Welcome to the Bedford u3a Newsletter October 2026

THERE'S STILL TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

If you'd like to remain 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 should have received 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 bank transfer membership renewals

Lloyds Bank	
Account Name	**Bedford u3a**
Bank Sort Code	**30 90 66**
Account No.	**01426292**

Very Important note:
For any payment by bank transfer please quote in the reference the following information to ensure your payment is linked to your account:

1. **REN** (refers to a renewal)
2. **Your Membership Number**
3. **Your surname**

For example - REN1234Bloggs

DIARY DATES

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 can all relax and enjoy ourselves listening to speakers from The Happy Brewer, Bedfordshires premier home-brew and wine-making specialist. Fingers crossed for samples!!

Group Leaders Meeting - Friday 6 November 2026 - 1pm Priory Church, Newnham Avenue, Bedford.
Sally Petre, our Groups Co-ordinator, would love for all the Bedford U3A Group Leaders to join her for a light lunch. It's a great opportunity to connect and chat with each other group leaders. More details soon……

Tuesday 10 November 2026 - Coffee Morning in support of the St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger.
In support of a great local charity the Knitting and Crochet Group are holding a coffee morning from **10am - 1pm at the White Horse Pub, Newnham Avenue, Bedford**. Come along and browse the craft stalls showcasing the talents of this busy group.

The landlord of the pub has generously agreed to make a donation to the charity for every beverage purchased that morning.

Elstow Abbey Festival of Christmas Music - Saturday 28 November 2026
For the very first time The Bedford u3a Harmony Choir and the Bedford u3a Recorder Consort will be gracing this local festival with their presence!

The children of the Great Denham Primary School Choir will set the tone with their singing starting at 12pm followed by a delightful afternoon filled with festive tunes.

The Bedford u3a Recorder Consort will be performing at 2pm with the Bedford u3a Choir at 2.30pm. Other choirs and music groups joining in the fun too! The event is open to everyone, and all donations will go towards the Abbey's fund for a new hall.

Seasonal Celebrations
Tuesday 8 December 2026 - Addison Centre, Kempston.
This afternoon, from 1.30pm onwards, we're introducing a fresh entertainment format that will allow our musical groups to really shine! Let's kick off the festive season with a mince pie and the chance to sing those songs we all know so well!

Coffee Morning Catch Ups!

Our coffee mornings are continuing as follows……

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 4 December 2026 - Frosts Garden Centre, Willington.
10am - 12pm ish. A final chance to meet up for a coffee in 2026 in this very very festive garden centre. A chance to unwind and relax ahead of the big day!

Groups News

Calling all Classic Car enthusiasts!!

Who doesn't like a classic car built in an age where engineering techniques featured hand built motors built to last! You might already own a classic car, be a member of a classic car club or visit the many classic car shows held in the UK each year! If you would like to share your enthusiasm with like minded Bedford u3a members then let Sally Petre know. Dependent on the level of interest shown Sally will try to get this new group up and running. Email Sally here.

CANVA Taster Session - Wednesday 21 October 2026 at 2pm - Priory Methodist Church.

Sally Petre has organised this introductory session for anyone interested in learning more about this on-line design graphic tool used to create posters, social media posts, presentations etc.

Travel Group

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

Travel Group Important Information

- No seats are confirmed until full payment is made.

- If you're keen on joining a full trip, we do have waitlists for some of them. Just a heads-up, please let the organiser know if you decide to cancel or if something else comes up.

Friday 9 October 2026 - Bourton on the Water
A few seats are available.
Known as the Venice of the Cotswolds. A vibrant village known for its honey-coloured stone architecture, idyllic scenes, quirky shops and many restaurants and the River Windrush which runs through the village.
Cost: £26.00
Organiser: Sheila Newman or Tel 07801 550414

Thursday 28 January 2027 - Matthew Bourne's Cinderella at Theatre MK
Cost £50.69 + coach cost - Matinee dress circle seats
Two seats available due to a cancellation.
Organiser Teresa Hills

Thursday 8 July 2027 - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory at The London Coliseum with Michael Ball - Matinee Performance
Seats are in the dress circle in rows E, F and G.
Theatre Tickets: £42.50
Coach Cost: TBC
Payment is now due
Organiser: Teresa Hills

Open Meeting Speakers in 2026

Tuesday 20 October 2026 - Addison Centre Kempston
Bedford u3a holds its Annual General Meeting (AGM) and once the legalities are over our speakers will be representatives from **The Happy Brewer,** Bedfordshire's premier brewing and wine-making specialist.

Tuesday 3 November 2026 - Putnoe Heights - The importance of hearing.
Aekta Patel, Director at Specsavers Bedfordshire shares her experiences as an audiologist for ten years and how valuable home visits can be for the hard of hearing.

Tuesday 17 November - Addison Centre - Mike Mansfield will tell us how to Optimise our Health and Wellness in Middle age and beyond. How to stay strong and fit and how to manage aches, pains and injuries.

Tuesday 1 December 2026 - Putnoe Heights - Steven Dimmer and the creation of a Christmas Carol.
When Charles Dickens wrote 'A Christmas Carol in 1843, the season was not the joyous celebration we know today. This talk examines how the classic story was written and how it influenced the Victorians and later generations to embrace Christmas.

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

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Open Meeting Dates 2026

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
6 October 2026
3 November 2026
1 December 2026

Addison Centre
20 October 2026
17 November 2026
15 December 2026

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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.