

u3a
North Cotswold

November 2026
Newsletter

A Message from your Chairman

Dear Members

The new season of Open Meetings got off to a great start.

In September, Mark Kershaw provided us with a wonderful trip down memory lane with his talk `The Golden Age of Television'. Mark described his career at the BBC, starting as an assistant camera man, becoming an Associate Director and ending his career providing training for the next generation of camera operators. We enjoyed hearing of the many well-known BBC programmes that he worked on.

In October, Kirsty Hartsiotis gave a fabulous presentation of the Arts and Crafts Movement in Cotswold Churches.

If you have not managed to attend these Open Meetings on the second Thursday of each month, I urge you to give them a try.

My very best wishes

Jeff Price, Chairman

YOUR COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS CAN BE FOUND ON THE LAST PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER

Current Membership (full members) – 335
Number of (active) Groups – 30

https://north-cotswold.u3asite.uk/

Open Meetings Programme

From Janice Fisher

Our Open Meetings take place in Willersey Village Hall at 2pm on the second Thursday of the month.

A suggested donation of £2 is payable at the door for both members and non-members.

Do you need, or can you offer members a lift to Open Meetings?

The Committee would like to facilitate lifts for those u3a members who wish to attend but do not have transport. If you are a member who would like a lift or a member prepared to offer a lift, please contact Hilary Rowlands (Welfare Officer) tel. 01386 858575, email hilaryrowlands@hotmail.com

12th November **The Gordon Russell Design Story** - Christopher Holton



Gordon Russell was a pioneer—a furniture designer, maker, calligrapher, entrepreneur, educator, and advocate of accessible, well-crafted design. Educated in the Arts and Crafts tradition of the Cotswolds, he believed that good design profoundly impacts people's lives. His great skill lay in bridging the gap between hand and machine, craft and design, theory and practice, landscape and architecture.

Welcome New Members

Shirley Holland Marilyn James

Beryl Godfrey (welcome back!)

Celeste Watling Karen Gordon-Brander

Mary & Nick Sadler Elizabeth Bennett

Eileen & Roger Shimmin

Members Christmas Lunch

Thursday, 10th December

We will be holding our annual Christmas lunch for members at Willersey Village Hall on Thursday, 10th December. The doors will open at 12.30 and we will start to serve lunch at 1pm.



This annual event is a hugely popular party and always very well-supported. Last year we had a waiting list for tickets but only a few were successful. Therefore, I urge you to purchase your tickets early to avoid disappointment. For £15 per person, on arrival you will enjoy a welcome drink of mulled wine, Prosecco or a soft drink, followed by a two-course lunch. We do not operate a bar but members are more than welcome to bring their own drinks if they so wish, glasses will be provided. As always the festivities will include crackers, a quiz and a couple of carols.

There will be two ways to purchase tickets. In line with recent events, and for the benefit of members who do not use on-line banking, **I will be selling tickets at the next Open Meeting on Thursday 12th November. From 13th November tickets may be bought online.** Please email me to order your tickets and arrange a BACS payment to the u3a's bank. All the details are at the end of this message. When you arrange payment, please make sure that you give a reference, ie. Surname/Christmas.

Jeff Price, Chairman

chairncu3a@gmail.com

Name: North Cotswold University of the Third Age (must be written in full)

Sort code: 30-99-50 Account: 51781768 (Lloyds Bank).

Group News

History Group Programme

The History Group meets in Weston-sub-Edge Village Hall at 10am. prompt, on the first Tuesday of the month. New and occasional members are always welcome, so if there is a talk that might interest you, please come along.

November 3 **Mike Bottomley**

Rudyard Kipling

Rudyard Kipling had a troubled childhood. He was sent back to the UK from India at the age of 5 but returned at 16 to run a newspaper in Lahore! We learn of the sadness of losing his young daughter to a fever and then his son John in WW1. Mike reminds us of all the wonderful stories and poems Rudyard wrote and will entertain us by performing one or two.

December 1 **John Putley (Community Heritage Officer, Gloucestershire Heritage Hub)**

Treasures of the Archives

Followed by our Christmas Lunch.

January 5 **Dr Gill White – to be confirmed**

Coffee and Conversation



Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th November in the restaurant area of the Fosseway Garden Centre in Moreton-in-Marsh (GL55 0DS) at 10.30am. Parking is plentiful and they have some excellent ideas for Christmas presents and decorations.

Please let Hilary know if you would like to come but need a lift, 'we have a very willing band of drivers'.

For further information please contact Hilary Thornburgh, email hilarythnbg@gmail.com or tel. tel. 01386 701235.



The small **Poetry Group** continues its monthly meetings and here is a foretaste of what we hope to delve into during the autumn.

Monday, 9th November War Poetry.

Suitably, for our season of national mourning and as we remember the sacrifice and death of war, we will be led in consideration of some of the inspired, profound poetry which captures the atmosphere, landscape, and wounds of War - often expressed bitterly and vividly.

Monday 14th December Mary Oliver (1935-2019)

An American poet who found inspiration in nature and quiet places, her work reflects the wonder of the natural environment with vivid imagery and simple language.

Our group is open to new people who might like to try it. For details of where we meet, etc. contact – johndthompstone@gmail.com

Exploring Literature – a new u3a discussion group

What makes a work of literature great? Who decides which books stand the test of time? And how do stories, poems and plays help us make sense of the world and of ourselves?

Our new Exploring Literature group will explore these questions and many more through lively, informal discussions of literature across different periods, genres and traditions.

Our explorations will range from Homer's *Iliad* and Dante's *Inferno* to the wit and social observations of Jane Austen. We will trace the development of the English novel through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and discover the richness and ingenuity of John Donne's poetry.

Alongside individual writers and works, we will consider broader questions about literature itself: what makes a classic, how literary traditions develop, and why certain works continue to speak to readers across the centuries?

Rather than following a conventional reading list, the emphasis will be on curiosity, open-mindedness and the pleasure of thinking together. There will be opportunities to share different perspectives, challenge assumptions and discover unexpected connections between works and ideas.

No specialist knowledge is required — just an interest in literature.

The group is now fully subscribed for its initial programme of meetings.
Contact Victoria Law by email bellini40@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

RIP

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of the following member

Ivor Francis

Our sympathy and condolences to Penny and all his family and friends

Keith Horden's Quiz

1. What nationality was Leo Baekeland, the inventor of Bakelite?
2. Who is the UK's Deputy Prime Minister?
3. Who wrote `The Mill on the Floss'?
4. Andrés Segovia was a virtuoso on which musical instrument?
5. Which novel has the first line `Call me Ishmael'?
6. How many cents are there in a dime?
7. Who was the first Tudor monarch?
8. What is the capital city of Alberta in Canada?
9. Which town was the first in the country to have a zebra crossing?
10. In which year was this zebra crossing installed?



Question 10



Question 2



Question 12

11. In which state is the Grand Canyon?
12. What nationality was the composer Béla Bartók?
13. How many spots are there on a dice?
14. What is the main language of Brazil?
15. Who wrote the operetta `Die Fledermaus'?
16. Who was the longest reigning king of the UK?
17. In which Indian City is the Taj Mahal?
18. Which country won the very first FIFA World Cup in 1930?
19. What is the name of the final book in the Harry Potter series?
20. Boots the Chemist was founded in 1849 in which city?

NORTH COTSWOLD U3A ACTIVITIES 2026				
Group	**Venue**	**Day**	**Time**	**Contact**
Archaeology, Buildings and Architecture	Blockley Jubilee Hall	4th Wednesday	10.00 am	Charles Nixon 07860 662486 Jeff Price 07791 054231
Board Games	Private House Chipping Campden	2nd Wednesday	2 – 4pm	Caroline Anstey 07980 586823 Anne Bunce 07743037164
Bridge for Improvers (Tuition, monitored duplicate, Teams)	Willersey Village Hall	Every Thursday	10.00-12.00	Michael Robinson 01386 852675
Coffee and Conversation	Various – eg. Fosseway Garden Centre, Tower Barn & Chipping Campden	Various	10.30am monthly October to April	Hilary Thornburgh 01386 701235
Effortless Entertaining (Regular and Aga Cooking) **Currently no vacancies**	Private House – Willersey	Last Wednesday, Thursday & Friday	11.30am for coffee, demonstration and lunch	Fiona Tierney 01386 854654
Exploring Literature **Fully subscribed for its initial program of meetings.**	Private House	3rd Tuesday	pm	Victoria Law 07444 924865
Exploring Music **Temporally suspended**				
Family History	Private House Mickleton	2nd Friday	2.00 pm	Liz Reeves 01386 430039
French Group **Currently no vacancies**	Eight Bells Inn, Chipping Campden	3rd Wednesday	2.30 -4.00 pm	Penny Hanes penny.hanes @gmail.com
Gardens & Gardening	Childswickham Memorial Hall (winter) Garden visits (summer)	2nd Friday	10 am (winter) 2.30 pm(summer)	Fran Geering 07392114870
Golf Croquet	Behind Methodist Church, Willersey	1st & 3rd Tuesday	PM May to October	Richard Ingles 01386 853306
History	Weston-sub-Edge Hall	1st Tuesday	10.00 AM	Pamela Endicott 01386 854812
History of Art **Proposed new Group**				Alice Foster Contact Charles Nixon
Kurling	Willersey Village Hall	4th Monday	AM	Sandra Spensley 01386 858637 Christine Sneddon 01386 854841

Group	Venue	Day	Time	Contact
Mahjong	Moreton-in-Marsh	2nd & 4th Monday	PM	Diana Lucas 01608 238092
Opera Appreciation (In conjunction with Winchcombe u3a)	Burland Hall, Stanton	3rd Wednesday	2 – 5pm	Colin Davison 01242 603317 Ann Pitcher 01242 621328
Photography	Willersey Village Hall	2nd Monday	AM	Pauline Cave Cavepauline @me.com
Pickleball	Toddington Village Hall	2nd & 4th Thursday	10 - 11.30am	Charles Nixon 07860 662486 Hazel Cook 07503185215
Poetry	Private Houses – Various	2nd Monday	AM	John Thompstone 01386 852930
Reading for Pleasure	Private Houses – Various	1st Monday	PM	Phyllis Andrews 01386 641361
Science for All Meetings, field trips and videos	Willersey Village Hall (Jubilee Room)	3rd Friday	AM	Marilyn Watts 07747186282
Scottish Country Dancing	Bourton on the Hill	2nd & 4th Friday	AM	Diana Lucas 01608 238092
Skittles **Waiting list**	The Snowshill Arms	3rd Thursday	6.30 for7.00pm	Brian Thackeray 07504 911892
Sunday Lunches **Waiting list**	The Village Bar, Weston-sub-Edge	2nd Sunday	12.00	Judith Pilling 07984 303443
Table Tennis	Willersey Village Hall	1st & 3rd Thursday	5.00 – 6.00 PM	Helen Trussell 07496 112706
Theatre and Concert Going	Various	Probably 3 visits/year		Charles Nixon 07860 662486
Touch Tennis	Willersey Village Hall	1st & 3rd Mondays	10.00 – 11.30 AM	Richard Sutcliffe 01386 300263
Ukulele	Private House – Blockley	2nd & 4th Tuesday	PM	Legh Richardson 01386 701072
Walking - `Amblers', 2 to 3 miles	Optional pub or café lunch	3rd Tuesday	AM	Hilary Rowlands 01386 858575
Walking – `The Friendly Fours' – up to 4 miles at a gentle pace from Broadway and surrounding villages.	Optional pub or café lunch	1st Friday	AM	Joan Rees 01386 300916 or 07801 480703
Walking – Medium Walks	Optional pub lunch	4th Tuesday	AM	Chris Selby 01386 853512
Walking – Long Walks (6.5 to 11 miles)	Optional pub lunch	1st Friday & 3rd Thursday	AM	Anne Robertson 01386 701564

Any changes or additions please contact Charles Nixon (Groups Coordinator), mob. 07860 662486

CONTACT YOUR COMMITTEE



Jeff Price, Chairman 07791 054231

Charles Nixon, Vice-Chairman & Groups Coordinator 07860 662486

Margaret Oliver, Secretary (Business) 01386 832627

Angela Hope, Treasurer 07768 013107

Anne Nixon, Minutes Secretary 07719 526492

Elizabeth Reeves, Membership Secretary 01386 430039

Hilary Rowlands, Welfare Officer 01386 858575

Anne Bunce 07743037164

Marion Davies 01386 842944

Judith Pilling 01386 718979

Geraldine Rogers 0775738814

Janice Fisher (Open Meetings Organiser) 07485 257918

Your next Newsletter will be published in January

The deadline for copy is 24th December

Your Newsletter Editor can be contacted via the Contact Link on the North Cotswold u3a website.

Keith Horden's Quiz the answers

1. Belgian.
2. Louise Haigh.
3. George Eliot.
4. Guitar.
5. Moby Dick.
6. 10.
7. Henry VII.
8. Edmonton.
9. Slough.
10. 1951.
11. Arizona.
12. Hungarian.
13. 21.
14. Portuguese.
15. Johann Strauss
16. . George III.
17. Agra.
18. Uruguay.
19. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows.
20. Nottingham