

Members' Bulletin July 2026

There is no Open Meeting and no Newsletter in August, so both will resume in September.

OPEN MEETING IN JULY

'Machu Picchu – Beauty and Mystery'

A talk by Gloria Camino

Kenilworth Methodist Church, Priory Road.

Thursday 16th July at 1.45pm for refreshments with talk starting at 2.30pm.



Gloria specialises in lecturing on Machu Picchu, the great Citadel of the Incas. Her lecture covers fascinating aspects of her research, including its origin, urban planning and design, its connection with astronomy and Inca religion systems.

Also hypothesises as to its purpose after its discovery. Her lecture is illustrated with outstanding pictures and graphics.

Gloria was born in Cusco in Peru, hence her interest in Machu Picchu. She graduated from the University of Cusco with a BA in Architecture in 1988 and went on to achieve an MA. She subsequently relocated to the UK to join an Architectural practice.

LAST OPEN MEETING IN JUNE

‘Leonardo da Vinci’s Inventions’

A Talk by Dr Javad Hashemi-Tafreshi



Javad’s talk detailed the life of Leonardo da Vinci, an Italian designer, who was active as a painter, draughtsman, engineer, scientist, sculpture and architect. Leonardo was a man well ahead of his time, now widely regarded as a genius.

Leonardo was born in 1452, out of wedlock to a successful notary and a relatively unknown woman, in or near the town of Vinci. He was educated in Florence by an Italian painter and sculptor. He began his career in the city but then spent much time in the service of an Italian nobleman who ruled as the Duke of Milan from 1494 – 1499. Later Leonardo worked in

Florence, Milan and Rome whilst attracting a large following of imitators and students.

Leonardo is identified as one of the greatest painters in the history of Western art. He created some of the most influential paintings including ‘The Mona Lisa’ which is regarded as the world’s most influential painting and ‘The last Supper’ which is the most reproduced religious painting of all time. His ‘Vitruvian Man’ drawing is also regarded as a cultural icon.



Leonardo is obviously famous for his paintings but his notebooks and journals detailing his studies in science and engineering are sometimes considered as impressive and innovative as his artistic work. These studies are recorded in 13,000 pages of notes and drawings that were made and maintained daily throughout Leonardo’s life and travels, as he made continual observations of the world around him. His notebooks show the diverse range of Leonardo’s inquisitive mind.



Whilst in Rome, between 1492 and 1501, Leonardo was employed as Court Architect and Chief Military Engineer. During this period, he developed wall defences, ladders to attack moated walls, boats energised by paddles, cannons with range adjusters and cluster bombs, temporary bridges, mobile mechanical tanks housing infantrymen and munitions, and many more.

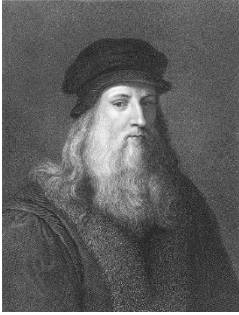
Leonardo also designed many aspects of water engineering including harbours, canals and the Miter Gate – a canal lock gate very similar to those we have today.



His studies of flights of birds resulted in initial modelling of parachutes, gliders and aerial screw helicopters.

Relatively few of his designs were constructed or were even feasible in his lifetime, as the modern scientific approaches in metallurgy and engineering were only in their infancy during his lifetime.





Leonardo, at the invitation of Francis 1, spent the last three years of his life in France and died at Clos Luce on 2 May 1519 at the age of 67.

Javad presented a very interesting talk that highlighted why Leonardo is widely regarded as a genius with his collective works of paintings, engineering and innovations. He significantly contributed to European development to an extent rivalled only by that of his younger contemporary, Michelangelo.

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 the 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.

Accessability

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.

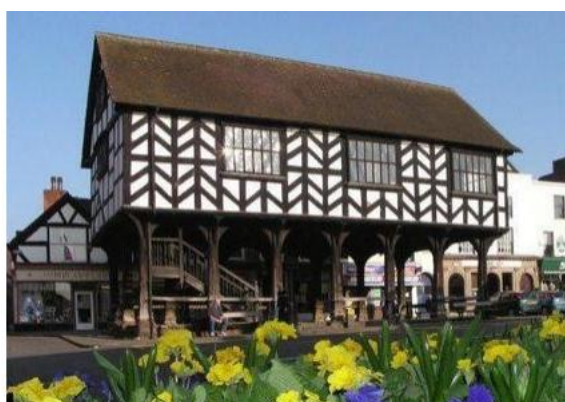
Details of this outing will be at the outings table at the July Open Meeting. Anyone interested in this outing should initially email Alison Lucas. Please contact Alison with any questions. Also make Alison aware of ANY issues that may affect their ability to travel or enjoy the outings, so that these 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.

New opportunity to visit Ledbury and Hellens Manor - 30th July

A new date has been arranged for the above outing and we now have four places available to book and also to compile a small waiting list in case of last minute cancellations.

**Outing to Hellens Manor and Gardens with Ledbury Thursday 30th July 2026
Cost £36.00pp to include guided tour of Hellens and refreshments Pick up
8.50am Abbey Fields, 9.00am Abbey End/The Clock**

In the morning we will make our way to Ledbury where you can explore the historic town and have an early lunch before we depart at 12.45pm for our afternoon at Hellens Manor. Ledbury is a borough whose origins date to around AD 690 and is mentioned in the Domesday Book. It was the site of a battle during the Civil War which saw a Royalist victory. Cobbled streets and black and white houses can be found along Church Lane which leads from the Medieval parish church of St Michaels and All Angels to the Market House.



The Market Hall, in the middle of the town, was built in 1617. One of the most popular places to visit is the Heritage Centre, a museum full of about the history of the town's buildings. It is based in the Old Grammar school, a long, low half-timbered building sitting at the top of Church Lane. Also of interest is the Butcher's Row House museum, again in Church Lane which contains a variety of interesting items. Next door is the Market House Cafe. There are also many shops and cafes.

Hellens Manor and Gardens. Hellens Manor is a historic house located in the village of Much Marcle in Herefordshire. It is one of the oldest dwellings in England, being composed primarily of Tudor, Jacobean and Georgian architecture but with foundations dating from the 12th century. Hellens has an incredible tapestry of stories, characters, art and furniture, grounds and gardens and a history dating back to 1057. Attractions include heirlooms of Anne Boleyn, the haunted bed chamber prepared for Queen Mary Tudor, paintings by Van Dyke, Burne Jones, Gainsborough and Goya, and the fascinating story of Hetty Walwyn. The gardens include a yew

labyrinth, a rare octagonal dovecote and a physic garden. The grounds cover 150 acres of ancient SSI woodland and wildflower meadows.



There is a tea room – we will be served tea etc, and cake prior to leaving – and a shop on site. An optional extra, for a small donation payable on the day, History in Stitches is a remarkable, nearly 10-meter-long, crewelwork embroidery that visually chronicles the manor's 1000-year history. This ambitious project was designed and stitched by thirteen Arts-Society Heritage Volunteers. A truly

collaborative work which took over 7 years to finish. It depicts several significant historical events associated with Hellens, including Queen Isabella's visit, the 'slip' earthquake, the Civil War attack, Mary Tudor knighting Richard Walwyn, the Coronation Ball for Queen Elizabeth II, and traditional cider and perry pressing in the mill house.

Please indicate on your booking form if this is something you would like to see.

Accessibility. The Great Barn, Georgian Stables and Haywain have good access and facilities for wheelchair users. There is level access to most of the garden and ramped access to the Tearoom. Access to the house is across uneven surfaces, wheelchair access to parts of the ground floor is possible.

Booking forms can be found on the Ku3a website or are available from the Outings table at the July Open Meeting. 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.

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 (nb times)



About the museum

Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings, between Droitwich and Redditch, 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.

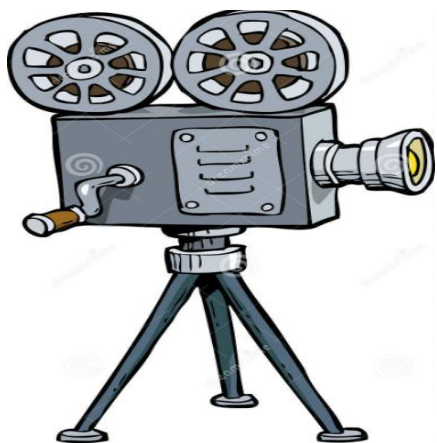
All of the buildings and some of their contents can be experienced through touch. Touch tours and object handling sessions can be provided upon prior arrangement. Some buildings have low light levels and low contrast features due to their historic nature. A large print Museum map and large print menu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

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 by a 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

Updated on the website

Details have been uploaded to the website for two relatively recent groups:

Backgammon and Cribbage, which convenes in the Abbey Field bar, is being treated as one group; details are now on the web page.

A further advanced French group has been started. Titled **French for Fluent Speakers**,

it meets upstairs in the Arden Café; details can now be seen on the website.

Wildlife Watching 2

This new group has started but would appreciate a few more members.

The group looks to share a common interest in wildlife. This includes observation of birds, other wild animals and insects, and also tree and plant identification. It is not necessary to have a high level of expertise to participate, but it is hoped that we will be able to improve our skills and knowledge.

Meets are held locally at sites in and around Kenilworth, and at local Warwickshire Wildlife Trust sites. If you are interested, please email Ruth Colgan.

Further Ideas for New Groups

We would like more new groups. 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.

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.

Here's the link for all the Enquiring Minds discussions

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

Bolivia Group news

https://kenilworth.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/bolivia/



The Bolivia Lovelies are planning a couple of events to celebrate u3a Week in September.

A playdate at Ego with a lovely game session followed by a summer lunch on 18th September, come along and learn how to play in July and August if you fancy joining in this event.

A social playdate with WDu3a Bolivia group invited along to play and have fun on 25th September.

We will definitely be Learning, Laughing and Living it up.

If you would like to join in the fun then please contact Helen Sutton.

Mahjong Group news

https://kenilworth.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/mahjong/



The Mahjong group is growing and going from strength to strength.

We are planning a group social session to celebrate U3a Week in September, so we have invited the newly formed WDu3a Mahjong group along to join us on 23rd September.

Its such fun to meet new people over a shared game.

We still have a few places on a Wednesday afternoon, if you fancy learning to play this fascinating game.

Please contact Helen Sutton.

Paper Craft group



July 22nd. 10 o'clock at Methodist Church Kenilworth. This is our next project at Paper Craft. Just £5 for two hours plus a drink.

Do give us a try. All items to make the card will be included with the tuition.

If you would to join us see our website page

https://kenilworth.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/paper-craft/

FROM THE NATIONAL u3a

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.

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](#) .

Many of the July seminars formed part of the u3a Festival Fringe, so will already have happened by the time you are reading this. Three selected from the remainder of the month are:

“A few small nips: Frida Kahlo and the art of pain”, (*Professor Christopher Dowrick on how the creative arts can increase wellbeing.*), Thursday July 16th, 14.00-15.30.

“The History Man virtual walk, Scoundrel (Dick Turpin)”, (*u3a York member Richard Taylor on one of his virtual walks based on historical times or events in York*), Friday July 24th, 14.00-15.00.

“Secrets of the human brain: vision”, (*Bob Pullen describes the visual pathway from the point when an image enters the eyes to the point when we actually ‘see’ something*), Monday July 27th, 14.00-15.00.

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.

National u3a Week is September 19th to 27th this year

National u3a Week is an annual event to showcase the activity, learning and fun which takes place across the movement every day. Is your group planning any activities to celebrate this year?

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/events/u3a-week>

COMMUNITY NEWS

Our Jazz Afternoon in June



It was a great summer jazz afternoon tea at St. John’s church in Kenilworth on 6th June.

The u3a Big Band entertained over 100 u3a members and friends with some jazz classics. These included: ‘Puttin on the Ritz’, ‘Tequila’, ‘In the Mood’, ‘Lady is a Tramp’ and ‘New York’,

So, a big thank you to the u3a Big Band, the caterers- ‘A Bit of a Do’ and the church for allowing us to use their splendid venue.

On behalf of all attendees, Ku3a Committee wish to add special thanks to Paul Weller for his exemplary organisation of this fun afternoon.

I heard there was some dancing in the aisles... Only question is: When is the next one?

Were you there? Send us your ideas for another Summer Extravaganza.

Tips for dealing with AI

If your phone call to a company or organisation is answered by artificial intelligence (e.g. an 'AI personal assistant'), you don't have to get bogged down in answering a long list of slow questions before finding out whether you can get any help. Just ask straight away to be put through to a human being. For example: 'Please put me through to a human being as I have a complicated/urgent/serious problem.'

Dates for your Diary

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

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

Thursday 30th July – Ku3a Outing to Hellens Manor and Gardens

Friday 7th August - Ku3a Film Screening at Talisman Theatre - Amélie.

Friday 4th September Ku3a Film Screening at Talisman Theatre – Cuban Fury

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

Friday 9th October – Film Screening at Talisman Theatre – A United Kingdom

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

Friday 13th November – Film Screening at Talisman Theatre – Good Fortune

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

Thursday 3rd December – Christmas Lunch- Kenilworth Golf Club

**Everyone must be a u3a member. Priority will be given to Ku3a members.
For ease of reference please complete a separate form for each person.**

Outing: Date: Cost:

Pick up Point: **Abbey Fields/Kenilworth Clock** Pick up Time:
(Please delete as applicable)

Name:

Contact Phone No..... Ku3a Membership No:.....

Email address (Please print clearly):
This will be used for confirmation and contact, wherever possible.

***Your mobile phone No.**

Emergency contact: Name** **Phone no.....

***This information is required as it may be needed on the day of the outing. Please ensure you have their permission to give us this information. The contact should not be anyone travelling with you.**

Where relevant only - are you a National Trust member? Y / N RHS member? Y / N

RHS Membership number (only if relevant)

National Trust number (only if relevant)

Payment: Signed: Date:

Where possible, please pay by bank transfer to:

Sort code: 40-26-04 Bank: HSBC Account number: 81343459
☐ Account name: Kenilworth u3a **Ref: Trip Name/Your Surname**

☐ Cheque (payable to Kenilworth u3a with name of trip and date on the back)

Please return signed and dated, and make the appropriate payment, to:
u3a Outings, 3 Field House, Priory Road, Kenilworth, CV8 1RA.

Website: <https://kenilworth.u3asite.uk/>

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