

Monthly Newsletter

October 2024

Friday 4th October Coffee Morning from 10am to 12 noon at Cornerstones Café, The Baptist Church, Wheeler Green Road. All welcome.

Friday 4th October at 2.30 on Zoom, a TVN Quiz led by Avis Furness. This is free and can be booked through the TVN website www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk Bookings close on 2nd October.

Saturday 5th October at 3 pm, The Barfield Handbell Ringers are performing a concert – "Down Memory Lane" – at St Mary's Church, Thatcham. Tickets will be available at the door and cost £6 full, £5 concessions, accompanied children free. Light refreshments will be available in the interval.

Monday 7th October at 10.30 by Zoom, Mark Lovett will be giving a talk on "The American Presidential Election" This is a Thames Valley Network event and must be booked via their website www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk Tickets are £2 per device. Bookings close on 4th October.

Friday 11th October General meeting 2 – 4 pm at The Frank Hutchings Hall, Speaker Martin Buckland on "Canals of the World" 2.30 – 3.15. Tea, biscuits, raffle, book and jigsaw swap tables and an opportunity to have a chat. Members free.

Sunday 13th October 'Beating of the Bounds' walk on Greenham and Crookham Commons. Meet at the Control Tower at 3pm. It involves a gentle walk to one of the boundary markers, where 'beating the bounds' will take place, followed by a walk back to the Control Tower, where the cafe will be open for refreshments. The event is free, and there is free parking at the Control Tower. For further details go to <https://greenhamcommoncommission.org.uk/>

Friday 18th October 2 – 3.30 at the Catholic Hall, u3a Festival meeting. An opportunity to chat with members of the groups and see what they get up. The singing groups will give short recitals at 2.10 and again at 3.10. New members will be invited to join the u3a and anyone can sign up for an interest group – or two.

11th – 20th October Thatcham Festival. Most events are free, and some are on Zoom. See the separate brochure for details. It is a good idea to book in advance.

Saturday 19th October 10 am to 3 pm, a u3a stand will be on the Broadway Green as part of the Leisure and Craft Fair. Let Ann Dibble know if you would like to offer your services on the stand for an hour, or simply come and say hello.

News from Groups

Our chess group are starting up again after the summer break and they really need some more members. The experience range of the current members is very wide so a few more players would allow everyone to develop their game. Contact Greg Smith on 07415678392 or gregorysmith98@btinternet.com for the next meeting date.

Quills, our creative writing group, has been led by Cath Hamblin for many years. She has decided to step down. We thank her for all that she has contributed. The new convenor for Quills is Elaine Cross. Please contact her on cross_ea@hotmail.com for any queries about the group.

Hilary Beckingham has decided to step down as convenor of the Discussion Group. This is another hard-working member whose contribution has been much appreciated over the years. The Group have yet to decide how they will move forward.

Opportunities for trips and holidays

Tuesday 15th October 2024 A Newbury National Trust day trip to Stourhead Autumn Colour. Cost £36. NT membership required. Contact Karen Eggleton on 01635 269566.

Thursday 24th October Tadley u3a organised day trip to Monkey World and Ringwood. Cost £27. Contact Lynda Mead on u3atravelgroup@gmail.com or 07941 275852.

Thursday 28th November Tadley u3a organised day trip to Clarks Village Shopping Centre. Cost £16. Contact Lynda Mead on 0794 127 5852. There could be a pickup in Thatcham if enough interest is shown.

Wednesday 18th December 2024 A Newbury National Trust trip to Kew Christmas Illuminations. Cost £56 per person for coach and entrance. No requirement to be a NT member. Leave Newbury at 3 pm and return at 10 pm. Contact Karen Eggleton on 01635 269566 for more details.

Monday 23rd June – Friday 27th June 2025 Tour by coach to France, Germany and Luxembourg. Based by the Moselle River. Cost starts at £890. Contact Lynda Mead of Tadley u3a for more details.

Our new website

Andy and Lynn Stacey have been working through the training package for a new look website. We hope to 'go live' before Christmas. Meanwhile, you might like to look at the websites for some other u3a groups who have already migrated to the new system. Click on the link below and then click on the map and it will give a map of all 250+ u3a that have converted to siteworks. Click on any one to get their new URL. Click on that to open their site. <https://siteworks.u3a.org.uk/current/live-sites/>

Please send copy for the November News to akdibble@tinyonline.co.uk by 21st October. Items received after this date will be saved for the December News.
