



Winchcombe Area U3A Newsletter

October – November 2017

From the newsletter editor

Many thanks to everyone who submitted material for the newsletter on time (or very close to it!), enabling us to get this issue out more promptly.

Secretary's notes

Third Age Trust office relocation

The Third Age Trust has moved to fully accessible offices in London. The main reasons for the move were that the Bromley office was not accessible to the majority of members, and that the office itself was not accessible to anyone with mobility problems.

Their new address is:

The Third Age Trust
52 Lant Street
London
SE1 1RB

They have also updated their web site <https://www.u3a.org.uk/>, and members will need to re-register to access the members' pages and Resource Centre. You can borrow DVDs and other non-book materials on a variety of subjects and they can be posted to you. More details on the website.

Tel: 020 8466 6139 – National Office and Resource Centre

Cotswold Link

The Cotswold Link
(<https://u3asites.org.uk/cotswold-link/home>)
is an informal grouping of U3As in our area.

Remember that as a member of the Winchcombe Area U3A, you are allowed to attend one Interest Group at another U3A in the Link, space permitting.

Monthly meetings

We meet at the Abbey Fields Community Centre, Back Lane, on the second Tuesday of each month, starting at 2.00 p.m. The meetings are open to all members.

Speaker details for the next three meetings:

October 10 Tore Fauske
The Vikings

Tore Fauske is Norwegian by birth, but has lived in England since 1959 where he has worked as an interpreter, translator and latterly as a writer.

He now spends much of his time as a professional speaker giving talks (preferably on cruise ships!), and we are delighted to welcome him to give a talk on the Vikings.

November 14 Peter Berry
To the roof of the world

Inveterate globetrotter Peter Berry is coming along to give our U3A a talk on his recent trip 'to the roof of the world' – on the Himalayan Railway. Coupled with his keen interest in photography, this should be a fascinating and illuminating talk.

December 12 Phil Hawthorn

Can men cook?

Phil Hawthorn recently moved to Winchcombe and within months found himself on the U3A committee. He then learned he'd been co-opted to give a talk at the December meeting! One of Phil's main interests is food, to such an extent that he wrote a book teaching men how to cook. He will give an insight into how this came to be published, and will also provide some tips on stress-free Christmas dinner cooking.

And looking further ahead:

January 9

Social event and showcasing of interest groups. (Details will be circulated soon!)

February 13 Nick Bumford

Guiting Manor Farm

March 13 Jean Bray

Talk by Jean Bray, the archivist at Sudeley Castle

April 10 Priscilla Burris

Chedworth Roman Villa



Mosaic at Chedworth Roman Villa
(National Trust Images / Ian Shaw)

Social events and outings

We are starting to think about social events and outings for next year. We will, of course, gauge the level of interest from members by way of a survey. If you have any ideas yourself for a group visit, do let us know. Here are two possibilities we already have in mind.

Unless you live, work or stay on holiday, the chances are that you rarely if ever have the chance to visit a farm and find out what really goes on there. If you are interested in

addressing this situation, Guiting Manor Farm have invited us to pay them a visit some time in 2018.

The date is yet to be arranged, but farm manager Nick Bumford is speaking at our monthly meeting in February and will no doubt give us background on the history, day to day work and ethos of the farm, as well as the trials, tribulations and joys of farming in one of the most beautiful areas of the country. Hopefully, it will whet your appetite to join a visit to the farm.

We are having a talk in April next year by Priscilla Burris from Chedworth Roman Villa, and hope to follow that with a visit to the site. This would be either an afternoon trip from 2 p.m. on a weekday, or from 11 a.m. on a Saturday.

In the care of the National Trust, Chedworth is run by an enthusiastic team of volunteers who have in-depth knowledge of the history of the villa, its location and its setting in terms of Roman society.

The visit would include a brief introduction followed by a tour with one of their volunteers; there would be time for exploring on your own and a pre-booked lunch or tea.

Entrance is free for NT members, about £10 for non-members; and there would be a charge for refreshments.

Interest groups

We currently have 37 active groups. There is an updated list at the end of this newsletter.

Please e-mail any further additions or alterations to the Groups Coordinator Janet Bidwell at

winchcombeu3agroups@gmail.com.

If any member would like to contact a particular group, please e-mail Janet and she will be able to put you in touch with its lead contact.

We have a new volunteer to run a bridge group, and expect a first meeting to be organised soon. If you are interested in this, could you let Janet Bidwell know, if you have not already done so.

Many of you will remember a talk given at one of our monthly meetings by Rosalind Malandrinos. Rosalind has recently moved to Greet from South Africa where she was an active member of a U3A. She would like to start a History of Art group which she would lead, and which would meet in the evening. If you would be interested in joining such a group, please let Janet Bidwell know.

Sadly our opera group has opted to be affiliated to North Cotswold U3A, since most of its participants were members of that U3A. Members of Winchcombe Area U3A can still attend the meetings, provided they meet the criteria of North Cotswold U3A.

We have also lost our walking football group; there were not enough regular attendees to make this viable. If anyone would like to have another go at making this work, let Janet Bidwell know.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Reports are very welcome, with pictures where appropriate (but that isn't compulsory!) Please send them to rslessor@aol.com (next issue deadline: November 24).

Birdwatching/ecology

The birdwatching/ecology group recently visited Beckford Nature Reserve. The reserve is a flooded gravel pit surrounded by

woodland, and was bought by the local community in 2008. There are several seats and a public hide. The highlights were a dabchick and a bullfinch - tea and cakes afterwards at Beckford Silk were pretty good too!

John Earl



Beckford Nature Reserve

Gardening

Eleven members of the gardening group met in Sedgeberrow in September to compare two very different gardens - the first one traditional, cottage-style, brought back to life after being destroyed by flooding, the second a grassy parkland with the problem of planting under large trees. In October we are visiting Batsford Arboretum to see the trees in their Autumn glory. New members welcome.

Maggie Davison

Historic buildings and churches

The group held its third meeting on 14 September with eight people in attendance, including two new members and several sending apologies.

The visit, coordinated by Gwyneth Cocks, included a visit to Tredington Church, where the work of recording its history and architectural features was outlined. Subsequently we were shown round the adjacent manor farmhouse by its owner Martin Robinson. This revealed a meticulous

and sometimes idiosyncratic restoration of an early H-plan farmhouse with its origins in the medieval period. It raised a lot of interesting discussion about the boundaries between conservation, restoration and the recycling of preserved materials from other buildings. Many thanks are due to Martin and Gwyneth for a truly inspiring afternoon.

Unfortunately time precluded a visit to Tredington Court - another, but completely different, H-plan house. This will be scheduled in the new year.

A programme of events was agreed previously. A member takes responsibility for setting up each visit, and John Hurley, acting as secretary, keeps people informed. We meet bi-monthly on the second Thursday of the month. The provisional programme is subject to change according to whether places are accessible on the dates we intend. Inevitably some changes have already had to be made and a new timetable has been drawn up. Please note revised details below.

It was agreed that there would be car sharing from Winchcombe and the villages. Nearer visits would take an afternoon, but those further away might offer the option of convening at a local hostelry and would therefore take more time.

John Hurley

Date	Proposed visit	Lead member
9 November	To be confirmed	David Cook
11 January	Stoke Orchard Church and Tredington Court tbc	John Hurley
8 March	Kelmscott	Lesley Marriott
10 May	Croome Court or Berkeley Castle	

LOCAL HISTORY

Nick Hoskins (our Membership Secretary)
writes: My wife had joined the history group,

but found that she could not attend due to grandchild-sitting duties. There was a talk on Winchcombe, so I went as this was of interest. At the end of the meeting Carol Harris said, 'For next month, can everyone come prepared to talk about Winchcombe in the last world war.'

'Oh cripes,' thought I, 'I haven't got time for research.' However, after visiting the museum just to see if they had something of interest, I was off. The blood was running. The interest was fired up. The mind was racing ahead, asking more questions as more information came to hand.



Winchcombe at war

When I was talking to the librarian, it was suggested I contact the Day Centre. This I did - and that, readers, is where you come in. But let me tell you a short anecdote first.

During the war there was a canning factory in Greet. (Didn't know that!) Well, in this factory there was a young lady who packed the tins in boxes to send off to the troops. One day she decided to include a little note, just for fun. One has to motivate the boys if one can!

Anyhow, a few years later there was a knock on her door in Gretton and a soldier stood

there. 'Excuse me,' he says, 'is this yours?', and he holds up the note she wrote.

Well - the romantics amongst you will be ahead of me - yes, within a year or so they were married.

From this it seemed to me that there must be many interesting and amusing stories to tell, and I am sure that many have not been recorded. So if you have an interest in history, perhaps you may know of some stories relating to Winchcombe during the wartime. Or maybe you know of someone now in their 80s or 90s who lived in Winchcombe at that time, to whom I could talk.

So do become a contributor, directly or via someone you know, and get in touch with me and help record the past. If I can get more than a handful, I will put the stories in a booklet and send copies to our museum, the local library and also the Gloucester Archive.

So the saying does seem to be true: 'The more you put in, the more you get out'.

PETANQUE



Photo: Brevity

(literally 'piglet'!)

There are currently 12 people interested in playing petanque. Because of summer holiday commitments etc. we are yet to get going properly, but we've agreed on a monthly club meeting from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the third Friday of the month (although

other informal get-togethers will be possible).

A petanque 'piste' is planned as part of the new Winchcombe Park, but pending that development we can play free of charge on the 'piste' at the back of the Plough in Prestbury.

If you are interested in joining the group, please email me at clarksph@yahoo.co.uk. (If you have never played, we can arrange a 'taster' session for you.)

Paul Clark

TABLE TENNIS

Table tennis continues at Winchcombe Sports Hall on Monday mornings. From October onwards we have extended the playing time to 11.00 - 12.30 to cater for the increased numbers. We still have room for a few more.

Martin Blackwell

U3A RAMBLERS

There have been two recent walks. On August 25th a select group set off from the railway bridge by Greet, walking to Toddington Mill, Didbrook and Hailes, returning via Puck Pit Lane.

On 18th September a few of us embarked on a circular walk from Bourton-on-the Hill, proceeding via Hinchwick Manor, Longborough and Sezincote, and then returning to the starting point.

Considering the size of the group, the number of walkers has been disappointingly small; there never having been more than five people on any one walk. This may, in part, be down to holidays being taken.

As a new group, we felt it was uncertain which niche the general walking group should fit into. At a meeting on September

25, we decided that we needed to make the walks (six miles +) more challenging than those of the other groups. This may be achieved by gradients involved, or by distance covered. We would expect to take three to five hours depending on the walk. The pace may also be different from that of the other groups. A refreshment break would be taken on the longer walks. In view of the revamped ideas it was decided to rename the group 'U3A ramblers'.

Rosemary Middlemiss

WALK AND SKETCH

Members of this group met on September 14 to review the way it has been operating and set a plan for the future. It was decided to alternate walking and making quick sketches whilst on the move with a session of seated sketching. Also, with the winter weather approaching, we decided we would meet only once a month. The most recent outing was on October 5, doing quick sketches as we walked.

We would welcome anyone who would like to join the group.

Rosemary Middlemiss

WINE TASTING

The wine group enjoyed an extremely pleasant dinner at the Wesley House, kindly arranged for us by member Lynn Amos. After a glass of prosecco on arrival, we enjoyed a three-course meal of smoked salmon, duck, and tarte tatin, all accompanied by appropriate wines chosen for us by the restaurant. This was our September meeting, and our October meeting will be on Hallowe'en night, when we will be tasting 'Transylvanian' wines (Eastern Europe really)! The group is now full.

Jo Rees

Editor's note: Would anyone like to try and form a second group?

OTHER POTENTIAL GROUPS

At the initial general meeting, very viable numbers of people expressed their interest in a number of other areas which our active groups don't really cover at the moment. Even selecting only those areas with more than ten people listed, interest was expressed in art appreciation (22), cinema/films (16), German (13), Pilates (13), line dancing (13), classical music (12), photography (12), biography / interesting lives (11), mediaeval history (10); and classical literature (10).

Quite a few more areas had smaller numbers which might still work.

If you would like to call an initial informal meeting to explore any area for which you'd like to see a group, do please e-mail Janet Bidwell and we can help publicise it for you.

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

A big thank you to all lead contacts who have sent in their attendance fee remittances for the September quarter. There are some groups from whom I have not yet received a return - please let me have them at your earliest convenience. If you have any queries please contact me at treasurer.wu3a@outlook.com.

New members

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Valerie Fairburn, Robert Stone, George Mann

Our website

At the time of writing, the website is at quite an advanced stage of development.

You can see where we have got to at www.winchcombeu3a.btck.co.uk.

As soon as everything is complete and tidied up, we shall move to our 'proper' URL at www.winchcombeu3a.org.uk.

Abbey Fields Community Centre

Paul Clark writes: The community centre, where U3A holds its monthly meetings, is run by a management committee of local volunteers. Several committee members have reached the point where they need to retire after many years service, so we are looking to recruit new blood.

The centre is in a very healthy financial position; it runs an annual surplus and enjoys a significant cash reserve, so, unlike many similar community facilities, committee members are not engaged in a constant survival battle! If you would like to join us you would be committing to attending four meetings a year. Meetings generally last around an hour and a half. Additionally, we hope to recruit someone with a financial background to act as Treasurer in place of one of the long-serving retirees.

It needs to be stressed that this valuable community facility can only continue with the active support of local volunteers, and it would be a real loss to Winchcombe if the centre had to close because of the lack of a functioning management committee.

If you feel that you could give up a few hours a year to guarantee the centre's future,

please email me, Paul Clark, at clarksph@yahoo.co.uk.

Copy deadline for the next newsletter issue

November 24

Our committee members

Chair: Brian Gash

brian_gash@hotmail.com (underscore after brian)

Secretary: Jenny Mackelworth

winchcombe.u3a@icloud.com 01242 602286

Membership Secretary: Nick Hoskins

Nick-Aitch@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Janet Woods

treasurer.wu3a@outlook.com

Interest Groups Coordinator: Janet Bidwell

winchcombeu3agroups@gmail.com

Vice-Chair and Newsletter Editor: Richard Slessor

rslessor@aol.com *Change?*

Vice-Chair and Newsletter Team Member: John Hilton

Deputy Treasurer: Janet Wright

Assistant Membership Secretary and Meetings

Sub-committee member: Jane Hawthorn

Assistant Interest Groups Coordinator and Website

Sub-committee Convenor: Phil Hawthorn

Committee Member and Minutes Secretary:

Maggie Tucker **Committee Member and Meeting**

Venues Coordinator:

Jan Charlton jancharlton127@msn.com

LIST OF ACTIVE GROUPS

If you would like to contact a particular group, please e-mail Janet Bidwell at winchcombeu3agroups@gmail.com, and she will be able to put you in touch with its lead contact.

If any active group is missing from the list below, or if any information still needs to be added, please do e-mail Janet at the address above.

Group Name	Lead Contact	Venue	Meeting Time
Archaeology	Colin Ind	Member's home	tbc
Birdwatching and ecology	John Earl	Various	tbc
Board games	Renee Vorstman	Member's home	10.30 -12.30, 2nd Monday of each month
Book club	Lynette Hurley	Rosie's Cafe	3rd Thursday of each month
Botany	Ruth Robinson	tbc	tbc
Bridge	Joyce Calan	tbc	tbc
Cards/whist	Jenny Mackelworth	Members' homes	7.00, 1st Monday of each month
Chess	Brian Maggs	White Hart	Alternate Tuesdays
Creative writing	Peter Champion	32 Gloucester Street, Winchcombe	2.30, 3rd Thursday of each month
Croquet	Sylvia Russ	Clydach, Becketts Lane, Greet	Fortnightly, weather permitting
Cycling	Jenny Mackelworth	Meet junction Market Lane and Becketts Lane, Winchcombe	3rd Wednesday of each month, 9.30 a.m. start
Discussion group	Nick Hoskins	Greystones, Market Lane, Greet	9.45 for 10.00, 1st Wednesday of each month
'Dogs welcome' walking	Lil Brooks	Various days to suit walk leader	Various
Easy walking (4-6 miles)	Maggie Tucker	Various	1st Thursday of each month

Group Name	Lead Contact	Venue	Meeting Time
French	Maureen Ward	White Hart	10.30, 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month
Garden design	Patti Earl	Member's home	2.00 - next meeting tbc
Gardening	Margaret Davison	Member's home	Next meeting tbc
Historic buildings	John Hurley	Various	9th November, 12th January
Italian	Christine Dickson	Member's home	10.00-11.30, 1st and 3rd Monday of each month
Local history	Carol Harris	St Peter's Centre	2.30, 1st Monday of each month
Map reading and walking skills	Sheila Talbot	White Hart	tbc
Meditation	Ursula Cootes	Lead contact's home	3.00, 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month
Painting for pleasure	Michael Hill	Winchcombe Guide Hall	2.00-4.00 , 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month
Patchwork and quilting	Morag Adlington and Pam Webb	Winchcombe Library	2.00-4.30, 1st and 3rd Monday of each month
Petanque	Paul Clark	The Plough, Prestbury	5.00-7.00, 3rd Friday of each month
Play reading	Lynette Hurley	78 Gloucester Street, Winchcombe	4.00-6.00, 2nd Wednesday of each month
Poetry	Nick Hoskins	Greystones., Market Lane, Greet	10.00-noon, 2nd Monday of each month
Printing, dyeing and embroidery	Jan Charlton	Member's home	Next meeting tbc
Qi gong	JoAnne Freeman	Cleeve Room, Abbey Fields, Winchcombe	4.00-5.00 on 9th October, 15th November and 22nd November
Science, engineering and technology	Brian Weller	Member's home	7.30, 1st Thursday of each month (begins 5th October)

Group Name	Lead Contact	Venue	Meeting time
Scottish country dancing	Maggie and Ian Tucker	Toddington Village Hall	7.00-9.00 p.m., 1st and 3rd Friday of each month,
Spanish	Linda Talbot	White Hart	2.00 on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month
Table tennis	Martin Blackwell	Sports Hall	Every Monday at 11.00
Theatre visits	Lynette Hurley	Various	3-4 trips a year
U3A ramblers (6-8 miles)	Rosemary Middlemiss	Various	Next meeting tbc
Walk and sketch	Rosemary Middlemiss	Various	Next meeting 5 October
Wine tasting	Jo Rees	Member's home	Currently full – if you are interested in forming a second group, please contact Janet Bidwell.