



January 2025 Newsletter



TODAY'S MEETING

2nd January - Emma Turner "Work of a Police Community Support Officer"

DATES FOR YOUR 2025 DIARY (All talks start at 2pm)

- 6th Feb. - Paul Wilkins "How to trace your Family History"
6th Mar - Adrian James "Through the Garden Gate"
3rd Apr - Al Sylvester "RAF Mountain Rescue"
1st May - Sam Passi "Legacy Fortress for Generations"

The full Speaker Program for 2025 can be viewed on the Website at "Events"

From The Chair

David Haggarty

Hello everyone, Welcome to 2025!

Wishing you a wonderful start to this bright new year! Let us reflect on the wisdom and strength we carry with us into this new chapter. Each new year brings its own joys and challenges, the promise of fresh opportunities, and cherished moments. Here's to a year of health, happiness, and making the most of every day!

I should also again mention that we would like more members to come and join our committee to help run our u3a. It is not an onerous task, we meet around four times a year and our meetings are relaxed and friendly. Even if you are new to the u3a movement, you don't have to take on a specific role, just join in our discussions and enjoy the feeling that you are contributing to our excellent u3a.

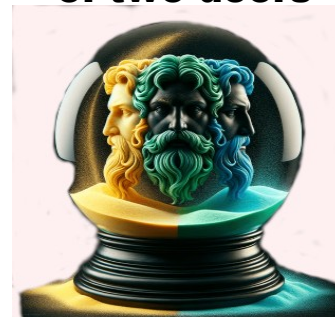
Our informal coffee morning at Coffee 1 is enjoyed by everyone who comes along. The next coffee morning will be on Wednesday 8th January 2025, from 10.30am. Everyone is welcome – just turn up.

David

** NEW YEAR LUNCH**

Please keep the 22nd January 2025 free for our New Year's lunch at the Stratford Sports club as before. Please contact Sue if you haven't received a Lunch Selection Form, (also available on our website). Closing date to submit Selection Form is 12th January 2025

January is named
after **Janus**, God
of two doors



Epiphany
6th January



Lunar New Year
January 29th



DECEMBER SPEAKER REPORT

Tim Folen

John Tearne (AKA The Monologue Man) opened with the well know Albert & The Lion in the style of Stanley Holloway and also sang With Her Head Tucked Underneath Her Arm resplendent in red Guardsman's uniform many of the audience joined in the chorus. Several short Flanders & Swann songs followed. We also had less familiar monologues such as The Street Watchman's Story where a man is guarding a street excavation over Christmas and is pleasantly surprised to be invited to dine with a Countess. Disappointment inevitably follows.

ALL THAT SWINGS AND JAZZ

Brian Bradley

We meet on the Third Thursday of each month at 2.00pm Methodist church, Old Town, Stratford Upon Avon. Next meeting is 16th January.

BOOK CLUB - MONDAY

Jackie Biggs

We read Hannah Beckerman's book, If only I could tell you, a sad tale about a family fallout between two sisters, Jess and Lily, following an incident when they were young children. There are two early deaths in the family, one the father's suicide discovered by Jess, and the book depicts the resulting guilt, grief and misunderstanding that splits the family and prevents the two granddaughters meeting for many years. It is a very sad book full of heartbreak and, we thought, over emotional. We would not recommend it.

BOOK CLUB – WEDNESDAY

Gillian Caveney

December's book was Piranesi by Susanna Clarke. Set in the parallel world of the House where the main character, Piranesi lives, it eventually connects to the real world as we find out more about how he came to be there. We all thought the book was beautifully written in a simple first person narrative which was very affecting. Some of us felt it took a while to settle into but we all enjoyed the book and would recommend it to anyone who enjoys novels which explore alternative realities. Best wishes for New Year!

CARD MAKING CLUB

Angela Ramsey & Jane Edkins

At our final workshop, (after the traditional Christmas Fish & Chips lunch) we revisited Origami Paper Folding and created Christmas Trees to decorate our cards. At the January workshop, we plan to play with paper again but this time we will be Quilling. 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, 24th January, 12.30 to 4.00** in the new room.

For more information, please chat with Angela and Jane at the card sale table.

CHINWAGS

Robyn Nichol

This friendly luncheon group meets on the 4th Monday of the month from 12.30pm. at Bistro Pierre. Our first get-together for 2025 will be on **27th January**.

The group is now full but we do have a waiting list if anyone is interested in joining us in the future.

CHOIR

David Haggarty

We performed our Christmas concert on Friday 20th December to a record audience with over a hundred tickets sold. The programme included three pieces composed by Stewart, two of which had their debut at the concert. All the other pieces performed were also Stewart's arrangements. The whole performance was well received by the audience and anyone interested in joining the choir, whether experienced or novice, would be welcome. Our next rehearsal is on Friday 10th January, 10.30 to 12.00, at the Methodist Centre.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Edwin Lilly

The first meeting of the Classical Music Group will be held on Monday 13th January 2025 in the Community Room of the Guild Cottages in Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon. We meet from 13.45 for a 14.00 start. The entrance is the set of double wooden doors opposite the District Council Offices. Enter into the lobby and proceed to the back of the building and ascend the stairs to the first floor; the room is on the Immediate right. New members are welcome.

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

Robyn Nicoll

We hope to offer a Spring Course. Dates will be arranged in the new year.

CREATIVE CRAFT GROUP

Robyn Nicoll

We thank all those members who supported our Christmas Craft table and are pleased to report that £70 (made up to £100 from funds) was donated to the Stratford Youth Hub, based in Birmingham Road. The Crafters meet on the 2nd Monday afternoons at the Methodist Church, 2.00pm to 4.00pm in the reception area. **Next Get-together: 13th January.** For more information about the Group please contact Robyn. Email, redbird22@hotmail.co.uk

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Sylvia Bevan

Our January meeting will take place on Wednesday 8th in the Methodist lounge 2 – 4 pm with a refreshment break, This will be the last meeting at this venue . From February we will meet in the community room, 1st floor, Guild Cottages in Church Street, New members are very welcome to join us as we talk about current issues, local, national and international, All topic suggestions also welcome.

DINAHS

Sylvia Crooks

Dinahs first lunch date in 2025 will be at the Pen & Parchment on Tuesday 7th January. at 12.00 noon.

Happy New Year to all in the U3A.

FINE DINING

Ingrid Rooney

Our December meeting took place at the Moon restaurant for the first time. The food was very good as expected.

We had a very nice evening in a cosy place. Unfortunately there was a party of ten people next to us that were very loud and noisy. Our next meeting will be on the 22nd of January 2025. For more information please contact me, e-mail, ingridrooney@yahoo.com

GARDEN APPRECIATION GROUP

Suzy Genge

We met in Stratford Garden centre in December for a festive coffee/tea and discussion of Christmas activities. There was some shopping done afterwards of course.

No meeting in January

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 15th January at the Stratford Sports Club. New members welcome. For more information, please contact Graham, email, g.mitchell132@btinternet.com

HISTORY GROUP

Robert Tringham

There was no meeting in December. The next meeting will be on Thursday 16th January when we will be delving into the history of Earth. When was it formed, what is it made of, why were there originally only 10 hours in a day, when did the first creatures appear, why did they not breathe oxygen, and do they still exist. Also, when did those early creature first begin to have sex?, and how did they reproduce before then. What are the strangest creature ever to inhabit our planet, and why have three quarters of them become extinct, When did the magnetic North Pole become the magnetic South Pole and why is it moving at 30 mpy We will try to find the answers to these and many other other questions.

Earthly refreshments will be available as usual. For more information please contact Robert at hofe.u3a@gmail.com or check the website Heartofengland.u3asite.uk

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. The first class in 2025 will be on January 9th. There is a waiting list so if interested in being added to the list, please contact Robyn Nicoll, redbird22@hotmail.co.uk

PLAY READING

Sylvia Crooks

Play Reading Group will meet on Thursday 16th January 2025. Play to be decided. Look forward to our first reading in a long while.

Happy New Year to our friends in Heart of England U3A.

SCRABBLE, DOMINOES AND CARD GAMES

Sue Tringham

Please note that there will only be one Games Group meeting in January. This will be on the third Monday which is 20th January 2025! In February we will revert to 1st and 3rd Mondays. At our December meeting we had mince pies and stollen to celebrate Christmas! We also had two tables of Scrabble and two tables of Kalooki plus our Maj Jong ladies. In February we will meet as usual from 2pm until 4pm in the Foyer of the Methodist Church. We are a friendly group and welcome anyone who would like to join us.

SNATTS

Mike Genge

Our December meeting was the traditional Quiz and Tea. The quiz, put on by Chris and Bob Heaps, was as challenging as ever and a very good turnout provided themselves with a great spread for Christmas Tea.

There will be no meeting in January due to holidays and our February meeting will be Mike Genge talking about Rare Earth Metals. Come and find out why these are interesting and strategically important on February 14th.

THEATRE GROUP

Glynis McDougall

January is a quiet time for the theatre. In February productions start to happen so I will keep you all informed through the News Letter and at the monthly meeting. Wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy 2025, Glynis

WALKING GROUP

Lin Randall

Our next walk is on Wednesday, January 8th at 10am. The route which is about 3.5 miles long, includes the villages of Pillerton Priors and Pillerton Hersey. This lovely walk, with views across rolling Warwickshire countryside, is almost entirely on hard surfaces, with a couple of gentle inclines. Drive to Pillerton Priors, turn left (signed Pillerton Hersey, Butlers Marston, Kineton) and almost immediately turn L down Walton Lane. After about half a mile you get to a long, straight stretch of road where you can park on a wide grass verge. Please bring a hot drink with you as there are no coffee places en route. Further details from Lin.

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. Edwin Lilly, who has been the fulfilling this role for ten years, will be available to answer any questions at our monthly meeting in January, you may write to him for more information at edwin.lilly44@gmail.com. To enquire further, please contact David Haggarty at d-haggarty@outlook.com



Dinah's Group
Christmas Lunch

Group Activity

Computer Group in Session



TEA /COFFEE ROTA 2025
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.

Jan - Philosophy

Feb - Keep Fit

Mar - Play Reading

Apr - Theatre Group

May - Bridge

Jun - Grumpy old men