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NEWSLETTER for Oundle & District

Edition Number 214
August 2026

If you would like to find out more about Oundle & District u3a,
take a look at <https://oundleanddistrict.u3asite.uk>
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Registered Charity Number **1183800**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Oundle and District u3a is a wonderful success story, bringing together around 600 members across 70 groups to enjoy lifelong learning, friendship, laughter and living life to the full. One of the things life teaches us, however, is that nothing stands still. Change is part of life: sometimes we choose it, and sometimes it comes our way unexpectedly. When things are going well, it can be tempting to leave everything as it is, but it is often the best moment to look ahead, plan thoughtfully and build on what is already strong.

The same is true for u3a. Each u3a is an autonomous charity, and the committee's role is to support and serve its members within the framework set by the national office. To do that well, we need to listen carefully to what members tell us, understand what matters most to you, and respond positively to your views.

As a new committee and Chair, we are especially keen to hear from you: what you would like more or less of, what you value most, what you feel could change, and any ideas you have for making Oundle and District u3a even better.

There are several easy ways to share your thoughts. You can speak to your Group Leader when you meet and ask them to pass the message on, or email me at chairmanoundleu3a@outlook.com or talk to a committee member at one of our monthly meetings.

The August monthly meeting will be an excellent opportunity to do this as the meeting will be a little different from usual, with many groups showcasing their talents and information available on all our groups. As well as discovering more about what is on offer, you will have the chance to help shape the future of this wonderful organisation.

We very much look forward to seeing you at the meeting on 10th August, starting at 2pm at Queen Victoria Hall, and to hearing your ideas.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

MONDAY, 10TH AUGUST

U3A Open Day

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

Doors open at 2.00 pm

MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER

Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue

Barry Carter will tell us
about the organisation's
role assisting the police in
searches for high risk and
vulnerable missing people.

Doors open at 2pm

Mark

MONTHLY MEETINGS

In the Wake of Shackleton – Monday, 13 July



Dave Pinion was our guest speaker at the u3a monthly meeting this July, and he told us of Ernest Shackleton's arduous and torturous Antarctic exploration in 1915.

His sailing ship, the Endurance, in which the 28 sailors travelled, set off from Rio de Janeiro in 1914. Their ill-fated trek through the ice was harrowing, with three fatalities en route. Eventually the ship became icebound just short of

Vahsel Bay on 18th January 1915.

In contrast, our speaker Dave and his wife, followed in Shackleton's footsteps, and travelled further, between floating icebergs, in their more modern, icebreaking ship, Ortelius.. He showed us beautiful photographs of the magnificent landscape together with animals and birds he came across on his adventure, including magnificent albatross; stormy petrels; snowy sheathbills; king, chinstrap and emperor penguins; seals; elephant seals; sharks and whales, including the largest mammal on earth, the blue whale.

U3A Open Day – Monday, 10 August



August's meeting will be an informal social occasion which will highlight the many groups our u3a has to offer. There will be tables dedicated to some of the interest groups including Collectables and Antiques, Tai Chi, Shakespeare, Gardening and others. You will also have the opportunity to read items written by the two Creative Writing groups.

Entertainment will be provided by the Jumping Fleas ukelele group and the Pied Pipers recorder group. There will be refreshments and the chance to chat to other members. Why not come along with a friend, maybe someone who doesn't know about the wide range of interests the u3a has to offer? We look forward to seeing you for an enjoyable get together.

Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue – Monday, 14 September



The Lowland Search and Rescue team covering Cambridgeshire often assists sister teams in the wider region. They are a specialist team called upon by the police in the search for vulnerable missing people: a child, an elderly person living with dementia or even

someone who is considering taking their own life. Barry Carter will give his talk about the team that turns out at all hours of the day and night to assist members of the public in their hour of need.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE GARDENING GROUP 2



On the morning of 14th July 2026 the members of Gardening Group 2 met up for our monthly outing and visited The Manor at Hemingford Grey, near Huntingdon. What an adventure it turned out to be!

We were taken on a tour of the house by the daughter-in-law of Lucy Boston who had bought The Manor in 1939. Most of the Norman house remains intact despite various changes over the centuries.

During the 18th century it became part of a much grander house, but most of this extension was destroyed by a fire in 1798. The outline of a moat is still visible in certain parts of the garden. On the northern end of the garden, the River Great Ouse flows by; it has been known to flood in the past and the water to come close to the house.

Lucy Boston was an author and the Green Knowe books, written for children, were set in the house and garden. Her son Peter illustrated the books and many of the subjects can still be seen in the house. Diana Boston often hosts groups of visitors and families from around the world, who want to share and capture the magic of the Green Knowe books.

Apart from her writing, Lucy Boston is known worldwide for her patchwork. We were lucky enough to be shown examples of her amazingly intricate work. She apparently managed to complete these through the winter months until she was well into her 80s. This accomplished lady would then turn her attention to the garden. She transformed her empty acres into a breathtaking area in which she could showcase a large collection of old roses, irises, herbaceous plants and vegetables. Parts of the garden have been allowed to be "wild" and these areas of wilderness are a haven for wildlife. It was an enthralling visit and one we will long remember.



SOCIAL BRIDGE GROUP – opportunities for new members

We have spaces for some new members for our group which is scheduled to start up again for the autumn and winter months. We meet weekly in The Glapthorn Room in Fletton House every Thursday afternoon starting at 2pm for two hours.

This is a great way to meet with other players in a friendly social way with nothing too competitive. All that is required is basic knowledge of how to play the game of Bridge. You do not need a partner as someone will be found on the afternoon to play with you and offer support if required.

If you are interested please get in touch by the contacts link on the Oundle u3a web site.

DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

Although December is a long way off, this is just to let you know that on Monday, 14 December we will be holding a Christmas Extravaganza performance as we have done in previous years with a variety of contributions from our members. Previously these have included music, drama, poetry and many other acts, so please get your thinking caps on and consider what you might like to do if you would like to perform on the day.

MAYBE OF INTEREST

Oundle Festival of Music and Drama is holding a 'Share a Poem' afternoon on Tuesday, 15 September from 2.30 – 4.00pm at The Hub, Fletton House, with refreshments. Do come along and read your favourite poem – or just come along to listen.

REMINDER

Please may we remind you to contact David and Tricia, our Web Managers, if any of your contact details should change. You can get in touch with them via the link on the Oundle u3a website.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

We welcome items for the Newsletter about any u3a activities you have participated in, particularly reports from groups about their meetings and events.

If you would like to write a report about an outing your group has been on or just an account of what you do whenever it meets up, we would be very happy to publish it. Most people are only able to be members of a few groups and are interested to hear what others get up to.

You can contact Groups Leader, Lidia Douglas at groupscoordinatoroundleu3a@gmail.com or the Newsletter Editor at oundleu3anewslettereditors@gmail.com



August's Quiz

How well do you know world events? Following an enjoyable afternoon playing Chronology at their July meeting, the Quizzes 'n Puzzles group wondered if you could place these events in chronological order. Have a go at guessing before you look up the dates on your PC.

1. Marilyn Monroe dies.
2. The musical, *Les Misérables*, opens in London.
3. Blackpool Tower is built.
4. George Washington becomes the first US president.
5. John McCarthy is released from captivity in Beirut.
6. The ship, the Mayflower, crosses the Atlantic.
7. Mussolini, the Italian dictator, is born.
8. The Supremes have a number one hit with *Baby Love*.
9. The first modern Olympics were held in Athens.
10. Gary Kasparov becomes the first world chess champion.
11. The Beatles perform at the Cavern Club for the last time.
12. Caricaturist James Gillray is born in London.
13. Covent Garden is redeveloped replacing stalls with shops and restaurants.
14. Marylebone Cricket Club is founded.
15. David Livingstone discovers Lake Victoria.
16. St Petersburg is founded.
17. The single European currency, the Euro, is created.
18. Will Kellogg introduces corn flakes to the market.
19. Cubism style of art was first seen this year.
20. Italy is unified into one kingdom.

Answers to July's Quiz:

Part One: 1. Fédération Internationale de Football Association; 2. 1930; 3. Argentina; 4. France; 5. Brazil; 6. Saudi Arabia; 7. Golden Boot; 8. Michael Owen; 9. Thomas Tuchel; 10. Bobby Moore.

Part Two: 1. *History & Scoring:* 1. Strawberries and cream; 2. Paris (home of Roland-Garros); 3. Association of Tennis Professionals; 4. Love (believed to derive from the French word for egg, *l'oeuf*, because the zero looks like an egg); 5. The stretchy outer lining of sheep intestine (often referred to as "catgut");

2. *Grand Slam Greats:* 6. Roger Federer, with 8 titles; 7. 17-year-old Boris Becker in 1985; 8. Novak Djokovic; 9. Four (Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, and US Open); 10. Serena Williams, with 23 Grand Slam singles titles.