CLEEVE CLARION

Bishop's Cleeve u3a

No. 117 10 November 2026 to 11 January 2027



Phone: 0300 102 4559

Member-led learning groups and activities
for those retired from full-time work

Chair's Clarion Call

Mike Pritchard

Keep Learning, Keep Curious

One of the things I particularly value about Bishop's Cleeve u3a is that it reminds us that learning doesn't have an age limit. In fact, perhaps one of the great privileges of this stage of life is that we can learn simply because we are interested. There are no exams to pass, no qualifications to achieve and no boss asking us to complete the course. We can follow our curiosity wherever it takes us.

And there is certainly plenty to be curious about within our own u3a. Look at the range of interest groups we have available: from Art Appreciation, Book Circles and Current Affairs to Family History, Gardening, French Conversation, Science and Technology, Economics and Local History. There are groups for walking, crafts, cinema, play reading and much more. The list is a reminder that learning can take many different forms—and that you don't have to be an expert to get involved.

Our monthly open meetings provide another opportunity to discover something new. We might arrive knowing very little about the subject of the speaker's talk, only to find ourselves fascinated by something we had never previously considered. One month it might be history, another science, travel, the arts or an aspect of the world around us. The important thing is not necessarily what we already know, but whether we are prepared to say, "That's interesting. Tell me more."

And perhaps that is the real strength of Bishop's Cleeve u3a. Much of our learning comes not from formal teaching but from each other, member led. Every member brings a lifetime of experience, knowledge and interests. Someone who joins a group to learn may eventually find themselves sharing their own knowledge with others. A hobby can develop into a new interest group; a conversation over coffee can lead to a new friendship; a book, a talk or a visit can open up a subject we had never previously considered.

So, as we look ahead, perhaps we should challenge ourselves to remain curious. Try a group you haven't tried before. Go along to a talk about a subject you know little about. Ask a question. Learn a new skill. Or simply have a conversation with someone whose interests are

completely different from your own.

We may have spent many years learning what we needed to know. u3a gives us the opportunity to learn what we want to know. And there is a wonderful difference between the two.

So let's keep asking questions, keep discovering and keep surprising ourselves.

Keep learning. Keep exploring. And above all, keep curious.

Open Meeting September 2026

Alan and Maureen Hazell

David Elder is a Gloucestershire-based writer, photographer and local historian who has lived in the Cotswolds for more than 30 years. After a career in Knowledge and Information Management, he became a successful author and researcher. Publications include a biography of the Cheltenham-born Antarctic explorer Dr Edward Adrian Wilson, along with several books on the Cotswolds, Gloucestershire, Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury. David also writes plays and poetry.

On 8 September he gave us a whistlestop tour of Cheltenham "by helicopter", based on his book Cheltenham's Remarkable Buildings. This volume covers 50 buildings, but the strict time discipline of a u3a talk allowed for only 38 of the town's fascinating constructions.

David opened with a Chronological Tour beginning with St Mary's Church, now Cheltenham Minster, its arches dating back to 1170, with notable 14th century tracery. Other than this, the oldest remaining building in Cheltenham is Leckhampton Court whose origins are medieval, and whose owners are many and varied but is now the much-revered Sue Ryder Hospice. We viewed a photograph taken in 1976 of the building, partially reduced to rubble – we have Sue Ryder herself to thank for its survival. Then came Charlton Park, now St Edward's School, built in 1701, replacing an earlier Tudor house, in turn replacing a hunting lodge owned by Edward the Confessor. In 1788, as Cheltenham's growth as a spa town was proceeding apace, George III was entertained there. The oldest surviving Regency structure is the Royal Crescent, built 1805-20, followed closely by what is now the Playhouse, originally Montpelier Baths, built by Henry Thompson, who then built premises

nearby for salt manufacture using the extracted salt from the springs.

We enjoyed hearing about the changing uses of some of the town's well-known spots, for example The Rotunda, which was built in 1818 by Henry Thompson, who sank 100s of wells to provide water of differing composition. A visit by Elizabeth Barret Browning resulted in a 43-line poem of praise. Its dome, of similar proportions to the Pantheon in Rome, was completed by Henry's son in 1826. In 1828, the Duke of Wellington attended one of its prestigious concerts, & when Jenny Lynd performed there, a temporary gallery was built to accommodate an audience of 800, with some climbing on to the roof to watch through the dome's windows! Holst premiered some of his works there, & in the latter half of the 19th century, it was used for flower shows and public meetings. It later became a bank and now has a sophisticated life as The Ivy restaurant.

Few of us had known of the world-beating nature of the Masonic Hall in Portland Street whose claim to fame is that it is the first ever purpose-built Masonic Hall. Its rather plain exterior belies some of the interior extravagance and embellishments which were revealed to us. The most audible gasp from the audience came when our speaker showed a photo of the much-mourned Cavendish House (on The Promenade), built in 1826, and the first department store in Cheltenham. Such a lovely building before its 20th century "facelift" - it was clearly a travesty to have removed its former beautiful façade.

Also on The Promenade are the imposing Municipal Offices, recently sold by the council to become, it is thought, a 125-room luxury hotel. The railway station was built in 1840, originally included a Greek-style portico, and a year later came Cheltenham College, with its Gothic tower and striking Victorian architecture of cloisters and quadrangles. Lindsay Anderson's "If" was filmed there in 1968 and the film makers had trouble keeping the Eagle Tower out of shot. When the Tower was later referred to in the talk - and greeted with subdued hisses & boos - David pointed out that its construction had necessitated, inter alia, the demolition of Edward Wilson's old home.

The final important classical building to have been built was the General Hospital, originally with enough grounds to keep chickens, grow vegetables, and maintain tennis courts for its staff, but now somewhat expanded! 1864 saw the building of the Montpelier bandstand, the

oldest bandstand in the country still in use, having been fully restored in 1994. The Public Library was then established, boasting a 3-ton foundation stone from Cleeve Hill. Much closer to the present day came Sandford Park Lido, which in 1935, after its opening, attracted 100,000 visitors in its first year (Cheltenham then having a population of just 62,000). Finally in this section of the talk, came the GCHQ "doughnut", built in 2003, with enough room in its central open area, it is said, to place the Royal Albert Hall. Fittingly perhaps, this section closed with mention of the Princess Royal Stand at the Racecourse, which cost £45 million to build in 2015 and accommodates 7,000 race goers.

In his second section, David drew attention to some of Cheltenham's Diverse Styles of Architecture, particularly favoured by Victorian builders. In the town centre is the Old Court House (now a busy Brunning and Price pub) whose 1871 Italian Renaissance style has been beautifully preserved both inside & out. The Gothic Revival style includes the Manor on the Lake on Hatherley Lane (built as Arle Court in 1851) which had an intriguing history until its rebirth in 2014 and - David's other example of the imposing Gothic Revival style - the Gasworks building fronting the present Tesco Extra! Cheltenham's churches offer many examples of the Victorian delight in architectural grandeur, including the Gothic Renaissance style St James' Church (now Zizzi's) in the Suffolks; All Saints Church with its Burne-Jones window, and Cheltenham Ladies College - the latter two both built in the French Gothic style. Alma House on Rodney Road was built in the 1830s and refurbished in 1905 when its magnificent Art Nouveau conservatory was added. 1903 saw the building of The Town Hall in Bavarian style, and the sadly lamented Daffodil restaurant began life in 1922 as the town's first purpose-built cinema.

The third section of David's talk offered further examples of the Unusual and Unexpected. Cheltenham Ladies College, for example, features a dome shaped building, which originally housed a telescope, built as its first Headteacher was keen to ensure that astronomy was on the curriculum. It was partially restored in 1991. The Everyman Theatre, built in 1891, is one of the now renowned and beautiful Mascham theatres. It was originally called the New Theatre & Opera House and its imposing tromp d'oile ceiling was particularly noted. The Strozzi Palace, modelled on the place of the same name in Florence and now luxury hotel suites,

was originally the social centre for the Electricity Board! One of Cheltenham's oldest pubs, The Beehive, was built in 1722, and during the 19th century, wool auctions were held in a room to the rear of the building. In contrast, the grandiose Queen's Hotel, built in 1838 - the year of Queen Victoria's Coronation - hence its name, was originally the largest hotel in the country.

In conclusion - and as had been observed throughout the afternoon - David reflected on other Changing Uses; one delightful example being the former College Baths which were built in High Victorian style in 1871. The name "Sandford" refers to the area's sand beds which produced water of drinkable quality, an important matter of public health, so it's oddly fitting that this place now houses NHS records. Winston Churchill remarked that "We shape our buildings; thereafter, they shape us". In giving us so much to think about and enjoy as we wander Cheltenham's streets, David Elder certainly proved this true as he succeeded in alerting us to the ways in which townsfolks' changing attitudes and self-awareness are visible in the multiplicity of sights we can enjoy in a trip around the town.

Badges at Open Meetings

The 'New Member' badges available when you enter our Open Meetings are not only for those attending for the first time, but also for anyone fairly new who doesn't yet know many people or much about us and would be happy for people to talk to them.

We would like to welcome the following new members:

Barbara Leat
Julia Keane
Michael Keane
Frances Williams
Stephen Williams
Glynis Jenkinson
Carol Minter

Fan Bishop
Val Lewis
Desmond Lewis
Hazel Lewis
Pauline Hudson
Gordon Hewett

Bridget
Membership Secretary

Holiday to Ayrshire

Valerie Hayward



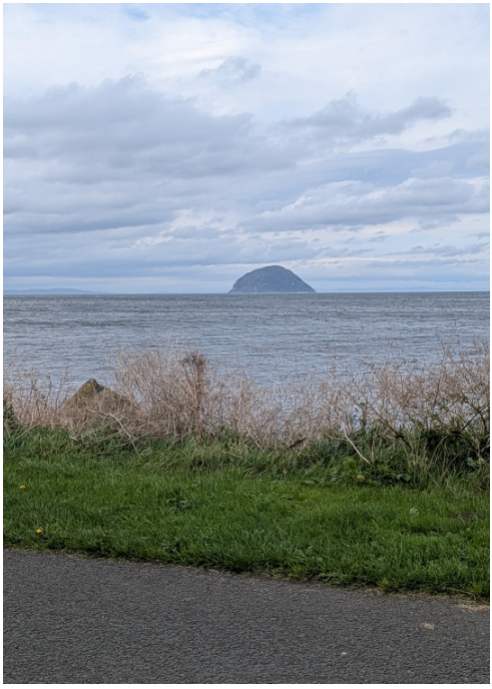
On Sunday, 27th September, 42 members started their journey to Ayrshire on the West coast of Scotland. We had 3 stops on the way with the longest stop at Oswaldtwistle Mills for lunch. Gillian had much trouble pronouncing this stop. We arrived at our hotel in Irvine with time to freshen up before dinner which was served to us in our own area of the dining room.

On Monday we were driven to the Burrell collection which was housed in a purpose built home in Pollok Country Park. This collection was started by Sir William Burrell (1861 - 1958) who was born and raised in Glasgow. His collection was gifted to the city of Glasgow in 1944. In the afternoon we visited the Kelpies which stand 30 metres high and are named Duke and Baron after the two Clydesdales horses that served as models for the artist Andy Scott. Scottish folklore says these shape shifting aquatic spirits lived in lochs, rivers and streams and would lure unwary travellers to their deaths. This legend was used by parents to keep children away from deep water. We then had an unscheduled but welcome stop at the Falkirk Wheel. Here we arrived just as it was turning, taking a narrowboat up to the top. This is an amazing piece of engineering.





On Tuesday we visited Dumfries House which was saved for the nation by a consortium led by the then, Prince Charles. We heard that they agreed a price of 45 million pounds. This sounded like a lot of money until we saw a portrait of Rembrandt by Rembrandt worth an estimated 20 million pounds and were shown one piece of Chippendale furniture which was worth nearly another 20 million. So they got a bargain and Sotherbys who were going to be auctioning off everything must have been gutted (think of the commission!) We were treated to tea or coffee and shortbread served impeccably in the huge conservatory used for weddings. In the afternoon we drove along the Kennedy pass, past Turnberry, Trumps golf course with views of Ailsa Craig in the Firth of Clyde. We stopped at a Russian monument and heard of Sir John Cathcart, a murderous baron who allegedly married and threw seven successive wives off the nearby coastal cliffs before his 8th wife outsmarted him and pushed him off instead.



On our last day we took a ferry to the Isle of Bute to visit Mount Stewart House. This was not as scheduled in



the brochure but it turned out that the owners were the same family that had owned Dumfries house. What a difference in styles though with Mount Stewart having the feel of a huge stately home with pillared hallway, high ceilings and none of the homely feel of Dumfries House. We got back to the coach to be told that our return ferry had been cancelled due to high seas. This meant a drive to the North of the island followed by a very short ferry ride back to the mainland and then a two hour drive back to our hotel. At least we got to see the highlands of Scotland and Loch Lomond. The scenery was spectacular in fact.

Thursday, we travelled home with only two stops this time. One was at Gretna Green where shortbread was on offer as well as other Scottish delicacies. The weather favoured us throughout our stay only raining at night or when we were safe on the coach. We were well looked after by the hotel and of course our driver was superb. He got a round of applause from us and watchers as he reversed a very narrow road when sent the wrong way. I have to say some of the directions were vague to say the least. All in all it was a very good holiday, lots to see and explore, good food and beautiful scenery. I have let the photographs speak for what we saw.









AbilityNet

AbilityNet offer free technical support to anyone over 55 and are happy to support the u3a movement. They provide seminars and courses but will also visit people in their homes.

AbilityNet's friendly technology volunteers provide free IT (information technology) support to older people and disabled people of any age, anywhere in the UK.

Every volunteer is disclosure-checked and can help with all sorts of IT challenges, from setting up new equipment, fixing technical issues, showing you how to stay connected to family, using online services and much more.

Contact details

Website : AbilityNet.org.uk

IT Helpline for over 55s: 0300 180 0028, 9-5pm, Monday to Friday – solves technical issues and IT queries.

Please note: Calls to this helpline number cost no more than a national rate call to a 01 or 02 number and count towards any inclusive minutes in the same way as 01 and 02 calls, and AbilityNet does not receive any money from these calls.

Open Meetings

We meet at 2:30 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Tithe Barn, Bishop's Cleeve. Free refreshments follow the talk. Prospective u3a members may attend one meeting before joining.

Upcoming talks:

10th November: Annual General Meeting followed by "The Cotswold Listener" - June Little

8th December: "Music, Musicals & a Happy Christmas" - Frances Fry

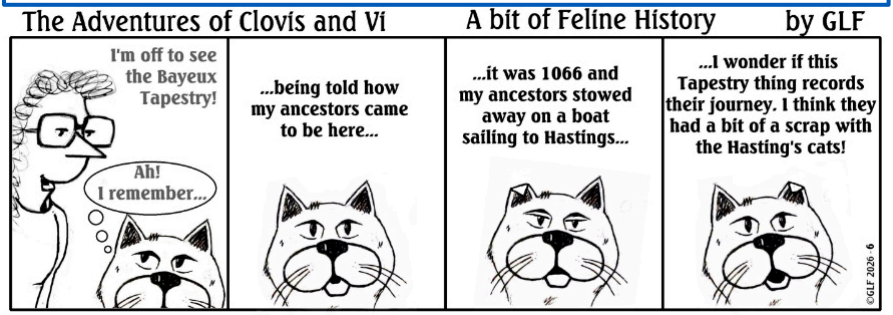
We collect birthday, anniversary, new home, get well, and sympathy cards (no Christmas cards) for Cobalt to recycle. These efforts help fund diagnostic equipment, research, and specialist nurses. Learn more at www.cobalthealth.co.uk

Due to the cost of postage these days, sadly none of us receive as much Royal Mail as in the past. However, did you know that even those few postage stamps can help one of our local children's charities, The James Hopkins Trust? So, please don't throw away those envelopes - bring them along with you to an Open Meeting - remember, every little helps!

Photographs are taken at Bishop's Cleeve u3a activities for use on our website and other publicity.

At general u3a events such as Open Days, Open Meetings, visits, celebrations etc, you should tell the photographer or organiser if you do not wish to be included and move away whilst photographs are being taken.

Tell the Beacon Administrator and Group Leader if you do not wish to be included in your group's photographs.



Amblers Wednesday am. Spaces

Mara Ciolfi — 07884 969680



We are the Amblers, we Amble every Wednesday morning from Hunters Road, starting 11.15 for 40-60 minutes. Followed by refreshments at Gwen's before heading home.



We currently have 1 vacancy.

Art Appreciation Waiting List

Paul Workman — 07816 470267

Our August talk was given by Suzanne Greenhill all about the painter Beryl Cook, renowned for her observations of everyday life, mostly recorded in her adopted city of Plymouth. In contrast to her own reserved personality, Beryl's paintings often depict flamboyant and extrovert characters, shown with a lot of humour but sometimes with subtle social comment. Her paintings are easily recognisable and very colourful and although widely popular with the general public, she was never recognised by the art establishment, more's the pity.

September's offering was an exploration of two pioneers of abstract painting, Wassily Kandinsky and Kazimir Malevich, both were Russian and both made their breakthrough onto the Art World at the beginning of the 20th century. Their emergence coincided with a time of enormous upheaval and radical changes, so their art reflected the revolution apparent in the air. Both artists began with fairly figurative styles in their paintings but over a short ten years or so, evolved distinctive dramatic abstract imagery. The culmination came with "Black Square", literally a painted black square, by Malevich. Although originally embraced by the Soviet authorities as reflecting the new order of things, abstract art in general was denounced by Stalin and the two artists thereafter had to follow a prescriptive line.

Art Appreciation 2 Spaces

Heather Ridgway — 07407 787615

Our last meeting focused on portraits, we each chose a different one to present. It's interesting how often Kandinsky and Kahlo pop up in our discussions. We also examined paintings from this year's Portrait Award at the National Portrait Gallery. At our next meeting we are

looking forward to hearing all about the art from the recent holiday to Ayrshire.
We do have a space for a new member and would be delighted to welcome you.

Arts and Crafts 1 Waiting List

Pamela Levermore — 01242 678276

In August Janet showed us how to make small gift boxes with an Iris folding insert. In September we made greeting cards using the prick and stitch method. Using a sharp needle, we traced an image on to a tri-fold card and then embroidered the result. We shall make some felt decorations in October and some will make a wreath.





Arts and Crafts 2 Waiting List

Sue Brisk — 01242 674006

This is our morning's work at Craft 2 learning the art of folk art. More difficult than it seems!!! Pictures are made from little dots using a dotting tool which is like a pen that you use to put paint onto paper.

Book Circle 1 Waiting List

Sue Silverthorne — 07740289795

It's odd how the books we choose to read seem to connect with each other. The two most recent books have timelines as the connection. The first, The Lost Empress by Steve Robinson, starts in 1914 with the true and tragic story of the sinking of the Empress of Ireland with great loss of life. It then moves to the present day to a genealogist who is asked to investigate a locket owned by a descendant of one of the passengers. And he uncovers murder, mystery and WW1 spying. The next book we read was The Confession by Jessie Burton. Moving

between the 1980s and the present day, it's a story of secrets and relationships and also, we decided, of confessions, which spins around a strong and charismatic novelist and her two insecure protégées and their need to find themselves.

Book Circle 2 Waiting List

Stella Caney — 01242 676143

In August we read The Bell in the Lake by Lars Mytting (a Norwegian author). This book was atmospheric historical fiction, set in a remote village in Norway in 1880. Most of the group rated this fairly highly, and certainly we were introduced to new ideas, such as the value of the "stave churches" in the country, and the difficulties the frozen weather brought during their long winter.

In September we read The Correspondent by Virginia Evans. This was the winner of the Women's Prize for Fiction 2026. It was about a 73-year-old lady who was passionate about writing letters (as opposed to e-mail or even phone calls), and the whole book was in this epistolary style. Members of the group generally enjoyed the book, and picked out several points that were unusual (e.g. the fact that she also wrote to other authors giving rise to a correspondence). However, the central character was thought to be slightly lacking in human warmth, particularly towards members of her family.

Country Dancing Spaces

Sue Weir — 07849 627945

Please see Front Cover Photo

French Conversation 1 Spaces

Julie Ryan — 07521 166399

Bonjour!

We are a welcoming group of men and women who love France and the French language. Some of us have either lived or worked in French speaking countries.

Most of our activity is based on conversation at an 'intermediate' level and we are lucky to have a fluent speaker to help us along! We sometimes have little games and exercises, and we are planning to write (with the help of AI) and recite a short French play for our Christmas activity this year.

We meet at members' houses, so our group is capped at 10. At the time of writing, we have one vacancy. Please get in touch if you are interested in joining.

Gardening Waiting List

Janet Davis — 01242 674068

What a lovely warm autumn we have been having! Thankful now for some rain at last. Difficult conditions for planting - soil still rock hard - so new plants have to remain in pots for now. Beware of sudden early frosts and protect your pelargoniums and succulents.
We have a full complement of members so no vacancies at present- always willing to start a waiting list.
Good gardening, Janet

Local History Spaces

Barbara Day

Brian Paterson — 01242 673917

Nov 2 Talk by Lee James on the Slimbridge Dig
Dec 7 Our Christmas party
Jan 4 Talk by Neela Mann titled Aristocrats, admirals and an architect

Our September Meeting -



Cheltenham's Grade II*-listed Masonic Hall was built between 1820 and 1823 on a plot of land donated to the Freemasons. The Architect was George Greenwood who also was the architect of Holy Trinity Church and the town's Municipal Offices. The money to pay for the building was raised by a share issue and the shareholders are commemorated by having their coats of arms displayed on shields in the dining room.
Outside of London, the Building was the world's first purpose-built Masonic Hall and today has the distinction of being Cheltenham's oldest non-ecclesiastical public building still in use for its original purpose. Its richly decorated interior belies the sombre exterior, which is modelled on a Roman mausoleum.
Freemasonry has had a permanent presence in Cheltenham since 1817. Its association with the town was first established following the transfer of one of the foundation lodges dating from 1753 from London via



Abingdon. Meetings originally took place in Sheldon's hotel on the High street before moving to the new Masonic Hall.
The tour of Masonic Hall started with a short introduction in the Dining room. The Dining room contained Mahogany tables manufactured in 1825 and was elaborately decorated with the founders shields etc. After climbing the curved stairs with ironwork that included Honeysuckle motifs (a symbol of fidelity) the Lodge room was reached. This was elaborately decorated with a blue ceiling covered in small stars and a sunburst decoration in the centre. The carpet has a checkerboard pattern (to symbolize the ups and down of life) in the centre and has a border with masonic symbols. Almost the entire wall space is covered with Honours Boards upon which are inscribed, annually, the name of the Master or Head of the specific order. The lodge room contains an organ on a balcony, and the organ is the oldest in Cheltenham dating from before 1832. There are ornate chairs for the officers of the lodge while the other masons present sit on pews. The Cheltenham Masonic Hall hosts regular meetings for over 400 masons across the nine lodges and side orders.

Our October Meeting - Woodchester Mansion by Liz Davenport
Woodchester Mansion is a unique and amazing Grade I listed Victorian Gothic house hidden in a beautiful Cotswold valley.
It is an unfinished masterpiece. Building started about 1857 but stopped in the mid-1860s so floors and ceilings are missing, walls not plastered and windows unglazed. All the secrets of the construction of the Mansion are visible – something visitors will never see in another country house.
The Mansion was mainly designed by a young local architect, Benjamin Bucknall from Rodborough. He produced a unique Gothic Revival house which blends the local traditional work in limestone with the ideas of the French architectural thinker Viollet-le-Duc.
William Leigh bought the Woodchester Estate in 1845. In 1844 he had moved to Gloucestershire with the aim of creating a Catholic community in the area. A zealous convert, his first action was to start building a Catholic church and monastery at South Woodchester, adjacent to the eastern end of his estate.

After a failed association with the pre-eminent and expensive Victorian architect Pugin in 1846 Leigh turned to the Bristol based Catholic architect Charles Hansom to build the church and monastery. The former, the Church of the Annunciation, was completed in 1849 and the latter in 1853.

In the mid-1850s William Leigh started work on Woodchester Mansion. Although a rich man with an estate producing an income of some £4000pa, by now Leigh appeared to have little capital. Charles Hansom began by building the north wing of the Mansion, the servant's quarters. At William Leigh's request, a young local man called Benjamin Bucknall was employed in Hansom's office. Bucknall was a recent Catholic convert at the Church of the Annunciation who shared Leigh's admiration for the French architect Eugene Viollet le Duc. After a while Bucknall took over as architect of the Mansion.

The Mansion is built largely from local limestone. The main rooms on the ground floor all have stone vaulted ceilings, very unusual in a domestic building but common in church architecture. The south front was finished by four spectacular gargoyles, two dogs, with splendid teeth, a fox and a perfect wild boar with spines and a twisted nose.

Inside the house, the missing floors enable the arches holding up the roof and interior walls to be seen, and these vividly illustrate the function of the buttresses on the exterior of the building. Of the principal rooms, only the drawing room is complete; this was finished for a visit from Cardinal Vaughan in 1894. The chapel is one of the finest parts of the Mansion. The roof bosses are deeply undercut, and mainly depict the flora found in the adjacent Woodchester valley. Exceptions are the large boss with four dog's heads, said to represent the pet dogs owned by William Leigh's daughter, and two green men.

William Leigh is on record as being a perfectionist who actively supervised all the work he undertook. This probably contributed to the slow pace of work on the Mansion, with many improvements and evolution of the design as time progressed. By the 1870s his health was declining and it was still unfinished on Leigh's death in January 1873.

The Woodchester Estate was inherited by Leigh's son, also called William but known in the family as Willie. He lost no time in investigating the possibility of finishing the Mansion. It was pointed out that the scale of the Mansion was such that, when completed, it would need an income of some £7000-£8000pa to run and maintain. Willie Leigh only received about half this amount from the Woodchester estate, so completing the house was not really feasible. The funds available were used to enlarge the cottage where the Leigh family actually lived.

The fortunes of the Woodchester estate and the Mansion were revived by the influence of Willie's eldest daughter, Blanche Leigh. She appears to have had a strong and determined personality and was a devout and committed Catholic.
After various family problems she became the owner in her own right. However, by this time Blanche Leigh was over seventy, and she sought a purchaser for the estate. She hoped to sell to a religious order who would use the Mansion, and particularly the chapel. The sale to a religious order fell through, but the Barnwood House Hospital for mental and nervous disorders were interested in buying. They planned to erect new buildings for the patients but use the Mansion as offices. The second world war meant that these plans were not progressed and in 1953 Barnwood House hospital sold the estate.
Eventually the mansion and surrounding land was purchased by Stroud District council while the rest of the estate is now National Trust property.
Owned by Stroud District Council, the Mansion is managed by the Woodchester Mansion Trust.

Luncheons Spaces

Mary Moore — 07970 685655
Monica Wragg — 07777 612613
1. Gallimores: Thursday 26th November, 1 Bayshill Road, GL50 3FH, tel: 01242 384612.
2. The Fox: Thursday 31st December, London Road, Charlton Kings, GL54 4HG, tel: 01242 503888
3. Simpsons: Thursday 28th January, 75 Priors Road, GL52 5AL, tel: 01242 521964.

Meditation Waiting List

Joan Hall — 07740 902231
We meet on the 1st Thursday of each month in a member's home. Meditation is not mystical – it's just a way to stop for a while and be calm in today's busy world. It gives permission to just pause, breathe and reset ourselves.

Meditation 2 Spaces

Steve Brisk — 07817 181384

Meditation and Mindfulness group. What are the benefits?

Meditation can help to reduce stress, anxiety and depression as well as increasing our focus on the job in hand. It can also help to reduce physical pain.
When we add Mindfulness, the ability to pay attention to the current moment it supercharges all the above. These sessions will help to build a regular practice.
Steve Brisk BSYA teacher of meditation and mindfulness.

Music Appreciation Spaces

Stella Caney — 01242 676143
At the September meeting we listened to music by Dvorak including his famous New World symphony and the Slavonic dances.

Petanque 1 Waiting List

Petanque 2 Spaces

Doreen Chapman — 07503 165947
Val Hayward — 07850 375641
On Friday 16th October, 21 of the U3A Petanque players met at Gotherington to play on a different piste to our usual one at Woodmancote. Afterwards, 15 of us enjoyed lunch at the Shutters.



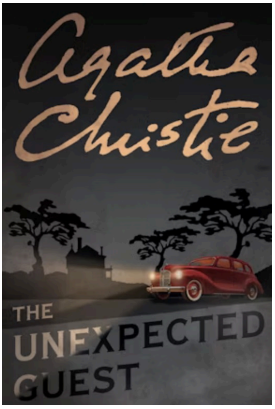
Play Reading Waiting List

Dave Morrison — 07842 228496
Vivien Paxford — 07517 680909
The light-hearted 'Hay Fever' by Noel Coward was recently revived in The West End and we enjoyed reading it for our August meeting.
A Bohemian family live under one roof yet seemingly live separate lives, and four guests independently asked by Mother, Father, Son and





Daughter all endure an unconventional and uncomfortable weekend. So awful that after only one night they vote to leave en masse! A chaotic weekend in the country with an eccentric and artistic family.



In contrast, for our September meeting I selected 'The Unexpected Guest' by Agatha Christie first produced in 1958.
On a foggy night Michael Starkwedder enters through a window into the home of Richard and Laura Warwick and discovers Richard dead with Laura beside him holding a gun.
As usual the story continues with many twists and turns, involving various subplots and complications. The final page offers a surprise ending as always!

Ramblers Spaces

Nick Barker — 07894 117656
Liz Neeves — 07759 477750

Due to the high temps we had to cancel our July walk, but we were able to enjoy a lovely walk in August from Winchcombe along the Wardens Way to St Kenelm's Well. On the descent, we had great views to Cleeve and Langley Hill.





With the cooler but still very pleasant temps of September we enjoyed a walk from Beckford up to Conderton Hill with a brief stop in the community orchard. The walk was completed by a visit to the Beckford Nature Reserve.

Science and Technology Spaces

Alan Green — 07714 329861

We normally meet on the first Thursday of each month in the large hall at the Stoke Orchard Community Centre. We range across the full spectrum of science, technology, and engineering, including the economic and social impact. As well as talks and discussions we have occasional visits and also take time to have a chat and refreshments.

In October we heard about the possibilities and challenges of Digital Forensics, from the casebook of someone who has been investigating digital crimes of all sorts for over 30 years, and only retired last year. He explained in general terms how he goes about it and illustrated it from his very varied experience: no particular IT knowledge was required, although he kept the techies amongst us satisfied – no mean feat!

In November Terry Kelly, one of our members, will scare us all rigid from his experience of a lifetime Transporting Hazardous Materials, but hopefully he will reassure us by describing how he managed to do so safely (most of the time).

And in December another member, Nick Parker, will explore the UK's Space Strategy. We do have one, but who knew? And how is it working out? Come to think of it, space is increasingly important to our defence, industry and wider economy; and we have been doing some things in that regard recently, so perhaps we will all learn something that is both interesting and important.

We don't meet in January (the First Thursday is just too close to the upheavals of Christmas and New Year), but I will try to find us something interesting and different for February!

Although we are quite a large group we still welcome new members, whether bubbling with ideas or just full of curiosity about all this Science & Technology stuff.

Yoga - Chair Waiting List
Yoga - Floor Waiting List
Audrey Cooper — 07949 941608
Both yoga groups are still full, with a short waiting list for the Chair group and a considerably long one for Floor group.
Here are a couple of photos from September, kindly taken by Philip. I've included one from each group, so everyone can see what sort of thing we do.





Please email your news and photos by **11 December** for the next Clarion: **clarion@cleeve-u3a.org.uk**, or use the website: **bishops-cleeve.u3asite.uk/contact/**

Committee 2025/2026		
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Treasurer	Simon Waller	0300 102 4559 Option 3
Groups Co-ordinator	Richard Gaul	0300 102 4559 Option 4
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Beacon Administrator	Philip Watson	0300 102 4559 Option 6
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Clarion Editor	Rachel Chetwood	

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