



February 2023 Newsletter

Next Meetings at Great Oakley Village Hall

Wednesday 22nd February 2022

Judge Christopher Tickle will be entertaining us at the meeting and involving as many as possible in a unique Trial. Peter and Sue have been to one of his performances and we would ask you attend to see something different. If you do not come to the meeting, I am sure you will only hear tales and would wish you had been there.

Wednesday 22nd March 2023

Annual General Meeting with a twist.

We are going to try and make the formal A.G.M., quicker and less painful than we have managed in the past and are aiming to get it over in record time.

After the formalities of the A.G.M. Doreen and Damian Tracey are going to tell us how they went from "Stephenson Way to Hollywood"

Knowing Damian for more years than I can remember I for one will not be missing the performance.

Message from the Committee

As is annually the case I would be pleased if you could accept our apologies for the formality of this Newsletter.

We have nearly completed all of the preparatory work for the Annual General Meeting which started off with the December Newsletter advising all Members of the A.G.M. We are hoping that you will attend the February and March meetings which promise to be both entertaining and interesting. We would like to see you at Monthly meetings in the future and you can talk to Committee members to air your views and see what the Groups do.

It is essential that we hold this year's Annual General Meeting. With Damian, Doreen and John stepping down we really need to fill as many of the of the Committee's posts as we can.

The more members there are on the Committee, the better to share the work load and for the new committee to consider new ideas and to address any of your concerns.

Information on the Annual General Meeting

In order that the A.G.M. is valid we need attendance by a minimum of 10% of the membership / 20 members.

The AGM is being held at Great Oakley Village Hall and this month's Newsletter and attachments will provide you with all of the information regarding the meeting.

Purpose of the A.G.M.

The purpose of the A.G.M. is to allow Members to have a voice and:

- Accept any Officer reports.
- Agree the Independent Examiner (Auditor).
- Vote in Committee Members
- To receive information and updates on Membership Fees.
- To complete new Membership Application & Disclaimer Forms.
- To pay your 2023/24 Membership.

Committee Membership

Nominations forms will be available at the meeting on 22nd February and on 22nd March and there is a nomination form with this Newsletter.

We really do need people to step up and become Committee Members as we become a registered charity as we really need a name against all of the posts. There is nothing difficult about any of the roles and all the posts are available as we need to vote in a new committee each year and it would be good to have voting at the Annual General Meeting as we did pre-Covid.

The Committee Posts are:

Chairperson To lead Meetings and to bring forward their own and members suggestions

Vice Chairperson To deputise for the Chairperson

Treasurer To keep accounts and make financial reports.

Business Secretary To deal with all correspondence, take Minutes and make reports.

Membership Secretary To update contact information, collect new Membership Fees and forward any monies received.

Group Co-Ordinator To liaise with all Groups and assist setting up new groups.

Social Secretary To arrange Meeting Speakers & Socials.

Web Co-Ordinator To maintain Web site.

Public Relations Secretary To represent the group for U3A Trust initiatives.

Publicity Assistant To publicise events and liaise with the Media.

Welfare Assistant To be the initial contact for any Members Personal concerns.

Members Representative To represent all Members Views.

Membership Information and Fees

Annual Membership fees become due on the 1st April 2023 for the 12 months to 1st April 2024.

Renewal is in April of each year to tie in with the end of the financial year and to match the timing of returns to the Third Age Trust.

Full Membership including u3a Capitation Fee & magazine £17 p.a.

Full Membership without magazine £13 p.a.

Associate Membership Fee (Full Members of another U3a) without magazine £9 p.a.

We are registering as a Charity with the Charities Commission and need to have all of records in order so **All members will need to complete new application and disclaimer forms and do this when they collect their Membership Cards and pay Membership fees.**

Members will be able to renew their memberships at all Monthly Meetings and Committee Members will, if needed visit groups to ease the renewal process.

Current position:

Great Oakley and District u3a has paid all of the normal invoices received from the third Age Trust and our reserves are large enough to cover a minimum of 6 months running costs in line with the guidance on reserves.

Our u3a Facebook page

The Great Oakley and District Facebook page is well worth looking at. For those who would like to join the group, the easiest way is to follow this link [Great Oakley and District U3A Facebook](#) and ask to join the Group that has over 35 Members.

Our Web Site

Unfortunately, the Third Age Trusts and Associated Web sites including our own crashed in December but is now up and running again.

Peter Moden has had a bit of a struggle as our site lost a load of information but is definitely up and running and can be found at <https://u3asites.org.uk/great-oakley/home>

National Office

You can find Newsletters and information on The Third Age Trust at [The Third Age Trust \(campaign-archive.com\)](http://TheThirdAgeTrust(campaign-archive.com)) where you can **Zoom in to Articles and look at other items.**

You can View information as a leaflet in [Colour](#) or [Black & White](#) Or by going to <https://www.u3a.org.uk/member-link>

New Initiatives

The new Executive Committee will be looking at the format of our Monthly Meetings and we want to hear your views which can be sent to secretary.gou3a@gmail.com. One of the AG.M proposals is to charge a £2 entrance fee to cover cost increases and for entry into a Raffle.

Sad News

It is with deep regret that we learnt that John Hallum, one of the original u3a members passed away on 30th November 2022 aged 88 years. John retired from Corby Steelworks 30 years ago and had a long and active retirement.

Many of you will have known John, a quiet and unassuming man who had a presence, regularly attended History Group Meetings, had a long-term interest in Genealogy and spent hours looking at his family history. John will be sorely missed by his wife Jean, his family and all who had the privilege to know him.

Volunteers Wanted

We are keen to find individuals prepared to act as Group Contacts and / or Co-Ordinator's to be the primary or secondary point of contact for groups and assist with any groups that become over-subscribed to avoid waiting lists.

There is space available in the buildings we use so if you have any new ideas for a group which please bring them forward so the Committee and the Group Co-Ordinator can assist you.

If you are interested in being the contact for new initiatives and for forming new groups from those that are currently over-subscribed it would be really good if you could contact Lynda White via E-Mail to Vicechairgou3a@gmail.com

Group Activities

Art Group This friendly group of budding artists meet on alternate Tuesdays at Danesholme Community Centre between 10:00a.m and 12:00 Midday. If you are interested in joining, they would be happy to welcome you. Being an artist is not a necessity, any equipment can be borrowed. Contact is via Lynda White or E-Mail to Vicechairgou3a@gmail.com

Badminton Group We meet on Tuesdays from 10:00a.m. to 12:00 Midday at Kingswood Neighbourhood Centre and have had between 5 & 8 Members attending recently and could do with more Members. You can join us for a bit of exercise, a cup of Tea or Coffee and a laugh for only £2.

Bowls Group There is a single Indoor Mat and it is not unusual for there to be only 2 members using the mat. It would be good to have more members playing and if Neighborhood you are interested join the group and play, please join us from 10:00a.m. to 12:00 midday on Fridays at Kingswood Neighbourhood Centre for £2:00 with Tea or Coffee.

History Group We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month except August at Great Oakley Village Hall between 2:00p.m and 4p.m.

All members of the Great Oakley & District U3A are welcome to attend the presentations that we frequently have.

Full details of meetings are emailed to History Group members about seven days before the meeting. If you would like your email address to be added to the History Group email address list, then please send your details to secretary.gou3a@gmail.com.

Meditation The group plan their sessions in 4–5-week blocks and the topics for discussion are agreed in advance.

The idea is for group members to share their views and personal experience.

This Group is fully subscribed but if you are interested in joining or starting a new group, please send a note to viceichair.gou3a@gmail.com

Open Mic The group meet at Danesholme Community Centre on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month from 12:30 to 14:30. There are limited spaces but if you are interested in joining us, please get in touch and Lynda White will get back to you. Please send an E-mail Viceichairgou3a.@gmail.com for forwarding to Lynda.

Play Reading We are a small group who meet monthly in Danesholme, to read a play together. No acting involved, we just sit around a table and read from a script which is chosen and distributed in advance. It is very informal; we don't take ourselves too seriously and we'd love to have more members. So, if it appeals to you, or if you like the idea why not just come along and give it a try? Contact: Stella Herbert via an Email to Viceichairgou3a@gmail.com for more information.

Photographic Group This month we had our Christmas Meal which has become our usual time for this event.

In the winter months we meet at Great Oakley Village from 2:00p.m to 4:00p.m on the 2nd Wednesday in the month.

We visit places from a list we have from April to October.

We are looking for an expert that we can call on to give us guidance, so if you know someone or are that person, please contact John Bugby by E-mail to Viceichairgou3a.@gmail.com

Table Tennis We continue to believe that we are still improving, however the main aim is to have a good game and enjoy ourselves. There is space to join us and play on the 2 tables that are available. Join us at Kingswood Neighborhood Centre on any Friday at 10:00 for 2hrs some Table Tennis and Tea & Coffee for £2 per person.

Ukulele Group We meet every Monday in the Corby Old Village community Centre from 10:00a.m. to 12:00 noon. We do teach folk to play the ukulele but welcome anyone willing to play an instrument or sing. We currently have a Cajon available for the use of a percussionist and welcome anyone who comes along to our Monday morning meetings.

Walking Group The Walking Group get out and about in all but the most inclement weather. The walks normally end up with lunch at a hostelry found at the end of the days route. New walkers are always welcome to join on the walks that take place on the 2nd Friday of every month.

Writing Group You can find several of the group's stories, poems and stories at

<https://www.u3asites.org.uk/great-oakley/welcome> and looking in the Links and Writing. Authors would welcome feedback on their efforts. The group is fully subscribed but if you are interested in joining or starting a new group, please send a note to viceichair.gou3a@gmail.com

Future Meetings

In the next few month's we have a range of different things happening and we recommend that you put the following in your Diaries and make every effort to attend.

Wednesday 26th April – A traditional u3a Quiz and Natter for a bit of fun and to find your thoughts for the new u3a year.

Wednesday 24th May – By popular demand an Ex-Police presentation on Safety & Scamming.

Wednesday 28th June – Our 10 year anniversary celebrations at a Party in the Park with entertainment from our own Open Mic and Ukulele Groups.

Wednesday 19th July – **A Coach Trip to Bletchley Park £10 deposits are being taken so sign up or miss out.**

Wednesday 26th July – A walk or Talk (Weather dependant) with famous local writer Dr. Peter Hill

We look forward to you participating in the Annual General Meeting.

Take Care

Great Oakley & District U3A Executive Committee.