

u3a learn, laugh, live

25th Anniversary

Evesham & District



Card Games Group having fun and laughter

Newsletter Issue 95 – March 2026

Registered Charity Number 1101530

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,	Alun Edwards	
Beacon Administrator & Third Age Trust Volunteer		
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 first Newsletter of 2026. Sharp-eyed readers will have noticed the special logo on the front page. Yes, we are celebrating our 25th Anniversary this year, our Silver Jubilee! Please see pages 4, 5, 6 and 9 for more information. It is planned that the December Newsletter will be a special Silver Jubilee issue and I would like to ask members old and new to send me accounts of their past u3a experiences and images at any time throughout this year. You can email me via the '25 Years' webpage <https://evesham.u3asite.uk/25-years/> or the Contact page.

In the meantime, enjoy browsing through the following pages to find out what groups have been up to in the last few months. Take note of the Cotswold Link Special Interest Day on page 6, test your knowledge of geography with the Quiz on page 12 and read about how the Welsh Language Group spread their wings on page 19. Last not least, the deadline for the June Newsletter is on Friday 1 May 2026.

Bärbel Wolstencroft

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The photo on the front cover was submitted by Victoria Nelson and shows the Card Games group having fun and laughter in The Red Lion. Nothing is taken too seriously, in line with the ethos of the u3a. (Victoria Nelson)

Notes from the Committee



Your Committee has started this new year with a lot of organising! In February we had **this year's Open Day** – always an exciting and successful event – and we enjoyed meeting many old and new members at All Saints Church on 17 February. The change of date had been to allow for **the new renewal period which begins on 1 April** and we are pleased to say that the good work of our Treasury Team has allowed us to maintain

the fees at their current rate. A real bargain in this current economic climate.

Renewals are possible online already and you will hopefully all have received the letter from Membership Secretary, Helen, with instructions how to do this, but, as usual, the facility for you to renew was available on Open Day itself, if you preferred the face-to-face option! We are looking to reduce as far as possible the number of cheques we have to bank – it's an expensive business now – and help was on hand to deal with card payments.

The week after Open Day, we had our next round of **Group Leaders Meetings** at which we focussed on feedback from Open Day and updating the Group Leaders' Guidance document, but at which we also announced our first ideas for the **Silver Jubilee Celebrations!** We are all quite excited about this and hope you will all be too. One of the things we want to do is try and track down as many people as possible who joined in that first year of activity, so if that's you, or you are still in touch with someone who was part of the founding group, please do get in touch! Watch this space in this year's Newsletters, but also the website and our Social Media pages, as we start releasing details of the events we have planned. We hope every member will take a part in at least one of these. Check the Events page for regular updates.

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

Our first **New Members Meeting** is in the diary for Wednesday 20 May. Anyone who has joined us this year will automatically receive an invitation, and we look forward to hearing their experiences so far and what they hope to gain from their membership of our great local groups, as well as being able, hopefully, to improve their knowledge and understanding of how the u3a functions both locally and nationally. And, of course, if you feel you would like to know more about this aspect of what goes on, you would be very welcome to join us too.

Finally, **the AGM** this year will take place on **Wednesday 1 July**. There will be several changes to the Committee this time, and we hope there will be some new faces to join us by then. As always, **we will need a good turnout** to allow the meeting to be quorate. So please have the date in your diary!

Ros Gowers

Silver Jubilee Celebrations



This year is the Silver Jubilee of u3a Evesham & District. We have been active and organising interest groups in the town for 25 years. The very first groups began in November 2001 and we have now grown to over 1250 members with over 90 interest groups, offering something for everyone. A real achievement and worth celebrating!

We are busy organising some events to celebrate our success. We hope you will all join in! Could your group think of a way to celebrate and maybe share your talents and skills with others?

We are hoping to form an archive of photos and memories from the very early days right up to 2026 for a special Silver Jubilee edition of the Newsletter. If you know of any founder or long-term members, please let us know. Please send any photos or memories to Bärbel Wolstencroft, Newsletter Editor, via the Contact page or the '25 Years' page on the website <https://evesham.u3asite.uk/25-years/> Further information will be coming your way!

Lorna Slaughter

As most of you know, my husband **Campbell Anderson** passed away suddenly before Christmas. The u3a played a big part in his life since his retirement. He belonged to many groups over the years, beginning with Mahjong and including Computing, Photography and Short Mat Bowls. After the sad death of Sue Beneke, he, with my help, took over the Brunch Bunch and Skittles 2. He also sat for a time on the u3a Committee. All these activities gave him interest and pleasure and also brought him many friends.

I would like to thank everyone for their messages of sympathy and also those who attended his funeral.

Jenny Anderson

Cotswold Link

Special Interest Day on Tuesday 2 June 2026

From Pen to Reader: The Journey of a Book

The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, Cheltenham, GL51 6PN 10.30 – 15.30

£28 to include attendance, car parking, coffee/tea on arrival and lunch. Deadline for receipt of payment and booking form is 2 May 2026. Applications on first come, first booked basis.

https://cotswold-link.u3asite.uk/u3a_events/special-interest-day/

May Heydays at Evesham

Can you help with a bed for the night?

A huge **folk dance festival** is coming to The De Montfort School (TDMS) on 1 to 4 May 2026. The festival moved to Evesham after the pandemic, having taken place at Eastbourne for more than 40 years. There will be teachers from abroad, top callers and bands with a full programme across five halls. Find the full details at www.mayheydays.org.uk

A call for help has come from the organiser via our own Country Dancing group to ask if it might be possible that u3a members could provide **overnight accommodation for four single musicians** (no shared rooms) during the weekend. At the last count, it was two singles for Saturday night and two singles for Friday/Saturday/Sunday nights. Anyone able to offer accommodation will receive **FREE tickets** for the weekend. If you would like to offer a bed for the night(s), please contact the organiser Mecki Testroet direct director@mayheydays.org.uk

Monthly Meetings

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

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 – Military History

1 April 2026

Sue Ablett – Bums on Seats – behind the scenes at the Evesham Festival of Words

Sue Ablett has been Chair of the Evesham Festival of Words since it launched in 2016 and continues to be the driving force behind its hugely successful expansion from a single weekend to the year long festival it has now become.

Prior to retirement, Sue had a varied career, starting as a Russian linguist at GCHQ, university administration and research, picking up a PhD along the way – just for fun! During the last twenty years, Sue was executive director of a National Children’s Cancer Charity.

The afternoon should be both interesting and informative. As usual, the talk will be followed by refreshments and an opportunity to socialise with fellow members.



Refreshments – Model Railways

6 May 2026

Hannah Moore from the charity 'Mary's Meals' – the shed that fed a million children

'Mary's Meals' provides life-changing school meals to children living in some of the poorest communities. The promise of a good meal brings hungry children into the classroom where they can gain an education and better opportunities for the future. Hear the story from the beginnings in a tin shed in Scotland to today, serving three million children a day.

Refreshments – Modern Greek 1 & 2

3 June 2026

Picnic in the Park

To help us all celebrate our Silver Jubilee together, we are planning to hold a Picnic in Evesham's Abbey Park from 12.00 to 3.00 pm.

If possible, we would like all groups to be represented and maybe identify themselves in some unique way – we know you will be full of ideas! Bring your chairs, rugs, picnics and join in the fun! We hope to also have some musical entertainment on the bandstand. Let's hope the great British Summer is kind to us!

Lorna Slaughter

New Group

Due to great popularity, **Mahjong/Rummikub** have started a second group on Thursday mornings from 10.00 to 12.30 pm. The venue is Littleton Bowling Club and new members are very welcome. For more information please get in touch with Carla Auger via the group's webpage.

Group News

● Brunch Bunch

The Brunch Bunch meets on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays from 10.00 am at Strawberry Field.

'Some people said they found plenty to do during the week, but weekends were a bit empty at times.' Sue Beneke

Come along

Brunch or Breakfast are not obligatory – just come for coffee and a natter if you are an early bird breakfaster. Get in touch if you'd like to join. Or just come along!



Help needed

The group essentially runs itself – however, we need someone to arrange venues and keep everyone up-to-date. Ally has taken over as group leader to help out, but we would like someone from the Brunch Bunch to 'lead' the group. Please contact Ally via the Brunch Bunch webpage to find out more.

Ally Edwards

Image credit: courtesy of the Age-positive image library by The Centre for Ageing Better.

● Military History

2026 has started with some great presentations for our Group. In January, we listened to a talk on the Korean War and in February we heard about Field Marshal Haig and his role in World War I.

This month, on Wednesday 25 March, we are looking at the real Home Guard, immortalised in the sitcom 'Dad's Army'. We have a fantastic

programme throughout the rest of the year, covering all sorts of Military History with lots of guest presenters sharing their knowledge.

We are particularly excited to be hearing from Phil Craig on 1 July. Phil is an esteemed author and broadcaster and he will be talking about his highly recommended book '1945: The Reckoning', which deals with the end of WW2 in the Far East. This year, we are also arranging a series of accompanied visits including a trip to Edge Hill, the site of the first major battle of the English Civil War.

We meet at Cropthorne Village Hall on the last Wednesday of the month from 10.30am to 12.30pm. There is ample parking available. We are still interested in extending our group membership, so if you would like to join us you will find a friendly welcome, with a hot drink and biscuits! There is an attendance charge of £3 per meeting.

Neil Hoy



Image: This bridge over the boating lake in the Abbey Park, Evesham, was built by the pioneers of the 4th Worcestershire (Evesham) Battalion Home Guard in the Second World War. Photograph from an album of material in the Almonry Museum that probably originally belonged to Sidney Carter, reproduced by kind permission of the Vale of Evesham Historical Society (VEHS).

🌐 Quiz

This month's theme is 'Geography'.

Questions

1. (a) How many Counties are there in Northern Ireland?
(b) Name them.
2. Which is the most north-easterly State in Australia?
3. Where is the most southerly point of Scotland?
4. Where was the first ever Boy Scout Camp held on 1 August 1907?
5. Which fresh water loch contains nearly double the amount of water in all lakes of England and Wales combined?
6. What is the most common colour to appear in the Flags of the World?
7. The Colorado River flows into which body of water?
8. Is Berlin north or south of London?
9. Which country is largest in area - Iceland, Ireland or Italy?
10. What is the well-known wine region in California called: Death Valley, Napa Valley or Silicon Valley?

Please see page 25 for the answers.

Neil Berry

🌐 Archaeology & Heritage

The beginning of November 2025 found us, by invitation of the South Worcestershire Archaeology Group (SWAG), listening to an entertaining lecture by Richard Churchley. His topic was **Market Towns**, including our area. Of local interest were the medieval market places in Evesham and the layout of Alcester.

On Wednesday 19 November we attended a fully absorbing talk given by Professor Paul Smith on the topic **Why Alcester? Were the settlement and buildings affected by the geology of the area?** Professor Smith did not confine himself to Alcester, but included the geological history of the Vale of Evesham and the West Midlands.

The highlight of the year was the **Worcestershire Archaeology Day**, an annual event, this time held on 22 November 2025 at The Hive in Worcester. This was a full day of lectures, covering many subjects and reports relating to archaeology in Worcestershire. They included fascinating finds of 2025, a round up from the Portable Antiquities Scheme, the Willersley Hoard discovery of two Roman swords and a history of 30+ years of Environmental Archaeology in Worcestershire. The most enlightening talk of the day was the update on the Milestone Ground excavation in Broadway. The excavation at the site has revealed archaeology from the early neolithic to the present day and is still throwing up surprises, not least the deer bone box featured on a recent **Digging for Britain** programme on BBC2. At the time of the talk, this artefact had not yet been fully revealed. We look forward to the next instalment about the site at the talk in November 2026.

On 13 December, again courtesy of SWAG, a couple of us attended a talk on **Dead men's shoes** by Wayne Perkins. Wayne covered the history of placing cats and rats, plus other items, in medieval dwellings and buildings. I must add that the animals were deceased when they were placed in building cavities. This practice was intended to ward off evil spirits.

Following the Christmas break, on 20 January 2026, the group had a walk around Merstow Green and the Evesham Abbey precincts, locating medieval buildings that still exist in the area. This was based on a survey undertaken by the Evesham Civic Society, reviewing **The Listed Buildings of Evesham, including Hampton** and our own historical resources.



Chris Wolstencroft

Image: Evesham Bell Tower by B Wolstencroft

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	Modern Greek 1 Dressmaking	China: The Country Latin 2 Modern Greek 1 Needlecraft Short Mat Bowls 2	Modern Greek 1 Dressmaking
Fri am	Classic Cinema Country Dancing Modern Greek 2 Pickleball Welsh Language	Computers & Digital Italian; Military History Modern Greek 2 Pickleball, Play Reading Welsh Language	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	<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-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	

● Classic Cinema

Coming soon!

Every first and third Friday morning at the Evesham Methodist Church, we show films on a big screen, preceded by an introduction from one of the members.

- **6 March 2026 – Metropolis** – science fiction drama, 1927, Germany. **Inspired by Evesham & District u3a's 25th Anniversary, this is the first film of our 'Theme 2001/2026'.**

In an urban dystopia set in the year **2026**, the city of Metropolis is ruled by the wealthy from their colossal skyscrapers, while a faceless army of underground-dwelling workers toil to operate the great machines that power the city.

- **20 March 2026 – The Blues Brothers** – 1980, US.
- **17 April 2026** – first screening of the new term.



Cinema trips

For **Hamnet**, and **The Ballad of Wallis Island**, some of us visit The Regal or No8 in Pershore, the Everyman Cinema in Stratford-upon-Avon and the Cider Mill Theatre in Chipping Campden. Coming up in Evesham in May, like **Metropolis**, we will celebrate another 100 year anniversary with silent film pianist Neil Brand's **Evening with Laurel & Hardy, 2026 Centenary Tour**.

Please contact Ally via

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

Ally Edwards



Image: The Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin, in **The Blues Brothers** (1980) back on the BIG SCREEN at Classic Cinema on Friday 20 March. Franklin is one of several music legends, including Ray Charles and James Brown, to appear with Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi (foreground) in this classic musical comedy. Image via IMDB.

Image on page 16: Der Maschinenmensch (the machine-person) in front of the dystopian city of **Metropolis** (1927). Image credit: Archives New Zealand viaFlickr, licensed CC BY 2.0.

● Birdwatching

We have had two meetings this winter. In November, we visited RSPB Middleton and in January WWT Slimbridge. Both trips were focussed on winter visiting wildfowl and waders.

The weather was kind to us at Middleton. The ten of us started our birding in glorious sunshine, following the path alongside the stream through Mill plantation. At the first feeding station we observed a good selection of tits and finches and had good views of the first of many nuthatches. Further along, we had glimpses of a tree creeper and a siskin. Moving on towards the canal many of the group saw

siskin and redpoll, thankfully at a lower level than the previous neck-straining views of the siskin in the woods.



The lakes gave us views of wheeling lapwing and small flocks of winter ducks, now looking resplendent in the winter sun in their post-eclipse plumage. There were also at least three goldeneyes, a great white egret and a little egret. We timed our visit to the only hide perfectly as a heavy rain shower started when we entered.

After sheltering there until the rain passed, we made our way back to the car park, picking up sightings of a stonechat and a sparrowhawk.

At Slimbridge we were again lucky with the weather and had the chance to see thousands of lapwings, golden plover and dunlin swirling around in the sun. There were the hoped-for Slimbridge specialities of Bewick's swans and white-fronted geese, but we also saw tundra bean geese and two little stints. However, the highlight was probably the great views of a juvenile goshawk.



Our spring trips will include a return to Middleton, some local birding at Home Farm, Evesham, a trip to Ham Wall and, for some, a weekend in Pembrokeshire.

Alan Chambers

Images by Geoff Bryant: from the top – Goldeneye, Great White Egret, Bewick's Swans in flight.

● Welsh Language

The highlight at the start of the New Year was our joint meeting with fellow Welsh learners based in Wales. We learned of the Swansea u3a's Welsh Language group after seeing a video on the national u3a Facebook page. This inspired us to make contact with them, enquiring about the possibility of a shared online meeting. We were delighted to receive a positive response and joined their meeting via Teams at 10.00 am on Tuesday 20 January. We very much enjoyed the experience of conversing with one another and we hope to arrange a similar meeting not too far in the future. I would like to say a big **DIOLCH** (thank you) to the Swansea group for their welcome.

Our regular online meetings continue via Zoom at 9.30 am on Mondays. We never have a problem finding ways to converse for the full 40 minutes of our call, irrespective of our level of Welsh. We also meet regularly in person over coffee at 10.00 am every Friday morning at Clive's of Crophorne. The staff know us and our usual beverage well, which is often on its way to the table as we arrive. Some of them take a genuine interest in our little group and are learning a few Welsh phrases from us.

New members are very welcome. You can contact me via the link on the website or just drop in at Clive's one Friday morning and the friendly staff will point you in our direction.

Steve Bate

● Architecture

The Architecture Group has been dormant through the winter months. Now the weather is improving, we can renew our trips to buildings of interest. Last summer, we saw several in one go at Avoncroft Museum of Buildings, which dismantles buildings and reconstructs them brick by brick or whatever they are made of, so it is the same building as before, but in a different place. The buildings

● German

The autumn term had its highs and lows. We lost four faithful members from the Advanced Group. Sadly, two passed away and the other two moved on to pastures new to start a new life. As we know, nothing lasts forever. However, a new member joined the Beginners' Group. So all is well and we have had a most productive term.

All groups enjoy making progress at their own level without pressure. Subjects are suggested, but members often bring their own ideas which make every meeting interesting, hilarious and we learn from each other.

Our annual Christmas Party was held at the end of January which we re-named 'Neujahrsfest'. This was an afternoon tea get-together with lots of delicious goodies. We ended up translating German idioms into English which created fun and laughter.

In order to enhance our vocabulary we are going to start from the beginning of the alphabet with 'A', using nouns, verbs and adjectives to formulate sentences and create stories. This can be done at any level. That should help us to advance and develop our German language!

Newcomers are welcome! If you are interested, please get in touch with Sophie Dodds via email from the German webpage. We meet on every second and fourth Thursday of the month.

● Concert Group

Oh my goodness! What a night that was! Simon Rattle returned to Symphony Hall with his Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra playing a concert of amazing music, finishing with the Stravinsky Firebird Ballet Music. And we were there, to share it! Just wonderful!

Then came the Christmas special – hugely enjoyable with the usual three choirs and the full might of the CBSO, with very entertaining links by our guest host Stephen Mangan.

No! Surely not! You missed these concerts? Oh what a shame! But hang on a minute. All is not lost, because we have two more concerts in the current season, and plenty of room for you to join us. Phew! What a relief!

So now we are looking forward to the 29 April concert, and this one is packed full of great music – the Brahms Violin Concerto and Rachmaninov’s Symphony No 1 with the CBSO performing. This is a Wednesday afternoon concert, with the coaches leaving Morrisons, Evesham, at 11.00 am.

And our Season Finale on 27 June is something a bit different for us: a concert performance of Puccini’s Tosca, with the part of Scarpia in the hands of the great Sir Bryn Terfel. This opera is stuffed to the rafters with wonderful melodious music, in our view well towards the ‘easy listening’ end of the operatic repertoire.

So here is where we are. Do come and join us for these ‘treats in store’. We would love to have your company.

If you are not already on the Mailing List

- and you love the greatest of great music,
- and 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 you like the idea of the travel-inclusive ticket prices being offered at break-even rates (they really are fantastic value for money!),

then please, please get in touch and we will make sure you get all the information you need, especially about our New Season 2026/2027 which will be published very soon.

David Daniels

● Painting for Pleasure

We have had a good start to 2026 with a dozen or more painters attending meetings. There is a lot of enthusiasm for the programme of demonstrations and events that is planned for the year.

The February topic was 'Light and Shadow' led by Lesley and, in March, Mike will give a demonstration of portrait painting. Full details of the year's programme can be found on the group webpage.

In the meantime, we continued with 'Fish and the Sea' and Marjorie offering useful advice on colour mixing and mark making.

Mary Simpson



Sketch by Mary Simpson

● Concert Band

The playing of carols and festive Christmas music by the Evesham u3a Wind Band has become a welcome fixed feature of Broadway's Christmas Late Night Shopping, and so it was again in December. Whilst we may not have reached as many ears as we had done in 2023, when we were featured in the BBC's Christmas in the Cotswolds, we still drew attentive crowds. Getting there proved exciting, as the new one-way traffic system proved such a hold-up that band members feared they would not be there in adequate time to set up. Not to worry, a choir had taken up residence in our marquee and were in full voice when the band arrived. We played in the end, and Keith, our new conductor, had his first experience of being closely surrounded by children, dogs and youngsters wielding candy floss. Unfortunately, the second engagement a week later had to be cancelled as gale force winds threatened to blow the marquee away!



Our only other Christmas gig this year was to play on a Saturday lunchtime outside Asda to support the Pershore Rotary Club Christmas collection. It was a lovely calm day, cold but bright, and we entertained the passing shoppers for an hour, hoping that our contribution helped to raise lots of money!

The band goes from strength to strength and now has nearly 30 players. Under our new conductor, Keith Bramich, we look forward to another very successful year. We will be playing at Bands in the Park on 23 August and have two other concerts planned in June, so keep up with our news on the website.

Deirdre Sutton & Denise Tandy



Images: page 24 – the Concert Band at Broadway by Jess Smith; page 25 – playing in support of Pershore Rotary Club at Asda by James Thompson.

Answers to the Quiz on page 12

1. (a) 6; (b) Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone
2. Queensland
3. Mull of Galloway
4. Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour, Dorset
5. Loch Ness
6. Red
7. Gulf of California
8. North
9. Italy
10. Napa Valley

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	TBC	TBC
Book Friends	Chris Spriggs	Varies
Bridge	Liz Rodway	£2.00
Brunch Bunch	Alun Edwards	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
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

Mahjong/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	Paul Griffin	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

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