

## Monthly Newsletter

### April 2026

---

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April. General meeting from 2 – 4 pm at the Frank Hutchings Hall. We are pleased to welcome Alastair Lack who will give an illustrated talk on 'Travels with Auntie'. Book and jigsaw swap tables and an opportunity to have a chat. Members free, non-members £2

---

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30. A talk by Dr Jeffrey Almond on 'Pandemics! What are these microbes that threaten us?' 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 10<sup>th</sup> April.

---

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 7 – 10 pm. Newbury u3a are inviting us to join a Race meeting at Thatcham Rugby Football Club, Henwick Lane, Thatcham, RG18 3BN. Cost £12 per person to include a buffet. Contact Newbury u3a for more information and to book your place

---

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April. 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. (Note that there will be no coffee mornings on the first Friday in April or May this year. We will be back to normal in June)

---

#### News from Groups

---

We had a very well attended convenors meeting. Thank you to everyone. The minutes have been circulated. There were a number of points that need discussion within your groups. Please email me, [chair@thatchmu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@thatchmu3a.org.uk) , with any feedback as you receive it. Do not wait until the next convenor meeting.

---

Angela Robinson has been the convenor for the Scrabble group for many years. They meet on the afternoon of the first Thursday of the month, at St Mary's. Angela has decided that Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April will be her last meeting as convenor. Please could someone step forward to take on the role and maintain one of our most enduring groups. Contact Sue Stevenson via the contact page on the website if you are interested. You do not need to be a current member of this group. We thank Angela for her faithful service over the years.

---

#### Opportunities for trips and holidays

---

---

Karen Eggleton is running a trip for the National Trust to The Sculpture Park and Wimborne Minster on the 30<sup>th</sup> April, picking up in Thatcham. The forms are on [Newbury National Trust Association](#)

---

Tadley u3a Travel Group Summer Day out, on the beach at Weymouth, on September 10<sup>th</sup> 2026. Cost £22 per person. The coach will depart from Thatcham at 8.20am approx Contact Lynda Mead via the Tadley u3a website if you are interested.

---

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.

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](#)

---

### **News from Your Executive**

---

Andy Stacey is starting to gather copy for our Summer magazine which will be published in June. Please send him material as it becomes available. 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.

---

Our AGM is in June. Kerry Thomas will have completed 3 years as secretary at that point and has decided to step down. We are so grateful to him, and to Angela who shared the role with him for the first year. The hunt is on to find his successor. Please contact Kerry via the website if you are interested. He is willing to share all that he has discovered about the role.

---

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.

---

Nominations have to be with Kerry by 29<sup>th</sup> May. Those who would like to join the Executive without having a specific role to fill are also invaluable. Please volunteer and help to keep our u3a going.

---

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

---