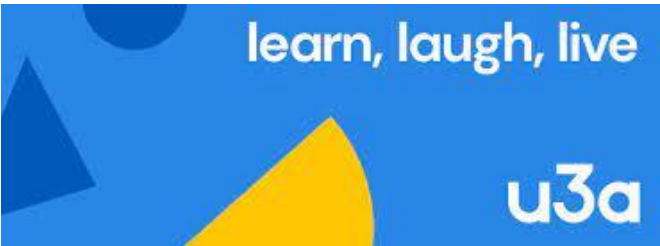


July 2026 NEWSLETTER



u3a Wem & District

Committee Members
Chairperson: Jackie Mirehouse
Vice Chair: Enid Smith
Treasurer: David Newell
Business Secretary: Kate Turner
Minutes Secretary: Kate Turner
Membership Secretary: Eirwen Williams
Groups Coordinator: Audrey Moseley/
Kate Turner
Publicity: Kate Turner
Speaker Coordinator: Paul Young
Web Site Coordinator: Glynis Nicholls
ExO Members: Michael Bendall,
Patrick Blundred, Audrey Moseley,
Rosalind Hamson, Elizabeth (Liz)
Dawes.

Welcome to this 'bumper' Summer edition of the Wem & District U3A newsletter — that time of year when we confidently plan outdoor activities while quietly packing umbrellas, cardigans and sunglasses... sometimes all on the same day!

One of the great pleasures of U3A is that it reminds us that learning and curiosity do not retire. In fact, many of our members seem busier now than ever before. Between walks, talks, coffee mornings, and group meetings, some diaries are beginning to look alarmingly like ministerial schedules.

All this activity brings with it something even more important — friendship. U3A is not simply about keeping busy, it is about keeping connected. New members often say how quickly they are made welcome, and long-standing members know that a shared interest, a conversation over tea, or even a laugh about getting lost on an outing can become valued companionship.

Ageing positively is not about pretending we are still twenty-five — most of us would struggle to get up off the floor gracefully even if we were — but about continuing to engage with life, people and new experiences. Whether someone is learning a language, trying tai chi for the first time, discovering hidden artistic talents, or finally mastering the mysteries of Bridge, U3A shows that it is never too late to learn something new.

Of course, summer brings along optimism. Gardens are flourishing, the weeds too are flourishing perhaps even more enthusiastically, and somewhere nearby someone is already declaring it "far too hot" while the rest of us are still waiting for June to begin properly!

Thank you, as always, to everyone who gives their time to organise groups, events and activities throughout the year. The continued success of Wem & District U3A depends entirely on the enthusiasm, kindness and humour of its members. Thanks you too to everyone who has submitted News for this edition it is pleasingly packed with your submissions for which I thank those who submitted them sincerely.

We hope you enjoy this summer newsletter and all the activities ahead over the coming months. May the weather be kind, the cake plentiful, and the company excellent.

Peta Smith, Editor editornews@btinternet.com Next Newsletter is due out in September 2026

Closing date for submissions for next publication 15 August

Wem & District U3A Groups and Group Leaders

Groups and Group Leaders

Art and Literature – Margaret Parson
Chess and Go – Geoff Glover
Computer & Mobile Devices - Glynis Nicholls
Crafts – Liz Parish
Cycling - Bob Millington
Discussion/Current Affairs – Richard Cheeseman
Family History - Ralph Tracy / Sue Young
Fifth Friday Yompers – Clive
Smewing/Paul Silson
Films - Julie Bushell
Gardening – Kate Turner
Geocaching – Mary Sparkes
Literature /Humanities – Margaret Parson
Local History (1) - Kathy Coombs
Local History (2) - Jackie Mirehouse
Mahjong – Hazel Adkins
Photography – Peter Thompson
Pub Lunch Groups – Kathy Coombs
Rummikub - Hazel Adkins

Groups and Group Leaders

Singing for Fun – Barbara Longhurst
Social Group – Chris Fraser
Stitchers - Sue Young
Strollers/ Dog Walking – Joyce Parr /Clive Smewing
Table Tennis – Angela Launchbury
Ukulele – Roger Howarth
Walking – Derek Sparkes
Walking Tennis – Angela Launchbury
Members One Off – Chris Fraser

For details of the groups, meeting times and venues, planned activities and contact details please see the Wem and District U3A webpage.

<https://wem.u3asite.uk/>

If you require any formation about the Groups, could you please contact the group Leaders directly by contacting **Audrey Moseley**, our groups coordinator by email and she will pass on your message to the relevant Group Leader.

You can send an email directly from the Wem and District U3A webpage by following the link below

[Contact Us - Wem & District](#)

Most groups meet monthly unless otherwise specified. Please bear in mind that this list is by no means definitive, as we are always interested in forming new groups that are not covered elsewhere. Please let us know if your interest area is not covered and we can ask others if they would also be interested in forming a group around your topic

If you wish to start a new group or test an activity, also contact

Audrey Moseley or Kate Turner

Upcoming Events

June 2 2026: General Meeting Wem Town Hall ALL ARE WELCOME 10am for 10.30am start.

Guest Speaker: Hazel Griffiths

“Audrey Hepburn- Epitome of Elegance”



Audrey Hepburn is one of the most iconic faces of Hollywood – but was her life all gloss and glamour? Hazel explores her whole life – including the war years.

Upcoming Events

July 7 2026: General Meeting Wem Town Hall ALL ARE WELCOME 10am for 10.30am start.

Guest Speaker: David Rushworth

“Life on the Royal Yacht Britannia”



David is a former Royal Yachtsman and Chief Petty Officer Engineer, he will speak about his time on the Royal Yacht Britannia. His talk offers a unique perspective from a crew members viewpoint.



Upcoming Events

**August 4 2026: General Meeting Wem
Town Hall**

**SUMMER BREAK
NO MEETING**

Upcoming Events

**September 1 2026: General Meeting Wem
Town Hall ALL ARE WELCOME 10am for
10.30am start.**

Guest Speaker: Clyde Alin

“My Father’s War”



Clyde Alin
is an experienced U3A speaker known for
his talks on historical subjects such as
World War 11, the Inner German Border,
and the Berlin Wall

News from the Groups

UKULELE GROUP

The Ukulele Group have been busy lately playing out and about. We returned to Landona House Care Home to entertain the residents with a set of Christmas tunes, then in February were invited to play for the Whitchurch Parkinson's Support Group at their monthly meeting. Most recently we played at Cockshutt Village Hall Variety Show raising funds for the upkeep of the village hall.

The group continues to grow - we are now up to 14 regular members - adding both new and experienced players.

If you're interested in developing a new skill then do come and see what we do, you will be surprised at how quickly you can join in. We meet every Thursday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. in the Youth Club on Leek Street in Wem.

Roger Howarth

Wem U3A Ukulele Group

Thanks to Roger for submitting this photograph and article



SOCIAL GROUP

A brief update about the Social group activities since the end of last year.

2025 ended with a Santa canal trip instead of the usual Christmas meal.

2026

From the start of the New Year the Social group have enjoyed a number of activities, organised by its members.

January saw us meeting for breakfast at the Boatshed in Ellesmere followed by a short walk around the Mere.

February, we tried our hands at a couple of games of Ten-pin Bowling, followed by food venue.

March had us out and about on a Treasure Trail in Shrewsbury, including The Dingle. Many new facts were learnt along the way and, as usual, we ended with a meal.

The Swallow Chinese restaurant in Whitchurch was April's event, and enjoyed by all.

Throughout the year we organise a range of events. These take place at the convenience of the organiser.

Chris Fraser *Thanks to Chris for sending this in*



Walking Group

FORTUNATELY, NOT ALL WALKS ARE LIKE THIS!

An intrepid group of walkers on the 5.5 miles walk from Uckington on 6th March. Followed by a lovely meal at The Horseshoes.



Chris Fraser
Walking Group member.
Thanks Chris!

CRAFT GROUP

The first meeting of the Craft Group for 2026 took place on Thursday 26 March in Wem Town Hall. It was mainly a planning meeting to discuss with members how the group will move forward and to plan for the year ahead. There were plenty of ideas put forward of what members would like to do. It was agreed that some sessions would consist of demonstrations of crafts that maybe new to some members by other members of the group who are experienced in enjoying that craft. Other sessions would entails members bringing along any work they have in progress to bring along and sit, chat and enjoy crafting time together.

The second meeting was held on 30th April in Wem Town Hall between 2pm and 4 pm when Mary Sparkes demonstrated and lead the Group in the art wire flower making, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

So, we are off and running! For those who have never crafted and feel they would like to give it a go please come along.

The meetings are held on the last Thursday of every month in Wem Town Hall between 2 - 4pm. There is a charge of £1 per session to cover the hire cost of the Hall which is £10 per session. (It was agreed at the planning meeting that if there are less than 10 members in attendance the charge will be divided between the number of members attending).

Please email the Group Leader Liz Parish for further information or to express an interest in joining.

meparish@hotmail.co.uk







Geocaching group

April Geocaching in Little Wenlock.

The weather was lovely - a bright, Spring morning. A group of intrepid geocachers set off. Yes - cache no1 found! Then following the co-ordinates on our phones GPS Geocaching app and reading the 'hint' given, we continue onwards to the next cache. No luck! This was making no sense. Fifteen minutes of five experienced Cachers and one new member were bemused.

We reluctantly give up but onwards and upwards to the next cache. Failure again. Another 'did not find' (fortunately rare for us). Then another miss and then a barbed-wire fence! But thankfully we did spy a path in a ditch behind the hedge: should we be on that?

We reluctantly retrace our steps for half a mile and find the entrance to this secret path- no signs to say so but we were now on the public footpath we should have been on much earlier! The footpath ran parallel but deeply hidden from the adjoining fields and was in fact a muddy track next to or 'actually' in a shallow brook, with brambles, nettles and overhanging hedges to add atmosphere.

Now it all made sense, and we found the caches and finally we opened onto a field and a delightful return journey back to civilisation. Another successful Geocaching adventure even if the early stages were far from routine!



Thanks to Mary Sparkes for submitting this article and photos

Why not join the Bridge Group?



We meet on alternate Wednesday's at 2pm in the conservatory at The White Lion in Wem.
We are a friendly group of mixed abilities.

Joyce Parr

Thanks Joyce

WALKING TENNIS



Wednesday mornings at 10am you'll find a cheerful group of around 6 to 12 people on Wem Tennis court. We have varying degrees of tennis expertise. Some, like me, have not picked up a racket in many years, if at all, while others have more recent experience.

We enjoy a friendly game (usually with lots of laughter) and get some gentle exercise at the same time. We are fairly intrepid, and will play most weeks in spite of the weather (hats and gloves often needed). Heavy rain or a frozen court will stop us though, and mean retreat to the clubhouse for coffee and a chat. The pictures show a recent session in welcome sunshine, in which case we have our coffee and chat afterwards!



Thanks to Eirwen Williams for sending in this article and photographs



Gardening Group Update

Visit to Wollerton Old Hall Garden by the gardening group. Super weather and great company



Whether you're nurturing a windowsill pot or managing a full plot, there's always something new to learn — and plenty of friendly chat along the way. New members are always welcome to join us for practical sessions, garden visits, and lively discussions about what's growing well (and what isn't!).

If you'd like to get involved, come along to our next meeting
or speak to the group organiser. Let's grow together!

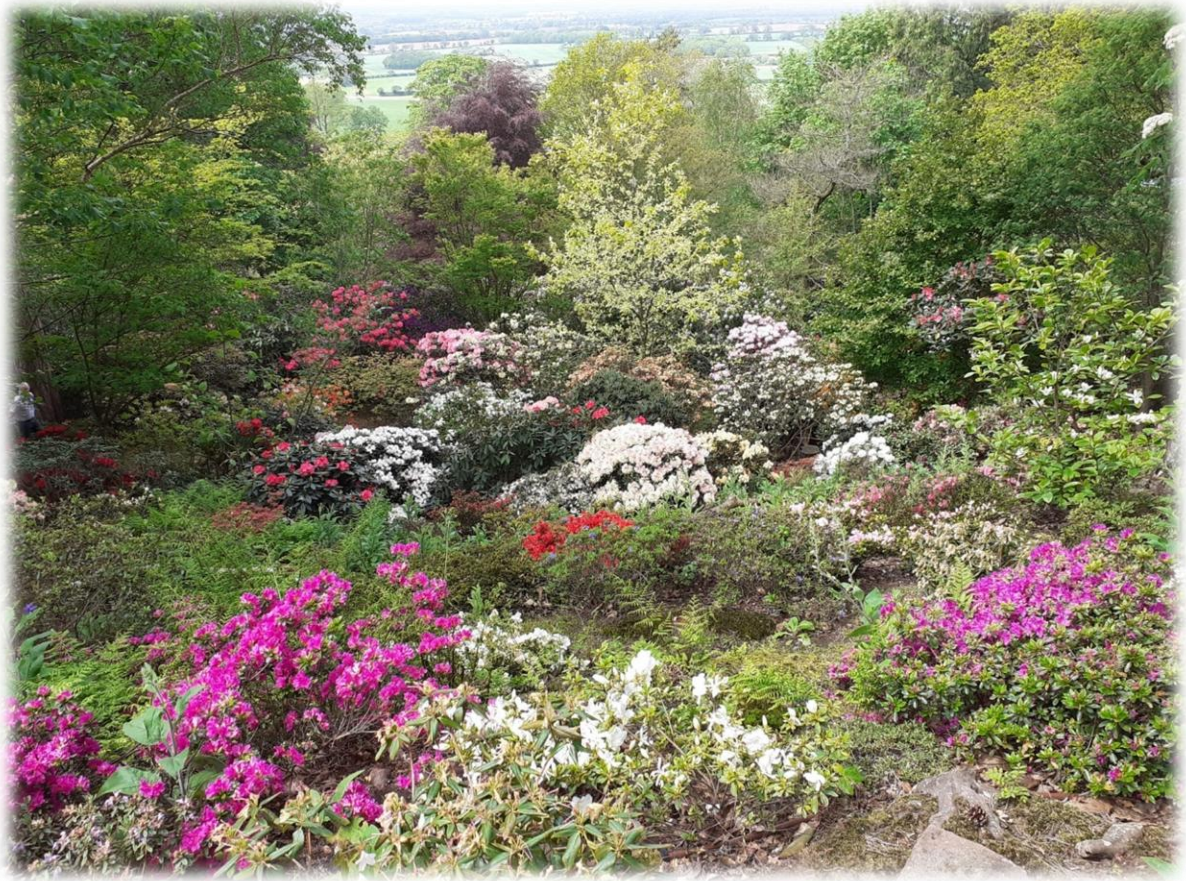
Gardening Group



On Friday 8th May the gardening group visited **Bolesworth Castle Gardens**. It was a very enjoyable visit. The display of rhododendrons and azaleas of all colours was fantastic. Absolutely stunning.







*Thanks to Kate Turner for this
article and photographs*

Local History Group 2

A group of 14 members of Local history group 2 went on a tour of Combermere Abbey on Thursday 21st May.

We were given tea /coffee and cake on arrival before watching 2 short introductory videos and we were then taken on a tour of some of the rooms this fascinating house and the grounds which date back to 1133 when it was a Cistercian Abbey.



Thanks to Joyce Parr for sending in this article and photograph

STITCHERS GROUP

We all met at our monthly meeting in Harmer Village Hall on Tuesday 23 May and were very happy to be joined in our 'tea and cake break' by Helen Morgan MP, the Liberal Democrat MP for North Shropshire who lives with her family in Harmer Hill. It was lovely to see her.



STROLLERS

Yesterday, Friday 22nd May, the Strollers had a lovely walk around the Chirk countryside led by Ken Dunkley. 20 members plus 2 dogs enjoyed strolling along the canal, over the aqueduct and through woods in glorious weather. The photo was taken in front of the fabulous "pretty" gates to Chirk Castle.

Afterwards we retired to the Poachers pub for lunch.

Thanks to Joyce Parr for sending this photograph and update



Please submit Articles and News of interest

This newsletter is totally dependent on its content by you the membership. I can only publish what is submitted to me. Thanks to all those who took the time and effort to submit the content of this current edition. It is very much appreciated

I am always eagerly awaiting reports, articles, and photographs for this section of the Newsletter from individuals and Group Leaders. Such as details of when, how often and where your Groups meet. What have you been up to? Descriptive reports and photographs (with verbal consent) are always welcome and may attract newcomers to join you. Submissions can also include such items as events /meetings for your groups for the next few months ahead or letting us know what you have done recently? This can be written by the Group leader or any member of the group.

Individual members may also submit poetry or prose for inclusion. We must have some budding writers and reporters amongst us!

Committee members could introduce yourselves to the membership and tell us a bit about yourselves and your interests.

Have a think and see what you come up with!

A very sincere thanks to all who have sent me contributions to this edition. It is very much appreciated.

Please submit to editornews@btinternet.com

[NOT TO MY PERSONAL email Account PLEASE](#)

The newsletter is published every 3 months, March, June, September and December.

Deadlines for submission are

15 February, 15 May, 15 August and 15 November.

Kind regards, Peta

Peta Smith Editor

Disclaimer The articles in this newsletter are written by our members and are not necessarily the views of the committee or the national U3A.