

Monthly Newsletter

February 2025

Friday 7th February. Coffee Morning from 10am to 12 noon at Cornerstones Café, The Baptist Church, Wheelers Green Way. All welcome.

Friday 14th January. General Meeting 2pm to 4pm at The Frank Hutchings Hall, Speaker Neville Harris on “Cinema and Cinema Going”. Tea, biscuits, raffle, book and jigsaw swap tables and an opportunity to have a chat. Members free, non-members £2.

Tuesday 18th February 2pm by Zoom. TVN have organised a talk on the architect and designer GAUDI by Keith Appleby. The cost is £2 and tickets must be booked via the TVN website <https://u3atvnetwork.org.uk/> by 15th February.

News from Groups

The second Tai Chi group has started with 20 members. This is amazing. Thank you very much to the two convenors Chris Belcher and Sue Stevenson.

The refreshment rota for the General Meeting will need to be renewed for April. Thank you very much to those who responded to my plea for thoughts on this. There is still time to have your say before a new rota is published. Please contact me through the website, or catch me at the General Meeting in February.

Opportunities for trips and holidays

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 Tadley u3a for more details.

October 2025. A day trip to Cardiff to tour the BBC studios. These are the only television studios open to the public. There will be time to visit Cardiff city centre too. Cost approximately £35. This is a trip being organised by Tadley u3a. They may be able to pick up in Thatcham. Contact Tadley u3a for details.

News from Your Executive

We hope that those of you who asked to receive the u3a matters magazine are enjoying the new look. The magazine is free, but members are asked to pay postage. We have been informed that this will increase to £4 per year when you renew your membership in March.

We have invested in a new projector for speaker meetings. This should make images brighter and easier to see. The old projector is now available for groups to borrow. Please contact the Secretary through the website for details.

Handybus

Those who use the Handybus will already know that the prices have increased. It is now £5 per passenger to be brought to the General Meeting on the 2nd Friday of the month and to be taken home after it has finished. An essential service for some of you. Please contact Transport and DEI through the website early in the week of the General Meeting to reserve your seat. What you may not know is that we have to pay for all 7 seats, even if they are not filled i.e. £35 and £1 a mile for fuel. We regard this as an important way to show that ALL are welcome. Please use it!

Golden Opportunities for you

Kerry has temporarily taken on the job of liaising with the speakers that have been booked for General Meetings. We would like to recruit a team of, perhaps, three people who would be in charge of sourcing speakers for the future. They need not be members of the Executive. They would meet, perhaps twice a year, and choose the speakers, that they think would interest our members, from the lists that are available. The job of making the booking could be shared between the three or one of their number could take it on. Please have a word with any member of the Executive if you would like to find out more.

The Third Age Trust is there to provide support for local u3as but even they admit that their recruitment posters and leaflets leave something to be desired. Now that we have a wonderful new website we would like to design and produce our own publicity material to support it. We are setting up a working party to do just that. Please contact Chair or Secretary if you would be interested in joining the working party. We need people with ideas and people with IT skills.

Please send copy for the March News to Chair by 21st February. Items received after this date will be saved for the April News.
