

learn, laugh, live



Painting for Pleasure 'en plein air'
at Middle Littleton Tythe Barn

Newsletter Issue 85 September 2023

Registered Charity Number 1101530

Committee Members

Chair &	Deborah Andrews
Data Protection	
Vice-Chair &	John Boon
Membership Secretary	
Secretary	Alan Chambers
Treasurer	Diane Nicholls
Charity Commission	Ros Gowers
Contact, Publicity, Open Day, Groups & Website Liaison	
Programme Secretary	Nicky Neill
Beacon Administrator	Alison Williams
Committee Member	Catherine Cox
Committee Member	Amarjit Marwaha
Committee Member	Victoria Law
Co-opted Member	Tony Powell
Safeguarding & Accessibility Officer	

Non-Committee Volunteers

Minutes Secretary	Graham Smith	
Website Manager &	Alun Edwards	
Third Age Trust Volunteer		
Technical Support	Richard Hunt	
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<https://u3asites.org.uk/evesham/contact>

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Welcome...



This year's AGM in July was without a doubt an uplifting experience. Not because we had delicious home baked cakes afterwards, but rather because every chair in the house had an occupant **and** several members volunteered to serve on the Committee! Meet your new Committee members on page 7.

While choosing the photo for the front cover, it occurred to me that a visit to the Tythe Barn at Middle Littleton would be a suitable destination for a number of our groups – Archaeology & Heritage, Village Strolls, Village Ambles with a camera, Social Saunters, possibly Travellers' Tales, Architecture – and it is fascinating to think that each group would look upon this wonderful medieval building with different eyes! What a great variety the u3a has to offer!

A special 'thank you' to group leaders and members for their contributions to this issue. It is much appreciated that everybody always sends in their stories and photos by the deadline – it makes the compilation of the Newsletter so much easier. Please make a note of the deadline for the December issue, which is on **Wednesday 1 November 2023**.

Bärbel Wolstencroft

The photos on the title page show the Tythe Barn at Middle Littleton, taken by Mary Simpson. The inset art work is by Mick Price.

From the Chair



Dear members

We held our AGM on Wednesday 5 July and were very pleased to welcome a great many of you, therefore finding ourselves quorate and able to continue with business for the coming year. It meant a sad farewell to David Keeling and Chris Wolstencroft after many years' service to the u3a – but it also meant saying a warm welcome to new committee members: Diane Nicholls, Catherine Cox, Amarjit Marwaha, Victoria Law and Tony Powell (co-opted). I look forward to working with you over the coming year. Like many organisations, the u3a depends hugely on a small army of volunteers and many of you will be volunteering for more than one organisation as well as providing care for grandchildren etc. We really do help the world go round!

Many of us are taking a break this August – I am currently writing this from a rather wet and windy Brittany. Once back in Autumn, it will be all hands on deck for our annual Open Day. Ros Gowers is leading a group of people who are working together to organise the day and would be very grateful for any volunteers. As ever, we are very grateful to group leaders who organise their 'table' for their group. I hope you all enjoyed the summer!

Deborah

From the Committee

The new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion document is now on the website.

You can find it via this link:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/e/evesham/docs/equalitydiversityandinclusionpolicy2023.pdf>

To see all the documents, go to the Evesham u3a website, 'Members info' and click on the 'Documents' link on the right hand side.

Monthly Meetings

<https://u3asites.org.uk/evesham/events>

The attendance at monthly meetings continues to get better and better! So I thank you all again for making the effort to come and not only enjoy some interesting and varied speakers, but to socialise and catch up with people you may not have seen for a long time. In particular, my thanks go to those of you who came to the AGM in July. We were delighted with the turnout and there was no difficulty with us being quorate!



As a lot of you know, information about the meetings and the speakers' topics is on the website and on our Facebook page, but I will continue to send out an email reminder a couple of days before. 2024's programme is shaping up well and I am enjoying contacting potential speakers. My thanks to all of you who have made recommendations for me to follow up.

As you will see in the programme, Dr Gillian White is coming to speak to us in December. We have the added bonus of the 'Singing for Pleasure' group entertaining us with some Christmas music while we enjoy our tea and coffee and a mince pie or two. Thank you very much to Cath Cox and her group members for being so willing and enthusiastic!

While I am on the subject of thanks, I don't think I can overstate the contribution that Ally Edwards and Phil Morton make to the smooth running of proceedings during the monthly meetings. From liaising with speakers to making sure that you can all hear and enjoy the talks, as well as hear me, (not the easiest of tasks, I can assure you!), their expertise is invaluable and certainly takes a whole layer of stress off me! Thank you both!

As ever, I send you my best wishes and look forward to welcoming you before too long.

Nicky Neill

6 September 2023

Peter Gill – Private Godfrey's Real War

To the legions of fans of 'Dad's Army', Private Charles Godfrey was the wonderfully endearing, kind and gentle retired tailor who lived with his two spinster sisters in Cherry Tree Cottage, Walmington-on-Sea. However, the Great War experiences of William Arnold Ridley, who played Godfrey, as a combatant in the front line trenches of the Western Front, would leave him both physically and mentally scarred for life.

Refreshments – Bookends

4 October 2023

Andy Smith – Life in the Music

A journey through life, featuring self-penned comedy songs and ballads plus a few well-known numbers for members to join in. Andy explains a bit about the instruments he has brought with him, which include several guitars, a ukulele and a mandolin. With lots of amusing chat and nostalgic anecdotes, this has become a very popular talk!

Refreshments – Book Friends

1 November 2023

Meeting replaced, as usual, by **Open Day** – details to follow

6 December 2023

Dr Gillian White – Mary Queen of Scots or Katherine of Aragon

Please keep an eye on the website for confirmation of the topic nearer the time.

Refreshments – Bridge for Fun

Meet your new Committee Members



Alan Chambers – Secretary

I have lived in Evesham for 35 years. In 2021, I retired from over 40 years in management of civil engineering and highway maintenance projects. I am a member of the Bird Watching and Natural History groups.

Catherine Cox – Committee Member

I joined Evesham u3a over 20 years ago and was an original member of the 'Singing for Pleasure' group. From 2009–2016 I was the conductor and after a break for several years took over the leadership of the group a second time in 2021. Also, I am a member of Walks over 4 Miles, Board Games and the Concert Group.



Victoria Law – Committee Member



I have been a member of the u3a for 2 years, and I belong to several groups, including Modern History, Architecture and Shakespeare. As I am new to this area, as well as being newly retired, I have enjoyed having the opportunity to make new friends as well as discovering new hobbies and exploring Worcestershire.

Amarjit Marwaha – Committee Member

I retired from a senior management role as Managing Director in 2016. About three years ago, I joined the u3a along with my wife and I am a member of the Badminton, Photography and Walking groups.



Tony Powell – Safeguarding & Accessibility Officer



Originally from London, I have lived in Evesham since 1995 and for most of my working life have been involved in Leadership and Management Development Training before retiring in 2016. I joined the u3a in 2018 and thoroughly enjoy being part of the Exploring Language Group. Within our discussions I occasionally like to include some cryptic crossword clues – challenging, though at times incredibly frustrating to solve! I love the outdoors and am a keen walker.

*Welcome to the Committee!
All the best in your new roles!*

Walking Cricket re-visited

A cooperation between Worcestershire Cricket and Evesham u3a

Many u3a members play in the Evesham Walking Cricket team run by Worcestershire Cricket every Tuesday at 2 pm at Wallace House in Evesham. **All are welcome! We particularly welcome female players to redress the gender imbalance.** Previous experience is not required. Everyone is very friendly and supportive, congratulating success and commiserating when something goes wrong. Some competitive opportunities are available. In June Ally and Dave played for Worcestershire vs Yorkshire. Alan Savage, captain for the day, wrote for the u3a:

'A most enjoyable day at New Road for the Worcestershire CCC cricket festival in July. Sixteen teams took part from as far afield as Surrey and Yorkshire. Evesham arrived with seven players and borrowed Lisa from Birchwood to make up numbers. A fun day, winning two out of three games. Well done, Alan, Steve, Neil, George, Steve, Dean, Roger and Lisa. Our thanks to Elsa and Worcestershire CCC for organising a most enjoyable day.'



Image credit: Worcestershire Cricket

In June, Evesham u3a members Dave and Ally – in floppy hats – were selected to represent Worcestershire in the inaugural county walking cricket match vs Yorkshire, held in Barnsley the birthplace of u3a walking cricket.

The Yorkshire team recently featured in the BBC's One Show with Angela Rippon (pictured) trying a game with u3a league members.

Image credit: Third Age Trust

Ally Edwards



Group News

❖ Singing for Pleasure

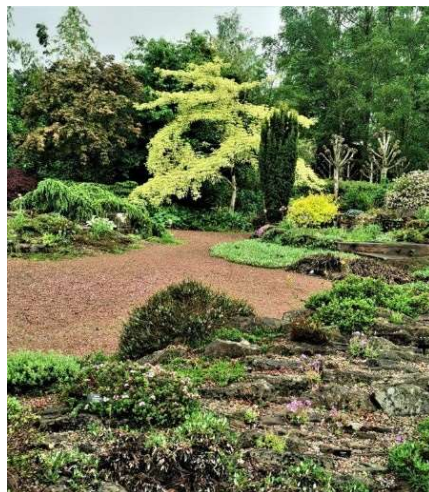
Our group performed at the 'Evesham Welcomes Refugees' concert at All Saints Church in June. Although we were somewhat depleted due to holidays and other reasons, we rose to the occasion and sang with our usual gusto! We had a very enjoyable time and as far as I could tell, so did the audience. It was a great evening and it was nice to put all our efforts to good use.

We took a short break until mid-August when we resumed to rehearse our programme for the Harvest Festival at Badsey in October. Two new ladies have joined us after the summer break, but we can always make room for more men to become part of our merry band of singers! We hope to be involved at the December meeting with a good turnout of members to support the speaker and the choir.

Catherine Cox

❖ Gardens & Country

In my final full newsletter article, I want to illustrate the diversity of this year's garden visits. The garden visit programme began in May at the Alpine Society Garden, a well laid out garden and greenhouse, with a wide variety of alpine plants. The garden continues to be developed. On the same afternoon, we visited the vertical farm within Pershore College's Agri-Tech Centre. Professor Kennedy and Dr Patel explained the concept of vertical farms





and the trials that the college undertake. These techniques are now being used commercially in Offenham and further afield.

The group then visited the impressive herbaceous borders and diverse planting at The Croft House in Haselor. This garden has been developed for over 20 years by the current owner and is kept meticulously. The owner's reaction to our visit is

typical of many visits: 'I did enjoy your visit, your members are obviously enthusiastic gardeners and fully engaged with my efforts. I had to answer lots of questions! Hope your newsletter encourages more people to join your friendly group'.



Two weeks later, the landscape garden of Overbury Court was the starting point for the next visit. The head gardener, Harry Green, led a tour of the ten acres of landscaped gardens, complete with classic swimming pool. A



kitchen garden, a column garden designed by James Alexander-Sinclair, a woodland Edwardian grotto with waterfall, and a naturalised meadow with wild orchids were among other areas of great interest. Harry's knowledge and enthusiasm for linking the Overbury estate to the local community was evident throughout.



Members then walked 100 metres to Whitcombe House for refreshments. Here we could admire the Cotswold stone walled shrub and rose gardens and a spring fed gravel brook bordered by primulas and hostas. Hosted by Faith and Anthony Hallett, this completed a wonderful day in the sunshine.

July saw us visit the garden of Sheila and Adrian James in Offenham. This garden was shortlisted for the Gardeners World garden of the year in 2020 and was featured on the BBC1 programme the following year. Visit <https://langdalegarden.uk/> to find out more about the garden. On the day,



we had to dodge a heavy shower before the sun reappeared. The garden is crammed with plants, and described by Adrian as 'an immersive experience'. The homemade cakes and scones completed the visit in sunshine.

A month later, two gardens in Eckington hosted us, starting with the views from 'Hilltop'. This was followed by refreshments served at 'Mantoft'. This is an ancient thatched cottage with 1½ acres of gardens, including an enclosed pond with rare ducks, impressive topiary, a magical treehouse with seating, a summerhouse and a dovecote – a garden of the highest quality, with features and interest. The final two gardens will be Warndon Court, near Worcester, and the exclusive Admington Hall, featured on the cover of 'Country Life' and reviewed in 'Gardens Illustrated' last year.

The range and quality of gardens visited this year shows how lucky we are to live in an area surrounded by enthusiastic and talented gardeners. From the smallest alpine plant garden to the very formal landscape garden and clipped topiary, from the cottage rose garden to the immersive garden crammed with a variety of plants, from the woodland garden with spring water fed streams to the commercial style vertical farm, we see a great diversity of plants growing within a few miles of Evesham. There is truly something for everyone.

The summer visits will be followed by two talks before the year ends, and, sadly, the current group closes in November. I do hope a garden group can continue next year under new leadership. If you would be prepared to help run this friendly group, as part of a team, please contact the u3a Committee. Thanks to all those who have helped this year and in previous years. Thanks also to all those who helped the group through lockdown by supporting the Zoom talks. We all learnt something during that period, which is what the u3a is about. Enjoy your gardens!

Chas Bryer

All photos by Chas Bryer: 1. Alpine Society Garden – p 10; 2. Dr Anjana Patel of Pershore College in the vertical farm; 3. The Croft House, Haselor; 4. Overbury Court, south lawn and pool – p 11; 5. Whitcombe House; 6. Langdale – p 12.

❖ Travellers' Tales

After missing out in April and May because of Bank Holidays, members enjoyed a conducted tour of Gloucester Cathedral in June, and another conducted tour in July, this time around Evesham's Almonry. We begin our indoor meetings at Wallace House in October when topics include 'Highlights of Sicily' and 'Travels in India'.



❖ Birdwatching

Our meeting at the end of April was to the RSPB reserve of Highnam Woods near Gloucester to find Nightingales. You would not have thought that wellies would have been the order of the day in Spring, but as the woodland paths were wet and muddy that is what we were forced to wear. Despite the conditions, the Nightingales were there and we were all able to enjoy their wonderful song.



In May and closer to home, the weather was beautiful for our visit to the Avon Meadows nature reserve at Pershore where reed-bed species such as Sedge, Reed and Cetti's Warblers were the stars. There was something different in June as we travelled to the Forest of Dean for a late evening meeting to find the crepuscular Nightjar with its unusual 'churring' song. With patience, we heard and saw them as well as two Woodcocks, Linnets and Tree Pipits. Back home at Cinderella time!

❖ Natural History

We were close to home at the beginning of May as we walked beside the Avon at Twyford. Although breezy, there was much birdsong with Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs particularly vocal. We also recorded the striking hoverfly *Leucozona locorum*.



The breezy theme continued in June when we visited the Fold at Bransford. It was a case of fleeces rather than shirt sleeves. We spent most of our time around the Lake Trail and almost the first thing we saw was a family party of Canada Geese, including nine goslings, making their way across the water. Notable plants included Common Spotted and Pyramidal

Orchids, and when the sun finally came out we saw Banded Demoiselle and Blue-tailed Damselflies.

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's Monkwood was our destination for our July meeting. Monkwood is particularly known for its butterflies and with the weather being far from ideal we were fortunate to see seven different species including Large Skipper, Gatekeeper and White Admiral. There were also many species of flowering plants and insects



such as the dark Bush-cricket. A full calendar of meetings is on the [group webpage](#).



Photos: Canada Geese family by B Wolstencroft; Dark Bush-cricket by Bob Woodroffe; White Admiral by Richard Hunt.

Group Timetable

To join any group you must be a member of u3a

	First Week	Second Week	Third Week
Mon am	Architecture Natural History Welsh Language	Art Appreciation Questions of Belief & Doubt (term time) Welsh Language	Welsh Language
Mon pm	Badminton 1 Concert Band Mah-jong & Rummikub Shakespeare – Zoom Singing for Pleasure	Badminton 1 Concert Band Mah-jong & Rummikub Travellers' Tales	Badminton 1 Concert Band Mah-jong & Rummikub Shakespeare – live Singing for Pleasure
Tue am	Creative Writing 2 Cycling for Pleasure Latin 1 Spanish Improvers Urban Sketchers Walks over 4 m	Golf for Fun Listening to Music 2 Social Saunters Spanish Improvers Village Strolls 1	Bookends Photography 2 Spanish Improvers Urban Sketchers Walks over 4 m
Tue pm	Creative Writing 1 Latin Reading	Exploring Language Jam Session Patchwork & Quilting 1 Pétanque	Archaeology & Heritage Latin Reading
Wed am	Skittles 1 Table Tennis Tai Chi	French Conversation Painting for Pleasure Skittles 2 Skittles 3, June – Sept	Skittles 1 Table Tennis Tai Chi
Wed pm	Monthly Meeting 2 pm Methodist Church Yoga 3 (term time)	Gardens & Country Yoga 3 (term time)	Philosophy Yoga 3 (term time)
Thu am	Media Yoga 2 (term time)	Aspects of Modern History German Short Mat Bowls 1 Walks under 4 miles 1 Yoga 2 (term time)	Media Yoga 2 (term time)
Thu pm	Croquet Modern Greek 1	China: The Country Latin 2 Modern Greek 1 Needlecraft Short Mat Bowls 2	Croquet Modern Greek 1
Fri am	Classic Cinema Country Dancing Modern Greek 2	Computers & Digital Italian Post-Beginners Military History Modern Greek 2 Play Reading	Book Friends Classic Cinema Country Dancing Modern Greek 2
Fri pm	Badminton 2 Bridge for Fun Family Research	Badminton 2 Board Games Bridge for Fun	Badminton 2 Bridge for Fun Family Research
Sun am	Brunch Bunch		Brunch Bunch

Group Timetable

To join any group you must be a member of u3a

Fourth Week	Final Week	Ad - Hoc	
Questions of Belief & Doubt / Village Ambles with Camera Welsh Language	Welsh Language	<p>Patchwork and Quilting 2 alternate Wednesdays - Linda Dunbar</p> <p>Concert Group - David Daniels</p> <p>Website Editors - meet as required - Alun Edwards</p> <p style="color: red; text-align: center;">To contact group leaders by email from the group's webpage, click on the envelope and a page will come up to write your message.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	Mon am
Badminton 1 Concert Band Mah-jong & Rummikub	Badminton 1 Concert Band Mah-jong & Rummikub		Mon pm
Golf for Fun Photography 1 Spanish Improvers Village Strolls 2			Tue am
Jam Session Patchwork & Quilting 1 Pétanque Quiz Group			Tue pm
French Conversation Painting for Pleasure Skittles 2 Skittles 3, June - Sept			Wed am
Yoga 3 (term time)	Poetry Yoga 3 (term time)		Wed pm
Aspects of Modern History German Short Mat Bowls 1 Walks under 4 miles 2 Yoga 2 (term time)	Yoga 2 (term time)		Thu am
Book Club German advanced Modern Greek 1 Needlecraft Short Mat Bowls 2 Wine Tasting	Modern Greek 1		Thu pm
Birdwatching Italian Post-Beginners Modern Greek 2	Modern Greek 2 Science & Engineering		Fri am
Badminton 2 Board Games Bridge for Fun	Badminton 2 Bridge for Fun		Fri pm
	Brunch Bunch	Sun am	

❖ Quiz



Here is a 'Quiz of Four' with four answers to each question. Good Luck!

1. Who were the 'Gang of Four' that left the Labour Party in 1981 to form the SNP?
2. Which four US presidents are carved into Mount Rushmore?
3. What were the names of the actors who played the four main characters in the sitcom 'The Good Life'?
4. What were the names of Scott's four companions on his ill-fated quest to reach the South Pole?
5. What are the four traditional ingredients of a Cornish pasty?

Please see page 28 for the answers.

The quiz group welcomes new members. For details contact John Boon.

Travellers' Tales, Birdwatching, Natural History and Quiz by John Boon,
Membership Secretary

❖ Painting for Pleasure

In July, we met at Middle Littleton Tithe Barn to paint 'en plein air'. The weather was perfect and we enjoyed a quiet morning of art and chat. This was our last meeting until September when we will be back at the Hampton Scout & Guide Hall. In the meantime, members will no doubt be filling sketch books with ideas for future paintings.

Mary Simpson

Please see photos on the front cover.

❖ Tai Chi

Twenty-one years and still going strong! The Evesham & District u3a Newsletter for March 2002 reported:

'A new Tai Chi Group started in January at Wallace House led by Mr John Llewellyn. Medical research has shown that people doing Tai Chi for six months are 47% less likely to suffer falls when older. A valuable benefit to us all! Numbers are growing steadily and if you would like to join us to experience the benefits of general stretching exercises, please telephone John, or just come along.'

The venue is no longer Wallace House - we now meet at the Hampton Scout and Guide Hall on the first and third Wednesdays at 10.30 am. Full details are on the u3a Tai Chi webpage. Sadly, John is no longer with us so please email or telephone Derek if you would like more information or just come along and you will be assured of a warm welcome.

Derek Arnold

❖ Archaeology & Heritage

Following on from our visit to Alcester in March, we once again took up the Roman theme by visiting Chedworth Roman Villa in May. The villa lies in a wooded combe in the Cotswold Hills, overlooking the valley of the River Colne. One possible reason for its location is the spring which rises in one corner of the site.

Evidence for the first stone structure at Chedworth dates to the 2nd century AD. During the following two centuries the villa was extended and improved, reaching its heyday in the 4th century. It was built to impress, comprising of over 50 rooms, including two bath houses, dining rooms, heated living rooms, a water shrine, a garden courtyard and a lavatory with running water. One of the major features are the mosaic floors located in each room within



the west wing. The wall decorations and underfloor heating completed a picture of grandeur, wealth and power. Despite the Roman Empire starting to pull out of Britain in 410 AD, excavations have revealed that the owners of the villa continued to lead an opulent lifestyle well into the 5th century. The villa was rediscovered in 1864. Thanks to

the National Trust for providing us with a very knowledgeable guide.

In June, continuing our Roman theme, we visited the Corinium Museum in Cirencester. The museum is home to a large collection of Romano-British antiquities, extensively from Corinium (Cirencester) which was Roman Britain's second largest city. Corinium lies a few miles south of Chedworth and was its main supplier of food, drink and possibly mosaics. The mosaics in the museum are outstanding, reflecting the skills of the artists who made them. The museum also has well displayed exhibitions of Anglo-Saxon treasures, medieval sculptures, Civil War coin hoards and reflections on the elegance of Georgian Cirencester. After lunch, we made our way to the site of the Roman Amphitheatre which gave a sense of the community activity of Corinium's citizens.



Our July visit to Tewkesbury Abbey was in complete contrast to our Roman investigations. The Abbey was consecrated in 1121, with the foundations of the building having been laid in 1087. Before then, in 1102, the Benedictine monastery had been founded by Abbot Giraldu who came to Tewkesbury

with 39 monks from the Abbey at Cranborne in Dorset. A major event which took place on 4 May 1471 was the Battle of Tewkesbury, fought in and around the Abbey. The Lancastrian army, led by Edward the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Somerset, was defeated by the Yorkists led by Edward IV, Richard of Gloucester and the Duke of Clarence. Many leading Lancastrians were killed or executed during and after the battle, including Edward and Somerset. Throughout its history, the Abbey has been remodelled and restored, the result of which we can see today. Our guide, Peter, packed our visit with facts of the Abbey, supported with anecdotes surrounding the various events of its history.

If you are interested in joining the group, please contact me via the email link on the group webpage.

Chris Wolstencroft

Photos by B Wolstencroft

❖ Board Games

We are a growing group and meet in a member's house fortnightly on Friday afternoons. No formality, no experience required – we just play, socialise, and enjoy ourselves. There are many different games to play. In 'Obsession', players represent an impoverished genteel family in Derbyshire, trying to improve their social standing by inviting high-status guests. Players must run the events and look after some demanding guests. Of course, there are the odd cads, but there are ways of 'uninviting' those!

Peter Aggett

❖ Concert Band

We have taken part in two successful events as part of the Harvington Festival, which was trailed in the last Newsletter. We had been booked to give a concert in a marquee at the Ellenden Farm Shop, but, on the day before the event, the weather forecast was such as to risk the marquee

taking off, so it was rearranged to take place in St James' Church. Fitting a band of our size into the chancel of the church was no joke, and had many disadvantages, but members nevertheless managed to put on a very good show. In this concert, we gave our first performances of a couple of classic jazz & ragtime standards, Tiger Rag and Yellow Dog Blues, in a programme we hope to be able to put on again in Abbey Park Evesham on Sunday 27 August, the last of the 'Bands in the Park' concerts.

The following Sunday we contributed to a 'Songs of Praise' service at St James' Church, this time playing from around the font, which worked fine. Again, the band gave a great deal of pleasure. A highlight was a superb performance of 'All in an April evening' which was written by Hugh Robertson for the Glasgow Orpheus Choir.

Our membership is continuing to grow. We now have a second flute and a sixth clarinet on the books. From September we will have an Eb bass (tuba) player. People are constantly coming to live in the Evesham area from all directions. Please invite all the newcomers who are musicians to come and see us at the Lifford Hall in Broadway on Mondays from 1.30 to 3.30 pm.

We still have instruments available for anyone who has played or would like to learn a **flute** or a **bass clarinet**. We have now been offered a very good **bassoon**. We know there are people around who have played a bassoon, for example at school, but do not now have an instrument, alternatively, anyone who has played a clarinet or oboe and would fancy playing a bassoon. We want to hear from any potential candidate – a match made, if not in heaven, at least in the Evesham Concert Band. Certainly complete serendipity if we can put a bassoon and a player together!

Peter Scott

❖ Concert Group



'Music is (our) first love...'

...and can you blame us? Have you seen our programme for the new season autumn 2023 to June 2024? Not yet? Well, we'll soon put that right!

Our hugely enthusiastic members have supported a brave new move this time – a season of **seven** concerts at Symphony Hall in Birmingham all of which will be organised, as usual, with hassle-free coach transport and with a mixture of afternoon and evening concerts, some truly amazing music to be enjoyed. Space won't permit details of all seven concerts, but here is a taster – these are just the first three:

4 October – Prokofiev: Symphony No 1 (Classical). Saint-Saëns: Piano Concerto No 2 (the one with the beautiful slow movement), and Rachmaninov's Symphonic Dances.

22 November – Wagner: Siegfried Idyll. Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto. Clara Schumann: Three Romances, and Brahms: Symphony No 4.

19 December – Choral Christmas with Anna Lapwood, who has been appearing regularly on the presentation team of the BBC Proms. Anna is a celebrated organist, so I guess may be combining some playing alongside hosting this pre-Christmas joyous romp with, no doubt, the CBSO trumpet section up to their usual hilarious antics.

If you would like to sign up for our mailing list, we would be delighted to have you on board. There is no obligation. You just get a steady stream of information as to what's going on and an opportunity to book tickets, if you fancy it. Hoping to hear from you!

David Daniels

Image from Freepik

❖ Welsh Language

Any holidays in Wales this year? How did you get on with the bi-lingual signs? Were you brave enough to try out some of those more common words and phrases that you may have heard at some time? 'Diolch yn fawr' (dee-olk un vower) – Thanks very much. 'Bore da' (bor-eh da) – Good morning. Or perhaps 'S'mae' (shu-m-eye) – Hi there! Or even 'Iechyd da' (yeck-kid da) in the pub – Cheers! or literally 'Good health!' Well, as a public service to **all** u3a Members, the Welsh Language Group is here to help you

prepare for your next Welsh holiday – or perhaps just to have a chat with your grandchildren or other loved ones who live in Wales. No need to thank us – we just aim to please!

Alternatively, just like several members of the Group, it might just be about taking on a new challenge and enjoying some good company from fellow members along the way. If you would like to give it a go, we would love to hear from you. Please contact David Daniels. Diolch yn fawr.

❖ Patchwork 1

This term has gone by very quickly and we all have produced lovely patchwork and quilting from bed spreads to smaller items such as bags. We had a visiting tutor who showed us how to make a table runner and a pincushion. We have now finished all the quilts to go to the Nelson Trust in Stroud. There are seven quilts in total which we will deliver this August. We finished our year with a gorgeous cream tea at Hillers near Dunnington!

Fran Battin



❖ German

Our Bring & Share Summer Garden Party, accompanied by a group of four musicians led by Peter Scott, brought our spring and summer terms to an end. They played lovely German and Austrian background music, creating a perfect setting for a summer's afternoon. Even the sun played ball and so

everyone enjoyed the get-together and the excellent food provided by all the members.

The German group with its four different levels has a lot of knowledge and experience to offer, which is entirely due to the enthusiasm brought along by each and every member.

What do we talk about? Why do we talk? What makes us bond?

Imagine an accountant, a chemist, a pharmacist, a builder, a teacher and an engineer – all trying to talk about their subject in German! Well, I sometimes don't know whether I am coming or going and that is where a tea break comes in handy – *just for me to recover!!!*

Every member of the group has a different background and that is why we love talking and holding highly interesting conversations, whether we are engaged in a holiday report or discussing cooking, gardening, reading or just cracking a puzzle. Talking in a foreign language is not easy, but the opportunity to express ourselves verbally as much as possible means learning a little more each time we meet and keeping our minds active, mine included, so that I don't forget my mother tongue.

We have all one thing in common – we have come to like each other's company over the years, creating the fun. Fun is the operative word in our groups, never mind at what level the individual group is. That is the glue which keeps us together.

So I look forward to the winter term with the knowledgeable help from Reg Pritchard who brings a wealth of experience and care for the beginners group. If you are interested in joining our group please get in touch with me. We meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month.

Sophie Dodds

❖ Shakespeare

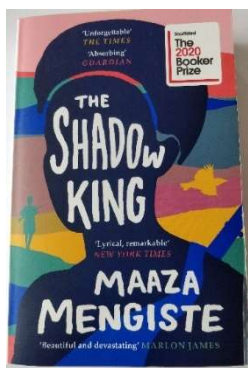
The Bard needs you! Well, that might be a bit of an exaggeration, since our beloved Will is sleeping peacefully in a church just up the river. But it's certain that his faithful followers in the Shakespeare Group need you.

Until recently, we used to have as many members as our group could handle, often with a waiting list, but now we have a few vacancies, which is a pity, because delving into Will's plays is so very enjoyable and we are sure that you would enjoy it too.

Our demands are few. A monthly Monday afternoon meeting at the Rowing Club, and a monthly Zoom session in alternate weeks, introduced during lockdown, of course, but still going strong. Too good to miss, surely? It is just a matter of reading the plays and having a chat about them or if you prefer, just to listen in, with the objective of eventually covering all of the plays. So please join us, we would love to have your company. We really do need you! Please contact David Daniels.

❖ Book Club

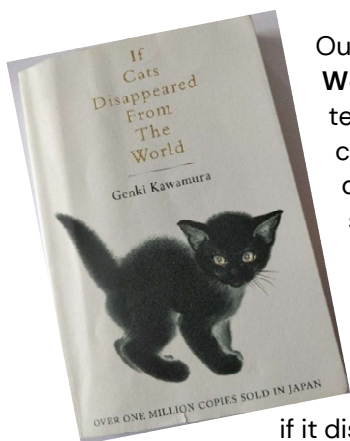
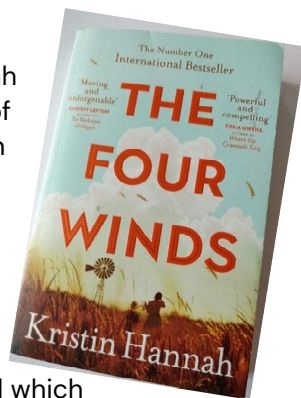
Over the last three months, we read three very interesting books, each set in a different part of the world, though this was by chance rather than design.



We started in Ethiopia with **The Shadow King** by Maaza Mengiste, set in 1935, during the Italian invasion and occupation of Ethiopia. It follows Hirut as she adapts to becoming a maid, then going to war where the women did more than just look after the men, which was followed by her time as a prisoner of war. Some group members found it a better read than others. Thoughts included: 'I found the lack of speech marks made it difficult to know who was talking', 'I didn't have any empathy for any of the characters'

and 'it was easier to read the second time'. 'The brutality of war, the role of women in war, how they coped under duress and the brutality of men towards women comes across'. 'It's a bit grim'. The general consensus was that we might not recommend it to someone else.

Our next book **The Four Winds** by Kristin Hannah was set in America in the 1930s. Telling the story of Elsa Wolcott, a woman trying to raise two children on a farm in the Great Plains during the Dust Bowl following the Great Depression. When life became unsustainable, they moved to the West where they were unwelcome, like all migrants. This book was better received, even though the story was grim. It was powerfully told which brought alive the struggle of trying to farm during the Dust Bowl which displaced people and described the prejudice and discrimination they faced. Several group members mentioned that it made them re-read John Steinbeck's 'Grapes of Wrath'. Despite its grimness, we enjoyed the book and some of us felt they would look out for other books by the same author.



Our third book **If Cats Disappeared from the World** by Genki Kawamura took us to Japan. It tells the story of a young man living alone with his cat. When he receives a terminal diagnosis, the devil appears and tempts him with the suggestion that for each thing he made disappear from the world he could have an extra day of life. The feelings of the group were very mixed from, 'I only finished it for Book Club', to 'I enjoyed it'. It made us think about what was important, what we would not miss

if it disappeared from the world, balanced against the implications for everyone else. Any suggestion that someone else should read it would be, 'try this and see what you think', not a wholehearted recommendation!

Photos by Sue Pennifold

Sue Pennifold

❖ Country Dancing

The country dancers enjoy the physical and mental exercise and each other's company. Although we all try to follow our caller, Pat Heslip, and his selection of live bands, we do not take it too seriously! We meet at Hampton Guide and Scout Hall on the first and third Fridays from 10 am to 12 noon. The cost is £4 per session.



The atmosphere of the group is happy and relaxed, with a very welcome mid-session break for refreshments. We have room for new members - no previous dancing experience required! There is no barrier to coming alone, people often sit out a dance or swap partners. 'Women' are denoted by wearing a ribbon, 'men' are those not wearing

one! If you are a u3a member, your first session is free – try before you buy!

After our summer break, we start the autumn term on 15 September. We sometimes socialize after the dancing with a meal in a pub. If you are considering joining our group, or would like more information, please email Phil and Brenda Morton from the webpage.



Photos on this page and on p 32 by Phil Morton

Answers to the Quiz on page 18

1. Shirley Williams, Roy Jenkins, David Owen, Bill Rodgers. 2. Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, George Washington. 3. Richard Briers, Felicity Kendall, Penelope Keith, Paul Eddington. 4. Bowers, Oates, Evans, Wilson. 5. Beef, Potatoes, Onion, Swede.

❖ Classic Cinema

Classic Cinema dates:

1 Sept	Trading Places comedy	(US John Landis 1983)
15 Sept	This Happy Breed family drama	(GB David Lean 1944)
6 Oct	Young Frankenstein comedy horror	(US Mel Brooks 1974)
20 Oct	The Undefeated western	(US Andrew V McLaglen 1969)
3 Nov	Tea with Mussolini comedy drama	(Italy Franco Zeffirelli 1999)
17 Nov	On The Beach sci-fi	(US Stanley Kramer 1959)
1 Dec	Monsoon Wedding comedy & melodrama	(GB Mira Nair 2002)
15 Dec	A Christmas Carol ghost story	(GB-US Clive Donner 1984)

On The Beach

On Friday 17th Nov at 10.00^{am} in the Evesham Methodist Church basement, one of us (this time, Noel) shall introduce "**On The Beach**", Stanley Kramer's award-winning movie starring Gregory Peck. It was filmed at the height of the Cold War and is set after a world-devouring nuclear war, following the fate of Australians played by Ava Gardner, Anthony Perkins, and Fred Astaire - in his final picture. During the intermission we enjoy refreshments, and after the screening, we discuss the film

Photo by Alexey Turenkov via Pexels, CC-0

Every 1st and 3rd Friday morning at 10.00 am in the Evesham Methodist Church basement. The cost is £3 per person.

Pat Ansell, Phil Logan

Group Name	Coordinator	Fee
Archaeology & Heritage	Chris Wolstencroft	Varies
Architecture	Caroline Bagshaw	Varies
Art Appreciation	Caroline Bagshaw	£2.00
Aspects of Modern History	Sheila Himsworth	£1.00
Badminton 1	Cefn Blundell	£2.00
Badminton 2	Teresa Green	£2–£3
Birdwatching	John Boon	Free
Board Games	Peter Aggett	Free
Book Club	Sue Griffiths	Varies
Bookends	Barbara Tittensor	50 p
Book Friends	Chris Spriggs	Varies
Bridge for Fun	Liz Rodway	£2.00
Brunch Bunch (Sundays)	Sue Beneke	Brunch
China: The Country	David Ralph	£3.00
Classic Cinema	Pat Ansell	£3.00
Computers & Digital Media	John Scotland	£3.00
Concert Band (playing)	Peter Scott	£2.00
Concert Group	David Daniels	Varies
Country Dancing	Brenda & Phil Morton	£4.00
Creative Writing 1 & 2	Sue Johnson	Free+
Croquet	Paul Griffin	50 p
Cycling for Pleasure	Chris Davis	Free
Exploring Language	Caroline Bagshaw	Free
Family Research	Diane Nicholls	£2.50
French Conversation	Lorna Slaughter	Free
Gardens & Country	Chas Bryer	Varies
German (3 groups)	Sophie Dodds	£2.00
Golf for Fun	David Bentley	Green fee
Italian (post–beginners)	Sue Jerrard	Varies
Jam Sessions – Pop, Rock etc	Bob Davies	£2.00
Latin 1	Caroline Bagshaw	£2.00
Latin 2	Caroline Bagshaw	50 p
Latin Reading	David Battin	Freev
Listening to Music	Frances Platman	£1.00

Mah-jong	Carla Auger	£3.50
Military History	Alun Edwards	TBC
Modern Greek 1	Mike Fraser	50 p
Modern Greek 2	Mike Fraser	50 p
Natural History	John Boon	Free
Needlecraft	Helen Barlow	Free
Painting for Pleasure	Mary Simpson	£2.00
Patchwork & Quilting 1	Fran Battin	£2.00
Patchwork & Quilting 2	Linda Dunbar	£2.00
Pétanque	Paul Griffin	£1.00
Philosophy	Mike Bagshaw	£3.00
Photography 1	Mike Tittensor	£3.00
Photography 2	Sandra Woodfield	£2.00
Play Reading	Margaret Fuller	£3.00
Poetry	Richard Taylor	£3.00
Questions of Belief & Doubt	Jane Couper	Free
Quiz	John Boon	£2.00
Rummikub	Carla Auger	£3.50
Science & Engineering	Alan Eames	£2.00
Shakespeare	David Daniels	£3.00
Short Mat Bowls 1	Fred/Sue Copestake	£3.00
Short Mat Bowls 2	Muriel Barnett	£3.00
Singing for Pleasure	Cath Cox	£2.00
Skittles 1	Mary Greenwood	Free
Skittles 2	Sue Beneke	Free
Skittles 3, June to September	Ken Pearce	Free
Social Saunters	Ken Pearce	Free
Spanish Improvers	Leighton Jones	Varies
Table Tennis	Ken Maden	£2.00
Tai Chi	Derek Arnold	£5.00
Travellers' Tales	John Boon	£2.00
Urban Sketchers	Mike Bagshaw	Free
Village Ambles with Camera	Sheila Ryder	£1.00
Village Strolls 1	Terry Woodfield	£1.00
Village Strolls 2	Sandra Woodfield	£1.00
Walks Over 4 Miles	J/M Alexander- Head	£1.00

Walks Under 4 Miles 1	Judy Smith	£1.00
Walks Under 4 Miles 2	Judy Smith	£1.00
Website Editors	Alun Edwards	Free
Welsh Language	David Daniels	Varies
Wine Tasting	Grahame Percival	£7.50
Yoga 2	Lyn Heaney	Varies
Yoga 3	Lesley Clarke	Varies



Let the music go on!

Website

<https://u3asites.org.uk/evesham/home>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/854443105078495>

Members only Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/eveshamu3a>

Public Group