

Chair's Chat



Dear Member,

As I write, it is the day after our Silver Anniversary Picnic. After weeks of very high temperatures, the milder weather was a welcome relief. It was great to see so many of you. The afternoon was a wonderful celebration of our u3a's past, present and future. Former chairs **John, Gareth, Barbara** and **Jill** helped to cut the cake, which was delicious, while our Mayor, **Julie Hemming**, and I gave speeches. The Pop Music Players, led by **Griff**, kept us singing and dancing throughout the afternoon. Above all, a huge thank you to **Ingrid**, our Social Secretary, for all her hard work and organisation before and

during the event. I hope those who attended enjoyed the day; if you could not join us, please see **Neil's** photos here and on pages 4 and 5.

I am delighted to introduce **Neil Fortin** who has joined the committee. Neil has agreed to become our new Speaker Coordinator for which we are all very grateful, and he will also administer the Facebook page when Sandra steps down at the AGM in January. I know I am looking forward to seeing what interesting speakers Neil books from April next year and if you have any suggestions he can be contacted on u3apershoreneil@gmail.com. He has also taken all the photos of the picnic, so he clearly is a very valuable asset.



Sally

Sally Whyte

Chair Pershore and District u3a u3apershorechair@gmail.com

Dates for your diary in September

Tues, Sept 15th	Monthly Meeting	Number 8	2pm	All welcome
Sat, Sept 18th	Open Coffee Morning	St Andrews	10.30am to 12 noon	All welcome
Sat, Sept 18th	Pershore Abbey Heritage Day		10-30am to 4pm	
https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/submission-event/pershore-abbey-welcome-festival.html				
Tues, Sept 22nd	Cotswold Link half yearly meeting	Cheltenham	10am to 4pm	
	Booking required			



Day Trips Group visit to the Black Country Living Museum

Rearranged from June due to the heatwave, over 40 u3a members went to the Black Country Living Museum on Wednesday, July 22nd. About an hour to Dudley in the coach and we were greeted by the welcoming committee as planned.

I had not visited the site before and was really impressed by the experience, characters in costume, period buildings, workshops, streets and shops, all presented as they might have been from the Industrial Revolution through to the 50s and 60s.

The first stop for us after the visitor centre was down to the replica Colliery and a tour of the exhibit. From there we went through the industrial quarter workshops, then on to the town with businesses presented in 1940-1960 fashion, with a funfair and old double decker buses in authentic livery. Nearby was a 1930's street, the Workers Institute and Library. From there we crossed a bridge over the old canal workings into the canalside village, again with staff in period dress representing their particular professions.

We were going to have the famous fish & chips but the queue was miles long. Then on to a fascinating canal trip through the caves and caverns once owned by the Earl of Dudley.

Back to the coach and home by 4.45pm. Another really good day out! It is well worth a visit if you haven't been, see www.bclm.com

The next trip will be at the end of September, keep an eye for more information which is sent to the Day Trips group. If you would like to join the group please email me.

John Wright Day Trips Coordinator u3apershorejohn@gmail.com

Editor: Richard and I watched the aluminium casting demonstration by the excellent young guide. Then I found myself transported back to about 1968: I read a few pages of "Black Beauty" in the library and we took a spooky ride on the Ghost Train; this must be the very same one that used to come to Hereford May Fair every year! In the chapel we joined a choir practice with "Daisy, Daisy", "All Things Bright and Beautiful" and "Oh I Do Like To Be Beside the Seaside". And we managed to get a portion of fish and chips when the queue had gone down—they were very good! A great day out, thank you, John.

Helen

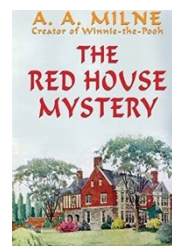


Sally Stops by in August

Literary Group 3



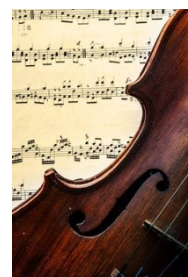
This group meets at Number 8, a cosy venue where up to ten members discuss books chosen in advance. When I stopped by this month, they were reading the only full-length novel by A.A. Milne, the fact he wrote books for adults was unknown to me. It was described as cosy crime in the style of Agatha Christie and seemed to be generally



well received with a lively debate. The group submit their choices to the leader in advance, and the leader rotates so that everyone takes a turn. Currently the group is ably led by **Val** who invited me. It was very welcoming and inclusive group with everyone contributing. Many thanks to all of you for allowing me to drop in and share in your discussion. (Contact Val via the website if you would like to join the waiting list)

Classical Musical Appreciation

It was a pleasure to be able to visit only the third session of our recently formed **Classical Music Appreciation** group, which is going from strength to strength and now has twelve members. It meets at the house of group leader **Sue** and husband Brian who are very welcoming hosts on a Saturday evening once a month, with a glass or two of something to accompany the chosen pieces. So far, the group has listened to and discussed Beethoven, American composers on the 4th of July and this month, the topic was composers beginning with C. I was scratching my head after Chopin, but the members had brought a huge range of suggestions, some more well known, others perhaps new discoveries. Knowledge of classical music is not a requirement, merely a love and appreciation of it. Many thanks to all of you for your enthusiasm and welcome.



News from the Groups and Members

Crossword Group

The **Crossword Compiling Group** led by **Mark** has had another puzzle published as **Sextant** on the MyCrossword page and received positive comments as well as a live solving which was fun to watch. We are learning so much about what makes a good clue!

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

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



"WORDS, WONDERFUL WORDS"

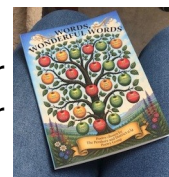


The **Pershore u3a Poetry Group** is delighted to introduce its brand new limited edition anthology of favourite poems. We are a small but dedicated little group and have enjoyed putting this together for your enjoyment. Some poems are very well known, some less so, but we hope they will give you lots of pleasure: words to soothe, words to amuse and words to remember.

We love where we live and so poems about the local countryside, and by poets who lived and worked not far from Pershore are well represented and cherished. Some poems are particularly memorable when you hear them, while others leave you with vivid visual impressions or make you recall something of your own past.

They may even make you want to recite them out loud, even if only to yourself! We all hope you will enjoy our lovely little book, and the poems we have chosen. We have commented about many of them and shared our personal thoughts.

"WORDS, WONDERFUL WORDS" is priced at £7.50, and can be purchased at our monthly u3a meetings, from Coach House Books and The Pershore Visitor Information Centre, as well as through Poetry Group members.



Members **Shona** and **Andrew** were able to take advantage of the offer of tickets to the recording of Brain of Britain recently. Here's what she says...

'The trip to Birmingham was great, the biggest challenge being the car park! Andrew and I had front row seats for the recording of three semi-final programmes. It was interesting to see how the programme is managed, the audience participation directed and the importance of switching off mobile phones. There were about 250 people there, many from Midlands based u3a groups so we managed to chat to others between programmes.'





Notices



u3a COFFEE MORNING
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th
ST ANDREWS 10.30 – 12 noon

Come and meet old and new members and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a piece of cake. The committee will be there to welcome you and hopefully answer any queries about your u3a. There will be displays of our activities and some group leaders looking for new members.

PLEASE can you let me know if you are able to provide a cake for this event (preferably home made) and to deliver it to St Andrews on the day by 10.00am. Thank you.

Ingrid u3apershoreingrid@gmail.com

Environmental Issues Discussion Group MEETING **Screening – National Emergency Briefing**

10am, Thursday 24th September

Riverside Centre, King George's Way, WR10 1QU

Pershore & District u3a members WELCOME

You are invited to a screening of the National Emergency Briefing film, presented by Chris Packham, followed by a discussion to consider what the response should be.

The film brings together leading experts to explain the implications of the climate and nature crisis for us all, and considers the scale of action that may be needed. It is based on a major briefing originally given to politicians and other national leaders in Westminster.

Open to all, but space is limited. To book your place, please contact Jackie:



National Emergency Briefing

u3apershorejackie@gmail.com

Find out more about the National Emergency Briefing: www.nebriefing.org

Regional Support Trust Volunteer

The West Midlands u3a area has a new Regional Support Trust Volunteer; **Barry Appleby**, who will visit u3as and networks in the region. I hope to meet him soon.

Beacon Breach

You may have heard about a data breach for Beacon CRM. This is not Beacon, the u3a's membership management software, but a separate and entirely unrelated product.

Please be reassured there has been no data breach with Beacon.

u3a members David and Vanessa collect for **Tools with a Mission** and **St Richard's Hospice**. Looking for: Tools for gardening, carpentry, engineering; sewing and knitting machines, haberdashery, fabric, wool; computers, laptops; in fact everything except books you might find in the garage or hobbies room. Please contact them on **01386 643025** to donate.

Upcoming Monthly Meetings @ No.8

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

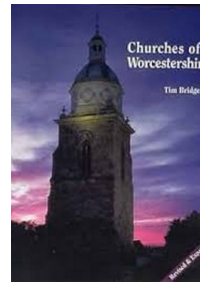
Local author

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



Tuesday September 15th, 2 pm

OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING



LOOKING AT LOCAL CHURCHES
with speaker
Tim Bridges
local ecclesiastical historian

Tuesday October 20th, 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/>

Pershore & District u3a Committee Members and Key Contacts September 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	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 October 2026 newsletter

to: u3apershorenews24@gmail.com by 20th September

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