

Update February 2024

Welcome from our Vice Chairs

Showcase event

A huge thank you to everyone who participated on 11th January to showcase all the great activities Preston Park u3a provides and made the afternoon such a success. We had more than 100 new sign ups to join our many interest groups, and attracted 15 new people to apply to join our u3a.

Where waiting lists show enough demand for additional groups we try to find members willing to become Group Leaders and set up new interest groups. For example, third groups for our popular Pilates and Tai Chi sessions are now getting going.

Thank you to Gloria Bayley and Heather Griffiths

We offer our sincere thanks to Gloria Bayley and Heather Griffiths for leading our two film groups so successfully for many years; Heather for nearly 10 years and Gloria for 10 years and more. As well as becoming experts in the movie world, they also became adept at moving furniture to fit everyone around their television.

Unfortunately they have had to step down as Group Leaders and these interest groups are now closed. Although it is a little sad when a group has to close, we also celebrate the joy and companionship these groups brought to their members.

New email address for Vice Chairs

To contact John Colman and/or Philip Haughey in their role as our two Vice Chairs, please email chairppu3a@gmail.com. They will cover this mailbox between them.

You can also find phone numbers and other contact details on our [website](https://u3asites.org.uk/prestonpark/contact) (<https://u3asites.org.uk/prestonpark/contact>).

A message from our Membership Secretary

Many thanks to all who have paid their membership fee for 2024. All members, apart from those aged 90+, must pay the £15 fee.

If you have yet to pay but want to remain a member, please note you can't attend any interest group until you have paid, and your place can be offered to the first member on any waiting list.

You can pay the £15 membership fee by:

- Bank transfer to Preston Park u3a, Sort Code 20-12-80, Account Number 33576914, Reference your membership number (NB this is different from our activities account); or
- Cheque payable to Preston Park u3a. Send it to the Membership Secretary, 164 Valley Drive, Brighton BN1 5LG.

You can also direct any queries to Membership Secretary [Kevin Thomas](#) (click to [email](#)), or phone Kevin on 01273 881340.

An unexpected receipt!

We recently received £277 from Riviera Travel's Affinity Charity Scheme which donates up to 10% of the total basic cost of a u3a member's holiday if they mention they want to claim Affinity Commission for Preston Park u3a when they make a booking. Something to consider if you book a holiday with Riviera Travel!

What's on in February

Monthly Meeting – Thursday 1st February at 2.15pm

Our guest speaker will be Sue Shepherd, a local resident, on the fascinating 'History of Preston Park'. She has been collecting money to improve the lighting in Little St Peter's Church.

Monthly meetings are in Knoyle Hall and open to all members. Doors open at 1.45pm, with refreshments after the talk.

Harry Venning of 'Claire in the Community' fame has agreed to come and entertain us again with a new talk on 'Cartoonists and Cartooning' at the following monthly meeting, on 7th March.

Coffee morning – Friday 2nd February at 10.30am and every Friday

All u3a members are invited to drop in for coffee between 10.30 and 12.30 every Friday at the Tree Top Café, St Augustine's Centre on the corner of Stanford Avenue and Florence Road. Just drop in, or email [Philip Haughey](#), Tel. 01273 557058, if you have any queries.

Pub Quiz – Tuesday 6th February at 2.30pm

Our next Pub Quiz, at 2.30pm on Tuesday February 6th, at the Ladies Mile Pub, is a very special one. It's our 10th anniversary as we started the quizzes in February 2014, and have been going through Covid and various changes of venue ever since. We will celebrate with cake (which will be provided), good company and commiseration to those teams that don't win! As always, newcomers are welcome. Just turn up and you will be slotted into a team for the afternoon- a good way to make five new friends.

New Members' Tea – Wednesday 7th February at 3pm

If you're a new member and haven't attended a New Members' Tea then please contact our New Members' Friend, email [Sarah Richardson](#), Tel. 07941 318630.

The next tea is on Wednesday 7th February at 3pm. You will meet other new members and committee members, receive a welcome pack and find out all you want to know about our u3a. The following tea will be on Wednesday 6th March at 3pm.

News from our groups

Holidays

Over the years Group Leader Ann Kerrison has arranged many tailor-made 'British Gardens' and recent 'City Break' coach tours for Preston Park u3a members with the specialist travel company Brightwater Holidays. These have proved extremely popular, particularly for single members, enjoying the company of u3a friends while sharing interests and the pleasure each day brings.

Departing Brighton from our local pick up points and being accompanied throughout by our Brightwater Tour Manager ensures travel is convenient and stress free.

Ann is now taking bookings for:

A City Break to Bristol & Bath - 8th - 12th September 2024

A 5 day tailor made tour. Cost £995 pp (£195 s/s).

Includes dinner, bed & breakfast at the new 4 star Clayton Hotel, located in the old city and a short stroll away from Bristol Harbourside.

Includes entry to: SS Great Britain, No 1 Royal Crescent, Bath, Roman Baths, Wells Cathedral, Bishops Palace, Tyntesfied House, Lacock Abbey, Jane Austen Centre and the American Museum and Garden at Claverton Manor.



For further information, full itinerary and a booking form, email [Ann Kerrison](#). See also our [website](#) for more details.

Ann is also planning a tour of the gardens of North Wales for May 2025.

Striders Walking Group

Our [Striders](#) have been making the most of available sunshine, despite the cold weather in January.

Contact [Kim Dainty](#) (Tel. 07837 138376) if you'd like to join them on their brisk 4 to 6 mile hikes on Thursday mornings.



Heritage Visiting Group

[John Colman](#) is now taking bookings for the following group visits, which are open to all Preston Park u3a members on a first come, first served basis and confirmed once payment is made:

Imperial War Museum, London - Friday 9th February



Meet at Brighton (9.15am) or Preston Park (9.20am) stations for train to Blackfriars Station, then walk 1 mile (c.25 minutes) or take a bus to the Imperial War Museum, arriving at approx. 11.15am. The museum has a new gallery on "Spies, Lies and Deception".

Cost £14.25 for rail fare as museum has free entry.

British Museum, Bloomsbury, London - Friday 23rd February



Meet at Brighton (9.10am) or Preston Park (9.15am) stations for train to Farringdon Station, then walk 1 mile (20-25 minutes) or bus 55, arriving at British Museum at approx. 11.15am.

Cost £14.25 for rail fare as museum has free entry.

Globe Theatre Tour, Bankside, London - Friday 15th March



Meet at Brighton (9.15am) or Preston Park (9.20am) stations for train to London Bridge, then an 800 yard walk along the South Bank to the Globe Theatre for a tour from 11.45 to 1pm.

Cost for train and tour £39.

There is free time after the visits and members often visit a pub for lunch. Suggested pub for the Globe visit is The Anchor Inn on Bankside, or visit Borough Market near London Bridge Station.

For further information and/or to book your place, email [John Colman](#), or phone 07710 298221 or 01273 556977.

A full list of John's proposed visits for 2024 is on our [website](#).

Information on all our groups

You can find out more about any of our learning and activity interest groups and how to contact Group Leaders by clicking [here](https://u3asites.org.uk/prestonpark/groups) (<https://u3asites.org.uk/prestonpark/groups>).

Card sales for charity

Caroline Beebe has been able to give the MS Centre in Southwick a fantastic £750.00 this year through selling her hand made cards etc. at meetings, and thanks you all for buying them.

Caroline will have a few Valentine cards for sale at our monthly meeting on 1st February as well as the usual cards. ❤️

National u3a news

You can find out what some other u3as around the country have been doing in the [Your u3a Friends January Newsletter](#).

Future updates

Many thanks to everyone who contributed text and photos for this update. We welcome more news and photos for future editions.

If you have any information or photos you'd like included in the March Update, please send them as soon as you can, and by **28th February** at the latest, to Carol Jenkins, email [Carol Jenkins](#), Tel. 07952 234426. Thank you.