

Chair's Chat



What a lovely time of year this is! I always look forward to seeing colourful spring flowers emerging. After the cold weather we've been having, it's a real mood-enhancer and certainly helps to promote a positive outlook. Talking of which, we had a fantastic turnout at our Open Morning in St Andrews recently, with many visitors commenting on how welcome the u3a made them feel. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to making the event such a success. And I must tell you; we are getting quite a reputation in Pershore for excellent cakes, well done to the bakers!

The eagle-eyed among you might have spotted that roles for some of our committee members have recently changed. As well as looking after our Zoom technology for Monthly Meetings, Peter Burnham has kindly agreed to take on the role of Beacon Administrator. For those that may not know, Beacon is the online administration system that we use to hold details of all our members and to manage our u3a. A main benefit of Beacon is that Group Leaders can use it to organize and communicate with their group members. At our last Group Leaders' meeting it was especially pleasing to hear how easy people were finding it was to use. Peter will be arranging training in the future so if you are interested in finding out about Beacon, please get in touch with him.

Our new Newsletter Editor, Rosie, is getting to grips with the challenge of learning new technology skills and has done a brilliant job with putting together the latest editions of the newsletter. We love to hear inspiring stories from our u3a community so do send Rosie any details and photos of what you are doing or planning, so that she can share news of your accomplishments with everyone.

I am very pleased to say that our website, u3asites.org.uk/pershore is back looking more or less as it did before our hosting company managed to delete all the photos and documents. It has been quite a task to reload everything and some items are still missing whilst inevitably, some may have been put back in the wrong places. Information for groups may also need to be updated, as some descriptions are now quite old and others still refer to Covid restrictions. Please take a moment to have a look at the details for any groups you take part in and check meeting times, locations and descriptions. If you spot any problems, or anything that needs to be revised, please let someone in the Web team know. Up-to-date photos would be very welcome too!

A date for your diaries, Pershore will be celebrating our new King's coronation with a picnic and entertainment in Abbey Park on Sunday May 7th from 12 noon to 3:45pm. We will be setting up a u3a gazebo for anyone who would like to spend a friendly afternoon together and join in with the singing. Bring your picnic and a fancy hat!

Easter will soon be with us and I imagine many of you will be meeting up with family or busy with your gardens, or both! Let's hope for some spring sunshine to help the celebrations along.

Best wishes for a happy Easter,

Jackie

Jackie Jolley, Chair, Pershore & District u3a



Interest Groups' Latest News from John

Another month gone, April beckons and at last we are looking forward to sunnier days. March was fairly quiet on the groups front, the main event being our Open Day at St. Andrew's. We had a new format this time, whereby we divided the 80+ existing groups into 10 genres. Each existing group featured under the relevant heading on its own table. Several group leaders attended and each group had a register for interested people to note down their contact details. We had a great turnout, new members registering and others paying their new subscriptions. Thanks to our set-up helpers, tea, coffee and cake providers and group leaders. Thanks also to Ingrid Fox who did most of the organising!



We collected lots of new contact details and are in the process of linking them to their group preferences. Hopefully, some will slot into existing groups and others might lead to the formation of new ones. A few new topics emerged: a desire for more Walking, Card Games, Singing and Gardening groups, Pamper Time, Basic Cooking, Bird Watching, Relaxation, Creative Writing, Basic IT and Railways. Dressmaking, which has not featured on our groups list for some time, will be re-listed. A new Sewing Bee group is also being formed, look out for updates.

If you have any other ideas let me know - then comes the hard part - finding someone to run the group! There is lots of help available from your committee members, so don't be shy!

Enjoy Easter, send in group activity photos, have a great April.

John Wright, Groups Coordinator

News From The Interest Groups

Theatre Trips Group

The first outing for the new Theatre Trips group took place recently, with a trip to Malvern Theatres. Two drivers provided lifts to other members of the group and we arrived in good time to park and walk through Priory Park. The theatre is undergoing quite major building works at present to develop the main entrance, so we had to enter via the steps at the rear.

There is a hearing assistance system in place at the theatre which one member made use of, collecting a free headset from the cloakroom. Our seats in the stalls were well positioned and we were fortunate that no one was seated in front of us for a couple of rows, so the view to the stage couldn't have been better! The production, Alan Ayckbourn's *Relatively Speaking* was lively and amusing, with just 4 actors in total sharing the stage. We remarked on what a feat it must have been for them to learn their lines. We all thoroughly enjoyed the play and commented how lovely it was to share the experience together.



Planning for our next trip will start shortly, so if anyone would like to join the group, or has ideas about the next production, please get in touch.

Jackie, Theatre Trips Group

Sewing Bees



Are you an experienced dressmaker and looking to meet likeminded sewers?_Would you like to learn to make your own clothes in a relaxed, friendly environment?_Maybe you would like to re-kindle your skills, exchange ideas or learn a new technique?

There's a proposal to bring together experienced dressmakers in a friendly comfortable environment in a local dedicated sewing room on New Road. If you already sew and would like company as you stitch away, you would be very welcome. Maybe you would like to learn how to make clothes, in which case help and advice will be on hand from a qualified seamstress. Even if it's a long time since you picked up a needle or pulled the sewing machine out of hiding, make 2023 your year to start again!

The plan is to hold a meeting each month in the dedicated sewing room, with perhaps a mid-month meeting in a tranquil home setting to discuss ideas and complete hand sewing. Training can be offered for specific techniques such as buttonholes, tailoring, inserting zips and so on.

Serious Walking

A series of informal walks throughout the spring and summer months, from April to October, every six to eight weeks on the third Monday of the month.

These walks would suit those who would like more challenging walks from 7 to 12 miles, depending on terrain. Requirements:- walking boots; wet weather gear; walking poles; refreshments and may be a little cash, should we stop for tea or coffee along the way.

Contact the group leader, via the website



ART APPRECIATION GROUP

The group is growing but there's room for more...

Last month we looked at an Edo period Japanese kimono from the V&A museum and discovered the symbolism of the images including shishi lions and peony flowers in the 19c world of kabuki plays and courtesans. It also allowed us to examine a modern wedding kimono and some of our members to model it!

Notice Board

Pershore u3a Open Day

Thanks to everyone who supported the recent open day and made it a great success. Thanks to all the cake makers, refreshment helpers, greeters and meeters, bunting and table erectors, committee and especially the group leaders who sat and chatted to new members.

Thank you,
Ingrid

Membership renewals now overdue...



Hello everyone. A huge thank you to all members who have now renewed their membership, whether by BACS or by cheque or cash. I have now 'only' 92 renewals still to process, which is much better than the situation this time last year. Also a big thank you to those who paid by BACS and to those cheque payers who chose to add the bank charge of 40p to their payment. I cannot acknowledge individual payments as we have almost 800 members – if you do not receive email reminders from me, then you are renewed.

To those members who have not yet renewed, Ian and I would appreciate you doing so as soon as possible please. For those on email, a reminder was sent to you on Sunday 19th, so please check your inboxes if you have not yet actioned the reminder (look in "Junk" if you can't find it), as all the details needed for payment are on that email. If you are not intending to renew, or if your membership status has changed, please let me know by email: u3apershore@gmail.com

There is no need to email me to tell me you have paid by BACS, as your payment will show up in the account; please remember to add your name and membership number in the reference.

For those not on email, please use this newsletter article as a reminder to renew, as I cannot send out reminder letters.

Thanks again everyone.

Mary Greer, Membership Secretary

Fantasy, Fable or Fright?

**Invitation to open meeting on Friday, April 21st at 3pm
Pershore Riverside Centre, King George's Way, WR10 1QU
(behind ASDA, next to the Leisure Centre)
£2.00 for room hire.**

Whatever your thoughts are around climate change, they will shift when you watch this recorded talk by **Brenda Ainsley**, a founder member and strong leader in the u3a's Online Interest Group "Countdown to COP". Her talks have been published and broadcast across the u3a and acclaimed as "**Quite the best explanation of climate change**".

This talk presents facts alongside well-considered opinion, drawing a full portrait of a situation about which all of us should be aware and well informed. Brenda uses everyday language to show how human activity, over the past couple of centuries, has so adversely affected our planet's atmosphere that already, in 2023, it can no longer support several forms of terrestrial life. She shows us that although this situation is continuing to deteriorate, we can still act to reverse its effects.

This talk answers many of the queries that you may have about climate change, and any remaining questions can be debated in our discussion after the presentation.

No need to book, just come along on the day.

Idris Hughes, Environmental Issues Discussion Group

For anyone interested in a u3a sponsored talk available

[Toulouse-Lautrec and the Cabarets of Paris Tickets, Thu, Apr 20, 2023 at 2:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

A **FREE EVENT** SPONSORED BY TAM/u3a - TICKETS USING LINK ABOVE



**Blue Diamond Garden Centre
The Valley, Evesham**

We recently heard that one of our members was asked for a 'code word' when they produced their u3a Pershore membership card to obtain 10% discount on a full priced item. It transpires that Evesham u3a no longer provide membership cards, which meant that the garden centre needed another way of recognising them. Thus, the code word system was introduced!

However, don't panic, they will continue to accept our membership cards provided they are in date and you will **not** need a code word.

Jill Wilson, Business Secretary

**COTSWOLD LINK
Special Interest
Day**

Thursday 29th June 2023
The Pavilion, Hatherley
Lane, Cheltenham
GL51 6PN
10.30 – 15.30

Four talks on the theme of
Art and Patronage: make a
note of the date - see May
newsletter for further
information or

[https://u3asites.org.uk/files/
c/cotswold-
link/docs/cotswoldlink2023-
artandpatronageflyerfeb.pdf](https://u3asites.org.uk/files/c/cotswold-link/docs/cotswoldlink2023-artandpatronageflyerfeb.pdf)

Did you know we have our own Pershore and District u3a Facebook page where national and local u3a events are posted? Search 'Keep Connected Pershore and District u3a'

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/492749534935804/>

Monthly Meeting Write Up

March 2023 Monthly Meeting – Sing A Century, Andy Smith

We were entertained this month by singer / songwriter Andy Smith who took us on a musical journey from the 1920s to the 2000s. We started in the 1960s with "Norwegian Wood" by The Beatles, and quickly realised we were in for an afternoon of excellent guitar & ukulele musicianship with humorous storytelling to accompany each song. This was followed by "Vincent" by Don Maclean (70s) and then onto "I get a Kick" by Cole Porter (30s) on the ukulele, with Andy choosing to use the original more controversial lyrics!

He explained how he struggled to enjoy some later music but played a sympathetic rendition of "Wonderwall" by Oasis (90s) before whizzing us off to 1940s Casablanca with "As Time Goes By". Back to the 60s for the hilarious "Sister Josephine" by Jake Thackeray, and more up to date into the 2010s with Joe Brown's "Tickle my Heart" and a heartfelt rendition of Adele's version of Bob Dylan's "Make You Feel my Love" from the 2000s. Then we heard "Ain't No Pleasing You" by Chas & Dave (80s) followed by one of Andy's own compositions from the 90s for his late wife – a beautiful song called "When all is said and done".

Afterwards, back to familiar territory with Buddy Holly songs "Raining in my Heart" and "Peggy Sue" (50s) on the tenor guitar, before Andy finally drew the trip through the decades to a close, finishing with "I'll See You in my Dreams" from the 1920s. If the noises of appreciation and participation heard on the video recorded are anything to go by, it was a very enjoyable afternoon!

The video can be found here on YouTube for those that missed it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QgEZwAzpXzI>

Sally Whyte, Speaker Coordinator

Guest Speakers at Our Monthly Meetings

Venue: Number 8, High Street, Pershore, WR10 1BG

Start time: 2pm

If Zoom is available for the meeting the details and password will be emailed to members a few days before. To view future monthly meeting information visit:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/pershore/events>

Tuesday April 18th 2023 – “The Other Hidcote – Jardin Serre De La Madone”

A return visit from Duncan Coombes to talk about the garden in France created by Lawrence Johnston who designed the Hidcote NT garden.



Pershore & District u3a – Committee Members and key contacts – April 2023

Chair and Website Admin	Jackie Jolley	To contact any of the Committee members, please use the Contacts page of our website. https://u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=1057&page=4
Vice-Chair & Speaker Coordinator	Sally Whyte	
Membership Secretary and Website Admin	Mary Greer	
Treasurer	Ian Smith	
Business Secretary	Jill Wilson	
Groups’ Coordinator	John Wright	
New Members’ Facilitator	Ingrid Fox	
Newsletter Editor	Rosie Chandler	
Beacon Database Admin & Technical Support	Peter Burnham	
Web Team	Mary Greer, Jackie Jolley, John Wright & Sally Whyte	
Pershore and District u3a https://u3asites.org.uk/pershore Facebook: ‘Keep Connected – Pershore and District U3A’		

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Please send photographs and any articles for publication in the May newsletter to: u3apershorenews@gmail.com..... by 20thApril
