

Monthly Newsletter

June 2025

Tuesday 3rd June at 10:30. Thames Valley Network have arranged a talk on Zoom entitled 'Petra, the Rose City' by Dr. Jill Evers. For more information and to book your ticket go to the TVN website <https://u3atvnetwork.org.uk/> It will cost £2 per device.

Friday 6th June. Coffee Morning from 10am to 12 noon at Cornerstones Café, The Baptist Church, Wheelers Green Way. All welcome.

Friday 6th June at 2.30 The TVN Summer Quiz on Zoom. This is a free event. Teams will be arranged on the day. Book your ticket in advance on u3atvnetwork.org.uk

Friday 13th June. AGM and General Meeting 2pm to 4pm at The Frank Hutchings Hall, Speaker Philip Russell – Travels in Zambia. 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 AGM and talk.** We hope to start the AGM at 2.20.

There will be two special attractions at this General meeting! We need you there to make sure that we are quorate! The first is a super raffle with higher value prizes and the second is cake served with the teas. Please come and enjoy.

News from Groups

There is planning to start a new group for those interested in doing cryptic crosswords. Please see the proposal attached. If you want to know more, please speak to the Chair or the convenor contact Sue Stevenson.

The Science and Technology group have organised a talk from the Thames Valley Police Cyber Crime unit on Wednesday 18th June on 'Online Security' which will include how to stay safe online and latest online scams. The meeting will take place in Thatcham Town Council Chamber (1:30pm for talk to start at 2pm) at a cost of £2. The Science and Technology Group are throwing the meeting open to all members (limit of 30 places). Please get in touch with Kerry Thomas through the Science and Technology group page on the website if you would like to attend.

Do you own a curious item from yesteryear? This may be a device for use in the kitchen, the workshop, the garden or the office or for a particular hobby. Could you lend it to us for the Thatcham Fun Day on Sunday 29th June? We aim to have a small display with a prize for those who can work out what things are. Larger items will work better than small ones. Contact the Chair if you think that you can help.

We have booked a double pitch at the Thatcham Fun Day again this year and will hope to display some artwork at the back of our gazebos. We would like some fresh photographs of your activities for the A frame. Please send them to the Chair via the Contact page on the website.

The Fun Day is on Sunday 29th June, from 11 am to 4 pm, on the Henwick Worthy Sports Field. We need a team of volunteers to help with setting up and to man the stand throughout the day. If you could manage an hour or two, let me know and I will draw up a rota. Let me know which times would suit you best.

Opportunities for trips and holidays

Thursday 5th June. Day out to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. £75.00. This is a trip arranged by 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

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 our Secretary via the Contact page on the website.

Andy Stacey is the editor for our Thatcham u3a magazine. This will be published, in digital form, at the end of June. We are urgently looking for interesting articles from our members. The deadline is the end of May. Please send articles to Andy via the Contact page on the website.

Our speaker for May, Justine Salkeld, was grateful for the appreciative feedback and also for the donations for the Dogs Trust. You generously contributed £127. Well done to everyone.

Dr Jonathan Taylor is currently leading a research project at the University of Oxford that may be of interest. The study, which has been approved by the University's Ethics Committee, explores the health and wellbeing of older adults who spent part of their childhood in residential or foster care. If you would like to find out more, contact Jonathan on jonathan.taylor@ndph.ox.ac.uk or 01865617912

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

Proposed new Cryptic Crossword Group

Many moons ago, my wife, Sue, and I used to try to solve the crossword in a certain daily newspaper whilst on holiday with my brother and his wife. My brother was by far the best at this and I nearly always had to ask him "*what does this clue mean?*"

More recently, Sue and I attended a short cryptic crossword workshop at Newbury Library. Here, we were introduced to the secret code that had confused us for so long. Without that key, solving cryptic crosswords is a very 'hit and miss' affair.

I would like to share that key with everybody, so that they may give their brains a bit of daily exercise, just as we do now.

My plan is to run a workshop, or series of workshops, perhaps 1-2 hours long. To determine what form they may take, I need to understand the level of interest that exists in the membership.

I am considering running the workshops in the Autumn but need to know the level of interest as soon as possible to plan the way forward. Again, depending on the interest generated by the workshops, it may be sensible to start a 'permanent' group after that.

David Chapman 15/05/2025