



Jeff Evans

News Edit

August 2024

Wednesday 11 September
Monthly Speaker

at Popley Fields Community Centre



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The Golden Age of Children's Television

Join author and TV historian Jeff Evans on a journey through your childhood as he tells the fascinating story of children's television in the UK.

- ◆ Chair's Report
- ◆ German Group
- ◆ u3a Video News
- ◆ September Jeff Evans
- ◆ October Malcolm Nelson
- ◆ Walking Group
- ◆ Book Club
- ◆ Transport Group
- ◆ PR Pooch
- ◆ A-Z of Cuisine

Chair's Report - August 2024

There is no scheduled "Meet & Greet" event for August or September this year. We have a logistical problem. Last year we had 410 visitors to QMC. That represented about 50% of the membership at that time. It was too crowded and there were problems with parking. This year we have over 1000 members. To continue with an Open Day type event in the old format we need a large venue and a car park that has free spaces for over 100 cars. I welcome any ideas that members may have. However, we are planning meetings for new members and for group leaders in October or November.

Previously some members used the Meet & Greet event to renew their membership. However, we now have the Members Portal where you can easily renew. I am pleased to say that nearly 500 have already renewed using this method.

It may appear that the Members Portal suggests you can only pay by PayPal. However, this is not the case, you can pay by debit or credit card.

To clarify, when you see a prompt "Continue to PayPal to complete payment" click this button and you will to a screen which has the option of "Pay by Debit or Credit Card". By doing this you will go to a screen that allows you to "Check out as a guest". You must enter your email address so that a receipt can be emailed to you. However, it is important, if you don't want to use a PayPal account to pay, you need to unclick the button which again requests you to create a PayPal account. The button will then change from blue to grey or white. Full illustrative instructions are on the Basingstoke-Old Basing u3a website.

The beauty of the system is that you will receive a receipt straight away, and the u3a database is updated automatically.

We are still looking for someone to manage the catering at monthly meetings. You would be working with our volunteers providing teas, coffees and biscuits to our members. If you are interested, or wish to discuss, please contact me on chair@basingstokeu3a.org

As I write this the sun is shining and temperatures are rising...at last! But thunderstorms are forecast. However, despite this, I have read that we can look forward to pleasant weather during August. I wish you all a lovely summer.

Paul

u3a German Group

The u3a German group would like to improve their spoken German. Is there someone, who speaks fluent German, willing to come along to our class occasionally to help us achieve this?



We meet at St. Leonard's Centre
Rectory Road, Oakley

Every Thursday during term time
14:00–16:00

For more details please email:

Will Hooper will.g.hooper@gmail.com

Les Graddon lesliegraddon@msn.com

New u3a Video Coming Soon



So you may see members from our
u3a filming at your group.

Our latest PR Project is to produce a
new u3a video to be launched
UK u3a week in September.

ACTION , SMILE CAMERA.

u3a Monthly Meeting



Wednesday 11 September 2024
Popley Fields Community Centre
Carpenters Down, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 9AE

Jeff Evans

14:00 to 15:00

The Golden Age of Children's Television

Join author and TV historian Jeff Evans on a journey through your childhood as he tells the fascinating story of children's television in the UK.

Jeff's colourful talk covers the period from the start of television to the 1970s, truly a golden age for those of us who grew up glued to the small screen when we returned home from school. Some people will remember the earliest TV stars such as Muffin the Mule and Andy Pandy; others will recall with great fondness series such as Crackerjack, Ivor the Engine, Thunderbirds, The Magic Roundabout and the rather spooky The Singing Ringing Tree. This talk features them all, and much more besides.



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This fully illustrated, 50–60-minute talk will bring back a wealth of happy memories and, as ever, Jeff ensures that there are plenty of surprises along the way.



1.30pm refreshments tea, coffee and biscuits

u3a Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 9 October 2024
Popley Fields Community Centre
Carpenters Down, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 9AE

Malcolm Nelson

"International Drug Smuggling Forty Years Catching Smugglers" – the opening talk introduces the audience to the mysteries of just how Customs Officers catch smugglers. Interesting, bizarre, often hilarious, and sometimes sad, but never, never dull.



Malcolm Nelson worked for 40 years for HM Customs and Excise. He worked on every aspect of catching smugglers. He was mainly based at Heathrow but he also spent time at London Port, Dover, St Petersburg (Russia), Malta, and at most major airports throughout the EU.

He is credited with the largest quantity of drugs by weight ever found in a single suitcase. Forty two kilos of compressed herbal cannabis concealed inside plantains that had been scooped out and sewn back together again. Then left to rot.



u3a Book Club

Ever read a really good book and want to discuss it with somebody, but your friends haven't read it? Or have you got stuck in the same genre of books? Then perhaps our one of our book clubs is for you. Really social clubs, where all opinions are welcome, after all, we would not be human if we all liked the same books or perceived their content the same way.

Running for just under 2 years our book clubs meet on a Monday pm and Tuesday am, with up to 20 people on a Tuesday and 30 on a Monday.

The books are chosen democratically by the groups and range from bestsellers like the Island or Lessons in Chemistry to lesser known but tough crime novels such as The Iron House.

We break up into small groups to discuss the books followed by tea, biscuits and a catch up before having a wider discussion with the whole group. Conversations are varied and often take some very interesting directions. After discussing *Memoirs of a Geisha* where a young woman fights adversity, we heard the story of one of the book club members family, that could not get their book published, so they persevered over many years. Eventually it was picked up with moderate success but after a small rewrite it was turned into a play and a movie, you might have heard of the book *South Pacific*!!

We have a book swap too so members can read other books inexpensively. All books not taken, are given to charity.

All our members say that the pleasure of the club is that they read books they would never pick up in a bookstore, and discussing it is just as pleasurable as the reading.

We would love to see you there.

Chris Vickers and Elaine Budd



Transport Group

Visit to British Airways

In July, the Transport Group visited the British Heritage Centre at Heathrow Airport.

Seventeen members caught the 731 Flightline coach from Basingstoke Station to Terminal 5 at Heathrow.



Followed by the British Airways staff bus to the centre at British Airways massive HQ complex.



Our host for the day was Jim Davies, who gave an entertaining presentation about the history of the airline including its predecessors BOAC, BEA and Imperial Airways.

The inclusion of Pathe newsreels added to a memorable day. Jim Davies told us about various important guests who he had been honoured to show around the centre. The most significant was the late Queen Elizabeth.

The second most important was Basingstoke – Old Basing u3a, he said!!

u3a Walking Group

Away trip Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd July 2024 – 8 members

We had eight of our Walkers group participating in an away trip involving three walks over two days all planned and arranged by Barry and David.

The group comprised Barry, Colin and Jan, Gill, Jemima, Stuart, and Sue and David.

Monday we set off to meet up at the Whittle Inn, Brockworth, Gloucestershire. Brockworth is famous for the annual rolling of Double Gloucestershire cheese and it was here that we refreshed before going to Robinswood Hill, Country Park to start the first of our three walks. The park, comprising 100 hectares on the south east side of Gloucester rises to 198 metres. We climbed to the top. Some of the tracks were very steep, rocky and festooned with brambles and nettles. Coming down the other side we headed for Pound Farm at Whaddon. We found our way more through Barry's navigation skills than anything else as signs were missing and some fields we crossed had been planted over where the footpath was meant to be. We returned by the dry ski slope, back to the top of the hill and then down the Wysis Way back to the car park. The Wysis Way is a 55 mile walking route which forms a link between the Offa's Dyke Path and Thames Path national trails. The Way runs between Monmouth in Wales and Kemble, Gloucestershire in England.



Photo starting out from Robinswood Country Park. from left: Stuart, Jemima, Sue, Barry, Colin, Jan, Gill.

In the evening we were lodging at the premier Inn at Gloucester Quay. Gill researched and recommended a Greek restaurant and we all enjoyed the experience even the ouzo.

It was a chilly morning when we set off for our city of Gloucester walk which included many historic buildings, the Cathedral and a short part along the river Severn. The photos say it all.

Photos below: Gloucester Cathedral, St Mary's Gate 13th cent.



Gloucester Quay.



We had coffee in the Quay before setting off for our final walk at the Cotswold Water Park near Cirencester. Here our walk took us along by some of the south Cerney lakes and along the Thames and Severn Way and the Thames Path plus an old railway track. The round houses on the Thames and Severn Canal are five former lengthsmen's cottages built along the canal between Chalford and Lechlade in Gloucestershire, England. Constructed in the 1790s when the canal was built, all but one of them are Grade II listed and have been restored as private dwellings. The buildings have been described as "peculiar" and "a distinctive feature of the Thames and Severn Canal's architecture".

We returned to set off for home after a good walking experience.



u3a Annual General Meeting

Which took place on Wednesday 10th July 2024, a big thank you to everyone who came along. Our biggest turn out with 170 members.



Picture of Alastair and Tony Harris our fantastic speaker. Who presented an incredible story about the Titanic—The Ship that never Sank—First Class Passenger. Very entertaining and amusing, I am sure we will ask him back.

Picture of Joyce & Paul, our Chair who presented Joyce with a bouquet of flowers as a thank you for all her years service to our u3a. Joyce also received honorary membership. Joyce has very successfully run the Excursions and Holiday group for our u3a.



Paul did a power point presentation outlining some of what has happened during the past year and a brief look at the 25 years and counting—our u3a history.

u3a PR Ladies Pooch is back Georga

St Leonard's Church Oakley



This is such a beautiful walk, especially on a sunny morning, this is around 9:30 so a cool breeze and not too hot for dogs and us seniors. I will admit I love the grass on my soft pooch pads, always ahead of mum as I run through the field towards the church. It is a bit of a slow hill towards the seat at the top but worth the climb for the view. And if you are a senior there is a seat, well done dad for modelling.

You can usually park opposite the church and there is a nice walk through, some very kind person has mowed the path, thanks.



u3a A-Z of cuisine

Zizzi Basingstoke, an Italian restaurant located in Basingstoke

The perfect location for catching up with friends. An Italian restaurant serving tasty Italian dishes from pizza, pasta and risotto to salads and indulgent desserts – all in a uniquely designed restaurant.



Our u3a A-Z of cuisine certainly did all of this on Wednesday 24 September.

We laughed, shared stories and ate.

The staff were amazing and food delicious, 3 courses but did Keith & Paul eat all their pizza?

Battle of the Pizza, who can eat the biggest one?



James and Christine Rowley Group Leaders

This is our fourth A-Z of Cuisine and we were so delighted to see so many of our u3a colleagues. Here's to the next one.

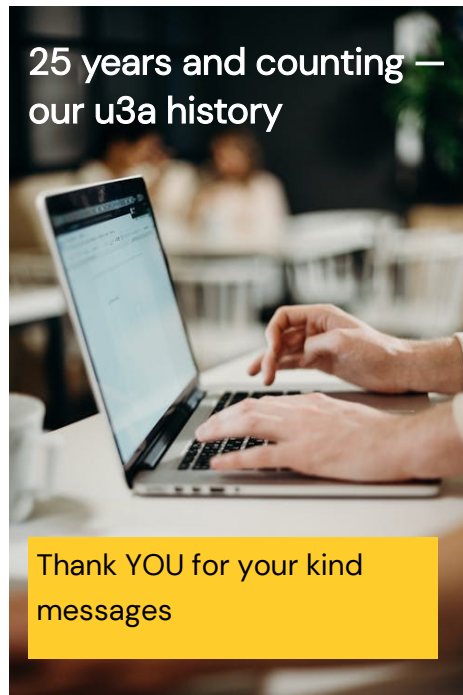
If you would like to join this group use your members portal.



u3a Basingstoke Old Basing

Here are some of your comments:

- ⇒ *Thank you for sharing this information very interesting*
- ⇒ *Well done to those who put together this booklet, an enjoyable read*
- ⇒ *Thank you for a lovely story*
- ⇒ *Thanks to those who put a lot of work into this booklet, good to see our u3a story shared*
- ⇒ *Excellent read, well done*
- ⇒ Well put together and gives a flavour of the groups we have run over the years



Good morning Christine, thank you for your email and the very interesting "booklet" re our U3A. I'm sure everyone will enjoy reading it. I would like to point out the 1 small error in that it was Canon Rev. David PICTON and not Pictor.



Please accept our apology for this mistake the paperwork was quite old and hard to read. Thank you for bringing this to our attention.

Have a story or group you would like to feature in our monthly News Edit Contact:

[Christine Rowley PR & Publicity](#)

[Email: PR@basingstokeu3a.org](mailto:PR@basingstokeu3a.org)

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