

Chair's Chat

https://pershorechristmasfayre.co.uk/gallery

Hello everyone,

As we move into November with the clocks turned back, the evenings drawing in and autumn well and truly upon us, we still have plenty to look forward to here in Pershore & District u3a - see the adverts for our Monthly meeting on page 6 and our Music Showcase on page 5. I hope you'll be able to join us.

As 2026 draws to a close, with this being the last but one newsletter of the year, your committee's thoughts have been turning to the **AGM on January 19th 2027**. I am so grateful that we have a hardworking and dedicated team of volunteers on the committee and behind the scenes working together to keep your u3a running smoothly and successfully. But as ever there is always room for more, and we would love you to join us! No previous experience needed, just a willingness to get involved and make a difference. **YOUR** u3a needs you and we'd love to welcome you aboard.



If you'd like to chat without any obligation, please get in touch with any of us (see page 6 for contact details for members of the committee).

Stay warm and I look forward to seeing you at one of our events soon.

Best wishes

Sally

Sally Whyte
Chair Pershore and District u3a u3apershorechair@gmail.com

Dates for your diary in November

Sun, Nov 8th	**Remembrance Sunday service**	Pershore Abbey	10-30pm
Wed, Nov 11th	**Group Leaders' Meeting**	Riverside Centre	9-45 to 11-45 am
Tue, Nov 17th	**Monthly Meeting** all welcome *'My Mother's Decorator' with Peter Hare, decorator to the late Queen*	Number 8	2pm
Fri, Nov 20th	**u3a Music Showcase** *featuring handbell ringers, pop singers, recorders and ukulele groups*	Pershore Football Club	2pm
Fri, Nov 27th	**Georgian Christmas Fayre**	various locations around town	4-8pm
Sat, Nov 28th	**Georgian Christmas Fayre**	10-4pm	

October Monthly Meeting



LOCAL CHURCHES

Our speaker for the October meeting was **Tim Bridges,** a local historian, who gave us a most interesting talk on local churches and their architectural development from Saxon times through to today.

Tim's talk was illustrated by many excellent photographs which allowed us to see in detail the features that he was explaining. Many of our local churches were featured including Cropthorne, Pinvin, Wick, Upton Snodsbury, Elmley Castle, Strensham, Worcester Cathedral and, of course, our own Pershore Abbey.

I would describe Tim's knowledge as "encyclopedic". He spoke entirely without notes and with a clear passion for his subject. The meeting was very well attended and the talk was well received. After the usual question and answers quite a number of members stayed behind to talk to Tim one-to-one.

Sadly Tim withheld permission for us to video record his talk, so it will not be appearing on Facebook.

Neil Fortin, SpeakerCoordinator ua3pershoreneil@gmail.com

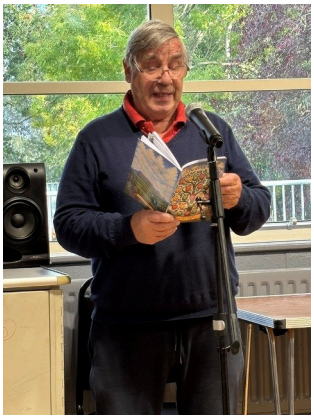
Sally Stops By in October



It was great to have the **Poetry Appreciation Group** at the October CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other) meeting, sharing some of their favourite poems.

They have produced a book of selected poems called **WORDS, WONDERFUL WORDS** including an original from Sue Oakley, "The House on the High Street', set in Pershore.

The book is available from Coach House Books, the Town Hall and at Monthly meetings at £7.50. Well worth it!



Photos Neil Fortin









We'd like to hear what you think about the **CAMEO**s. We have tried running them at different times and on different days so everyone can have a chance to attend. What would make you come along? **Ingrid** and **Alison** would love to hear from you.

Don't miss our December **CAMEO** where we will be treated to seasonal music from the Handbell Ringers and seasonal refreshments. It'll be a great opportunity to meet up with your fellow u3a members before Christmas. But before that catch the handbell ringers at our **Music Showcase** on November 20th at the Football Club (see page 5).



And finally *stop press* : it was a pleasure to attend our very own **PaDFest** this week, a ukulele meet at the High School (that for obvious reasons could not be known as PUkeFest!) where seven groups came together to perform and teach songs to each other. Groups from Bromsgrove, Pershore, Kingswinford, Kinver, Monmouth, Stourbridge and Wyre Forest u3as were represented, and it was a happy, fun atmosphere. Many thanks to our S*T*A*R volunteers led by **Ingrid** on refreshments and carparking: **Angela, Bev, Chris, Evie, John & Robert, Neil** for photos, **Sarah** for First Aid if needed but most of all thanks to **Joan** and her team **Pete and Duncan** for all their hard work behind the scenes and on the day. It was a joy to hear such ukulele harmony and enjoyment on attendees' faces.



Sally Whyte u3apershorechair@gmail.com

Day Trips Group visit to Windsor



Our September day trip was to Windsor. We had another full coach of 55, decent weather, with 41 passengers on a visit to Windsor Castle and 14 who went to visit the town and surrounding areas.

The Windsor tickets stated that all 41 should enter together, the only issue was that all of them had my name on them - and I wasn't going into the Castle! Anyway I got that sorted out the previous day. We kept most of the ticket holders together - it was a matter of trying to round our group up and get them in the queue with hundreds of other tourists of all nationalities, not all follow our etiquette in going to the back when seeing a queue! Once moving, the queue seemed to move quite quickly. Those that went inside told me they had an enjoyable day, despite everywhere being so busy.

Six of us met a local relative of one of our group and she took us around the town landmarks, to a local pub for lunch and then a walk over the bridge into Eton. We saw a few of the boys in their suits and uniforms. Of course there is so much history in Windsor, you have to stop and try to imagine who trod those streets before us and what dastardly deeds were planned!



Outside the castle we stumbled upon a wedding photo session at the entrance to the royal private quarters at the head of the Long Walk which is often featured on TV for state occasions.



By this time we were bumping into fellow passengers after their Castle visit, all with stories to tell.

No one was missing at home time as we set off for Pershore at about 4.30pm. On every trip we have done my biggest worry is losing someone - it's not happened yet.

Our next trip is on December 3rd to the Christmas Market and Light Trail at Blenheim Palace. The coach is already fully booked and I have opened a reserve list.

John Wright
Day Trips coordinator

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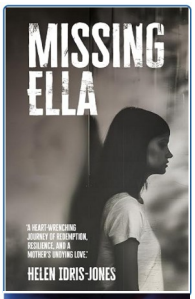


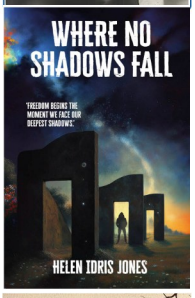


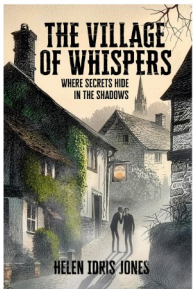
News from the Groups



Book Group 3 welcomed local author **Helen Idris Jones** to their October meeting. Helen outlined her journey to becoming a writer and subsequently a self-publisher. She was a clinical nurse and then a nurse educator, at which time she was writing academic papers and studying the work of Carl Jung. She was a member of a creative writing group, responding to a prompt or working on short stories, but on retirement she felt ready to explore the longer form and write a novel.







This became *Missing Ella*, a psychological thriller of a race against time to uncover dark family secrets and unravel the past. And then Helen set out to learn how to get her story turned into a book through self-publishing. It was fascinating to hear how involved, and expensive, this process is. Guided by a podcast series with Joanne Penn, Helen found editing help from experienced people she knew and acquired the software to design the layout etc. For the cover design she went to a small publisher in Malvern who advised on creating a 'brand' and a coherent look for subsequent books. And then the hardest and most time-consuming part: promoting the book. Helen has attended local events and book fayres and set up an online presence but she has still found word of mouth to be the most successful.

For her second book *Where No Shadows Fall,* Helen chose to go in a different direction and use fiction to explore Jung's ideas of the shadow within us, not wanting to repeat the formula of the first book. And with her skills developing all the while, her third novel, *The Village of Whispers,* she described as her 'most commercial'. This is selling well and has brought new readers to her earlier works. Her next book, she told us, is a non-fiction work on Jung.

Helen answered our questions freely to conclude what was a most interesting and inspiring visit, hearing her development into an author of a series of books. You can find Helen's books here https://www.amazon.co.uk/stores/author/B0DC5GH8TM

Helen Baldwin

The impact of the u3a

RECENT U3A IMPACT REPORT

You may remember being asked to take part in a survey from head offiice earlier in the year which has now been published as **u3a and me research** aimed at understanding our collective impact. More than 10,000 members told us how membership of the u3a has shaped their lives, how they take part, and what helps them feel connected, active and involved. Read more here where you can also download the report

https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/our-impact/u3a-impact-reports/u3a-and-me

Previous chair **Jackie** contributed and is featured on the website- read her comments here.



Member story

"When I gave up work, I didn't want retirement to mean simply slowing down; instead, I was determined to keep active and involved. I love dancing, so when I searched for local, daytime dance activities, and a u3a Line Dancing group popped up, I decided to give it a go. We danced for nearly two hours and it was great fun.

"In just six years, I've connected with more people than I had in the previous two decades living in my town. Through u3a, I've discovered new interests, strengthened my language abilities, and stayed active and energised."

Jackie, Pershore & District u3a



Upcoming Monthly Meetings @ No.8

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

DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

"RHYME OR REASON, TIS THE SEASON"



with Alan Tumbler

Christmas songs and poetry, comedy and tradition side by side.

Tuesday December 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 November 2026

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Please send photographs and any articles for publication in the December 2026 newsletter to: **u3apershorenews24@gmail.com by 20th November**

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