

## *In this edition*

- Chairman's Message
- Monthly Meeting news
- News from the Groups
- And the July Quiz

# NEWSLETTER for OUNDLE & DISTRICT

**Edition Number 213**  
**July 2026**

If you would like to find out more about Oundle & District u3a, take a look at <https://oundleanddistrict.u3asite.uk> or contact Chairman: [chairmanu3aoundle@outlook.com](mailto:chairmanu3aoundle@outlook.com) Membership Secretary: [membershipoundleu3a@outlook.com](mailto:membershipoundleu3a@outlook.com) Website Manager: [webmanageroundleu3a@gmail.com](mailto:webmanageroundleu3a@gmail.com)

Registered Charity Number **1183800**

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Greetings from a rather damp Norway. It's mid-June but by the time you read this, I'll be back in the UK, where the weather is currently a steamy 30°C, while here we are enjoying 10°C, horizontal rain and the sort of wind that makes you question your life choices. Whose idea was it to spend our holidays cycling the Lofoten Islands? Unfortunately, the forecast promises more of the same, so there's nothing for it but to get out there and enjoy it. My wife and I are regular u3a

cyclists, but even we would normally think twice before setting off in weather like this. Yet sometimes, when you step outside your comfort zone, something rather wonderful happens: you surprise yourself, feel quietly proud, and may even find you are enjoying it. Which brings me, perhaps not quite as unexpectedly as it first appears, to our monthly u3a meetings.

Each month, our Programme Secretary puts in a great deal of effort to bring us speakers who inform, entertain and often surprise us. In June we were treated to a fabulous talk on "The Inn at the Top", complete with its strange and wonderfully hilarious characters. On 13 July, we can look forward to a fascinating talk on Ernest Shackleton's adventurous but tragically fateful expedition to the Antarctic.

I'm continually amazed by the quality of these presentations, and I'm delighted that the people who come along each month feel the same. Admittedly, like cycling in the rain, turning out for a meeting may not always seem appealing, and it can be all too easy to find reasons to stay at home. But for those of you who haven't taken the plunge, you may be surprised not only by how enjoyable the speakers are, but also by how welcoming and sociable the group is. It's a lovely opportunity to chat, meet people and make new friends.

It's also an opportunity to meet the committee and feed back your ideas for future monthly meetings or anything to do with u3a, or better still, come up to me and say hello.

Mark

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

**MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

**Dave Pinion**

**"In the wake of Ernest Shackleton"**

Following Dave's extraordinary journey through Antarctica, in Shackleton's footsteps.

Doors open at 2.00 pm for tea/coffee and biscuits

**MONDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

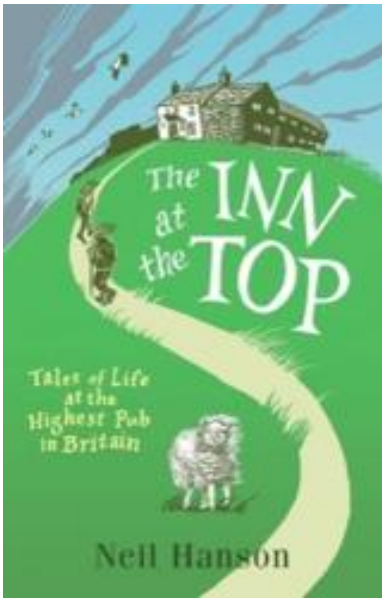
**U3A Open Day**

Refreshments, entertainment, displays and information about our u3a and its activities.

Doors open at 2.00 pm

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

### Inn and Out at the Top



Our speaker in June was Neil Hanson, a very eloquent and amusing storyteller, who reminisced about his varied professional life and the many experiences as the tenant and eventually, owner, of the highest pub in the UK – Tan Hill in Yorkshire, where the nearest neighbour was four miles away.

Neil's humorous anecdotes included some of the characters who frequented the pub on a regular basis, such as 84-year-old Faith, who arrived every morning in the back of the mail van, and had her liquid breakfast at the bar. Ruby, who was initially a hiker, stayed on as a barmaid and sous chef, to the delight of many of the local males.

Neil told of the various challenges he faced at Tan Hill, and eventually admitted that being a pub landlord was extremely hard work, particularly as he was working when everyone else was having a good time, especially during holiday periods, so he decided to sell up and ship out.

Neil has written two books about Tan Hill – “The Inn at the Top” and “Pigs Might Fly.”

### In the Wake of Shackleton – Monday, 13 July



Our speaker in July will be retired BT engineer Dave Pinion, who first visited Antarctica in 2023 and fell in love with it. His talk is based on his journey following the Weddell Sea Party of Ernest Shackleton's disastrous transantarctic Expedition of 1914-17. He writes: 'We start in South Georgia where we pay our respects at Shackleton's resting place, Grytviken. We walk with thousands of King and Gentoo penguins and dodge crowds of curious fur seal pups. Sail in

the wake of the Endurance, past the South Sandwich Islands and deep into the Weddell Sea where the Endurance became trapped in the ice in 1915.'

### U3A Open Day – Monday, 10 August

Our August u3a meeting is going to be a little different to the Open Meetings we have organised in the past. The emphasis is going to be on socialising and relaxing with friends and newcomers. We would like you to bring along a friend or neighbour perhaps. It's amazing just how many retired people live in and around Oundle and have no idea what goes on in the u3a, or have never heard of it!

This August will be a convivial event, with background entertainment from some of our established music groups and displays by others. Seating will be available around tables for you to enjoy your refreshments and have a chat to friends and newcomers. There will be a list of our 70 plus groups on each table for you to perhaps consider joining and possibly encourage newcomers to join the u3a.

We look forward to welcoming all of you for a chat and a 'cuppa' on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August at the Queen Victoria Hall, Oundle at 2 pm.**

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE MAKERS GROUP



Our latest meeting at the end of June entailed a visit to Nene Valley Railway in Wansford. It was a lovely sunny day and we reserved our own compartment on a coach taking us along the scenic Nene Valley Railway. The journey started from Platform 1 with a trip through their tunnel up to Yarwell Junction where our engine uncoupled and 'ran round', coupling up at the other end of the train.

Our guide for the day, Russ Jenner, has an amazing font of knowledge and amusing stories and kept us well amused while this operation was taking place. We then returned down the line to Wansford (Platform 2 this time) and then across the level crossing and on to Peterborough Nene Valley Station via Overton and Orton Mere stations.

Having reached the end of the line, we had the opportunity to wander around the station and the various little 'shops' that were open, while our engine (a Class 45 Peake) once again did a 'runround'. All too soon, it seemed, we were re-boarding the train and being taken back to Wansford for a chance to wander round the various parts of the station before having lunch.

After lunch we were joined again by Russ who took us on a grand tour of the engine shed and workshops. Our more engineering-type members found this fascinating and the one thing that struck us all was the sheer size of all the engines and coaches.



Of course, no visit to N.V.R could be considered complete without seeing Thomas who is also housed in the engine shed – where else?!

Another cup of tea and a bun was the order of the day after our tour and we were very grateful to Russ for taking the time to make our day so enjoyable.

We normally meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month but have decided to take a break over the summer and our next meeting will be on the 22nd of September when we hope to see some of Ian Potts' classic cars.



# July's Quiz :

## Part One:

*However hard you've tried you can't have missed the fact that the world has been watching the Football World Cup but how much do you know about it?*

1. The sport's governing body is FIFA – but what does it stand for?
2. When was the tournament first held?
3. Who are the reigning champions?
4. And who did they defeat in 2022?
5. With five titles, which country is the most successful World Cup team?
6. Who is due to host the tournament in 2034?
7. What award did Harry Kane win in 2018 and Gary Lineker in 1986?
8. Who won the FIFA Young Player award in 1998?
9. Who has been the England manager since 2025?
10. Who was the captain of England's winning team in 1966?

## Part Two:

*Or the Tennis?*

1. What is the traditional snack served to spectators at Wimbledon?
2. In which French city does the clay-court Grand Slam take place?
3. What does the acronym ATP stand for in men's professional tennis?
4. In tennis scoring, what word is used to represent a score of zero?
5. What were the very first tennis racket strings historically made of?
6. Which male player holds the all-time record for the most Wimbledon Men's Singles titles?
7. Who was the first unseeded player to win the Men's Singles championship at Wimbledon?
8. Who did Andy Murray defeat to win his first Wimbledon Men's Singles title in 2013?
9. How many Grand Slam tournaments are played in a single calendar year?
10. Which legendary female player holds the record for the most Grand Slam singles titles in the Open Era?

Answers to June's Quiz:

Part One: 1. Frank Whittle; 2. Tim Berners-Lee; 3. Charles Dickens; 4. John Wayne; 5. Che Guevara; 6. Igor Stravinsky; 7. Paul McCartney; 8. Edward III; 9. Lionel Messi; 10. James Madison.

Part Two: 1. Nottinghamshire; 2. Margaret Mitchell; 3. Trampled by King George V's horse at the Epsom Derby; 4. The Orient Express; 5. Magna Carta; 6. Nineteen Eighty-four; 7. American Civil War; 8. a) 1829; 9. Thirteen; 10. Pierre de Coubertin.

*Quizzes devised by members of the Quizzes 'n' Puzzles Group*