

September-October 2023 Magazine

Reports include: October Annual General Meeting

October Monthly Meeting

Last update: 21st January 2024

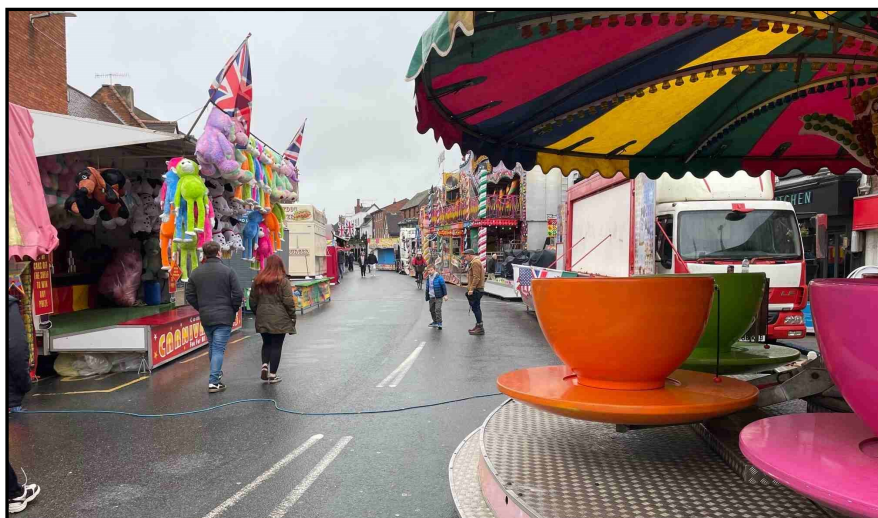
Below are two photographs taken at the recent Runaway Mop Fair held in Wood Street and the Market Place in Rother Street, both in Stratford.



Scenes from the Annual Runaway Mop Fair in Stratford-upon-Avon.

This modern fun-fair follows on from the agricultural hiring fairs set up by various Charters King Edward VI in 1553, James I in 1611 and Charles II in 1676. The Charity Mop was run on 11th October and the Mop Fair on 12th October 2023.

The Runaway Mop Fair is always about a week later than the Mop Fair and in 2023 was on 20th and 21st October. In older days, when the Fairs were for hiring, the Runaway Mop was a meeting place for a second chance where mistakes could be put right.



The Annual General Meeting Thursday 5th October 2023 Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church Centre

This meeting was very short and took place before the October monthly meeting started. An account of the monthly meeting follows this report.

The Chair, Jayne Jones, welcomed all members of Heart of England u3a to the meeting and gave apologies from some members who had had not been able to attend but had sent an apology. She then continued with her report which is reproduced below:-

'Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your support and enthusiasm throughout 2023.

Despite the challenges of the last few years (Covid) our u3a has continued to thrive. Our membership is increasing steadily. We have members.

Over the summer months many of you will have enjoyed various outings such as the skittles evening at Welford Bowls Club, a great day at Felix Dennis's Garden of Heroes & Villains, and the opportunity to visit local theatres in our town to see their productions. Coming up in October is a chance to visit Forge Mill Needle museum in Redditch, organised by the SNATTs Group.

So, enormous thanks to our Group Leaders for all the work they do throughout the year to keep our Groups thriving. If you have any ideas for new Groups or would like to volunteer as leader of a Group then David Haggarty and I would be very pleased to hear from you. Finding Group Leaders is always a challenge but they are vital if our Groups are to survive and flourish. No leaders.....no u3a!

As with Group Leaders, Committee members are also vital to the continuation of our Heart of England u3a. If you are interested in joining the Committee as a co-opted Member, again we would be happy to hear from you.

I would like to end my Chair's report by thanking my fellow Committee Members for their support, hard work, patience and encouragement throughout this year. They have worked hard to ensure that our u3a remains welcoming, vibrant and engaging, and I am proud to be its Chair'

Other officers' reports included the report from the Treasurer, Sue Tringham. .

The next 2 pages show the financial figures for Heart of England u3a.

The income and expenditure for the u3a, the same for the Social Accounts, and the balance sheet plus the accounts in which the funds are located. There are sufficient reserves to allow the subscription level to remain the same as last year.

**The Annual General Meeting
Thursday 5th October 2023
Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church Centre**

CHAIR'S REPORT - 5th OCTOBER 2023

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your support and enthusiasm throughout 2023. Despite the challenges of the last few years (Covid) our u3a has continued to thrive. Our membership is increasing steadily. We have in excess of 200 members.

Over the summer months many of you will have enjoyed various outings such as the skittles evening at Welford Bowls Club, a great day at Felix Dennis's Garden of Heroes & Villains, and the opportunity to visit local theatres in our town to see their productions. Coming up in October is a chance to visit Forge Mill Needle museum in Redditch, organised by the SNATTs Group.

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The Annual General Meeting Thursday 5th October 2023 Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church Centre

Heart of England U3A - Accounts for the year to 31 July 2023

MEETINGS AND STUDY GROUPS ACCOUNT

INCOME	2023	2022
MEMBERSHIP FEES	3,349	2,423
VISITORS	43	17
DIARIES	27	
SURPLUS RECEIPTS		480
INCOME FROM ALL INTEREST GROUPS	17,931	9,066
TOTAL	<u>21,350</u>	<u>11,986</u>

EXPENDITURE

CAPITATION FEES & DIARIES	1,952	1,341
SPEAKERS	685	735
HALL HIRE	5782	3809
PRINTING, STATIONERY, POSTAGE	455	381
REFRESHMENTS	14	19
EXPENDITURE BY GROUPS	8,943	6,896
TOTAL	<u>17,831</u>	<u>13,181</u>

Balance of Funds brought forward	3,606	4,801
Excess of Income/Expenditure	<u>3,519</u>	<u>-1,195</u>
Balance of Funds carried forward	<u>7,125</u>	<u>3,606</u>

I hereby certify that these accounts are a true and correct statement of the books and records as presented to me.

Signed



Date

28th September 2023

These accounts were approved by the Committee of the Heart of England U3A and signed on their behalf on October 2023 by:

Jayne Jones

S E Tringham

Chairman

Treasurer

**The Annual General Meeting
 Thursday 5th October 2023
 Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church Centre**

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES ACCOUNT

INCOME	2023	2022
NEW YEAR LUNCH	1450	0
TOTAL	<u>1450</u>	<u>0</u>

EXPENDITURE

NEW YEAR LUNCH	1500	0
TOTAL	<u>-50</u>	<u>0</u>

Balance of Funds brought forward	-2263	-458
Excess of Income/Expenditure	-50	-1805
Balance of Funds carried forward	<u>-2313</u>	<u>-2263</u>

ADVANCE PAYMENTS

Balance of Funds brought forward	3,910	2,458
Movement	-4,991	1,452
	<u>-1,081</u>	<u>3,910</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JULY 2023

Assets

Meetings and Groups Accounts	7,125	2,996
Social Activities Account	-2,313	-2,263
Advance Payments	-1,081	3,910
	<u>3,731</u>	<u>4,643</u>

Financed by

LLoyds Current Account	2,966	3,882
LLoyds Deposit Account	765	761
	<u>3,731</u>	<u>4,643</u>

**The Annual General Meeting
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The final action for the Chair was to report on the election of officers and Committee for 2023—2024. Action in the weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting had included securing offers from u3a members to fill vacant positions among the officers and committee members. It can be difficult to find members willing to undertake such roles. As a result, there were now sufficient volunteers to fill most positions and no elections had to be held. The new list of Officers and committee members is as follows:-

Chair	Jayne Jones
Vice Chair and Business Secretary	David Haggarty
Treasurer	Glynis McDougal
Membership Secretary	Sandy Stewart
Speaker Secretary	Cindy Willoughby
New Members Secretary	Barbara Whitting
Newsletter Secretary	Robert Tringham
Website Manager	Robert Tringham
Archivist	Edwin Lilly
Groups Co-ordinator	Barbara Whitting
Committee	Sue Tringham
Committee	Graham Orme
Committee	Sylvia Crooks

Monthly Meeting - Thursday 5th October 2023

'The Berlin Wall' by Stanton Copley

Stanton gave us an insight to one of his early family holidays when they were driving from the UK to Arnhem in the Netherlands in the summer of 1975. Stanton's father had been a paratrooper at the Battle of Arnhem, part of the British Market Garden Operation in September 1944. The family decided to extend the holiday by diverting to see the site of the Berlin Wall, before continuing on to Arnhem. They arrived late in the day and camped out for the night. Next day they caught a bus that went along the route of the wall. Having done a circuit by bus the family continued on to Arnhem. It was 1984 before he got back to see more of the wall.

He gave a very interesting talk about the history and geography of the wall and illustrated it with photographs, a couple of video clips, and some maps and plans of parts of the wall. I cannot include those in this report as I do not have access or permissions to use them.

The basic facts are that the wall was built starting 13th August 1961 and demolition started (partly by accident according to reports I have seen recently) 9th November 1989.

The history of the frontier between West and East Berlin started at the end of World War II when the allies and Russia agreed the border. They later regretted that and closed the frontier between East and West Germany to road traffic between 24th June 1948 and 12th May 1949. Rail traffic and

barge traffic was also suspended. The airport was still open and Panam, BEA and Air France were able to operate an airlift, which became known as the Berlin Airlift (West Berliners knew it as the Berlin Air Bridge).

11th December 1957 the East German government made it illegal for their citizens to try to cross the border. Many tried and by 1960 290,000 had escaped. A refugee centre had been set up in West Berlin and work was progressing on closing the frontier with fencing, later increased to a wall. By 13th August the wall was complete. On 14th August the Brandenburg gate was closed. By 23rd August the entire border between East and West Germany was closed. On 24th August 85 East German guards and several East Berlin civilians had escaped.

The border was built as a wire fence was built about 2 feet back from the border so that guards would still be in East Germany or East Berlin whilst doing maintenance work on the fence. Later, a wall was built behind the fence. Any buildings in East Berlin that interfered with the border fence or wall were demolished.

By 1980, the wall was being built with concrete sections. In 1980 a church and its spire were demolished to make way for the wall. Apart from the fence and wall, there were watch towers to enable oversight of the border area. There were about 14,000 border guards employed.

To be continued!