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**learn,
laugh,
live**

**GLOUCESTER
& DISTRICT**

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Reg. Charity No. 1016356

NEWSLETTER

**AGM / Subs & Clubs Special 2023
Issue No. 380**

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REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the 35th AGM of the Gloucester u3a. I am happy to report that our groups are active and generally flourishing, our finances are comfortable and our numbers are steady, in fact no different from last year. I will begin with the events that are open to all, or just happen as a part of keeping us running. In October the *Robot Challenge* was held. This was a whole day event of competition between Electronic Groups in u3as of the south-west. The competition involved a number of courses and tasks that the robots had to carry out (or not, or with an occasional poke). The event was organised by our *Electronics Group* headed by Keith together with valued assistance from the Churchdown u3a Group. Susan Parker, the south-west Trustee, was present throughout, and at the end awarded the top prize to none other than our very own Robby, made by Keith's Group, of course. Susan was enthusiastic about another event in perhaps two years' time, and recommended greater publicity to enable a fun time for more spectators. The annual *Subs and Clubs* was held in August last year, and in February we had the New Members meeting. Both were very busy events and were greatly helped by Thelma Miller and her team of caterers. Much of the organising was done by our Membership Sec, Barbara Morgan, and Groups Coordinator, Triss Pollington, and it was good to have many of the Group Leaders at both events. To maintain interest at the New Members event, speakers, i.e. Group Leaders, were limited to one minute maximum. This ensured an excellent

pace, which was applied with great enthusiasm to all, including the Chair.

Our *Monthly Meetings* brilliantly organised by Mary Kitchen continue to be well attended. At these events the speakers always present something new and intriguing. However, I particularly enjoyed the musical sessions, both Noël Coward, and our very own *Choir* who presented us with a varied and challenging programme - I'm still smiling (a poem from one of the Choir).

The *Cotswold Link* provides us with an opportunity to liaise with other u3as in the region. The Spring Meeting and AGM was attended by ex-Vice Chair, Clive Harper, and myself.

At the *Third Age Trust* Annual General Meeting last October, the proposal of linking capitation (the amount from your annual subscription that goes to HQ) to inflation was defeated. At a follow-up meeting in Blackfriars, London, I attended a meeting where the financing of HQ administrative costs was discussed further.

Triss Pollington, our Groups Coordinator, continues to organise the *Cathedral Cuppa* event, where we meet outside the Cathedral coffee shop for an al fresco chat – most enjoyable. Only one so far has taken place this year, but more are promised.

Of course, the members and their groups are the essence of all u3as. It is good to see us recovering from lockdown, with the number of groups increasing from 31 to 38. The new groups are *Art, Book Club, Concert Group, Italian for Beginners, RummiKub, Social Cycling*, and three started by Clive Harper: *Humour, Singing Together*, and *What the Papers Say*. Many thanks to all the new Group Leaders who have given

up their time to organise the start-ups. Unfortunately, three groups have closed over the same period: *History of Science* and *Understanding Art* are no longer running, and *Walking Football* had to close owing to a reduction in regular participants. It's no joke that Clive's *Humour Group* also finished for lack of support. It is worth mentioning here that as a full member of Gloucester u3a, you can join one group in another *Cotswold Link* u3a as a reciprocal member without becoming a member of that u3a. If you attend more than one group in another u3a, you need to join as an Associate Member which is usually a bit cheaper.

As well as regular meetings a number of groups have organised study trips which were enjoyed by many members. The *Travel Group* booked a 5-day tour to Llandudno in April which included visits to many fabulous gardens and grand Stately homes. Recently, there was a day trip to Bishop's Palace in Wells which I understand had an eventful journey home as they had to wait for a replacement coach. *Horticulture Group* had a trip to Hampton Court Castle which is in Hereford, but the coach might have been heading to Hampton Court Palace in Richmond-on-Thames if their mistake had not been pointed out beforehand. There was also the possibility that some of the members might not have been on the coach home as they were stuck in the maze! The Group also went to Coughton Court in Alcester - the guide said it is easy to remember that it is pronounced "Coaton" as it is so cold there that you always need to keep your coat on! The house has been in the same family for more than 600 years and I have been

told that the herbaceous borders were outstanding.

Local History Group had guided tours of 'The Folk' in Gloucester, Tewkesbury Abbey and Woodchester Mansion, which gave a far greater insight into the fascinating history of these places.

The *Steam Railways Group* visited the Didcot Railway Centre and had a trip on the West Somerset Railway. *Theatre Group* had two trips to the theatre in Malvern and the recently formed *Concert Group* has already been to concerts in Birmingham and Cardiff.

My very great thanks to all the Group Leaders and their helpers for the enthusiasm and hard work that has gone into organising and running their groups. More detailed reports are published in the Newsletter, and there are, of course, groups that are content quietly to beaver away without any publicity; let's hear more from you.

A very warm welcome to our 87 new members over the year. As mentioned earlier, the total number of members has not altered since last year, which just shows as many left (some, sadly, deceased) as joined. My thanks to all involved in recruiting.

A very big thank you to all those not on the Executive Committee, but who have undertaken essential responsibilities: Keiron Helmy, Beacon Administrator; Sarah Maidlow, Newsletter Editor; Thelma Miller, Welfare and Catering Team; Keith Bostock, Webmaster. This has been Keith's last year as Webmaster and I offer my sincere thanks and greatest admiration to his skill with digital things, and his patience with the unskilled, like me. Keith is replaced by John Harding (bass guitar, Folk Band) who has already demonstrated his skill

as Webmaster. Keith will still be available for assistance if needed.

My thanks to all who have served on the Executive Committee over the last year. Two very welcome members joined us early in 2023: Linda Morris and Gillian Talbot. Gillian came to Gloucester from Ross-on-Wye where she had had experience of being Business Secretary, a role she has now undertaken with us.

Many thanks also to Barbara Morgan (Vice Chair and Membership), Gerald Robins (Treasurer), Triss Pollington (Groups Coordinator), and Mary Kitchen (Monthly Meetings and Minutes Sec). They have worked hard on your behalf, and given me support and good advice throughout the year.

Future effort, it is suggested, should be directed at recruiting more members, although, as yet, we have no one on the committee who has a special interest in this. I am reminded that our membership once reached 800. I know that among our members there are some who have ideas on recruitment - at least one on committee would be a great asset.

And that brings me to my final point, the minimum and maximum number on the Executive Committee is 5 and 12. At the time of writing we have 7 nominees – room for another 5. According to the Constitution the Officers are: the Chair, not more than two Vice Chairs, Treasurer and Secretary; the rest are non-Officers. As a non-Officer you need not have any role other than to join in discussions and offer opinions. However, all Executive Committee members are Trustees. Having more non-Officers on committee is a good investment in the

future, as members have a limited period of service, and in just one year's time two replacements will be necessary.

We look forward to the future with optimism and expectation. May we continue to learn in an atmosphere of happy companionship.

Denis Riley
Chair

Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting of Gloucester u3a held at 2.15 on Monday, 24th July, 2023 at The Guild Hall, Eastgate Street, Gloucester.

Present: 81 members present, therefore meeting was quorate.

Chairman's welcome: Chairman Denis Riley welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence: *Rita Apperley, Susie Bayliss, Chris and Paul Best, Marian and David Carroll, Katharine Clements, Dave & Julie Coward, Elizabeth Dodgshun, Dorothy Farley, Anthony Gardner, Alan Grove, Leon Laporte, Robert Moreland, Jennifer Morrissey, Cedric Pickin, Peter Senneck, Anna Mitchell, Simon and Triss Pollington, Ann Williams, Elvin Young.*

2. Minutes of 34th AGM held on Monday, 26th July, 2022, together with the Agenda and Accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Approval of the minutes as a true record was proposed by Robert Purdie and seconded by Anne Kronig. All present were in agreement. The minutes were then signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising: None

4. Chairman's Report and Annual Summary of the year (see above).

5. Treasurer's Report: Balance sheets were distributed, Treasurer gave his report.

The Chair thanked Gerald for compiling the accounts. Treasurer suggested that the membership fee for the coming year be set at £10. This was proposed by Sarah Maidlow and seconded by Clive Harper. All members were in favour.

A member queried the increase in room hire and activity costs over 2021/22 financial year. Treasurer pointed out that as lockdown restrictions were eased, some groups were hesitant to meet again. Consequently, costs were lower. Also there has been an increase in the number of groups this year.

6. Examiner of Accounts. The Treasurer informed members that he has had the accounts examined by Penelope Brown, Chartered Accountant and member of Gloucester u3a, who has confirmed that our accounts meet the requirements of the Charity Commission and show no issues of concern. Penelope then signed off copies of the accounts for the Charity Commission and for the file.

Treasurer requested that members approve the use of this Accountant to examine the accounts year 2022/2023. This was proposed by Eleanor Meszaros and seconded by Roz Watts. All members were in favour.

7. Receive and approve the Examined Account. Acceptance of the accounts of Gloucester & District u3a for the period 1st June, 2022 to 31st May, 2023 was confirmed by members.

8. Election of Officers and Committee:

- Denis Riley was appointed as Chair for the coming year. Proposed by John Harding, seconded by Robert Purdie.

- Gerald Robins will continue as Treasurer. Proposed by Helen Ellicott and seconded by Susan Yates.
- Barbara Morgan will continue as Membership Secretary and also Vice Chair. Proposed by Maureen Wray and seconded by Jane Bembridge.
- Gillian Talbot was proposed as Business Secretary by Elvin Young and seconded by Clive Harper.
- Theresa (Triss) Pollington will continue as Groups Co-ordinator. Proposed by Clive Harper and seconded by Penny Harper.
- Mary Kitchen was proposed as Monthly Meetings Organiser and Minutes Secretary by Maureen Wray and seconded by Jackie Reynolds

All members were in favour of the elections of these officer.

Chair thanked the Committee for all their support and hard work and repeated the need for more volunteers to join the Committee.

9. A.O.B.

A. Barbara Morgan pointed out that renewal of membership on line via Paypal will be different this year. You will need the 5 pieces of information to confirm your identity and also to set up a password. BM will circulate details to enable members to complete this task. Members can still pay by cheque either at *Subs and Clubs* or by post.

B. *Subs and Clubs* will be held at the Baptist Church, Southgate Street on **Monday, 21st August.**

Refreshments will be available from 1.30 with the meeting commencing at 2.00.

C. Jeremy Furtado pointed out that our Constitution could be changed so that Committee members did NOT have to stand down (and be re-elected every

year) unless their 3 or 6 year term has reached its end. This would mean that the Election of Committee members at the AGM would be much quicker and more simple. The Charity Commission will take a lenient view of such requests.

D. The closing date for entries in the next edition of the Newsletter is Friday, 28th July. This edition will include details of the AGM and will be available at the *Subs and Clubs* meeting.

The AGM concluded at 2.50.

The 36th Annual General Meeting will take place on **Monday, 22nd July, 2024**. venue to be confirmed.

The Folk Band then entertained members at the conclusion of business.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership is due for renewal on **1st August 2023** and we hope that you will continue as a member.

We are pleased to say that the annual membership fee remains at £10 for individuals and £20 joint for the third year in a row! The Associate fee (for full members of another Cotswold Link u3a) is £6 for individuals and £12 joint. If you want the Newsletters sent to you by post, the cost is £3 per year but you cannot pay this online.

There are 3 ways that you can renew your membership:

- Online. This is the preferred method but this year, access to the Members Portal has been changed to your Email address and Password. You need to create a password but first, you have to provide the usual 5 pieces of information in order to confirm your identity. I have already

sent out an email giving all the relevant information so hopefully, all will go smoothly but do let me know if you have any problems. Payment is via PayPal, but you do not need to open an account as you can pay as a guest with your credit or debit card.

- At *Subs and Clubs*. The meeting will take place at Brunswick Baptist Church, Southgate Street on **Monday, 21st August at 2:00** with refreshments being served from 1:30. Group Leaders will be on hand to give information on their groups and Subs can be paid by cash or cheque.
- By Post. Send a cheque payable to 'Gloucester u3a' to the Membership Secretary
- (*address redacted for online copy*)
- Please print your name and Membership Number on the back of the cheque and include a SAE if you want your membership card sent by post.

I look forward to welcoming back previous members. If you know of anyone who is interested in joining Gloucester u3a, please bring them along to *Subs and Clubs* or to one of the *Monthly Meetings*.

Babs Morgan
Membership Secretary

NEWSLETTERS

Paper copies of this Summer Newsletter should be available at *Subs and Clubs*. They can also be picked up at the Guildhall Box Office and at Monthly Meetings.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monday, 25th September – *What the Dickens* with Phil Collins and Mike Bottomley. Mike and Phil will celebrate the life, times and works of Britain's much-loved author, Charles Dickens.

Monday, 23rd October – Peter Gill *Private Godfrey's Real War*. Peter came to regale us with the wit and wisdom of Noel Coward in November, 2022. He is now going to tell us about Private Godfrey. To the legions of fans of "Dad's Army", Private Charles Godfrey was that wonderfully endearing, kind and gentle, retired tailor who lives with his two spinster sisters in Cherry Tree Cottage, Walmington-on-Sea. However, the Great War experiences of William Arnold Ridley, who played Godfrey, as a combatant in the front line trenches of the Western Front would leave him both physically and mentally scarred for life. Come along and find out more.

Monday, 27th November – Richard Goddard from the Tewkesbury Battlefield Society, will speak about the Battle of Tewkesbury.

December – Choir. More details to follow.

Monday, 22nd January, 2024 – The Cotswold Canals Trust is working to restore the link between the River Severn at Saul Junction and the River Thames at Lechlade. Volunteers from The Trust will give a presentation covering the history of the Stroudwater Canal and the Thames Severn Canal, the work and achievements that have taken place to restore the canals since they were abandoned in 1954 and plans for the complete restoration of the link in the future.

Monday, 26th February, 2024 – Robert Arley will tell us that there was

never a movie star like Rita Hayworth. Robert came in April, 2023 to tell us about *Flog It* and *Bargain Hunt*. This time Robert will profile the extraordinary career, experiences, life-style and film triumphs of this star, best known for her captivating title role as Gilda in the 1945 Hollywood film "Noir"

OTHER BRANCH ACTIVITIES

Javelin Park Visit: A reminder that the visit to the Javelin Park Incinerator is to take place on **October 3rd**. The trip will be approx 3hrs, including a spell in the classroom, plus a 1hr tour of the facility. The actual times have yet to be finalised. Please note that it is an industrial site and stairs are used on the tour itself. I would ask for attendees to make their own way to the site.

Nearer the time I will send out an email to the members I already have listed, with the latest info of the final details, after which I will ask you to confirm your attendance.

I currently have enough names for a second visit so I will arrange it, but which I already know will be sometime in 2024!

Bugatti Museum at Prescott Hill Climb: Prescott Hill Climb is also the home of the Bugatti Trust Museum which is an independent UK non profit making Charity. We, as Gloucester u3a, are able to visit as a group to enjoy a presentation followed by a guided tour of the exhibition showing the engineering, art, and design by the renowned Bugatti family. The charge is £10 per person for a weekday group visit with tea and coffee served on arrival and lasts between 1.5 and 2.0hrs.

If any members would be interested in such a visit, please contact me at the *Subs and Clubs* meeting in August and I will arrange a visit.

Corks: Please remember that I am collecting corks for charitable purposes. Any type of cork is suitable as they are turned into particles and made into such things as table mats through to handbags. These are sold and the profits sent to developing countries such as Rwanda, the money used to provide clean drinking water and sanitation.

Bring any corks you have collected (do not forget friends and neighbours) to our Monthly Meetings for me to collect and send away. Currently Gloucester u3a has collected over SIX Kilograms. Keep them coming.

Clive Harper
(*contact details redacted*)

GROUPS

BELLYBOLLYHULA will restart after the summer break on **Tuesday 12th September, 1.45** at Northgate Hall. This is a good time to join the group if you are interested. The group is run a bit like line dancing but using movements from Bollywood, Hula and Belly dance so is a great workout for all the body. Contact Pam (*contact details redacted*) if you want further information

Pam Jones

BRIDGE FOR BEGINNERS

We will be running another set of lessons for beginners, starting in

September. These will be open to u3a and non-u3a folks. The dates/times are not yet finalised, but if you're interested, please contact me (*contact details redacted*)

Alan Stanfield

CIRCLE DANCE

I have just enjoyed another Circle Dance Day workshop, this

time with Karen Michaelson who led a lovely mixture of traditional dances



from countries such as Greece, Turkey, Albania and Bulgaria plus contemporary choreographies of music from Ireland, Hungary and Bosnia & Herzegovina. The wide variety of music is what so many Circle Dancers enjoy, but it is also the feeling of dancing with a group of people, sometimes complete strangers, and yet moving as one that is so uplifting.

Those of you who are regular listeners to Radio 4 may be aware of a series of Podcasts called 'In the Loop' where Paul Farley investigates why human beings find rings and circles so symbolic, significant and satisfying. In one of these episodes he chats with Karen Michaelson about Circle Dance and I understand that Karen explains how this medium of dance creates a feeling of energy and community which is unique to this form of dance. As I write, this episode has not been aired so I look forward to hearing Karen's views. Classes will continue throughout August, dancing as usual on the First and

Third Thursdays (**August 3rd and 17th**), but then there will be no classes during September.

We start back at the Hucclecote Community Centre on **October 5th** and dance again on **October 19th**.

The schedule for November and December classes will however be different. We will be dancing on November **2nd, 16th, and 30th** with the final class of 2023 being held on **December 21st** (N.B. there will NOT be a class on December 7th).

As always, you are welcome to try Circle Dance at any time, - just give me a call first to let me know when you will be coming along.

Anne and Keith Bostock

CONCERT GROUP

Thank you to all those loyal members of the Concert group who have joined us for the Spring Concerts. I would, however, like to see more of you so we can at least take a larger coach. We have 69 members of the group and so far the largest to go to a Concert is 16.

There is an interesting programme planned for the Autumn and into next year and I shall be at the *Subs and Clubs* meeting in August with all of them listed. It would be lovely to see you there. I am awaiting the announcement of the Classical Series for the Birmingham Symphony Hall to see what they have to offer for the forthcoming season; also the St David's Hall, Cardiff.

I would really appreciate it if I could call on one of you to assist me. Not in the arranging of the Concerts unless you want to but to, perhaps, fill in for me on the coach occasionally when I am

unable to attend. This has happened only once so far and I hope it will not happen again for a long time. I have noticed that other groups have this benefit up and running and would really appreciate it if we could do the same. It is not arduous.

Thank you for your support

Rosemary Canning

DIET AND HEALTH GROUP

Is drinking coffee bad or will it help me live longer? What's all this about fermented foods? Can eating butter be good for weight loss? Confused by conflicting information about eating?

You might like to join the new Diet and Health group starting soon. If you are interested (*contact details redacted*)

Pam Jones

ENJOYING MUSIC is still being well attended at the Congregational Hall in St Mary's street. It takes place every **Second Tuesday** at 10.30.

Programmes of music are provided either by myself or by any member who would like to do it for one hours duration. All types of music are catered for.

Clive Harper

FOLK BAND

In spite of losing 3 Mondays in May to the Bank Holidays, *Third Age Folk* has had an active term, culminating in an 'audience-inclusive' performance at the recent AGM followed by a 2-hour



stint in the community bandstand at the Three Choirs Festival the following afternoon.

We've been happy to welcome two new members recently and are always glad to see more.

Sarah Maidlow

FRENCH FOR ALL

The French conversation group first started in September 1988 and still meets on the **Second and Fourth Wednesday** in the Guildhall from 10:30 until 12:00. The class is not totally conversational as for each class articles are provided concerning France and the French people and sometimes, of course, there is grammar to sort out. It is not a group for absolute beginners but even a slight knowledge or knowledge that has not been used for a long time is sufficient to get you going again. The aim of the group is to rekindle any interest you have in the people and the country across the Channel. We recommence on **Wednesday, 13th September** ET VOUS SEREZ TRES BIENVENU.

Please contact Brenda (*contact details redacted*) for further information.

Brenda True

HISTORY OF SCIENCE

The History of Science Course has now come to an end and the Group has closed down.

Over some 5 years we have explored the HoS from the Ancient Greeks up until the mid 20th century; from Aristotle to Einstein passing through alchemy and astrology amongst many other topics on the way. We have studied the scientific advances and the

lives of the scientists involved. As well as what we would now regard as science, we have also looked at the religious and philosophical contexts of the discoveries and theories.

Attendance has remained steady at about 15, and I should like to thank all those who have listened, contributed and helped with experiments over the years.

John Thorn

HORTICULTURE GROUP

2023/4 Programme

During 2022/23, the Horticulture Group have enjoyed talks from a variety of speakers and a demonstration of willow weaving. We have been out and about visiting beautiful, scented and colourful gardens. We hope you will support us with our new programme of Talks, Study Visits and the Christmas Party. We meet on the **First Wednesday** at 10.30 in the Guildhall. (Please note changes Tuesday 26.9.23 and Monday 4.12.23 2.00)

Tuesday, 26th September Joint Visit with *Local History* to Chavenage House (we are making our ownway there): please contact Babs Morgan for further details.

Wednesday, 4th October Our Speaker is Mike Bottomley – *Jack in the Green, The Revival of an Old May Day Tradition*, illustrated with song and video.

Wednesday, 1st November Our speaker is Vanessa Berridge, Gloucestershire County Organiser for the *National Garden Scheme*. The gardens are open for the NGS to raise money to nursing and health charities. During 2023 130 gardens have been opened for

the NGS for nursing and health charities.

Monday 4th December *Horticulture Christmas Party* 2.00 - 4.30. We are meeting at the Baptist Church, Southgate Street. Would helpers please arrive from 1.30? Entertainment to be confirmed.

We do not meet in January 2024, but we will publish our programme for 2024 in due course. Please let us have your ideas for Speakers and Visits.

Marian Carroll and Mary Kitchen

LOCAL HISTORY

A group of us went on an enlightening tour of the Stone Masons' Workshop in June when we were all amazed at the range and quality of work carried out by the small team of masons led by Master Mason Pascal Mychalysin. It started with Pascal playing a tune by tapping different slabs of limestone and the purity of the notes showed that there were no flaws!

We have arranged the following visit and talks which we hope you will attend. All talks take place in the Guildhall cinema at 10:30 on the **Last Tuesday** and there is a charge of £2.

September 26th A tour of Chavenage House, Tetbury has been arranged at 11:00. I will be sending details to those members who have already booked by the end of August and booking forms will be available at *Subs and Clubs*.

October 31st Our speaker is Phil Collins who will be giving a talk on 'A History of Cheltenham through Picture Postcards'.

November 28th We have been lucky enough to have had several interesting talks by Tony Conder and we are

pleased that he will be giving us his talk on 'Gloucester Observed: 500 years of Diaries and Journals'.

December No Meeting

January 30th To start the year on a happy note, we have asked the Duo from *Gloucester Diamonds*, a well-known shanty group, to entertain us and there will be a chance for all to join in the chorus.

February 27th We are delighted that Gloucester u3a member and Civic Trust guide Terry Matthias is giving a talk on 'The History of Man-made Diamonds' but I don't think he will be giving any free samples!

Do let us know if you have any suggestions for future talks or visits.

Babs, Marian and Dave

MAHJONG

As you read this, we will be approaching autumn once again. A good time to think about joining a new group, maybe!

Our 'friendly' and 'enjoyable' group (words used by our long standing members) are always happy to see new faces. Many of those who have joined our group have never played before so, if that is what you are thinking, no problem as there is always someone on hand to welcome and guide you along.

We meet in the lovely historic church St Mary de Crypt in Southgate street, Gloucester. There is a cafe in the old school room, where you can purchase tea and coffee before the session.

When: every **Second and Fourth Wednesday**

September: 13th and 27th

Time: 2.00 - 4.00 Cost: £2

Please message me if you would like any further information (*contact details redacted*)

Pippa Zadeh

POETRY GROUP

We continue to meet on **Last Fridays** to discuss the work of poets, usually with a local connection. After an August break we get together again on **September 29th**, 10.30-12.30 at The Folk to have a look at verses by Jo Shapcott, whose family came from the Forest of Dean. Everyone's welcome: please contact me beforehand to be emailed copies of the poems.

Sarah Maidlow

RECORDERS

The Recorder Group continues to thrive with several new recruits over the last year. Attendance is generally between 20 & 25 out of a membership of 30.

We mainly play for our own enjoyment, but do the occasional performance. On May 12th the group played for an hour & a half as part of a flower festival in the Cathedral. We played a mixture of religious music and music with an

horticultural theme.

[It was perhaps the first time 'Tulips from Amsterdam' had been played in front of the High Altar.]

Instruments in the group range from

the descant, that many will remember playing at school, down to the large and expensive 8ft Contra-Basses. The players are all good sight



readers of music and tackle any music I put in front of them, in from 4 to 8 parts and in all styles and from all periods. The Group is not suitable for beginners, but if you already play another instrument to a reasonable standard (Say Grade 5 and above.) and are a good sight reader, it may not take too long to reach an appropriate level on recorder to join the group. The Tenor Recorder is the recommended starter instrument.

We meet **every Monday morning** (even on Bank Holidays!) at Matson Baptist Church. The Group now has a library of over 320 pieces of music and we usually tackle a new piece every week.

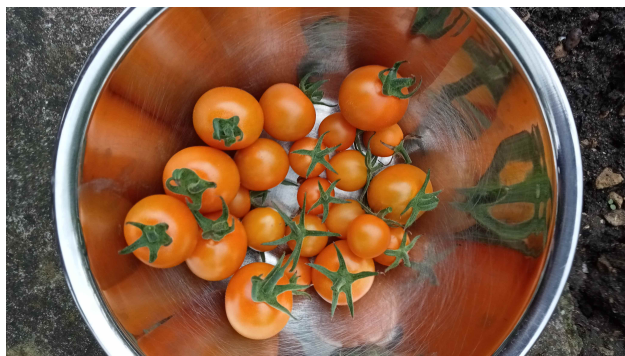
John Thorn

SINGING TOGETHER

Come along and join in. Non-singers welcomed! The music is normally from the '50s/'60s/'70s: all the songs we all know from our younger days. The Lyrics are projected onto the wall of the building and you will be unable to resist joining in. Come and see.

This meeting takes place in the Congregational Hall on the **Third Tuesday** at 10.30.

Clive Harper



SOCIAL CYCLISTS

The Social Cyclists enjoyed a perfect British summer's day for our ride to the delightful riverside Lower Lode Inn; we feel we've earned a few rides in warm sunshine after riding regularly through the cold and wet of winter. At 27 miles this was longer than our usual rides but five riders rose to the challenge and were



rewarded

with outstanding countryside views, a pleasant lunch, and a second stop at the Ashleworth Hub for tea and cake on the way back.

August will see a shorter ride, details nearer the time. If you want to join us then please get in touch.

(contact details redacted)

Simon Pollington

STEAM RAILWAY GROUP

On June 15th, one of the hottest days of the summer, 30 members of the Steam Railway Group set their alarm clocks nice and early for our journey down to Somerset for a most enjoyable day out on the West Somerset Railway. Our steam train departed Bishops Lydiard on time at 10.15 for our journey through idyllic scenery, which also included the North Somerset coastline at Watchet and Blue Anchor Bay before arriving at Minehead. The station has retained its magnificent appearance in typical Great Western

architecture. Although the West Somerset Railway does have some fully paid up members of staff, it must be remembered that like all the many other UK Heritage Railways the many volunteers do a magnificent job in ensuring the safety of its passengers and to make sure that everywhere is kept clean and tidy. We then had over 4 hours to explore the town of Minehead and sample the local ice cream, cider and various West Country Ales. Some members I understand even took the opportunity to relive childhood days and go for a traditional paddle in the sea! Due to a lineside fire our return journey was 30 minutes late departing Minehead. Our thanks go to Michael, our driver, for ensuring a comfortable coach journey.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 7th** at 2.00 in the Guildhall when Ken Mumford will be talking to us about the railways of South Wales.

John Smith

TABLE TENNIS (intermediate)

We are looking to grow our group and would love to have a half dozen or so new members join us. While games are competitive, we do have fun, and everyone is very friendly. We play doubles to a reasonable standard, rotating around so you play with a different partner most games. If you used to play and are still reasonably fit, why not give us a try? We play **every Friday morning** between 10.00 - 12.00 in the Gambier Parry Hall in Highnam, with sessions costing £3.00. Please reply to (contact details redacted)

David Ginman

THEATRE GROUP

Sorry nothing has happened with this Group as I've been having health problems. Anyway, well on the mend now so am busy looking for things I think we'll enjoy.

Ann Williams

TRAVEL GROUP

Since the Spring update we have had a full programme as usual. We had our Annual Trip to Llandudno and one of our members wrote the following report: 'North Wales was the chosen area for Gloucester u3a's spring tour. The Somerset Hotel at Llandudno offered plenty of sustenance at breakfast and dinner plus evening entertainment. We visited Erddig NT for an extended lunch stop on the way to Llandudno. The 17th/18th century house is grade I listed building, complete with a walled garden and a Norman motte and bailey castle. Days out included a visit to Bodnant Garden. Portmeiron Italianate village was a total joy, experiencing the coloured houses in the sunshine! Our final day was free to discover Llandudno with many of us taking the tram up the Big Orme. No sunshine there but plenty of fresh air blowing away the



cobwebs! Leaving North Wales we stopped at Berrington Hall NT for another extended lunch break. This had a much more feminine appeal, the décor being lighter and more genteel, with an opportunity to try on hats and wigs! Everyone agreed that we had spent a most enjoyable tour '

Our 5 day tour for 2024 will be to Derby and further details will be given at our meeting in October.

May saw a talk by Paul Willerton on Northern Cyprus and June saw a successful day trip to Bishop's Palace in Wells. Ray Sturdy returned once again to the group in July and gave us a talk called '*a drop of the hard stuff*' and you would be forgiven if you thought it was about Irish whiskey. It was about a charity bike ride in Eire and the amount of laughter during the talk was infectious.

Our calendar for the rest of the year is:

16th August Subs and Clubs

20th September

Day Trip: Charlecote Park, Warwick (booking form attached)

18th October Panama talk by Arthur Ball

16th November THURS, 2.00-4.00, Cream Tea, St John's Hall, £2.50 to include raffle ticket.

With effect from October the group charge will go up to £3.00 per meeting to cover the increased rental of the hall and the cost of speakers. We hope you will all agree that it is still good value for money.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and be grateful that we do not have the appalling heat currently in the rest of Europe.

Carol Wheeler

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

This recently revived Group needs more members attending to make it viable in the longer term. It currently takes place every **First Thursday** at 10.30 in the Fisher room at the Guild Hall in Gloucester.

Members are invited to bring along any cuttings they may see in newspapers or magazines etc which are of interest to them, which may start a discussion within the group. Articles may be on any topic from the light hearted to more important in nature.

Clive Harper

*Don't forget you can sign up to:
u3a monthly National Newsletter
u3a Online (based in Australia)
and you can find past copies online of
Third Age Matters magazine*



*picture credits: cover and calendar page Anthea Bircher
pp11, 14 Heather Cresswell
opposite Group Information: Heather Kerr (photo), Fi
Bromby (painting - commissions taken), Roz Watts
(cards)
other pictures from Groups*

Colwell Arts Orchestra is an adult music group run by Gloucestershire Music - part of Gloucestershire County Council. The orchestra was created over twenty years ago to provide the opportunity for players of intermediate standard (approximately grade 4 and above) to play orchestral music together. Under our previous conductor, Richard Ling, we grew to over 60 in number and reached a good playing standard, with some members who had only latterly taken up a musical instrument and others who learned as youngsters and were keen to start playing again. Sadly, the pandemic saw the retirement of our conductor, and many players left the orchestra and have never returned.

Now, under our new conductor, Jenny Steele, we are very short of players of some instruments - notably strings, brass and percussion. We set no limit to the number of each type of instrument in the orchestra - we would welcome woodwind players also - and we're keen to build up the membership again, so that we can take on more demanding and larger scale repertoire. The orchestra meets for weekly rehearsals during term time, on Wednesday evenings at Colwell Arts Centre in Gloucester.

Before the pandemic, we were giving two or three concerts a year at local venues in Cheltenham and Gloucester. We have recently taken part in an enjoyable concert at Pittville Pump Room, together with other county music groups.

Playing music together is one of the most exciting and inspiring ways to spend your time. It's great for making and building friendships, for letting go of stress and for getting a real sense of achievement. This is a great opportunity to join a worth-while group and to be influential in its development and progress.

If you're interested in joining the orchestra, please contact our Director, Jenny Steele (email: jennysteelebrasstuition@gmail.com). For more info on the orchestra, visit <https://www.gloucestershiremusic.co.uk/adult-groups/colwell-arts-orchestra-cao/about-colwell-arts-orchestra/>.

DAY	MORNING	AFTERNOON
Monday	German Improvers (2 & 4) Recorders MONTHLY MEETING (4)	Badminton Bridge {Improvers} Folk Band
Tuesday	Book Club (3) Chess (3) Committee Meeting (1) Enjoying Music (2) Local History (Last) Singing Together (3)	BellyBollyHula & Fun (2 & 4) Play Reading I (4) Scrabble (2 & 4)
Wednesday	French Conversation (2 & 4) Horticulture (1) Italian for Beginners (2) Rummikub Club (2) Theatre Travel (3) Walkers {Wednesday} (4)	Bridge Mahjong (2 & 4) Piano Duets (1)
Thursday	Table Tennis {Beginners} What the Papers Say (1) TBC	Art Circle Dancing (1 & 3) [Cryptic Crosswords]
Friday	Electronics (1) Poetry Group (Last) Table Tennis {Intermediate} Walkers {Friday} (3)	Choir
Various	Concert Group Social Cycling Steam Railway	

Key: () Week in the month the group *usually* meets

[] Group currently dormant. Please contact the Groups Co-ordinator if you are interested in re-starting it.





GROUP INFORMATION - this does not appear on the website

VENUES

BBC	Brunswick Baptist Church, Southgate St	GL1 2DR	LMC	Lonsdale Rd Methodist Church	GL2 0AT
CCC	Churchdown Community Centre	GL3 2JH	MBC	Matson Baptist Church	GL4 6LA
CS	Crypt School	GL2 5AE	MDLH	St Mary de Lode, Archdeacon St.	GL1 ITP
GH	Guildhall	GL1 INS	NH	Northgate Hall, St John's L	GL1 2AN
HCC	Hucclecote Community Centre	GL3 3RT	SMCC	St Mary's Congregational Church	GL1 2QS
HMCH	Highnam Community Centre	GL2 8DG	TF	The Folk, 99-101 Westgate St	GL1 2PG
LCC	Longlevens Community Centre	GL2 0AJ	SMdC	St Mary de Crypt, Southgate St.	GL1 ITP
LL	Longlevens Library	GL2 0AJ	var	various locations	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS + other responsibilities

Chair	Denis Riley chairman@u3agloucester.co.uk	Groups Co-ordinator	Triss Pollington groupscoord@u3agloucester.co.uk
Vice Chair & Membership Sec	Barbara Morgan membershipsec@u3agloucester.co.uk	Mins Sec & M Meeting Organiser	Mary Kitchen monthlymeeting@u3agloucester.co.uk
Business Secretary	Gillian Talbot businesssec@u3agloucester.co.uk	Contact Team (Welfare)	Thelma Miller dustymiller02@outlook.com
Treasurer	Gerald Robins treasurer@u3agloucester.co.uk	Newsletter Editor	Sarah Maidlow editor@u3agloucester.co.uk
Webmaster	John Harding websitemanager@u3agloucester.co.uk	Beacon Administrator	Keiron Helmy beacon@u3agloucester.co.uk