

Welcome to the Bedford u3a Newsletter August 2026

ITS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Just a friendly reminder that if you'd like to keep being a member of Bedford u3a in 2026/2027 please complete a Renewal Form and pay the **£18 subscription fee** (which is the same as in 2025). Members will receive a Renewal Form by email, Sent out in alphabetical order. If you haven't received your reminder yet, don't worry! It will be with you soon..... Here are a few ways to renew your Bedford U3A Membership.

Prefer renewing Online?

Please [click here](#) for the online Membership Renewal form.

Pick up a Renewal Form at an Open Meeting?

Renewal Forms are available on the Membership Desk at both the Addison and Putnoe Heights meetings.

Would prefer a hard copy of the Renewal Form be posted to you?

Please send a stamped addressed envelope to our Membership Secretary, Sheila Newman, at the following address: 15 Everard Road, Bedford MK411LD.

Bank details for all membership renewals

Lloyds Bank

Account Name **Bedford u3a**

Bank Sort Code **30 90 66**

Account No. **01426292**

Please quote **REN** and your surname as reference

The deadline for all membership renewals is 30 September 2026.

DIARY DATES

Bedford u3a Ageing Well Morning - Enjoying Longer, Healthier Lives

Friday 18 September 2026 - 10.15am to 1.30pm - Addison Centre, Kempston.

Open to all members of Bedford u3a, your friends and guests are all welcome to join us for a relaxed morning focusing on looking after your mind and body.

What can you expect? Free entry, a friendly atmosphere, lots of helpful information to take away, free refreshments, guest speakers, expert advice on keeping healthy in everyday life, information stands, support and guidance from local agencies.

We are asking everyone to complete an **online Registration Form** (and you don't need to create a Google account to complete it). You can also register your intent in coming along by **email to the Co-Secretaries of Bedford U3A.**

Simply 60s Show - TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Saturday 24 October 2026 - Addison Centre, Kempston

Doors open 12.45pm

ShowTime: 1.30pm - 4pm

£5 per ticket to Bedford u3a Members only!

Refreshments to include tea/coffee/biscuits

Tickets are on sale at all open meetings from now until mid-September 2026. Please see our Treasurer, Lesley Reynolds.

Don't go to the open meetings? Tickets can be ordered by emailing the [Treasurer](#) and paid for by bank transfer. Don't forget to add your name & membership no. to the transaction. The ticket will be available to collect on the door, on the day!

Bank Account details are:

Account name: **Bedford U3A**

Sort Code: **30-90-66**

Account No. **01426292**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM).....

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.....

We are still looking for another Group Co-ordinator

Sally Petre (Groups Co-ordinator) is keeping her fingers crossed that someone in the organisation will offer to 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.

Coffee Morning Catch Ups!

Our coffee mornings are continuing as follows.....

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 - 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 18 December 2026 - Frosts Garden Centre, Willington.

10am - 12pm ish.

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

Travel Group

The Travel Group page on the website details all trips in full detail. However, there is availability on the following.....

28 Aug Blenheim Palace - Just a few seats left.

Cost £44. Payment now due.

Organiser Linda Holder or phone 07848 484627 or 01234 870867

3 Sept Chitty Chitty Bang Bang at Watermill Theatre Newbury.

Due to cancellation 3 seats available.

Theatre seat costs £53.77

Coach cost + 2 course pre ordered lunch £22.50

Organiser Teresa Hills

9 Oct Bourton on the Water Cost £26

Just a few seats left

Cost £26.00

Organiser Sheila Newman or phone 07801 550414

23 Oct Museum of Brands at Notting Hill

Just 3 seats left due to getting a larger coach

Cost £33 inclusive

Organiser Sheila Newman or phone 07801 550414

22 Nov Springfields Outlet Shopping Centre plus optional visit to Bayfield Garden Centre

Cost £22

Organiser Sheila Newman or phone 07801 550414

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

Matinee dress circle seats

Cost £50.69 + coach cost

Just a few seats available but be quick if interested as booking will be closing shortly.

Organiser Teresa Hills

Travel Group Important Notes

- No seats are confirmed until full payment is made.
- If you are keen on trips that are full, we do have waitlists for some of them. However, if you later decide you are not interested or have made other plans, please let the organiser know as soon as possible.

Open Meeting Speakers in 2026

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.

Tuesday 1 September 2026 - Putnoe Heights

Debbie Land (Shuttleworth Collection) gives a fascinating talk beginning with a snapshot of the pioneering women who helped shape the early world of motoring and made their mark in driving, racing, engineering and manufacturing from the advent of the motor car up to the 1930s.

Debbie has been an active volunteer at the Shuttleworth Collection regularly delivering presentations on the history of the Shuttleworth family and is an advocate for untold pioneering women's stories associated with motoring and aviation.

Tuesday 15 September 2026 - Addison Centre

Jenny Mallin gives a fascinating insight into how production life was in the BBC during the 1970's through real life experiences and stories at a time when the BBC was the UK's main tv broadcast companies.

Jenny's seven year career offers a unique insight into the workings of each department, her time on the Generation Game as a Contestant Researcher and Game Deviser to three years of sharing intimate, hilarious chats with playwright Alan Bennett to her days on Mastermind and Top of the Pops.

Groups News

September is a fantastic month to kick off a new group, so if you have any thoughts, please pass them along to Sally Petre, who will be happy to assist with the arrangements!

The **Darts** group meets every Thursday morning at 11am at The Bluebell, Putnoe Lane Bedford. If you can throw a few darts and are keen to join this active group please Dee Lucas. Her phone number can be found in the Bulletin magazine.

The **Dog Walking Group** hopes to restart soon so please contact Karen Ross (via the Bedford U3A website) if interested in joining. More comprehensive details are on the website.

GENERAL BEDFORD U3A INFORMATION

Bedford U3A Bank details

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

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

Open Meeting Dates 2026

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

4 August 2026

1 September 2026

6 October 2026

3 November 2026
1 December 2026

Addison Centre

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

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](#).