

Chair's Chat



Pershore High Street has become a riot of colour in the last few days as union flags and bunting are put out in preparation for the coronation of King Charles III on 6th May.

The following day, Sunday 7th May, a coronation picnic will take place in Abbey Park from 12 noon to 3:45pm. We will be putting up the u3a gazebo and extending the hand of friendship to anyone who wants to come along. Bring your picnic (will you be making a [Coronation Quiche?](#)) and join us in the park for an afternoon of music, friendship, celebration and fun – be sure to wear a fancy hat!

May I take this opportunity to welcome the 40 plus new members that have recently joined our u3a. One of the marvellous things about our lovely community is that it offers so many opportunities to take part in different activities. Do read about our very popular Monthly Meetings and note the date for the next Quiz Night, which was a sell-out event and a very enjoyable evening last time. You can find out about our [Interest Groups](#) and [events](#) on our website u3asites.org.uk/pershore, and even join in with activities further afield, such as the “Art and Patronage” special interest day organized by Cotswold Link for 29th June in Cheltenham. No wonder we all seem to be so busy!

With over 700 renewals to process, the last two months have been exceptionally busy for our Membership Secretary Mary Greer and our Treasurer Ian Smith, who have approached the task with their usual diligence and patience. I would like to thank Ian for the hundreds of checks he has had to do to keep our financial records in good shape, and Mary for her hard work and attention to detail, seeing our renewals through to a well-ordered conclusion.

All of our committee members are volunteers and give their time willingly for the benefit of our members. There is a lot to do behind the scenes and the workload becomes easier the more people there are to share it. If you might be interested in joining our lively team and could offer a few hours of your time, I'd be delighted if you got in touch. Or perhaps you would simply like to know more about the committee works? In either case, we would love to welcome you to our next committee meeting, which is on 9th May.

Jackie

Jackie Jolley, Chair, Pershore & District u3a

Interest Groups' Latest News from John

April saw further progress in putting those wishing to join groups in touch with group leaders. We have seen new faces joining groups and are keeping a log of those who have not yet found a vacancy. Where we can, we will put those with a similar request in touch with each other - maybe they can start a new group together.

If you cannot find your activity on the Pershore site, then why not take a look at the [u3a Cotswold Link network](#). It covers 16 Gloucestershire areas, 4 Herefordshire ones and 6 more here in Worcestershire, the nearest being Evesham, Worcester and Malvern. We have had a notification from Cheltenham u3a offering places in their Short Tennis group. I know several of our members also take part in Evesham u3a activities.



Back to Pershore, we are always over subscribed for our walking groups. Summer Evening Walks are seeking a new leader as the season approaches. If you think you might have a go, do get in touch, it is very rewarding running a group.

Speaking of group leaders, a big thank you to Sue Dryden who stands down on May 1st as GL with the Gardening group after 15 years! Is this a record? Let me know.

The Theatre group are arranging their second outing, and starting soon will be Sewing Bee, Ukulele 2, Tai Chi, Spanish Intermediate 2, with Walking Netball gaining interest. Do keep an eye on our "Keep Connected" Pershore u3a Facebook page as well as our official website page.

Enjoy the Spring, more updates next month.

John Wright, Groups Coordinator

News from the Interest Groups

Serious Walking

We started our walk by Pershore Bridge and followed the Millennium walk by the river to Tiddesley Wood and then on to Birlingham and from there to Nafford Lock where we had our lunch overlooking the river with seating provided, a beautiful spot! From Nafford, we walked across the fields to Gt Comberton, once again joining the river and continuing our walk to Pensham and finally back to Pershore Bridges. We were blessed with fine weather and we all felt that we had had a good walk.



The next Serious Walking Walk will be on **Thursday 1**

June: meeting at Alcester at the Central car park by Waitrose: PLEASE park at the far end of the car park which is free. I will send further details of the walk mid-May.

Happy Walking, Alastair



Environmental Discussion

We met this month to watch a video of a talk given by **Brenda Ainsley**, a strong leader in the Trust u3a's Interest Group [Countdown to COP](#). Brenda's recorded presentation, "**The Climate Crisis and Some Solutions**", explained the extent of the problems caused as a result of human activities and the potential consequences of not taking any action to mitigate climate change.

Brenda explained the many positive actions that are being taken around the world such as alternative energy production from solar and wind; the signing up of nations to the Paris Agreement (although with limitations to commit to a temperature rise this century of less than 2° C, rather than the 1.5° C that scientists recommend); and the development of carbon capture technologies. Her talk ended with a quote from the House of Lords report of last year, "*Behaviour change across the whole population is essential to meet net zero and reduce environmental harms*", and suggested some thoughts and actions for all of us:

- Transport – consider electric vehicles, use public transport
- Heating our homes – think about improving insulation, solar panels, heat pumps
- Use our vote – vote for local councils and MPs with good environmental track records
- Ask questions – are the groups we belong to as “green as they could be? Do the banks they use invest in fossil fuels?
- Use our voice – talk to family and friends to raise their awareness of the issues and encourage them to make consumer choices that make a difference (tip: the search engine Ecosia plants trees every time it is used – over 170 million to date).

Jackie Jolley, Chair, Pershore & District u3a

Notice Board

COTSWOLD LINK Special Interest Day

This Special Interest Day is open to members of all the u3as affiliated to the Cotswold Link network (which includes Pershore & District)

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

Four talks on the theme
£28 including lunch parking and all the talks

Art & Patronage

- **Sex, Scandal and Censorship in the Visual Arts by Richard Box**
- **The Great Exhibition of 1851 by Mike Jackson**
- **Art and Patronage in Military History by Lt Col Mark Jackson**
- **A singular collector - 2nd Lord Northwick and his picture collection by David Addison**

Visit the link below for more details, and complete the booking form by the closing date of 29th May

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/c/cotswold-link/docs/cotswoldlink2023-artandpatronageflyerfeb.pdf>

Membership Renewals Update

The renewals period is officially at an end. If you have not renewed by now, your membership will have lapsed and you are no longer a member of our lovely u3a and no longer eligible to participate in groups. I will have emailed / phoned you to let you know of that. (Please get in touch if you want to rejoin.

If you haven't heard from me with that information, please rest assured that your membership has been renewed and is now current until March 2024. A big thank you to all who paid promptly, whether by BACS, cash or cheque, and to all those members who kindly added a little extra to cover their cheque deposit charge.

I wish you all another year of friendship, learning and fun.
Mary Greer, Membership Secretary

Quiz Night

Following the success of the first quiz night held last January, we are going to repeat the evening, with, of course, new questions and categories but also in a new venue to help with the excess demand we experienced last time.

This time it will be held in the **Abbey Room at Pershore Football Club** on **Thursday 1st June 2023** doors opening at 6:45 pm for a 7:15 pm start.

Cost of entry will once again be £1 per person, 6 members to a team. Participation is for **members of Pershore u3a only** and you will have the options of entering as either a team of 6, part of a team or as an individual. In the case of partial/individual applications, I will assign you to a team in advance of the evening.

The process for application will follow a similar pattern to the previous quiz in the sense that I will, in the second week of May, invite you to apply by email and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. When responding as a full/part team please, include the full names of all the applicants and **please wait** until you have received my email before applying.

Now off to research some devilishly hard questions!!

Ian Smith, Treasurer & Quiz Master

Charity Appeal

Sharing a table at Malvern Spring Garden show many years ago, led me to become a hub for charity collections - I only wanted to donate an old sewing machine to a worthy cause!

Now my husband David and I collect for *Tools with a Mission*; St Richards Hospice and The Christmas Child (known as the Shoebox Scheme).

Via *Tools with a Mission*, we can find a home for sewing machines, knitting machines, computers, garden tools, carpentry tools, electrical and DIY tools and anything related to those activities. Donated items are refurbished and sent to Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, where they are used to help set up small businesses and aid self-sufficiency. Your old sewing machine can send a child to school or help a woman feed her family.

We need bric-à-brac, toys, etc, for our other charities and can find a good home for almost any amount of anything we can get into the car, except books!

To donate please phone Vanessa or David on 01386 643025

We will collect.



Monthly Meeting Write Up

April 2023 Monthly Meeting – Jardin Serre De La Madone, Duncan Coombes

On a cool April afternoon in Pershore, we were transported to the south of France, overlooking the Mediterranean, when through his words and photos, Duncan Coombes invited us to experience “The Other Hidcote”, the Jardin Serre de la Madone near Menton. He certainly captured the essence of a beautiful garden, which flourished from 1937 onwards.

Jardin Serre de la Madone occupies an area of 9 hectares from sea level, sloping up through terraces to a Mediterranean forest. The garden was created by Lawrence Johnston, b. 1871, the designer at Hidcote. We learned about Johnston’s life, and inheritance which helped him acquire Hidcote and Serre de la Madone. He served 20 years in the army and after his retirement, moved to France continuing his passion for travel and plant collecting, both himself and sponsoring others, in Africa, Asia and South America. The exotic specimens collected were grown at either Hidcote or in France to see which conditions suited best. Johnston died at Menton in 1958.

We journeyed with Duncan from the plant house, via the water garden, conservatory, old rose garden, now an acacia garden, through the citrus garden and courtyard replete with mandarin trees, to the house. He showed us many photos of unusual and exotic plants thriving in the temperate climate of southern France.

The garden has been allowed to fall into a semi derelict state in recent years, but we could appreciate its beauty and many of us were left thinking we would love to visit!

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 May 16th 2023, 2pm The Great Fire of Warwick

An illustrated talk by historian Dr Gillian White, who tells the history of the fire in 1694, drawing parallels with the Great Fire of London – the story and the people, the buildings then and now.





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

Pershore & District u3a – Committee Members and key contacts – April 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	Sally Whyte	
Coordinator		
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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