



## October 2025 Newsletter

### TODAY'S MEETING

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

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

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

David Haggarty

Wishing everyone a happy and enjoyable October!

As Coffee 1 has now closed our informal coffee morning will now be held at Costa Coffee, across the road from Coffee 1. The coffee morning is continuing to be popular, and attended by an increasing number of members. This friendly gathering is enjoyed by everyone who comes along. The next coffee morning will be on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025, from 10.30am. Everyone is welcome – just turn up.

### PAYMENT of Heart of England u3a SUBSCRIPTION

Glynis McDougall

The annual subscription of **£20** for 2025/26 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 **£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, a reminder that we have our AGM at the start of the October monthly meeting. The October meeting is also our Annual General Meeting when you will be able to take part in the voting process for next years committee. The current eight members are willing to re-stand but we would welcome anyone considering joining us to put themselves forward at the AGM. You will receive the nomination form for the committee, a copy of our end of year accounts and my end of year report at the meeting.

David

### The God Mars Protects October



### Halloween is held on 31<sup>st</sup> October



### Daylight Saving ends 26<sup>th</sup> October



## SEPTEMBER SPEAKER REPORT

Tim Folan

Ray talked to us about the development of self driving vehicles which he became involved in with the Road Train project in the 1990s. This was intended to make lorries safer on roads and more fuel efficient. He described the levels of automation, from zero to five, and how the technology is currently at level 4 with the likes of Tesla and Waymo where vehicles are mostly capable of full automation but are still under driver control. The final challenge will be for extensive mapping so that vehicles are fully aware of their often complicated surroundings. The legal implications of full automation remain a challenge - Ray gave the example of how airbags only became standard when manufacturers were protected from the consequences of fatalities from accidental deployment. Public perception will also need to change before self driving vehicles become the norm - some in the audience wondered if the technology would further "dumb down" human skills like map reading.

## ALL THAT SWINGS AND JAZZ

Sue Tringham

Just a reminder that our next Jazz meeting is on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 2pm at the Methodist Church. Barrie will be presenting his programme. All welcome.

## BOOK CLUB – MONDAY

Jackie Biggs

We read *Beneath the Surface* by Fiona Neill, an interesting novel about a completely dysfunctional family living in the Fens. The bleakness of the landscape and their damp, badly built house full of mould is the setting of a family tragedy. The obsessive mother, lying father and deceitful daughters are described in great detail. We found it an interesting and well written book, despite the rather contrived ending.

## BOOK CLUB -- WEDNESDAY

Gillian Caveney

We didn't have the planned September meeting- most of the group were away, so nothing to report. It should be back to normal next month. Gillian, [thecaveney@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thecaveney@yahoo.co.uk)

## BRIDGE GROUP

Keith Rockett

The Bridge Group has been going for over twenty years. We have four tables in the Methodist Church Centre, but we have only 8 to 10 regular players. We would like to increase numbers. We are a friendly group, playing 'social bridge' - very relaxed, with a variety of levels of skill. We are not able to teach beginners but would welcome anyone with some experience of the game. If you or a friend are interested to join in, please phone Keith Rockett (01926-863-143) or David Whitfield ((01564-771-550).

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

Robyn Nicoll

We will not be organising an Autumn course but hope to offer one in the Spring.

### A PRE-CHRISTMAS TREAT. - "AN AFTERNOON WITH GILBERT AND SULLIVAN".

Friday afternoon, 5th December, in the New Room, 2.00pm to 4.30pm.

The Computer Group and the Classical Music Group are arranging this afternoon to show one of the Operas, to be chosen by Edwin Lilly, on the large screen. The one selected will be advertised in the November newsletter. Entrance Fee which includes afternoon tea: £3 to be collected in advance at the November monthly meeting. If interested in coming along, Edwin will be taking names at the October meeting. twenty places will be offered.

## CARD MAKING CLUB

Angela Ramsey & Jane Edkins

Christmas is fast approaching so the group devoted all their time at the September meeting making cards for the sale table, using recycled cards. The cards will be for sale - 4 for £1. The next donation of £100 will be sent to "The Talking Newspaper". 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 October, 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 on the 4th Monday of each month at 12.30pm in Bistrot Pierre to enjoy a nice lunch and good conversation. Our next Chinwags Lunch will be on Monday October 27th. 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 3rd October 2.30pm at the Stratford Methodist Centre, 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 very good programme last month from David Gallichan and also talked a bit about the December meeting. We agreed to have a programme where everyone contributes a favourite piece of music, bringing along the required CD and any information about the music that you feel is necessary. Jackie Biggs is supplying the programme for the October meeting.

**CREATIVE CRAFT GROUP****Robyn Nicoll**

The Crafters meet monthly on the 2nd Monday afternoon at the Methodist Church, 2.00pm to 4.00pm in the reception area. At the October afternoon we will be making Angels for Christmas using the Book Folding method. Members are invited to join us and will need to bring 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 drop them into the Parish Centre Office asap. Thank you to all who knitted/crocheted poppies for Marie McDougall. Next Get-together: 13th. October. For more information about the Group please contact Robyn, email: [redbird22@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:redbird22@hotmail.co.uk)

**CURRENT AFFAIRS****Sylvia Bevan**

We will meet on Wednesday 8th October at 2pm and have decided to return to the community room at the Guild Cottages. Enter through the double wooden doors opposite the council offices and you will be greeted. We are a small friendly group, new members are very welcome as are all topics for discussion. Sylvia.

**DINAHS****Sylvia Crooks**

Dinahs next Lunch together is Wednesday 7th October at the Pen And Parchment. Look forward to hearing all about holidays, a few of us have been on in September.

**FINE DINING****Hazel Miller**

Last night 7 of us had a very enjoyable meal at Hotel du Vin. Eight of us have been enjoying Stratford's better restaurants for 3 years now. However there are times when one or two of us can't make it. Like last night. So would you like to join us when that happens? We're a friendly bunch of singles and would love to welcome you to the group. It's a good opportunity to see if you enjoy yourself and then you're in a good position to take over someone's place should they leave. We meet monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 7pm. Ingrid Rooney is starting a new Reserve List. So please email her if you're interested: [ingridrooney@yahoo.com](mailto:ingridrooney@yahoo.com)

**FAMILY HISTORY GROUP****Edwin Lilly**

I have been disappointed at the numbers attending the meetings so far and that has given me a problem with funding. I cannot see that the attendance will get any better so I have reluctantly, taken the decision to close the group. If any member requires any advice or help with research or obtaining records please contact me individually.

**GARDEN APPRECIATION GROUP****Suzu Genge**

We went to Hidcote in September and discovered almost 250 sculptures in the gardens They are there until November. It was a lovely, sunny morning and we all enjoyed the cultural experience as well as a drink and chat in the cafe. In October we shall go to Batsford arboretum to see autumn colours. Meet at 10 in the cafe there, on October 14<sup>th</sup>

**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 15<sup>th</sup> October 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**

We met on 18<sup>th</sup> September to consider the history of Holidays and the festivals that preceded them in countries such as China, India, Europe, ancient middle Eastern and other Countries. We also watched an interesting video on Sir John Lubbock, the father of UK Statutory Holidays and the groundbreaking 1871 Holidays Act. There is no planned history meeting in October, and November/December is under review. More information in the next newsletter and on the Website Please contact me if you have any questions, and I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

**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 Shotton. 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

**PLAY READING**

**Sylvia Crooks**

We met on 18th September. After a chat over coffee we continued reading "Ladies in Retirement". A Victorian thriller in three acts. We meet again Thursday 16th October, 10.30 for coffee.

**SCRABBLE, DOMINOES AND CARD GAMES**

**Sue Tringham**

We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month from 2pm until 4pm in the Foyer of the Methodist Church playing Scrabble, Dominoes and Card Games. At the October meeting, we will welcome Barbara Bassett who would like to introduce the game of Cribbage to our Group! It's a light hearted afternoon of fun, laughter and conversation! In October we will meet on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Tea, coffee and biscuits at 3. All welcome!!

**SNATTS**

**Mike Genge**

For our September meeting we enjoyed a fascinating talk on the Secret Life of Trees from Jo at The Haven4Wildlife Consultancy. This gave us a great new insight into how trees adapt to survive in harsh or windy environments as well as how they defend themselves from attack from fungus and other predatory actors. Jo will be back next year to give us part 2 of this talk. Next month Martin Osborne will call on his experience as a child psychologist and teacher to give us a talk entitled 'Psychological Aspects of Human Development-birth to early adulthood' 14.00, Friday 10th October.

**THEATRE GROUP**

**Glynis McDougall**

Our October theatre visit is at the Attic for Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October. I will put a list out at the monthly meeting or email me if you would like to join us. Glynis

**WALKING GROUP**

**Lin Randall**

Our

next walk is on Wednesday 8th October at 10am starting from The View, Hill Farm Marina B95 6DE which is on the A3400 Henley Road and on the left just before the start of Wootton Wawen. This walk is the one postponed from last month. 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. Lin Randall.

**\*\*MAGAZINE EDITOR REQUIRED\*\***

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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](mailto:d-haggarty@outlook.com)



**Dinahs Lunch in September**



**Walking Group Braving the August Heat**



**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.

Oct - Chinwags	Nov - Classical Music	Dec -- Current Affairs
Jan - Computer	Feb -- Monday Book Club	Mar -- Creative Crafts