

## Newsletter – September 2026



Dear Members

Another month, another newsletter.

Lots to tell you about and once again my apologies for the lack of diagrams and pictures

Kind regards

Sue

Chair

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### **Poppy Knitting – Thursday 8 October**

Our Poppy Knitting session last month was so successful that we have decided to hold a second one. This will be on **Thursday 8th October at Toddington Village Hall between 2.00 and 4.30 pm**. Wool will be provided plus pins if you don't have the correct size (8 / 4mm).

There will be a sign-up sheet for this event at our Open Meeting next week but if you are not going to be at the meeting and would like to attend, please let me know and I will gladly add you to the list.

As with all of these 'extra events' entry is free and there will of course be cake.

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## **Christmas Meal – Cross Keys Pulloxhill – Wednesday 9 December**

We are returning to the Cross Keys, Pulloxhill for our 2026 Christmas Meal.

This will be a 3-course meal, the cost is £22 and Irene has reserved 50 places.

At the Open Meeting next week Irene will be taking names, and either the full payment, or, if you prefer, just a £10 deposit and the balance will then be due at the October Open Meeting. Please try to bring the correct amount if you can.

If you won't be at the Open Meeting next week but want to put your name down you can contact Irene and request a place.

Irene can be contacted on 01525 634236, or 07757 019996 and at irenek.kirkpatrick@gmail.com

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## **Meet and Eat – Wednesday 28 October at The Ship, Leighton Buzzard**

There will be no Meet and Eat in September.

The next Meet and Eat will be on Wednesday 28 October at the Ship in Leighton Buzzard, (which according to their website is the '*best village pub and carvery in Leighton Buzzard*').

Members who are in possession of a 'Diamond Card' are able to purchase a 2-course meal for £14 or a 3-course meal for £17. Irene has also been able to get agreement from the landlord that members can obtain the required 'Diamond Card' on the day in order to take advantage of this offer.

Irene will be taking bookings and menu choices for this at our **October Open meeting**.

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## **London Walk – Sunday 18 October 2026**

Tony has kindly agreed to lead another London walk for members.

It will be on Sunday 18 October and it will involve a 5 mile walk along the Victoria Embankment.

Although 5 miles may seem like a long walk, Tony has plans to make numerous stops along the way and will provide a commentary regarding the history of the area, just as he did for our walk in April.

There will be a sign-up sheet for all those who would like to join the walk at our Open Meeting next week. If you are not going to be at the meeting and would like to join us, please let me know and I will gladly add you to the list.

You can access the itinerary for this walk on our website, via a link on the London Walks group page here [https://toddington.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/london-walks/](https://toddington.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/london-walks/) or, if you don't have access to the internet, you can pick up a copy at next week's Open Meeting.

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## **Potential visit to Chicksands Priory**

Following the talk given at our June Open Meeting regarding the history of Chicksands Priory, it was suggested that might follow this up with a visit to the Priory.

We have looked into this: tours of the Priory take place twice a month, on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday afternoons, between April and October, and must be booked well in advance as details of visitors and vehicles are needed for security purposes.

We did try to make contact with the Friends of Chicksands Priory to arrange a visit shortly after the AGM but were unable, at that time, to obtain any information regarding the availability of tour places for this year.

We have decided therefore to revisit this once the tours became available in April next year. We will keep you informed.

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## **Play Reading Group**

Our Play Reading Group has moved from the library and is now being very kindly hosted by Rachel Williams. And Pat, our group leader, would really like to welcome a few more members.

Although the new venue has been agreed, the day and time are currently '*flexible*' in order to suit as many members as possible. (*we are all such busy people in this village*)

Our thanks go to Rachel for agreeing to host this relatively new group and I do hope that we can encourage a few more members to give this a try. No former acting skills are required.

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## **Greeters needed for our Open Meetings**

As you are aware, visitors are welcome to attend one of our Open Meetings for free, so that they can get a feel of the organisation, learn about our groups and hopefully, subsequently, go on to join us.

In order to provide a welcome for these first-time visitors I am seeking a few volunteers please who would be happy to undertake the role of a 'Greeter' at each Open Meeting. We all know how daunting it can be to walk into a hall where you potentially do not know anybody, you do not know where to sit and you have no idea what to expect.

Many u3a's have 'Greeters' and some even have a rota for each Open Meeting, we would just like to appoint about 6 members who would be willing to extend a welcome to visitors, invite them to sit with them and their friends and introduce them to the organisation. If we can establish this team then we can be assured that when we have somebody come to see what we are all about, we will have somebody who can take them under their wing.

The Committee decided that this role would be better suited to regular members rather than somebody from the committee as committee members have other roles to perform at each Open Meeting.

Please let me know if you would be willing to step into this role.

## **Have you seen the new box on the front of the Village Hall?**

When you come to the Open Meeting next week you will notice a new addition to the hall – there is a defibrillator on the front of the building.

Those members who attended our life saving course with Andy Lewis will recall Andy telling us that he was working with the Parish Council in order to obtain extra defibrillators for the village and it appears that he has been successful.

It is comforting to know that we have access to this potentially life-saving equipment when we use the hall, but I do hope that we are not called upon to use it any time soon.

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## **Christmas Party – Monday 21 December**

Those members who are regular readers of our website (*please tell me that my work on the website is read by some of you....*) will have spotted that we now have all of our speakers for our Open Meetings listed until March 2027.

Included in this list, for 21 December, is our Christmas Party. The date for this event has changed a couple of times since the start of the year but is now set for 21 December and will be at the Methodist Church Hall.

I will share more details for this in my October email/newsletter and tickets for this event will be on sale at our October Open Meeting.

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## **U3a national website**

And finally, just a reminder that there is always something new available on the national u3a website here - <https://www.u3a.org.uk/>

There are lots of learning activities, competitions, puzzle and games.

Our subscriptions help pay to maintain this website so please make use of it.