Newsletter

Saffron Walden u3a October 2026

Website: saffronwalden.u3asite.uk

Welcome to our October Newsletter. Thank you to everyone who attended our recent AGM and for renewing your membership for the coming year. A warm welcome to all our new members; we hope you enjoy your membership and take the opportunity to participate in some of our groups as well as attending our Open Meetings. We look forward to seeing you at future events and activities throughout the year.

It was with great sadness that we announced last week the death of our Chairman, Jim, who died in hospital in the early hours of Thursday 8 October, following a short illness.

We are all still coming to terms with this very sad news; Jim will be greatly missed by everyone in our u3a community. He was a very active and valued member of u3a for many years, and his talents, humour and enthusiasm made a real difference to our association. He leaves a significant gap, and he will be remembered with great affection.

The u3a committee extend their heartfelt condolences to Jim's family and friends at this very sad time.

Our next Open Meeting is on Monday 19th October 2026 and will be held at the Bowls Club in Abbey Lane.

Do you remember Lucy Allen?
Famous stunt lady Lucy Allen, who has appeared in *Titanic*, *Skyfall*, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* as well as many other films, is back at our next Open Meeting!

Her talk, entitled **"On the Buses"**, promises to be a delightful **Trip Down Memory Lane**.
Step back into the golden era of 1970s British comedy as Lucy shares her personal memories of the much-loved sitcom *On the Buses*.
Lucy's father, **Stuart Allen**, was the Director and Producer of the first three series of the show, giving Lucy a front-row seat to the action. From meeting the actors and attending recordings to actually appearing in an episode herself, Lucy offers a unique behind-the-scenes glimpse into this much-loved comedy classic.
Featuring clips from the series and plenty of laughs; it promises to be a warm and entertaining celebration of the unforgettable characters, talented actors and dedicated production team who helped make *On the Buses* such a firm favourite.

The doors will open at 1.45pm, with refreshments from 2.00pm. The talk will begin at 2.30pm.
Entrance is free, as are the refreshments and the raffle.

Unfortunately for a variety of reasons, the current T&T group leaders are unable to continue running this successful group.

Therefore, the future of theatre and travel is uncertain unless others come forward to help lead the group.

Theatre and travel is vital to so many of our members. Do you have the time and enthusiasm to help our u3a continue with this very popular group?

Please come forward and volunteer. You will be supported and advised by the current T&T team and all the committee. If you could only arrange or even help with one or two outings it could save the group.

The trips currently being organised will still take place. However, no new ones are planned.
We need your help. Do not let this successful group fold.

Please contact Mary Curtis or any member of the for further details.

The Saffron Walden u3a has something for everyone!

As many of you will know, we have a wonderful range of groups for our members to enjoy. For the benefit of our new members, we currently have around **50 groups**, with many offering more than one session. There really is something for everyone!

Our groups are very popular, so it is inevitable that some will occasionally be full. If the group you are interested in has no spaces available, do not be put off, you can ask to be added to the waiting list.

We are always keen to introduce new groups and activities. So, if you have a particular interest or speciality that you would like to share, or perhaps the group you would like to join is already full, **why not start your own group?** You do not need to do it alone; the committee will give you plenty of help and support. Simply contact **Mary Curtis, our Activities Organiser**, whose details can be found on the website under the **Committee** tab.

And it is not just our regular groups and the Open Meetings that keep us busy! Throughout the year we organise a variety of events, including **quizzes, recruitment events and, of course, our Christmas lunch**.

Our **Choir and Ukulele Group** also bring their music to the wider community, performing at private events throughout the year, including at the **Jubilee Gardens, St Mary's Church at Christmas and Audley End House**.

There are plenty of opportunities to get involved, meet new people, try something different and, most importantly, have fun!

Christmas Lunch

The Christmas lunch this year will be held at **The Eight Bells in Saffron Walden, on** Monday 7 December and Tuesday 8 December.

Members who have booked for the lunch will be sent final details in the coming days.

If you would like to be added to the waiting list please contact Sue Matthews.

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