

## Monthly Newsletter

### November 2025

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Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Pottery painting to celebrate our 20 years. 10 am at Blue Beetle Ceramics, Unit 2A, Thatcham Garden Centre, RG18 3AN. £10 for a mug or plate. You may choose more expensive items to paint if you wish.

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Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 10.30 am Thames Valley Network have arranged a talk on Zoom. Timothy Walker will speak on "IN THE NOT-SO-BLEAK MIDWINTER – making your garden interesting in the winter". Tickets cost £2 per device and may be booked on [u3atvnetwork.org.uk](http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk) Closing date 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

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Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November. 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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Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November. General meeting from 2 – 4 pm at the Frank Hutchings Hall. 'Our Birthday Bash.' The Mayor, Petra Pemberton, will be joining us and will cut the Birthday Cake at 2 pm. Speaker Dan Keel on 'Swans'. Tea, biscuits, raffle, book and jigsaw swap tables and an opportunity to have a chat. Members free, non-members £2. There will be a display showing our history, drawn from 20 years of newsletters.

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#### News from Groups

The Festival meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> October was a great success. Thank you very much to all the groups and their convenors for making our visitors so welcome and for demonstrating the interesting things that you can offer. We had 12 new members sign up on the day and a number of forms were taken.

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#### Opportunities for trips and holidays

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 stewards, 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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Newbury National Trust have 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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Our Christmas meeting falls on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December. We have taken advice from the Convenors meeting and have an interesting mix of activities which will include a Quiz, a bumper raffle, mince pies and a cup of tea, an entertainer and a visit from Father Christmas! One request was that there should be time to chat to each other as well. Please come and join us.

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Dennis and Pauline have run the raffle for many years. Each month they 'acquire' a good range of desirable prizes and then turn up to sell the tickets and administer the draw. There is always a profit, and this goes into the general fund and helps to keep our membership fee low. This Christmas raffle will be their last one. Please help to make it a really successful one by donating some good prizes and/or supporting the raffle on the day. We wish them well in their retirement!

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We have several top-quality music groups now and they all appreciate the opportunity to perform. Rather than try and fit them in the Christmas meeting we would like to hold a Spring Concert, with afternoon tea, in early March. Please send me an email or have a chat, if you would be interested in helping with this. We need performers and those who can lay on a good tea. I'm thinking 'cucumber sandwiches and nice cakes'. Could all be great fun.

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Please send copy for the December News to the Chair by 21st November. Items received after this date will be saved for the January News.

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