

Monthly Newsletter

February 2026

Wednesday 4th February 7 – 10 pm. Newbury u3a Quiz Evening. Thatcham Rugby Football Club, Henwick Lane, Thatcham, RG18 3BN. Cost £7 per person and this includes a buffet. A bar is available. Contact Bill Smith 07900 335654 to book your tickets.

Friday 6th February. 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.

Tuesday 10th February at 10.30. A talk by Clive Aronson on ‘Classics to Pop’ on Zoom. This is arranged by Thames Valley Network and costs £2 per screen. It can be booked on <https://u3atvnetwork.org.uk/> Closing date for booking a ticket is 8th February. Clive will show how readily some classical music can be adapted as pop and finds outlets in the world of movies.

Friday 13th February. General meeting from 2 – 4 pm at the Frank Hutchings Hall. Speaker Mike Brook on ‘My Favourite Comedians’. Book and jigsaw swap tables and an opportunity to have a chat. Members free, non-members £2

News from Groups

Alasdair Gibson has some interest in his new group on **Jazz Appreciation** and invites you to join them. It will be on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning and, initially at least, meet in member’s homes. Contact Alasdair through the website via his group.

The next Convenors meeting is on Thursday 5th March, 10 am for 10.15 in the Town Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road. Please discuss anything that you would like on the agenda and let me or your convenor know. Please could groups make sure that they are represented at this meeting.

Opportunities for trips and holidays

Karen Eggleton organises trips for the National Trust and often shares them with us. She would very much like to have trips that are just for Thatcham u3a. She believes that this would be cheaper and reach more of you. She is not in a position to take the lead. Her idea is that **you** volunteer to run one trip and she will offer her support and expertise. Just one trip in the whole of 2026. If two or three people took up this challenge, we would have a good programme of adventures. Contact any member of the Executive if you are interested in pursuing this thought.

As you know, Lynda Mead, the travel convenor for Tadley u3a, regularly offers opportunities for Thatcham u3a members to join her trips. Go to [Travel Group - Tadley & District u3a](#) to see what is currently available. Currently there are still spaces for the trip to Guildford on 12th March and the trip to Royal Holloway on 7th July. Contact Lynda through Tadley u3a.

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 looking for a new 'person in charge'. There are willing helpers to support you on the day. Please have a chat with me or with any of the Executive, if you would like to find out more.

Our Speaker team have booked talks for all the Open meetings in 2026, and they are looking for your help in evaluating them. Which ones are captivating and do any leave you unmoved? It could be the topic, the delivery, the visual aids, how thought provoking or how entertaining. Please could you take a glass bead from the dish on the table by the door as you leave, and pop it into the voting box. Green for *brilliant, would like something similar again*, amber for *a pleasant afternoon, thank you* and red for *not really my cup of tea*. I don't like to explain about this when the speaker is about to deliver their talk so please remind each other. We do not share the results with the speaker.

Please send copy for the March News to chair@thatchamu3a.org.uk by 21st March. Items received after this date will be saved for the April News.
