



Honeysuckle in Summer
Heather Kerr

u3a

**learn,
laugh,
live**

**GLOUCESTER
& DISTRICT**

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Reg. Charity No. 1016356

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2023
Issue No. 379

Next Edition: AGM special 2023

Deadline for copy: 28 July 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Following my pleas for volunteers to join the committee, I am delighted that two members joined us for a taster at the last committee meeting. Gillian Talbot who has recently come to Gloucester has now joined the committee as Business Secretary, having had previous experience in that role. Many thanks to Linda Morris who has made a generous offer of support, but has not yet committed to being a committee member.

Committee meetings don't always stick to the Agenda. It was reported, at February's meeting, that there was a complaint that we didn't take part in the Remembrance Sunday ceremonies. At the time of writing we are in Lent, and anticipate the joy of Easter. But it gives you a jolt and makes you think of war, with sadness. Could there be a pattern? Enjoy power. Expand your power. Ridicule your opponents with the intent of giving supporters the feel good factor, while everyone wallows in conflict. And now the Humanitarians are telling us we are full of unconscious bias. EDI was later on the agenda – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, for which we now have a draft policy.

A basic principle of u3a is that a group of people with a common interest get together and develop a topic by means of self-help. Since the group have a common interest in the first place, they are probably like-minded. I have been told by a city dignity that u3a members are 'cliqueish'. Dare I say that there also seems to be a certain consistency of socio-economic background among members? I have to admit that no one on the committee, or anyone I have spoken to, is particularly interested in Public Relations. There are occasions when we have had a table and a flag and members take turns to be prepared to answer questions from the

public, and we have Cathedra Cuppa mornings which have attracted interest. However, recruitment is a topic to be given some future action.

I have asked the Mayor's office for information about the next Remembrance Sunday.

Denis

HAPPY 35th BIRTHDAY

In response to our Chair, Denis's, 35th Birthday Greetings email marking the Branch's foundation on March 18th, 1988, he received the following response:

I remember that meeting with pleasure. As I am just a few years from 100, I reckon I must be one of the oldest members. My wife, Phyllis, who is no longer with us, ran the original Art Group. I became the first editor of the News Letter. When I was moved to Gloucester, we both joined the U3A, and I am still a member — though not very active.

I hope you find this interesting.
Regards,

Denis Grant

Yes, we do find it interesting, Denis, and were really pleased to hear from you!

CONTACT TEAM

I am your point of contact for members' welfare so please let me know if someone is ill, 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 (xxxxxxxxxx) or xxxxxxxxxxxx

MONTHLY MEETINGS

All meetings are planned to take place in the Guildhall except June (see below). All meetings will commence at 10.30. Refreshments are available from 10.00 from the Guildhall Cafeteria.

- **Monday, April 24** “Flog it” battles “Bargain Hunt” collectibles on and off camera with Robert Arley
- **Monday, May 22** *The Devastating fire at Windsor Castle in 1992* with Fraser Gunn
- **Monday, June 26** *The Gloucester u3a Choir* under the direction of John Merrick will entertain us today. This meeting will take place in **Brunswick Road Baptist Church, Southgate Street** as John says the acoustics are better here than in the Guildhall and the seats are more comfortable. Refreshments will be available in Café area before the meeting.
- **Monday, July 24** Back to the Guildhall for the **Annual General Meeting**. Agenda and further details to follow. After the “business” part of the morning, the u3a Folk Band will entertain us. [Please see *Agenda and Nominations for Committee* at the back of this Newsletter.]
- **Monday, August 21** Time for *Subs and Clubs*. Come along and meet the Group Leaders and hear what they have to offer in the coming months. Subs can be paid via paypal or at the meeting. More details to follow.

GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR

Spring is here at last: well at least, we should be past most of the frosts...

Simon and I are planning another cycling trip - this time for only 2 weeks - around the bulb fields near Amsterdam at the end of April and are hoping that the weather

will be somewhat warmer than it is now (in March).

I thought the New Members Meeting at the beginning of February at Brunswick Church went very well. I am really grateful to all the Group Leaders who gave up their time to attend the meeting and talk for a few minutes about their group activities. I give my thanks also to the catering group who provided refreshments for the occasion. There were plenty of new members in attendance too and many seemed to be talking to the Group Leaders at the end of session, so hopefully the groups will have picked up some more members to swell their numbers and the new members attending had an enjoyable time.

I am delighted to say that 2 new groups have recently started up; ‘Italian for Beginners’ and ‘Concert’ groups. You can read about these in detail elsewhere in this newsletter. It is also hoped that a new Book Group will start up in May. Sadly, the ‘Understanding Art’ Group will be closing as Fiona Bromby-Field, who has run the group for many years, is going to step down as leader. I thank her for sharing her expertise with the group members in their monthly meeting over this time.

When we have some certain nice weather I will arrange another Cathedral Cuppa where we can meet up informally in a nice outdoor Gloucester city setting. In the meantime, I wish you a lovely spring and summer.

Triss Pollington

PROPOSED NEW GROUPS

DIET AND HEALTH

At one of the u3a coffee meetings by the Cathedral someone suggested a group on **diet**. Having always been interested in

food and especially food that could keep you well, I looked into this, all very interesting. I am not a trained dietician but was an information scientist — useful for keeping up to date on anything. The result of all this intensive investigation, both on and off line, is that I am willing to offer a 4 or 5 session group on **Diet and Health** if anyone is interested. I am aware that many of our u3a members have already lived longer than some of the leading lights of the nutrition movement and must be doing something right so the group will partially be discussion. If you are interested or want further information email Pam at xxxxxxxxxx or phone xxxxxxxxxx

Pam Jones

LISTEN WITH GRANDCHILD

Have you ever wished you were a little more familiar with the sort of awful music that your children and grandchildren listen to? Well, now's your chance. I am proposing to start up an online group that listens to and studies one great 21st century album (LP to you) a month. The rule would be that chosen albums have to be notable and to some extent influential and made by artists whose first recording was released after 1999. For the first few months I would choose the albums and introduce them. Members would listen to the album as homework in the month before each meeting alongside a few guidance notes I would provide. The monthly meetings would consist of some joint listening, more input from whoever has chosen the album and lots of discussion (including expressions of enthusiasm and distaste!). In short, the group would operate just like a book group. Its purpose would be educational, but also fun and social sharing. We could even decide to meet in person if we fancy it.

Chosen albums will be freely available on YouTube and on the normal music streaming services that members might already subscribe to. In addition I would probably be able to lend electronic copies of albums to members.

As I say, I'd be very happy to introduce all the albums for the first few months, but as time goes on I would expect members to volunteer to introduce their own albums that fit the group criteria. On the other hand, I'd be perfectly happy if many members simply wanted to learn about others' choices without having to choose albums for themselves. Whatever the case, you will soon find yourself sounding like an expert as you listen with your grandchild.

Please contact Richard Durant if this is of interest so that he can assess the viability of a group: xxxxxxxx

GROUPS

BOOK CLUB

I am pleased to say that I received a good response from members who wanted to join the Book Club and it was full within a few days. Unfortunately, I couldn't fit everyone in and so if anyone else is interested in joining, it might be possible to start up a second club but it would need one or two people who would be prepared to set it up. I am happy to help and Longlevens Library (and possibly other libraries) would welcome new clubs.

Babs Morgan

CIRCLE DANCE

As you may have gathered from previous newsletter submissions, we have a tradition in Circle Dance of marking the changing seasons and special days of the year by the



programme of dances we choose. So far this year we have celebrated our New Year, Chinese New Year, Burns Night, acknowledged Holocaust Memorial Day, celebrated St Valentine's Day, St

David's Day, St Patrick's Day and even the Cheltenham Gold Cup!

We will be celebrating Easter a little earlier this year in group with an extra class in March as Keith and I will be leading Circle Dance workshops during the Easter weekend for the Folk Dance and Song Group of the Camping and Caravanning Club.

Our group has grown in numbers over the past few months but new members are welcome at any time. No dance experience is necessary and you don't need a partner – just bring comfy, soft soled shoes and a drink for the break. We dance in the main hall of the Hucclecote Community Centre, **1.30 – 3.00**, normally on the **first and third Thursday** of the month.

However, *the only class in April will be on the third Thursday which is the 20th*. Bye for now,
Anne

CONCERT GROUP

The Concert group is now up and running. Our first Concert is 19th April followed by one in May and June.

- **April 19** matinee - Birmingham Symphony Orchestra: *Rossini, Mozart and Beethoven*
- **May 20** 7.30 - Cardiff St David's Hall: *Sibelius and Beethoven*
- **June 1** 7.30 - Cardiff St David's Hall, The National Orchestra of Wales: *Grace Williams, Mozart and Strauss*

- **October 22** - matinee Cardiff St David's Hall, Ukraine Symphony Orchestra: *Strauss, Beethoven, Lyatoshynsky, Sibelius*

I have left July, August and September for the moment but if anything spectacular comes up I will of course consider it.

Please contact me if you're interested in joining us for any of these visits (more will make the coach fare cheaper!).

xxxxxxxxxxxx

Rosemary Canning

ENJOYING MUSIC

Do not forget "Enjoying Music" on the **second Tuesday** of the month. This Group is still very popular, held in St Mary's Congregational Church Hall at **10.30**. All types of music catered for and members can present their own programme if they book it.

Clive Harper

FOLK BAND

After a busy and productive couple of months, *Third Age Folk* played for local audiences earlier this month. However, because the summer term is quite disrupted by all the Bank Holidays in May, currently we don't expect to 'play out' again till the AGM (**Monday, July 24**) plus contributing to community events during Three Choirs the same week. We've recently welcomed a percussionist and another recorder player into the group as well as adding to our singers, while another member is expanding their range of instruments. If joining with others to play and/or sing music from around the world appeals to you, don't hesitate to contact Sarah (editor@u3agloucester.co.uk): we're always glad to see new people!

HORTICULTURE GROUP

Here is our programme of Talks, Study Visits and the Plant Sale. We meet on the **first Wednesday** of the Month at 10.30 in the Guildhall. Please note the following changes: **Tuesday** May 2 for Hampton Court; the Plant Sale venue is St Mary's Congregational Hall (opposite the Pelican Inn) at 10.30; joint visit to Chavenage House with Local History on **Tuesday**, September 26.

- **Wednesday, April 5** Our speaker is Arthur Ball - *the Flora and Fauna of Cleeve Hill Common*, the common is the highest point of the Cotswolds. Arthur is a member of the Board of Conservators of Cleeve Common.
- **Tuesday, May 2** *Study Visit to Hampton Court Castle* in Herefordshire (note change of day). Described as "Possibly the most ambitious private garden of our time", Hampton Court Castle offers twelve acres of garden set against the panoramic backdrop of the Herefordshire countryside. Pre-dating Hampton Court Palace by almost 100 years, the Castle interior and gardens have been shaped by various owners through the centuries. Gardeners will take pleasure in the acclaimed organic Kitchen Gardens, home to many heritage varieties as well as cut flower beds with a focus on companion planting, scent and vibrant colours. There are formal gardens through which water flows around island pavilions and down impressive canals. There are numerous herbaceous borders including the Rose Garden, 160 year old Wisteria Arch, river walk following the banks of the River Lugg to the Castle's Lake. There is also a Sunken Garden and waterfall, secret tunnel (spooky), Dutch Garden and expansive South Lawn together with a 1000 yew maze which

has a central Gothic tower with stunning views.

- **Wednesday, June 7** *The Plant Sale* to be held at St Mary's Congregational Church, St Mary's Street at 10.30. Elaine from the Gloucestershire Organic Gardening Group will give a demonstration of Willow Weaving. Teas and coffees and a raffle. Note change of venue.
- **Wednesday, July 5** *Study Visit to Coughton Court and Gardens*, Alcester, Worcestershire. Coughton Court has been home to the Throckmorton Family for more than 600 years. Facing persecution for their Catholic faith, they were willing to risk everything including being involved in the Gunpowder Plot. The Throckmorton family still lives in the house, which is now run by the National Trust. The gardens have been developed over the past 25 years by the family to take advantage of the Tudor mansion, two churches, a lake and bog garden, the Pool, the River Arrow, an orchard and a large walled garden with a beautiful display of roses.
- **Tuesday, September 26** *Joint Visit to Chavenage House* with Local History – details to follow.
- **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. Ideas for future outings and talks are welcome.

Marian Carroll, Mary Kitchen

NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies) National Show, 'Florilegium', will be held in Gloucester Cathedral on **May 12 & 13**. (Set up May 11, take down on 15.) Volunteers are needed to steward, which is rewarded with free entry for the whole event after duty done. If interested, please contact xxxxxxxxx

Tuffley Gardens: a group of suburban gardens open for National Gardens Scheme, proceeds to nursing charities, on **Sunday, May 28, 11.00 - 4.00.** Tickets and maps from 24 Tuffley Lane. Cash only — £5 adult, £1 child. Any questions please contact Jenny Parker
xxxxxxxxxx

HUMOUR

This new group is held in the Guild Hall Henley Room, **fourth Thursday** of each month at **10.30.** A selection of comedic items are provided, or bring your own favourites (in CD or book form) or just come along and have a laugh for an hour. So far not many members have tried it out so we would welcome more to keep the Group viable.

Clive Harper

ITALIAN FOR BEGINNERS

Ciao a tutti. Our small group have made steady progress and can now ask important questions, like 'Where is the bar?' and 'Do you speak English?'. We could possibly fit one or two more people in the group so do get in touch if you are interested.

Babs Morgan

LOCAL HISTORY

We have arranged some interesting talks and visits for the rest of the year and we hope you will come and join us. All talks take place in the Guildhall cinema at **10:30** on the **last Tuesday** of the month except for the talk in May.

- **April 25** A tour of Woodchester Mansion has been arranged at **11:00.** Following the Horticulture talk in March on Woodchester Park, some of you might

like to walk around the lakes after the tour.

- **May 23** A talk on 'H. H. Martyn & Son, Gloucestershire's Fabulous Industrialists' by James Rendell. This is on the **4th Tuesday** and not the last.
- **June 20** Stone Masons' Workshop Tour at Gloucester Cathedral. I am checking that this date is still available for an afternoon tour but we would still need a few more people. The cost is £20 and only group bookings are taken. Please let us know if you would like to come.
- **July and August** – no meetings
- **September 26** A tour of Chavenage House, Tetbury has been arranged at **11:00** This is a magnificent Elizabethan mansion and only group tours are available so don't miss out on this opportunity. A booking form is included in the Newsletter.
- **October 31** A talk by Phil Collins on 'A History of Cheltenham through Picture Postcards'
- **November 28** One of our favourite speakers, Tony Conder, will give a talk on 'Gloucester Observed: 500 years of Diaries and Journals'

We look forward to your continuing support at our meetings and would welcome any suggestions or volunteers for future talks.

Babs, Marian and Dave

MAH-JONG

It was great to see everyone again after the Xmas break, despite the difficult weather conditions in January. We were delighted to welcome even more new members to the group, and some as a result of our recent New Members event. We meet:

- When: **second and fourth Wednesday** of the month
- Time: **2.00 – 4.00**
- Where: St. Mary de Crypt, Southgate Street, Gloucester

- Cost: £2

Our dates for **April are 12th and 26th**. We are always happy to see new faces and, if you have never played before, there is always someone on hand to guide you along. Spring is now officially here and we hope everyone will enjoy the coming warmer weather and the Spring flowers, always welcome after the long Winter months. Please message me if you have any queries: xxxxxxxxxx

Pippa Zadeh (Group Leader)

POETRY GROUP

After meeting online in January and February, we restart face-to-face meetings at Gloucester Central Library, **Friday, March 31**, when our focus is *UA Fanthorpe*, who lived locally for many years. Continuing on **last Fridays**:

- **April 28**, *Laurie Lee*
- **May 26**, *Carol Duffy*
- **June 30** tbd

All are welcome to this group — emails are sent out a few weeks beforehand to establish interest and distribute copies of verse under discussion.

RUMMIKUB

The group is growing month on month: the first meeting of the group was held in May of last year, at the Churchdown Community Centre with 19 people attending, eager to play Rummikub and meet socially after the long period of lockdown. The club has proven to be a great success, with the membership having passed the 40 plus mark, 35 battling their way through the snow and ice to attend the Christmas meeting and enjoy the Buffet after.

Due to the success of the group, all meetings **from April 12** will be held in

the main hall of the Community centre. The aim of the group is not only to play the game, but also for members to socialise and get to know one other after the meeting, by staying for a bit of lunch in the excellent cafe at the centre, where Ken Beedon, the group organiser, arranges for a table to be reserved for members who wish to stay for lunch.

Ken is more than happy to teach people to play the game but warns that it can be very addictive, being a Rummikub addict himself. If you are interested in joining the group or would like more information regarding Rummikub, please contact him: xxxxxxxxxx 7 (if no answer leave a message and he will return your call) or email xxxxxxxxxx

SINGING TOGETHER

This new group is held in St Mary's Congregational Church, St Marys' Street, **third Tuesday** of each month starting at **10.30**. This popular meeting is intended for all you non-singers out there! All Music and Lyrics are provided, the latter projected onto the wall for easy reading. If you have not attended as yet, come along and try it: what's to lose? Songs are mainly from the 60s and 70s so are familiar to all, and you are welcome to request one of your favourites if it's not there.

Clive Harper

SOCIAL CYCLING

It was a far from bore-ing day out for the Social Cycling group on Wednesday 22nd February. A short off-road ride from our meeting point outside the Mariner's Church got us to Over bridge in plenty of time to claim a prime spot to view the Severn Bore, which arrived exactly on time at just after 10 o'clock. We retired to The Lockkeeper's Inn for a fortifying hot drink

before continuing along the riverside cycle path to Maisemore where we took to the country lanes and rode towards Hartpury, enjoying the views across the river valley to Cheltenham and beyond. Midday saw us arriving back at The White Hart in Maisemore where a light but hot lunch was very welcome. With a rain shower forecast we scuttled back along the river path and returned to the docks just after one o'clock. We rode just over ten miles in chilly but not unpleasant conditions, a fine effort for the time of year.

The next social cycle will be in **late March or early April**. If you'd like to join us and you're not already a member of the group then please get in touch at

xxxxxxxxxx

STEAM RAILWAY GROUP

Details are now confirmed as follows for our trip on the *West Somerset Railway* on **June 15**. For those of you who are not familiar with the WSR it is 20 miles in length and is the longest Heritage Steam Railway in the UK.

Departing from Bishops Lydiard (just outside Taunton) this ex-GWR branch line travels North up to the delightful coastal town of Minehead. It not only runs partly along the splendid Somerset coast at Blue Anchor Bay but also through delightful inland scenery, which includes nearby Dunster Castle. We will have 5 hours in Minehead which will allow plenty of time for shopping, lunch or even a dip in the sea! Our train will probably be hauled by an ex-GWR or *Western Region* steam locomotive and the carriages will also be over 60 years old. They are, I can assure you, very comfortable!

The coach will depart Gloucester as follows:

- Library in Brunswick Street 08.00
- Queens Fish and Chip Shop Barnwood 08.10
- Royal Oak Hucclecote 08.15
- Top Shop Hucclecote 08.20

We should arrive back in Gloucester at around 19.30/19.45 (depending on the M5 traffic).

The all in price, which includes a tip for the driver, is £48 each: our treasurer would prefer you to pay by cheque, made out to *Gloucester u3a*, which you can send to me at 11 Wolseley Road, Barnwood, Gloucester, GL2 0PJ. Please indicate the pickup point that you wish to board the coach. It would be helpful if you could bring a mobile phone just in case we have a problem. Please let me have your mobile number. It is also a requirement for you to let me have a contact telephone number just in case of a medical emergency.

We still have 20 seats available on the coach which will be sold on a first come first served basis. Any questions please contact me on xxxxxxxxxx or at xxxxxxxxxx

John Smith

THEATRE GROUP

Hope everybody enjoyed the trip to "Fishermen's Friends" which I thought was brilliant. I'm afraid I've had to cancel the trip in May to see "Birds and Bees" because I didn't get the numbers we needed for the visit. I haven't got anything else planned at the moment because there doesn't seem to be anything I think we might like. I've checked all the local theatres but couldn't find anything. I'll keep looking and can hopefully find something soon. Best regards

Ann

TRAVEL GROUP

WOW, what a start to 2023. Our first three talks were very well received by the group. We will **NOT** be meeting in **April** as it is the 5 day trip to Llandudno for 40 of our members and it has been very challenging in the last few weeks as some members had to give up their place for personal reasons and other members filled their place.

- **May 17** our speaker will be Paul Willertton talking on *Northern Cyprus*.
- **June 14** we have a *day trip to Bishops Palace, Wells* (booking form in Newsletter) and free time in Wells. We have a few seats still available but be quick if you don't want to be disappointed.
- **July 19** our speaker will be Ray Sturdy giving an entertaining talk on *A drop of the hard stuff*.

Our subscription charge will be *increasing to £2 from the July meeting*.

- Just a reminder for your diary that our Winter Social will be on **Thursday, November 16, 2.00 - 3.30**.

The Travel Group Committee will be planning the 2024 programme at our next meeting in July and if there are any day trips that you would like us to consider please send me an email. I would like to wish everybody a Happy Easter. Best Wishes

Carol Wheeler

UNDERSTANDING ART



I would like to thank all my lovely people who have attended my sessions over the last years. I'm pulling the plug due to personal and logistical problems. Last one March, but I will be doing a session

occasionally. Hope the sessions have given you all a good look at the fascinating world of visual Art. All the best to you all,

Fi

WALKERS

Once again we are up and walking on the **third Friday** of the month from various locations around the county. We meet at 10:00 to give us time to order meals (if required) and use the toilet facilities before leaving on the walk at 10:15.



We are looking for walk leaders from July 2023 onwards, so could you please let us know with details of the venue and a brief description of the proposed walk. Thank you,

Dave Pritchard (xxxxxxxxxx)
Christine Pritchard (xxxxxxxxxx)

The walk on **Friday, April 21** is around the *RSPB Nagshead Nature Reserve* (no entrance fee). In the Spring the reserve attracts migrants like the pied flycatcher and it is a good time to see a lesser spotted woodpecker. The walk will start at **10.15** and is 4 - 5 miles in length. There are no significant hills and no stiles. Toilets available. Meals can be ordered from *The Woodman Inn, Parkend, Lydney* (01594 563273) before the start of the walk. The Walk Leader is *Charles Martin* (xxxxxxxxxx)

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

This new group is being held in the Guild Hall George Hunt Room, **first Thursday** of each month at **10.30**. The attendance has been below expectations so we would welcome more members to come and join in. Bring along news items from any publication that have caught your attention, which will be shared by all, or just turn up and listen.

Clive Harper

OTHER ACTIVITIES

BRIDGE BEGINNERS LESSONS

Gloucester and Churchdown Bridge Clubs are offering to run beginners bridge lessons, including to u3a members. If interested, please contact Alan Stanfield on (xxxxxxxxx) or (xxxxxxxxx) Tuition is free but there will be a charge to cover room hire and course notes. This is a great opportunity and there are two u3a Bridge Groups that you can join after the course.

CHURCHDOWN u3a TRIP TO LICHFIELD AND THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

If you were unable to go on the Gloucester u3a trip last year, you now have a second chance as Churchdown u3a has organised a trip on **Tuesday, May 16**. The cost is £18 and the deadline is **April 3**. Please contact Liz Burley if you would like to go (xxxxxxxxx)

CORKS COLLECTION

You may have noticed at the Monthly meeting a Cork Collecting Station. This is for doing exactly what it says on the tin (Box). Please bring along any corks you have and deposit them in said box. I will

empty the box and send them to *Recorked UK* who will distribute them to various charities / businesses to be recycled into many different articles such as placemats, flooring and floor tiles, toys and even handbags to be sold and the money raised will be sent to international Charities providing clean water and sanitation to poorer countries in South East Asia.

Clive Harper

JAVELIN PARK INCINERATOR VISIT

Those Members with long memories should recall that I organised a visit to the Javelin Park Incinerator (See it from the South side of the M5 motorway). This is a reminder that the first date I could book was **October 3, 2023**. At least we are now in the right year! I will remind all those on the list much nearer the time with more information about the visit with times etc.

Because of the interest shown in this, I have now booked another date for a second visit: **May 14, 2024**. I will ask for names nearer the time. We can take a group of up to 25 members but do remember it is an Industrial site so there will be steps etc. I am proposing members get there by car.

Clive Harper

SPINNING FROM FLEECE

If anyone who has got a spinning wheel at home and would like to come to a workshop and/or is interested in meeting up to spin a yarn once or twice a month, please contact: Monica (xxxxxxxxx)

AWAY FROM HOME?

Find other u3a groups:

- Open your website browser, and follow your normal method to get to Gloucester u3a website <https://u3asites.org.uk/gloucester/home>
- The tabs along the top give you access to all sorts of information. GROUPS and EVENTS are the most likely to be looked at.
- But if you click on the “LINKS” tab and go to the “04 Sitebuilder” option you can view other u3a websites and find other groups around the country with similar interests.

- To find other branches, use the alphabetical index toward the bottom of the page.
- To find other u3a interest groups, use “Oversights”, then choose the “Groups” option.
- Into the search box, enter the activity you wish to search for.
- Once you have pressed <enter>, the results will be shown by region. It is then your choice of what area of the country you are interested in (or even “All Regions”).

There is one caveat to these instructions, and that is this only works for those branches who use the “sitebuilder” facility. Good searching,

Keith

The River of Life

I have wished often I had never surfaced,
not from my mother's waters (then
the wish would not have surfaced)

but the waters of the place she bore me:
our home, our street, her sister across the way,
and our neighbours,
Betty who always threw our ball back,
Johnny I was not supposed to play with ...

the waters of more simple times:
plain nourishment of unnamed dishes
and a real fire —
there was 'no fire like the kitchen fire' [1] —

those waters,

the waters of the love then:
innocent friendships, hand-in-hand
in the playground, skipping
with Sandra, or chased by 'fat Ann',
who would not always be fat,
unaware of any other world,
satisfied with what we had,
never to break the surface and drown.

[1] *Great Expectations*: Pip's regret on becoming a gentleman

Cedric Pickin, Gloucester

Runner-up in *Graffiti Magazine* (Gloucestershire) Poetry Competition, January 2023

DAY	MORNING	AFTERNOON
Monday	German Improvers (2 & 4) Recorders [Walkers {Monday}] 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)
Thursday	Table Tennis {Beginners} What the Papers Say (1) TBC Humour (4) TBC	Art Circle Dancing (1 & 3) [Cryptic Crosswords]
Friday	Electronics (1) Poetry Group (Last) Table Tennis {Intermediate} Walkers {Friday} (3)	Choir History of Science (1 or 2)
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.



VENUES

BBC	Brunswick Baptist Church, Southgate St	GL1 2DR	LCC	Longlevens Community Centre	GL2 0AJ
BRR	Barnwood Reading Room	GL4 3JT	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
GCL	Gloucester Central Library	GL1 1HT	NH	Northgate Hall, St John	GL1 2AN
GH	Guildhall	GL1 1NS	SMCC	St Mary's Congregational Church	GL1 2QS
HCC	Hucclecote Community Centre	GL3 3RT	SMdC	St Mary de Crypt, Southgate St.	GL1 ITP
HMCH	Highnam Community Centre	GL2 8DG	var	various locations	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS + other responsibilities

Chair	Denis Riley 07527 500915 chairman@u3agloucester.co.uk	Newsletter Editor	Sarah Maidlow editor@u3agloucester.co.uk
Vice Chair & Membership Secretary	Barbara Morgan 540673 membershipsec@u3agloucester.co.uk	Groups Co-ordinator	Triss Pollington 07949 617954 groupscoord@u3agloucester.co.uk
Business Secretary		Contact Team (Welfare)	Thelma Miller 520331 dustymiller02@outlook.com
Treasurer	Gerald Robins 611215 treasurer@u3agloucester.co.uk	Mins Sec & M Meeting Organiser	Mary Kitchen 419301 monthlymeeting@u3agloucester.co.uk
Webmaster	Keith Bostock 539937 kb.teach@blueyonder.co.uk	Beacon Administrator	Keiron Helmy 07491 818483 beacon@u3agloucester.co.uk

GLOUCESTER & DISTRICT u3a

NOTICE OF 35th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MONDAY 24th JULY 2023 at 2.15 GUILDHALL, EASTGATE STREET, GLOUCESTER

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence (Mary Kitchen should be notified prior to the meeting)
 2. Receive and approve the Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting held on 25th July 2022.
 3. Matters arising from these Minutes
 4. Report and Annual Review – Chair, Denis Riley
 5. Treasurer’s Report – Gerald Robins
 6. Receive and approve Examined Accounts for 1st June 2022 - 31st May 2023
 7. Approval of Examiner of Accounts 2023 - 2024
 8. Elections of Officers and Committee Members for 2023 - 2024
- Date of next Annual General Meeting – Monday, 22nd July 2024 (tbc)

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE AT AGM 2023

The following have confirmed their willingness to stand for election to the Committee.

NOMINEE	CURRENT POSITION
Denis Riley	Chair
Barbara Morgan	Vice Chair + Membership Secretary
Gerald Robins	Treasurer
Gillian Talbot	Business Secretary
Triss Pollington	Groups Coordinator
Mary Kitchen	Minutes Secretary

There can be 12 members on the Committee so please consider if you would be prepared to serve for one year, as more help would be welcome. Nomination forms can be obtained from the Committee members.

GLOUCESTER u3a TRAVEL
STUDY VISIT TO BISHOPS PALACE & GARDENS, WELLS
WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE 2023

This study visit is open to all u3a members, not just members of the Travel Group.

Bishops Palace and Gardens in Wells, Somerset has been home to the Bishops of Bath and Wells for over 800 yrs and this medieval palace is amongst 14 acres of RHS Partner gardens.

Surrounded by a breath-taking moat, visitors can cross a flagstone drawbridge, walk under the portcullis and experience a true hidden gem in the heart of the City of Wells.

Located in the heart of the visitor area at the Bishops Palace lies the Bishops Table Café serving locally-sourced homemade food, coffee and cake.

Wells Cathedral is next door to the Bishops Palace which you can visit at your expense.

Wednesday is also market day in Wells so there is plenty to do on this trip.

COST OF VISIT: £24.00

This includes entrance to The Bishops Palace and Gardens, the cost of the coach and the driver's tip. We are not charging a meeting fee.

PICK UP TIMES

Highnam	8.15am	Brunswick Road	8.30am
London Road	8.40am	Royal Oak	8.50am
Top Shop	9.00am		

If you do not know where these pick up points are, please contact me.

We hope to arrive by 10.45 am and we aim to leave Wells at 3.30pm arriving back in Gloucester around 5.30pm, traffic permitting.

We hope you will come along and join us for what we hope will be a very enjoyable day out.

Cheques should be made payable to u3a Gloucester. Please send your cheque, together with the booking slip to:-

Carol Wheeler, 217c Stroud Road, Gloucester GL1 5JU

Mobile: 07977 271199 (including on the day)

REPLIES NO LATER THAN: 21ST MAY 2023

STUDY VISIT TO BISHOPS PALACE & GARDENS, WELLS
WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE 2023

FROM: TEL NO:

MEMBERSHIP NO: MOBILE NO:

AMOUNT SENT: PICK UP POINT:

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Contact Name: Tel No:

GLOUCESTER u3a HORTICULTURE

Study visit to Coughton Court and Gardens

Alcester, Warwickshire, B49 5JA

Wednesday, 5th July, 2023

Coughton Court has been home to the Throckmorton Family for more than 600 years. Facing persecution for their Catholic faith, they were willing to risk everything including being involved in the Gunpowder Plot. The Throckmorton family, still live in the house which is now run by the National Trust. The gardens have been developed over the past 25 years by the Throckmorton family to take advantage of the Tudor mansion, two churches, a lake and bog garden, the Westminster Pool, the River Arrow, an orchard and a large walled garden with a beautiful display of roses.

We hope to arrive around 11am (traffic permitting)

There is the Orangery Cafe serving tea, coffee, home made cake and filled rolls

The gardens are 80% accessible for wheelchairs.

We plan to leave Coughton Court at 3.30pm and aim to be back in Gloucester for 5.00pm.

COST OF VISIT - The cost for the day will be **£15.00** per person which includes coach fare and driver's tip. Admission to the Court and gardens is free to National Trust members.

Non members of the National Trust will need to add an additional £13.30 to the coach fare i.e. £28.30 to cover the cost of admission at the group rate.

PICK UP TIMES - Castlemeads Car Park, bottom of Westgate Street. 8.50am

Brunswick Road 9.00am London Road 9.10am

Royal Oak 9.20am Top Shop 9.30am

Please send your cheques, made payable to Gloucester u3a, together with the booking slip (below) to Mary Kitchen, 45 Gambier Parry Gardens, Gloucester, GL2 9RD.
(telephone 01452 419301 – answerphone available.)

Study Visit to Coughton Court Castle and Gardens, Wednesday, 5th July, 2023

FROM Membership Number

Telephone number Mobile Phone number

National Trust member YES / NO (Please indicate)

Amount sent

Pick up Point

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Contact name Telephone number

**GLOUCESTER u3a LOCAL HISTORY
VISIT TO CHAVENAGE HOUSE, TETBURY, GL8 8XP
TUESDAY, 26th SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 11:00am**

Chavenage House is a beautiful Grade I listed Elizabethan house, built in 1576 by Edward Stephens. His grandson, Nathaniel supported the Roundheads in the Civil War and Cromwell and his son-in-law General Ireton were his guests. The house was in the ownership of the Stephens family until 1891 when it was bought by George Lowsley-Williams and the family have been there ever since. In 1944, the house was requisitioned and housed American troops prior to the Normandy landings.

Notable features of the house are the stained glass windows in the Great Hall, the 1590 panelling in the Oak Room and the two tapestry rooms. There is a family chapel near to the house which mainly dates from the 18th century.

The house has featured in many films and television programmes; you might recognise it as Trenwith House, the Poldark family home.

Members of the Lowsley-Williams family conduct the tours around the house and currently are only accepting group tours. They have kindly agreed to charge the 2022 price of £10 for the tour. Refreshments are provided by Joanna Gouriet, the daughter of the current owner, and have to be pre-booked. There is a coffee shop 'The Wild Carrot' on site (which is a separate entity) but it may not open on a Tuesday in September and you'd need to check nearer the time.

Cheques should be made payable to 'Gloucester u3a' and sent with the Booking Slip to:
Barbara Morgan, 8 Wedgwood Drive, Longlevens, Gloucester GL2 0AD. Tel: 078 178 43425

We are not arranging a coach but can try to arrange a lift if you will have difficulty in getting there.

STUDY VISIT TO CHAVENAGE HOUSE, TUESDAY 26th SEPTEMBER 2023

NAME:

Mobile:

Event	Price	Number	Total
Guided Tour	£10		
Homemade Cream Tea (Scones, cakes and sandwiches) with Teas & Coffee	£10		
TOTAL AMOUNT SENT			

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Contact Name: Tel No:

Do you require a lift? Can you offer a lift?