

Wrekin u3a Newsletter July 2026

From the Editor

Phil and I spent far too much time last month watching the ever joyous antics of the birdlife in our garden. The baby blue tits have fledged and are getting braver, even when the junior great spotted woodpeckers try to hog the limelight. Our local magpies spend their days taking on the nearby buzzards or hitching lifts on the back of one particularly tolerant sheep in the field next door. Then we had a visit from a pair of red legged partridges who devoured the buttercups in our no mow May front garden! It has reminded me that we only have until July 3rd to pick our favourite native animals we would like to see on our banknotes. How on earth do we choose?? Maybe we should start a Wrekin u3a wildlife group. Any takers?

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/help-us-design-our-next-series-of-banknotes>

Karen Appleby

July Happenings

Monday 13 July	Members' Coffee Morning, Park House, Shifnal
Wednesday 15 July	Lunch on the 15 th @ Christophers, Shifnal
Saturday 25 July	Come Dine With Us: High Tea in Wellington 2pm
Monday 27 July	New Member/Visitor Drop-In, Park House, Shifnal
Thursday 30 July	Homes and Gardens trip to Croome Court and Spetchley Park

From The Groups

Come Dine With Us

Saturday 25 July 2pm High Tea in Wellington

Only 2 spaces left! £15 pp. Please book via Erica volunteers@wrekinu3a.org.uk

Ballroom and Latin Dance

1st and 3rd Thursday every month. Beginners welcome. Partner not necessary as we can work round this. Contact Mandy Dowd secretary@wrekinu3a.org.uk

Well Being

We will be taking a 2 week break to allow our instructor Cheryl to have her summer holiday so there will be no sessions on Wednesdays 22 and 29 July. We will resume on Wednesday 5 August.

New Group: Indoor Curling

We already have some interest in starting a group at Shifnal Village Hall but need more numbers. Accessible to all and lots of fun. Please let Pam know if you are interested.

groups@wrekinu3a.org.uk

From the Comms Team

1 Don't forget to send us details of your latest group activities and photos for the website.

2 Interested and/or experienced in communications? We're looking for volunteers.

Please contact Paul via comms@wrekinu3a.org.uk

Committee Corner

Treasurer

Neil Nisbet has been in post for 4 years during which time there has been continued growth in membership. The committee is particularly appreciative of Neil's ability to present the financial information in layman's terms which is invaluable at our committee meetings.

treasurer@wrekinu3a.org.uk

Secretary / Tech Support

Mandy Dowd has recently taken over the role of secretary. She is officially the committee's first point of contact and manages all correspondence and important documentation. She takes the

minutes at our committee meeting and ensures we comply with TAT policies and guidelines. In addition, as our tech team lead, she oversees the IT used to support the operation of Wrekin u3a. secretary@wrekinu3a.org.uk

What's New?

This month the committee discussed how we might celebrate u3a week (19-27 Sept). The theme is "Expanding Horizons" and aims to encourage members to try something new just for fun. We have an idea that is currently "percolating"! Watch this space.

You can find out more about the committee on the website via the following link:

<https://wrekin.u3asite.uk/wrekin-u3a-committee-2024-2025/>

From The Third Age Trust

The u3a Festival Fringe 25 June – 10 July

Take part in the fun of u3a Festival 26 from home. A series of online events taking place in the lead up to and following on from the Festival in York 1-3 July giving all u3a members a chance to be part of our celebration of learning and fun. More info via <https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/events/educational-events>

This year's u3a essay competition is now live!

It's time to get writing! This year we want you to take us on on a remarkable real-life journey (of discovery, adventure or transformation) and bring the story to life in fewer than 1000 words.

Free entry open to all u3a members. Deadline 31 July 2026. Full details via:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/learning/learning-activities/essay-competition-2026>

Mary's Meals

A big thank you for the wide variety of foreign and withdrawn currency you kindly donated which amounted to £190.02 which will help to serve school meals to hungry children.

National Year of Reading 2026

Schoolreaders is a charity that finds volunteers and matches them with a local primary school, where they visit weekly for an hour or two and listen to children read individually, to help improve their reading and comprehension skills. The charity are currently looking for additional volunteers in the area. Anyone interested can find out more from Wrekin u3a member David Tordoff or via the website: <https://www.schoolreaders.org/>

Next Monthly Meeting

Tuesday 28 July 2026 2pm

Michael Blackburn: The River Severn

Looking at some of the 100 bridge crossings and numerous historic towns, cities and places of interest along its route from the mountain of Plynlimon near Aberystwyth to the Severn estuary.

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