

Wirksworth and District u3a Newsletter:

August 2026

Coffee Mornings:

10:15; 1st Wednesday of the month at the Maltings

September Coffee Morning: 2nd September; 10:15

Music, Ukewirks and poetry. If you have a poem, or a couple of short ones, you would like to read as part of the event, please do come along. It could be your own work or a favourite from someone else.

The Special General Meeting will be held at the start of this Coffee Morning and will be brief. See more details on this meeting below.

The **7th October** Coffee Morning includes a speaker from Citizen's Advice Bureau and the AGM.

The **4th November** Coffee Morning has a talk on Peak Women in Agriculture from The Farming Life Centre in Bakewell.

The **2nd December** Coffee Morning Christmas special includes UkeWirks and a choir.

Other

Special General Meeting (SGM), 2 September.

For our Annual General Meeting to be valid, we need to have a quorum of 20% of our total membership present in person at the meeting and we are not allowed to use proxy votes. The purpose the SGM will be voting to introduce a system of proxy voting and to reduce the required number of members present in person for a quorum from 20% to 10% of total membership. For the vote to be valid we need 20% of the membership to take part. If there is a majority in favour of the change, the 10% quorum becomes immediately operative, and a proxy voting system will be available for the AGM on 7th October. The SGM will be brief, and will be followed by Pimms, Poetry and UkeWirks. Please try to attend. Further information, contact Ray Proctor via the website

Refreshments: Note from Geraldine who does excellent work providing our refreshments: "*There will be the usual array of tempting biscuits/tasty treats to accompany coffee. Following the brief SGM, there will be an interval, during which Pimms will be served, and herein lies a conundrum: (but possibly also a dilemma): Which tasty treat should be served to accompany the Pimms? Something sweet? Something savoury? Any suggestions maybe be sent to me via the U3a website: from the homepage, click on menu; committee member; Geraldine Bowen. I look forward to hearing your suggestions and thank you for your continuing support/enthusiasm/greed. I should also mention that, to save controversy on the day, Dunking in Pimms is Strictly Not Allowed.*"

Annual General Meeting

Wirksworth & District u3a AGM will be held on 7th October. This is an important meeting for members to participate in the continued development of our organisation.

The Financial Statement for 2025-26 is available on the website: <https://wirksworth.u3asite.uk>.

Volunteering Opportunity: Business Secretary

Kay Mathur is stepping down as Secretary at the A.G.M. We are having difficulty finding a successor. The job does not require any specialist qualifications or relevant experience. Kay will be around to ensure a smooth transition and advice and support will continue to be available. The Committee meets six times a year and meetings usually last around ninety minutes. The appointment is for one year. A job description can be found on the Website via the link ('Committee job descriptions') in the Committee section. It is difficult to see how the Committee can provide an efficient service to members without a Secretary.

Please help. Contact: Ray Proctor via the Website

Tapestry for Wirksworth

The tapestry, produced by u3a Tapestry Group, will be on display in St Mary's during the Art and Architecture trail weekend; 12th and 13th September. A smaller-scale reproduction on canvas will also be displayed in the library for the next few weeks. If you know of another venue that might like to borrow this for temporary display, please let Sheila know harding.sheila@w3z.co.uk.

Ten-Year Birthday Celebration ideas

Wirksworth & District u3a will celebrate its tenth anniversary next year. Please suggest ways to celebrate.

Fair Trade The coffee served at the monthly coffee mornings is now all Fair Trade. There is a very large stockpile of non-fair-trade teabags. We will transition to fair trade tea once the surplus has been used up.

Group News

Our u3a has a variety of interest groups including walking, board games, creative writing, cycling, and photography. For further details see the Wirksworth & District u3a website (<https://wirksworth.u3asite.uk>).

Board Games Group would like to point out that learning a new game, such as canasta, mahjong or board games is still learning and of value to keep the brain active as well as great fun.

Pickle Ball have spaces for Saturday at 9:30am in the leisure centre. Two courts are booked and there is the potential to expand to 3. Anyone wanting to join should contact Kate French.

Creative writing isn't just for would-be novelists or poets. It's a way of using the imagination, recording an experience or finding the words to say something important. It's also about the joy and sense of achievement which can come from finding just those right words.

Find Your Words is a free half day 'taster' workshop aimed to help you find out if creative writing is for you. There will be a selection of short, varied activities in a small, friendly group. It is also time to chat about what kind of writing might interest you and how to go forward.

The workshop is for complete beginners and those who want to find out more about their own desire to write. Led by Sheila Harding, coordinator of the Wirksworth Short Story Challenge, and local poet Maggie Pollard, it promises to be a relaxed introduction with plenty of laughs.

Find your Words is on Saturday October 10th; 2-5pm in the Meeting Room of the Wellspring Centre. The event is free, but numbers are limited. To reserve a place, or for more information contact Sheila on harding.sheila@w3z.co.uk.

Tapestry group are now working on their next project, 'story sacks', to support story-reading sessions in the library.