 2 pm Members' Homes	
	MAH JONG 2 pm URC Hall	DISCOVERING ART 2 pm Rossetti Hall	PHILOSOPHY 2.15 pm Members' Homes	

**3rd
week
in month**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BRIDGE* 1.20 pm St. Thomas' Church Hall, Holtspur	TENNIS 10am (Weekly) Hazlemere Tennis Club	CROQUET 10.30am (Weekly/Seasonal) Hazlemere Recreation Ground	JAZZ BAND 2.00 pm Holmer Green Village Hall	ITALIAN CONVERSATION 2pm Ethorpe Hotel, Gerrards Cross
	MOTO* (Members On Their Own) Time & Location TBA	STRETCH* 9.45 am Bourne End Library	*N.B. Bridge, MOTO & Stretch will also be held in the fifth week of the month when applicable except on Bank Holidays	
	MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING 2 pm Beacon Centre	RECORDERS 2.30 pm Members' Homes		
	GERMAN CONVERSATION 1.45 pm St Thomas' Lounge	INFORMAL BRIDGE 1.30 pm St Thomas's Lounge		
		WINE CLUB 7.45 pm St Thomas's Lounge		

**4th
week
in month**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BRIDGE* 1.20 pm St. Thomas' Church Hall, Holtspur	TENNIS 10am (Weekly) Hazlemere Tennis Club	CROQUET 10am (Weekly/Seasonal) Hazlemere Recreation Ground	POETRY 1.45 pm St Thomas's Lounge	TABLE TENNIS 3 pm Beacon Centre
	TECHNOLOGY 10.30 Wrights Meadow Centre	STRETCH* 9.45 am Bourne End Library	WALKS - MEDIUM 10.30 am, Locations - TBA	
	BOOK GROUP 1 2 pm Members' Homes	CURRENT AFFAIRS 1.45 pm St Thomas's Lounge		
	MAH JONG 2 pm URC Hall			

ADDITIONAL GROUPS

EXPLORE LONDON	THEATRE VISITS	GARDEN LOVERS
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