

## Monthly Newsletter

### March 2026

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Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Coffee Morning from 10am to 12 noon at Cornerstones Café, The Baptist Church, Wheelers Green Way RG19 4YF. All welcome. £1 for coffee or tea and biscuits.

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Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30. A talk by Dr Jennifer Foster on 'The Treasures & Mysteries of Sutton Hoo – A Viking Ship Burial' 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 6<sup>th</sup> March.

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Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March. General meeting from 2 – 4 pm at the Frank Hutchings Hall. A change to the advertised speaker. We are very pleased to welcome back Dr Nick Young who will give an illustrated talk on 'Thatcham Then and Now'. 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 next Convenors meeting is on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

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#### Opportunities for trips and holidays

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Tadley u3a Travel Group Summer Day out on the beach at Weymouth on September 10<sup>th</sup> 2026

The coach will depart from:

Pamber Heath Memorial Hall at 08.00am (parking upon request)

Tadley Community Centre at 08.05am (no parking)

Heath End Village Hall at 08.10am (no parking)

Thatcham at 8.20am approx

Contact Lynda Mead. on 0794 127 5852 or [meadlinda1@aol.com](mailto:meadlinda1@aol.com) if you are interested.

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Bookings are now open for The u3a Festival 26 taking place at the University of York from 1–3 July. Explore an existing interest or take the leap and try something completely new in member-led workshops and sessions.

The University of York has a beautiful campus with green spaces and a lake, fantastic sports facilities, lecture halls, and workshop rooms – the perfect backdrop for three days of inspiration and learning. There's on-site accommodation available too so you can go straight from breakfast to your first workshop.

Tickets cost £18 a day, or £50 for a three-day ticket. The festival starts at 11am on Wednesday 1 July and ends at 3pm on Friday 3 July.

To find out more and to book tickets and accommodation go to [u3a - u3a Festival 2026](#)

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### News from Your Executive

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The online magazine produced for the Birthday Celebrations at the end of last year was a great success. This is because so many of you contributed. Andy Stacey is starting to gather copy for a bumper Summer edition which will be published in June. Please send him material as it becomes available. Do not wait for the deadline. His address is [breakaway@ntlworld.com](mailto:breakaway@ntlworld.com) Remember that anything that tickles or impresses you is welcome. Reports from groups can be entertaining but the aim of the magazine is first and foremost something that we can enjoy perusing.

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I was so pleased to receive 5 different volunteers to help with teas at the general meeting, after my request in the last newsletter. Unfortunately, none of them are in a position to hold the bag. Therefore, I will buy the milk and biscuits for the March meeting, and I hope that some willing volunteers will be there on the day to make the tea. Arrive by 1.30 to get the urn going.

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Our Speaker team have booked talks for all the Open meetings in 2026, and they are looking for your help in evaluating them. 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. Please remind each other. We do not share the results with the speaker.

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As you know, our AGM is in June. June 2026 will be the conclusion of my second year as Chair. At the moment we have no Vice Chair. I am only allowed, by our constitution, to do three years so we would all be very grateful if someone would take an interest in standing for the Vice Chair position this year with the prospect of taking over as Chair in 2027. Have a chat with any member of the Executive to find out more.

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Please send copy for the April News to [chair@thatchamu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@thatchamu3a.org.uk) by 21st March. Items received after this date will be saved for the May News.

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