

# u3a

Bridgnorth  
& District

# learn, laugh, live

## Members Together—Newsletter

Summer/Autumn Issue 2023



### A message from the Chair ...

As I take on this role for the coming year, I decided to look back over our records and I was delighted to discover that since 2007, when u3a started here in Bridgnorth, well over 800 local residents have been involved one way or another! And the future looks good ... with an increasing range of activity and interest groups and a growing membership. So let's all continue to enjoy our 'third age' within this unique self-help organisation.

**Chris Wright, Chair 2023-24**



Our sixteenth **AGM** took place on Wed 26th April. Seventy-three members came to hear about the past year, learn how subscriptions

are spent and welcomed in your new **Committee** ... without whom we just cannot continue to operate! For those who missed the AGM do take a look at the links on p2 on our website. [www.bridgnorthanddistrictu3a.org.uk](http://www.bridgnorthanddistrictu3a.org.uk)

<b>Officer Trustees</b> (x4)	Chair ('23-24)	Chris Wright
	Vice Chair	tbc
	Secretary	tbc
	Treasurer	Pamela Oakley

#### Member Trustees (up to 8)

Membership	Janet Hardy
Activities	Susan Powell
Speakers '23	Jo Hammond
Refreshments	Tessa Holden
Hosting	Cliff Bassett
Hosting	Richard Cookson
Hosting	Linda Ruston

#### Coopted Trustees (up to 3)

Speakers '24	Jane Jasper
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#### An Invitation ...

Over the coming year, members will be invited to come along to a monthly Committee Meeting. Without any commitment, would you like to see how u3a works behind the scenes? Let me know. **Chris Wright, Chair**



### SPEAKER MEETING PROGRAMME

Visitors interested in joining u3a are welcomed at our monthly Open Member Meetings held in Bridgnorth Community Hall on the fourth Wednesday in the month.  
**1.30pm doors open £2.00 entry Tea/Coffee Prompt start at 2.00pm Activity Notices**



#### Wed 28th June

Dorothy Nicolle  
**2000 Years of Shropshire History**  
Dorothy, a Blue Badge Guide from Oswestry, covers Shropshire's history from Roman times.



#### Wed 26th July

Matt Lewis  
**The Survival of the Princes in the Tower**  
Matt, Chair of Richard III Society, author and consultant for the recent Richard III film.




#### Wed 23rd August

Kathryn Jones  
**The World of Beatrix Potter and her Study of Mycology**  
Little known, BP had a scientific interest in fungi and produced beautiful drawings.


#### Wed 27th September

Carol Wood   
**Living with Swifts, Swallows & Martins**  
Member of Shropshire Wildlife (Bridgnorth)

#### Wed 25th October

Martin Jones   
**Travels & Travails of Thomas, 2nd Lord Berwick of Attingham**  
Born 1770, created Baron Berwick in 1784

#### Wed 22nd November

Bojangles   
**Musical Entertainment**  
Music and mince pies in good company

## I joined Bridgnorth u3a fourteen years ago ...



When I retired in 2007, I was aware of the existence of the U3A. My mother attended the monthly meetings and, particularly, the French Conversation classes, at Hatfield U3A. Soon after my retirement, I saw a paragraph in the Bridgnorth Journal advertising Bridgnorth U3A. I was determined to join and duly went along to a talk by Margaret Bradley on "There is Life After Forty". I was introduced to various committee members, Joyce Green, Pam Smith, Peter Smith and Chairman Alan Crouch, and made to feel very welcome.

Very soon, I was invited to join the Committee and was pleased to accept. I asked 'is there a special role for me to do?' and was assured that all they wanted was a bog standard committee member. However, at my 2nd meeting they asked me to become Speaker Secretary which I undertook for ten years! This led me to take on the role of Chair for six years until April 2023.

Very early I helped set up a French Group, in memory of my mother. I then got involved with the installation of a hearing loop in the Community Hall. Enquiries told us that there was a system which had never been correctly installed or used in three years! We sorted that but unfortunately it only covered half the hall ... so hearing impaired members had to be careful where they sat!

I quickly joined the Out and About Group. My first two visits were to the Burton Bass Brewery and the Halfpenny Green Vineyard. I thought "this is the life for me". I also played with the flat green Bowling Group until grandparent duties became more onerous.

Then Covid came along and everything changed - including our new branding and lower case 'u3a' logo! I investigated setting up a Zoom Licence for u3a and oversaw two AGMs, Speaker Meetings and Committee Meetings all on Zoom. I also took on the challenge of Zoom Coffee & Chat and a weekly Zoom Quiz Group. When a member suggested a Short Walks Group, I thought "I must take a lead" and I have only missed two walks! It has been a growing success and I have made some very good friendships amongst the walkers and been most grateful for Ina Roberts' expert knowledge of the local area.

So, during the last fourteen years I feel I have put a fair amount of effort into our u3a ... but I have reaped so many personal benefits for which I am eternally grateful. My thanks are due to my mother's introduction to u3a and to those early committee members who welcomed me into u3a, to all the committee members I have served with over the years and to **all** our members who make Bridgnorth and District u3a such a vibrant organisation. And, finally, thank you for awarding me 'honorary membership'.

**Trevor Padget—Past Chair**

### A HEARING PROBLEM?

An elderly resident had had serious hearing problems for a number of years.

After consulting the doctor, hearing aids were successfully fitted and hearing was vastly improved.

One month later, on returning to the Surgery, the doctor remarked "Your hearing is now restored. Your family must be really pleased".

The patient replied ...  
"Oh, I haven't told my family yet.  
I just sit around and listen to the conversations.

I've changed my Will three times!"  
Anon

### ... and I have just joined u3a

In January this year I paid my membership fee and I have been delighted by the warm welcome I received and the efficient organisation.

Having expressed an interest in a few activities (Games Together, Out & About Book Group etc) I was promptly emailed and welcomed by each organiser with clear information about 'when and where' they meet and plans for the year ahead. I have been to the weekly games club and the monthly book club and everyone has been so kind and friendly.

I am loving u3a and opportunities it has brought, (and hopefully will) bring me.

**Alison Prior—a newly-joined u3a member**

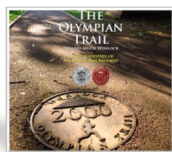


## GREET & MEET u3a on Market Day

*Friday is Market Day in High Town. So, on the first Friday in the month, we*

*reserve tables for u3a members to 'drop in' for coffee/tea. Newly joined members are especially welcomed to find out a little more about u3a in a relaxed friendly environment. Do come along!*

**10.30am to 12 noon in The Castle Tea Rooms  
4th Aug . 1st Sept . 6th Oct . 3rd Nov . 1st Dec**



## THE OLYMPIAN TRAIL MUCH WENLOCK

Over 150 years after Dr William Penny Brookes organised the first Wenlock Olympian Games in the fields around Much Wenlock, the world finally recognised its importance to the international

Olympic movement with a celebration at the 2012 London Olympics of the town and its most famous resident. Having visited us as a speaker in March 2023, Chris Cannon of the [Wenlock Olympian Society](#) led a group of twenty u3a members around the town in April, informing us of the



history of this market town, of its Olympian pedigree and entertaining us with local stories. Did you know that John Cleese filmed scenes on



Barrow Street for the film *Clockwise*?

After the walk, we enjoyed an excellent lunch at the [Wenlock Pottery](#) where

we could also admire (and purchase) some beautiful local pottery.

The first tour was so successful that a further twenty members enjoyed a second tour in June.

Many thanks to Chris Cannon, and to Shelagh and Mike at Wenlock Pottery.

**Janet Hardy—Trip Coordinator**



## CALENDAR for u3a ACTIVITIES 2023

Full details of events are sent out by email 2–4 weeks before the date by the Group Leader. Usually booking is on a first come, first served basis, with payment by cheque in advance. **Watch your email inbox!**

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| <b>Tues, 4th July</b><br>Sambrook Manor                                     | <b>Gardens Group</b>         |
| <b>Wed, 5th July</b><br>Summer Get Together, Parlors Hall                   | <b>u3a Volunteers</b>        |
| <b>Sat, 8th July</b><br>Llandudno   | <b>Elcocks Day Trip</b>      |
| <b>Wed, 12th July</b><br>Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway                 | <b>Out &amp; About Group</b> |
| <b>Thurs, 27th July</b><br>St Peter's Church, Worfield                      | <b>Exploring Churches</b>    |
| <b>Friday 11th August</b><br>Shrewsbury Flower Show 9.35am B'North Bus 436  | <b>Bus Pass—Day Out</b>      |
| <b>Tues, 5th September</b><br>John's Garden, Ashwood Nurseries              | <b>Gardens Group</b>         |
| <b>Thurs, 7th September</b><br>Halfpenny Green Vineyard, incl 2 Course Meal | <b>Out &amp; About Group</b> |
| <b>September tbc</b>  | <b>Exploring Churches</b>    |
| <b>16th–24th September</b><br>Promoting u3a in Bridgnorth Library & Tanners | <b>Publicity</b>             |
| <b>Sun, 17th September</b><br>Stratford upon Avon                           | <b>Elcocks Day Trip</b>      |
| <b>Thurs, 2nd November</b><br>Arley Arboretum & Gardens                     | <b>Gardens Group</b>         |
| <b>Wed, 8th November</b><br>World of Wedgewood Factory & Afternoon Tea      | <b>Out &amp; About Group</b> |
| <b>Thurs, 7th December</b><br>Winter Get Together, Parlors Hall             | <b>u3a Volunteers</b>        |
| <b>Wed, 13th December</b><br>Bodenham Arboretum Xmas Lunch                  | <b>Gardens Group</b>         |

**Email:** [activities@bridgnorthanddistrictu3a.org.uk](mailto:activities@bridgnorthanddistrictu3a.org.uk)

### I BEFORE E?

Except when your foreign neighbour, Keith, receives eight counterfeit beige sleighs from feisty caffeinated weightlifters. **WEIRD!**



## SHORT WALKS

*Our short walks are fun!*

*If we decide we'd like to join the next upcoming walk (usually approx two miles), we contact Trevor. If we need a lift or can offer a lift to the start of our walk, we tell Trevor.*



*At the start of the walk Trevor checks to ensure we have all arrived.*



*We meet friendly faces, enjoy chatting to people we've met before and people we're meeting for the first time, get exercise in fresh air and often end up continuing to chat over coffee in a cafe or pub. Ina has amazing knowledge of local walks and has led us, along scenic paths, new to us although very near to Bridgnorth.*

*No one minds stopping for a few minutes if we need to catch our breath, but our walks usually follow fairly level terrain ... although sometimes we have come upon unexpected challenges—see photos!*

**Anne Butler—A Short Walker**

## OUT & ABOUT ...



In May, 38 members had a very informative private guided tour of Stokesay Court near Craven Arms. We were welcomed by the owner and after

our tour we were served a delicious English afternoon tea followed by time to walk in the extensive grounds with the marvellous backdrop of Titterstone Cle.

Built in 1889 for John Derby Allcroft, a partner in glovemakers J & W Dent, it included the most modern technological developments of the time and well-preserved examples of the earliest electric lighting and heating are visible today.

Stokesay Court attracted fame as the setting for Tallis House in the film *Atonement* starring Keira Knightley and James McAvoy. Well worth a look on YouTube [Atonement - YouTube](#)

Next trip is to Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway.  
**Group Leaders—Tricia Bennett & Jenny Green**



## PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP ...

*The Photography Group consists of enthusiasts of all abilities, from 'point and click' (this is me!) to expertise on the technicalities of cameras and how to get the best composition for photos. I joined as I have 'all the gear but no idea' and wanted to learn how to make the most of my photography yearnings, with the end result being photos that I will be proud to display.*



*The group is informal, welcoming and friendly. We alternate between different site outings where there are interesting photo opportunities with a bit of a social gathering in a local tea room. Then we meet in Tasley Hall where we can show each other our photos (good and bad) in a nice, quiet group setting to discuss varying aspects of how we can improve or being told "that is good".*



*Our group leader Keith, together with his wife Linda, are most helpful. This is a lovely, friendly, helpful group, and, whether you are a relative newbie or have some experience and knowledge of photography, you will be made very welcome.*

**Judith Johnson—A Photographer**

## LIZ BULLAS—A Spirit of Adventure ...

Many of us know that Liz, a long-time u3a member, is no stranger to unusual challenges as she has previously taken on Wing Walking, Dambuster Flight Training, Zip Wiring, Hot Air Ballooning, Sky Diving ... to name but a few!



At the AGM, Liz told us how Covid delayed her 90th birthday treat. Exclusively hiring a World War II Gunboat, she was thrilled to personally take the wheel at speeds up to 30 knots in the waters of The Solent! WWII Gunboats were known as the 'Spitfire of the Seas' giving an thrill that topped everything!

During this experience Liz was very sensitive to



the bravery of so many and the lives lost in WWII ... pausing for a while in remembrance.

**What next Liz?**

[WWII Gunboat - YouTube](#)



## GARDENS GROUP ...

Hampton Court Castle Garden  
near Leominster, Herefordshire

Wow! What an amazing day we had on our first garden outing in May. The sun was out, the sky was blue and there was not a cloud to spoil the view!

Twenty three of us visited and we were rewarded with beautiful blossom laden and pleached trees. An array of different coloured tulips displayed in the formal



gardens and so much more. Several members braved the maze, whilst others took the lakeland walk. Of course, most of us found our way to the tea room for a delicious lunch or scrumptious cakes and with the weather so nice we were able to sit outside to enjoy the refreshments.

Whilst we cannot guarantee the weather, there will always be a lovely garden to enjoy with good company to share it with, so perhaps you would like join us on a future outing.

**Pamela Oakley &  
Susan Powell—Group Leaders**



## GROUPS RECENTLY STARTED ...

### TRAVELLERS

A Group for members who are experienced travellers or have a property abroad and are happy to share personal experiences which are not necessarily in the holiday brochures!

Thank you Ina Roberts for starting us off with a unique comparison from her first trip in 1966 to Iceland as a 'Rambler' and again just before Covid in much more comfortable circumstances!

**Group Coordinator—Susan Powell**



### PHILOSOPHY GROUP

**What is Right or Wrong? What is Art?**

Two of the questions that have challenged members of this newly formed group under the guidance of the Group Leader who is also introducing us to renowned philosophers through the years.

**Group Leader—Jan Colley**



## NEW GROUPS FOR THE AUTUMN?

### IPAD SUPPORT GROUP ...

Do you find using your iPad a little frustrating?



Do you want to use it more effectively? If there are sufficient members interested a morning group, this will be set up leading up to Christmas.

### BRIDGE FOR BEGINNERS ...

Would you like to learn bridge?



Would you like a refresher course? If there is sufficient interest, then a day/time/venue will be set up for a 8-10 week programme.



Bridgnorth u3a - Members Together



+ Invite



### Bridgnorth u3a—Members Together

is our Facebook Group which is being used more frequently with news and photos from members and group activities. Great for keeping in touch between monthly meetings.

Strictly private group for u3a members only

## A TEASER !

Count every "F" in the following text:

**FINISHED FILES ARE THE RESULT OF YEARS  
OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY COMBINED WITH THE  
EXPERIENCE OF YEARS ...**

**DID YOU GET IT RIGHT?** (answer on last page)

**INTEREST GROUPS ...**

**SOCIAL ...**

**OUTDOORS ...**

**Walking**

Fridays (1st) (monthly)  
6-8 mile day walks  
Leaders—  
Jane Freshney & Jenny Green

**Walks - Short Local**

Weds 1st, 3rd & 5th (am)  
Leaders—  
Trevor Padget & Ina Roberts

**ENTERTAINMENT ...**

**Cinema Goers**

Weekly Film List emailed  
Join others at The Majestic  
Leader—Tessa Holden

**VISITS / DAYS OUT ...**

**Out & About**

Day Trips organised with a Guide  
Leaders—  
Tricia Bennett & Jenny Green

**Garden Visits**

Half day Visits to local Gardens  
Leaders—  
Susan Powell & Pamela Oakley

**Exploring Churches**

Visiting local Shropshire Churches  
with booked Guide and cake/drink  
Leader—Tessa Holden

**Elcocks Day Trips**

Join fellow u3a members on  
Elcocks Coach Day Trips  
Coordinator—Susan Powell

**Art Appreciation**

Monday (am) (3rd-monthly)  
Bridgnorth Library  
Leader—Val Seabright

**Book Group**

Weds (am) (2nd monthly)  
Bridgnorth Library  
Leader—Graeme Stoner

**Quiz Hour (Zoom)**

Tuesdays (am) (weekly)  
Leader—Trevor Padget

**Philosophy**

Tuesday (pm) (1st monthly)  
Bridgnorth Library  
Leader—Jan Colley



**Photography**

Photos Out & About  
Tues (pm) (as arranged)  
Photos Shared Tasley Hall  
Weds (pm) (2nd monthly)  
Leader—Keith Ruston

**Travellers**

Thursday am (tba)  
Member's Home  
Leader—Susan Powell



**IT Support—iPads**

Fortnightly tbc Autumn  
Venue tbc  
Leader—Chris Wright



**LANGUAGES ...**

**French Conversation 1 & 2**

Wednesdays (am) fortnightly  
Members' Homes  
Leader—Angela Treble

Fridays (am) fortnightly  
Platform 10 Cafe  
Leader—Janet Hardy

**Spanish—Let's Learn (Zoom)**

Thursdays (am) weekly  
Leader—Marion Low

**Monthly Speaker Meeting**

4th Wednesdays (exc Dec)  
Chair—Chris Wright

**Greet & Meet In Town**

Venue: The Castle Tea Rooms  
1st Fridays 10.30am to 12 noon  
New Members & Visitors Welcome  
Welcome Host—Chris Wright

**GAMES TOGETHER ...**

**Canasta Mahjong  
Scrabble Backgammon  
Rummikub Chess and more**

Mondays 1.00pm to 3.30pm  
Venue: Low Town Community Hall  
Leaders—  
Jo Hammond & Tony Pritchard

**OTHER GAMES ...**

**Bridge for Beginners**

Day tbc (am) Autumn  
Venue tbc  
Leader—tbc



**Bridge 1 & 2**

Fridays (am) weekly in Tasley Hall  
Leader—Mary Galloway  
Fridays (pm) weekly in Tasley Hall  
Leader—Susan Powell

**Cribbage**

Tuesdays (pm) alternate in  
Venue: The Fosters Arms  
Leader—Allan Clayton

**Table Tennis (Full)**

Fridays (am) weekly  
Venue: The Paddock  
Leader—Maureen Mumford

There are six!  
READ IT AGAIN?

Email: [activities@bridgnorthanddistrictu3a.org.uk](mailto:activities@bridgnorthanddistrictu3a.org.uk)

Website: [www.bridgnorthanddistrictu3a.org.uk](http://www.bridgnorthanddistrictu3a.org.uk) Facebook: Bridgnorth u3a—Members Together

