

Richmond upon Thames u3a Newsletter – October 2026

GROUP NEWS

Don't Miss the Escapees' First Magical Christmas Trip

**Join Our
Winchester Xmas Market & Cathedral Day Trip
on Thursday, December 3, 2026
Just £24pp**

One of Europe's largest and most beautiful Christmas markets with over 100 chalets selling quality wares – ideal for Christmas gifts. The Cathedral is a real gem – more than 1000 years old with Jane Austen buried there: her beautiful statue stands in the grounds.

The trip takes less than 2 hours so there is enough time to see things, buy a gift and enjoy lunch. The trip is mid-week – the best time to go.

Several of the Escapees group will accompany you. They will have details of all the things to do in Winchester including eating and drinking venues for lunch.

We will leave around 9.30am from Richmond and Twickenham: returning from Winchester at 4pm to arrive back by 6pm.

We need your booking by **October 23 please.**

Details of pick-up points and how to pay will be sent to you. All bookings, including membership number, and any questions to be sent to barrygraham10@gmail.com

ASTROLOGY

Potential new group

One of our members has suggested starting an **Astrology Group**.

If you would like to express your interest in joining this group, or would like more details, please contact Branwen Edwards giving your level of knowledge in the subject - anywhere from total beginner to advanced.

Branwen can be contacted by email at branwenedwards@aol.com or by telephone on 07973 566398

PICKLEBALL

With minimal preparation time, the U3A pickleball group sent a team to represent Richmond in the over-60s London interborough tournament held at the Velodrome at the Olympic Park Stadium on 16th September, organised by Better Sports. Our team comprised Lesley Leak, Amanda Kane, Steve Hutchinson, Paul McGlade and David Leak as reserve. We had a lot of fun, and while we did not win, everyone received their 'Olympic medal'; as we all know, it's the taking part that counts!

Lesley Leak
U3A pickleball group leader



MONTHLY MEETING – 28th October 2026

Clarendon Hall, York House, Twickenham at 2.30pm

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.

OTHER NEWS

RADIO PODCAST

The October episode of the popular u3a radio podcast is now live and includes the following three interviews:

Alysoun Owen, Editor of the Writers' & Artists' Yearbook and the Children's Writers' & Artists' Yearbook, widely regarded as the essential guides for aspiring authors, talks about what it really takes to get a book published in the first interview of a three-part series. She lifts the curtain on what publishers are looking for and the importance of understanding your readers.

Bill Tancred, whose remarkable athletic discus throwing career took him from three Commonwealth Games to two Olympic Games, shares memories of competing in a very different era of sport, the friendships he made along the way, and why wearing the England vest meant everything.

Sven Ake Peterson, worked with some of the biggest names in music, including David Bowie, Paul McCartney and Pink Floyd, and shares fascinating stories about his career with EMI.

Click on the link below to listen:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/u3a-radio-podcast>

LONDON REGION

London Region of U3As Walks and Gallery visits December 2026/January 2027

We are delighted to announce the next full programme of walks for December/January. All events are £10, no refunds.

The programme can be found [here](#) and on the [events](#) page of the website.

The sessions for December/January will launch on

Tuesday 1st December 2026 from 17.00

Our Christmas based walks proved very popular last year and were fully booked almost as soon as advertised. So don't delay book up on launch day. There will of course be waiting lists for each session.



Please remember that the London Region events team cannot book or reserve places on your behalf.
For assistance please email bookings.lru3a@gmail.com

PETER BABB RETROSPECTIVE

Peter Babb, who died recently, was a member and Group Leader in Richmond u3a.

Peter Babb – A Retrospective

Sunday 18 October | 11am–4pm | ETNA Community Centre

Join us for a **FREE** special exhibition celebrating the life and work of Twickenham artist **Peter Babb**. A keen amateur artist and member of the *Tuesday Painters*, this exhibition is a chance to celebrate his creativity and share something that brought him – and those around him – so much pleasure. Whether you're an art lover, curious to discover a local talent, or simply looking for something different to do on a Sunday, we'd love you to come along.

View the exhibition catalogue:

www.peterbabbart.co.uk

Take a painting, make a donation

Come enjoy his work and, if a painting catches your eye, you're invited to take it home in return for a donation to the **Maggie's centre at Charing Cross** – a charity that meant a great deal to Peter and his family.

To make a donation follow the link:

<https://peterbabb.muchloved.com/>

THE EXCHANGE, TWICKENHAM

THEATRE

My Life With Kenneth Williams

Thursday 15 October | 2 pm & 7:30 pm | £25

In celebration of Kenneth Williams' 100th Birthday, David Benson revisits his legendary portrait of the *Carry On* star in a new version of the show that took the Edinburgh Fringe and the West End by storm 30 years ago. Exploring the astonishing connection that intertwined their lives, Benson brings Williams roaring back to life in a portrayal which the late Dame Maggie Smith wrote: "You put the heart across me, as the Irish say, for I thought it WAS Kenneth!"

<https://www.exchangetwickenham.co.uk/show/my-life-with-kenneth-williams/#20261015>

THEATRE

Monsterring the Rocketman

Thursday 22 October | 7:30 pm | £20

It's a scoop! The Edinburgh Fringe 2025 hit tells the explosive true story of Elton John's legendary libel battle against *The Sun* in a high-energy, critically acclaimed solo show. When the soaraway *Sun* newspaper falsely accuses Elton John, 39, of bonking rent boys, the Rocketman blasts off a whopping multi-million lawsuit... Will Elton still be standing? Or will *The Sun* go down on him?

<https://www.exchangetwickenham.co.uk/show/monsterring-the-rocketman/#20261022>

DAYTIME DISCO

Friday 23rd October, 3 - 5pm, at the ETNA Centre

See this link for details: [Daytime Disco](#).