

## Monthly Newsletter

### October 2025

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Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Coffee Morning from 10am to 12 noon at Cornerstones Café, The Baptist Church, Wheelers Green Way RG19 4YF all welcome. £1 for tea and biscuits.

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Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 10.30 am. Thames Valley Network have arranged a talk on Zoom. Jane Sellwood will speak on “The wonder of the Galapagos Islands”. Tickets cost £2 per device and may be booked on [u3atvnetwork.org.uk](http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk)

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Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October. General meeting from 2 – 4 pm at the Frank Hutchings Hall. Speaker Dr Jane Sellwood on ‘Man Flu’. Tea, biscuits, raffle, book and jigsaw swap tables and an opportunity to have a chat. Members free, non-members £2.

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#### News from Groups

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The Coffee mornings on the first Friday of each month are not a group in the conventional sense but they do need organising. Jane Head has been the convenor for 13 years and has now realized that it is time to hand the baton onto someone else. We are very grateful to her for her years of service. Could this new convenor be you? It is a rewarding role because you meet a range of different people and often have the privilege of welcoming newcomers to the u3a. If you would like to find out more, come to the coffee morning on 3<sup>rd</sup> October and have a chat.

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The Discussion Group and the Science and Technology group are going into Autumn hibernation. Both hope to resume meetings after Christmas. Please have a word with Sue Stevenson or any of the Executive if you would like to play a more active role in either group and inject some new ideas for the Spring.

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The Newbury Architecture Group invite you to join them for a special meeting on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October at 2PM in Broadway house, Newbury which will be open to all, including non-members and members from other u3as, so please bring any friends who might be interested. James King, Managing Director of Unity Lime, will give a talk on “An introduction to natural building materials”. For further information contact is through the Newbury u3a website.

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## **Opportunities for trips and holidays**

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u3a Festival 26 will take place between 1 - 3 July 2026 at the University of York. As with the 2024 event, members' skills and interests will be at the forefront of the festival. The organisers are looking for activity leaders, crafters, speakers, musicians, and sports enthusiasts to help build a rich and engaging programme. If you'd like to contribute, please email [festival@u3a.org.uk](mailto:festival@u3a.org.uk) .

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Karen Eggleton has arranged a whole day trip to Waddesdon Manor for 5th December, to see the Christmas lights and to enjoy a meal. Cost £75. The coach will pick up in Thatcham as well as Newbury. Details, including a booking form, are on the Newbury National Trust website.

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## **News from Your Executive**

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There was a mixed response to the idea of painting a piece of pottery as part of the celebration for our 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. More than 25 of you said that you would like to do this, so we have booked Blue Beetle at the Thatcham Garden Centre for the morning on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November. She has space for us in the afternoon as well, if our numbers increase. It will cost £10 for a plate or mug. Please could you confirm your place by transferring £10 to Thatcham u3a Exec A/C: Account number 03299150; Sort code 30-95-89 (please put your surname and 'pot' in the 'your reference' box). Alternatively bring £10 cash to the Coffee morning or General meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> October or pass £10 in an envelope labelled with your name and 'pottery' to any member of the Executive.

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As part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations, we hope to have a bumper edition of the Thatcham u3a magazine. Andy Stacey is the editor and articles and photos should be sent to him, in WORD or as JPEGs, at [breakaway@ntlworld.com](mailto:breakaway@ntlworld.com) Please could you all think about your experiences of the u3a and see if you can write a short article to share the most memorable, with other members. It could be from the early days but equally it could be something unexpected or particularly pleasing that happened more recently. The deadline is the end of October.

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We have booked the Catholic Hall for Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October for our annual open afternoon from 1:30 ready to open at 2:00, closing at 3:30 to be out of the hall by 4 pm. It is a part of the Thatcham Festival. All groups are invited to have a pitch to explain what they do and encourage people to join them. This is a great opportunity for existing members to come and find a new group to join, as well as for those who are not yet members of the u3a.

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Autumn brings a focus on the Trust AGM. This year it will be at 11 am on Wednesday 15 October. You can book your place to attend by zoom and view the AGM papers at [u3a - Third Age Trust AGM](#) This is an opportunity to hear directly from key people in the Trust and also welcome Sheila Crawley into her new role as Vice Chair.

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Thatcham Town Council are currently looking for volunteers to support the following events:

🎵 The Big Fest Off – Saturday 11th October, 4pm – 9pm

Help bring the High Street alive with live music, food, and family fun.

🏆 Remembrance Parade – Sunday 9th November, 10am – 12pm

Assist with stewarding and supporting this important community commemoration.

✨ Christmas Lights Switch-On – Friday 5th December, 3pm – 8pm.

Be part of the festive magic as we light up Thatcham for Christmas.

If you're interested in volunteering for one or more of these events, please contact Sarah Newman [events.manager@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:events.manager@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

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The u3a NETWORK LINK AUTUMN EVENT is on October 9th, 2025, 1000-1230 on Zoom. Attendance is free, and open to all u3a members from all u3as. The speakers at this event are focused on the reality of u3a activities.

Registration is via TicketSource – please click on this link

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/u3a-thames-valley-network/t-xmplqrj>

and follow the instructions to register.

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

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