



u3a

learn,
laugh,
live

**GLOUCESTER
& DISTRICT**

[www.u3asites.org.uk/
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Reg. Charity No. 1016356

Friday Walk: Painswick Beacon, *Anthea Bircher*

NEWSLETTER

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REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Over the last year we have gained over a hundred new members, taking our current membership to over 600. No doubt this is due in part to the new flyer we produced and the enthusiasm with which members distributed them for us. The more members we have, the easier it is for us to maintain the lowest u3a membership fee in our area. As we have e-mail addresses for 96% of our members, we are also able to distribute information in a very cost effective way. I would like to remind everyone to tell Barbara, if their e-mail address changes, so they can be kept up-to-date. Despite the high level of e-mail usage we know that members still like to have a printed newsletter and after some discussion we have decided not to reduce the number we produce.

Over recent months I have been analysing the attendance at our monthly meetings. Unsurprisingly the subject and the weather seem on the basis of this preliminary data to be the deciding factors on the attendance. Our lowest attendance of 55 was for a very enjoyable talk on George Gershwin in September, when it poured with rain. The Christmas concert, on a mild December day, attracted 125 including the choir. However, the largest attendance of 136 on a dry, bright day in March was for a chance to hear about the A417 Missing Link road scheme. Of course that also had to be the day when a power cut struck and it took some time to get the presentation equipment back online. At least we will know what needs to be done, should the same thing happen again. As ever our thanks are due to Mary for organizing our monthly meetings and to Thelma and

her team for providing the refreshments and manning the entrance.

We continue to offer a wide range of interest groups – 37 in all. I would like to thank all those who make this possible by agreeing to act as group leaders. The rising cost of hiring rooms has proved to be a problem for some groups. While the committee can assist with the startup costs for a new group and will help with exceptional expenses thereafter, on the whole we need groups to be self-sustaining. Fortunately some local businesses have proved happy to host small groups, in the expectation that they will buy refreshments.

We have recently gained three new groups for Kayaking, Tai Chi and Family History. The latter two came about after members expressed an interest in these areas at the August Subs and Clubs meeting and I'd like to thank Bridget for her hard work in finding suitable accommodation and willing group leaders. After a brief hiatus when Marian Carroll stepped down as group leader, the Horticultural Group has also resumed its programme of talks and outings, after I took over ably assisted by the indefatigable Mary and Carol Tarbox, who books our speakers. Unfortunately Travel, another of our long-established groups, is now in a similar situation as Carol Wheeler is unable to continue as leader. I would urge those of you who appreciate the value of this group to consider stepping forward. I can confirm from personal experience that you will receive plenty of support and it turns out to be not as daunting as it appears the minute after you find yourself offering to do it. I would also like to thank John Thorn,

who has stepped down as leader of the recorder group due to ill health.

Trips and social events are a valued part of our offering to members. In the past year these have included coach trips to Wightwick Manor, Waddesdon Manor, Rodmarton House, Cotswold Farm Gardens and Ashwood Nurseries, as well as a number of concerts and a longer Travel Group visit to Torquay. In addition the activities of the Social Group have included visits to Javelin Park, Laithwaites Winery, Beckford Silk Mill, the Bugatti Museum. My thanks to all those involved in the running of these trips.

We remain members of the Cotswold Link, their regular meetings being attended by our representative Jeremy Furtado. This is a valuable group, which provides access to our members to groups run by other u3as within the area and peer support groups for various committee roles. This year's special interest day, held in Cheltenham in June, was entitled 'The Influence Of Music On Our Society And Culture'. Cotswold Link are looking for volunteers to join their committee, as several serving members will soon be stepping down. None of our current committee feel able to commit to this, but I'm sure there are some among you with relevant experience who might consider this worthwhile role.

As your Chair this is my opportunity to thank on my own and your behalf all those who carry out essential roles enabling Gloucester u3a to function. Sarah Maidlow our Newsletter Editor chases us for contributions, checks our copy and puts the whole newsletter together. John Harding our Webmaster manages our website, which plays an

increasingly important role in advertising what we are doing to the world, encouraging new members to join and making resources accessible to existing members. Keiron Helmy takes charge of Beacon, an essential tool for the administration of u3a groups and membership and Penelope Brown has kindly assisted Gerald by checking our accounts for the third time. I must also thank the members of the Committee: Gillian, Business Secretary; Gerald, Treasurer; Babs, Membership Secretary; Bridget, Groups Co-ordinator; Mary, Monthly Meetings Organizer and Jeremy, Cotswold Link Liaison. Between them they have made my role as Chair over the last year straightforward and enjoyable. For both Gillian and Gerald the coming year will be their last on the committee and I will be moving away, so we will be looking for a new Chair, Business Secretary and Treasurer in 2026. I would urge you all to consider, whether you could step forward to help Gloucester u3a continue on its upward trajectory.

Jan

AGM Minutes

Present 80 members present.

Therefore, with membership of 603, the meeting was quorate.

Chairman's welcome Jan

Broadway welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence [were received]

2. Minutes of 36th AGM held on Monday, 22nd July, 2024, had been circulated prior to the meeting. All members present agreed that this was a

true record. The minutes were then signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising None

4. Chairman's Report

[see above]

5. Treasurer's Report Balance sheets were distributed prior to the meeting.

Treasurer reported that the accounts remain in a healthy state and are only slightly down over the past few years. This last year in particular reflects more than usual late invoices from the preceding year.

The Committee feels that the balance sheet figure of £22,064.53 is an ample reserve.

The finances are split between Central and Group funds. Central funds come from membership fees and also £925 gift aid. There was £376 interest from the Savings Account.

Central expenditure includes Capitation, Beacon Fees and Third Age Matters fees which are paid to Third Age Trust. Also covers venue hire for Subs and Clubs, AGM, New Members meeting, etc.

This totals £6,639 giving £530 excess to subsidise Monthly Meetings costs.

Groups are generally self funding with smaller groups using more affordable venues.

Late invoices from 2023/24 group expenditure exceeded group income by £1,228 but this has now been largely resolved.

Monthly Meetings charge £1 (subsidised) in order to provide an opportunity to socialise and learn about forthcoming trips and events.

Treasurer suggested that the membership fee for the coming year remains at £10.

During the year the Charity Commission Return for 2023/24 was submitted and accepted.

Penelope Brown has checked the accounts and will sign them off following approval by the meeting.

Treasurer thanked Penelope for all her help but pointed out that she is unable to check accounts next year. Hopefully a member will step forward to take on this role.

The Chair thanked Gerald for compiling the accounts.

6. To Receive and Approve the Accounts for 2024 - 2025

The Treasurer requested approval for the accounts to be examined by Penelope Brown, Chartered Accountant and member of Gloucester u3a.

[passed]

7. To Approve the Examiner of Accounts for 2025 - 2026

As Penelope Brown will not be available to check the accounts for 2025/26, the Treasurer requested approval for the Committee to assign a suitable person to check the accounts. [passed]

8. Special Commendations

Chair informed members that at each AGM she thanks a number of people beyond the committee for their contributions to the smooth functioning of Gloucester u3a.

Earlier this year the committee discussed whether we should, as our Constitution allows, elect an Honorary President. The upshot of the discussion was that there was clearly a number of people whose past contribution were in danger of being forgotten with the passing of time.

As a result Committee decided to consult with members. Whilst this proposal is not open for discussion at

this meeting, members are asked to consider the following:

- A. Is this a good idea?
- B. If so, what form should the recognition take?
- C. Who should be recognised?

Members are asked to provide feedback to the Committee, who intend to return to this matter at the October Meeting.

9. Election of Officers and Committee

As the current Committee members have kindly agreed to continue in their roles for the forthcoming year and there has been no new nominations for these roles, the Officers and Committee were re-elected *en bloc*.

[passed]

Chair thanked the Committee for all their support and hard work and repeated the need for more volunteers to join the Committee especially to fill the forthcoming vacancies.

10. A.O.B. None

11. Date of 38th Annual General Meeting

Monday, 27th July, 2026 (Date and venue to be confirmed nearer the date).

The AGM concluded at 2.22.

The members were then entertained by the Gloucester u3a Recorder Group under their Group Leader, Stephen Ayland. Chair thanked the Group for providing such a lovely programme of music and for informing member of the different recorders they had at their disposal.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership is due for renewal on 1st August and we hope that you will continue as a member. We are pleased

to say that the annual membership fee remains at £10 for individuals and £20 joint for the fifth year in a row! The Associate fee (for full members of another Cotswold Link u3a) is £6 for individuals and £12 joint. If you want the Newsletters sent to you by post, the cost is £4 per year but you cannot pay this online. We are going to continue to offer renewal by means of BACS following its successful introduction last year, so there are 4 ways that you can renew your membership:

- **BACS transfer.** I have already sent out an email with details of the Gloucester u3a Bank Account and the information you will need to give as a reference, to make sure that we renew the right member on Beacon! As we need to process the payments and issue membership cards, there could be a slight delay before you receive your membership card but we will try to be as quick as we can. If you have not received an email and wish to pay by BACS, please contact me or the Treasurer for the Bank Account details.
- **Online.** Access to the Members Portal has changed to your Email address and Password and many of you have already registered. However, new members will have to create a password but first, to confirm your identity, you have to provide 5 pieces of information that match the details on your Beacon record. I've included all the relevant information in my email so hopefully, all will go smoothly but do let me know if you have any problems. Payment is via PayPal, but you can pay as a guest with your credit or debit card without creating a PayPal account.

- **At Subs and Clubs.** The meeting will take place at Brunswick Baptist Church, Southgate Street on **Monday, 18th August at 2.00**, with refreshments being served from 1.30. Group Leaders will be on hand to give information on their groups and Subs can be paid by cash or cheque.
- **By Post.** Send a cheque payable to 'Gloucester u3a' to the Membership Secretary, 8 Wedgwood Drive, Longlevens, Gloucester GL2 0AD. Please print your name and Membership Number on the back of the cheque and include a SAE if you want your membership card sent by post.

I look forward to welcoming back previous members. If you know of anyone who is interested in joining Gloucester u3a, please bring them along to 'Subs and Clubs' or to one of the Monthly Meetings.

Babs Morgan
Membership Secretary

MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Monthly meetings are held in the Brunswick Baptist Church in Southgate Street, Gloucester. Entrance fee is £1. Please bring the correct change. The doors open at 10.00 when Thelma Miller and her Hospitality Team will be on hand to serve hot drinks. The meetings begin at 10.30.

Monday, 22nd September – David Head will describe the five new and most weird places on the planet.

Monday, 27th October – Robert Bryant will take us on a tour of Gardens here and there in England

Monday, 24th November – Francis Fry will help us into the

Christmas Spirit with "Music, Musicals and a Merry Christmas"

December (date tbc) – Gloucester u3a Choir will entertain us under their Director of Music, John Merrick ably accompanied by Elvin Young on the piano

2026

Monday, 26th January – Nigel Thompson will take us on a tour of the Blue Plaques in Gloucester and detail their accomplishments

Monday, 23rd February – Anthony Gerrard will give information on the work of the RNLI

Monday, 23rd March – Alan Jones, a retired Policeman will talk about humorous anecdotes of his time in the Warwickshire Force and his time in India and working for the BBC. Naturally his talk is entitled "A Policeman's Lot"

Monday, 27th April – Peter Gill will take us through some of the songs of the late Tom Lehrer.

Monday, 18th May – Ashley Jones will tell us about the History of the Dicken Medal, now considered to be the VC for animals

Monday, 22nd June – The Gloucester u3a Choir will return to entertain us under their Director of Music, John Merrick ably accompanied by Elvin Young on the piano.

Monday, 27th July – AGM
This meeting starts at 2.00, further details to follow.

Monday, 17th August – *Subs and Clubs* (this meeting is on 3rd Monday due to Summer Bank Holiday)

Again this meeting starts at 2.00. This is an opportunity to pay your subscriptions and learn what the groups have to offer in the coming year.

GROUPS

CONCERT GROUP

The next Concert at the Birmingham Symphony Hall is on **23rd October** at 2.15. Prokofiev meant his

Classical Symphony to be a musical joke. Schubert meanwhile, set out to write the greatest symphony of his life. They both succeeded and Kazuki brings them together in a concert that also features the roof-raising keyboard fireworks of the Jussen Brothers. Expect wit, grandeur and piano playing that has to be heard to be believed.

Contact me on xxxx

for further details on price etc.

Following this there will be a concert in Birmingham on **16th November** at 3.00: Mozart's *Adagio in E major for Violin*, his *Violin Concerto No. 5*, and his *Symphony No. 41* (Jupiter).

Followed by another on **10th December** at 7.30 again in Birmingham featuring Kazuki Yamada conducting Strauss. Details of both these to come later. Coaches for all three.

Rosemary Canning

ENJOYING MUSIC

This group takes place every **Second Tuesday** of each month at the Congregational Church Hall in Saint Mary's Street, Gloucester at 10.30. Come along for an hour of Music selected by a member of the Group who tell us why they have chosen it. Any type of music may be chosen which remains a mystery until heard on the day. Who knows but after you have been and heard some one's choices, you

may like to select your own favourite pieces for a session? Either you may present it or, if not, I will do it on your behalf. Tea and coffee are available if you wish.

I hope to see you there,

Clive Harper (xxxx)

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

The newly formed Family History Group meets at the Heritage Hub, Clarence Row, Alvin Street, Gloucester on the **1st and 3rd Tuesday** of the month from 2.00 - 4.00. Experienced volunteers are available to support you in your quest. Spaces are limited so it will be a case of first come, first served. For more information and to register your interest, please contact me,

Julie Kucharski (xxxx)

FOLK BAND

The band has been meeting weekly this term (except for Bank Holidays) playing out to receptive audiences on a number of occasions. Our first outing after the summer break is at St Mary deCrypt, lunchtime on Friday, **September 12**, during Gloucester's Heritage Open Days. Singers and acoustic instrumentalists are welcome to give us a try: details on our web page.

Sarah Maidlow

HORTICULTURE GROUP

Meetings will be held on the **first Wednesday** of the Month in the Cinema at the Guildhall unless otherwise stated. We will start at 10.30 but the café area is open for hot drinks from 10.

Wednesday, 3rd September – Nathalie Mignotte: my holiday in Japan

Wednesday, 1st October – Roger Umpelby will talk about bugs, the good, the bad and the ugly

Wednesday, 5th November – Duncan Coombs, Pershore Lecturer: Winter colour and interest in the garden

December – Christmas Social: venue and details available nearer to the date. 2026

The meetings in February, March and May will take place in the Wheatstone Hall, which is inside the Gloucester Museum in Brunswick Road.

January – No meeting

Wednesday, 4th February – Gloucester Wildlife Trust discussing environment emissions

Wednesday, 4th March – Catherine Williams, Preparing your garden for the coming months.

Wednesday, 1st April – Study Visit to Winterbourne House, part of Birmingham University.

Wednesday, 6th May – Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group – getting wildflowers back in hedges.

Wednesday, 3rd June – Study visit to Dyffryn Gardens, near Cardiff. Ideas for future outings and talks would be very welcome.

Jan Broadway, Carol Tarbox, Mary Kitchen

LOCAL HISTORY

We have arranged the following talks and walks which we hope you will enjoy. They take place on the **last Tuesday** of the month at 10.30 in the Guildhall cinema (unless otherwise stated)

Wednesday, 13th August – Following the talk given in January by Tony Roberts from Archeoscan, a visit to the Slimbridge Excavation site has been arranged at 2.00. Evidence of large

Roman buildings have been uncovered including a possible aisled barn and bathhouse.

Car parking and toilet facilities are available at the site and the visit would last about 1-1½ hours. Please telephone Marian if you would like to come.

Monday, 15th September – Re-arranged date for the walk with Captain Henry Skillicorne for those who had originally booked. We meet outside the Wilson Gallery at 1.15.

Tuesday, 30th September – Local Historian Tony Conder will be making a welcome return to give an illustrated talk on the official opening of Gloucester Docks in April 1827, when huge crowds gathered to witness the event.

Tuesday, 28th October – Dr Steven Blake's last talk to us on local churches was very well received and we are delighted that he will be returning to give a particularly visual talk entitled '*Views of Cheltenham 1786 - 1850: topographical prints of a Regency Town*' that covers a whole range of early 19th Century Cheltenham prints and print makers. He will tell some very unusual life stories, including artist George Rowe who went from Gloucestershire to the Australian goldfields!

Tuesday, 25th November – Terry Matthias is a Civic Trust guide and a member of Gloucester u3a. He will be giving a talk on '*Whitsun 1940*', describing the daring exploits to deny Hitler's Germany of the valuable funds and resources for their manufacturing industries and to harass the enemy in the event of an invasion.

Tuesday, 27th January 2026 – Phil Collins will be entertaining us with his talk on '*Sudeley Castle*' where he will be

exploring its architectural evolution, royal connections and rich heritage. Thank you for your support and please let us know if you have any suggestions for future talks.

Marian, Babs and Dave

MAHJONG

Summer is well and truly with us. Sun and showers and, at the moment, it is hammering down with rain. Well, it is the school holidays!

Every **2nd** and **4th Wednesday** afternoons of the month our group meets at St Mary de Crypt, Southgate St. to play mahjong from 2.00-4.00. We have again been delighted to welcome more new faces to our group but there is always room for more. Never played before? Don't let that stop you — help is at hand!

August meetings to be confirmed. September dates are **10th** and **24th**. Look forward to seeing you there.

Pippa Zadeh

POETRY GROUP

We've continued to meet face-to-face this term, now with a lovely new venue thanks to one of our members, albeit with a small cost involved. We're using a second anthology to complement the one we've drawn on for a while, offering us the chance to look at a wider group of mid- and late Victorian poets still writing in the early twentieth century. Our web page usually gives up-to-date details of meetings, to which all are welcome.

Sarah Maidlow

SINGING TOGETHER

Yes, This could be for you? You never know but you could have a better voice

than you think. Here's your chance to find out without being embarrassed about it. Maybe you are choir material after all?

All the words and music to popular songs are provided. Also, it wouldn't be right if the inevitable computer gremlins did not creep in and make for an even more enjoyable hour of music! So, on the **third Tuesday** of each month come along to the congregationalist Church Hall in St Mary's Street. We begin at 10.30.

Clive Harper (xxxx)

SOCIAL CYCLING



With all the lovely long, hot, sunny days, we decided to have our first evening social cycle on the 9th July. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed drinks and dinner on the banks of the Severn at The

Anchor Inn. Even with a long chatty meal and a slow ride home we were back in the daylight.

If you like the sound of sociable cycling and meals out with new friends then please get in touch and come along.

Simon Pollington

xxxx

SOCIAL EVENTS

What wonderful weather we have had this summer! Members of the Social events group have enjoyed a walk

across Alney Island for lunch, a guided tour around Llanthony Priory and a trip



out to Sherborne Cinema to see 'The Salt Path' — it was good to see that lovely independent cinema full.... Clive has taken groups to see the Javelin incinerator and to a wine tasting at Laithwaites.

There are 2 guided walking tours planned for August in hope that the fair weather continues; one around the Docks and the other around Upton St Leonards.

In the autumn we will meet up for morning coffee and have more local cinema, theatre, and music outings.

This group is perfect for new members as you will get a chance to mix with different people and hear from them what they are doing in the u3a. You will be made very welcome.

There is a monthly newsletter by email from Triss Pollington, and Clive will send you emails about special trips including Beckford Silk Mill.

To join the group please email

xxxx

SPANISH CONVERSATION

We are a self-learning group meeting on the second and fourth Thursday of each month, from 2.00 to 3.30, in a room at Robert Raikes's pub on Southgate Street, Gloucester.

New members are welcome, whether you're a beginner, intermediate, or fluent in Spanish who would like to attend as a way to practice. Join us for a relaxed and sociable learning experience over a coffee or your favourite drink from the bar. It's a fun way to enjoy the journey and speak Spanish with confidence.

Regards
Mark

STEAM RAILWAY GROUP

For the third year in a row, on our annual day out, the weather was very warm and sunny as we travelled on our wonderful local Heritage Railway Line the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Steam Railway from Cheltenham Racecourse to Broadway. The volunteers at both Winchcombe and Toddington gave us an excellent tour behind the scenes of both the carriage and wagon works and the locomotive depot.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday **September 23rd** at 2.00 in the Guildhall cinema. Our guest speaker is Michael Clemens who will be showing us rare cine footage, taken by his late father Jim, of steam railways through the Malverns and Cotswolds in the 1950s and 1960s. Michael has published 13 books featuring steam railways across the UK. In fact his latest book to be published is about the railways of the Malverns and the Cotswolds. Having already attended one of his events I am sure you will find this talk of great interest.

John

TAI CHI GROUP

The newly established Tai Chi Group meets at the Friends Meeting House, Blackfriars Way, from 2.30 to 3.30 on the **2nd and 4th Tuesday** of the month. New members are welcome. Whether you are familiar with this gentle form of exercise or you are a complete beginner, come and join us. If you would like to know more, please contact me,

Gillian Talbot (xxxx)

TRAVEL GROUP

It is with great regret that we have had to accept the resignation from Carol Wheeler, our Chair, on health grounds. Carol has led the group through very exciting times for which we are all very grateful. We wish her well in her ongoing health journey and are very appreciative that she will remain on the committee where her wealth of experience is much valued.

The programme is as follows. Talks are usually held in the Wheatstone Hall, inside Gloucester Museum, Brunswick Road, starting at 10.30:

Wednesday, 17th September –

Study Visit to Tredegar House

Wednesday, 15th October –

Christmas on Easter Island, with Paul Burnett.

Thursday, 13th November –

Winter Social at St John's Hall, St John's Lane, 2.00 to 3.30.

December – No meeting this month
2026

Wednesday, 21st January – Birds, tigers and the Taj, with Arthur Ball

Wednesday, 18th February –

Iceland, land of wind and war, with David Head

Wednesday, 18th March – Study visit to Oxford and the Ashmolean Museum

Wednesday, ?? April – Cuba, the story of a beautiful island, with Robert Maclachan

11th - 15th May Residential Study trip to Norfolk

Best wishes

Carol Wheeler and Mary Kitchen

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

This group is currently in abeyance because of too few members. There is plenty to say from world or Local news at the moment. Bring your own newspaper items or just turn up and join in the conversation for an hour. It is very informal.

Let me know if you would be interested and what times and days would suit you the best. I will then arrange another meeting for a chat.

Clive Harper (xxxx)

When Mum Wept

*I once saw Mum weep.
That I never knew why,
may have been for the best:
it left the possibility
that it was for joy,
when she read the letter.*

*Later, we learned
I had passed the 11+,
into new preoccupations.*

Heaven

*From the bus' top deck,
I cannot get over
the distance
across the fields,
the hedgerows, the trees —
their height and spread —
which assume a beyond
of further fields, hedgerows,
trees, up to the limit
of what contains everything.*

Cedric Pickin

INFO AND ACTIVITIES

CORKS!

Bring me your Corks (not plastic tops) and I will send them off to be pulverised and reused as table mats or anything else made of cork. Collect from your friends and neighbours.

Thanks to those who do already do so.

Clive Harper (xxxx)

NOVELS by C J Taylor

Those of you who enjoyed Carole Taylor's first book *Perfectly Imperfect: The Story of the Two Js*, will be interested to know that the sequel, *Living Life Backwards: The Continuing Story of the Two Js* has now been published.

Perfectly Imperfect revolves around Juliet, an unmarried mother in the 1960s, who is thrown out by her parents and is thus forced to give her infant daughter for adoption. *Living Life Backwards* picks up Juliet's story fifty years later when her adopted daughter, with whom she had been reunited, sets out on a journey to find her Italian birth father. The final book in the trilogy, *The Girl With Long Red Hair*, will be out next spring.

Carole, who writes under the name C J Taylor, is a member of the u3a Italian group in Gloucester. Her books can be found on Amazon and they are also available as E-books on Kindle. She also gives talks on her books and on her life as a journalist.

READ WITH ME

One of our Branch members, Arnold Yeomans, has asked if he can share his volunteering experience with you through the newsletter, and here it is ... For the last three years I've been having a great time every week, listening to children in my local primary school in

Gloucester read to me, to help them develop their literacy skills and help them improve their confidence to talk to an adult.

I'm usually with the same class, though the readers might change from week to week. Each year group brings its own joys and challenges, and always watching and helping their English skills developing as they make the journey from picture books through to engaging stories (the children refer to these as chapter books). And as their confidence grows with me we might talk about the stories, their likes and dislikes. I will be starting my fourth year in September

I volunteer through a Gloucestershire based charity, *Readwithme*. They helped me secure a DBS (to allow me to work in the school they introduced me to) and are available to provide all the training and support I need. As a group we catch up every term to talk to volunteers in other schools across the county and share stories and experiences.

If this kind of experience appeals to you then the charity are always looking for new volunteers - they are probably placing volunteers in a primary school near you...

If you are interested, then the contact email is: volunteer@readwithme.org.uk or contact me through the newsletter.



VOICE OF OLDER PEOPLE

Age UK Gloucestershire, in partnership with the Gloucestershire Older Persons' Association (GOPA), is inviting local people aged 50+ to make their voices heard through the Voice of Older People initiative. This project is all about listening to local older people and understanding what really matters to them – from daily life experiences to broader community concerns. This initiative empowers older people to share their views, which could help influence change so that the needs of older people are better met across the county.

Participants are invited to complete occasional surveys or join focus groups, either for Age UK Gloucestershire or other local organisations seeking the views of older people. There's no cost, and people can choose how involved they want to be.

Join us and together we can make Gloucestershire a place where older people's voices are truly amplified, valued and respected. To find out more visit ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire/VOOP or email supporters@ageukgloucestershire.org.uk

WHAT'S ON AT THE FOLK

The Folk of Gloucester is a 500-year-old historic building and community hub on 99-103 Westgate Street (formerly Gloucester Folk Museum). We put on a wide range of free or affordable daytime events including theatre, music, talks, workshops and lectures. If you would like to receive one email per month about our upcoming events, you can sign up to our "What's On" mailing list: [https://gloucestercivictrust.us13.list-manage.com/subscribe?](https://gloucestercivictrust.us13.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=f4dac87d1f915aadcc95a31de&id=e70fc2096d)
[u=f4dac87d1f915aadcc95a31de&id=e70fc2096d](https://gloucestercivictrust.us13.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=f4dac87d1f915aadcc95a31de&id=e70fc2096d)

GROUP MEETING DAYS & TIMES

DAY	MORNING	AFTERNOON
Mon day	German Improvers (2 & 4) Recorders (2 & 4) MONTHLY MEETING (4)	Badminton Bridge {Improvers} Folk Band
Tues day	Book Club (3) Chess (3) Committee Meeting (1) Enjoying Music (2) Local History (Last) Singing Together (3)	[BellyBollyHula & Fun] Family History (1 & 3) Play Reading 1 (4) Scrabble (2 & 4) Tai Chi (2 & 4)
Wed nes day	French (2 & 4) Horticulture (1) Rummikub Club (2) Travel (3) Walkers {Wed} (Last)	Bridge Mahjong (2 & 4) Piano Duets (1)
Thurs day	Table Tennis {Beginners} Current Affairs (1) [Cryptic Crosswords]	Art Circle Dancing (1 & 3) Benvenuti in Italia (1 & 3) Spanish Conversation (2 & 4)
Friday	Electronics (1) Poetry Group (usually 4 / Last) Table Tennis {Intermediate} Walkers {Fri} (3)	Choir
Var ious (any time)	Concert Group Kayaking Social Cycling	Social Events & Vists Steam Railway [Theatre]

Key:

() Week in the month the group *usually* meets
[] Group currently in abeyance. Please contact the Groups Co-ordinator if you are interested in re-starting it.

(We could only fit a few pictures in this edition - thanks to Jean Williams for her contributions, of which just one squeezed onto p11)

VENUES

BBC	Brunswick Baptist Church, Southgate St	GL1 2DR	LL	Longlevens Library	GL2 0AJ
CCC	Churchdown Community Centre	GL3 2JH	LMC	Lonsdale Road Methodist Church	GL2 0AT
FMH	Friends Meeting House	GL1 ITS	MBC	Matson Baptist Church	GL4 6LA
GH	Guildhall	GL1 INS	MDLH	St Mary de Lode, Archdeacon St.	GL1 ITP
HCC	Hucclecote Community Centre	GL3 3RT	NH	Northgate Hall, St John's Lane	GL1 2AN
HH	Heritage Hub	GL1 3DW	RR	Robert Raikes	GL1 2DR
HMCH	Highnam Community Centre	GL2 8DG	SMCC	St Mary's Congregational Church	GL1 2QS
JS	Jolt Studios	GL1 IRP	SMdC	St Mary de Crypt, Southgate St.	GL1 ITP
KS	King's School	GL2 2BG	TR	The Regal, St Aldate's St	GL1 IRP
LCC	Longlevens Community Centre	GL2 0AJ	var	various locations	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS + other responsibilities

Chair	Jan Broadway 07768 131852 chairman@u3agloucester.co.uk	Groups Co-ordinator	Bridget Berrecloth groupscoord@u3agloucester.co.uk
Vice Chair & Membership Sec	Barbara Morgan 540673 membershipsec@u3agloucester.co.uk	Monthly Meetings Organiser	Mary Kitchen 419301 marytaffykitchen@yahoo.co.uk
Business Secretary	Gillian Talbot 503263 businesssec@u3agloucester.co.uk	Contact Team (Welfare)	Thelma Miller 520331 dustymiller02@outlook.com
Treasurer	Gerald Robins 611215 treasurer@u3agloucester.co.uk	Newsletter Editor	Sarah Maidlow editor@u3agloucester.co.uk
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