

# u3a The Bulletin Cam, Dursley & District

## Committee News

The Extraordinary General Meeting was held on the 20th July. It was well attended. Bellow is a report on the items for which voting was required.

Agenda Item	Action	Result	
4	Acceptance of the Minutes for last year's AGM	<b>For:</b> Unanimous bar 2 abstentions <b>Against:</b> 0 <b>Abstentions:</b> 2 <b>Result:</b> Motion Accepted	
6	Acceptance of the Financial Report for FY 22/23 AGM	<b>For:</b> Unanimous bar 2 abstentions <b>Against:</b> 0 <b>Abstentions:</b> 2 <b>Result:</b> Motion Accepted	
7	Appointment of Independent Examiner for FY 23/24 (The nominee was Mr Chris Wellings)	<b>For:</b> Unanimous <b>Against:</b> 0 <b>Abstentions:</b> 0 <b>Result:</b> Motion Accepted	
9 (Part 1)	Votes for Chair. Nominees:		
	Alan Keith	<b>For:</b> 64 votes	<b>Abstentions</b> 2
	Myrtle Moreton-Cox	<b>For:</b> 102 Votes	
<b>Result:</b> Myrtle Moreton-Cox is elected as Chair for the coming year			
9 (Part 2)	Election of Remaining Officers for the coming year. Nominees: Vice-Chair – David Edwards Secretary – Karen Morris Treasurer – John Walton	<b>For:</b> Unanimous <b>Against:</b> 0 <b>Abstentions:</b> 0  <b>Result:</b> Motion Accepted – all Officers elected as shown	
10	Election of Committee Members for the coming year. Nominees: Assistant Treasurer – John Hobson Groups – Elinor Padfield Membership – Luke Wilson Speakers – Alan Keith Welfare – Myrtle Moreton-Cox Beacon – Mike Hadley Bulletin – No Nominee	<b>For:</b> Unanimous <b>Against:</b> 0 <b>Abstentions:</b> 0  <b>Result:</b> Motion Accepted – all Committee Members elected as shown	

## Message from your Chair

I would like to welcome the two new Committee Members who were voted into their roles at our EGM held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July. Elinor Padfield, our new Groups Co-ordinator, who worked alongside Pam Davies for several months and was co-opted on to our Committee to enable her to get more insight to the role. David Edwards, our Vice Chair, who is completely new to our Committee and was initiated into his role at our Committee Meeting held this morning. David is arranging to meet separately with Members of the committee to gain further knowledge of our systems and their capabilities. We are very pleased to have both of them on board and look forward to working with them.

As reported at our EGM, the Highlight of the year was our very successful Open Day which resulted in the dramatic rise of 135 new Members. Pam Davis was presented with a rose bush at our June meeting in gratitude for her organisation of the event. Also, for coping with the additional workload on her role as Groups Co-ordinator which included setting up new groups and recruiting new Group Leaders.

Luke Wilson who, very nobly, added all the new members to our systems whilst suffering from Covid. Those who assisted with the distribution of the 'invitation' slips at Cam Tesco and in Dursley, which helped to swell the numbers attending the event, Thank you all of you.

Membership of our u3a has continued to grow at a steady pace throughout the year and we now have over 600 Members and some 50 groups. All in all, a very successful year! This success is certainly a lasting tribute to the late Liz Rudd who was largely responsible for the setting up of our u3a in the first place.

Thank you to all our Committee Members for their hard work during the past year:

Terry Pascoe, who, as Chair, led us in his own inimitable way until his move to Dorset. Apparently the Historic Places Group might pay him a visit in his new home – it may be a question of taking our own chairs!

John Walton, our Treasurer, for all his hard work in simplifying our accounting system and remaining cheerful throughout the process – although it may be that he was just gritting his teeth rather than smiling! He also organised and ran the voting system and prepared the

Proxy voting forms used at the EGM. Plus an extra special thank you John for coping with all this in spite of all the travelling to Aylesbury due to your daughter's illness. I am very pleased to report that her surgery was successful and she has now been able to return to work.

John Hobson, Assistant Treasurer for his invaluable help with the Group finances and for helping John W with the sorting and counting of votes at the EGM.

Karen Morris for taking on the role of Secretary, for carrying it out with enthusiasm and for coping with the new Proxy forms and voting system on the door at the EGM.

Mike Hadley for maintaining our Beacon system and helping Members with a variety of problems – me included! Also, for finding a volunteer to run the Bulletin – well done Sue Sacker for coming forward to take on the role of Bulletin Editor.

Alan Keith who organises a variety of Speakers for our Monthly Meetings. Also, a big thank you to all the non-Committee members who help our u3a to operate – in particular:

All the Group leaders – the new Group leaders for coming forward with ideas and following them through to the formation of new groups and to the existing Group leaders who welcomed new Members into their Groups – we couldn't function without you.

Graham Ellis who maintains our website and reports on the Group hits each month.

Brian and Christine Wetton – who work so tirelessly setting up for our Meetings each month and to Christine for acting as Secretary and taking the minutes at our June Meeting.

Fiona Keith for organising the refreshment teams at our Monthly Meetings.

Thank you to all of you for joining our u3a and helping to contribute to our success – I hope you are enjoying your Membership as much as I have enjoyed mine and that it is helping to enrich your life.

Finally, a very special thank you to all those who voted for me at the recent Chair election – I hope I fill your expectations.

Myrtle Moreton-Cox, Chair of Cam, Dursley & District u3a.

---

## Group Reports

---

### Short Walks

Purton to Sharpness  
Along the canal  
Return along footpaths  
With views of the hills  
And Severn Vale  
We get to know Sue  
Who has joined us today  
Our newest member  
From U3A

### Historic Places Group – 7th July 2023 – Bowood House and Gardens

In 1754, the 1st Earl of Shelburne bought Bowood house and estate. His son, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Shelburne, who later became the 1<sup>st</sup> Marquis of Lansdowne, inherited the property. His descendants have owned the estate since, although the 8<sup>th</sup> Marquis had the house demolished in 1955, due to it being in very poor condition. The 'little' house, which was originally the stables fronted by an orangery, still exists and is surrounded by 2,000 acres of Parkland designed by Capability Brown between 1762 and 1768. His landscaping always consisted streams dammed to make a lake and a ha-ha so that the house appears to sit on a river bank amongst the livestock. Manning Hills hamlet was flooded and the occupants were rehoused.



We were shown around the gardens. The upper terrace reminded the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marquis of his time in Italy and displayed tulips, alliums, roses and geraniums with two zinc and pewter stag heads which were originally on the main gate. The

east lawn was designed in the 1880s and mainly consisted of red and white roses. The stone used to build the orangery absorbed heat so that more delicate plant could grow. The walled garden, built in the 1750s from bricks made on the estate, consists of four one-acre plots. The colour of brick varies depending on the direction the wall faces and what was to be grown against them. Within the walled garden there is: a long cutting-garden with tiered planting to provide flowers for the hotel and cafe; a hot-colour border of red, orange and yellow flowers; a 'chintz' border of white, cream, green flowers; a wild-flower garden; a rose garden with the bushes pegged down in the traditional way; 400 fruit trees of traditional varieties of plums, greengage, goldgages, apples and pears; fruit cage for raspberries; three remaining glass houses with one



containing a vine; rhubarb forcing rooms; bee hives; vegetable garden with fireplaces in hollow walls to keep plants alive in cold weather; a tennis

court that is now a croquet court; and a swimming pool. Examples of plants being exchanged between large houses are: the vine that died was replaced by a cutting from Chatsworth; and the Tortworth sweet chestnut.

Part of the little house is open to the public. The long hall was used for patients during WW1. Off the hall are the laboratory and chapel. In the laboratory Joseph Priestly discovered oxygen in 1774 and Dr Jan Ingen Housz from the Netherlands discovered photosynthesis and was a



pioneer in smallpox inoculations in the 1790s. The chapel has the altar on the north wall instead of the east. Robert Adams designed the library for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Sherbourne (1<sup>st</sup> Marquis Lansdowne).

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Marquis was not at the house much as

he went travelling in USA, Russia and Europe and then became an MP for Chipping Wycombe. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Marquis did further alterations to the library and restored the park. An exhibition of paintings and portraits, oriental items, Turkish Ottoman clothes and artefacts, Napoleon collection and clothes that belonged to two of the Marquis were on display. At the far end of the lake is a cascade, caves and a Doric Temple.

*Sally Beynon*

## Garden Visits Group – Austin Roses – 6th June 2023

After a comfortable journey up the Motorway and down narrow English country lanes we arrived at about 11am at Austin Roses. We were met by two members of the Austin Roses team and taken for a tour of the gardens and greenhouses.

David Austin has developed over 200 English roses over the last 70 years, releasing his first rose Constance Spry for public sale in 1961. His son has continued this passion and is now extending the cut roses side of the business. This famous Shropshire rose grower scooped its 27th gold medal at RHS Chelsea Flower Show this year.

We meandered through 5 themed rose gardens and feasted our eyes and senses on many rose varieties. The gardens certainly kept giving, the colours bountiful and a rose to suit everyone. The scent was less aromatic than we were expecting because of the cloudy, cool weather that day.

Behind the gardens are the large greenhouses where the specialist breeding programme evolves. Amazingly only 10% of the roses we saw in the developing greenhouse will make the grade to be bred on. Part of their sustainability programme in the greenhouses is to grow at least a 1/3 of their stock peat free this year and become peat-free by 2024 which was good to hear.

We had a good three hours to wander around the extensive collection of rose varieties in the or head to the restaurant or tea rooms plant centre for a welcome break and natter, making new friends along the way.

By 3pm our Roses were stashed in the coach luggage compartment and we were ready to head home after a wonderful day. After all who doesn't love a Rose?

*Lesley Grey*

## Blenheim Palace Flower Show – Gardening Group – Friday 23 June 2023

Designed by Vanbrugh, Blenheim Palace was built in the early 1700s near Woodstock in Oxfordshire and is one of England's largest houses. A family

home, mausoleum and national monument with a truly fascinating history, it was also the birthplace and ancestral home of Sir Winston Churchill. In addition to the Palace, there are formal gardens (subsequently improved by Capability Brown), the Park and continually changing exhibitions together with cafés, the Orangery Restaurant, and the Palace shop. There is also the miniature Blenheim Railway running between the Palace and Walled Garden.

Our group's visit for the annual Flower Show was on a warm sunny day in June. With so much to see and do we were spoilt for choice. What an excellent day. The coach luggage compartment on the return trip was filled with a variety of plants, bags and interesting packages, evidence of a great time had by all.



There was a wonderful selection of plants and flowers on sale, and with some very friendly prices. The usual favourites were accompanied by some intriguing unknowns. The roses in particular were gorgeous, with choosing favourites being an entertaining pastime and much note taking in evidence.



In addition to the Plant Village, the mini-gardens, shops, exhibitions, professional talks and demonstrations kept us entertained, not forgetting the stands with gazebos, greenhouses, arbours, water features and furniture also at discounted prices. The clothing and handbag stands did well, and sun hats were best sellers. The Grand Floral Pavilion included displays from various specialists including Bonsai, fly trap plants, fuchsia and cactus.

The Show seemed spacious and although very busy was without the crush sometimes experienced elsewhere, which was a pleasant surprise. Even in the heat we hardly had to queue for our ice-creams; there was a welcome



and impressive provision of chairs all over the Show. There was even a live music area. We were also taken with the colourful Insect Trail constructions, designed and created by florists, flower arrangers, students and artists.

We had taken lunch with us so as not to waste time but still ended up without enough time to sample the Pimm's: we fell asleep on the return coach without assistance!

Our sincere thanks to Danielle Ellis for yet another grand day out.  
*Valerie Moores*

---

## Upcoming events

---

### Don't miss our u3a Special Event

Vanessa Sprague, who is a u3a member, will give a talk called-

#### **CAN YOU HEAR ME?**

She will invite us to think about how well we cope with hearing loss and how we can help ourselves and others. Why not come along and find out what she has to say.

Thursday August 10<sup>th</sup> at Dursley Methodist Church at 10-30am (doors open at 10am)

All members welcome. The meeting is free. There will be a small charge for refreshments.

I hope you can make it.

We need two more volunteers to help serve tea and coffee. Please let me know if you can help.

Pam Davis

For a list of upcoming events click here:- <https://u3asites.org.uk/cam-dursley/events>

Contributions for future editions should be sent as Word documents or in the body of an email to [mag.u3a@gmail.com](mailto:mag.u3a@gmail.com). Please keep contributions as short as possible, target around 300 words. One or two photos per item welcome.

Compiled by Sue Sacker