

Chair's Chat



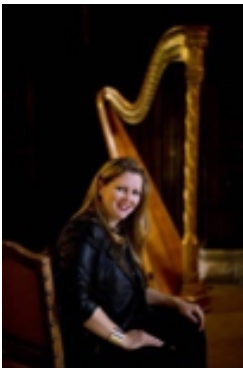
Dear Member,

As you may know this is a milestone year for Pershire & District u3a marking **25 years** since its beginning and we are celebrating this with a picnic in Abbey Park on **Tuesday, 18th August** from 12 noon. From those of you who have been with us since the beginning to our more recent members, we hope you will all be able to join us. See more details on page 5 from our

Social Secretary **Ingrid**. Music will be provided by the Pop Music Players who I visited this month and I can assure you that you will be well entertained.

Two of our musicians, **Lynda** and **Phil**, attended the u3a Festival in York recently as tutors – read all about their experiences too on pages 4–5. Thank you to both of them for representing Pershire & District so well!

On one of our hottest Fridays we were unsure if we would have any takers for the CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other) meeting on July 3rd at the Riverside centre, but I and the rest of the committee and STAR team were delighted with the attendance. We had **Keith** showcasing his fascinating work with Family History and many people stopped by to chat genealogy. These events are always a useful chance to meet the committee, find out more and ask questions and chat to other members in a very informal social setting. We also supplied refreshments to the local community police officers who were intrigued by the ethos of the u3a and have offered to return at a future date to chat all things policing and community. Look out for the next CAMEO date.



Our Monthly Meeting this month was *"a delight.....and a little bit of magic.."* to quote one member. Professional Harpist Fiona Hosford, entertained us with her beautiful playing, her stories about the music and composers and the humorous yet enlightening answers to the questions. If you missed it or would like to see and hear it again you can of course watch on our P&D u3a YouTube Channel where many other recordings are available.

Sally

Sally Whyte

Chair Pershire and District u3a

u3apershirechair@gmail.com

Dates for your diary in August

Mon, August 10th	Committee Meeting	Riverside Centre	10am– 12 noon
Tues, August 18th	u3a 25th Anniversary Celebration Picnic	Abbey Park	from 12 noon
Thur, August 27th	Plum Festival Bike Nite	Broad Street	5–9pm
Sat, August 29th	Plum Festival Open Cinema	Abbey Park	from 11am
Sun, August 30th	Plum Festival Family Fun Day	various locations	
Mon, August 31st	Bank Holiday Monday Plum Festival Day	Broad Street and Abbey Park	

Sally Stops by in July

French Intermediate at Elmley Castle



I was warmly welcomed by **Elizabeth** and topically the group began by discussing the heat wave ('la canicule' was much used!) They were able to practice previously used vocabulary before moving on to ask two members about their holidays in Paris and Normandy in the heat, all the while guided by Elizabeth. It was also a member's birthday so a chance to sing Happy Birthday in French and enjoy cake and coffee. The group are reading a French text, *Petit Nicolas*, about a boy who describes his holiday adventures and all the mischief he gets up to. Many thanks to all the group for having me visit and allowing me to practise my French.

If you'd like to know more, email [French Intermediate 2](#) via the website.

Pop Music Players



The group got off to a guaranteed good review by playing "Mustang Sally" as their opening piece on my visit followed by a song from my favourite band - it's as if they knew I would be there! Thank you, gentlemen.

The group was formed in 2017 and first met at the White Horse pub before moving to the Cricket Club. The group was first known as Band Age when they began performing gigs and recorded a Christmas CD in 2019. Band Age now continues as a stand-alone band but also continue as u3a Pop Players for members. When I visited we had Dave, Mick, Griff, Peter and Phil on guitars, Mike on sax and Geoff on keyboards, playing an impressive range of classic rock and pop songs. A couple of members weren't present nor group leader **Tony**, so I can only imagine the further quality when they are all together. I also got a sneak preview of a song especially written by Geoff for the Anniversary picnic, appropriately titled "Pershore & District Silver Anniversary". Be there on August 18th to hear it first!

News from the Groups' Coordinator

There is the opportunity for two new groups:

5000 Steps Walking Group (led by Jackie Kift) which will start and end in Pershore taking in the town and the immediate countryside. The walk should last around an hour and Jackie is looking to start the group in the Autumn.

Table Tennis (Group Leader Jeff Clayton) at Pinvin Hall for 1 hour (followed by 1 hour for a chat over tea/coffee). Jeff is looking to start this group in September on a Thursday morning at 10am.

For more details contact [Mary Group Coordinator](#) by email any time and I will put you in touch with the leaders.

The Crossword Compiling Group has just completed its first collaborative puzzle. With the unwavering help of **Mark**, this group of six, who began earlier this year are now published setters!

Try it here on MyCrossword (no login needed) under the name Sextant <https://www.mycrossword.co.uk/quick/416>



Our longstanding Photography Group leader **Geoff** has stepped down. We are very grateful to him for his excellent leadership of the group, which is thriving, over the past 9½ years. Sterling work. Welcome to **Graham** who has taken over, and thank you, Geoff!

Also, I have been advised by Val Allen that the Driving Skills Revisted Group has had to close, however anyone is invited to join the talks in Malvern. The Malvern sessions are held on the third Friday of the month at Malvern Cube. If anyone is interested they can contact Val Allen via the Malvern u3a website <https://malvernu3a.org.uk/grp/driv1/> or contact me and I will pass your details on.

Val and her husband wish to thank Jill Edkins and Jean O'Loughlin for all their help in the setting up and running of the group as well as the Riverside Centre for all of their assistance.

Mary Furze Groups' Coordinator u3apershoremary@gmail.com

News from the Groups

We in The 60's Pop Singers do not profess to be a choir, just a group of folks who get together for a good old sing. It makes us feel good, raises the spirits and after two hours we all leave with smiles on our faces ready to face whatever the day may bring. We are fortunate to be accompanied by Griff Collins with his guitar, his voice and his sense of humour; he manages to get us all singing the right notes, but not necessarily in the right order!



We have a repertoire of approximately 50 songs ranging from The Beatles and The Kinks to Elvis and we all choose a song for the group to sing.

We start with the Everly Brothers 'All I have to do is dream' which is a nice gentle warm up and finish by belting out Neil Diamond's 'Sweet Caroline'. There is, of course a break for coffee and biscuits provided by two of our lovely members. We are then ready for the second hour with well lubricated larynxes.

At the moment we have 20 members, which is as many as our present venue can accommodate, so should anyone wish to join our group please would you get in touch through the [website](#) to make sure we can fit you in. I think the time is fast approaching when we will need to look for a larger venue, so we will then be able to add more people to our lovely group.

Best wishes, Wendy Collier [1960s-singing-group](#)

Monday July 6th saw members of the Local History Group visit Malvern Priory. We were given an introductory talk about the general history of the building and interesting links to St Andrews via Westminster Abbey. The group then divided into four and were given a detailed tour of the building.

Most impressive were the medieval stained glass windows. At the priory they have the second largest amount of surviving Medieval Glass in the country, second only to York Minster. Other windows were talked about in detail including the Great East Window above



the altar and the windows designed for the Millenium by Thomas Denny.

They have an impressive selection of tiles. There are the Minton produced tiles covering the floor installed by the Victorians and are remarkably similar to those in Worcester Cathedral. There is also a huge collection of medieval tiles which is the largest in any English parish church. The clay for these was sourced from the Malvern Hills while the white clay used to imprint designs probably came from Cornwall.



The Priory has a very stunning reredos behind the altar showing the magi visiting a new born Jesus. It was installed in 1884 at a cost of £250 by a firm of glass makers in London. It shines in the sunlight and looks much newer than its 142 years and has never been cleaned or renovated in any way.

There are four rows of seats in front of the Communion Table which were where the monks worshipped. These seats are made from oak and are intricately carved. The seats fold down for sitting but when in an upright position can be perched upon to appear as if the monks were standing. They are known as Misericords from the Latin for mercy but sometimes known as nodding seats because if a monk nodded off the seat dropped with a bang alerting the Abbot.

We were shown masons' marks on the Norman pillars and the decoratively carved Norman arch. There is also a magnificent organ with a case made from oak grown in the forest of Malvern Chase and a font of a very simple early Norman bowl on a 19th century pedestal and plinth. It had been used as a garden ornament until it was returned in 1838.

This building has stood for more than 900 years. Today the enthusiasm of our very knowledgeable guides, Peter, Alastair, Faith and Denise, shows that the history of this building is in safe hands.

Joan May

Reports from the u3a Festival in York

From Linda:

I thought initially that I wasn't free to attend the festival but when my plans changed I checked on the festival website but all 1000 tickets had been sold. Fortunately, Sally forwarded an email to me as they were looking for a choir leader and I was delighted when they accepted my offer.

I was given an hour's slot and advertised as a wind down singalong at the end of the Wednesday afternoon with everyone welcome, no tickets required. I had no idea how many people would come but I chose a wide variety of well known songs and printed 25 sets of words then waited in anticipation for anyone to turn up. Quite a few came early when the photograph was taken but there must have been over 75 by the time we started. It was a joyous occasion and everyone sang enthusiastically.

U3a members are always welcoming and friendly and the whole three-day festival certainly had something for



everyone from talks on AI to belly dancing, jewellery-making to history, as well as a wide variety of live music performances, with as much down time socialising around the many cafes and bars on the enormous campus of York University as required. I would definitely recommend to everyone to go to the next festival but wear comfortable shoes and be prepared to be delighted!

Lynda

And from Phil

At an AI workshop I asked chatgpt how should I go about running a ukulele workshop, and it came back with everything that I already had done to be ready for my event that Thursday afternoon — a two hour performance/tuition/potted history of my journey with the ukulele along with screened words and chords for all the songs. I also provided printed chord charts and four extra ukuleles for people to use – even one strung left handed! My workshop went better than I could have possibly hoped for, and I had a number of lovely compliments. Before leaving for home on Friday I attended a life drawing session. I hadn't done much art at all since O levels. I was amazed how much my drawing improved in the two hours. I met some great people during the three days and thoroughly enjoyed it. I would recommend attending the next festival to all our members.

Phil

Events



Come and celebrate your u3a's anniversary

25th Anniversary Picnic

Tuesday, August 18th

Abbey Park

from 12.00 noon onwards (weather permitting)

Congregate by the bandstand to hear the **u3a Pop Music Players**

Bring a chair and a picnic lunch and enjoy celebrating with friends

There will be cake!!!



u3a COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th

St Andrews 10.30 – 12 noon

This is an open invitation to present and future members, old and new. There will be free refreshments and plenty of people to chat to about Pershore & District u3a.

Invite a neighbour, bring a friend and come along to join us.

I shall need about a dozen cakes, preferably home made, so will be sending out a plea nearer the date. If you think you can provide a cake please email me and then I'll have an idea of numbers.

Thank you.

Ingrid u3apershoreingrid@gmail.com

Upcoming Monthly Meetings @ No.8



AUGUST MONTHLY MEETING

To celebrate our 25th anniversary

Summer picnic in Abbey Park

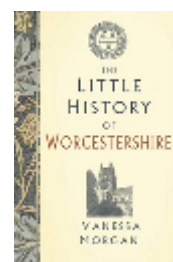
Entertainment from u3a Pop Music Players

Tuesday August 18th, from 12 pm

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

Local author

Vanessa Morgan will be talking about her condensed history of Worcestershire from the Romans to the Victorians



Tuesday September 15th, 2 pm

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/>

Pershore & District u3a Committee Members and Key Contacts August 2026

Role	Name	Email
Accessibility Officer	Rosie Chandler	u3apershoreaccess2@gmail.com
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Chair	Sally Whyte	u3apershorechair@gmail.com
Committee Member	Alison Jeynes	alison.jeynes@gmail.com
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Groups' Coordinator	Mary Furse	u3apershoremary@gmail.com
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Social Secretary	Ingrid Fox	u3apershoreingrid@gmail.com
Speaker Coordinator	To be filled	
Treasurer	Janet Price	u3apershoretreasurer@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 September 2026 newsletter to: u3apershorenews24@gmail.com by 20th August

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