



September 2023 Newsletter

The meetings until the end of the year are:

Wednesday 27th September

A visit by Corby's Mayor, Councillor Leanne Buckingham who is guaranteed to give us a fascinating insight into her role as mayor.

Wednesday 25th October

A medley of music and song from our very own and accomplished Open Mic Group.

Wednesday 25th November

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 this meeting.

Wednesday 22nd December

Something new and something that we have not done before.

We will be having Christmas Carols and a Group Karaoke to raise the rafters and your spirits in preparation for Christmas day.

Good news – Changes in what we are circulating.

The committee have been looking at members requests for circulation of information on events and as long as the requests are promoting an event as opposed to an organisation or a charity itself every effort will be made to circulate to all of our members.

We are also looking at Changing the frequency and format of the Newsletter and really welcome our comments on this edition which puts all off the events first.

Strictly Corby at the best Western Hotel

David Ball has been cajoled into being a 'celebrity' at 'Strictly Corby' in aid of Lakelands Hospice.

David would be grateful if any financial support for his efforts could be made at

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/davidandjanine1>

Alternatively, you might wish to contribute by handing cash to the next U3A meeting on Wednesday 27th September.

The event is taking place on Friday 6th October at the Best Western Hotel. Doors open 6pm and dancing starts 7pm. Tickets are £15 each. David would like you to let him know if you want some tickets by E-Mail

to: davidball@braybrooke.vispa.com

Visit to Windsor

Last year several members expressed an interest in visiting Windsor and there is now an opportunity for around 15 members to join Public Services retired members to make that trip on Thursday September 28th for a cost of £24. Anyone interested should contact John Bugby in person or by E-Mail to

johnbugby@hotmail.com

***New Talk by Dr. Peter Hill on
"The Rise of Corby Village"***

At a meeting at Corby West Glebe Pavilion on Tuesday 19th September Dr. Peter Hill is presenting a new talk on "The rise of Corby Village".

There are limited spaces available and there is a charge of £2 to cover costs. Anyone interested in attending the meeting should contact John Bugby in person or by E-Mail to johnbugby@hotmail.com

Coronation Park

As you may know Coronation Park has had a significant refurbishment and Jim Lowe has asked us to include this article as an introduction to the park and information on events at the park in the future.



A memorial walk dedicated to, Cyril Sellars, a long-standing friend of Coronation Park in Corby has officially been opened by representatives from North Northamptonshire Council and Sheila Sellars, Cyril's Widow.

Following storms across winter 2021/2022, several established trees were damaged to the point they required removing and a large Pine tree also fell directly onto a rose arbour, causing irreparable structural damage.

Working closely with partners, the team at North Northamptonshire Council started a regeneration scheme in summer 2022, with the garden being designed to have a contemporary feel, incorporating a set of new gates which depict the succession of the moon - to symbolise rebirth.

Given Corby's historic links to the steel works, steel has been used throughout alongside a memorial constructed of stone previously used on the site.

Sadly, whilst work was taking place on the Memorial Walk, Cyril Sellars a long-standing friend of Coronation Park passed away.

Cyril's dedication and involvement helped to shape the park and with this in mind, it was decided that the newly launched memorial garden would be in his name - the Cyril Sellars Memorial Walk.

It was lovely to be back at Coronation Park and open the new Memorial Walk, which has been thoughtfully dedicated to a much-loved member of the Coronation Park community.

It really is a lovely space for people to reflect and remember loved ones, whilst enjoying the rest of the park.

It is great that after the terrible storms which caused irreparable damage, our team have been able to work closely with partners, including the brilliant Friends of Coronation Park, to create this quiet and peaceful area that will be used by generations for years to come.

Cllr Harriet Pentland, the council's Executive Member for Climate and Green Environment said:

"I am so glad that the memorial walk has been dedicated to Cyril as a bench would not have been a fitting tribute, as Cyril spent so many years walking around the park talking to the community and litter picking."

James Lowe, the Chairman of Friends of Coronation Park said:

"The Workers memorial has been re-sited from the top Coronation Park to the more fitting location of Memorial Garden following its refurbishment, that was arranged by a representative of the GMB union - Alan Irwin.

The design has also ensured that the Walk is accessible to all, with everything on one level."

Acting Group Co-Ordinator's Message

I continue to contact Group Leaders and am concentrating on how we disseminate information on Groups to both existing and new members.

We are continuing trying to get out Membership Cards and forms to you and would encourage you to check, complete and return forms as soon as you are able.

There continues to be space available in the buildings we use for additional groups, particularly in the P.M.

If you have any ideas for a new group whether it is due to Groups being fully subscribed or wish to join an existing group, please contact me at one of our meetings or send an E-Mail to chair.gou3a@gmail.com

Steve Lambert

Group Information

Any New Member can visit any number of groups twice (subject to checking with the Group Contact) before deciding whether to join Great Oakley & District u3a.

Contacting Groups

To get in Contact with the Groups please send an E-Mail to chair.gou3a@gmail.com for forwarding to the group contact.

Art Group

A friendly group of budding artists meet on alternate Tuesdays at Danesholme Community Centre between 10:00a.m and 12:00 Midday.

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

Contact is Lesley Sturman

Badminton Group

Our aim is to have fun and play some Badminton every Tuesday from 10:00a.m. to 12:00 Midday at Kingswood Neighbourhood Centre.

We have spaces available and plenty of shuttlecocks so please come along.

Contact is John Bugby.

Book Group

This is a small group of Members who all read and discuss the same book and there are seldom spaces to join. If you are interested in starting an additional group or want more information.

Contact is Joan Gault

Bowls Group

Members use a single Indoor mat. It would be good to have more members to join the group meet from 10:00a.m. to 12:00 midday on Fridays at Kingswood Neighbourhood Centre.

Contact is John Bugby

History Group

This group meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month (not in August) at Great Oakley Village Hall between 2:00p.m and 4p.m. All members are welcome to attend the presentations that they frequently have. 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 chair.gou3a@gmail.com

Meditation

Each session consists of two periods of meditation, at the beginning and the end, in between which there is a topic for discussion which is chosen in advance by the members of the group.
This Group is fully subscribed but if you are interested in joining or starting a new group, please send a note to chair.gou3a@gmail.com

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 available but if you are interested in joining, please get in touch. Contact is Lynda White

Photographic Group

This group visit sites of interest to take photographs and in winter months meet at Great Oakley Village from 2:00p.m to 4: 00p.m on the 2nd Wednesday in the month.
Contact is John Bugby
The last two meetings have been at Sywell Aerodrome where we had one of our most interesting meetings, taking photographs of all we could see and we are off to Geddington where we have been invited to exhibit some of the photographs we take.
If you are interested in joining us the contact is John Bugby via E-Mail to Chair.gou3a@gmail.com

Play Reading

This is a small group who meet monthly in Danesholme, to read a play together. It is very informal; they don't take themselves too seriously and would love to have more members. Contact is Stella Herbert

Table Tennis

The main aim is to have some fun. We play a mixture of singles and doubles to our own standards (whatever they are) on 2 tables at Kingwood Neighborhood Centre on any Friday from 10:00 to 12:00.
Contact is John Bugby via E-Mail to Chair.gou3a@gmail.com

If you are interested in joining us just turn up next Friday.

Ukulele Group

They meet every Monday in the Corby Old Village community Centre from 10:00a.m. to 12:00 noon and welcome anyone willing to play an instrument or sing. Contact is Trudie Reid

Walking Group

The walks are always interesting and friendly so why don't you come and join us. New members are always welcome.
Contact is Lesley Sturman via

Writing Group

You can find several of the group's poems and stories at <https://www.u3asites.org.uk/great-oakley/welcome> and looking in the Links and Writing.
The group is fully subscribed but if you are interested in joining or starting a new group, please send a note to chair.gou3a@gmail.com

What If – a poem by Lynne Bradshaw

I've been pondering a bit just lately
On what would've happened if something else had not!
Like if William of Normandy's ship sank in the Channel
Or Churchill had lost the plot!

What if Napoleon had won Waterloo
Leaving Wellington broken and depressed.
He'd probably have colonised Australia
New Zealand and all the rest.

Would we still be speaking English
The Aussies speaking French?
Victoria would be less than amused!
To the Empire a huge wrench!

And what of Richard of York
His back hunched and twisted.
If he'd won the Battle of Bosworth
The Tudors would never have existed!

And do you remember Nero fiddling
During Rome's inferno
I don't suppose it would make any odds
If he'd taken up the piano?

All the world's a stage said Will,
Every play a box-office hit
But several centuries later
Many kids still think he's overrated.

And Good Queen Bess, the virgin queen
Adorned in glittering armour
She wouldn't have reigned for very long
If defeated by the Armada!

Britannia wouldn't rule the waves
Spain's dominance would be mega
We'd be forced into Catholicism.
Our national dish, paella.

The British wouldn't have an empire –
- Itself a sticky wicket
But without it there'd be no such thing
As international cricket!

You'd think we learned some lessons?
Can't diplomacy pave the way?
Well, it worked in Cuba in 62
nuclear war held at bay.

The atomic threat averted
Amid talk of apocalyptic scenes
But there's still plenty madmen around
To blow us all to smithereens!

But they say things happen for a reason
Buddhists call it karma
I don't know but as I grow old
I just wish things were calmer!

Oakley Vale Open Day

We were present at the Oakley Vale Community Centres Fun Open day on Saturday 29th July. The Fun Open day was to celebrate the Community Centres 10th Birthday and we had a stand within the Centres Grounds with our UKULELE group doing a session inside the hall.



Our Outside stand

Our stand was visited by several interested persons and we hope that several of them will be joining us.



Ukulele Group

The Ukulele Group were extremely well received and played several of their entertaining songs during their session inside the hall.

Annual Membership Renewal for 2023/24

This is the final reminder for renewing your U3A Annual Membership, which you may need to do.

Subscription details are as follows:

Full Member with Magazine - £17.00

Full Member without Magazine - £13.00

Payments can be made by Cash or Cheque made payable to "Great Oakley and District u3a" or you may prefer to pay by Bank Transfer to:

Account No. 15978468 Sort Code 30-92-26

With your name as an added reference.

You can contact Tom Reygan, the membership secretary by E-Mail to tomreygan@hotmail.com or by calling 0772 097 8169

Our Web Site

The u3a web site provides information on our own group, national Links & Newsletters at

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

Our u3a Facebook Page

Our Facebook Page is open to all members and you can join at [Great Oakley and District U3A | Facebook](#)

Messages from the Committee who WANT YOUR VIEWS and COMMENTS

- 1. We are always keen to receive your comments, any criticism and suggestions on how we performing, can serve you better and move forward with new initiatives.***

Please contact or e-mail a member of the committee with your views and do not hold back with your comments so we can respond directly to you and address any concerns you may have.

- 2. Unfortunately, a repeated message as we continue to have a couple of Committee Posts that are not filled and at the moment the Vice Chair Steve Lambert continues to do a sterling job acting as Business Secretary and looking at the role of Group Co-Ordinator.**
- 3. We really need a volunteer to take on the role of Business Secretary and another to become the Group Co-Ordinator as these posts need to have a name against them as we become a registered Charity.**

There is really nothing difficult about any of the committee roles and if you want to help you are welcome to attend meetings as a guest to see what is involved.

GO On - Give it a go.

Current Committee Membership is:

Chairperson	Peter Moden
Vice Chairperson	Steve Lambert
Treasurer	Rita Gogan
<u>Business Secretary</u>	<u>Vacant</u>
Membership Secretary	Tom Reygan
<u>Group Co-Ordinator</u>	<u>Vacant</u>
Social Secretary	Mary Lambert
<u>Web Co-Ordinator</u>	<u>Vacant</u>
<u>Public Relations Secretary</u>	<u>Vacant</u>
<u>Publicity Assistant</u>	<u>Vacant</u>
Welfare Assistant	Janice Crane
<u>Members Representative</u>	<u>Vacant.</u>

*Please remember that the committee is keen to help you in
Learning something New
Laughing as you Learn
and living your dream if they can.*

In the past you told us that in line with our main objectives that you wanted and are waiting to hear your views especially if they have changed from wishing for:

More organised trips mid-week but not on the same day as Monthly Meetings with members suggesting in priority order trips to Belvoir Castle, Windsor, Cambridge, Oxford, Garden sites and historic buildings and
Now we are registering as a charity we can try and turn this into a reality?

New Groups for Bridge, Board games, Dancing, Gardening, Singing and Mar Jong.
***Unfortunately, we have not heard from anyone wishing to join or be the contact for any group –
Please Make contact as we want to help.***

To keep receiving Information and 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 to keep you informed.

Please forward anything of interest to

chair.gou3a@gmail.com

Tea Rota for Meetings

We are looking for volunteers so if you know what to do with Boiling Water and a Tea Towel, please contact Peter Moden in person or *send an E-Mail to* chair.gou3a@gmail.com so we can draw up a Rota for doing the Teas and Coffee at Monthly Meetings.

National Office

You can find Newsletters and information on The Third Age Trust at [The Third Age Trust \(campaign-archive.com\)](http://TheThirdAgeTrust.campaign-archive.com) where you can **Zoom in to Articles and look at other items.**

We hope the period School Holidays went well and look forward to seeing you at the next monthly meeting on

Wednesday 27th September.

Great Oakley & District u3a Executive Committee.