



Tetbury & District u3a Newsletter

May 2025

Message from the Chair

Hello everyone

Sad News

I'm saddened to announce the passing of Jeremy Iles-North. He was the founder member of Tetbury and District u3a.

Many members have given me words to describe Jeremy - a gentleman who was very kind - see article below. He was inspirational and enthusiastic about everything involving Tetbury u3a. He was a lovely man.

I'm sure members who remember Jeremy fondly would like to share their thoughts. We have started a post on our website for members to add their memories of Jeremy. You can view it [here](#). if you have anything you'd like to add, please send it to david.dr.smith@gmail.com

New Website

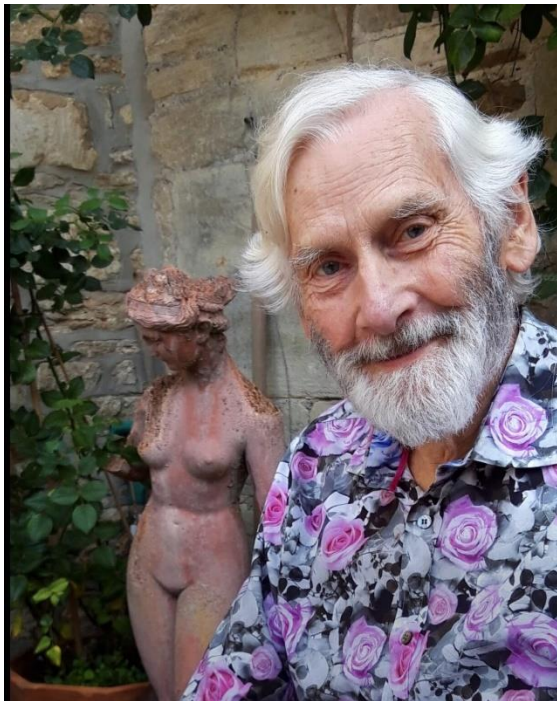
We are excited to announce our brand new website tetbury.u3asite.uk has now been launched. We hope you find it easy to use. There's a lot more information on there, including a page for each group. We hope you enjoy using it. See the next article for more information.

Open Day

Our Open Day will take place on **Tuesday 8th July at the Tetbury Goods Shed, between 10.30am and 2.30pm**. This will have the dual purpose of promoting our u3a to potential new members and also to encourage existing members to participate more fully. Many of our Group Leaders will be in attendance to showcase what we do. Keep the date free and come along to find out more about what we have to offer - all u3a members are be invited - bring a friend too. There is likely to be musical entertainment too, provided by members of our ukulele group the T'UKes. Refreshments will also be available.

Best wishes Bernadette
[chair](#)

In memory of Jeremy Iles-North



Jeremy was born in 1933, attended Clifton College and trained at Sandhurst before taking a Commission.

His marriages resulted in four children who have been close and supportive to him. He had a varied and successful career in different fields, although his artistic talents were very much an important part of him. Photos of him as a young man show matinee-idol looks and the charm that he never lost.

Memories from Anita Stride

Many of us owe a debt to Jeremy North for improving our lives and the chance of friendship offered by the u3a.

When we first moved to Tetbury, we looked for a u3a locally and joined the branch in Cirencester. At one of their monthly meetings, the couple behind us were discussing the bus back to Tetbury so I offered them a lift. The couple turned out to be Jeremy and his partner, Anne, and we have been friends ever since.

Soon afterwards, Jeremy said he was starting a u3a branch in Tetbury, despite some people saying there would be no call for it here, and he asked me to join the Committee.

It was Jeremy's foresight and skill at putting together a group of people who could work together, and enjoy it, that set us on the right path and would lead to a thriving u3a branch with the current number of 380 members.

Many of us have made firm and long-lasting friends through the u3a, have enhanced our lives and learned and laughed together. We can thank Jeremy for this.

Memories from Steve Hammond - Photography Group

We were very sad to hear that Jeremy Iles-North had recently passed away. He had been having health problems for some time and had recently stepped back from our group, which he was instrumental in setting up at the very beginning of T&D u3a in 2019.

During his long working life he taught art and been a professional photographer and, as you know, had his own unique style of photography. He also led the Malmesbury u3a Photography Group until travel became too difficult for him.

He was invariably enthusiastic, knowledgeable, kind and helpful, and will be much missed.

Memories from Martin Doidge - Boules Group

Jeremy was a stalwart member of the Boules group, playing come rain or shine and often wearing a T shirt that proclaimed his philosophy on the game.... 'Aim, Shoot, Swear, Repeat'. In fact Jeremy was a good Boules player and more often than not the result of his shot was a self-deprecating smile in response to an end-winning boule. We will miss him in the group but we won't forget the twinkle in his eye as someone else's boule was sent into oblivion by his skilful shot!

Memories from Steph Dale - Play Reading Group

Jeremy has been a very special person in my life ever since I met him, and we started writing plays together. He subsequently rented the plays to other u3a play-reading groups to raise funds for Tetbury u3a during COVID. It was fun and challenging, especially writing about some of the topics chosen, such as The Black Death ~ during COVID! We were delighted that so many people came to hear that play at The Goods Shed, which helped to raise funds for the Shed.

I loved to hear about Jeremy's life, working in Russia and so many countries and how he built his travel business. We swapped so many stories on our experience of building businesses, marketing and training.

If it wasn't for Jeremy setting up u3a in Tetbury, with the other founder members, I would not have met so many lovely people locally and am forever thankful to Jeremy that I had the privilege of knowing him.

Memories from Corinne Hinton - Play Reading Group

Jeremy was a very conscientious man and when he decided to run the second u3a Playreading Group he enjoyed being well prepared, as a result, everything ran very smoothly and easily. He generously allowed us all into his home and provided a warm, comfortable atmosphere. During the afternoon, halfway through a reading, we were always assured of tea or coffee (which he would prepare himself) in china cups and saucers, and a wonderful assortment of tempting biscuits.

Jeremy had an active mind and enjoyed writing short plays in collaboration with Stephanie Dale. These plays were not about romantic love, feats of heroism, or situation comedies but tackled difficult subjects such as the perils of world-wide on-line dating and assisted dying; he wanted to engage and prompt debate, which they certainly did.

Jeremy never complained about his restricted mobility, or his failing eyesight. His energetic mind gave the impression of somebody who was ageless, and for this reason, it is hard to grasp that he is no longer with us, we will miss him.

Memories from Gail Moss

Without Jeremy there would be no Tetbury and District u3a. With charming persuasion and friendly determination, he formed the first u3a steering committee.

This 80-year-old ladies' man with movie star full head of hair and smooth-talking wit had decided how it would be. As when he wrote plays with Stephanie, which raised money for our u3a, he already had the plot in his flamboyant mind and didn't stop till it came to be. With some friendly banter topped with a debonair smile and a demonstrative shrug he would overcome any obstacle put in the way and like the piper, we would follow.

I remember Jeremy in his velvet jacket and bow tie hosting the first u3a Christmas dinner at Chavenage house; the consummate ringleader spreading the joy. I'm sure the bridge group could tell some tales. Certainly, in the 'Singing for fun group' we'll always remember his rendering of 'O for the wings of a dove' and 'You are my promised hope of springtime'.

Apparently, in the Photography group, all clear blue skies needed a seagull to lift the atmosphere. As someone who felt privileged to call him a friend I know he is now flying high and free in his kind of beautiful world.

Memories from Bee Barford

Although I only met Jeremy very briefly he made an impression with his enthusiasm for Tetbury u3a and his generosity of spirit. A real loss to the members and to Tetbury.

Memories from John Rees

Jeremy was a neighbour of mine at Helena Court and a friend. I was a member of the committee in the Tetbury and District u3a's earliest days, and remember being much taken by the fact that a man, already of some seniority, could summon the drive to found so complex an

organisation and then to manage it so successfully. I was not the only one to feel that we would have been letting him down had we not agreed to play a supporting role. He then played a significant part in motivating the Play-Reading group. I will never forget the boost he gave my acting career when I was offered a part in his production of the story of the Tetbury railway in, was it 2023? It remains my only highlight.

But this was only one of the ways in which he encouraged social activities for the benefit of those around him. Despite not being an owner, he played a major part in bringing our community in Helena Court together. He was an organiser, a cajoler and a skivvy whenever coffee mornings or Christmas parties were in the offing. Indeed, he needed to be reminded on occasions that trying to do everything himself was, in itself, anti-social. He will be sorely missed here.

And I haven't even mentioned his personal qualities, except now to endorse everything that those who knew him will be saying. He had known for some time that his days were numbered. I hope his death was peaceful; it was certainly dignified and optimistic.

New Tetbury & District u3a website

The new Tetbury & District u3a website is now live! The old website had become increasingly difficult to maintain, and hosting costs had risen significantly. Therefore, we decided to start anew, using a website design and hosting service provided by National u3a.

It is mainly designed around the core of every u3a: the groups. Each group now has its own webpage, which can be filled with any information the Group Leader wishes to share.

Please take a look at the new website. Simply click on the new website name tetbury.u3asite.uk and explore all the information available

there. Any text that is blue and underlined will direct you to another relevant part of the website. In particular, click on the [Groups](#) tab and discover what our groups have to offer.

The "Latest Notices" section of the Home page lists upcoming events such as the next monthly talk, our u3a Open Day, and news items. Click on them to learn more. There is a helpful listing of future talks and visits on the [Events](#) page.

You may notice that we now provide the names of Group Leaders and Committee Members. If you wish to contact any of them, simply click on a name and send them a message using the new contact form. If your query pertains to a specific group, please remember to mention the name of the group in question.

There is a search box in the top right corner of every page, so try it if you can't find the information you are looking for.

Don't forget to save the new website's address in your favourites and remove the old website address. The old website will close down at the end of June, and you won't see anything if you use the old address! Finally, a big "Thank You" to Lawrence Moss for setting up and maintaining the original site for almost 6 years, and to Tony Hadfield for his help and support in establishing our new website, especially in transferring the essential documentation from the old site to the new one. I hope you find the new website easy to navigate and informative. Please share any feedback, comments, or suggestions.

By David Smith
IT Support

Monthly Speakers

May 2025 - Anthony Gerrard: The History and Work of the RNLI

Our booked speaker from the NHS Falls Service had to drop out but we were very fortunate that Anthony Gerrard our local Community Speaker for the RNLI was able to fill in at the last moment. His talk about the history and work of the RNLI and its selfless volunteers was both thought provoking and inspirational, witnessed by the fact that members present personally donated an amazing £163 on top of the donation from funds we had already committed to. Anthony wanted to thank everyone at Tetbury & District u3a for their generosity and wish us the very best of success with our activities throughout this year and beyond.

June 2025 - Dr James Taylor: Horatio Nelson

James Taylor, author and former curator of pictures at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, offers his acclaimed illustrated talk on Horatio Nelson in the year when Britain marks the 220th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar.

According to wikipedia 1st Viscount Nelson was: "a [Royal Navy](#) officer whose inspirational leadership, grasp of strategy and unconventional tactics brought about a number of decisive British naval victories during the [French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars](#). He is widely regarded as one of the greatest naval commanders in history."

To find out more about this naval hero and paintings that depict his life and times, join us on Tuesday 17th June, Goods Shed, Tetbury 10am for 10:30am

By Anne Cox

speakers@tetburyu3a.org.uk

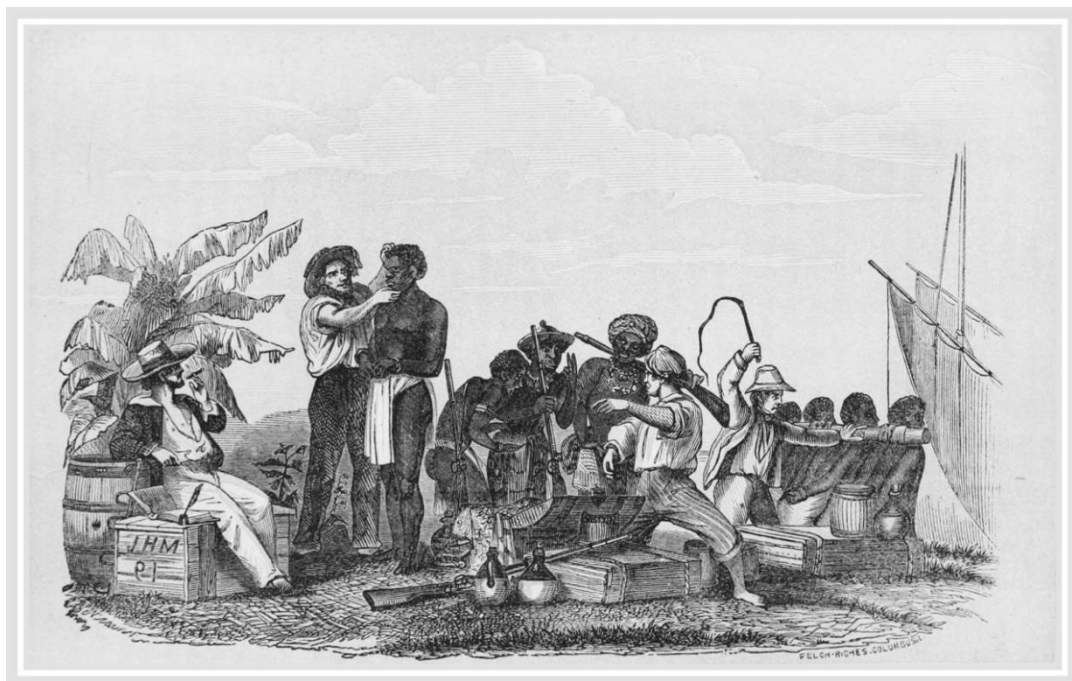
Group News

Bookclub Monday Evening

'The Fraud' by Zadie Smith

This book is Zadie Smith's sixth novel and her first historical novel. Despite having "an ideological objection" to the form (which she always associated as being "aesthetically and politically conservative by definition") she was inspired to write "The Fraud" when she came across "The Tichborne Claimant trial."

This was a legal case which lasted nearly a year (May 11, 1871, to March 5, 1872) involving Arthur Orton, a butcher from Wapping, who claimed to be Sir Roger Tichborne (a young man who had been on a boat bound for Jamaica which disappeared) and attempted to prove his identity and claim the Tichborne estates. After the jury rejected his claim and found the Claimant to be Arthur Orton and not Sir Roger, he was arrested for perjury, and another criminal trial followed, which was even longer, lasting from April 1873 to February 1874. Eventually he was sentenced to fourteen years imprisonment.



By Blake, William O - Internet Archive identifier: historyofslavery00blaka, Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=104982438>

Following the events of the case became immensely popular in Victorian England, and the more absurd it became, the more the "common man" stood with The Claimant believing that it was a conspiracy against the working man. One of the key witnesses in the case was the son of a Jamaican slave, which is how the novel travels to Jamaica.

"The Fraud" jumps abruptly between different time periods spanning the 1830's to the 1870's (a period just before the act abolishing slavery in 1833 to a period about 40 years after it) and covers storylines both in England and the Hope Plantation in Jamaica. It explores themes such as the nature of identity, the role of class and power and the power of stories. The Tichborne Claimant trial appears halfway through the book after we have been introduced (and invested a lot of time) to the life, literary friends and lovers of William Harrison Ainsworth, an English historical novelist, and his cousin and housekeeper Mrs Eliza Touchet.

In writing the book Zadie Smith said that she "thought a lot about fraud: fake identities, fake news, fake relationships, [and] fake histories." And there are many instances of deception, fraudulent people and fraudulent behaviour throughout the book.

I think it is fair to say that we all found this book a challenge, not only because of the kaleidoscopic nature of the story, but also because we found it hard to relate to many of the characters. There are moments of humour and references to historical events which might inspire some to discover more. But, despite the short chapters, this book is not a page turner, and we rated the book 2.12 stars out of 5.

The next book we will be discussing will be a travel book, "The Amur River" by Colin Thubron. It explores the river's course, the history and culture of the region, and Thubron's personal experiences along the way. Our meeting will be held on Monday 2nd June 2025 at 7pm at the Royal Oak Tetbury.

By Corinne Hinton

Book Club Wednesday

On Wednesday 30th April nine of us sat outside on a lovely sunny afternoon to discuss Ian McEwan's book, "Amsterdam". It was first published in 1998 but somehow seems more relevant in the 2020's.

Such a talented writer, all his books are so different and this was no exception. The story of two talented men, one an editor of a quality newspaper the other Britain's most successful, modern composer who thinks he's Vaughn William's heir - neither likeable. The book shows how quickly their friendship changed with disastrous results but left us wondering whether one of the other characters was responsible.

We agreed it wasn't his best book but it lead to an interesting conversation.

By Pauline Whittaker

French Group

The group continues to practise French three times a month in informal, friendly ways. We started May with our Conversation Topic: "My Working Life", a chance to talk and ask questions about our life experiences. We turn out to be a very varied bunch and it was fascinating to hear about each others' lives.

We watched a great film "La Bête Humaine" (loosely based on the 1890 novel of the same name by Émile Zola) set around the life of railway men and their families in the late 1930s. It's a thought provoking, atmospheric film with lots of nostalgic footage of steam trains. A story of love and crime, it's thought to be a precursor of the film noir genre. Our third session in May was Song and Games where we sang "C'est Si Bon", the carefree song of love, and played a card game to practice French verbs for everyday activities. Sally won as usual!

If this sounds your kind of thing, check out details on the u3a website [Groups](#) page, see us at the Open Day in July or get in touch.

By Anne Cox

Gardening Group

This month we visited the Courts Garden at Holt, a National Trust garden, on Monday 12th May.

When we arrived, we were horrified for a brief moment to discover that there was a large CLOSED sign on the entrance, and the gates were firmly locked. Had we made a mistake with the planning? We didn't have a Plan B. Reading the notice on the gates confirmed that the garden should be openand of course all was well as we had arrived a few minutes before opening time! At the appointed time, we watched someone slowly walk down the path with a large set of keys, to unlock the gates - and they were pleasantly surprised to be greeted by all of us.



It was lovely to be the first visitors of the day, and we had the place to ourselves for a while. This is a delightful English country garden, with water gardens, herbaceous borders, topiary, arboretum with naturalistic spring bulbs and a kitchen garden. Our group visited this garden last autumn and enjoyed it so much we wanted to go back, and we were not disappointed.



Our next visit will be a local garden, at 21 Cirencester Road on Monday 2 June at 10.30am. You would be welcome to join us. You can see our programme at the Garden Group page on our new [website](#)

By Caroline Hose

Historic Buildings Group

The group has had two very enjoyable visits since the last newsletter. In late April, 28 members visited Kingston Bagpuize House nr Faringdon, Oxon. Surrounded by garden and parkland, this beautiful early Georgian style house is in red brick with stone quoins, banding, and window surrounds.



The handsome cantilever staircase dominates the entrance hall. The elegant reception rooms have period furniture and paintings. We received a very warm welcome from the owner and her family. We had very informative guided tours of the rooms. The house remains a family home, and this was reflected in the contents of the rooms.



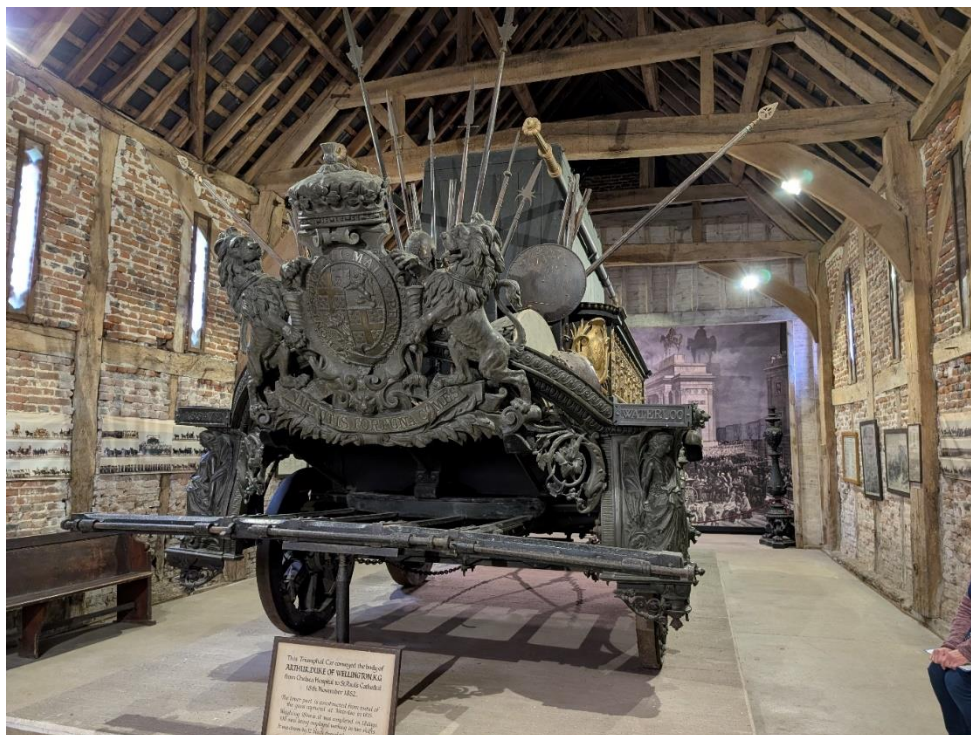
The weather was splendid, to the extent that we all sought shade under the beautiful trees whilst eating our lunchtime picnic.



Our second outing was to Stratfield Saye House nr Basingstoke.

29 members thoroughly enjoyed visiting the ancestral home of the Dukes of Wellington, including the Great Duke of the Battle of Waterloo fame. The estate was purchased by the Duke using funds voted to him by a grateful nation. The House was full of memorabilia from that era.

For many of us, the highlight was the barn containing the extraordinary triumphal car, used to process the coffin of the Duke through the streets of London for the State Funeral.



The funeral procession was the largest event seen; the streets were lined with more than 1 million people. The lower part of the car was constructed using bronze captured at the Battle of Waterloo. The entire project was completed in just 18 days, including moulding and casting all the bronzes - an incredible achievement!



We also had the opportunity to pay our respects at the grave of "Copenhagen", the charger ridden by The Duke for the entire day at the Battle of Waterloo.

Our next scheduled visit is to Bromesberrow estate, nr Ledbury on 12th June. This will be a private group visit behind closed doors to see this classical Greek Revival house. The current owner will give an introductory talk about the house, followed by a tour of the house and gardens. The cost is £23pp inc tea/coffee /biscuits on arrival. You are welcome to bring a picnic to enjoy in the grounds.

Our July visit is to Cotswold Farm nr Duntisborne Abbots Glos on 23rd July. This historic Arts & Crafts house is in the heart of the Cotswolds. Designed by Sidney Barnsley and Norman Jewson, it has been the home of the Birchall family for five generations. The cost will be £28pp to include a tour of the house by the owner, refreshments (soup roll, hot drink homemade cake), and entry to the garden. Some of you may have seen the splendid display of snowdrops in February when the u3a Gardening Group visited. This will be a great opportunity to see inside the house, and also see the garden again during a different season of the year.

Please see our entry on our brand new website tetbury.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/historic-buildings for more information about this year's events, and download the programme.

If you are interested in joining our Group, please send us a message via the contact form using the link on the above web page.

Please note that we only take bookings on a visit-by-visit basis. Email invitations to book will normally be sent out around a month before each visit. We cannot accept bookings or payments before then. Keep your eyes open for emails from us, as visits often sell out very quickly!

By David & Maggie Smith - Group organisers.

History Group

The History Group's May meeting had a "Feminism" theme.

Maggie told us about Rosalind Franklyn, the forgotten woman behind the Nobel prize-winning DNA research. Theo explained how the end of the colonial era had retrogressive impacts on the rights of women in Arabia and Africa and Corinne gave us the background to New Zealand's becoming the first country in the world to give women the electoral franchise, thanks to the persistent and determined lobbying of Kate Sheppard.

The Group's draft programme for the year is now available on the [History](#) page of the new Tetbury and District u3a website.

Our next meeting on Tuesday June 17th has a musical theme. Neville will tell us the history of the accordion before George plays us some of his historical 78rpm records. All are welcome.

By Bob Kelley

Ukulele Group

Our Ukulele group, the T'Ukes, played to a huge audience at their singalong concert on 16th April at the Goods Shed. We had over 80 adults, plus numerous children as it was during the Easter holidays - one of the biggest audiences for an afternoon concert. The children (and some of the adults) really loved playing the maracas, tambourines and other percussion instruments which Mike shared out, and everyone seemed to have an enjoyable afternoon.

We are proud to report that we raised £182 for Longfield Hospice on the day through our bucket collection, and we will also have boosted the income to the Goods Shed through ticket sales.



Following that we had our second "big cheque" presentation of £500 to Longfield Hospice.



Longfield has written to thank us, explaining that the money we raise helps to support those who are living with life-limiting illness from across Gloucestershire, as well as their families and carers, enables

people to be cared for in their own homes, and ensures their supportive care teams are there for families and patients, pre- and post- bereavement.

Knowing that doing what's both pleasurable and therapeutic for us and for our audiences is also benefitting others is a real bonus.

By Caroline Hose

And finallyThe deadline for contributions to the next newsletter is Monday 23rd June. Keep those reports coming in!

Please use the [contact form](#) to send your articles to Caroline, your newsletter editor.

See Annex below for list of u3a National Online Learning Events.

u3a National Events

Online Learning Events

u3a members can join a wide range of online talks, workshops and courses for free with their membership. Most of these opportunities are presented by members themselves, sharing their knowledge or skills with others across the movement. There is also a wide range of talks on offer from well-known speakers and organisations, plus in-person events at venues like the Royal Institution.

All of these events can be booked at the link below via Eventbrite. Online events are hosted on Zoom - further information and 'how to' guides are here <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

Want to be the first in the know? Sign up to receive regular monthly updates on upcoming events: [subscribe here](#)

List of future Online Learning Events

On-line Event	Date and Time
Bollywood Laughter Yoga Dance	Monday, June 2 · 10 - 11am
Flight Inspirations Aviation Meeting: Combat Stress and Lack of Moral Fibre	Tuesday, June 3 · 10am - 12pm
An Introduction to Canva, a powerful online Graphic Design Program	Wednesday, June 4 · 1 - 2:30pm
Laughter Yoga with Judith	Wednesday, June 11 · 10 - 11am
Roads were not made for cars!	Thursday, June 12 · 2 - 3:30pm
Glasgow Society of Lady Artists	Friday, June 13 · 2 - 3pm
Use of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare	Tue, 17 Jun 2025 14:00 - 15:00

Laughter Yoga with Merrie Maggie	Tuesday, June 17 · 3:30 - 4:30pm
The ICONIC Project: Exploring how Co-Design can support Digital Inclusion	Wednesday, June 18 · 1 - 2:30pm
Seasonal eating!	Thursday, June 19 · 10:30 - 11:30am
Artificial Intelligence News: June	Friday, June 20 · 9 - 10:30am
People and Places along the Silk Roads	Friday, June 20 · 2 - 3:30pm
Cryptic Crosswords for Beginners: Six-Session Course	June 24 · 10am - July 29 · 11:30am
Puzzle Solving with Pascal's Triangle	Fri, 27 Jun 2025 14:00 - 15:00
Unseen Universe: a safari through the invisible world of microbes	Friday, June 27 · 2 - 3pm
The Oceans and Climate Change	Monday, June 30 · 10 - 11:30am
Flight Inspirations Aviation Meeting: The Man Who Tested Parachutes	Tuesday, July 1 · 10am - 12pm
Ice to Athelstan - The Emergence of England	Thursday, July 3 · 10 - 11:30am
An Introduction to the Arts and Crafts Movement	Monday, July 7 · 2 - 3:30pm
Time to get out the BBQ!	Thursday, July 10 · 10:30 - 11:30am

Interest Groups Online

Interest Groups Online is an online u3a community that gives you the opportunity to join groups, talks and courses from the comfort of your home. Like with a u3a, the activities are run by members and are a great way to meet people from all across the u3a movement.

It costs £12 to join for the year, equating to £1 per month. Membership runs from 1 April to 31 March of the next year. Membership and your groups are managed via the u3a Beacon Members Portal.

To become a member of Interest Groups Online you will need to fill out a short form and make your payment on the u3a Beacon Members Portal. As part of your subscription to Interest Groups Online, you can opt in to receive a free copy of the u3a magazine, Third Age Matters (TAM).

Take a look at the groups page for details on the wide variety of online groups, courses and talks, and how to join [interest groups online](#)