

Dear u3a members

Our February Speaker meeting gave us a real treat when Timothy Walker came to talk on 21st Century gardening. A very informative and amusing hour was spent in his company – if you were not able to join us, do read Andy's blog on the website <https://woodstock.u3asite.uk/our-blogs/> - did you know that slugs can abseil?

In March we have Malcolm Wells MBE coming to speak. The title of his talk is – **So Far So Good**. His experience of 24 years in the Army as a musician and medical assistant and his involvement at Canine Partners – all good stories to tell. Do join us on **Thursday 5th March** at 2.15 for 2.30 talk at the St Hugh's, Centre, Woodstock. Visitors fee £3 to include tea and biscuits for all, with thanks to Jackie and Suzanne for managing the refreshments. Mini key-ring torches are still available at £1.50 cost price – do bring along a little cash.

INTEREST GROUPS' NEWS – all contact for all information is through our website <https://woodstock.u3asite.uk/contact/> - the Group Co-ordinator.

Denise will be hosting the **Saturday Morning Social** on 7 March at St Mary's Church in Woodstock from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. No need to book, all are welcome. This monthly cafe which welcomes our group is run by volunteers from the church with proceeds going to Oxford Night Shelter or the North Oxford Food-bank. Anything members can contribute by way of purchasing a drink/cake is much appreciated. The first Saturday in the month is also the Woodstock Farmers Market which is held in the town square by the church.

This month's **Sunday Lunch** will be at Brotherton's Brasserie, Woodstock on the 15th March, meeting there at 12.30 p.m. A table has been reserved for ten of us and Denise would like members to book with her as soon as possible at outing@woodstocku3a.uk.

The next visit of the **Historic Churches Group** is North Leigh Church on the 19th March, meeting at 11.00am. Parking is available in the Turner Hall car park opposite the church. More information, and a blog about the recent visit to Chipping Norton Church, will be on our website in the next few days. [Historic Churches - Woodstock and District](#)

Some of the **Needlework Group** have been knitting squares for blankets to send to the Hamlin Fistula charity in Ethiopia. This charity treats women suffering from appalling childbirth injuries caused by lack of maternal healthcare. Each woman is given a handmade blanket upon arrival at the hospital, symbolising the love and care that they receive. So far the group has sent three full size and two baby blankets to Ethiopia and intend to keep knitting for this amazing charity. hamlinfistulauk.org



Scrabble, our newest group has got off to a great start with a second date lined up – please contact Pat via Group Co-ordinator if you would like further information.

And the next **Quiz** date is 26th March. New members welcome - those on the Quiz mailing list will also receive update information directly from David. Venue is the Scout and Guide Hut, Union Street, Woodstock at 2pm – do come along, a cup of tea included and bring £2 cash to cover hall hire.

Book Group One - Although we are sadly missing our dear founder member, John Fox, who never failed to grab our attention with his thoughtful comment, we do now have new members within the group and warmly welcome all participation.

The **Theatre Group** is offering two trips with booking deadline today (1 March). **Party Season** at Summertown on 30 April 7.30pm. Ticket price £18.50. And then **The Bees of Aleppo** at the Oxford Playhouse on 9 May at 2.30pm. Tickets £38. Funds always need to be with Susan by end of the final booking day – susanbrettu3a@outlook.com – or contact in order to be added to the Theatre mailing list.

The **Kidlington History Society** are organising a coach outing to Sudeley Castle in Gloucester on Saturday the 15th August 2026, and have kindly offered the opportunity of joining the trip to our u3a members. Final details of the outing and the cost will be advised when known and this will depend on numbers. Please register your interest with Denise outing@woodstocku3a.uk (kindly note this is not a u3a organised event - but a great opportunity for members to participate in). Sudeley Castle remains the only private castle in England to have a Queen buried within the grounds - Queen Katherine Parr, the last and surviving wife of King Henry 8th who lived and died at Sudeley.

If you are interested in getting more information about any group – please email Janet at groups@woodstocku3a.uk. Contributions and suggestion for the website are always welcome by Andy, myself, or Janet and a great place to get updated information.

AND.....Beyond our branch:

The TVN zoom this month is **The Treasures & Mysteries of Sutton Hoo – A Viking Ship Burial**. (a fascinating place if you've had the joy of visiting). Dr Jennifer Foster talk is on Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 10.30 a.m. on Zoom – see attached flyer for booking.

The TVN Spring quiz by Zoom is on Friday 6 March – booking at u3atvnetwork.org.uk.

The **u3a Trust** offers a myriad of online learning events – many are free of charge – coming up in March is, Aviation, AI, Carbon Footprint, Lasers, Novel writing – historical subjects and Faith – geographical and travel subjects – and there is now a u3a radio podcast.

Do check out these sessions at - <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>.

Your feedback to me on any of these events will be very much appreciated.

Sue Blackshaw – Chair of Woodstock & District u3a - chair@woodstocku3a.uk

The Treasures & Mysteries of Sutton Hoo – A Viking Ship Burial

A Talk given by Dr Jennifer Foster.

Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 10.30 a.m. on Zoom



British Museum

Dr Jennifer Foster, is an Archaeologist at the University of Reading specialising in artifact identification. Jennifer leads popular courses both in class and around the countryside for Oxford University Continuing Education Department.

Fee for this event is £2. Please book electronically by clicking on the 'TICKETSOURCE' icon immediately below the event on TVN website (u3atvnetwork.org.uk). This is by far the best and easiest option. You will receive an acknowledgement immediately and the Zoom link 48 hours before the event. If you experience any difficulty and have checked your JUNK folder, please email the organiser Jane Sellwood janesellwood09@gmail.com with your name and the u3a to which you belong. If you have not received the Zoom link by midnight Saturday 7TH March please email the organiser as above. PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE DAY OF THE EVENT.

Closing date 6TH March 2026 (No further applications after this date).

(Please note: TVN does not record any of its events.)

To receive details of future TVN events, please send your name and preferred email address to events_info@u3atvnetwork.org.uk