

Members' Bulletin October 2026



Membership Fees for Next Year and Subscription Renewal Information

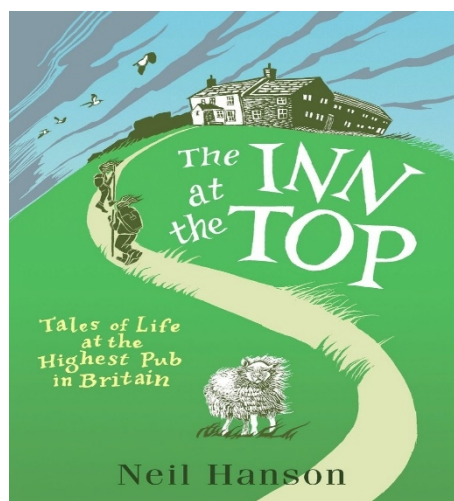
As mandated by the AGM, the membership subscription for next year was discussed at our September Executive Committee meeting. Taking account of rising costs and on the advice of our treasurer, it was agreed that the fees for next year for full membership would be £15 and £8 for associate members (those who already pay a full membership fee to another branch of u3a). We hope that you feel this still represents good value for money. The subscription is now at the same rate as it was before COVID and is less than many other branches of u3a.

Membership should be renewed before 31st December and reminder notices will be sent out in November – **please do not pay before reminders are sent out** (it makes keeping track of new membership and renewals less complicated).

OPEN MEETING IN OCTOBER

Kenilworth Methodist Church, Priory Road.

Thursday 15th October at 1.45pm for refreshments with talk starting at 2.30pm.



'The Inn at the Top' - A talk by Neil Hanson

Neil's talk is a laugh-a-minute tour of the quirks and foibles, highs and lows of his time running Britain's highest inn back in the 1970s and 1980s. He grapples with tight-fisted farmers, eccentric characters, bizarre local customs, naturist weekends, "lates and lock-ins", police raids, rats in the attic, close encounters with magistrates and planners, and the shooting of a famous double-glazing commercial.

Neil is a successful author with 70 published books to his name; he is also a 'ghost writer' for many famous names. He has entertained audiences throughout the UK, USA, Australia and New Zealand.

LAST OPEN MEETING IN SEPTEMBER

‘To a Mountain in Tibet - A Journey into North India and Western Tibet’

Harry Wilson is a resident of Leek Wootton, just ‘down the road’, and his family background placed him as the second child of a couple who had been told five years earlier, after the birth of their first, that they could not have any further children. His mother had been left with epilepsy and his father died of pneumonia when Harry was a baby.

Harry’s story took us to Tibet, in 2011, (he made a second visit to the country in 2017) to the ancient city of Lhasa, which has been gradually destroyed since 1994, being virtually under siege when he and two companions visited. It has transmuted into a modern Chinese city with little evidence left of its past. One fellow traveller was an architect called Bebe, aged 74, and the other, Philip, an English lecturer from New Zealand, who suffered so badly from the high-altitude conditions which they endured that he was obliged to have a brain scan as a precautionary measure.

They undertook a 600 mile, four-day, journey to Mount Kailash along the highest road in the world, closed as impassable from late November to early March every winter, and he and Bebe walked around the mountain, a distance of 53 km, at an altitude of 18,000 ft, conditions which led to sickness, disorientation, dizziness and an inability to eat. Harry lost 3 stones in weight during the trip and the conditions were harsh with no signs of life. Mt Kailash was considered the ‘Axis of the World’ which provided a connection between Earth and Heaven. There being no soil, the Tibetans used to have ‘sky burials’ on the plateau at the base of the mountain.

During his talk, we saw many photographs of a long list of places which they visited.

They were in Kathmandu during an earthquake. We saw highly decorated caves, the Earth Forest, a barren wasteland of 950 square miles at heights between 3,750 and 4,450 metres, a mountain honeycombed with thousands of caves and dwellings and a thousand-year-old monastery in which the monks had built a false wall many metres high to hide their magnificent collection of 84,000 ancient, handwritten scrolls on Tibetan history when they were under threat during the Chinese Cultural Revolution. The wall was breached in 2003 to recover the treasures when it was considered safe to do so.

Harry painted a picture of a harsh and unforgiving, but stunningly beautiful, world where every step and every breath was a struggle and life is constantly lived on the edge.

His was a fascinating relation of his travels and memories, which most of us were only too happy to experience second-hand but which were most enjoyable nevertheless.

‘Your generous donations in the wake of Harry’s talk have been gratefully received by the Dha School.’

Outings News

Outing to Ely with included guided tour of Cromwell's House Tuesday 8th December 2026 - Cost £32.00pp Pick up 8.50am Abbey Fields, 9.00am Abbey End/The Clock

History



Ely was an island until 400 years ago, built on the fens and surrounded by marsh and water, being only reachable by boat. It was occupied as far back as the Bronze Age and later by Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. Now the second smallest city in England, the early small town grew up around the monastery and cathedral.

The Cathedral is the third longest in England and its Norman nave has a remarkable 19th century painted ceiling. The West Tower was finally completed around 1189 and there are 288 steps to the top. The 14th century Octagon Tower, with its unique wooden lantern, is considered one of the wonders of the medieval world, taking 20 years to build. Many of the medieval monastery buildings are still in use, providing accommodation for the Cathedral staff and choirs and also for the local King's school. Cost of visiting the Cathedral is £14 although entrance into the building and the shop is free. The Cathedral also contains the Stained Glass Museum, a collection of panels, tools and materials that tell the story of how the skill developed. The only access to the Stained Glass Museum, on the upper level of the Cathedral, is via a spiral staircase (40 steps). Tickets to see the Stained Glass Museum cost £6.50 and can be bought jointly with the Cathedral, or separately, either online or on the day.

Behind the Cathedral is the Physick Garden where early monks grew and developed plants and herbs (not to be touched) to use to cure sick parishioners. Ely Museum Located in Market Street in the old Goal, the museum tells the story of the fens from prehistoric times to present day. Find out about eel fishing, fen skating, why the rivers are higher than the roads and why the soil is known as black gold. Admission is £7 and can be paid on the day. The city itself has a variety of shops and cafes to explore and to have refreshments/ lunch before we meet at Oliver Cromwell's house by 2.10pm for our tour.

Oliver Cromwells House – St. Mary's Street.



The Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell, lived here with his family between 1638 and 1646, during the civil war which broke out in 1642. It is his only residence still in existence other than Hampton Court.

The House contains a completely re-vamped Civil War Exhibition with impressive interactive displays and interpretations which explain what life was like on the battlefields during the English Civil War with a featured mini encampment.

Our guided tour will start at 2.15pm and take approximately 60 minutes, leaving time for a short break before the coach leaves at 4pm.

Accessibility There is wheelchair access into room 1 (the Parlour) to room 2 (the Kitchen) with a ramp back to the main reception area. Access to the upper floor is by stairs which have a handrail. An audio guide is available for those who are unable to reach the upper floor. As with

many old houses, there are uneven floorboards, smaller doorways and reduced light. There are moving mannequins in rooms 3 and 5 – Mrs Cromwell's room and the Study. In room 6 (the Haunted bedroom) there is a mannequin and short audio clip. There is some seating in each room. There are no toilets available in the house and the nearest public ones are on Palace Green opposite the Cathedral. They are about halfway down the green on the left-hand side looking towards the Cathedral and are roughly opposite the cannon displayed there. Alternatively, there are public toilets in the Cloisters in the town centre.

Bookings

--Booking forms can be found on the Ku3a website or are available from the Outings table at Open Meetings. Outings are only open to U3a members and priority will be given to bookings from Kenilworth u3a members.

--We ask those booking 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 food is provided any allergies or intolerances also need to be made clear on the booking form.

--Full or partial refunds cannot be guaranteed and are likely to depend on the outing being fully booked or a replacement being found for individuals.

From Balsall Common u3a

Enquiries and bookings are invited for a 2 day/1 night coach break to the famous Thursford Christmas Spectacular on December 2nd-3rd. Details include the afternoon show at Thursford, an overnight stay at the Knights Hill Hotel in Kings Lynn and a trip to the Oxburgh Estate the following day. Pick up in Kenilworth will depend on take-up.

For further details contact Peter Calver

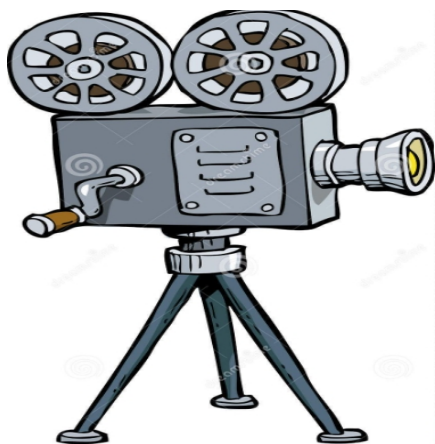
From Warwick District u3a

Warwick District u3a is planning trips to Birmingham Hippodrome to see The Nutcracker (**Sunday 6 th December** at 1pm) and have spaces available on the coach for any members of Ku3a who wish to book their own tickets and travel with us. The cost is £10 a head.

The coach will leave Tesco on Emscote Road, Warwick at 11am. Free all day car parking is available at Tesco.

Further information is available from Ann Bailey.

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 via 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:



Simon Main, Roger Faulkner, Evelyn Stephen, Julia Graham, Francis Aitken, High Jones, Paula Bird and Frances Mills

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.

If you know anyone who is interested in trying out Ku3a, the subs for the rest of this year are now only £6.

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 – Thursday, 3rd December



We will be holding our Christmas Lunch at Kenilworth Golf Club again this year. The menu and full details are attached at the end of this bulletin. The cost will be £36 for 3 courses and £33 for 2 courses (only 50p more than last year!) Lunch will be served at 1.00 pm and we suggest arriving from 12.00 noon to give time to buy drinks and have a chat with fellow members before eating.

A reminder that all menu choices (including any allergies or dietary requirements) should be sent to Helen Higginson by

Monday, 23rd November at the latest. The food at the Golf Club is always excellent and it is a very enjoyable occasion – we hope that many of you will join us.

NEWS FROM Ku3a INTEREST GROUPS

Group Leaders meeting

There will be a Group Leaders meeting on Friday October 16th. This will pick up from the July session, which was called off due to the intense heat; despite the continued sunny weather a repeat cancellation for the same reason seems unlikely.

The meeting will cover any information updates from last year, the results from the Groups Availability survey, any issues arising, getting ready for 2027 including the preparation of next

year's Ku3a Handbook, to be followed by refreshments and the chance to circulate and chat. It is a good opportunity for GLs and the committee to meet each other, and for any new GLs to meet their peers.

Ideas for New Groups

We are always keen to hear of ideas for 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.

Pickleball

It looks as though it should be possible to set up a Kenilworth u3a Pickleball group. Pickleball is played on a badminton court with paddles (like an oversized table tennis bat) and a light plastic ball, with the net set lower than a badminton one.

We have been contacted by John Gilbert, who runs the two Pickleball groups in Warwick District u3a at Heathcote Community Centre in Warwick. Indeed, some of you reading this may be attending those already.

John has volunteered to establish which of his attendees would find a Kenilworth-based session more convenient. Meanwhile, if you would be interested in playing u3a Pickleball in Kenilworth, and aren't already on John's list, please email Leo Lewis by 23rd October, so we can gauge the total level of interest.

"May I?" New Group forming

May I?		♥ ♣ ♦ ♠
Deal 1:	2 sets of three	
Deal 2:	1 set of three and 1 run of four	
Deal 3:	2 sets of four	
Deal 4:	1 set of four and 1 run of four	
Deal 5:	1 set of three and 1 run of five	
Deal 6:	2 runs of four	
Deal 7:	3 sets of three	
Deal 8:	1 set of three and 1 run of six	
Deal 9:	2 sets of three and 1 run of four	
Deal 10:	1 set of three and 1 run of seven	
Deal 11:	1 set of five and 1 run of five	
Deal 12:	2 runs of five	

May I? is a fun card game based on Rummy, played over 12 rounds. Each player plays for themselves and the game can be played with 3,4,5 (with 2 card packs) or 6 players (with 3 card packs).

I plan to start in the New Year on 2nd and 4th Friday morning each month, from 10 till 12 at the Senior Citizens Club.

If you would like to learn the game before January, then we will have a table at the Bolivia Group on 1st and 3rd Fridays at the Senior Citizens club, please let me know if you intend to come along to that session.

If you are interested to join this new fun group then please contact Helen Sutton

An invitation to a Warwick District u3a group

As far as we know today, the first writing originated in clay cuneiform tablets around 5000 years ago. A tablet with cuneiform writing was found that tells the story of the great flood 4000 years ago, long before the story of Noah and the Ark. The first city was built around 6000 years ago and had a population of 50,000 people.

From around 5000 years ago, there was a recognised standard currency and a sophisticated system of loans and interest. A vast library was created around 400 years before the famous library at Alexandria was built. More than 30,000 clay tablets were found, organised according to subject matter.

Our Ancient Near East group meets once a month on the 2nd Monday at 2pm to learn about and share what we know about ancient peoples and their lives.

Email Sybil Gilbert on sybil51148@gmail.com if you think you might be interested.

Kenilworth u3a History Group

On September 23rd, the members of the Kenilworth u3a History Group were treated to a talk by Jill Kashi, an employee of The National Trust, about the people who had worked as servants at Baddesley Clinton in the 19th and 20th centuries. Jill showed us a number of very old photos of the staff members over the years and had published a piece called 'The Little Maids and the Wandering Butler.' The former were three sisters in the Harrison family, Annie, Mary and Cissie. The butler, Charles Hancock, was so called because he had moved around the country extensively, working in several of the great houses of the land during his career.

The Catholic Ferrers family, who owned Baddesley for more than 400 years, had an ethos of having a fairly relaxed relationship with their workers, as opposed to the more stiff and starchy approach of some of the prominent families of the land. Everyone was regarded as 'family' and indeed, there were long associations of several members of certain families going into service almost as an expectation.

Jill gave us an idea of the wage levels of the various grades of servants, the cook earning £20/2s a year, the equivalent of around £2,500 in modern terms, though her accommodation and food were also found as part of the terms of the position.

The above named Annie Harrison, was born in 1857 and went into service at the age of 14 as a 'maid of all work'. She rose to become a cook / housekeeper and died in 1942.

Jill also introduced us to Anne Palmer, who was nicknamed 'Dolly' and, when she married an Albert Mince, a legendary name which could have come straight from a Dickensian novel was born.

The Harrison family lived in the hamlet of Chadwick End, a short distance from Baddesley, and later emigrated to Connecticut.

One member of the Ferrers family was the impressively named Rebecca Dulcibella Dering, born in 1830 and who lived until the age of 93 in 1923. She appeared in the 1921 Census at the age of 91 and was respected by all.

Jill's talk was unusual in that it shed light on those employed to work for the wealthy families in the area, rather than the upper classes employing them that we are more used to hearing about in historical studies.

Brian Stote

Here's the link for all the Enquiring Minds discussions

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

Here is a link to a lovely Short Story by one of our Members, Audrey Mullender

<https://kenilworth.u3asite.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/Whats-In-a-Name-654-words.docx>

FROM THE NATIONAL u3a

Share your story

National u3a is always on the lookout for interesting stories/case studies from members that we can use to promote u3a.

If you or anyone at your u3a has a story they'd like to share, please email communications@u3a.org.uk

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.

Three selected at random indicate the diversity of topics on offer this month:

"The US constitution vs. unitary executive power", (*How is presidential power reshaping US democracy? Explore Project 2025, executive authority and the 2026 midterm elections.*), Thursday October 22nd, 14.00-16.00.

"Art deco days", (*Discover the glamour and innovation of 1930s Scotland through its striking Art Deco architecture, design and culture.*), Thursday October 29th, 14.00-15.30.

"The history of pirate radio", (*Nick Bailey, Bingham u3a member, will be giving an illustrated talk about his time on board the original pirate ship Radio Caroline.*), Friday October 30th, 10.00-11.00.

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](#)

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.

Dates for your Diary

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

No Open Meeting in December



**Kenilworth u3a
OUTINGS BOOKING FORM**

**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/>

Registered Charity Number: 1184403

Ku3a Christmas Lunch

Thursday, 3rd December 2026

Time: 12.00 for 1.00 pm

Kenilworth Golf Club, Crewe Lane, CV8 2EA

Cost: £36.00 for 3 courses or £33.00 for 2 courses



Starters

Cream of Watercress soup with Cheese and chive drizzle, fresh rosemary, salt, herbed bread

Chicken and Bacon Herb pâté with Roasted cherry tomato chutney, crispy think herbed bread

Roasted Flat Mushroom (V), Stuffed with walnuts & blue cheese, roasted red peppers, herb salad

Mains

Turkey Parcel with Fresh sage & onion stuffing, wrapped in dry-cured streaky bacon, carrot purée
honey roasted parsnip, savoy cabbage, fondant potato

Fresh Seabream with crispy herb skin with Crème chive butter sauce, carrot purée, honey roast parsnip,
savoy cabbage, fondant potato

Roasted Fig, Cranberry, Lemon Baked Tartlet (V) with Roasted tomato basil sauce, carrot purée, honey
roast parsnip, savoy cabbage, fondant potato

Desserts

Christmas Sticky Toffee Pudding with Mincemeat crumble, toffee sauce

Wild Berry Tart with White chocolate sauce

Christmas Pudding with Orange brandy sauce

Coffee or Tea and Chocolate Mints

ALL menu choices (and any allergies or dietary requirements) to be sent to

Helen Higginson by Monday, 23rd November at:

helen.u3akenilworth@gmail.com or 5 Moorlands Avenue, Kenilworth CV8 1HR

Payments should be made, if possible, by online banking to:

Sort code: 40-26-04; Bank: HSBC; Account No: 81343459; Account Name Kenilworth u3a

Ref: Your surname/Christmas



Cheques should be payable to **Kenilworth u3a** and sent to Helen Higginson at the above address.

