

Upton & Lytchett u3a Newsletter November 2025

Greetings to all our members.

Christmas Party 5th December 2025 – 1pm Lytchett Matravers Village Hall

Join us to celebrate the season – **Christmas Party!** Members only.

Festive Buffet Lunch – Christmas Quiz – Splendid Raffle – Music + Fun

Bring a **plate of food** to add to our buffet and a **raffle prize** if you can. Those with special diets, may wish to bring their own food. Peter's **Christmas Quiz** will keep you busy and chatting – two winners last year! A huge **raffle with loads of prizes** – run every year by Bonita – so bring some cash. After a delicious lunch with friendly chat, we have a local band **The Nightjars**, who are bound to get us toe tapping. Do look out for our new members, or anyone on their own, to include them on your table and celebrate the festive spirit.

If possible, **please reply** to uplytu3a+sec@gmail.com– to give us an idea of numbers for setting out the festivities.

Tell your fellow members! We look forward to greeting you.

Our **New Members Coffee Morning** was an interesting friendly but small gathering. We discussed how u3a is run, mentioned our Leaders and volunteers, and our various interests and opportunities and the possibility of new Groups starting. With only a small attendance perhaps Monday was not a good day. It was heartening to hear that a recent member has been offered a lift by a Group member so they can continue to attend. The joy and importance of making new friends! In fact, several members are helped or given lifts by friends – another benefit of joining this welcoming u3a community. If our new members would like to contact us, we could hold another coffee morning, but hopefully we shall see most of our members at the **Christmas Party**, when our committee will welcome them into this amazing association.

Our **Skittles Evening at the Clay Pipe** was very social and prizes awarded – to a new and very active member – who is truly involved in what the u3a has to offer. It's so very rewarding when our members support what we offer – they are our future.

Various groups would welcome new members, so have a look at the list below and invite your friends to join **Upton & Lytchett u3a**. Word of mouth is an ideal way to gather new members so please encourage your friends. The **Christmas Party is members only** – so they must soon join if they wish to attend.

Groups that are open to new members:

Is anyone interested in joining a **CHOIR**? We are still trying to re-establish a u3a choir and would appreciate a sense of how many would like to join.

Our **POTTERY** group could absorb a new member if anyone is interested? An opportunity to learn pottery in an experienced potter's own studio in Lytchett Matravers.

Contact **Gwyneth** on uplytu3a+groups@gmail.com

Or offer to Lead a new Group that interests you!

Argentine Tango
Board games
Books
Bridge
Coffee and Cake
Chess
Classic Books (possibly)
Current Affairs
Discovering Wessex
Pickleball (possibly)
Photography
Play Reading?
Weds walks

Plans are in hand for our **January Talk for u3a members and friends**

Our first **Tea + Talk** on Cyber Crime by the Police was unfortunately cancelled at short notice. However, a new **Tea + Talk** is in the pipeline and we shall be inviting you to join us in January. Each Talk is followed by a social gathering for a cuppa and cake – something to look forward to! Our talks are open to non-members for a small charge – so please bring your friends along.

We hope to re-schedule a talk about Cyber Crime later in the year.

Litter Picking Sunday in Lytchett Matravers – u3a volunteers!

You will be interested to know that nearly half of the litter picking volunteers who turned out to help on Sunday were our u3a members! What a super community spirit with people who engage and care! I expect this also happens in Upton. Do tell us about it. There used to be a dedicated Upton couple who walked the footpaths with a carrier bag for rubbish, but I have not seen them for a while.

Remembrance Sunday – u3a Local History Display

I have heard that members of our u3a Local History Group have again been busy preparing another superb display for Lytchett Matravers Village Hall on Remembrance Sunday. This time, they honoured the memory of men from Lytchett who lost their lives during the First World War. They researched the family history of just ten men and sought out living relatives with information to share. This village suffered the huge loss of 31 men. I hope we get the opportunity to display this at another time for all to view. What a lovely idea and so interesting.

Tell us a Story!

Our Chair, Iain Dickie, is also a reciprocal member of **Purbeck u3a** where he enjoys the Fiction Writing Group, writing short stories. Our members can also join Purbeck u3a as a Reciprocal member for £10, to partake fully in all their u3a Groups, Meetings and Talks. We appreciate u3a relevant articles from our members to include in our Newsletters, so please send yours for others to enjoy.

The **Third Age Trust**, our umbrella organisation, are asking for articles for the '**u3a Matters**' magazine – so you may get published! Some of you will have

subscribed for the paper magazine to be delivered, others we hope will read it online.
[Here](#) is the link

Don't forget to **check out our website Upton & Lytchett u3a** from time to time:
<https://upton-lytchett.u3asite.uk>.

The **Third Age Trust** has many interesting talks, so do take a look:
In November we explore the Talking Drums of Africa, discuss UK and US constitutions, and dissect popular songs to discuss what makes them hits.

As a final note, we are still seeking a volunteer to help with Publicity. What could **you** do to help **your** u3a? There are many aspects of publicity that we need help with – writing articles for Parish Magazines, Newsletter writing, delivering as and when need arises, designing posters – opportunity to join our friendly and welcoming committee – it's not necessary to attend all our committee meetings. Did you know there is a monthly u3a Radio Podcast?

Remember the motto '**Learn, Laugh, Live**'
And don't forget '**For Members by Members**'

We hope you are all keeping well and managing to avoid all the lurgies!
Take a moment to enjoy the colours of autumn leaves before winter blows in!

With best wishes from the Committee
Sharon

Sharon Morgan
Upton & Lytchett u3a
Hon Secretary