

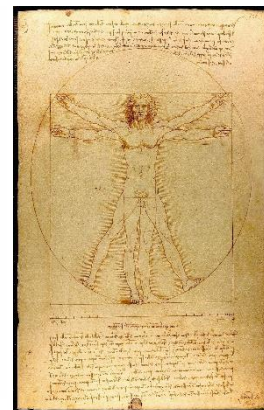
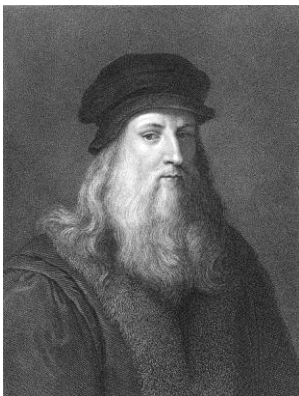
Members' Bulletin June 2026

OPEN MEETING IN JUNE

'Leonard da Vinci's Inventions' A Talk by Dr Javad Hashemi

Kenilworth Methodist Church, Priory Road.

Thursday 18th June at 1.45pm for refreshments with talk starting at 2.30pm.



Leonardo da Vinci was born in 1452 and was way ahead of his time. He produced studies on numerous diverse subjects including paintings, nature, flying machines, anatomy, geometry, mechanics and construction projects, including architectural designs for churches and fortresses.

Our speaker, Javid, was born in Tehran and taught biology and science at the university before coming to the UK. His talk is an entertaining, illustrated and animated talk about Leonardo da Vinci as an Engineer and Scientist

LAST OPEN MEETING IN MAY

Lord Horatio Nelson: England's Greatest Hero?'

A Talk by Max Keen

True to form, Max strode into the room dressed as a French Admiral! Why? His talk was about a British naval hero!? It would appear that hiring a French Admiral's costume was infinitely cheaper than hiring a Nelson costume!



Lord Horatio Nelson

Max enthusiastically launched into Nelson's life. He was born into a moderately prosperous Norfolk family and joined the navy through the influence of his uncle, Maurice Suckling, a high-ranking naval officer. Nelson rose rapidly through the ranks and served with leading naval commanders before obtaining his own command at the age of 20 in 1778. He developed a reputation for personal valour and a firm grasp of tactics but suffered periods of illness and unemployment when his abilities as a naval officer were not required in a peaceful world.

Meanwhile, Nelson met Frances "Fanny" Nisbet, a young widow from a Nevis plantation family. Nelson developed an affection for her. In response, her uncle John Herbert offered him a massive dowry. Both Herbert and Nisbet concealed the fact that their famed riches were a fiction, and Fanny did not disclose she was infertile due to a womb infection. Once they were engaged, Herbert offered Nelson nowhere near the dowry he had promised. During the Georgian era, breaking a marital engagement was seen as quite dishonourable, and so Nelson and Nisbet were married at Montpelier Estate in Nevis on 11 March 1787, shortly before the end of his tour of duty in the Caribbean.

The outbreak of the French Revolutionary Wars allowed Nelson to return to service, where he was particularly active in the Mediterranean Sea. He fought in several minor engagements off Toulon and was prominent in the capture of Corsica, where he was wounded and partially lost sight in one eye. He subsequently performed diplomatic duties with the Italian states. In 1797, he distinguished himself while commanding HMS Captain at the Battle of Cape St Vincent. Shortly after this battle, Nelson took part in the Battle of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, where his amphibious attack failed and his right arm was very badly wounded. He was rowed back to the mother ship to be attended by its surgeon. Upon arriving at his ship, he refused to be helped aboard, declaring:

"Let me alone! I have yet legs left and one arm. Tell the surgeon to make haste and get his instruments. I know I must lose my right arm and the sooner it is off, the better"

He was forced to return to England to recuperate. The following year he won a decisive victory over the French at the Battle of the Nile and remained in the Mediterranean to support the Kingdom of Naples against a French invasion.



Max Keen as a Ships Gunner

In 1798 Nelson sailed to Naples where he was met with enthusiastic celebrations. King Ferdinand of Naples, accompanied by Sir William Hamilton, greeted Nelson in person, when arriving at the port. Sir William invited Nelson to stay at his home whilst celebrations continued in honour of Nelson's birthday. It was at these celebrations that officers noted Nelson's attention to Lady Emma Hamilton. The recall of Sir William to Britain was an incentive for Nelson to return.

Nelson attended court and was guest of honour at many banquets and balls. During this period, Fanny Nelson and Lady Emma Hamilton met for the first time; Nelson was reported as being cold and distant to his wife, while his attentions to Lady Hamilton and her obesity became the subject of gossip. With the marriage breaking down, Nelson began to hate even being in the same room as Fanny. Events came to a head around Christmas, when according to Nelson's solicitor, Fanny issued an ultimatum on whether he would choose her or Lady Hamilton. Nelson replied he loved Fanny but could not "forget his obligations" to Lady Hamilton. Nelson and Fanny never lived together again.

In 1801, Nelson was dispatched to the Baltic Sea and defeated neutral Denmark at the Battle of Copenhagen. He commanded the blockade of the French and Spanish fleets at Toulon and, after their escape, chased them to the West Indies and back but failed to bring them to battle.

In 1802 Lady Hamilton purchased Merton Place in Surrey for Nelson, where he lived with the Hamilton's until William's death in 1803. The following month war broke out and, once again, Nelson prepared to return to sea.

Nelson took over the Cádiz blockade in 1805. On 21 October, the Franco-Spanish fleet came out of port, and Nelson's fleet engaged them at the Battle of Trafalgar. The battle became Britain's greatest naval victory, but Nelson, aboard HMS *Victory*, was fatally wounded by a French marksman. His body was brought back to England, preserved in a barrel of brandy. Each of his crew took a swig of brandy from the barrel before releasing him for his hero's state funeral.



Max Keen as Nelson

Aspects of Nelson's life and career were controversial, both during his lifetime and after his death. His affair with Emma Hamilton was widely remarked upon and disapproved of, to the extent that Emma was denied permission to attend his funeral. She and their daughter, Horatia, were also subsequently ignored by the government, which awarded Nelson's money and titles only to his legitimate family.

Nelson's death at Trafalgar secured his position as one of Britain's most heroic figures. His signal just prior to the commencement of the battle, "England expects that every man will do his duty", is regularly quoted and paraphrased. In 2002, Nelson was named among the 100 Greatest Britons of all time.

Max's history lesson was enthusiastically given and very well received. The normal Open Meeting talk of one hour was extended by a further 30 minutes but was well enjoyed by a packed audience of 121 people.

Outings News

Outing to Wightwick Manor and Gardens (N/T), Wolverhampton

Wednesday 22nd July - Cost £38.50pp (N/Tmembers) £55.60 (non)

to include Introductory talk, Refreshments and Sandwich lunch

Pick up 9.00am Abbey Fields, 9.10am Abbey End/The Clock



The House

The house was built by Theodore Mander (of Mander paints) in 1887 and he began collecting and adopting Victorian art and design. When he died the house passed to his son Geoffrey who wanted the house to remain a home and this is true today. It is well known for its collection of pre-Raphaelite art and William Morris Designs. The main focus of the art is the work of the Rossettis.

Wightwick had no Pre-Raphaelite art prior to 1937, when the Manor was donated to the National Trust. The first painting bought was a portrait of Jane Morris by Rossetti and Madox Brown, which the Manders donated to the National Trust and the house also contains paintings from other N/T houses such as Upton House. The collection is one of the largest displays of work by female artists but also includes work by Edward Burne-Jones. There is also a separate gallery dedicated to artists Evelyn and William de Morgan.

NB Rucksacks and large bags are not allowed in the house.

The Gardens

In 1904 the Manders employed eminent Arts and Crafts designer Thomas Mawson to work on the garden. The dominant design feature of the garden is its 'rooms' – areas of the garden marked by clipped yew hedges or terraces giving the garden a wide variety of different feelings which become less formal away from the house.

Facilities

In addition to the Tea room there is a Plant Shop, a Gift Shop and a second-hand book shop.

Accessibility

The majority of the ground floor of the house is accessible for all but there is a touch-screen with a virtual tour - with narration - available for those not able to access certain areas.

There is Blue Badge parking and a Shuttle buggy is available to the main house. Wheelchairs are available on arrival. There is level access to Tea Room and Shop. Also accessible toilets by Reception and tea-room. Partly accessible grounds, slopes, some steps, grass paths.

Details of this outing will be at the outings table at Open Meetings. Anyone interested in this outing should initially email Alison Lucas with any questions. Also make Alison

aware of ANY issues that may affect their ability to travel or enjoy the outings, so that these can be discussed with a view to obtaining a reasonable solution. As lunch is included we also need to know about any allergies or special dietary requirements.

Outing to Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings

Wednesday 9th September

cost £45pp (incl. driver's tip) with refreshments on arrival and lunch

Pick up 9.15am Abbey Fields, 9.25am Abbey End/The Clock



About the museum

Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings is an award-winning museum spanning 700 years of Midlands' heritage. All of the exhibits have been rescued from demolition or dereliction and rebuilt in a beautiful corner of the Worcestershire countryside. The Museum opened to the public in 1967 following the rescue and reconstruction of its first building, a medieval Town House from Bromsgrove town centre. Avoncroft was England's first open-air museum and the 30+ buildings range from a fully furnished 1940s Prefab to commercial buildings such as the 19th century windmill (from Warwickshire), the Nailer's forge and chain shop, all of which are still in use today, provide fascinating insights into the region's industrial past. The Museum is home to the National Telephone Kiosk Collection, a traditional cider and perry orchard and a wildflower meadow. Also to be seen are barns, stables, cottages, an air-raid shelter, a dovecote, a tollhouse, and a church.

Our itinerary

- 10.30am - Arrival tea and coffee
- 10.45am - Introductory talk about Avoncroft Museum
- 11.15am - Guided tour of three buildings and/or a demonstration of milling/brickmaking
- 1.00pm - Cold buffet lunch in New Guesten Hall
- 2.00pm - Time to wander around the remainder of the site
- 4.00pm. - Departure

Also available

There is a tea room and a plant shop

Accessibility

The buildings are linked by wide hard standing paths and there are numerous benches around the grounds. The site is mostly flat, although there is one steep hill and is generally suitable for wheelchairs and mobility scooters. Manual wheelchairs are available to borrow on request.

There is a ramped entrance to the Museum shop and to the Edwardian Tea Room. Most historic buildings have entrance ramps, although some do have stepped entrances. Many of the historic buildings are only wheelchair accessible on the ground floor as their historic nature and design prohibits the installation of lifts. Alternative pictorial representation is available. Some narrow doorways and small spaces can make manoeuvrability difficult.

All of the buildings and some of their contents can be experienced through touch. Touch tours and object handling sessions can be provided upon prior arrangement. Some buildings have low light levels and low contrast features due to their historic nature. A large print Museum map and large print menu for the Tea Room are available on request.

Accessible toilets can be found in the toilet block next to the tea room (always available) and in Guesten Hall (generally available)

Booking forms can be found on the Ku3a website or are available from the Outings table at Open Meetings. We also ask those booking to make a member of the Outings Team aware of ANY issues that may affect their ability to travel or enjoy the outings, so that these can be discussed with a view to obtaining a reasonable solution.

Where refreshments and/or food is included we need to be made aware in advance of any allergies or special dietary requirements.

Outing to Hellens Manor and Gardens with Ledbury - Thursday 25th June

This outing is now full, but contact Alison Lucas if you would like to go onto a waiting list for any last minute cancellations.

Ku3a Film Screenings at Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth



Doors open from 1.30pm for refreshments, and the film will be screened at 2pm. The cost will be £6 per person.

Tickets can be purchased from the link in the "emailed" Bulletin.

You will be asked to confirm you are a member of the u3a. An email ticket is sufficient for entry. Online booking for each film will open within hours of the previous screening. Alternatively, you are welcome to turn up on the day, preferably with the right money (£6 per person; cash only) if possible. We look forward to seeing you there!

Carers at the Film Screenings

The booking page for the Film Screenings has been modified such that you can now nominate if anyone on your booking counts as a carer; they will then be free of charge.

WELCOME TO KENILWORTH u3a



We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new and returning members. Welcome to you all.

We hope that you find many things to interest you in Ku3a and if you have any ideas to help us continue to develop Ku3a, please contact any committee member.

Volunteering - the heart of u3a

Whether it's handing out refreshments at a meeting, helping with tables and chairs, joining your committee or leading an interest group, one of the wonderful things about u3a is that we all have a part to play. Volunteering brings our members together, creating u3a communities. What new role could you take on with your u3a this year?

Christmas Lunch – 'Save the Date' Thursday, 3rd December at Kenilworth Golf Club – full details to be circulated nearer the date.

NEWS FROM Ku3a INTEREST GROUPS

Paper Craft group



Glen Duggins and Pat Sullivan have successfully launched a Paper Craft group, to meet in the morning of the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Methodist Centre.

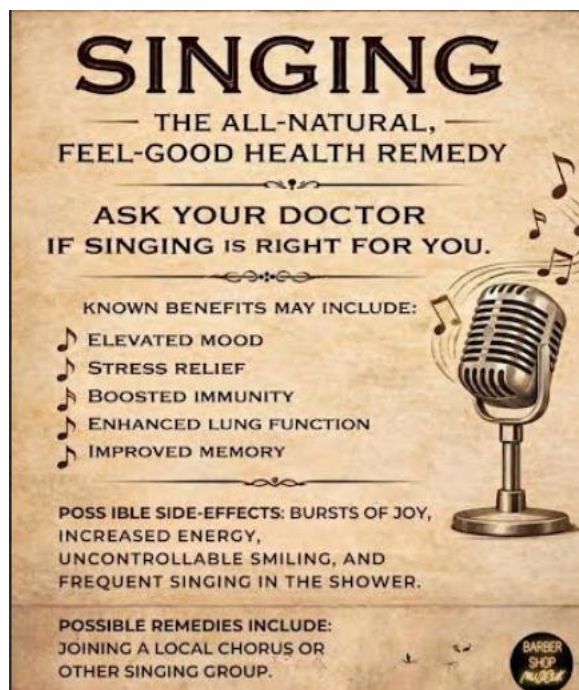
Do come and join us at our next meeting on Wednesday 24th June, 10am till 12 noon

If you would to join us, then please contact Glen Duggins.

Beer and Cider Appreciation group

Any members who would be interested in joining them should contact Mick O'Connor.

Keep on Singing group



'Singing is shown to be good for the brain especially as we age so why not come along to our group and sing with us' - Kathy

'I like the side effects, especially uncontrollable smiling' – Kathy

'I love the memory improvement for myself, so Keep on Singing' – Barrie

'Its so good, obviously we should be doing it every day' - Kay

'a bit of a stretch, a bit of a sing, a big bit of a laugh and biscuits too, what could be nicer?' - Helen

Thursday Morning 10.30 to 12.00 once a month at St Barnabus Church. 1st Thursday each month.

If you are interested, contact Kathy Blackledge.

Further Ideas for New Groups

As you can see, we are managing to increase the number of groups on offer in Ku3a, but we would like still more. This requires you, the members, to generate suggestions for new activities. Ideally you would have some knowledge of the activity, and might even volunteer to be its GL, but neither is essential.

To raise an idea, you can either email one of the Groups Coordinators, or come to the Groups table to discuss with us prior to the start of the monthly Open Meeting talk.

In the last few months three craft groups have closed in Ku3a, so this is one theme for which we would especially like you to put forward suggestions.

News from your group for the Bulletin

If you have any news, information or pictures to share from your group, please send them to any committee member before the end of each month as we try to send out each Bulletin after our Committee Meeting at the start of each month.

Promoting your group at the Open Meeting

If you would like to promote your group at an Open Meeting, either to attract new members or to show off items of interest from your activities or because it ties in well with the topic of that month's talk, we can offer a table at the preamble to the monthly Open meeting. Please contact Leo Lewis, in advance if you wish to take up this offer.

Here's the link for all the Enquiring Minds discussions

https://kenilworth.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/enquiring-minds/

FROM THE NATIONAL u3a

Start saving on your summer holiday with u3a *Friends Extra*



Get holiday-ready with exclusive travel savings. Members of *u3a Friends Extra* can save up to 40% on worldwide travel with access to trade-only hotel rates with *utc.travel*, access an 8% discount on hotel bookings with *Expedia*, and save up to 35% on European breaks with *Eurocamp*.

There are discounts on airport parking and lounges too, giving you plenty of ways to cut costs while planning your next trip. Find out more on [the u3a Friends Extra website](#).

Online Learning Events

The national U3a hosts a series of seminars, labelled as Online Learning Events, which give an informed insight into topics where Ku3a is not able to offer an interest group. The seminars cover art, science, and history, and in several cases combinations of them.

Some of the online events in the next few weeks form the u3a Festival Fringe, a series of online events which will take place in the lead up to, and following on from, the full u3aFestival which is in York on 1-3 July.

For the engineers, scientists and mathematicians amongst us, here are three seminars from the current list:

“A history of Britain's roads: why we should feel proud”, (*Discover the surprising stories behind Britain's roads, from radical legislation to quirky inventors, with Diana Laffin, described as a talk aimed to cheer you up despite the current travails of the traffic and road systems.*), Friday June 19th, 10.00-11.00am.

“One small triangle to a man, one giant leap for mankind”, (*Grame Austin will explore the phenomenon known as Pascal's triangle and follow the number trail contained in it to look at Art, Music, Botany and multiplying out brackets*), Friday June 19th, 14.00-15.00.

“The role of wind energy in the UK's electricity system”, (*join Chris Vogel to discuss the UK's wind resource and the engineering involved in its growing importance to the UK's electricity mix*), Tuesday June 30th, 11.00-12.00.

Booking on these sessions is easy: you don't have to register an account, and you don't even have to remember your u3a membership number.

The full list of upcoming online learning events for the next few weeks can be accessed by clicking on this link: [u3a - Online Learning Events](#) .

COMMUNITY NEWS

Kenilworth Open Gardens



Many of you will be familiar with the National Open Gardens scheme.

The Kenilworth Open Gardens' day takes place on Sunday June 21st this year.

A total of 12 gardens, with an interesting variety in size and style, will be open to visitors between 12.00 and 5.30pm. The single entrance fee of £8 per adult (children free) is paid at the first garden you visit, which gives you your ticket, a map, and access to as many of the gardens as you wish. Cash payment is preferred. The money raised goes to various health charities via the National Open Garden Scheme.

It's a relaxed and friendly afternoon in lovely surroundings: you will get the chance to chat with the owners (some of whom are Ku3a members) and fellow visitors, and tea and cakes will be available for purchase in the St Nicholas Parochial Hall on the High Street.

To see which gardens are open, click in the following link. This offers the option of booking in advance, though paying cash on the day is also fine.

<https://ngs.org.uk/gardens/kenilworth-gardens-cv8/>

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 18th June – Open Meeting Talk - Leonardo da Vinci's Inventions

Sunday 21st June – Kenilworth Open Gardens

Thursday 25th June – Ku3a Outing to Hellens Manor and Garden, and Ledbury

1st to 3rd July - u3a Festival in York

Thursday 16th July – Open Meeting talk - Machu Picchu – Beauty and Mystery

Wednesday 22nd July – Ku3a Outing to Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton.

Wednesday 9th September – Ku3a Outing to Avoncroft Open Air Museum, including a light lunch.

Thursday 17th September - Open Meeting talk - To a Mountain in Tibet - A Journey into North India and Western Tibet

Thursday 15th October - Open Meeting talk - The Inn at the Top

Thursday 19th November – Open Meeting talk - The Complete History of Abbey Fields

Thursday 3rd December – Christmas Lunch- Kenilworth Golf Club