

Mid-Bucks (Aylesbury) U3A <http://www.u3a.co>
Information Sheet for 18th May 2017
Editor: Dave Rogers Email editor@u3a.co

Speakers

To day, Adam Smith, a local history historian returns to give his talk 'Building Georgian Towns'.
Next Month (**Thursday 15th June**) Alan Copeland will present 'In Town Tonight'.

Groups Co-Ordinator Jan Paver (01296 422296)

Book Club

Carolynne McKee (01296 435096)

The next meeting will be Wednesday 14th June at 10.30 am at 14 Waxwing Close, Watermead. The book for discussion is 'A Dark Devotion' by Clare Francis.

Bridge

Iris Rodell (01296 485478)

The Group meets on every other Tuesday afternoon in member's homes. Next meeting will be 30th May.

Computer Group (with Weston Turville U3A)

This group has now closed after a successful run of over 17 years - members of the group may be able to offer help in the future so please watch this space for any announcements. Our own Gadget Group (below) is now up and running to help with any computer related issues that you may have.

Creative Writing Group

Carolynne McKee (01296 435096)

The next meeting will be Wednesday 14th June at 1.30 pm at 14 Waxwing Close, Watermead.

Discussion Group

Elaine Turner (01296 582754)

We are back to normal and ready to hold the next Discussion Group meeting at 39 Madeley Road, starting at 10.30am on Wednesday 24th May. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Food & Drink

Ceinwyne Jones (01296 613172)

Food and drink are having a celebration lunch for Doug Joss's 96th birthday on **Friday 19th May** (see special article).

On **Monday 12th June** lunch is at 12.0 at the Plough, Cadsden. In **July**, there will be a visit to Peterlee Farm.

French

Bob Perry (01296 423626)

The group meets weekly on Wednesday from 2.00pm to 4.00pm, using French Experience Book 2. Anyone is Welcome. Any queries contact Bob. **Note change of circumstances.**

Gadget Group

Simon Reeks (01296 482735)

A self-help group to exchange experiences and give / receive help and advice about PCs, laptops, mobiles, SatNavs, etc, held at 76 Rowland Way, Aylesbury, HP19 7SW. Normally 10am for a couple of hours on the 1st Tuesday in the month but note that the June meeting is one week early on **30th May**.

Gardening Group

Pat Pickering (01296 336161)

Our June garden visit on 13th June is being organised by Sandie and Pauline. It will be to Wind in The Willows, Moorhouse Farm Lane, High Denham, UB9 5EN. Payment will be £6 to include refreshments. Please tick the list and make your payment at the May meeting if you wish to join us. This garden looks very interesting as it is listed as a 3 acre wildlife friendly year round garden. The list for the visit to Snowhill will also be on the notice board. Please indicate on the list if you are a National Trust Member and also which coach pickup point you will be using.

Listening to Music

Jim Wilding (01296 623628)

Next meeting, 2.30 at 32 Halton Lane, Wendover, will be on Tuesday, 23rd May, **new members most welcome.**

Local History 1

David Wilson (01296 584625 / 07972 372042)
Wednesday 28th June at 10.30am is a visit to the Greatmore Waste Plant at Woodham. Limited to 15 people. No charge. On **Thursday 13th July, 2017**, is a visit to the Pitstone Heritage Park for a talk and tour at 10am. Cost is £6 each to include coffee and biscuits, payable by the June monthly meeting please. For more information please telephone, see the website or see the notices at the monthly meeting.

Local History 2

Pauline Noble (01296 484940)
May 25th – Downton trip, through ‘circumstances beyond our control’ arrangements have had to change slightly. Final details will be announced at the U3A meeting and emails sent to all who have addresses. **June 29th – Haddenham** guided walk 10.30 a.m. from the village hall. Cost £2 towards Haddenham Museum. Parking at village hall/bus (280) alight opposite school. **July 27th –** guided tour of Mursley – meet 10.30 a.m. at The Green Man pub – cost £5 to include coffee. Optional lunch – see Jan Paver for menu.

Quiz Group

Doreen Wright (01296 437136)
The meeting in June is Tuesday 20th at 2.00 at Aylesbury Tennis Club, Wendover Road. You don't have to be brainy, just come along for a few laughs. Any queries contact Doreen.

Rail Rovers

Hilary Haines (01296 580999)
After a very enjoyable trip to Chester last month, we are now looking forward to our next train trip to Manchester on **Sat 20th May**. Meet at Tring station by 7.50am. Unfortunately we were not able to get the advanced tickets to York at a reasonable price so we will try to arrange that at a later date. Fifteen tickets have already been bought for the trip to Dawlish on **Sat 15th July**. The advanced price is £31 (with Railcard). Please could I have your cheque at the May meeting, if you have not already given it to me? Next proposed date could be Sat 23rd Sept. Any special requests?

Sew, Knit & Natter

Jasmine Reeks (01296 482735)
A social time to sew, crochet and knit. 2nd Monday in the month 10.30-12.30 *or* 14.00-16.00. Next meetings:- 12th June & 10th July.
Singing for Fun (with Aston Clinton U3A)
Margaret Barker (01494 864812)
This group meets 2nd Wednesday in the month 10.30 a.m. in Halton Village Hall.

Tai Chi

Thelma Little (01296 422737)
This group meets every Tuesday at 1.30 – 2.30 in Buckland Village Hall, Aston Clinton.

Ten Pin Bowling (with Aylesbury Vale U3A)
Ann Burman (01296 422084)

This group meets every Monday 10a.m. at “The Rogue Bowling Centre” in Gatehouse Way. Cost is £3.50 per game (normally £5).

Transport History

Jim Wilding (01296 623628)
Our next meeting will be on 23rd May at 10.30 at 4 The Cedars, Wendover, There will be a talk by Jim Wilding on British airliner development between the wars.

Travel Club

Wendy & Malcolm Russell (01844 208767)
We are now taking our summer break until September Please contact us if you have any travel photographs you would be prepared to talk to the Group about - we can arrange for them to be copied into the Powerpoint format. Don't forget the photo competition entitled “Four Legs” which will be judged at the December meeting.

Pub Walks

Jan Paver (01296 422296)
The next walk is at 11.00 on **FRIDAY 2nd June**. Please note change to usual day for this month only. Meet at the Full Moon pub at Cholesbury/Hawridge, HP5 2UH. It is 4 miles in length and includes multiple stiles with one short uphill section. **All welcome.**

NEW Liason Officer required

For events in other U3As looking for additional participants please refer to the Mid-Bucks (Aylesbury) website.

Mid Bucks (Aylesbury) Trips for 2017

MONDAY 19TH JUNE 2017

BRIGHTON

Our Annual Summer Day Out to the Sussex Coast where the sun always shines will cost £18.00 approximately. Payment will be confirmed at the May meeting when we want your money.

Pick up points will be: Exchange Street: 9.00 am, Tennis Club: 9.10 am and Bedgrove (lay-by): 9.15 am. For further information please contact: [Michael Walden 01844 291617](mailto:Michael.Walden@bt.com)

U3A HOLIDAY

NOT LONG NOW

LAKE DISTRICT

Please check your pick up spot and times. The coach will be travelling from Bedgrove to Haddenham - make sure that you are waiting on the appropriate side of the road. **Don't forget your National Trust Cards!**

Those who are using my drive for parking please arrive no later than 7.45 a.m.

If there are any problems or queries please be aware that I will not be available from 27th May to 1st June.

[Julie Leach 01296 488252](mailto:Julie.Leach@bt.com)

Next Contribution Date Friday 9th June 2017

Interview with Squadron Leader Douglas Joss MBE by Sandy Smith

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With additional U3A material from Brenda Ponton



PO Doug Joss, Rear Gunner 626 Squadron

Douglas Joss has lived in Wendover for over 40 years and has contributed a great deal to his community as well as having a distinguished service career during the Second World War.

He was born in Aberdeen and moved to Coventry where he went to school. He joined the RAF in 1938 when he was 17 and was trained as an aircraft rigger. After training at various places including the Central Flying School at Upavon where he flew with Douglas Bader, he was sent to the Gold Coast to assemble aircraft for use in the Middle East then to Nigeria to service aircraft. He was seconded to the French Foreign Legion in French Equatorial Africa (he was awarded La Croix du Combattant de l'Europe in 1981 and made a Chevalier in the Ordre National de la Legion d'honneur) and then Nigeria. He contracted malaria and was sent back to Halton Hospital which had a Tropical Disease facility. After recovering, he was trained as a rear air gunner, got together a crew and flew 32 missions throughout 1944 in Lancaster bombers. His description of their flights in his book "Peace and War of an Air Gunner"

and the living conditions they had to endure makes you feel that you are there with him. During his tour of duty, in November 1944 he was commissioned as a Pilot Officer. At the end of his flying duty, he travelled to Malaya and Singapore to help process people who had been interned by the Japanese. Still in the RAF after the war he served in the UK and then in Germany during the Berlin Air Lift. He became ill again and in the RAF Hospital he met his future wife, Sister Lois Monks of the Princess Mary's RAF Nursing Service. He was posted to Huntington where he was offered a permanent commission with the RAF.



Douglas Joss left, with Alan Deere centre and Douglas Bader right

He married Lois in August 1950 and in 1953 was promoted to Squadron Leader at RAF Upavon. They had a cottage in Chisenbury on the River Avon where their sons Michael and then Andrew were born. In 1956 Douglas was awarded an MBE. There followed many postings abroad and then the family ended up in Halton where Douglas was OC No. 3 Wing in the RAF Apprentice School in 1966. The family decided they did not want another move (which would have made 22) and moved into a new house on Lionel Avenue in 1968. After 32 years in the RAF Douglas retired in 1969 and had a few civilian jobs, becoming the Mayor's Secretary for the Borough of Aylesbury. Here are a few of his voluntary contributions to the community – space does not permit a full list.

He was a marriage guidance counsellor for 3 years, Governor of three schools. For his long contribution to the Scout movement, he became the Wendover District President and was awarded the Scout Medal of Merit for 50 years service.

He was a founder member of the Wendover Health Centre's Patient Fund and remained its secretary for 13 years. He was Public Relations Officer for Mencap for 5 years, and a case worker for SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Families Association) for 26 years, for which he was awarded their Star Badge and Certificate. In 1975 he became a magistrate and served for 16 years on the Aylesbury bench and was Vice-Chairman for the last 4 years, during which he represented Aylesbury on the Thames Valley Police Authority for 8 years, ultimately retired compulsorily at the age of 70.

Mid Bucks U3A

Doug joined the Mid-Bucks U3A fairly early in its existence and was elected as a Committee member in 2001. He then became Group Organiser and started several new groups including the Antiques Group, and the Quiz Group. As an active member of the Gilbert & Sullivan Group, he organised a number of visits to the Savoy theatre to see live performances of their operettas. However, his most pleasing activity he thought was the arranging of an "Ideal Home Exhibition" in the Holiday Inn when every Group had the opportunity of displaying their own particular activity, followed by an excellent lunch. This was filmed by Malcolm Taylor and eventually displayed; using equipment Douglas arranged the purchase of by obtaining a grant from the Lottery Fund. The equipment included camera, projector, and laptop. Another of his keen activities was the Computer Group which held their meetings in Aylesbury College. To help repay the College, a number of members assisted on their Open Days and Enrolment Days for several years. Sadly, ill health brought a halt to his activities with the Mid-Bucks U3A, but he has said they left him with very happy memories.

Doug is an honorary member of the Food & Drink group and provides us with a lot of humour from his most remarkable collection of anecdotes throughout his long and varied career.

