

Richmond upon Thames u3a Newsletter – June 2026

GROUP NEWS

LAWN BOWLS

When? Every Friday at 2pm
Where? Hampton Bowling Club,
Carlisle Park, Wensleydale Road, Hampton.

Want a bit of exercise & some fun in the fresh air? Always meant to try Lawn Bowls but never got round to it? Come along on Friday afternoons at 1:30pm for 2pm start. You'll receive a friendly welcome, free tuition, and refreshments. All you need to bring is a pair of flat soled shoes.

If you would like to join or would like more information, please contact the group leader, Richard Duke, on ricduke@gmail.com

POTENTIAL SWIMMING GROUP

One of our members has suggested an afternoon swimming group. Members would meet at Pools on the Park at an agreed time, have a swim together, then go for a coffee and chat.

If the idea appeals to you and you would like to register an interest in joining such a group, please let Tricia Abrahamsen know on tricia.abr@blueyonder.co.uk

POTENTIAL WALKING CRICKET GROUP

Negotiations are underway with Sport Richmond and Middlesex CC Foundation to try and start a u3a Walking Cricket group.

If the idea of joining such a group appeals to you and you would like to register an interest, please let Tricia Abrahamsen know on tricia.abr@blueyonder.co.uk

We are also looking for an avid cricket fan to coordinate the group. Is this you? If so, please contact Tricia.

RAMBLING GROUP – STROLL AND CHAT

This new group will meet on alternate Monday mornings in Hampton Wick, starting on 7th September.

The idea is to have just a short 45min - 1 hour very gentle walk and then a coffee or lunch after.

For more information, or to join the group, please contact Denise Reynolds at ango_powlo@hotmail.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN

One of newer members sent me an email about Canva Pro which meant nothing to me, so I asked her to write something about it. I think some members will find this very interesting.

"I heard about IGO (Interest Groups Online) from the "Your u3a Friends Newsletter - January". I did a taster session of Canva (a graphic design platform) and then joined IGO. I signed on to the Canva course that started in April (fortnightly online for 6 months). I also joined a beginner Portuguese online group.

Available via web browsers and mobile apps, Canva Pro is a platform designed to be accessible for beginners while still offering professional features like AI-powered design tools and team collaboration. It allows individuals and businesses to produce high-quality visual assets (Posters, presentations, cards, advertisements, newsletters etc.) without needing advanced design skills"

Local branches are registered charities and thus qualify for free membership. If anyone is interested in organising this, please contact me. We could use it for our newsletters and for the website, but the committee at the moment is fully stretched, so I am looking for a volunteer who is interested in graphic design, using this platform.

Norma Cook (section leader for Art) at norma.beagle@gmail.com

MONTHLY MEETING – JUNE 24th 2026

Clarendon Hall, York House, Twickenham at 2.30pm - **CANCELLED**

COMBATTING MAJOR ORGANISED CRIME by Stephen Parker

Stephen spent part of his career as a senior detective (Detective Superintendent) working mainly within Specialist Operations at New Scotland Yard including the Flying Squad, the Drugs Squad and the Special Intelligence Section.

His multi-faceted talk describes successful campaigns to combat international organised crime, variously involving UK gangsters, the Mafia, a Bolivian drugs cartel and a contract killing. Also sting operations conducted by the police Flying Squad using armed ambushes and deception to trap dangerous felons.

Monthly Meeting BOOK TABLE

At each monthly meeting we operate a Book table where you are welcome to borrow books and hopefully bring them back once you have read them. We are currently looking for more books so if you have any at home that you are willing to donate please bring them along to the next meeting where Margaret Flanagan will be very happy to receive them.

SUMMER CHEESE AND WINE EVENINGS

We are planning to hold two Summer Cheese and Wine evenings on Thursday 6th August and Thursday 3rd September which will be available to all members free of charge.

These will be held at the ETNA Community Centre in the ground floor kitchen and terrace area from 6.30 – 8.30pm. For those of you who don't know ETNA it is at 13 Rosslyn Road, Twickenham, TW1 2AR and is close to bus routes H37, R68, R70, 33, 110 and 490.

As numbers will be limited due to the size of the space it will be necessary to book for these evenings so if you would like to attend please email Carole Fletcher at carofletch@gmail.com with your name and u3a membership number and indicate on which date you would like to join us.

LOCAL NEWS

MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

The following message was sent via the Richmond upon Thames u3a web site from Paul Stapleton at teamyakima@hotmail.com Phone: 07799728863

Hello, I am the secretary of Twickenham & District Model Railway Club and I would like to send you details (and a flyer) regarding our upcoming Open Day. I think the event would be of interest to many of your members across many groups.

This event will be held on Saturday 25th July at Kerswell Hall, Hounslow from 10am to 4pm

For access to the flyer and more information please go to www.tdmrc.icu

SHEAR MADNESS AT THE MILL AT SONNING

From 25 June to 15 August, The Mill at Sonning will be presenting Shear Madness, the internationally acclaimed comedy phenomenon that has entertained more than 13 million people worldwide.

Part comedy, part mystery and completely interactive, Shear Madness places the audience at the heart of the action. Audience members help spot clues, question suspects and determine the outcome, making every performance different from the last.

Situated on the banks of the River Thames in a beautifully restored historic mill, The Mill at Sonning combines first-class theatre, excellent hospitality and a stunning riverside setting, making it one of the South East's most unique destinations for a day out.

Guests can choose from show-only tickets starting at just £28 or enjoy The Mill's renowned dining experience before the performance. We believe the weekday and weekend matinees would make an ideal outing for u3a members.

If this is of interest please find more details here: <https://millatsonning.com/Events/shear-madness/>