

Monthly Newsletter

April 2025

Friday 4th April. Coffee Morning from 10am to 12 noon at Cornerstones Café, The Baptist Church, Wheelers Green Way. All welcome.

Friday 11th April. General Meeting 2pm to 4pm at The Frank Hutchings Hall, Speaker Graham Twemlow on “Art & Design in the Chilterns”. Tea, biscuits, raffle, book and jigsaw swap tables and an opportunity to have a chat. Members free, non-members £2. **Please note that teas will be served from 2 pm, before the talk.**

Wednesday 30th April Thames Valley Network have arranged a talk on Zoom on “A.I”. A talk by Alun Morgan at 10.30”. For more information and to book your ticket go to the TVN website <https://u3atvnetwork.org.uk/> It will cost £2 per device.

News from Groups

Following various discussions, The Discussion Group is up and running again! They meet in people’s houses on the 2nd Monday of each month at 2 pm. Mary Parker has agreed to be convenor. They would welcome a few more members so contact Mary or Sue Stevenson via the website if you are interested.

If any members are interested in widening their knowledge on certain subjects, then it’s worth subscribing to u3acommunities.org which is a free online platform for enquiring minds. They host a number of subject based groups covering Art History, Books & Literature, Climate Crisis, Computing, Current Affairs, Geology, History, Improving Legislation, Leading Edge and Science & Technology.

Opportunities for trips and holidays

Friday 16th May. Day out to Croome Park. A National Trust property in Worcester. £40. More details and the opportunity to book can be sourced from on the Newbury National Trust website.

Thursday 5th June. Day out to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. £75.00. This is another trip arranged by the Newbury National Trust but you don’t need to be a member of the National Trust for this one.

Other trips offered on the Newbury National Trust site include The American Museum on 15th July and Stowe school and Grounds on 13th August Find booking forms on newburynta.org.uk.

News from Your Executive

Joy Hoadley has kindly offered to lead the refreshment team for every General meeting. This solves the problem of the Groups rota, which has been causing members some stress. Now she needs a team. We are looking for four or five people who are willing to go into the kitchen and help with serving the teas from 1.30 pm until the talk begins. You would not need to do it every month. Please speak to Joy or to a member of the Executive if you would be interested in helping in this way.

March is the season for membership renewal. We are pleased that the fee can be kept at the same rates as last year. The only increase is for those of you subscribing to the u3a matters magazine and this is simply because of postage costs. Forms can be downloaded from our website.

Our AGM is on Friday 13th June. Your current Executive are willing to continue in post, but we would welcome some additional help. Specific roles include a Vice Chair, Study Day Organiser and Trips Organiser. Our constitution allows for up to 12 members of the Executive so that there are opportunities for those who are interested in becoming more involved but do not want a particular role. Nomination forms can be obtained from the secretary.

Andy Stacey breakaway@ntlworld.com is the editor for our Thatcham u3a magazine. This will be published, in digital form, at the end of June. You are invited to send suitable original articles to Andy in WORD form, with pictures or other images as jpgs. Contact him if you have any queries about this. We would like to include views that illustrate the wide variety of interests of our members and news from as many groups as possible.

The Convenors have asked that we hold a picnic in August again this year. Thirtover Place has been booked for Friday 29th August from 12 noon until 2 pm. We will be based at the top of the field, as we were last year, with Donnington Lodge and an increased number of gazebos to provide shade, or shelter as required. The Handybus will be booked so get in touch with our transport co-ordinator through the website if you will need transport.

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