



Village in Winter

Newsletter Issue 91 March 2025

Registered Charity Number 1101530

Committee Members

Chair, Open Day & Data Protection	Ros Gowers	
Vice Chair & Safeguarding & Accessibility Officer	Tony Powell	
Secretary, Beacon Administrator & Charity Commission Liaison	Alan Chambers	
Membership Secretary & Assistant Treasurer	Helen Hutt	
Treasurer	Diane Nicholls	email from website
Groups Liaison	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	Ros Gowers & Alan Chambers	
Shared Learning Project	Chris Wolstencroft	
Welfare Officer	Joyce Davey	
All Group Coordinators	see the Group List for contact details	
Membership Enquiries	contact a Committee member by email	

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

Contents			
Welcome	3	Special Requests	11
Notes from the Committee	4	Group News	12 – 15
Tribute to Sue	6	Group Timetable	16 – 17
Monthly Meetings	8	Group News continued	18 – 28
Cotswold Link	10	Group List	29 – 31

Welcome...



...to the March 2025 Newsletter. The nights are getting lighter and Spring is on its way.

The 'Notes from the Committee' on pages 4 and 5 give us some impressive numbers about our u3a – 93 interest groups are available to 1129 members! Looking back to the first issue of the Newsletter, published on 1 March 2002, a few months after Evesham & District u3a was formed in late 2001, the membership was 200 and the 'steering committee' consisted of five members – four female and one male. Our current Committee has seven members and it is no surprise that they are appealing for more volunteers to join them, when comparing membership numbers past and present! A date to note in this context is our AGM on 4 June 2025, where a quorum of 10% of the membership is required. So let's fill Evesham Methodist Church for 2.00 pm on that day!

Further along, Cotswold Link are offering a 'Special Interest Day', all about music, on 12 June – see page 10 for details. There is much more to discover, both sad and cheerful, so please dive in and explore it for yourself. Enjoy!

The deadline for the June issue is **Thursday 1 May 2025**.

Bärbel Wolstencroft

The art work on the front cover is by Brenda Kendry. For more from the 'Painting for Pleasure' group please see page 20.

Notes from the Committee

February 2025



It was very encouraging to see such a good turnout at the recent Group Leaders' Meetings, with 85 of our 93 (!) groups represented by 60 people. Topics covered included the role of the Committee and the future of our u3a, risk assessments, finance and banking, membership records

and the role & title of the group 'leader'. Group representatives also added their ideas, including adding emergency contact numbers to Beacon and having experienced Group Leaders to mentor in new groups or groups where there is reluctance to take on the Group Leader role. Immediate feedback was that the meetings were useful and bear repeating for information sharing purposes.

These meetings are part of the Committee's plan to improve communication across our u3a, and to ensure all members get the opportunity to contribute to its future development. To this end, your representatives have been asked to consult with you on some of the information we shared and to provide feedback to us on your opinions. We hope this will be an effective way of getting as much feedback as possible from our ever-growing membership, currently at 1129, which is a real testament to the hard work done by those willing to lead and support groups. We look forward to hearing what you have to say and hope to repeat these consultation meetings, possibly every six months.

We were all saddened to hear of the recent death of Sue Beneke, a long serving member of Evesham u3a, who has always played a leading role in the organisation and will be much missed. This also prompted us to remind you that, if someone connected to the u3a is unwell, or sadly dies, our Welfare Officer, Joyce Davey, is available to send cards from us all. If you feel the Committee needs to be aware too, please do contact one of us directly.

Our AGM this year, will be on Wednesday 4 June 2025, with a fall-back position of a reconvened meeting the following week if we do not meet quorum. Please get the date into your diaries and do please consider standing for the Committee. We were heartened to receive four potential offers of help at the Group Leaders' Meetings but are always open to more, even if they are only tentative at this point. There is always the opportunity to observe a meeting or two before you commit and any current Committee member will be pleased to discuss options with you.



Images supplied by Ros Gowers. Page 4 – Leaders' Meeting on Tuesday 11 February; page 5 – Leaders' Meeting on Thursday 13 February.

Sue Beneke



u3a has lost Sue Beneke, after a long battle with cancer. It is a colossal loss. Sue was always ready to help with anything and shunned the idea that she should be helped in return.

Her most obvious achievement was organising u3a trips, with about 200 people on her list. Most people organising trips have trouble filling one coach – Sue needed two, sometimes three, and on one memorable occasion, four. She couldn't turn anyone away, so if a coach was full, she hired another and spread people out a bit. There were always optional extras to give something for everyone while keeping it cheap. A miracle of organisation! As always, she wanted no help with this, but ran it all herself.

As if that wasn't enough, as well as running Skittles and helping other groups get off the ground, she started the very popular Brunch Bunch on Sundays. She went to one in Australia when visiting her children there, and decided to start one for Evesham u3a. The only problem was finding breakfast venues big enough to accommodate all her members. That group, thankfully, continues.

Outside u3a too, she was ever available to others. She gave people lifts everywhere, delivered parcels, took library books to a housebound friend, and so on and so on. She was an archetypal good friend, a very warm person, brimming with life, seeming indomitable always. And now she's gone.

She lives on strongly in people's memories. One abiding memory, not terribly long ago, is her sitting cross-legged on the floor, doing jigsaws at a coffee table. Amazing that she stayed supple enough to do this, and how did she find the time? So hard to take in that she will do no more.

With great sadness, it's 'Good Night, Sue' – we will miss you and think of you often.

Caroline Bagshaw

The Evesham u3a Committee thank Caroline for her very personal and moving tribute to Sue – a long standing and devoted member of our u3a. Sue passed away at the beginning of January. We recognise and share the sense of loss that many people will feel at Sue's passing and wish to acknowledge all the hard work and effort Sue made to our organisation over very many years. Complying with Sue's wishes, there was no funeral. At the February monthly meeting, £280 of donations were received from our members for St Richard's Hospice.

Jan and Ben, Sue Beneke's children, have kindly written their own words for us in memory of their mother

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our mum, Sue Beneke. We know she was a much-loved and active member of the Evesham u3a community. She derived such joy from participating in many u3a groups over the years. From card making to skittles, yoga, and even sea shanties, she dived in and gave it a go. But what gave her the most joy was organising countless memorable outings and ensuring that everyone who wanted to go found a space on her buses.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the love and care shown to mum during her battle with cancer. Her warmth, kindness and vibrant energy touched many lives, and we are sure she will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

In keeping with mum's wishes, she had a private cremation. Those who wish to honour her memory are invited to do so by making a donation to St. Richard's Hospice, where Sue spent her final days.

<https://www.strichards.org.uk/make-a-one-off-donation/>

Monthly Meetings

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

5 March 2025

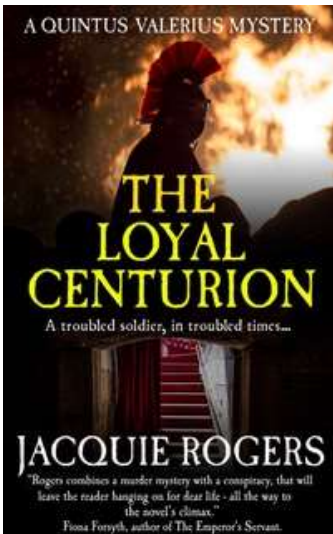
Al Loomes – Ageing and the Senses

Al Loomes is a locally based PhD student at Birmingham University. His talk 'Ageing and the Senses' will be a summary of his PhD research into tactile, auditory, and visual perception in ageing.

Refreshments – Exploring Language

2 April 2025

Jacque Rogers – The Quintus Valerius Novels, an illustrated talk



Jacque Rogers is a local best-selling author who writes mystery novels based in Roman Britain. Jacquie will introduce her Quintus Valerius series, discussing the real historical events which inspired each of



her four books, and touch on the research challenges experienced. A case study for her third published book, *The Loyal Centurion*, includes logistics, multiple field trips to York, Vindolanda in a ferocious heatwave, and on to Scotland in midwinter, as well as surprises and

an unexpected character dilemma. She will go on to talk about her latest book, *The Bath Curse*, and describe one typical example of a research

problem. If time allows, she will discuss how she structures and writes her historical mystery thrillers after the research.

Refreshments – Family Research

7 May 2025

Linda Mather – Murder Mysteries set in the Midlands and Cotswolds



Linda is an author and has lived in Worcestershire for nearly twenty years. She has always written, creating stories on an old typewriter as a teenager and being the arts editor for her University Newspaper. She gave up her job to become a full time author of crime fiction, and has created the Jo and Macy Mystery Series, set in the Cotswolds and the West Midlands.

Source: www.bromsgrovewords.com Image: www.amazon.co.uk

Refreshments – French Conversation

4 June 2025

Ray Hawkes – Les' Story

This is the story of a man from humble beginnings who, like many young men, enlists at the start of World War 2 and becomes involved with famous people and notorious events of the war. Ray is a u3a member and part of the Family History Group.

The talk is preceded by our AGM

Refreshments – German

Cotswold Link

Special Interest Day 2025



The Cotswold Link, a network for local u3as, encompassing the areas of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, and Worcestershire, are holding their annual Special Interest Day at The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, Cheltenham on **12 June 2025**. The fee of £32 includes access to all lectures, car parking, refreshments and lunch. Advance tickets only. **The deadline for all bookings is 1 May 2025.**

The subject topic for this year is:

The Influence of Music on our Society and Culture

Four presenters will talk on a variety of topics, illustrating how music has been absorbed into our everyday lives.

Edward Elgar – His Life, Compositions, and Influence on Today’s World – Speaker, Wendy Hill

Baroque on a Roll! – Speaker, Tony Rawlins

Nowt So Queer As Folk – Speaker, Alan Tumber

Brian Jones, Founder of ‘The Rolling Stones’ and ‘His Ignominious End’ – Speaker, Chris Hucker

Find full details and a booking form online at
<https://cotswold-link.u3asite.uk/for-members/>

Drummer Sought



'Vinyl Chapter' is an Evesham u3a five-piece band with keyboard, bass, lead and rhythm guitars. Our musical tastes include rock, blues and pop and we cover songs of artists such as The Eagles, Eric Clapton, Fleetwood Mac, Bryan Ferry, Free, The Beatles, Dire Straits. Sadly, after almost ten years, our current drummer is having to step down.

The band gets together two or three times a month, usually on a Thursday morning, but we are also members of the Jam Session group which meets at Crophorne Village Hall every 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month. We are looking for a drummer with some experience, and an ability to help out with vocals would be welcome. If this is of interest to you or anyone you know, please contact Grahame Percival on 07860 872448.

Image from www.clipground.com

ExtraCare Charitable Trust

invite you to their Health & Wellbeing Event at Yates Court
on 25 March 2025 from 11.30 am to 1.00 pm.

Evesham u3a will be represented among the many
support providers in the local community.

The event is FREE and open to the public.

There will be free Blood Pressure checks on offer on the day!

Plus free tea, coffee and cake.

Yates Court, 95/97 High Street, Evesham, WR11 4DN

Group News

❖ Change of group name

The **Modelling Group** have voted to change their name to **Model Railways**. The new name reflects the interests of existing members and, as a bonus, doesn't conjure up images of slim models on a catwalk!

Whilst we remain open to all types of model making, our focus will be on model railways. The model railway world covers a wide area of interests: a large range of scales and gauges as well as 200 years of railway history from which to choose a favourite era. Our interests span from collecting to scratch building and everything in between. We meet to talk trains, swap knowledge, eat biscuits and, occasionally, play trains.

Currently we meet on the first and third Tuesday afternoons of each month but we are open to suggestions for other times.

John Gowers

❖ Quiz

This time we are asking – how is your knowledge of nature?

1. Which creature is called 'ermine' in its winter coat?
2. Which bird has the scientific name *Troglodytes troglodytes*?
3. How many petals does a wild orchid have?
4. What are the names for male and female swans?

5. What type of animal was the extinct quagga?
6. By which name is the plant *Atropa belladonna* better known?
7. Which creatures could be described as lupine?
8. What are cane, midwife and natterjack?
9. What are the five NATIVE British trees that only have three letters in their name?
10. Into whose garden did Peter Rabbit sneak?

Please see page 28 for the answers.

❖ Birdwatching



For our final meeting of 2024 we spent the day at the RSPB reserve of Otmoor in Oxfordshire. The flat open country gave us views of egrets, geese, and raptors, including red kites and marsh harriers, as well as some distant roe

deer. From a hide we were able to view yellowhammer, linnet and reed bunting, and, for some, a water rail. At the reed bed lakes were wildfowl such as shoveler, wigeon and teal and it was



there we waited until dark for Otmoor's famed starling roost. We watched as up to seventy thousand came to settle in the reeds and as well as the sight, the noise of that many birds was incredible.

This year we are visiting birding sites as varied as WWT Steart Marshes in Somerset, Avon Meadows, Pershore and RSPB Newport Wetlands.

Images: Reed Bunting by Steve Cockbill; Roe Deer by Geoff Bryant

❖ Natural History



The Natural History group meets once a month from April to November. There is a lovely little local nature reserve at Beckford we visited to finish off the year. As you might expect, there were autumn fungi to be found, but also plants in flower and the occasional insect. There is a lake at Beckford that holds mute swans, little grebes, and ducks, such as gadwall. Being

close to Bredon Hill, there were also birds of prey, particularly buzzards and red kites.

Among our first meetings of this year are trips to the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust reserve of Hill Court Farm and The Blacklands in the south west of the county as well as the National Nature Reserve of Cricklade North Meadow in Wiltshire, famed for its display of snakeshead fritillaries.



Quiz, Birdwatching and Natural History by John Boon

Images: Fungus by Richard Hunt; Mute Swan by B Wolstencroft. See further photo on page 31.

❖ Country Dancing



Country Dancing has a very special place for me amongst the u3a groups I am lucky enough to belong to since retirement. It is warm and welcoming, and not only gives us some exercise, but keeps us thinking and literally on our toes, as we run through the dances, many of which are new! We are also lucky enough to have live bands playing lovely music and the expert help of either Graham or Malcolm, our callers, to guide us.

The dances vary in origin and period and may be a simple warm up dance like 'Good Morning' or a more complicated one involving a 'ladies chain', or 'strip the willow', but we happily attempt them, with allowances made for those who prefer not to gallop or swing.

We meet on the first and third Friday mornings of the month at Hampton Scout Hut, and generally have a fairly full Hall of enthusiastic and friendly dancers. Feel free to email the leaders Phil and Brenda Morton through the website if you are interested. Many of our members arrive singly and finding a partner is rarely a problem, with people sitting out a dance for a well-deserved rest, enabling others to swap in.



The refreshments at half-time give us an opportunity for a lovely catch up with the other dancers.

Images by Phil Morton. See page 28 for more photos.

Rosy Bennington

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 etc Welsh Language	Welsh Language
Mon pm	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
Tue am	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
Tue pm	Card Games Creative Writing 1 Latin Reading Model Railways	Exploring Language Jam Session Patchwork & Quilting 1 Pétanque	Archaeology/Heritage Card Games Latin Reading Model Railways
Wed am	Skittles 1, Oct - May Table Tennis Tai Chi	French Conversation Painting for Pleasure Skittles 2, Oct - May Skittles 3, June - Sept Tai Chi 2	Skittles 1, Oct - May Table Tennis Tai Chi
Wed pm	Monthly Meeting 2 pm Methodist Church Yoga 3 (term time)	Latin 3 Sea Shanties Yoga 3 (term time)	Philosophy Yoga 3 (term time)
Thu am	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)
Thu pm	Croquet Modern Greek 1 Dressmaking	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 Pickleball	Computers & Digital Italian; Military History Modern Greek 2 Pickleball Play Reading	Book Friends Classic Cinema Country Dancing Modern Greek 2 Pickleball
Fri pm	Badminton 2 Bridge Family Research	Badminton 2 Board Games Bridge	Badminton 2 Bridge 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 etc Village Ambles 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="text-align: center;">Group leaders can be contacted by email from the group's webpage.</p>	Mon am
Badminton 1 Concert Band Mah-jong & Rummikub Spanish Beginners	Badminton 1 Concert Band Mah-jong & Rummikub		Mon pm
Golf for Fun Photography 1 Spanish Intermediate Village Strolls 2	Urban Sketchers Spanish Intermediate		Tue am
Jam Session Patchwork & Quilting 1 Pétanque Quiz Group			Tue pm
French Conversation Painting for Pleasure Skittles 2, Oct – May Skittles 3, June – Sept Tai Chi 2	Military History Table Tennis		Wed am
Latin 3 Sea Shanties Yoga 3 (term time)	Poetry Yoga 3 (term time)		Wed pm
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)		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 Pickleball	Modern Greek 2 Pickleball Science & Engineering		Fri am
Badminton 2 Board Games Bridge	Badminton 2 Bridge		Fri pm
	Brunch Bunch		Sun am

❖ Modern Greek 1 & 2

Both Modern Greek groups are flourishing. Members are enjoying their weekly meetings and learning what they can. Every year, we arrange a visit to a Greek restaurant to savour some delicious Greek cuisine. The photo shows us all at the 'Greek on the Docks' restaurant in Gloucester in January this year. The food and ambience were perfect and enjoyed by all of us. The only reason we left was because our parking time limit was up! It felt very much like being in a Greek taverna!



There is room in both groups for more members. So if you would like to learn some Greek to speak on your holidays or for any other reason, please get in touch with me.

Mike Fraser

❖ Poetry

The u3a Evesham Poetry Group kicked off the New Year with a well-attended meeting – last Wednesday of each month, except December, from 1.30 to 3.30 at Wallace House, Oat Street, Evesham. The theme was 'winter' and we warmed to the weather with a good mix of poems, self-penned or ski-lifted from the internet or books (yes, print still refuses to die quietly) and, as often happens, when things go well, one poem leads on to another in a way one could not possibly script. There was the usual cut and thrust of repartee and an equal number of female and male participants, which helps. It was apparent, that we had missed the camaraderie and were glad to be back after the December furlough!

In February the theme was 'growing up' and March sees us 'looking over downlands', which should be a challenge to our search engines and other tools for recall and remembering. April allows us 'the joy of walking' and May promises 'disappearing acts'.

The group is healthy just now but new members with fresh faces and personal takes on poetry are welcome to give us a try. Live dangerously and allow poetry to stimulate the brain and warm the heart, sharing the sad, the reflective, the joyous and the excuse to laugh out loud.

Richard Taylor

❖ Concert Group

What a Season we are having! This has certainly been an exceptional year for us, and we are not done yet! At the time of writing, we are looking forward to a rare opportunity for us to experience a visit from one of the truly great British orchestras at the end of March – the Royal Philharmonic, under the baton of a conducting international superstar Vasily Petrenko.

And then we come to our 'Season Finale with Sheku'. I know! I know! Here we go again with the superlatives, but honestly – Sheku Kanneh-Mason playing the Elgar Cello Concerto and then the 'big finish' with the CBSO playing the heart-rending Tchaikovsky Fifth Symphony? Superb doesn't do it justice! And bookings for this one are still open.

And would you believe it? By then, around the 19th June, we should be in a position to publish our programme for the 2025/2026 Season. Oh my goodness, talk about 'treats in store'!

Hardly surprising then, that we now regularly take two coachloads to Symphony Hall for every concert with over 100 of our group members each time. But there is always room for more – we would love to have your company. So come on, folks! Do come and join us! If you love great music

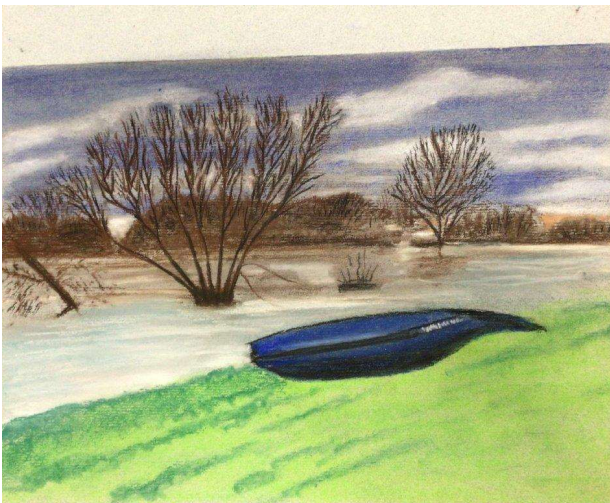
played 'live' by top professional musicians, we are here to provide that experience for you. It is hassle-free from Morrisons in Evesham into Birmingham and back. And all at ridiculously competitive prices, usually just under £40 which includes your concert ticket, your luxury coach travel, and even the coach driver's tip – so nothing more to pay!

If you've got any questions, do please contact David – but, equally importantly, we would love to have you on our mailing list. Ready when you are!

David Daniels

❖ Painting for Pleasure

We started the year by tackling the challenging subject of 'Winter Trees', taking much of our inspiration from the delightful watercolours of Roland Hilder and Edward Wesson. We used the topic to consider the importance of focal points and texture in painting and drawing.



The topic for February will be 'Work'; a very broad subject which we are looking forward to interpreting in a variety of ways – desk-bound, outdoor or factory based, modern or pre-industrial. As we are carrying out our ideas we will consider how to portray movement, rhythm and gesture. In March we will look at 'Shape and Form' as we

study Still Life. In April the topic is 'Trees in Spring', using acrylics.

We are always keen to welcome new members, so if you are interested in painting and drawing, please contact Marjorie Arthurs from the group's webpage.

Mary Simpson

Images submitted by Mary Simpson: River Scene by Laura Hillman; Driftwood by Amanda Palmer



❖ Archaeology & Heritage



November turned out to be a busy month for the group. Saturday 2 November found a few of us attending a talk by Alan Godfrey, courtesy of the Alcester 'Local History Festival'. Alan provided us with an insight into 'Roman Alcester' which was informative, entertaining and comprehensive. The town owes much to its Roman origins and due to excavations and research over the years, substantial evidence of the Roman settlement has been uncovered. Our next event again took place in Alcester, courtesy of Alcester Centurions, when we were given a comprehensive talk by Aidan Smyth,

Archaeology and Planning Advisor at Wychavon District Council. Aidan is also currently the archaeological curator for Worcester City, Wychavon and

Malvern Hills District. We were provided with an update on the archaeological excavations at the Milestone Ground at Broadway as well as a potted history of Aiden's involvement in archaeology on his 'patch' of Worcestershire. A great deal of information was provided within the time of the lecture. It was an excellent event!

Our final outing for November, attended by a few group members, was the Worcestershire Archaeology Day held at 'The Hive' in Worcester. This is an annual event, covering reports of updates on archaeological excavations and finds from the county. There were eight talks in all, covering an Iron Age and Saxon Excavation, the Archaeology of Worcester in 20 Digs, Willow Court Farm in Droitwich through to a report on excavations at Worcester Cathedral. A very full day indeed. Our final meeting for the year was a social event at Orto Lounge in December. We reviewed our activities for 2024 and discussed our programme for 2025. Our programme for this year has over twenty events on offer – a busy year in prospect, offering something of interest for everyone.



On 21 January, our first event of the year, we visited Broadway Museum & Art Gallery. The museum is housed in a 17th century building and covers King Edgar's kingdom in the 10th century, Broadway's prominence in the medieval wool industry, the coaching industry of the 17th – 19th centuries and much more. We were warmly welcomed with an introductory talk as well as tea, coffee and cake – something that students of archaeology thrive on! The museum is well worth a visit and further information can be found at <https://www.broadwaymuseum.org.uk/>

Images: finds from Milestone Ground at Broadway by B Wolstencroft

Chris Wolstencroft

❖ Military History

In February, we celebrated our first anniversary as a group and our membership continues to grow in numbers. We have an exciting programme of talks set up for the rest of this year, combining both internal and external speakers. The topics we are covering in the next



few months include 'Great Liners at War', the 'Battle of the Atlantic', 'Churchill as Commander in Chief' and the 'Battle of Trafalgar with Lord Nelson & Emma Hamilton'. We are also investigating the possibility of visits to battlefields and museums. So, there is a lot to look forward to throughout the year ahead. We are open to new members joining our group, so please get in touch if you have an interest in Military History.

Neil Hoy

Image credit: https://commons.m.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:INF3-127_War_Effort_Under_the_Red_Duster_they_sustain_our_Island_Fortress.jpg

❖ Science & Engineering

We continue to meet at the excellent facilities of the Baptist Church on Offenham Road. A major boon is the large free parking area. We cover anything connected with science and technology. Our group members provide most of the presentations and we have covered Geological Prehistory, Coal, and 'The Devil's Element' – find out what this is, a little challenge to you!

Derek gave a fascinating presentation about the Tokamak Fusion Reactor which may, if it works, be the answer to all our energy needs and with no pollution. We visited the EnviroSort Unit at Norton, Worcester, where Jenny,

who presented the talk, told us exactly what you may and may not put in the green bin. It is more complicated than you think and we learned about various types of plastic and paper which qualify or can mess up the system. We could also view the process, including the weird and wonderful items that some people think may be recyclable – certainly not dead snakes!

As a follow-up, we intended to visit the EnviRecover Incinerator at Hartlebury but, as luck would have it, this event was snowed off. We are now visiting this facility in March. Future speakers will tell us about the conflict – if any – between Science and Religion and the ‘Vital resource of the Soil’ and how we damage it or build over it to our eventual cost. We will talk at length about anything at all!

Alan Eames

❖ German

A foreign language – you either love it or hate it! Thinking back to our school years, the thought of learning a foreign language turned some of us into a spin, never to face it ever again. Everybody speaks English anyway, I don't need it and certainly not German. Luckily, there have always been exceptions and those have now been meeting for years in four enthusiastic groups. We get together on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month.

Thank you Reg Pritchard! You lead the Beginners Group with great skill and all love you!

Celebrating and having fun is the operative word when we get together, but of course we also immerse ourselves in the vagaries and interesting history of the German language and its country. We celebrated our traditional German Christmas Party in January, because dates clashed in December and members enjoyed meeting up with like-minded people in the dullest month of the year.

This year, the 2025 calendar celebrates historical events going back 1700 years – the end of the Second World War, the liberation of Auschwitz

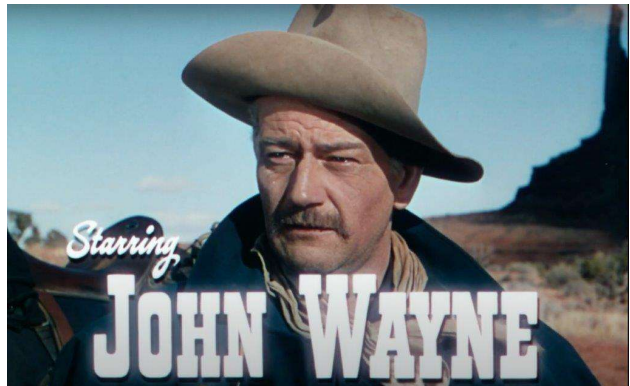
Concentration Camp, the atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and many more historical and literary events, as well as musicians, writers, painters and religious episodes throughout the centuries, to name but a few. We have our work cut out for the foreseeable future, discussing interesting subjects – and all that in German! Thank you to all members who participate with great enthusiasm!

Sophie Dodds

❖ Classic Cinema

Pat wore a Yellow Ribbon

Recently, Pat Ansell stepped down as group leader after many years of guiding Classic Cinema through challenging times. Since 2010, Pat has been central to Classic Cinema. She took over from Nick Mason and has steered us through



epidemics, floods, and spiralling costs like a cigar-chomping movie impresario. Being the 'intermediary' between the group and the Methodist Church meant she had her finger on the pulse for dates, came up with suggestions for films, and made sure we stayed on budget. None of us expected there to be a movie starring Pat's beloved John Wayne that we had not seen at Classic Cinema – but she found one! In February, Pat introduced 'She Wore a Yellow Ribbon' (1949, John Ford). It was great for us to share this experience, watching it together on a large screen and discussing it during our tea break.

We all want to thank Pat. She had her likes and dislikes and left us in no doubt about how she felt, but that did not stop her from presenting films she had no genuine enthusiasm for or getting someone else to so that all our tastes were covered. Pat's introductions were often funny with her forthright opinions or when she forgot her reading glasses! Until recent times, she kept us well supplied with coffee and biscuits or mince pies at Christmas until Olga kindly took over. Pat has always been reliable and unruffled when things were looking to be heading towards an occasional disaster. All round a hard act to follow, but we will try under the new group direction provided by Ally Edwards. Thanks, Pat!

Image credit: She Wore a Yellow Ribbon trailer, Public Domain

When did you last visit the cinema?

Classic Cinema meets at 10.15 am every 1st and 3rd Friday morning in the basement of Evesham Methodist Church.

Future screenings

As we move into a new programme, starting after Easter, we are going to kick off with a group discussion in April to talk about some ideas we have for Classic Cinema:

Tell us about a film you recommend we watch

We want everyone to answer the following question in the discussion: 'What films should we watch and why?'

Silver Screen

We have an idea to follow the excellent example of u3a's Concert Group. When was the last time you went to the cinema? For a grown-up movie, not to take the grandkids out for the afternoon. Why not join us for a Silver Screen movie at 'The Regal'? Please contact Ally, our new group leader, via the website.

Classic Cinema – our programme

- 7 March – **A United Kingdom** (2016, UK, 111 mins, Amma Asante)
- 21 March – **Frost/Nixon** (2008, US, 117 mins, Ron Howard)
- 4 April – Short movies TBC, **plus discussions** before the group returns on 2 May



In **A United Kingdom** David Oyelowo and Rosamund Pike pay homage to Prince Seretse Khama of Bechuanaland, who falls in love with a British woman, Ruth Williams.

Betty Ballard, Ally Edwards and Phil Logan

Image credit: from the official 'A United Kingdom' Facebook page

More joy from Country Dancing!



Images by Phil Morton

Answers to the Quiz on pages 12 & 13

1. Stoat
2. Wren
3. Three
4. Cob and Pen
5. Zebra
6. Deadly Nightshade
7. Wolves
8. Toads
9. Oak, Ash, Elm, Box and Yew
10. Mr McGregor

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	£3-£4
Badminton 2	Teresa Green	£4.00
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	Liz Rodway	£2.00
Brunch Bunch	C & J Anderson	Brunch
Card Games	Victoria Nelson	Buy drink
China: The Country	David Ralph	£3.00
Classic Cinema	Ally Edwards	£4.00
Computers & Digital Media	John Scotland	£3.00
Concert Band (playing)	Peter Scott	£2.00
Concert Group	David Daniels	Varies
Country Dancing	B & P Morton	£4.00
Creative Writing 1 & 2	Sue Johnson	Buy drink
Croquet	Paul Griffin	£5.00
Cycling for Pleasure	Chris Davis	Free
Dressmaking	Denise Bailey	Varies
Exploring Language	Caroline Bagshaw	£4.00
Family Research	Diane Nicholls	£2.50
French Conversation	Lorna Slaughter	Free
German (3 groups)	Sophie Dodds	£2.00
Golf for Fun	David Bentley	Green fee
Italian (post-beginners)	Sue Jerrard	Varies
Jam Session	Bob Davies	£2.00
Latin 1	Caroline Bagshaw	£4.00
Latin 2	Caroline Bagshaw	50 p
Latin 3, Beginners	David Battin	£4.00

Latin Reading	David Battin	Free
Listening to Music	Frances Platman	£1.00
Mah-jong	Carla Auger	£2.50
Military History	Neil Hoy	£3.00
Model Railways	John Gowers	Varies
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	Marjorie Arthurs	£3.00
Patchwork & Quilting 1	Fran Battin	£2.00
Patchwork & Quilting 2	Linda Dunbar	£2.00
Patchwork & Quilting 3	Katy Watson	Buy drink
Pétanque	Paul Griffin	£1.00
Philosophy	Mike Bagshaw	£4.00
Photography 1	Mike Tittensor	£3.00
Photography 2	Sandra Woodfield	£2.00
Pickleball	Andrew Rowles	£5.00
Play Reading	Margaret Fuller	£3.00
Poetry	Richard Taylor	£4.00
Questions of Belief&Doubt	Jane Couper	Free
Quiz	John Boon	£2.00
Rummikub	Carla Auger	£2.50
Science & Engineering	Alan Eames	£2.00
Sea Shanties	John Gardner	Free
Shakespeare	Nicky Neill	£3.00
Short Mat Bowls 1	F & S Copestake	£3.00
Short Mat Bowls 2	Muriel Barnett	£3.00
Short River Walks	Judy Smith	Free
Singing for Pleasure	Cath Cox	£2.00
Skittles 1, Oct - May	Mary Greenwood	Free
Skittles 2, Oct - May	C & J Anderson	Free
Skittles 3, June to Sept	Ken Pearce	Free
Social Saunters	Richard Hunt	Free
Spanish Beginners	David Keeling	Varies
Spanish Intermediate	Leighton Jones	Varies

Table Tennis	Gary Hewitt	£3.00
Tai Chi	Derek Arnold	£5.00
Tai Chi 2	Derek Arnold	Varies
Urban Sketchers	Mike Bagshaw	Free
Village Ambles & Camera	Sheila Ryder	£1.00
Village Strolls 1	Terry Woodfield	£1.00
Village Strolls 2	Sandra Woodfield	£1.00
Village Strolls 3	G & J Cutter	£1.00
Walks Over 4 Miles	J Alexander-Head	£1.00
Walks Under 4 Miles 1	Ruth Webb	£1.00
Walks Under 4 Miles 2	Hazel Marshall	£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



Natural History – Beckford Nature Reserve by Richard Hunt

Website

<https://evesham.u3asite.uk>

Facebook

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

Members only

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

Public Group