

November & December 2023 Newsletter



The Open Mic group at our October meeting

Our Next Meetings at Great Oakley Village Hall

Wednesday 22nd November Potential Life Saving Demonstration

What promises to be an extremely interesting demonstration of life saving including Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and Defibrillation by Stacey Price. There will be some kneeling on the floor for those at the meeting

Wednesday 20th December Christmas Carols and A Christmas Sing Along with Friends at Oakley Village Hall

This year we are holding a new event for Great Oakley & District u3a and the chair has invited a Choir to entertain us with Christmas Carols and for you to enjoy some eats and a drink.

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.

Wednesday 28th February 2024

This is something new for us, a presentation by Age UK. which promises be illuminating and helpful as they are a charity assisting everyone who is in their 3rd Age and needing help.

Wednesday 27th March 2024

The Annual General meeting, something you should not miss as this is your real chance to assist and direct the new committee's work over the following 12 months.

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????

Message from the Chair

Hello to all our members,

This is the last of our old-style Newsletters and from January 2024 we will be introducing what we hope will be a more interesting and longer Newsletter on a Quarterly basis. starting in January 2024.

In order that we can make a clean break we are putting all of the formal stuff about our 2024 Annual General Meeting, a month earlier than usual by putting it into this Newsletter in readiness for a new start.

In the new Newsletter we are looking to make some popular returns with more information on groups and monthly meetings plus some humour and either a quiz and/or Crossword. If you turn up to the A.G.M. you may be able to vote for a prize for completion of the quiz or Crossword providing you have disclaimer from Google.

We want to include photographs and news worthy items about yourselves, what groups are doing and invitations to join with others to form and / or lead new groups.

You may remember that our September Newsletter followed a different format to try to stimulate comment and are still looking for feedback as any Newsletter is produced for our members and we want to circulate the information you would like to see.

As we are close to Christmas and there is no December Newsletter, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year.



Must go to the Opticians before I try to read the rest of this Newsletter

And now the bit we have to do before the A.G.M.

Message from the Committee

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

We have nearly completed all of the preparatory work for the Annual General Meeting which starts off with the Newsletter advising all Members of the A.G.M. being on Wednesday 27th March 2024.

We are hoping that you will attend the January and February meetings which promise to be both entertaining and interesting. Committee nomination forms will be available at both of these meetings.

We would like to see you at Monthly meetings in the future where you can talk to Committee members to air your views and see what the Groups do.



Changing the u3a guard

It is essential that we hold this year's Annual General Meeting and as usual are looking for volunteers to fill all of the Committee posts

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 further information that we will circulate 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 if your details have changed.
- To pay your 2024/25 Membership.
- To be able to suggest changes in the way Great Oakley & District u3a operate.

Now for a Christmas Interlude

Grandad: This turkey tastes like an old sofa!
Grandmother: Well, you asked for something with plenty of stuffing!



Two snowmen in a field, one turned to the other and said "I don't know about you but I can smell carrots."!

What do you get if Santa goes down the chimney when a fire is lit?
Krisp Kringle!

Membership Information and Fees

- Annual Membership fees become due on the 1st April 2024 for the 12 months to 1st April 2025.
- 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 £19 p.a.*
- Full Membership without magazine £15 p.a.
- *Associate Membership Fee (Full Members of another U3a) without magazine £11 p.a.*
- Reduced Membership after July 2024 for period to April 2025 £1 per month + Trust Capitation fee of £4 per annum or part thereof.



Just on the way to building a new newsletter

Committee Membership

- We need Nominations forms completed for all committee posts, even if there is only 1 existing member standing for the post as we need to vote in a new committee each year.

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.

The 2023/24 Committee Membership is as follows:

- **Chairperson**
Peter Moden
- **Vice Chairperson**
Steve Lambert
- **Treasurer**
Rita Gogan
- **Business Secretary**
Michael Pilro
- **Membership Secretary**
Tom Reygan
- **Group Co-Ordinator**
Steve Lambert temporarily filling the post.
- **Social Secretary**
Mary Lambert
- **Web Co-Ordinator**
Peter Moden temporarily filling the post.
- **Public Relations Secretary**
Anne Duffy
- **Publicity Assistant**
Vacant.
- **Welfare Assistant**
Janice Davis
- **Members Representative**
Vacant

- We cannot repeat too often that we really do need people to step up and become Committee Members especially as we have just become registered charity and need a name against the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer posts.



They go to sleep in the winter – cheaper and easier than going to a warmer climate.

Before anything to cheer you up if you do want information and to practice your I.T. Skills, you can find us on:

***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.

And on the 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>
or using this QR code

Preparations for the 20213 Annual General Meeting

We need to formally tell you that the Annual General Meeting be 2:00 p.m. on March 27th March at that month's meeting in Great Oakley Village Hall.

A little Pre-Christmas Cheer and a Quiz

What's the best thing to put into a Christmas Cake?

Your teeth!

Why was the snowman rummaging in the bag of carrots?

He was picking his nose!

And some seasonal questions for you.

1. What's the name of the period leading up to Christmas?
2. How many Wise Men brought gifts to Mary & Joseph?
3. How does Good King Wencelas like his pizzas?
4. What was the name of John the Baptist's Mother?
5. Who brings presents to children in the Netherlands on the 5th/6th December?
6. How many letters are in the angelic alphabet?
7. In what town was Jesus born?
8. How many presents were given in total in the 12 days of Christmas?
9. In what decade was the first Christmas card sent in the UK?
10. What country did the family escape to?
11. How many of Rudolph's eight companion's names start with "D".
12. What country did Christmas Trees originate from?
13. Who was the "King of the Jews" who ordered the babies to be killed?
14. What's the second line of "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas"?
15. What was Joseph's job?
16. Who started the custom of Wassailing?
17. Who were the first people to visit the baby Jesus?
18. What's lucky to find in your Christmas Pudding?
19. What Angel visited Mary?
20. Where did the baby Jesus sleep?

We look forward to meeting you all on Wednesday 25th November at 2:00p.m. and hope you have a Happy and Prosperous Christmas and New Year.

Great Oakley & District U3A Executive Committee.