

**Next Meeting at Great Oakley Village Hall****Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022**

A talk from Dr. Peter Hill on Oakley Vale & Great Oakley who is the author of more than 21 books

**Message from the Chair**

Hello to all our members, Sitting here on Armistice Day, a true day to reflect, on the so many, who sacrificed so much, for us to be here today, their bravery and resilience echoes in all of our hearts, and will do, quite rightly for many years to come, the stories of determination and fearless heroism will stand the test of time and hopefully will be retold to future generations.

There are many sadness's in all conflicts, and cruel moments too, I'm reminded of a gentleman who died peacefully in 1970, who never married and had no children, whose brother died in the First World War, their family name now ceases to exist, and his will not be the only Family.

Its less than forty four days to Christmas!!!!!!

This year has simply flown by, but I'm a Christmas Person, I so enjoy the festive time, beautiful decorations in family homes, incredible displays on people's front gardens, Christmas Carols, Slade and Cliff Richard with endless Christmas renditions, Pantomimes and very nervous Turkeys in the Farmyard across the Country.

Most of all it's about people and family, friendships and human kindness that will become very strong at this time, a time to embrace and offer forgiveness. This year we will have our first

Christmas address from King Charles.

So for ourselves we have many thing still to look forward to, Christmas lunch on the 20th of December, our very first Christmas Carols on the 21st of December, a post-Christmas tea and natter on the 28th of December, all of those are going to be memorable, and certain to get us all in the Christmas spirit, which will end the year perfectly. We all know that Christmas can be a difficult time for some, for many reasons, if you reach out to us, we will help in any way we can.

As always take care of yourselves and look forward to seeing you all very soon

**Group Update**

Some of you may not be aware that Lynda White, Peter Moden and myself are working together to pull together updates on our Group Attendance Lists.

It is clear that we will need to register with the Charities Commission, our records regarding meetings and attendees have not been updated for over 3 years and we should know the following:

The maximum potential income from all sources including groups paying fees for meetings to back up our registration. We are doing this by using any limit on Group Numbers multiplied by any Meeting Fee.

We are going to also use any limit on the numbers in a group so we can try and help with having more than 1 group for the same subject, restrict any conflict with meeting times and / or venues to maximise subject availability. We also need to know where groups are meeting and who is in attendance in case of any incident and accident.

**Interested in a Group**

Lynda White would love to hear from anyone wishing to join a group, interested in starting or being part of new groups.

**Christmas Activities****Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December Kingswood Neighborhood Centre**

32 members are going to the Centre for the Meal.

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December – Carol Service at Great Oakley Village Hall**

This year we are holding a new event for Great Oakley & District u3a.

The chair has invited a Choir to entertain us with Christmas Carols and more as referred to in his introduction.

There will be Mince Pies and a choice of drinks.

Please tell Peter Moden if you will be joining us or e-mail him at [Chair.gou3a@gmail.com](mailto:Chair.gou3a@gmail.com)

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> December – Tea, Coffee and a natter at Great Oakley Village Hall**

If members are interested, we will be opening the village hall at the normal time for a monthly meeting for us to get together to have a chat after a short introduction and a quiz with really worthless prizes.

Please E-Mail me at [vicechair.gou3a@gmail.com](mailto:vicechair.gou3a@gmail.com) if you are likely to attend.

**Committee Update**

At the last monthly meeting some members said they were interested in joining the committee and will be joining us at the next Committee meeting on Monday 28th. If you are thinking of joining us, tell the chair and come along.

## **Introducing Committee Members – Helen Watts Our Membership Secretary**

So, it looks like it is my turn this month to tell you a little bit about me.

I was brought up in Daventry and have an older brother. I desperately wanted to be a nurse and volunteered as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Danetre Hospital. I didn't become a nurse but that experience led to a lifetime of volunteering. I had many adventures as both brown owl and a scout leader (never did master knot tying, but am a dab hand at putting up a tent or campfire cooking) to name just two of the volunteering opportunities I have been privileged to be involved in. I moved to Northampton and met my husband Phil and we have been together more than 40 years. We have a son and daughter, together with a grandson and granddaughter. Coming from a large extended family, (Dad was one of 13 and Mum one of 8), family is everything to me.

Like many youngsters I started off working –life on Youth Opportunities Schemes, there wasn't much work in Daventry in the early 80's. Similar to Corby, I guess. I eventually settled into the legal profession before becoming a Mum. Later I joined local government where I became a union representative being particularly interested in equalities and diversity. My huge sense of justice and fair play **does** get me into trouble at times.

A medical injury meant I had to "retire" much earlier than planned and various events meant that, in 2015, it was time to look to our long-term future and we ending up moving to Weldon. We fell in love with Weldon and Corby and have built up a lifestyle and friendships that we both enjoy and couldn't

imagine being anywhere else now.

I am an avid family and local historian and run the new genealogy group. I enjoy introducing others to the world of family history, but there is always a proviso. We all have "skeletons" in our closets, but I feel it is not for us to pass judgement (there are exceptions, but I have yet to find any link to Jack the Ripper!). We can only scratch the surface of what their lives were like and can never walk in their shoes. Whatever the rights or wrongs of our ancestor's lives, we are here because of them and their struggles.

### **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 already has over 34 Members.

### **Web site**

We have a web site at which like the Facebook page has a lot of information on it and links to other groups and sites.

You can look at the site via the following link:  
<https://www.u3asites.org.uk/great-oakley/welcome>

### **Preparations for the 20213 Annual General Meeting**

We continue to prepare for the Annual General Meeting which will be on March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023 at that month's meeting and are still looking for new committee members. We will be advising some changes that need to be approved at the meeting so that we can register with the Charities Commission and not affect what we do.

## **Committee Members Wanted - No previous experience necessary**

**It looks as though we may have enough interested members to move forward and take this opportunity to remind you of the members who will be leaving the committee at the A.G.M.**

### **Treasurer**

It looks as though we have someone interested in the role and Doreen & Damian have offered to assist the new Treasurer to ensure a smooth handover.

**Business Secretary**  
**At the moment we do not appear to have anyone interested in undertaking this interesting role dealing with communications from the Third Age Trust, taking and circulating minutes and arranging for committee meetings.**

### **Vice Chair Person**

We think we have a volunteer and hope that he will not be put off when he attends the next Committee meeting.

### **Facebook Administrator / I.T. Assistant**

This year Helen Gibson worked extremely hard and gave us the Facebook page. Moving forward this role is to provide any I.T. advise that the holder may have to the committee and act as one of the two Administrators that we would like to have for the Facebook page.

## **Group Reports**

### **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 [Viceichairgou3a@gmail.com](mailto:Viceichairgou3a@gmail.com)

### **Badminton Group**

We continue to meet on Tuesdays from 10:00a.m. to 12:00 Midday at Kingswood Neighborhood Centre and have had between 5 & 8 Members at meetings in the last few weeks. You can join us for a bit of exercise, a cup of Tea or Coffee and a laugh for only £2.

### **Bowls Group**

The group play on a single Indoor Mat and it would be good to have a few more members join the group. If you are interested join the group and play from 10:00a.m. to 12:00 midday on Fridays at Kingswood Neighbourhood Centre for £2:00 with Tea or Coffee.

### **History Group**

The next meeting that was scheduled for Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December has been hi-jacked by the chair so he can be there when the Choir he has arranged will be entertaining us all in the Village Hall.

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

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](mailto:secretary.gou3a@gmail.com) before 9<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Genealogy**

Our meetings will be split between the library for research, the heritage Centre for information sharing and learning and outings to various archives/museums that are relevant to family history research.

The aim of the group is to put the twigs and leaves on our family trees, that is to say to find out, not just a list of our ancestors, but how they fitted into the communities around them, what did they do for a living, who were their neighbour's etc.

The Group is currently full but if you are interested in joining or starting another group, please send a note to [viceichair.gou3a@gmail.com](mailto:viceichair.gou3a@gmail.com) for forwarding to Lynda White, our Group Co-Ordinator

## **Meditation**

Kate thought she would tell you something about what they do. We start and end with meditation. The first is usually 15-20 minutes long and we finish with a shorter one. These are led by Rosemary who is very experienced in alternative therapies. We plan our sessions in 4-5-week blocks and the topics for discussion are agreed in advance. I am the organiser, but the presentation is shared between three of us;

Rosemary I've already mentioned, I am a qualified CBT counsellor and have studied Mindfulness, and Cath has a Ph.D. in Child Development. It all sounds very academic but the themes are not at all - they relate to everyday experience and are agreed by the whole group in advance. Recent topics have been Mindfulness in Gardening, Crystal Healing and a future session will be on Sibling Rivalry. The idea is for group members to share their views and personal experience.

Kate.

This Group and the writing 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](mailto:viceichair.gou3a@gmail.com)

## **Open Mic**

The group meet at Danesholme Community Centre on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:Viceichairgou3a@gmail.com) 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 - the play may be classical or modern, with short or long parts, and we try to match the number of characters to the number expected at the meeting. When this fails some people just listen, or have to read two parts! 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 but are not sure if it would suit you, why not just come along and give it a try? Contact: Stella Herbert via an E-Mail to [Viceichairgou3a@gmail.com](mailto:Viceichairgou3a@gmail.com) for more information.

## **Photographic Group**



We visit different places at our monthly meetings from March to October. It can be wet and cold in November as can be seen by these rare Mushrooms photographed this week.



We visit places from a list we have and take targeted photographs of a type or subject. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at Great Oakley Village Hall over the winter months. Contact John Bugby by E-mail to [Vicechairgou3a@gmail.com](mailto:Vicechairgou3a@gmail.com) for more information.



It must be really wet as these Mushrooms are growing anywhere.

### **Table Tennis**

We continue to believe that we are still improving. The main aims being to have a good game and enjoy ourselves and 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 welcomers are willing to play an instrument.

We currently have a Cajon available for the use of a percussionist and welcome anyone interested in joining our group 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every month.

### **Writing and Meditation Secret Santa**

'The Writing Group and Meditation Group have decided to collect cash donations to give to Corby Foodbank, rather than having a Secret Santa gift each'

### **Suggestions Welcome**

We are always interested in your views on what we are doing. We want to hear about any new activities, ideas or interest in a subject that they would like to know more about or share.

Please contact Lynda White, the Group Co-Ordinator with ideas via an e-mail to [vicechairgou3a@gmail.com](mailto:vicechairgou3a@gmail.com)

### **The rest of the year's meetings**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December** – Christmas Carol Service with seven very talented singers, a sing along with some fun and giggles thrown in for good measure.

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> December** – A Christmas Quiz and Get Together for a chat and Cup of Tea or Coffee.

### **Executive Committee Posts**

We are continually trying to develop and expand Great Oakley & District u3a and as a result would love to have all posts filled.

We are sure that there are members that would like a small challenge and the opportunity to develop a new role for themselves.

It would be helpful if we could either have volunteers to take up posts or offer the committee advice on Publicity, Public Relations and Welfare.

If you are interested in assisting us or being the contact for new initiatives and for forming new groups from those that are over-subscribed it would be really good if you could contact the Chair, Peter Moden at [Chair.gou3a@gmail.com](mailto:Chair.gou3a@gmail.com)

### **The Executive Committee Members are:**

- **Chairperson** Peter Moden
- **Vice Chairperson** John Bugby
- **Treasurer** Doreen Tracey
- **Assistant Treasurer** Damian Tracey
- **Business Secretary** Shared role
- **Membership Secretary** Helen Watts
- **Group Co-Ordinator** Lynda White
- **Social Secretary** Sue Stachini
- **Newsletter Editor** John Bugby
- **Web Co-Ordinator** Peter Moden
- **Members Representative** (Vacant)
- **Public Relations Secretary** Vacant
- **Facebook Administrator / I.T. Assistant** (Vacant)
- **Publicity Assistant** (Vacant)
- **Welfare Assistant** (Vacant)

### **Third Age Trust Information**

You can find information on The Third Age Trust at [The Third Age Trust \(campaign-archive.com\)](http://TheThirdAgeTrust(campaign-archive.com)) This link will allow you to Zoom in to Articles and easily look at other items and you can view information as a leaflet or you can go to <https://www.u3a.org.uk/member-link>

*We look forward to meeting you all on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 2:00p.m.*

*Great Oakley & District U3A Executive Committee.*