

Dear u3a members

Our speaker last month was John Wilford with '**SOUNDMAN – a Journey through Rock & Roll**'. We enjoyed an hour of nostalgia as we were taken back to the music of the 70's and 80's and a peep into the working (yes, it was working) side of the touring band industry - several purchased John's book.

In July we will be taken into the world of assistance and working dogs with our speakers from the Canine Partnership. Do join us on **Thursday 2nd July** at 2.15 for 2.30 at St Hugh's centre, Woodstock – come along at 2pm if you can help with setting up. Visitors fee £3 to include tea and biscuits for all with thanks as always to Jackie and Suzanne. Mini key-ring torches are still available at 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.

Saturday Morning Social will be held on Saturday 4th July at St Mary's Magdalene Church, Woodstock from 10am to 12noon hosted by Denise. No need to book as there is plenty of room and all are welcome. This is a fund raising event by the church with monies raised supporting the North Oxford Food Bank.

The next **Sunday Lunch** will be on 19 July. A table has been booked for six at The White House Community Pub in Bladon for 1pm. Please book with Denise McKillop sooner rather than later if you would like a place, or would like to be added to a circulation list for future notifications.

Table-Tennis – numbers continue to be very bouyant and most members come along regularly to give us consistency of 12-14-16 players each week for play on the two tables that we use at the Youth Centre. The first half of the session is taking turns of 6 minutes single play practice which is then followed by doubles at which time we 'try' to keep count of the score-line.

The **Welsh Group** met late June in a member's house. Numbers were slightly diminished due to the extreme heat and holidays, but we were pleased to welcome a new member to the group, Whilst we chatted and practised our Welsh we cooled off with frozen watermelon. The next meet-up will be on Thursday 30 July when we will be enjoying some language games in order to practise grammar and vocabulary.

The **Historic Churches Group** had a great visit to Oddington in June - many thanks to local guide Nigel who has really taken the building and its history to his heart. Our next outing is on 16 July when the group will be going to Tackley where again there will be a local guide and the option of coffee or lunch afterwards at Sturdy's Castle. All members and their guests are welcome. Further visits are being planned with plenty of beautiful churches to choose from.....

The **Shorter Walks Group** continue to meet on the first and third Fridays of the month at 2pm. The most recent walk started at Annie's Tea Rooms by the canal and finished there with refreshments. Different members of the group are leading various walks which is very helpful. Whilst the **Longer Walking Group** suffered this month at the hands of the weather – the early June walk diverted to the Blenheim five-miler as the originally planned walk was too wet underfoot (I recall that I had the living room heating on one afternoon that week). And then the late June walk was cancelled due to extreme heat - what have we done to our climate.

Calligraphy - we are commencing a monthly group in July in Kidlington with thanks to Liz who has kindly agreed to run the group (with help!). Please do get in touch if you would like more information. Anyone with any calligraphy materials that they no longer require – please know that we can find them a good home, or maybe join us.

Please email Janet at groups@woodstocku3a.uk to be put in contact with any of the group leaders. Contributions and suggestion for the website <https://woodstock.u3asite.uk> are always welcome by Andy, myself, or Janet and is the best place to get updated information.

AND.....Beyond our branch:

The Thames Valley Network (TVN) talk this month is Wednesday 15th July at 10.30 by Dr Richard Marks by Zoom '**Think Britain doesn't make anything anymore**'. This talk goes behind the headlines to explore what Britain is really producing in 2026. £2.00 per device; booking required - via www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk - see attached flyer.

The u3a Trust has launched its own specialist UK holiday programme:

u3a Getaways are taking learning on tour with exclusive holidays open to members and their friends. The themed trips venture across the UK and cover wine tasting, zoology and aviation. The first trip in September in Torquay, explores the life of one of Britain's most iconic authors, Agatha Christie. Coinciding with the *Agatha Christie Festival*, members can follow in Christie's steps and see the locations that inspired some of her greatest works.
[See the full programme of holidays.](#)

And at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events> you will find a raft of zoom talks/lectures – most with no charge to members. I recently booked into

The History of Britain's Roads – why we should feel proud. Lots of milestones with many firsts for solving developing road problems (worldwide) over our ten decades+ of motoring history. Since the Traffic Act of 1934, after which driving tests became mandatory, many safety improvements were laid-down which remain in practice today. A fascinating reminder of what we do have in the UK.

The national magazine (known to us as TAM – Third Age Matters) is produced five times a year and posted to home addresses; it is excellent value at £4 for the year and has just won Silver in the Association Excellence Awards 2025. Many interesting articles (and advertising – but relevant) – just get in touch with Susan or Penny.

Think Britain doesn't make anything anymore?



Picture by J W Vien from Pixabay

**Wednesday 15th July 2026
10.30 a.m. on ZOOM**

In '*So You Think We Do Not Make Anything Anymore? British Manufacturing in the 21st Century*', manufacturing systems engineer and industrial historian Dr Richard Marks draws on 25 years of hands-on experience to dismantle the myth of decline and reveal the vibrant reality of British industry today. This talk takes you behind the headlines to explore what Britain is really producing in 2025

Fee for this event is £2. Please book electronically by clicking on the 'TICKETSOURCE' icon immediately below the event on

www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk

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, David Morton, chairman@u3atvnetwork.org.uk at with your name and the u3a to which you belong.

If you have not received the Zoom link by midnight Monday 13th July please email the organiser as above. PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE DAY OF THE EVENT.

Closing date Sunday 12th July (no further applications after this date).

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