

ZOOM Meetings
Booked for 2.15 p.m.
Chat 1.45 p.m. to 2 p.m.
Notices 2 p.m. to 2.15 p.m.

| Date | Speaker | Title |
|----------------------------|------------|--|
| 20 th May 2021 | Jim Ellis | Our brain – How we remember, why we forget |
| 17 th June 2021 | Adam Smith | Victorian Food and Dining |

Jane Elliston

Simon Reeks – Chairman

After 4 years it is now time to hand on the Chairmanship. Sincere apologies that you have had to suffer me for a year greater than that decreed by the constitution but the last year has been somewhat unusual!

Our current Vice-Chairman, Geoff Short, has put himself forward for election and has my full support – I know that I will be leaving the u3a in very capable hands.

My thanks go out to all the members, both past and present, who have helped over the last few years - without your help and involvement our u3a would not be where it is today. So many of you have been involved that it would be impossible to list everybody but you all know who they are. The u3a movement is “by the members for the members” and you are proof of that.

A full information pack is attached to this newsletter with all the formal AGM papers, please review ready to ask / answer any issues raised during the meeting.

However, you won't have got rid of me completely as I shall still be around wearing my Gadget Group and Local History Group hats.

Dave Rogers – Editor

May Day Celebrations



Traditional English May Day celebrations include Morris dancing, crowning a May Queen and dancing around a Maypole. They have been carried out in England for over 2000 years although they are not as popular as they once were. These festivals reached their height in England during the Middle Ages. On May Day, people used to cut down young trees; strip the main trunk leaving a leafy crown to represent rebirth; garland the trunk with flowers and stick them in the ground in the village to mark the arrival of summer. People danced around these tree poles in celebration of the end of winter and the start of the fine weather that would allow planting to begin.

Often the fairest maiden of the village was chosen as **May Queen**. Sometimes a May king was also chosen. These two led the village dancers and ruled over the festivities. In Elizabethan times, the king and queen were called Robin Hood and Maid Marian. Historians believe the cutting of the Maypole was the villager's way of establishing their right to cut wood freely from the forest.

Traditionally the dancing was done by women as part of a fertility rite but the Maypole Dancing that people know today, happened because John Ruskin introduced it at Whitelands Teacher Training College in 1881 and created a series of dances to be performed at a May Pageant. By that time **May Poles** were permanent and painted in blue and white stripes. They, also, had ribbons attached to their crowns.



Each child holds one of the coloured ribbons and circles the maypole with a hopping, skipping step. Some of the children dance in one direction while others dance the opposite way around the pole, changing their direction at carefully chosen moments. As they dance, the children pass each other until the ribbons are plaited together and wrapped tightly around the Maypole. When the circle is as small as it can be, the dance is reversed and the ribbons unwind until the dancers come back to their starting places. Visit www.maypoledance.com for further information.

Across rural England the key symbol of May Day is fresh spring growth, and the general hope is for a fertile harvest. As an alternative to May Poles, villagers would disguise one of their number as **Jack-in-the-Green** by enshrouding him with a portable bower of fresh greenery. Jack and his followers danced around the town collecting money from passersby for later feasting. Today he can often be seen accompanying traditional Morris dancing groups.



Morris dancing is a traditional English form of folk dance. From around April and through the green summer months beribboned troupes of Morris Dancers will be seen in market towns and on village greens up and down the land. You are especially likely to see them performing their medieval dances to the click clack of their sticks and the sound of bells, pipes, and drums, around the month of May. In the dance men dress up in costumes with hats and ribbons and bells around their ankles. They dance through the streets and one man often carries an inflated pig's bladder (balloon) on the end of a stick. He will run up to young women in the street and hit them over the head with the pig's bladder in order to bring them good luck! Nobody knows the symbolism nor reason for this.

May Day is actually a festival of the year for which there is no significant church service. Because of this, it has always been a strong secular festival particularly among the working class, who would often take the day off to celebrate it without their employer's approval. It was a popular custom - a people's day - and so it became identified as **Labour Day** and by the 20th Century, it was rooted as part of the socialist calendar.

Beating the bounds was traditionally carried out on May Day. It meant the owner of land or property would walk the boundary of their property, beating the ground with long canes, to reaffirm their rights. This is still traditionally the day for repairing fences and boundary markers on the land.

A far nicer custom in Oxford has become one of the more popular and loveliest May Day ceremonies to date. The original buildings of the college itself have changed little since they were built at the end of the 15th century. The square tower which dominates the city of Oxford near Magdalen Bridge over the River Cherwell has a peal of ten bells. In the early hours of the morning at about 6.00 am, the **Magdalen College Choir** climb 144 feet to the top of the tower to welcome the sunrise by singing madrigals to the crowd below.



Madrigals are followed by hymns and a peal of bells before the Morris Dancers take over for the next 2-3 hours. Along with this popular form of entertainment, there is beating the bounds and other age-old rituals of merrymaking throughout the city centre. Undergraduates jumped for joy from Magdalen Bridge into the River Cherwell until so many became injured that the police now barricade the bridge on May Day. However, for some students, the best news is that the pubs open at 7:00 am!

Jasmine Reeks – Membership Secretary

MEMBERSHIP

Membership stands at 142 after the sad death of Edna Nicholson last month.

Birthday Greetings to all you May babies. Happy birthday Roger. Enjoy your other celebrations too. Many of our friends celebrate birthdays this month. My mother was born 7th May 1919, 102 years ago. I wonder what she would have thought about our experiences these last 14 months.

YARN CRAFTERS

A question of wait and see until more people can meet indoors and current restrictions end!

LOCAL HISTORY

Our next Local History Zoom talk is Thursday 27th May, when I will give a talk on the 3rd Marquis of Bute relating to Cardiff Castle, Castell Coch and Mount Stuart on the Isle of Bute. It will be a history and travelogue, which I hope you will find amusing. We will send out a Zoom connection to Local History Members but other members who wish to view, please contact Simon and he will send it to you as well.

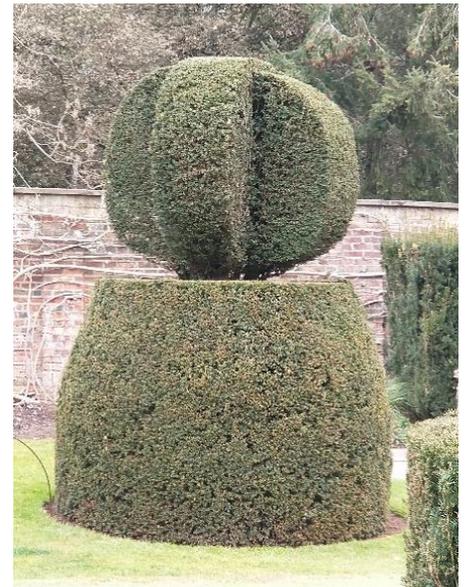
THE ART OF TOPIARY



Topiary is the practice of training perennial plants by clipping the foliage and twigs of trees and shrubs to develop and keep clearly defined shapes. The shapes can be geometric, lifelike or fantastical. All in all, it is a living sculpture.

Plants used are evergreen, mainly woody with small leaves or needles, for example box, bay laurels, holly, myrtle, yew or privet. In modern topiary, sometimes a wire cage is used to guide the shears but traditional topiary depends on patience and a steady hand. A hedge is a simple form and used to create a boundary, wall or screen.

It became popular in Ancient Greece and Rome. In Britain in the 1500s, it took the form of knot gardens.



In the 16th century, it was shaped using small, very sharp knives but by the 17th century shears came in to use. Levens Hall garden in Cumbria is considered to be the oldest topiary garden in the world.

In the 18th century, topiary went into decline. Landscape designers, like Capability Brown turned to more natural-looking, wilder styles of gardening. Victorian gardeners reintroduced the art. More creative designs were produced and topiary art evolved.

Modern topiary in suburban gardens can be stunning and amusing. On Thame Road just before the Bourg Walk over the railway line, you can find a train-shaped hedge, though often a bit raggedy now, it is still recognisable. I think the original creators are now elderly.

Photos taken at Cliveden, in April 2021 - I am sure they are familiar to many of you.

David Mummery – Secretary

Our website contains details of our activities and events taking place - also in the Thames Valley Network. It really needs input from the groups and members to keep it lively and informative. It keeps members in touch with what is going on and any activities they may wish to be involved with. Please let me know of any content you may wish to be shown or any items you wish to be included. I am readily available at all times.

It is also the last chance for Facebook. We have no-one to run it, and unless we get a volunteer by the beginning of June, we shall have to close it.

Would you like to try being secretary or Membership Secretary or even running the Facebook page? It's time for someone (you?) to have some fun. Grab the opportunity.

If any member would like to learn more of what a committee member entails, I would be most happy to explain them. It is a lively and gregarious group and would give much pleasure to anyone who would like to learn and be involved.

Why not contact me? I remain on djummery@hotmail.com or 01296 580714 if required.

Jane Elliston – NEW GROUP

Artistic Coffee Morning

Tuesday 6th July at 10.00 Cost 50p

Venue Jane's House in Aylesbury (on a bus route)

A coffee morning for anyone who wants to be artistic.



The aim of the group is to encourage, and inspire people to be creative; both beginners and experienced creative people. Over refreshments we will set a common theme, maybe swap ideas or see some examples, then during the following month each member in their own home will create their interpretation using whatever medium the individual chooses. It could be drawing, painting, sculpting, writing, poetry (see below), photography, even computerised graphics. The following month we will show our finished (or work in progress) to the group or, if too big, show photos.

We're coming out of lock down; don't be afraid
Astra Zenica and Pfizer have saved the day.
for their vaccines will keep the virus at bay.
But not before time as our nerves are all frayed.

June 21st the day for which we've all prayed.
By this pandemic our economy's beat.
Let's see which shops reopen in the high street
and meet a mate for coffee and cake that's not homemade.

Members will be encouraged to share their knowledge. and contribute ideas and themes for the group
Come along to the first meeting as the model is open to adaptations, we could look at using tutorials or going out.

Hands, face, space will be a thing of the past
we'll soon be able to visit where ever we want
and celebrate in a fancy restaurant
or meet u3a chums in person at last

We're coming out of lock down, don't be afraid
Your country needs you to splash the cash and shop!
So, dust off your bus pass for on a bus you can hop.
But until that day, let's pray our freedom is not delayed.

Host - Jane Elliston contact 07788494380 or janeelliston@aol.com or 01296 426892

Michael Walden

An introduction to the joys of the Hospitality Industry

Have you ever wondered what it is really like to work in the kitchen of a Westend Hotel in London? On the television nowadays there are numerous programs devoted to the culinary arts! Certain programmes are excellent for example Master Chef - The Professionals and Crème de la Crème which concentrate on the higher echelons of cuisine. Whereas other programmes are directed more towards a more realistic every day cookery experience! Some good, other just plain entertainment! The role of a chef nowadays (through the media) has certainly become a more respected profession. In the past it invariably was someone who provided cooked food working within a hot environment seldom seen.

I would now like to take you back to June 1961 when I left school with absolutely no qualifications whatsoever! I even failed the end of school test paper. This did not please my father who was a Secondary School Headmaster! As he said “Boy! you are no good with your hands or head better go into catering!”. So! I spent two years at the Southend College of Technology, whilst I achieved my catering qualifications! On leaving College, I had to find suitable employment! Though I did have experience of working at the Queens Hotel Westcliff-on-Sea; now a housing estate! Perhaps they didn't like my cooking! I always wanted to work in London and was offered a position as a commis chef at both the Waldorf and Park Lane Hotels. I chose the Waldorf as it paid £7.10 shillings a week as against £7!

My First Day - Great Expectations

After catching the steam train from Leigh-on-Sea to London, I made my way to the Waldorf Hotel and went in the front entrance. I was then curtly reminded to “go round the back” where I was greeted by one of the assistant managers who introduced me to the Head Chef Maurice Rowlands (who incidentally I met years later when I worked for a time at Claridge's Hotel.) He then took me into the kitchen and introduced me to the Chef Rotisseur on whose section I was to commence work with virtually no guidance or instruction. In fact, I just cut up chips, or, to give them the correct title Pommes Point-Neuf (big chips)!

Kitchen Organisation

I did however move onto the other sections throughout my time at the hotel. I would now like to describe the specific role of each chef within a kitchen brigade, with reference to the Waldorf, though the system applied basically to most large Hotels. The most important role was the **Head Chef**. He had three **Sous Chefs** who were second in command and basically ran the kitchen. During service, they called out the orders to the various sections and controlled the checking system. The majority of the dishes were silver service where the food was presented on silver flats or entrée dishes. This is where the skills of the waiting staff are essential. To serve, for example, a poached fish dish covered with a white wine- based sauce, garnished with a duchess potato border is not easy when transferring to the guest's plate.

Individual roles of the Chef.

Each Chef de Partie had a team of commis chefs with differing levels of experience, who were responsible for preparing and cooking specific items of food under his direction (all chefs were male).

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Chef Saucier | Responsible for all meat/poultry based, entrees with accompanying sauces and garnishes. Not roasted items |
| Chef Poissonnier | All fish dishes with sauces and garnish but not deep- fried fish dishes. |
| Chef Rotisseur | All deep fried fish dishes, roasted meats with relevant sauces plus other deep-fried items such as various potato dishes and vegetables. This chef invariably worked alongside the Grill Chef |
| Chef Entremetier | Basically all the vegetable dishes and soups. (Whilst I was employed at the Waldorf the veg. chef was a very elderly gentleman who began his employment soon after the first world war! At the Waldorf!) |

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Garde-Manger | or the Larder Chef. This was quite a large section. Amongst his team was a butcher and fishmonger, plus a number of commis chefs. Basically, preparing all cold preparations including chaud- froid work and sandwiches for afternoon teas. |
| Chef Tournant | Most interesting role in the kitchen. This was a relief chef who took over the different sections on the day off of an individual chef de parties. |
| Chef Pâtissier | All confectionery items, desserts and pastries. In the kitchen hierarchy he was of the same standing as the Sous Chefs |

Service Time - This was the most hectic time of the day!

Orders from the restaurant were received by the respective Sous Chef on duty who shouted the orders to the respective chef de parties. The items were then cooked, passed to the hotplate and order called “away”. Easy! Oh no! Firstly, not all food takes the same length of time to cook; this is where the Chefs skills are paramount. Certain sections can be inundated with orders which can result in delays with impatient waiters’ being politely reprimanded at the hot plate to keep quiet! Tempers did become frayed on rare occasions and I have known the odd fight to take place! Invariably these issues are resolved amicably!

As I mentioned before, I started as a commis on the roast section. The cookers we used were basically two ovens with a coal fire in the centre. These needed to be topped up at regular interval. On one occasion during service, the oven temperature was getting very low and had to be topped up. Sylvester (I remember his name) was the allocated kitchen porter assigned to look after the fires. Unfortunately, Sylvester opened the top of the fire and proceeded to shoot in the coal! You can guess what happened smuts everywhere!! I will leave this episode here! (censored!)

Facilities

So! what were the facilities like at the Waldorf? Basically, there was nothing! We had a changing room and that was it. This meant that regardless of the weather you had to venture out or sit looking at cages! This invariably resulted in a trip to the coffee bar in the Strand and once a week a visit to the news cinema. In the summer we used to walk to the parks. Some of the older chefs preferred to visit the bookies!

Staff Development Plan

I was employed at the Waldorf Hotel from 17th July 1961 to 15th March 1963 (Yes! I still have these details). I was one of four students who joined from Southend College. I was the first to start work at the hotel and the last to leave the Waldorf. I still have a copy of the a la carte menu. When compared with today’s menus you would find a far more comprehensive selection of dishes. However, the dishes were very traditional. Compared with today’s menus which invariably offer less choice but more varied and interesting items.

So where did I go after leaving the Waldorf Hotel? I worked for about eight weeks in a city restaurant in Central London then on the P and O- Orient liners; Iberia and Arcadia for two years. Now I can tell you a few stories of life at sea !!!!!!!

Postscript

I did visit the Waldorf Hotel a few years ago. As part of their training, college students were required to complete a period of industrial experience during their course curriculum. One student successfully was accepted at the Waldorf Hotel. As course co-ordinator, I visited a number of students at their place of work. In particular the lad working at the Waldorf.

Needless to say, I was greeted at the front door!!!!!!

Pat and Michael Freeman

Florence Nightingale Charity

We understand that the Florence Nightingale Charity no longer recycle ink cartridges but are still accepting used postage stamps. So please continue to save your stamps and, hopefully, bring them along to our meeting later in the year. Thank you for your continued support.

Tony Vickers

An everyday story of Witches and Sorcery in Bucks



Richard Napier was a busy man. At the start of the 17th century, as an Anglican priest and physician in Bucks he began recording the accusations of witchcraft made by ordinary and illiterate villagers against their neighbours. His work amounted to some sixty volumes. He was not alone as chroniclers and court records show the extent of belief in witchcraft at that time.

English witchcraft tended to take a different line from continental countries. While the Netherlands and France went for witches flying on broomsticks, kissing the devil, feasting on corpses and boiling babies, in England practices were far more varied.

These included ritual cursing, malicious gossip, magic and sorcery, spell casting and using charms to call forth angels. A favoured approach among the clergy was to issue love magic utterances to predict someone's future spouse, to seduce parishioners or prevent unwanted pregnancies.

Some fruit trees were cursed by witches by telling people that eating their fruits would turn them into elves. Although seeing dancing cats on Wednesday nights was a sure way to demonisation, elves were particularly feared because of their ability to steal children and take them to their underground caves. Spirit sisters were often brought in to foretell the destinies of infants (an early form of career advice).

Male witches often used boiled toads to prevent scabies in sheep. Accusations of feeding wicked tales of fairy treasures in the form of pots of gold buried in woods surfaced in Rye when Anne Taylor came to trial, accused of willing the death of a neighbour.



Assigning an illness, physical or psychological, to witchcraft was a favoured and very convenient way of trying to make sense of events. Shifting the blame onto demons and supernatural affliction seemed a sensible way out when the causes of suffering and disease at that time were little known. Although physical symptoms such as boils, dysentery, typhus and jaundice provoked suspicions you were likely

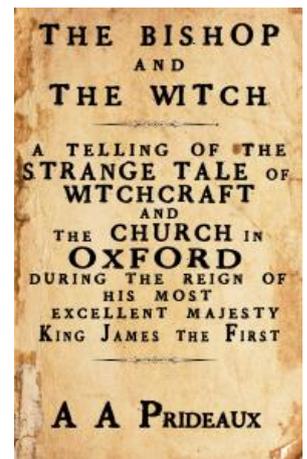
to be a witch, much greater attention was given to psychological factors. As people aged and developed bizarre visions, shaking and swooning, constant cursing, staring with an evil look, or with things running up and down their bodies like demons on the inside or just becoming seriously ill, then the witchcraft accusations began to mount. Sickness in cattle, breaking your leg, thatched roof fires, marital breakdowns or the sudden onset of disease frequently brought fears of witchcraft looming in the community.



Being accused of witchcraft usually arose out of personal grudges, village tensions, breakdowns in relationships and strong beliefs in the supernatural. In villages where long-standing feuds had festered for years, fears of witchcraft usually brought matters to a head, especially when the prospects of execution were high. It also produced a vast array of so-called cures and remedies to drive out demons and evil spirits. Public beatings and floggings were common, alongside diviners, magicians, purges and exorcisms. If found guilty in court, severe sentences including execution usually followed.

Witch hunts (East Anglia) were used to root out unchristian beliefs and suppress disorderly behaviour. Suspicions of a witch in the community often brought fears and trepidations, while leading to a breakdown in social relationships and the stoppage of festivals and ceremonies.

In 1604 the unusual behaviour of Anne Gunter from Oxford began to cause alarm in the neighbourhood. She became what could now be termed a 'local celebrity' when she appeared for trial before the Star Chamber after accusing her neighbour Elizabeth Gregory of bewitching her. Anne was able to call on a considerable range of talents and curious behaviours after claiming her body had been inhabited by evil spirits. Initially she revealed herself as a clairvoyant able to predict events and reveal private conversations before moving on to describe visions of fairies and witches, foaming and showing how her clothing could move on its own accord. Eventually Anne was able to eject, at will, considerable amounts of pins and other objects from her mouth and nose. She received 'treatment' from Oxford physicians but the overall view was her body was now possessed by demons.



Similarly, further north in Chester, Anne Mylner held crowds in raptures, uttering curses, oaths and prophecies while showing a demonised rat running through her body. The City fathers ordered her out into the country. The crowds followed.

Simon Reeks – Gadget Group



Another busy month, mainly involving Zoom and antivirus protection. Please contact me if you think that I can help, particularly now that the Covid 19 restrictions are being lifted. Simon Reeks, reeks@fangio.co.uk, 01296 482735, 07449 333296.

Next Contribution Date Friday 11th June
Contributions Welcome from ALL Members

MID-BUCKS (AYLESBURY) u3a

2021 Annual General Meeting

The Twenty-fifth Annual General Meeting of Mid-Bucks (Aylesbury) u3a will take place on

Thursday 20th May 2021

Commencing at 2pm by Zoom

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 16th May 2019**
- 3. Matters Arising**
- 4. Chairman's Report**
- 5. Treasurer's Report & Accounts for the period ended 31st March 2019/2020 & 2020/2021**
- 6. Election of Chairman**
- 7. Election of Officers**
- 8. Election of Committee Members**
- 9. Appointment of an Examiner for the Accounts 2022**
- 10. Vote of thanks to retiring Committee members.**

.....

Once prepared, copies of the Accounts will be available on request from the Secretary, together with 2019 Minutes. Note that there was no AGM in 2020.

For those persons who do not wish to participate in Zoom, the form overleaf may be completed and sent to the secretary by post or email.

MID-BUCKS (AYLESBURY) u3a ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

Extract from the Constitution of Mid-Bucks (Aylesbury) u3a

4. MANAGEMENT

The management of the u3a shall be vested in a Committee consisting of the members whose duty it shall be to carry out its general policy and to provide for the administration, management and control of the affairs and property of the u3a.

- 4.1 (i) The Committee shall consist of at least five and not more than ten members (excluding those who are co-opted) including the principal officers- (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer). The principal officers shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting.
- 4.2 The election of members of the Committee shall be held at the Annual General Meeting of the u3a.
- (iv) Officers shall serve for a maximum period of three years. Retiring officers may stand for re-election, provided that no-one may hold the office of Chairman or Vice-Chairman for more than three consecutive years without an intervening period of at least one year, except that a retiring Vice-Chairman may stand immediately for the post of Chairman.

Current committee members:

Simon Reeks Chairman
Geoffrey Short Vice Chairman
David Mummery Secretary
David Wilson Treasurer
Jasmine Reeks Membership Secretary
Jane Elliston Speakers Organiser
Val Blackburn Liaison Officer
Michael Walden Trips Organiser
Jim Wilding Accessibility & Members' Rep
Chris Blaik Asst Trips Organiser
April Smart Webmaster

Nominations are required for the following positions:

1: Chairman; 2: Vice-Chairman; 3: Secretary; 4: Treasurer; 5-10: Six Committee Members. You may make nominations for as many positions as you wish

NOMINATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE 2021/2022

The following members of the Mid-Bucks (Aylesbury) u3a are nominated for election to the positions indicated at the Annual General Meeting to be held on **Thursday 20th May 2021**. The members concerned have verbally agreed to serve if elected.

| POSITION | PERSON NOMINATED (ACCEPTANCE AGREED VERBALLY) (BLOCK CAPITALS) | PROPOSER (BLOCK CAPITALS) | SECONDER (BLOCK CAPITALS) |
|-----------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

PLEASE NOTE: All nominations are to be returned to David Mummery, 4 Windermere Close, Aylesbury, HP21 7HP not later than Thursday, 6th May 2021 by post or emailed to secretary@u3a.co

MID-BUCKS (AYLESBURY) U3A

Minutes of the Twenty-third Annual General Meeting Held at Southcourt Community Centre, Prebendal Avenue, Aylesbury On Thursday, 16th May 2019

Present: Retiring Committee Members:
Simon Reeks, David Wilson, Val Blackburn, Jan Paver, Jasmine Reeks, April Smart, Michael Walden
and Jim Wilding,
Together with 81 out of 162 members and 5 visitors.

The Chairman welcomed all present, and proceeded to open the business of the Annual General Meeting.

1. **Apologies were received** from Chris Blaik, Alex Dunk, Jane Elliston, Chris Gill, Ceinwyne Jones, Dorothy Lock, David Mummery and Geoff Short.

2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 17th May 2018**

The Minutes of the Twenty-second Annual General Meeting held 17th May 2018, which had been circulated at this meeting, were unanimously agreed to be a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed Bob Hughes Seconded David Hewitt

3. **Matters arising from the Minutes** None were raised

4. **Chairman's Report**

Before starting his report, the Chairman read out a statement from David Mummery, our new Secretary. David had written that he was sorry that he could not be here today. Having been in post for only a couple of months, there was little that would be relevant. However, he extended his compliments to Wendy Aplin, the Secretary involved during the past 9 years and also to Dave Rogers who filled the post of Minutes Secretary to his Newsletter responsibilities. Both have worked diligently for the U3A and Dave continues with his tasks. David Mummery has so far experienced an overwhelming appreciation of the industry of the committee members and the group leaders. He hopes to live up to their high standards and will support them with every endeavour. Finally, he looks forward to providing a service to the Mid-Bucks (Aylesbury) U3A and hopes that you, the members, will approach him with your suggestions, comments and any thoughts you may have regarding this U3A or to just have a conversation. Your help and guidance will be invaluable.

Having read the statement from the Secretary, the Chairman started his report with the fact that our U3A has continued to provide a mix of entertainment and, of course, education to you - the members. It is from the membership that the ideas and efforts flow to make our U3A the success that it is. Although Committee members have specific tasks and have performed them extremely competently and diligently, members do so many things - they run the groups, help with the groups, organise and help with the monthly meetings, arrange the catering, help produce a quality newsletter and website, suggest ideas and generally keep things moving.

The Chairman wouldn't mention specific names as we know who they are and we thank them, we could not continue without our members. Please continue to volunteer, particularly with supporting existing groups and, indeed, helping to create new groups. The two local history groups have had strong membership but both are now looking for new leaders. Full support is always available to support new groups and leaders. Two new groups are in the process of being set up, French Conversation and Pétanque will add a touch of "je ne sais quoi" to our mix.

Having now completed two years as your Chairman, the constitution only permits him one more year in office. Please actively consider volunteering for the vacant post of Vice-Chairman to allow a smooth transition in a year's time - he is not irreplaceable! Although he stated that he would not mention specific names, he really could not finish without thanking Wendy Aplin for her years of exemplary service as our Secretary, David Mummery as her replacement has a hard act to follow. Thank you all for your help and support.

5. Treasurer's Report

David Wilson's certified accounts to the end of March 2019 had been circulated to all those at the meeting. Income was similar to last year but now included a grant from the Harding Trust. Payments were also similar to last year but our printing costs have been reduced by £540 thanks to our Chairman and his new equipment. The 2018 comparison figures for trips income (zero) and costs (£40) arise because these items went out of the closed Number 2 (Social) account last year. The true comparison figures are income of £5278 and costs of £4962. Our current bank balances of £3084 in Current Account and £1548 in COIF Deposit Account show a very healthy position. The accounts were unanimously accepted.

Proposed Gwyneth Wilding Seconded Tony Ashpool

6. Election of Officers and Committee

The Chairman invited Jim Wilding (Past Chairman) to take the Chair as there was no Vice-Chairman so that he (Simon Reeks) could be re-elected as Chairman for 2019/20.

Proposed April Smart Seconded David Mummery

On returning to the Chair, the Chairman (Simon Reeks) asked the members to vote for the following appointments that had been circulated to those members present:

| Position | Nomination | Proposed | Seconded |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Treasurer | David Wilson | April Smart | Simon Reeks |
| Secretary | David Mummery | April Smart | Chris Blaik |
| Membership Secretary | Jasmine Reeks | April Smart | David Wilson |
| Liaison Representative | Val Blackburn | Jasmine Reeks | Simon Reeks |
| Trips Organiser | Michael Walden | Chris Blaik | Jim Wilding |
| Committee Member | Chris Blaik | David Wilson | Jim Wilding |
| Accessibility Representative | Jim Wilding | David Wilson | Jane Elliston |
| Members' Representative | Jim Wilding | David Wilson | Jane Elliston |
| Speakers Organiser | Jane Elliston | Jasmine Reeks | Simon Reeks |
| Web Master | April Smart | Jane Elliston | Jasmine Reeks |

There are still vacancies for Vice-Chairman and another Committee Member.

All appointments were carried unanimously

Proposed Tony Ashpool Seconded Ken Berry

7. Appointment of an Examiner for the Accounts 2019/2020

The Chairman stated that Cyril Parsons is prepared to act as our Examiner again next year and suggested that his election should be approved. This was carried unanimously.

Proposed Ann Burman Seconded Ken Berry

8. Vote of Thanks

The Chairman then asked for a vote of thanks to be given to Wendy Aplin (our past Secretary) and Jan Paver (Group Co-ordinator) who had decided to retire from the committee but not from Group Leader (Pub Walks). The members present showed their appreciation and approval.

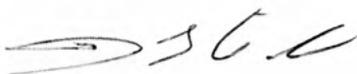
The meeting closed at 2.20 pm.

MID BUCKS (Aylesbury) u3a

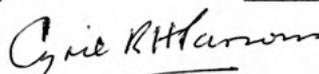
Registered Charity No. 1070207

Receipts and Payments Account For the year ended 31st March, 2021

| | <u>2021</u> | | <u>2020</u> | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| <u>Balances brought forward</u> | | | | |
| Balance in Bank Current Account | 3404 | | 3084 | |
| Balance in COIF Deposit account | 1557 | | 1548 | |
| | | 4961 | | 4632 |
| <u>Receipts</u> | | | | |
| Subscriptions | 2205 | | 2412 | |
| Deposit interest received | 2 | | 9 | |
| Gift Aid | 326 | | 365 | |
| Teas | 0 | | 192 | |
| Book sales | 0 | | 86 | |
| Diaries | 45 | | 0 | |
| Income from trips | 0 | | 3494 | |
| William Harding's Charity Grant towards coach costs | 0 | | 1475 | |
| Total receipts | 2578 | | 8033 | |
| <u>Payments</u> | | | | |
| Administration | 16 | | 214 | |
| Speakers | 420 | | 643 | |
| Zoom subscription | 115 | | 0 | |
| Room Hire | 0 | | 395 | |
| Cost of Tea, coffee etc. | 0 | | 82 | |
| Printing | 0 | | 105 | |
| Cost of Trips | 0 | | 5492 | |
| Website costs | 0 | | 122 | |
| Diaries | 45 | | 0 | |
| Copyright Licence | 60 | | 60 | |
| Membership subscriptions to Third Age trust | 560 | | 591 | |
| Total payments | 1216 | | 7704 | |
| Surplus for the year | | <u>1362</u> | | <u>329</u> |
| Surplus for the year plus opening balances | | 6323 | | 4961 |
| Net income from Study Groups | | 614 | | 0 |
| Accumulated surplus at the year end | | <u>6937</u> | | <u>4961</u> |
| <u>Balances Carried Forward</u> | | | | |
| Balance in Bank Current account | | 4764 | | 3404 |
| Balance in COIF Deposit account | | <u>1559</u> | | <u>1557</u> |
| | | 6323 | | 4961 |
| Cash balances held by Study Groups | | 614 | | 0 |
| | | <u>6937</u> | | <u>4961</u> |



D J Wilson
Hon. Treasurer



C R H Parsons
Independent Examiner
See separate report

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO:
MEMBERS OF MID-BUCKS (AYLESBURY) U3A

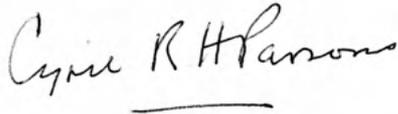
I have examined the above accounts to 31st March 2021.

My responsibilities are to:

- 1 Identify whether or not proper accounting records have been kept;
- 2 Check that the accounts agree with the book-keeping records;
- 3 Look for possible significant errors in the accounts; and
- 4 Check that the accounts have been properly prepared on the cash basis.

and where matters arise from this examination that give cause for concern to report it.

No matters have arisen during the course of my examination where I have to give an adverse report



C R H Parsons
Independent Examiner

29 April 2021

MID BUCKS (Aylesbury) U3A
Registered Charity No. 1070207

Receipts and Payments Account
For the year ended 31st March 2020

| | <u>2020</u> | | <u>2019</u> | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Balances brought forward | | | | |
| Balance in Bank Current Account | 3084 | | 1313 | |
| Balance in COIF Deposit account | <u>1548</u> | 4632 | <u>1541</u> | 2854 |
| Receipts | | | | |
| Subscriptions | 2412 | | 2562 | |
| Deposit interest received | 9 | | 8 | |
| Gift Aid | 365 | | 396 | |
| Teas | 192 | | 346 | |
| Book sales | 86 | | 88 | |
| Diaries | 0 | | 85 | |
| Income from trips | 3494 | | 7382 | |
| William Harding's Charity Grant towards coach costs | 1475 | | 515 | |
| | | <u>8033</u> | | <u>11382</u> |
| | | 12665 | | 14236 |
| Payments | | | | |
| Administration | 214 | | 346 | |
| Speakers | 643 | | 839 | |
| Room Hire | 395 | | 336 | |
| Cost of Tea, coffee etc. | 82 | | 67 | |
| Printing | 105 | | 156 | |
| Cost of Trips | 5492 | | 6919 | |
| Website costs | 122 | | 187 | |
| Diaries | 0 | | 88 | |
| Copyright Licence | 60 | | 60 | |
| Membership subscriptions to Third Age trust | 591 | | 606 | |
| | | <u>7704</u> | | <u>9604</u> |
| Accumulated surplus at the year end | | <u>4961</u> | | <u>4632</u> |
| Balances Carried Forward | | | | |
| Balance in Bank Current account | | 3404 | | 3084 |
| Balance in COIF Deposit account | | <u>1557</u> | | <u>1548</u> |
| | | <u>4961</u> | | <u>4632</u> |

D J Wilson
Hon. Treasurer

Notes to accounts year to 31st March, 2020

Income from teas is down because we stopped charging for them.

Income from trips is down due to our decision to reduce prices to use some of the surplus from prior years.

No income, or costs, for diaries this year as David Mummery collected the cash and paid for them direct to TAT.

Cost of speakers is down as there was no speaker in March, 2020, and good negotiating skills by Jane.

Printing costs are down as it is now being done by Simon.

Website costs are down as there were no set-up costs this year.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE MEMBERS OF MID-BUCKS (AYLESBURY) U3A

I have examined the above accounts to the 31st March, 2020. My responsibilities are to:

Identify whether or not proper accounting records have been kept;

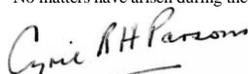
Check that the accounts agree with the book-keeping records;

Look for possible significant errors in the accounts; and

Check that the accounts have been properly prepared on the cash basis.

and where matters arise from this examination that give cause for concern to report it.

No matters have arisen during the course of my examination where I have to give an adverse report.


Independent Examiner

August 2020

MID-BUCKS (AYLESBURY) U3A
NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE 2020-2021

| Post | Name | Proposer | Seconder |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Chairman | Geoffrey Short | April Smart | Jasmine Reeks |
| Vice-Chairman | | | |
| Secretary | David Mummery | April Smart | Chris Blaik |
| Treasurer | David Wilson | April Smart | Val Blackburn |
| | Jasmine Reeks | David Mummery | David Wilson |
| | Val Blackburn | David Mummery | Chris Blaik |
| | | | |
| | Michael Walden | April Smart | Geoffrey Short |
| | Chris Blaik | Jasmine Reeks | David Mummery |
| | Jim Wilding | Val Blackburn | April Smart |
| | Jane Elliston | David Wilson | Geoff Short |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |