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**learn,
laugh,
live**

**GLOUCESTER
& DISTRICT**

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Reg. Charity No. 1016356

NEWSLETTER

**Autumn 2023
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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to our Autumn edition of the Newsletter, and a big thank you to all who have paid their annual subscription. The season of mists and mellow fruitfulness is upon us, and the Folk Band (which puts up with me) is singing of 'brown leaved fruit that's turning red' (*Linden Lea*) whilst we 'boast of our fine wool and cheese' (*Feast Song Gloucestershire*) and we 'harvest joy together' (*The Silver Wheat*). In real life, storm Agnes just about managed to roll an empty flower pot across my lawn.

We have had our AGM, as reported in the last Newsletter; thank you Penelope for doing the honours at examining the accounts. The *Subs and Clubs* annual event also went well, with so many animated conversations at the Groups' tables that it seemed at times almost riotous.

The Group programmes for the term are now well underway, and details may be found under the appropriate headings later as well as online. If you hadn't already guessed, the Folk Band will be performing at The Folk again on Apple Day.

I have spent a fair amount of time this year, together with your committee, conforming to instructions from the Third Age Trust (TAT) to update a number of our policy documents. The following updates are now on our u3a Gloucester website: Copyright and Licences, Equity Diversity and Inclusion, GDPR (Data Protection), GDPR (Privacy). Look up the

Welcome page on the website and find them listed under Links. I regret that they are longer than the versions they replace, but I think they are more explanatory. Perhaps it would be an idea to read them in easy parts once per week, as Dickens was read, so we were told at the last Monthly Meeting entitled 'What the Dickens'.

We now move forward, unlikely to change the use of pronouns; however, I'm now a Chair. We don't yet have single sex groups, but watch out for equality in diversity. Let's be open to ideas and opinions (legal ones) so as to avoid cancelling ideas we don't like whilst living in echo chambers.

One of the many assets of our movement is the opportunity for companionship, and so this autumn is a good time to harvest joy together.

Denis, Chair

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Many thanks to those members who have already renewed your membership by post, online or at Subs and Clubs. We had a busy time at Subs and Clubs with over 100 renewals and some new members, so a special thanks to my very efficient team as I couldn't have managed without them!

If you have already renewed, you can ignore the rest of this section. If you haven't got round to doing it yet, please can you renew as soon as possible or your membership will lapse at the end of October. You can do this:

- Online on the Gloucester u3a website. The Members Portal is on the Members page and access this year has changed to your email address and password. However, you must first enter the usual 5 pieces of personal information in order to confirm your identity.
- By post to me at 8 Wedgwood Drive, Longlevens, Gloucester GL2 0AD. Cheques for £10 (individual) or £20 (joint) should be made payable to 'Gloucester u3a' and include a SAE if you want your membership card posted back to you.

Babs Morgan
Membership Secretary

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monday, 23rd October – Peter Gill *Private Godfrey's Real War*. After regaling us with the wit and wisdom of Noel Coward in 2022, Peter is now going to tell us about *Private Godfrey*. To the legions of fans of "Dad's Army", *Private Charles Godfrey* was that 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*, 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.

Monday, 11th December – The Gloucester u3a Choir has agreed to again perform the **Annual Carol Concert**, which will take place in St Mary de Crypt Church, Southgate Street (opposite the Baptist Church). The Concert will commence at **10.30**. Refreshments will be available in the Cook Room upstairs – lift available.

This is always a lovely festival of music and we are grateful to John Merrick and all the Choir members for coming to entertain us.

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"

Mary Kitchen

CONTACT TEAM

I am your point of contact for members' welfare so please let me know if someone is ill, is or has been in hospital, or suffers a bereavement, as I send cards on behalf of our u3a. It would also be of help if you can tell me to which group(s) they belong.

Myself and my team also provide refreshments for special meetings.

Thelma Miller (xxx)
or *xxx*

CORKS COLLECTION

May I thank all those Members who have collected corks for the charity that recycles them and which I have duly sent off. Gloucester u3a has collected eight Kilograms so far but there is room for any amount. So please carry on bringing them to the Monthly meeting, or any others that you may attend. Don't forget to ask friends and neighbours to contribute also.

Clive Harper

GROUPS

BRIDGE FOR BEGINNERS

We will be running another set of lessons for beginners soon 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.

Alan Stanfield xxx
xxx

CONCERT GROUP

A big thank you to the members of the Concert group for their support. I appreciate very much those members who consistently attend the Concerts. I have checked out a number of concerts for next year and have sent the lists out by Beacon. However we have had several new members who wish for information so will send it again. I apologise if you have already seen it and put your names down.

We now have 82 members and it would be lovely to see more of you coming. As coaches have been getting more expensive I have tried to choose concerts at more local venues than London. The main exception of course is the John Rutter Christmas Celebration which I will always include as it is so popular. Keep looking at your emails please.

Rosemary Canning



ENJOYING MUSIC

Everyone enjoys music. All types and mixtures, from classical to jazz or pop, are presented at these meetings and Members can pick their own programme if they wish. It's one hour of your time and enjoyment. You may even hear something different from your normal listening preferences which you find you quite like after all! So, come along **second Tuesdays at 10.30** at the Congregational Church Hall in St Mary's Street.

Clive Harper

FOLK BAND

Third Age Folk is playing at lunchtime on Apple Day at The Folk, **Saturday, October 21**, and presenting Christmas themed gigs come December. New members are always welcome; please contact Sarah editor@u3agloucester.co.uk

HORTICULTURE GROUP

2023/4 Programme

We are looking forward to our Autumn Programme of Talks, Study Visits and the Christmas Party. We meet on the first Wednesday of the Month at 10.30 in the Guildhall.

(Please note change to **Monday 4.12.23 at 2.00**)

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

Wednesday, November 1 –

Our Speaker for November 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, December 4 –

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

In September, we had an entertaining and informative tour of Chavenage House, Tetbury followed by a delicious buffet lunch, which was all delivered by members of the Lowsley-Williams family, who welcomed us into their beautiful Elizabethan house. There was a film crew there but, unfortunately, we missed seeing David Tennant and Aidan Turner who had been there recently!

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 will be a charge of £2.

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

November 28 – 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 30 – 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 27 – 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!

March 26 – James Rendall is giving his talk *'Terrifying Typhoon: The Gloucester Built Scourge of the Axis'*, following his enjoyable talk earlier this year on H. H. Martyn.



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

Babs, Marian and Dave

MAHJONG

Our popular mahjong sessions are now back in full swing after the summer break.

Where: St Mary de crypt, Southgate street, Gloucester

When: **2nd and 4th**

Wednesdays

Time: 2pm - 4pm Cost: £2

If you've never played before but fancy giving it a try, we'd love to see you. It's not as complicated as you might think and there's always someone to guide you along.

Any queries, please contact me:

xxx

Pippa Zadeh

POETRY GROUP

We usually get together on **last Fridays** and have one further face-to-face meeting planned at The Folk, Westgate St, on **October 27**, before migrating to Zoom meetings for **November 24, December 22** (not 29) January and February. This is an open group: just contact Sarah (editor@u3agloucester.co.uk) for meeting details.

SINGING TOGETHER

Who doesn't like a good Sing Song to their favourite tunes? Who doesn't know all the lyrics? Who can't sing? These are the members we want to attract. Words are provided in a way

that you can't miss! Sing to yourself if that suits you better. We are all as bad as each other!

If you haven't been yet, give it a try. It's on the **third Tuesday** of each month. Put it in your diary. 10.30 at the Congregational Church Hall St Mary's St. I hope to see you there.

Clive Harper

STEAM RAILWAY GROUP

My apologies to everyone who came to the last talk which, unfortunately, could not continue due to technical difficulties. I can assure you that the Guildhall staff did all they could to get the presentation up and running. Ken Mumford was highly embarrassed and has asked me to once again convey his sincere apologies. I would like to thank the vast majority of members who understood and showed sympathy as to my situation.

As yet I have not been able to locate a speaker for a talk I was hoping to arrange before Christmas. If I succeed then I will notify members accordingly.

John Smith

THEATRE GROUP

Wednesday, 17 January, 2.30 *Noises Off* by Michael Frayn, starring Liza Goddard and Paul Bradley, **at Malvern****, £49.45 per person. A famous comedy with a new production. It follows the on and off stage antics of a touring company as

they stumble their way through the fictional farce. Closing date for bookings is **19 November**.

Wednesday, 21 February

Murder in the Dark starring Tom Chambers, Susie Blake and Laura White, **at Malvern****, £40.25 per person. A thrilling new ghost story about a troubled singer and his family at an isolated country cottage in rural England. Closing date for bookings is **22 December**.

Thursday 11 April, 2.00 *Peter Pan Goes Wrong*, **Cheltenham**

Everyman Theatre, £35.00 each, **ticket only** provided, make your own way to Cheltenham. Comes from the Goes Wrong gang so should be very funny. Deadline date for ordering tickets is **5 March**.

Wednesday, 1 May, 2.30 *Cluedo 2 - The Next Chapter* written by Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran,

at Malvern**, £53.00 per person. The headline says "You'll Laugh Till You Die". It's a rollicking spoof of a comedy: as the bodies pile up our infamous characters uncover each other's mysteries. Closing date for bookings is **6 March**.

Thursday 6 June, 2.00 *Drop the Dead Donkey - The Reawakening*

starring the original cast from the TV show of thirty years ago,

Cheltenham Everyman

Theatre, £39.00 each, **ticket only** provided, again make your own way to Cheltenham. Deadline date for ordering tickets is **1 May**.

** Pick up points will be Highnam 11.00am, Castlemeads 11.10, Brunswick Road 11.15, London Road 11.20, Royal Oak 11.30 and Top Shop 11.34am.

As usual, cheques made payable to Gloucester u3a please and send them to Ann Williams, 7 Lloyd Baker Court, Hardwicke, Gloucester, GL2 4TN by the closing dates shown above (and individual cheques for each one as I can't get my books right if one cheque covers more than one trip).

Please send me stamped addressed envelopes if you want the tickets posted to you. Please ensure you send me a note of your emergency contact and their telephone number.

Don't forget to tell me your pick up point (for the Malvern trips) and provide me with your mobile number.

Any questions, please call me on xxx . My mobile on the day is xxx

Ann Williams

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

This Group meet on the **first Thursday** in the Guild Hall at 10.30. It is an informal gathering where we talk about articles from newspapers or magazines. If you read something that you think may be of interest to others bring it along. Otherwise just turn up to listen or join in the conversation. Any topic is suitable and will be a surprise to the other members on the day.

Recently the Group has suffered from a low attendance and this could make it unviable and then unfortunately would have to be closed. So, please do come along for an hour's chat with other members and have your say.

Clive Harper



*picture credits:
Anthea Bircher - front
page & right
Heather Kerr - all others.*

Translations

On my last morning in Istanbul,
after the Muezzin's call to prayer,
I drew aside my hotel curtains,
and watched with patience the sun rise
and silhouette the mosques
and minarets. And I recalled how
the line of the Malvern Hills
may have been in the back of Elgar's mind
composing the theme of the 'Variations',
and, revealing it in 'Nimrod',
bringing it to full glory.

Cedric Pickin

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 1 (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) Benvenuti in Italia (2 & 4)
Thursday	Table Tennis {Beginners} What the Papers Say (1)	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 1NS	NH	Northgate Hall, St John's L	GL1 2AN
HCC	Hucclecote Community Centre	GL3 3RT	RR	Robert Raikes	GL1 2DR
HMCH	Highnam Community Centre	GL2 8DG	SMCC	St Mary's Congregational Church	GL1 2QS
LCC	Longlevens Community Centre	GL2 0AJ	TF	The Folk, 99-101 Westgate St	GL1 2PG
LL	Longlevens Library	GL2 0AJ	SMdC	St Mary de Crypt, Southgate St.	GL1 ITP
			var	various locations	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS + other responsibilities

Chair	Denis Riley xxx chairman@u3agloucester.co.uk	Groups Co-ordinator	Triss Pollington xxx groupscoord@u3agloucester.co.uk
Vice Chair & Membership Sec	Barbara Morgan xxx membershipsec@u3agloucester.co.uk	Mins Sec & M Meeting Organiser	Mary Kitchen xxx monthlymeeting@u3agloucester.co.uk
Business Secretary	Gillian Talbot xxx businesssec@u3agloucester.co.uk	Contact Team (Welfare)	Thelma Miller xxx dustymiller02@outlook.com
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