

Chair's Chat

Dear member,

I hope you are all well as we step into 2026. New year, new photo, you may have noticed.

It was great to see so many of you at our AGM this month, and thank you all for your support for the meeting and the committee. Our new committee is now up and running and on page 2 you will see what we look like. I'm delighted to welcome on board **Janet**, as our new Treasurer who takes over from **Ian** who will now manage Beacon, and **Alison** and **Mary** as committee members. We will all be working hard to keep Pershore & District u3a thriving.



The motion to reduce the fees was passed at the AGM so this year Individual Membership is £12 for the year. A pound a month! What great value – you get so much for your pound– this newsletter for a start as well as the Monthly Meeting and access to over 90 interest groups. Make sure you make the most of that £1. Membership renewal details are in this month's newsletter. 😊



We had a heart-warming talk after the AGM from Diane, one of the fundraising executives about the work of the Midlands Air Ambulance charity. She reminded us that the charity is funded solely by donations with no government or National Lottery support. She included the video, "Nigel's Story", which is well

worth a look. See link:

<https://youtu.be/Fpflv68LwV4?si=XMzJGRyoaShcwqdp> and I recommend you look on their website <https://www.midlandsairambulance.com/> for more details of their invaluable and lifesaving work and ways to help them.

Diane was thrilled with the generosity of the contributions afterward and has promised to let me know the total collected soon so I can share it with you.

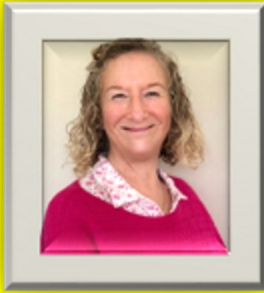
Sally Whyte

Chair Pershore and District u3a u3apershorechair@gmail.com

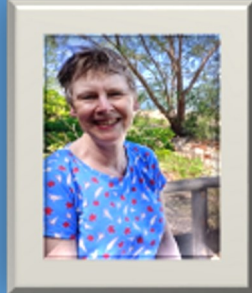
Dates for your diary in February

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Fri Feb 13 th | CAMEO | <i>Riverside centre</i> | <i>2-4pm</i> |
| Tue Feb 17 th | Monthly Meeting | <i>"Bradecote and Catchpoll "</i> | <i>C2nd detection in
Worcestershire with local author Sarah Hawkswood</i> |
| Wed Feb 25 th | Day trip to Bournville | | <i>Number 8 2pm</i> |

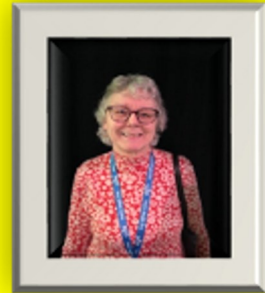
MEET YOUR NEW COMMITTEE



SALLY WHYTE
CHAIR



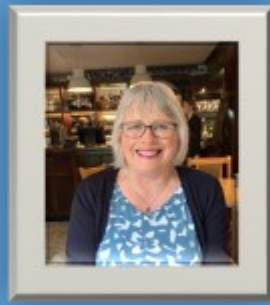
HELEN BARRETT
BUSINESS SECRETARY



JANET PRICE
TREASURER



ROSIE CHANDLER
EDI OFFICER



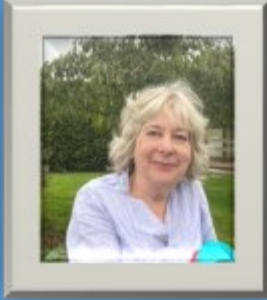
INGRID FOX
SOCIAL SECRETARY



MARY FURSE
COMMITTEE MEMBER



DAINA GROMADZKI
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY



ALISON JEYNES
COMMITTEE MEMBER



JOHN WRIGHT
DAY TRIPS COORDINATOR

and behind the scenes ...

HELEN BALDWIN - NEWSLETTER EDITOR

SANDRA CHAPMAN - FACEBOOK MANAGER

MARY GREER - WEBSITE MANAGER

IAN SMITH - BEACON ADMINISTRATOR

June, the leader of the Art group, writes:

"This month we had a very interesting session in the art group. Sara Chandler who is a local artist and teacher gave us a talk on perspective. Her enthusiasm for the topic was infectious. She delivered the talk with such skill, hopefully this will help us with our future projects."



The Crossword Compiling group led by **Mark** have had two sessions and are getting to grips with the software which will help to challenge our group members. In the meantime, Mark has had a puzzle in *The Independent* on January 7th and the inaugural puzzle on the blogging site for the GIFT (Guardian, Independent, Financial Times) puzzles. www.fifteensquared.net. Well done Mark !



Jazz Appreciation has had to close but we thank **Dutch** for his enthusiasm in this group. We have thoroughly enjoyed his renditions at our CAMEO sessions, Picnic for VE day and Group Leaders' lunch last year.

Before Christmas I visited the Card Games group led by **Tricia**, and had a fun afternoon playing cards. Very sociable with a competitive edge!



I also had the pleasure of visiting Local History (our most popular group with over 100 members), ably led by **Joan**, to enjoy their Christmas entertainment from Richard Churchley with his selection of songs and anecdotes.

Finally, have you seen the article in this month's **Prima** magazine? It's entitled *"It's the best youth club there is!"* where four u3a members talk about discovering confidence, creativity and joy in later life. If you're a member of Worcestershire Libraries you can access it via the Pressreader app or website.

Sally

The collage features several articles from Prima magazine. The top article is titled "It's the best youth club there is!" and discusses a youth club for older people. Below it is an article "We all learn from each other" by Joan Lumb, which talks about learning from others in a group. To the right is an article "My life has been full again" by Joan Lumb, which describes her experiences in a group. There are also smaller photos and snippets of text from other articles.

Subscriptions Renewal

Hello everyone

This is advance notice that membership renewals are due by 1st of March. Keep an eye on your email inbox for an email from me, as I will open the renewals on the **1st of February**. (*Members who have joined since December will not have to renew this year as you have already paid for 2026.*)

Online renewals are now the preferred method, but you must be **registered for our Members Portal**. You will need your email address, membership number and postcode to register.

Here is the link to do this.

<https://u3abeacon.org.uk/u3aportal.php?u3a=316&sc=DLNK>

You will be asked to set a password for future access.

This link is also on our website on the Members page.

Once the renewals are open, you can log in to the Members Portal and the option to renew will be visible.

When you click the **Renew** link, you will have two options to pay: either by using a PayPal account if you have one, or by using your debit/credit card as a 'guest'.

Once you have renewed, you will automatically receive your new membership card by email.

The treasurer and I would encourage all members who have not yet registered for the Members Portal to please do so, if at all possible, as using this method to renew will save us both a huge amount of time at what is a very busy time of year for us. At the time of writing, we have over 500 members now registered – thanks to those members.

We will, of course, still have the older methods to renew: BACS, cheque or cash. However, we would please ask that you use the online renewal method if you can.

I will be available at the February and March monthly meetings from 1.15 pm, to take cash payments. If you wish to pay by cash, please put the **CORRECT** amount in a **sealed** envelope with your name and membership number on the front. It will not be possible to give change as there is no time before the meeting.

For those members not on email, a letter will be dropping through your letter box at the end of January, along with the February newsletter.

Fees for the coming year, as adopted at our recent AGM in January, will be:

- Individual Full Membership £12.00
- Joint Full Membership £20.00 per couple who reside at the same address
- Individual Associate Membership £8.00
- Joint Associate Membership £14.00 per couple who reside at the same address
- Cotswold Link Membership to remain free of charge.

Many thanks

Daina Gromadzki, Membership Secretary

Upcoming Monthly Meetings @ No.8

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month. Members can enjoy a good speaker, meet up with friends and enjoy refreshments afterwards in the Foyer Café.

Venue : **Number 8, High Street, Pershore**

Doors open 1-40pm for a prompt **2pm start** with news and notices

Cotswold Link members, Non-members and new visitors always welcome

For more information visit our website <https://pershore.u3asite.uk/events/>

FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING

BRADECOTE AND CATCHPOLL



Murder mystery series set in C12th Worcestershire

with author **Sarah Hawkswood**

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 17th, 2pm

MARCH MONTHLY MEETING

LIFE IN THE MUSIC

With singer/songwriter

Andy Smith

featuring instruments, anecdotes and songs



TUESDAY MARCH 17th, 2pm

Notices

CAMEO MEETING (Come and Meet Each Other)

February 13th 2pm - 4pm

The Riverside Centre

Free refreshments and entertainment by
u3a Ukulele Group

We look forward to seeing you there

Ingrid



Alfred the Great: a king who rode good fortune?

MAX KEEN is coming to

White Ladies Aston parish room WR7 4QQ

7.30 pm Monday, March 9th

Entry £5, payable at the door

Max is famous for his lively and animated historical talks, dressed in costumes of the period.

TOOLS WITH A MISSION

Thank you everyone who has donated to Tools With a Mission in 2025.
We are still keen to collect your donations. There is very little we can't re-home!

Sewing Machines, working or not, and all related items

haberdashery, fabric, patterns etc.

Knitting machines, needles and yarn

Any craft related items

Laptops, monitors, printers

Carpentry tools, nuts, bolts, screws, anything to do with the DIY workshop,
 or gardening



Please phone **01386 643025**

We will collect

David and Vanessa

Pershore & District u3a Committee Members and Key Contacts February

Role	Name	Email
Accessibility Officer	Rosie Chandler	u3apershoreaccess2@gmail.com
Beacon Administrator	Ian Smith	u3apershoreian@gmail.com
Business Secretary	Helen Barrett	u3apershoresecretary@gmail.com
Chair	Sally Whyte	u3apershorechair@gmail.com
Committee Member	Alison Jeynes	tbc
Committee Member	Mary Furse	tbc
Day trips coordinator	John Wright	u3apershorejohn@gmail.com
Groups' Coordinator	To be filled	
Membership Secretary	Daina Gromadzki	u3apershore@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Helen Baldwin	u3apershorenews24@gmail.com
Social Media Coordinator	Sandra Chapman	u3apershorefacebook@gmail.com
Social Secretary	Ingrid Fox	u3apershoreingrid@gmail.com
Speaker Coordinator	To be filled	
Treasurer	Janet Price	u3apershoretreasurer@gmail.com u3apershorejanet@gmail.com
Vice Chair	To be filled	
Website Administrator	Mary Greer	u3apershoreweb@gmail.com

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 March 2026 newsletter

to: u3apershorenews24@gmail.com by 20th February

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