u3a Thatcham

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Monthly Newsletter

November 2026

Friday 6th November. Coffee Morning from 10 am 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.

Thursday 12th November at 10.30 using Zoom TVN are hosting a talk by Paul Seddon on "Uncovering life and death at Cookham Abbey, an 8th century Anglo-Saxon monastic settlement". Reading University have been exploring the archaeology at the site since 2020. Tickets cost £2 per device and may be booked at u3atvnetwork.org.uk

Friday 13th November. 2 – 4 pm at the Frank Hutchings Hall. Tea and a chat followed by a speaker. Karen Elliott will provide an overview of the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. There will be a focus on local sites and a personal story of someone commemorated nearby. She is not receiving payment for this talk and would be very grateful for any donation that you may be able to make to the work of the organisation. Please bring some cash with you. Book and jigsaw swap tables and an opportunity to speak with Convenors. Members free, non-members £2

News from Groups

Kerry Thomas has volunteered to guest edit the magazine for December. This means that you should send any articles to kerrythomas@live.co.uk Pictures are particularly appreciated. The magazine will be published as an electronic document. Past copies are available on the website.

News from Groups is always interesting and we can use the magazine to celebrate individual success too. Jackie Shore developed her writing skills as a member of Quills. She is now a published author! Her sister helped her to finish the story that she started in Quills. The novella is called The Legacy of the Eagle Hunters and is available on Amazon as well as in Thatcham Library.

Several of our members exhibited paintings and ceramics at the Thatcham Festival Art Exhibition on the 10th and 11th of October. Our Webmaster, Andy Stacey, won the prize for most popular painting, voted for by people who attended the Exhibition. The successful painting was entitled 'Silver Birches'.

News from Your Executive

We had two very successful events as part of Thatcham Festival. There was a brilliant atmosphere in the Catholic Hall on 16th October. It is just so nice for us all to get together and see what other groups are doing. Welcome to the new members that we recruited, and I hope that lots of you found new interest groups to try.

The morning of Saturday 17th October dawned bright and dry. A fitting first outing for one of our new gazebos. If you were in Thatcham Broadway you couldn't fail to notice the blue roof and bright yellow walls. These are u3a colours, and we were there as part of the Leisure and Craft Fair. Please can we extend massive thanks to John Brookes, Mike and Sue Stevenson and Lynn and Andy Stacey for turning the expenditure of your money into a real success. This is an investment for our future.

We now turn our thoughts to Christmas. Our Christmas meeting will be on Friday 11th December from 2 – 4 pm. The programme is still being finalized and will include entertainment, a quiz, a super raffle and mince pies (or alternatives) and a cup of tea. Thank you very much to all those who have volunteered to help. Please could you drop me a line at chair@thatchamu3a.org.uk to reserve your place. There is no charge for members, but it does help if we know numbers.

The super raffle is a highlight of the event. Julie Campbell would welcome donations of prizes. They can be brought to our November speaker meeting or to the coffee mornings in November or December or contact any member of the Executive and we will arrange collection. Donations are also welcome on the day.

The information table at our Speaker meetings stands by the hatch as you queue for tea and attracts many browsers. You are always welcome to give me leaflets or posters about events that you think will interest members and they will be included. Information about organisations that offer services do not fit into this category and so we have launched a new 'Welfare' table. Elaine Cross has volunteered to be our Welfare Officer, and she will coordinate the information that is available. Please speak with her if you want to know more about the venture and if you have some information details to share. Elaine is NOT offering professional services, but she would be very happy to help in pointing people in the right direction.

The Third Age Trust recently held their AGM. You can view all the reports on u3a - Third Age Trust AGM It was pleasing to see that the new Council is bedding in and starting to work well with the Board. I attended via the Zoom link and voted on your behalf in accordance with the instructions that I had been given by your Executive Committee. I would be happy to talk with any member who is interested to know more.

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