

◀ CLEEVE CLARION ▶

No. 59 21st March — 15th May, 2017

Newsletter of Bishop's Cleeve U3A



MONTHLY MEETINGS

At Woodmancote Village Hall on 3rd MONDAYS, at 2.15 pm.

We welcome visitors interested in joining Bishop's Cleeve U3A.

Monday 24th April 2017

"Rudyard Kipling - His Incredible Story"

Mr Mike Bottomly

Monday 15th May 2017

"Chatsworth and the Cavendish Family, 1550-1850"

Dr Gill White

Admission 50p

Refreshments served after the presentation until 4pm

Chairman's Clarion Call

March 2017

It's spring: a time of new beginnings, of growth and of looking forward. Last summer we saw the launch of a new U3A in Churchdown. Nine months on, they too are growing and now have 190 members and 23 subject groups. Clearly, this is a healthy plant with a vigorous future ahead.

It looks as if the new Winchcombe U3A will repeat the experience. They held a launch meeting the other week. Four of us from the committee went along, to make the teas and provide moral support. The team were anxious: they had put out the chairs and gathered the cups and the biscuits, but had no idea how many would turn up. At first it was a trickle, then a flood. In the end over 150 people gathered to find out what the fuss was all about, and whether they wanted to be part of it. Rosemary Wall of Cheltenham U3A and I said a few words about what the U3A is, what makes it different and why it works so well. We must have done a good job because by the end there was a positive buzz about the place, and 20 people had volunteered for the committee. They even have an initial list of subject groups, with prospective group leaders, and will hold a sign-up meeting shortly. They also are clearly going to flourish and grow (which is good, not least because it will take some of the pressure off us).

As you will know, Churchdown was the 1000th U3A to form since it all began in 1982. There was a celebration in London where people looked back over that journey, and looked forward to where we are going next, all 400,000 of us. A star turn was the talk by Eric Midwinter, at 85 the only surviving member of the three founders who started it all off. He is still lively, physically and mentally, and something of a sage for the movement. He talked about the origins and the basic principles of the U3A – the fundamental things that do not change as we grow, and that underpin our distinctiveness and our success. A video of his talk is on the national website (just Google 'U3A'): do listen to it. It is good.

Alan Green

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Michael & Janet Davis ; BJ Holliday ; Ann Lailey
Jim & Peggy Lightfoot ; Sandra Peart ; Ted & Jean Smith

FROM YOUR SECRETARY

March 2017

Last November neighbouring Churchdown became the 1,000th U3A. The occasion was marked with a celebration in London at which one of the original founders, Eric Midwinter gave an inspiring address. If you would like to read it I have a hard copy, but you can also access it at the following link:

<http://www.u3a.org.uk/members-area/national-office-mailings-2/2016/1000-gm-12-16/file.html>

Don't forget you can also check out the summer schools on the national website, or ask me if you think you might be interested but do not have internet access.

Liz Reilly

gen@cleeve-u3a.org.uk

DEMENTIA AWARENESS INFORMATION SEMINAR

Tuesday, March 28th, 3.30 -5.00pm
Woodmancote Village Hall – Small Room

Caroline Stone, the Dementia Awareness Officer for Cheltenham, will be giving a general talk about dementia, the diagnosis process in Gloucestershire, accessing support and some facts and figures.

After the talk there will be time for questions.

There will be a minimal fee of £1 toward the hire of the hall and 50p to Bishops Cleeve U3A.

If you are interested in attending please contact:

Sue Weir (673544) ; Sally Bailey (300130) ; Eilish Talbot (679648)

PA SYSTEM

The U3A now own a PA system comprising two powered speakers and stands, a two channel wireless UHF microphone system with hand held, head band and lavalier microphones along with a 6 channel mixer. Some or all of these can be used depending on the situation. For instance you could use just one speaker with a laptop or a Cd player to play music. You could use one speaker with the wireless microphones for a talk or the complete system for a band or a party.

Please let me know if you want to borrow any of the items mentioned.

Mike Reynolds (675748)

GROUP NEWS

March 2017

The annual **Group Leaders' Meeting** was held in February. It was my second year attending this meeting and I feel I have learnt such a lot in the past year in my role as Group Leaders' Coordinator. The group leaders have been so positive and supportive and I have come to realise how much they contribute to the running of our thriving U3A. I am sure you would join with me in expressing our thanks to them all. Before the meeting each group leader had sent me a revised group membership list and it was interesting to note that groups vary so much in size and diversity. We have a few groups with just four members and the Gardening group with seventy two members and still growing. We have groups to stimulate the mind, some to offer us physical challenges and others to promote social and emotional well-being. It is also encouraging that people are still suggesting ideas for new groups. These are the new groups which have recently become established or which will be starting shortly.

Scrabble met for the first time on Thursday 2nd February and will continue to meet on the first Thursday of the month from 2pm. Hilary Wright offered to be the coordinator. I understand the first meeting was successful. I already have an enrolment list for **Scrabble 2** enabling people to play who cannot attend on a Thursday. Would you be interested in joining this group?

The **Rock/Pop** Group now meet regularly under the leadership of Mike Reynolds. At this moment in time they have named themselves **MU3AC**. There was a suggestion of Five Shades of Grey!

Thirty three people have shown an interest in **Country Dancing** and will put on their dancing shoes on Monday 10th April from 2-4 pm at Woodmancote Village Hall. Barbara Riccalton and myself have taken on the coordinator role in the short term. We are aware that no one in the group has any expertise in leading country dancing but we all have the enthusiasm to learn the dances together.

Arrangements have now been finalised with the **Table Tennis** group, which is set to begin on March 31st at Southam Village Hall. Philip Watson and June Hall have volunteered to act as group coordinators. Why not look out your trainers and give it a try.

Neville Jackson has a group of interested folk who would like to proceed with **General History**. An inaugural meeting will be held on Tuesday, 4th April to discuss the way forward followed by a discussion on '14th century diets'.

Quite a few people offered to help Ann Chen prepare for her **Ballroom Dancing and Fit Steps** exams and have been attending her classes for the last few weeks in Winchcombe.

Unfortunately, **Walking Netball** has been put on hold for the time being due to lack of interest. I have contacted England Netball and we will work together in trying to establish this activity by possibly combining with another local U3a in the future.

Unfortunately, the **Jigsaw Swop** did not take off. I felt it worth trying but no one showed any interest.

I am sure you will join me in thanking all the new coordinators for volunteering their time and commitment in getting all these new interest groups started and wish them success with their new ventures. You will find their contact details in the Clarion should you wish to enrol.

Sue Weir

GROUP INFORMATION

ART APPRECIATION

Contact: **BRENDA BENTLEY** (676632)

This group will usually meet on the 3rd TUESDAY at 2.00 pm for **2.15** - 4 pm at the new Stoke Orchard Community Hall. Anyone interested in joining this group is most welcome to come.

- ◆ **MARCH 21** Swedish artist Carl Larsson
- ◆ **APRIL 18** Female Artists, including Berthe Morisot
- ◆ **MAY 16** Mosaics and Middle Eastern Paintings

ART INSPIRATION

Contact: **ANITA VENTON** (671073)

This group meets on the 1st and 3rd WEDNESDAYS from 2 — 4 pm in the Woodmancote Small Village Hall.

It is for anyone with a desire to 'have a go' - paint, draw, sketch, scribble, doodle, explore - this is for the new, lapsed, the not-so sure, the expert, but definitely for all those willing to try and to enjoy.

- ◆ **APRIL 5 ; APRIL 19 ; MAY 3 ; MAY 17**

ARTS & CRAFTS - CRAFTY CRAFTERS

Report: Page 15

Contact: **PAM LEVERMORE** (678276)

Meet 3rd WEDNESDAY 10 am—12 noon in the Woodmancote Small Village Hall.

At the moment we have a full group.

◆ **APRIL 19 ; MAY 17**

ARTS AND CRAFT

Contact: **CAROLINE UTTERIDGE** (01684 299920)

Meet on 1st and 3rd WEDNESDAY in host's home, Woodmancote.

Members very welcome to this group. Knitting, crochet, crafts, etc.

Please contact Caroline for details.

◆ **APRIL 5 ; APRIL 19 ; MAY 3 ; MAY 17**

BOOK CIRCLE (1)

Contact: **VI FAIRMANER** (673504)

Meet 1st WEDNESDAY at 2 pm in members' homes.

This group now has vacancies for a couple of new members.

◆ **APRIL 5** "Restless" by William Boyd

Presented by Monica

◆ **MAY 3** "The Cleaner of Chartres" by Salley Vickers

Presented by Hilary

BOOK CIRCLE (2)

Contact: **EILISH TALBOT** (679648)

Meets 3rd THURSDAY at 10 am in members' homes. Membership closed.

◆ **MARCH 23**** "The Tenderness of Wolves" by Stef Penney

Host: Eilish Present: Pam

◆ **APRIL 20** "Testament of Youth" by Vera Brittain

Host: Jenny Present: Rose

BOOK CIRCLE (3) - BOOKWORMS

Contact: **SUE RICHARDSON** (679125)

This group meets on the 4th WEDNESDAY from 2 — 4 pm.

Venue: Lowrys Café, Tarlings Yard, Bishops Cleeve. This group has vacancies

◆ **MARCH 22 ; APRIL 26**

BRIDGE

Contact: **SUE BRISK** (674006)

This group meets every 2 weeks on MONDAYS from 10.30 am — 12 .30 pm, alternating with Beginners' Bridge.

Please contact Sue for further information.

◆ **MAR 27 ; APRIL 10 ; APRIL 24 ; MAY 8**

BEGINNERS' BRIDGE

Contact: **DAVE ATKINSON** (674169)

Meets every 2 weeks on MONDAYS, 2.30 — 5.30 pm, at a member's home.

Members will be advised when alternative arrangements are necessary.

This group is now full.

◆ **APRIL 3 ; APRIL 17 ; MAY 1 ; MAY 15 ; MAY 29**

COMPUTER BUDDIES

Contacts: **DAVE OWEN** (699797)

JENNY MACKELWORTH (602286)

Both Jenny and Dave are willing to help people on a 1:1 basis.

(The usual 50p applies)

COUNTRY DANCING * NEW GROUP**

Joint contacts: **BARBARA RICCALTON** (677859)

SUE WEIR (673544)

This group will meet for the first time on **Monday, APRIL 10th** - and then on the 2nd MONDAY each month from 2 - 4 pm in the Woodmancote Large Village Hall. [Cost: £4 for first 3-month hall hire.]

◆ **APRIL 10 ; NO meeting in MAY ; JUNE 12**

ECONOMICS

Contact: **TIM POWELL** (676919)

This group meets twice a month at 10.30am on WEDNESDAYS at Tim's house.

FAMILY HISTORY

Contact: **WENDY STOW** (701303)

This group meets on 4th FRIDAY of each month from 10.30am — 12.30 pm in the Woodmancote **New Committee Room**.

- ◆ **MARCH 24** 1939 Register
- ◆ **APRIL 28** General Meeting

FRENCH CONVERSATION

Contact: **MARIE BRAIN** (674121)

The group continues to enjoy fortnightly meetings usually at Marie's. There is now room for a few new members.

GARDENING

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Contacts: **LINDA COOLE** (674830)

EILISH TALBOT (679648)

- ◆ **MONDAY, MARCH 27** Visit Cerney House Gardens, North Cerney
<http://www.cerneygardens.com/index.php>
Admission £5 Refreshments
Meet at Woodmancote Village Hall at 9.45 am for car share.
- ◆ **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26** Visit Miserden Park Gardens, near Stroud
<http://www.misardenpark.co.uk/pages/misardengardens.html>
Admission £7.50 Refreshments in Miserden's pub -
"The Carpenters' Arms"
Meet at Woodmancote Village Hall at 9.15 am for car share.

GENERAL HISTORY *** NEW GROUP

Contact: **NEVILLE JACKSON** (678215)

Day, time and venue to be confirmed in the next edition of the Clarion.

GERMAN CONVERSATION

Contact: **CAROL HARRIS** (602872)

This group is for members who have a basic knowledge of German. Meets twice a month usually on the 2nd and 4th MONDAYS, 10.00—11.30 am at members' homes.

GREEK DRAMA

Contact: **DEBBIE JONES** (677423)

We read together, in English translation, some of the greatest dramas in Western culture. Dates for this group are arranged ad hoc — so please contact Debbie for them.

I.T. GROUP

Contact: **ED REILLY** (674253)

Group meets on the 4th THURSDAY at Barrie's home at 2 pm.

The aim in the group is to share expertise and experiences and offer mutual assistance. It is intended to provide interest and a stimulus for those who would like to take on new challenges in information technology or whatever members may wish to raise.

◆ **MARCH 23 ; APRIL 27 ; MAY 25**

LATIN

Contact: **CELIA GORDON-SMITH** (677195)

This group meets on the 2nd THURSDAY of the month at Celia's house from 10.00 - 12.00.

◆ **APRIL 13 ; MAY 11**

LOCAL HISTORY (1)

Contact: **DENIS FAIRMANER** (673504)

The group meets on the 2nd THURSDAY of the month at 2 pm.

Membership currently closed.

◆ **APRIL 13 ; MAY 11**

LOCAL HISTORY (2)

Contact: **JOAN HALL** (07740 902231)

This group usually meets on the 1st MONDAY of each month at 2pm in the Woodancote Village Hall. New members will always be welcome.

◆ **APRIL 3** "Mary Cole and Berkeley Castle" - David Smith,
Archivist Berkeley Castle

◆ **MAY 8** "Robert Dover – The History of the First (Cotswold)
Olimpicks (and thereafter)" - Mr Graham Greenall

LOCAL WALKS

Contact: **SHEILA BROCKMAN** (674736).

Local walks starting at 2pm from junction of Millham Road and Station Road (Woodmancote end) on alternate FRIDAYS.

◆ **MAR 24 ; APR 7 ; APR 21 ; MAY 5 ; MAY 19**

LUNCHEONS

Contact: **DOUG & JUNE BEAUMONT** (674197)

Meet at 12noon for 12.30pm

- ◆ **THURSDAY 30th MARCH** The Muffin Man - 3 Crescent Terrace,
Cheltenham, GL50 3PE
- ◆ **THURSDAY 27th APRIL** The Corner Cupboard Inn,
89 Gloucester Street, Winchcombe, GL54 5LX
- ◆ **TUESDAY 30th MAY** The Aviator, Gloucester Airport, Staverton
GL51 6SR

MUSIC APPRECIATION

Contact: **STELLA CANEY** (676143)

Generally meets at 2.30 pm on 2nd WEDNESDAY of the month at a member's home.

◆ **APRIL 12 ; MAY 10**

NATURAL HISTORY

Contact: **EILISH TALBOT** (679648)

Usually on the 4th FRIDAY each month, starting at 10.00 am.

In case of bad weather, please check e-mails.

- ◆ **MARCH 24** Crickley Hill
- ◆ **APRIL 28** Tiddersley Wood Nature Reserve, Pershore

NATURAL SCIENCE

Contact: **JOHN WALKER** (321728)

This group usually meets on the 3rd THURSDAY of each month.

- ◆ **APRIL 20** Kemerton Conservation Trust Lake
- ◆ **MAY 18** Dowdeswell Reservoir

Meet at 2pm at Woodmancote Village Hall to organise car share.

PATCHWORK & QUILTING

Contact: **VANESSA REYNOLDS** (675748)

This group meets on the 3rd FRIDAY of the month at 10 am at Vanessa's home. For further information, please contact Vanessa.

◆ **APRIL 21 ; MAY 19**

PETANQUE

Contact: **DAVE and TRICIA ATKINSON** (674169)

The group plays at the bouledrome next to the Woodmancote Village Hall on the 3rd FRIDAY of the month at 10.30 am.

Why not come along and give it a try, as boules will be provided if you do not have your own.

◆ **APRIL 21 ; MAY 19**

PHOTOGRAPHY

Contact: **GRAHAM FISHER** (579204)

This group meets monthly on the 2nd MONDAY and aims to meet all levels of ability and interests. Venues tba.

◆ **APRIL 10** Show Painswick, silhouettes and portraits

◆ **MAY 8** Burford Wildlife Park—for animal portraits

PLAY READING

Contact: **GILL TARLING** (674983)

Meets at a member's home on the last TUESDAY in the month at 2.30 pm.

◆ **MARCH 28 ; APRIL 25**

POETRY FOR PLEASURE

Contact: **KAY DUCK** (672474)

Meets on 2nd TUESDAY of the month at 10.30 am in a member's home.

New members welcome.

◆ **APRIL 11** Walter de la Mare

◆ **MAY 9** Ballad Poetry

MORE POETRY FOR PLEASURE

Contact: **TRICIA ATKINSON** (674169)

Meets on the 4th WEDNESDAY of the month at 2.30 pm in a member's home.

◆ **MARCH 22 ; APRIL 26**

RAMBLING GROUP

Contact: **BARBARA RICCALTON** (677859)

Walks will be lead by various members of the group.

◆ **SATURDAY, APRIL 1st** Leader: **Rosemary Pullin** (321983)

Winchcombe area — 4½ miles. Mainly quite easy walking, but one steady climb half way round. Lovely views. Start time **2 pm**

Meet at Village Hall at 1.30 pm for car sharing.

◆ **THURSDAY, MAY 18** Leader: **Alan Green** (672964)

About 5 miles: Dumbleton Hill, including the bluebells in Dumbleton Hill. Start time **10 am**

Meet at Village Hall at 9.30 am for car sharing. Pub lunch.

Extra details available from walks leaders.

ROCK/POP BAND - "MU3AC" (pronounced Muzak) ***** NEW GROUP**

Contact: **MIKE REYNOLDS** (675748)

Usually meets on alternate MONDAYS from 10am -12noon, at a house in Beverley Gardens, Woodmancote.

The BC U3A rock band was started up just before Christmas and now has seven members—who are trying to perfect at least 6 songs, some of which we hope to perform for you at the 10th anniversary. We have three guitarists (Lead, Rhythm and Bass) a keyboard player a singer and hope that two percussionists will join us shortly. The U3A have kindly purchased a PA system which we will use for both practice sessions and public performances. If you like rock music and play an instrument why not join us? You don't need to be an accomplished musician as our objective is to learn together and help one another improve our skills. Playing with a group is more social than having to play on your own. So if you are interested, please contact Mike.

SCRABBLE ***** NEW GROUP**

Contact: **HILARY WRIGHT** (672318)

Meets at 2 p.m. on the 1st THURSDAY of the month in members' homes.

◆ **APRIL 6 ; MAY 4**

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Contact: **MIKE REYNOLDS** (675748)

This group will usually meet on the 1st THURSDAY of each month from 2 - 4 pm, at the new community hall in Stoke Orchard.

New members are welcome to join us.

- ◆ **APRIL 6** Gravitational Waves - by Alan Murkett
- ◆ **MAY 4** LED'S—Transistors - by Graham Fisher
Energy Conservation & LED Lamps - by Mike Reynolds
- ◆ **JUN 1** Jet Age Museum visit *** - **see below**

SINGING FOR FUN

Contact: **LIZ REILLY** (674253)

Meets on the 2nd FRIDAY of the month at the Methodist Church Hall, Bishop's Close at 10.30 am

- ◆ **No meeting in APRIL ; MAY 12**

TABLE TENNIS *** NEW GROUP

Joint contacts: **PHILIP WATSON** (673267)

JUNE HALL (675711)

This group will meet fortnightly on FRIDAYS, at **Southam Village Hall**, from 2.0—3.30 pm, starting on March 31st.

Please note: Black soled shoes should not be worn.

- ◆ **MARCH 31 ; APRIL 14 ; APRIL 28 ; MAY 12**

VISIT TO JET AGE MUSEUM

The Science and Technology group are organising a private trip to the Jet Age Museum in Staverton on **JUNE 1st** from 2—4 pm.

Although this is primarily for the S&T group it is envisaged that there will be some places available for the wider U3A on a first come first serve basis. If you would like to be first in the queue please let me have your name and email address after the April 6th and I will put you on the list in the order I receive them. A group of Volunteers will be on hand to explain the exhibits and answer questions. The Science & Technology group will ask for a contribution of £5 which will be given to the museum as a donation.

Mike Reynolds (675748)

RECENT ACTIVITIES AND REPORTS

Gardening Group's "Amateur Gardeners' Question Time"

In April 2017 the BBC radio programme Gardener's Question Time will celebrate its 70th anniversary. This informative and often humorous weekly broadcast, from venues around the UK, helps gardeners at all levels of experience to solve gardening issues and consider new ideas. Entertainment and Enlightenment - always a strong combination – is the continuing ethos.

On **January 23rd**, our own Gardener's Question Time this attracted an audience of around 40 members of the Gardening Group, fourteen of whom put forward their questions to our gardening experts, Norma Leach, Jaclin Surman and Sally Bailey, who could surely rival Eric Robson and his panel of gardeners.

The answers led on to much discussion with the audience joining in with alternative ideas based on their own gardening experience, including how to deal with the varying soils in the area and which plants are best suited? How to tame a wild, beloved tree without destroying it; when is the best time to prune climbers, especially roses and clematis; how to get rid of pesky weeds and how I could turn my boring front garden into a designer's dream.

Thinking of growing bamboo – don't do it!

To scarify or not to scarify lawns – that is the question!

How to get rid of slugs - don't throw them over your neighbour's fence as one of our members told me, in the strictest confidence, she had done. They were all thrown back!

We were asked to name our favourite plants. I think that roses, hardy geraniums and hydrangeas won the vote by a narrow margin.

Tea and biscuits were kindly brought to us by the tea ladies, thanks given to Norma, Jaclin and Sally for their tips, also to Linda and Eilish for organising this informative event.

Monica Wragg

RAMBLING GROUP

March 1st

Fifteen of us set out on a 3½ mile ramble in the fields and hills above the village of Ham, just outside Cheltenham. This little known route was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and there were some wonderful views back over Cheltenham.



A slight drawback was the number of stiles – possibly around twenty. Everyone came over them all safely, but we decided it had been a very “stylish” walk! Interest was also added, firstly by a couple of donkeys who made friends with us as we walked across their field, and secondly by a herd of cows who were most curious about us as we went past, and were even more inquisitive when we sat down for a coffee stop! The weather was kind, with no rain and very little wind. Afterward nine of us enjoyed a meal in the Royal in Charlton Kings, where we enjoyed lovely pub grub and excellent, quick service. A thoroughly enjoyable day.

Liz Reilly

CRAFTY CRAFTERS

Have you ever tried quilling, decoupage or decopatch, beading, iris folding, silk painting or japanese patchwork? Just a few of the crafts we have tried over the last year. When Sue Hamer, the group leader left us we decided to try and carry on with the members suggesting crafts we could try. It has worked very well and we feel that now we could open the group to one or two more members, particularly if you have a skill we haven't tried. We will be decorating blown eggs for Easter and then may try clay modelling and making a silk scarf using the salt and scrunch method. You would be very welcome to come along to one of our sessions to see what we do.

Pamela Levermore

Committee 2017

Chairman:	Alan Green	01242 672964
Vice-Chairman:	Keith Woodman	01242 679301
Secretary:	Liz Reilly	01242 674253
Treasurer:	Celia Gordon-Smith	01242 677195
Groups Co-ordinator:	Sue Weir	01242 673544
Membership Secretary:	Sheila Gardner	01242 236885
Joint Welfare:	Eilish Talbot	01242 679648
	Sally Bailey	01242 300130
Committee members:	Lloyd Silverthorne	01242 676665
	Mary Enderby	01242 676993

www.cleeve-u3a.org.uk

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***** PLEASE NOTE *****

**Copy for the next newsletter must be sent to ROSEMARY PULLIN
by FRIDAY, APRIL 28th**

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