

# Pershore and District

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Registered Charity no. 1093328



June 2019 Newsletter

[www.pershoreu3a.org.uk](http://www.pershoreu3a.org.uk)

## Chair's Chat

I am really looking forward to a new event, the free Pershore U3A music concert on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> of June at 2pm in the Baptist Church on the corner of Broad St. Six of our very varied music groups will take to the stage for about 13 minutes each. That sounds like a challenge if ever I heard one! The plan is to have completed the concert by 3.30pm. Do come along to support your friends.

We would not be a U3A at all if we were not fortunate enough to have members willing to lead our groups, sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm with us and allowing us to learn a new skill or take part in a topic of interest. I still remember how I went along to my first ever U3A group meeting feeling anxious and wondering quite what I had let myself in for. In reality I came home with a relieved smile having had a great time and subsequently formed strong friendships with members I met through the group. Seeing many of the group leaders at their annual meeting at the end of April, reminded me how much we owe to them. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication.

Towards the end of this newsletter you will find an updated list of your committee members including their home phone numbers to make it as easy as possible to contact us either by email or by phone. If you look carefully you will find a new name on the list. I am delighted to be able to announce that Jackie Jolley has answered my plea for someone to volunteer to be our Treasurer. Jackie only joined U3A in January 2019 so it is particularly pleasing that she is so keen to be involved almost from the off. Welcome Jackie!

At our May committee meeting, we agreed to produce a short plain English guide for group leaders who want to begin to use our new Beacon system as a way of communicating with their group members. The initial draft has been written thanks to my husband Bruce who bravely agreed to have a go at using Beacon on his tablet, to send an email to his reading group, whilst I made notes about how he did so. Not a recipe for marital harmony but we survived! Mary Greer, our Business Secretary who also happens to lead our 'Using Your Computer' group, will help to craft the final version.

And finally, an environmental issue: The Third Age Trust has asked the committee whether members would prefer to receive their copies of Third Age Matters wrapped in something which is recyclable and environmentally friendly even if it means a slight increase in cost to your U3A. We have said "yes".

*Jill*

Jill Wilson, Chair

[U3APershoreChair@gmail.com](mailto:U3APershoreChair@gmail.com) 01386 642422

## Speakers at our forthcoming Monthly Meetings

**Venue: Number 8,**  
High Street, Pershore WR10 1BG  
(in the auditorium)  
Time: 2pm Entry: free

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available after the meeting at no cost.



**Tuesday 18 June 2019**

**'Through the garden gate' by Adrian James**

Adrian is a regular & popular speaker to groups & societies throughout Worcestershire and the surrounding counties. He is based in Offenham and is a keen gardener, opening his garden to the public on selected days.

Through the garden gate features five gardens built around extraordinary and defining Features: Kensington Roof Gardens in London the Abbey Garden at Malmesbury in Wiltshire, Longstock Park Water Garden near Stockbridge in Hampshire, Kilver Court at Shepton Mallett in Somerset and the Eden Project near St Austell in Cornwall.



*(Please note this is one week earlier than usual because Number 8 is not available on 16 July)*

**Tuesday 9 July 2019**

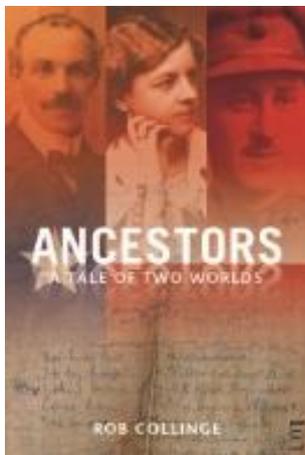
**The Archaeology and History of Bredon Hill by Deborah Overton**

July sees the return of Deborah, the retired Worcestershire archaeologist from Pensham who last spoke to us about rabbits and rabbit warrens, to talk about her favourite subject, Bredon Hill. With Bredon looming over the town to the south and being such an integral extended part of Pershore, it promises to be a fascinating talk.



**Tuesday 20 Aug 2019**

**Genealogy: the Search for One's Ancestors by Rob Collinge**



*The date was 8 May 1900, the place San Antonio, Texas. The event was one of the high society weddings of the year, to be reported in much detail by the local press. Soon after their marriage, the couple set sail for England, there to lead a gilded life and to raise a family in a fine manor house, a world of servants and privilege, of comfort and security. But it was not to last – a World War would come and leave behind only the dust and ashes of their hopes and dreams.*

*They were my grandparents. This is their story.*

Rob is the author of a book describing a four year long piece of research which resulted in a true story spanning 1830s Germany, early pioneer Texas, the American Civil War, 19<sup>th</sup> century Mexico, the Lancashire cotton mills, World War I and the Great Depression. In the process of his research, Rob made some astonishing discoveries.

## Monthly Meeting Report

### 'The historical background to nursery rhymes' by Terry Penny

#### 'With silver bells and cockle shells...'

What do nursery rhymes mean to you? Happy memories of childhood perhaps or pleasant hours re-telling them to your children and grandchildren?

However, nursery rhymes are not quite what they might seem on the face of it, as Terry Penny explained to a rapt U3A audience at Number 8 on Tuesday 21 May. Terry said that nursery rhymes were not originally intended for children but were, instead, a means of passing down information orally to people of all classes especially to the majority who were unable to read and write.



Some simply related historical events, for example, the lady on the white horse 'with rings on her fingers and bells on her toes' was Queen Elizabeth visiting Banbury Cross. Many others were designed to relate particularly unpleasant episodes in British or continental history, spreading subversive messages or satirising important public figures such as members of the Royal Family. Criticism of monarchs could result in severe punishment which is why such camouflage was needed.

Consider 'Mary Mary quite contrary' being asked how her garden grew with 'silver bells and cockle shells and pretty maids all in a row'. A pleasing description of an English country garden? Not exactly! Mary was 'Bloody' Mary Tudor who had hundreds of Protestants put to death for their religious beliefs; her 'garden' was the graveyard of her victims and the 'pretty maids' referred to the guillotines which executed them; silver bells and cockle shells were particularly gruesome examples of medieval torture.

The 'Old woman who lived in a shoe' was George II; Dr Foster who went to Gloucester was Edward I; Georgy Porgy was the Duke of Buckingham – a notorious figure at the court of James I; and mischievous Jack and Jill climbing the hill were Louis XVI and his wife Marie Antoinette stepping up to the guillotine.

The U3A audience were thus given a fascinating, if gruesome, insight into the origins of many nursery rhymes and the intriguing way in which the deeds of the famous were carefully disguised and passed from one generation to the next.

Bruce Wilson

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## Events

### Musical Concert



**Wednesday 5 June 2019, 2pm**

at Pershore Baptist Church, Broad Street, Pershore WR10 1AY

Come along to this free event.

The bows and blows, 60's pop singers, pop players, hand bell ringers, U3A singers and the ukulele group will be performing to create a musical extravaganza not to be missed.

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## The Interest Groups

### Group News

#### Change of Leaders.

Congratulations to all the new leaders and many thanks to “retiring” leaders for all their work and enthusiasm.

Pop Music Players	Tony Jay has taken over from Doug Coulton
Table Tennis	Nigel Kift is the new leader, having taken over from Ivan Steele
French Upper Level 2	Kathy Ridge is the new leader, taking over from Helen Evans
Creative Writing	Pam Harries has taken on this group from Jan Wortley

#### New Group

Croquet	Many thanks to Dave Martin for setting up this new group and the use of his lawn. This group meets on Wednesdays at 2 pm. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Groups Coordinator, Sue Lavery.
Board Games	New Group to start on July 18th, and 3rd Thursday of the month. Come and play Mah-Jong, Rummikub and other board games or bring your own games. Jenny Guy to be the Group Leader. Contact Sue Lavery if interested in joining this group.

#### Closed Group

Theatre Visits	Pauline Lane has decided to step down as Group Leader of this group after many successful visits to Malvern Theatre. If anyone is interested in running a Theatre Visits Group please contact Sue Lavery.
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#### Wish List for New Groups

Art Appreciation, Chess, Dolls' Houses, Italian Beginners, Patchwork/Quilting

If you would like to have your name added to any of the items on the Wish List, have any other ideas for Interest Groups or feel you can offer to be a Group Leader please get in touch with Groups' Coordinator, Sue Lavery: [u3apershoreGroupC@gmail.com](mailto:u3apershoreGroupC@gmail.com) or tel: 01386 556 892

## Groups recruiting members

### Skittles

About 12 of us usually meet at 2pm on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month at the Sports Club on Defford Road in Pershore. We play 2 or 3 games, depending on how many of us there are, then have a cup of tea and a biscuit to boost our energies for a game of “Killer” which takes us up to 4pm. We pay £1 per session, and put 20p each in the pot for the winner of the Killer game, winner takes all and might almost have enough to buy a coffee! You can probably tell we are not competitive and have a good chat and laugh at ourselves as much as anything.



Anyone wishing to join our merry group please just turn up, or contact Sue Chandler [glowlady@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:glowlady@hotmail.co.uk) 01386 561459 or 07966 512115.

## Cycling for inexperienced or unconfident riders

Do you ever look at your old bike languishing sadly in the shed or garage and think “One day I will ride you again”? Or maybe you did a bit of cycling a few years ago or hired a bike whilst you were on holiday and always thought you might take it up again but never got around to it? If so, our Pedal and Coffee group could be just what you are looking for!

We are there to encourage members to try a gentle return to cycling, normally doing a round trip of about 10-14 miles around Pershore, stopping for a coffee and chat midway. We always meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month starting at 10 am from Pershore Leisure Centre and make sure we are back in time for lunch.

We will help and encourage you by cycling at your pace and stopping to admire the view on the way. We can even lend you a pump to get your tyres fully inflated. We cycle along quiet lanes and plan our routes to avoid A roads as far as possible.

On June 14 we are planning to visit the café in the village shop in Peopleton, on July 12 the Queen Elizabeth pub in Elmley Castle and on August 9 the café in the village shop in Bishampton.

Do contact either Anne Heath or Jill Wilson if you would like to know more. Anne’s phone number is 07800 757579 and Jill’s is 01386 642422.



Written by Bruce Wilson

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## Table Tennis

Pershore U3A Table Tennis Group welcomes new members.

We’re a friendly group who enjoy gentle non-competitive exercise, stimulating chat and free chocolate biscuits! We meet at Pershore Leisure Centre every Wednesday from 12noon to 1pm.

For more details contact Nigel Kift on 07887 565927 or email [nigeljackiek@talktalk.net](mailto:nigeljackiek@talktalk.net)



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## The Turn of a Friendly Card



The card group continues to expand its repertoire of games played and would like to invite anyone who likes to play cards to join us. We mainly play Whist and Canasta, with occasional forays into Poker and Cribbage. In particular, if you were a member of the Bridge Group you would be welcome to come and play Bridge with us. The group’s main focus is to enjoy ourselves so there is plenty of chatter and laughing. We are happy to take complete beginners and introduce you to the mysteries of probability theory as exemplified by the random deals of a shuffled pack and the improbable coincidences that always create much gnashing of teeth and laughter.

We meet on the second Wednesday and fourth Monday each month from 2.00pm to around 4.30pm. If you would like to give us a try please contact Mike Ainley on 01386 244325 or email [mikeainley@talktalk.net](mailto:mikeainley@talktalk.net).

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## U3A AGM and Conference 2019

The Third Age Trust annual conference and AGM is taking place at EAST MIDLANDS CONFERENCE CENTRE, UNIVERSITY PARK, NOTTINGHAM, NG7 2RJ on 27 - 29 August 2019



The theme this year is "Sharing Inspiring Learning", with workshops focusing on lifelong learning, managing new educational resources, finance for charities, and supporting the growth and development of U3As. There will opportunity to discuss, debate and enjoy the views of colleagues across the movement. There will also be some free time to share interests such as singing, ukulele playing, walking and many other choices. Members are welcome to take part in the conference and enjoy time with U3A members from across the movement.

Residential and non-residential options for Conference are available; costs range from £115.00 to £325.00 (This includes AGM day)

Day only tickets are also available: <https://conference.u3a.org.uk/agm-2019/>

More information, including a programme of events can be found at the Third Age Trust website <https://conference.u3a.org.uk/>

### **Pershore and District U3A Committee Members and other key contacts**

June 2019

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Please send your items for publication in the Newsletter to Sandra Chapman by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month