

January 2024 New Newsletter

Wednesday 28th February 2024

This is something new for us, a surprise which you may hear about in advance and you will only be fully in the know if you come to the meeting.



"I'VE DECIDED THAT INSTEAD OF BECOMING A NEW ME THIS YEAR, I'LL JUST GET A NEW YOU!"

Our Next Meetings at Great Oakley Village Hall

Wednesday 24th January 2024



Something different for the start of the New Year. The Play Reading Group, assisted by others are going to give an interesting presentation that will definitely leave you wanting to join this fascinating group.



"WELL, IF AGE IS JUST A NUMBER, THEN I'D LIKE THIRTY-TWO!"

Wednesday 27th March 2024

The Annual General meeting, something you should not miss as this is a chance to assist and direct the new committee's work.

As is usual, the chair and committee will try to keep the formalities as brief as they can. And after the AG.M. we are going to have some fun????



Committee Profiles Peter Moden, our Chair



As the next Newsletter will be after our Annual General Meeting, I thought I better start the ball rolling on making members aware of who the Committee Members are.

Whatever happens at the A.G.M. it is intended that this is not a one off and at least one Committee Member will be featured in each Newsletter.

Born on a fine Sunny Sunday in August 1955, in a small village, called Little Linford, very close to Newport Pagnell, what is now Milton Keynes, but used to be good old Buckinghamshire. The village comprised of ten houses, a farm house, church, phone box, letter box and lots of fields.



You could vote for someone who used to look this good.

Life was very basic, one outside non flushing toilet, shared between two families, one tap in the village that was at the side of the road, which served all the houses. Most of the menfolk worked on the farm, which was always tough. When I look back and reflect on some of the kindness that was generated at the time, I'm in deep gratitude to many that made life bearable for my grandparents, who lived next door to us, one of these, that still makes me smile today is, my Grandparents who were God fearing folk, worked on the Farm, paid a shilling a year rent, yes one penny a month!!!!

So, time moves on, and a move to Bedfordshire came about, as our house was due to be demolished, lack of modern amenities was the cause, not surprisingly.

By now the house is starting to fill, two older Brothers and two younger Sisters made an interesting mix!!!!

Time flies when you're young, and Attitudes and Values change, we now live in a modern world, TV, Radio Caroline, The Beatles, Rolling Stones, Sinclair Computers, and a telephone in our home !!!!

sometimes I think that we need to relearn some old lessons through the lens of new technologies but that's a story for another day

I married Sue in 1975, and along came four wonderful children, well they are when they are babies!!, a major disaster struck a few years later, when I found myself looking after the four children, but we grew up as a very close family, just as we are today.

Roo and I married in January 1996, so this month is our 28th Anniversary, and a very happy time too, we both love to travel, so we have ventured to many exciting places, enjoying different cultures and experiences, meeting fascinating people, that always have a story to share, lots of great, interesting and funny stories have been shared over many dining tables, which still make us smile now whenever we think back, although for the past twenty years we have taken the easy route and Cruised to many destinations, thoroughly enjoying the relaxed lifestyle that it offers.

We moved to Corby in March 2003, to our new home in Violet Close, and I have to say, it's been the most wonderful time, making long term friendships and enjoying every day, The theory is I retired April 2021, but the reality seems very different, however the slower pace of life is very enjoyable, and meeting new people gives us both a great joy. Being part of the Great Oakley and District U3A has been a great experience, getting to know so many like-minded people, who have a great outlook on life, and enjoy the friendships that are offered.

Next Edition, the Committee Profile focus will be on Steve Lambert (if he gets elected)



Group Information

Art Group

Our friendly, supportive group are continuing to meet on alternate Tuesdays at Danesholme Community Centre between 10:00a.m and 12:00 Midday. Over the last few weeks, we enjoyed a workshop on perspective, then using what we'd learnt to place and draw items of furniture in a room. We had fun using the subject of windows which gave the opportunity to paint views from windows, with creative results. The rest of the sessions we utilised what we have learnt and created our own paintings using our preferred medium. In the New Year we plan to use a DVD tutorial on painting people and then using what we have learnt to place people in landscapes. We will also work independently on our own projects.

Being an artist is not necessary and equipment can be borrowed if you fancy just popping along for a taster.

Contact is Lesley Sturman

Using Perspective



Artist at work



Badminton Group



We are a small and Non-Competitive Group (do not ask the members) who could do with some more energetic and fun- loving persons to join us.

We meet every Tuesday at 10:00 in the Kingswood Neighbourhood Centre Main Hall, play for around an hour, have break for Tea or Coffee and play until 12:00.

It would be great if 4 or 5 people joined us so we could have enough players to always put up a second net and / or have someone take a break between our energetic games.

If you want to join us, come along to the Kingswood Centre at 10:00 a.m. on any Tuesday. I am sure we can find a racket and we have Shuttlecocks to spare.

Contact is John Bugby

Book Group

The Book Group meet on the 2nd Monday of the Month at Danesholme Community Centre.

Contact is Joan Gault



Bowls Group



Possibly something for the less energetic but sometimes extremely competitive person. We have members playing on a single indoor mat at the Kingswood Neighbourhood Centre on a Friday from 10:00 to 12:00 with a mid-time break.

We are at a stage where we could do with a second mat and possibly a new venue if anyone can assist, we would be more than grateful.
John Bugby

CYCLING GROUP



This is a new group that is looking to travel up to 20 miles in a bit over 2hrs on a Sunday Morning. It is not intended that we have a race and that we have a quick cuppa somewhere on or at the end of the journey. We are not bothered what sort of Bike you ride. Contact is John Bugby.

Meditation Group



The Meditation group was set up nine years ago. Sessions consist of a long meditation followed by tea break, a discussion on an agreed topic, and a shorter meditation at the end. The group is run by a small team of members who lead meditation and conduct discussions.

There have been many highlights over the past months. In the summer, we viewed two NGS gardens in Desborough followed by tea and lemon drizzle cake. On another occasion, Damian Tracey told us all about the Myers-Briggs personality test which he administered for many years. And in December we enjoyed a joint celebration with the Writing group at the White Hart.

The themes of the meetings are planned between us. Topics discussed recently have been: Optical Illusions and what they reveal about you, how Humour lifts your mood, and the use of Sound Healing in complementary medicine. The next set of sessions will be decided in the New Year.

At the moment, we cannot accommodate any more members, but a second group could be formed if someone would like to start one.

Short Quiz & Easy Quiz Part 1

- 1) In which country is the Great Barrier Reef located?
- 2) Which planet in our solar system is known as the "Morning Star" or "Evening Star"?
- 3) Which country hosted the 2016 Summer Olympics?
- 4) What is the chemical symbol for silver?
- 5) Who painted the famous artwork "The Starry Night"?
- 6) What is the primary gas responsible for causing global warming?

HISTORY GROUP



The History Group is one of the original special interest groups founded in 2013. It was set up and led by Ray Smith for several years. The group meets in Great Oakley Village Hall on the third Wednesday of each month at 2:00pm.

We usually have a speaker who gives a talk for about 1 hour followed by tea or coffee and a biscuit. Meetings are usually attended by approximately 40 members. Attendees pay £2 per session which covers hall hire, refreshments and external speakers.

The speakers are a mix of members of the group and external speakers.

At recent meetings the Speakers and Topics included:

Damian Tracey (group member) - **The Royal Hospital Chelsea**

Dr Peter Hill (external speaker) - **The Celts**

Lynne Bradshaw (group member) - **The Domestic Goddess**

The dates, speakers, and topics for our next 3 meetings are:

17th January - **Ruth Bradshaw** (group member)
Local Curiosities

21st February - **Dr Peter Hill** (external speaker)
The Vikings

20th March - **Sue Lawson** (group member)
John Clare: His Life and Times

All members of the Great Oakley & District U3A are welcome.

In accordance with the ethos of the U3A we encourage members to give talks to the group.

Contact: Damian Tracey - damian@pdtracey.co.uk

Open Mic



Hi, I am Lynda White

We are a new and small group who normally meet at Danesholme Community Centre on the first & third Fridays between 12:00 and 14:00.

Anyone is welcome to join us as to tell a poem, sing a song or tell a story.

Unfortunately, I have not been well and after the group showed their talent at the October meeting, we have had a break.

I enjoyed practicing singing Xmas carols with Steve and Peter for our Xmas meeting and U3A meeting. Looking forward to seeing what 2024 will bring.
Lynda.

Photography Group

At our December meeting we looked at what we wanted to do in 2024 and an item from Photography On-line.

We have decided to cancel our January meeting and meet again for our annual meal on 7th February at the Manor House.

In March we will be visiting Geddington Church for a guided tour and to take photos of the refurbishment of the church. The pictures will be added to those we have previously taken before refurbishment and our 2024 project is to mount an exhibition working closely with the church and the Rooftop gallery.

In April we are hoping to visit a seldom open significant Northamptonshire House.

In May we hope to have been able to visit Chester House as a follow up to an earlier visit when it had been refurbished and open to the public.

In the summer months we are looking to visit anything that appeals to us and as in the past, the venue will be chosen at the last minute following a review of the weather.

Contact: John Bugby

Ukulele Group



The Go-Ukes ukulele group meets every Monday morning at the Corby Old Village Community Centre, from 10:30am – 12:30pm, with a tea break in the middle.

Although we are primarily a ukulele group, I like to describe us as a fun- loving music group; we already have a member who prefers to play his guitar and a couple of members who just like to sing along.

I am happy to teach anybody who wishes to learn to play the ukulele (you don't have to be able to read music) but if you play another instrument, please bring it along. We would particularly like someone to accompany us on the cajon (a Peruvian wooden box used as a drum and played with the hands).

We sometimes entertain residents in care homes and a variety of local groups, of course participating in these activities is totally voluntary.

Music is so good for the soul, if you come on Monday morning feeling low, you certainly leave with a smile on your face.

Anybody is welcome to visit us to give us a try and to see if our group is for you. We look forward to seeing you.

Contact: Trudie Reid trudiereid@talktalk.net

Short & Easy Quiz Part 2

- 7) What is the largest ocean on Earth?
- 8) Who is the Greek god of thunder and lightning?
- 9) In music, how many keys are there in an octave of the chromatic scale? a) 4 b) 8 c) 12
- 10) In which novel would you find the character Atticus Finch?

Play Reading Group



Our meetings are now taken up with practicing of our reading of a modern-day pantomime for the January monthly meeting. We are not acting - we are just reading the lines as we do at our meetings, but will use some props to help the audience recognise which character we are. We loved it when we first read the play last year and hope that we can do it justice for our audience.

Stella

Table tennis group



pixtastock.com – 64125321

We are a small and fun-loving Group who are definitely not expert players.

We meet every Friday at 10:00 in the Kingswood Neighbourhood Centre Main Hall, play for around an hour. We seem to have longer & longer mid-time break for Tea or Coffee and play until 12:00.

We currently have between 5 & 8 members who play. If there were 4 or 5 people joined us so we could have enough players to use our 2nd table.

If you want to join us, come along to the Kingswood Centre at 10:00 a.m. on any Tuesday. We have Table Tennis bats and balls so you just need to turn up.

John Bugby

Walking Group

And a couple more

Since the last report the walking group has undertaken the following walks:

- | | | |
|-------------|---|-----------|
| 12 May | Twywell – Cranford from the Old Friar, Twywell | 4 miles |
| 9 June | Oundle – Glapthorn from the George, Oundle | 4.2 miles |
| 14 July | Gretton – Kirby Hall from the Hatton Arms, Gretton | 5.5 miles |
| 11 August | Maidwell – towards Lampport from the Stag, Maidwell | 4.8 miles |
| 8 September | Unfortunately this walk as cancelled | |
| 13 October | Gumley – Smeeton Westerby from the Bell, Gumley | 4.9 miles |
| 10 November | Fineshades Woods - lunch at the Cross Keys, Kings Cliffe | 5.0 miles |



Here are a couple of pictures:



We had our Christmas meal in December, last year it was at the White Horse, Stoke Albany on Friday the 8th.

We start 2024 walking around Rutland Water (well, some of it!!) this month and having lunch in the Wheatsheaf, Edith Weston. Walks being considered for the rest of 2024 include Oundle, Woodford, Manton, Arthingworth, Loddington, Kings Cliffe, Seaton, Isham and Elton. Details are yet to be confirmed when John has sampled the pubs!

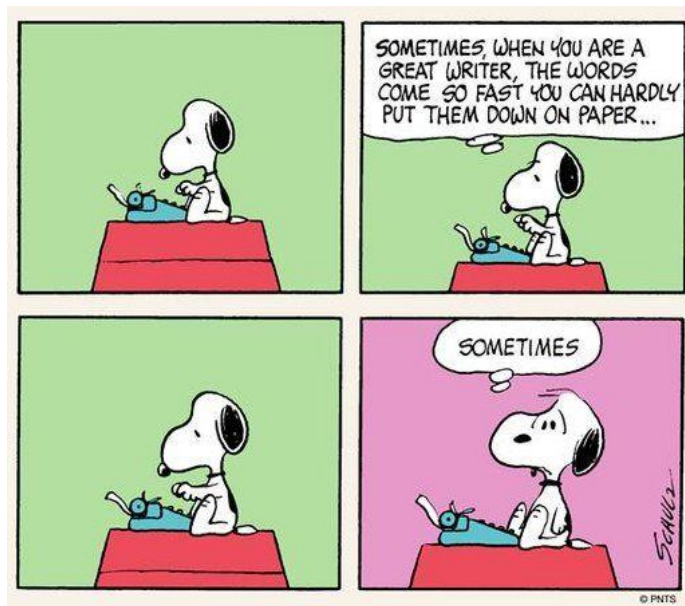
We always welcome new members to the group. Anyone interested should approach Lesley Sturman at the monthly meetings in Great Oakley Village Hall, or email her at lesleysturman@gmail.com

General Knowledge Questions Part 1

- 1) The 'Yorkshire Ripper' was arrested in January 1981 following one of the largest police investigations ever. What was his real name?
- 2) Why did the US president, Richard Nixon, sign a bill in 1974 restricting the speed limit for cars to 55mph?
- 3) Pete Postlethwaite who died in January 2011 starred as Danny Ormondroyd the conductor of the band in which film?
- 4) In 1941 German bombing severely damaged Llandaff Cathedral in which city?



Writing Group



This Editions Leaders Profile

Who leads the U3A Writing Group?



I'm Cath Arnold and I currently lead the U3A Writing Group fortnightly in the Village Hall.

We meet fortnightly on a Thursday afternoon in the Corby Old Village Hall.

The group is currently full - 4 men and 6 women.

We plan ahead, drawing on everyone's ideas and have a shared topic to write about.

We read our stories or poems out loud to the group. Recent examples of topics: 'My happy place', 'If I found myself a senior member of government or a senior Royal, what would I do?', 'Conversations at a railway station or on public transport', 'A music experience'.

My personal favourite was 'A Baby Blog' I wrote from my son's perspective as a baby - he's now 53 years old!

Cath Arnold

I came to Corby as an 8-year-old with a broad, Geordie accent. I remember being laughed at for my pronunciation of certain words. As a child, I wanted to be a journalist and I am still very interested in the lives of others, although I never pursued my dream.

As well as living in Corby, I spent nearly 3 years in Liverpool in the 60s; 13 years living in Germany as my husband was a surveyor in the army; and nearly 3 years near Southend in Essex.

During the last few years, we have done a lot of travelling. India is the place we have returned to again and again and is our favourite destination.

We've been back in Corby since 1985.

I also attend U3A Meditation, Play Reading and Table Tennis.

General Knowledge Questions Part 2

5) Luna 1, the first spacecraft to reach the vicinity of the Moon and to orbit the Sun was launched by which country in 1959?

6) Born in January 1936 which American singer is perhaps best known for his hit song and karaoke classic 'King of the Road'?

7) In January 1777 which American General defeated the British General Cornwallis at the battle of Princeton?

8) In 1833 the British claimed sovereignty over which south Atlantic islands?

9) Which state was admitted as the 49th US State in January 1959?

10) US sprinter Jim Hines was the first man to achieve which world-renowned athletic feat?



New Games and Language Groups

These are new groups with several members being interested in learning a second language and others expressing an interest in games of a non – energetic nature.

Members are invited to attend the first meeting at 10.00am on 10th January at the Oakley Vale Community Centre which is next to the Shops in Butland Road, Oakley Vale.



Language Group

At the initial meeting we intend to discuss arrangements for future meetings at which we shall start our BASIC FRENCH language group. There is no requirement for anyone to have a knowledge of the language, as full details will be provided about the study sessions which will be held weekly on a Wednesday between 10.00am and 12 Noon. There will be a limit of around 12 members for the Language group and we currently have 6 members interested.

Apart from the cost of buying a Text Book, there will be a charge £2 for attending the session and refreshments will be provided.

Interested Members should contact Michael Pilbro (U3a Committee) on TEL: 07703-398822.

Games Group

At the meeting we will be looking at how we can hold some sessions of games (such as: Cribbage, Dominoes, Scrabble, Bridge, Chess).



As with the language Group, you do not need to be an expert to attend as it is very much about learning something new or improving your current skills.



Anyone interested in joining Games sessions wishing to attend such session should contact Michael Pilbro.

The games sessions will also be held Oakley vale Community Centre Wednesdays between 10.00am and 12 Noon.

There will be a charge of £2 for those attending with refreshments being provided.

Recent Meeting Photographs

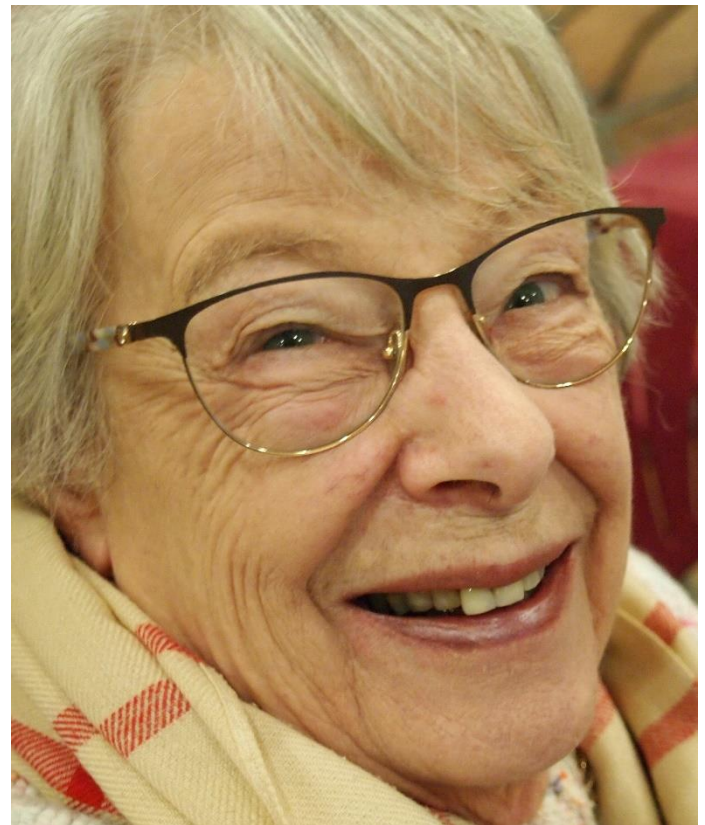
We are going to have a page or two of photographs which we will show their own Story & welcome your contributions.

November Monthly Meeting

North Northants Cardiac First Responders on Resuscitation and Defibrillation



Those at the meeting



Enjoyable & educative Presentation

NORTH NORTHANTS CFR Voluntary Ambulance First Responders

DRS C ABC

D – Danger
R – Response
S – Shout/call for help
C – Catastrophic Bleed
A – Airway
B – Breathing
C – Circulation

Find out more:
✉ contactus@northnorthantscfr.nhs.uk
f @NorthNorthantsFirstResponders
N_NorthantsCFR

Scan to donate

Helping us to support our local communities

North Northants Community Responders is made up of a group of volunteers who have been trained by the East Midlands Ambulance Service to provide emergency medical aid to people living and working in the local community.

North Northants First Responders are a registered charity in England - (Charity No. 1194543) Registered with the Fundraising Regulator.

NHS East Midlands Ambulance Service

What to remember and do.



**This is how to do it.
Remember to work as hard as you can,
break some ribs and get that Heart beating
again.**

**December Sing Along
At the Meeting on Wednesday 20th December**

The mayor, Leanne Buckingham came along for the pies & wine?



The scene from the Audience



Those at the meeting to join the singing



Steve & Linda starting the sing along.



Leanne Buckingham talking after the singing and before Tea & Coffee

On this Day in History for our Monthly Meetings

Wednesday 24th January



Launched in mid-2003, the six-wheeled robotic rover Opportunity landed on Mars this day in 2004



Frank O. Gehry – Famous Canadian American architect and designer of the Guggenheim Museum was borne in 1929 in Toronto Canada.

Wednesday 27th March



Steve Jobs introduced Apple's revolutionary computer Macintosh, two days after the groundbreaking commercial "1984" aired before a national TV audience and heralded the product's impending release



American director and screenwriter Quentin Tarantino—whose films, including *Reservoir Dogs* (1992) and *Pulp Fiction* (1994), are noted for their stylized violence, razor-sharp dialogue, and fascination with film and pop culture—was born.

February 28th February



The final episode of the immensely popular Comedy Television series *M*A*S*H* aired and was watched by an estimated 106 million viewers.



The legendary Cleopatra VII Thea Philopator, aided by her Roman lover Julius Caesar, was reinstated as coruler of Egypt (with her brother Ptolemy XIV) this day in 47 BCE following a civil war with her brother Ptolemy XIII.

Band Anagrams

The following anagrams are all bands or artists, who are they?

- 1) Grips Slice
- 2) Rain Van
- 3) Tutu Bathhouse Life
- 4) Siberia Bow Mill
- 5) Hairy Camera
- 6) Thatch Arsenal
- 7) Pry Misled
- 8) Shoe Inspector
- 9) Mapel jar
- 10) Stealth Bee

General Knowledge Questions Part 3

- 11) In which 1994 film does Jim Carrey attempt to rescue the Miami Dolphins' mascot?
- 12) Which British architect born in 1806 is best known for the original Thames Tunnel and the Clifton and Hungerford Suspension Bridges? a) Robert Stephenson b) Isambard Kingdom Brunel c) William Henry Barlow
- 13) In a car, what does ABS stand for?
- 14) Which 'I' is an internet image sharing app purchased by Facebook in April 2012?
- 15) Lib Dem politician Paddy Ashdown was born in which country? a) England b) India c) Canada
- 16) 'HOMES' is a mnemonic for recalling the Five Great Lakes of the USA. Which lake does the 'S' represent?
- 17) Yerevan is the capital city of which eastern European country?
- 18) Which BBC television and radio presenter wrote an autobiography entitled 'Call the Midlife'?
- 19) Triton is the largest of the satellites orbiting which of the traditional solar system planets? a) Mars b) Saturn c) Neptune
- 20) Born in January 1925, which English record producer was often referred to as the 'fifth Beatle'?
- 21) Which dictator announced that he was taking dictatorial powers over Italy in January 1925?
- 22) Who sold his first revolver pistol to the United States government in 1847?
- 23) British troops were defeated at the Battle of Princeton in which war?
- 24) A gun battle in the East End of London left two dead and sparked a political row over the involvement of which Home Secretary?
- 25) In January 1959 what became the 49th US state?
- 26) Due to its nationalisation of American assets, the United States severed diplomatic relations with which country in 1961?
- 27) JRR Tolkien, author of Lord of the Rings was born in January 1892 in which modern day country?
- 28) Fran Cotton, born in 1947, is best known for playing which sport?

- 29) Burma gained its independence from which country in 1948?
- 30) The Nutshell pub in Bury St. Edmunds holds which distinction?

Contact Information for you

If you want to contact or join us you can find a range of information and links on the Great Oakley & District Web page.

Just go to:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/great-oakley/welcome>

or you can use the following QR Code



And if you do not use a computer, any of the new-fangled devices or know of someone who would like to join us, just come yourself or with them to one of our monthly meetings at Great oakley Village Hall.

We meet every 3rd Wednesday in the Month from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Quiz Answers

Short & easy parts 1 & 2

- 1) In which country is the Great Barrier Reef located? - **Australia.**
- 2) Which planet in our solar system is known as the "Morning Star" or "Evening Star"? - **Venus.**
- 3) Which country hosted the 2016 Summer Olympics? - **Brazil (Rio de Janeiro).**
- 4) What is the chemical symbol for silver? - **Ag.**
- 5) Who painted the famous artwork "The Starry Night"? - **Vincent van Gogh.**
- 6) What is the primary gas responsible for causing global warming? - **Carbon dioxide (CO2).**
- 7) What is the largest ocean on Earth? - **The Pacific Ocean.**
- 8) Who is the Greek god of thunder and lightning? **Zeus.**
- 9) In music, how many keys are there in an octave of the chromatic scale? a) 4 b) 8 c) 12 - **c) 12 keys.**
- 10) In which novel would you find the character Atticus Finch? - **"To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee.**

General Knowledge Questions Part 1

- 1) The 'Yorkshire Ripper' was arrested in January 1981 following one of the largest police investigations ever. What was his real name? **Peter Sutcliffe**
- 2) Why did the US president, Richard Nixon, sign a bill in 1974 restricting the speed limit for cars to 55mph? - **To conserve fuel during an OPEC embargo**
- 3) Pete Postlethwaite who died in January 2011 starred as Danny Ormondroyd the conductor of the band in which film? - **Brassed Off**
- 4) In 1941 German bombing severely damaged Llandaff Cathedral in which city? - **Cardiff**

General Knowledge Questions Part 2

- 5) Luna 1, the first spacecraft to reach the vicinity of the Moon and to orbit the Sun was launched by which country in 1959? - **Soviet Union**
- 6) Born in January 1936 which American singer is perhaps best known for his hit song and karaoke classic 'King of the Road'? - **Roger Miller**
- 7) In January 1777 which American General defeated the British General Cornwallis at the battle of Princeton? - **General George Washington**
- 8) In 1833 the British claimed sovereignty over which south Atlantic islands? - **The Falklands**
- 9) Which state was admitted as the 49th US State in January 1959? - **Alaska**
- 10) US sprinter Jim Hines was the first man to achieve which world-renowned athletic feat? **First man to run 100m under 10 seconds**

Band Anagrams

- 1 Grips Slice - **Spice Girls**
- 2 Rain Van - **Nirvana**
- 3 Tutu Bathhouse Life - **The Beautiful South**
- 4 Siberia Bow Mill - **Robbie Williams**
- 5 Hairy Camera - **Mariah Carey**
- 6 Thatch Arsenal - **The Charlatans**
- 7 Pry Misled - **Simply Red**
- 8 Shoe Inspector - **Stereophonics**
- 9 Maple Jar - **Pearl Jam**
- 10 Stealth Bee - **The Beatles**

General Knowledge Questions Part 3

- 11) In which 1994 film does Jim Carrey attempt to rescue the Miami Dolphins' mascot? - **Ace Ventura, Pet Detective**
- 12) Which British architect born in 1806 is best known for the original Thames Tunnel and the Clifton and Hungerford Suspension Bridges? a) Robert Stephenson b) Isambard Kingdom Brunel c) William Henry Barlow - **b) Isambard Kingdom Brunel**
- 13) In a car, what does ABS stand for? - **Anti-lock Braking System**
- 14) Which 'I' is an internet image sharing app purchased by Facebook in April 2012? - **Instagram**
- 15) Lib Dem politician Paddy Ashdown was born in which country? a) England b) India c) Canada - **b) India**
- 16) 'HOMES' is a mnemonic for recalling the Five Great Lakes of the USA. Which lake does the 'S' represent? - **Superior**
- 17) Yerevan is the capital city of which eastern European country? - **Armenia**
- 18) Which BBC television and radio presenter wrote an autobiography entitled 'Call the Midlife'? - **Chris Evans**
- 19) Triton is the largest of the satellites orbiting which of the traditional solar system planets? a) Mars b) Saturn c) Neptune - **c) Neptune**
- 20) Born in January 1925, which English record producer was often referred to as the 'fifth Beatle' - **Sir George Henry Martin**
- 21) Which dictator announced that he was taking dictatorial powers over Italy in January 1925? - **Benito Mussolini**
- 22) Who sold his first revolver pistol to the United States government in 1847? - **Samuel Colt**
- 23) British troops were defeated at the Battle of Princeton in which war? - **American Revolutionary War (American War of Independence)**
- 24) A gun battle in the East End of London left two dead and sparked a political row over the involvement of which Home Secretary? - **Winston Churchill.**
- 25) In January 1959 what became the 49th US state? - **Alaska**

26) Due to its nationalisation of American assets, the United States severed diplomatic relations with which country in 1961? - **Cuba**

27) JRR Tolkien, author of Lord of the Rings was born in January 1892 in which modern day country? **South Africa**

28) Fran Cotton, born in 1947, is best known for playing which sport? - **Rugby Union**

29) Burma gained its independence from which country in 1948? - **Great Britain**

30) The Nutshell pub in Bury St. Edmunds holds which distinction?

Smallest pub in Britain

What the Answers Mean

There was a total of 50 questions and if you got between:

0 & 7 correct it's actually impressive to see how stupid you are – **Good Job**

8 & 13 correct, do you need someone to tell you the answers – **Pathetic**

14 & 20 correct you need to put down your phone and pick up a book for once – **Below Average**

21 & 26 correct that is a good job! **That is if barely above average is what you aspire to?**

27 & 35 correct that is a great effort. **You're almost impressive. Not quite but almost.**

36 & 40 You are actually smarter than you look. **Nice Work**

40 & 49 Wow! You have to admit ... **Nobody thought you would do this well**

50 Are you sure **as you must be Einstein's Long-Lost Twin.**

It would be really good if you could forward any Jokes or Cartoons that you have to ensure that the Newsletter is interesting and not repetitive so, please forward any items to the scrutineers Peter Moden and Steve Lambert.

Steps to set up New Groups

The essential principle of U3A is self-help. For a modest membership fee, we can take our pick of activities and interest groups. Those offerings are only possible if all our members who are able to give something back make them happen.

If you are enthusiastic about something and you think that others might be like-minded you can set up a Group.

It is easy to set up a group and less of a commitment than you might think.

Here's how:

1. If possible, get one or two fellow enthusiasts to work with you on setting the Group up and running it. It's easier when you're not alone and you won't need to organise your life around meeting dates as you can cover for each other's absences.
2. Talk to a Committee Member to find out what help and support are available, check out the list of subject advisers published in the Third Age Matters magazine, and read the **Handbook for Group Leaders** available at [Group-Convenors-Handbook-2023-7.pdf](http://epsomandewellu3a.co.uk/Group-Convenors-Handbook-2023-7.pdf) (epsomandewellu3a.co.uk)
3. Agree on the basics: name of the Group; a short description that will 'sell' the group; the structure of the meetings (how long, with or without a break); minimum and maximum membership (if appropriate); where, when and how often to meet; cost to members for venue and refreshments. Will the group leader(s) always lead or will the group learn to manage itself as many do, with members taking turns to find topics or lead discussions?
4. Armed with those details, find out how many U3A members might be interested. Publicise the new Group in the newsletter, on the website, and at any General Meeting. Set up a mailing list of those who are interested (most will be on email).
5. Arrange for the Group to be placed on our website and ask for the Group's Launch to be in the newsletter and at the General Meeting and have your first meeting.

Meetings in 2024

Monthly Meetings at Great Oakley Village Hall

Wednesday 24th January 14:00 - 16:00
Wednesday 28th February 14:00 - 16:00

Wednesday 27th March Annual General Meeting 13:00 to 16:00

Wednesday 24th April 14:00 – 16:00
Wednesday 22nd May 14:00 – 16:00
Wednesday 26th June 14:00 – 16:00
Wednesday 24th July 14:00 – 16:00

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

Wednesday 25th September 14:00 – 16:00
Wednesday 23rd October 14:00 – 16:00
Wednesday 27th November 14:00 – 16:00
Wednesday 18th December 14:00 – 16:00

Committee Meetings at Great Oakley Village Hall

Monday 8th January 14:00 - 16:00
Monday 12th February 14:00 - 16:00
Monday 11th March 14:00 – 16:00
Monday 8th April 14:00 – 16:00
Monday 13th May 14:00 – 16:00
Monday 10th June 14:00 – 16:00
Monday 8th July 14:00 – 16:00

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

Monday 9th September 14:00 – 16:00
Monday 14th October 14:00 – 16:00
Monday 11th November 14:00 – 16:00
Monday 9th December 14:00 – 16:00

Diary for Group Meetings

Monday

Book Group – 2nd Monday in Month 10:30 – 12:00
Danesholme Community Centre.
Contact: Joan Gault

Play Reading – 3rd Monday in Month 14:00 – 16:00
Danesholme Community Centre.
Contact: Stella Herbert

Ukulele – Every Monday 10:30 – 12:30
Corby Old Village Community Centre
Contact: Trudie Reid - trudiereid@talktalk.net

Tuesday

Art – Alternate Tuesdays 10:00 – 12:00
Danesholme Community Centre
Contact: Lesley Sturman

Badminton – Every Tuesday 10:00 – 12:00
Kingswood Neighborhood Centre
Contact: John Bugby

Wednesday

Language & Games – Every Wednesday 10:00-12:00
Oakley vale Community Centre
Contact: Michael Pilbro

Monthly Meeting – 4th Monday in Month
14:00 – 16:00
Great oakley Village Hall
Contact: Peter Moden

History – 3rd Wednesday in Month 14:00 – 16:00
Great Oakley Village Hall
Contact: Damian Tracey

Photography – 2nd Wednesday in Month
14:00 – 16:00
Kingswood Neighborhood Centre
Contact: John Bugby

Thursday

Meditation – Alternate Thursdays 13:30 – 15:30
Corby Old Village Community Centre
Contact: Kate Carnie
kathleen.carnie@btinternet.com

Writing – Alternate Thursdays 12:30 – 14:30
Corby Old Village Community Centre
Contact: Cath Arnold

Friday

Open Mic – Alternate Fridays 12:30 – 14:30
Danesholme Community Centre
Contact: Lynda White

Bowls – Every Friday 10:00 – 12:00
Kingswood Neighborhood Centre
Contact: Jenny Thompson

Table Tennis – Every Friday 10:00 – 12:00
Kingswood Neighborhood Centre
Contact: John Bugby

Walking – 2nd Friday in Month
Start & Finish to suit route
Contact: Lesley Sturman

Sunday

Cycling – Every Fine Sunday 09:00 – 11:30
Start & Finish to suit route
Contact: John Bugby

And Now a few serious Bits

These potential Members are just waiting to attend the Annual General Meeting and join us.



In order that all goes smoothly when we meet, please make sure all Mobile Phones are turned Off at all meetings

Almost Final Reminder Annual General Meeting

As was the case at our Extra-ordinary General meeting on December in order that the A.G.M. is valid we need attendance by a minimum of 10% of the membership / 20.

Annual General Meeting Venue

We are holding an AGM at Great Oakley Village Hall on Wednesday 27th March.

We do our best to ensure that all members are advised of the meeting but if you do know of someone who hears or sees nothing from us, please tell us.

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

Committee Membership

We need Nominations for the Executive Committee ASAP.

Nominations should be forwarded to Peter Moden at our January or February meetings or by sending an E-Mail to Peter Moden, our Chair at peter@petermoden.com

We hope you had a really good Christmas and the New Year has started off well for you despite the weather.

We look forward to seeing you over the next 3 months and you're participating in the Annual General Meeting.

Please remember Memberships are due for renewal at the Annual General Meeting and we will be opening the hall at 1:00 p.m. so we can undertake renewals before we start the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

*The 2024/25 Membership Fees are:
£19:00 including the U3a Magazine
And
£15:00p without the magazine.*

The next Newsletter will be sent to you in April and we welcome your comments on this Newsletter and what you would like to see in future copies.

Take Care

Great Oakley & District U3A Executive Committee.