



Winter Walkers on Cleeve Hill

Committee Members

Chair & Safeguarding Officer	Ros Gowers	
Vice Chair	Catherine Cox	
Treasurer	Diane Nicholls	email from website
Assistant Treasurer	Claire Henderson	
Secretary & Charity Commission Liaison	Alan Chambers	
Membership Secretary	Helen Hutt	
Groups Coordinator	vacant	email from website
Programme Coordinator	Lorna Slaughter	email from website
Accessibility Officer	David Daniels	email from website

Non-Committee Volunteers

Minute Secretary	Graham Smith	email from website
Website Manager, Beacon Administrator & Third Age Trust Volunteer	Alun Edwards	
Website Team	Frances Kilburn	email from website
Technical Support	David Williams, Alun Edwards, A Chambers	
Newsletter Editor	Bärbel Wolstencroft	
Cotswold Link	Ros Gowers & Alan Chambers	
Shared Learning Project	Chris Wolstencroft	
Welfare Officer	Joyce Davey	
Group Mentors & 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...



...to the final Newsletter for 2025. Thoughts are slowly turning towards Christmas and our last Monthly Meeting on 3 December has been handed over to the 'Singing for Pleasure' group for a concert. **Online joining is here!** Read about this achievement of our committee's hard work on page 5.

Don't miss the chance to explore the 'Best link since sliced bread' on page 7! It could be most useful to your group. Beware of the final Quiz of the year on page 13 – overthinking is not recommended for this one. Many thanks to Group Leaders who keep us informed of the varied and interesting activities going on in our u3a by putting fingers to keyboard and sending me their contributions – always on time, which is really appreciated. Finally, the deadline for the March 2026 Newsletter is on Sunday 1 February.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Bärbel Wolstencroft

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The photo on the front cover was taken by Mary Alexander-Head and shows the 'Walks over 4 miles' group at the trig point on Cleeve Hill. For more from this group please see page 24.

Notes from the Committee



As we all prepare for the busy Christmas season, your committee has been reflecting on some of the many recent and planned changes we have experienced in our time in office, which have, we hope, helped us to be more in touch with what members are looking for from our u3a.

Our latest Group Leaders' meetings were very successful, and several suggestions made there will be followed through during the rest of this year. After the next Open Day on 17 February 2026, we will be consulting with the GLs again about arrangements going forward to find a date and time of year that seems best suited to everyone's needs. We were delighted that the GLs opted to continue these sessions six-monthly and look forward to the next date in Spring 2026.

Our membership continues to increase – now over 1200 – which is really pleasing, but brings other questions to the fore, such as how do we ensure that there are opportunities for new people to join interest groups that appeal to them when those groups are already full? Leading up to Open Day, the committee will be reviewing how many groups have waiting lists and discussing with our Group Mentors how we might facilitate new groups or support existing groups to expand a little to meet demand.

After Open Day, we hope to initiate the first New Members Meeting since before the pandemic. If this goes well, we will set them up quarterly and encourage existing members to play a role in welcoming our new attendees.

We are about to enter our 'five months free membership' period, apparently the only u3a group in the Midlands area that has ever done this and a sign that our Treasury Team have done a great job of

managing our finances. Renewal letters will start to go out in early February 2026 and this will then herald three months of frenetic activity for Claire, Diane and Helen as they manage the huge increase in work this brings, so please bear this in mind and treat them kindly during this time!

There is no committee meeting in December, as the third Monday in the month is just too near to Christmas to be practical. Minutes of all recent meetings are available on the website for members to read and meetings take place now at the easily accessible Rowing Club. Observers are always welcome.

In the meantime – we hope everyone has an enjoyable and as stress-free as possible time over the festive season and we look forward to another successful year in 2026.

Ros Gowers

Online joining is here!

After a considerable amount of work, your committee is finally able to announce that new members can now join Evesham u3a online.

The 'Come and Join u3a' page on our website has been updated, with links to the new membership agreement page and application form. Once the form has been filled in, potential members are taken directly to the payment page, where they can use a credit or debit card or their own PayPal account.



If you are encouraging someone to join Evesham u3a, please tell them that online application is our preferred option. It is quick, accurate and will save the Membership Secretary and Treasurer a lot of time. However, if they are only able to pay by bank transfer or cheque*, they can simply contact the Membership Secretary

(membership.eveshamu3a@gmail.com or 07935 698137) for a paper application form and our bank details.

And just a note to all existing members that the next renewal date is 1 April 2026; reminders will be sent out in February.

*Each cheque we cash now costs almost £1 in bank charges, so we would much prefer to avoid this method of payment if at all possible.

Helen Hutt, Membership Secretary

News from further afield

Save the Date



After the success of Festival 24, u3a national are delighted to announce that **Festival 26** will be taking place between Wednesday 1 July and Friday 3 July 2026 at the University of York.

As plans for this wonderful event are underway, volunteer activity leaders, crafters, speakers, musicians, sports enthusiasts and stewards are encouraged to come forward to help build a rich and engaging programme. If you would like to volunteer at the u3a Festival 26, please get in touch via festival@u3a.org.uk

It is expected that bookings for accommodation and tickets will be open from late autumn 2025. To receive u3a Festival updates, please sign up to our u3a 'Friends' Newsletter' and tick the box. Check it out at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/festival-2026>

Best link since sliced bread?

Cotswold Link – within this group of u3as you could find the activity you are looking for if it is not available locally. Moving to another part of the country? Joining u3a in your new locality could really help with settling in and meeting new friends quickly. Or just curious what other u3as have to offer, find ideas for new activities and read their Newsletters? You can explore all this and more at

<https://oversights.u3asite.uk/>

Oversights is designed to provide an overview of the activities of u3as in the UK, based on the contents of their websites. It currently holds records for over 700 sites plus over 300 records for other u3a sites. Oversight also holds details of the groups and future events publicised on the u3a Siteworks sites. It would, for example, be very useful if someone wanted to organise a Bridge or Badminton tournament, look for walk ideas in another area or find suggestions on using a different golf course. Easy to use, brilliant!

Frances Kilburn, Website Team

u3a West Midlands Region

Covering Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire

Jean Jackson, our current Council Representative, is standing down from the Regional Committee in April 2026 and, next February, elections for two Regional Council posts for the West Midlands will take place. Jean is offering to share her views about what it is like and invites anybody interested to contact her.

There are two face-to-face Council meetings per year, the rest are online, and most communications with u3as is online. However, Jean visits many u3as personally to really find out how they operate and what people think. A Council Representative, as the name suggests,

represents members' views, and gets something done about them. The u3a takes a while to change or progress things but Council Representatives are confident they will get there in the end. To do that properly, they need to listen to u3as and work with them.

Interested? Please contact Jean directly for more information on the role of a Council Representative. Email jean.jackson@u3a.org.uk or call her on 07310 183428.

Do you use a mobility scooter or are you likely to need one soon?

Then you may be interested in having a **Safer Mobility Pack**, produced as part of The Safer Mobility Campaign which was launched in 2024 in response to an alarming 20% rise in collision-related claims that were handled by the insurance company Surewise.



The free pack contains a mobility scooter safety guide with crucial information on The Highway Code, training ideas and things to consider when purchasing a scooter. The pack also contains a bundle of reflective stickers, designed to help improve visibility and safety when using roads or pavements. If you would like a pack, please contact Helen Hutt, Membership Secretary, or for more information on the campaign, take a look at this website:

www.surewise.com/safer-mobility

Monthly Meetings

The venue for Monthly Meetings is Evesham Methodist Church, starting at 2 pm.

3 December 2025

Our Singing for Pleasure Group perform their spectacular concert



Our very own Evesham u3a choir will entertain us with their repertoire of songs to close our monthly meetings for 2025.

Refreshments – Latin 3 & Latin Reading

Image supplied by Cath Cox

A reminder that there will be no talk in January 2026. Monthly meetings will resume on Wednesday 4 February 2026

4 February 2026

Freddy Naftel - Great Film Music from the Golden Age of Hollywood and beyond



Freddy will present a slide show featuring great soundtracks from the silver screen, with stills from related movies and amusing informative anecdotes about the actors and films in question. Expect to hear famous scores from Ben Hur, Murder on the Orient Express, To Kill a Mockingbird, The Great Escape, Whistle down the Wind plus lesser known feature films. Composers include Malcolm Arnold, Elmer Bernstein, Erich Korngold, Miklos Rozsa and John Williams amongst others.

Refreshments – Listening to Music

4 March 2026

Lara Platman - Scotland - Harris Tweed and Whisky

Lara first trained as a photographer and then as a journalist. She is now a Leica Camera Ambassador, a Getty Images contributor and a Guild of Motoring Writers member. She has published books where she combines her skills of photography and journalism to document her passion for areas of culture that are considered to be endangered and where processes are unique.



Lara spent nine months on the Isle of Harris, researching the production of Harris Tweed, and later returned to work on a publication about the distillery of Scottish Whisky. Be sure to bring with you any items of Harris Tweed that you own!

Refreshments – Mah-jong/Rummikub

Group News

● Village Ambles with a Camera – new beginnings

The final Amble for 2025 was on Monday 27 October in the village of Snowhill. I moved away from the Evesham area during autumn and have left the organisation of group activities in the capable hands of Christine Harvey as new group leader.



The Village Ambles group will recommence meetings on a different day next year, to avoid the difficulties of finding pubs that open on Mondays.

With effect from 23 March 2026, the first meeting in the new year, Village Ambles with a Camera will take place on the third Wednesday morning of the month. New Members

will be most welcome, so please contact Chris Harvey to find out further details.

We share the responsibility of leading Village Ambles with members volunteering to guide the group around a village or small town of their choice. This is followed by a pre-booked lunch in a local pub or cafe.

We have visited some beautiful locations over the years and together we have enjoyed some delicious and convivial lunches afterwards. I would like to thank the members for their



friendship and those who have volunteered to lead for introducing me to some really lovely villages, which I would never have discovered otherwise.

Sheila Ryder

Images on page 11 by Sheila Ryder: top - Village Amblers at Elmley Castle Church in September; bottom - Amarjit and Sam discussing the remarkable sundial in the churchyard.

● Military History

The Military History Group has enjoyed a fantastic year, with membership growing to a healthy 25 regular attendees — though there is always room for a few more! Over the past year, members have enjoyed a fascinating programme of talks covering a wide range of topics, from Churchill's role as War Commander to the Zulu Wars, the WW1 Poets, and Thomas Fairfax's leadership during the English Civil War. Our members are a friendly, enthusiastic and knowledgeable group who make every presentation lively and engaging.



This year also saw us branching out with group visits, including a guided tour of the Glosters Museum and a trip to RAF Defford at Croome. Building on this success, we are planning more visits of historical interest in the coming year. The 2026 programme is already shaping up to be an exciting one, with

presentations on the Korean War, tours of Northern Ireland during the Troubles, and an exploration of the Home Guard.

We meet once a month at Cropthorne Village Hall on the last Wednesday of the month from 10.30am to 12.30pm. If you would like to find out more about what we do, we warmly invite you to come along – new faces are always welcome.

Neil Hoy

Images on page 12 by Ally Edwards: Volunteers of the Defford Airfield Heritage Group tell u3a Military History about the secret Second World War operations near Pershore, as impactful as Bletchley Park.

Quiz

This month's theme is 'Can You Solve It?'

1. How many species of animals did Moses take into the Ark?
2. Some months have 30 days and some have 31 days. How many have 28 days?
3. Which country has a 4th of July?
4. Why can't a person living in Evesham be buried west of the river Avon?
5. How much soil to the nearest square foot is there in a 2' by 4' hole?
6. If you were alone in a deserted house at night and you only had one match, a candle, firewood in a fireplace and an oil lamp, which would you light first?
7. Is it legal for a man to marry his widow's sister?
8. How many birthdays does an average man or woman have?
9. A bus driver goes the wrong way on a one-way street. A policeman saw it but did nothing to stop the driver. Why?
10. If a doctor gives you three pills and tells you to take one every half an hour, how long would the pills last?

Please see page 29 for the answers.

Neil Berry

● Painting for Pleasure

We had a wonderful summer of painting 'en plein air' in and around Evesham, enjoying the weather and varied scenery.

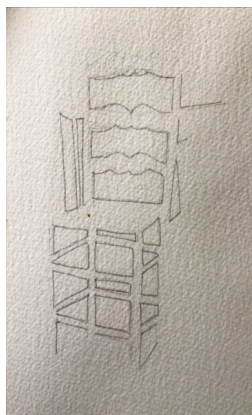


In September, the group returned to the Guide & Scout Hall in Hampton and our first theme was 'Tea Time'. After sketching the scones we ate them along with our usual tea and chat.

The following week we considered 'Negative Spaces'. Marjorie explained the idea of using spaces in and around objects rather than just looking at the

shape of the object itself - a very useful way to relate the elements of a picture and keep size and scale accurate.

In November, we will start thinking about Christmas cards, an early start to give plenty of time to have them printed.



We are always keen to welcome new members and no experience is necessary. Why not come along and give it a try.

Mary Simpson

Images: top left - Amity's Cakes by Laura Hillman; centre right - Scones by Mick Price; bottom left - Negative Spaces Chair by Mary Simpson

● Country Dancing

Mr Fezziwig's Christmas Ball



'But the great effect of the evening came after the Roast and Boiled, when the fiddler (an artful dog, mind! The sort of man who knew his business better than you or I could have told it him!) struck up 'Sir Roger de Coverley'. Then old Fezziwig stood out to dance with Mrs. Fezziwig. Top couple too; with a good stiff piece of work cut out for them; three or four and twenty pair of partners; people who were not to be trifled with; people who would dance, and had no notion of walking.'

As 2025 draws to a close Phil, Jenny, Linda, Rosy and Graham wish all members of the Country Dancing Group a very Happy Christmas and the best of fortune in 2026. We extend Season's Greetings to all who have played for us during the year and to our two callers, Graham and Malcolm. We would also like to thank all those who during the year have helped on Friday mornings with the chairs and in the kitchen or in any other way that has helped the group meetings go well.

Our last meeting this term is on 19 December and we look forward to seeing everyone again in the New Year.

Graham Smith

Image: Mr Fezziwig's Ball by John Leech from A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. Source: Philip V. Allingham; The Victorian Web; victorianweb.org. Text from A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. Source: The Victorian Web.

Group Timetable

To join any group you must be a member of u3a

	First Week	Second Week	Third Week
Mon am	Architecture 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	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 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 Village Ambles Camera
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 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 Welsh Language	Computers & Digital Italian; Military History Modern Greek 2 Pickleball Play Reading / Welsh L	Book Friends Classic Cinema Country Dancing Modern Greek 2 Pickleball / Welsh Lang
Fri pm	Badminton 2 Bridge; Board Games Family Research	Badminton 2 Bridge	Badminton 2 Bridge; Board Games 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 Welsh Language	Welsh Language	Patchwork and Quilting 2 alternate Wednesdays – Linda Dunbar Concert Group – David Daniels Website Editors – meet as required – Alun Edwards Group leaders can be contacted by email from the group's webpage.	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 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 / Welsh L	Modern Greek 2 Pickleball Science & Engineering Welsh Language		Fri am
Badminton 2 Bridge	Badminton 2 Bridge		Fri pm
	Brunch Bunch	Sun am	

● Exploring Language

Exploring Language is, as you'd expect, an exploration of language. It is not a lesson in grammar or spelling. According to ethnologue.com, there are 7,159 languages in use today, which sounds very precise for something in constant flux. We have explored perhaps a dozen. In the case of Turkish, we have explored a single sentence, which was almost exactly in reverse order of English. Very confusing to us, but clearly works well in Turkey.

We don't have a syllabus, but in order to seek out material, we work through the alphabet. We started with words beginning with A, the following session with B, etc. We also use the 'initial technique' for subject matter, such as N for numbers and the different ways they can be expressed. We had a session on finger counting (and toes, elbows, noses etc. which some cultures use in counting). This came under N for numbers, but could have been in the C-slot for counting, or F for fingers.

Sometimes, it is an exploratory exercise and fun to fit a desired topic to a letter. 'Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovocanoniosis' for example, appeared under L for long word. This word was invented in the 1930s by a Puzzlers' League to mock over-long medical terms. Dividing it up into its 19 syllables, it describes a very precise type of lung disease, so precise that there are no recorded cases of this exact disease.

Language changes. An English dictionary of 1604 defined 'category' as 'accusation' – very different from the modern meaning. It stems from Ancient Greek, 'kata' meaning 'against' and 'agora' meaning 'market place'. Speeches were made there, and a speech against someone (accusation) was a 'kategorein'. These accusations would come under categories in our meaning of the word, and Aristotle (4th century BCE) used it in that way. But it still meant 'accusation' in 1604. Some changes are slow.

Some scholars try to make rigid rules, and some rules, made by Robert Lowth in 1762, are still fighting for survival. Lowth

commanded the English to follow rules of Latin, even when speaking English. This included the banning of double negatives (e.g. don't know nothing), split infinitives (e.g. to boldly go), and ending sentences with a preposition (e.g. what are you looking for?).

When in Rome, do as the Romans do, but we are in Evesham, and we do what the English do. We don't always agree on what that is, but we explore it.

We meet on the second Tuesday afternoon of each month, and will welcome new members.

Caroline Bagshaw

German

We have had a very successful and interesting autumn term. All four groups are thriving and members are keen to attend our twice monthly meetings. Each get-together is conducted in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, nobody is under pressure and we all help each other.

The Beginners group have their own agenda. Under the excellent guidance of Reg Pritchard, they are enjoying every meeting and advance at their own pace. This brings the best out of people. Whether we talk about an autumn walk, a town in Germany, the joy of meeting friends, freedom of speech, a famous poet, music, holidays or over the hills and far away – it is never dull, and it is of great value that we learn from each other.

That brings me to Alan Mordey, who recently passed away. He was for many years a very loyal and long-standing member. He brought so much fun to our afternoon group and his contributions were knowledgeable and very interesting. It was such a sudden and great shock to us all and he will be sadly missed. Our thoughts are with his wife Jenny and family.

If you want to resurrect your dormant German language in friendly surroundings, please get in touch via our webpage.

Sophie Dodds

● Archaeology & Heritage

On 19 August we visited Great Malvern Priory and Malvern Museum of Local History, which is housed in the town's monastic gatehouse. There are countless tales of old, from life on the exposed prehistoric hill forts to the medieval forest and monastery, from dripping wet sheets of Water Cure patients to Malvern motor cars and the secret work of countless radar scientists. The museum is small yet there is so much to do, see and hear (Malvern Museum 2025).

The Priory was built around 1085, initially for 30 monks and was therefore much smaller than it is now. Not long after the time of the Battle of Hastings, St Wulstan, the Bishop of Worcester, encouraged the monk Aldwin to work on founding a monastery in what was then Malvern Chase, a forested area reserved for hunting.

The land on which the Priory was built was part of the Manor of Powick, which stretched up to the foothills of the Malverns. This had been given by Edward the Confessor to his new foundation of Westminster Abbey. With the building of the Priory, Westminster saw the opportunity to have some representation on this distant area of land, and, following negotiations between the Abbot of Westminster and the Prior of Malvern, it was agreed that Malvern Priory would become a cell of Westminster Abbey. Such an arrangement suited the Priory very well. On the one hand, Westminster was sufficiently

remote that it could not interfere with the day to day running of the Priory, and on the other, if the Bishop of Worcester tried to impose his will on the Priory, the Abbot of Westminster was a powerful ally to stand with. Several such ecclesiastical altercations over who had control of the Priory occurred over the years, with one notable battle in the late



13th century being escalated to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the King, and eventually the Pope! (Great Malvern Priory 2025)



Of particular interest in the Priory are the stained glass windows and the carvings on the choir misericords. The carvings show scenes from daily life of the time, as well as mythological creatures, providing an insight into medieval history.

On 17 September we joined Alcester Centurions on an excursion to Leicester to visit the Richard III Centre and other points of interest, including the Cathedral, Jewry Wall and the Guildhall Museum.

In August 1485 King Richard III was killed at the Battle of Bosworth, brought back to Leicester and after lying in state for a few days was buried by the Grey Friars, a Franciscan Holy order, in their friary church.

In August 2012, 527 years to the day that King Richard III was killed at the Battle of Bosworth, Leicester City Council, the University of Leicester, and the Richard III Society began the archaeological dig on the 'Looking for Richard' project, a search underneath a car park in Leicester, to find King Richard III's remains and the Grey Friars Church (King Richard III Visitor Centre 2025). The Centre contains a wealth of history from the 15th century. A turbulent time indeed!

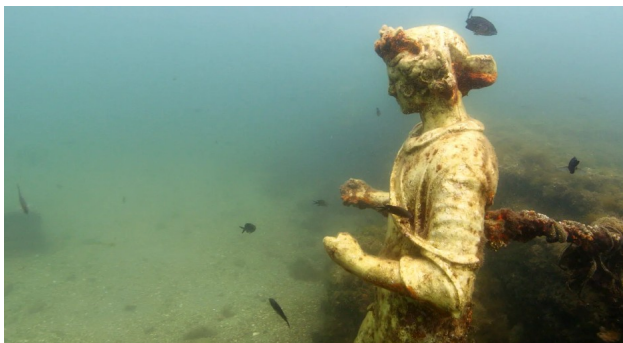


Courtesy of Alcester Centurions, some of us attended a lecture by Daniel Warwood on 15

October. The lecture was based on Daniel's visit to Baiae and its underwater archaeological park. In its heyday, the ancient Roman town of Baiae was the hedonistic Las Vegas of the time, but now its remains are partying beneath the waves. A prominent resort city for centuries, Baiae catered to the recreational whims of the rich and powerful among the Roman elite. The town, which was located over natural volcanic vents, was famous for its healing medicinal hot springs which occurred all around the town. Opulent spa complexes could easily be built over them. Some of antiquity's most powerful figures, such as Nero, Cicero, and Caesar, were known to have visited the town and a number of them built permanent vacation villas here.

By 1500, the remains of the formerly luxurious town were abandoned. The water level slowly rose due to the same volcanic vents that were once a draw to the area, and most of the ancient ruins were submerged under the shallow waters of the bay.

Today, the ancient remains of Baiae can be visited in one of the world's few underwater archaeological parks. Visitors can view the structures and amazingly preserved statues



of the town through glass-bottomed boats, snorkelling or even scuba dives which allow people to swim amongst the copious ruins. While the town is no longer a resort, its waters still hold wonders (Atlas Obscura 2025).

Chris Wolstencroft

Images: page 20 – a carving on the choir misericords by B Wolstencroft; page 21 – part of a stained glass window by Anita Cook; Richard III by B Wolstencroft; page 22 the underwater statues at Baiae are replicas but still feel ghostly and sublime (Credit: Pomona Pictures), <https://www.bbc.co.uk/travel/article/20200713-baiae-a-roman-settlement-at-the-bottom-of-the-sea>

● Yoga 3

We practise a gentle Hatha yoga, designed to increase strength, flexibility and balance. We are a friendly group, meeting on Wednesday afternoons at Hampton Guide, Scout and Community Hall. We currently have a couple of free spaces, so why not join us and try the class? Please get in touch via our webpage https://evesham.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/yoga-3/

Alison Williams

● Concert Group

Is there no end to this seemingly relentless programme of wonderful, inspiring, joyful, amazing musical experiences? Well, frankly – No! There **is** no end to it, because as soon as we complete our 2025/2026 season of Symphony Hall concerts, we will be straight into planning the next programme, and you – yes, **you** – have the opportunity to be part of it. And of course we would love it if you were sharing these times with us!

So, what's going on at the moment? At the time of writing we are just a few days away from what is clearly going to be one of the highlights of the current season. Simon Rattle is coming back to Symphony Hall, bringing his new(ish) orchestra, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, with him. If you are thinking 'What a pity that we missed this one', be assured that we always try to include one major visiting orchestra plus a string of international superstar soloists and conductors in our programme each year – so please do sign up to our mailing list to avoid future disappointment. And of course you are **not too late** to sign up for the rest of the season!

We are running a waiting list for the CBSO Christmas Party Concert on 19 December which will be the usual joyful mix of choral (three choirs this year) and orchestral music, introduced by guest presenter Stephen Mangan.

Bookings are now open for the 4 March 2026 concert with our much loved Kazuki Yamada on the rostrum. The CBSO will be playing an almost irresistible programme of Berlioz, Mozart and Rimsky-Korsakov favourites. Full details are on the Evesham u3a website, but we will happily send you those details if you get in touch.

Did you know that we run reservation lists for the entire season of concerts, so you can put your name down to guarantee you will be given first refusal when the tickets go on sale, without obligation? We are so good to you, don't you think?

So if you are not already on the mailing list, you love the greatest of great music, you fancy the idea of going to one of the finest Concert Halls in the country to hear some of the greatest musicians available, and you like the thought of that trip being totally hassle-free with (almost) door to door transport by luxury coach, and the travel-inclusive ticket prices are offered at break-even rates (they really are fantastic value for money!), then please get in touch and we'll make sure you get all the information you need. We would love to hear from you, so please do get in touch.

David Daniels

Walks over 4 Miles

If ever there was a charmed group, it is this one. Founded almost ten years ago, we still boast some valued, original walkers. They have pointed out that the group name is a misnomer, as almost all walks exceed 5 miles and some even further. For the most adventurous we have reinstated our fifth Tuesday walks, generally 8 miles or so.

Over the last year there has been a tremendous response, when we asked that more people would prepare and lead walks. The group leaders had thought that our library of 70 walks would cover everything, but each member walk has opened up fresh routes, all very well considered. Members support one another brilliantly!



Walking is great for physical and mental health and our group has forged new friendships. When not busy talking, walkers admire the spectacular views and landscape through which we pass. Come and join in!

John & Mary Alexander-Head

Image by Mary Alexander-Head:
Summer walkers at Tardebigge Locks

● Welsh Language

This is my first contribution to the Newsletter since becoming leader of the Welsh Language Group. Before I continue, I would like to express my gratitude, and that of the whole group, to David Daniels who has led the group from the time he set it up in 2020 through to September 2025. A very big thank you to you, Dave – diolch yn fawr iawn!

Over the last few weeks we have been experimenting with reviving our online gathering between ourselves. So far, we have enjoyed completing various crosswords together, using randomly generated conversation starters and much more, including quizzes such as Wordle in Welsh. We meet weekly using a 40 minute Zoom call at 9.30 am on Mondays.

We also continue to meet every Friday morning for a ‘Coffi a Sgwrs’ (coffee and chat) social gathering at Clive’s of Crophorne. We meet for an hour, starting at 10.00 am at a large table reserved for us every week. If you are interested in finding out a bit more about us, you are welcome to drop in and meet us in a relaxed, informal atmosphere. Alternatively, please get in touch with me via the link on the website.

In October we welcomed Alun Edwards to one of our Friday social gatherings. Alun leads the Classic Cinema Group and we enjoyed hearing all about the film 'Hedd Wynn', a Welsh language film with English subtitles that was shown on 7 November. Members of our group were in the audience, having been invited by Alun.

Our members are learning the language using a variety of different resources such as 'Duolingo', 'Say Something in Welsh' and online 'Dysgu Cymraeg' (Learn Welsh) classes. The great thing about our group is, that whatever our level of learning, we are here to deepen that learning as we support and encourage one another.

I have always been interested in learning Welsh from when I was a child living in counties bordering Wales. Finally, I am able to pursue that interest in retirement. If you would like to begin or continue your own 'Welsh language journey', do get in touch or call by to see us and you will receive a warm welcome (croeso cynnes).

Steve Bate

● Birdwatching



We had three meetings during late summer and autumn. In August, we went to WWT Slimbridge Wetland Centre, a reliable site when most local wetlands were bone dry. We started our trip with a wander along the Summer Walkway, a first for our group. We had hoped to see the recently reported Black-winged Kite, but, unfortunately, the last sighting had

been the day before. As compensation, the walkway afforded lovely views of the estuary and we were able to watch flocks of Dunlin and Ringed Plover plus a lone, unexpected Knot. Across the rest of the reserve we had good views of a notable Tundra Bean Goose, three Spoonbills and a Spotted Redshank.



In September, we went to Camp Lane Pits, Grimley. The long-staying Glossy Ibis eluded us, but we had good views of passage migrants, Ringed Plover, Common Sandpiper and winter visiting Common Snipe.

Winter duck numbers were starting to increase and wildfowl were coming out of eclipse plumage.

Our October visit took us further afield to WWT Steart Marshes. This beautiful new reserve provided spectacular views of Golden Plover as well as regular sightings of at least two Marsh Harriers. We concluded our day with a look across the mudflats of Bridgewater Bay, where more wader flocks performed for us.



Alan Chambers

Images: Green Sandpiper (page 26) and Lapwing (page 27) by Geoff Bryant; Bridgewater Bay by Jo Hand.

● Poetry

The theme's the thing to catch the interest of the group. October's session was improvised around 'Mask', which stretched members' and their search engines' ingenuity. We produced the goods with one of the walking wounded, who had taken a month off from writing but dug out some good stuff from the internet, stating towards the end of the session that she'd got more out of the chat (ChatGPT watch out) than from the poems. It was certainly a lively session and the whole group was engaged in the pinball fireworks of poetry, anecdote and analysis. My mask slipped at one point, as my late Mother came to mind, and I found myself in the universe of Shakespeare's Hamlet with Gertrude playing the ghost to devastating effect.

Next month's theme is 'Memory/Nostalgia' so we'll see what that brings out of the collective subconscious. Do I dare to eat a peach....? Poets eat words, their own and other people's, living and dead. The group meets from 1.30 to 3.30 pm on the last Wednesday of the month (no meeting in December) upstairs at Wallace House, Oat Street, opposite the Library (there is a lift). Feeling adventurous? Give us a try!

Richard Taylor

● Classic Cinema

*Please note:
'Cabaret' at The Regal, originally scheduled for
5 December 2025, has been cancelled
by the cinema.*

Group meetings

Every first and third Friday morning, at the Evesham Methodist Church – we show films on a big screen using a portable projector, preceded by an introduction by one of the members. **From January 2026 we will start at 10.00 am** (change from 10.15 am).



1. **5 December 2025 – Living**, historical drama set in 1953 London, starring Bill Nighy, director Oliver Hermanus 2022. Screenplay by Chipping Campden's Kazuo Ishiguro, adapted from the 1952 Akira Kurosawa film *Ikiru*.
2. **19 December 2025 – Arrival**, sci-fi drama, 2016, director Denis Villeneuve.
3. **16 January 2026 – The Sting**, 1973 American caper, starring the late Robert Redford.

Cinema Trips

To our disappointment, our arrangement with The Regal has ended, so we are trying the **Everyman Cinema** in Stratford-upon-Avon and others. If you like the sound of a trip to the cinema to see Dr Seuss' **How the Grinch Stole Christmas** (Ron Howard, 2000), Stanley Kubrick's **The Shining** (1980) or even **Star Wars** (1977), Please contact Ally via

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

Ally Edwards

Image on page 28 by Ally Edwards: Classic Cinema members and guests at the cinema dissect the movie over drinks and cake.

Answers to the Quiz on page 13

1. None, as it was Noah 2. They all have 3. All countries do 4. Because they are still alive 5. There is no soil in a hole 6. The match 7. No, as he is dead 8. One – the day that he or she was born 9. The driver was walking 10. One hour

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	Alan Chambers	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	£1.00
Concert Band (playing)	Denise Tandy	£2.00
Concert Group	David Daniels	Varies
Country Dancing	P Morton/J Law	£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	£5.00
Family Research	Diane Nicholls	£2.50
French Conversation	Lorna Slaughter	Free
German (3 groups)	Sophie Dodds	£2.00
Golf for Fun	John Goodwin	Green fee
Italian (post-beginners)	Sue Jerrard	Varies
Jam Session	Bob Davies	£2.00
Latin 1	Caroline Bagshaw	£5.00
Latin 2	Caroline Bagshaw	50 p
Latin 3, Beginners	David Battin	Buy drink
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
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
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	Neil Berry	£2.00
Rummikub/Mah-jong	Carla Auger	£3.00
Science & Engineering	Robert Hale	£2.00
Sea Shanties	John Gardner	Free
Shakespeare	Nicky Neill	£3.00
Short Mat Bowls 1	Jan Higgitt	£3.00
Short Mat Bowls 2	Pat Stephens	£3.00
Singing for Pleasure	Cath Cox	£2.00
Skittles 1, Oct - May	Olga Allen	Buy drink
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	Christine Harvey	£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	Steve Bate	Varies
Wine Tasting	Grahame Percival	£7.50
Yoga 2	Lyn Heaney	Varies
Yoga 3	Alison Williams	Varies

Website

<https://evesham.u3asite.uk>

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