

Happy new year!

Our chair Paul Dodge ended 2024 in style, appearing live on radio! One of our members, Christine Rowley, is a presenter on Hospital Radio Basingstoke. Christine interviewed Paul on air just before Christmas. Paul talked about how the u3a started, our current membership and the range of our activities.



Paul added : "I was really impressed with the HRB studio which had professional equipment and sound desk. Christine made me feel at home with her questions and playing music I loved from the '70s and 80s."

Chair's Report - January 2025

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you had a lovely Christmas.

We enter the New Year with changes in the u3a at national and local level. At national level, a new structure will be in place from April with a central board of trustees and 12 regional "councils". Information about this can be found on the members area of the national u3a website: u3a.org.uk (not to be confused with our own website basingstokeu3a.org).

Changes at local level as reported previously include me stepping down as Chair at the beginning of March. I am doing this for health reasons. I have 5 medical appointments in the first two weeks of January alone. Popi Daouti-Edwards is joining the committee this month and will be taking over as Chair in March. More about Popi will appear in a future edition of News Edit.

Janet Field joins our committee this month and will be Groups Facilitator, replacing Tre McCamley who had to leave because of health issues. Janet brings a wealth of experience in the u3a and other voluntary organisations. Janet was previously Business Secretary and Groups Facilitator. I am very grateful for Janet returning to the fold. Across the country many u3as are finding it difficult to recruit committee members, so it is excellent news that Popi and Janet are volunteering to help with the continuation of our u3a. Janet will be contacting Group Leaders over the coming weeks.

Our u3a is doing well. We currently have 1024 members. Ideas for new groups are coming forward. These will be circulated once more firm details are sorted. We must remember the ethos of the u3a organisation is that it is run by members for members. Ideas for new interest groups are therefore always very welcome.

One area where we would welcome help in the management of our u3a is I.T. If you feel you can offer help in this area, please contact me at chair@basingstokeu3a.org

We have some interesting monthly talks coming up at Popley Fields Community Centre. Jonathan Jones comes over from Farnham u3a on 8th January to give a talk about C.S. Lewis. Jonathan was the town crier in Farnham. James and Christine Rowley, members of our u3a, are giving a talk on February 12th based on the classic Anglia TV series, "Tales of the Unexpected". In March we have a magician and mentalist.

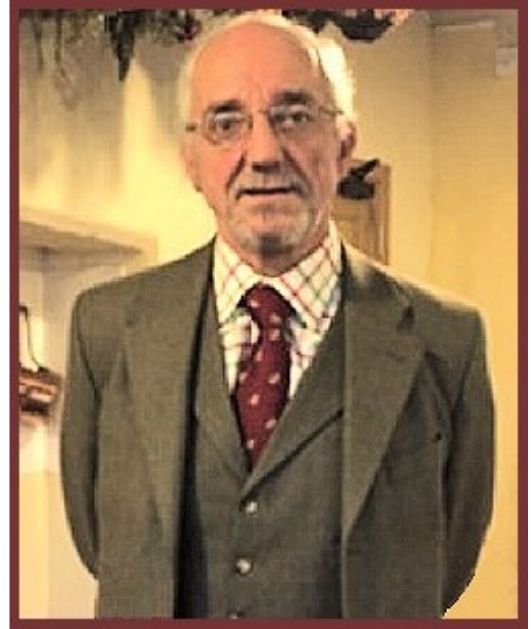
I wish you all the very best for 2025.

Paul Dodge

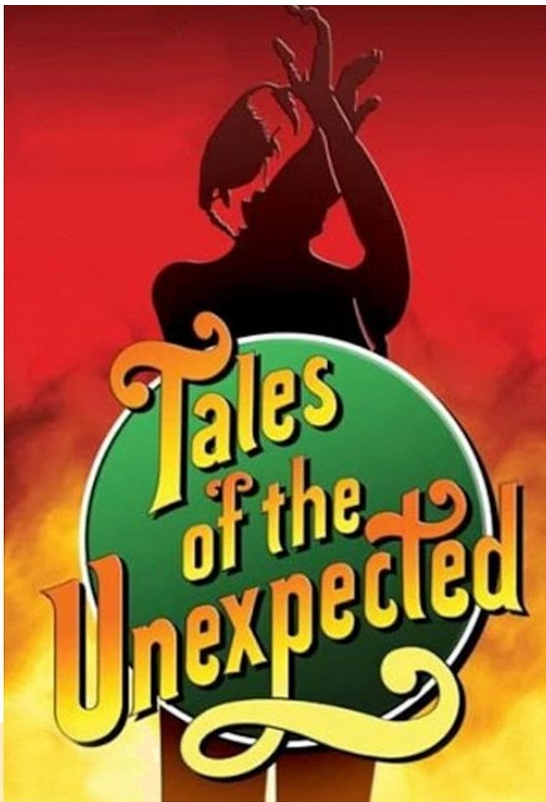
Monthly meeting on 8 January

Our first monthly meeting of 2025 will be a talk by Jonathan Jones, a member of the Farnham u3a, on the life of C S Lewis. It will cover Lewis's early childhood; his education and entrance to Oxford University; his experiences in the trenches during World War I; his poetry and his role as the foremost Christian Apologist of his time; the publication of *The Screwtape Letters*; his Space Trilogy; his friendship with J R R Tolkien and his conversion to Christianity.

The talk will be interspersed with readings from Lewis's prose and poetry.



Jonathan Jones



12 February 2025

The inside stories of Tales of the Unexpected, never aired before, will delight the audience and put a different light on this this extravaganza series on ITV from 1979-88, with its sinister twisted endings...

Join u3a members Christine & James Rowley who will take us through a marvellous intrepid interpretation of some of the episodes produced by Anglia TV.

Learn about the actors, those who became famous and take part in this fun presentation.

Music clips, extracts & more.

News from our groups

The Tuesday Needles and Pins group had a festive last session when everyone brought in the decorations, chocolate orange covers, Ferrero Rocher covers and cards they had knitted or sewn. We also reflected on the year's activities and we've made:

- 15 twiddle muffs
 - 28 blankets
 - 80+ squares for our blanket project
 - 20 items of clothing
 - 20+ items for premature babies
 - 25 items for the charity shoe boxes
- plus numerous other items and many new skills learnt.



On 12th December, 37 of our **Local & Social History group** members attended our annual Christmas party.

We had a history quiz, based on the last 12 months talks and visits and a table top quiz, based on the best-selling toys of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.

10 people shared their childhood Christmas memories and some brought in toys and books to show us. As well as the UK, we had memories of Christmas from Austria, Germany and Hong Kong. One member told us about his days in Basingstoke panto and one year he had to kiss a young Liz Hurley 14 times!

In keeping with the theme of the party, Janet Field had prepared a 1960s/1970s themed buffet – see the photo on the next page. She had also written labels, showing when foods were invented and when they became popular.

As well as the usual mince pies and Christmas cake, there were vol-au-vents, cheese & pineapple and sausage hedgehogs, Twiglets, Cheese footballs, Matchmakers and After Eight Mints.

I'm sure you will have eaten some of these as children. Maybe you still have some of them as adults!

Richard Field

Left - Janet Field with the themed buffet for the Local & Social History group (see previous page)



Our u3a policies

In accordance with standard practice, several of our u3a's policies have been reviewed in recent weeks. The latest versions of the policies can be viewed using the links that appear at the foot of every page on our website.

A seasonal challenge - answers

The names of the people who were pictured in the December quiz are shown below, colour-coded as follows:

- Their first name starts with a z
- They have an airport named after them
- They were a companion of Doctor Who
- They are known by a mononym
- They represented the UK in the Eurovision Song Contest

Zoey Deschanel	John Lennon	Catherine Tate	Zara Philips
Sting	Zoë Wanamaker	Cliff Richard	George Best
Lulu	Matt Lucas	Bradley Walsh	Bonnie Tyler
Ronald Reagan	Zendaya	Bernard Cribbins	Bono
Olivia Newton-John	Charles de Gaulle	Samantha Womack	Rihanna

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