

Monthly Newsletter

October 2026

Friday 2nd October. 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.

Friday 9th October. 2 – 4 pm at the Frank Hutchings Hall. Tea and a chat followed by a speaker. Miranda Pender will offer us “Musical Musings”, a sparkling set of original songs and the stories behind them. Book and jigsaw swap tables and an opportunity to speak with Convenors. Members free, non-members £2

Friday 16th October 2 – 3:30 at the Catholic Hall. As part of the Thatcham Festival, we will be holding an open afternoon. Stalls representing our interest groups will be set out in the hall for you to talk with the Convenors. There will also be performances by our singing groups, Adagio and Songsters, the Recorder Group and the Ukulele Group. Tea and biscuits will be available. We look forward to seeing you there.

Saturday 17th October 10 am – 3 pm on the Broadway Green as part of the Leisure and Craft Fair. Come and see the first outing for our new gazebo, chat with members and then go to the craft stalls in St Mary’s Church.

News from Groups

Thank you to all those who attended the Convenor meeting. The minutes will be out soon. Please share them with your group.

The editor of the biannual magazine has struggled because of few articles being offered for members. The Convenors asked for greater clarity on what was required. Reports from groups would be very well received. The author of such reports does not have to be the Convenor. Some good pictures showing what you do would be wonderful.

Kerry Thomas has volunteered to guest edit the magazine for December. This means that you should send any articles to kerrythomas@live.co.uk

News from Your Executive

We were sorry that 6 people were not impressed by the Town Crier talk and voted red in the exit poll. It occurs to us that you may have the colours the wrong way round. Please use green if you really enjoyed the talk, amber if it was ok and reserve red for the kind of talk that you would prefer us not to repeat. This voting is the only way that we get mass feedback, and it is so useful. You can, of course, offer verbal feedback to any member of the speaker team: Frances Coker, Dorothy Goode or Julie Campbell.

Thatcham Town Council are looking for marshals for the Remembrance parade on Sunday 8th November, 10am – 12pm and to help with The Christmas Lights Switch-On – Saturday 28th November 11am–8pm. If you are interested in helping, even for a short amount of time, contact Dominique Culley at Thatcham Town Council officer.events@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk or 01635 863592

More immediately, Thatcham u3a need some volunteers for the Festival Open Afternoon. In particular we need a small team to volunteer to serve the refreshments. You would be based in the kitchen at the Catholic Hall. We hope to offer tea, coffee and biscuits, from 2 pm until 3.30. If we can have three or four volunteers, you would also have a chance to walk around the stands. Please email me on chair@thatchamu3a.org.uk to volunteer your time. We would be so grateful.

We also need welcomers for the same event. You would take a turn standing at the front door and welcoming people as they arrive. You can direct them to the music groups and point out the refreshments and where to go to sign up.

We are anticipating that the new Thatcham u3a gazebos will arrive in the next week or so and we will use one for the Leisure and Craft Fair. Please volunteer to take an hour on the rota between 9 am and 3 pm. There will always be at least two members on duty and chairs will be provided.

We are looking forward to an exciting Christmas meeting on Friday 11th December. For many years Dot and Bob Wetten organized the refreshments for this event. Last year, Jan Watts took on the mantle. Could you be the one to work the magic this year? There is a small budget and you, and your team, would help to bring Christmas cheer to about 90 members. Just let one of the Executive know if you think that you could help.

U3a is a self-help organisation i.e. we don't depend on external services; we do it all ourselves. Therefore, I don't apologise for asking for so many volunteers. Forget your worries and just join in.

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