



October 2024 Newsletter

TODAY'S MEETING

3rd Oct - Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dryers of Stratford. A short Talk

DATES FOR YOUR 2024 DIARY (All talks start at 2pm)

7th Nov. - Ray Sturdy "Remembering the Swinging Sixties"
5th Dec. - John Tearn, "Variety Theatre with Comedy Songs"

FROM ACTING CHAIR

Hello members!

I hope everyone was able to enjoy the summer activities despite the unpredictable weather we have experienced. As this page highlights, summertime ends on 27th October at 2.00 am and we can all get one extra hour of sleep. Autumn seems to be approaching with speed and already Christmas cards and decorations can be found in some shops.

I would like to remind everyone that our AGM will be held at our monthly meeting on 3rd October 2024 at 2.00pm at the Methodist Church, Old Town, Stratford Upon Avon. Everyone is encouraged to attend, and I look forward to seeing you all on Thursday

Our informal coffee morning at Coffee 1 is enjoyed by everyone who comes along. The next coffee morning will be on Wednesday 2nd October, from 10.30am. Everyone is welcome – just turn up.

David

David Haggarty

PAYMENT OF Heart of England u3a SUBSCRIPTION

The annual subscription of **£16** for 2024/25 was due on **1st September**.

Your annual subscription can be paid by: CASH, CHEQUE OR CREDIT TRANSFER.

CASH - please pay with the exact amount of **£16**.

CHEQUE - made payable to Heart of England u3a. (Post to Glynis McDougall, 34 Swan Court, Banbury Road, Stratford Upon Avon, CV376HG)

CREDIT TRANSFER - Online or at a branch of Lloyds

1. Online Banking: Lloyds Bank, Stratford upon Avon. Account Name: **Heart of England u3a**, Sort Code: **30-98-26** Account No: **00617394** Please include your name as reference

2. At the Branch: Subscriptions can be paid over the counter in person at any Lloyds Bank, quoting **Heart of England u3a**, and the above Sort Code: **30-98-26** Account No: **00617394**, and your name as a reference.

Glynis McDougall

Halloween
31st Oct. 2024



Jewish
New Year

2nd October

Happy Jewish New Year 5785



Summertime Ends
27th October



SEPTEMBER SPEAKER REPORT

Cindy Willoughby

Owing to popular demand, Nick Martin returned to give us one of his informative and entertaining talks. This time about "Stories of our British Mammals". He is a naturalist with a long career in conservation work. He illustrated his talk with charming photographs and amusing tales.

BOOK CLUB - MONDAY

Jackie Biggs

We read Middle England by Jonathan Coe which covers life in middle class England from the period of the Thatcher years to post Brexit. There are a lot of characters in different families including a Cameron adviser and a Guardian journalist with a range of political views. It is a well-written and amusing book which we enjoyed and would recommend to others even if sometimes quite difficult to keep track of the many varied characters.

CARD MAKING CLUB

Angela Ramsey & Jane Edkins

At the September workshop, members started to plan for Christmas by creating cards which will soon be for sale at monthly meetings. Anyone interested in joining us for a relaxing few hours, including a buffet lunch, would be very welcome. Base cards of different sizes and colours, A4 white and coloured card, backing papers and accessories are all provided. Next workshop: Friday, 25th October, 12.30 to 4.00 in the new room when we will continue to prepare for Christmas making use of cards suitable for recycling. The next donation of £100 will be sent to the MND Association - Fighting Motor Neurone Disease. For more information, please chat with Angela and Jane at the card sale table.

CHINWAGS

Robyn Nicoll

The Chinwags luncheon group has been meeting monthly for many years. We get together on the 4th Monday of the month and at the moment gather at 12.30pm at Bistro Pierre to enjoy a friendly chat, sometimes having a topical discussion and always enjoying a delicious meal. We get together again on the 28th October. Please contact Robyn if you would like to join us. redbird22@hotmail.co.uk

CHOIR

David Haggarty

The choir performed a very successful concert for Stratford Methodist Centre on Friday 20th September. The theme was Climate Change, in line with their over one million pound renovation project ten years ago. Included in the programme as the final piece was a specially written song on that theme by our Music Director Stewart Wallace. It was so well received that we sang it twice, second time with participation by the audience.

We are a friendly and relaxed choir so, if you enjoy singing and would like to join us, we meet every Friday at the Methodist centre, from 10.30 until 12.00.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Edwin Lilly

The October meeting will be held on Monday 14th October starting at 13.45 for 14.00. Meeting point, as usual, is The Community Room, Guild Cottages, Church Street, Stratford. Enter through the double wooden doors opposite the District Council Offices. The inner door should be open and the Community Room is on the first floor, via the stairs towards the back of the building, and the room is on the right at the top of the stairs.

New Members are welcome.

COMPUTER GROUP - offering I-T assistance for our members.

Robyn Nicoll

The Autumn Course is well underway. 6 sessions have been booked; 1st and 3rd Friday afternoons in September, October and November, 2pm to 3.30pm in the lounge.

Future Dates: Oct 4th and 18th, Nov 1st and 15th.

These courses give members the opportunity to learn more about the capabilities of the equipment they are using, becoming more confident after receiving one-to-one help and advice from our own helpers. Members bring along lap tops, tablets, and phones, (sometimes all 3) and we link to the internet via the Church's connection.

A Pre-Christmas Treat - An Afternoon at the Ballet - sponsored by the Computer Group.

Friday afternoon, 29th November, 2.00pm to 4.30pm in the New Room

"Sleeping Beauty" will be shown on the big screen. Sleeping Beauty is the classic story of love and innocence, mystery and magic set to Tchaikovsky's sublime score.

FEE: £4 WITH AFTERNOON TEA INCLUDED. FEE WILL BE COLLECTED ON THE DAY.

CREATIVE CRAFT GROUP

Robyn Nicoll

The Crafters meet on the 2nd Monday afternoons at the Methodist Church, 2.00pm to 4.00pm in the reception area. At the September meeting, we made small gift bags using recycled cards and tags. We are planning to set up a table before Christmas to sell these bags plus small gifts and decorations All proceeds will be donated to a local Charity.

Special afternoon: Make a Christmas tree using the Book Folding technique. We invite any member to come along to the October meeting and give it a go. A book/catalogue with page numbers to at least 100 is needed, plus a small plastic pot and accessories to decorate the tree. If interested in joining us for the Book Folding afternoon, please sign the sheet on the notice board table. Next Get-together: 14th October. For more information about the Group please contact Robyn at email, redbird22@hotmail.co.uk

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Sue Tringham

I am still hoping that I will find someone to continue running this Group! For the short term we will meet on Wednesday 9th October and discuss it then, together with other interesting subjects! Suggestions welcome. As usual we will meet in the Lounge at the Methodist Church from 2 – 4 pm with a break for tea, coffee and biscuits. New members always welcome.

DINAHS

Sylvia Crooks

Dinahs has been meeting for many years. We meet on the 1st Tuesday in the month for an enjoyable meal and chat. October Dinahs will be at Bistro Pierre Tuesday 1st at 12.00noon. We will meet in November on the 5th. Venue to be decided.

FINE DINING

Ingrid Rooney

Our September meeting took place at El Greco. The food was excellent as always and is one of our favourite restaurants. We had a nice evening. Our next meeting will be on the 23rd of October at 7pm at Vintner, Sheep street. We were there last year and liked the venue as well as the food. For more information please contact me, email, ingridrooney@yahoo.com

GARDEN APPRECIATION GROUP

Suzy Genge

Our group visited The Mill Garden in Warwick this month. It is a small but beautiful garden just next to Warwick Castle. The entry fee is a very reasonable £3 and goes to a charity. We admired the lovely plants and the views from the garden of the river and old bridge, after we had met in St Nicholas Park for a drink.

Next month we shall go to Upton House on Tuesday 8th October, meeting in the car park there at 10am.

GRUMPY OLD MEN

Graham Mitchell

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month to discuss a variety of topics and have an enjoyable lunch. Next meeting is on Wednesday 16th October. New members welcome. For more information, please contact Graham, email: g.mitchell132@btinternet.com

HISTORY GROUP

Robert Tringham

We held our last meeting on Thursday 16th August, where we discussed part 1 of our History of Religion focussing on when our ancestors first chose to worship a supreme being and the discovery of Neanderthal burial caves dating back to 430,000 BC. We also considered the origins of the major Abrahamic religions, e.g. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and took a quick look at Hindu, Shintu, Buddhist and other non Abrahamic faiths. Our next meeting will be held on 17th October, when we will be focussing on religions based on belief in ancestral spirits and the spiritual world. In addition, Rita Bassett will give a short talk on the Baha'i Faith, the world's newest independent global belief system, and Sarah Cotton will briefly take us into the world of Tarot cards, highlighting their meaning and use. If time permits, we will also have some interesting videos to watch covering these topics. Tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits will be available as usual. For more information on our future meetings, please check our website or email me: hofe.u3a@gmail.com

KEEP FIT

Robyn Nicoll

The Shottery and Heart of England Keep Fit Group are meeting weekly on Thursday mornings, 10am to 11am, at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Shottery. There is a waiting list so if interested in being added to the list, please contact me at redbird22@hotmail.co.uk

SCRABBLE, DOMINOES AND CARD GAMES

Sue Tringham

The Games Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month from 2pm until 4pm in the Foyer of the Methodist Church. We play Scrabble, Dominoes and Card Games. In September we had two tables playing Scrabble. It's a high standard but always room for beginners! Our card game, Kalooki, is also popular. 2 – 5 players can play. It's a light hearted afternoon of fun, laughter and conversation! In October we meet on the 7th and 21st. Tea, coffee and biscuits at 3! All welcome.

SNATTS

Mike Genge

After having no meeting in August SNAATTS went on a trip to Leicester. Initially, we were booked to visit the National Gas Museum and the National Space Centre, however, the Gas Museum became unavailable so we went to the Richard III Centre instead. While this has a lot of historical content about the Wars of the Roses, there was plenty of scientific interest; identification of the body using DNA, reconstruction of the face etc. as well as the use of ground radar to locate the body. The National Space Centre speaks for itself. There was much more to it than we have imagined and, as you get an annual pass with your ticket to both museums, all the attendees agreed that we would go back to Leicester to absorb more at a later date. Next month we will have a talk on 'Communication' from our own Ian Roberts, in the new room, Friday 11 October at 2.00pm.

THEATRE GROUP

Glynis McDougall

Our October visit to The Attic is for Phantom of the Opera on 31/10/2024 meeting at 7:15 in Cox,s Yard. There were fourteen of us in the group for Jane Eyre last month. As always it was thoroughly enjoyable. Please contact me if you would like to join the group at, glynismcdougall1@gmail.com

WALKING GROUP

Lin Randall

Our next walk is on Wednesday October 9th at 10am, starting from Mill Street car park in Shipston on Stour. This is just under 4 miles and includes the hamlets of Barcheston and Willington. The walk is across meadows and country lanes and includes a couple of stiles. Further details from Lin Randall.

* u3a COMMITTEE VACANCY *

Your u3a Committee has a vacancy for the role of Magazine Editor starting in October 2024. If you are interested, please contact David Haggarty at d-haggarty@outlook.com for more information.

Magazine Editor

The role will involve maintaining an organized archive system, digitizing records for accessibility, and collaborating with team leaders to curate exhibits or publications that highlight our rich history and activities of the Heart of England u3a, and produce a quarterly magazine for publication on our website. Mr Edwin Lilly, who has been the fulfilling this role for ten years, will be available to answer any questions at our monthly meeting in October or you may write to him for more information at edwin.lilly44@gmail.com

Group Activity



Garden Group at The Mill

SNATTS visit to King Richard III statue



TEA /COFFEE ROTA 2024

Refreshment Co-ordinator

Sue Tringham, email: suetring75@gmail.com

Below is a list of the interest Groups that will be responsible for serving tea and coffee each month.

Group Leaders please check the Newsletter for your rota.

Oct -- Fine Dining

Nov -- Games

Dec -- Walking Group

Jan -- Philosophy

Feb -- Keep fit

Mar -- Play Reading