Richmond upon Thames u3a
Newsletter – November 2026

GROUP NEWS

They say that retirement is the time to finally do all the things you never had time for—so, what's on your wish list? Our u3a thrives entirely on the wonderful ethos of "by the members, for the members," which means some of our groups start with just a spark of individual curiosity. Have you got it? You just need an interest you'd like to share or explore with others. We learn together, laugh together, and make very good new friends.

If there is a hobby, a book genre, a language, a craft or anything at all that interests you, why not take the plunge? You will be helped with all the setup, so all you need to bring is your enthusiasm!

There are three section leaders who would be delighted to help you:
Our contact details are on the website: https://rut.u3asite.uk/groups/… Jan, Tricia and Norma.

Below are two proposals for new groups!

1. **SKIFFLE**

Why such a group?
1. You don't need any musical experience or be able to read music.
2. You don't need any instruments. The group leader has washboards, shakers, kazoos and tea chest basses to get any skiffle group off the ground.
3. It is fun!

If you are at all interested, please email me, in the first instance:
norma.beagle@gmail.com Norma Cook (section leader for music)

2. **GUITAR**:

Folk and finger-picking. New players and experienced.
Any suggestions about a suitable location will be very welcome!
Contact: David Coles dhecoles@gmail.com

POETRY GROUP

The poetry group has been through many changes.
Group leader, Linda Gadd is inviting any prospective new members who would like to read poetry in an informal setting monthly on Tuesday afternoons in Richmond to get in touch with her either by phone or email to arrange a meet. lindagadd90@gmail.com

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SINGING FOR PLEASURE

Do you enjoy singing?
We're a friendly group of amateur singers. No previous experience required. We sing an eclectic mix of songs once a month in Kew. And it's very good for the brain!
We now have spaces for new members and would love to see you.
Contact: **lynkeay25@gmail.com**

WRITER'S CIRCLE

New group starting in January 2027.
Want to write? Already writing?
Published author offers course with advice, guidance and opportunities for discussion.
Aiming either for publication or simply writing for personal pleasure
To find out more or to register to join the group contact **jonelkon3@gmail.com**

'THE 3RD ACT' RETURNS WITH A VIBRANT TRIPLE-BILL AT ETNA CENTRE

The 3rd Act, Richmond U3A's drama group, is set to light up the stage this festive season with an original showcase of three short plays on **Friday, 11th December at 5:00 PM** in Attenborough Hall at the ETNA Centre, East Twickenham.

The upcoming production features a diverse triple-bill entirely devised, written, and performed by members of the ensemble, under the direction of Rodney Figaro.

Three Playlets, One Magical Evening

The performance brings together three distinct, fast-paced playlets:

1. **Crypto Crimbo** — A witty, fast-talking contemporary sketch taking a humorous jab at an industry we all wish could do better.
2. **Moorlands Shadow** — A tight Christmas mystery packed with intrigue, twists and suspense.
3. **Tinderella** — A funny modern panto spin on *Cinderella*. Featuring a rap-battling Fairy Godmother, retro TV throwbacks to *Blind Date* and *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*, and a search for love amidst modern dating chaos.

Empowering Senior Performers & Community Arts

The 3rd Act brings together local talent, proving that creativity, stagecraft, and teamwork only grow sharper with age. From script development and rehearsals to stage production, the company offers local seniors an engaging platform to devise, act, and produce original theatrical works for their community.

"This production is built by seniors,' but the humour and storytelling appeal to audiences of all ages," says team member Sue Luminati. "These sketches capture the high energy and warmth of community drama."

EVENT & TICKET INFORMATION

- **Event:** *The 3rd Act Presents 3 Playlets: Crypto Crimbo, Moorlands Shadow, and Tinderella* **Date & Time:** Friday, 11th December 2026 at 5:00 PM
- **Venue: The** Attenborough Hall, ETNA Centre, 13 Rosslyn Road, East Twickenham, TW1 2AR
- **Devised, Written & Performed by:** The 3rd Act Members
- **Directed by:** Rodney Figaro
- **For further information contact** Susy Hodges **susan.hodges9192@gmail.com**

MONTHLY MEETING – 25th November

Clarendon Hall, York House, Twickenham at 2.30pm

Life of a Concorde Pilot – From the Orphanage to the Edge of Space by John Tye

After qualifying as an airline pilot, John joined British Airways and for several years flew subsonic airliners. Then, in 1998, he fulfilled one of his life's ambitions by joining BA's Concorde fleet to become one of only 134 pilots to fly the world's only supersonic airliner.

In his talk he will take us through the extensive training course, the toughest in aviation, and then on a virtual flight from Heathrow to New York. He'll explain some of the unique technical features of Concorde along the way. A few 'celebrity stories' and family involvement bring in the human element, before touching briefly upon the tragic accident in Paris in the summer of 2000. The successful 'return to service programme' and eventual retirement of Concorde in 2003 will bring the talk to a close.

OTHER NEWS

David Coles would like to let you know about :
Twickenham Repair Café:
which meets at St Margaret's RC Church Hall, opposite the railway station on the third Saturday of each month.
There you can find Dave, a U3A member, who is one of fifteen repairers working on clocks, clothing, electricals, bicycles, furniture and computers, oh, and not forgetting tea and cakes.
We aim to please, so do visit with your faulty items.
Please make a donation as we are part of an international charity which began in Holland.

Twickenham in the 18th Century Message received from John Emerson from Somerton u3a.
Hi. I'm a member of Somerton U3A. Leader of the History group. I'm looking to contact a person or group who could help me with some work I'm doing on Twickenham in the C18th. Don't fret if there is no-one but I'd like to be in touch if possible.
Please reply to John Emerson (johnemerson@mac.com). Phone: 07767 496659

RADIO PODCAST

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

In November, we hear about how to get published including find an agent and also explore a Roman mystery in the heart of England. Imagine being out for a walk and spotting some broken pieces of pottery popping up through the grass! Our third feature is on the real people behind fame. British & USA Film Stars who served in World War II.