

Monthly Newsletter

December 2024

Friday 6th December Coffee Morning from 10am to 12 noon at Cornerstones Café, The Baptist Church, Wheeler Green Road. All welcome.

Friday 6th December 2.30 by Zoom. TVN Winter Quiz. Book your ticket at <https://u3atvnetwork.org.uk/> This event is free to members. Teams will be arranged randomly on the day.

Friday 13th December 2 – 4 pm. Thatcham u3a Christmas Party. Members only. Please let Kerry Thomas know on kerry.thomas@thatchamu3a.org.uk or 07905210643 if you intend to come. The event will start at 2 o'clock.

News from Groups

Please speak to Sue Stevenson susanlstevenson74@gmail.com or Ann Dibble if you are interested in joining a whist group, recorder group or a flower arranging group. The number of those showing an interest is not yet enough to launch these new groups.

A second Tai Chi group is starting up and those on the waiting list should have received information about this. Please contact Chris Belcher on chris.belcher@thatchamu3a.org.uk for more details.

Opportunities for trips and holidays

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

266 viewings of our new website occurred in the first month. Were you one of them? Please do have a look and feedback any constructive comments. This is our shop window for the general public.

News from the Third Age Trust

Nominations for the roles of Council Representative and Board Trustee for our national body are now open. They close on Thursday 19th December and the elections will take place in January. Individuals do not get a chance to vote (the Executive will vote on behalf of our u3a) but you are invited to stand for election. It

promises to be an exciting and interesting time to be involved at national level. If you want to find out more, please contact Ann Dibble asap.

News from Your Executive

Rosemarie Vickers has been our speaker coordinator for several years. In that time, she has booked some really entertaining speakers for our general meetings. Sadly, she has decided that she needs a break, and she has resigned from the Executive. She will continue with her group memberships and is a willing volunteer for help with refreshments. We are very grateful to her for all her hard work. We will not find it easy to replace her.

This, then, is something for you to ponder over the Christmas period. Could you make a bigger contribution to our u3a? There are many roles, and we would love to have a chat with you to explore the possibilities. Catch a member of the Executive at the coffee morning or give us a ring (numbers are on the yellow trifold) or wait until the New Year and find us in January.

One thing that we are hoping to do in 2025 is to produce an online newsletter with photographs and articles. Just two a year. It will be as fat or as thin as the contributions merit. Please give this some thought and watch out for more information in the New Year. Maybe journalism is another new experience that you could tackle. Andy Stacey has agreed to be our editor.

Christmas

Our General meeting on Friday 13th December will be a special celebration for Christmas. It is open to members only and places are limited. Please reserve your place by contacting Kerry Thomas on kerry.thomas@thatchamu3a.org.uk or 07905210643. There is still plenty of room. Note the extended start and finish times that will allow us to squeeze everything in.

The plan is as follows:

1.30 doors open

Buy your raffle tickets for the BIG Christmas Raffle and take your seat. A Christmas quiz will be on the tables

2 pm Welcome

2.10 Songsters

2.30 Poetry with Nigel Smith

2.45 Teas served from the hatch

'Food monitors' collect plates of food for each table.

Last chance to buy raffle tickets

3.15 The Play Reading group

3.25 Quiz answers and prize awarded

Auction and Raffle draw

3.35 Adagio. This will include some Christmas songs for us all to join in with and send us off feeling suitably cheery.

3.55 Thanks and departure



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