

Chair's Chat



Dear Member

Welcome to our September newsletter, with news on upcoming events and reports of get-togethers especially below hot off the press photos of our Picnic in the Park.

Although the sky may look grey it was perfect weather, warm and sunny. As this was a new event in lieu of our Monthly meeting during "Dark week" (maintenance) at Number 8 we weren't sure how well it would be attended but we had nearly 70 members enjoying picnics, companionship and fabulous entertainment provided by "Improv" ☺ (**Griff, Peter and Steve.**) We also attracted



passers-by through the park who were intrigued by the u3a idea - a youth club for older people - seems to be the easiest way to explain it! Many thanks to our band, and particularly to **Ingrid** our Social Secretary for organising the event. We will definitely do it again next year!

As a former teacher I always see September as the beginning of a new year, and we look forward to events into 2026 now. There is an exciting programme of speakers booked well into 2026 and I know **John** is working on trips for next year. By the time you read this, the latest outing to Shrewsbury will have taken place. It sold out very quickly. Join our Day Trips group to be kept in the loop. I have just updated our 5-month handout of monthly meetings and alarmingly January 2026 is included. That means our AGM where committee members who have served their full-term step down and we elect new post holders. That will be Ian our **Treasurer**, John our **Groups Coordinator** and myself as **Speaker Coordinator**. We can't continue without these post holders so please get in touch if you would like to know more about joining us and shadowing one of these fulfilling roles.

Best wishes

Sally

Sally Whyte Chair, Pershore and District u3a
u3apershorechair@gmail.com

Dates for your diary September 2025

Thur	Sept 4	Pershore Heritage and History Society monthly meeting https://pershoreheritage.org		
Sat	Sept 6	Broad Street Market	<i>Broad Street, Pershore</i>	<i>9am-3pm</i>
Sat	Sept 6	Peopleton Autumn show https://www.peopletonvillage.co.uk/peopleton-autumn-show/	<i>Peopleton playing fields</i>	<i>12-6pm</i>
Sat	Sept 13	Chandos Symphony Orchestra https://chandos.org.uk/concerts/	<i>Pershore Abbey</i>	<i>3-5 pm</i>
Tues	Sept 16	u3a Monthly Meeting: 'Inside the mind of a cryptic crossword setter with PostMark	<i>Number 8</i>	<i>2pm</i>

Hello Everyone,

I hope you are enjoying the summer weather, it has certainly cooled down these past few days though.

As you know, we never have a monthly meeting at Number 8 in August, but some of us did manage to get together for the u3a picnic in Abbey Park, something I am sure we will repeat in the future.

Groups wise, I don't have a lot to report this month - no news is hopefully good news.

Driving Skills Revisited gets underway in September - still time to enrol and brush up on your highway code.

The **MOTO 1** (Members On Their Own) group are looking for a new group leader to take the reins after Christmas; please let me know if you are interested in organising monthly get-togethers for lunch, cinema, chats etc.

The **Country Dancing** group are resuming their sessions in September at Defford Village Hall, taking place fortnightly on a Monday afternoon - do get in touch if you would like more information.

Don't forget that we have someone willing to start a new group for **Flute** players, any ability.

Is there a group we don't cater for that you would like to introduce? Just get in touch.

The **Day Trips** group had a sell out trip to Shrewsbury at the end of August, the next one will be to Cardiff at the end of October, details will be sent to group members in the first week of September. If you would like future information about our trips then please enrol on to the Day Trips group, just let me know as I am also the Day Trips group leader.

Look out for our "Keep Connected" Facebook page (which is a platform for Pershore & District u3a members only) to contribute stories, photographs and group news. Let us all know what the groups are planning, recent news and suggestions.

Sandra Chapman is often posting articles linked to the u3a too.

Group Leaders - can you please make sure you have emergency contact names and numbers for your group. You never know when they might be needed.

Autumn awaits!

See you soon,

John Wright, Groups Coordinator

u3apershorejohn@gmail.com

New to Pershore? Or always wanted to play Rubber Bridge?

There are two u3a groups for those who have played a bit - one meets at The White Horse every Tuesday evening led by Kees; a second on Wednesday afternoons at St Andrew's Centre, led by Anne.

We also have two absolute beginners groups - led by Carolyn on Wednesday afternoons and Andrew on Friday afternoons.

All groups are very social and you will be made very welcome.

Contact our Groups coordinator for more information u3apershorejohn@gmail.com

Robin Hancox



Sally Stops by in August



I have been both inside and out this month, catching up with more of our wonderfully varied groups.

I was privileged to be invited to The Good Life group by **Mary** to visit Graham's No Dig garden. It was an impressive example of decades of work, both organic and wildlife friendly, featuring mature fruit trees, vegetable plots and several ponds. At the end we were able to sample produce



and cake made from the bounty. I also got tips on my rather badly behaved courgettes!

Next was Racketball, a relatively new group to us, also known as Squash57 as it uses a 57mm ball. It's an energetic but accessible fun game, played with rackets with bigger heads than in squash, as you can see. I had a very warm welcome from **Paul** the leader and the others, and I enjoyed it so much I joined and look forward to playing every other Friday! This group would welcome new members - no experience necessary!



On a warm sunny day, I joined members playing Petanque on the shaded courts at Wick. The group convenes on the second and fourth Tuesday mornings throughout the year, under the leadership of the dedicated Groups Coordinator, **John**. The sessions have both a competitive spirit and a friendly enjoyable atmosphere.



Finally, I participated in a game of Skittles at the sports club in Pershore, organised by **Mary G**. Did you know we have three Skittles groups on different days so there might be one to suit you if you're interested? It was great fun and our very busy Groups



Coordinator John won the main game and Mary C won the Killer knockout - here they are with their winnings!

Thank you to all the Group Leaders and members for the welcome this month.



Save the date



**u3a COFFEE MORNING
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18th**

St Andrews
10.30 – 12 noon

CALLING ALL BAKERS: please start looking out your scales and cake tins as 12-15 cakes are needed for this event.

I shall be in touch via Facebook and email nearer the event but I wanted to raise awareness now. If you are willing to make a cake and drop it to St Andrews that morning, please email me at the address below.

Thank you.

Ingrid Fox u3apershoreingrid@gmail.com

Message from Iain Cassidy - ERIC MIDWINTER

It is with great sadness that I share the news of the death of Eric Midwinter, one of the visionary co-founders of the u3a movement in the UK.

Eric, alongside Peter Laslett and Michael Young, established u3a in 1982 with the belief that later life should be a time of continued learning, connection, and contribution.

Eric's commitment to challenging negative stereotypes of ageing, and to creating spaces for older adults to share skills, knowledge, and friendship, has shaped the lives of hundreds of thousands of u3a members over four decades.

Eric's vision has flourished over the years and we know that his legacy will continue to inspire new generations to embrace lifelong learning and positive ageing.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Eric's family and friends at this time.

You can watch a conversation between Eric and Liz Thackray about the movement, recorded in 2022 for our 40th Anniversary, on [our YouTube Channel](#).

Best wishes,

Iain Cassidy
CEO of the Third Age Trust



1 u3a.org.uk



2 u3a.org.uk

**Feedback wanted:
South Worcestershire local cycling
and walking infrastructure plans
(LCWIPs)**



From Worcestershire County Council local infrastructure team

We would like to make walking, wheeling and cycling to be the natural choice for short trips such as getting to work and other shorter local journeys.

As part of a public engagement exercise, we would like to hear feedback from businesses and residents in Droitwich Spa, Malvern, Pershore and Worcester to help us shape plans to make cycling, walking, and wheeling a more attractive and safer choice.

Please follow this link to learn more and participate in the survey:

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SWLCWIP>

Anyone who needs assistance accessing the online survey can call in at one of the libraries in Droitwich Spa, Malvern, Pershore or Worcester for help. The closing date for the survey is Friday 31 October at midnight.



Schoolreaders is a national literacy charity that matches volunteers with local primary schools to support children in improving their reading and comprehension skills, as well as developing their confidence and social skills.

To make a difference to a child's life chances by helping them make progress with their reading is such a rewarding experience for volunteers. Research shows that fewer and fewer children are reading for pleasure but this is something that Schoolreaders, with the help of their volunteers, are seeking to change.

We have three schools in the Pershore area who are waiting to be matched with volunteers. We require ten volunteers to meet the requirements of the schools. It would be great to have volunteers in place during next term.

Our volunteers must be able to commit to at least an hour each week for a full year during term time (although holidays can of course be taken) and will undergo an Enhanced DBS check, which is organised and paid for by the school. Volunteers must have a good standard of written and spoken English, but we do not require any specific qualifications and we do not have any age restrictions on our volunteers as long as they are over 18.

Please visit

<https://www.schoolreaders.org>


for more information about Schoolreaders and the work we do.



Upcoming Monthly Meetings @ No.8

**SEPTEMBER
MONTHLY MEETING**

**INSIDE THE MIND OF
A CRYPTIC
CROSSWORD
SETTER...**



With u3a member
Mark Hartshome, known as
"PostMark" in his crossword life,
delving into the world of words

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 16th, 2pm

OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING



**WHEN YOU HEAR
CHURCH BELLS
DO YOU THINK:
WHO? HOW? WHY?**

Come along and find out from
members of Pershore Abbey team
and other local bell ringers

TUESDAY OCTOBER 21st, 2pm

All monthly meetings are held at Number 8, High Street, Pershore, starting at 2 pm

Open to all. Non-members and Cotswold link members are welcome

Sally Whyte Speaker Coordinator

u3apershoresally@gmail.com

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Pershore & District u3a <https://pershore.u3asite.uk/>

Facebook: [Keep Connected – Pershore & District u3a](#) Registered Charity no. 1093328

Please send photographs and any articles for publication in the October 2025 newsletter

to: u3apershorenews24@gmail.com by 20th September

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