

## Milford and Godalming u3a

### Autumn Bulletin 2025

#### *Jottings from the Chair*

Hello and a warm welcome to the first newsletter of Milford & Godalming u3a for 2025/26.

In addition to our existing members I'm delighted to welcome all our new members and hope you'll soon feel part of our fun and friendly community. We currently have over five hundred members with a total of fifty-five varied groups on offer. Whether you've joined to learn something new, share your skills, or simply to meet like-minded people, there's an opportunity for everyone.

If you look at our new updated website ([www.mgu3a.org](http://www.mgu3a.org)), and highlighted on page 2 of this newsletter, you'll notice we have some additional groups alongside our popular favourites. So, take a look and go along for some taster sessions. Taster sessions enable you to try an activity or group without committing yourself long term. We would recommend up to two sessions; this should enable you to decide whether it's for you.

Do you have a hobby or interest you're passionate about? Why not consider starting a new group! U3a is all about sharing knowledge and enthusiasm. We're always keen to support fresh ideas and activities. Please contact me at [chair@mgu3a.org](mailto:chair@mgu3a.org) and I'll be happy to help find a venue and get your group up and running.

We've adopted new software for our website and database with a view to updating our image and communications. Unfortunately we have experienced some teething problems with the new system, and some emails have landed in people's junk mail. If you're a group leader or have a friend who is not receiving our communications please advise them to check their junk. Hopefully this problem will soon be fixed but please bear with us as we navigate and correct these problems.

The best way to improve our u3a is for you to provide feedback, so we'd also like to hear your thoughts – what we're doing well, and where and how we could improve. Your feedback helps us grow and make our u3a the best it can be for everyone.

I look forward to seeing you soon. Enjoy the rest of the Summer break doing whatever makes you happy.

Best wishes

Lisa Seeley



## Surrey u3a Study Talks

Surrey u3a holds monthly study days which are open to all u3a members. Guests are very welcome. The talks are held in the Menuhin Hall, Stoke d'Abernon starting at 9.30am with registration and running from 10am to 4pm. Flexibility is made so that members can attend the hall in person or view the study days online. The fee per day, including coffee/tea and biscuits, is £12 for hall attendance or £7 online, £15 for guests and £15 for all attendees paying at the door, although booking in advance is preferred.

The next study dates and subjects are as follows:

19 September 2025 – Vulcan & Concorde: Iconic Aircraft – presented by Guy Bartlett

17 October 2025 – Guiding, Ghosts & Gossip at Royal Palaces – presented by Sarah Slater

21 November 2025 – The History of British Industry: Iron & Rivets, to Electronics & Jets, to Robots & AI – presented by Dr Richard Marks

More information can be found at: <https://surreynetwork.u3asite.uk/events/>

## New Groups Starting September 2025

Looking to try something new this year? We have the following new groups starting in September. For more details and contact information check out our new programme that can be found on our website: <https://mgu3a.org>

*Psychology*: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 2.00-4.00pm

*Italian Conversation*: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday 2.00-4.00pm

*Genealogy*: 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday 2.00-4.00pm

*Jigsaw Swap & Social*: 1<sup>st</sup> Monday 2.00-4.00pm

*Linux - Free Computing*: 4<sup>th</sup> Friday 2.00-4.00pm



*Mahjong*: 1<sup>st</sup> Monday 8.00-9.30pm

*Card Play*: Every Friday 2.15-4.00pm

*Social Bridge*: 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 2.00-4.00pm

*Book Choice 5*: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 2.30-3.30pm

## Monthly Talks

**Friday 12 September – 2.00pm – Godalming Masonic Hall, Ockford Road GU7 1RQ  
(opposite the Inn on the Lake) (please note change of venue)**

*Racing through the Southern Oceans – Ian Worley*

Ian will be sharing stories of his adventures in the 1977-78 Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race

**Friday 10 October – 2.00pm - Milford Village Hall**

*Romanticism – David Seddon*

David's talk will try to illustrate Romanticism through Europe during that period visiting politics, music, literature and painting

**Friday 14 November – 2.00pm - Milford Village Hall**

*The Suffragettes – Ian Porter*

Ian's talk will start with a general overview of the main events of the Votes for Women campaign, background of the main characters and how the vote was eventually won.

**Friday 12 December – 2.00pm - Milford Village Hall**

*Deck the Halls – Tricia Thomson*

Tricia will introduce us to the history of Christmas traditions and is a great way to start the festive celebrations

## Gardening

**(meet monthly on the fourth Friday 2.00pm-4.00pm)**

**St Johns Church Meeting Room**

The gardening group had an enjoyable afternoon cream tea in July, courtesy of Sue and Ian, raising funds to pay for external speakers to the group (see the separate article for the first event which will be open to all members to attend). The weather was beautiful, the venue relaxing next to the river and woodland with delicious cakes and an excellent raffle.



For more information about this group contact [peter.stevenson@mgu3a.org](mailto:peter.stevenson@mgu3a.org)

**Architectural History**  
**(meet weekly Tuesday 10.00am-12.00)**  
**Rake Court, Milford**

Renaissance to modern times – starting in Italy (Florence) the lectures visit countries around the world tracing their architectural development chronologically.



Each lecture displays one hundred slides and will inspire members to visit sites of interest both locally and world-wide.

For more information about this group contact Alan at [cg.bott@mgu3a.org](mailto:cg.bott@mgu3a.org)

Do you know anyone who may interested in joining Milford & Godalming u3a?

All the information about joining us can be found on our website  
<https://mgu3a.org>

Do you want to keep up-to-date with what is going on in our group?

Why not join our Facebook page – Milford & Godalming u3a - where we post new information about groups and activities?



## Gardening

Our gardening group is holding a special event on Friday 28 November 2025 at 2.00pm at Milford Village Hall to raise funds for future specialist speakers. An entry fee of £3.00 is payable on the door. Refreshments are included in the entry fee and there will be a raffle to raise further funds. There will also be tulip bulbs for sale. Do put this date in your diary!

The speaker will be Geraldine Primarolo, a tulip specialist. She will be talking about the history of tulips and their cultivation, different types and varieties and the best way to care for them. This will be an interesting and informative talk and we hope as many u3a members and their friends will be able to attend.



## Beginner's Bridge – Year 1 (meet on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 2.00pm-4.00pm) Milford Village Hall

Always wanted to learn how to play bridge?  
Never played before? Well, now is your chance as Robert starts his new course of beginner's bridge. This is a two year course. Please contact Robert as soon as possible if you would like to take advantage of this great opportunity to learn this exciting and challenging card game.



*robert.bellamy@mgu3a.org*

**This bulletin is published three times a year**

**If you would like to have an article included in the next edition please send copy  
and photos to**

***newsletter@mgu3a.org***

***Copy deadlines: 15 December 2025, 19 March 2026 and 13 August 2026***

## Trip to Waddesdon Manor

Many thanks to Sue Losson for organising a wonderful trip for members and friends in July to the magnificent French Renaissance-style chateau of Waddesdon Manor near Aylesbury, a National Trust property managed by the Rothschild family.

The day was spent exploring the beautiful gardens with its Rococo-style aviary home to rare and colourful birds before venturing inside to the property's internationally famous collection of art and wine cellars.



We run occasional trips to places of interest. All members may attend these visits. Information will be sent out direct to members when a trip is arranged – there is no need to join a specific group.



**MOTO (Members on their Own)**  
**(meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 2.00pm-4.00pm)**  
**Burton Pavilion**

We have had some lovely trips out to local sights this Summer. We were blessed with a sunny day and a delightful crew of willing hands for an idyllic eight hour self-manned boat trip on the River Wey from Farncombe boathouse to Guildford. Luckily for us Gill knew how to operate the tiller and the rest of us operated the beam locks.

We had so much fun and probably too much food!  
A memorable day.



This was followed by a lovely trip to Wisley in mid-August where we saw some extraordinary displays of natural floral "art".



For more information about this group contact Mike at [mike.jones@mgu3a.org](mailto:mike.jones@mgu3a.org).

## News on a Founder Member of the National u3a Movement

U3a HQ is sad to share the news of the death of Eric Midwinter, one of the visionary co-founders of the u3a movement in the UK. Eric, alongside Peter Laslett and Michael Young, established u3a in 1982 with the belief that later life should be a time of continued learning, connection, and contribution. Eric's commitment to challenging negative stereotypes of ageing, and to creating spaces for older adults to share skills, knowledge, and friendship, has shaped the lives of hundreds of thousands of u3a members over four decades. Eric's vision flourished over the years, and we know that his legacy will continue to inspire new generations to embrace lifelong learning and positive ageing.



## SHARP: Surrey Healthy Ageing Research Partnership



Are you interested in why some people are more prone to illness with older age, or how we may extend healthy-life span and independent living

**Then join us at the University of Surrey for tea and coffee** and a chance to learn about our research on healthy ageing.

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025, from 2pm-4pm, in the Rik Medlik Building, University of Surrey, we will open our doors to older adults within the local community.

You will have the chance to hear about our research, see posters, can ask questions, and find out what it means to take part in research, and we will provide refreshments!

If you would like to attend, please RSVP by email: [SHARP@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:SHARP@surrey.ac.uk)

## Don't Forget – Membership Renewals are Now Due!!!

Our new membership year starts on 1 September. The quickest way to renew is to go to our website <https://mgu3a.org>. Login and then click on the "Control Panel" in the top right hand corner. You will see there is a tab under "Members" to renew your membership. Fees this year are £30.00 for standard membership and £40.00 for premium membership. Alternatively follow the instructions on your recent renewal membership email.

## Boules (meet monthly on the third Thursday 2.00pm-4.00pm) The Merry Harriers

The boules (or pétanque) group have met regularly during the Summer months with fantastic weather for the majority of sessions. A relaxed group mixing a competitive spirit with a fun social afternoon, new members are always welcome. We only continue to meet until October so if you want to come along you need to get in touch quickly. No equipment is needed as we can supply beginners. Contact Liz if you would like to join the next session on [liz.simmons@mgu3a.org.uk](mailto:liz.simmons@mgu3a.org.uk).



## Welcome Opportunity

There was a lovely opportunity on the afternoon of Friday 8 August for members, both new and prospective, to meet the committee and group leaders, find out more about our u3a and also to join up or renew their membership. Refreshments were available and everyone enjoyed a convivial afternoon with opportunities to explore or join new groups and catch up with friends. Thanks to Godalming Town Council for giving us this opportunity to spread the word about Milford & Godalming u3a and to members and group leaders for supporting the event.

