

Chair's Chat

Isn't it wonderful to be enjoying some warm, sunny weather, after such a long, cold spring? I imagine that like me, many of you will be busy with your gardens and battling with weeds that seem to be growing with a vengeance at the moment!



Attendance at our Monthly Meetings continues to grow, no doubt down to the fascinating and varied talks that Sally White, our Speaker Coordinator, manages to hunt down for us. Several members have commented on how much they enjoyed May's talk on the Great Fire of Warwick, by Dr Gillian White – it was quite a performance! I think we all learned some history that afternoon. Details of future talks can be found on the Events page of our website, at <https://u3asites.org.uk/pershore/events>

Our Monthly Meetings are open to everyone and our Buddies team is always on hand to provide a warm welcome and chat to new members or people on their own. We're looking for a few friendly people to join the team, especially as holiday season approaches, so that we always have cover and don't rely too much on a few, key people. It's simply about chatting to people, making them feel welcome and if they are new members, perhaps telling them a bit about the u3a to help them find their feet. Buddies don't even have to come every month, just when they can. So, if you are a friendly, chatty person who might like to volunteer some time occasionally to strengthen our Buddies team, please get in touch.

One of the Committee's responsibilities is to make sure that our u3a's capitation fees are paid each year to the Third Age Trust, the umbrella organisation that supports all u3as around the country. Our fees cover not just important but mundane things like insurance, but also links into a wealth of online information and learning opportunities. Any u3a member can access the Trust's national website at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/> and if you then click on "Learn" you will see details of the National Learning programme, including online learning events, radio podcasts, research projects and competitions. For anyone with an interest in history, the presentation from Haywards Heath u3a's Latin Group on the Vindolanda Writing Tablets is highly recommended! See: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/learning-news/off-the-wall-online-news>.

With so much to do in the u3a, it's no wonder the weeds in my garden are winning the battle!

Jackie

Jackie Jolley, Chair, Pershore & District u3a

Interest Groups' Latest News from John

Where is the year going? June already, and as always, there are u3a group meetings and events being planned. Look out for the CAMEO (come and meet each other) coffee mornings that we are planning to hold this summer.

Looking ahead, the Worcester u3a Film Appreciation Group has offered an invitation to our membership to attend their International Film sessions at The Hive between September and April. Let me know if you would like further details.



The Tai Chi group will start at the end of June. If you have registered your interest, the group leader will be in touch soon. She still has room for just a few more participants.

We have a volunteer willing to lead the Poetry group and a third Skittles group is planned for every 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoon of the month. The Skittles sessions are really popular.

We are looking for someone to lead the Summer Evening Walk sessions this year. The walks start about 6.30pm around Pershore and local villages. They are usually a short 90 minute (ish) walk, ending up in a pub garden for intelligent conversation!

The Band Age group has a full complement of members, with a few others interested. Would you be keen on starting a second band?

Beginners Latin is requested, Tu auxilium?

The Pamper group, Science & Technology and Bows & Blows groups have stopped meeting, so again, if anyone is interested in continuing these groups then please contact me.

The Ukulele group is appealing for the donation of any spare percussion instruments you may have, (not drums!). They use them for audience participation.

At the last count in May we have 714 members. Maybe there are hobbies or interests of yours that we don't cover - why not make a suggestion and see what the response is? There is always help available with setting up new groups.

If you are a group leader can I ask that you check your group membership list on Beacon is up to date? If you are not sure how to do so, then just send me a list of your members' names and I will update the system for you.

Back to this summer, do send in photographs and news items from your groups so that we can share them in the newsletter and online.

Enjoy the sunshine.

John

John Wright, Groups Coordinator

News from the Interest Groups



We are hoping to start a third skittles group on the second and fourth Wednesday afternoons of the month, 2pm at the sports club. If you are interested in participating, please contact John via the Contacts page of the website.



Notice Board

Can You Help Return Some Property to its Owner?

The daughter of one of our members has been in touch, to say someone kindly lent her late father, Michael Partridge, some **papers about the Black Country**. She would like to return the papers to their rightful owner, but doesn't know who it was, or have their contact details.

So, if it was you that **lent some papers about the Black Country to Michael Partridge**, or you know who it was, please let me know and I will put you in touch with Michael's daughter, so that the papers can be returned.

Jackie Jolley, Chair,



Jigsaws



Are you going away this summer to a cottage with family or friends? Are you entertaining older grandchildren during the holidays?

If so, then please come and take a **jigsaw** or two - there are 500 and 1000 piece **jigsaws** just waiting for a new home.

Please contact me and I'll arrange for you to come and browse the collection.

Ingrid Fox



Coronation Picnic

On Sunday May 7th, u3a members joined the gathering in Abbey Park and enjoyed a wonderful afternoon in the sunshine to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. Musicians in the bandstand started with a stirring rendition of the National Anthem, inviting us all to sing along and afterwards, we gave a rousing "three cheers" for our new King.

We then settled down to enjoy our picnics while Griff Collins, of our very own "Band Age", and fellow musicians royally entertained us with lively tunes from years gone by.



U3a members enjoying sunshine and friendship

The atmosphere in the park was happy and glorious, with many people dressed in red, white & blue, and joining in the fun with fancy hats and crowns, but we think this one, made and modelled by Sue Lavery, is quite special!



A crowning glory!

Two of our members brought along some delightful photos to show how they celebrated the previous coronation. Can you recognize them, or guess who they are? **Jackie Jolley, Chair**

2023 DAY TRIPS



Would you like a day out visiting gardens, shopping, or sightseeing? Come with friends or make new ones! We are running trips to:

Moreton-in-Marsh Market

Tuesday 16th May
Cost £10
Depart 10.30am
Collect 3.00pm



Rococo Gardens, Painswick

Thursday 25th May
Cost £16
Depart 10.30am
Collect 3.30pm



Price includes admission

Webbs of Wychbold

Wednesday
14th June
Cost £10
Depart 10.30am
Collect 2.30pm



The Valley, Evesham

Monday 3rd July
Cost £8
Depart 10.00am
Collect 2.30pm



Bourton on the Water

Wednesday
26th July
Cost £10
Depart 10.00 am
Collect 3.00pm



Croome Court

Wednesday 9th August
Cost £20
Depart 10.30am Collect 3.00 pm
Price includes admission



All day trips leave from outside the Volunteer Centre in the Asda car park, Pershore. Return times will be traffic dependant.

Dobbies Tewkesbury

Monday 4th September
Cost £7
Depart 10.30am Collect 2.30pm



Gloucester Quays

Wednesday 13th September
Cost £10
Depart 10.30am Collect 3.00pm



For more information or to register, please contact Jo on 01386 554299 or email jo.stylianou@pershorevolunteers.org.uk

Monthly Meeting Write Up

May, 2023 Monthly Meeting – “The Great Fire of Warwick”, Dr Gillian White

Many of us know about the Great Fire of London but do we know anything about the ferocious blaze that destroyed a quarter of Warwick in six long hours on 5 September 1694?

On 16 May, at the Monthly Meeting, we heard historian Dr Gillian White’s detailed and dramatic account of the misfortune that befell Warwick on that fateful afternoon when a fierce fire raged through the town destroying 450 half-timbered buildings and leaving 250 families homeless. The fire started at the west end of town when a spark ignited a thatched roof and spread rapidly due to the strength and direction of the wind.

The town’s civic leaders responded to the tragedy by donating money out of their own pockets for immediate needs and then asked the Bishop of Worcester to launch an appeal for assistance which prompted a generous response from the diocese.

These leaders were determined to build a fine elegant and fashionable town and, to that end, persuaded Parliament to pass an Act requiring all of England to contribute to the costs involved. The monies raised enabled the building of some splendid buildings and to repair substantial damage to St Mary’s church; the church on Warwick’s skyline.

Other money provided partial compensation to those who had lost their homes and possessions providing written claims were made within 9 days! These claims, which still exist, give historians valuable information about the lives and livelihoods of the townsfolk.

Bruce Wilson for

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 June 20th 2023, 2pm
“LIFE ON THE ROYAL YACHT BRITANNIA”
THROUGH THE EYES OF A *CREW MEMBER*
David Rushforth
a former serving officer
(and adviser to the Netflix series *The Crown* involving the Royal Yacht)
will give us a pictorial walk round the yacht with
appropriate anecdotes.

**NO ZOOM OR FILMING POSSIBLE DUE
TO COPYRIGHT REASONS**

Tuesday July 18th 2023, at 2pm

A first dip into the whole fascinating and often humorous area of folklore and legends associated with plants, gardens and seasons, by

Adrian James, gardener and photographer



All monthly meetings held at Number 8, High Street, Pershore.

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

Chair	Jackie Jolley	To contact any of the Committee members, please use the Contacts page of our website Pershore u3a website Contacts page
Vice-Chair & Speaker Coordinator	Sally Whyte	
Membership Secretary & Beacon Coordinator	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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