



COWBRIDGE
u3a
learn, laugh, live

APRIL 2026

Dear members and friends

Easter is already upon us. It seems to have crept up on us – on me anyway. It is earlier this year. In 2025, Good Friday fell on April 18th, a full two weeks later than this year. Nevertheless, it still feels like Spring, particularly now we have put our clocks forward by one hour and are able to enjoy longer, lighter evenings. The hedgerows are turning green, that fresh, bright green that I always enjoy at this time of year. We also have trees in blossom. We do seem to have turned a corner.

General Meetings

Our last general meeting was, once again, very well attended with over 80 members in the Town Hall to hear Roger James speak about 'The Golden Triangle of India' and a very interesting talk it was. Our next General Meeting will be on Wednesday 8th April when the speaker will be Bernard Purrier. His subject is 'Whale and Dolphin Conservation'. Bernard has been speaking about Wildlife, Marine Life and the Marine Environment for sixteen years, following a career in Clinical Microbiology. He now presents regularly to a wide variety of groups including both schools and adult audiences. Do come along next week. I am sure you will find it fascinating. Looking further ahead, our general meeting in May will also focus on the natural world. The topic is 'Wonderful Things About Bees and the speaker on 13th May will be Robert Pickard. More about that in next month's bulletin.

Coffee in the 96 Degrees Coffee House

Our next informal gathering for coffee – or any other beverage that you might prefer – will be, as usual on the last Monday of the month, in this case on 27th April at 11.00 am in the 96 Degrees Coffee House. It is a very good opportunity to meet with other u3a members and some of our committee for a social chat in an informal setting. You would be most welcome to come, buy yourself a hot or cold drink and join in the conversation. Please note that there will be no meeting for coffee in May because the last Monday in the month clashes with the Spring Bank Holiday. We will resume in June, however, on the 27th to be precise.

Cowbridge May Fair 2026

This just another reminder that Cowbridge u3a will have a stand at the May Fair on the early Spring Bank Holiday Monday on 4th May. At present, I am not sure whether it will be held on the cricket field (beyond Old Hall Gardens) or the Police Field (formerly the Boys' Grammar School rugby field) but it will certainly be one or the other. I will let you know more when I hear from the Community Events Group. Come along on the day and look out for our bright blue u3a gazebo. We would love to see you there!

Cowbridge u3a Quiz

Our Quiz on Monday, 23rd March was a great success. It was very well supported with teams from six neighbouring u3as (some entering more than one team) plus seven from our own interest groups. Altogether 17 teams joined the contest. During a break in the eight rounds, refreshments (sweet and savoury) were served at the team-tables, together with tea or coffee. The feedback that we have received so far has been very positive indeed and it seems that all those who participated had a very good time. It was a special and quite rare pleasure to meet up with so many other local u3a groups under one roof. Hearty congratulations and thanks are due to all those who organised and managed the event and especially our own Quiz Group (led by Hywel and Fran) and the 'Refreshments Team' led by Mags. You all did a magnificent job and made Cowbridge u3a very proud. Well done all!

Beacon Update

We are continuing to make good progress in learning how to work with the u3a 'Beacon' system, in fact, I intend to attempt to issue this bulletin via Beacon. Our Groups Coordinator, Roger Eustace, is holding a meeting in Old Hall on Wednesday, 15th April for Group Leaders (or delegated representatives of groups) to help support them in getting used to using 'Beacon'. I have been asked to notify members that the leaders of groups will be able to see the contact details of individuals, unless they have ticked an '**Opt-Out**' box.

Diary Dates

Here is a brief summary of the dates of the forthcoming events for your diary.

Wednesday, 8th April, 2.00 pm - General Meeting: 'Whale and Dolphin Conservation' Bernard Purrier

Monday, 27th April, 11.00 am – Coffee at the 96 Degrees Coffee House

Monday 4th May – Cowbridge May Fair, Police/School Field

Wednesday, 13th May, 2.00 pm – General Meeting: 'Wonderful Things About Bees', Robert Pickard

Trips and Visits

As the weather begins to improve, a number of trips are planned. Here is some information about them.

- I have been asked by the [Vale of Glamorgan Association of National Trust Members](#) to tell you about a visit they are planning to Tetbury and Chavenage House on Thursday, 4th June.
- Cowbridge u3a Garden Group invite you to join them on a visit to the National Botanic Garden of Wales on Tuesday, 7th July. The cost is £28 for coach travel and garden entry. Further information and booking forms are available from Rebecca Exley who can be [contacted via the website](#)
- Cowbridge u3a History Group have a few places left on their trip to Lacock (National Trust 13th Cent. Village, 16th Cent. Country House and Fox-Talbot Museum) on Thursday, 3rd September. The cost is £27 for National Trust members and £48 for others. For more information and booking contact [Valerie Monaghan](#) via the website

u3a Festival 26 – 'Bringing Members Together'

The u3a Festival 26 is planned to be held at the University of York between 1st and 3rd of July, 2026. The University of York has a beautiful campus with green spaces and a lake, fantastic sports facilities, lecture halls and workshop rooms – the perfect backdrop for three days of inspiration and learning. Accommodation on campus is now full booked but the City of York offers plenty of places to stay. Tickets cost £18 a day or £50 for a three-day ticket. Events include Music & Entertainment, Sport &

Exercise, Talks & Walks and Workshops & Hands-On sessions. For more information and booking tickets visit the u3a website (<https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do//events/festival-2026>).

Cowbridge Institute Educational Trust – Vacancy

You may recall that, a few months ago, I included a paragraph in the bulletin to ask if any member of our u3a would be interested to serve on the committee of Cowbridge Institute Educational Trust as Secretary to the trustees. This vacancy remains unfilled so I have received another request to ask you again. It is, perhaps, important to mention that this position carries with it a small honorarium. It is a very important and responsible post and the trust carries out very significant work to support the education of young people in Cowbridge as they move from school to higher education. There is more information on the Town Council web site (<https://cowbridge-tc.gov.uk>) It is an excellent opportunity to make a very positive contribution to education in our community. Please think about it.

I think that is all the news I have for you at present. I am afraid that I have failed, this month, to confine my ramblings to a single, two-sided sheet of A4. If you do need to print it out, I am afraid that it will use up two sheets of your printer paper. Sorry about that. In the meantime, however, may I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Easter, and let's hope for some decent weather!

Best wishes,

Peter

(Peter Carter: Chairman, Cowbridge u3a)