



Green-veined White Butterfly

Newsletter Issue 92 – June 2025

Registered Charity Number 1101530

Committee Members

Chair, Open Day & Data Protection	Ros Gowers	
Temporary Vice Chair	Catherine Cox	
Secretary,	Alan Chambers	
Charity Commission Liaison & Beacon Administrator		
Membership Secretary	Helen Hutt	
Treasurer	Diane Nicholls	email from website
Assistant Treasurer	TBC	
Groups Liaison	Amarjit Marwaha	email from website
Programme Secretary	Lorna Slaughter	email from website
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	

The above can be reached by email from the website Contact page

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

Welcome



The month of June not only leads us into Summer, it is also an important month for our u3a, as we come together at the **AGM on 4 June** to vote for a new Committee. In her detailed report on page 4, Ros, our current Chair, looks back on the past year and projects the vision for the next twelve months. With currently 1143 members, the

10% required for a quorum is 115 members present – we rose to this challenge last year and I am sure we can do it again!

See pages 7 and 8 for opportunities to join groups and activities further afield. You may just find what you are looking for within the Cotswold Link or even in the u3a West Midlands Region.

On **20 June**, the **Classic Cinema** group have arranged a showing of the film **North By Northwest** at **The Regal** and are extending an invitation to all members to join them. For full information please see pages 29–30. They also discussed u3a values after one of their more challenging films recently and share these on pages 30–31.

Enjoy the news and reports from the groups and don't miss the opportunity to train the 'little grey cells' with the Quiz on page 20.

And last not least – the deadline for the September issue is on **Friday 1 August 2025**.

Bärbel Wolstencroft

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The photo on the front cover is by Kevin Williams. For more from the 'Natural History' group please see page 21.

Evesham u3a AGM – 4 June 2025

Chair's Report



Those of you who attended the 2024 AGM will remember that it was not me who was intending to be chair this year. However, when the post became unexpectedly vacant a short time later, as Vice Chair and the longest serving Committee member, it fell to me to take on the role, which I have done ever since and am standing for re-election to this time.

Over the course of this year, the u3a has seen significant changes nationally with the adoption of a new constitution and structure and the election of both a new Board and a new Council, together with new officers in many of the roles. As your Committee, we have contributed to the discussions about these changes and voted in every election and are now taking part in discussions with the new West Midlands Regional Representatives to ascertain how they can support us locally to develop what we offer here in Evesham.

The Evesham Committee has had another busy year – we have seen our membership continue to grow, currently at 1143, and the number of groups that operate under our banner has grown to 91. Sadly, we have also seen a few groups unable to continue because no Group Leader stepped forward when someone retired. But we hope to be able to address this in future with the creation of a small team of Group Leader Mentors – experienced Group Leaders who have agreed to offer support to other groups where there is a Leader vacancy, where the group is new or where the group wishes to change focus. We are delighted to have had six Mentors offer their time and experience in this way and hope it will prove a successful way forward.

The Committee has focussed on some key priorities during the year: firstly, to reassess our governance procedures, especially around finance, to ensure they meet expected standards from both the Third Age Trust (TAT) and the Charity Commission. Secondly, to improve communication and transparency between Committee and membership and, thirdly, to mount a recruitment drive to bring more people onto the Committee and to create a proper succession plan so that we are not left again, as we were this year, with most of our key roles being held by people without previous experience. I will explain our progress in each of these areas.

Diane, our Treasurer, is better placed to explain in greater detail how the new system of financial management is going. The decision to change the timing of our financial year start from 1 November to 1 April, with its bonus of an additional five months' free membership for existing members, was taken after last year's renewal process helped us identify gaps in our recording and ways in which we did not meet the requirements as laid down by TAT. Diane and, her then assistant, Helen worked very long hours to address these problems and to create a system which we believe does now meet all our legal requirements. The Committee owes them both a huge debt of gratitude for their work on this.

Alongside of financial matters, through the hard work of our Vice Chair, Tony Powell, we have reviewed and improved our management of u3a policies and processes to ensure we keep all relevant mandatory policies up to date and monitored for effectiveness. Work to improve our application process is ongoing and we aim to have online applications available soon. Payment processes have also been updated with most members now being able to pay online via the PayPal system or via a BACS payment, considerably reducing the time needed to process payments and manage banking transactions. All this work goes to making our branch 'fit for the future' alongside the main u3a structure.

As part of our aim to improve communication with members, we have agreed to post Committee agendas and minutes on the u3a website, where any of you can see what we have been discussing and deciding. We are happy to receive feedback on anything in those

minutes or to take items for future agendas. We have also issued a standing invitation to any member who wishes to observe a Committee meeting. This year we held our first Group Leaders' Meeting with another due in September – that meeting will decide whether future meetings should be annually or six monthly. The aim of these meetings is to ensure that Group Leaders have a forum to which they can bring any concerns, share ideas or raise issues and that we, in turn, can ensure that any committee decisions are properly explained and discussed. We were delighted with the turn out for the first meeting and hope this is a good sign that Group Leaders share our wish for better dialogue.

For most of this year, the Committee has functioned with just seven members, which is simply nowhere near enough for us to share out the work we do equitably, with several Committee members holding more than one required role. In addition, there is little room for supporting people to develop their skills, ready to take on any of the four officer positions which are required for us to continue to function as a u3a. In an ideal world, for a u3a of our size, we should have twelve Committee members, with people acting as assistants to the Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Secretary in preparation for taking over that role in the future.

Our recruitment drive has been partially successful with three new members standing for election today, one of whom is willing to be Assistant Treasurer. However, this has been offset by the regretful losses of both Tony Powell, who is moving away from Evesham, and Amarjit Marwaha, who has resigned for family reasons. So, we are still only a Committee of eight and the search for new members goes on! I hope that there are some of you here today, who would consider joining us, and would recommend that you perhaps have a chat with the people standing for the first time this year who can probably best explain what brought them to make this decision. We still urgently need an Assistant Membership Secretary, but also want to express our thanks to Ally Edwards who has agreed to take on the role of Beacon Administrator as a non-Committee member, which will free up a lot of our Secretary Alan's precious time.

Finally I would like to add some additional 'Thank You's' from us all – firstly to Graham Smith for continuing to serve us ably as our Committee Minutes Secretary and making sense of the many lengthy and complex discussions that take place, to Bärbel Wolstencroft for her wonderful work keeping the Newsletter going, to Ally Edwards and Frances Kilburn for supporting our online presence so professionally, which none of us would have the expertise or time to do, to those who manage the Monthly Meetings (especially the tech!) and those who help out every year to organise and run our annual Open Day, to all Group Leaders who keep this show on the road, to our new Group Leader Mentors, and last, but absolutely not least, all my fellow Committee Members, past, present and future, without whom my sanity would have suffered very badly in the months gone by. Volunteering is what the u3a is built on and without people who give willingly of their time and expertise none of what this excellent branch has achieved would have been possible. So, thank you all!

Ros Gowers

Cotswold u3a Link

Droitwich Spa would like to start a group for **Motorcycle Rides** and **Cheltenham** have a group for **Genetic Genealogy** as well as an invitation to join their **American Square Dance** group. Check out the website page:

<https://cotswold-link.u3asite.uk/reciprocal-arrangements/>

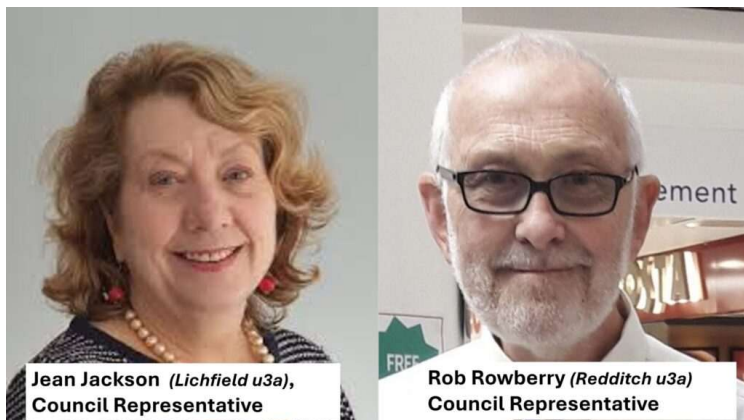
In the interests of sharing and perpetuating the aims of the u3a movement, Cotswold Link has a reciprocal agreement between its member u3as. Any member of a Link u3a may attend one group activity in another Link u3a, without having to become a member of that other u3a.

<https://cotswold-link.u3asite.uk/>

u3a West Midlands Region

**Covering Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire
and Worcestershire**

Jean Jackson (Lichfield u3a) and Rob Rowberry (Redditch u3a) are
our new Council Representatives



**Jean Jackson (Lichfield u3a),
Council Representative**

**Rob Rowberry (Redditch u3a)
Council Representative**

Read more about what is going on in our Region on the website <https://westmidlands.u3asite.uk/news/> where you can also find the current Newsletter via the 'News' tab.

Remembering John Halford

John Halford, who was well known to many of us through his u3a activities, passed away suddenly on 22 March aged 80. He joined our Evesham u3a almost immediately after it started as member number 283. A keen Rambler, he joined and later became Leader of the 'Walks over 4 Miles' group for a number of years. Also a keen short mat bowler, he started and ran two Short Mat Bowls groups in Norton and Lenchwick Village Hall.

During 2010 – 2012 John served on our committee as Membership Secretary and used his membership spreadsheet to produce the 21 sheets of Avery Address Labels for David Way's newsletters. Conscious of the cost of stamps for the newsletter, he persuaded our Treasurer, Paul Griffin, to purchase a two year supply of stamps ahead of the big price rise from 32p to 36p (and now 85p). Furthermore, he instigated, together with John Goodwin, a system of over 20 volunteer postmen and postwomen to distribute the newsletters in their local areas and thus considerably cut the cost of sending out the newsletters. The Covid outbreak unfortunately brought this scheme to a close.

In 2010, our committee obtained a £10,000 'Awards for All' grant and John obtained part of that grant to purchase two short mat bowls mats which he kept in his garage and carted round to Norton and Lenchwick Village Hall for his Short Mat Bowls sessions.

In recent years a less than successful knee operation ended his rambling activities and, sadly, after a long illness, his wife Christine died in October 2023. He leaves behind his two daughters Jo and Liz. As John had chosen direct cremation there was no funeral service.

For those of us who knew him, he will always be remembered for his endless jokes and his collection of fedora hats.

Anyone wishing to make a donation should do so to the Camden Home Nurses who provided John with so much help and support during Christine's illness. Details are on their website

<https://www.camdenhomenursing.org/our-details/>

John Scotland

With thanks to all those who helped piece together the above information.



Events take place throughout the year and are always characterized by a warm welcome and informality. For all Festival details and the full brochure visit:

www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org

Sue Ablett, Festival Chair, can be contacted for more information or with queries at info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org or by phoning 0787 1285606

Monthly Meetings

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.

Refreshments–German

The talk is preceded by our AGM

2 July 2025

Galen Bartholomew - Mohandas K Gandhi - 'Seditious Middle Temple Lawyer' or 'The Most Enlightened of all Political Men'?



Views on Gandhi are varied, and far from universally positive. To Churchill, Gandhi was a seditious anti-colonialist, while to Einstein he was a truly great human being. His passionate adherence to 'satyagraha', non-violent resistance, led to India's independence from British rule in 1947, and inspired movements for civil rights and freedom all over the world.

Gandhi learnt from his own life and mistakes. He called his autobiography 'The Story of My Experiments with Truth'. How did his experiences training as a lawyer in London and as an early and leading civil rights activist in South Africa forge Gandhi into the powerful force

that led India to independence? What price did his wife and family pay? How have his theories stood the test of time?

In this talk, Galen Bartholomew will attempt to examine these issues and to suggest how this painfully shy man became a prophetic voice for the twenty-first century, whose views transcend race, religion and nation.

Refreshments – Golf for Fun

Image: Gandhi outside 10 Downing Street in 1931

There will be no Monthly Meeting in August

3 September 2025

Caroline Casterton – Mercy Ships UK – their Mission

Now retired from the NHS in Wales and England, Caroline is a speaker and a volunteer from both a medical and administrative perspective for Mercy Ships UK, a non-governmental charitable organisation. There are currently two ships in the fleet, 'Global Mercy' and 'Africa Mercy.'



Tragically, every year 17 million people die from conditions that surgery could have prevented. Mercy Ships use their dedicated hospital ships to deliver free world class health care where it is needed most. Mercy Ships change thousands of lives every year, working to

tackle the surgery crisis in underdeveloped countries. They reduce the strain on fragile healthcare systems by performing many life-saving and changing surgeries, they train and mentor local healthcare professionals to equip them with the skills they need and they renovate local facilities and donate new medical equipment to them.

Mercy Ships partner with each of the countries they visit, working collaboratively with that nation's government and Ministry of Health to identify patients' needs for surgery in advance of the ships' arrival and, importantly, they provide training for local staff. They also provide ongoing support after the ships leave. For further information please visit the website www.mercyships.org.uk

Refreshments – Italian

Classic Cinema are visiting The Regal on 20 June 2025

We would like to invite all Evesham u3a members to join us for the screening of **North By Northwest**. Please see pages 29–30 for details about the film. To book please contact Ally via our website: https://evesham.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/classic-cinema/

Group News

🎵 Concert Group

How time flies! Yes, with a mixture of ‘Sorry it’s all over’ and ‘Come on, guys! Where’s the new season’s programme?’ we are certainly looking both backwards and forwards. Backwards to our memories of some absolutely great concerts during our 2024/2025 season – but of course forwards, as we wait impatiently for Symphony Hall to publish their own new season programme from which the Concert Group Team will be selecting the six or so concerts to take us through to June 2026.

So what have been the highlights of this season? I guess our members might choose different favourite memories, but what a start in September with the mighty Beethoven Symphony 9 (Choral), and then a fabulous afternoon of Spanish inspired music in October, with a rare opportunity to hear Milos Karadaglic – possibly the greatest of the current classical guitarists – playing Rodrigo’s famous Concierto de Aranjuez. And later, an amazing performance of the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto by James Ehnes with the CBSO in February.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to our Season Finale in June, with Sheku Kanneh-Mason playing, almost surely, his ‘trademark’ – the Cello Concerto by Edward Elgar. Oh our dear Evesham u3a non-Concert Group members, what treats you have

missed! But all is not lost! Our new season beckons, and for sure we have many more such treats in store. And there is plenty of room for you on our mailing list!

We can't tell you yet what will be on offer – but as soon as the programme has been settled, all the details will be on the website. We expect that five of the six concerts will be given by the CBSO under their vibrant music director, recently voted Conductor of the Year, Kazuki Yamada, and we'll be planning to include one visiting orchestra – this year it was the celebrated Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. A treat indeed!

We would love to share these wonderful musical experiences with you – so why not sign up to the mailing list? It commits you to nothing, other than receiving information about our plans. You may also have picked up that we have now launched what we are calling the **Concert Reserve List** for any Evesham u3a members who don't wish to sign up as full members of our group, but who might be interested in joining us if there is a late cancellation for any of our concerts. If you would like to join the Concert Reserve List, please let David know, and any other questions can, of course, be raised with him too.

David Daniels

Welsh Language

The Welsh Language Group is continuing to flourish, with each of us proceeding at our own pace with our personal online learning systems, from beginners to quite competent Welsh speakers. We have had to make some changes, owing to our tutor, Neil, having to deal with other priorities so that, for the moment, our Monday morning Zoom sessions with him have been suspended. Neil is keen to resume those as soon as he is able, and we look forward to that. We are so very grateful to him for his help and support.

However, we are continuing with our Friday morning 'Coffee and Chats' sessions at Clive's of Crophorne, and if you would be interested in finding out a bit more about the group, this would be a

great place to start, in a very informal atmosphere. Each week, we have a large 'Reserved' table and we meet for just an hour, starting at 10.00 am. You would be very welcome to come and meet us, and see how it all works. Sarah, Jo and the catering team there will be more than happy to point you in our direction.

There are many reasons why our members have joined the group. Figuring largely is the existence of Welsh-learning grandchildren living in Wales. But some of us are just doing it for the good of our souls, keeping our brains active, and enjoying to find out how this strange 'living British language' actually works. After all, it's nice to go into a coffee shop in, let's say, Aberystwyth and order a pot of tea in Welsh!

So if you have ever thought of widening your horizon, for whatever reason, we can offer you a sympathetic and understanding group of friends to give you support and encouragement as we pursue our various online Welsh language learning systems. **Diolch yn fawr iawn** (Thank you very much) for listening. Do get in touch with David Daniels for more information.

Sea Shanties

Our usual venue is the Red Lion in Evesham where we get together for Sea Shanties and fun on the second and fourth Wednesday afternoons of each month.

We first experienced performing away from our normal venue on 13 November 2024, when we sang for the residents of Ferry View care home. This was followed by a concert to the residents of Cherry Orchard House in Pershore on 26 February 2025. On 28 May we entertained the residents of a care home in Broadway.

The photo on the next page shows the group performing outside in brilliant spring sunshine for the residents of Bewdley Court in Evesham on 9 April.

Neil Berry



Image supplied by Neil Berry

● Village Ambles – with or without a Camera

We meet monthly from March to November at 10.00 am, for a leisurely wander around a pretty village or town, taking in the historic architecture, village centre, church and any notable buildings along the way. From about midday, we enjoy a convivial pre-ordered lunch together. Our biggest challenge is finding a suitable village with a pub or cafe, which is open on a Monday lunchtime!

We have a few vacancies for new members this summer, who would be made very welcome, with or without a camera – taking photos is not obligatory, but friendly conversation is! Please contact Sheila Ryder if you would like to know more details.

Sheila Ryder



Images: Top left - Weather Vane in Shipston-on-Stour by Alan Cook; top right - the river Stour in Shipston by Jonathan Vale; bottom centre - a recycled letterbox for the bereaved to send messages to their loved ones, in a small memorial garden in Shipston by Rosalind Sharp

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 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-Elementary 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 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 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 Village Ambles 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>Group leaders can be contacted by email from the group's webpage.</p>	Mon am
Badminton 1 Concert Band Mah-jong/Rummikub Spanish-Elementary	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 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 (currently suspended)		Fri am
Badminton 2 Board Games Bridge	Badminton 2 Bridge		Fri pm
	Brunch Bunch	Sun am	

🟦 Quiz

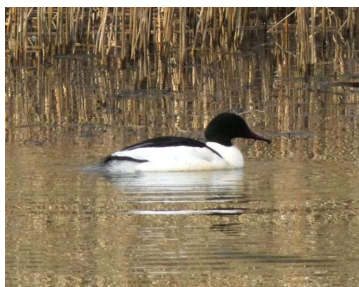
This month the quiz theme is 'Raining Cats and Dogs'.

1. Who wrote Cat on a Hot Tin Roof?
2. What is the name of Bill Sykes' dog in Oliver Twist?
3. Who voiced Puss in Boots in the Shrek films?
4. Who wrote 'One Hundred and One Dalmatians'?
5. Which Bond villain was portrayed stroking a white cat?
6. What is the name of Martin's dog in Frazier?
7. Who wrote the 'Cat in the Hat'?
8. What is the correct name for the Dog Star?
9. What is the name of the panther in Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book?
10. Which breed of dog was Best in Show at Crufts 2025?

Please see page 32 for the answers.

🟦 Birdwatching

This year, we have held meetings in the Forest of Dean and at Frampton upon Severn, Gloucestershire, and were fortunate with the weather at both locations. At Parkend we had excellent views of the usually elusive Hawfinch and also Dipper, whilst at Cannop Ponds there were both Goosanders and Mandarin ducks, as well as a pair of



handsome Bullfinches. In March, we enjoyed a relaxed three mile walk around the lakes at Frampton seeing Sand Martins, one of the earliest spring migrants. There were also Blackcaps and lots of Chiffchaffs singing. We saw a variety of geese and ducks on the lakes.

Image: Goosander by Geoff Bryant

● Natural History



After our winter break, we chose to start the year at Tiddesley Wood. As we entered the wood, we were greeted by the song of Blackcaps, Wren, Chiffchaffs and the sight of spring flowers which included Primroses, Lesser Celandine and Bluebells. It had been a chilly start, but as the temperatures rose, the insects began to appear. There

were Orange-tip, Brimstone and Green-veined White butterflies, a Dark Edge Bee-fly and hoverflies too, whilst the highlight for many of us was the sighting of two Treecreepers, tricky to find at the best of times. It was an encouraging start to the year.



Quiz, Birdwatching and Natural History by John Boon

Images: Wood Anemone by Kevin Williams; Hoverfly Eristalis Tenax by Bob Woodroffe

● Military History



The Military History Group goes from strength to strength, with now 24 regular members attending our talks at Crophorne Village Hall on the last Wednesday of the month. For the first half of 2025, we have had a varied selection of subjects from the Zulu Wars of the 1870's, to the introduction of the tank in World War 1, to the Battle of the Atlantic and the role of the Great Liners in wars. The second half of the year will again provide talks of a varied nature. These future talks will include the WW1

war poets, Thomas Fairfax and his role in the English Civil War, the Development of Armour in World War 2, D-Day and the Battle for Normandy amongst other subjects. In May, we also held our first group visit to the Glosters Museum where we had a behind the scene tour of the museum by one of the curators. Future visits are being planned. If you are interested in joining our dynamic group then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Neil Hoy

Image: 'Thomas Fairfax' attributed to Francis Engleheart (1775–1849, after Edward Bower, died 1667), 1808. National Portrait Gallery, London [NPGD27098], public domain via Wikimedia Commons

● Jam Session

Vinyl Chapter, Evesham u3a's very own rock band, will be playing at the Fladbury Walkabout on Saturday 5 July from 12:00 till 2:00 pm. We usually play in the marquee in front of 'The Anchor' pub. With a bit of luck, the weather will be better than it has been over recent

years. If you regularly visit Fladbury for the walkabout, why not come along on the Saturday around lunchtime and give us your support. We will, as usual, be playing songs from our youth, mostly 60s, 70s and 80s. We look forward to seeing you!

Although everything is sorted for the July gig, we are still looking for a drummer. If you think you could fit the bill, or know somebody who can, please give me a call on 07860 872448 or send me a message.

Grahame Percival



Image: a performance at the 'Yorkshire Grey', Earls Croome, just outside Upton on Severn, in February by Christine Farrell

● Exploring Language

Exploring Language does what it says – it explores language, any language we can find out about, but mostly English. We have a basic framework of going through the alphabet, finding individual words, phrases and topics which interest, intrigue or amuse us. We have reached the letter M, which offers rich pickings: metaphors, malapropisms and mondegreens, mixed metaphors and mispronunciations, all of which have been great fun to explore.

For the letter L we looked at language, in particular other languages which have words with no exact English translation, such as 'komorebi', a Japanese word which beautifully describes the sunlight

that filters through the leaves of the trees. The letter K brought us kangaroo words, those which have a synonym hidden within, like 'diminutive', which contains the words 'minute' and 'mini', or 'charisma', which holds the word 'charm'.

We look at the origin and history of each letter on which we are focusing, and along the way, dip our toes into Latin and Greek, from which many of our English words originate. We have briefly strayed into poetry and the letter P, when we found a poem about pedants, and we sometimes challenge our brains further with word quizzes. There is no shortage of topics to think about and share.

For anyone who has a love of, or fascination with, words and language, we now have room in the group for one or two more to join us. To get in touch, go to our u3a webpage.

Katie Batchelor, Group Member

● Archaeology & Heritage

2025 is proving to be a bumper year for our group, with over 22 events, trips and talks on offer. We opened February with an excellent talk by the Worcester Cathedral Archaeologist, Fiona Keith-Lewis, on the 'Hidden Secrets of Worcester Cathedral', courtesy of the South Worcestershire Archaeology Group (SWAG). Fiona provided us with a comprehensive account of the current archaeological excavations taking place in and around the Cathedral and its precinct, including a report on recent finds.



This talk was followed by a visit to the Cathedral on 18 February, when we were treated to a guided tour packed with information on the history and archaeology of the building. Many hidden gems were discovered.

The next day, courtesy of the Alcester Centurions, one member of our group attended a talk on Roman food, reporting back: *'I went along to Susan Juned's talk on Roman food today in Alcester. It was a very interesting talk and I was surprised to discover that fruit like apples, pears and plums, which I thought were British through and through, were actually introduced by the Romans'*.

On 19 March we met up in Alcester again for a talk by Matthew Morris from the University of Leicester: 'Richard 111 – the King underneath the car park'. Matthew recounted in detail how Richard's remains were found, together with the historical background research that led to this amazing discovery.

We had three events on offer for April. The first was a talk on the History of Pershore, courtesy of SWAG. The second was a joint event with the South East Worcestershire group of the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust (WWT). This took the form of a midweek ramble to the New Farm Nature Reserve at Norton, led by the author, and was of both archaeological and wildlife interest. The archaeological connection related to the 'Roots in Time' project undertaken in 2022, when excavations found evidence of both Iron Age and Roman occupation.



The final event for April with the Alcester Centurions provided us with an excellent lecture by Nick Daffern entitled 'Dating from a Boring specialist'. All was not as it appeared from the title! Nick gave us an insight into various methods of archaeological investigation, in particular the use of borehole technology. This was a technical lecture in a humorous and understandable format.

Chris Wolstencroft

Images: page 24 – View of Worcester Cathedral Tower through an engraved window in the cloister by B Wolstencroft; p 25 – Bulbous Buttercup at New Farm Nature Reserve by Bob Woodroffe

● Poetry

The Poetry Group continues to thrive. Mr President across the water concedes that some creatives get a rush out of painting, music or poetry (thanks for the concession, Donald) while he gets his kicks out of turning tricks in the art of the deal. The poet Percy Bysshe Shelley in a notorious example of special pleading has poets as the unacknowledged legislators of the world. The Greek philosopher Plato on the other hand banned them from the Republic.

In our group, we take such troubles on the chin and swap poetry and anecdotes in a good natured fashion, knowing we have no influence in the wider world as we strive to keep our own house in order. April's theme was 'Joy of Walking', in May we had 'Disappearing Acts' (watch this space), while planning to return with 'Bridges' in June.

If you would like to join us and sample the rarefied air of poetry in Evesham, we meet on the last Wednesday of the month (except December) 1.30-3.30 pm upstairs at Wallace House, Oat Street (opposite the Library), offering stimulus, a warm welcome and sometimes even biscuits.

Richard Taylor

● Country Dancing



'Dancing is the art of getting your feet out of the way faster than your partner can step on them.'

Apart from breaks for public and summer holidays, we dance from 10 to 12 o'clock on the first, third and occasional fifth Friday of the

month at Hampton Guide and Scout Hall to live music with direction from experienced callers. We engage the services of a number of local musicians. On one Friday last term a new trio of musicians, two of whom had played for us before but not together, provided the music. They spent time between tunes and at the mid-morning break trying to decide on a name for themselves.

In dancing, we manage most of the basic country and square dance moves, but still have some difficulty with heys and figures of eight. Our callers seem determined that we should master them someday, but nobody is too concerned if we get things wrong every now and then.

This is a very popular group with members travelling some distance to join us. It has become so popular, that a decision has had to be made to treat the group as full and to create a waiting list. This was done with some regret, but we do have to take into account safety issues when too many people turn up. If you would like more information, please email Phil and Brenda Morton from the webpage.

P.S. Period costume is not required and we don't have too many bruised toes.

Graham Smith

Image credit: Rolandson-longways-dance-caricature-1790s, copyright free from Wikimedia Commons

Creative Writing

The Creative Writing groups will now be meeting downstairs at **Café Mews, Vine Mews, Evesham**. This is the café previously known as Jellypicklejam. There are two groups, both meeting on the **first Tuesday** of the month:

Group 1	2.00 – 3.30	Group 2	10.30 – 12.00
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If anyone is interested in joining us, please let me know.

Sue Johnson

● Latin Groups

The first u3a Latin group started with total beginners. Despite, or maybe because of, a playful approach, we have learnt a great deal. It would be difficult for total beginners to catch up now. It could be done by working through our text book, *Minimus*, which features cartoons about a mouse who lives in Vindolanda with an Ancient Roman family and a cat. Relations are strained between cat and mouse, but they are friends really.

Our Thursday group has completed *Minimus* and progressed to *Minimus Secundus*. In the current chapter, the soldiers have been ordered to have a bonfire.

"Cur hoc facimus?" "Nescio"

"Why are we doing this?" "I don't know"

Rufus flammas spectat. Ad rogam appropinquat. "Rufe! Noli tangere! Huc veni!"

Rufus watches the flames. He approaches the bonfire. *"Rufus! Don't touch! Come here!"*

Our Tuesday group has completed *Minimus Secundus* and moved on to the Cambridge series. This is not as erudite as the name 'Cambridge' implies, although more formal and thorough than *Minimus*. It has the same basic approach with pictures, texts, worksheets and pages in English about Roman culture. The current chapter introduces the Ancient Roman characters whose stories we will follow.

Pictor ad villam venit. Ianuam pulsat. Canis audit et latrat.

The artist goes to the house. He knocks at the door. The dog hears and barks.

Quintus ad inuam venit. Ianuam aperit. Pictor Quintum salutatur et villam intrat.

Quintus comes to the door. He opens the door. The artist greets Quintus and enters the house.

The above extracts show the level we are working at. Both groups are suitable for people with rusty Latin that they would like to refresh. Beginners would need to swot up the earlier stages.

If you are interested in studying Latin in a fun and unpressured way, please get in touch via the webpage or phone or text to 07401 037093.

Caroline Bagshaw

🎬 Classic Cinema

Classic Cinema meets in the basement of Evesham Methodist Church at 10.15 am every 1st and 3rd Friday morning. As a special event, we have arranged with **The Regal** to show **North By Northwest** there on **Friday 20 June**.



Coming to a screen near you:

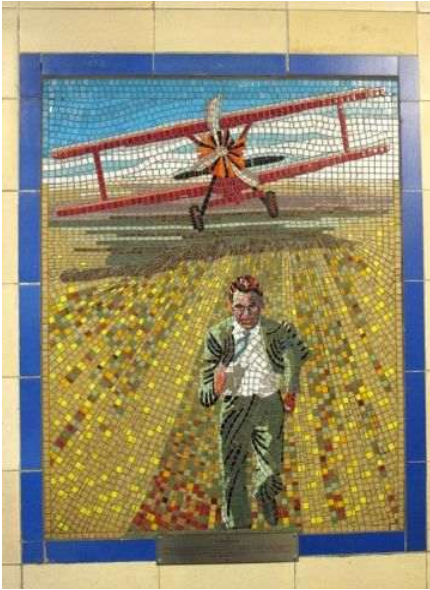
- **6 June–Le Havre** (2011, 93 mins, France/Finland, dir. Aki Kaurismäki)
- **20 June–North by Northwest AT THE REGAL** (1959, 136 mins US, dir. Alfred Hitchcock)
- **4 July–The Queen** (2006, 103 mins, UK/France/Italy, dir. Stephen Frears)
- **18 July–The Seven Year Itch** (1955, 105 mins, US, dir. Billy Wilder)

Please let Ally know if you want to book **North by Northwest** on **Friday 20 June** at **The Regal** by contacting him via our website:

https://evesham.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/classic-cinema/

Image: Le Havre poster at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival, via Wikipedia

North By Northwest



In this 1959 classic from Alfred Hitchcock an advertising executive, played by Cary Grant, goes on the run after being mistaken for a government agent by foreign spies, and falls for a woman (Eva Marie Saint) whose loyalties he begins to doubt.

Sir Alfred Hitchcock could not get permission to film inside the UN, so footage was made of the exterior of the building, using a hidden camera from across the street. When Cary Grant gets to the top of the stairs at the entrance, a man about to walk down does a double take upon seeing the movie star!

Hitchcock was born in 1899 in Leytonstone, Essex, where this mosaic of an iconic scene from *North by Northwest* (1959) is exhibited in the tube station. Image credit: Mike Quinn / Hitchcock Gallery shared by CC BY-SA 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons.

An Advert for u3a Values

We watch classic, modern and older, and sometimes challenging films. In April, we saw **I Think They Call Him John** (1964) made by the Documentary Film Movement, for a short period probably the most experimental film unit in Europe. In the 1930s, hired on short term contracts, artists such as W.H. Auden, Benjamin Britten and Laurie Lee helped to produce creative films such as 'Coalface' (1935) and 'Night Mail' (1936) using a combination of poetry and music. After the War the film units made sponsored promotional films across British industry, government and for social organisations such as charities. What was created was the 'social documentary' that looked at many aspects of British Life.

I Think They Call Him John (1964)

This is a social documentary made by John Krish in 1964. He wrote the script and directed it. He worked for a whole series of different sponsoring organisations. Given a brief by a sponsor, Krish often re-interpreted it to strengthen the impact of the film on the audience. Think back to the 1960s and you see an optimistic period. Post-war economic growth, new housing, increasing affluence, a 'baby boom' and the rise of youth culture - 'swinging London'! However, Krish felt strongly that the emphasis on youth and the future was leading to a neglect of the elderly. What about those who had been born in the late Victorian and Edwardian era? Hence the title.



The film was shot over two weekends in the high rise flat of John Ronson. Krish wanted the audience to feel what it was like to be elderly and alone. He wanted people to feel guilty about John's situation.

This is an example of slow cinema. The pace is deliberately slow, 26 minutes of slowness. We often dissolve between scenes to emphasize the passage of time. On a typical Sunday, not much happens in John's life, as we observe him in his daily routine and a commentary tells us about his life. But what we learn goes much

deeper – it is about a life of service, personal fortitude and dignity. It was a challenging watch for us together on a large screen. Discussing it at the tea break and afterwards we were struck at how it resonates still today. And how the u3a could contribute to the life of a widower, or anyone, to enjoy laughing, learning and living.

Image: I Think They Call Him John (1964), Samaritan Films via 'Tom's Watch', Wikimedia Commons

Phil Logan and Ally Edwards

German

It is very encouraging to see the progress made by members of the four different German groups. At our twice monthly meetings, the contributions from our members show that they enjoy the get-together, find it interesting and have fun. Every member participates by writing or talking about a pre-prescribed topic, which is open to discussion or can just be listened to. Listening to a foreign language is the first step to learning it.

That is when ideas start to flow amongst the members and this creates interesting conversations. Every session is different – always fun, providing curiosity, wanting to learn more and giving relevance to finding out new things about a different nation, culture and philosophy.

Languages are ongoing, they are never-ending and the more people participate and exchange ideas the better it gets. That is what we do!!!

If you have the desire to discover something new and resurrect the German language you learnt many moons ago, then get in touch with:

Sophie Dodds

Answers to the Quiz on page 20

1. Tennessee Williams 2. Bull's-eye 3. Antonio Banderas 4. Dodie Smith
5. Ernst Blofeld 6. Eddie 7. Dr Seuss 8. Sirius 9. Bagheera
10. Whippet

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)	Denise Tandy	£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/Rummikub	Carla Auger	£3.00
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/Mah-jong	Carla Auger	£3.00
Science & Engineering	currently	
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-Elementary	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



How many of us knew that the bridge over the River Stour was so beautiful, when viewed from the river bank? Image by Alan Cook, Village Ambles

Website

<https://evesham.u3asite.uk>

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Public Group