

Hello everyone,
How can it possibly be October already? The evenings are drawing in, the leaves are turning, and I'm trying very hard not to mention the C word just yet!

Autumn always feels like a good time to try something different, so why not have a look at what our u3a groups have to offer? You never know—you might discover a hidden talent, a new interest, or simply a good excuse for a cuppa and a chat. We have a CAMEO and Music Showcase coming up.

September's Monthly meeting was a whistlestop tour through the history of Worcestershire from the Romans to the Victorians by **Vanessa Morgan** to accompany her recently published book available from Coach House Books.



Thank you to everyone who gives their time and enthusiasm to our u3a in so many ways. It really makes such a difference. I particularly felt this at our coffee morning in St Andrews (see pages 3 and 4) where many members of the S*T*A*R team were out in force, putting up/taking down tables and bunting; serving cake; making tea and coffee; washing up; meeting and greeting – Angela & Robert H, Angela S, Carmella B, Chris O, Evie W, Janet T, Polly V, Sue G and Sue L. A big thank you to you all!



Enjoy October!

Sally Whyte Chair, Pershore and District u3a

u3apershorechair@gmail.com

Dates for your diary in October

Sat, Oct 3rd	Ruffati Organ 3 year anniversary concert	Pershore Abbey	7-30pm
Sat, Oct 10th	Rock Choir concert in aid of the Riverside Centre	Pershore Abbey	6-30pm
Mon, Oct 19th	u3a Pershore & District CAMEO	Riverside Centre	2-4pm
Tues, Oct 20th	Monthly Meeting 'Looking at Local Churches'	Number 8	2pm
			All welcome

Erratum: In last month's issue we incorrectly described two individuals as husband and wife. This information was inaccurate and we sincerely apologise to both parties for any distress or embarrassment caused.

News from the Groups' Coordinator

Skittles 1 – Our thanks to **Mary Gleaves** for all her hard work during her time as Group Leader. Mary is standing down and **Wendy Edwards** has kindly taken on the role with Sue Lavery acting as her deputy.

Crossword Compiling Group

The Crossword Compiling group led by **Mark** has had a 3rd puzzle published as **Sextant** on the MyCrossword webpage and again received positive comments and a live solving from America! We are now beginning to critique each other's clues rather than Mark having to give all the feedback.



Here's the link to the puzzle if you'd like to have a go

<https://www.mycrossword.co.uk/quick/426>

Wish List – I have received a new request for a Modern Greek Group. Is anyone else interested in joining and would they be happy to take on the role of Group Leader?

Mary Furse, Groups' Coordinator u3apershoremary@gmail.com

Sally Stops By in September



Art

It was a pleasure to see our Art Group exhibiting their talent at the Plum Festival. There were many types of media on show, and the group were delighted with the footfall and sales. Well done everyone who exhibited and to **Helen** and **June** for organising!



Badminton

I was welcomed by Badminton Group 1. This group has been playing since 2014 when started by **Eileen**. Within 4 weeks she had 22 players and a waiting list. Great work Eileen! Badminton is a fun sport for all abilities, and I even managed to hit the shuttlecock and knock it over the net on more than one occasion with the encouragement and tuition from the group, now run by **Mike**. The group meets every Wednesday 2-3 at Pershore Leisure Centre. Thank you all for your warm and friendly welcome.

Cycling

Meeting up with a cycling group when you don't have a roadworthy bicycle could be tricky but luckily the Friday Riders were happy for me to meet them at their coffee stop at

Beckford. It was a small group that day but that meant I could chat more about all things bikes. All except one (Graham second left) were on electric bikes.

The group meets on the 4th Friday of the month and is ably led by **Richard**. The friendly welcome and the thought of seeing the countryside in a different way round here almost made me want to get an electric bike!

Playreading

I want to mark a very remarkable lady in this article, our Playreading Group host **June** who is possibly our oldest Group leader at the grand old age of 97!

I had the pleasure of chatting with June earlier this year about her interesting yet at times challenging life and how she came to Pershore. June is a well-known presence in the town belonging to variously at times over the years to the Abbey choir, Town choir, Guilded Lilies and u3a: she continues to host the Playreading group once a month and is determined to keep doing it to keep active and involved.

We read part of a Stephen Poliakoff play "*Sweet Panic*" – intriguing enough for me to want to know what happens! It generated a thought-provoking and interesting discussion about the themes raised. The plays are chosen by **Jeanette**, courtesy of Worcestershire Libraries.

Many thanks to all the group for a warm welcome but a special thank you to June still leading a group at 97. Here's to many more years!



Open Coffee Morning at St Andrews

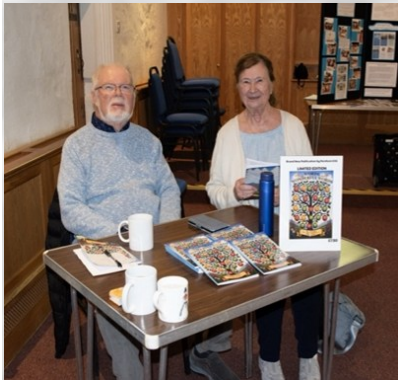
The **Open Coffee Morning** at St Andrew's on Saturday 19th September was very well attended with over a hundred people through the door. We host this event annually to mark u3a Open Week and to support St Andrews.

It was great to both see so many familiar faces and meet new people and chat all things Pershore & District u3a with you. The cakes were superb too! The donations of £120 will be split between the St Andrews Centre and the Pershore Foodbank.

Particular thanks go to our Social Secretary **Ingrid** for organising the event, to committee members Daina, Helen, Janet, John, Mary, Neil, and Rosie, and to all the STAR team as mentioned for making the morning such a great success.

Photos courtesy of Neil





Notices

FACING THE CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCY

In September the **Environmental Issues Discussion Group** watched the **National Emergency Briefing**, a powerful film exploring the growing climate and nature emergency facing the UK – and the wider world.

The film is being shown nationally, with the aim of starting a much wider public conversation and helping everyone understand the risks we face – and the solutions that could help make the UK safer and more resilient.

The film brings together the key messages from a major briefing held in Westminster in late 2025, when leading experts presented the latest evidence on the climate and nature crisis to politicians, faith leaders and community representatives. Nine experts explored different aspects of the emergency, including extreme weather, national security and the economy. Importantly, they didn't just explain what could happen; they also looked at the practical solutions that could help the UK prepare for, and respond to, the changes ahead.



But the film wasn't simply about listening to experts. What did it mean for us? We followed the screening with a lively and thoughtful discussion, talking about how the information had made us feel, what had surprised or struck us most, and – perhaps most importantly – what we might do as a result.

Missed the screening? If you weren't able to join us, but would like to see the film, there will be another screening at Pershore Town Hall on Friday 20th November at 7pm (organised by the Town Hall, Pershore Abbey and others).

Spaces are limited, so book early – click here for details:

<https://www.nebriefing.org/screening-map>

Interested in joining us? The Environmental Issues Discussion Group meets regularly to explore topical environmental issues and discuss what they mean for all of us. You can find details on the [Environmental Issues](#) page of the [Pershore & District u3a](#) website, and contact the leader, Jackie Jolley, on: u3apershorejackie@gmail.com.

OCTOBER CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other) meeting

Monday, October 19th, 2 – 3.30 pm at The Riverside Centre

Come and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit and meet fellow members and perhaps get ideas for new groups to join or start!

This month's featured group is **Poetry Appreciation**

All members welcome, new and old.

Ingrid u3apershoreingrid@gmail.com

u3a | learn
laugh
live



Music brings
us together



Music Showcase

Pop Singers



Handbell Ringers



Ukuleles



Recorders



**Friday 20th November
2pm**



**at Pershore Town
Football Club**

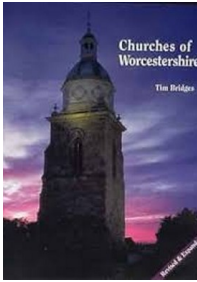


**Refreshments
All welcome!**



Upcoming Monthly Meetings @ No.8

OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING



LOOKING AT LOCAL CHURCHES
with speaker
Tim Bridges
local ecclesiastical historian

Tuesday October 20th, 2pm

NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

Peter Hare

"MY MOTHER'S DECORATOR"

Peter's work as a decorator to the late HM Queen



Tuesday November 17th, 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 October 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 Jaynes	alison.jaynes@gmail.com
Day Trips Coordinator	John Wright	u3apershorejohn@gmail.com
Groups' Coordinator	Mary Furse	u3apershoremary@gmail.com
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	Neil Fortin	u3apershoreneil@gmail.com
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 November 2026 newsletter

to: u3apershorenews24@gmail.com by 20th October

Images as attributed or courtesy of openclipart.org and Freepik.com Photographs courtesy of the contributors

Can you help make Pershore's Christmas celebrations sparkle?

We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help make this year's Christmas Light Switch-On and Georgian Christmas Fayre a fantastic celebration for everyone in Pershore!

There are lots of ways you can get involved, with volunteering opportunities available:



Friday 27th November | 4pm–8pm



Saturday 28th November | 10am–4pm

Roles include:



Selling fairground tokens



Staffing fairground stalls



Helping with the transfer of monies



Supporting Christmas tree sales



General duties, including litter picking



Acting as friendly ambassadors for the event and welcoming visitors

We're looking for volunteers to commit to two-hour slots, so you don't need to give up your whole day to be part of the fun!

As you know, events like these simply couldn't happen without the amazing volunteers who give their time to make them possible. And when it comes to community spirit, Pershore really does know how to do it!

If you can spare a couple of hours and would like to get involved, please email me with your availability, and I'll pass your details on to our Lead Volunteer Coordinator, Cllr Sharon Gibbons.

Let's make this year's celebrations one to remember!

Many thanks

Mrs Charlie MacIntyre, Town Clerk

Email admin@pershore-tc.gov.uk

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR

PERSHORE GEORGIAN CHRISTMAS FAYRE & FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHT SWITCH ON

Looking to spread some holiday cheer? We're seeking enthusiastic volunteers to help make our Pershore Georgian Christmas Fayre event a magical experience for everyone.



HELP NEEDED SELLING FAIRGROUND TOKENS,
STAFFING FAIRGROUND STALLS,
LITTER PICKING, SUPPORTING XMAS TREE SALES
AND ACTING AS FAYRE AMBASSADORS.

27 & 28 NOVEMBER 2026

FRIDAY 4PM - 8PM SATURDAY 10AM - 4PM

Please call into Pershore Town Hall, 34 High Street,
email admin@pershore-tc.gov.uk
or tel 01386 561561