Toddington u3a

learn, laugh, live

Newsletter – October 2026



Dear Members

It would seem that the days of my sending out a quick email to you all just before each Open Meeting are gone for the time being, so here is your October edition of our new regular monthly newsletter.

There is much to tell you about.

Kind regards

Sue

Chair

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

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 Open Meeting next week.

Christmas Meal – Cross Keys Pulloxhill – Wednesday 9 December

There are still a few places left for our Christmas Meal at the Cross Keys on 9 December.

If you would like to join us you can reserve your place at the Open Meeting on Monday 19 October. **The cost is £22** and this must be paid in full.

For those members who have reserved a place and have just paid a deposit, the balance is due on Monday please.

If you will not be at the Open Meeting, please contact Irene to make other arrangements.

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

Sale of Christmas party tickets

As advised in the September Newsletter, tickets will be on sale at our Open Meeting next week for our **Christmas Party which this year is being held at Toddington Methodist Church Hall on Monday 21 December.**

The **price has been held at £8** and we are intending to serve a meal similar to last year which seemed to be well received.

As well as the meal there will, of course, be a quiz, plus a lucky ticket draw and entertainment.

The reason for the change of venue is due the closure of the Village Hall from the 21st and our desire to book a return visit by Richard Stark, who members will recall was the opera singer who entertained us at our July Open Meeting. We had many favourable comments about him from members and it was decided to ask him if he could return for our Christmas Party. The only Monday he could offer us in December was the 21st.

Numbers are limited for the Methodist Hall. If you are not going to be at the Open Meeting you are welcome to email me and if there are any tickets remaining, I will be happy to reserve one for you.

And please bring your best singing voice for a selection of Christmas Songs on the 21st because there will definitely be 'audience participation'

London Walk – Sunday 18 October 2026

Here's hoping that the weather will be kind to our members who are due to join Tony on his walk along the along the Victoria Embankment in London on Sunday 18th.

This will be a 5 mile walk with numerous stops along the way plus commentary regarding the history of the area, just as Tony did for our walk in April.

There is still time to join the walk – please email me with your name and mobile number plus a name and contact number that we can use for any emergencies.

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/

Fused Glass Workshop – Thursday 12 November 2026

Earlier on this year I was asked if Toddington u3a would be interested in hosting a 'Glass Fused Workshop'. I had never come across this before so I signed myself onto a class that was being held in Edlesborough and went along to see what it was all about.

The class was run by Sue Matthews and as per her website -

https://thefloralfuse.co.uk/pages/workshops

'*Glass fusing is the art of joining pieces of glass together by melting them in a kiln at high temperatures. During the process, layers of glass are carefully arranged into a design, then heated until they fuse together*'

Here are 2 of the 3 pieces that I produced and which I will bring to the Open Meeting. I am not a natural '*craft person'* so please do not be put off by these, I am sure that members will produce items that are much better.



Both of these are tealight holders but, if you visit Sue's website, you will see that there are other items that you can produce.

We have decided to host a Fused Glass Workshop on Thursday 12 November, just in time for you to make something for Christmas. It will be in Toddington Village Hall and will cost members a **subsidised amount of £15 each**, payable on the day (*which will of course include the usual refreshments*). Again, if you look at the website, you will see that this class usually costs £35 per person.

There is a maximum of 30 places for the class.

If you would like to give this a try, please add your name to the sign-up sheet at next week's Open Meeting or email me to reserve a place.

Do you play Scrabble?

We have had a few members who have expressed an interest in meeting to play Scrabble but it would be good to gather a few more. With the days getting colder what could be better than joining together with a few Scrabble fans and 'pitting your wits' against each other.

If you would like to give this a try, please add your name to the sign-up sheet at next week's Open Meeting or email me and I will add your name to the list.

And did you know that American architect Alfred Mosher Butts invented the game in 1931, so it is almost 100 years old

New Knit & Natter Group

One of our Members, Susan Quinn, has very kindly offered to host a new Knit & Natter at her home in Toddington.

The first meeting will be on **Thursday 5 November** and Susan is happy to host 7 Members.

There will be a sign-up sheet for the group at our Open Meeting next week.

I am assured that the **£2 fee will include tea, coffee and cake.**

Poppy Knitting –

Following our 2 Poppy Knitting Sessions I am pleased to confirm that we have helped to increase the stock of poppies that Pat now has available to sell, with all proceeds going to the Royal British Legion.

Pat will be selling these**, at just £1 each,** at our Open Meeting next week.

‘Greeters’ needed for our Open Meetings

Further to my appeal in the September Newsletter, I have had one kind Member step up to offer her services as a ‘Greeter’ for our Open Meetings. It would be handy if we could have a couple more, would anybody be willing to offer to take up this role please?

Plus, help needed to clear away at the end of each meeting

As well as ‘Greeters’ for each Open Meeting, we could also do with some help to clear away at the end of each meeting please.

As you may be aware, the committee arrive at the Village Hall from 1.00 pm to set up for each Open Meeting. This involves removing some 40 chairs from the lounge plus another 40 or so from the stage and a number of tables. There is then the task of replacing them all at the end of the meeting.

I appreciate that the majority of us are at the wrong age and probably don’t enjoy the correct level of fitness to haul furniture about but if any of our more active members could give us some help before they leave it would be very much appreciated.

Thank you

Display in Toddington Library Window

Hopefully a few of you will have seen our display in the library window. Noreen and I arranged it and it will be there until the end of the month.

We don’t expect to win an ‘*exceptional window display’* award but hopefully it will create a bit of interest.

Another date for your diary – Tuesday 15 December - Ukulele singalong

Members may recall that back in February a new u3a Ukulele group was formed. Since then, we have met every fortnight and most of us have really progressed and become very good players.

In view of this we would like to invite you to a Ukulele singalong **on Tuesday 15 December, at Toddington Village Hall, starting at 1.15 pm.**

We do hope that you will join us – there will be a mixture of both Christmas songs and other songs that we have been learning and practicing since February. And song sheets will be provided so that you can join in.

I will remind you of this in my November newsletter but because diaries tend to get busy as we get closer to Christmas, I wanted to bring this to your attention now.

And as it will be just before Christmas, there will, of course, be mince pies etc

Correct Money, if possible, please

For the tickets that will be available at the Open Meeting on Monday, plus the knitted poppies, it will be a great help if you are able to bring the correct amount of cash please. Thank you

U3a national website

And finally, just a regular 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.