

## Ash u3a Thursday Lunchers

### Newsletter N<sup>o</sup> 26 – July2025

The final meeting of the u3a 24/25 year before the August break was a huge success with 20 members and one guest enjoying a good lunch at the Fox and Hounds in Church Crookham on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. This was the second highest turnout of the year and clearly demonstrates that this is one of our favourite venues.

We were very pleased to welcome a new member Ian as well as Alan, a guest over from New Zealand. I hope they enjoyed it.

Early this year we held an open meeting for all members to discuss the way forward. A number of possibilities were discussed, including alternative days, times and much smaller groups. The consensus was that we should continue as we currently do but limit the number of venues to four that we feel can provide good service and work on a rotation. (Note: we work on three terms a year with four, four and three lunches). Now that we have had the lunch in July, Ali and I have reviewed all venues visited in 2023/24/25 and propose just four venues that we feel can give us the service and food that we want.

They are:

The Curzon in Ash

The Refectory in Milford

The Crown and Cushion in Minley

The Fox and Hounds in Church Crookham

This is based on the following analysis of venues since January 2023

	Scores				Ave	Ranking
Rokers	23.5				<b>23.5</b>	<b>1</b>
The Refectory Milford (2)	25	21			<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>
Curzon (4)	22	25	22	23	<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>
Fox & Hounds (3)	23.5	22.5	21.5		<b>22.5</b>	<b>3</b>
Crown & Cushion (3)	22	21.5	23		<b>22.17</b>	<b>4</b>
Sarsen Stones (2)	20	22			<b>21</b>	<b>5</b>
White Hart Wood Street Village	21				<b>21</b>	<b>5</b>
White Hart Pirbright (2)	22	19			<b>20.5</b>	<b>6</b>
Woolpack Elstead	18.5				<b>18.5</b>	<b>7</b>
Ball & Wicket (4)	20.5	17	24	12	<b>18.375</b>	<b>8</b>
Red Lion Horsell	17				<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>
Cricketers Pirbright (2)	18	16			<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>
Spotted Cow	17				<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>
Princess Royal	17				<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>
Cyder House	16				<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>
Duke of Cambridge	14				<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>
Greyhound	12				<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>

Unfortunately although it came at the top of the list, we have had to rule out Rokers as they no longer take advanced bookings.

It is a great pity that three out of four of the proposed venues for the future are quite a long way from Ash but we have been unable to find good local venues.

If any members can recommend a local one, we will be delighted to give it a try.

I know that some of our members find it difficult to get to some venues, but chatting to members who were at the Fox and Hounds, there are plenty who are happy to offer lifts. If you need a lift please ask.

Sadly I have to tell you that Christine Beer is in Tilford Care and Nursing Home after a prolonged spell in hospital. She is being visited by some of the Thursday Lunchers and I am sure that you would like me to ask them to give her all members love and best wishes.

The Ash u3a open day and AGM is on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August from 2:00pm. I hope that as many of you as possible will come along and sign up for your chosen groups for 2025/26. Consider bringing a friend to see if they would like to join.

If you would like to “get in early” for 2025/26 and avoid the rush to sign up at the open day please let me know by email and I will put you on the list. Please remember to renew your overall Ash u3a membership as you have to be a fully paid-up member to join a group and, yes we do check.

Members of the main Ash u3a committee have asked me to remind you that the committee is urgently looking for new members. I have been on the committee in the past and can assure you that it is good fun, not too onerous and a brilliant way to get involved and meet new people. If anyone is interested, please let me know and I will pass on your details.

### **Provisional Programme for the autumn term of 2025/26**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September      Crown and Cushion, Minley

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October      Curzon, Ash

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November      Refectory, Milford

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December      Fox and Hounds, Church Crookham (Christmas lunch)

### **Organising Team for 2024/25**

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24<sup>th</sup> July 2025