



July 2025 Newsletter

TODAY'S MEETING

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

- 3rd July - Paul Carpenter "Domestic Pest Control, a sting in the tail"
- 7th Aug - Mathew Turvey "The Morris tradition in Stratford upon Avon"
- 4th Sep - Ray Barrett "Driverless cars are they the future?"
- 2nd Oct - Mark 791 "The work of the Samaritans in Stratford Upon Avon"
- 6th Nov - Dr Gill White "The most desolate man in London"

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

FROM THE CHAIR

David Haggarty

As we step into July, we welcome this lovely weather we are having at the moment with open arms. The longer, warmer days are perfect for enjoying time with friends, soaking up a bit of sunshine and taking part in the many activities which you will find in the July edition of our Newsletter. Whether it's a gentle walk in the park, a garden tea, a musical afternoon, or simply a friendly chat over a cuppa, there's something for everyone this month.

July brings a cheerful energy — flowers are in full bloom, and the air carries the scents of summer. It's the perfect time to connect, share stories, and make memories. We're especially looking forward to seeing familiar faces and welcoming new ones into our community.

So let's make the most of this vibrant month together — with kindness, laughter, and plenty of smiles. Here's to a July filled with joy and companionship!

Once again I am pleased to write that the informal coffee morning at Coffee 1 is being attended by an increasing number of members. This popular and friendly gathering is enjoyed by everyone who comes along. The next coffee morning will be on Wednesday 2nd July 2025, from 10.30am. Everyone is welcome — just turn up.

David

July is named after Julius Caesar



USA Independence Day -- 4th July



Llangollen Music Festival



JUNE SPEAKER REPORT

Tim Folan

Martin appeared in a fur trimmed green velvet Tudor costume in the character of Laurence Washington, Lord of the Manor of Sulgrave and Stutchbury from 1549. He gave an overview of Tudor society where 94% of the population were poor peasants and also experienced high rates of infant and childbirth mortality. He described the details of his costume, much of which is to keep the wearer warm as well as signify their social status. The familiar baggy Elizabethan hose, for example, would have been stuffed with wool for warmth as well as providing an inbuilt cushion for hard oak furniture. Diet was also related to status, although almost everyone ate the equivalent of 5 loaves of bread daily. The rich ate mostly meat while the poor had pottage (a meatless stew of whatever was to hand) - almost no one got enough vitamins or calcium which contributed to their poor health and short stature. On top of all this people hardly washed and almost everywhere was dirty and smelly. Daily life in Tudor times left a lot to be desired.

ALL THAT SWINGS AND JAZZ

Sue Tringham

At our June meeting Barrie stepped up to the mark again and combined a great selection of jazz with a quiz connected to the tracks he played!! Keep up everyone! Great to have Coral and Brian joining us. Our next meeting is on Thursday 25 September at 2pm at the Methodist Church. Presenter of programme still to be confirmed!

BOOK CLUB – MONDAY

Jackie Biggs

No books from the library again so we read our own. Robert Harris' Munich was highly praised as a slow burn, Marlowe Murder Club, currently being televised, was an easy read and David Carpenter's Henry III biography part two was a fascinating depiction of the king who rebuilt Westminster Abbey, fed 150 poor people every day and worked ceaselessly to improve the life of his subjects.

BOOK CLUB – WEDNESDAY

Gillian Caveney

We had another set of BYOBs for July's meeting. Once again it was a varied selection and prompted a lively discussion, with Excellent Women by Barbara Pym and The Woman by Kristin Hannah both recommended, but some reservations over Kate Atkinson's Death at the sign of the Rook (her latest in the Jackson Brodie series) and The Sirens by Emilia Hart.

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

Robyn Nicoll

The short course is now completed. Do let Robyn know if you are interested in another course in the Autumn. If members are interested, then a course will be arranged.

For more information please contact Robyn, redbird22@hotmail.co.uk

CARD MAKING CLUB

Angela Ramsey & Jane Edkins

We spent a very productive day at our last get-together creating backgrounds and toppers for cards using serviettes. We continued with this technique at the June workshop. Some of the finished cards will be for sale on the card table at the monthly meeting. The next donation from the sale of cards will be given to "Hearing Dogs for Deaf People".

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 July 12.30 to 4.00, in the new room. For more information, please chat with Angela and Jane at the card sale table.

CHINWAGS

Glynis Holloway

We are a small friendly group which meets in Bistrot Pierre on the 4th Monday of each month to enjoy a nice lunch and good conversation. We are full at the moment but we have a waiting list, so if you would like to join us, please contact me at glynisa.holloway@gmail.com.

CHOIR

David Haggarty

We meet at the Methodist Centre, every Friday from 10.30 to 12.00 and welcome singers of all abilities. We sing for enjoyment. We are not meeting on 11th July. If you are interested in joining, come along or email d-haggarty@outlook.com

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Edwin Lilly

At the June meeting of the Classical Music Group, David Gallichan entertained us on CDs with complete performances of Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto, played by Lang Lang, and Beethoven's 5th Symphony, performed by the Berlin Philharmonic under Herbert von Karajan. David opened his concert with Rossini's overture to The Barber of Seville.

The Group meets on the second Monday of every month in the Community Room at the Guild Cottages in Church street. We meet at 13:45 for 14:00. New members are most welcome. Entrance to the Guild Cottages is via double wooden doors opposite the District Council offices. Just inside, there is a small reception office where someone can direct you to the upstairs Community Room.

Our next meeting is on Monday 14th July.

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. Members are busy knitting/crocheting poppies to support the project, initiated by Marie McDougall, to decorate the tree trunks along the pathway to Trinity Church for the month of November. If anyone has some red wool, and would like to join us for a cuppa and produce some poppies then come along to the July afternoon. Patterns have been printed and some samples can be seen at the monthly meeting. Next Get-together: 14th. July. For more information about the Group please contact

Robyn, email: redbird22@hotmail.co.uk

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Sylvia Bevan

We will meet again on Wednesday 9th July at 2pm in the community room at the Guild Cottages . Enter through the double doors opposite the council offices and you will be greeted. We are a small friendly group and new members are very welcome .

DINAHS

Sylvia Crooks

Dinahs meet on the 1st Tuesday in the month. Our next Lunch date is Tuesday 1st July at the Pen and Parchment 12.00. Look forward to catching up over an enjoyable meal.

Hope you all are keeping cool during this hot weather.

FINE DINING

Hazel Miller

The Fine Dining group enjoyed their June meal at Vintners in Sheep Street. We've been there several times and the food is good in pleasant surroundings. In July we're quite excited about going to Sorrento's in Ely Street. The Italian restaurant has been closed since December and has recently reopened.

TUESDAY DINING GROUP

Sue Short

In June we ventured out from the restaurants of central Stratford to The Bell at Alderminster. For a Tuesday evening the pub was surprisingly very busy which may well have added to the wait for our food. However, it was delicious and lived up to its reputation for dining. More importantly though, the company was excellent. We even 'swapped' our seating during the evening so that we could all get to chat to everyone.

In July, we will again be going out to a local hostelry.

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Edwin Lilly

The group was formed on 11th June with the initial meeting 'First Steps'. This was the introduction to exploring ones family history. Edwin gave a PowerPoint presentation providing much information on how to begin the research. He had compiled several information sheets to assist the newcomers and those with some experience. A most encouraging and enlightening afternoon. Next meeting on 9th July explores how to record the information one finds.

GARDEN APPRECIATION GROUP

Suzu Genge

Our group had a lovely trip to Bourton house garden this month. The garden was full of interest, especially the roses. June is a great time to visit and the staff are very welcoming. Next month we shall meet at Coughton court on Thursday July 10th at 10am in the cafe.

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 July at the Stratford Sports Club. New members welcome. For more information, please contact

Graham, email, g.mitchell132@btinternet.com

HISTORY GROUP

Robert Tringham

The history meeting is scheduled for Thursday 17th July when we shall be looking at the history of films, film and movie making, when and where it all began, and the intriguing world of Motion Pictures. We will be showing some memorable movie moments, looking at famous movie celebrities, and some of the flops and failures. Please note that future dates and subjects for History Meetings in 2025, are listed on the Website Heartofengland.u3asite.uk under "Groups." Additional dates may be added throughout the year. For more information please email me at hofe.u3a@gmail.com

KEEP FIT

Jan Jones Our

small friendly group consists of both males and females of mixed abilities. The class is designed for our age group, with standing and sitting exercises (we do not have to get onto the floor!). We meet every Thursday morning from 10 - 11am in the Parish Centre at St Andrews Church in Shottery. We really enjoy the exercises and a chat. If you are interested in finding out more about the group, please contact Jan Jones at: janljones5@aol.com

PLAY READING

Sylvia Crook

Play Readers met on the 19th June, we finished reading "Wishing Well" by E Eyon Evan's a comedy. We next meet Thursday 17th July, 10.30am for coffee and a new play.

SCRABBLE, DOMINOES AND CARD GAMES

Sue Tringham

In July our Games Group meetings will be on Monday 7th and Monday 21st. As usual we will meet from 2pm until 4pm in the Foyer of the Methodist Church. We play Scrabble, Dominoes and Card Games. It's a light hearted afternoon of fun, laughter and conversation! Tea, coffee and biscuits at 3! All are welcome!!

SNATTS

Mike Genge

In June we heard from Mike Genge, who gave an overview of how weather comes about. This talk was researched by Victoria Inns and all would have gone smoothly but for a few technical hiccoughs in getting Youtube videos to stream on the main screen. Most people learnt at least one thing. Weather is still almost impossible to predict with any accuracy in the British Isles! Next month we are visiting the Shakespeare Distillery, purely for academic purposes, obviously.

THEATRE GROUP

Glynis McDougall

Our June visit to the Attic was As you Like It which was really enjoyable. July's visit is The complete Jane Austin (sort of) on Thursday 17th July. I will put a list out at the next meeting to sign up or email me to go onto the list £15.

WALKING GROUP

Lin Randall

The next walk is on Wednesday 9th July at 10am. This is a Heart of England Forest walk (Felix Dennis), about 4 miles long and starts from Dorothy's Wood which is situated in the village of Barton, not far from Bidford-on-Avon, post code B50 4NP. The walk includes some displayed poetry by Felix plus an imposing statue of the man himself! The car park is on the left, half a mile past the pub 'The Cottage of Content'. We should be finished by 12pm or so.

****MAGAZINE EDITOR****

The

role will involve maintaining an organised 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.

For more information please contact David Haggarty at d-haggarty@outlook.com



**Garden Appreciation Group
Relaxing – June 2025**



**Walking Group
March 2025**



**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.

Jul - Card Making	Aug - Dinahs	Sept -- Jazz
Oct - Chinwags	Nov - Classical Music	Dec -- Current Affairs