

Dear u3a member

The September speaker took us through collecting practices for the County Museum with amusing and interesting anecdotes of local history and who knew that in previous centuries our Witney blankets were taken to Canada and traded for beaver skins? With thanks to Angie for stepping in for the original speaker, the social history collection practices are much more specific than we might think.

Our next speaker meeting is on **Thursday 1 October**; when we have Roger Davies, Professor emeritus Philip Wetton Chair of Astrophysics at the University of Oxford, talking on ***The Vastness of Space***; maybe you were able to take in the recent Solar Eclipse of the Moon; details of which Roger had sent through. Do join us at 2.15 for 2.30 at St Hugh's centre, Woodstock. Visitor's fee for non-members is £3 to include tea and biscuits for all, with thanks as always to Jackie and Suzanne.

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

or for all links - email our Group Co-ordinator. groups@woodstocku3a.uk

Members of the **Shorter Walks Group** enjoyed their saunter on the 1st and 3rd Friday afternoons in September with Annie's Tearoom and The Royal Sun at Begbroke as refreshment places. The hedgerows were a mass of sloes, rosehips and crab apples on these lovely autumn days.

The **Scrabble Group** meets on the second Tuesday of each month. We meet at the host's house in Woodstock at 10 am and usually fit in one game before 11.00 when we break for tea/coffee, with a second game completed by midday. We like to have two tables of four and currently can offer a couple of spaces for people to come along and try the game. If you haven't played for ages do come and try a nostalgic experience.

The **Quiz Group** continues to go from strength to strength - regularly attracting around 20 quizzers each month and now including some "homework" - teasers culled from The 1% Club, Only Connect and the Alan Turing Codebreakers Puzzle Book to work on before the next meeting. Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month, starting at 2.00 pm, in Woodstock. Next date 22 October.

The newly formed **Poetry Group** will be meeting on the second Tuesday of each month in the afternoon. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 October at 2:00 pm in Bladon when members will, if they wish, share a poem which they have written and also introduce one or two poems written by their favourite poet. The future format for the group will then be discussed.

Historic Churches next visit is on 15th October at Church Enstone. And on 19th November we have a special event at **Christchurch Cathedral** to join the 'Memorials & Monument Tour' at £16 per person. This needs to be booked and paid at <https://tinyurl.com/wdu3ahcnov26>. Further information in due course on our website, but all welcome.

Denise will be hosting October's **Saturday Morning Social** on the 3 October at St Mary's Church, Woodstock, 10 am to 12 noon. All are welcome, the church proceeds go towards North Oxford Food Bank. The date as always coinciding with Woodstock Farmers market.

We will continue to promote the appeal for **Medicines and medical supplies for Ukraine**, as Pat has kindly offered to continue as our local collection point. It has been so good to see so many items which would be thrown away here, being so gratefully received and making it to Ukraine via the local transportation action group. The situation in Ukraine is dire. Pat will be at St Mary's on Saturday and at our Speaker meeting on Thursday. If anyone is interested in having closer contact with this support organisation, please ask me or Pat for that link.



Wanted
Medical

Medicine, over-the-counter, IN DATE family medicine, including cold remedies, Calpol, pain killers etc.
PRESCRIPTION drugs, IN DATE & sealed: a blister pack with some missing is welcome.
 Medical & surgical supplies, inc bandages, dressings & first aid kits. Incontinence aids.
 Tourniquets, wheel chairs, walkers, crutches, splints/medical braces/slings. Syringes, rehab equipment

Outdoor Living

Working head /hand torches, batteries, power banks, solar chargers. Candles, matches.
HOT HANDS, (single use foot/hand warmers)
 Generators, power tools, fleece blankets, ground sheets, sleeping bags, camp beds, tarps, camping stoves, insect repellent.
 All items clean and ready to use please.

♥ shiptonhub20@gmail.com ☎ 07774 904589.
 Drop off: Village Hall. Shipton on Cherwell. OX51JP.
 Fridays. 14:45-15:30.

Andy was able to respond to an invitation from the Chair of Witney u3a to attend a seminar in their Living Well, Living Better programme with the subject **Driving in Mature Years**. He was written up a delightful report on the session and it is a good read for all of us who wish to continue safely to enjoy the freedom of the open road.....whatever age. [A visit to Witney U3A... All about DRIVING - Woodstock and District](#)

AND.....Beyond our branch

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. The November trip is **Yorkshire Festive Treats** with a rest over winter until **Aviation Heritage** in March 2027. [See the full programme of holidays.](#)

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.e. Prof. Stephen Wilkins compliments our subject matter this month with a zoom talk on 6th Oct at 11am – *First Light; the formation of the first stars, black-holes and galaxies*. *History of Wool* is on 5 Oct & *AI* on 12 Oct – we are spoilt for choice on a massive array of subject.

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 - interesting articles (and advertising – but relevant) just get in touch with Susan - membership@woodstocku3a.uk.

Finally, another request for help with a research project. This time **University of Leicester** is looking for folk over the age of 65 who have been let down by someone they trusted with their money. Shannon Edwards, trainee Clinical Psychologist at the University of Leicester, is conducting doctoral research on fraud committed not by strangers, but by people we know, such as a partner, a family member, a friend, or even a professional we trusted. (we hope we have no-one that has suffered such scams – but statistics may say otherwise).

The research involvement is a one-to-one conversation for up to 75 minutes on Microsoft Teams and is confidential and fully ethically approved by the University. Information that is shared may help to shape how psychologists and clinicians actually support people in this situation. If you are interested in participating, please email Shannon Edwards at se220@leicester.ac.uk by end of November. Further information attached.

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