

Next Meeting at Great Oakley Village Hall**Wednesday 26th October 2022**

By popular demand a return visit by Inspector Scott Little with assistance from others.

Message from the Chair

Well, where has this year gone. I sit here reflecting on the year, the very sad passing of our Queen, remembering the hottest days of the year that we experienced in June, the end of COVID restrictions and let's not think how many Prime minister's we will have had, and we still have enough time for another change if our current run rate is anything to by!!!!

So, for ourselves, we have enjoyed a great ten months, lots of different and exciting things, remember our fabulous Picnic in the Park with the Mayor, the Cakes!!!, the Coach Trip to Althorpe and the walking Challenge to name but a few

The enthusiastic groups, that we have within the Great Oakley and District U3A never cease to amaze me.

I popped into the play reading group this week, run by Stella, well, that is such fun, nothing like I expected, just a plain simple giggle shared between like-minded members, I strongly urge you to give it a try, I promise you will not be disappointed.

Cath runs the writing group, again such a great group of talented members, writing on that particular week a poem about the weather and seasons, again a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, it had me smiling for ages.

Unfortunately, some Groups, such as the writing group are fully subscribed but we are keen to see new and varied groups start and have waiting lists for new and additional groups. We need experts to assist us we are all keen to **Learn** new things, **Laugh** as we do it and **Live** with our friends in Great Oakley U3a.

I have just had confirmation that the choir for our Christmas Carol Service on the 21st of December will comprise of seven very talented singers, with some fun and giggles thrown in for good measure, this will be a fantastic event, with mulled wine and mince pies for everyone, a perfect way to start our Christmas Celebrations, and it's completely free!!!! What's not to like!!!!

All you need to bring with you is your finest voices.

I used to sit in the garden to write my little missives to you, but sadly now it's a bit cooler, so I have migrated to the conservatory, however the midday rule still applies, so a glass of cool white awaits, as the sun has past the yardarm.

As always take care of yourselves, and I look forward to seeing you very soon
Peter

Where to find more Information 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.

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>

New Groups Wanted

Last month I reported that we had questionnaire returns that indicated that there were some members interested in Bridge, Board games, Dancing, Gardening, Singing and Mar Jong.

Looking on the web other u3a activity groups have a wide range of activities including: Board and Box Games, Canasta, Chair Exercise, Church Visits, Digital Reading, Stamp Collecting, Lunching, Stamp Collecting, Wine appreciation, Birding and Calligraphy.

Lynda White would love to hear from anyone wishing to join or be the contact for any of these or interested in any other groups.

Newsletter Items

We welcome all information which can be put in this Newsletter, on the Facebook page and on the Web site. Please forward anything you have to

vicechairgou3a@gmail.com

Correct Contact Details

If you hear that someone who has not received this Newsletter it means that we may not have their correct contact details or it may have gone to Junk in an email account. Please E-mail me at vicechairgou3a@gmail.com if you think you have missed out.

**Introducing Committee
Members – Sue Stachini, our
Social Secretary**



Well, hello everyone, hasn't the weather been glorious. I thought I'd take a 'This is your life' approach to my Profile.

Susan Jacqueline Smith now Stachini as in 'bikini' born 16th May 1959, 6 weeks early weighing in at 3lbs 3 oz.

I was born in Solihull, lived in Gnosall in Staffordshire and moved to 'Wallace and Gromit' and 'All Creatures Great and Small' county of North Yorkshire, Wensleydale when I was nine and lived 3 miles from the dairy in the market town of Leyburn.

In my youth I was an active member of the Young Farmers and Brownie leader till I left in 1984 when I moved to Beaconsfield with my then husband.

I moved to Milton Keynes in Buckinghamshire and lived in a village called Lavendon near Olney.

I have four wonderful children, two who I actually gave birth to and two older 'bonus' daughters' from when I was married.

I found my way to Great Oakley in 2017 where I live with my partner the 'Silver Fox'.

We were both fortunate to be able to take early retirement in 2021. We now enjoy our 'fur baby', a cockapoo called 'Bear' and our caravan on the East Coast at 'Walkabout creek'.

We all love the outdoors and were fortunate enough to enjoy the beautiful summer at the coast. I joined the Great Oakley and district u3a in March of this year as an opportunity to meet new people and enjoy new experiences.

That's me done.

As a postscript, look out for our Harry Stachini who is an up-and-coming comedian.

Thanks for reading.
Sue

Christmas Activities

**Tuesday 20th December
Kingswood Neighborhood
Centre**

Have invited everyone who is a member of Great Oakley & District u3a to enjoy a lunch at Kingswood Neighborhood Centre at 12:00 noon on Tuesday 20th December.

You can bring a bottle with you and can assure you it is worth well more than the £10 they want for the food.

Please tell John Bugby or E-Mail viceichair.gou3a@gmail.com if you want to join us.

**Wednesday 21st 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 and for a sing song with Mince Pies as referred to in his introduction. Please tell Peter Moden if you will be joining us or e-mail him at Chair.gou3a@gmail.com

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

We have been told that there are several members that have little to do between Christmas and New Year and this year, 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 viceichair.gou3a@gmail.com if you are likely to attend.

Committee Update

It was with regret that we received Helen Gibson's resignation from the committee as a Members Representative and I.T. Assistant due to pressures on her time. Helen has provided invaluable assistance to the Committee, set up the Facebook page and we cannot thank her enough for her help and all of the Committee wish her the best for the future.

**Preparations for the 20213
Annual General Meeting**

As reported in last month's Newsletter we are preparing for the Annual General Meeting which will be on March 22nd 2023 at that month's meeting. We are looking for new committee members as in all u3a constitutions there are time limits for members to serve on the Committee. This year we found new volunteers as we started our preparations as early as we could. We are looking for this to continue in 2023/24 as Great Oakley & District u3a follow the principles of the u3a by having a rotation of the committee to bring in fresh faces and ideas.

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

**We have the following
posts on offer:**

**Treasurer Urgently
Required**

After well over 5 years of
being Treasurer and
Assistant Treasurer, Doreen
and Damian Tracey are
retiring at our next A.G.M.
We really need to find a new
Treasurer who could share
the post with another person
if they wish.

They can benefit from
Doreen and Damian's
guidance and join the
Committee to take over the
role from 1st April 2023.

Business Secretary
This year it has been a
shared role following the
resignation of the Postholder
and a relatively new
committee settling into their
roles. The post is an
interesting role dealing with
communications from the
Third Age Trust, taking and
circulating minutes and
arranging for committee
meetings.

Vice Chair Person

The post will become vacant at
the A.G.M.

**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

We are a friendly group of budding
artists who meet on alternate
Tuesdays at Danesholme
Community Centre between
10:00a.m and 12:00 Midday. If you
are interested in joining us, we
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 Neighborhood Centre.
Please 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 Members are welcome to
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 last meeting of the History
Group was held at Great Oakley
Village Hall on 19th October. Dr.
Peter Hill informed and amused
the group of 34 members with a
talk entitled: Life in the 20th
Century – Decade by
Decade. One of the sections of
the talk focused on 1960's
fashion. Several of the ladies in
the group were seen nudging
each other and giggling when
some slides showed rather short
miniskirts. No names, but they
know who they are.

The next meeting will be on 16th
November in the Village Hall. All
members of the Great Oakley &
District U3A are welcome.

Full details of the meeting will be
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
before 9th November.

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
I will get back to you. Please send
an E-mail to Lynda via
Vicechairgou3a@gmail.com

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
Vicechairgou3a@gmail.com for
more information.

Table Tennis

We are still improving with the
main aims being to have a good
game and enjoy ourselves. Join
us at Kingswood Neighborhood
Centre on any Friday at 10:00 for
2hrs some Table Tennis and Tea
& Coffee for £2 per person.

Photographic Group

We visit places from a list we have and take targeted photographs of a type or subject. We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Great Oakley Village Hall over the winter months. Contact John Bugby by E-mail to Viceichairgou3a@gmail.com for more information.

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 anybody can join so long as they 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 are an extremely cheerful band who 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.

Volunteers Wanted

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

If you are interested in assisting by 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 forward any comments to Peter Moden at Chair.gou3a@gmail.com

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 viceichairgou3a@gmail.com

The rest of the year's meetings

Wednesday 23rd November – A talk from Dr. Peter Hill who is one of our members and is a musician, lecturer in adult & higher education and the author of more than 21 books.

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

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

Vacant Executive Committee Posts

Last year in a review of the Committee we increased the number of available posts to 16 to enable members to have individual jobs.

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.

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)

National Office

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 at the next meeting on Wednesday

26th October at 2:00p.m.

Take Care

*Great Oakley & District U3A
Executive Committee.*