

u3a Thameside Wallingford
www.thamesidewallingfordu3a.org
May Newsletter

Notes from the Chair

A very short note this month as I am away.

This is the last newsletter before the May AGM which will be held before the speaker meeting at 2.00pm on Wednesday 20th May, I do hope you can attend. There are no new resolutions so it should be a short meeting just to vote in the committee and hear the standing reports from myself and the treasurer.

All the relevant papers will be available on our u3a website on the 4th May.

The speaker meeting this month gave a very interesting talk on the status of women in the Middle Ages. She gave us an insight as to how philosophers have defined the perfect woman and there was an interesting discussion at the end.

Notes on trips will appear in the appropriate section later in the newsletter.

The next coffee morning is on Friday 1st May. Unfortunately, I will still be away but I hope to see you at the AGM.

Until then stay safe and I hope your weather's as good as mine.

Ian Shipton

Chair

Vacancies

Outings sub-committee

Do you go on our outings? If so, we have a problem which means we will have fewer or even none at all. We need more people to join our outings committee to arrange and host outings. It's an enjoyable job and training and advice will be given. The more people on the outings, the fewer each person has to arrange one. Currently, we don't have enough on the committee so there may well be fewer outings. If you're interested or want to buddy an outings organiser to see how it's done and you feel you could help, then please [email the outings subcommittee](mailto:outings@thamesidewallingfordu3a.org).

Upcoming Events

Next Coffee Morning will be 1st of May, 10:30 till midday.

Next Speaker Meeting (and AGM) – 20th May: Simon Booker – Strictly Nature

Following Speaker Meeting: 17th of June: Dr Kathryn Harkup - Vampirology

Check Website for Updates

Next Outing – Friday 8th May – RHS Wisley (now fully booked - Waiting List open)

New Members

From North Moreton, Heather Skevington, and John and Veronica Gibbs; from Benson, Jean Dickie and Maggie Winters; from Long Wittenham, Liz Yuille; and from Wallingford, Ron White.

Coffee Morning

First Friday every month – Wallingford Methodist Church St Leonard's Square OX10 0AS

This month will be 1st of May, 10:30am until midday

Jill & Tony Reeves

Next month will be 5th of June, 10:30am until midday

Jenny Potter & Rita Gambit.

If you want to join the serving rota then please contact Pam Johnston via the [contact page](#).

Groups

No new groups this month.

If you want to join or form a group, then please contact Yvonne via [contact page](#) on the website.

Speaker Meetings

Next Speaker Meeting (and AGM) – 20th May : Simon Booker – Strictly Nature

Simon Booker lives locally. A keen photographer for many years, his interest in photographing local wildlife was fuelled by the lockdown which started in 2020.

At a time when none of us could travel or pursue most of our usual interests and activities Simon started sharing some of the photos he took on his daily dog walks.

This was the genesis of his [website](#) which is a wonderful compilation of some of his photos of local wildlife. We look forward to seeing some of his best in his talk.

Outings

Visit to RHS Wisley - Friday 8th May 2026

This outing is fully booked and there is a waiting list.

Details are on our [u3a website](#).

TO GET ON WAITING LIST:

Please email the following FIVE points of booking information

to Jane Milne via the janemilneu3a@gmail.com – please put WISLEY WAITING in the Subject line.

1. My/our Name(s)
2. My Phone Number & email address
3. Reserve for me place(s) @ £20.25 or £35.00 per person (please state if RHS member)
4. Pick me/us up from ...Wallingford Museum or ...Crowmarsh Gifford Church
5. Name, relationship and phone number of an emergency contact on that day.

DO NOT PAY YET. You will be asked to pay using your bank's online bank transfer or by cheque only when you are offered a place.

All The World's A Stage - Wednesday 10th June 2026

This outing is fully booked and there is a waiting list.

Join us to take a guided tour of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. More details are on our [u3a website](#)

Included in the visit:

Coach travel (with WC) and includes driver's tip

Guided tour of the Globe Theatre (approx. 1 hour)

Self-guided tour of the Exhibition Hall

Not included: Lunch

Leave: Wallingford Museum 0830 Crowmarsh Church 0835

Arrive: The Globe Theatre 1030 (1100 guided tour)

Depart: London 1530

Wallingford: 1730 approximately

To join the waiting list please email or post with the following FIVE points of Booking information to Ken Johnstone.

1. My/our Name(s)
2. My phone number(s) & email address
3. Reserve for me place(s) @ £48.00 per person
4. Pick me up from ... Wallingford Museum or ... Crowmarsh Church
5. Name, relationship and phone number of an emergency contact on that day.

DO NOT PAY YET. You will be asked to pay if a vacancy occurs.

Tickets will cost £48.00 per person. This includes the tour of the Theatre, the coach (with WC) and the driver's tip.

We are limited to 40 places, so please, send your booking by contacting me on Outings1@thamesidewallingfordu3a.org

The leaving time from Wallingford is 08:15 and from Crowmarsh 08:25.

Visit to The National Memorial Arboretum - Thursday 16 July 2026

The National Memorial Arboretum, in Staffordshire, is a space where everyone can celebrate lives lived and remember lives lost. A beautiful and inspiring place, the 150-acres of the Arboretum form a living landscape, a home for more than 400 memorials waiting to be discovered. Tales of bravery shown in the most extraordinary of times, selfless service and sacrifice, camaraderie and care are represented by the memorials. From the Armed Forces and Emergency Services to civilian organisations that supported our Nation in times of need, people from all walks of life are represented by the memorials, with designs that are rich in symbolism reflecting those they remember.

Visitors can enjoy discovering over 400 memorials nestled amongst some 25,000 trees, experience riverside walks and participate in a wide variety of daily activities: guided walks, land train tours, memorial talks, exhibitions and buggy tours.

- Guided buggy tours £7.50pp and walks £7.50pp - subject to availability.
- Self-guided walks - pick up a detailed plan from the Welcome Desk.
- Purchase the Arboretum guidebook for a selection of guided walks

We are all booked on the land train tour for 11am - this is a perfect way to discover the stories behind many of the fascinating memorials. The tour takes 50 minutes and has a prerecorded commentary. After that the rest of the day is yours. See the [website](#) for more details

A larger, more detailed visitor map is available to collect from their Welcome Desk. These maps contain further information on things you can see on your journey around the Arboretum, and how you can make the most from your time with them.

Depart Wallingford Museum 07:45 (early start!)

Depart Crowmarsh Church 07:50.

Arrive NMA 10:15

Comfort stop and refreshments

Land Train Tour 11:00

Depart NMA 16:00

Arrive home 18:30 (subject to traffic)

What's included

Coach fare and Driver's tip, refreshment on arrival - Coffee/tea biscuits, Land Train Tour

Cost £35 pp

Please email the following FIVE points of booking information

to Sue Wright via our [Contact Form](#)

Please put "NMA" plus your surname in the Subject line.

1. My/our Name(s)
2. My Phone Number & email address
3. Reserve for me place(s) @ £35.00 each
4. Pick me/us up from ...Wallingford Museum or ...Crowmarsh Church
5. Name, relationship and phone number of an emergency contact on that day.

DO NOT PAY YET. You will be asked to pay using your bank's online bank transfer or cheque only when you are offered a place.

Please note that outings are only available to Thameside Wallingford u3a members.

The Third Age Trust

is the national representative body for the u3a in the UK. Here is their [website](#).

[Online Learning Events](#)

Sign up for the [u3a National Newsletter](#) for news and stories from across the u3a movement.

u3a members can join a wide range of online talks, workshops and courses for free with their membership

[U3A Radio Podcast](#)

Thames Valley Network

We are one of 38 branches within the [Thames Valley Network](#)(TVN).

If you would like to receive information directly from TVN with details of Study Days & Workshops, please email events_info@u3atvnetwork.org.uk

TVN Study Days:

Women in Intelligence – Tuesday 5th May at 14:00

We welcome back Dr Helen Fry, who will once again give us her insight into a certain part of the 2WWs, her specialisms.

She has authored and edited over 25 books covering the social history of the Second World War, including British Intelligence and the secret war, espionage and spies, and MI9 escape and evasion.

The cost for this talk is £2.00 per device

To download or view the flyer click on the link [Women in intelligence](#).

To book for this event click go to [Ticketsource](#).

Applications will not be accepted after 2nd May 2026.

Committee 2025/26

Contact any of the below via our [contact page](#)

Chairman – Ian Shipton

Deputy Chairman – Ken Johnstone

Treasurer – Tony Fenner

Secretary – Hilly Bailey

Meeting Minutes – Jane Milne

Membership Secretary – Charmaine Anderson

IT Manager – Malcolm Brooks

Thames Valley Network Rep – Neil Kelly

Newsletter Collator – Bob Ferguson

Communications including Newsletter - Ian Shipton & Malcolm Brooks

Calendar & Website – Sarah Robinson

Co-opted member – Anna Gordon

Coordinators:

Groups Co-ordinator – Yvonne Griffiths

Speakers Co-ordinator – Jane Tuckett

Outings Co-ordinator – Ken Johnstone

Coffee Mornings Rota – Pam Johnstone

Speaker Refreshments – Richard & Ros Steptoe

Accessibility & Inclusivity – Jane Milne

