

Chair's Chat

Dear member,



After an extended stay in Doha recently, I am so thankful to be back in the comfort of my own home and feeling safe in our lovely town. There is much to look forward to in Pershore and with our u3a this month, as we celebrate Easter and enjoy Spring.

I hope you are enjoying **News From the Groups**. Each month you will be able to read about what some of our varied and interesting groups have been up to recently, and space permitting in the group, perhaps you might be tempted to give one a try. This month read about Board

Games, Recorders and Psychology.

March's **Monthly Meeting** was an entertaining afternoon of familiar and self-penned songs documenting the life of Andy Smith from five years old when he got his first ukulele, through his youth and marriage and family life. It was a poignant yet humorous afternoon. Afterwards there was an opportunity to purchase CDs and books or to donate to Myton Hospice in Rugby where Andy's wife was cared for. He was very appreciative of our generosity which raised £175.



If you enjoy our Monthly Meetings, you may be disappointed to know we only have speakers booked until March next year. After that there is a big gap in the diary, just waiting for someone to come forward and become **Speaker Coordinator** and fill it with exciting speakers of their own choice. Don't let Pershore & District u3a monthly meetings become a thing of a past. The coordinator is a very rewarding role and I am more than happy to offer as much support as needed, so please give it some thought.

Sally

Sally Whyte

Chair Pershore and District u3a u3apershorechair@gmail.com

Dates for your diary in April

Easter Sunday April 5th	Pershore Carnival Duck Race	King George's Meadow (behind the Leisure centre)	1pm-4pm
Thursday April 9th	CAMEO	Riverside Centre	2-4pm
Tuesday April 21st	Monthly Meeting	Number 8	2pm
Saturday April 25th	Tomato plant sale	with refreshments, Wick Care Farm	11am-2pm

Day Trips Report from John – Visit to Bournville



When arranging our first trip of 2026 I was worrying about the weather in February, travel distance, facilities and most of all whether the venue would be interesting.

Last year someone mentioned Bournville/Cadbury World might fit the bill, so in January I rang Duncan Cadbury, a fellow u3a Pershore member, to ask for a few tips. That was my best move. From me just hoping for a few ideas, Duncan transformed our day out by offering to be our guide. His help, knowledge and contacts led to us having a brilliant and informative day out.



Once again, we had a full coach with 55 passengers for the short trip to Birmingham, with Duncan doing his Cadbury history guide in between cracking the jokes.

First stop was at the Rowheath Pavilion for tea and cake, then back on the coach to visit The Almshouses, with access into the quadrangle fronting the 33 bungalows provided for retired Cadbury workers. Later we had access to an unbelievable site which is a residential home offering every facility you could think of, before moving on to the village centre to see landmarks including Selly Manor Museum, the Carillon, the Rest House, local shops, St Francis Church, Ruskin Hall, parks and lakes before walking a short distance to Cadbury World for lunch/picnics.



We were all given a few bars of chocolate as we entered the attraction, with free time viewing the exhibitions, history trails and demonstrations from the staff. My favourite was the decorated Chocolate Teapot! No comments please.



By special arrangement, Duncan had secured a meeting room where he gave us a presentation on "George Cadbury and the Bournville Trust", his Quaker upbringing, what the Trust does today and the history of the family's foresight regarding the treatment of its workforce.



For many, the highlight came at our final stop at the Serbian Orthodox Church, featuring stunning interior frescoes, not to mention an impromptu song from the priest, before we headed home to Pershore.

Again, on behalf of everyone, my sincere thanks to Duncan Cadbury who made sure our day out was one we won't forget. He put in an incredible amount of work on our behalf.

Finally, thank you to lots of fellow passengers who sent in photos and comments saying how much they enjoyed the day.



John Wright,
Day Trips Coordinator
u3apershorejohn@gmail.com



Sally Stops by in March

Psychology 2



The topic for discussion on my visit was the psychology of our fascination with programmes about deceit and lies on TV, particularly *The Traitors*. This was prompted by a previous conversation and seemed to split the room into two camps: those that enjoyed the programme, and those that had never seen it... and afterwards probably had no intention of doing so! It was ably led by **Jackie** who used clips from the TV to illustrate her points. It certainly led to a lively discussion with thought-provoking conversation about why this programme and others like it can be such compulsive viewing. Certainly a stimulating group for those with an interest in topics of the mind and behaviour.

Thank you to all the group for allowing me to attend, especially **Group Leader Judith**. *If you're interested in joining there is space. Contact Judith via the website. Also watch out for my report from Psychology 1 next month...*

Handbell Ringing

It was with trepidation that I attended handbell ringing, as I knew I would have to give it a go! But with tuition from **Graham** the leader and the friendly encouragement of all the group, it was a wonderful experience, unlike anything I have ever done before. The concentration needed leaves no room to think of anything else but not being the one to be out of time. And when you get it right, it sounds beautiful. Thank you to all the group for a very intense but joyful session.



Here are links to a couple of videos I recorded at the time which I recommend you listen to.

[Handbells Video 1](#)

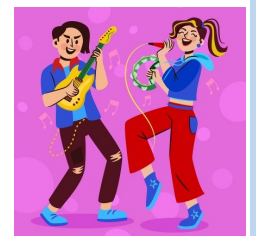
[Handbells Video 2](#)

CAMEO

CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)

Thursday, April 9th at The Riverside Centre 2.00–4.00pm

Come and enjoy an afternoon chatting to fellow u3a members with free refreshments. We will be showcasing Country Dancing and 60s Pop Singers. All members are welcome to pop in and see what is going on in the groups and enjoy a cuppa and a biscuit. We look forward to seeing you there.

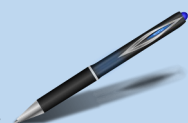


SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, August 18th

To celebrate our 25th anniversary
there will be a picnic in Abbey Park with entertainment.

More details nearer the date.



Ingrid Fox, Social Secretary u3apershoreingrid@gmail.com

News from the Groups

PERSHORE & DISTRICT u3a BOARD GAMES GROUP meet at 2–4pm on the third Thursday of the month in Stoulton Village Hall. We play several Board Games and pretend we are not competitive, but many of us really love to win! We mostly play Scrabble, Rummikub and Qwirkle. We are happy to play any other games and willing to teach newcomers new games. You even get a cup of tea/coffee and a chocolate biscuit!

One interesting fact about Rummikub is that it was devised by a Romanian Jew in the Second World War. The Nazis banned all games including card games so this father made up Rummikub for his children to play in secret. I am told by my Romanian neighbour that it has been played all over Romania ever since! It is played with tiles and is similar to Rummy and a bit of Mah-Jong. What an amazing legacy! We u3a members absolutely love it!

Jenny Guy



RECAGE, PERSHORE & DISTRICT u3a RECORDER GROUP, at WCAF, 7th March 2026

Ten of us from the group (RecAge) took part in the Worcester Creative Arts Festival held at RGS on Saturday 7th March. We played five pieces in two classes and came away with a trophy and two certificates. Our adjudicator commented on how we all obviously enjoyed playing together, although there were some slips. She commented on the quality of our articulation and intonation and how we must have worked hard on these for each piece.



It was an interesting experience. Most of our players had not performed in a competition before and several had only recently taken up recorder playing.

Many thanks to Lynda Martinson, our Musical Director and to each of the group who had spent hours in personal practice for this event.

Hazel Woodhead

PSYCHOLOGY – WHAT MAKES US TICK? The exploration of everyday psychology

Psychology is certainly not a rarified academic/scientific subject. It is what makes us tick and influences and affects us every day. Our discussions have opened our eyes and enriched our understanding of ourselves and others.

Psychology Group 1 has been running for 13 years and Group 2 for 11 years. In all that time we have never run out of topics to explore. Group members take it in turn to choose a subject they wish to investigate. Examples include: Psychology of Food, Confidence, Risk, Phobias, Loneliness, Music, Boredom, Coercive Behaviour, Memory and False Memory, Empty-nest Syndrome, Dreams, Psychology of Evil and Tyrants, Procrastination. We also have many more light-hearted topics such as: Decluttering, Humour, Interior Design, Gardening, Happiness, Fashion, Laughter.

We also occasionally invite a guest speaker – Pain and the Brain, Forensic Psychology, Unconditional Love, Synaesthesia, Psychology of Art – and heard Ruby Wax at the Cheltenham Literature Festival talking on qualifying in Psychology and her own Mental

Health journey. We have also become involved in some research on Healthy Aging and Attention and Driving Behaviour.

We top it each year by combining the two groups for an Annual Social get-together to enjoy good conversation, company and food!

Judith Bayliss, Group Leader

Upcoming Monthly Meetings @ No.8

APRIL MONTHLY MEETING



STRANGE TALES FROM THE DARKER SIDE

from magician
and storyteller

Nick Brunger

with audience participation

TUESDAY APRIL 21st, 2pm

MAY MONTHLY MEETING

THE DARKER SIDE OF NURSERY RHYMES



With **Angela Dunsby** from John
Moore Museum, Tewkesbury

TUESDAY May 19th, 2pm

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/>

NOTICES

BALLROOM DANCING

I have just seen Angela Rippon on tv talking about the benefits of Ballroom Dancing for people of all ages.

Is this an activity you would like to take up, as a learner or returner? Please contact me and I will see if there are sufficient numbers to start up a new group.

Ivan Steele



<https://www.westendtheatre.com/195891/news/strictly-come-dancings-angela-rippon-at-the-royal-academy-of-dance/>

FREE TO A GOOD HOME!

I'm redesigning my garden and have a bamboo growing in a large pot which is going begging. I am happy to donate it to anyone who would be interested in having it. The pot measures 50cm high with a circumference of 60cm approx. The plant has done sterling service providing a focal point in the far corner of the garden but I would just like to ring the changes.

Interested? Please contact Maria Toman (mtoffice@btinternet.com)



Cotswold Link Special Interest Day 2026

FROM PEN TO READER: THE JOURNEY OF A BOOK

Tuesday June 2nd 10.30– 15.30

The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, Cheltenham GL51 6PN

£28 pp including parking, refreshments and lunch



A day of lively talks exploring how books are imagined, written, researched, published, and brought to readers. Open to all members of u3as affiliated to the Cotswold Link network.

- *Bums on Seats*: with Sue Ablett: behind the scenes of running a literary festival
- *Researching Roman Britain* with Jacqui Rogers: researching for crime thriller novels set in 3rd Century Britain
- *The Joys and Perils of Being an Author* with Colin Wade: using his police background to write fast-paced, gripping crime thriller novels
- *A Publisher's Perspective* with Gavin Swain, Managing Director of The History Press
- *Bonus session* with Jocelyn Wishart: how one u3a Creative Writing Group published their own works

Booking ends May 2nd For more information and to book your seat

https://cotswold-link.u3asite.uk/u3a_events/special-interest-day/

Pershore & District u3a Committee Members and Key Contacts April 2026

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	u3apershoremary@gmail.com
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 May 2026 newsletter

to: u3apershorenews24@gmail.com by 20th April

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