

# Ash u3a Thursday Lunchers

## Newsletter N° 29 – November 2025 Planning Report

I met with Ali Woolford this week to review Thursday Lunchers recent activities and to plan the programme for 2026. This additional Newsletter summarises our meeting

1. We now have 39 members which may mean that we have to put a limit on numbers attending some venues. Last year we had 34 members with an average of 17 (50%) attending each month, so hopefully the small increase in membership should not present a problem. However, it is even more important to “book” your places early to avoid disappointment.
2. Neither Ali nor I have authority to amend members’ personal/contact details so if you have changed your contact details please notify Gay, Ash u3a membership secretary, to ensure that you continue to get all messages about the Thursday Lunchers. Gay can be contacted at [membership@ashu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@ashu3a.org.uk).
3. We are very much aware that for a variety of reasons, some members are unable to drive to the venues. Whilst it remains individual members’ responsibility to get to the venues, many of our members are very happy to help out with lifts if asked. If you are unable to organise a lift please let Ali or me know and we will try and help.
4. As you know Ali and I take it in turns to make the arrangements with the lunch venues. Almost all venues require us to pre-order, usually seven days in advance. Both Ali and I have struggled in recent months to receive members’ menu choices in time. Whilst we are reluctant to turn people away we may have to do this unless there are special circumstances. To enable us to “process” your requests **we really do need menu choices no later than ten days before the day of the lunch.**
5. I recently attended a training meeting to enable me to publish items of interest relating to the Thursday Lunchers on the Ash u3a website. I am looking for a volunteer to take on this interesting and exciting new initiative being promoted by Graham, our new chairman. If you are interested please give me a call on 07747 622723.
6. Thursday Lunchers has a webpage where details of our meetings are published. At the moment this is edited by the Ash u3a Website Administrator who also post the Newsletters that I send him. There is a possibility that in the future, I or another member of the Group could do the editing.
7. Members who attended the October lunch at the Curzon will know that there were problems. One being that the restaurant appeared to be unable to cope adequately with the number of people attending. You may recall that we first started going to the Curzon as an additional non-English cuisine restaurant before adopting it as a main monthly lunch venue. We are suggesting that we revert to this arrangement in the Spring as it would be a shame to rule out the Curzon given that it is a favourite with many of our members.

8. We are proposing the following venues for Spring 2026

Thursday 15 January 2026	Crown and Cushion. Minley.
Thursday 26 February 2026	Danielle, Farnham (This is the fourth Thursday of the month in order to miss the schools half term holiday).
Thursday 19 March 2026	Refectory, Milford.
Thursday 2 April 2026	Curzon, Ash (additional lunch).
Wednesday 15 April 2026	Fox and Hounds, Church Crookham (not available on Thursdays).

9. In order to sustain any organisation, large or small, succession planning is vital. It is for this reason that Ali and I discussed the future of the Thursday Lunchers Organising Team. We would like one or two members to join us, particularly as it is likely that I will be unable to continue for the 2026/27 year. Both of us really enjoy being members of the Team and can highly recommend it. It is a wonderful opportunity to get more involved in the u3a, meet new people and explore local pubs, clubs and restaurants. **Please just come and give it a try.**

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

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November Refectory, Milford (Ali is organising)

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

#### **Organising Team for 2025/26**

Ali Woolford 07990 671160

Rod Dengate 07747 622723

Rod Dengate  
13<sup>th</sup> November 2025