

Please contact the conveners if you would like further information. This can be done via our website by clicking on the group and contacting the convener.

All information also available on our website <https://brackleyu3asite.uk>. For our Safeguarding Policy please visit this website.

If you do not have access to the website, come along to our coffee morning or speaker meeting and our friendly team will be happy to help.

Enjoy your time with Brackley u3a

u3a

learn, laugh, live



**WELCOME
PACK**

**BRACKLEY &
DISTRICT U3A**

**Enclosed please find
useful information**

November 2025

Dear Member

**Thank you for joining Brackley and District U3A.
On behalf of the Committee and our members,
welcome.**

**We are a friendly and supportive group where
there is something of interest for everyone; whether
you pursue an existing or develop a new interest. If
you wanted to you could easily fill your weekdays
with a range of activities– whether social, physical,
intellectual or more!**

**You will find details of all events, groups and
activities on our website(<https://brackleyu3asite.uk>)
please do explore and contact the relevant convener
to get involved**

**By joining us I trust you will gain a sense of
enjoyment, purpose and fulfilment, and I look
forward to being part of your u3a experience.**

Best wishes

Janet Blunden

Chairman

Traditional Dancing 1st Tuesday and 3rd Friday 14.00 to 16.00 St Peters Church Hall John Weaver	New members always welcome. We have lots of fun and laughter as we try different Traditional Dances. £1 per person per session
Travel Group Gill Zachar and Bobbie Mardle	We offer day trips as well as UK based and over- seas holidays. Convenors to notify
Victorian Literature 2nd Thursday 14.00 to 16.00 Convener's Home Gillian Murray	The group enjoy reading and discussing some of the many rich and varied works of the esteemed writers who rose to fame during the Victorian age.
Walking 2nd Monday 10.00 start Various Bruce Markie	The walk is usually about 4 miles over local countryside which may involve a short drive to the assembly point.
World Cuisine Date and venue to be advised by convener Peggy Williams	Meeting monthly to experience a different cuisine each time.

Shakespeare 2nd Tuesday 14.00 -1600 St Peters Church Hall Joanna Byles	The group is intended for anyone with a general interest in Shakespeare. The group will read a play monthly or bimonthly and discuss and possibly view on DVD, either the whole play or essential scenes.
Singing for Fun Wednesdays as advised by convenor 14.00 - 16.00 Methodist Church Ruth Harris	Singing for Fun is just that, singing is such an enjoyable experience, good for our physical and mental health. We sing for an hour or so and then have a social time with tea and a chat. Some musical experience is welcome but not statutory. £2 or £3 per person depending on numbers attending per session
Spanish Beginners 1st and 3rd Friday 14.00 -16.00 Farthinghoe Hall Ann Wrightson	We are a group of beginners working through BBC Talk Spanish Book 1. Our course is based on the everyday needs of people travelling to Spain. We start learning Spanish from scratch, and the emphasis is on listening and speaking before moving on to reading and writing. We hope to have some fun as well as develop our Spanish skills.
Spanish Intermediate 1st and 3rd Thursday 14.00 to 16.00 Farthinghoe Hall Ann Wrightson	We are a group of eleven and are working through Talk Spanish Book 2.
Sunday Lunch 3rd Sunday Peggy Williams	Our aim is to have a relaxed, convivial lunch for twelve people. Details are emailed to members of the venue and places allocated on a first come first served basis.
Table Tennis for Fun 1 Every Monday 14.00 to 16.00 Leisure Centre Janet Whitby	The group promotes table tennis as a social activity: the game is aimed at both novice and experienced players with no pressure, just fun. £2 per person per session
Table Tennis for Fun 2 Every Tuesday 13.30 to 15.30 Leisure Centre John Moore	As above £2 per person per session

INFORMATION.

Brackley and District u3a began life on the 15th October 2015. At the beginning of 2025 we have approx. 450 members. Our main meeting is held at 9.50 am every 3rd Thursday of the month.

This is held at Brackley Baptist Church which you'll easily find at the end of Waynflete Avenue NN13 6AE.

A few notices are shared followed by a 'Speaker' presentation, and then a 'cuppa' and biscuit!

INTEREST GROUPS

We currently offer over 35 different groups for your consideration.

Do you want to learn a new language, how to play bridge, lace making and more?

For the more energetic—traditional dancing, table tennis, pétanque, walking and line dancing are just some of the groups on offer.

Or relax—with our less strenuous groups such as poetry, family history, digital photography, book clubs and many more,

If you like food we have a couple of "Lunch Clubs" as well as an "Afternoon Tea and Chat" group.

The calendar on our website is a good way of seeing the week's activities. This is also useful as dates may change.

THE COMMITTEE

Ken Smith –Honorary President

Janet Blunden - Chairman

Colin Gillies - Vice Chairman

Mike Shepherd - Treasurer

Alison Williams - Group Co-ordinator

John Moore - Speaker Programme Organiser

Kathy Hodges - Minutes Secretary

Diane Bushell - Publicity

Elaine Yates - Membership Secretary

Conrad Dower - Business Secretary

June Addison - New Member Liaison

Gill Zachar– General Duties

<p>Past Times 3rd Friday 10.00 to 12.00 St Peters Church Hall Carl Whitmore</p>	<p>The group will be looking at people and events from History with the intention of prompting lively debate about a specified topic. The meetings will take the form of a short presentation from a member of the group which should raise questions and comments from the rest of the group to get involved in. Some trips to historic venues. £2 per session</p>
<p>Petanque 2nd & 4th Thursday 10.00-12.00 Westbury Village Hall Mark Lovett</p>	<p>Also known as boules. Played outside in teams. £1 for use of boules Drink and nibbles available from café WEATHER PERMITTING</p>
<p>Philosophy 1st Wednesday 7-9p.m. DNA Bar & Grill Mike Lucas</p>	<p>We discuss a different topic each month with everyone giving their view. If you are interested come along and give it a try</p>
<p>Pickleball Wednesday 10-12.00 Brackley Leisure Centre Peggy Williams & Conrad Dower</p>	<p>Pickleball is an indoor court game for 4 players and is played on a badminton size court over a tennis height net using paddles (large bats) and a hard plastic ball. The game is a cross between table tennis on the floor and normal tennis on a small scale. £2 per session</p>
<p>Poetry 3rd Thursday Afternoon Members Homes Frank Arnold</p>	<p>We enjoy exploring the rich heritage that poets have created. All forms of this wonderful art are welcome. We usually focus on a particular poet, decided by the group. New members are encouraged to share their particular ideas and preferences. Joining is free and easy. Why not give it a try; you will be surprised how much fun it is?</p>
<p>Quiz 2nd Wednesday 14.00 to 16.00 St Peters Church Hall Susan Smith and Andy Goodchilld</p>	<p>The quiz sessions are enjoyable and fun. Just come along and we will find you a place. £2 per person per session</p>

Italian Improvers 2nd and 4th Monday of month 14.30-16.30 Members Homes Frank Arnold and Dorothy Hoad	The next step in learning Italian
Lace Making 2nd and 4th Thursday 14.00 to 16.00 Brackley Library Lindsay Freeman	We are a busy group making some lovely lace. If you are an experienced lace maker you are welcome to join us. We also have 2 spaces (and some extra equipment) for anyone wanting to have a go! £1 per person per session
Line Dancing 2nd & 4th Friday 14.00 to 16.00 St Peters Church Hall Terry Stokes	A group with members finding their feet. £1 per session per person
Midweek Lunch Last Thursday Convenor to notify location and time Lesley Whitmore	This is a group to add another opportunity to socialise and take lunch together.
Music Appreciation 2nd Friday 10.00 to 12.00 Member's homes in Brackley, Greatworth and Middleton Cheney Norman Dutton	It does not matter how musical members are, everyone can listen carefully, thoughtfully and without distraction on their own terms. A planned theme provides the basis for the music that members bring for us all to listen to on CD or via YouTube on the internet. ALL styles of music are valid listening for the group. Remember one person's interpretation of a theme is as good as anyone else's.
National Trust convenor to notify date, time and loca- tion Andy Goodchild	If you have a National Trust membership this is a very good way of visiting properties in the company of other members. We have found that venues usually look favourably on groups and lay on a little something extra. Non National Trust members are welcome but need to pay for entry to each property. To keep costs down we travel in our own cars so we are particularly interested in hearing from members who would be willing to take other members.

Group Day Time Venue Convenor	Additional Information Fee
Afternoon Tea and Chat 3rd Wednesday Diane Bushell	Various venues with reasonable prices. Diane to advise venue and price. Transport available for those not able to drive. Fee TBA
Art 1st Tuesday of each Month Evenley Village Hall Susan Lilley	A sociable self help group where each person will bring along whatever they are currently working on. It can be any medium other than oils, although it could be water based oil paints. Please note that there will be no tuition or provision of art materials. £2.00 per session
Board Games Every Tuesday Paisley Pear Brian and Karen Thomas	Bring a game or join in with someone else's. A range of games will be played each week, you can stick to an old favourite or try something new.
Book Club 1 1st Monday 10.00 to 11.00 Brackley Library Eileen Irvine	Members choose books to read either fiction or non fiction so we have a varied range of material to enjoy. £1 per person per session
Book Club 2 Last Wednesday each month 2.15—3.30 Egerton Hall Roz Fowler	Members choose books to read either fiction or non fiction to enable us to have a varied range of material to enjoy £1 per person per session
Bridge Duplicate every Thursday 14.15 to 16.30 Brackley Library Tricia Smith	This is a group learning bridge skills from experience in playing. A basic knowledge of the Acol system is required. £5 per person per month

Canasta 4th Tuesday 14.00 to 16.30 Egerton Hall Hilary Isherwood	Canasta is a card game that is harder than Rummy but easier than Bridge. We play for fun but of course there is a competitive element! We are a friendly helpful group and tuition is given to beginners who are welcome to join us. Experienced players also welcome! £2 per person with tea and biscuits
Chair-based Yoga Monday 11.00 and 12.30 Brackley Baptist Church Barb Neivens	Chair-based yoga is still yoga and offers the same benefits as regular mat-based yoga but with no need to get on a mat. Anyone can do chair-based yoga. The benefits include better sleep, improved breathing, increased mobility, flexibility, posture and pain management, to name but a few. £2.00 per session
Chess 1st Tuesday each month 1.00-3.00 p.m. Evenley Village Hall Ray Haresign	Come and join our friendly chess group. £2.00 + cuppa and biscuit
Cinema Convenor to notify Alison Simmonds	Aims of the Cinema group are to bring together u3a members whose film interests are similar and to help those of us whose confidence, when alone, makes enjoyment of this a challenge. The convenor acts as a contact point to bring members of the Group together. Members are encouraged to put forward ideas of films to see.
Coffee Morning 4th Monday 10.30 to 11.30 St Peters Church Hall Pam Lynch	Enjoy a Coffee or Tea and biscuit and chat with other members. New members especially welcome. £2.00 + cuppa and biscuit
Craft 2nd Monday 13.30 to 16.00 Baptist Church Brenda Hope	We are a friendly group who come to knit, crochet, cross-stitch, make bags, patchwork, projects, card and box making. Whatever craft you do, come and join us and maybe help others to try something new. £2 per person per session & refreshments

Croquet Monday 14-16.00 Wednesday 17-19.00 Brackley Cricket Club Alison Williams	Fun, easy to play, sociable activity, suitable for all. Come and give it a try, fresh air, fun, and the chance of a drink in the clubhouse afterwards, what's not to love! Weather allowing and as advised by convenor. Weather permitting; during spring/summer. £2.00 per person
Digital Photography 3rd Tuesday 14.00 to 16.00 St Peters Church Hall Diane Berridge	For people with an interest in digital photography and we cater for people of all levels of knowledge and ability. We aim to cover a wide range of topics using our own in-house expertise but occasionally bringing in guest speakers. We will also arrange visits to local places of photographic interest to have practical sessions. Members of the group have a wide range of equipment so someone there ought to be able to answer any technical queries or problems you may have. £2 per person per session & refreshments
Family History 2nd Thursday 10-12.00 Egerton Hall Graham Irvine	Group consists of those who are relatively new to researching their family history through to those who have been doing it for several years. Everyone is sharing knowledge and assisting each other in finding records of their ancestors, maybe proving, or disproving those old family stories. These records help us to find out what their life was like. £2 per person
Gardening 2nd Tuesday each month 10-11.30 a.m. Egerton Hall Diana Lathbury £1.00 for room hire	Includes talks and visits as well as plant swaps and helpful hints.
Italian Beginners 2nd Thursday of month 1.30-2.30 Egerton Hall Frank Arnold and Dorothy Hoad	For those interested in learning Italian Small charge for room hire.