

Welcome to the Bedford u3a Newsletter July 2026

We are looking for another Group Co-ordinator

Sally Petre, our Groups Co-ordinator, is hoping that someone in the organisation will work alongside her as **Joint Groups Co-ordinators**.

Both co-ordinators would support the current 60 Bedford u3a groups to ensure they run smoothly and successfully throughout the year. If you are interested in this new role and think you can offer your help then please contact **Sally** direct.

Volunteers Lanyards!

All Bedford u3a Volunteers are being offered a very stylish **Red Volunteer Lanyard** to wear when attending any Bedford u3a events (if they want to!).

Wearing one of the new lanyards is not compulsory but doing so would help members identify who can they can go to for help within the organisation. If you are a volunteer and would like a lanyard please email **Linda Whitfield**.

Coffee Morning Catch Ups!

Our coffee mornings are continuing at the following venues.

Friday 17 July 2026 - Meet upstairs in the Albero Lounge.

10am - 12pm ish. Don't forget to order and pay for your drink at the bar. The Albero staff will deliver it to the table.

Friday 21 August 2026 - Meet at Milton Ernest Garden Centre.

10am - 12pm ish. An opportunity for those members living at that end of town to join us for a coffee and maybe a little garden retail therapy afterwards.

Friday 25 September 2026 - Meet upstairs in the Albero Lounge ** See note below.

10am - 12pm ish. Don't forget to order and pay for your drink at the bar. The Albero staff will deliver it to the table.

Friday 16 October 2026 - Meet upstairs in the Albero Lounge.

10am - 12pm ish. Don't forget to order and pay for your drink at the bar. The Albero staff will deliver it to the table.

Friday 20 November 2026 - Venue to be confirmed but somewhere local.

10am - 12pm ish.

Friday 18 December 2026 - Meet upstairs in the Albero Lounge.

10am - 12pm ish. Don't forget to order and pay for your drink at the bar. The Albero staff will deliver it to the table.

**** The September coffee morning date has moved to 25 September due to the Ageing Well morning now taking place on that day.**

Dates for your Diary 2026

Saturday 11 July 2026 at 3pm

Bedford u3a Summer Concert held at St Marks Church in Brickhill.

The annual concert is free to everyone along with refreshments though a small donation would be welcomed. Raffle tickets will be on sale £1 per strip of 5. Funds raised by the Concert are used to provide music to the choir and hopefully make a donation to the church.

Friday 18 September 2026 Ageing Well with Bedford u3a

As you are aware it was decided to move the Ageing Well morning (originally scheduled to take place last month) to another date.

We've been working hard to get the event re-scheduled and are excited to share the new date with you! The Ageing Well morning is now being held on.....

Friday 18 September 2026
Addison Centre, Kempston
Starting at 10.15am - 1.30pm

In due course we will ask everyone to complete the online Registration Form (and you don't need to create a Google account to complete it!). In the meantime do make a note of the new date and if you are bringing along guests, please also let them know.

Tuesday 20 October 2026 - Bedford u3a Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Every year, the Addison Centre in Kempston hosts this important meeting for the Bedford u3a. It's a chance for the membership to give their thumbs up to various organisational matters. After the official business wraps up, we'll all get to relax and enjoy ourselves! Keep an eye out for more details.....

Saturday 24 October 2026 Simply 60s Show

Tony Tutton and his band are back, which is just what we were hoping for! Get ready for a fun afternoon filled with upbeat 60s tunes! Bedford u3a Members only.

Tickets costing £5 each go on sale at the Putnoe Heights Open Meeting
on 4 August 2026

Here's an important message from our Treasurer!

A reminder to everyone **all subscriptions** should be paid into the main Bedford u3a Bank which is:

Account details are:

Bank Account name: **Bedford u3a**

Sort Code: 30-90-66

Account No. 01426292

And for any **Travel Group payments** for **theatre trips/ coach days out** should be paid directly into their bank account detailed here:-

Bank Account Name: **Bedford u3a Travel Group**
Sort Code: 30-90-66
Account No. 02737577

The Suggestion Box

Relocating the Open Meetings to different venues.

Someone has suggested we should consider moving the Open Meetings to different venues. Before Bedford u3a had to leave the Athletic Centre, we checked out various spots north of the river in Bedford to see if we could find a good fit. At the time, Putnoe Heights Church was the only place that worked for us. Also, the Addison Centre in Kempston has turned out to be spacious enough for us and has great facilities.

Right now, we are not aware of any other venues that would be better than those we are already using. But if you happen to know of somewhere different (local to Bedford) that could work, please share the details as we would love to check it out!

Advertising the dates of all Open Meetings for the whole year.

Another member has asked if all the dates when Open Meetings occur could be advertised to ensure the date can be put into diaries well ahead of time.

For your information all **Open Meeting are currently held on Tuesdays and start at 10am.**

Putnoe Heights Open Meetings are held on the **first Tuesday** every month

Addison Centre Open Meetings are held on the **third Tuesday** in every month.

This information and more details can be found on the Bedford u3a website.

Open Meeting dates for the rest of 2026 are

Putnoe Heights

7 July 2026
4 August 2026
1 September 2026
6 October 2026
3 November 2026
1 December 2026

Addison Centre

21 July 2026
18 August 2026
15 September 2026
20 October 2026
17 November 2026
15 December 2026

Travel Group

The [Travel Group page on the website](#) details all trips in full detail. However, there is availability on the following..... and some new trips in 2027.

Friday 28 August 2026 - Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire

View the Palace and its Gardens. There is a very nice restaurant on site or if it's a nice day, take a picnic with you.

Cost: £44.00

Organiser: Linda Holder 07848 484627 or 01234 870867

Friday 9 October 2026 - Bourton-on-the-Water

With its stone bridges across the River Windrush, overhanging willow trees, village green and historic stone cottages, its no surprise that Bourton-on-the-Water is one of the prettier villages in England!

Cost: £26.00

Organiser: [Sheila Newman](#) or 07801 550414

Friday 23 October 2026 - Museum of Brands, Notting Hill. London.

Cost: £33 which includes coach, entrance, introductory talk and tea/coffee on arrival. Free time to browse shops and restaurants in Notting Hill and maybe visit the well known Portobello market.

Organiser: [Sheila Newman](#) or 07801 550414

Friday 27 November Springfields Shopping Centre with an option to visit Bayfields Garden Centre as well (or stay at Springfields).

Cost: £22

Organiser: [Sheila Newman](#) or 07801 550414

TRAVEL GROUP THEATRE TRIPS IN 2027

Thursday 28 January 2027 - Matthew Bourne's Cinderella at Theatre MK

Dress circle seats in rows, F, G and H.

This thrilling and evocative love story set in London during the Second World War blends classical ballet techniques with contemporary dance. Matthew Bourne's epic reinterpretation of the classic fairytale places a true wartime romance at its heart. A chance meeting leads to a magical night for Cinderella and her dashing young RAF pilot, but they are torn apart by the horrors of the Blitz.

Cost: £50.69 for the theatre ticket

Cost of coach: TBC. More details to come.

Organiser: Teresa

Wednesday 17 March 2027 - Victoria Wood's 'Dinner Ladies' at Theatre MK.

Starring Les Dennis as Stan.

Matinee performance. Circle seats Rows B and C.

Cost £40

Coach cost: TBC

Organiser Teresa

Thursday 16 September 2027 - Paddington at The Savoy Theatre - Matinee Performance

Only 3 seats remaining

We are going back to Paddington in 2027 - Yes Paddington is back by popular demand.

Twenty eight seats in the Dress Circle Rows F,G,H and K - Cost £55.00 each

Ten Stall seats in Rows J,K,L and N at £70.00 each.

Coach cost: TBC

Bookings with payment are being taken now. Bookings close on 7th July 2026.

Organiser: Teresa

Open Meeting Speakers in 2026 🙌

Tuesday 7 July 2026 - Putnoe Heights

Cheryl Williams will talk about her time teaching at the Bombolulu Education Centre in Mombasa, Kenya teaching and learning alongside local staff and pupils.

Tuesday 21 July 2026 - Addison Centre

Jane Cartwright from Midshires Search and Rescue will talk about her work alongside highly trained volunteers who can be mobilised at short notice to locate a missing person.

Tuesday 4 August 2026 - Putnoe Heights

Dave Pinion talks about his amazing journey to Antarctica in 2023 visiting the expedition huts of Scott and Shackleton.

Tuesday 18 August 2026 - Addison Centre

Jane Hooper is an Energy Champion and will give impartial advice on understanding energy bills, reducing heat loss, energy efficient measures, accessing support and finally scam awareness.

Groups News

Scrabble Group

Open to new members the Scrabble Group, run by Nigel Lutt, meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons in a month between 2pm - 4pm.

For a trial period of 6 months our **1st Wednesday of the month Scrabble meeting** will be at **The Park Inn, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, 2-4pm**. This means that we can accept new Scrabble group members and we may well continue at The Park provided there are sufficient numbers. So, please come along for a social or more serious game with like-minded people who enjoy scrabble, a coffee, and a chat.

The meeting on the **3rd Wednesday of the month** will continue at a member's house, where numbers are limited to six people.

Are you booking any holidays with Riviera Travel?

Did you know that if you book any holiday or cruise with Riviera Travel and mention your u3a (at the point of booking) 10% of the basic holiday cost will be donated to the Third Age Trust for the benefit of Bedford u3a.

Get adventurous with HX Travel

The u3a has partnered with HX, the world's leading expedition cruise company, to offer u3a Friends newsletter members an extra 5% discount on all expedition cruises. Further details [here](#).
