



Message from the Chair

Our u3a is more than just activities. It's about the connections we make and the difference u3a brings to our lives. What do you enjoy? What do you get from our u3a? More importantly, as we celebrate 25 years here in Kingswinford, what can you do to ensure our u3a lives on for another 25 years?

Have you made new friendships, or reconnected with old friends?

I am writing this during 'Volunteer Week', when I want to thank those of you who volunteer within our u3a all year round. Every contribution, no matter how small, contributes to the successful running of this u3a.

Dates for your diary

Speaker meetings from 10am, speaker at 11am

Friday 17th July—A Grave Subject by Ian Bott

Friday 21st August—A Glass and a Half, the story of chocolate by David Humphries

Friday 18th September—A Morning of Black Country Humour by David Bartley

Coffee mornings from 10am to 12 noon

Friday 24th July

Friday 28th August

Friday 25th September



Day Trips

Wednesday 8th July—Hereford & Berrington Hall (NT) £19 for NT members, £36 for non NT members

Thursday 13th August—Port Sunlight (Model Village) Tickets £33

30th September—Cardiff (details to follow)

Social events

10th July—25th Anniversary Party Tkts £10.

Doors open 12.30pm, Singer, music, raffle, quiz, buffet.

16th October—Debbie Miles sings songs from the decades. Tkts £4

17th December—Celebrate Christmas with a visit to Symphony Hall for the CBSO Christmas party with various choirs and soloists. Tickets including coach from KCC on sale from July coffee morning or contact Margaret Aston 07762 328814

A Grand Day Out

On Tuesday 19th May we had a memorable trip to the **Shuttleworth Collection** near Bedford which comprises airworthy vintage aircraft dating from 1909 to 1950 as well as veteran cars, motorcycles, bicycles, vintage buses and carriages. Also we visited their beautiful Swiss Garden which was designed in the 1820s in Regency fashion combining landscapes in alpine style, heritage listed structures, seasonal planting and resident peacocks (especially the white one).



A tiring but a most enjoyable day. (Tim Lannon)

Architecture Group (Adrian Barrett)

In April the Architecture group visited

Leamington

Spa where

they saw the

oldest tennis

court in the

world!



Nottingham

Boat Trip 10th June

A lovely trip on the river with afternoon tea provided. The sun shone as well which was a bonus.



Quiz Question (Answer page 2)

What is the name of the indentation in a brick?



Next issue for **October—December** comes out in early October Items to **Newsletter by 25th September 2026** via Contacts on the website

Please keep sending in items and photos for inclusion. This is YOUR newsletter for you as members.

Special Offer for all u3a members

Stourbridge Glass Museum is offering all u3a members a special discount for 12 months membership. The museum's entry fee is £10 per person and normally a single membership for the year is £20 but is now only £10 at a special discounted price.

To obtain this special offer just show your current u3a card when you enter the museum so that you can register and the discount can be activated.

Membership enables you to visit as many times as you want to in 12 months from the date of registration and members are invited to special previews of new displays as well as 10% discounts on certain merchandise including donated glass.

The museum is a charitable trust and is open from Tuesday to Saturday 10.30 am to 4.30pm during spring and summer months. Winter opening hours from November to March are Thursdays to Saturdays.

This offer will expire on 31st December 2026.



Recycling at KCC in 2027

Rubbish bins will be removed from all rooms.

Kitchen—there will be 2 large bins General Waste and Recyclable waste. NOT FOR FOOD WASTE

ALL food waste from coffee mornings and events must be taken home at the end of the event. This includes contaminated food wrappings, serviettes and used plastic cups.

Accident Books are located in the Office and one in the kitchen. All accidents however small **MUST** be recorded.

The **Book Group** welcomes new members and meets on the 4th Friday morning of the month. They have a varied reading list for 2026 and this can be found on the website by clicking on **Book Group**. The books for **July to September** are **Behind the Scenes at the Museum** by Kate Atkinson; **A Fatal Crossing** by Tim Hindle and **The Life Impossible** by Matt Haig.



Group News

Spanish

This subject is no longer being offered as the Group Leader has decided to stand down. Many thanks to John Hunt for his support over the last few years. If there is anyone who would like to take over the reins please let us know.

Gardening Group Some day trips for gardening group members were arranged. In April the group visited Hergest Croft Gardens near Hereford and in June they visited Highfields garden centre and Cheltenham

Craft Group Change of session times Meetings are on 2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoons from **2pm—4pm**

Jazz Group—new contact is David James tel no **07927 263727**

U3a Matters is the official magazine of the U3a for all members. Some of you may have opted out from receiving this but if you want to have a look online you can find a shortened version. Just go to the u3a website at www.u3a.org.uk

Thinking of booking a holiday? There are lots of travel companies offering discounts to u3a members and your own u3a can claim this money back from the. Last year we received over £700 from Riviera Travel. Other holiday companies offering discounts include Mistral holidays and Viking Travel. The u3a also have a travel department website www.traveldepartment.co.uk/u3a.

Creative writing Group—Don Sergison Joint group leader

You were good at English at school, and you enjoyed it, didn't you?

You told yourself that one day you would write a novel. But you never got round to it, did you? Then you said you would chance your arm with short stories instead. That plan of action also fell by the wayside, didn't it? Do you know why?

It was because you didn't mix with kindred spirits. But whatever you do, do not join our Creative Writing group; it could prove perilous. You see, there's always the danger that you may uncork that bottle of hidden creativity and release the genie. Heaven only knows what that could lead to! So, your mission, should you choose to accept it.....

Well, you know what to do next, don't you?

Answer to Quiz Question : A Frog

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