



Please keep sending in items and photos for inclusion. This is YOUR newsletter for you as members. Select Contacts on the website and send to Newsletter Editor

Message from the Chair

I do hope that you all had the Christmas that you wanted, be it with family or friends, or even on your own. Remembering why we celebrate Christmas is important too. Giving and exchanging gifts.

Please remember also those of us that did not have a great 2025, with the hope that 2026 will be a better year for them.

Have you made any New Year resolutions? Supporting your Committee by volunteering is a good place to start. Don't wait to be cornered by a trustee. What you give out, you receive back tenfold. Trust me, I should know. We are working on improving the benefits of our u3a and could certainly make room for more help. For example, have you spoken to any of the new members that have joined during 2025? Prove that we are a friendly u3a with your actions. Don't sit on your hands. Happy New Year Everyone.

Lynda Brettell
Chair

Dates for your diary

Speaker meetings from 10am, speaker at 11am

January 16th—The History & Mystery of Magic by Jack Dent

February 20th—Dear Reader I married him ..and him - the History of Bigamy by David Cox

March 20th—Let My Quick Fate A Warning Be, Fatal Transport Accidents in the West Midlands by Quintin Watt

April **No speakers meeting due to Membership Renewals**

Coffee mornings from 10am to 12 noon

January 23rd (preceded by EGM)

February 27th (Beacon Centre promotion in Room 4)



March 27th

Day Trips— being arranged by the team

See website and noticeboard for updates

Social events

27th March 2pm—3pm— Sandy Lawrence, aka The Duchess of Nerja, performs a blend of hits across the decades .Tickets £4 on sale at Jan speaker meeting onwards.

Booking a holiday?

Thank you to our members who booked with Riviera Travel and stated they were u3a members. We received £722 for our u3a. Don't forget to check when booking your next holiday as u3as may be able to claim some cash back! Other travel companies also offer discounts.

Online groups—No time to go to all the groups you want?

Did you know there are lots of groups online see www.u3a.org.uk

Membership Renewals

This year renewals will only be available from **1st April 2026 to 30th April 2026.**

Late renewals will incur an extra £5 fee.

Members may renew by BACS, online payment, cheques or by cards. There will be face to face renewals in April. Full details are available on the website under **Renewals.**

EGM 2026

An extraordinary meeting will take place on **23rd January at 10.15am** to discuss Membership Fees. It was agreed by the trustees that fees for 2026-27 need to be changed so that we can move towards cashless group meetings, speakers meetings and coffee mornings and all members are encouraged to attend or send comments/questions in by 16th January 2026.

Committee vacancy—Treasurer

Non committee vacancy —Beacon Administrator

Quiz Question

How long did the Hundred Years War Last? (Answer page 2)

Next issue for April—June comes out in early April Items to **Newsletter by 24th March 2026** via Contacts on the website

If waiting lists for groups are full please contact the group leader who may be able to offer you a place or add your name to the list.

Community events



Information for Older People day was attended by our u3a. This took place in Wordsley in November 2025 where committee members promoted our u3a. It was great to see some of our members there too.

We also took part in the **Christmas Tree Festival at Wordsley Holy Trinity Church** and decorated our tree to represent the u3a.

Thanks to Suzanne Bithell, Keith Price and Sue Helm for decorating it.



In September we promoted the u3a to a **Silver Saturday** event at Amblecote Christian Centre where the **Singing For Fun Group** performed some songs.

Our **Ukulele group** has also been busy performing at different events during December and raising funds for the u3a.

Day Trips



Our last day trip for 2025 was to **Bath**

Christmas Market where we were able to browse the stalls for Christmas gifts as well as soak up some Christmas atmosphere.

There was also time to look at the beautiful architecture of the buildings.

Bath Abbey in the picture.

We started the year for 2026 with a trip to **Symphony Hall on 4th January** for their **New Year concert**. A very enjoyable afternoon.

Thanks to Margaret Aston for organising.

Last year....

Christmas party

In December we held our Christmas party and were entertained by the **Recycled Teenagers**. There was mulled wine and nibbles and mince pies and much singing and dancing!



The **Guitar Group** performed at a social singalong event with the **Three Degrees** aka Lynda, Gwyn & Steph



Group showcase

The **Art Group** showcased their work in November—we have some very talented people in our midst.



The **Craft group** showcased some of their work in October and raised some money through sales of items including cards and bags.

Group news

Stretch Class—no meeting on 28th January

Ballroom Dancing—no class on 1st February

Do you have an idea for a new group or would you like to start up another group session? Speak to Lynda or one of the committee members.

The Annual General Meeting will take place on 24th April 2026. Papers will be issued 3 weeks prior to the meeting. If you want to be involved in your u3a and join the trustees please complete an application form.

Answer to Quiz Question 116