



Image by Katie Moum, from Unsplash

## September 2025

### Message from the Chair

Hello everyone

Here we are at the end of in September, the sun is shining but there's an autumnal chill in the air. This year is flying by at pace!

In this issue you will find information about our next monthly talk, articles from Art Appreciation, both our Bookclubs, Garden Visits, Historic Buildings, History, and the Ukulele groups.

We also have a couple of potential new groups - Aviation and Classic Cars and a Spectator Discussion Group. See article below for information. And I'm pleased to say that we have set up a third Creative Writing group, due to popular demand - there are still spaces available. If this would interest you, please contact the group leader via our website [here](#).

Cyber Security is an issue we increasingly have to be aware of, and this month we have included a helpful article on Cyber Crime -Top Tips, copied from a leaflet

distributed by a u3a area's Cyber Protect Officer. It provides some very helpful information about Cyber Crime, and we thought this would be useful to share with you, to help you use your PC, laptop, tablet or mobile phone, and use social media more safely. I urge you to read it.

There are links to u3a National Online Learning Events and Interest Groups Online at the Annex.

And finally .....The deadline for contributions to the next newsletter is Monday 20th October. Please send your articles to Caroline, your newsletter editor, at [newsletttertetburyu3a@gmail.com](mailto:newsletttertetburyu3a@gmail.com)

That's it from me this month

Bernadette (Chair)

## Monthly Speakers

Our next monthly meeting on "The Star of Bethlehem" will take place on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 10:30 am - 12:00 pm, at the Tetbury Goods Shed.



Theories abound for the Star of Bethlehem. Astronomer Steven Tonkin looks at the actual evidence and its cultural context, discusses some recent astrological and astronomical interpretations and arrives at some definitive conclusions about the story.

Do come along to one of our monthly meetings, if you've not attended before. The speakers invariably open our minds to worlds or fascinating facts we were unaware of and it's a great chance to meet up with friends and make new ones over a cuppa. There is a chance before (from 10am) and after the talk to meet up over refreshments.

We hope to see you there.

By Anne Cox

## Potential New Groups

One of our u3a members has offered to co-lead a new group on **Aviation and Classic Cars ~ sub-title Engineering and Action**, subject to sufficient interest.

There is so much fascinating aviation going on in the area, with Kemble (microlights, helicopters, fixed wing, aerobatics, aircraft salvage and RAF), Oaksey (vintage aircraft), Rendcombe (wing walking), Aston Down (gliding), nearby RAF stations Brize Norton and the museums: Concord in Bristol and Jet Age in Gloucester (where they are having on 20th September a Battle of Britain Open Day GL2 9QL).

There is also a direct relationship between early aviation and veteran cars' engines. Members may have a number of classic, vintage and veteran cars between them, the pros and cons of which would make interesting topics of conversation and to visit them, together with the Castle Coombe Classic Car meetings to attend and numerous other car clubs.

And another one of our members has offered to start a **Spectator Discussion Group** for readers who enjoy the magazine.

Only a half of the Spectator covers politics. The other half consists of book and arts reviews along with lifestyle articles enabling discussion on a wider range of topics. It would be like a topical book group, and if established, as a group we would agree on how to proceed.

If you would be interested in these groups, please contact our Groups Co-ordinator Caroline [here](#)

### Art Appreciation

This month we started by looking at the Duncan Grant murals in Lincoln Cathedral. Grant was born in Aviemore into a family of wealthy Scottish Lairds. After art school and a stay in Florence, he became a central figure in the Bloomsbury group, a loose collection of friends and relatives who were writers, intellectuals and philosophers whose works and outlook influenced modern attitudes to feminism, pacifism and sexuality.

In 1952 the Times asked for proposals for murals suitable for religious buildings specifically to be based around the Patron Saint of Wool, St Blaise - wool being central to Lincoln's wealth. Grant's submission centred round the concept of the Good Shepherd Jesus Christ, it was accepted and unveiled in the Russell chantry to acclaim in 1959 but shortly afterwards was locked away from view. The Bloomsbury Group were by this stage known for their unconventional life style so the mural became viewed through this prism.

It depicts a very young Christ carrying a sheep and bathed in golden light. He is surrounded by sheep, shepherds and shearers, the shorn sheep are blue but golden where they stray into Christ's light. Also shown is a scene at the docks with stevedores - Grant's friends being the models - loading wool onto a ship. In more enlightened times - 1991- it was reopened to public view but sadly too late for Grant who died in 1978.

We continued by considering three paintings by Picasso. "Mother and Child by a Fountain" 1901, depicts a woman in the St Lazare Hospital, a notorious women's prison. She is standing by a fountain holding her baby who would only be permitted to stay with her while being nursed. The painting is blue and conveys an air of sadness and melancholy. The baby has no face, maybe representing all the babies who had lost their mothers there over the years?

"Woman in White" 1923 is a portrait of either Picasso's wife, Olga Khokhlova or their friend Sara Murphy or perhaps the two combined? It is a rather dreamlike vision of fragility, several layers of white paint wash overlaid in soft shades of brown and grey. A note of tension is introduced to the otherwise relaxed pose by the rather defensive folded arms indicating maybe all was not as calm as first conveyed.



"Dora Maar in an Armchair" 1939 was a total contrast and a leap into Picasso's surrealist era. Dora was a surrealist photographer and Picasso's lover. Her face and body are radically distorted and the irregular patterns on the wallpaper behind her help create a sense of turbulence and movement. This is maybe reflecting the painter's internal struggles, the model's character and the menace of the impending war.

By Judy Greeman

### **Bookclub Monday Evening**

We read "**Testimonies**" by **Patrick O'Brian**. This was a different kind of novel from Patrick O'Brian, better known for "Master & Commander", which came as a pleasant surprise. A small book, easy to read and follow, but with undertones that needed thought and generated a great deal of discussion.

We all had differing views, with no arguments, of who was recording the Testimonies given throughout the book by three of the main characters.



Ogwen Valley during the blue hour Dawn, Snowdonia (Eryri), North Wales  
Photo by James Kelly-Smith on Unsplash

The story, written in the fifties, portrays a bleak, closed-in small world of a Welsh valley, and a hard working family with their daughter-in-law Bronwen, an "outsider" who relishes the arrival of a somewhat learned English man to a small cottage in the valley overshadowed by the dark mountain. Her innocence, and his desperate love of her are taken up by the gossipy locals who condemn and ostracize her, not helped by her abusive husband and the reverend visiting vicar who attempts to have his wicked way with Bronwen.

Rewritten in today's language this would be a different book, but as it was written in the fifties all is suggested and we are left to make our own conclusions. The main characters, the family, the village folk, the regard of status and the visiting English Gentleman are all well-defined but the leading character is definitely the dark and oppressive nature of the Welsh valley in the fifties; the cold, the isolation, the importance of the Chapel and the local dignitaries, the Doctor, the Vicar, the Schoolteacher and the Englishman. Poor Bronwen, such an innocent, comes to a sad ending.....

On the whole most of us liked reading Testimonies and we awarded it 4.1/5

By Sally Hadley

We also read **"Klara and the Sun"** by **Kazuo Ishiguro**.

Kazuo Ishiguro was born in Nagasaki, Japan in 1954 and moved to Britain with his family in 1959. In his 30's he won the Booker Prize for Remains of the Day, and in 2017 he won the prestigious Nobel Prize in Literature. Seven years ago, he received a knighthood for services to Literature, consequently it's fair to say that Kazuo Ishiguro is a writer of outstanding literary quality and achievement.

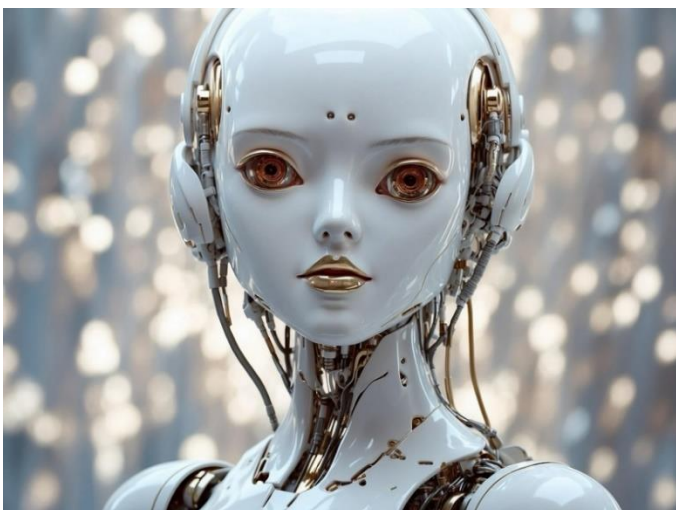


Image by Pete Linforth from Pixabay

So, it is surprising to recognise that *Klara and the sun* is only Ishiguro's eighth novel, and first, since winning the Nobel Prize. Why is this? Because he says he finds writing difficult and only chooses to write books that he hopes will stay in people's minds. His latest book published in 2021 started life as a children's picture book with a small child's logic, and went on to incorporate ideas on AI (Artificial Intelligence) and gene editing, a method of altering the genetic material of a living organism. Watch out for the film scheduled for release later this year directed by Taika Waititi.

"*Klara and the Sun*" tells the story of Klara, a solar powered AF [Artificial Friend], manufactured to prevent the teenagers of wealthy families from becoming lonely. "She" joins a family with a mission to stop heartbreak. She has a touching faith in the sun as a benevolent being because she is solar powered and thinks the sun will help her, but she has no concept of God.

The reader is invited to piece together not only Klara's evolving story, but also the wider context of this futuristic society — family dynamics, technology, privilege, loneliness, and obsolescence — and what it means to be human in this world.

The book generated much discussion about AI technology and the way it is currently evolving. We are seeing ChatGPT (Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer) which among other things can create images in any style; Driverless cars; AI powered tools in various devices such as Alexa (Amazon) and Copilot (Microsoft), as well as the use of humanoid robots (Artificial Friends) to help the elderly in Japan.

We also see young people who find it difficult to relate to others in a social setting, who prefer texts to speaking face-to-face, who live online, play virtual games, and are losing manual dexterity.

There were some possible flaws in the story which for the purposes of the narrative were overlooked. Despite mention of people being "substituted", or made redundant, there appeared to be no resentment against the technology replacing these workers. Klara, is not the most up-to-date version of an Artificial Friend when she leaves the shop, and yet when her use comes to an end, there is no concept of recycling despite some mention of pollution.



Because Klara is childlike, honest and positive she did not feel threatening but the idea of an Artificial Friend was. AI Technology itself is not evil, it has tremendous potential for progress and a better life.

But there are also questions around risk and trust, access and equity. Can we really relate emotionally to a machine? Do we address it as a Friend, or a vacuum cleaner? What happens to us when we become too reliant on AI, and do not question it? Why do we trust it? For example investigators into the plane crash in India (on the 12th June 2025) found that both switches that controlled fuel going into the engines were cut off just after take-off, causing the plane to fatally lose altitude. The aircraft's software had mistakenly interpreted the plane as being on the ground.

Klara and the sun is a deceptively simple, and ultimately, sad story. However, Kazuo Ishiguro's exploration of the use of AI technology in a family setting is timely and thought provoking. This is definitely a novel that will stay in the mind and collectively we awarded it 3.65 stars out of 5.

By Corinne Hinton

### **Wednesday Bookclub**

Seven of us met on the 27th August to discuss "**Lady Tan's Circle of Women**" by Lisa See. A fascinating glimpse into the culture, ritual, superstition and customs of 15th Century China.

Based on the true story of Tan Yunxian, born into an aristocratic family and brought up by her farsighted grandparents, a pharmacist and doctor. Tan becomes one of the first female doctors in a man's world defying expectations that hers would be a life of living in a compound with her mother in law, uncles, aunts and concubines where she is valued for her beauty and fertility and little else. Beautifully written, we found the idea of Chinese medicine, an early homeopathy and theories about the body fascinating although we did find some practises difficult to justify!

We also met on the 24th September to discuss "**The Island of Missing Trees**" by Elif Shajik. Set in Cyprus during the 1970's when the violence between the Greek and Turkish communities was escalating. It tells of the forbidden love story of Kostos, a gentle, nature loving, Greek Cypriot and Defne a feisty Turkish

Cypriot. The interesting twist is that it's partly narrated by a personified fig tree but we agreed, although it took some getting used to, it played a valuable role in the book, explaining the history and background of the period. It shows the different paths of the young couple as they separate and 25 years later come together and how their individual struggles affected their future life together. The book reminded us that it is families who bear the terrible cost of war as everyone loses something.

Our next meeting is on the 29th October when we'll have read "The Glassmaker" by Tracey Chevalier

By Pauline Whittaker

### **Garden Visits Group**

This month we visited one of our member's (Celia) garden in Tetbury. September is always a challenging month for a garden visit, as the season is drawing to a close, and it's a popular month for holidays once the schools go back. That being said, Celia's garden was looking great, helped by a couple of weeks of rain, and about 15 of us took shelter in her warm and comfy kitchen over a cuppa and biscuits and cake. And yes, we managed to pick one of the worst days for weather, wet and windy most of the morning, but we managed to venture out to see the garden during a break when the sun shone brilliantly. It was lovely to catch up with so many group members too. We also had a plant swap, so many of us did not return home empty handed.

Madeleine and I have started planning the programme for next year, and we will discuss this at our November meeting at the Goods Shed (details on the website). This would be enhanced with visits to our own gardens, so do get in touch if you'd like to host a visit - even if you're not a member of the group. Don't worry if your garden doesn't look perfect - we know that gardening is always a work in progress!

Our next visit will be to Batsford Arboretum on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October, to see the autumn colours. We will meet in the café at 11am. Batsford has advised us to pre-book tickets to save time queuing up as it will be their busiest season.

I hope to see you there.

By Caroline Hose

## Historic Buildings Group

Our August visit was to Llanthony Secunda Priory, Gloucester. Llanthony Secunda Priory boasts Grade I and Grade II listed buildings and 5 acres of picturesque grounds. It is one of Gloucester's most stunning landmarks and is located beside the city's historic docks.



Llanthony Secunda Priory was once a large and important Augustinian Priory which was founded outside Gloucester's city walls in 1136. The Priory, one of several religious foundations in Gloucester, existed for 400 years. It owned properties and land both in Gloucester and the surrounding counties - as far afield as Ireland - 97 churches, farms, fish weirs, quarries and 51 manor houses. Everything changed after the Dissolution of the Monasteries. The buildings and church were taken down or used as farms and orchards. The Civil War affected the Priory, and when the industrial revolution took place, the canal was built through its former grounds, and it was surrounded by railway lines and yards and the docks. Imagine what the current value of their former real estate in Gloucester city centre would be worth now!

Thankfully, the Priory has been brought back to life by a charity, with the restoration and conservation work costing over £3m, financed by the Heritage Fund and local businesses.





We were greeted by an enthusiastic team of employees and volunteers. We enjoyed a welcome drink in one of the beautifully restored buildings, followed by a guided tour of the extensive site. Our guides provided an amazing amount of information about the site, explaining the archaeological and architectural features in a historical context.

There are (unsubstantiated!) claims that events at Llanthony Secunda Priory inspired the "Humpty Dumpty" nursery rhyme. It stems from the Siege of Gloucester in 1643, where a Royalist cannon, described as large and possibly egg-shaped, was placed on the Priory's walls but misfired and broke on its first shot. We all enjoyed our visit - it's a real "hidden gem"!



Our final visit of the year will be a return to Chavenage House on 22nd October. Please see our entry on our website [here](#) for more information about this event.

If you are interested in joining our Group, please send us a message via the contact form using the link on the above web page.

Please note that we only take bookings on a visit-by-visit basis. Email invitations to book will normally be sent out around a month before each visit. We cannot accept bookings or payments before then. Keep your eyes open for emails from us, as visits often sell out very quickly!

By David & Maggie Smith - Group organisers.

## History Group

Visit to the Roman East Gate in Gloucester.



Image: Andrei nacu at English Wikipedia,  
Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

In September the History Group went in search of Roman Gloucester. In Roman times the city was called Glevum, and the first Roman fort was built around 48 AD at Kingsholm, a 10-minute walk north of the city centre.

The location was chosen because it was possible to guard the first easy crossing point of the River Severn, but as this was quite a marshy area, the military base was later moved in the late 60s AD.

As far as the roads were concerned Glevum was on a north-south Roman route between the Roman cities of Exeter, Cirencester, Lincoln and York (the Fosse Way which joined the Ermine Way). Glevum was established in the territory of the British Dobunni tribe, and not far from the Welsh border where the fierce Silures tribe fought the Romans for decades. Traders and camp followers grew up beside the fort, and the city began to form. It was given a charter, and its



official name became *Colonia Nerviana Gевensis*, although it was still generally known as *Glevum*. This meant that it was a top-tier settlement for retired veteran soldiers (a *colonia*) who were granted citizenship and land. *Coloniae*, such as Colchester, Lincoln and York helped to convey Roman civilisation, values and law to the surrounding communities.



In the second century *Glevum* had "a planned street layout, piped water supply and main drainage, and an architecturally imposing civic centre as well as other monumental buildings. Many of the streets were colonnaded and there were private houses which could equal the grandeur and luxury of any in Britain." At its height *Glevum* had a thriving community with a Roman mint, a wharf for shipping on the River Severn, and a potential peak population of around 10,000 people.

The first defences in AD 70 were built by a Roman legion in timber with ramparts of turf, sand and clay, but these were later rebuilt with stone around 96-98 for the Roman settlement. At this time the fortress held up to 5,000 soldiers. In fact, the Romans rebuilt the defences at East Gate at least four times. The town wall "is estimated to have contained 8,4000 cubic metres of dressed Cotswold limestone, and a similar quantity of limestone rubble."



We met our guide, Amy Washington, at the Museum reception and walked around to the site of the City's East Gate visible below ground under a glass cover outside Boots. From here we stepped down under the precinct until we were level with the remains of the Roman walls at the East Gate, and the single tower that was later built by the Normans.

It was amazing to see the huge blocks of Cotswold stone that made up the Roman walls with their marks indicating how they were all worked by hand. Just to chisel them out of the quarry, transport them, and then build them up as high walls was a tremendous task. It was also incredible to see a stump of an oak corner post from one of the interval towers (built in about AD 68) still surviving on display.

The History Group had a very interesting afternoon learning about why Gloucester was chosen as a Roman site of settlement, how important a site it became and how enduring its stonework (and the stories it tells) remains.

With thanks to The Museum of Gloucester and Amy Washington, Programme & Exhibitions Officer

By Corinne Hinton



## Ukulele Group

Our Ukulele Group, the T'UKEs, was set up over two years ago, and meets every week at Steepleton. We all relish being a member of this group (which is now full), enjoying the company of others who share a common interest. Our Group Leader, Mike, recently invited members of the group to contribute to the newsletter, offering their reflections on what joining the T'UKEs has meant for them. Here are contributions from two of the T'UKEs.

"I moved to Tetbury a little over four years ago, having lost my husband two years before, to be closer to my daughter. Initially I was very lonely, but after having discovered the u3a, things began to get less lonely, and I joined a small singing group which led to joining T'UKEs. Playing and singing with a lovely friendly group has been my salvation. We all understand the benefits of being together and producing music that most people enjoy listening to, and we are so happy to entertain others". By Mary Murphy.

"When I heard that the u3a were hoping to start a ukulele group my interest was sparked, but it took courage to go to the first meeting as I did not own a ukulele or know much about the instrument. However, this did not matter as amongst the few of us, there were others like me as well as some talented players who were willing to help. I was immediately struck by the acceptance and friendly atmosphere - a very kind lady gave me a ukulele.

After a few weeks led by Sue Hoskin, her husband Mike came along to give us some tuition, but he warned that it would only be for three weeks. Mike is a talented and excellent leader, thankfully his three weeks has now become over two years!. He is ably assisted by others in the group, printing song sheets, help with computers etc.

We work hard to master all the chords and vocals but we all say how much we enjoy each others' company, caring and sympathy when needed and lots of fun. I tell all my friends and family what a great group we are, so thank you all for your company, expertise and camaraderie. I am so glad to be a part of this group and also to be able to help others by donating the proceeds from our concerts to Longfield Hospice". By Sally Harley.

## Helpful Information

### Cyber Crime -Top Tips

The following details are copied from a leaflet distributed by a u3a area's Cyber Protect Officer. It provides some very helpful information about Cyber Crime, and we thought this would be useful to share with you, to help you use your PC, laptop, tablet or mobile phone, and use social media more safely.

1. **PASSWORDS / 2FA / 2SV.** Use Strong Passwords. Consider using - ThreeR@nd0mWord\$. Your password **MUST** contain at least 12 characters. Don't use the same password for all your accounts. The strongest should be for your primary email account and this password should not be used for anything else. Where possible activate 2 Factor Authentication (2FA) / Two-Step verification (2SV). This generally involves sending a text to your mobile phone to double-check that it is you carrying out a particular transaction. If you have difficulties remembering lots of passwords, consider using an on-line 'password manager'. There are various free and paid for password managers available.

2. **UPDATES and APPS.** Always take operating systems and software updates as soon as possible. Turn on your Anti-Virus / Firewall and keep them updated. Don't use old operating systems that are no longer supported. These are particularly vulnerable to attacks. Only download Apps from accredited Apps stores.

3. **BACK-UPS.** Regularly back-up your important data onto a removable hard drive (or USB stick or SD Card, if more practical). Consider keeping your back-ups off-site, in a fireproof /waterproof safe.

4. **PHISHING / SOCIAL ENGINEERING.** Never assume incoming emails are genuine. Even if you recognise the email address because email accounts can be 'hacked'. Never believe voice calls and text messages are genuine, even if you recognise the phone number. Phone numbers can be 'Spoofed' (falsified). **ALWAYS CONFIRM** using the contact information you have obtained from your own records or from publicly available sources.

Remember - Criminals will PHISH to obtain information from you. **DON'T GIVE OUT ANY SENSITIVE INFORMATION TO INCOMING CALLERS.** Send all email PHISHING attempts to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk) and send fake text messages onto 7726 (Spam). Call 159 to quickly be directed to your bank's Fraud Team.



5. **PRIVACY SETTINGS.** Regularly check the privacy settings on your Social Media accounts and be careful what you post on social media. Do you really want everyone to know your house is empty when you are away on holiday?

6. **WI-FI.** Be cautious when using public Wi-Fi and don't pass sensitive information, passwords, or bank account details over public Wi-Fi.

7. **SECURING YOUR DEVICES.** Ensure all your devices including your mobile phone(s) are password or PIN protected - Keep them 'locked' when not in use. Use Fingerprint or facial recognition if available. Only grant remote access to your device (computer / mobile phone / tablet), to someone you personally know and thoroughly trust. Never grant remote access to any incoming telephone callers. Try and avoid using publicly available USB re-charging points. These can be interfered with to compromise the security of your device (Juice Jacking). It is generally safer to charge devices from a standard electricity point or your own portable powerpack.

8. **CREDIT CARDS.** For added protection, please use a credit card for all your on-line transactions.

9. **QR CODES.** Carefully check QR codes before scanning them. Do they look genuine? Have they been tampered with? Can you do the transaction without using the QR code? Avoid Scanning from unknown / untrusted sources.

10. **INCOMING MESSAGES.** Be wary of ALL incoming messages, including voice calls, SMS text messages, emails and social media messages, even from people you may know or email addresses you recognise. Remember accounts can be hacked and emails, social media addresses and phone numbers can be 'Spoofed' (falsified). Both voice calls and videos from individuals known personally can be 'DEEP FAKED'. Don't rely on caller ID display. If you are concerned about an incoming call, hang up, call the caller back using another phone and the phone number YOU have obtained yourself from your own trusted sources. Never Assume, Never Believe, ALWAYS CONFIRM. Be particularly cautious of any requests you may get to change the details of a regular outgoing payment or to create a new payment.

11. **Never share your passwords.** Organisations including financial institutions, HMRC, the DVLA, the NHS, other Government bodies, and the Police will never ask for YOUR PIN, YOUR Passwords, YOUR personal / financial details. NEVER-EVER share those details. Any requests you get, claiming to come from such organisations, WILL BE A SCAM!

12. Don't Rush. Question Everything / Seek Advice / Never Assume, Never Believe, ALWAYS CONFIRM. Go to Have I Been Pwned: Check if your email has been compromised in a data breach to see if your email has been involved in a data-breach.

## Reporting Cyber Crime

### Action Fraud customer channels

**ActionFraud**  
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre  
[actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk)

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**Social Media**  
Help and advice.  
How to protect against fraud.  
News and alerts.  
Real time fraud intelligence.



**0300 123 2040**  
Report fraud and cyber crime.  
Help, support and advice.

**24/7 Live cyber**  
Specialist line for business, charities or organisations  
suffering live cyber attacks

**Report 24/7 & Web Chat**  
[www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)  
Secure online reporting.  
News and Alerts.  
Advice on avoiding the latest scams.

National Fraud and Cyber Crime  
Reporting Centre

2,000+ calls per day  
250+ web chats per day

Cifas Data  
UK Finance

To contact the Fraud Department of your bank - Dial 159





**Stop,  
Hang up,  
Call your bank  
on 159.**

Your phone provider sets the cost of calls to 159. In most cases, the cost will be the same as a national rate call and may be included in your calling plan. For more information ask your provider.

**Call 159.**

**The simple and safe way to  
phone your bank about fraud.**

Your phone provider sets the cost of calls to 159. In most cases, the cost will be the same as a national rate call and may be included in your calling plan. For more information ask your provider.

## u3a National Events

### Online Learning Events

u3a members can join a wide range of online talks, workshops and courses for free with their membership. Most of these opportunities are presented by members themselves, sharing their knowledge or skills with others across the movement. There is also a wide range of talks on offer from well-known speakers and organisations, plus in-person events at venues like the Royal Institution.

All of these events can be booked at the link below via Eventbrite. Online events are hosted on Zoom - further information and 'how to' guides are here [www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events](http://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events)

Want to be the first in the know? Sign up to receive regular monthly updates on upcoming events: [subscribe here](#)

### Interest Groups Online

Interest Groups Online is an online u3a community that gives you the opportunity to join groups, talks and courses from the comfort of your home. Like with a u3a, the activities are run by members and are a great way to meet people from all across the u3a movement.

It costs £12 to join for the year, equating to £1 per month. Membership runs from 1 April to 31 March of the next year. Membership and your groups are managed via the u3a Beacon Members Portal.

To become a member of Interest Groups Online you will need to fill out a short form and make your payment on the u3a Beacon Members Portal. As part of your subscription to Interest Groups Online, you can opt in to receive a free copy of the u3a magazine, Third Age Matters (TAM).

Take a look at the groups page for details on the wide variety of online groups, courses and talks, and how to join [interest groups online](#)