

## Monthly Newsletter

### July 2026

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Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Coffee Morning from 10am to 12 noon at Cornerstones Café, The Baptist Church, Wheelers Green Way. All welcome. Just £1 for tea or coffee and biscuits and good company.

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Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July. 2 – 4 pm at the Frank Hutchings Hall. Tea and a chat followed by a speaker. David Brittain will give a talk on “Tax, Care and The New Guy”. Book and jigsaw swap tables and an opportunity to speak with Convenors. Members free, non-members £2

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Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30 on Zoom. A talk by Dr Richard Marks on “Think Britain doesn’t manufacture anything anymore?” This is arranged by Thames Valley Network and costs £2 per screen. Please book your place at [www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk](http://www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk)

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Our August picnic for 2026 will be inside! We will gather at the Baptist Church in Wheelers Green Way on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August from 12.30 to 2.30. Bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee will be available. There will be a summer quiz, time for chat, and entertainment from Adagio, the Recorder group and Ukulele Group. Please let me know if you plan to attend so that we can put out the right number of chairs. There will be no charge, but the Baptist Church would be happy to receive donations. This replaces the August speaker meeting.

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#### **News from Groups**

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Mark Backhouse, our Convenor for Mah Jong, would like to encourage you to attend a handbell concert on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July at St Mary’s Church. Tickets cost £6 for concessions and are available at the door. (Cash only please.) The concert starts at 7 pm and will feature well known tunes from the old and new world to reflect the date of 4<sup>th</sup> July. Including an interval, it should finish by 9 pm.

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#### **Opportunities for trips and holidays**

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Thatcham u3a have our own trip organized by Karen Eggleton. It is to Brooklands Motoring and Aviation Museum in Weybridge and will cost £50 per person. The date is Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2026. For more information and to book your place, contact Karen via our Treasurer on the website. Closing date for bookings is the end of July 2026.

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#### **News from Your Executive**

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The stand at the Thatcham Fun Day was a great success. Thank you to Marguerite Shave for the idea of a herbs and spices quiz. This attracted many passersby and we distributed a number of our information leaflets. Many were taken by young adults to give to their parents. The group photographs that you had kindly posed for made a vibrant display, admired by many. A big thank you to Mike and Chris Snelling who successfully fought the strong winds, with a

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little help from Julie Campbell and Ann Dibble, to pitch our two gazebos and to all those who helped throughout the day.

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The Thatcham Festival in October provides a better location for attracting those interested in joining Thatcham u3a. Our Open afternoon will be on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October at the Catholic Hall from 1.30 to 4 pm. The public will be invited for 2 – 3.30. Please start to think about how you can demonstrate the delights of your group to potential new members. We will have the back room, as last year, for those who wish to perform. We will also need volunteers for the welcome team and for the refreshments.

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We are still urgently looking for a Secretary. The job could easily be split into ‘minutes secretary’ who would look after our Executive meetings, and ‘business secretary’ who would manage the official communications with the Charity Commission and the Third Age Trust. Please feel free to discuss this amongst yourselves and encourage people to volunteer. It could be someone new to Thatcham u3a because lots of training and support is available.

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

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