



## September 2025 Newsletter

### TODAY'S MEETING

4<sup>th</sup> Sep - Ray Barrett "Driverless cars, are they the future ?"

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Oct - Mark 791 "The work of the Samaritans in Stratford"

6<sup>th</sup> Nov - Dr Gill White "The most dissolute man in London"

4<sup>th</sup> Dec - Jules O'Brian "Starting Stand-up comedy at nearly 50."

\* Please check the website for a list of speakers for 2026

### FROM THE CHAIR

As September arrives and the golden days of summer gently fade, we welcome the promise of a beautiful autumn ahead. It's a change of season to enjoy crisp walks, warm cups of tea, and the comforting rustle of falling leaves. Whether you're joining us to explore our 24 active interest groups or simply to make a connection to our friendly u3a community we wish you all peace, joy and a sense of happiness this autumn.

I am pleased to write again 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 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025, from 10.30am. Everyone is welcome – just turn up.

### PAYMENT of Heart of England u3a SUBSCRIPTION

The annual subscription of **£20** for 2025/26 is due on **1st September**. Your annual subscription can be paid by: CASH, CHEQUE OR CREDIT TRANSFER. CASH - please pay with the exact amount of **£20**. 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.

Finally, just a reminder that we have our AGM at the start of the October monthly meeting.

David

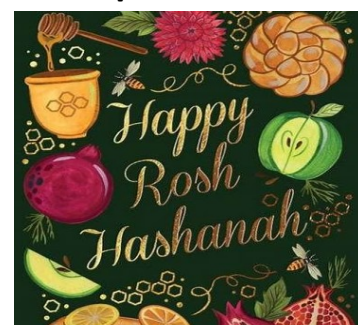
### September is named after Septimius Severus



### Women's Rugby Cup Final September 27<sup>th</sup>



### Jewish New Year September 22<sup>nd</sup>



## **\*\*Committee Members Needed\*\***

We need members to join the committee to help run our u3a. If you are interested in helping to make our u3a thrive and grow, please come forward and join our relaxed and friendly team meeting around four times a year. Contact me at [d-haggarty@outlook.com](mailto:d-haggarty@outlook.com)

### **AUGUST SPEAKER REPORT**

**Tim Folan**

It is frequently thought that English Morris Dancing has its roots in the pagan past but Matthew believes it is just one of many forms of country folk enjoying themselves. The first written record is from 1448 when Morris was an entertainment for the London court. In Warwickshire the written record begins in 1575 with the Earl Of Leicester employing dancers for the visit of Queen Elizabeth to Kenilworth. There are several mentions in the plays of Shakespeare and one of his fellow actors, Will Kemp, did a notorious dance from London to Norwich - allegedly because he was cheated off not to get the part of Hamlet! By 1700 Morris Dancing was no longer popular at court and had morphed into a local tradition where each region and village developed their own special styles. Shakespeare Morris dance the Bidford tradition. By 1850 this had entirely died until in 1886 D'Arcy Ferris (who described himself as a 'Designer and Director of Fetes, Festivities, Festivals, and Functions') revived it, formed a troupe and took them on tours around the Midlands. When they became involved in the Shakespeare Birthday and Mop celebrations the tradition became more secure and flourished. There was a reverse after WW1 but the Flowers family of Stratford helped support a revival in the 1920s and there was further interest after WW2. Matthew closed by answering questions and gave us the Ilmington and Bidford versions of "Princess Royal" on his splendid accordion.

### **ALL THAT SWINGS AND JAZZ**

**Sue Tringham**

Just a reminder that our next Jazz meeting is on Thursday 25 September at 2pm at the Methodist Church. Edna Jacobs will be presenting her programme. All welcome

### **BOOK CLUB – MONDAY**

**Jackie Biggs**

We read The house of fortune by Jessie Burton the author of The miniaturist. Set in Amsterdam in 1705 in the Brandt family house 18 years later. The family fortunes are gone and all hopes of survival rely on daughter Thea making a successful marriage. Although a potential wealthy husband is found Thea has other ideas.

The story is beautifully written, full of wonderful descriptions of both upper and lower class life in Amsterdam. It is a real page turner and we all enjoyed it.

### **BOOK CLUB – WEDNESDAY**

**Gillian Caveney**

We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting will be on 17<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30pm. For more information please contact Gillian at email:

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

**Robyn Nicoll**

Please let Robyn know by the end of September if interested in an Autumn course. If enough members are interested, then a course will be arranged. For more information please contact Robyn, email, [redbird22@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:redbird22@hotmail.co.uk)

### **CARD MAKING CLUB**

**Angela Ramsey & Jane Edkins**

Members spent a productive session at the August workshop putting finishing touches to their cards. Christmas is fast approaching so the group will be devoting all their time at the September meeting making the cards for the sale table, using recycled cards. 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, 26th September, 12.30 to 4.00**, in the new room. For more information, please chat with Angela and Jane at the card sale.

### **CHINWAGS**

**Glynis Holloway**

We are a small, friendly group which meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 12.30pm in Bistrot Pierre 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](mailto:glynisa.holloway@gmail.com)

## **CHOIR**

**David Haggarty**

We are performing our late summer concert on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2.30pm at the Stratford Methodist Church. Please come and support the choir which has members from all the local u3a's. The theme is "With Love" and includes a number of favourite songs. Tickets will be available at our u3a monthly meeting, at the door, or reservations can be made by emailing [d-haggarty@outlook.com](mailto:d-haggarty@outlook.com).

## **CLASSICAL MUSIC**

**Edwin Lilly**

We had a good attendance at the August meeting and listened to some enjoyable music from David Laverty, including 3 pieces that should have been included in the July meeting but weren't. Our next meeting will be on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 13.45 for 14.00. We meet in the Community Room of the Guild Cottages in Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon. Entrance is via the double wooden doors opposite the District Council Offices. Go through the lobby to the stairs at the rear of the building. The meeting room is on the first floor immediately to the right.

## **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 thinking ahead towards Christmas and will be returning to the favourite craft of Book Folding at our October afternoon. We will be folding an Angel and invite members to join us for the afternoon. All you need to bring is a paperback book with about 300 numbered pages. Please let Lynda know at the monthly meeting if you would like to come along or send an email to Robyn. *Also, if you have finished poppies, please bring them to the next meeting so that they can be passed on to Marie McDougall. She wishes to have all the poppies by the first week in October.*

**Next Get-together: 8th. September. For more information about the Group please contact Robyn.**  
email: [redbird22@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:redbird22@hotmail.co.uk)

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**Sylvia Bevan**

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm when we will try a new venue which is on ground level. We will meet at 11, Guild Street ( Birmingham Rd. ), across the road from the Fred Winter Centre and see how we get on. We are a small friendly group who welcome all suggestions for discussion and would welcome new members

## **DINAHS**

**Sylvia Crooks**

DINAHS will next get together for Lunch on the 2nd September at 12.00 in the Pen and Parchment. Look forward to catching up over an enjoyable meal as always. Lots going on in August so it will be fun hearing all about it.

## **FINE DINING**

**Hazel Miller**

All 8 of us got together Wednesday evening for another delicious meal at El Greco who specialise in Greek home cooking. It's been a firm favourite with us all for the last few years. The food is excellent in rather large portions, and the staff are always welcoming and patient. Good value too. It had been 5 weeks since our last get together so lots of catching up.

## **TUESDAY DINING GROUP**

**Sue Short**

We have continued to visit local pubs in the countryside around Stratford. This time it was the well known Bell at Welford. We had hoped to sit in the garden but it was very busy on such a lovely evening. However the food did not disappoint, absolutely delicious and good sized portions !! And of course the conversation flowed. Next month we are again travelling out of Stratford for our dining, returning to enjoy the town's restaurants from October.

## **FAMILY HISTORY GROUP**

**Edwin Lilly**

The next meeting of the Family History Group will be on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 14.00 in the Lounge at the Methodist Church Centre. We will be looking at Censuses, how they originated, the differences across the decades and what information can be gleaned from them.

## **GARDEN APPRECIATION GROUP**

**Suzy Genge**

Our group visited Badsleigh Clinton in August. We had drinks first in the courtyard, watching out for wasps, then a lovely walk around the grounds. The flowers and vegetables were superb and there was a nice shady stroll along the river. Next month we shall go to Hidcote garden. Meet at 10am in the car park.

### 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 17<sup>th</sup> September at the Stratford Sports Club. New members welcome. For more information, please contact Graham, email, [g.mitchell132@btinternet.com](mailto:g.mitchell132@btinternet.com)

### HISTORY GROUP

Robert Tringham

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025 when we shall be delving into the history of holidays and festive occasions, the stories behind the celebrations we cherish, and how holidays have shaped our lives and communities. We will be asking what is the meaning behind our festive days, and finding some surprising origins of our favourite festivities. Also we will be considering the spirit of celebration as a historical tribute to togetherness. Finally, we will watch some interesting videos including "A whistle-stop tour of holiday traditions." As usual, tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits will be available at the end of the meeting. Please contact me if you have any questions, and I look forward to seeing you all on the 18th at the Methodist Church in Old Town.

### 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. At present there is a waiting list, but please contact me if you are interested in finding out more about the group and being added to the list. Jan Jones at [janljones5@aol.com](mailto:janljones5@aol.com)

### PLAY READING

Sylvia Crooks

We met on Thursday 21st August. After a chat over coffee, we continued reading "Ladies In Retirement" a play in three acts by Edward Percy and Reginald Denham. It's a Victorian Thriller. We next meet Thursday 18th September 10.30am for coffee.

### SNATTS

Mike Genge

Our next meeting will be on Friday September 12th at 14.00 when we will hear from a guest speaker about the Secret Life of Trees.

### THEATRE GROUP

Glynis McDougall

We all thoroughly enjoyed our visit to the yellow brick road in August to see the Wizard of Oz. September's visit is to see Little Women on Thursday 25th at 7:15 for 7:30. I am away for the September meeting so email or message me if you are interested in coming along £15. Glynis

### WALKING GROUP

Lin Randall

Our next walk is on Wednesday 10th September at 10am starting from The View, Hill Farm Marina B95 6DE on the A3400 Henley Road and on the left just before the start of Wootton Wawen. There is plenty of free parking. The walk includes Austy Wood and a stretch along the canal including the Wootton Wawen Aqueduct and is under 4 miles long. We will have coffee or lunch afterwards at the restaurant for anyone who wants to join us. Further details from Lin.



### Walking Group, Bidford to Marlcliff and back, in August



### Market life along Waterside 2025



TEA /COFFEE ROTA 2025/26  
Refreshment Co-ordinator  
Sue Tringham, email: [suetring75@gmail.com](mailto: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.

Sept -- Jazz	Oct - Chinwags	Nov -- Classical Music
Dec -- Current Affairs	Jan - SNATTS	Feb -- Keep fit