

## Chair's Chat

Earlier this month I attended a Cotswold Link Network meeting, along with Sally, our Vice Chair and as well as the usual business, it reminded me that membership of our own, local u3a also opens doors to the wider u3a community across our four nations.

Cotswold Link is a network of u3as across three counties, which help u3as exchange ideas and learn from each other, and represents our views to the Third Age Trust (TAT). You can read more on the [Cotswold Link website](#). At the meeting, it was especially interesting to hear plans for the next special interest day planned for June 2024. Anyone from a Cotswold Link u3a can attend, so read more in the newsletter and note the date.



The Link network also permits our members to attend one group activity in another Link u3a without having to become a member of that u3a. Of course, this depends on group places being available, and fees for group activities still apply, but it does mean that if an activity you are interested in is not covered by our groups locally, you might find it in a neighbouring u3a.

Alison May from TAT visited the Cotswold Link meeting to explain the structure of TAT. Her presentation reminded me of the wealth of resources available to us all. Forthcoming free [online learning events](#) cover topics from astronomy to art, cookery to researching family history. Via [subject networks](#) you can play bridge online, join the Walkers Exchange to share local walks in different areas, share craft ideas and successes, and more.

The [National Learning Initiative](#) offers competitions and writing projects, or test your brain with logic puzzles, and the [Research and Shared Learning network](#) tells you about projects you can contribute to as well as giving help and advice on how to start one of your own. If there is a group you would like to see in our u3a, the network of [national subject advisers](#) offers support with starting a group in their speciality area, and new ideas, resources or a different approach if your group needs some fresh thinking.

If you want to share what your group is up to, the [u3a radio podcast](#) showcases the amazing things happening across the u3a movement. [Latest news](#) is another great place to find uplifting stories – I loved reading about Hayling Island's Sea Shanty singing group (the video is brilliant!) - and [u3a Sources](#) is full of inspiring stories; have you heard about u3a Festival 24 taking place at York University next year? If you like the sound of it, there are lots of opportunities to get involved.

Best wishes,

*Jackie*

Jackie Jolley, Chair, [u3apershorechair@gmail.com](mailto:u3apershorechair@gmail.com) Tel: 01386 552284

*Stop  
Press*

Our next **Quiz Night**, with a festive theme, will take place on the evening of **Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> December**, at the Football Club in Pershore. Details to be emailed. If you are not on email and would like to secure your place, please contact me on the number above.



## Interest Groups' Latest News from John

Having just returned from the entertaining talk at Number 8 on The English Civil War in Worcestershire by Max Keen, it is now the time of month for my Newsletter copy - November upon us already.

October was a quieter month, there were not so many changes or news to update you with this time, so I will remind you of some recent news.

- We are looking for a new leader of the popular Pershore Singers group as from the New Year. They meet on a Wednesday afternoon.
- The Recorders group are appealing for new members to join them on a Friday morning.
- The Bend Stretch and Balance group met for the first time in October and seems very popular. Sessions held on a Tuesday afternoon.
- The Sewing Bee ladies have picked up their needle and thread and started their sessions.
- Wednesday Walkers are up and running!
- The Theatre group has various performances and dates on offer.
- Skittles 3 on a Wednesday afternoon have space for a few more players.
- Driving Skills Revisited holds monthly sessions on the second Monday of each month.
- We are hopeful of starting a second Sunday Lunch group where members meet at a local hostelry for a chat and a meal.



The proposed coach day trip to Port Sunlight next June is gathering momentum. We have 15 people interested so far, half the number required to make the event viable. Pick up and drop off will be in Pershore.

As with any query regarding these, or other group sessions, please get in touch via the website or use the email/telephone numbers available.

Do we have anyone out there that could offer to lead a new subject group? If you have a passion for something you would like to see or do, then get in touch. I was asked recently if we had a Sugarcraft group. Not yet! Basic IT advice and help and Computing for Beginners are both long standing requests.

Don't forget to submit your group news and photographs.

### Happy Halloween!

John Wright  
[u3apershorejohn@gmail.com](mailto:u3apershorejohn@gmail.com) Tel: 07977 779423



### Local Artist Visits Art Group



A local artist, Sara Chandler, was invited to visit Art group to demonstrate the technique of using charcoal to produce landscape drawings. Everyone then had a fun time creating his or her own pictures.

For more information about Art group, click:  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/pershore/page/102755>



### Citizen Science project monitors the River Avon

Water companies are frequently in the news, and not for good reasons. If not news about discharging untreated sewage into our rivers, it's about pollution caused by run-off from farming. Keen to know more, Environmental Discussion group invited Dr Geoff Sallis to talk about his project to research the health of the River Avon.

Geoff explained that commonly, we have old, combined sewer systems that carry both surface and foul water from homes and industry in one pipe. Storm overflows discharge excess water (and untreated sewage) into rivers when the system gets too full, such as at times of heavy rainfall. Property developers are still permitted to connect surface water drainage pipes to old, combined sewer systems, so with all the new houses being built, overloads are happening much more often – in 2021, there were over 370,000 discharges totalling over 2.7 million hours of pollution. Alongside this, since 2011 the Environment Agency's budget has been cut by 75% and prosecutions for pollution are down by 95%.



Geoff's project engages local groups to become Citizen Scientists and trains them in how to regularly take water samples and test them for pollution levels. An app is used to record the data, which is analysed over time to build up a picture of the River Avon's health. Samples taken from other sites frequently show worryingly high levels of phosphate and nitrate pollution and Geoff wants to find out

whether Pershore is the same, so members of Environmental Discussion group will be getting involved and a water sampling training session is being organised. If you are interested in taking part, please get in touch on the email below.

Geoff is keen to spread the word to other local groups that might take part in his project – as well as sampling, help is needed to collate and analyse data over time, build a website and keep track of people and groups interested in the project. If you are a member of a local or community group

that might like to get involved, or simply hear more about this interesting project, Geoff would be very happy to come along and talk to your group.

For information about taking part in the project, or to enquire about arranging a talk, email [u3apershorechair@gmail.com](mailto:u3apershorechair@gmail.com)

## Noticeboard

### The 'buddy' system

The "buddy" system is now running every month with a lovely bunch of "buddies" sitting at a table in Number 8 before the start of the Monthly Meetings. So, if you are new to the u3a (member or not) or on your own and would like someone to chat to before the meeting, then please approach one of the "buddies" who will make you feel welcome.

If anyone else feels they would like to be part of this team, then please email me or have a word at the next meeting. Thank you.

Ingrid Fox



*Friday 24th November 2023 5pm-9pm*  
*Saturday 25th November 2023 10am-6pm*

*Christmas Lights Switch-On Friday 6pm*

*Pershore is due to embrace the festive season with the first annual Georgian Christmas Fayre. The town centre around Broad Street will transform into a magical winter wonderland with dazzling lights and decorations. Expect handmade gifts, arts, crafts, and delicious food and beverages from local vendors.*

*Support local businesses and foster the community spirit.*

*For more information click here: <https://persshorechristmasfayre.co.uk/>*



# BANKING HALL ARTS

**FRI 24TH NOV 12 - 7PM  
& SAT 25TH NOV 10 - 5PM**  
Bank House, High Street, Pershore WR10 1AF



Taking place at this wonderful venue, selected artists exhibiting fine art and gifts, perfect for Christmas. Refreshments available from the bar. Fri - Pershore Christmas Lights switch on & Sat - Georgian Christmas Fayre



## Monthly Meeting Write Up

### October 2023 Monthly Meeting The English Civil War in Worcestershire with Max Keen

October's talk may have been our best attended yet since Covid. Those that came to Number 8 or watched on Zoom were treated to a magnificent performance by Max Keen as a follower of Charles I and Prince Rupert of the Rhine.... Your Majesty.

Max took us at pace through the events in Pershore, Worcester and Bewdley from 1642 to 1650 of the Civil War or the Great Rebellion, as he preferred to call it.



Members were certainly enthralled by his charismatic delivery and both entertained & educated at the same time. A visit to Fort Royal or the Commandery will be seen with fresh eyes in the future, and when you're next in Bewdley, look out for the blue plaques - that aren't there!

If you didn't manage to catch the talk or would like to revisit it, it's still available on our YouTube channel by clicking here: <https://youtu.be/h82hrHwtj0l>

Sally Whyte  
Speaker Coordinator  
Pershore & District u3a

## Guest Speakers at our Monthly Meetings

**All Monthly Meetings held at Number 8, High Street, Pershore.**

For more details, contact [REDACTED] Speaker Coordinator  
on [u3apershoresally@gmail.com](mailto:u3apershoresally@gmail.com)  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/pershore/events>

### Tuesday November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 at 2pm

**Driving Skills Revisited** - Most of us learnt to drive in our youth, and probably haven't had any further checks on our skills since then. Roads have changed, laws have changed, traffic is heavier and cars are more complex. Lockdown has perhaps made our driving skills even more rusty. Join Val and Howard Allen to hear how to refresh your ability to cope with modern situations.



### Tuesday December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 2pm

**Christmas Entertainment** - Join **Alan Benjamin** as he returns to Pershore to entertain us on vocals, guitar, banjo and melodeon, to send us into Christmas, singing...

Need further advice regarding Monthly Meetings?

Contact: Speaker Co-ordinator [REDACTED]

## Pershore & District u3a – Committee Members and key contacts – Nov 2023

Chair	[REDACTED]	<a href="mailto:u3apershorechair@gmail.com">u3apershorechair@gmail.com</a>	[REDACTED]
Vice-Chair & Speaker Coordinator	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Membership Secretary & Beacon Coordinator	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Treasurer	[REDACTED]	<a href="mailto:u3apershoretreasurer@gmail.com">u3apershoretreasurer@gmail.com</a>	[REDACTED]
Business Secretary	[REDACTED]	<a href="mailto:u3apershoresecretary@gmail.com">u3apershoresecretary@gmail.com</a>	[REDACTED]
Groups' Coordinator	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
New Members' Facilitator	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Newsletter Editor	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Beacon Database Admin & Technical Support	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Web Team	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Pershore and District u3a <https://u3asites.org.uk/pershore>  
Facebook: ['Keep Connected – Pershore and District U3A'](#)

Registered Charity no. 1093328

Please send photographs and any articles for publication in the Dec/Jan newsletter to: [u3apershorenews@gmail.com](mailto:u3apershorenews@gmail.com) ..... by **20<sup>th</sup> November**

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