



**Country Dancing Fun**

**Newsletter Issue 89 September 2024**

Registered Charity Number 1101530

## Committee Members

Chair, Open Day & Data Protection	Ros Gowers	
Vice Chair	Tony Powell	
Secretary, Beacon Administrator & Charity Commission Liaison	Alan Chambers	
Membership Secretary (Temporary from 23 September 2024)	Helen Hutt	
Treasurer	Diane Nicholls	email from website
Groups Liaison and Safeguarding & Accessibility Officer	Amarjit Marwaha	email from website
Programme Secretary (Temporary)	Catherine Cox	
Minute Secretary	Graham Smith	email from website

## Non-Committee Volunteers

Website Manager & Third Age Trust Volunteer	Alun Edwards	
Technical Support	Richard Hunt	
Newsletter Editor	Bärbel Wolstencroft	
Cotswold Link	TBC	
Shared Learning Project	Chris Wolstencroft	
Pastoral Care	Joyce Davey	
All Group Coordinators	see the Group List for contact details	

*The above can be reached by email from the website Contact page  
<https://evesham.u3asite.uk/contact>*

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## Welcome...



...to the September 2024 Newsletter. While I was working on this issue during August, an autumnal feel started creeping into the days. I hope an enjoyable summer was had by all.

The eagle-eyed among our readers may have noticed a different look to the front page.

Following the wishes of your new committee, the front page has been refreshed with an alternative u3a logo. Don't miss their message on page 4 and meet the new committee member on page 8.

Among the wide variety of information, which group leaders and members have kindly provided, please note the invitation to sign up to a 'Bridge Course for Beginners' from Droitwich u3a on page 9. A new initiative is the 'Online Repair Shop', see page 5 for details. Our **Open Day** is an important diary date on Tuesday 29 October 2024 at All Saints Church, Evesham from 12.30 to 3.30 pm. Finally, looking ahead, please note that the deadline for the December Newsletter is on **Friday 1 November 2024**. Happy reading!

Bärbel Wolstencroft

**Erratum:** Apologies to Victoria Nelson whose first name was wrongly stated as 'Valerie' in the printed copy of the June 2024 issue – see page 5, New Groups, Card Games. A knowledgeable Website Team member spotted the error so it could be corrected before the June Newsletter was uploaded to the website.

**The photo on the front cover** was submitted by Phil Morton. See page 25 for more information on Country Dancing.

## From the Executive Committee

Following the recent resignations of both our Membership Secretary, for family reasons, and, soon after, our Chair, the Executive Committee is having to reshape itself to be able to cover all the necessary tasks with just the seven people left. Longer term, we will be looking to recruit some new committee members to help with this, but, in the meantime, we will be redistributing the roles and focus on both the upcoming membership renewal period and the planned Open Day in October.

If you feel you could help out in any way, either as an 'assistant' to one of our role holders or as a co-opted member of the committee, we would be very pleased to hear from you. In the meantime, please do bear with us as we get to grips with our revised responsibilities. We will do our best to keep you all updated with any changes, as they occur, via the website, the Facebook Group or emails.



**Top row from left:**

Ros Gowder, Tony Powell, Alan Chambers

**Bottom left:** Amarjit Marwaha

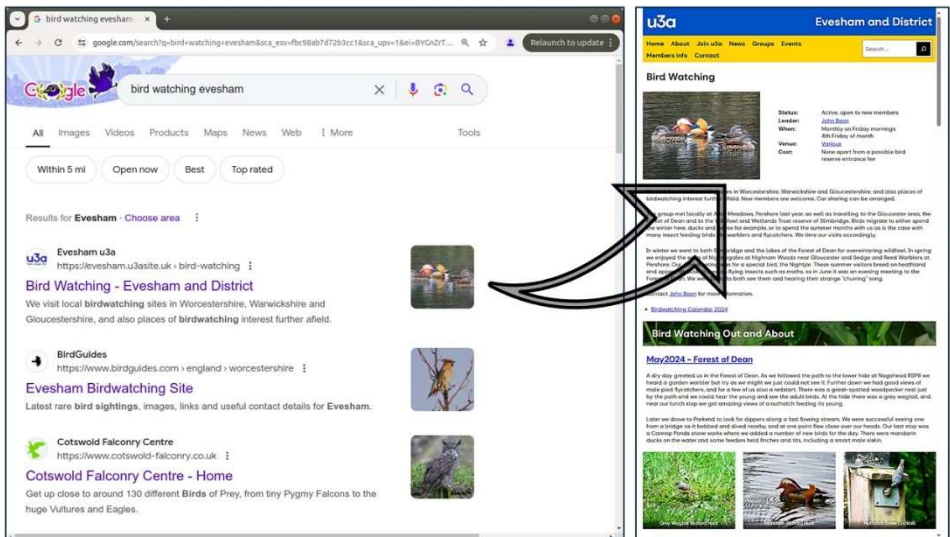
**Bottom right:** Cath Cox



# Online Repair Shop: Our Website!

Google for **RETIRED EVESHAM** and our u3a is one of the first results. This was not always the case. Frances Kilburn has been working hard to make such an interesting website with our editors. Most of our groups edit their own page. Others contact Frances and Ally to adjust, but not all. <https://evesham.u3asite.uk/>

In Google, please search for your group's **ACTIVITY** and **EVESHAM**. Some of our groups are well ranked by Google including Bird Watching (pictured), Book Club, Quiz, Singing for Pleasure, Tai Chi.



## Why is this important?

How often do you scroll way down the screen of Google results, let alone actually clicking past the first page? Only 3% of searchers go past the top three results\*. Now think about someone recently retired or not working full time who wants to play your sport or try your activity in town. Few will know anything about the u3a. Instead of **u3a EVESHAM** they will Google for the **ACTIVITY** – board games, walking, pickleball or whatever.

To help, we are inviting you to a **Repair Shop** for the website, Frances as *Jay Blades*, Ally as *Kirsten Ramsay*!

**Please book on one of our meetings for website editors at Evesham Library.**

Contact Ally via [https://evesham.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/website-editors/](https://evesham.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/website-editors/) and choose

1. Wednesday 9 October 2024
2. Wednesday 16 October 2024 or
3. Wednesday 23 October 2024

To best meet your needs, when you book, please tell us which topic(s) you are interested in, for example:

- Images, galleries, and text
- Columns, tables, and editing techniques
- Topics, events, and news

Suitable for experienced editors or any u3a member who would like to learn more about improving their group's webpage on our website. 'Bring-your-own-device' (BYOD) or just a notepad and pen.

Ally Edwards

\*Shelley, Ryan: 80 SEO statistics that prove the power of search [2022 update]. SMA Blog. <https://www.smamarketing.net/blog/80-seo-statistics>

## Monthly Meetings

<https://evesham.u3asite.uk/events>

**4 September 2024**

**Galen Bartholomew – The SS Suevic and the night the RNLI saved 611 lives**

Galen Bartholomew has been a keen family historian for 50 years. When he discovered that his great-grandmother and great-aunt were amongst those rescued from the Suevic, he was keen to find out more about this. Little did he imagine that his relatives had been involved in one of the most famous of RNLI rescues. The traumatic events for all the passengers and crew on

the Suevic explain why Galen's family had virtually 'forgotten' that terrible night – 1907 was well before people were encouraged to talk about difficult experiences! This is a remarkable account of shipwreck and survival.



This talk describes an extraordinary story. The number of people rescued, the salvage and rebuilding of the Suevic set records in 1907. The talk is illustrated with fascinating contemporary photographs and accounts from the time. A focus throughout is on the RNLI and its brave crews, as the RNLI celebrated its bi-centenary on 4 March 2024.

Image credit: Volunteers from The Lizard standing next to their lifeboat, Admiral Sir George Back, 1907. With kind permission of the RNLI.

<https://rnli.org/about-us/our-history/timeline/1907-the-suevic-rescue>

**Refreshments – Creative Writing**

**2 October 2024**

**Ray Sturdy – Remembering 'The Swinging Sixties'**

Britain had a youth boom. There were new cars, motorways and petrol at 5/- (25p) a gallon! Miniskirts, The Beatles, the Twist, Twiggy and Concorde arrived in a decade of revolution. There were scandals, a royal wedding, a moon walk and almost a nuclear war!

**Refreshments – Croquet**

**Tuesday 29 October 2024 – Open Day**  
**All Saints Church, Evesham, 12.30 to 3.30 pm**

**Please note – there is no monthly meeting in November**

**4 December 2024**

**The ‘Singing for Pleasure’ Group – Showcase Concert**

**Refreshments – Cycling for pleasure**

## **Meet Helen Hutt**

### **Temporary Membership Secretary**



I was born in Leicester, moved to Coventry aged 18, where I married and brought up two children. In 2006, following divorce, I bought a narrowboat and have lived on her ever since, travelling around the navigable waterways of England and Wales. Evesham has recently become my home – I bought a mooring here in 2017 but

continued to cruise during the summer months until, in 2023, I finally completed the whole network. So this year I’m enjoying staying put – most of the time! I joined u3a a couple of years ago and belong to the bird watching, quiz and the 4-mile-plus walking groups.

## Bridge Course for Beginners with Droitwich u3a



Droitwich u3a are offering a 'Bridge Course for Beginners', running from October 2024 to March 2025 inclusive, with the two hour meetings being held weekly on a day to be agreed. Meetings will take place in the Group Leader's home or at a local Droitwich venue if

numbers are too large. The course is suitable for complete novices to the game of Bridge or those who may have played some time ago and have forgotten most of what they once knew.

This group/course is open to members of Alcester u3a, Bromsgrove u3a, Evesham u3a, Pershore u3a, Redditch u3a and Wyre Forest u3a. Participants will need to become reciprocal members of Droitwich u3a, but there is no charge associated with this.

Starting from the absolute basics, the course will cover the main features of Acol, the most commonly used bidding system, and some techniques of card play. Familiarity with 'whist-like' card games would be an advantage, but is not essential.

For more information or to sign up for this course please contact Les Hazlewood, Group Leader, on 01905 796201 or email [leshazlewood@btinternet.com](mailto:leshazlewood@btinternet.com)

Image from pinterest.com

# Group News

## ❖ Singing for Pleasure 🎵

We have had a few changes in our membership since the start of 2024, due to illness and personal reasons. The saddest was the death of Pauline Boycott, a lady full of life, love and laughter and she is greatly missed. However, we are 'up and running' with an ALMOST full complement.

Some of the members asked if we could try some Gospel songs, as well as the 'usual' music, so of course, always ready for a challenge, we did! It HAS been a bit of a challenge but we have had fun doing it and we hope to include some of them in our 'Showcase' concert at the monthly meeting on 4 December. Please put the date in your diaries, come along and support us!

Catherine Cox

## ❖ Exploring Language

Upon learning that Susie Dent, the well-known lexicographer, was to appear at The Regal in Evesham, a number of the group looked forward to attending the event.



Susie did not disappoint. She opened by confessing that she fell in love with words at the age of five, and went on to explain how she came to be part of 'Countdown', the popular Channel 4 words and numbers game – apparently, it was part of her job with the Oxford University Press. We then watched a couple of clips from the programme of gaffes made during her early days there, which led to much laughter from the audience.

There followed some examples of 'eggcorns', mispronounced popular expressions such as 'a bowl in a China shop', 'a damp squid', and 'cut to the cheese'.

Our dislike of Americanisms was addressed, 'Can I get you a ...?' for example, but we were reminded that the Americans' use of a word like 'gotten' was taken across the Atlantic by the Pilgrim Fathers and subsequently went out of use here.

Susie wanted to bring back 'lost positives' such as 'kempt' (tidy and presentable), grunted (contented) and ruly (following the rules), which have dropped out of use, leaving us with just the negatives: unkempt, disgruntled and unruly.

Did we remember Polari language used by Kenneth Williams and Hugh Paddick in 'Round the Horne'? We learned that Polari was an actual language and though most of the words are not well-known now, one of them, 'naff', is still in use today.

On the subject of swear words, Susie assured us that swearing is actually quite good for us. While deploring the overuse of the 'f' word nowadays, swearing allows us to let off steam and help us endure pain, such as when we hit our thumb with a hammer. This was illustrated with a clip of Brian Blessed using Susie's favourite swear word (bo\*\*\*\*ks) to keep his hand submerged in a tank of ice.

Finally, Susie shared some of her favourite words she'd like to bring back into use, such as apricity, the warmth of the sun on a chilly day; and mumpsimus, one who insists they are right, despite clear evidence they are not.

All in all, a thoroughly entertaining and enlightening event.

Katie Batchelor, Group Member

Photo submitted by Victoria Law

## ❖ Natural History



The weather has not been at its most favourable for wildlife spotting this year, but we always manage to find things of interest on our nature rambles, resulting in a surprisingly long list of species. We have been to Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's Windmill Hill reserve, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's Coombe Hill Canal and

Meadows, and the Vale Landscape Heritage Trust's Naunton Court Orchard. Despite the lack of warm sun, we have still seen a number of insect species including blue-tailed damselfly, wasp beetle and blood-vein moth.



Photos: the group at Naunton Court Orchard by John Boon (top); Blood-vein Moth by Bob Woodroffe (bottom left); Four spotted Chaser Dragonfly by Geoff Bryant (bottom right)

## ❖ Birdwatching

Spring is always a great time to be birdwatching, with migrants arriving at their favoured habitat. In prime time this year we ventured to the Forest of Dean and the RSPB reserve of Nagshead, primarily for pied flycatchers and redstarts. We also found dippers on a stream in nearby Parkend and Mandarin ducks and siskin amongst other species at Cannop Ponds.

In late June we travelled to Somerset where at Ham Wall RSPB we were lucky enough to see bittern and marsh harriers aplenty, plus great white egret and hobbies. Hobbies are fast and agile falcons that hunt dragonflies which they eat on the wing – a spectacular sight!



Photos: Mandarin Duck by Richard Hunt; Nuthatch by Steve Cockbill

## ❖ QUIZ

This time there is no theme, so here are some random general knowledge questions. Good luck!

1. What is the meaning of the word 'cerulean'?
2. 'Infamy! Infamy! They've all got it in for me!' is a quote from which 'Carry On' film?
3. Who is the patron saint of travellers?
4. 'Mackem' is an informal term for people from which English city?
5. What term is used for the secular members of the House of Lords in contrast to the Lords Spiritual who are Anglican bishops?

6. What does a turophile love?

7. The film 'The Green Mile' is based on a book by which author?

8. How many countries have a land border with Brazil?

9. Which chemical element has the shortest name?

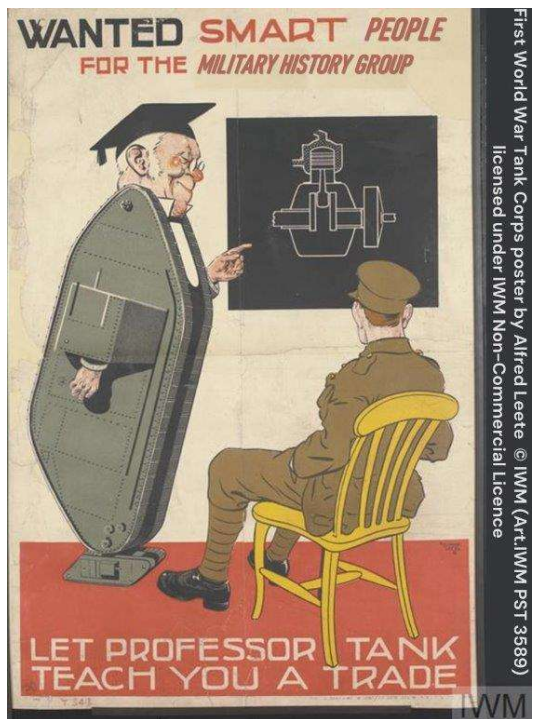
10. Who composed the 'Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra'?

Please see page 29 for the answers.

Natural History, Birdwatching & Quiz by John Boon

## ❖ Military History

The Evesham u3a Military History Group has had a really interesting and informative start since kicking off the group in March. A number of topics have been covered; from Saladin, who he was and what he achieved, through to the evolution and introduction of the tank in World War 1. In June we also had a fabulous talk about the Worcestershire Regiment Campaign in Europe from D-Day to May 1945, tying in with the D-Day Commemorations, very moving and enlightening. All the presentations result in



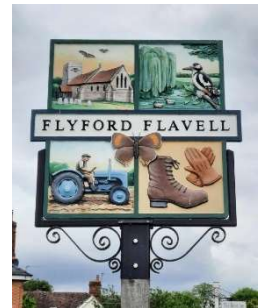
a friendly discussion taking place. We took a break in August, but are back on the last Wednesday of each month from September onwards. We have a number of interesting topics to learn about and debate, taking us through to the end of the year.

We are always open to welcome new members to join our friendly group, so if you have an interest in any aspect of Military History, from the ancient to modern day, then please do join us at Charlton & Cropthorne Village Hall from 10.30 am to 12.30pm on the last Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is on 25 September, the cost is £3.

Neil Hoy

## ❖ Village Strolls 1

This year we visited some villages which were new to us. In June we went to Flyford Flavell, organised by Joe and Mike. We discovered an old apple crusher and admired the very impressive sign in the centre of the village.



July took us to Lower Quinton, organised by Brian and Sue. We came across a very smart weather vane on top of a garden outhouse and spotted an old village water tap used by the



villagers before most of them had their own water supply.

Terry Woodfield

Photos by Terry Woodfield

## Group Timetable

***To join any group you must be a member of u3a***

	First Week	Second Week	Third Week
<b>Mon am</b>	Architecture Natural History Welsh Language	Art Appreciation Questions of Belief etc Welsh Language	Welsh Language
<b>Mon pm</b>	Badminton 1 Concert Band Mah-jong & Rummikub Shakespeare Singing for Pleasure	Badminton 1 Concert Band Mah-jong & Rummikub Spanish Beginners Patchwork & Quilting 3	Badminton 1 Concert Band Mah-jong & Rummikub Shakespeare Singing for Pleasure
<b>Tue am</b>	Creative Writing 2 Cycling for Pleasure Latin 1 Spanish Intermediate Urban Sketchers	Golf for Fun Listening to Music 2 Social Saunters Spanish Intermediate Village Strolls 1	Bookends Photography 2 Spanish Intermediate Urban Sketchers Walks over 4 m
<b>Tue pm</b>	Card Games Creative Writing 1 Latin Reading Modelling Group	Exploring Language Jam Session Patchwork & Quilting 1 Pétanque	Archaeology/Heritage Card Games Latin Reading Modelling Group
<b>Wed am</b>	Skittles 1 Table Tennis Tai Chi	French Conversation Painting for Pleasure Skittles 2 Skittles 3, June – Sept Tai Chi 2	Skittles 1 Table Tennis Tai Chi
<b>Wed pm</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting 2 pm</b> <b>Methodist Church</b> Yoga 3 (term time)	Latin 3 Sea Shanties Yoga 3 (term time)	Philosophy Yoga 3 (term time)
<b>Thu am</b>	Pickleball Yoga 2 (term time)	Aspects of Modern History; German Needlecraft Pickleball Short Mat Bowls 1 Walks under 4 miles 1 Yoga 2 (term time)	Pickleball Short River Walks Village Strolls 3 Yoga 2 (term time)
<b>Thu pm</b>	Croquet Modern Greek 1 Dressmaking	China: The Country Latin 2 Modern Greek 1 Needlecraft Short Mat Bowls 2	Croquet Modern Greek 1
<b>Fri am</b>	Classic Cinema Country Dancing Modern Greek 2 Pickleball	Computers & Digital Italian; Military History Modern Greek 2 Pickleball Play Reading	Book Friends Classic Cinema Country Dancing Modern Greek 2 Pickleball
<b>Fri pm</b>	Badminton 2 Bridge Family Research	Badminton 2 Board Games Bridge	Badminton 2 Bridge Family Research
<b>Sun am</b>	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 etc Village Ambles Camera Welsh Language	Welsh Language	<p><b>Patchwork and Quilting 2</b> alternate Wednesdays – Linda Dunbar</p> <p><b>Concert Group</b> – David Daniels</p> <p><b>Website Editors</b> – meet as required – Alun Edwards</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Group leaders can be contacted by email from the group's webpage.</b></p>	<b>Mon am</b>
Badminton 1 Concert Band Mah-jong & Rummikub Spanish Beginners	Badminton 1 Concert Band Mah-jong & Rummikub		<b>Mon pm</b>
Golf for Fun Photography 1 Spanish Intermediate Village Strolls 2	Urban Sketchers Spanish Intermediate		<b>Tue am</b>
Jam Session Patchwork & Quilting 1 Pétanque Quiz Group			<b>Tue pm</b>
French Conversation Painting for Pleasure Skittles 2 Skittles 3, June – Sept Tai Chi 2	Military History Table Tennis		<b>Wed am</b>
Latin 3 Sea Shanties Yoga 3 (term time)	Poetry Yoga 3 (term time)		<b>Wed pm</b>
Aspects of Modern History; German Needlecraft Pickleball Short Mat Bowls 1 Walks under 4 miles 2 Yoga 2 (term time)	Pickleball Yoga 2 (term time)		<b>Thu am</b>
Book Club German advanced Modern Greek 1 Needlecraft Short Mat Bowls 2 Wine Tasting	Modern Greek 1		<b>Thu pm</b>
Birdwatching Italian Post-Beginners Modern Greek 2 Pickleball	Modern Greek 2 Pickleball Science & Engineering		<b>Fri am</b>
Badminton 2 Board Games Bridge	Badminton 2 Bridge		<b>Fri pm</b>
	Brunch Bunch		<b>Sun am</b>

## ❖ Jam Session



'Vinyl Chapter', consisting of five members of the Jam Session group, were again invited to play at the Fladbury Walkabout this year and, as has been the case on all three occasions, it rained! I say rained – a deluge might be a better description of the weather on the Saturday. At one point, everyone who had ventured out and was anywhere

near The Anchor pub, swarmed into the marquee where all our gear was set up. We couldn't play to them as we were on a break and one member of the band was in the pub, getting himself a drink. For some reason, he refused to come out and cross to the marquee through the pouring rain!

We eventually carried on and fulfilled our commitment to the organising committee, who must have been rather miffed at having all their hard work spoilt. Sunday's weather was much better, however, and some music was provided by three Jam Session members, including two from 'Vinyl Chapter', in a Fladbury resident's garden.

The Jam Session group continues to flourish with new members joining all the time. If you are interested, please contact Bob Davies via the webpage, or come and talk to us at the Open Day in October. If you are organising an event and would like some live music, please get in touch via the Wine Tasting or Jam Session pages on the website. We always do our best to meet the requirements of the organisers.



Grahame Percival

Photos by Maggie Percival

## ❖ Pickleball

Taster sessions every first Thursday of the month



# Pickleball

We play Pickleball every Thursday and Friday at Rivers Leisure Centre Evesham at 10.00 am. Booking in advance is essential. The cost is £5 per session. To find out more about this fun sport, those taster sessions, and our active friendly community for recreational games, please either:

- Scan the QR code on the photo for our website
- Search Facebook for Pickleball Evesham u3a
  - Or contact u3a leader Lesley Roberts  
[lesley@cotswoldsfitness.com](mailto:lesley@cotswoldsfitness.com)

Ally Edwards

## ❖ Board Games

We meet fortnightly in a member's house on the 2nd and 4th Friday afternoons to play strategy games of different genres, styles, themes and settings. We also play games involving dice, cards, tile-laying, and dexterity. We try something new every session. Contact Peter Aggett via the website.

Ally Edwards

Images on this page supplied by Ally Edwards



## ❖ Classic Cinema

Classic Cinema meets at 10.00 am every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday morning in the Evesham Methodist Church basement. Contact Pat Ansell via the website.

Image by Ally Edwards



### Classic Cinema dates:

6 Sept	<b>Same Time Next Year</b> comedy romance	(USA Mulligan 1978)
20 Sept	<b>Strangers On A Train</b> psychological thriller	(USA Hitchcock 1951)
4 Oct	<b>A Song To Remember</b> biopic of Chopin	(USA Vidor 1945)
18 Oct	<b>The Train</b> war	(France Frankenheimer 1964)
1 Nov	<b>Spirited Away</b> family adventure	(Japan Miyazaki 2001)
15 Nov	<b>Two Rode Together</b> western	(USA Ford 1961)
6 Dec	<b>Driving Miss Daisy</b> comedy drama	(USA Beresford 1989)

### Spirited Away

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov at 10.00<sup>am</sup> in the Evesham Methodist Church basement, one of us (this time, Grenville) shall introduce "Spirited Away", Hayao Miyazaki's award-winning fanciful anime adventure. 10-year-old Chihiro discovers a secret world when her family gets lost. She encounters strange creatures and must fend off a grumpy sorceress who seeks to prevent her from returning to the human world. During the intermission we enjoy refreshments, and after the screening, we discuss the film.

Image by ooritro via DeviantArt CC BY-NC 3.0

## ❖ Concert Group – exciting times ahead!

To say that the Concert Group is flourishing would be an understatement. We have enjoyed a wonderful 2023/24 season of concerts, and our membership is now over 180 – but there is plenty of room for more and, if you are not already signed up, we would love to hear from you. Remember that our membership list is actually nothing more than a mailing list which provides our folks with information about upcoming concerts and invites them to apply to us for tickets.

We have recently published our programme for the 2024/25 season, a copy of which can be seen on the Evesham u3a website. There are five concerts beginning in October and going through to June next year. And what a programme it is!

We have superstar soloists like Sheku Kanneh-Mason and Milos Karadaglic, possibly the greatest living classical guitarist, a superstar conductor with Vasily Petrenko, and a top drawer visiting orchestra – the Royal Philharmonic. And the music is just amazing! Far too much of it to list here of course, but among the highlights will surely be some great symphonies by Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky, some great concertos by Tchaikovsky, Max Bruch, Rodrigo and Elgar – yes, that's where we get to hear Sheku – and so much more.

So, if you love great music, played 'live' by top musicians in a lovely, comfortable environment – which is exactly what Birmingham Symphony Hall is! – please come and join us. And by the way, all you have to do on concert days is to get yourself to Morrisons' car park or one of our later pick up points in town and we'll do the rest. We like to call it 'hassle-free' – because it is!

Exciting times? Absolutely! Please contact David Daniels for more information.

David Daniels

## ❖ Painting for Pleasure

Having planned to meet outdoors in July and August, we have had our fingers crossed for good weather. Early July at St. Nicholas Church in Middle Littleton was a delight, a beautiful old building and refreshments provided by local ladies.



There was a little drizzle when we were sketching in Abbey Park later in the month but it didn't prevent members from carrying on and capturing scenes of the river, boats and the bridge. In August, we met at the train station; a chance to practice perspective or to draw the traditional architecture of the station buildings. At the end of the month we met in a member's garden, so flowers, trees etc., perfect for soft watercolour or vibrant acrylics.

If you would like to join us please get in touch, the contact number and group details are at the end of the Newsletter.

Mary Simpson

Sketch by Mary Simpson

## ❖ Poetry – post-meeting Musings

Just back from a successful meeting of the Poetry Group. All nine active members in attendance which was pretty pleasing given the temptations of the great outdoors. Themed meetings help shape the month for members and allow for a sharing of anecdotal and literary experiences. The close relationship between verse and lyric writing is proving a fruitful seam to mine

(have to watch that imagery in the drive towards net zero, itself a theme that recurs in poets' take on the world).

Our three newish members are now fully active in supporting the core six but we are still looking for new blood – the group has to evolve to stay healthy. We meet at Wallace House, Oat Street on the last Wednesday of each month, except December, from 1.30 – 3.30 pm and look out for each other as we go about the everyday about town. Two 'abouts' in that sentence, but poets like to break the rules from time to time!

Richard Taylor

## ❖ Archaeology & Heritage

Our May meeting took us to the Commandery in Worcester, a scene of blood and carnage in 1651, when the final decisive battle of the English Civil War took place. The museum is steeped in history not only for its association with the Civil War but as a Monastic Hospital, the family home of Thomas Wylde, workshops in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, a College for the Blind and a printworks.



The museum has benefited from several refurbishments and improvements over the years and provides a clear picture of its historical local and international connections. Both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, who went on to become the second and third presidents of the USA, visited Worcester and the Commandery in 1796. John Adams made a stirring

speech, declaring Worcester to be 'the very ground where liberty was fought for and won'. There is an excellent book by Malcolm Atkin entitled 'Cromwell's Crowning Mercy – The Battle of Worcester 1651' which provides a full account of the final conflict of the civil war.

In June we paid a visit to Middle Littleton Tithe Barn. Managed by the National Trust, it is said to be one of the finest examples of a tithe barn in the country, including the cruck form style of its construction. Grade 1 listed, it is dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century. The Trust dates it to around 1250 but the National Monuments Records has it



built in 1376 for the monks of Evesham Abbey. For a number of years the most likely builder was thought to be John Ombersley, Abbot of Evesham, in 1376. Dendrochronology testing, however, revealed that construction was at least a century older, dating to the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century (1250). Recent thinking suggests that the barn was built by Abbot John de Brokehampton during the period of his tenure.



Our July field visit took us to St Mary's Church in Childswickham. The spire of the church can be seen for miles around and is somewhat unusual, as St Mary's stands alongside the present village, rather than in the centre. The suggestion is that the village was 'moved' at some point in the past. This may explain the 'humps and bumps' in the ground near the church. The village of Childswickham is listed in the Domesday Book of 1085. However, historical records suggest that it is much older, as there was a Saxon charter for the village in 706. It is possible that Evesham Abbey

built a church in the village at that time. The present church was built originally in the Norman style but, over time, especially in the Victorian era, it underwent major changes to its appearance.

Photos by B Wolstencroft

Chris Wolstencroft

## ❖ German

Learning a language is never easy and when I look back at my attempt to learn English at school in Germany, my teacher probably wanted to throw the books at me! That is when I was sent to England to be thrown in at the deep end and eventually England became my destiny. Thanks to the u3a, the opportunity exists to broaden our horizon and now the table has turned years later and we can explore the German language at a gentler pace.

The Spring term was interesting, diverse and full of fun. We never set a strict agenda for conversation or writing stories. However, the Beginners Group learn their grammar from the well proven 'Heute Abend' book. Reg Pritchard eloquently guides the enthusiasts through all the pitfall encounters with grammar and he makes it fun.

For the other members, the world is open to whatever they like to think of or discuss. We reach out to the most popular subjects like holidays, walking, gardening, cooking, poetry, engineering, science, philosophy, history, current affairs, health and leisure. The list is endless and from those topics conversations develop and it is encouraging to see how enriching it is for us all to learn something new.

The highlight this year was the annual Garden Party here at my home 'Breslau'. The bring-and-share event with a large helping of SUNSHINE was very much enjoyed by all who were able to attend. We start our meetings again on 12 September.

Sophie Dodds

## ❖ Country Dancing

During our Friday morning sessions, our Country Dancers have a smile on their faces for much of the time. We enjoy getting to grips with the various dances that our callers bring, and we all try to follow them, but we don't

worry too much if we get it wrong every now and again. We have two callers who share the duties and four live bands who provide a wide selection of suitable music for us.

We had a break during August and our Autumn 'term' begins on Friday 6 September 2024. We meet at



Hampton Guide and Scout Hall on the first and third Fridays of each month from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon. There is an occasional 5<sup>th</sup> Friday session too. The cost is £4 per session.

We have a mid-session break for refreshments and members take their turn to serve and wash up. We

welcome new members. Many of our members come on their own. Dancers have the opportunity to sit out for a dance to rest or swap partners. The first session is free for u3a members to try. If you are considering joining our group or would like more information, please email Phil and Brenda Morton from the webpage.

Photos by Phil Morton

Phil Morton

## ❖ Book Club

Novel reading was one of the late Dr Michael Mosley's choices for his celebrated series 'Just One Thing' on Radio 4. The 'things', for readers who need to know, were reasonably easy changes in lifestyle that swiftly brought a dividend in well-being. Along with reading novels there were playing a musical instrument, Nordic walking and daily cold showers.

Members of the Book Club needed no persuading by the positive experiences of Dr Mosley's guinea pig folk who gave regular reading a try. Better still, say the members, is reading novels and sharing your thoughts about them with fellow readers. Among other benefits, book clubs also introduce their members to authors not previously on their individual radars. What our members have collectively read in the first half of 2024 nicely makes the point. Just look at the diversity!



In January came the very recently published first novel of Patrick Worrall, 'The Partisan.' It starts with World War II resistance fighting in Lithuania. What follows is the retribution meted out, years post-conflict, to guilty Nazis and Soviets, both, by the partisan of the title, the formidable Greta. There is a local connection. The author had his secondary schooling at Prince Henry's, and his mother Alison is one of our group's members.

In June came another contemporary English novelist, Graham Swift, with 'Mothering Sunday'. How different the environment is – affluent upper middle class England in the 1920s, in homes whose owners took for granted the labours of resident domestic staff. Sometimes included in services rendered were sexual favours. Readers follow the fortunes of one young maid, through to her old age, reminiscing on her transition from below stairs to success as a novelist – all in 150 pages!

Percival Everett is also contemporary, but black American, not white English. His novel 'The Trees' is set in still racist southern USA late in the last century. But the agents of change intrude in style – federal investigators of a string of strange deaths of white people. And the investigators, so unlike the local law enforcers, are both very smart, and black.

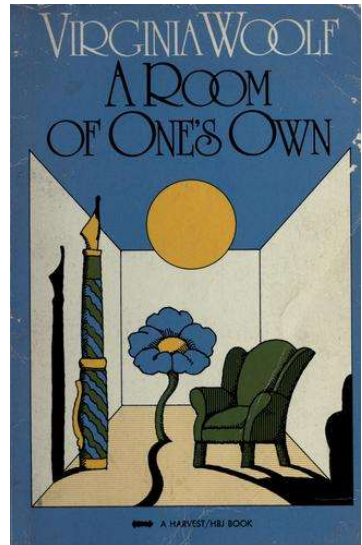
How different again is the Canadian Alice Munro, who died earlier this year. One of the world's greatest tellers of short stories, her material is the

seemingly everyday lives of ordinary small town folk in rural Canada. But they and their lives are not so ordinary as all that!

Our reading list for the first half of this year included two authors who are household names for anyone seriously interested in English literature. E. M. Forster's 'Room with a View' is set in Florence and the affluent North Downs in rural Surrey. It is not least about class issues in the Edwardian years shortly before World War I. The story has reached millions through TV and films.

Virginia Woolf was thinking about rooms in a very different sense when she wrote 'A Room of One's Own.' With this one, we departed from our normal fare, the novel. It is a long essay, originally delivered as two lectures in 1928. It was written for women, especially young women.

In my male view, it remains very well worth their time to read it, for all that almost a hundred years have passed. And as a man with two daughters and two grand-daughters, I am very glad that I am now among its readers!



John Sutton

Images: 'The Partisan' from [waterstones.com](http://waterstones.com); 'A Room of One's Own' from [openlibrary.org](http://openlibrary.org)

## ❖ Walking Cricket

Thanks to Worcestershire Cricket, we enjoyed a walking cricket festival at New Road in July where twenty teams from around the country played, including u3a teams from Yorkshire and from Sandbach. Pictured are the u3a Sandbach team in white and u3a Evesham members Dave and Steve in the red strip in the inset.



More u3a members attend every week in Evesham in coaching run by Worcestershire Cricket. Our team should include men and women in equal numbers, but we have so far not been able to recruit sufficient female players. Please would you spread the word to women who might fancy this slower form of the beautiful game? It's a friendly and supportive atmosphere, congratulating successes and commiserating when something goes wrong.

Do come along on a Tuesday afternoon from 12.30 to 1.30 pm at Wallace House to try Walking Cricket for yourself. The first session is FREE. All are welcome! The group is open to players who are not members of u3a.

Dave Williams

Images by Worcestershire Cricket Sandbach Evesham and Ally Edwards

### Answers to the Quiz on page 13

1. Deep blue 2. Carry on Cleo (Kenneth Williams as Julius Caesar) 3. St. Christopher 4. Sunderland 5. Lords Temporal 6. Cheese 7. Stephen King 8. Ten (Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Venezuela, Suriname, Guyana and French Guyana) 9. Tin 10. Benjamin Britten

<b>Group Name</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Fee</b>
<b>Archaeology &amp; Heritage</b>	Chris Wolstencroft	Varies
<b>Architecture</b>	Caroline Bagshaw	Varies
<b>Art Appreciation</b>	Caroline Bagshaw	£2.00
<b>Aspects of Modern History</b>	Sheila Himsworth	£1.00
<b>Badminton 1</b>	Cefn Blundell	£3-£4
<b>Badminton 2</b>	Teresa Green	£4.00
<b>Birdwatching</b>	John Boon	Free
<b>Board Games</b>	Peter Aggett	Free
<b>Book Club</b>	Sue Griffiths	Varies
<b>Bookends</b>	Barbara Tittensor	50 p
<b>Book Friends</b>	Chris Spriggs	Varies
<b>Bridge</b>	Liz Rodway	£2.00
<b>Brunch Bunch (Sundays)</b>	Sue Beneke	Brunch
<b>Card Games</b>	Victoria Nelson	Buy drink
<b>China: The Country</b>	David Ralph	£3.00
<b>Classic Cinema</b>	Pat Ansell	£3.00
<b>Computers &amp; Digital Media</b>	John Scotland	£3.00
<b>Concert Band (playing)</b>	Peter Scott	£2.00
<b>Concert Group</b>	David Daniels	Varies
<b>Country Dancing</b>	B & P Morton	£4.00
<b>Creative Writing 1 &amp; 2</b>	Sue Johnson	Buy drink
<b>Croquet</b>	Paul Griffin	50 p
<b>Cycling for Pleasure</b>	Chris Davis	Free
<b>Dressmaking</b>	Denise Bailey	Varies
<b>Exploring Language</b>	Caroline Bagshaw	Free
<b>Family Research</b>	Diane Nicholls	£2.50
<b>French Conversation</b>	Lorna Slaughter	Free
<b>German (3 groups)</b>	Sophie Dodds	£2.00
<b>Golf for Fun</b>	David Bentley	Green fee
<b>Italian (post-beginners)</b>	Sue Jerrard	Varies
<b>Jam Session</b>	Bob Davies	£2.00
<b>Latin 1</b>	Caroline Bagshaw	£2.00

<b>Latin 2</b>	Caroline Bagshaw	50 p
<b>Latin 3, Beginners</b>	David Battin	Buy drink
<b>Latin Reading</b>	David Battin	Free
<b>Listening to Music</b>	Frances Platman	£1.00
<b>Mah-jong</b>	Carla Auger	£2.50
<b>Military History</b>	Neil Hoy	£3.00
<b>Modelling Group</b>	John Gowers	Varies
<b>Modern Greek 1</b>	Mike Fraser	50 p
<b>Modern Greek 2</b>	Mike Fraser	50 p
<b>Natural History</b>	John Boon	Free
<b>Needlecraft</b>	Helen Barlow	Free
<b>Painting for Pleasure</b>	Mary Simpson	£2.00
<b>Patchwork &amp; Quilting 1</b>	Fran Battin	£2.00
<b>Patchwork &amp; Quilting 2</b>	Linda Dunbar	£2.00
<b>Patchwork &amp; Quilting 3</b>	Katy Watson	Buy drink
<b>Pétanque</b>	Paul Griffin	£1.00
<b>Philosophy</b>	Mike Bagshaw	£3.00
<b>Photography 1</b>	Mike Tittensor	£3.00
<b>Photography 2</b>	Sandra Woodfield	£2.00
<b>Pickleball</b>	Lesley Roberts	£5.00
<b>Play Reading</b>	Margaret Fuller	£3.00
<b>Poetry</b>	Richard Taylor	£4.00
<b>Questions of Belief &amp; Doubt</b>	Jane Couper	Free
<b>Quiz</b>	John Boon	£2.00
<b>Rummikub</b>	Carla Auger	£2.50
<b>Science &amp; Engineering</b>	Alan Eames	£2.00
<b>Sea Shanties</b>	John Gardner	Free
<b>Shakespeare</b>	Nicky Neill	£3.00
<b>Short Mat Bowls 1</b>	F & S Copestake	£3.00
<b>Short Mat Bowls 2</b>	Muriel Barnett	£3.00
<b>Short River Walks</b>	Judy Smith	Free
<b>Singing for Pleasure</b>	Cath Cox	£2.00
<b>Skittles 1</b>	Mary Greenwood	Free
<b>Skittles 2</b>	Sue Beneke	Free
<b>Skittles 3, June to Sept</b>	Ken Pearce	Free

<b>Social Saunters</b>	Richard Hunt	Free
<b>Spanish Beginners</b>	David Keeling	Varies
<b>Spanish Intermediate</b>	Leighton Jones	Varies
<b>Table Tennis</b>	Gary Hewitt	£3.00
<b>Tai Chi</b>	Derek Arnold	£5.00
<b>Tai Chi 2</b>	Derek Arnold	Varies
<b>Urban Sketchers</b>	Mike Bagshaw	Free
<b>Village Ambles &amp; Camera</b>	Sheila Ryder	£1.00
<b>Village Strolls 1</b>	Terry Woodfield	£1.00
<b>Village Strolls 2</b>	Sandra Woodfield	£1.00
<b>Village Strolls 3</b>	G & J Cutter	£1.00
<b>Walks Over 4 Miles</b>	J Alexander-Head	£1.00
<b>Walks Under 4 Miles 1</b>	Ruth Webb	£1.00
<b>Walks Under 4 Miles 2</b>	Hazel Marshall	£1.00
<b>Website Editors</b>	Alun Edwards	Free
<b>Welsh Language</b>	David Daniels	Varies
<b>Wine Tasting</b>	Grahame Percival	£7.50
<b>Yoga 2</b>	Lyn Heaney	Varies
<b>Yoga 3</b>	Lesley Clarke	Varies

**Website**

<https://evesham.u3asite.uk>

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**Members only**

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