



COWBRIDGE  
u3a  
learn, laugh, live

JUNE 2026

---

Dear members and friends

We have had some very pleasant summer weather to enjoy at the end of May, even though it was technically, still spring. I am afraid that the heatwave last week was a bit too much for me. It seems that such high temperatures so early in the year must be considered to be extreme weather conditions. I hope that you managed to cope and were able to stay reasonably cool and comfortable. Thankfully, at the start of June, weather forecasts seem to be suggesting that we may be getting back to something like normal. That would certainly suit me. Here is some news of future events.

#### **General Meetings**

Our last General Meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup> was a great success. Whilst it may not have been the best attended (I think we had just over 50 present) those of us there enjoyed a superb presentation – one of the best we have had - from our guest speaker, Professor Robert Pickard. His topic was **‘Wonderful Things About Bees’**. He certainly communicated a sense of awe and wonder around his subject, in part through excellent visuals which included still and video images. Many members told me how much they enjoyed it and asked if it might be possible to invite Professor Pickard back, to deliver another talk. That would be something that I would definitely support.

The next General Meeting, on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June at 2.00 pm as usual in the Town Hall, will be a talk from Bridget Wallbank of Mid Wales Opera entitled **‘Behind the Curtain’**. It should lift the curtain on the creative process, from staging and design to rehearsal, music and life on the road, offering a lively, behind-the-scenes look at how productions come to life. Mid Wales Opera is committed to making high-quality opera accessible to communities across Wales. The talk sounds to be lively and fascinating and I do hope that you are able to come and enjoy it. Please note, this talk is a change from the programme set out in your membership card.

Looking a bit further ahead we continue to have a wide variety of topics in our General Meetings over the summer months. On July 8<sup>th</sup>, Lindsey Bryant will be speaking to us about **‘Bristol Channel Paddle Steamers’** and on August 12<sup>th</sup>, Victoria Russell and Victoria Rodwell will tell us about **The Work of the NSPCC and Child Line**. That brings us to our Annual General Meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>, but there will be a bit more news about that elsewhere in this bulletin.

#### **Coffee in the 96 Degrees Coffee Shop**

Our informal gatherings for coffee (and alternative beverages, hot and cold – and cakes!) resume in June. As usual, we will be meeting on the last Monday of the month (29<sup>th</sup> June) at 11.00 am. Do come along to meet up with fellow members of Cowbridge u3a, plus some of the committee for good company and conversation. We would be delighted to see you there!

### Quiz Team Success

On the evening of Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, our Cowbridge u3a Quiz Group entered a team of six in a quiz at Llanblethian Village Hall to raise funds for the church. I am very pleased to announce that our team came first overall, although admittedly by the narrowest of margins – a single point. Congratulations to them. Their prize, a box of ‘Celebrations’ chocolates will be available for all to share on the refreshments table at the General Meeting in June.

### Cowbridge u3a website

I know many of you make regular and frequent use of our website (<https://cowbridge.u3asite.uk>). However, I have been asked to include a reminder to all members of the range of information that is there, at your fingertips. Current events, a wide range of group activities, photographs of members participating in their interest groups are all included and updated regularly. Thanks are due to Graham Couchman for maintaining and managing the website. You can also use it to contact group leaders and other members. If you haven't logged on recently, it's well worth giving it a go!

### Annual General Meeting

I know you might think I am labouring the point but our Annual General Meeting is the most important event of the year for Cowbridge u3a so it does seem worthwhile to mention it again. It is vital that this meeting is quorate so we must have at least one-fifth of our membership present. Please make a note of the date – Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September - in your diary, if you have not already done so, and do make every effort to come. The purpose of the meeting is to receive annual reports from the chair and treasurer (we will try to make them brief), and to hold elections for members of the committee. We will make sure we combine business with pleasure so entertainment will be provided plus wine (or non-alcoholic alternative) and nibbles. We have booked our old friends the ‘Porthcawl Ukulele Bandits’ once again and I will be placing an order for wine sometime soon. I hope to have more detailed information for you in the next bulletin, but, in the meantime, please keep the date free.

### Diary Dates

Here is a summary of the dates of events taking place in the next few months:

- Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2.00 pm, General Meeting: **Behind the Curtain**’ Bridget Wallbank
- Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> June, 11.00 am, Coffee in the 96 Degrees Coffee Shop
- Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2.00 pm, General Meeting, **‘Bristol Channel Paddle Steamers’** Lindsey Bryant
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July, 11.00 am, Coffee in the 96 Degrees Coffee Shop
- Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2.00 pm, **‘Work of the NSPCC and Child Line’** Victoria Russell and Victoria Rodwell
- Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2.00 pm, **Cowbridge u3a Annual General Meeting** (to include entertainment and refreshments)

I seem, this month, to have succeeded in confining my ramblings and musings to a single sheet of A4, if printed on both sides. I hope to see you at some, if not all, of the forthcoming events. However, if you are planning a summer holiday may I take this opportunity to wish you a very pleasant and relaxing time.

Best wishes,

*Peter*

(Peter Carter: Chair, Cowbridge u3a)