

## Next Meeting at Great Oakley Village Hall

**Wednesday 28th September 2022**

**A NOT TO BE MISSED Musical Date with our very own Ukulele Group.**

### Message from the Chair

I am deeply saddened, as I'm sure you are too about the very sad loss of our wonderful Queen. Her sudden death has stunned the World, a lady who touched the hearts of so many, in such a unique way as only she could. It's for this reason and this reason only, that I shall keep my introduction short

August and September are a fabulous time of year, long warm (hot) summer days, the flowers at this time of the year look particularly splendid, long evenings spent in the garden with friends enjoying good food and a glass of wine. It's a great time reflect on past pleasures, holidays, and looking forward to next new adventures.

So Carly Jane came to our August meeting, a stunning singer, who entertained us all for an hour, with songs that had many feet tapping,

I'm really pleased that she will return with a Choir for our

Christmas Event on the 21st of December, it will be a guaranteed spectacular event, don't miss it!!!!

Sue Stachini, always has a wonderful line up of guests to entertain throughout the year, but for March 2023, there is going to be the most incredible Mystery Guest with stories that will blow your mind.

Helen Gibson has worked so hard on the Great Oakley and District U3A Facebook page, I know many of you have joined already, but for those who haven't yet, please take a look.

I use this next paragraph as a barometer in life.

Last Boxing Day, Mrs. M and I took the Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren to the Panto at Northampton Theatre. As we had arrived a few minutes

before everyone else, our youngest daughter, suggested we go to the bar and order drinks, just as we were doing that, our eldest daughter happened to call on the phone and overheard me ordering wine. I was sternly told off by her as it was not even midday, so from then on, I have assumed it's OK to have a glass of wine after midday, that suits me perfectly!!!!!! And now it has got to that time of the day, where a glass of white wine is poured.

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

### U3a Day at Chester House



On 21<sup>st</sup> September, last Wednesday the many times delayed, u3a day was held at the Chester House Estate. The event was part of the national initiative to celebrate 40 years since the start of the U.K. u3a with the organization having been started in France at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Toulouse in 1973 by Prof. Pierre Vellas.

There was something close to 100 present with representatives from most if not all of the u3a's in the county who heard Ukulele groups and could look at demonstration's and displays. Most importantly the day was the culmination and celebration of the Mile-a-Member challenge.



### Well done the Walking Group – you deserve a medal.

We believe that our Walking Group were the stars of the Northamptonshire u3a's as they managed a fantastic 4,068.3 miles which is approximately 17% or 1/6 of the 24,199 miles total distance walked by all of Northamptonshire's u3a's, most of which are far larger than us.

### Where to find more Information on our u3a

I thought I ought to raise the profile of the information that is available to our members.

### Facebook page

Helen Gibson has been a very busy girl and the Great Oakley and District Facebook page is definitely up and running and 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 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>

### ***Last Month I asked***

Where are They?

Profiles of Committee Members and Group Contacts as I thought

I must have got it wrong. After volunteering to put in my profile as I did, a lot of you suggested that they would like to know more about Committee Members and Group contacts.

The Chair obviously felt guilty as no one had volunteered to provide their own profile. He wanted to demonstrate that he was not shy and prepared to tell us about himself and we would like others to follow so this is:

### ***Introducing Committee Members – Peter Moden, our Chair (The Second of Many)***

A warm welcome from me!!!!

John sensibly suggested a couple of months ago that members might be interested in the Committee, goodness!!!! Skeleton and closet spring to mind. Well for myself

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. 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!!!!



Just for a giggle from Peter

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 your 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 just past our 26th 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.



What happened to this handsome lad?



***He turned into our Chair***



### **Increase in Hall Costs**

For over 5 years we have all been paying the same £1:50 a head for using Danesholme Community Centre, The Old Village Community Centre or the Kingswood Neighbourhood Centre. With all of the recent changes and events they have had to increase the charge to £2 per head with effect on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

### **Questionnaire Feed back**

Many thanks to all of you who completed the Questionnaire that we sent out earlier in the year. We had 40 returns and several helpful comments. In summary the greatest majority would like:

**More organised trips** mid-week but not on the same day as Monthly Meetings with members suggesting trips to Belvoir Castle, Windsor, Bletchley, Cambridge Christmas shopping, Oxford Garden sites and historic buildings – *We looking into this and the need to register as a Charity to make this a reality.*

**New Groups** for Bridge, Board games, Dancing, Gardening, Singing and Mar Jong – *Lynda White would love to hear from anyone wishing to join or be the contact for any group.*

**To keep receiving this Newsletter** with more information on Groups – *We welcome all information which can be put in this Newsletter, on the Facebook page and on the Web site. Please forward to*  
[viceichairgou3a@gmail.com](mailto:viceichairgou3a@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 so please E-mail me at.  
[viceichairgou3a@gmail.com](mailto:viceichairgou3a@gmail.com)

### **Christmas Meal Opportunity**

Prior to COVID the Kingswood Neighbourhood Centre had given all users the chance to enjoy a Christmas Lunch in the company of friends.

This year they have extended the invitation to everyone who is a member of Great Oakley & District u3a to enjoy a lunch at Kingswood Neighbourhood Centre at 12:00 noon on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> 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 me or E-Mail [viceichair.gou3a@gmail.com](mailto:viceichair.gou3a@gmail.com) if you want to join us and forward your pennies prior to the end of October.

**Treasurer Wanted**  
**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 who can benefit from there guidance and join the Committee to take over the role from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.**

### **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 Middy. 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

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

### **Badminton Group**

We meet on Tuesdays from 10:00a.m. to 12:00 Middy at Kingswood Neighbourhood Centre, please feel free to join us.

### **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.

### **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 I will get back to you. Please send an E-mail to Lynda at [ljwrgw@gmail.com](mailto:ljwrgw@gmail.com) or give her a call on 07796250158.

### **Table Tennis**

We are still improving with the aim being to enjoy ourselves. Join us at Kingswood Neighbourhood 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 anybody can join so long as they are willing to play an instrument - even if it's just a tambourine.

### **Photographic Group**

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 [Viceichairgou3a.@gmail.com](mailto:Viceichairgou3a.@gmail.com) for more information.

### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every month.

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

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September** – A Musical Date with our very own Ukulele Group.

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October** – By popular demand a return visit by Scott Little with assistance from others.

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November** – A talk from 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 21<sup>st</sup> December** – Old Style Christmas Party.

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

### **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 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** Helen Gibbs (Currently Leading on Facebook page)
- **Public Relations Secretary** Vacant
- **I.T. Assistant** Helen Gibbs
- **Publicity Assistant** (Vacant)
- **Welfare Assistant** (Vacant)

### **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](mailto:Chair.gou3a@gmail.com)

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

It is that time of year again, when we are starting to prepare for the Annual General Meeting which was in February this year and may be on March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023 at that month's meeting.

It does seem early to be looking for new committee members but in all u3a constitutions there are time limits for members can serve on the Committee.

This year we have been fortunate in finding new volunteers as we started our preparations as early as we could.

We are looking for this to continue 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.

### **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 28<sup>th</sup> September at 2:00p.m.*

*Take Care*

*Great Oakley & District U3A Executive Committee.*