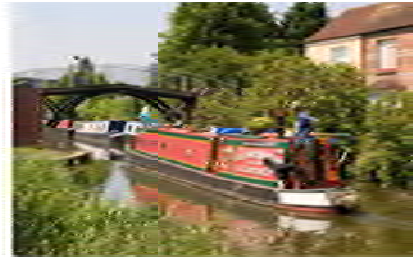


# AYLESBURY VALE U.3.A.



Issue No. 87

September 2018

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

I write this during the prolonged heat wave and can't make my mind up whether to want it to come to an end or for it to continue. Being a gardener and an allotment holder I desperately wish for rain but I also I love the hot weather. Many of you will agree with the lady in today's newspaper who said "Had enough and please can we have grey Britain back !"

The committee has decided to implement a new computerised record retention system which will simplify the management of all the details of individual members and also improve the financial processes of our organization. The system chosen is called Beacon and has been implemented by a large number of U3As throughout the country. A project team has been set up to manage the implementation, which is due to begin after the 2018-2019 membership renewal process is completed.

It has been decided also to purchase two new computers as the software of the present ones are a bit out-dated. Other purchases under consideration are:-

- 1) An automatic screen for our presentations as the present one is cumbersome and time consuming to erect. It is hoped that the Community Centre will wholly or partly fund the purchase.
- 2) A new projector for the presentations at our monthly meetings as the present one has seen better days and possesses none of the updated technology. This will be in addition to the one we purchased some time ago for use by the various groups.

This is my final Chairman's Letter as I will have completed three years in the role. The first two years I had my lovely partner Lynne Dawson as Co- Chairman and together we tried very hard to improve all aspects of our organization.

It has been a great privilege and experience and we wish to thank all the members of committees who served with us and the general members who have helped us over the years.

Finally, we wish our successor all the best for the future.

*Greig Sneddon*

## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS:

**READERS' CIRCLE 2** had two display tables at the 30th Anniversary May meeting and collected £62 which was sent to Prostate Cancer UK. Books were sold at a reasonable price together with a few DVDs. A few Heroes were also consumed! Many thanks to those people who purchased our surplus books and are now enjoying reading them.

Derek Ayshford was watching through his camera lens !

*Brenda Daniel*



### **U3A Rock'n'Roll Mid-Summer Party.**

I would like to say a big thank you to all those who attended the summer party on 28<sup>th</sup> June at the Tennis Club.

Monies raised as a result of ticket sales and the raffle amounted to £133.00 which will go to Friends of OSCAR. A local charity that supports children with brain and spinal tumours.

Thanks again for your support and look forward to seeing you all at the Christmas Party.

*John Wilford*



An early meeting of the U3A held in the Methodist Church Hall

### **OUR CHAIRMAN CROSSES ANOTHER U3A OFF HIS VISITING LIST !**

Whilst on holiday on the Scilly Isles, Lynne and I attended a regular monthly meeting of the Isles of Scilly U3A. They were formed in 2011 and have only 40 members and eleven interest groups. We were not the only visitors as a number of other holiday makers from other U3As attended the meeting.

The presentation was called "Life in a Remote Island" and was given by a local lady artist who spends six months of each year working with the Antarctic Expedition in South Georgia. She outlined the various advantages and disadvantages of being in such an isolated location and showed a series of photographs

depicting the wonderful wildlife and scenery of the region.

After the presentation we spoke to some of the committee and heard that their main problem was finding presenters who, in many cases, had to come over from the mainland. When they found out about our UA3, they got very excited about our Sixties Music Group. Before we left, they were trying very hard to get us commit to doing our own presentation next time we visit on holiday.

*Greig Seddon*

## FROM OUR BRIDGE GROUP— A CHALLENGE !

Why not Join our lively Bridge Group? Just Turn Up ! (Experience from Little -Large)  
Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays each month. 2 - 5 p.m. at Aylesbury Tennis & Sports Club, Wendover Road.

Rosters :- Monday & Friday evenings, and alternative Wednesday afternoons.

Require more info.? Contact Bob Burr 01296 381804, or Ian Harper 420596

In the meantime, we challenge you to solve the following three questions:-

**2** **2**  
♣ ♣

*Question*

What would you open with this hand?

♠ 10 9 7  
♥ Q J 6  
♦ K 5  
♣ A Q J 10 6

**2** **2**  
♣ ♣

**A** **A**  
♥ ♥

*Question*

The opponents are in a contract of 4 ♥. Dummy's ♥'s are: ♥ Q J 10 6 2. Declarer plays Q ♥ from dummy; you are next to play and hold ♥ K 4 3.

Should you cover with your King?

**A** **A**  
♥ ♥

**4** **4**  
♣ ♣

*Question*

What would you open with this hand?

♠ A K 6 3  
♥ Q 4 3  
♦ Q 10 9  
♣ 9 7 4

**4** **4**  
♣ ♣

*Answer*

1 No Trump

You have 12 - 14 points and are balanced. (note: you are still balanced even with a 5 card minor suit). 1 No Trump describes your hand.

*Answer*

No

You should NOT cover in this situation. You are not likely to promote a ♥ trick for partner. There is a chance that if declarer has the Ace he will play it. Also, partner may have a singleton A ♠ and your A ♠ and K ♥ will fall together.

*Answer*

No Bid

Too few points for 1NT. You have no re-bid if you open 1 ♥.



Sam and I were so sorry not to be able to join you all at the Anniversary Celebration due to being

in Bonny Scotland (with sunshine), however, to show some U3A spirit we went to Hamilton, ( Scotland) U3A monthly meeting. I could not have chosen a better meeting – it was their AGM!! A very warm welcome was extended to me by a very bemused audience invaded by a Sassenach. After the formalities, the Speaker, Mr. David Swinger, a Barnardo's Boy, gave a fascinating and extremely thought provoking lecture. It was an inspirational story about the history of Barnardo's and of a Barnardo's boy's perseverance through harrowing and painful times – despite all the traumas of his life he eventually found great happiness, but waited a long time to get it. He says, "If you strive a little bit harder things will get a little better". It was an illuminating talk about the amazing and wonderful things Dr. Barnardo achieved, including being at the forefront of the first Children's Hospital (Queen Victoria Hospital) which I believe the Queen opened and visited, and about the children given "a chance" in this big bad world. If anyone is interested David Swinger wrote a book of his experiences entitled, "Just a Number" printed by Melrose Books.

### *Rita Black*

The reference to Philippa Coventry in the June Newsletter was useful in reminding me where I came from originally—Coventry. I was also reminded by another article from Stan Ball that we both have something to offer. I was 5 years old when WW2 broke out and I was there throughout the war. My late wife Joan was evacuated twice so her memories are quite different. We met after the war was over and Stan is right, children need to know what went on and I applaud his efforts. My own skills are in talking to adults so I offered my services to the Western Turville Historical Society and shall be speaking to them on Sept. 28th. This is possible as our U3A in 2010 asked Joan & I to write down our

experiences and hers will be read out by one of our sons. That will form Part 1. Part 2 will be my own experience and Part 3 will be me trying to put these into perspective as this was not possible when we were very young. It influenced my life.

If anyone is interested the talk starts at 19.30 when coffee and biscuits are served and when our exhibits may be examined. My talk starts at 20.00 and there is plenty of free parking at the venue, our Weston Turville Village Hall. The entrance fee for non members is £3 (including the coffee and biscuits !)

*Ed. Schoon*

### *And finally an email from the Scilly Isles*

I love to receive messages from other U3A members and being so remote, it's a pleasure for our website to be read on the mainland. I know Aylesbury fairly well having lived in Herts. for a number of years and visited many places in Bucks. The topic at our last meeting was 'marine waste'. This of course impacts heavily on our islands.

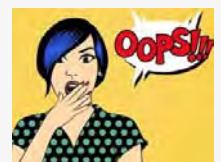
I was very pleased to speak to Greig who also spoke to our Chairman, Mike. We're hoping that he will be able to give his 60s talk to our U3A next summer. As I told Greig, I recently bought my husband a turntable so that we can play our old 60s LP's etc! I still love the music from that era.

I'll definitely have a look at your website. I always find it interesting to see what other groups are doing and it can give us some ideas too. Although we only have 40 members, we have 11 interest groups. Two members joined recently, one of course being Greig's friend Susie Nicholls.

With best wishes,

(Secretary) Linda

**AN APOLOGY:** On page 4 of the June newsletter captioning the photograph under the excellent article sent in by Hazel Burgess, I mistakenly called her late mother Vera, instead of Eileen—as clearly stated in the article. Definitely my carelessness—especially as I knew Eileen well !





As we are only printed quarterly many of our activities occur between issues We thought you might enjoy some reminders of the summer past!



Jean and Peter Hennessy visited Scotney Castle in Kent and were snapped by Richard Clark



Members are never far from food and Peter Harding snapped the London Walkers studying the menus at Ciao Bella.



Dan McGregor watched the arrival at Broughton Castle in Oxfordshire.

While others played away, this group stayed at home for the Summer Rock'n'Roll party in June. John Wilford who sent this photo in says 'Those who opted to stay away to watch England lose to Belgium lost out twice, as many chose to watch the match on a large screen T.V. in the bar and then joined the party afterwards. A result !





**WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER: BRETT THORN ' THE LENBOROUGH HOARD '**

The Lenborough Hoard is a hoard of more than 5000 late Anglo- Saxon silver coins, dating to the eleventh century, that was found at Lenborough, Buckinghamshire in 2014. It is believed to be one of the largest hoards of Anglo-Saxon coins ever found in Britain.

Brett Thorn has an MA in Archaeology from Exeter University, and is an Associate of Aylesbury Museum. Brett has been involved with Archaeology at the museum for over 20 years.

**WEDNESDAY -14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER: MEL REES - MY FAMILY AND OTHER SETBACKS**

This talk takes a light-hearted look at the travails of family life, concerning children who won't leave home and when they do, they still cost you money, parents who are likely to outlive you and with a smattering of snobbery thrown in for good measure.

Mel Rees is an author who over the last twenty years has written and self-published five titles. He has given talks at numerous WI's and U3A's over the last fifteen years.

**WEDNESDAY -12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER: ANOTHER CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA SONGS, -  
MUSIC, DRAMA & MUCH MUCH MORE!!!**

## **U3A Rock'n'Roll Christmas Party 2018**

Featuring music from the 50s, 60s & 70s

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December 7.00 - 10.00 pm**

At The Aylesbury Tennis Club.

Tickets will be on sale at the U3A monthly meetings  
**October, November and December**

Balloons, Lights and Music, Party Hats,  
Licensed Bar, Raffle, Christmas Fancy Dress Optional

Admission by Ticket £3.00

Proceeds from tickets and the Raffle will go to Friends of O.S.C.A.R  
A local charity that supports children with brain and spinal tumours.

For enquiries about this event please contact  
John Wilford email: [sound@avu3a.org.uk](mailto:sound@avu3a.org.uk)

## MEMBERS RUTH AND PAUL HENISON FIND 'POINTLESS' FAME !

### A GLIMPSE BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE B.B.C.



My wife, Ruth, applied for us to go on to Pointless on BBC1. We were called for an audition in Notting Hill, London, and after going through two rounds were accepted to appear on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017. We had to report to The BBC Centre at Wood Lane with cases containing five changes of clothes (for colour clashes and strobing on screen) and for a possible second show. Four shows are recorded on four days a week. We were on the second show of that day's recording and after going through makeup and hair styling, we drew lots with the other contestants to find out which podium we would be on. We were on podium 4, the extreme left. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman then introduced themselves to us and chatted for a while to put us at ease, while Ruth introduced us and the game started!!

The first round was on the subject of Constellations and Ruth thrust me forward to answer first. The clue I chose was "The second human spacecraft program named after the twin stars Castor and Pollux". I answered Gemini which scored 26. Ruth's question was "The first name of the Russian author who wrote War and Peace" and answered Leo which scored 35. A total of 61. The ladies on the first podium scored 74 therefore we were through to the next round.



Ruth and Paul in full flight during the recording

Round two consisted of a board of 16 people born in 1968. I picked Helen McCrory which scored 1 point and Ruth picked Kate Humble which scored 16. A total of 17. A Scottish brother and sister were knocked out on that round and we were through to the head to head!

The next round was about places with "Cape" in their name. The two young lads on podium one chose "Located in Florida, it is home to the Kennedy Space Centre" and correctly answered Cape Canaveral. Our choice was "Located in the South West of England. It shares its name with the county in which it is found". We guessed Cape Cornwall having never heard of it! Evidently it is close to Land's End. 60 versus 12 – we

were one up. The next question was TV Sleuths. This was right up our street. 5 pictures were shown of TV detectives and they wanted to know the titles of the shows. We answered Moonlighting and they answered Murder She Wrote. 26 against 45. We were through to the final round!!!

We decided that the best question for us would be "The 2017 IAAF World Championships". The three choices were any athlete, male or female, in the finals of either 100 metres, 5000 metres or the relays. We picked Asafa Powell, Yohan Blake and Mo Farah as we were sure he was right. Asafa Powell got a big red cross. Yohan Blake, to our surprise, went down to zero – POINTLESS.

It was surreal and so dreamlike. We couldn't believe it. We not only won a "coveted" Pointless Trophy each but the cherry on the cake was £7,500. It was broadcast on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018 on BBC1 at 5.15pm.

It goes to prove that you are never too old to experience something new!

*Ruth and Paul Henison*

N.B. If you would like to see the broadcast you can go to YouTube, find Pointless and look at the broadcast for 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018.



**TUESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER: COFFEE MORNING FOR MEMBERS TO MEET AND CHAT—FROM 10. 30 a.m.** Everyone is welcome especially new members. Our coffee mornings are now held at the Watermead Inn, Watermead, Aylesbury, HP19 0FX. Situated in the Piazza in the centre of the village there is plenty of free parking. Waterrider bus (No 6) runs every 15 minutes from Aylesbury bus station and stops just over the road from the Piazza.  
£2 for cup of coffee and a biscuit and good company !

**FRIDAY 5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER:** Annual Group Leaders Meeting at the Bowls Club on Wendover Road. All Group Leaders, or their Deputies if necessary, are invited to come along and meet with Jane Trow, the relatively new Groups Coordinator. This is an opportunity for you to say how the U3A can help you, and how you would like to proceed with your own programmes. Further details will be announced at the September Meeting.

**MONDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER:** Garden Group visit to Wisley Royal Horticultural Society Gardens  
Depart Aylesbury at 9.30am : Entry to Gardens and Garden Tour £22. Further details from Chris Reading.

**THURSDAY 25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER:** Annual Quiz with Fish and Chip Supper—3p.m. to 7 p.m.  
To be held at the Aylesbury Bowls Club, Wendover Road, Aylesbury Quiz Masters: Peter (and Jean) Ashton  
We need Teams of 6 people although it is not necessary to make up a team in advance as teams can be made up on the night. If you don't eat fish, there will be other options e.g. sausage or chicken and chips. As always the Bar will be open and tea/coffee available on arrival

Payment of £10 per person will be taken at the U3A meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September or 10<sup>th</sup> October.  
Contact: Mary Singleton, Social Activities Co-ordinator at [social@avu3a.org.uk](mailto:social@avu3a.org.uk) or on 01296 428569

**THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER:** Thame Valley Network Study Day at Benson Parish Hall, Benson near Wallingford. 'The Interaction of Art, Science and Medicine' Guest Speaker Professor Peter Abrahams. Cost £15 Inc. tea/coffee on arrival and buffet lunch. Enquiries to [gill.ledu@btinternet.com](mailto:gill.ledu@btinternet.com)

**THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER:** Blenheim Palace Living Crafts Fair.  
Living Crafts for Christmas is a fantastic day out There is free access to the grounds and tickets for the fair can be upgraded on the day to a combined ticket which includes a tour of the palace itself - decorated for Christmas. Cost £27 . See all the details on Page 10

**THURSDAY 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMER:** Rock'n' Roll Christmas Party For all the details see Page 6,

**TUESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019 AT 10. 30 A.M.** An early note for next year's Diary and another Coffee Morning at the Watermead Inn. Details as before.

## READY TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED



During the summer people were invited to take part in a Great British Bee Count. More than 18,000 people recorded their sightings. For the past 50 years the bee population has been in decline and the Government is undertaking the first comprehensive health check for Britain's wild bees and other essential pollinators. If you have read your Summer issue of our national magazine 'Third Age Matters' you may also have noticed that Meopham U3A in Kent believes that it has the U3A's first regular bee watch group. They identify and count the number of bumblebees seen on their special March to October one hour walks.

Cyril Reed who was a beekeeper himself running between 1 and 5 hives sent this poem in and is obviously ahead of the 'drift' - One of the many collective nouns for bees.

Rhythmic shore pebbles on a tide gently swell  
The distant roar of a hollow sea shell.  
A hen's pitched clucks announcing with pride  
To all and sundry, 'At last its arrived'  
Frogs massing to mate as they 'croak in' a new Spring  
Dawn chorus. All birds within distance trill to join in.



Cyril Reed in his Bee Keeping Days.

A blackbird's alarm, or rustling dry leaves some might say  
Indeed nature all over would be a good sound any day  
But each to his own, I know where I stand  
Not a musical sound—no military band.

There's no greater buzz than that of the bee  
If you do not believe me, try it and see.  
Best near a hive where honeys produced  
Or lavender in flower, you'll soon be seduced  
But be alert now, before its too late  
It appears modernisation is fast closing the gate .





In Oct at our AGM we will have to elect the new committee so why not put your name forward? Please contact the secretary@avu3a.org.uk for nomination papers. At the same time we will be holding an Extraordinary General Meeting to adopt the new constitution as recommended by Third Age Trust. Details to follow.

Work is in hand to combine membership and finance into a new database— 'BEACON' already used by many other U3As. So there are a lot of changes afoot.



The chairs in the hall are now linked together for safety, please do not disconnect them.

## **LIVING CRAFTS FOR CHRISTMAS**

**AT BLENHEIM PALACE - THURSDAY 15TH NOVEMBER**

Enjoy choosing the perfect presents from over 180 designer-makers showcasing the very best of contemporary British craft with twinkling Christmas trees, seasonal food and drink, street theatre and entertainment. Living Crafts for Christmas is a fantastic day out

**There is free access to the grounds and tickets for the fair can be upgraded on the day to a combined ticket which includes a tour of the palace itself—decorated for Christmas**



**COST £27pp –COLLECTING SEPTEMBER**

**Depart Jansel Square, Bedgrove(by Sainsbury's) 8.45am return 4.45 approx**



**Dan McGregor**

**‘SOUNDMAN’: Congratulations to member John Wilford who has just had his first, and he says his only, book published. We can do no better than to quote the publisher’s own blurb:**

Ever wondered what it’s like to tour with a famous rock band? Hit the road with John ‘Wilf’ Wilford on a journey through rock and roll sound .



## **SOUNDMAN**

### **John ‘Wilf’ Wilford**

A Journey Through Rock ‘n’ Roll Sound



Soundman is the story of John Wilford’s life on the road with well known bands and musicians, tracing thirty years working as a sound engineer, tour manager and production manager. This book is a behind-the-scenes look into what happened on-stage, back-stage -and at sound checks, in the TV and recording studios, on the tour bus and in the hotels. It is an insider’s view, covering the good, the bad and the downright disastrous. From the pubs and clubs to Wembley Stadium and The Hollywood Bowl, Soundman is a comprehensive journey through rock ‘n’ roll sound.

John Wilford, also known as ‘Wilf’, was born in North London. After studying Radio, Television and Electronics Servicing he joined a semi-pro group as a roadie before working full time as a professional sound engineer. John worked for Midas Amplification where he built sound mixing consoles for many famous touring artists including Pink Floyd’s Quadraphonic mixing desk. He went on to set up sound companies in Newcastle and Nashville,

USA which he later sold, and then worked for Concert Sound up until his retirement.

John says “For many years friends have been telling me that I should write a book about my life on the road. They told me that not many people had been there right from the start during the 1960s or worked with so many different types of bands and artists from different genres.” He continues, “this is also a history and evolution of the Rock ‘n’ Roll sound system as it came to be used in the entertainment industry and by many performers around the world”.

**For more information about the book and the author please go to website -**

<https://soundmanwilf.wixsite.com/johnwilford>

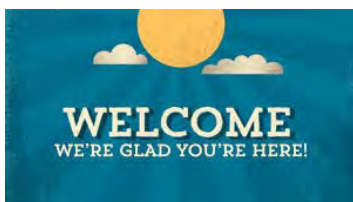
#### **THE GREEN THING - SENT IN BY A READER;**

At the checkout desk at the supermarket, the young cashier suggested to her older customer that plastic bags were not good for the environment. She went on to say ‘That’s our problem today, your generation didn’t care about saving the environment for the next generation’. She was right our generation didn’t have ‘the green thing’ in its day.

Back then we returned milk bottles, and beer and lemonade bottles to the shop. The shop then sterilized and refilled, so that the same bottle could be used over and over, so they really were re-cycled. But we didn’t have ‘the green thing’ back in our day.

Grocery shops bagged our groceries in brown paper bags that we used for numerous things, even using them as book covers for our school books to ensure that we didn’t deface our books while personalizing them. But too bad we didn’t do ‘the green thing’ back then.

Need I continue.....



**PLEASE SAY 'HELLO' TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS, AND IF YOU FIND YOURSELF SITTING ALONGSIDE THEM AT THE NEXT MONTHLY MEETING MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN TO THEM !**

Sandra Ryan, Eddie Masters, Maureen Worley, Pamela Rumsey, Jose Fontoura, Carol Cook, Melanie Smith, Jean Andrews, Laurence Andrews, George Danby, Meryl Pickering, Ged Miller, Paula Miller and Eric Denham

### **GREIG AND LYNNE GET AN INVITATION TO DANCE IN STYLE:**

This was as a result of an invitation to the Lord Mayor's Dance, Dress and Food Multicultural event in St Mary's Church in Aylesbury. It consisted of displays by the various cultural groups in the town and we were requested to add a Scottish flavour to the proceedings. So we demonstrated a couple of Scottish dances using some members of the audience as the dancers. The session went really well, especially with the Mayor of Banbury, who was an invited guest. We heard that on returning home he was aiming to encourage Scottish Country Dancing in the town.

*Greig Seddon*

All dressed up but definitely  
with somewhere to go!



Last date for copy for the December Newsletter will be November 14<sup>th</sup> so please send any items you may like to share with us to Shirley Stokes at [newsletter@avu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@avu3a.org.uk). Thanks as always to all of you who contribute to the finished product, and who forgive me for my errors! Please continue to send in news of your activities within the U3A and for any other items which you feel might interest our readers. This issue demonstrates that there are many of our members doing interesting and exciting things outside U3A and it is good to share in them.

Our very productive photographers are reminded that under the new Privacy Laws, members featuring in the very welcome photographs submitted for publication should have given permission for their image to be so used. If you do not want your photo reproduced please make that plain!

Don't forget to look at our website [avu3a.org.uk](http://avu3a.org.uk) where you will find up to date news and details of all our events and activities .