



Chair's Chat



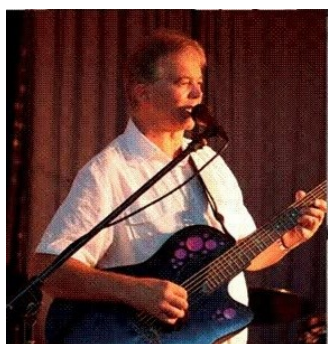
Dear member,

I was delighted to welcome so many Group Leaders at our Thank You lunch recently during National Volunteers Week. I'm sure everyone who belongs to a group will join me in appreciating the time, care and effort they give so generously. See page two for more about our celebration!

This month, I had the pleasure of joining five other Pershire & District members at the *Cotswold Link Special Interest Day* in Cheltenham. The Cotswold Link brings together u3as across Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire to share knowledge, experience and support. As well as the annual Special Interest Day, we also hold two business meetings each year, and we'll be hosting in March 2027. If you'd like to be involved, please keep an eye out for more details.

This year's event, **From Pen To Reader: The Journey of a Book**, included talks on researching Roman Britain for novels, writing crime fiction, modern publishing and running a literary festival; in addition Fairford u3a also shared its self-publishing successes. It was a lively and enjoyable day, made even better by freebies from Cheltenham publisher *The History Press*. And if anyone would like a biography of Jacinda Ardern, do let me know!

This month's meeting was not unfortunately as publicised but we were delighted that musician and singer Andy Smith was able to step in with his presentation "Life Under the Influence" where he performed songs from artists he admired such as John Denver and Neil Diamond, show tunes and self penned songs from stages in his life on his guitar, banjo and ukulele. If you'd like to watch on YouTube here is the link [Life Under the Influence](#)



Andy Smith Facebook

And finally, I'm very pleased to introduce our new Groups' Coordinator, Mary. Mary will support existing groups and group leaders, help get new groups started and encourage new group leaders too. If there's anything group-related you'd like help with, Mary can be contacted on u3apershoremary@gmail.com. A very warm welcome to Mary, and thank you for joining us!

Sally

Sally Whyte

Chair Pershire and District u3a

u3apershorechair@gmail.com

Dates for your diary in June

Friday, July 3rd	CAMEO, open members social	The Riverside Centre	2-4pm
Saturday, July 4th	Pershire Midsummer Brass	various locations	all day
Saturday, July 18th	Pershire Riverside Festival	King George's Field	10am - 4:30pm
Tuesday, July 21st	Monthly Meeting	Professional Harpist, Fiona Hosford Number 8	2pm

Sally Stops by in June

Celebrating Group Leaders

During National Volunteers' Week, it was a pleasure to welcome nearly 60 group leaders to The Banking Hall and thank them for their hard work and dedication to Pershore and District u3a groups.

In a relaxed and friendly setting, leaders were greeted with a complimentary glass of fizz or a soft drink before the lunch, which gave them a valuable chance to meet, exchange ideas and share experiences. Their contribution is essential to helping our wide range of groups flourish and continue offering stimulating opportunities for members.



Looking round the room I was impressed with the huge range of groups represented:

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|-------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Literary | <u>Book groups</u> Val & Ruth | <u>Playreading</u> June | <u>Drama</u> Sue L |
| | <u>Crossword compiling</u> Mark | | |
| Discovery | <u>Family History</u> Keith | <u>Medieval Churches</u> Jenny B | |
| Languages | <u>Spanish</u> Jeanette | <u>French</u> : Judith S, David and Anne | <u>Italian</u> Jackie |
| Craft | <u>Knitting, Crochet and Dressmaking</u> Wendy, Sally, Mary G, Judith B, Margaret | | |
| Outdoor activity | <u>Cycling</u> Richard B | <u>Croquet</u> Billy and John W | <u>Petanque</u> John W |
| | <u>Walking</u> Angela, Robert, Daina, Heather | <u>Joy of Gardening</u> Evie | |
| | <u>The Good Life</u> Mary G | | |
| Indoor activity | <u>Swimming</u> Anita and Richard J | <u>Badminton</u> Mike | |
| | <u>Skittles</u> Mary G, Sue G, Graham, John M | <u>Country Dancing</u> Ivan | |
| | <u>Racketball</u> Paul | | |
| Discussion | <u>Philosophy and Psychology</u> Neil, Judith B | <u>Environmental Issues</u> Jackie | |
| New skills | <u>Driving Skills Revisited</u> Jean | | |
| Mind and body strength | <u>Tai Chi & Yoga</u> Sue H | <u>Relaxation</u> Evie | |
| Art and music | <u>Tangle Drawing</u> Lesley | <u>Art</u> Helen P | <u>Art Appreciation</u> Sally |
| | <u>Recorders</u> Lynda & Hazel | <u>Ukulele</u> Phil | <u>Singing</u> Ingrid |
| | <u>Classical Music Appreciation</u> Sue I | | |
| Social & Games | <u>Eating Out</u> Ross, Catie, and Jenny D | <u>Day trips</u> John W | |
| | <u>Quizzes</u> Ian | <u>Bridge</u> Andrew | <u>Mahjong and Board games</u> Sue L |



Also present were most members of the committee and behind the scenes facilitators, many of whom are group leaders themselves; Alison, Daina, Helen, Ian, Ingrid, John, Mary F, Mary G and me.

While some group leaders were unable to attend, their contribution to the success of the groups and our u3a is greatly appreciated.

We look forward to another successful year of u3a activities and seeing many of you at the lunch in 2027. And of course if you'd like to be there, we are always looking for new Group Leaders!

Sally

Group News



It was playing **Petanque** fortnightly back in 2020 that eventually led to me stepping in when both group leaders stood down, as I didn't want the groups to fold.

We still have two groups, each with about eight listed players, playing every two weeks – two of us play in both groups. The court is at Wick on the Recreation Ground site opposite Wick Club. Our

regulars have played for a few years too. The session offers light exercise and of course a laugh or two.

Luckily we are able to play for free, from 10.00am, usually for about 90 minutes, every Wednesday. If the weather is ok, then we play, although it has been known for us to take shelter under one of the children's areas when we get a brief heavy shower. Most players have their own Boules, but we do have some spare. (Did you read about the 81 year old who killed a fellow player in France recently by using a Boule as a weapon – we never get that competitive!) There have been recent cancellations due to the heatwaves we have been experiencing.



The site was closed for three months this year whilst the parish council installed new playground facilities, so we were all happy to return in April.

If you are curious then give me a call to see whether we can fit you in.

John Wright https://pershore.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/petanque-1/

Not all walkers walk on Wednesdays ... **The Original Friday Walking Group** meet on alternative Fridays subject to weather. There are currently 25 in the group plus 1 from Evesham U3A. We meet at various locations and cover between four and seven miles. The walks vary in terrain some being flat others with hills, some local to Pershore, or we often go into Warwickshire or Gloucestershire. The programme is put together with walks provided by members who have volunteered to lead. Once a year we have a Cotswold Special which includes lunch at the end, a post Christmas lunch in January and a meeting once a year so members can raise matters if they so wish. We are a very friendly group and there is a lot of chatter and laughter as we go along.

Audrey Newstead



What Happens After the Bin Lorry Leaves?



The **Environmental Issues Discussion Group** is becoming increasingly fascinated by rubbish! Having already visited the EnviroSort plant at Norton to see how our "green bin" waste is processed, members travelled to the EnviroRecovery incinerator at Hartlebury in April to discover what happens to the contents of our black bins – known as residual waste.

The first thing we noticed was how clean the site is. Dominating the skyline is the plant's towering chimney, while the building itself extends far below ground level. Our guide, the site's Operations Manager, led us through the plant, where we watched refuse trucks emptying waste into a vast concrete hall. A bulldozer then pushed the rubbish through large doors into an enormous storage bunker.

The control room proved to be the brains of the operation. From giant gaming-chair-style seats, operators use grab cranes to lift waste into a feed hopper, which feeds the furnace. We even had the opportunity to peer directly into the burning waste through a small viewing glass.

Heat from the furnace is used to produce steam, driving turbines that generate electricity. The plant processes all black bin waste from Herefordshire and Worcestershire, generating enough electricity to power around 35,000 homes. Metals are recovered from the ash, while the remaining material is recycled into road aggregate and building products.

Following the visit, the group discussed: *"Is Burning Household Waste a Good Idea?"*. Although energy-from-waste plants produce high greenhouse gas emissions, landfill creates even greater problems, including methane emissions and substantial land use. The consensus was that incineration currently has a necessary role, but that we all need to do our bit by consuming less, producing less waste, and recycling as much as we can.

As several members were unable to attend, a further visit to the incinerator is planned for November.

Our discussion topic for July's meeting is: *"Which Countries Pollute the Most?"* – the answers might surprise you!



If you are interested in joining the group, you can find out the details on the

[Environmental Issues](#) page of the [Persore & District u3a](#) website,

and contact the leader on: u3apersorejackie@gmail.com

A few intrepid (or foolish?) members of the cycling group **Friday Riders** set off early on a frying Friday to beat the heat and get to Crowle Community Shop and Cafè for drinks so we could sit under their air conditioner. All was well until we rode round to Chevington Lane where I fear I lost a couple of riders to a marauding T-rex.



The Friday Riders meet on the fourth Friday of the month, setting off on a circular route from around Pershore and stop for drinks halfway. We cover around 20 miles in total and some members ride e-bikes. We normally try to avoid hazards from the Cretaceous period.

New members welcome.

Helen Baldwin https://pershore.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/cycling-friday-rides/

Events

July CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other) meeting

Friday, July 3rd, 2pm at The Riverside Centre

Refreshments are free and this is your chance to socialise with fellow u3a members and chat to the committee about any concerns. Family History is being showcased by Keith, so please ask him questions if you are interested in tracing your ancestors!

Ingrid



... and to celebrate our anniversary together

25th Anniversary Picnic

Tuesday, August 18th

from 12.00 noon

in Abbey Park, by the Bandstand

(Weather permitting)

Bring a chair and a picnic lunch
and listen to the u3a Pop Band

There will be cake!!!

Upcoming Monthly Meetings @ No.8

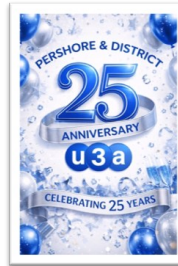


JULY MONTHLY MEETING

"You sing it, I'll ping it!"

with professional harpist **Fiona Hosford**

Tuesday July 21st, 2pm



AUGUST MONTHLY MEETING

To celebrate our 25th anniversary

Summer picnic in Abbey Park

Entertainment from *Band-Age*

Tuesday August 18th, from 12 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 June 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	alison.jeynes@gmail.com
Day Trips Coordinator	John Wright	u3apershorejohn@gmail.com
Groups' Coordinator	Mary Furse	u3apershoremary@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Daina Gromadzki	u3apershore@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 August 2026 newsletter

to: u3apershorenews24@gmail.com by 20th July

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