



u3a

North Cotswold

March 2024
Newsletter

A Message from your Chair

Dear Members

This morning (4th March) your committee met to discuss our programme for the next few months and we hope you will approve and be able to support some of it.

Charles, our Groups' Coordinator, has arranged a rather special 'thank you' lunch for the group leaders on Wednesday 13th March and I am sure you will agree that they deserve it. They will also be able to practise using a defibrillator – just in case!

The next day at the Open Meeting, Janice will introduce Peter Worthy. His subject is 'Birds of the Cotswolds' so do come and bring any friends who might be interested.

Our next 'Coffee and Conversation' will be at the newly revamped lounge at the Fosseyway Garden Centre, Moreton-in-Marsh, at 10.30am on Wednesday 20th March. Everyone is welcome.

There will be no Open Meeting in June. Instead, on Friday 14th June we shall have a day's outing, starting at 10.30am from Willersey, to Hartlebury Castle near Kidderminster. Do visit www.hartleburycastle.com for lots of information and I am sure you will be tempted. I will let you have more details before the April Open Meeting when bookings will start. The cost will be £20 and if you need a lift to Willersey that can be arranged.

Our July Open Meeting will take the form of a Grand Tea so please try to make that on Thursday 11th July. We mostly take a break in August but are planning a cheese and wine and supper evening with Scottish Country Dancing.

Much to look forward to and the committee hope that you all have a very happy Easter.

All good wishes,

Hilary

Current Membership (full members) – 341
Number of Groups – 32

Website <https://u3asites.org.uk/north-cotswold/welcome>

Open Meetings Programme 2024

From Janice Fisher

Our *Open Meetings* take place in Willersey Village Hall at 2pm on the second Thursday of the month.

A suggested donation of £3 is payable at the door for both members and non-members.

Do you need, or can you offer members a lift to meetings?

The Committee would like to build up a bank of people who could occasionally give a lift to anyone who cannot easily get to Open Meetings and other u3a events. If you can offer help please contact our Welfare Officer, [Sue Lindsay](#), tel. 01386 446541

Similarly, please contact Sue should you need a lift!

Thursday 14th March

Birds of the Cotswolds – Peter Worthy

Thursday 11th April

Tales of the Fleece Inn – Nigel Smith

Come and hear Nigel Smith, Landlord of the Fleece Inn in Bretforton talk about this fascinating building, its long history dating from 1425, unique features and artefacts such as the 'witches circles'. Nigel will also give us an insight into some of the people who have lived there.



Thursday 9th May

The Magic of Glass – Dr Bob King

Bob King will speak on the *Magic of Glass* from developing Concorde and big jets to the Flat Screen TV. His presentation includes a short video from the cockpit of Concorde whilst flying across the Atlantic.



Thursday 11th July

Social Event – Grand Afternoon Tea (details to follow).

Group News and Events

Dates for your diary

This year's **Summer Visit** is to **Hartlebury Castle** on **14th June**. Details to follow.

A u3a **Grand Afternoon Tea** will be held at Willersey Village Hall on **11th July** in place of the Open Meeting.

Skittles



The **Skittles Group** meets at the **Snowhill Arms** for good pub food, lively conversation, some gentle exercise, and fun.

- Most people have come across the game of skittles at some time or other.
- It is enormously popular with its heartland in the south west through to Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, and some parts of Wales. To my knowledge there are three pubs (all Donnington) with alleys within a short drive of Broadway.
- It is remarkable that Western Skittles is probably the second most popular pub game in England after darts given that there are so many disadvantages set against it! It takes up a lot of pub space, there are no generally accepted rules, it has no overall organising body or media interest, equipment is expensive and must be renewed/repaired on a regular basis.
- **The answer to this quandary is obvious because it has the key hallmarks of a successful game in spades – easy to learn, difficult to master and great fun for beginners and experts alike.**

We meet in the bar of the Snowhill Arms at 6.30ish on the third Thursday of the month to order our meal and some refreshment.

We have a membership of 25 but there is room for a few new or occasional members. We even have a 'shooter,' invented by Alan Andrews, to assist those who are perhaps not as nimble as they may once have been!

For more information contact **Brian Thackeray**, tel. 07504911892 or thackeray9@aol.com to see if there are vacancies.

U3A Festival 2024

The first UK-wide u3a festival is taking place 17–19th July 2024 at the University of York. The plan is to have a mixed and full programme together with activities, outings, music, speakers, sports, and have-a-go sessions.

If you are interested in taking part in the festival or have any questions, please email festival@u3a.org.uk

Further information including booking accommodation, tickets, etc. can be found on the u3a website under events. www.u3a.org.uk/events

Cotswold Link Special Interest Day 2024

will be held at the Pavilion Cheltenham in Hatherley Lane on 4th June 2024. With the theme **Our Brave New World** topics will include 'The Future Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Society,' 'Cyber Security' and 'Our Interface with Computers.'

Very positive feedback has been received from our members who have attended these meetings in previous years.

More information on the talks, outstanding speakers and registration details can be found on the Link website (below) by choosing the Special Interest Day links on the page that opens.

[u3a: Cotswold U3A Link: Cotswold Link and Member u3a Events \(u3asites.org.uk\)](https://u3asites.org.uk)

History Group Programme

April 2 Kirsty Hartsiotis **(NB. 11 am. start with coffee from 10.45 am)**

Arts and Crafts Movement First World War Memorials in the Cotswolds

Kirsty Hartsiotis is a writer and storyteller, and the curator of the Designated Arts and Crafts Movement collection at the Wilson Art Gallery and Museum in Cheltenham.

The First World War saw an outpouring of grief like nothing that England had seen before. Most communities had lost people, and all wanted a lasting memorial to those who were gone. It brought art to the forefront of the British public's mind, and was thus a business opportunity like no other for architects, designers, stained glass artists and monumental masons. For the designers of the Arts and Crafts Movement, it was a chance to guide and inform English artistic taste. The Cotswolds have an unusual number of Arts and Crafts memorials, due, in part, to the architects and designers who had settled in the county from the 1890s onwards. This talk will feature designers such as Ernest Gimson, Henry Payne, Edwin Lutyens and FL Griggs with a rich array of memorials from church and town alike, crosses to water troughs – and all the attendant politics in erecting them.

May 7 John Reid

'Ripping Yarns and Wizard Wheezes;' the golden age of British comics 1950–1975

The Golden Age of the Children's Comic. The Beano, Dandy, Bunty – all the greats, with copies to read.

June 4 Ian Boskett

The Great Train Robbery, 1963

Burns Night Supper

Burns Night is a time to enjoy Scottish traditions and to celebrate the renowned poet Robert Burns with a classic combination of haggis, neeps and tatties, some reciting of poetry, a little singing and – in the case of the supper organised by the Scottish Dancing Group – plenty of Scottish Country Dancing.

Members of the group, along with some family and friends, assembled at Willersey Village Hall on the evening of Saturday 27th January. Admittedly this was two days later than the calendared date for the commemoration, but the group made up for their tardiness by whole-heartedly celebrating the event. The ladies arrived splendidly adorned in tartan sashes, while some gentlemen sported tartan waistcoats. A few kilts were also on display.

Following some animated conversation, aided by mulled wine, the guests settled down at their tables ready to dine. However, they needed to contain their appetites a little longer as the redoubtable John Thompstone, stalwart of the Dancing Group, appeared from the doors of the kitchen cradling a huge platter of food in his arms. John proceeded to parade the haggis between the guests for all to see before placing the platter on a table in full view of all. He then addressed the haggis in the words of Burns' poem of 1786, *Address to a Haggis*, the 'great chieftain o' the pudding-race!'. It was a terrific address, both powerful and amusing, and a little blood-curdling when John drew out his knife and stabbed the haggis.



Scottish Dancing Group Leader, Diana Lucas, and John Thompstone

After much applause the waiting staff, hair decorated with tartan ribbons, began to serve the traditional Burns Night fare with great efficiency and good humour. The food was delicious. The caterers had certainly done a fantastic job. After the haggis, neeps and tatties, guests were offered a choice of cranachan, lemon roulade or fruit salad. All three desserts were greatly appreciated. For those readers who may not know about cranachan, it is a scrumptious Scottish dessert consisting of luscious whipped cream, crunchy baked scotch porridge oats, fresh raspberries, traditional Scottish whisky, and a little honey. Delicious.

Once the meal had concluded with the serving of coffee, tea, and mint chocolates, it was time for a sing-song. Fittingly, the song choice was *A Red, Red Rose*, a 1794 song in Scots by Robert Burns based on traditional sources. The song sheets had been forgotten but those who did not know the words were able to find them easily on their mobile phones! Given that supper was attended by dancers rather than singers, the rendition was more than passable.

Finally, it was the main event – the dancing. This started with a demonstration by eight members of the Scottish Dancing Group. Their prolonged rehearsal had paid off. Under the watchful gaze of the Group Leader, Diana Lucas, they performed Currie Mountain (almost) faultlessly and were rewarded by warm applause after the final reel.

Diana then opened the floor and expertly tutored allcomers, dancers and non-dancers alike, in a series of dances each of which were then danced to musical accompaniment as Diana called the moves. A huge variety of dances was performed, some in sets of six, some in sets of eight and others as progressive dances in a formation most easily described as a big circle of couples. It is a mark of Diana's skill and knowledge that she was able to provide everyone with such an enjoyable, and exhausting, evening of dancing.

Diana was presented with a beautiful bouquet as thanks for her contribution in making the evening so much fun. The event ended with a lusty rendition of Auld Lang Syne. The text of this well-known song is a Scots-language poem written by Robert Burns in 1788, based on an older Scottish folk song. In 1799, it was set to a traditional tune, which has since become standard.

The supper had been a great tribute to Scotland's national poet, although most of those who attended will quite likely remember it for the great food, wonderful company, and exhilarating dancing.

Andrew Williams

Welcome New Members

Lynda Watson

Hazel & Simon Cook

Keith Horden's Quiz

1. By volume what is the UK's largest river?
2. How is 2024 expressed in Roman numerals?
3. Which European country adopted the euro last year?
4. Joe Biden at 81 is the oldest ever US president. Who was the second oldest?
5. Who wrote the novel 'Barnaby Rudge'?
6. Who was Queen Victoria's first child?
7. Who wrote the opera 'A Village Romeo and Juliet'?
8. Which American president was born in Hawaii?
9. Where is the source of Evesham's River Avon?



Question 1



Question 10

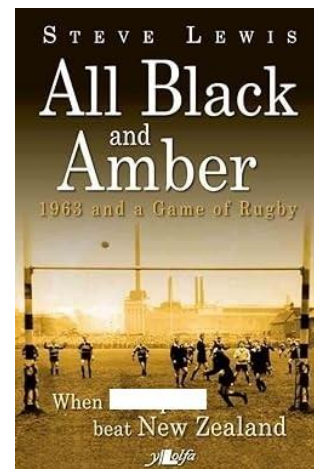


Question 11



Question 13

10. Who are the current holders of the cricket ODI World Cup?
11. Who did Michael Gambon play in the Harry Potter films?
12. Who won the men's singles Wimbledon title last year?
13. Who was Liz Truss's Chancellor of the Exchequer?
14. Where are the Spanish Steps?
15. In which country is Mount Kilimanjaro?
16. Which river flows through the Grand Canyon?
17. After Cardiff and Swansea what is the third largest city in Wales?
18. Who played Oppenheimer in the recent hit film?
19. In the TV series Dalziel and Pascoe, who played Pascoe?
20. Which country comes second, after Brazil, in coffee production?



Question 17



Question 8



Question 9



Family Favourites from
Phyllis Andrews'
Cookery Group

Smoked Salmon Rolls or Parcels

200g. Smoked Salmon
100g. Light Cream Cheese
Chopped Chives or Parsley
X1 7oz. Tin Tuna (well drained)
Mayonnaise
Lemon Juice
Anchovy Fillets

1. Mix the cream cheese with the chives or parsley.
2. Drain the tuna, then mash it and mix it with a little mayonnaise and lemon juice.
3. Put a line of tuna on a piece of smoked salmon then roll it up or put a teaspoonful in the centre of a piece of smoked salmon and make a small parcel.
4. Cover and chill.
5. Serve on a bed of leaves or shredded Little Gem Lettuce.
6. Serve with warm small bread rolls, toast, or Melba Toast.

Hoisin Chicken

1 kg. Boneless, Skinless Chicken Thighs

Marinade

1 tbsp. Dry sherry or Madeira
2 tbsp. Hoisin Sauce
1 tbsp. Dark Soy Sauce
1 tbsp. Light soft brown sugar
1 tbsp. Oil
1" Root Ginger (peeled and grated)

Base

1 large Onion (7-8oz.) Sliced
1 large Red Pepper (sliced) or 4oz. frozen
8oz. Mushrooms (sliced)

Garnish

Spring Onions

1. Mix the marinade ingredients together, pour over the chicken and toss together. Cover and marinate for at least 2 hours.
2. **Base.** Sauté together the onion, pepper, and mushrooms and put into a casserole dish large enough to hold the chicken in one layer.
3. Lay the chicken on top and pour over the marinade. Cover.
4. Bake at 160°C. (Fan) for about an hour.
5. Drain off the liquid and put into a saucepan, thicken slightly with cornflour, then pour back over the chicken.
6. Sprinkle over the chopped spring onion and serve with noodles or rice.

Pear Suchard

Fatless Sponge

3 Eggs

3oz. Caster Sugar

3oz. Self Raising Flour

Filling

Large Tin Pear Halves

2 tbsp. Sherry with 1 tbsp. Pear Juice

Chocolate Sauce

½ pt. Milk

¼ pt. Pear Juice

1oz. Plain Flour

1oz. Butter

1oz. Cocoa

1½oz. Sugar

2 level tsp. Gelatine

2 tbsp. Water

Whipped cream

Walnut halves or Chocolate Squares

1. **Sponge** – Grease and line an 8” Sandwich Tin.

2. Whisk the eggs with an electric mixer for 2 minutes, then add the sugar and continue to whisk until the mixture is light in colour and the consistency of whipped cream (about 10 minutes).

3. Gently fold in the flour with a metal spoon.

4. Put into the prepared tin and bake at 160°C. (Fan) for about 20 minutes.

5. Turn out onto a wire rack and leave to cool.

6. **Chocolate Sauce** – Heat the milk and pear juice leaving enough to mix with the flour to thicken.

7. Add the butter and allow to melt.

8. Mix the flour and cocoa with the remaining liquid and whisk into the hot milk to make a sauce. Allow to cool, whisking frequently until a coating consistency.

9. **Assembly** – Put the cold sponge onto a deep serving plate. Mix the 2 tbsp. sherry with the 1 tbsp. pear juice and brush over the sponge.

10. Arrange the pear halves on the sponge.

11. Spoon over the sauce to completely cover the pears and sponge.

12. Chill then decorate with the whipped cream and walnut halves or chocolate squares.

NORTH COTSWOLD U3A ACTIVITIES 2024

Group	Venue	Day	Time	Contact
Arts and Crafts	Brio Beechwood Park, Wintergreen Court, Stow-on-the-Wold GL54 1FP	4 th Tuesday	10.00 am	Roger Thornburgh 01386 701235
Bridge for Improvers (tuition, monitored duplicate, Teams)	Willersey Village Hall	Every Thursday	10.00-12.00	Michael Robinson 01386 852675
Effortless Entertaining (Aga Cooking)	Private House – Willersey	4 th Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	11.00 – 2.00 pm	Fiona Tierney 01386 854654
Engineering & Transport	Childswickham Memorial Hall	4 th Friday	April – July AM Aug-March PM	David Dunbar 01386 858833 Penny Valender 01386 852853
Exploring Music	Willersey Village Hall	2 nd Tuesday	10 am	Andrew Mackrill 01608 684884
Family History	Private House Mickleton	2 nd Friday	2.00 pm	Liz Reeves 01386 430039
Food & Cookery (1)	Private House – Broadway	2 nd Tuesday	PM	Phyllis Andrews 01386 641361
Food & Cookery (2)	Private House – Broadway	1 st Thursday	PM	Phyllis Andrews 01386 641361
French Group 1 (Intermediate)	The White Hart Royal Hotel, Moreton-in-Marsh	3 rd Wednesday	2.00 pm	Ghislaine Craik 07733112089
French Group 2 (improvers)	The White Hart Royal Hotel, Moreton-in-Marsh	4 th Wednesday	10.30 am	Ghislaine Craik 07733112089
French Group 3 (For fairly fluent speakers)	The White Hart Royal Hotel, Moreton-in-Marsh	4 th Wednesday	2.00 pm	Ghislaine Craik 07733112089
Gardens & Gardening	Childswickham Memorial Hall (winter) Garden visits (summer)	2 nd Friday	10 am (winter) 2.30 pm(summer)	Fran Geering 07392114870
Golf Croquet	Behind Methodist Church, Willersey	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday	PM May to October	Richard Ingles 01386 853306
History	Weston-sub-Edge Hall	1 st Tuesday	10.00 AM	Pamela Endicott 01386 854812
Historic Churches	Various	3 rd Wednesday	AM	John Thompstone 01386 852930
Kurling	Willersey Village Hall	4 th Monday	AM	Sandra Spensley 01386 858637 Christine Sneddon 01386 854841

Group	Venue	Day	Time	Contact
Mahjong	Moreton-in-Marsh	2 nd & 4 th Monday	PM	Diana Lucas 01608 238092
Opera Appreciation (In conjunction with Winchcombe U3A)	Burland Hall, Stanton	3 rd Wednesday	2.00-5.00	Colin Davison 01242 603317 Ann Pitcher 01242 621328
Photography	Willersey Village Hall	2 nd Monday	AM	David Lees 07710 336031 Clive Lockyer 01386 858458
Poetry Reading	Private Houses – Various	2 nd Monday	AM	John Thompstone 01386 852930
Reading for Pleasure	Private Houses – Various	1 st Monday	PM	Phyllis Andrews 01386 641361
Recorder Consort	Private House – Blockley	4 th Monday	PM 2.00-3.30	Hilary Thornburgh 01386 701235
Science for All meetings, field trips and videos	Wickhamford Memorial Hall	3 rd Friday	AM	Marilyn Watts 07747186282
Scottish Country Dancing	Bourton on the Hill	2 nd & 4 th Friday	AM	Diana Lucas 01608 238092
Skittles	The Snowhill Arms	3 rd Thursday	6.30 for 7.00pm	Brian Thackeray 07504 911892
Sunday Lunches	The Village Bar Weston-sub-Edge	3 rd Sunday	12.30	John Bissett 01386 859319
Table Tennis	Willersey Village Hall	1 st & 3 rd Thursday	5.00 – 6.00 PM	Helen Trussell 07496 112706
Touch Tennis	Willersey Village Hall	1 st & 3 rd Mondays	10.00 – 11.30 AM	Ken Spensley 01386 858637
Ukulele	Private House – Blockley	2 nd & 4 th Tuesday	PM	Legh Richardson 01386 701072
Walking (Nature rambles up to 4 miles)	Optional pub lunch	3 rd Tuesday	AM	Sue Lindsay 01386 446541
Walking – Five Milers	Optional pub lunch	1 st Friday	AM	Joan Rees 01386 854908
Walking – Medium Walks	Optional pub lunch	4 th Tuesday	AM	Chris Selby 01386 853512
Walking – Long Walks (6.5 to 11 miles)	Optional pub lunch	1 st Friday & 3 rd Thursday	AM	Anne Robertson 01386 701564

Any changes or additions please contact Charles Nixon (Group Coordinator), tel. 01386 335264

CONTACT YOUR COMMITTEE



Hilary Thornburgh, Chair 01386 701235

Marion Davies, Vice-Chair 01386 842944

Angela Hope, Treasurer 07768 013107

Elizabeth Reeves, Business and Membership Secretary 01386 430039

Rosemary McLaren, Minutes Secretary 01386 852548

Sue Lindsay, Welfare Officer 01386 446541

Charles Nixon, Group Coordinator 01386 335264

John Bissett 01386 859319

Peter Grant 07544 748521

Janice Fisher 07485 257918

Margaret Oliver 01386 832627

The next Newsletter will be published at the beginning of May

The deadline for copy is 25th April

Your Newsletter Editor can be contacted via the Contact Link on the North Cotswold u3a website.

Keith's Quiz – the answers

1. River Tay 2. MMXXIV 3. Croatia 4. Ronald Reagan 5. Charles Dickens
6. Princess Victoria (known as Vicky) 7. Frederick Delius 8. Barack Obama 9. Naseby
10. Australia 11. Dumbledore 12. Carlos Alcaraz 13. Kwasi Kwarteng 14. Rome 15. Tanzania
16. Colorado 17. Newport 18. Cillian Murphy 19. Colin Buchanan 20. Vietnam.