

Toddington U3A Newsletter January 2024

Happy New Year! I do hope you will be able to get involved with the U3A this year, both on the 3rd Monday afternoon for our speakers, and perhaps join a new interest group. Our website is u3asites.org.uk/toddington. Some groups are still needing a leader: if you were previously a member, or are interested in the activity, do consider this: many groups are lead in rotation by members and the job need be no more than working out a rota. Do talk to me if you need some more information. The committee has now been issued with name badges, so look out for us and introduce yourselves. We have a reputation of being friendly and welcoming: if you spot a new member or see someone alone, do go and introduce yourself.

Committee members

Chair	Dawn Rice
Vice Chair	Sue Barrow
Minutes Secretary	Ed Watts
Membership	Leo Corvesor
Treasurer	Sheila Jasper
Speakers	Cathy Howes
Group co-ordinator	Ruth Betts
Member	John Sorsby Irene Kirkpatrick

Monday meetings, 2-4pm T. V.H.

£3 members, £4 visitors (1st visit free)

January 15 th	Kings and Queens in Beds, Janice Tucker
February 19 th	Gary Cooper, John Buckledee
March 18 th	Anglo-Saxons in Bedfordshire, Caroline Simon
April 15 th	A Male in the Mail: Colin Oakes
May 20 th	AGM; Knitting in Africa: Chris Hillier

Interest Groups update

Antiques (Margaret 01525 872821) 1st Monday of the month 2-4pm in the Village Hall lounge . These meetings are based around a monthly theme, eg wood, toys, clocks, etc. A member researchers and talks about the relevant objects, and others are invited to bring in their own antiques to contribute to discussion.

Art Appreciation (Leo 01525 875405) 4th Friday of the month 2pm in a member's home. Group members take it in turns to choose an artist and give a presentation for discussion. Full, see Leo to join a waiting list.

Bridge (Angela 01234 741106) Alternate Tuesday afternoons from 2-4. We play bridge! New members are welcome, even if you have not played before: also, Angela would like someone to take over as group leader.

Book Group (Angela 01234 741106) 2nd Wednesday of the month, 2-4pm, upstairs in the library. We have a theme for each month, eg Spring, Thrillers, or Travel, and members talk about the books we have enjoyed. We often swap good books. Sometimes we read the same book, provided by the library, to discuss.

Craft Group (Dorothy 01525 875405) 4th Thursday , 2-4pm. A variety of crafts, such as Easter decorations, Valentine Cards, working in card, wool, paint or any other material that we can lay our hands on! Members are encouraged to bring new ideas to teach. We have lots of new suggestions for the New Year, starting with macramé. We sell our creations to boost the U3A funds. Currently held in a member's home.

Cryptic Crosswords (Dorothy 01525 875405) We have a range of experience and we meet to practise our skills together and to help each other. So far we have had three meetings, Held in a member's home.

Discussion Group (John 01525 873689) 1st Wednesday of the month at 2pm, upstairs in the library Members suggest any topic that has taken our interest in the news, and see where the conversation leads us!
Currently full: Waiting list operates.

Family History (Sue Browne 01525 874297) 1st Friday of the month, Toddington Library 10.00 - 12.00. We have access to the library's free version of Ancestry. Beginners welcome, as well as people who have started researching. Sue can help you to get started, or progress if you are stuck. This is a tiny group so that individual help is available. If you have a laptop and membership of a family history site you can bring it to the library.

Gardening (Sandra 01525 840710) This group has decreased in membership, and its viability, especially for outings and speakers is in question. If you want it to continue, talk to Sandra urgently

Line Dancing (Pam 01525874791 and Cathy) After a period instructor's illness, we are now back to meeting every Monday, 10 - 11am, although the future of the group is still uncertain. New members are really needed, especially if they have previous line dancing experience. The cost is £3 per session.

Meet and Eat (Irene 01525 634236) Meals are held at a local pub on the Wednesday 10 days after the open meeting. The menu is available on-line and need to be pre-booked. This can be done at the open meeting, or by contacting Irene, or email irenek.kirkpatrick@gmail.com

Music Appreciation (John 01525 873689) The Toddington group meets on the 4th Monday and Harlington on the 4th Tuesday at 2-5pm. We listen to and discuss recorded music and members are encouraged to give a presentation. Both groups are full, but contact John if you'd like to be added to the waiting list.

Photography (Brian 01525 872854) We meet on the second Friday of the month, at 10am in Sopers to review and discuss photos that we have taken on a particular theme over a coffee or two, and to look at the work of a professional photographer. We aim to improve artistically and technically. In the summer months, we go on car-sharing photographic outings. New members welcome.

12 Jan - Christmas ; 9 Feb - night-time; 8 Mar - weather ; 12 Apr - Spring

10 May - trip to Ampthill - landscape

Poetry (Ed 01234 741106) 2nd Monday of the month 2 - 4pm. We bring in poems based around a theme, read them to each other and discuss them. It is currently held in a member's home. Places available.

Spanish for holidays (Ruth 01525 634240) Every Tuesday at 2pm se. We are a mixture of total beginners and those who are rusty. We look at a topic each week, with vocabulary to learn and to practice conversations. We are starting to do some Grammar! More are welcome, but total beginners would struggle to catch up now.

Strollers (Sue Bodsworth 01525 753182) Short, easy walks on alternate Thursdays: not a route march, with time to enjoy the countryside and wild life, and investigate buildings and landscape. Often refreshments at a pub or café. All welcome. The programme for the New Year is available

Needing a leader: History, Singing for pleasure and Striders have disbanded due to their leaders moving away. It would be lovely to get them started again. Did you used to go? Would you like it to start again? Please talk to Ruth Ruthbetts32@hotmail.com. (01525 634240)