

CHAIR'S BULLETIN No. 26 – Thursday 23 April 2026

Happy St George's Day!

Hello again everyone and welcome to the 26th edition of the Chair's Bulletin. There's a lot going on in Witney in the coming month, so be sure to read to the end to find out more!

Don't forget, **your** contributions are always welcome. Please send them to chair.witneyu3a@gmail.com by the Tuesday before publication. Next one is **due on Thursday 23 April 2026**

Important Notices

- **How to Keep Your Brain Young!** There are still some places at the next 'Living Well, Living Better' event on 18 May at 2.00pm, though the number available is going down fast. Closing date for payment is 8 May or sooner if we reach the cut-off point of 200.

Places can be booked online through the payment of £2 to University of the Third Age, a/c number: 15511642, sort code: 60-24-60 or by cash at the next speaker meeting on 7 May. If you're paying online, please use your name as the reference.

- **Additional help still needed for the Audio-Visual Team.** As I said last time, members of our AV team turn up to every speaker meeting without fail to support the speaker and ensure that the sound quality meets your expectations. Starting in May, they're also planning to support a number of additional events over the next year.

If they could increase the size of the team, it would help spread the load a bit and cover for when people go on holiday. Full training will be given, so you don't have to be an expert. Contact macollier80@hotmail.com to find out more or drop in to see him in action at the next speaker meeting on 16 April.

- **South East u3a Forum Summer School:** SE Region, of which Witney is a member, is holding its next Summer School at University of Chichester from 7th – 10th September. The programme includes a wide range of topics for members to explore. For more information go to: southeastforum.u3asite.uk and click on Summer School.

- **Did you know you can read the magazine u3a Matters online?** If you don't get the paper version but are interested in reading it, you can find out more on the home page of www.u3a.org.uk. Just scroll down until you come to the link headed 'u3a member magazine'.
- **Also did you know** Friends of u3a can get **special offers** on all sorts of products and services just by signing up to the **u3a Friends Newsletter?** To sign up, go to u3a.org.uk and scroll down to the bottom of the Welcome Page.

Group News

- Nothing this time

Members' Notices

- Nothing this time.

Witney u3a Next Speaker Meeting

- **The next speaker meeting will take place on Thursday 7 May at the usual time of 2.00 pm, when the topic and speaker will be:**

'Thunder in the Mountains' by Tom Isitt.

- Tom is an author, historian, photographer and adventurer, specializing in the lesser-known aspects of the First World War. He has spent the last 6 years exploring the Italian front of WW1 on foot, by bicycle and even on horseback, giving him a unique insight into the battles that took place among the peaks and valleys of the Italian front.

During his talk, Tom will share both those insights and his own more personal experience of walking in the mountains.

A Selection of upcoming Trust u3a Online Learning Events - NB a full list can be found on www.u3a.org.uk/online learning events

(Free to all members on zoom via: www.u3a.org.uk/events)

- Friday 1 May at 2.00pm: **'Kingsmeadow House: the inside story of a modest country house.'** A hidden country home whose rich history reveals stories of empire, war, scandal and social change.

- Thursday 7 May at 2.00pm: **'SAVE buildings at risk: empowering Communities'**. Join Amy Popham from SAVE Britain's Heritage for inspiring real-life success stories.
- Tuesday 12 May at 2.00pm: **'The Call of the Wild: stories from the Frontiers of Exploration'**. Polar explorer and expedition leader, Alex McNeil will talk about his two decades exploring the Arctic and Antarctic.
- Thursday 14 May at 2.00pm: **'Suffering and Hope in Tolstoy's Anna Karenina'** Chris Dowrick will explore suffering and hope in Anna Karenina, revealing how literature can deepen our understanding of wellbeing and resilience.

Thames Valley Network Events

- **'Women in Intelligence'**: Tuesday 5 May at 2.30pm on Zoom: Dr Helen Fry will give a talk titled 'Women in Intelligence across 2 World Wars'. The Fee for this event is £2.00 per device and places can be booked through u3atvnetwork.org.uk. For more information scroll down to the flier at the end of this Bulletin.

- **What's on in and around Witney**

(With grateful thanks to Wendy for gathering all the information)

Please note screenings at Cineworld Witney are subject to change of date and time. Please check.

ADVANCE NOTICE for fans of rhythm and blues. Music Box Events presents Paul Jones and Friends at Witney Corn Exchange on 3rd July. An unmissable evening of rhythm and blues with the star of Manfred Mann and The Blues Band. Doors open 7pm, show starts 7.30pm. Row seats £30, table seats £35. £128 a table for a group of four. Tickets selling fast.

EVENTS APRIL 2026

23rd Landscapes of Love. A summer lunchtime recital of piano duets at Witney High Street Methodist Church. Music by Schubert and Vaughan Williams. 12.30pm to 1.30pm. Free entry.

25th April to 30th May Oxfordshire Artweeks 2026 Exhibition at West Ox Arts Gallery, Market Square, Bampton. Free entry. Open Tuesday to Saturday 11.30am to 4.30pm, Sunday 2pm to 4pm, closed Mondays.

25th International Organ Day. High Street Methodist Church Witney invites you to visit between 10am and 12 noon, to listen, see and hear what the organ is about and have a go yourself.

26th Fine food and craft market in Marriotts Walk, Witney. 10am to 5pm.

28th Daytime cinema at the Corn Exchange, Witney presents The Lady in the Van. Tickets £4. Doors open 12.45pm, show starts 1.00pm.

29th The Friends of Hailey Church are offering a talk by Val Burton on The Myths of Wychwood at St John's Church, Hailey at 7pm. Ticket information not yet available.

30th Cineworld Witney is screening Funny Girl – The Musical at 7.30pm. Also on 3rd May at 12.00 noon.

EVENTS MAY

Open until 16th August In Bloom– how plants changed our world. A major new exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, uncovering the global stories behind some of Britain's best loved blooms. Featuring over 100 artworks and objects. For more information see ashmolean.org

1st Witney Jazz presents Noa Levy/Paul Edis Quartet at the Corn Exchange, Witney. Doors open 7pm, show starts 7.30pm. Row seat £21.86, table seat £23.85. For more information see cornexchangewitney.org.uk

1st The Adderbury Ensemble, a group of professional musicians who have toured both Europe and the USA, will be performing at Witney High Street Methodist Church at 7.30pm. The performance will include Mozart Piano Trio in B flat major K502 and Beethoven Piano Trio no 2 in G Major, op1 no2.. Tickets, available on the door, cost £18. Phone 07711 606996 for further details.

2nd to 25th Oxfordshire Art Weeks. Artists' open studios and exhibitions across Oxfordshire. All free to visit. For details visit artweeks.org

2nd Witney Beer Festival 12.00 noon to 9.00p.m. at St Mary's Church. Live music. Not a ticketed event. Just turn up and buy a glass and tokens.

5th Cineworld Witney is screening MET: Eugene Onegin at 6pm

8th Witney and District Museum give you the opportunity to step inside the Bell Tower at St Mary's Church, to learn its history and have a go at ringing a bell. 11.am to 12.30pm. Meet at St Mary's. Limited spaces so booking essential. Tickets £10 available from sedelaney2@gmail.com If you are too late to book for this tour, there are others on June 19th, July 24th and September 4th.

8th Stevie Mac. A Premier Tribute to Stevie Nicks and Fleetwood Mac at Witney Corn Exchange. Doors open 7.30pm, show starts 8.00pm. Tickets from £21.24. For further information see cornexchangewitney.org.uk

9th Eynsham Choral Society sing Mozart and Beethoven. Two requiem masses, Mozart's Missa Brevis in B flat major K275 and Beethoven's Mass in C Op 86. 7.30pm at St Leonard's Church, Eynsham. Tickets £15 available from Evenlode DIY shop, choir members or via eynshamchoral@gmail.com

9th Witney Horticultural Society are holding a plant sale, plus coffee morning with cakes, at the High Street Methodist Church 9.30am to 12.30pm.

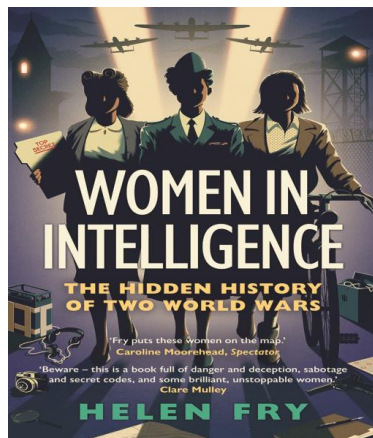
10th Witney and District Museum are holding a Heritage Walking Tour from 2pm to 3.30pm. Explore the remains of the Bishop's Palace, discover the history behind the Buttercross and hear history brought to life with local legends, surprising facts and little-known secrets. Starting from Bishop's Palace. Tickets £10 from sedelaney2@gmail.com Limited spaces so booking essential. If you are too late to book for this tour, there are others on June 7th, July 26th and August 23rd.

13th to 16th Bartholomew Players present Agatha Christie's A Murder Is Announced. 7.30pm in Eynsham Village Hall. Doors open 7pm. Tickets £14 available in advance from 07721 744020, bart.players@gmail.com, or on the door.

16th Witney festival of food and drink, 10am to 4.30pm inside and around St Mary's Church and on Church Green. A charitable event showcasing local artisan food and drink producers. Around seventy stalls. Entrance fee £3.

SCROLL DOWN FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE THAMES VALLEY NETWORK'S TALK 'WOMEN IN INTELLIGENCE':

Dr. HELEN FRY will give a talk titled
'Women in Intelligence across 2 World Wars'
On TUESDAY 5TH MAY at 2.30 p.m.
on ZOOM



We welcome back Dr Helen Fry, who will once again give us her insight into a certain part of the 2WWs, her specialisms.

She has authored and edited over 25 books covering the social history of the Second World War, including British Intelligence and the secret war, espionage and spies, and MI9 escape and evasion.

Fee for this event is £2. Please book electronically by clicking on the 'TICKETSOURCE' icon immediately below the event on www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk This is by far the best and easiest option. You will receive an acknowledgement immediately and the Zoom link **48 hours** before the event. If you experience any difficulty and have checked your JUNK folder, please email the organiser Fay Sinai at fay.sinai@icloud.com with your name and the u3a to which you belong. **If you have not received the Zoom link by midnight SUNDAY 3RD MAY please email the organiser as above. PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE DAY OF THE EVENT.**

Closing date SATURDAY 2ND MAY (No further applications after this date).

To receive details of future TVN events, please send your name and preferred email address to events_info@u3atvnetwork.org.uk