

Monthly Newsletter

January 2026

Friday 2nd January. 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.

Friday 9th January. General meeting from 2 – 4 pm at the Frank Hutchings Hall. Speaker Reg Bodman on 'My Journey into the World of Art'. Tea, biscuits, book and jigsaw swap tables and an opportunity to have a chat. Members free, non-members £2

Thursday 15th January at 10.30. A talk by Mike Grundy on 'Art on the London Underground' on Zoom. This may be booked on <https://u3atvnetwork.org.uk/> at a cost of £2 per device. Closing date 11th January 2026.

News from Groups

Our groups are thriving and some of them are having to operate a waiting list. If you would like to become a convenor so that we can start another group to accommodate more members, then please contact Sue Stevenson on the website as she would love to hear from you. We have a particular need for second groups of **Rummikub** and **Tai Chi**.

Alasdair Gibson is opening a completely brand-new group on **Jazz Appreciation**. It will be on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning and, initially at least, meet in member's homes. Contact Alasdair Gibson via Susan Stevenson on the or speak to him at the General meeting on 9th January, if you are interested.

David Chapman will run his next workshop for the 'I Haven't a Clue' **Cryptic Crossword** Group on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 09:45. This is intended for beginners and will have a maximum of 4 participants. Please contact David via Susan Stevenson on the website for details or speak with him at the General meeting on 9th January where he will have a stand.

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 .

Thursday 12th March 2026. Members are invited to join Tadley u3a on a day trip to Guildford. The morning will be spent on a guided tour of the cathedral, and the afternoon is free for personal exploration in Guildford town centre. Cost is £24 per person. Contact Lynda Mead via the Tadley u3a website for more details. You will have to get yourselves to Tadley to join the coach

Tuesday 7th July 2026. Trip with Tadley u3a to the University of Royal Holloway. The morning will be devoted to a guided tour of the buildings and after a light lunch (included) there will be a talk on the paintings in the picture gallery followed by time to explore the gallery at your own pace. The trip will be rounded off with a visit to LONGACRES garden centre. Cost is £45 per person. Please respond as soon as you can, to this invitation, because the booking will not be held open for long. Again, there will be no pickup in Thatcham. Email Lynda Mead via the Tadley u3a website for more details.

News from Your Executive

Having teas served as you arrive for the General meetings has proved to work well. The opportunities to have a chat are more relaxed before the speaker, rather than after. We are grateful to Joy Hoadley who has established the new arrangement. Sadly, Joy has health challenges, and she feels that she can no longer continue. We are looking for a new 'person in charge'. There are willing helpers to support you on the day. Please have a chat with Joy, with me or with any of the Executive if you would like to find out more. Joy hopes to be there for our January meeting but after that we may have to settle for having no teas at all.

Dennis and Pauline Rowan have run the raffle at General meetings for many years. Their efforts have provided an extra fun element to these meetings and helped to keep our membership fees down. They officially retired from the role in our December meeting and were given a gift and card in recognition of their service. The plan is to have no raffle for a couple of months so that you can have a chance to let us know what you would like to see going forward. It is always sad to see something finish but it does give a chance for a review. Speak to or email a member of the Executive if you have any thoughts. Everyone's ideas are important.

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