



**The Table Tennis Group**

**Please contact the conveners if you would like further information. This can be done via our website by clicking on the group and contacting the convener.**

**If you do not have access to the website, come along to our coffee morning or speaker meeting and our friendly blue sash team will be happy to help.**

**Enjoy your time with Brackley u3a**

**u3a**

**learn, laugh, live**



**WELCOME  
PACK**

**BRACKLEY &  
DISTRICT U3A**

**Enclosed Please find  
useful information**

**January 2024**

## **Dear Member,**

**Now that you have joined Brackley and District U3A, we would like to welcome you on behalf of the Committee and members.**

**We have grown due to the dedicated efforts of many volunteers, to be the organisation you see today. We believe that we are a friendly, supportive group and that there is something to interest everyone.**

**If you cannot spot exactly what you want, you may wish to start something new; what better environment to do so than an organisation with nearly 400 members.**

**We hope you will find friendship, support, if you need it, and the opportunity to pursue existing or perhaps new interests. It is possible to fill your whole week with a range of activities, from the purely social to the overtly intellectual, not forgetting the possibility of physical exertion. 'A healthy mind and body'.**

**By joining us we trust you will gain a sense of enjoyment, purpose and a feeling of life fulfilled, by taking advantage of all that is on offer and hopefully by making your own contribution.**

**We look forward to your involvement.**

**Best wishes,**

**Terry Pigott – Chairman**



**Speakers Meeting**



**Our Open Morning**

Sunday Lunch 3rd Sunday  Peggy Williams	Our aim is to have a relaxed, convivial lunch for twelve people. Details are emailed to members of the venue and places allocated on a first come first served basis.
Traditional Dancing 1st Tuesday and 3rd Friday 14.00 to 16.00 St Peters Church Hall John Weaver	New members always welcome. We have lots of fun and laughter as we try different Traditional Dances. £1 per person per session
Victorian Literature 2nd Thursday 14.00 to 16.00 Farthinghoe Village Hall Lynne Lee	The group enjoy reading and discussing some of the many rich and varied works of the esteemed writers who rose to fame during the Victorian age.
Walking 2nd Monday 10.00 start  Various Bruce Markie	The walk is usually about 4 miles over local countryside which may involve a short drive to the assembly point.

For further information on any of the groups or to join them email the Group Co-ordinator, [groupcoord.brackleyu3a@gmail.com](mailto:groupcoord.brackleyu3a@gmail.com).

All information also available on our website

<https://u3asites.org.uk/brackley>

You will also receive our monthly newsletter by e.mail. This is full of a lot of useful and up to date information.

Registered charity No 1180180

## INFORMATION.

Brackley and District u3a began life on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015. At the beginning of 2024 we have approx. 400 members. Our main meeting is held at 9.50 am every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month.

This is held at Brackley Baptist Church which you'll easily find at the end of Waynflete Avenue NN13 6AE.

A few notices are shared followed by a 'Speaker' Presentation, and then a 'cuppa'!

## INTEREST GROUPS

We currently offer over 30 different groups for your consideration.

Do you want to learn a new language, how to play bridge, lace making and more?

For the more energetic—traditional dancing, table tennis, pétanque, walking and line dancing are just some of the groups on offer.

Or relax—with our less strenuous groups such as poetry, family history, digital photography, music appreciation and many more,

If you like food we have a couple of "Lunch Clubs" as well as an "Afternoon Tea and chat" group.

The calendar on our website is a good way of seeing the week's activities. This is also useful as dates may change.

## THE COMMITTEE

**Ken Smith –Honorary President**

**Terry Pigott - Chairman**

**Colin Gillies - Vice Chairman**

**Mike Shepherd - Treasurer**

**Alison Williams - Group Co-ordinator**

**John Moore - Speaker Programme Organiser**

**Mike Kirkham - Webmaster**

**Kathy Hodges - Minutes Secretary**

**Diane Bushell - Publicity**

**Janet Whitby - Membership and Business Secretary**

**Gill Zachar– New Member Liaison/General Duties**

**Janet Blunden– New Member Liaison/General Duties**

**Ian Nixon—General Duties**

<b>Quiz</b> 2nd Wednesday m 14.00 to 16.00 St Peters Church Hall Susan Smith and Colin Gillies	<b>The quiz sessions are enjoyable and fun. Just come along and we will find you a place.</b>  <b>£2 per person per session</b>
<b>Shakespeare 1</b> 2nd Tuesday 14.00 -1600 St Peters Church Hall Joanna Byles	<b>The group is intended for anyone with a general interest in Shakespeare. My plan would be for the group to read a play monthly or bimonthly and for us to the discuss and possibly view on DVD, either the whole play or essential scenes.</b>
<b>Shakespeare 2</b> 4th Monday 14.00-16.00 Convenors home Caroline Bowd	<b>Informal chat and watch Shakepeare plays.</b>
<b>Singing for Fun-</b> Wednesdays advised by convenor 14.00 - 16.00 Methodist Church Ruth Harris	<b>Singing for Fun is just that, singing is such an enjoyable experience, good for our physical and mental health. We sing for an hour or so and then have a social time with tea and a chat. Some musical experience is welcome but not statutory. £2 or £3 per person depending on numbers attending per session</b>
<b>Spanish Beginners</b> 1st and 3rd Thursday  14.00 to 16.00 Farthinghoe Hall Ann Wrightson	<b>We are a group of eleven and are working through Talk Spanish Book 1. Our course is based on the everyday needs of people travelling to Spain. The emphasis is on listening and speaking before moving on to reading and writing. We hope to have some fun as well as develop our Spanish skills.</b>
<b>Table Tennis for Fun 1</b> Every Monday 14.00 to 16.00 Leisure Centre Linda Kennedy	<b>The group promotes table tennis as a social activity: the game is aimed at both novice and experienced players with no pressure, just fun. £2 per person per session</b>
<b>Table Tennis for Fun 2</b> Every Tuesday 13.30 to 15.30 Leisure Centre John Moore	<b>As above £2 per person per session</b>

<b>Past Times</b> <b>3rd Friday</b> <b>10.00 to 12.00</b> <b>St Peters Church Hall</b> <b>Carl Whitmore</b>	<b>The group will be looking at people and events from History with the intention of prompting lively debate about a specified topic. The meetings will take the form of a short presentation from a member of the group which should raise questions and comments from the rest of the group to get involved in. Some trips to historic venues.</b> <b>£2 per session</b>
<b>Petanque</b> <b>2nd &amp; 4th Thursday</b> <b>10.00-12.00</b> <b>Westbury Village Hall</b> <b>Terry Pigott</b>	<b>Also known as boules. Played outside in teams.</b> <b>£1 for use of boules</b> <b>Drink and nibbles available from cafe</b>
<b>Philosophy</b> <b>1st Wednesday</b> <b>6-8 Bridge Street 7.00</b> <b>Christine Coleman</b>	<b>We discuss a different topic each month with everyone giving their view. If you are interested come along and give it a try</b>
<b>Poetry 1</b> <b>3rd Monday</b> <b>10.30 to 12.00</b> <b>Brackley Library</b>  <b>Tim East &amp;</b> <b>Carolyn Hunter</b>	<b>At our monthly meeting each member of the small group read aloud one or two poems that they have chosen on the topic of the month, The group then discusses the poems in a relaxed, informal atmosphere.</b>
<b>Poetry 2</b> <b>3rd Thursday</b> <b>Afternoon</b> <b>Members Homes</b> <b>Frank Arnold</b>	<b>We enjoy exploring the rich heritage that poets have created. All forms of this wonderful art are welcome. We usually focus on a particular poet, decided by the group. New members are encouraged to share their particular ideas and preferences. No specialist knowledge is required or expected. Joining is free and easy. Why not give it a try; you will be surprised how much fun it is?</b>

<b>Group</b> <b>Day</b> <b>Time</b> <b>Venue</b> <b>Convenor</b>	<b>Additional Information</b> <b>Fee</b>
<b>Afternoon Tea and Chat</b> <b>3rd Wednesday</b> <b>Alison Williams and</b> <b>Diane Bushell</b>	<b>Various venues with reasonable prices. Diane or Alison to advise venue and price. Transport available for those not wanting to drive.</b> <b>Fee TBA</b>
<b>Book Club 1</b> <b>1st Monday</b> <b>10.00 to 11.00</b> <b>Brackley Library</b> <b>Eileen Irvine</b>	<b>Members choose books to read either fiction or non fiction so we have a varied range of material to enjoy.</b>  <b>£1 per person per session</b>
<b>Book Club 2</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>Bridge</b> <b>Duplicate every</b> <b>Thursday</b> <b>14.15 to 16.30</b> <b>Brackley Library</b> <b>Tricia Smith</b>	<b>This is a playing group learning bridge skills from experience in playing. A basic knowledge of the Acol system is required.</b>  <b>£5 per person per month</b>
<b>Canasta</b> <b>4th Tuesday</b> <b>14.00 to 16.30</b> <b>Egerton Hall</b> <b>Hilary Isherwood</b>	<b>Canasta is a card game that is harder than Rummy but easier than Bridge. We play for fun but of course there is a competitive element! We are a friendly helpful group and tuition is given to beginners who are welcome to join us. Experienced players also welcome!</b> <b>£2 per person with tea and biscuits</b>
<b>Cinema</b> <b>Convenor to notify</b>  <b>Alison Simmonds</b>	<b>Aims of the Cinema group are to bring together u3a members whose film interests are similar and to help those of us whose confidence, when alone, makes enjoyment of like this a challenge. The convenor acts as a contact point to bring members of the Group together. Members are encouraged to put forward ideas of films to see.</b>

<b>Coffee Morning</b> <b>4th Monday</b> <b>10.30 to 11.30</b> <b>St Peters Church Hall</b> <b>Pam Lynch</b>	<b>Enjoy a Coffee or Tea and biscuit and chat with other members. New members especially welcome.</b>
<b>Craft</b> <b>2nd Monday</b> <b>13.30 to 16.00</b> <b>Baptist Church</b>  <b>Norma Lees</b>	<b>We are a friendly group who come to knit, crochet, cross-stitch, make bags, patchwork, projects, card and box making. Whatever craft you do, come and join us and maybe help others to try something new.</b> <b>£2 per person per session &amp; refreshments</b>
<b>Digital Photography</b> <b>3rd Tuesday</b> <b>14.00 to 16.00</b> <b>St Peters Church Hall</b> <b>Stephen Pope</b>	<b>For people with an interest in digital photography and we cater for people of all levels of knowledge and ability. We aim to cover a wide range of topics using our own in-house expertise but occasionally bringing in guest speakers. We will also arrange visits to local places of photographic interest to have practical sessions. Members of the group have a wide range of equipment so someone there ought to be able to answer any technical queries or problems you may have.</b> <b>£2 per person per session &amp; refreshments</b>
<b>Family History</b> <b>2nd Thursday</b> <b>10-12.00</b> <b>Egerton Hall</b> <b>Graham Irvine</b>	<b>Group consists of those who are relatively new to researching their family history through to those who have been doing it for several years. Everyone is sharing knowledge and assisting each other in finding records of their ancestors, maybe proving, or disproving those old family stories. These records help us to find out what their life was like,</b> <b>£2 per person</b>
<b>Italian</b> <b>1st and 3rd</b> <b>Tuesday</b> <b>10.30 to 12.00</b> <b>Members' homes</b> <b>Peter Kidger</b>	<b>We are meeting to help and encourage one another in learning to speak Italian. We are using a BBC course Talk Italian as the basis for leaning through study at home and practice at the meetings. We are doing this for enjoyment not a qualification.</b>

<b>Lace Making</b> <b>2nd and 4th Thursday</b> <b>14.00 to 16.00</b> <b>Brackley Library</b> <b>Lindsay Freeman</b>	<b>We are a busy group making some lovely lace. If you are an experienced lace maker you are welcome to join us. We also have 2 spaces (and some extra equipment) for anyone wanting to have a go!</b> <b>£1 per person per session</b>
<b>Line Dancing</b> <b>2nd &amp; 4th Friday</b> <b>14.00 to 16.00</b> <b>St Peters Church Hall</b> <b>Terry Stokes</b>	<b>A group with members finding their feet.</b> <b>£1 per session per person</b>
<b>Midweek Lunch</b> <b>Last Thursday</b> <b>Convenor to notify location and time</b> <b>Lesley Whitmore</b>	<b>This is a group to add another opportunity to socialise and take lunch together.</b>
<b>Music Appreciation</b> <b>2nd Friday</b> <b>10.00 to 12.00</b> <b>Member's homes in Brackley, Greatworth and Middleton Cheney</b> <b>Norman Dutton</b>	<b>It does not matter how musical members are, everyone can listen carefully, thoughtfully and without distraction on their own terms. A planned theme provides the basis for the music that members bring for us all to listen to on CD or via YouTube on the internet. ALL styles of music are valid listening for the group. Remember one person's interpretation of a theme is as good as anyone else's.</b>
<b>National Trust</b> <b>convenor to notify date, time and location</b>  <b>Andy Goodchild</b>	<b>If you have a National Trust membership this is a very good way of visiting properties in the company of other members. We have found that venues usually look favourably on groups and lay on a little something extra. Non National Trust members are welcome but need to pay for entry to each property. To keep costs down we travel in our own cars so we are particularly interested in hearing from members who would be willing to take other members.</b>